

SUNY SIDE UP, Jan. 13, 1982

The musical theme is "Sunny Side Up"; the name of this program: SUNY Side Up.

Hi, everybody, this is Al Oickle at the State University of New York, here at Stony Brook. Today's subject is, "Withdrawing Life Support Systems." You will be hearing a conversation I recorded late in 1981 with Prof. Peter Williams, who is on the faculty of the Department of Community ~~and Preventive~~ Medicine. Professor Williams has two doctorates==in philosophy and in law.

~~But rather~~ One almost needs a background in both the law and philosophy ~~to~~ <sup>in</sup> discuss ~~the~~ <sup>ing</sup> sensitive issues of withdrawing life support systems from patients who are near death. <sup>1</sup> The classic case, of course, is that of the young <sup>9</sup> New Jersey women, Karen Quinlan. Dozens of other cases have been in the headlines the past few years. And now there is a motion picture on the subject, ~~called~~ "Whose Life Is It, Anyway?" Tom Conti, and later Mary Tyler Moore, played the lead in the Broadway play of that name. Richard Dreyfuss has the lead in the film.

On a recent morning, I took my tape recorder to the Health Sciences Center, here at Stony Brook, and talked with Prof. Peter Williams...about the "living will," about patients' rights, about medical ethics and about other phases of ~~this~~ how the living can deal with the dying. began I ~~begin~~ by reading <sup>newspaper</sup> an account of medical efforts to restore life to an aged woman who had stopped breathing.

TAPE

CUT TAPE OFF AT 27:30 - "what they tell you, what you might want to know."

AFO LIVE: And so, as with so many other complex questions involving life...and death...and, yes, education, there are no simple answers. Prof. Williams, ~~and~~ like most other educators who grapple with these questions, makes it clear, ~~however,~~ that public ~~discussion~~ is important ~~for~~ in helping prepare all of us should the day arrive when we must make such important decisions.

~~PAUSE~~

Next week, we will turn our attention to a very real problem of the living---of the living student who is having difficulty in learning the skills of communicating through the written ~~E~~nglish language. Our guest will be Prof. Patricia Silber, director of the basic writing program, here at Stony Brook. Until then, this is Al Oickle. So long, everybody.