

Local agencies try fish farm business

By KATHLEEN MONJE
Of the Emerald

Catfish raising may be Lane County's next small industry, if experimental efforts by four local agencies prove profitable.

Lane County, Action Now, Amity Foundation and Associated Students' Landscape Architecture are cooperating to test a new idea — fish farming on a small scale for home use and local markets.

The year-long project will determine whether locally raised fish can provide a source of low-cost, high-protein food, as well as offer small groups or individuals a local business opportunity, according to Sabin Lamson, director of the county's housing and energy program.

Financing for the experiment is a six-month grant of about \$10,000 from the state. Support for the rest of the year's operation will come from volunteers and donated materials.

Catfish fingerlings one to two months old will be used to stock concrete raceways in a solar greenhouse. Catfish were selected for the test because they taste good, resist disease well and can live in marginal water under crowded conditions.

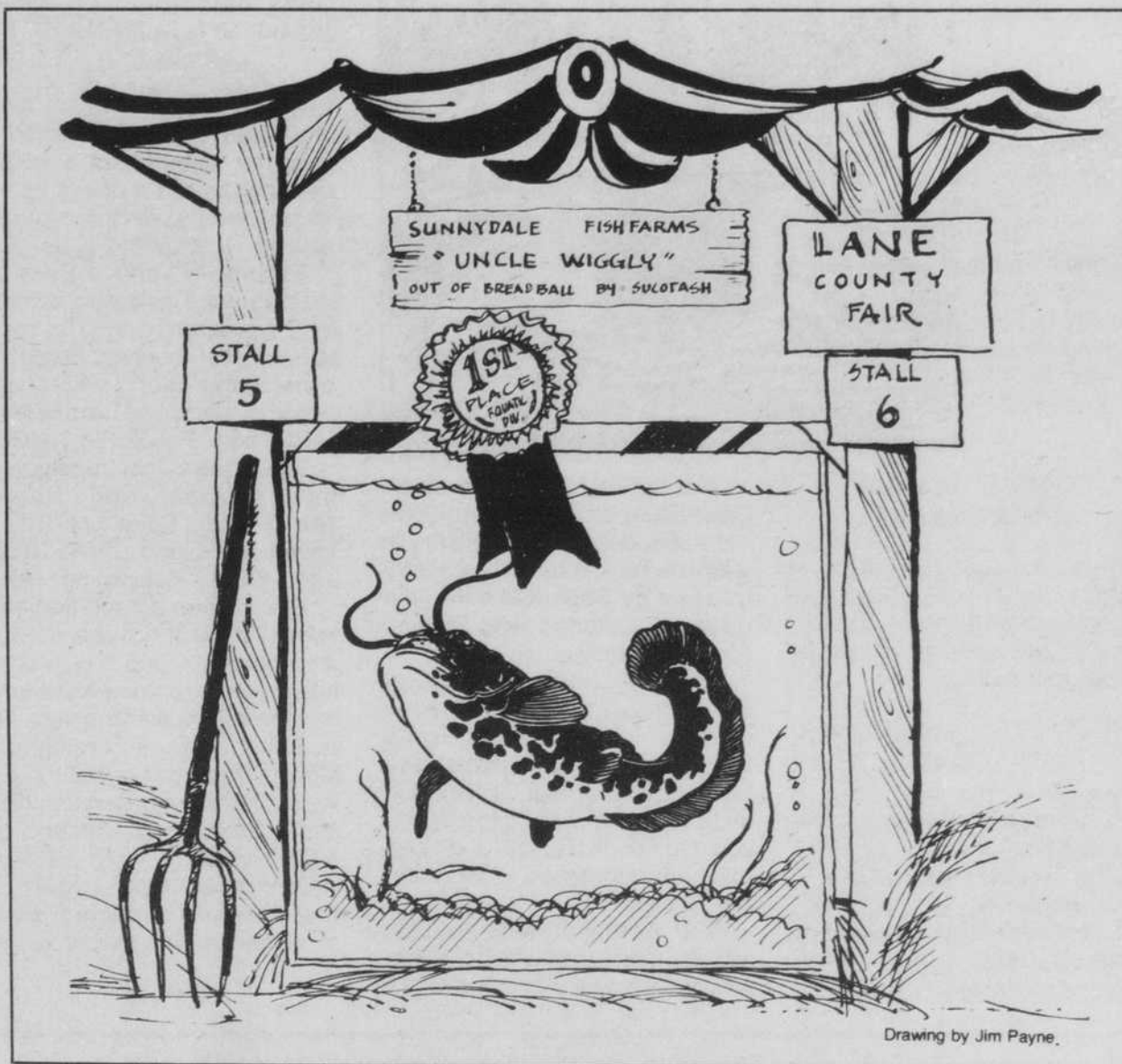
One phase of the project will test the way the fish taste when fed different types of food. Other experiments will determine the best water flow requirements at different stocking levels and the growth of the fish based on amounts and types of food.

A cost analysis of the design and operation of the aquaculture system will be conducted during the experiment and the potential for local markets will be explored. These facets of the project, as well as the technology involved, will be published in a handbook for people interested in fish farming.

The aquaculture station, in Laurel Hill Valley, Eugene will be completed in early February. In late spring, after the filtration system is thoroughly tested, the fingerlings will be put in the water.

Some fish should be big enough to eat by August.

Land for the project was donated by the Amity Foundation, a non-profit educational and community services organization. Action Now-Association Students of the University contributed tools, a vehicle and volunteer time. The Associated Students' Landscape Architecture donated funds to buy materials.



Drawing by Jim Payne.

George's fishing bank may become oil field

BOSTON (AP) — Lawyers for 11 oil companies, seeking to reverse a lower court judge, argued in federal appeals court Monday the sale of oil drilling leases on George's Bank. The bank is one of the world's richest fishing grounds.

Judge Levin Campbell of the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals took the case under advisement.

The oil company lawyers argued that U.S. District Judge Arthur Garrity had infringed on the authority of Congress over the weekend when he ordered postponement of Tuesday's scheduled drilling rights auction.

It was not known whether Campbell would rule in time for the sale to get under way Tuesday in New York.

Garrity had ordered the Interior Department to postpone the auction of leases on the total of 880,000 acres of seabed until Congress passes laws to protect the interests of New England fishermen.

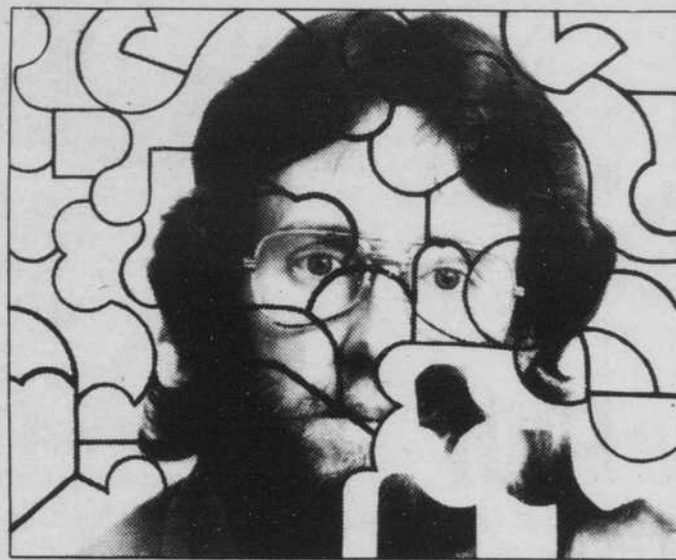
His action was at the request of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Conservation Law Foundation, representing eight fishing and environmental groups.

Arguing for the sale to go ahead were oil company lawyers and lawyers for the U.S. Interior Department, which had earlier approved the sale of leases on 155 tracts off the New England coast. One of the tracts is 63 miles east of Nantucket Island. Others are 100 to 200 miles out.

"No one has ever cited the precedent of the federal courts mandating the passage of congressional legislation," argued E. Edwayd Bruce, a lawyer representing all the oil companies. "This is an unprecedented step. The implications are staggering."

Garrity had ruled that "it would be a violation of his duty for the Secretary of the Interior to receive the bids previous to final congressional action on the legislation pending before it."

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