



Small Worlds Around Us

By LYNN M. WATKINS

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In Spite of 'Anti-Gravity' Gadget, Fish Aids Weight
"Anyone ought to know," claimed the man, "that a live fish is suspended in water, and therefore a fish in a pail of water is weightless."

Whether you are a fisherman or not you have heard this argument. Possibly you may be one of those "show me" folks who will only believe after you have actually performed the experiment, or you may be one that, like the man who argued the point, insist that a pail of water containing a live fish does not weigh any more for having the fish inside.

Unlike the senseless argument of the irresistible force and the immovable object, the live fish in the tub is an open and shut case; the fish weighs just the same, the weight of the water is increased by the weight of the fish. Fifty pounds of water in the tub, add a five-pound, live fish, and the total weight is 55 pounds.

Gravity's There

Our old friend, gravity, is right there, still on the job. We are all thankful that it is, for otherwise we and everything else would be in a rather bad way. Gravity keeps our feet on the ground, but to a fish it is not quite so powerful. The fish has a counteracting agent working against the pull of gravity; it has a "lifting device" called an air-bladder.

This membranous little "anti-gravity gadget" is filled with gas, and is more or less controlled by the fish itself; it keeps the body suspended and guarantees that the specific gravity of the fish equals that of the water in which it lives. This specific gravity business is all lost on the poor fish, he doesn't know or care how it works; he's dumb.

And the rest of us don't care, either. We all take this gravity pull for granted. We never think to be just a little grateful that when we set down a cup of coffee, it stays put; we just know it will, and of course, it always has.

About the only time a fish runs smackdab into what gravity can do is when he is yanked from the water and falls with a plop on a hard bridge, or a boat deck. In this unnatural position the air-bladder is of no use; the fish flops and strikes with a spine-tling abruptness.

And when the poor fish leaves its watery home, its lidless eyes become as useless as his air-bladder; he can't see a thing. Even in the water he is painfully nearsighted, but his eyes do have an extremely wide angle of vision; he can see in nearly all directions at the same time. This seeing that he does requires a great deal of doing, for everything in his underwater world is distorted; everything has a different and rather confusing perspective.

The eyes of a fish must be corrected for refraction of the light, as well as light reflection. In order to place his mouth over what he wants to eat, he must take into consideration the optical fact that things under water are not where they seem to be. Most of the fish's food is in motion, too. This adds to the uncertainty of getting what he goes after; he can't afford to make more than one grab at it.

It wouldn't be too difficult to believe that the fish that makes a pass at the fisherman's lure, and misses, may be suffering from astigmatism or some other eye disorder. Even with 20-20 vision, it would do the fish but little good, for then he couldn't miss, and would be hooked.

The poor fish, like so many of us, can't win for losing.

Russian Rocket Heading for Moon

Moscow—UPI—Russia's Lunik 4 moon rocket continued on course today, heading for its target with all instruments reported functioning according to plan.

The 1½-ton unmanned Soviet rocket was launched Tuesday to speed to the "vicinity" of its target by late Friday or early Saturday.

The official news agency Tass said Wednesday Lunik 4 covered 134,215 miles during its first 24 hours.

Alexander Khabakov, a geologist, said that "a soft landing on the moon of a container with instruments and auxiliary apparatus seems to be technically possible."

But Soviet officials did not reveal whether the rocket's mission was to hit the moon, orbit around it, or possibly return to earth.

Capitol Memo

Course of Bills Traced Through State Legislature

By ZAN STARK

Salem—UPI—Is Gov. Mark Hatfield right when he terms this a "snail's pace" legislature? Are legislative leaders right when they say this is the "hardest working" legislature in memory? The answer depends on whether you measure by number or by content.



And to understand who is right, you have to know the process involved in getting a bill through the legislature to the governor's desk.

The Senate has received more than 420 bills, in addition to more than a score of memorials and resolutions.

The House has about 820 bills and more than two score memorials and resolutions—in addition to more than 100 budget bills.

The budget bills automatically go to the Ways and Means Committee which is made up of both representatives and senators. After review by a subcommittee, such bills go before the full committee, then, if approved, go to the house.

Non-revenue bills follow a different course.

Let's follow a mythical House bill through the legislature.

A representative presents his proposed bill to the Legislative Council Committee which drafts it into legal form.

The representative then "introduces" the measure, and it goes to the state printer.

The bill is given a "first reading" a few days later.

The next day it is given a "second reading" and sent to a committee. There are 20 House committees.

This is where the real work begins. A measure may breeze through a committee after one hearing. It may require many hearings.

The committee can recommend "do pass," and send the bill back to the House for action.

The committee may "defer" or "table" a bill. This is the polite way of killing a bill, for technically it is still under consideration.

A "do not pass" recommendation will send it to the floor in hopes the bill will be killed.

Quite often several legislators will introduce similar bills. In these cases, a committee may take the best parts from each proposal and combine them into one amended bill.

If the measure clears the House, it is sent to the Senate where the whole process is repeated.

A House-approved bill may be killed in a Senate committee, or on the Senate floor. It also may be amended.

Cleveland Paper Strike Near End

Cleveland, Ohio—UPI—Publishers of the Cleveland Press and the Plain Dealer reached tentative agreement early today making possible the settlement of the 126-day-old newspaper strike by this week end.

The only thing preventing the papers from resuming publication is contract ratification by the machinists and the striking printers.

The machinists will meet Friday morning to vote on the offer, according to James Lafelice, business agent for the machinists local.

He said the bargaining committee would recommend ratification.

The printers, members of International Typographical Union Local 53, are scheduled to vote tonight on a 26-month contract affecting 620 printers at the two struck daily newspapers.

4-H NEWS

Space Ribs

The March meeting of the Central Point Spare Ribs 4-H club was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wilcox. Donald Herzog gave a report on the club's 4-H window. Judy and John Frink gave a demonstration on how to notch a pig's ear.

New officers elected for the last half of the year are Sue Cornutt, president; John Frink, vice president; Sally Middlesworth, secretary; Sam Crockett, treasurer; Billy Walters, flag salute leader; Doug Crockett, news reporter; and Roger Adams, sergeant-at-arms.

Mr. Frink, the club's leader, showed a film on the importance of good hog houses. Refreshments were served after the meeting adjourned. Donald Herzog, Reporter

If the Senate amends a House measure, it must then go back to the House. If the House does not agree with the amendments, the measure then goes to a conference committee.

Many of the hundreds of bills introduced this session are unimportant. Many are

"special interest" proposals submitted by a legislator at the request of the folks back home.

The problem facing this session is that the state has serious money troubles. For the first time in recent years there is no surplus. Taxes must be raised.

Exhaustive hearings are being held on methods of increasing taxes. The Ways and Means Committee is critical of every budget.

Legislators not only are faced with a difficult job, they are dealing with an unpopular one—raising taxes.

An improperly drawn tax program could cost some of these legislators their jobs at the next election.

The Democrats hold a bare 31-29 majority in the House. The Republicans dominate the executive offices.

The results of this session could strengthen the Democrats' hold. They could just as easily give Republicans control of the House.

The governor and legislative leaders are equally aware of the possible change in the balance of power.

This is at the root of the widely-differing views of the legislature now in session.

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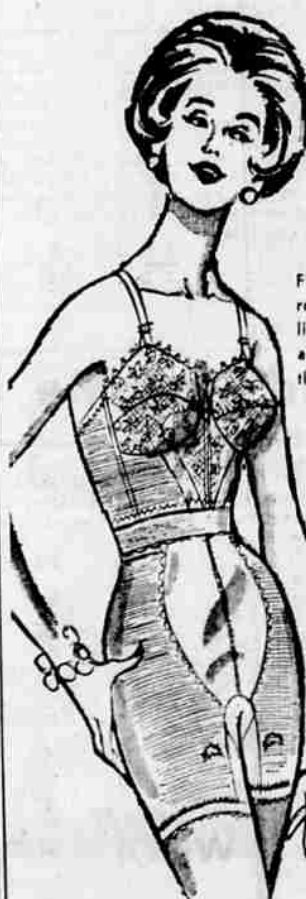


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