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On the cover

Could too much caring have catastrophic consequences? The portrait of childhood innocence and natural virtue depicted on this issue's cover symbolizes the kind of humane consideration that, in a slightly more engineered world, might make empathy omnipresent. Rather than strengthening the social fabric, such unbridled concern for others could eventually lead to the adoption of maladaptive collective policies with the potential to weaken society. So argues Shea Robinson in his essay-length response to Mark Walker's proposal for a Genetic Virtue Program, which appeared in the September 2009 issue of the journal. Photograph copyright © Rebecca J. Hannagan, 2011. Reprinted with permission

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