

# Messing with Nature

by Earl P. Holt III

In her novel *Frankenstein*, Mary Shelley's intentions went well beyond simply creating a fascinating and scary plot: her purpose was to warn of the risks inherent in man's attempts to thwart nature's laws. Implicit in her novel is the warning that scientific inquiry can have profound but unintended **moral consequences**, and just because science **CAN** do something doesn't mean that it **SHOULD**.

More recently, Shelley's concerns were echoed in the novels of Michael Crichton, particularly *The Andromeda Strain* and *Jurassic Park*. Crichton's novels and their film adaptations hypothesized catastrophic consequences resulting from certain pioneering scientific research: in *The Andromeda Strain*, catastrophe resulted from a military satellite that returned to Earth contaminated by a virulent and dangerous virus; and in *Jurassic Park*, catastrophe followed the cloning of DNA from extinct dinosaurs, in order to create a commercial theme park.



**Dr. Frankenstein and His Monster**

For example, there should be little doubt among those with three-digit IQs that certain arrogant fools like Anthony Fauci funded so-called **"gain-of-function" research** at China's **Wuhan Institute of Virology**. It was this very research that converted a common and relatively harmless bat virus into the **COVID-19 pandemic** that killed eight million people worldwide. Echoing the *"Chaos Theory"* introduced in **Jurassic Park**, that gain-of-function research was appropriated by the Chinese military's *Virologic Warfare Program*, and then probably used intentionally against those foolish enough to have helped fund it.

Equally alarming, in November of 2018 a Chinese molecular geneticist named He Jiankui announced at an international conference that he had successfully produced **genetically "edited" human offspring**. He Jiankui modified a key gene sequence in several **human embryos** to confer resistance to HIV among his subjects and their future offspring. The embryos were otherwise implanted using conventional techniques adopted by practitioners of *in vitro* fertilization. Fortunately, his announcement generated a **severe backlash** among scientists and biomedical ethicists worldwide. Their primary criticism was that more effective measures already exist to prevent HIV infection, so his research unnecessarily exposed his subjects to the risks of gene editing with questionable benefits.

Similarly, the Biden Administration has aggressively promoted so-called **"transgenderism,"** and even widely funds **"gender counseling"** in public grade schools. Anyone with sense should recognize that *grade-schoolers* are too young and naive to even begin to appreciate its consequences, so many cannot resist the prompting of *gender counselors* with appalling judgement. Meanwhile, unethical hospitals willing to perform **gender reassignment surgery** have sprung up all over the nation like mushrooms after a warm rain. Yet, many individuals who have undergone hormone therapy or surgical mutilation to *"reassign"* their genders have later experienced profound

*buyer's remorse.* Many feel they were wrongly pressured into undergoing such dubious medical procedures, and feel their lives have been ruined as a result.



**Grade School Gender Counselor ???**

Moreover, a private **geoengineering** firm has recently begun using weather balloons to release sulfur particulates into the stratosphere to reflect sunlight, allegedly to reduce the effects of so-called "**global warming.**" Some experts warn that such efforts to manipulate the climate could have disastrous consequences and might even be counterproductive. Moreover, these "*rogue actors*" have acted without considering any scientific scrutiny or debate. Once again, "**climate alarmists**" have created an alleged "*solution*" to a problem that doesn't even exist, and may even be disastrous. One expert stated, "**...it's hypocritical for (the company) to assert they're acting on**

*humanitarian grounds, while moving ahead without meaningfully engaging with the public..."*

Finally, Elon Musk, Steve Wosniak and 1,100 other "tech leaders" recently issued a statement recommending that scientists voluntarily pause their research into **artificial intelligence** (AI) for six months, and use that time to assess the inherent risks that AI may pose to humans. These are individuals who appear to have actually learned the lessons of "Pandora's Box" and **Frankenstein**. The pause they recommend would provide an opportunity for debate and to establish **ethical standards** and "**safety protocols**" to govern such research. Many who signed the letter are deeply involved in AI research, so if those having vested financial and professional interests in AI harbor concerns, so should the rest of us.