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Daily News of Los Angeles (CA)

November 3, 1991

Section: EDITORIAL

Edition: Valley

Page: VPT2

Memo: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

PUBLIC FORUM
KEVORKIAN WRONGLY ATTACKED FOR AIDING SUICIDES

Why the vehement attacks on Dr. Jack Kevorkian for helping three rational, non-terminally ill women commit painless suicide? I refer to the Oct. 18 column, "Easy shortcut to the long goodbye," by Debra J. Saunders and the Oct. 29 editorial, "No more Dr. Deaths."

Marjorie Wantz had made five unsuccessful attempts at unassisted suicide. The editorial's assertion that Kevorkian "lured" these women to their deaths is obviously false when measured against their clear determination to die.

I don't consider Kevorkian's actions to be "plainly wrong" at all, but I do wonder at your morbid insistence that those who choose to end their own life must do so in loneliness and fear of failure.

It's really none of the Daily News' business.

- Bill Becker

West Hills

Public Forum
Daily News
P.O. Box 4200
Woodland Hills, CA 91365

October 29, 1991

Dear editor,

As Submitted. Text omitted
by editor enclosed between
"[" , "]" The editor tends to
protect Debra Saunders from
serious criticism.

Why the vehement attacks on Dr. Jack Kevorkian for helping three rational, non-terminally ill women commit painless suicide? ("Easy Shortcut to the Long Goodbye," Debra J. Saunders, 10/28; "No More Dr. Deaths," editorial, 10/29.)

Margery Wantz had made 5 unsuccessful attempts at unassisted suicide. (News article, 10/29, p.16) [If Saunders did not know this before implying that Wantz was a coward because she did not "just kill herself sooner," then Saunders is guilty of poor journalism. If she did know, then she is cold-hearted beyond belief.] The editorial's assertion that Kevorkian "lured" these women to their deaths is obviously false when measured against their clear determination to die.

I don't consider Kevorkian's actions to be "plainly wrong" at all, but I do wonder at your morbid insistence that those who choose to end their own life must do so in loneliness and fear of failure. It's really none of your business.

Bill Becker

Sincerely,

W. Becker