Darlene Hooley has real talent for politics

Darlene Hooley

Photo courtesy John Hooley

John Hooley

Staff photo by Sue Hanneman

By Steve Lee
Of The Print

"Darlene has a real talent for politics," said her husband, John Hooley, assistant dean of humanities and social science. Darlene Hooley was elected last fall to the Oregon State Legislature as the representative for District 27. For her, for John and for their children, their lives have changed since the election.

"It started in '68," said Hooley. "We got into local politics together, helping other people to get elected." John soon discovered that Darlene had much more talent in politics than he did, and subsequently gave her all of his support. Aside from a four-year stint on the West Linn City Council, Darlene has "been behind the scenes up until the recent election."

With a 9-year-old daughter and an 11-year-old son, John has taken on many added responsibilities in raising his children since the legislature convened in Salem. "My son cooks breakfast, and I cook dinner. I'm a pretty good cook." He understands how working women feel, "going home after a full day's work to do the cooking and take care of the kids."

Darlene is at home an average of one night a week during a five-day work week, but she always weekends clear. She planned it that way because she and John agree it's important to have home life. She works late many nights toward that end. "One night a week the kids are allowed the choice of their favorite restaurant, and we go out together," John said. Darlene's schedule is pretty regular. "She has a place in Salem where she stays when she has to work late," he added.

Darlene serves a six-month term when the legislature is in session, then she comes home for six months. When asked if the length of time Darlene spends in Salem becomes a drain on her, John said, "I think the adrenalin that goes with the power of being in Salem helps to make her feel like she is accomplishing something worthwhile."

Darlene is on the Education Committee, and also a subcommittee to decide on the closure of colleges, especially important as state-wide belt tightening increases. "She gets to fly around in a National Guard helicopter scaring everybody as she lands" at colleges and other places, John said.

It took one full year of work knocking on doors, making speeches, and shaking a lot of hands to get Darlene elected, but the Hooleys believe it was worth it. Still, during that time, they didn't want to neglect their children, and as John says, "I made a point to stay out of the way during her campaign, just because someone had to be at home. I still helped to write speeches," but basically stayed out of the way, he said.

Of the two children, the daughter misses her mother more because John and his son are "buddies" and do a few more things together. Because the children have a much different schedule than he does, with school holidays and such, John has used up almost all of his vacation time trying to be at home when they need him. He maintains an upbeat attitude about the family situation, though. "It's kind of a privilege to be at home with the kids more than my wife."

The role reversal is fine with him, and he says, "I'd like to take two years off and go all the way, but Darlene just doesn't make enough money." As a state representative, Darlene takes home $700 a month, plus $42 a day for expenses when the legislature is in session. John says that most of the expense money is eaten up by food and lodging.

He thinks an alternating type of role reversal may be a trend in the future, in which each parent would take a turn at being the breadwinner for a period of time while the other stays home with the children.

VISA

NAPA

OREGON CITY
AUTO PARTS
&
Machine Shop

1010 Main 655-2503 MON.-FRI. 8 TO 5:30 SAT. 8-5

JOHN'S
Complete Auto Repair Center
$5.00 Off any battery
in stock with coupon
Major Muffler
8:00 AM TO 5:30 PM DAILY
9:00 AM TO NOON SATURDAY
812 MOLALLA AVE
ORE CITY - NEXT TO TRADEWELL
656-3633

Feature magazine

Don't hesitate, get your work in now!

If you have composed a great piece of writing, poetry, a photo, or drawing that relates to the subject of people or their interactions, the place to submit it is Student Publications, Tr. B, or contact Ramona Isackson, Feature magazine editor, 657-8400, ext. 309.