The Portland Observer

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# Now Advocating for Healthy People

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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 expects 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

continued A from Front

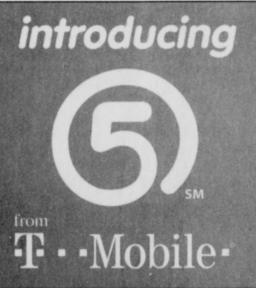
attempts an overhaul of Medicare through a health care reform plan but the complicated plan is unsuccessful.

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.





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### The Commodores **Keyboardist Dies at 58**

ter watching his older brother chine Gun. Earl, who was a multi-instrurivaling band called The Jays. South Africa. When The Jays disbanded, Milan joined the Commodores.

where they recorded a single spokeswoman for the band. called Keep on Dancing on Atlantic Records.

wrote are The Commodores' The Bump, Rapid Fire, I'm band member Walter Orange. Ready, Better Never Than Forever, Mary Mary, Quick Melanie Bruno-Williams, and Draw, Patch It Up, X-Rated two sons from previous mar-Movie, Wonderland, Old- riages, Jason and Ricci. The Fashion Love, and Only You funeral will be on Friday in (a track Milan also produced, Okolona, Miss., where Williams taken from The Commodores was born. There will be a mefirst Richie-less LP 13 in 1983). morial service in Los Angeles in The group, whose best known August.

Milan B. Williams, an original member was singer Lionel member of the Commodores, Richie, had a series of hits durdied Tuesday, July 11 at 58, ing the 1970s and 1980s, includafter a long battle with cancer. ing Brick House, Easy and Williamshailed from Mississippi, Three Times a Lady. Williams and began playing the piano af- wrote the band's first hit, Ma-

Milan Williams left the Commentalist. Prior to joining The modores in 1989, allegedly after Commodores, Milan played in a refusing to perform with them in

Williams died Sunday at the University of Texas M.D. In 1969 Williams traveled Anderson Cancer Center in with the group to New York, Houston, said JoAnn Geffen, a

"He was once, twice, three times a brother and we love Some of the tracks Milan him. He gave all that he could give to the Commodores. He'll first hit record Machine Gun, always be remembered," said He is survived by his wife,

### **A Knott Street Boxing Champ Remembered**

#### continued A from Front

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 of Portland. a Gold Medal in International Competition.

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

"If you wanted to know anything about black history and you He was a man who stayed active, 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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