

**ET ALS**

**MEETINGS**

EMU Budget Committee will meet today at 4 p.m. in EMU Century Room B. For more information, call 346-3720 or 465-4760.

Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Youth Group will meet today from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at the Koinonia Center, 1414 Kincaid St. For more information, call 346-1134.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

Society of Professional Journalists will offer a panel discussion tonight at 7 in Room 218 Allen. For more information, call 346-8042.

Outdoor Program will sponsor a ski trip planning clinic tonight at 7:30 in the Outdoor Program Room. For more information, call 346-4365.

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— Beatles

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**REGIONAL**

**NEWS FROM THE NORTHWEST**

**Northwest town has decided to use radioactive waste for fill dirt in St. Louis**

■ **POLLUTION:** Community decides to charge fee for disposing nuclear waste

ST. LOUIS (AP) — The tiny farming community of Ford, Wash., may help St. Louis dispose of radioactive waste left over at various sites from the making of the atomic bomb.

Four residents of Ford toured the St. Louis area last week. At the end of the tour, they were encouraged. St. Louis wants to get rid of its radioactive waste, and Ford, located about 20 miles northwest of Spokane, has a bunker it needs to fill.

"We're looking for a win-win situation, and St. Louis may be it," said Lois Heglin, leader of the group from Ford. "You've got sites you want cleaned of radioactive material. We've got a site that is licensed to take this waste as part of our cleanup effort."

Ford is home to the Dawn Mining Co. and its uranium-processing mill. When the mill closed in 1981, it left behind a giant hole that was about 10 percent filled with low-level radioactive wastes.

The hole is 65 feet deep and covers 28 acres. It is lined with black plastic, and has filled partially with water. Residents fear contamination may leak from the hole into ground water.

"Dawn didn't have any money to clean it up," said Heglin. "There was always the possibility they could walk and leave us with nothing."

Instead, the company and community came up with an innovative solution: They would fill the hole with more low-level waste, charging a fee to those who had waste to get rid of, and then cap it. All the money would go into a trust fund to be used to clean up the Dawn Mining property.

But Ford is being careful about what kind of wastes it accepts.

"We don't want heavy metals, we don't want pesticides, we don't want PCBs," Heglin said.

St. Louis has about a million cubic yards of radioactive waste at the three sites and on some roadways linking them. The Energy Department estimates the waste would fill Busch Stadium, although the radioactive material itself could be compressed into a block the size of a hot dog stand.

The waste originated at the old Mallinckrodt Chemical Works plant near downtown. Mallinckrodt, which had a government contract to process uranium, stored its waste on a field near Lambert Airport.

A private company then bought the waste and began

hauling it to a site nearby before it went out of business.

The Department of Energy initially was leaning toward building a permanent bunker near the airport. But it began cleaning up some waste from residential properties this year, and sending it to Envirocare, a landfill in the Utah desert.

Envirocare had been the only licensed commercial facility that could take the St. Louis waste — before the federal government issued a license to Dawn Mining last February.

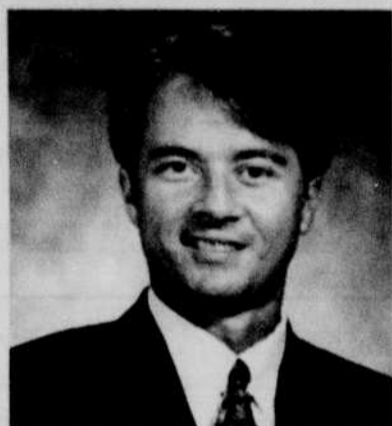
David Adler, who is in charge of the federal cleanup in St. Louis, said Dawn Mining adds a new perspective to the work.

"Now there's competition on the marketplace," said Adler.

Sending all the St. Louis waste to Envirocare could cost as much as a billion dollars, the Energy Department estimates. The budget this year for cleaning up the St. Louis sites is \$15 million.

The residents of Ford say they could take the waste off St. Louis' hands cheaper than Envirocare.

"We could clean up two sites for the price of one," Heglin said. "You don't want that stuff sitting here for the rest of your life. We could give you back your ball fields."



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