

## AuCoin to propose weapons-grade bill



**NORTHWEST**

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — U.S. Rep. Les AuCoin says he will introduce a bill this week to halt U.S. production of tritium, plutonium and weapons-grade uranium.

Under his proposal, the billions of dollars saved would then be used to clean up the Hanford Nuclear Reservation in Washington state, as well as other contaminated nuclear weapons plants around the nation.

"My bill will prohibit the construction or operation of new or existing facilities to produce new nuclear weapons material," said AuCoin, Oregon's representative from the 1st District.

AuCoin, who is campaigning for the U.S. Senate seat held by Sen. Bob Packwood, announced his proposal during a news conference on the south bank of the Columbia River near the Interstate Bridge.

Referring to dangerous nuclear wastes he said were seeping toward the river, he said, "208 miles up this river is a nuclear accident in slow motion. An accident that threatens our health. Our safety. And it threatens the livelihood of all Oregonians."

"This material is stuff we don't need, can't afford and are better off without. Now that the cold war is over, we should be reaping the benefits of this new era, not shortchanging cleanup of this deadly nuclear waste to pay for new plutonium, tritium and uranium we don't need."

AuCoin predicted "substantial support" for his proposal from both Democrats and Republicans in Congress. He said he expected passage during the next year's session.

AuCoin, who serves on the House Defense Appropriations subcommittee, estimated that his bill would free up between \$250 million and \$1 billion a year for cleanup of Hanford, plus additional money to clean up other sites.

## Most favor suicide option, poll shows

BOSTON (AP) — A new poll found that nearly two out of three Americans favor physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia for terminally ill patients who request it.

The poll was done as Washington state residents prepare to vote Tuesday on Initiative 119, a measure that would make it legal for doctors in the state to help certain terminally ill people kill themselves.

"People are trying to tell us something," said Dr. Marcia Angell, executive editor of the New England Journal of Medicine. "There's a great perception out there that high-tech medicine has gotten out of hand."

The poll was sponsored by The Boston Globe and the Harvard School of Public Health. Results were published in Sunday's Globe.

The poll shows that 64 percent of those questioned favored physician-assisted suicide for terminally ill people who ask for it; 79 percent under the age of 35 approve of the idea compared to 53 percent of those over 50 years of age.

KRC Communications Research randomly surveyed 1,311 adults over the age of 18 by telephone Oct. 18-20 in the poll paid for by the Globe. The company reported a margin of error of 3 percent.

While a substantial majority of those polled favor giving terminally ill patients the option of suicide, 52 percent think they would actually exercise it themselves. Overall, about one in four of all those polled would be prepared themselves to take steps leading to a doctor-aided death.

"We live in a libertarian culture in which freedom to choose in these personal matters is very important to us," said Professor Robert Blendon of the Harvard School of Public Health, who helped design the poll and analyze the results. "People clearly want the widest latitude possible."

But others argued that Americans misunderstand the implications of extending personal choice to death.

Philosopher Margaret Battin of the University of Utah said the poll results are "a protest against the way that people perceive themselves to be treated by the medical establishment when they come to die."

However, Daniel Callahan, who directs the Hastings

Center, an institute of medical ethics, said: "People favorable to physician-assisted death have not thought it through. They're captured by the argument of self-termination and have not begun to think about what are the implications for the medical profession or the potential for abuses."

The American Medical Association is against lifting traditional strictures against physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia. Washington state's medical association has officially come out against Initiative 119, although individual members are split on the issue.

According to the poll, most Americans think doctors should be involved if a terminally ill patient chooses to end his or her life.

Thirty-seven percent of Americans think it should be legal for a relative or close friend to assist in ending a terminally ill person's life, and only 14 percent say they themselves would help a terminally ill relative or friend commit suicide.

Church teachings against suicide and intentional killings had little impact on those polled.

Among Roman Catholics, 71 percent said they would vote for the Washington initiative if it were on the ballot in their state; 69 percent of Jews favored the initiative. Among born-again Christians, 49 percent would vote yes.

The survey also shows that nearly nine out of 10 people favor withdrawing life-sustaining treatment from terminally ill patients if they have requested it in a living will.

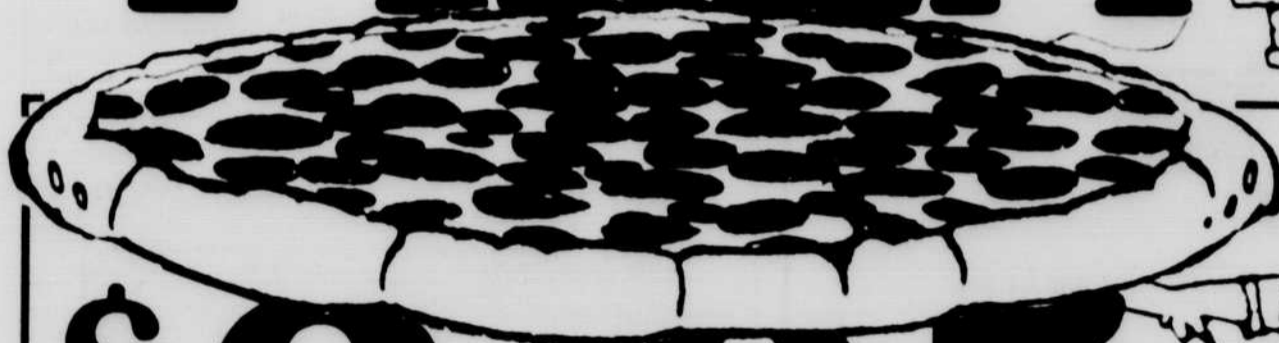
Three out of four support withdrawing life-support systems, including food and water, from hopelessly ill or irreversibly comatose patients whose families request such a step.

If Initiative 119 passes, Washington state would become the first place in the world to legalize physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia.

## MONDAY SPECIAL

### ONE ITEM SMALL

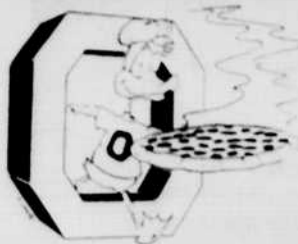
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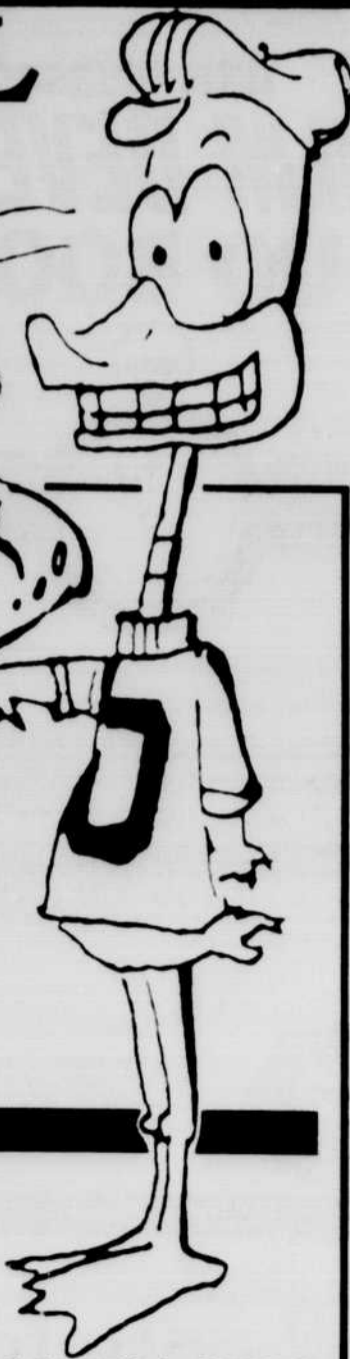
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## ET ALS

### MEETINGS

University Martin Luther King Celebration Committee will meet today at 4 in the EMU Board room. Call 346-4000 for more information.

Native Hawaiian Student Union will meet tonight at 5 in EMU Cedar Room E. Call 346-9346 for more information.

Career Development Internship Program orientation meeting to sign up for interviews will be today from 3:30 to 5 p.m. in EMU Gumwood Room. Call 346-3255 for more information.

The Society for Classical Languages will meet today at 12:30 p.m. in EMU Cedar Room A. Call 344-7756

### MISCELLANEOUS

Jawbone Undergraduate Fiction and Poetry Reading will take place tonight at 7:30 in Room 110 Willamette. Call 343-9077 for more information.

Dysfunctional Family Support Group meets Mondays from 2:30 to 4 p.m. Drop by the University Counseling Center in Room 210 Student Health, between 1 and 3 p.m. if you are interested. Call 346-3227 for more information.

### OPPORTUNITIES

Bidding for the following companies will take place today through Friday in Room 244 Hendricks:

- Xerox Corp.
- Kraft General Foods
- Russ Berrie Co.
- Enterprise Rent-a-car
- Radio Shack
- Livingston Security
- National Life Insurance Co.

Precision Castparts  
There will be a group meeting for R.H. Macy's Co. tonight from 7 to 8:30 in the EMU Maple Room.