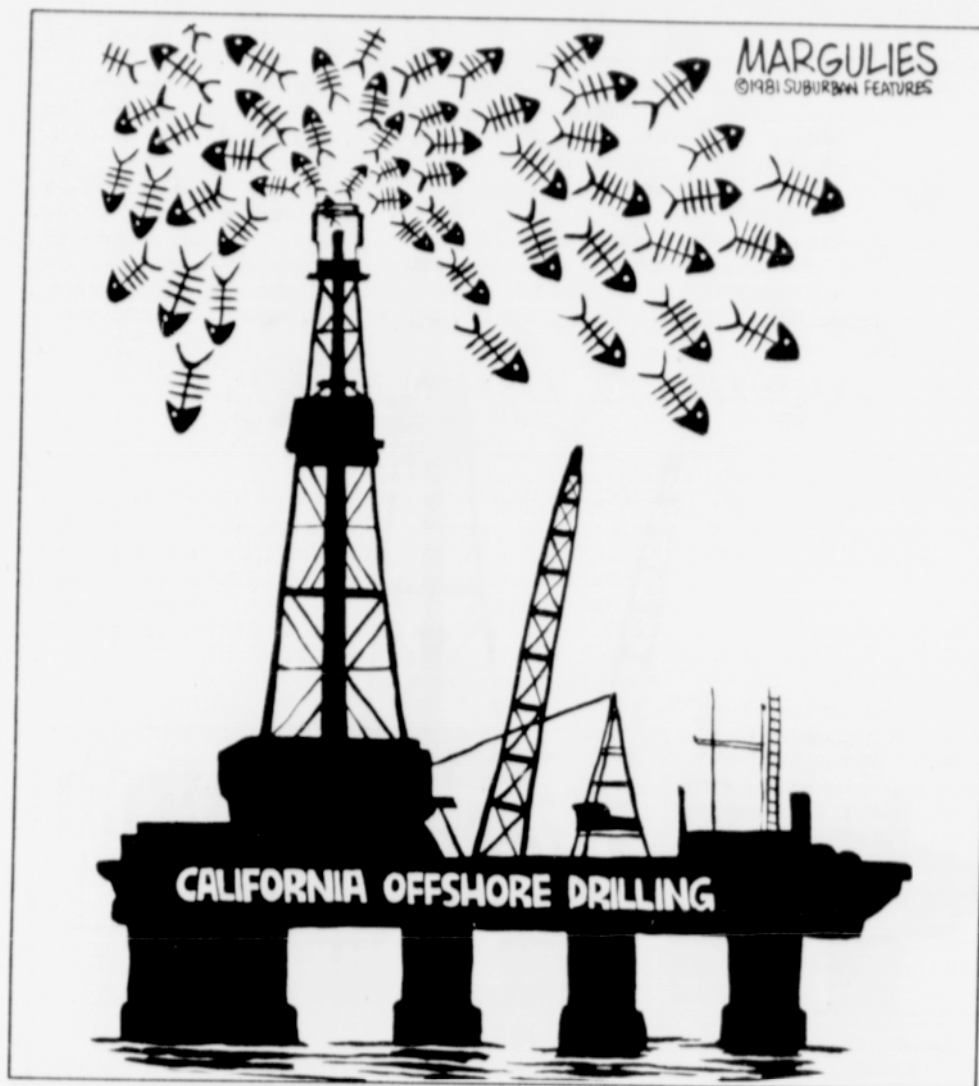




With support, hospice could be tops

An emerging home health care service in Sandy may become a statewide model for what a hospice support team can do.

Mount Hood Hospice is a group of community volunteers who care for the dying and assist their families and loved ones through the rocky weeks, months and years they have left to spend together at home.

Nurses, doctors, ministers and other trained team members go into the home to provide free physical, emotional, spiritual and financial support as best they can.

It's a tall order, especially when 99 percent of the local hospice workers will be volunteers. The goals are big, too, for the first year. By January 1, organizers hope to be fully operational with trained team members — as yet unfound — and handle a 50-75 annual caseload in a 900-square-mile area.

That computes to 50 to 75 families who face death and dying gracefully, because some neighbors cared.

Like many Portland-area hospice programs, the local one will be private and non-profit. Unlike most, the local one plans to handle all ages and diseases with comprehensive support in all areas.

That may be difficult without funding, which organizers presently lack. Pat Spradling and Macy Brader say their board has applied for several grants and are optimistic about United Way partial funding. Most funding needed to launch the program, however, must come from local neighbors. Still, some \$100,000 is needed by January 1 to get Mount Hood Hospice launched. Hopeful organizers are taking their appeal to the people now in a series of presentations.

Already, office space in Sandy's Heritage Square has been donated by the Cejka family for the first year.

The volunteers seek to alleviate pain, enable patients to remain at home with loved ones, provide skilled nursing care and therapy, meet emotional demands and more on a 24-hour basis.

Such loving care deserves the support of all who live here. Hospice memberships make the whole program possible, as do donations of churches, corporations, civic groups and memorials.

Tax-deductible contributions should be sent to Mount Hood Hospice, P.O. Box 284, Sandy, OR 97055. (VB)

Letters to the editor:

Kindergarten, lost lunch eyed

Kindergarten OK

I am writing in response to Rev. Dale Edwards' letter to the editor regarding kindergarten in the public school.

First, let me say that Rev. Edwards was present at the original steering committee meeting a year ago, when we first met to determine the need for public kindergarten in the Sandy area.

At that time, he stated that he could see no conflict between the Sandy Assembly of God's private kindergarten and the Sandy Elementary School public kindergarten, if one became a reality.

I am not finding fault with the Sandy Assembly of God kindergarten. I couldn't be more pleased with my daughter's total kindergarten experience through their program.

The problem is that the Sandy Assembly of God's private kindergarten, along with the other private kindergartens in the area, are not meeting the needs of ALL the children in our area. At the present time, almost one half of the children entering first grade have not had kindergarten.

My personal concern and

that of the other members of the kindergarten committee was to provide a kindergarten experience for all the children of the community and not just for the children whose parents could afford the tuition and transportation to send them to a private kindergarten.

I am questioning Rev. Edwards' motive in waiting until the week before the levy election to write his letter to the editor against public kindergarten. Since he had obviously changed his mind about supporting a public kindergarten, why didn't he come forward sometime in the past year to any of the public informational meetings on kindergarten or to the budget hearing and express his concern.

I would like to see equal education for all the children in our community. I would hope there are enough other people in our community who feel the same way to pass both A and B ballot measures in the upcoming election.

Sherry Lawson

your support in my becoming the recipient of the 1981 Oregon Community Education Association award. You folks kept that secret well for it was indeed a surprise.

It is with pride that I share this honor with you and Mt. Hood Community College. We are all a part of this wholesome and healthy area and together we can keep it that way.

Sincerely,
Dorothy N. Shrum

Save school lunch

Our national effort to eliminate child malnutrition and hunger dates back to the enactment of the school lunch program in 1946. Since that time, the federal commitment to child nutrition has grown steadily, along with the evidence of our success.

When a team of medical doctors funded by The Field Foundation went into rural, poor counties throughout the country in the 70's to analyze the progress the United States has made in the area of child nutrition, they concluded as follows:

"Our first and overwhelming impression is that there are far fewer grossly malnourished people in this

country today than there were 10 years ago.

"The facts of life for Americans living in poverty remain as dark or darker than they were 10 years ago. But in the area of food, there is a difference."

In short, the war on hunger, originally declared by President Nixon in 1969, has been an unsung bipartisan success story. It is one we should all be proud of.

Notwithstanding the impressive record compiled by the child nutrition programs, significant reductions in federal support were enacted for the first time in history by the Congress at the end of last year. These reductions are currently being felt in the form of less federal assistance to the states for child nutrition and in many areas, higher school lunch prices to the children.

We share the national consensus that our troubled economy is the single great domestic issue facing the country today. We also share the broad desire to trim federal spending wherever possible.

We question, however, whether lessening our commitment to the health of our children will effectuate these goals.

The School Lunch Program, for example, is not a federally mandated program. It is a voluntary program in which 90 percent of the schools in the country participate, because it serves all members of the community — not just the economically disadvantaged.

If federal support for the School Lunch Program decreases, resulting in a loss of participation by middle-class students, won't it actually cost the federal government more?

Since the Free and Reduced Price Lunch Programs would continue in spite of an overall lesser participation level, the cost to the federal government of a free lunch will increase.

Health care costs to the government will also rise as a result of a less healthy child population.

We urge the Congress, therefore, not to extend these one-year cuts or expand on these cutbacks, until such time the consequences of the actions we have already taken can be fully evaluated.

Barbara Husey
Area coordinator
School Lunch Program

Educator tops

My hearty thanks to the service groups, organizations and individuals for

Legislator's report:

Contractor 'rip-offs' fixable

by WAYNE FAWBUSH
State Representative, Dist. 56

Several weeks ago, I wrote about a bill that I requested be introduced to the legislature. That bill would protect a homeowner from having to pay a sub-contractor or supplier, if the homeowner can prove that he or she has paid the general contractor in full.

I've heard from a number of people in my district about how they have been forced to pay twice or have had to go to court to avoid paying twice, because of contractors who have refused to pay for supplies or sub-contracted work.

The problem is not a new one. The lien laws have been around for quite some time. But the problem seems to intensify in times like these when money is tight, when contractors may underbid on a project and "borrow from Peter to pay Paul," by paying off earlier debts with money received for a house not yet built.

The question of how to prevent the homeowner from getting caught in the pinch was rebashed in the 1975 Legislature, and the answer the



legislators came up with was to require suppliers to notify homeowners that delivery of goods has been made, and that the homeowner may be liable if the general contractor does not pay for the supplies.

While this is a start toward educating the consumer, more needs to be done.

We will present the committee with amendments requiring sub-contractors and agents who provide both labor and supplies to send a delivery notice to the homeowner.

Current law only requires suppliers to send the notice.

In addition, we will ask that the notice be explicit and in plain language — not legal jargon — stating the property owner's obligations and the rights of the sub-contractor.

We will propose one other amendment at the suggestion of a representative of the general contractors. That amendment will state that a lien filed against a homeowner will be transferred to property belonging to the general contractor if the homeowner can prove he or she has made the appropriate payments. This, we've been assured, will be completely acceptable to responsible general contractors, and we hope will be acceptable to sub-contractors and suppliers.

The lien laws offer special protection to the construction industries, protection not available to other businesses. But there are good reasons for this protection.

Construction work is based on a tight time schedule. There often is not time for a sub-contractor or supplier to check a contractor's credit

references, because when a contractor needs the work done, it must be done immediately.

General contractors feel that the lien laws are essential to promote new businesses and allow small contracting firms to exist. Without this protection, they say, suppliers would only furnish credit to large, existing firms that have substantial credit ratings.

If a homeowner has acted responsibly and paid the general contractor according to their agreement, then that homeowner must not be forced to pay again, when the contractor fails to meet his debts.

I expect this bill to come before the Judiciary Committee soon. I encourage all of you have been confronted with a lien under these circumstances to send your testimony to the committee or contact our office. I think we have the support of many members of both houses. Together we can help each other be better protected under the law.

Call my office toll-free at 1-800-452-7813. Write us at Room H488, State Capitol, Salem, Oregon 97310.

Let's make assassinations tougher

Another senseless political assassination attempt this week prompts serious national focus on tougher handgun controls.

True to form, President Reagan's alleged assailant used a small-caliber handgun, one of many pistols he reportedly picked up in cities across the country. All nine attempted presidential assassinations save one — that of John Kennedy — involved handguns. To that list, add "hits" on two presidential candidates, one president-elect and one former president by pistol-packing politicians of violence.

Secret Service and police protection stand between gunmen and the president, of course, but the televised mayhem earlier this week demonstrates how a speeding bullet in a crowd catches security forces off-guard.

Curiously, President Reagan has considered dismantling the very federal agency that enforces existing licensing laws covering firearms dealers — the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. Dismantlement of BATF has been given high priority by National Rifle Association's powerful Washington lobby.

The NRA often argues that guns don't kill people — people kill people.

They're right, of course. What's needed in this turbulent political fishbowl are laws to govern people's misuse of guns. It's one thing to hunt with a rifle, target practice with a high-caliber pistol or insure one's democratic right to "bear arms" for the "public defense." But no one seriously hunts bear with 22-caliber pistols or defends his homeland with a "Saturday night special," as concealable small handguns are called. They're ideal for murder, however.

And that's why their sale, possession and distribution should be controlled. It's all too easy to murder a president, governor or mayor with a concealable handgun. It's all too easy, too, for uniformed policemen settling domestic quarrels to get shot in the heat of passion. That's how most uniformed policemen die in this democracy.

We've lost too many good men already to madmen with little guns. Let's get serious about gun control and recognize the wild west has been tamed. We have no one left to fear but ourselves.

Oregon Senators Hatfield and Packwood should put half the effort toward this crusade to save lives as they're putting into their drive to pick up bottle litter. It could save their lives one day. (VB)

Salem scene:

More frequent sessions likely

by JACK ZIMMERMAN
Associated Oregon Industries

Some problems — that seemingly defy solution — appear to accompany every regular session of the Oregon Legislature.

The frequency and length of those sessions is one that has attracted the Assembly's attention for more than a decade. It has achieved new prominence with lawmakers currently meeting in Salem.

No less than eight measures have been introduced to deal with the subject and it appears voters — as they did every even-numbered year in the Seventies — may once more have an opportunity to express their will on the subject.

State constitution now decrees the Legislature shall convene regular sessions beginning the second Monday in January of each odd-numbered year for an indefinite period of time. Between these regular sessions, both the Governor and the Legislature can convene special sessions under certain conditions.

Special sessions have been conducted five times in the last 10 years.

Two major reasons are



Legislative Report from the State Capital
EXCLUSIVE to Oregon's Weekly Newspapers from Associated Oregon Industries.

most often cited for constitutionally mandated more frequent meetings. They involve the growing number and complexity of issues facing lawmakers and the difficulty of budgeting accurately for a two-year period.

In view of the fact regular biennial sessions have extended to six-month periods, and numbers of proposals considered have soared to an average of 2,500, it appears difficult to ignore the issue. The depressed condition of the current economy has added new fuel to the long-smoldering fire.

The 61st Assembly's Senate Elections Committee already has conducted one hearing on five measures, four of which deal with annual sessions and one that

would make the Senate a continuing body.

The latter — although being considered for a second session in a row and championed by House Speaker Hardy Myers — doesn't appear to have much popular support.

The others would restructure the meeting schedule annually but at differing times and for varying periods. One would start sessions in January each year and limit even-year meetings to 45 days.

Two others would start the odd-year session in March for 150 days and the even year session in June for 45 days. The other calls for January beginnings each year with even-year sessions limited to budgetary and specific subject matter.

House proposals provide more variety. One — with 14 sponsors — would retain the biennial meeting concept beginning in January of odd years for 10 days of organization, followed by a recess until April 1, after which lawmaking would continue for 120 days.

Committees would spend the recess examining the budget and other proposals without interruptions by floor sessions.

The House Revenue Committee proposes biennial sessions begin in March, instead of January. And the third House measure calls for annual sessions beginning in January and adjourning in April.

These bills are scheduled for hearing by the House Committee on Rules & Operations April 13. And its members believe passage by the Senate of some measure is so imminent that a fourth skeleton proposal is being drafted as a receiving and amending vehicle.

Whatever emerges will not become law without a vote of the people, probably either during the primary or general election next year. And predicting the mood of voters in 1982 is more than a little chancy.

Voters turned down

legislative proposals to give the Assembly more authority to call itself into session in 1970, 1972 and 1974. They finally okayed the present authority on written request by a majority of members of both chambers in 1976. In 1978 they confirmed Senate confirmation authority over gubernatorial appointments.

The latter is something of a step toward making the Senate a continuing body because it has since met almost on a monthly basis to consider those appointments.

These developments might be construed to mean voters will approve a constitutional change requiring more frequent sessions.

Although the issue has been around a long time, it's not in the same category with jokes old enough to grow hair. But public reception of whatever this Assembly produces to deal with the issue is bound to be affected by an aging gag one hears whenever lawmakers gather in Salem.

It is old enough to be hairy but expresses the opinion of many. It proposes that instead of 90 lawmakers meeting in Salem every two years, we'd all be better off if there were only two and they met every 90 years.