

# U.S. companies bid for RU-486



PORTLAND (AP) — The group seeking to develop the French abortion pill RU-486 for domestic use has received dozens of offers by U.S. companies to manufacture the drug, officials said Tuesday.

The drug's French manufacturer, Roussel-Uclaf, has tentatively agreed to license the Population Council, a New York-based biomedical research group, to find a domestic maker for the drug and conduct clinical trials.

Between 20 and 30 U.S. drug manufacturers have contacted the council, even though a formal agreement has not yet been struck with Roussel, said C. Wayne Bardin, vice president of the Population Council.

"That happens any time you develop a product. You get offers from people who don't even know what the product is," said Bardin, whose non-profit organization also developed the Norplant contraceptive implant.

Rep. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., announced in April that Oregon would be one of several states where RU-486 will be tested as an abortion pill. No other test sites have been announced.

Abortion foes, meanwhile, vow to demonstrate against use of the drug in the United States.

Paul deParrie, editor of *Life Advocates* magazine in Portland, said he and other anti-abortion activists plan a letter-writing campaign asking test sites to "cease testing a human pesticide."

"What I keep hearing from the pro-abortion side is that this will end the debate and end the protests because RU-486 is a private thing," he said.

Operation Rescue spokeswoman Wendy Wright said the anti-abortion group plans to step up its opposition to the drug with a protest in front of the French Embassy in Washington, D.C., later this month.

RU-486 works by neutralizing progesterone, a hormone that is essential to pregnancy. Without progesterone, a fertilized egg will not adhere to the walls of the uterus.

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## Outhouse searchers dig deep for treasure

PORT TOWNSEND, Wash. (AP) — Armed with an 1891 map, a two-prong pitchfork and some shovels, Russell West and Harold De Jong scout yards for treasure in the remains of century-old outhouses.

Their finds include antique bottles and glassware, china and porcelain doll heads, and other odds and ends.

"Most people say, 'Aghhhhh, you want to do that?'" said De Jong, a concert pianist and former Port Townsend real estate agent who took up outhouse digging about six months ago as a hobby.

De Jong said history leads him to plumb depths many would find disgusting.

"You can read the ages as you go down," De Jong said.

Some of the more unusual finds include weapons, a monkey's skull and a 110-year-old bottle of Madeira wine.

"I enjoyed the wine a lot," De Jong said.

Glass wound up in outhouses because there was no garbage pickup or landfill in the early days, he said. The soft landing kept many from breaking.

Some of the bottles he's found date back to the mid-1800s, when Washington was still a territory, and De Jong has a large collection of drug store bottles.

The worth of the bottles varies. The average ranges from \$3 to \$10, but some can fetch hundreds of dollars, he said.

Finding the pits can prove tricky. De Jong and West poke long metal probes into the ground, listening for the grinding noise that indicates there is glass beneath the surface.

Outhouses usually were located directly behind a home or parallel to it so they weren't visible from the road. Sometimes indentations in the lawn can indicate a pit.

So far, De Jong and West have dug out 200 outhouses in Port Townsend and retrieved about 3,000 bottles. They locate sites with old city maps, obtained from a library in Tacoma, which show where Victorian-style homes were built on the 110- by 110-foot city lots.

De Jong said he got hooked after West dug up several bottles and other items in his own backyard.

As he looked at the relics, De Jong said he started thinking about the people who lived in his house at the turn of the century.

"They had no electricity, no running water and no garbage collection," he said. "Imagine going to the outhouse at night with 40 mph winds."

**'Most people say, 'Aghhhhh, you want to do that?''**

— Harold De Jong, outhouse digger

## New clinic will offer abortions

SALEM (AP) — A Planned Parenthood clinic opening June 15 will begin offering abortions in the fall, the group announced today.

It will be the first of Planned Parenthood's Oregon clinics to provide abortions. The group offers abortion counseling services at clinics in Portland, Eugene, Grants Pass and Medford.

The Salem clinic, located about 15 blocks north of the Capitol, will offer abortions for women who choose to end their pregnancies in the first trimester.

Allie Stickney, executive director of Planned Parenthood's Columbia-Willamette chapter, said it would take several months for the clinic to be ready to perform abortions.

However, she said the Salem clinic would immediately begin offering such services as gynecological exams, cancer screening, pregnancy testing and birth control counseling.

Stickney said Planned Parenthood chose Salem for its first abortion clinic in Oregon because many low-income women and teen-agers have a difficult time finding abortion services in the mid-Willamette Valley.

Planned Parenthood expects the Salem clinic to be the target of protests by anti-abortion activists and is working with police to make sure any protests are peaceful, she said.

The Oregon Legislature recently completed action on a bill to impose felony penalties for blocking access to abortion clinics. Gov. Barbara Roberts has said she will sign the legislation.

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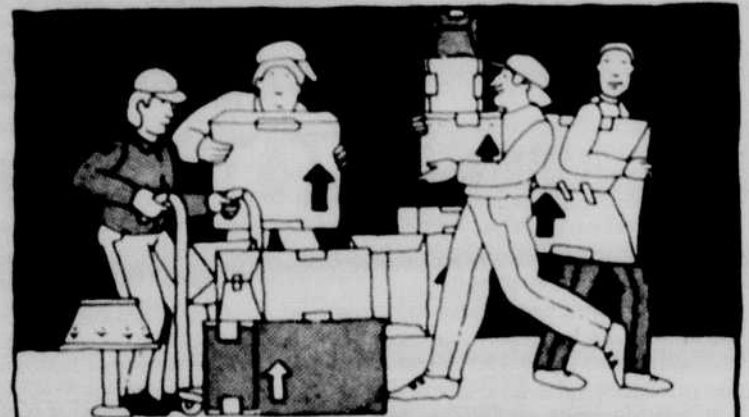
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