

Committee approves food stamp cut-back

WASHINGTON (AP) — A food stamp plan designed to save \$309 million a year was approved Tuesday by the Senate Agriculture Committee. Critics said it would take food stamps away from three million to four million persons.

Under the present program, administered by the Agriculture Department, food stamps go to 18.7 million persons. The program costs taxpayers \$5.8 billion a year.

The committee plan, approved 10 - 4, would limit how much food stamp recipients can earn. It would end itemized deductions from income to determine eligibility. And it would halt automatic eligibility for families on welfare.

Under the plan, a nonfarm family of four with \$5,500 net income would pay \$126 for stamps worth \$166 in food. Such a family, considered to be at the federal poverty level going into effect in April, now pays \$131 for the same stamps.

To apply for food stamps, a family would deduct from its gross income \$100 a month plus \$25 a month if the family includes someone 60 or older. Then the family would deduct taxes on the basis of tables provided by the program. For the purpose of committee debate, aides calculated that such taxes average 14.3 per cent of gross income.

If the remainder — or the family's net income — was at the poverty level or less, the family would be eligible for food stamps.

Under the present program, families itemize deductions for various living and working expenses. Agriculture Department studies show these itemized deductions average \$93 a month. Critics say these itemized deductions cause abuses.

Under the committee plan, the standard deductions would limit how much persons can earn and still be eligible for food stamps. The limit would vary according to state and local income tax rates.

Pres. Ford wants changes in the food stamp program that would save \$1.2 billion a year. There have been estimates that the President's proposals would eliminate 5.3 million to six million recipients.

Senate faces grade proposal

By WALLY BENSON
Of the Emerald

The University Senate convenes again today to discuss a variety of proposals in 229 Law School at 3:30 p.m.

Among the agenda items is a policy statement proposed by English professor John Sherwood concerning disadvantaged students.

The statement reads in part, "It is the policy of the University not to exclude ethnically defined organizations, either in a social or an academic context, where there is no invasion of academic freedom, of individual freedom of choice, or of the rights of other groups; claims for official recognition or funding will naturally require official review."

Sherwood had presented the proposal at the January senate meeting, but the body adjourned before discussion was completed. A special senate session was called the following Friday, but a quorum was not attained.

The return of the D grade will also be discussed. A proposal sponsored by William Lamon, teaching education associate professor, calls for the restoration of the D grade to the University curriculum and allowing it to satisfy general University requirements.

But the proposal doesn't stop there. It also abolishes the 85 percentile rule, which says a student

must complete 85 per cent of attempted courses with an A, B, C or Pass, and reinstates the grade-point average (GPA). A 2.0 GPA will be required for graduation.

And, under the proposal, the F grade returns as an unsatisfactory grade, and to graduate with a baccalaureate degree from the University, the number of pass-differentiated credit hours and mandatory pass-no pass credit hours may not be less than 150.

Lamon had presented a similar proposal to the senate fall term, but the feeling was so predominantly negative he withdrew the motion. This time, Lamon feels the proposal will pass.

"This draft displays modifications which are the result of input from the Academic (University) Senate and from faculty and students individually," he said.

He also said the student has much to gain from the proposal. "The main beneficiary is the student. Right now he is digging his own grave. There has been an in-

credible inflation of the grading system, which is an advantage to the poor student but a disadvantage to the good student."

Rounding out the agenda is a motion by biology professor Bayard McConnaughey relating to "across the board" salary adjustments for any or all groups employed by the University. The proposal calls for increases in salary or wages to be an equal amount for all affected personnel—not calculated as a percentage of the current salary of each individual.

Decreases in salary, however, would be based on a percentage of the salary or wage of each individual affected.

McConnaughey says salary increases currently are figured on a percentage basis, when the money is available, to meet inflation and cost of living increases. He says those at the lower brackets, who need the increases the most, get only a "pittance" under the present system.

Nothing up his sleeve . . .

LONDON (AP) — Malcolm Vadell is one magician with absolutely nothing up his sleeve and no mumbo-jumbo about now you see it, now you don't

Vadell works in the nude. So does his comely accomplice, Sue.

Four times a night, Vadell's naked illusions provoke gasps from Soho audiences unaccustomed to seeing a magician perform without a cape and top hat or emerge from a padlocked mailbag clad only in his handcuffs.

Sue, whose sequined tutu has done a similar disappearing act, floats about the stage in a state of unfettered levitation, when not being sawed up al fresco and distributed about the premises in three sections or entombed in a narrow coffin which Malcolm proceeds to fricassee in the most awkward places with 34 cavalry sabres.

"Working in the altogether you have to be a little more discreet about your misdirection," explained Vadell after revealing all to a packed house at London's Casino de Paris without giving away any secrets. "But in some ways it's easier. The men in the audience are distracted by Sue, and the ladies, too, seem to have their minds elsewhere."

Vadell, 24, first discarded his wardrobe four years ago when appearing in an end-of-pier show, Britain's equivalent of the straw hat circuit, in his native Blackpool.

"The act was a hit right from the start. The only ones who took offense were some senior members of the magicians' profession," he said. "Even now some of the old conservatives go around saying, 'you'd never get me to do that.' My answer always is, 'Well, who'd want you to?'"

He still spends \$4,000 a year on costumes for them both that, like strippers' raiments, get shed early

in the act, but he now also invests \$15 a week in body make-up, plus swiping hotel soap for the four baths he takes daily before performances.

Although Sue, real name Diana Ogley, nightly gets chopped into bits, nailed into coffins and seemingly decapitated as an unclad reincarnation of Marie Antoinette, British hearts in this nation of animal lovers go all out to Agnes, the magician's goose. Malcolm is frequently berated by audiences for vanishing in a puff of smoke "this absolute dear of a goose," whom he rescued at two days old from a poulterer and raised to stardom.

"She loves the act and is so un-

believably clever at automatically cramming herself into the tiniest compartments," Vadell said.

His biggest fear is that the idea of the act will be stolen before he realizes his dream of playing in America or that stage nudity will become so commonplace as to lose its box office magic.

As he spoke, the knife thrower on stage was tossing pound and half Bowie knives at a naked nymph on a rotating wheel, and in the wings, a "pair of gruntes," trade jargon for a boy-girl strip act, were preparing to grunt their way out of a bamboo cage in a cave-person act.

DAN FOGELBERG



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