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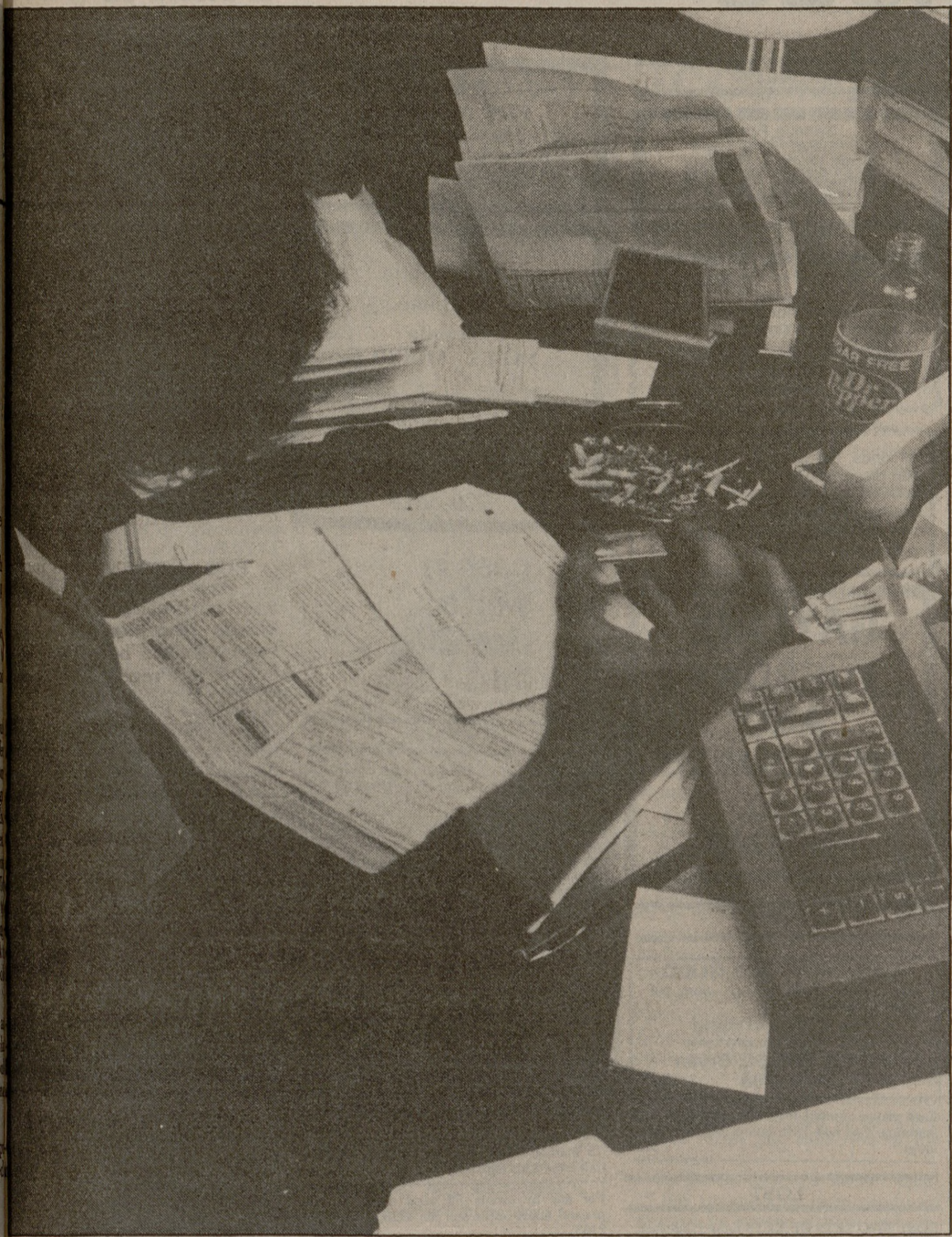


Photo by Alison Awbrey

Beta Alpha Psi, the accounting honor society, will have a booth set up in the Memorial Student Center to help students get through the

April 15 headache. New forms may be coming in a year or so. See related story, Page 13.

Accounting society handles income tax problems

By PHYLLIS HENDERSON

April 15, that day everyone would rather receive than give, the date associated with sweaty palms, bloodshot eyes and calculators thrown against the wall.

In students' minds, April 15 is often as feared and hated as finals week.

To ease some of those fears, Beta Alpha Psi, the accounting honor society at Texas A&M University, is sponsoring a booth to help students and other members of the community with their tax problems.

The booth will be open the first two weeks in March in the Memorial Student Center.

However, students should start thinking about their taxes early, Monte Hall, president of the society, said. If a student has any questions or problems, he said, he should come to the help booth.

The booth is usually busy during the tax season, Hall said.

"There are people who come by who have never had to fill out a tax form," Hall said. Many students either have never worked or their parents have filled out their forms for them, he said.

The most common problem students have is deciding which form to file, Hall said.

Single people with less than \$1,700 in itemized deductions may use the 1040A, or short form, Clair Nixon, an accounting professor at the University, said. Married

couples may also use the short form if their itemized deductions total less than \$3,400, he said.

Nixon said the long form was generally necessary for individuals with sources of income other than wages, salaries or interest. Because each case is unique, however, generalizations on which form to use are difficult to make, James Benjamin, advisor to the society, said.

Forms and advice on which to use will be given out at the help booth, Hall said.

Students also often have trouble getting their W-2 forms from their former employers, Hall said.

Employers are required to have the W-2 forms in the mail by February 1, Benjamin said. "There is a \$50 fine per W-2 form not sent," he said. If a student doesn't receive his W-2 form, he said, he should include his income from that job and a note of explanation with his tax return.

Unique problems also show up, Benjamin said. Many foreign students who work in the United States are required to pay taxes here, he said. Some of these students, however, will receive credits on their native country's tax return, he said.

Before deciding on joint or separate returns, married students should find out if they are carried as dependents on their parents' returns, Benjamin said.

Students expecting a refund should file their returns early, Benjamin said, but those expecting to pay should file later.

A&M College Bowl regional set for Saturday

By DANA SMELSER

Eleven universities from three states will be competing Saturday in the regional College Bowl finals at Texas A&M University.

College Bowl is a thought game: two teams of four players each score points by answering toss-up and bonus questions, Ted Hoef, College Bowl advisor at Texas A&M, said.

The tournament, sponsored by the MSC Council and Pepsi-Cola, will be held Saturday in rooms 206 and 212 at the Memorial Student Center from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The matches are open to the public.

College Bowl was made popular during the 1960s as a nationally televised game series, Hoef said. When the show went off the air, the tournaments stopped, he said, but it began again on college campuses four years ago.

About 300 schools hold the contest now, he said.

The subjects are mostly related to trivia, geography, sports, mathematics and science, Hoef said. A good team consists of students who are academically strong in different areas, Hoef said. "There's room for everyone," he adds.

The team representing Texas A&M was the winner of a 25-team campus tournament held last fall.

Hoef said the team consists of three members who represented Texas A&M in the 1980 College Bowl tournament. Texas A&M, in its first year of competition, tied for third place in that tournament.

The three veteran members are Ruvanne Marvit, a graduate student in meteorology, Mike Smith, a graduate student in chemistry and Camilla Pratt, a senior bio-engineering student.

The new member of the team is Laura Kincaid, a junior safety engineering student.

It is difficult to prepare for the match, Hoef said, because the questions require quick recall of an entire life of facts. He participated in College Bowl for three years.

Marvit said the College Bowl is

"something you prepare for all your life by reading."

The universities competing in the regional College Bowl finals are: Baylor University, Harding University, Rice University, Sam Houston State University, Stephen F. Austin University, Texas Christian University, Trinity University, Tulane University, the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, the University of Texas and Texas A&M.

Rice is this year's regional defending champion.

The winner of this tournament receives an all-expense paid trip to the national finals of the College Bowl in Charlotte, N.C., March 16-21. At the national final, the team is able to win scholarships from \$300 to \$2,500 for their school.



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