

Family begs court to let daughter die

Associated Press

MORRISTOWN — As his weeping family listened, Joseph T. Quinlan testified Tuesday that "it's the Lord's will" his daughter Karen Ann be allowed to die.

"Take her from the machine and the tubes connected to her and let her pass into the hands of the Lord," Quinlan told a crowded courtroom.

Quinlan was the first relative to testify at a trial on the family's request that the 21-year-old Miss Quinlan, who has been in a coma for six months, be allowed to "die with dignity."

Julia Quinlan, wife of Joseph and the mother of the couple's adopted daughter, was to testify Wednesday when the trial resumed.

Mrs. Quinlan sobbed as her husband told how he came to the decision that his daughter's life is over.

Quinlan, a supervisor for a New Jersey drug firm, said that he decided in August that there was no hope for his daughter's recovery.

He said he made up his mind to file a suit to seek permission to disconnect Karen's respirator while driving home from St. Clare's Hospital in Denville after a meeting with her doctors.

"We had done everything possible to help her and now we had no hope," the

grey-haired, 50-year-old father said.

Quinlan, a Roman Catholic, said his parish priest agreed and told him he was morally right in "putting her in the Lord's hands."

He said his daughter's doctors originally agreed to remove her from the respirator that allows her to breathe but said they changed their minds for legal reasons.

Quinlan said that if the court grants him his request, "I would not take out the plug myself" but would let medical men do it. Both Miss Quinlan's doctors have testified they would refuse to disconnect the respirator, saying it is against medical tradition.

However, Quinlan said he would allow the continued use of antibiotics and intravenous feeding. "To take the intravenous tube from her body would be euthanasia mercy killing," Quinlan said.

"I wouldn't ask the court to pursue this matter if I thought there was a trace of hope," he said. "We're not terminating her life — this is the way the Lord works."

He said he had received numerous letters. Most supported his views, he said, adding that those who disagreed were "good people but they haven't gone through this agony."

Before he took the stand, a New York neurologist testified Miss Quinlan's condi-

tion was irreparable and said extraordinary measures should be used only for patients who have a reasonable chance of recovery.

"I and many of my colleagues do not believe in saving the life that will lie as a vegetable for 10 years," said Dr. Julius Korein, an expert called by Paul W. Armstrong, attorney for Quinlan.

Korein, a neurologist at Bellevue Hospital in New York City who has done extensive research on comas and brain damage, described his findings when he examined Miss Quinlan at St. Clare's Hospital in Denville last week and after studying her medical records.

He said her brain was damaged, probably in two areas that control conscious and reflex reactions, by a lack of oxygen for her brain on the night she suddenly stopped breathing and slipped into a coma.

He said her symptoms from the time she was rushed from her apartment to the emergency ward of Newton Memorial Hospital on April 15 indicated brain damage. He estimated her brain had little or no oxygen for up to 30 minutes before being connected to the respirator.

A doctor testified at the first day of trial Monday that he could not determine what brought on the comatose state. He said traces of some drugs were found but not necessarily enough to induce coma.



Being so beautiful is tough

The stereotype American woman, Holly Faison (seated) is pampered by the beauty attendants (l to r) Ellen Jones, Monika Wallace, Sharon Baty

and Amy Meyer in this scene from "The Women." The show is part of the MSC Dinner Theater program. (See review, page 4)

Staff photo by Winship

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Narrow Approval Near on New York Aid bill

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WASHINGTON — Two panels in Congress indicated Tuesday that they are close to giving narrow approval to legislation that would aid financially stricken New York City.

A preliminary vote, the Senate Banking Committee decided 7 to 6 to take up a proposal that would give the city \$6 billion in federal loan guarantees under strict government control.

In the House, Rep. Thomas Ashley, D-Ohio, chairman of the economic stabilization subcommittee, said he expects the

15-member panel to send some kind of legislation to the full Banking Committee by two votes next week.

President Ford has adamantly refused to give New York any help.

Senate Banking Committee Chairman Sen. William Proxmire, D-Wis., said he expects any vote on New York City aid legislation to be close, but Sen. Joseph Biden, D-Del., who is considered pivotal on the issue, said he would vote for a bill just to get it on the floor for debate. Biden voted with the majority Tuesday.

The Senate panel recessed until today, and Proxmire said he would hold hearings into the weekend if necessary to finish work on a bill.

Meanwhile, House Banking Committee chairman Rep. Henry Reuss, D-Wis., introduced a bill that he said would avert a financial collapse of New York City without bailing out the banks.

The bill would provide up to \$7 billion in loans or guarantees to the state of New York for five years, with first priority on the revenue going to maintain essential city services while the city budget is being balanced.

TOP OF THE NEWS

Campus

A student was listed in good condition at the Beutel Health Center after a Tuesday morning car-bicycle accident.

Sharon Sprague, 21, was struck by a car driven by another student, Vera Kamerbeek, 20, in parking lot seven behind the Reed McDonald Building, campus police reported.

She was admitted to the health center with abrasions and bruises to the left leg where she remained Tuesday for observation.

Distribution of Arkansas football tickets will be a major topic at tonight's Student Senate meeting.

The Senate will meet in Room 224 of the Harrington Center at 7:30 p.m.

Other discussion will center around a revised Senate Budget, a Refrigerator Manager's contract, Campus Chest guidelines and support of student-faculty input committees.

How much power police should have and how much anarchy citizens should tolerate are questions Vincent L. Broderick

will answer in a speech Oct. 28 in the Rudder Center Theater. Broderick is sponsored by the Great Issues Committee. He is a lawyer and a former Police Commissioner of the City of New York.

"A conservative view of politics" is the topic of a speech by Howard Phillips. Phillips is National Director of the Conservative Caucus.

He will speak tonight at 8 p.m. in Room 201 in the MSC. Admission is 25 cents for students, \$1 for non-students.

Free University Chairman applications will be taken until Oct. 30 in the Students Programs Office of the MSC. Applicants must have a 2.4 GPA and anyone interested should call John Nelson, 845-1515.

Texas

Attorney General John Hill said yesterday in Galveston that he has appointed a task force to end what he called illegal obstruction to the public's right to use Texas beaches.

U. S. Magistrate Ronald Blask scheduled a hearing today in Houston for a man charged with attempting to influence or intimidate a juror after he told his fiancée — the juror — the federal government's treatment of her as a juror was "worse than prison camp."

Darold L. McClendon, 25, was charged after a deputy U.S. marshal said he overheard McClendon make the remark to his fiancée, Cynthia Marsalia, 22, who was on a sequestered jury staying at a Houston motel.

National

A federal court judge in Sacramento, Calif., yesterday ordered President Ford to give a video-taped deposition as a defense witness for Lynette Fromme, who is charged with attempting to assassinate the President.

White House spokesman Ron Nessen said that Ford would have no comment about the judge's order because the matter is being handled by the Justice Department.

Park ordinance to be considered

The College Station City Council is scheduled to consider an ordinance changing the park land dedication requirements for builders within the city at their Thursday night meeting.

Recommendations will be made by the subcommittee that has been studying the problem for the past several weeks.

The meeting begins at 7 p.m. in City Hall.

A public hearing on a proposed ordinance rezoning a tract of land lo-

cated on Texas Avenue between U-Rent-M and Hardy Gardens and extending to the east bypass is also on the agenda. The ordinance would change the tract from a single-family residence district to an apartment building district.

Also before the council for consideration will be a contract with Sherrill Ambulance Co. of Bryan giving guidelines under which the company may operate the city's new modular ambulance.

Service complaints frequent

Ambulance service in Brazos County

A four-part series by Rod Speer, Alan Killingsworth and Steve Goble.

If only the ambulance had been here 10 minutes earlier . . .

An ambulance service, by its very nature, is controversial. People become emotional when someone in their family gets hurt.

Sherrill's Ambulance Co. of Bryan has been the only ambulance service in Brazos County for the last 19 months. During that time, a controversy has enveloped the company.

In the light of numerous complaints about the service, a Texas A&M graduate in health planning last August surveyed community attitudes toward the service.

Based on the study, the class submitted a statement of concern to the Bryan and College Station City Councils and the county. Among the complaints noted in the student study were: a slow response time to emergencies, inadequate training of personnel, poor equipment, inadequate communications, lack of complete records, no standard procedure for filing complaints and lack of overall coordination in the emergency medical system.

The statement called for an open evaluation of the existing system, examination of alternatives and a public disclosure of the results of the study.

The class was taught by Don Sweeney, who has a great interest in the ambulance service as the chairman of a health advisory

committee for the Brazos Valley Development Council (BVDC).

Sweeney received many letters from area officials supporting the class's study. Among the officials were Mrs. Lee Watson, executive secretary of the local chapter of the American Red Cross; David G. Laird, administrator of Bryan Hospital; and Mrs. G. Eiland, former head nurse at St. Joseph Hospital.

"What we discovered was a deep-seated dissatisfaction with the present service by health care consumers and providers alike," Sweeney wrote in a letter to the College Station City Council.

Ed Sherrill refused to be interviewed concerning his operation. He said he had decided no one at Texas A&M should write a story about the service.

"I want my name left out of any story, or I'll come looking for someone," he said. Sherrill said the city councils had plenty of time to find someone to take over the ambulance service after the funeral homes backed out.

"No one else had the (expletive deleted) guts to take over the job," he said.

Sherrill is operating under separate annual permits from Bryan and College Station.

A county ambulance committee, composed of city and county officials, loosely monitors the local ambulance situation.

A sub-committee, composed of the two city managers and the county judge, investigates specific charges made against Sherrill's service.

College Station City Manager North Bardell said most of the charges were found to be either exaggerated or unjustified. Often, he said, the ambulance crew had a legitimate excuse, such as having a rash of calls at one time.

One of the main reasons the local funeral homes got out of the ambulance business in March, 1974, was a poor collection rate — less than two-thirds.

Since Sherrill took over the ambulance job, both College Station and Bryan have passed ordinances making failure to pay ambulance fees a misdemeanor.

Although his fees are \$10 to \$15 higher than those charged previously by the funeral homes, Sherrill is generally considered to have a better collection rate.

"A lot of the complaints really have to do with the manner in which Mr. Sherrill collects and attempts to collect fees," Lou

The College Station City Council Thursday will consider a contract that will regulate the conditions under which Sherrill Ambulance Co. of Bryan may operate the city's new modular ambulance. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. in City Hall.

Odle, Bryan city manager, said. People resent the charge — \$30 or \$35 — and the collection tactics, he said.

"The complaints about response time are frequently filed by people who haven't paid their bills," Odle said. "Mr. Sherrill has a problem with public relations — he's still got a few barbs on him."

Complaints include:

- While traveling down South College Avenue last year, Robert Bellomy, a Texas A&M student, lost control of his motorcycle when avoiding a car. He fractured his leg.

Ambulance attendants splinted his leg for transfer to the hospital. Bellomy recalled that the splint was a little longer than needed and when the attendants shut the door, the splint was driven forward, jarring

his leg.

- In early summer an airplane trying to land at Coulter Field, outside of Bryan, hit a scaffold and crashed near Highway 21. William Howard of Bryan happened upon the accident moments later.

"The ambulance had to be called three times," Howard said. "Thirty minutes is a conservative estimate of how long it took them to get there."

The police arrived before the ambulance and the two victims, one dead, had been removed and were lying on the grass.

- In early August, Mark Kishbaugh, a Midwest Video technician, fell 60 feet from a tower. A passing youth noticed the injured man and called an ambulance at 8:30 p.m. The ambulance arrived at 9:40, an hour and 10 minutes later.

- A report that a pickup truck had overturned at the intersection of OSR (Old San Antonio Road) and Sandy Point sent two ambulances to the scene. Not knowing the area well enough to take the shortest route, the drivers went several miles out of their way, a Department of Public Safety (DPS) spokesman said. The response time was more than 30 minutes. (See photo.)

There have been other instances in which Sherrill's attendants were slow to reach an emergency because they either were unfamiliar with the area or failed to get the name or phone number of a caller to check the location, according to DPS communications supervisor Joe Trowbridge.

Communications with Sherrill's ambulances is generally poor, he said. There are no mobile phone units in each ambulance, he said, and once one of those ambulances has left for the scene, communication is lost. (The cities are expecting to receive radios for the ambulances and hospitals

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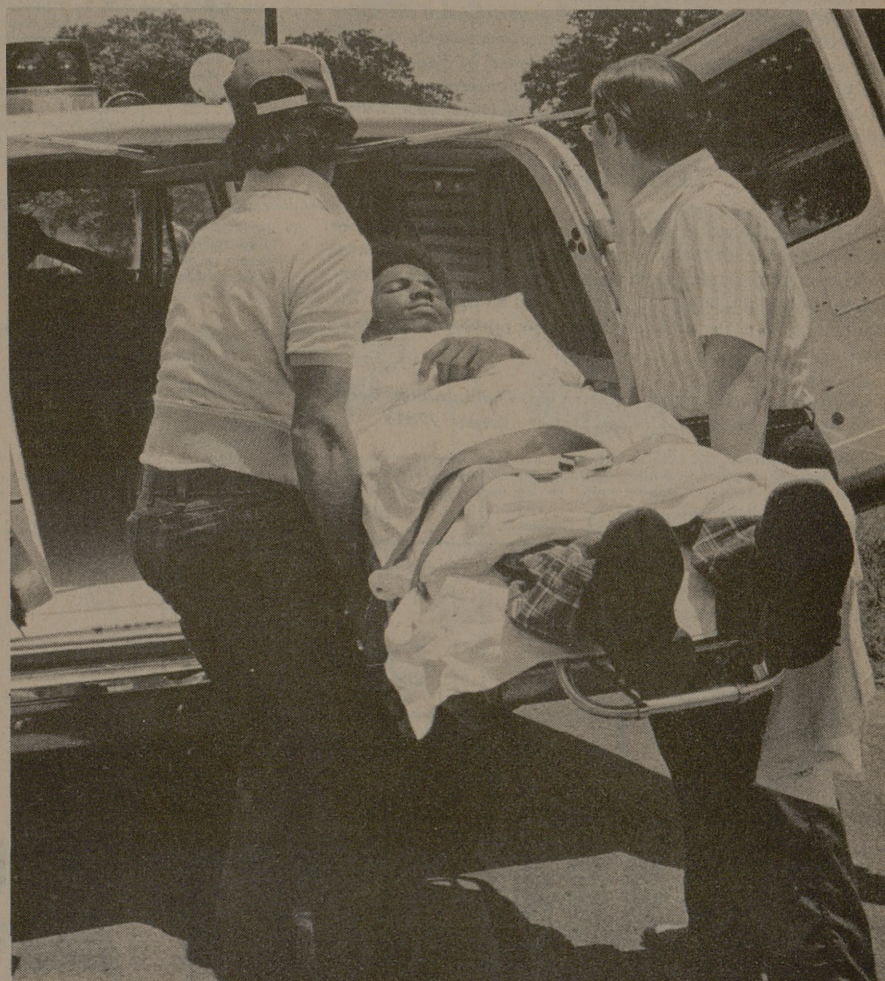


Photo by Alan Killingsworth

Accident victim

Sherrill's Ambulance Co. picks up a victim of a pick-up truck roll-over last July at the intersection of OSR (Old San Antonio Road) and Sandy Point

Road. The ambulance drivers got lost and took more than 30 minutes to arrive at the scene of the wreck. The victim was later treated and released.