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## Man In The Street

# Are We Cheating Death?

by Robert Eller  
Chronicle Staff Reporter

The idea of keeping a person alive by machine has always been one of great controversy in the United

States. Recently this controversy has been thrust into the limelight with the case of Karen Ann Quinlan.

The parents of the 21-year-old woman are asking that

their daughter be allowed to die. Miss Quilan, who has been in a coma for six months, is being kept alive by a respirator which allows her to breathe. Miss Quilan's brain has suffered irreparable damage.

This week the "man in the street" asked citizens of the city their views on this delicate subject. Here are some of their responses.

Naja Leak, 19, said, "I think letting them die is better than letting the person suffer. If a person wants to die instead of living in agony, it's his right."

Willie Stevens, 23, stated, "If the person could speak for themselves I don't think they would want to be killed. Who has the right to end anyone's life?"

Boyd Willis, 44, answered, "I think if a person's relatives don't want the person kept alive by these means they should have the right to stop it."

Gail Enwright, 24, commented, "I don't think a person should be kept breathing if there is no chance of their recovery. Why try to cheat death?"

Angela Chastin, 22, answered, "I feel that if a machine is keeping you alive then they should be allowed to die. If God is keeping them alive they won't die."

J.H. Kirkland, 54, said, "It's Gods job to keep people alive. They shouldn't try to keep people alive with machines. If they turn the machine and it's Gods will for the person to live they will live. If it's His will for them to die they will die."

Floyd Walters, 22, commented, "They are sending people to the gas chambers. Mercy killing is more merciful than that. If a person has for all practical purposes ceased to live, then they should be allowed to die."

Most of the people interviewed felt that a person should be allowed to die if they are being kept alive by a machine and have no chance of recovery.

One man who passed stated, "If you can't live without the aid of a machine, then you're already dead."

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