

The Mass Observation Project

Spring 2006 Directive

As usual, please start all three parts of your reply on a new sheet of paper with your **MO number, (NOT name), sex, age, marital status, the town or village where you live and your occupation or former occupation.**

Remember not to identify yourself or other people inadvertently within your reply.

Part 1: Genes, Genetics and Cloning

Dolly the sheep, a human ear grown on a mouse, designer babies.....

In 2000 the world heard about the near completion of the Human Genome Map as one of the most important scientific developments of all time. Since then, there have been developments in DNA testing and human cloning. Genetic testing has become widely available, and cures are promised from stem cell research.

Personal experience

We would like to have your thoughts on:

- Genetic testing for inherited conditions
- Paternity testing
- Forensic testing and criminal investigations
- Research purposes

Please tell us about any direct experience that you have had of these scientific developments in the field of genetics. Include experiences of those around you - friends, family, neighbours, work mates and others.

Where do you get your information from on these issues? Please provide as much detail as possible.

Tell us about any films, television programmes, books or artworks that deal with these issues. What do you think of them?

What news coverage, issues or stories about genetics have interested you most, or you have thought most significant?

What do you think about the regulation of scientific research, and how it might impact on you and those around you?

What do you think are the most important issues around human genetics and cloning?

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Part 2: Public Mourning

We would like to find out what you think of public displays of mourning and grief. Over recent years this has occurred after the death of famous figures like Princess Diana, the Queen Mother and George Best. Also after disasters like Hillsborough and Dunblane and the Asian Tsunami and some terrorist attacks like September 11 or the London bombings. It has also happened after the tragic deaths of some ordinary people, like the two girls murdered in Soham. These events tend to be followed by public displays of mourning and grief, media coverage, books of condolences, floral tributes and minute silences (or sometimes several minutes) in commemoration. As always, please write about what you think is important but below are some prompts:

Have you signed any books of condolences? Have you left flowers?

If so, why?

If not, why not?

What do you think of one minute silences (or sometimes several minutes) that are held across the country and at sporting and other events?

Are there some people/events that you might join in public mourning for but not others?

What do you think of the media coverage of these events?

What do you think about how other people respond during these events? Do you think that these events bring the nation together or do they divide attitudes?

Have you ever felt differently to how the media said people were feeling during these events? How did this make you feel? Did you feel able to express these views to others either at the time or later on?

Part 3: One day diary

For part three this spring, we'd like to ask you to keep a diary for a day - it can be any day of your choosing. Tell us why you've chosen the day, and when you wrote it. Please be as detailed as you can.

Please return your response to: **The Mass Observation Archive
FREEPOST BR 2112,
The Library, University of Sussex,
Brighton BN1 1ZX**

Or email: moa@sussex.ac.uk

Dorothy Sheridan/Sandra Koa Wing/Simon Homer Feb 2006/Directive No. 77

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