

## MORALS OR MANKIND?

by Sidney McCain  
and Maria Ma

In the novel *A Clockwork Orange* by Anthony Burgess, an important moral question is raised: If an operation could be performed on a criminal which would make him or her incapable of committing acts considered "morally wrong" (i.e. violence), should it be done? In other words, is it worth sacrificing ethics for the betterment of society? We decided to ask some people at St. Mary's their opinions on this question.

"I would definitely be for it. I don't see how anybody can be against it. It would cure all the injustices in the world. It would be wonderful. The world would be perfect; it would be great!" stated Carter Fauber, a Junior. Freshman Kerry Hall agreed, as it would be "a lot better than being locked up in jail, and they (the criminals) would not be a threat to society." Angela Johnson had another way of looking at it: "It would lessen our taxes since we would not have to pay the money to keep them in prison." However, she went on to state that "Although I would like the operation to occur, it should not be forced on the criminals. They should have a choice."

This opinion was shared by many others. Sophomore Cathy Crew felt that "...even though he's a criminal, he's still a person. If it was all right with him and if he would be useful to society, I don't see why not." Lee Moore felt that "The only way I would even think about it is if the criminal consented to it."

"They shouldn't be changed unless they're willing to change, in the heart and the head, and not just the head," declared Elizabeth Grine.

The question of laws also came up. Senior Karen Mullican thought that it was "cruel and unusual punishment, and that is against the Constitution." "We have a choice of free will in the United States, and something like that would go against that," said Sophomore Martha Fairer.

Religion was another issue. Anne Goode, a Senior, stated that "...it would be like playing God." Pam Aikins felt that "It would be wrong because God created us with a free will, and it should be our choice to do good or to do bad."

Many of the people surveyed were against it. "That's like cutting out half their brains," said Elsie Faison and Erin Clemens. "I would be against it because part of being human is making choices and making decisions. If you take that away, people might as well be machines," according to Anita Mehta, a Sophomore. "I can't see how someone could live with a feeling like that," said Freshman Mary Alice Neader. Many also felt that there were other ways to deal with such a problem, such as psychiatric treatment.

Certain students thought that medical technology should not be used in that way. Some likened it to getting a lobotomy. Senior Elizabeth Clay said, "Doctors shouldn't be able to mess with people like that, regardless of what the criminal has done." Freshman Hope Dooner felt that, "Doctors should not be playing with a person's mind in order to control them."

Others felt that it was right in some cases and wrong in others. "Only if they were mentally disturbed and couldn't be helped in any other way," was Sophomore Julie Goodnight's thought. "I'd be definitely for it if it were a hardened criminal who had repeated the same crime, and a really bad crime like murder," said Housemother Frances Bell.

A few of the responses given did not really fit into any of the categories. "I think that if someone did something bad, they ought to be punished and be used for experiments," was Freshman Mary

Miller's totally unique answer. Sarah McGuire said that, "There has to be some bad. Who wants everybody to be good anyway?" And Lee Moore felt that, "It could get out of hand because it could be used on people who don't really have any problems, and it could take away complete individual personalities."

Obviously there is no easy answers. There are many Pro's. As Senior Harriet

Little put it, "Who would want a criminal to commit a crime if he could perform an operation so that he wouldn't do it? That would be great; everybody would be good." Elizabeth Byrd felt that such an operation would be beneficial, since "...all they do is set them free after a couple of years anyway, and they go back on the streets and commit the same crimes." Possibly the Con's far outweigh the Pro's. Who is to say what is wrong

and what is right? Because society decides that it may be right, does that mean it is? What is more important—society or the individual? Should some people have to sacrifice their morals to benefit society? Or will society really improve?

Does everyone have to have the same values for complete happiness? Do people even care?

### ST. MARY'S CONDUCTS

## ANNUAL PHONEATHON



Students as well as faculty members work hard at the phoneathon.



Terri Shubert works hard trying to raise money for St. Mary's.

by Clayton Henkle

Once again it is time for the annual St. Mary's Phoneathon. The Alumnae Office and many students are busy calling old St. Mary's girls for donations that keep the school running. And some of the responses are amazing - everything from graduates who re-live their youth on a trip down memory lane while on the phone, to people who are willing to pay the school to NEVER call them again. Every now and then there is a grandmother whose grandchild was a misfortunate victim of J-Board! Nevertheless, most of the volunteers agree that they enjoy talking to the alumnae - or at least enjoy talking on the phone!

Last year approximately \$160,000 was raised. So far this year, \$120,000 has been raised with a projective goal of \$200,000.

Students have worked hard to make this yearly event a success.



President John Rice enthusiastically raises the money mark for the annual phoneathon.