

Nitzotzot Min HaNer

Feedback on Volume #7, December 2002:

CLONING

The December 2002 edition of Nitzotzot Min HaNer on Cloning received a lot of positive feedback. Most people commented on the usefulness of having valuable information on an issue which was making headlines at the time of publication. One critic, however, was unhappy that we had quoted any opinions on what the Jewish position might be prior to hearing the *psakim* of *gedolei haposkim*. We again stress that we simply do not know as of yet what Piskei Halacha are likely to emerge on this issue. We wish to clarify that the editorial board of Nitzotzot Min HaNer sees its purpose as communicating to a closed circle of professional *Klei Kodesh* involved in outreach, information and ideas which they may find valuable. We do not plan on taking editorial stands on issues, nor do we see Nitzotzot as a forum for expressing our own opinions.

Another criticism of the article was of our quoting the position of President Bush, other religions and ethicists. The feeling was that we need to first develop a clear Torah position in order to evaluate outside opinions through Torah eyes. Otherwise we may *Chas VeShalom* be influenced by those outside opinions in formulating our Torah thoughts.

For those of you interested in further opinions about the cloning issue, please e-mail us and we will forward you more information.

<p><u>Editors note:</u> There was a typographical error in the December 2002 issue. On the 4th paragraph page 6, instead of reading: Scientists are <u>not</u> attempting to induce human eggs to divide into early embryos without being fertilized by a sperm cell, it should have read: Scientists are <u>now</u> attempting to induce human eggs to divide into early embryos without being fertilized by a sperm cell.</p>
--