
UNIVERSITY OF THE PEOPLE

ENGL 1405-01 World Literature - AY2024-T2

Written assignment unit 4

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News story is based on the science fiction story "2BR02B" by Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.:

Tragedy Strikes Chicago Hospital: 4 Dead in Suicide

Chicago Times - A devastating scene unfolded yesterday at the Chicago Hospital when a distraught new father took the lives of two hospital employees and then himself. The perpetrator was identified as Edward K. Wehling Jr., 56, who was awaiting the delivery of his triplet children. According to witnesses, Wehling became agitated while speaking to Dr. Benjamin Hitz, the hospital's Chief Obstetrician, about having to select one of the triplets for termination under the nation's strict population laws. He then drew a handgun and shot Dr. Hitz dead without warning. Hostess Leora Duncan of the Federal Bureau of Termination, who was also present, was killed next before Wehling turned the gun on himself. Authorities remain unsure of Wehling's motives, but it appears the government's population control policies may have been a trigger behind this devastating violence.

With no next of kin stepping forward, the status of Wehling's newborn triplets remains uncertain. Current laws mandate that no more than one child per family unit can be granted legal status unless additional family members volunteer for termination to offset the increased population. As no arrangements were made beforehand due to the unexpected birth of triplets, the infants have been taken into temporary custody while authorities investigate options. The Chicago Bureau of Termination issued a statement offering condolences to all affected and urging the public to utilize family planning services to prevent similar tragedies. This heartbreaking case serves as a sobering reminder that while population control comes at a steep personal cost, officials argue it remains necessary for society's future stability and well-being.

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Reference:

Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. (2023). The Project Gutenberg eBook of 2 B R O 2 B, Gutenberg.org.
<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/21279/21279-h/21279-h.htm>

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