

# Now Advocating for Healthy People

continued ▲ from Front

budget cuts have recently slashed the number of OHP recipients, but SB27 helped Oregon become a progressive health care state.

Now Kitzhaber hopes the Archimedes Movement will create more of that type of tension, between federal programs and alternative systems. That pressure would conceivably force us to examine our assumptions, expose weak laws and contradictions, paving the way for sweeping reforms.

But government and bureaucracy aren't the only obstacles. Kitzhaber understands human nature keeps us clinging to the familiar, no matter how bad things get. Because individuals with good workplace coverage and senior citizens with Medicare may not be willing to tinker with what they've got, the Archimedes Council want to shift the focus from "me" to "us".

Since launching the movement earlier this year, Kitzhaber has traveled throughout the state, hosting regional public forums complete with presentations, question and answer sessions and small group discussions. This is where the details are fleshed out. From brainstorming in Beaverton to concrete ideas in Corvallis, a foundation is formed. By September, Kitzhaber ex-

pects to be far enough along to take these ideas and craft them into a legislative proposal, filed as an initiative for 2008.

If passed, the state will formally request waivers for the existing law, allowing Oregon to implement a new program.

The Archimedes Movement isn't the only champion for change — other groups, including the Healthy Oregon Plan and HOPE for Oregon Families, could compliment, not compete with, statewide efforts. In late June Kitzhaber announced his support for the grassroots ballot measure to make health care a constitutional right in Oregon.

The sheer number of Oregon initiatives illustrates the need to replace our frayed system. Kitzhaber is confident that a synergistic approach will surpass past attempts, notably Clinton's 1993 failed health care reform package. The plan would've required employers to provide health insurance coverage to all their employees through health maintenance organizations (HMOs).

"The difference between the Clinton effort and this is that they had a small group of people creating an incredibly complicated plan," Kitzhaber said. "We can't solve the problem without engaging Oregonians as meaningful participants."



*Health and health care are not synonymous. What we really want are healthy people.*

— former Gov. John Kitzhaber

## History of Health Care

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attempts an overhaul of Medicare through a health care reform plan but the complicated plan is unsuccessful.

2003 — President George W. Bush signs into law a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan, becoming Medicare Part D, but the plan only becomes available in 2006 through insurance companies and HMOs. Enrollment is voluntary, is costly to enroll at a later time and confusion ensues.

2006 — Kitzhaber launches the Archimedes Movement, and other Oregon initiatives push for health care reform.



Milan B. Williams, who penned tracks for the funk/soul group, succumbed to a battle with cancer.

## The Commodores Keyboardist Dies at 58

Milan B. Williams, an original member of the Commodores, died Tuesday, July 11 at 58, after a long battle with cancer. Williams hailed from Mississippi, and began playing the piano after watching his older brother Earl, who was a multi-instrumentalist. Prior to joining The Commodores, Milan played in a rivaling band called The Jays. When The Jays disbanded, Milan joined the Commodores.

In 1969 Williams traveled with the group to New York, where they recorded a single called *Keep on Dancing* on Atlantic Records.

Some of the tracks Milan wrote are The Commodores' first hit record *Machine Gun*, *The Bump*, *Rapid Fire*, *I'm Ready*, *Better Never Than Forever*, *Mary Mary*, *Quick Draw*, *Patch It Up*, *X-Rated Movie*, *Wonderland*, *Old-Fashion Love*, and *Only You* (a track Milan also produced, taken from The Commodores first Richie-less LP *13* in 1983).

The group, whose best known

member was singer Lionel Richie, had a series of hits during the 1970s and 1980s, including *Brick House*, *Easy* and *Three Times a Lady*. Williams wrote the band's first hit, *Machine Gun*.

Milan Williams left the Commodores in 1989, allegedly after refusing to perform with them in South Africa.

Williams died Sunday at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, said JoAnn Geffen, a spokeswoman for the band.

"He was once, twice, three times a brother and we love him. He gave all that he could give to the Commodores. He'll always be remembered," said band member Walter Orange.

He is survived by his wife, Melanie Bruno-Williams, and two sons from previous marriages, Jason and Ricci. The funeral will be on Friday in Okolona, Miss., where Williams was born. There will be a memorial service in Los Angeles in August.

## A Knott Street Boxing Champ Remembered

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earned the honor of an induction into the Oregon Sports Hall of Fame. Rahsaan is also the only boxer in Oregon's history to win a Gold Medal in International Competition.

He was a man who stayed active, always involved in something, until the end.

"He never sat down for very long," Rahsaan-Miles said.

Ironically, she shares the story of sitting still, listening to his detailed accounts of their hometown of Portland.

"If you wanted to know anything about black history and you had the nerve to ask," she said, "it wouldn't be brief, you'd have to sit down and listen to everything."

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