

Snook: laws necessary, but not always moral

Civil law is necessary and useful, but not always the most trustworthy clue to what is moral, according to Dr. Lee Snook, Christian theologian for the Lutheran Theological Center in St. Paul, Minn.

Christian views on "Life and Death" issues, such as mercy killing and abortion, were analyzed in terms of how they may conflict with civil law by Snook and university students Sunday at the Lutheran Student Center.

The questions what's happening, what's at stake, and what to do should be applied to all controversial "life and death" topics, said Snook.

Civil law must be respectful of belief and consciousness of the people, or the law can't be enforced, said Snook. No law is any better than the trust people have in it, he said.

"The deeply religious seek not to judge by a law, but by the heart," Snook said.

As an illustration, he spoke of "a sensitive old country doctor" who looked at many "monstrously disfigured babies and saw to it that they wouldn't live." He said there was no social agreement concerning this issue and the doctor made the decision himself.

"The old doctor couldn't get away with that today because that decision is now placed on social policies," he said.

There is no simple solution to "life and death" questions, according to Snook.

"Think of the family whose 17-year-old daughter is a vegetable and agonizing over the question of whether or not to pull the plug" of life-sustaining machines, he said.

In this case, he said the family, physicians and priests involved agreed that it would be best to let the girl die, but they couldn't because law says it would be murder.

Any creature that emerges from the human fetus is human, he said, but that doesn't say society must protect that life at all costs. He said every life is precious, but no life is absolute.

"What we do on the basis of what we believe is the beginning of Christian ethics," Snook said.

He added that Jesus Christ is the Christian guideline for the "true human" and it is the duty of Christians to know what is at stake with their beliefs concerning "Life and Death" issues.

Snook holds five degrees and received his education in Pennsylvania and New York.



The 21st annual Sigma Chi Derby Day raised \$600 for the Wallace Village of mentally retarded children at Brumfield, Colo., according to John Dewolfe, chairman.

Alpha Phis.

Dewolfe said Derby Day was not without a pre-Derby day fight between the Sigma Chis and other UNL fraternities, which each year try to steal the wooden derby from in front of the Sigma Chi house.

Overall winners of intersorority competition were the Pi Beta Phis and the

Drop procedures changed

After Oct. 17, a student wishing to withdraw from a class needs to make arrangements only with his instructor and does not need to file a drop slip.

Previously, a student withdrawing after the eight-week drop period had to have approval of the dean of his college. This policy was changed Feb. 11 by the Faculty Senate Grading Committee.

"What the teacher insists on as an excuse for dropping will vary from teacher to teacher," Stephen Hilliard, former chairman of the Faculty Senate Grading Committee said.

Main reason for the policy change was that the instructor knows more about the student than the dean, Hilliard said.

Latin studies: 'interest up'

Attendance at the Midwest Latin American Studies Programs conference in Lincoln last week

reflected the "growing interest in Latin America," according to Roberto Esquenazi-Mayo, UNL Inter-

national Studies director.

Program directors discussed the status and development of Latin programs at the conference, fourth in a series concerned with regional cooperation and financing of Latin American studies. Leaders from 23 national institutions spoke.

Esquenazi-Mayo said the conference proved the soundness of the individual programs and what they offer to scholarship.

Representing what he called the most active Latin American studies in the Midwest, Esquenazi-Mayo said the participants prepared guidelines for future programs.

Along with UNL, the meeting was sponsored by the University of Kansas, the University of Indiana, the University of Wisconsin at Madison and the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee.

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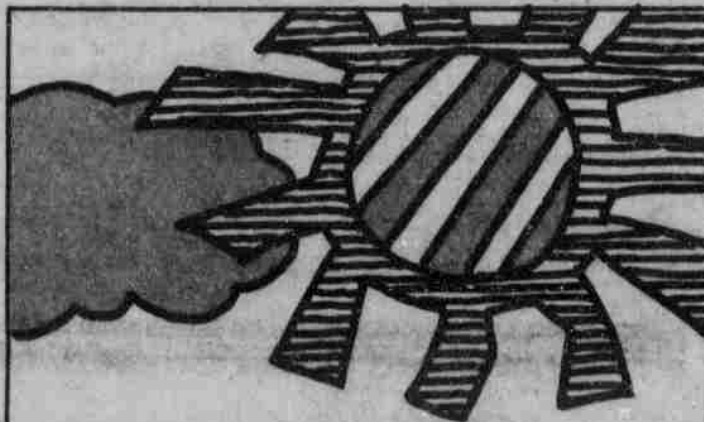


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