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LETTERS

No rhyme, reason 294 in executions

To the Editor:

Who shall live and who shall die?

So goes the game of Russian roulette played by the state of Texas and other states that have capital punishment statutes in effect.

As I read in the Oct. 22 *Tribune-Herald* that William Kershner had plea-bargained to accept a murder charge in exchange for his life, my emotions conflicted.

He was indicted for capital murder. Assistant District Attorney Pat Murphy offered to reduce the charge in exchange for an unconditional murder plea by Kershner. District Attorney Vic Feazell said, "It would have lasted at least six weeks and cost thousands of dollars. We've already been through three capital murder trials in a short time, and that is a lot for a county this size."

I am against the use of capital punishment. Discrimination in its use is one of the most commanding arguments against it. The death penalty is administered with extraordinary arbitrariness and with a lack of methodical judgment.

When we can decide that it is too costly or too time-consuming to try a person who has been indicted for capital murder, then the system has failed us.

Yvonne Pugh
Waco