

Woman's fate to be decided

Associated Press
MORRISTOWN, N. J. — Karen Anne Quinlan's fate will be decided in 10 to 14 days, a judge said Monday after final arguments by lawyers who want to keep the comatose woman alive and by a lawyer for her parents, who want to "let her die with dignity."

Citing the complex testimony at the five-day trial, Superior Court Judge Robert Muir Jr. said he needed time to prepare a detailed opinion in the case.

In his summation, Paul W. Armstrong, the Quinlans' lawyer, urged Muir to allow death to come to "a poor and tragic creature whose life is no more than a pattern of primitive, involuntary reflexes."

"Can anything be more degrading than the concept that death can be cheated if we can only find the right combination of wires, tubes and transistors?" Armstrong asked.

Miss Quinlan, 21, has been in a coma for six months. Her parents want her removed from a life-sustaining respirator and doctors have testified that brain damage has

put Miss Quinlan in a "persistent vegetative state" that cannot be reversed by known medical technology.

"In the face of hopeless and irreversible coma, continued treatment serves no valid medical purpose," Armstrong said.

Arrayed against Armstrong were lawyers for Miss Quinlan's doctors, the state, the Morris County prosecutor, St. Clare's Hospital, and Miss Quinlan's temporary, court-appointed guardian, Daniel Coburn.

The doctors' lawyer, Ralph Porzio, asserted that no one may order someone's death just because the quality of that life is low.

"You open the gates to the deaths of thousands of people in the United States who may have a low quality of life," Porzio said. "It gives judicial sanction to the act of euthanasia," he said.

Porzio acknowledged that Miss Quinlan has been given no chance of survival, but he said doctors often make mistakes in their prognoses.

"If Karen Anne Quinlan has one

chance in a thousand, one chance in 10 thousand, one chance in a million, who are we and by what right do we kill that chance?" he added. "Dare we defy the divine command, 'Thou shalt not kill?'"

Donald G. Collester, the Morris County Prosecutor, argued that al-

though the Quinlans have good motives, they are applying for permission to commit a crime.

The Quinlans and their two other children, Mary Ellen and John, sat impassively in the courtroom as the lawyers expressed sympathy for them.

"We're very glad the first part of this is over," said Mrs. Quinlan afterward. "We need some rest now. Now we'll await the decision."

Regardless of Muir's ruling, the case is expected to be appealed. A source close to the New Jersey Supreme Court predicted it would have the case within six weeks.

Library books

Mutilations pose problem

By CAROL JONES
Battalion Staff Writer

The term paper that has been put off is due next week. It's about time to gather up a list of references and go to the library.

At the card catalog file, the numbers of the books and periodicals are jotted down and the second, third or fourth floor are searched for material. This sure seems like the easy part of preparing a paper.

But, it may not be so easy. Ever open a book, only to find many of the pages missing? Or noticed how difficult it is to find a complete periodical?

Mutilation of books and periodicals is a problem that confronts the Texas A&M library. It is also a problem that many students and faculty must face. Those who use the library are the ones hurt most by book mutilation. When the information

needed has been torn out, where can it be found?

"Periodicals are the latest information," Richard Puckett, assistant director for library public services, said. "They are torn up the most because current information is in highest demand."

Recent periodicals are unbound Puckett said, and missing articles can be replaced easily by getting other copies of the magazines.

But after it is bound, the magazine is more difficult to replace. Because it is no longer current and if other universities do not have copies to duplicate, the missing sections just remain missing, said Puckett.

"Scientific and medical books with big colored pictures are more likely to be torn up," he said. Replacing books usually means buying another one.

"It takes a while to find the torn books," Puckett said. "We don't know about it until someone needs it and then we go about replacing it."

Puckett explained that some of the dissertations and theses of A&M graduates are bound and on the shelves of the library. He said sometimes the whole paper is torn out and the empty cover sits on the shelf until someone discovers it.

Puckett said he couldn't explain why the book mutilation takes place.

"This is one reason why we keep the copy machines," he said. "The library is actually losing money on five cents a copy, but we keep it cheap so students can afford it."

One of the reasons for book mutilation may be because students can't get change. "The library can only give out so much change," said Charles Smith, Humanitarian Librarian.

He said the copying machines are serviced twice a day, Monday through Friday. "Some students come up here on Sunday night expecting to copy material for the next day," he said. "Then they may find the machines out of order."

Smith said the library would probably go more and more to microfilm. "It is cheaper to buy the film than to bind books most of the time," he said. "It also takes up less space."

Smith also said everyone should be able to enjoy browsing through books, but with the mutilation of books and periodicals, that browsing privilege may disappear.

News Council upholds few bias complaints

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The National News Council, organized to investigate complaints of biased reporting by national news media, said Monday that it had upheld only five of more than 300 complaints received during its first two years of operation.

However, the council said in a report that its 15 members acted formally on just 59 complaints since many did not qualify because they either were local in nature or were lacking in specifics.

Among the complaints the council considered, 33 were found to be unwarranted and 21 were dismissed for other reasons, the report said. Still others were settled by the staff before reaching the council, said Stanley Fuld, the council president.

Fuld is a former chief judge of the New York State Court of Appeals. The report said complaints investigated by the council included eight against wire services, 23 against television networks, one against a radio network, two against news magazines, 10 against national newspapers, 11 against news services and syndicates and six others. There were two cases pending as of July 31, 1975.

The council upheld two complaints against television networks, two against news services and syndicates and one against a national newspaper. None was upheld against wire services.



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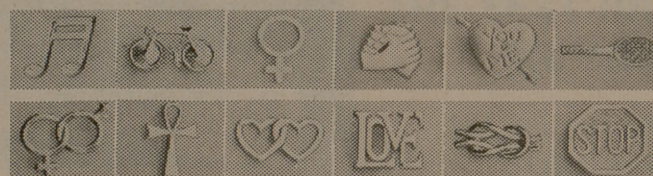
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