## In advance

### Seminars help to fill out tax forms

### By Jamie Russell Staff Writer

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'Tis the season to do taxes and this year, with the new changes in the tax code, Uncle Sam isn't making the task of filling out tax forms any easier.

Confused Aggies may attend Internal Revenue Service semi-nars on the Texas A&M campus on Feb. 18 and 19 to receive free help on how to fill out income tax returns. The seminars are cosponsored by the International Student Office and the Graduate Student Office and will provide important information, especially to graduate and international students whose returns may be more difficult to figure out.

Meredith Ross, one of A&M's assistant international student advisers, sympathizes with students who know little or nothing about tax returns.

"The situation is this: at the present time A&M hasn't taken my responsibility to provide students with information on the new tax information, for that matter, any tax information," she

The IRS seminars will provide answers to students' income tax questions, Ross said.

"It's the only free tax resource

#### available to students on campus," Ross said.

She said the seminars are primarily aimed towards the graduate and international students. because of the difficulty in doing their forms. Most graduate stu-dents have to consider grants and research assistantships when filling out their income tax forms, and international students use an entirely different tax form.

The seminars are scheduled at

the following times: • Today 11 a.m.-1 p.m in 701 Rudder Tower for international students.

• Today 3:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. in 601 Rudder Tower for graduate students.

• Today 7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. in 105 Harrington for international students.

• Friday 11 a.m.-1 p.m. in 701 Rudder Tower for graduate students

• Friday 2 p.m.-4 p.m. in 701 Rudder Tower for international students or last minute questions. Ross encourages any student

with taxable income to come to the service. "My main concern is that students just know about this," Ross said.

For more information please call 845-1824 or -1825.

Smoking

### (Continued from page 1)

**Finals** 

compromise proposal is better than the plan currently in place. They also pointed out that stu-

dents have been trying to work with the faculty, and that the alternative proposal is not a "student plan" as Shumway had labeled it, but rather a compromise between the two

groups. However, the discussion gradually drifted to secondary issues, like the faculty and student original finals proposals and the value of traditions at Texas A&M.

After the meeting, Student Senate Speaker Jay Hays said he had hoped the debate would center on the compromise proposal versus the current

"What I was really disappointed about, and I felt that this would happen in the beginning, was that the issue was not the compromise, the issue was senior finals," Hays said. "Traditions, finals . . . that's second-ary. What we needed to discuss was, Would this schedule allow students academically and scholastically a better chance at doing well during fi-nals then the schedule we're going to

have this Spring?' " Rabbi Peter Tarlow and two students also addressed the group to stress the importance of religious traditions. He objected to the fact that both the current plan and the alternative proposal could require in practice it didn't come through."

students to take finals on Saturday, which is the Jewish sabbath.

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Shumway planned to take a poll of faculty opinion at the end of the meeting, but opted not to after a show of hands revealed that there was virtually no faculty representation other than that of the Faculty Senate. It was suggested by one Faculty Senator that the poor faculty turnout was due to a lack of public-

But Hays attributed the conspicuous absence of faculty at the hearing to faculty apathy.

'It was clearly publicized," he said. "I think it's just indicative of the faculty's attitude toward the whole situation.

The Battalion ran a front page story Feb. 9 when the hearing was announced last week, and a second story Tuesday announcing the meeting. Fortnightly, a bi-weekly publica-tion of Texas A&M's Office of Public Information, also ran a story announcing the hearing.

Hays said he thought the Faculty Senate's intentions were good, but he was surprised by the poor faculty turnout at the hearing.

The apathy among the faculty for this was clearly evident, espe-cially when the only faculty members there were faculty senators who, as it turned out, were basically opposed to the compromise.

"The effort on the part of Dr. Shumway should be applauded, but

# Theft

### (Continued from page 1)

from becoming a victim is to be nvolved in learning who lives around you and what you need to lo to secure your property," Tay-or said. "It is easier to lock it up and not lose it then to lose it and find it later."

Many services are offered by the police departments to stu-dents to help secure their prop-

Kapella said that the College Station Police Department along with the District Attorneys Office ffered T-top sandblasting for 20 during the Safety Awareness eek.It usually costs about \$100.However, only three students took advantage of the opportunity.

Wiatt said the University Police have engravers that can be borrowed by students for about 10

Taylor said people should use their driver's liscense number for ngraving for easy identification. Roy Kelly of the Crime Stopper program also spoke at the esentation.

He said Crime Stoppers is a non-profit organization run by citizens and a police coordinator. The program offers rewards or information that leads to an

arrest and indictment.

### (Continued from page 1)

Citizens urge PUC to put ban on dial-a-porn

E. Vandiver and back to the Faculty Senate.

Vandiver's executive secretary said the resolution is under consideration and that no one in the president's office can comment on it until formal action is taken.

Very few students are aware of the proposed ban, Moore said, and Student Government committee members are working to increase awareness by word of mouth. She said most of those students who are aware

are non-smokers will say 'well, we don't care' so really it's protecting a minority's rights, because most students don't care from what I've heard," Moore said.

"I think it's a really small portion of students that smoke. But my committee's feelings were that a dorm room is your home and you pay for it.

In addition to tapping student opinion, the Student Senate committee is taking several steps to research the smoking ban. Members of the committee are talking to people at the A.P. Beutel Health Center about the addictiveness of cigarette smoke and have written to the American Lung Association to get statistics on side-

## Autopsy finds no signs of foul play in death of man found in dumpster

LUBBOCK (AP) — An autopsy on the badly burned body of an el-derly Odessa man found in a dumpster last month turned up no evi-dence of homicide, a pathologist said Wednesday.

Dr. Ralph Erdmann said 84-yearold Jack Doherty apparently died of natural causes. "There's definitely no foul play.'

Erdmann said no carbon monoxide was found in the body, indicating Doherty was dead when his body was set affre in the dumpster. Carbon dence in Doherty's death to grand monoxide would have indicated the jurors next week. death was linked to the burning.

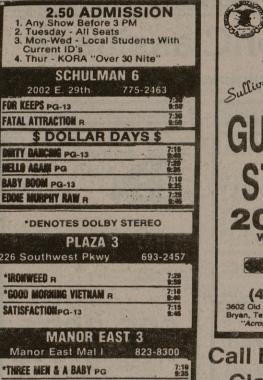
Earlier this month, Erdmann said preliminary autopsy tests showed Doherty had nearly twice the amount of alcohol in his blood Odessa police have said needed to be legally drunk.

The body had a blood-alcohol level of 0.196, Erdmann said, while 0.10 is considered legally drunk.

Meanwhile, Lubbock County County Jail on \$50,000 bond, police prosecutors say they will present evi-

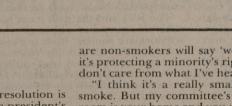
Eddie Wayne Roberson, 32, of Amarillo has been charged with credit card abuse for allegedly using

Odessa police have said that Roberson is listed as an acquaintance of Doherty's on the victim's missing persons report, filed 12 days before the body was found Jan. 19. Roberson remains in Lubbock



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of the proposal are apathetic. American Lu. "This is kind of a difficult issue because people that stream smoke.

AUSTIN (AP) --- Pastors, parents, ducators and employers urged the killing off sports, weather and other phone services.

thing goes as long as there is money to be made?" complained Anne Lash of Houston.

"It is our feeling that the phone company should not be in the sex business," said Marianne Hagg of Corpus Christi.

After four hours of testimony, the commission proposed two alterna-tives: an end to all "Dial 976" serv-

PUC Chairman Dennis Thomas said the best solution might be to company that provides the service. "Have we sunk so low that any- separate the dial-a-porn services from other Dial 976 services by setting up another three-number prefix for dial-a-porn. Thomas said, however, the commission could not order such a change because of possible free-speech problems.

The change could be made if te Southwestern Bell requests it, but it in could not be ordered by the commission, Thomas said.

Bill Free, Southwestern Bell vice

ices or a plan in which the calls could president, told the commission the be made only by customers who company also would consider a sys-"subscribe" to them. The commis-tem in which it would refuse to do Public Utility Commission on Wednesday to ban dial-a-porn in Texas, even if it must be done by phone company does the billing and then forwards the portion due to the

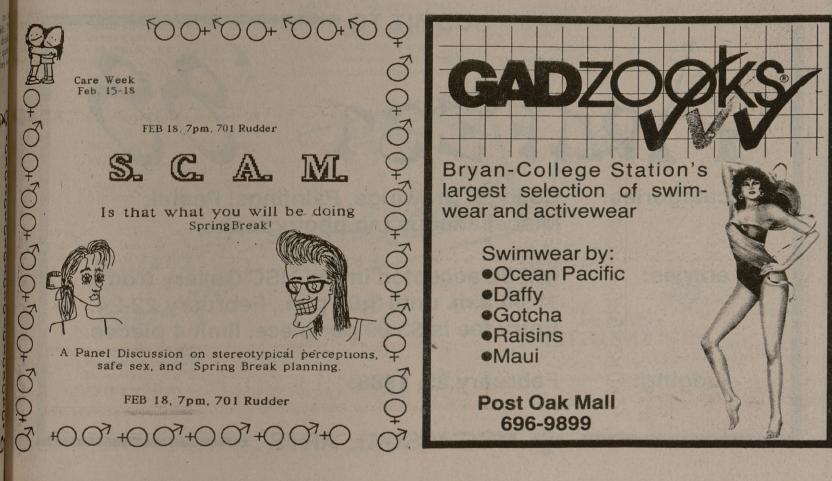
The three commissioners expressed frustration with the telephone company's response to the 976 problem.

"I'm not happy with Southwestern Bell," Commissioner Jo Campbell said. "I think their greed has absolutely gotten us into the problem we're

Free said he is "as upset as the commission that we haven't been able to control 976 service."

According to a PUC report, the cost of the 976 calls, lasting up to 3 minutes, range from 29 cents to \$49.95. Dial 976 service is available in Houston, San Antonio, Dallas and Fort Worth. The numbers can be called long distance from any other location unless they are blocked by the local telephone company. About one-third of the services offer sexual messages, the report said.

Free said Wednesday that Bell would be willing to offer free block-ing of 976 calls to all customers. Under the current plan, free blocking will be offered for 60 days, beginning Saturday. After that it would cost \$7 to prevent 976 calls from a phone number.



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