

A Humane Proposal

To Secure for Limited Times to Gene Owners the Exclusive Right to Their Respective Genes

To Promote the Progress of the Genome and To Control the General Populace

Taken from a letter written by Dr. Heimur "Sam" Særigen, an Icelandic member of a strictly
private multi-billionaire organization

Many times I wonder what it is the pitiful masses are doing with themselves and their
clown allusion!
species as a whole. Heredity, our mutual fiend, passes on everything they are to their
progeny—even the less desirable traits. Why is it that humanity should suffer the worse^{SP}
traits of others? How is it that despite our advanced state of development and evolution, we
are still left with the poor, genetic diseases, the insane, and the like when it is obvious—
through modern science—that many of these ill traits are passed on through genetics?

*→ Retarded
device?*

As I was pondering this question I came to the realization that it would do us best to
promote a progress in the human genome: to improve it through the ages as we continue on
our glorious tract to humanity's future. It would be quite simple to do since funding is not an
issue with any of us, the highest class of person. And so, I have devised a plan by which we
might easily and comfortably optimize and greatly improve upon the gene pool. All it would
take is a simple law: a mere addendum to an existing law even. That law would be copyright.

Copyright has proven itself wildly successful in the promotion of progress in the
general sciences; from pharmaceutical research to the development of all the commodities
our modern age has to offer, copyright law wins on all fronts. By allowing people to own
(and by extension possibly profit from) their ideas and developments, there is greater

★
clearly
stable
control
idea

9/5P rhetorical?

incentive to make larger strives and further leaps. I am certain that we can all agree that such
a wildly successful governmental regulation (especially in comparison to other less successful
government regulations) deserves greater presence in the government and especially lower-
class **society**. Therefore, I suggest that we set our species up for success by applying that same
copyright ownership to their own genes.

If people can own their own genes then they can profit from them! A multitude of
possibilities opens up as different people may market their genes in different ways, but I
suggest we model the whole business off of the music industry's approach. For example,
suppose there is someone who has a highly desirable gene; one which all people want:
perhaps green eyes. Since they own the copyright to their gene, they can lend out that
copyright ownership to a company in much the same way a person with an idea for a song
lends out that idea to a publisher in order to sell their idea and make a profit. Sure they lose
the right to the song—or perhaps in this case, a particular section in their DNA—but they
can certainly profit from it: which is more than what their “job” may offer them.

The corporation would simply lend out that person's gene—thanks to the marvels of
not-quite-so-modern science—to those interested in having a procreation with green eyes;
the person under contract is not so much acting out procreation as making a sale. Large
monetary value may be placed in the contracts for genes: after all, so many people do so
badly want to have children with green eyes. Whole zones could be set up for
neighborhoods with only green eyes! This would result in large monetary gains for those
companies during start-up periods in which a neighborhood becomes popular. Afterward, of

wonderful parable about the negative trends in music!

course, there may be a bit of a slump when everyone has green eyes, but—just as recording companies must always seek out new talent—gene companies must always seek out new genes to lend out.

Naturally, this whole business is especially important to us: the private interests. Since it is our goal to improve upon the gene pool, we could easily create whole companies based on selecting those genes we deem best. We could create zones with selectively bred gene pools. People will love it! The marketing campaigns would be simple to pull off: get paid to enjoy procreation at nearly a thousand times your current income. Who among the lower class would pass up such an opportunity?

clear counter-argument

To those who think there are flaws in this plan, consider the alternatives. We certainly cannot let our genome continue on as it is. Something must be done to control the rampant undesirables in our society. Eugenics? A mess of regulations that smells strongly of fascism and hate to those who are even mildly familiar with history. Conversely, this plan of
★ copyrighting genes, giving them worth, is a capitalist's dream: the ability to sell oneself on the open market! And just as the open market weeds out the failures, the gene market will give us a venue by which people can be helped from themselves and their own failures.

I urge that those of you who have an interest in furthering our better causes to act now. A copyright system is already in place in the media industries, and it easily allows corporations to ultimately own the creative content created by artists. ^{SP} Whose to say we could not apply the same concept to genes? And if we have all of the desirable genes controlled and sold, whose to say we could not eventually own a DNA strand? Whose to say

jeany?
we could not own an entire race? Easy, cheap, and fast acting among the stupid. With
copyright, we could own the world.

Focusing on the copyright issue, you
are able to criticize a multitude of
human flaws in a caustically
humorous way. my only suggestion is
to make the narrator's role and
connection clearer.