

New student classification releases funds

By MELODY WARD
Of the Emerald

A revised definition of "independent student" has been proposed by the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare's (HEW) Office of Education.

Intended to improve the equity of the classification, the proposed definition would be used to classify students for participation in federal programs of postsecondary student financial aid.

"All it is now is a proposed change," explains University director of Financial Aid Ed Vignoul. "Basically they're tightening up

requirements for students to be independent. I happen to agree with them."

Vignoul says the number of students claiming financial independence has increased by 35 per cent since 1974. "The reason is because more and more we're dealing with the non-traditional student," he says.

The change would extend by one year the current tax exemption criterion, meaning that an independent student could not have been claimed for Federal income tax exemption purposes by any person other than himself or a

spouse for two calendar years prior to the academic year for which aid is requested.

"The idea is to get the money to people that it was designed for," Vignoul says. "The same amount of funds would be available if the proposal goes into effect but the distribution might be different. We have more students who are eligible to receive funds than the money available to go around."

Asked how the change would affect students from middle-income families, Vignoul responded, "I believe that the primary responsibility for higher edu-

cation still belongs with the family." Vignoul says the statement that financial aid programs are eliminating middle income families is "totally erroneous," and that other types of assistance in the form of loans and work study are available.

"Parents have some obligation to education — the magic age of 18 doesn't dump that responsibility on the public," Vignoul states.

The proposal would also change the current residency requirements. At present, students are limited to two consecutive weeks at their parents residence.

"That's not even much of a vacation," says Vignoul. The proposal recommends that an independent student could not have lived with the parents for more than a total of six weeks during any year that aid is requested or the previous year.

Comments on the proposed rule should be sent within 10 days to Peter K.U. Voigt, Director, Division of Basic Grants and State Student Grants, R.O.B. #3, Room 4717, 400 Maryland Ave., S.W. Washington D.C. 20202.

Grants offered to middle-income students

By LAURENCE MAGDER
Of the Emerald

If you are an in-state student from a middle income family you may have just become eligible for a state need grant of up to \$500 per term.

A law, passed this summer by the Oregon State Legislature, makes a 62 per cent increase in the amount of money allocated for state need grants. This budgetary increase enables the Oregon State Scholarship Commission

(OSSC) to redefine "needy student" in such a way as to include students from middle income families.

According to Gary Weeks, deputy director of the OSSC, the Commission can now make grants to students from families whose income is up to \$17,000. Previously, grants were only made to students whose family income was \$12,000 or less.

These income levels are only applicable to families with two children. Weeks indicated that grants might be awarded to stu-

dents whose family income exceeded \$17,000, and denied to those whose family income was less than \$17,000.

One must be a resident of Oregon to qualify for a state-need grant.

The same new law makes a further appropriation to offset the tuition increases that will go into effect during the 1977-79 school year. Weeks said that this appropriation will enable the Commission to raise the family-of-four standard of need to \$20,000 for those going to four year public colleges.

Bill to aid 'displaced' homemakers

The displaced homemaker may be the "Rip Van Winkle" of our time, but her years of unpaid labor in the home may be over, according to state representative Nancy Fadeley, D-Lane.

Speaking Monday at a meeting of the Lane County Democratic Forum, Fadeley said that after years as a dependent spouse, life can be hard for a displaced homemaker. Her years of homemaking can be developed into skills that would make her a contributing member of society, thanks to a bill sponsored by Fadeley which will establish displaced homemakers centers in Oregon.

According to Fadeley, the principal sponsor of Oregon's Displaced Homemaker Act, lawmakers all over America are beginning to recognize the problems and the potential of the displaced homemaker.

Recently returned from Washington, D.C., where she testified for national displaced

homemaker legislation, Fadeley said that 28 states are now considering displaced homemaker bills. She also predicted passage of federal legislation before the end of the year.

Oregon's homemaker act, signed into law last month, established a center for displaced homemakers on the University campus in conjunction with Oregon's Widowed Services program. The center, according to Fadeley, will offer personal and job counseling to those homemakers who, because of death, divorce or the illness of a spouse, are no longer married to a wage earner.

State estimates show that 22,000 Oregon residents might qualify for help through the center. Eugene's center may handle between 400 and 500 people.

The University's center is due to open September 1.

GENTLEWOMAN

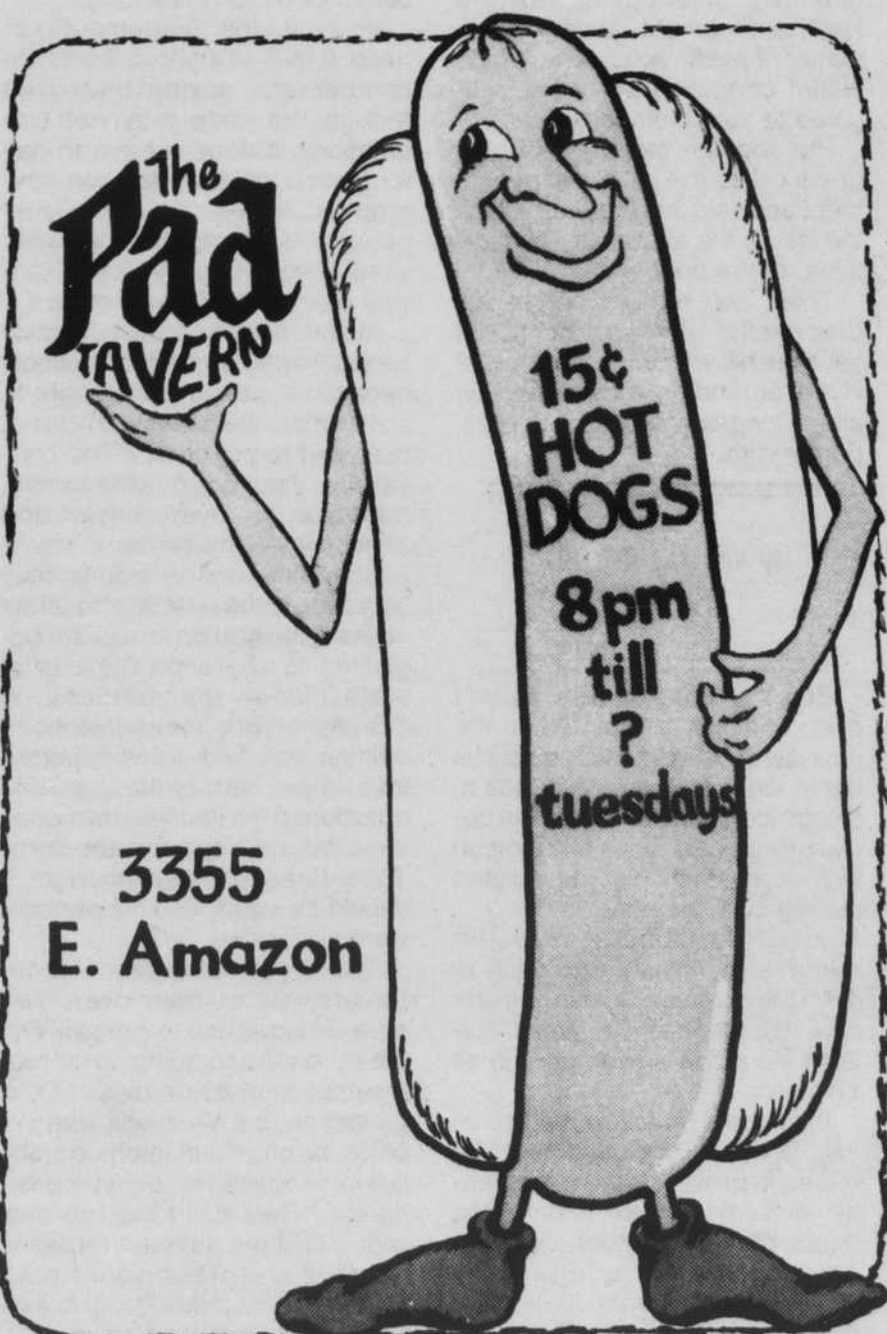
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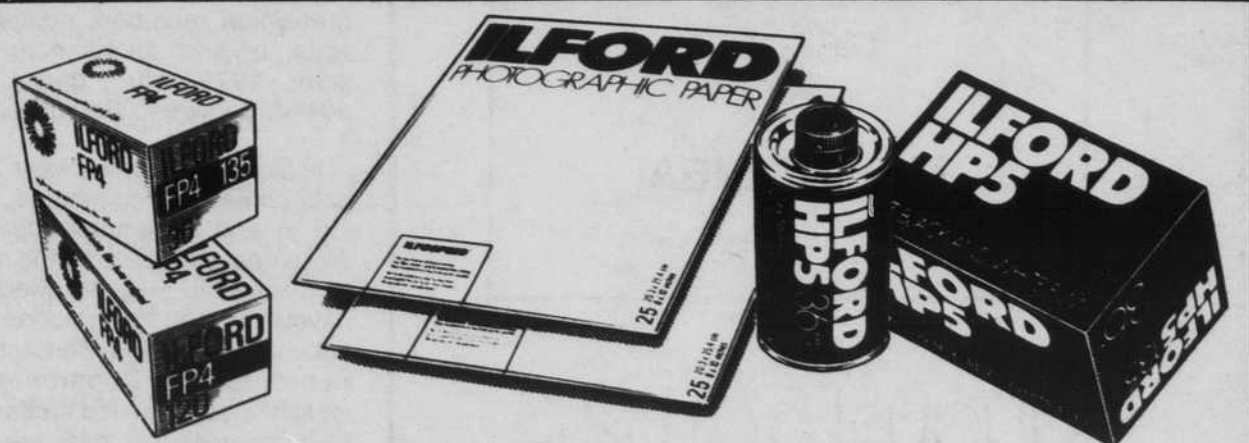
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