

Mercy Killing On Trial

Should one human have the right to take the life of another with the protection and consent of the government?

In the recent mercy-killing trial of Mrs. Suzanne Vandeput in Belgium, the validity of such action was brought before the government in a court of law. Mrs. Vandeput, a 24-year old mother, confessed killing her eight-day old daughter who had been born without arms. This deformity resulted from effects that thalidomide, a drug recently introduced on the market, had on the mother before the child's birth.

Man seeks the answer to the question: should a deformed child be killed? Women who have experienced the pangs of childbirth have asked, "Is it not my right to take the life of the child that was conceived in me when I see him born with a deformity such as no hands, no feet, or no ears? Will God not forgive me for taking that life? If my baby lives, what can he be? How can he live? Am I to stand idly by and watch him decay, knowing that there is nothing that either I or medicine can do?"

Women ask these questions — who has the authority to answer? Can a federal judge or a minister of God give a family their consent to exterminate a living form created in the image of God? On the other hand, can any man take the responsibility of permitting a deformed human to continue to exist without the facilities to grow and mature as a relatively competent individual in this complex world?

These questions are answered with every reply conceivable to man — some affirmative and some negative.

Those who confirm mercy-killing believe that it is their responsibility to prevent the suffering of an individual who cannot help himself. Mothers who have killed their children say, "I could not bear to see 'him' exist — never being able to speak or walk or think" or "My child was not going to suffer because of the drug I took" or "My child is not going to start life with three strikes against him." They were convinced of their duty and many infants have been destroyed by poisoned milk, sleeping pills or some other method.

Those who accept the negative approach respond with, "What God has created let God destroy. Man cannot take the power to create or to destroy into his own hands. Mercy killing is not the solution. Let us have institutions and hospitals to care for these deformed children. They have committed no crime — done no evil — they deserve life as much as you or I."

A controversial issue? What would have been your decision if you had been one of the jury members who had to decide whether or not Mrs. Vandeput, or any individual in a similar situation, deserved the full penalty of the law — death?

Social Clubs In Danger Of Being "Dissolved"

Do the students of Brevard College want or need the social organizations that now exist on campus? Do they satisfy the purpose for which they were originated, or have they merely disintegrated into units with a specific name and no worthwhile activities?

Unless some drastic action is taken by the students, the tradition of the Clios-Euterps, Delphians-Nemos will be killed and replaced by a new organization, the Student Union, or merely discontinued altogether. This action will not be sponsored solely by the administration but will be backed by foresighted students.

If the societies are to remain, there will have to be a new fervor and enthusiasm instilled in them. It is the opinion of several members of the administration and a few students, that an organization whose main purpose is to sponsor an annual dance and whose initiation program is the scope of its activity should not exist. They believe that there should be a specified, worthwhile goal of that group.

Neither the administration nor the SGA is trying to disband or destroy anything; they are merely trying to determine what the majority of the students want.

You will have the chance to give your opinions to the president of either of the clubs or to express your views in the Clarion. The point is, don't be nonchalant about the issue. As the old saying goes, "Speak now or forever hold your peace!"

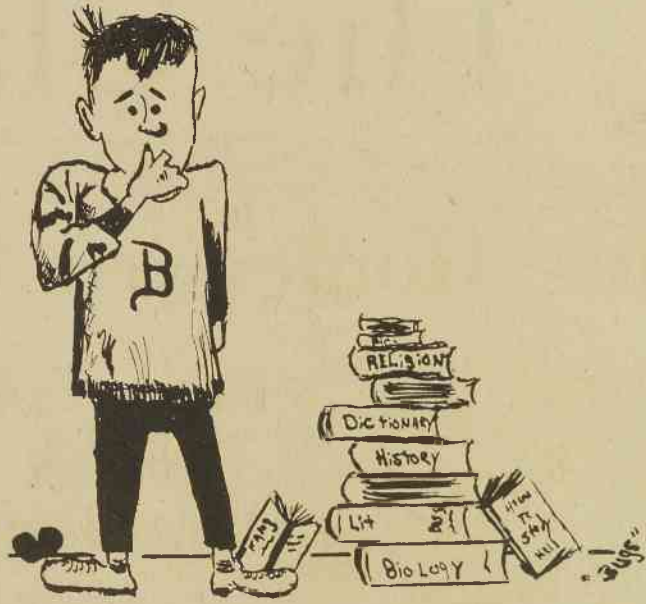
Study? In Taylor Hall?

By TED LEE

Students residing in Taylor Hall are extremely disturbed about the inefficiency of the furnace to furnish heat to their rooms. Perhaps the problem lies in the furnace, or in the boiler, or maybe the thermostat, or possibly the coal supply is scarce. Whatever the problem, the situation is becoming serious as students find it almost impossible to study on cold nights.

Strangely enough, the furnace throws out an abundance of heat when it isn't needed, but as soon as the temperature drops — the furnace freezes up. This situation could be detrimental to student health.

Is anything being done to correct the problem or must we condition ourselves to live like Eskimos? Somebody, please, let's get on the job and get some steam in the radiators before all of the Florida students go home!



OH—I'LL PUT IT OFF TILL AFTER THANKSGIVING

Pilgrims Instilled True Spirit Of Thanksgiving

By BETSY McLEAN

It was October 3, 1863; the war raged on throughout the North and South, bitterly defying all those who dared attempt to extinguish it. Yet, Abraham Lincoln, heavily burdened with weary responsibility, expressed his deep sense of thankfulness to Almighty God. He proclaimed the fourth Thursday of that November as a day of thanksgiving and thus crystallized the national observance of Thanksgiving as an American custom.

Americans had observed occasional days of thanksgiving ever since 1621 when Governor William Bradford had set aside the initial one for the Pilgrims at Plymouth Colony. For them it had been not only a day of giving thanks but also a day of sharing all that they had with the friendly Indians. Indeed, they emptied their larders that they might feed their numerous Indian guests. As a result, the pilgrims faced a severe winter of extreme starvation, and toward its close each person received only five kernels of corn a day.

Do, as we gaily approach the festive day and eagerly anticipate the table heavily laden with food, let us pause not only to give thanks for our bountiful blessings, but also to share what we have with those less fortunate than we. For it is only in this way that the true "spirit of thanksgiving" will be made manifest in our hearts, and we will be prepared for the blessed observance of another holiday, the birthday of our Lord who said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

BLT To Present

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roles as the Japanese houseboy in BLT's presentation of "Majority of One" last year in the Campus Center Auditorium.

The American Legion Building is within walking distance of the college. It is located at the corner of Johnson and Jordan Streets and may be reached by going two blocks south on Johnson Street, which originates in front of the college heating plant.

Mel Everingham, BLT president, extends an invitation to all college students to attend the special performance Friday night and to give well-deserved plaudits to their fellow students who are taking part in the performance.

"Judicial Board" Seeks Sponsors

In reply to the Clarion challenge to eradicate demerits in the November 2 issue, Oscar Smith has submitted to the Student Government Association a system employing a Judicial Board composed of elected representatives from each floor of the residence halls with disciplinary action being employed by the decision of that Board. The system is explained by Mr. Smith in his outline which is posted on the Dunham Hall bulletin board but cannot be printed here because of lack of space. Students are asked to read and evaluate the Judicial Board system and to give their opinions to their class representatives Gail Pilarski or Judy Barnes before the next SGA meeting on November 26.

Wits Of West

By JOYCE WEST

Me conform? Never! I'm going to be an individual. How? Well, I'm going to keep on eating toothpaste, popping my knuckles, wearing my skirts an "inch" too long, not carrying an umbrella in the rain, sliding down banisters, banging on the piano, singing in the shower, throwing salt over my shoulder, and eating ice cream with a fork; and if society doesn't like, well, I'll develop some new idiosyncrasies. I'll dance when there's no music, I'll study when there's no test, I'll talk to myself, I'll renounce the worldly practices of eating and sleeping and well, if by then I haven't made my mark on the world as an "individual", I'll get drastic: I'll study for the fun of it; I'll pretend that I'm leading a dog by a chain or that there's a bird on my shoulder—but as hundreds of others have said, "I'm going to be an individual."

The only "greats" in the world have been the wacky characters who stood apart from society as radicals. Benjamin Franklin tinkered with his kite, and people thought he was in his second childhood. Roger Bacon experimented with his metaphysical phenomenons, and he was exiled for practicing witchcraft.

But where does necessary conformity end and individualism begin? Society dictates behaviorism! Man wears clothes; he eats with a spoon and a fork, and he is, in essence, conforming by merely living. Yet if you ever want to explain your psychological "frustrations" and want to be different, individualism is a good excuse!

The end . . . and they lived happily ever after — but the author of that fairy tale hadn't heard about mid-semester exams! Oh, well, tomorrow may be another day, and as "Dear Abby" says, "if life hands you a lemon — make lemonade."

JULIE'S JARGON

By JULIE HAYNIE

Well, it's just four more days until the Thanksgiving Holidays begin and everyone will scatter to distant lands.

The Mountaineer's Club had quite a few tales to tell when they returned from their overnight stay at Camp High Rock.

. . . Ken Nash and James Ruiz were all wet! And Gail Lance and Vicki Caldwell witnessed the accident as they turned over their canoe . . . Who was that beautiful champagne blond who crashed the party? No one knew . . . No one but Mr. Tauscher, that is . . . And who needs Arthur Murray when you can

have Mr. Howe and Mr. Fisher? the gentlemen gave dancing lessons all night.

Despite the bitterly cold weather the Clios carried on and held their picnic at Camp Deerwoode, Novmeber 3. From the reports the picnic was definitely a success! . . . As was the WAA's Hayride. The Hayride consisted of three trucks complete with hay and people. On the way back two members of the party were almost left. It's a good thing they can run fast!

That'll about do it for this issue. Have a happy holiday and a gobble, gobble to you!

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