

Bills would limit power to sell homes to pay debt

SALEM (AP) — Two Portland women told a Senate committee Wednesday that their homes nearly were sold out from under them because of debts totalling less than \$2,000.

They testified in support of

bills to protect homeowners from having their homes sold without their knowledge to pay off debts to collection agencies.

Mary Scott, 53, said she fell behind in payments on a credit card and auto loan because she

was injured on the job and unable to return to work. She said she received a notice in 1980 from a collection agency and was told by Legal Aid that she could lose her home if she didn't pay the judgment. The debts totaled about \$1,700 and her home was valued at \$56,000, she said.

She said Legal Aid arranged with the collection agency for her to pay off the debt in monthly payments of \$25. Leslie Thomas of Portland also testified that her home nearly was sold to pay a \$1,062 debt.

"I was lucky. I was able to get legal help," Scott told the Senate Revenue Committee.

Several bills were introduced this session following news reports that former lobbyist Robert Harris bought up homes at sheriff's sales for a fraction of their real value to satisfy personal debts. For example, he reportedly bought a northeast Portland home for \$176 at a sheriff's auction. The home's assessed value was \$61,800.

"Unfair and inequitable situations have come to light in which homeowners have lost valuable homes they have saved for all their lives because they were simply unaware their homes were sold," Sen. Jim Gardner, D-Portland, told the committee. "The state cannot condone the injustice of permitting huge profits to be made on such sales behind the homeowner's back."

making the news

From Associated Press Reports

SALEM — Some students couldn't sit quietly for long Wednesday during testimony on a bill that would restrict the issuance of drivers' licenses to 16- and 17-year-olds.

The bill, sponsored by Sen. Charles Hanlon, D-Cornelius, would grant licenses for those under 18 under certain conditions, including driving to and from jobs, school and during family emergencies. No action was taken on the bill.

Hanlon told a Senate Transportation Committee that a disproportionate number of accidents and injuries are caused by drivers in that age category. The measure, he said, also would conserve fuel and cut down on traffic congestion.

Chairman Dell Isham, D-Lincoln City, asked whether that would seriously affect youngsters' dating activities.

"It didn't interfere with my dating when I was 16 and 17," said Hanlon. "I'm sure love will find a way."

PORTLAND — Oregon's largest irrigated farm, SimTag Farms, has been declared dissolved as of Dec. 31, 1980, by U.S. District Judge Owen Panner.

Panner said Tuesday he would appoint a trustee to manage SimTag Farms through the present farm manager, Ellis Charvet. They will consult with partners P.J. Taggares and Jack Simplot, who have developed 28,070 acres of state land they sublease south of Boardman.

Attorneys for Taggares and Simplot agreed that the farm's assets will be liquidated and sold as soon as possible.

Taggares said he was confident a buyer can be found for the farm. A court-appointed arbitrator, Edwin Howell, has set the price at \$35.5 million. He said the farm was worth \$62.7 million, but had \$27 million in liabilities.

Simplot, however, said with the farm losing \$5,000 a day, prospective buyers will have to have "a pretty big bank roll."

State police try to pull over bill limiting unmarked car use

SALEM (AP) — A Senate bill that prohibits the use of unmarked police cars for traffic control would remove an effective tool for catching the speeding or drunken driver, a state police officer said Wednesday.

The bill (SB368), sponsored by Sen. John Kitzhaber, D-Roseburg, also requires dismissal of traffic citations issued by an officer in an unmarked car.

Maj. Harris Kirby told the Senate Transportation Committee that state police have 128 unmarked cars, most of which are used by criminal investigation and game officers.

"These people couldn't take action against a drunk driver," he said after the hearing. "They couldn't do nothing."

Kirby said state police now use about 15 of the

unmarked cars around the state primarily for traffic control.

The car is especially effective against speeding truckers and other drivers who use citizen's band radios to warn others of the location of police cars.

Kitzhaber and others said the best prevention of speeding violations is the visibility of a marked police car.

Kitzhaber added that he was concerned that anyone with a flashing light could stop motorists.

But Kirby said officers in unmarked cars must be uniformed and be equipped with sirens and special warning lights to issue the tickets. Those officers only issue tickets during daylight hours, he said.

No action was taken on the bill.

Rags to Riches



Second Hand Clothing

SPRING CLOTHES NOW OUT

Name Brands, Large Selection, Low Prices
Consignments taken daily

360 E. 11th
Between Mill and High

ph 344-7039
Mon-Sat 11:30-6

UNIVERSITY
TRAVEL

BARGAIN FARES

\$199 Eugene-Denver-Eugene

\$299 Eugene-Milwaukee-Eugene
Seattle-Philadelphia-Seattle

\$302.90 Portland-Miami or
Ft. Lauderdale-Portland

\$399 Eugene-N.Y.-Eugene
Eugene-Pittsburg-Eugene

THERE ARE MORE
CALL US NOW

683-5577

Smith Family Book Bldg.

774 E. 13th

Free Parking in rear.

THINKING of BEING AN R.A.?

(RESIDENT ASSISTANT)

INVESTIGATE FURTHER...

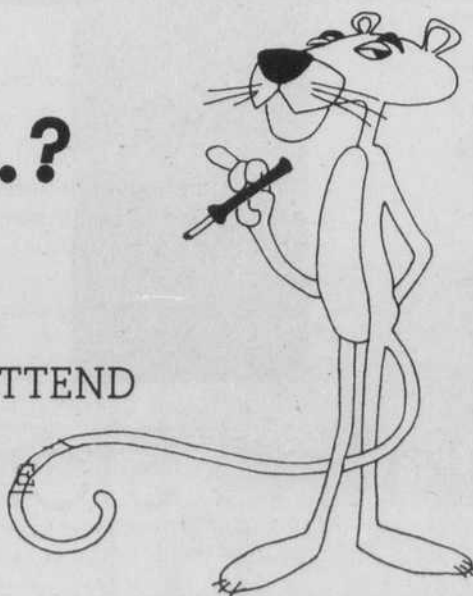
APPLICANTS REQUIRED TO ATTEND

ONE OF THESE MEETINGS:

Make-up meeting
for those people who
missed the previous meetings.

Tonight, April 2, 1981

7 pm, Carson Hall Gold Room



ASUO Wants You to
RUN

For IFC or SUAB

Get involved in

your student government.

Filing deadline is April 6th, 3:00 pm.

Information Suite 4, EMU 686-3724