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No man is above the law

The hot topic of assisted suicide has emerged with Dr. Jack Kevorkian at its focal point again. The debate focuses around whether we have the right to take our own lives and whether doctors should assist in their patients' death. More than 36 states have banned assisted-suicide -- the act of helping a person take his own life.

BRANDY JONES
Editor

Now the "good doctor". Kevorkian has gone a step further, to euthanasia -- the act of actually carrying out a mercy killing on

television (on the 60 Minutes program). He was recently convicted and sentenced to 25 to life for murdering 52-year-old Thomas Youk who was suffering from Lou Gehrig's disease.

He has been in the limelight concerning assisted-suicide related cases since the early 90's, and over the course of this period he has been an active participant in more than 130 assisted-suicides. Though he has been sentenced, for the first time, he probably won't serve over a week because America is still split on the issue of physician assisted-suicide.

Assisted-suicide is illegal immoral and indecent. I can't fathom how this one man keeps getting away with breaking the law. No physician, let alone any person, has the right to determine whether someone lives or dies. The laws established are to maintain order and decency. To allow Kevorkian to take someone's life away, opens up the arena for other citizens to have no regard for the law. It brings to mind the slippery slope theory: When the society condones one controversial act, it leaves other illegal acts open to interpretation.

It is imperative that Americans take a firm stand against issue of assisted-suicide; otherwise, Kevorkian won't stop until he makes a mockery of the American justice system.

The opinion expressed in this column is that of the author and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the entire Bennett Banner staff.

THE BENNETT BANNER

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STUDENT OPINION POLL:

Bellespeak

What is your opinion about assisted suicide?

Photos by Leah Whaley-Holmes, Banner Photographer



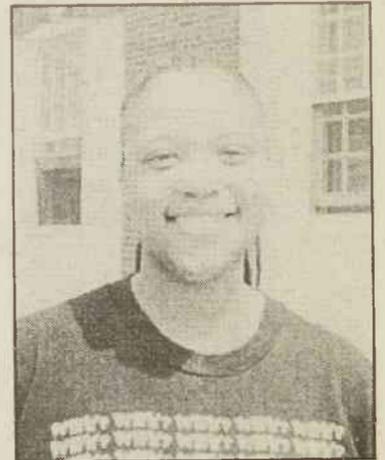
MARCELLA LIVINGSTON
CLASS: SENIOR
MAJOR: BUS. ADMIN.
HOME STATE:

They say we are separated by church and state; therefore, as far as my Christian belief goes, Kevorkian is wrong to use euthanasia. As far as state, my mother told me if she would ever be put on a respirator....unplug it.



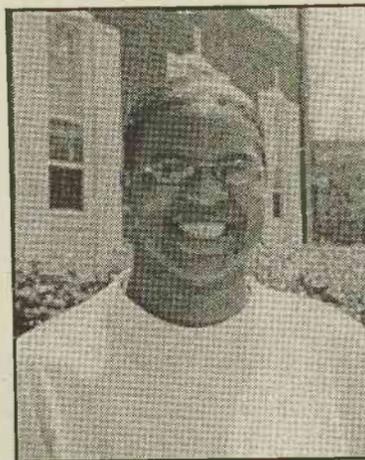
ANGELA BALTIMORE
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I think only God can take a life.



CHANNON SMITH
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I don't think Kevorkian should be found guilty because he has the best interest of his patients.



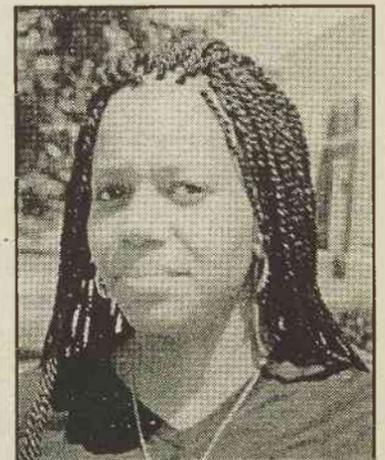
TRINA SEABROOKS-MATTHEWS
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Kevorkian should be found guilty. If it were time for those people to die then God would have taken control of the situation for the person to live or to die.



ANTOINETTE LEBBY
CLASS: SENIOR
MAJOR: BUS. ADMIN.
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Kevorkian should be found not guilty because he is merely granting the wishes of his patients.



JENNIFER DAVIS
CLASS: SOPHOMORE
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HOME STATE: VIRGINIA

Kevorkian should be found guilty because the patients are not in their real state of mind. It should be the patient's decision to make--when they are stable and not drugged up.