

Legislature avoids food stamp benefits reduction

SALEM (AP) — The Legislature completed action Thursday on two bills aimed at bringing Oregon food stamp regulations into line with federal rules and avoiding a reduction in benefits.

The House unanimously approved the Senate-passed measures, SB218 and SB219,

sending them to Gov. Vic Atiyeh for his signature.

The bills exclude energy assistance payments to welfare recipients from income in determining eligibility for food stamps. Officials said welfare recipients could face a \$30 monthly reduction in benefits starting next week unless the state by law

adopted the new federal regulations.

The House also passed a bill, HB2338, that would continue state regulation of debt consolidation services.

The measure, which goes to the Senate, would shift the regulatory duties from the real estate commissioner to the director of the state Department of Commerce.

Under the state's so-called

sunset law, regulation of debt consolidators will end this year unless the lawmakers continue the program. Rep. John Schoon, R-Rickreall, said regulation of the services is important because they handle large amounts of clients' money.

By what price is a wife worth to helpless male

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — A 40-year-old Vancouver widower who says he can't even boil water has been awarded \$50,000 by the British Columbia Supreme Court to compensate for the loss of his wife's services.

Joseph Almeida, whose wife, Olinda, was hit and killed by a truck, received the award Wednesday.

Supreme Court Justice Madame Patricia Proudfoot found John and Thomas Miket liable for the Feb. 14, 1980 accident.

Almeida has yet to learn of the Supreme Court decision as he is in his native Portugal. Almeida speaks little English and a translator hired by his attorney has been trying to reach him. Almeida is expected to eventually return and settle in Canada.

Beatle sheds shell of past

LONDON (AP) — George Harrison, former lead guitarist with the Beatles, says he no longer wants to be treated merely as a member of the world's best-known pop group.

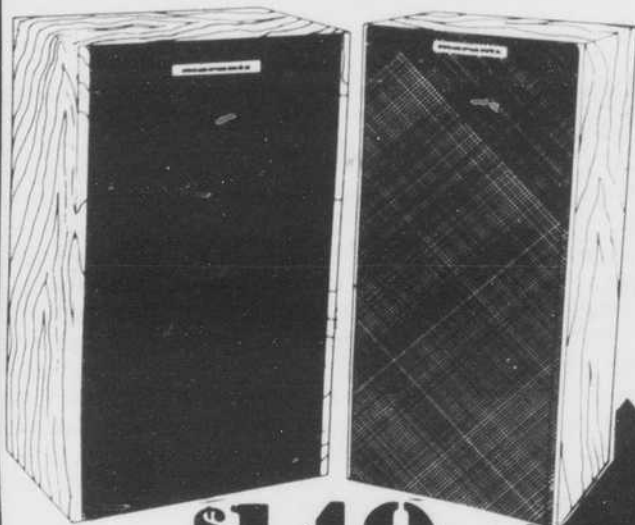
"We were all just a bunch of loonies — taking drugs and trying to be honest," he said in a rare interview published Thursday.

Harrison, 39, said the news media "are not interested in me as a human. They are only interested in the Beatles."

WHAT'S A BUCK WORTH

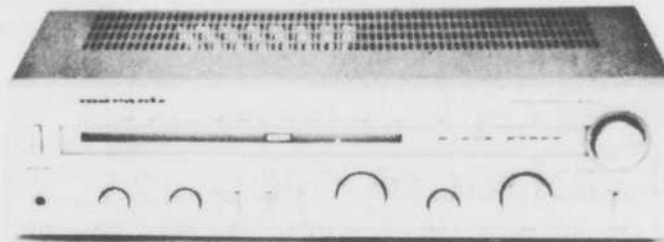
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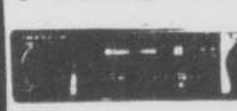
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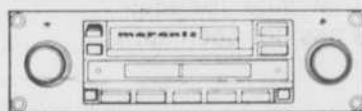
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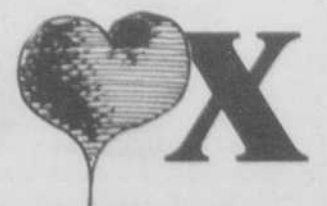
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