

Washington debates right to die

■ ASSISTED SUICIDE:

Attorneys say the court seems to be struggling with the issue

By Scott Sonner
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Washington state Attorney General Christine Gregoire, arguing against doctor-assisted suicides, said she was encouraged the Supreme Court justices focused on the same issues that her side emphasized during oral arguments Wednesday.

"It is very clear they see the issues as we see the issues," said Gregoire, who maintains that legislatures and citizen voter initiatives — not courts — should decide whether such assistance is legal.

"So we are very optimistic that we and they see exactly what is before them and the risk associated with going any other way. In other words, taking the liberty away from the legislature, from the citizens of the state to decide this very important social policy," she told reporters outside the Supreme Court.

But Kathryn L. Tucker, a lawyer who argued the other side of the case, said the justices appear to be struggling with the question of the rights of a patient

who wants to end his or her life.

"I think the court is very interested in the issue," Tucker told reporters.

"It is clearly struggling with how to define this liberty. What we are focused on here is a patient at the end of life, whose dying process is well under way and (who) is suffering in that process — the freedom of that patient to choose, in a system consistent with their values and beliefs, how much suffering to endure," she said.

Bill Williams, an assistant Washington attorney general who argued the case before the court, said there is no constitutional "right to die" as some advocates of assisted suicides claim.

"The 14th Amendment protects life, liberty and property. And generally under the constitution, the protection of life is the highest in the hierarchy of constitutional values," Williams told reporters afterward.

"As I said in court, some might argue that's why we organize as societies in the first place is to protect life. So clearly there is the state's interest in protecting life. That includes the prevention of suicide," he said.

In addition, "there is a legitimate concern about enabling doctors to participate in killing their

patients because of the desire to maintain a bright line between doctors as healers and doctors as killers," he said.

Gregoire said she was encouraged by the way the oral arguments went because "all of the questions that were asked in there were questions about when does a court step in and take this issue away from a legislative process?"

"Why are the legislatures not as capable or potentially more capable to decide this most important issue than even the court? Those kinds of probing questions tell us they see the issues in a similar way as we do," she said.

"The citizens of the state of Washington should be given a chance through the initiative process or through the legislative process to decide whether they want assisted suicides by physicians. It should not be mandated by the court," she said.

Gregoire said legalization of assisted suicide would subject the disabled and the elderly to tremendous pressures to end their lives rather than place financial burdens on their families.

"There is no question they tell very heart-wrenching stories and they present them in their briefs. But the bottom line is ... the risk of abuse and undue influence here is fairly large," she said.

Proposed law seeks to ban funding for assisted suicide

■ **BILL:** The law does not address the constitutional issues now being heard by the Supreme Court

By Curt Anderson
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Taking aim at an Oregon law, two senators unveiled legislation Wednesday that would ban use of federal tax dollars to pay for physician-assisted suicide.

The bill is urgently needed, said Sen. John Ashcroft, R-Mo., because Oregon voters in 1994 approved a law allowing patients who are expected to live less than six months to request a lethal dose of drugs.

The law is on hold pending the outcome of court cases, but the state would use Medicaid funds to pay for physician-assisted suicide in some cases.

"Using the grotesque euphemism of 'comfort care,' Oregon officials are preparing to use taxpayer funds to subsidize physician-assisted suicide — a practice that many find morally abhorrent," Ashcroft said.

In addition to Medicaid, the bill would affect such programs as Medicare, federal employee health plans, veterans health care and medical services for federal prisoners.

The programs, Ashcroft said, "are intended to support and enhance human life, not promote its destruction."

Ashcroft and Sen. Byron Dorgan, D-N.D., began circulating a letter seeking Senate support Wednesday as the Supreme Court heard oral arguments in two cases that will determine whether the Consti-

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— John Ashcroft
Senator

tution provides a right to assisted suicide. The Clinton administration supports state bans on assisted suicide, which were challenged in the court cases.

In their letter, Ashcroft and Dorgan said the bill does not address that constitutional question, focusing instead on the issue of restricting use of federal funds.

The bill does not attempt to outlaw the practice of withholding medical treatment or stopping nutrition and would have no impact on abortion law.

It also would not affect physicians who seek to alleviate their patients' pain or discomfort.

When the bill was first introduced in the last Congress in September, its co-sponsors included Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., and the top Democrat on the Judiciary Committee, Sen. Joe Biden of Delaware.

The Supreme Court is expected to decide the constitutional question by July.

Prof uses the Web to say the Holocaust never happened

■ **INTERNET:** Arthur Butz's views can be found on Northwestern's web site

By Sarah Nordgren
The Associated Press

EVANSTON, Ill. — Exiled to a dusty office in an obscure corner of Northwestern University's engineering school, professor Arthur Butz has been an academic pariah for two decades for declaring the Holocaust didn't happen.

Now he's found a forum — Northwestern's site on the World Wide Web. With a few keystrokes, computer users can find Butz's argument that the Nazi genocide of more than 6 million Jews is "a widespread but erroneous belief," and that typhus and other factors were responsible for the deaths.

Northwestern, while repudiating Butz's beliefs, won't interfere

with his right to express them on the Internet through the university.

Butz's posting has infuriated any number of groups, who argue the school has no reason to give the tenured professor what amounts to a free billboard.

But the issue has also been muddied by the university's decision not to rehire another teacher who was so outraged by Butz's views that he taught a lesson on the Holocaust in an engineering class.

The teacher, Sheldon Epstein, was told last fall that his contract would not be renewed, at least in part because he strayed from the course material in assigning students to research and write about the Holocaust.

Epstein polled his students and found that many knew little or nothing about the Holocaust. "I owed it to my students."

WINTER IS

an **EXPLOSION**

OF ACTIVITY!

LEAGUES	DIV	MIN# PLAYERS	ENTRY DEADLINE	START DATE	FEE
+Basketball	M-W-C	5	**Instant Lottery Scheduling	Jan. 21	\$40
+Racquetball	M-W	3	Jan. 23, 3:00 p.m.	Jan. 28	\$5 per person
+Volleyball	C	6	Jan. 24, 3:00 p.m.	Jan. 29	\$40
TWO DAY TOURNAMENTS					
Wrestling: Team/Individual	M	Team or Ind.	Jan. 29, 3:30 p.m. (weigh-ins)	Jan. 29	\$2 per person
Challenge Soccer	M-W-C	2	Feb. 10, 3:00 p.m.	Feb. 12 & 13	\$2 per person
Indoor Soccer	M-W-C	5	Feb. 13	Feb. 15 & 16	\$15
Stadium Football	M-W-C	7	Feb. 20, 3:00 p.m.	Feb. 22 & 23	\$25/team
ONE DAY TOURNAMENTS					
NEW! Table Tennis	M-W-C	1-2	Feb. 6, 3:00 p.m.	Feb. 8	\$2 per person
NEW! Badminton	M-W-C	1-2	Feb. 27, 3:00 p.m.	March 2	\$2 per person
SPECIAL EVENTS					
Basketball Scramble	M-W	5	Jan. 15, 3:00 p.m.	Jan. 15 & 17	NC
Open Swim Meet	M-W-C	Team or Ind.	Feb. 12	Feb. 14	\$15/team
Free Throw, Hot Shot, 3 Point	M-W	1	Feb. 12	Feb. 12	\$2/person NC

* M=Men, W=Women, C=Coed

+ Intramural sport — under IM regulations (See Handbook)

**INSTANT LOTTERY SCHEDULING

Basketball: Thursday, January 16, 102 Esslinger, time TBA

TEAM CAPTAIN/MANAGER OR TEAM REPRESENTATIVE MUST ATTEND MANDATORY PRE-SEASON MEETING TO GET AN ASSIGNED REGISTRATION TIME

Mandatory Pre-Season Meetings:

Sport	Day	Date	Time	Location
Basketball	Tuesday	Jan. 14	4:00 p.m.	Cedar EF - EMU
Racquetball: Team/Ind.	Wednesday	Jan. 22	4:30 p.m.	Cedar AB - EMU
Volleyball	Wednesday	Jan. 22	4:00 p.m.	Cedar AB - EMU

Mandatory Playoff Meetings:

Sport	Day	Date	Time	Location
Basketball	Thursday	Feb. 13	4:00 p.m.	Cedar EF - EMU
Volleyball	Thursday	Feb. 13	5:00 p.m.	Cedar D - EMU



Earn Money!

Now accepting applications for RIM Basketball officials. Apply at 102 Esslinger or call 6-4113. 1st Mtg. Jan. 8, 5:00 p.m., Rm. 63 Esslinger Hall.

102 Esslinger
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Women's Initiative to Stop HIV

STOP the spread of HIV among women!

WISH, a new program of Lane County Public Health and HIV Alliance, presents a peer education workshop for women - January 25 & 26.

Pairs of trained peer educators facilitate HIV education "house parties".

Get your application at 1966 Garden Ave.

Deadline: January 15 Info: 342-5088 [Tina]