

## IRS Strikes Again

It has been said that not too long ago the Internal Revenue Service experimented with simplifying the standard income tax form. After carefully studying the present forms, they found they could simplify the annual two-page report into seven pages!

There may be some doubt as to the validity of this humorous episode, but to the person who must file such a report with the government each year, there may be more truth than fiction.

Every year some new blank or form appears and must be answered.

Recently, a blank was added to give the taxpayer a choice of how he would like his refund; (if he was fortunate enough to get one) in money or government bonds.

Next year, a blank will be added for the taxpayer who wants to volunteer \$1 for payment of Presidential political campaign expenses.

The latest addition to the growing list of questions is directed toward the students.

According to the New York Times, a "task force of educators," with the aid of experts from one federal bureau and two departments, is working on a plan whereby students could borrow money on which to attend college and then pay it back in extra income taxes over the course of their careers.

A key feature of the plan would fix a sliding of repayment. This means that students who receive lower paying jobs would have to pay back less than he borrowed, while the student in a higher paying job would have to pay back more than he borrowed.

A student would not have to work overtime very long to memorize all such federal programs that have been successful.

## Just To Stay Even

Inflation comes at us in increments announced as a fraction of a percentage point per month, which doesn't sound like much. Taxes move upward, but the politicians try to find ways to make them as painless as possible. Social Security taxes keep moving upward also, but gradually.

It is only when someone puts these all together, as the Tax Foundation has recently done, that the size of the jolt is truly discernible. The tax-research organization has compiled comparative figures on the cost of welfare government to a representative taxpayer, married, with two children.

If his income in 1956 was \$3,000, says the foundation, he now has to make \$3,655 just to stay even, an increase of 21.8 percent. If he made \$7,500 then, he must earn \$8,825 now, or he has actually lost real income. If he made \$10,000 then, he must earn \$11,764 now to stay even.

For those who shrug off the rising cost of inflation and taxes as a burden that affects chiefly the rich, the Tax Foundation offers convincing rebuttal. In fact, it is the lower end of the income scale that has suffered worst from the past decade's cost. The \$3,000-a-year wage-earner's cost increase, as a percentage of his pay, is nearly three times that of what the \$10,000-a-year man has to pay due to taxes and inflation.

And this does not count either increase in Social Security tax this year or the proposed six per cent increase in federal income tax.

This will mean the American taxpayer will have to run even faster to stay even in the years to come.

—The Dallas Morning News

## CADET SLOUCH

by Jim Earle



"I've never seen a guy so attached to his foot locker! He's been that way since th' Freshman Ball—I wonder if . . ."

## Engineers Can Take Heart! Studying Will Be Worth It

Engineer majors, take heart! All those nights that are spent studying will be well worth it.

At least that's what a recent survey by the College Placement Council asserts. Engineers and other technical students with bachelor's degrees received average starting salary offers of \$706 per month. Non-technical graduates will be paid an average of \$596 per month.

The survey was based on salary offers at 116 colleges and universities last semester. Mrs. Gladys Bishop, Placement Office secretary, revealed that Texas A&M participated in the survey.

Ray Mariana, technical recruiter from Union Carbide, made the statistics available during a recent visit to the Placement Office.

Chemical engineers topped the list with a \$717 offer. They were followed by electrical engineers, \$716; aerospace engineers, \$710; mechanical engineers, \$708; industrial engineers, \$694; civil engineers, \$691, and metallurgical engineers, \$689.

Other average offers in technical fields were \$674 for chemists, \$672 for mathematicians, and \$664 for physicists.

Top salary offer in a non-technical field was for accounting majors, \$617 per month. General business graduates were offered \$592, while those in marketing and distribution were to receive \$574. Humanities and social sciences students were offered \$558, lowest starting salary in the survey.

# Computer Approach Cautioned In Solving Cities' Problems

A Texas A&M authority on electronic computers urged city managers in a recent seminar here to assume a careful ap-

proach to applying computers to solutions of municipal problems.

"The approach to the use of highly sophisticated computers should be slow," commented Robert L. Smith, director of A&M's Data Processing Center.

"Too many people believe a computer is going to solve all of a city's problems in one fell swoop," Smith emphasized. "Jumping head-first into computerization causes more sinking than anything else."

The DPC director's caution was voiced in the final Community Service Seminar meeting of city managers from the East Texas Gulf Coast area.

SMITH SAID city managers need to become familiar with the computers their cities use in order to intelligently face day-to-day problems.

"Some city managers are not altogether satisfied with the computer results in municipal operations," Smith remarked. "They need to realize that people make transitions slowly. More computer operations are sabotaged by little old ladies in the back room than anything else."

"Poor results usually indicate a lack of internal communication," he continued. "City officials make the decision to buy a computer in private, without informing the little old lady who must operate it. She hears rumors that the city fathers are going to replace her and decides the machine won't work."

SMITH ADVISED city managers to keep employees informed of changing situations and to change the pattern of work in order to funnel proper information into the computer.

The speaker said municipalities in a given area should work out cooperative agreements to obtain sufficient computing facilities to

handle billing, tax records, payroll and other problems. Costs would be reduced to all, he added.

"Computers are not going to replace everybody," Smith noted. "Employees can be freed of mundane tasks to work on special problems that arise daily."

## 45 Fire Fighters To Take Course Here March 1-3

Forty-five persons are expected to enroll for a special course by Texas A&M's Firemen's Training Division March 1-3.

"Emergency Care and Transportation of the Sick and Injured" is being held for the first time at the A&M Engineering Extension Service Firemen's Training Field.

Tom Robinson, a Firemen's Training School instructor, will coordinate the school to be conducted by representatives of the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, Parkland Hospital in Dallas, and Baylor Medical School in Houston.

In addition to lectures, the school features field exercises in which participants rescue "victims" from simulated automobile accidents and airplane crashes.

Among topics are common medical emergencies, use of traction, splints, bandages and dressings, first aid and law, emergency driving, police and ambulance crew, and the importance of immediate care.

Registrants will include ambulance attendants, fire department emergency crews, and emergency personnel from law enforcement agencies and industry.

The school is endorsed by 15 organizations, including the Texas Medical Association.

## UAC

(Continued From Page 1)

portions of its profits back into such campus activities as the Apartment Council.

THE COUNCIL received \$800 from the Exchange Store with the requirement that the funds be spent solely for recreational purposes.

"We are going to send letters to the people in the apartments and ask for any suggestions concerning additional equipment," Christy added. "Any suggestions can be relayed to the council through the representatives in each apartment area."

Christy noted that all such activities undertaken by the Apartment Council in the past had been made with the children in mind. The only real exception being the council's participation in Civilian Weekend.

"WE HOPE to establish more activities for the students themselves, such as block parties," Christy said. "And with additional money we would like to build badminton or basketball courts for the married students."

Up until this year the council's only method to raise money was through the activity cards sold to day students during registration. One of the results of more recognition for the council may be more money to gain more recognition to get more money, ad infinitum.

According to Christy, this year is only the start. The council wants to wake people up and let them know there is such a thing as the University Apartment Council.

"I'd like to think of this year

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computer-operated Electric Energy Control and Dispatching Center that is creating excitement throughout the utility industry . . . new generating and distribution facilities . . . and a new skyscraper headquarters building in the heart of Houston. (Steelwork is already going up for this new building, but you may have to wait a few months before you move your office from our present building.)

## ENGINEERS CAN PROSPER WITH US!

An electric utility is built on engineering skills, and engineers carve great careers with HL&P. (Our president started as a transmission engineer with the company.) Right now we need BS candidates in Electrical, Mechanical or

Chemical Engineering for growth positions in our Power Department and Industrial Sales Divisions, and our Engineering Department offers opportunities to people with BS, MS or PhD degrees in either Electrical or Civil Engineering.

Our representatives will be on the campus March 6 and 7. Sign up at the Placement Office for your interview with one of these men:

<b>ENGINEERING</b> R. M. McCUISTION, P. E. General Supt. of Engineering G. W. OPREA, JR., P. E. Supt.-Planning Division	<b>POWER</b> C. M. RIPPLE, P. E. Operating Supt.-Power Department K. L. SKIDMORE Coordinator of Operator Training D. G. TEES Junior Engineer	<b>SALES</b> R. P. SMITH Industrial Engineer
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## PEANUTS



By Charles M. Schulz

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