

political viewpoint

BY DOUGLAS HAMMERSTROM

This November, Oregon voters will be asked to cast their vote on Ballot Measure 16, the "Oregon Death with Dignity Act". If passed, it would make ours the first government in the world to legalize physician-assisted suicide. This legislation has been consistently defeated in state legislatures across the country and has likewise been defeated by voters in the state of California and Washington as ballot initiatives. In those two states these measure enjoyed large, early leads in the polls, only to go down to defeat once voters had been made aware of how great the risks of these acts are in comparison to their benefits.

There are several obvious advantages to the concept of assisting those in the terminal stages of disease to kill themselves. These include decreased length of physical suffering, decreased demand on family finances and allowing resources to be used for those who are expected to have a longer lifespan. These are not trivial arguments. However, the arguments against allowing doctors to assist people in killing themselves far outweigh these benefits.

First, is the huge gap between the deadly certainty of suicide and the great uncertainty of medical diagnosis. That is, doctors make mistakes and do so frequently. Even a competent and compassionate physician can easily err when trying to predict life expectancy. This is to say nothing of one who is sloppy or would be just as happy to get an old, cantankerous patient out of their hair. Physicians will also make mistakes in assisting suicide. The profession of medicine does not deserve and is not to be trusted with such power to do harm.

Second, is that elderly people and those in late stages of disease are very psychologically vulnerable and easily exploited to achieve other

people's end. With passage of Proposition you can expect to see many elders manipulated into desiring suicide so that relatives can get into their bank accounts faster.

Third, is the fact that euthanasia is not necessary. The desire for suicide is almost always linked to depression, loneliness or inadequate pain control. It is strange to see euthanasia becoming such an issue just as recent advances have given almost certain relief from pain and depression. At the same time legal progress has produced advance directives and living wills that can empower everyone to have control over their health care, thus preventing the possibility of unwanted, aggressive medical therapy.

Fourth, is the damage that will be caused to the patient-physician relationship. Since the time of Hippocrates it has been understood that the physician is the patient's advocate. If doctors become killers again who will know if the doctor comes to heal or to kill.

Fifth, is the great concern of where crossing the ethical line of assisting suicide will lead us. It is no secret that the proponents of this type of initiative do not want to stop here. Their ultimate desire is for physician-administered lethal injection not only for those who desire to die, but also for those who deserve to die (like handicapped children, the mentally ill and retarded and other vulnerable people who use up tax resources rather than pay them).

The illusion of personal choice that this initiative gives is not worth the risks that have been demonstrated twice this century, in modern Holland and Germany in the 1940's, when killing is officially condoned by the government. This initiative deserves to go to the same place it was sent by California and Washington voters... defeat.

Douglas Hammerstrom, MD
Enterprise, Oregon

WHO WILL BE THE NEXT MISS BLACK OREGON, USA?



Right to left: Naomi butter, Michelle Soles- Miss Black OR USA - 1994, Valerie Doakes, Tammi Morris, Arietna Phillip, Donna Knight, Tanya Thomas, Natasha Ross, Donita Lincoln.

WITNESS THE CROWNING OF The Miss Black Oregon USA Scholarship Pageant

Saturday, November 19th • 1021 NE Grand, Top of the Holiday Inn - Grand Ballroom
7:00 p.m. Doors Open • 7:30 p.m. Showtime

Special Appearance by:

Sean Strong & NW African American Ballet

Tickets On Sale Now!

Ticketmaster Outlets - CASH - CHECK - CHARGE BY PHONE
\$16.00 Donation

Ticket Centers at G.I. JOE'S, BLAZERS ON BROADWAY, MEMORIAL COLISEUM, PIONEER PLACE, PORTLAND OREGON VISITORS ASSOCIATION, PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY, CIVIC STADIUM, PORTLAND CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, U OF AUTZEN STADIUM, and OSU GILL COLISEUM, or CHARGE-BY-PHONE (503) 224-4400
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Full Range of Oregon Wines

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21 and over

Friday, October 21, 1994

Madronna Hill Winery

2412 N. Mississippi

7pm till 11pm

Entertainment By
The Kirk Green Band

Fundraiser for the
Miss Black Oregon USA Scholarship Pageant

Sponsored by:
National Political Congress of Black Women, The Portland Urban League Guild, Portland Observer Newspaper

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MRS. C'S WIGS
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Wanda Washington
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Miss Black Oregon USA Pageant Coming Soon (\$16.00 Donation)
November 19, 1994

Top of the Holiday Inn - 1021 NE Grand 7:30pm Ticketmaster 274-1550

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

Child Immunization Campaign Launched

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics and the National Association of County Health Officials, as many as 40 percent of children under the age of four go unprotected against life-threatening, yet preventable childhood diseases, because they are not properly immunized.

To help improve vaccine rates, participating McDonald's Restaurants are joining forces with local health officials to launch an immunization education campaign for October's Child Health Month.

"Immunize for Healthy Lives" aims to break down barriers to childhood vaccinations by using educational materials and local community activities to talk to parents about the importance of preventative health care for children through timely immunizations.

"McDonald's is pleased to support this immunization program because it reaches families in our community with an important health message," said W.C. Gilbert, a Portland area McDonald's owner and operator. "By helping parents get their children vaccinated on time and en-



Dr. Robert A. Mendelson (left), Oregon representative for the American Academy of Pediatrics, Laurie Monnes-Anderson, of the National Association of County Health Officials and W.C. Gilbert of Portland and a McDonald's owner/operator, kick off a campaign to immunize children for healthy lives.

couraging regular doctor visits, the program has the potential to save lives and help children live a healthier childhood."

Throughout October, partici-

pating McDonald's restaurants will carry a series of educational materials on immunizations for parents featuring the recommended vaccine schedule.

Fair Set For Expo Center

Parents will find great educational opportunities at The Family Fair, October 21-23 at the Portland Expo Center.

State Farm Insurance will feature a bicycle safety training course for children. Children will have the fun of riding bicycles while learning the importance of wearing a helmet and obeying traffic and safety rules.

OMSI has an interactive display of hands-on science activities. Parents and children alike can enjoy this area.

Many exhibitors provide parents with educational services, such as: HOME QUEST features educational curriculum on CD-ROM; FUTUREKIDS COMPUTER LEARNING CENTER provides services in teaching computer mastery to kids from 3-16 years of age; and an EASYMATH exhibit is self-explana-

tory.

THE GREAT AMERICAN PETTING ZOO will invite children to see and touch domestic and exotic animals. Great fun for parents as well.

The Fair features parent support groups, such as, PARENTS SUPPORTING PARENTS. This is a support group for parents, friends & family of premature and/or critically ill babies and those with unresolved issues who have older children.

ALLSTATE INSURANCE will be finger printing children for their parents to keep on file. This is a great service provided at no cost to parents at the Fair.

In fact, all of the above is "free" with the cost of admission to THE FAMILY FAIR.

THE FAMILY FAIR also has many other exciting activities for the entire family including:

A GIANT INDOOR CARNIVAL with rides for little and big kids. Each paid admission on a child gets one free carnival ride. Discount ride ticket coupons are available at SATURN OF BEAVERTON. Coupons are good for all the rides you can ride for \$10.00.

"SCHEMER" of the television program "SHINING TIME STATION" will be at the Fair on Sunday, October 23 to meet children and sign autographs.

PONY RIDES are available at \$2.00 per ride. Pictures of your child on a pony are available at an additional charge.

The K-103 Pumpkin decorating contest will be held October 22, 10:00am-6:00pm.

KUPL will be giving away a trip for a family of four to the Oregon Coast with lodging.

Catlin Rummage Sale Marks 50th Year

This year's Catlin Gabel Rummage Sale will be as good as gold. The school's 50th annual rummage sale opens at the Multnomah County Expo Center November 3 and continues through November 6.

Hundreds of volunteers, including all 670 students of the school, are busy collecting, sorting, transporting, and pricing goods for this traditional event.

A special Opening Day Sale-with all items marked up 25%-takes place on Thursday, Nov. 3, 5pm-9pm. Continuing dates and times are: Friday,

Nov. 4, 10am-9pm; Saturday, Nov. 5, 10am-6pm; Sunday, Nov. 6, 10am-3pm. By Sunday, the famous "bag sales" become an incredible bargain -- especially for clothes and books.

Marilyn Cooper, the school's rummage Chair says, "It's like putting on a circus!" To give you some idea of the logistics, the loot fills some 25 semi-trucks and is unloaded into 60,000 square feet of space. "Imagine an average of over 8,000 shoppers rummaging through antiques, collectibles, books, hardware, furniture, standard rummage fare, cars and treasures. Once a horse

was brought in for sale, another time it was a beer truck!"

All proceeds go to financial aid for students who might not otherwise be able to attend the school. About 23% of all students who might not otherwise be able to attend the school. About 23% of all students receive financial aid.

The Catlin Gabel School is an independent, co-educational day school for students from pre-school through 12th grade. Its faculty and staff are dedicated to individuality, academics, and life-long learning.