

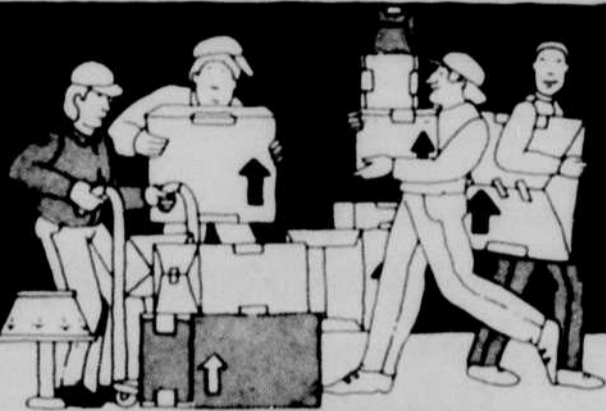
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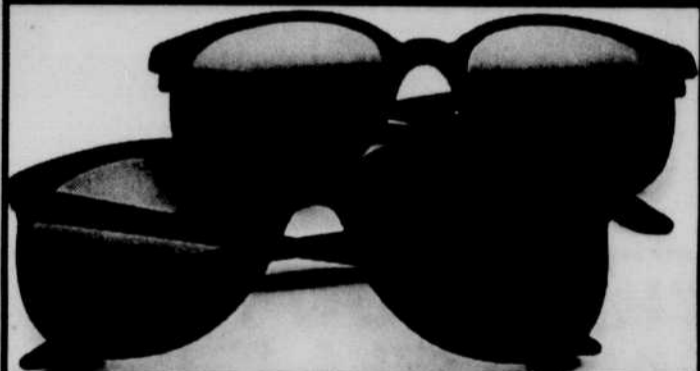
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State historically hates sales tax

SALEM (AP) — Oregon is known as the place that hates the sales tax and bans self-service gasoline.

Eight times since the Great Depression, most recently in 1986, Oregon voters have rejected sales taxes that would have raised money for everything from schools to aid to the blind to property tax relief.

Today, Oregon is one of only five states without a general retail sales tax.

Opponents, such as state Sen. Bill Dwyer of Springfield, say they don't see that changing soon.

Dwyer says Oregonians oppose the sales tax partly because the state already has a relatively high income tax.

More important, he says, is that Oregonians are familiar with sales taxes because neighboring states have them.

"We see what happens in other places," the Springfield Democrat says. "Government continually increases the sales tax rates, and you get local option sales taxes."

Plus, he says many Oregonians do have a certain sense of pride about living in a no-sales tax state.

"We want to keep Oregon unique and affordable," he says.

But Pat McCormick, a Portland public affairs consultant who has worked on past sales tax campaigns, says it may be a new day for the sales tax in Oregon.

The main reason for that is the Ballot Measure 5 property tax

TAX

Continued from Page 1

property taxes for public school operations, extending Measure 5's property tax relief. Backers hope the prospect of further property tax relief will persuade voters to reverse history and approve the sales tax.

Oregonians have rejected eight previous sales tax proposals. The Senate deadlocked 15-15 in its first vote on the package. After a brief recess, Sen. Joan Dukes, D-Astoria, changed her vote from no to yes, giving the package the one-vote margin needed to pass.

Dukes said she changed reluctantly and accused legislative leaders of shelving other tax reform proposals, producing gridlock.

"I am changing my vote to 'aye' for one reason and one reason only," she said. "We must move on."

The ballot measure sets a constitutional limit of 5 percent on the sales tax, abolishes school property taxes on homes and dedicates sales tax proceeds to education.

Groceries, rent, prescription medicine and utilities would be exempt from sales taxes. Local sales taxes would be forbidden and the state sales tax would be repealed in 1998 unless voters agree to renew it.

Beginning in 1995, half of the proceeds from the Oregon Lottery also would be dedicated to public schools.

limit passed by voters in 1990, McCormick says.

The tax limit has squeezed state government's budget and prompted the 1993 Legislature to cut aid to schools to \$500 million below what local schools say they need to maintain current programs and services.

The sales tax plan drafted by the 1993 Legislature would raise \$1 billion a year for local schools.

"What will make the difference between previous campaigns for a sales tax and this

school-funding plan is the passion on the part of parents and others who are concerned about the quality of schools," he said.

McCormick disputes the notion that there is something in the soul of an Oregonian — native or transplant — that despises the sales tax.

"Whether our plan passes depends not on the genetic makeup of Oregon voters but on whether local citizens view the plan as their best hope for adequate funding of their schools," he says.

FOOD

Continued from Page 1

than Taco Bell. However, specific information about the agreement is being withheld by the various parties for legal reasons.

Miller said he had been advised by University lawyer Peter Swan not to release certain information until contracts have been signed.

Assistant EMU Director Susan Racette, who is working on the contract's legal language with TacoTime, said she hopes to have a contract ready to sign within a few days.

The EMU Board of Directors approved the Mexican fast-food concept at the end of spring term after receiving the results of a private consulting firm's survey-based recommendations.

The survey findings indicated that students would support Asian food, Mexican food or pizza. For a variety of reasons, the board believed Mexican food would be the most successful.

The license agreement allows the EMU to operate a TacoTime for five years, with the EMU having an option to renew for another five years. A license differs from a franchise in that a franchise owner pays a large fee to the corporation, but keeps all of the profits, whereas a license holder pays a relatively small fee, but must share some of the profits with the corporation.

This will be the first license agreement that TacoTime has ever made and the first college campus in the United States the company has operated on.

Employees will be trained for two weeks at TacoTime's restaurant on West 11th Avenue — directly across the street from its corporate headquarters.

However, the EMU TacoTime will be run by EMU employees through the EMU Food Service. EMU administration officials have not decided how the TacoTime staff will be formed.

The EMU Fishbowl will be remodeled to accommodate the TacoTime restaurant and other additions to the Fishbowl.

The EMU administration had hoped to have construction finished by the time students return in the fall, but now that has been pushed back to early or mid-October. However, the EMU and TacoTime are working on a plan to use a TacoTime food cart to have service begin by Sept. 20.

When completed, the Northwest corner of the Fishbowl will have a TacoTime and an espresso bar that students can order from inside or outside. A self-serve yogurt machine may also be added.

Some seating will be lost inside, but Miller said that umbrellas will be mounted on the table outside of the Fishbowl to help shield them from the weather.

The EMU TacoTime will be much smaller than the typical TacoTime restaurant, so it will offer a limited menu.

Because students are usually concerned about costs, EMU officials say they will be working with TacoTime, which is generally more expensive than Taco Bell, to create a value menu or item specifically for the University.

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