

# In advance

## Seminars help to fill out tax forms

By Jamie Russell  
Staff Writer

'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 seminars 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 co-sponsored 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 any responsibility to provide students with information on the new tax information, for that matter, any tax information," she said.

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 students 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.

# Finals

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compromise proposal is better than the plan currently in place.

They also pointed out that students 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 system.

"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 secondary. What we needed to discuss was, 'Would this schedule allow students academically and scholastically a better chance at doing well during finals than 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

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

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 publicity.

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 publication 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, especially 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 in practice it didn't come through."

**2.50 ADMISSION**  
1. Any Show Before 3 PM  
2. Tuesday - All Seats  
3. Mon-Wed - Local Students With Current ID's  
4. Thur - KORA "Over 30 Nite"

**SCHULMAN 6**  
2002 E. 29th 775-2463

FOR KEEPS PG-13	7:30
FATAL ATTRACTION R	8:30
<b>\$ DOLLAR DAYS \$</b>	
DIRTY DANCING PG-13	7:10
HELLO AGAIN PG	7:30
BABY BOOM PG-13	7:10
EDDIE MURPHY RAW R	7:30

\*DENOTES DOLBY STEREO

**PLAZA 3**  
226 Southwest Pkwy 693-2457

*IRONWEED R	7:30
*GOOD MORNING VIETNAM R	7:30
SATISFACTION PG-13	7:10
	8:45

**MANOR EAST 3**  
Manor East Mall 823-8300

*THREE MEN & A BABY PG	7:10
THE LAST EMPEROR R	7:45
*SHOOT TO KILL R	7:30
	8:45

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# Theft

(Continued from page 1)

from becoming a victim is to be involved in learning who lives around you and what you need to do to secure your property," Taylor said. "It is easier to lock it up and not lose it than to lose it and find it later."

Many services are offered by the police departments to students to help secure their property.

Kapella said that the College Station Police Department along with the District Attorneys Office offered T-top sandblasting for \$20 during the Safety Awareness week. 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 days.

Taylor said people should use their driver's license number for engraving for easy identification.

Roy Kelly of the Crime Stopper program also spoke at the presentation.

He said Crime Stoppers is a non-profit organization run by citizens and a police coordinator.

The program offers rewards for information that leads to an arrest and indictment.

# Smoking

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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 of the proposal are apathetic.

"This is kind of a difficult issue because people that

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-stream smoke.

# 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 elderly Odessa man found in a dumpster last month turned up no evidence of homicide, a pathologist said Wednesday.

Dr. Ralph Erdmann said 84-year-old 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 afire in the dumpster. Carbon monoxide would have indicated the 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 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 prosecutors say they will present evi-

dence in Doherty's death to grand jurors next week.

Eddie Wayne Roberson, 32, of Amarillo has been charged with credit card abuse for allegedly using a card belonging to Doherty.

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 County Jail on \$50,000 bond, police reports said.

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

**AUSTIN (AP)** — Pastors, parents, educators and employers urged the Public Utility Commission on Wednesday to ban dial-a-porn in Texas, even if it must be done by killing off sports, weather and other phone services.

"Have we sunk so low that anything 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 alternatives: an end to all "Dial 976" serv-

ices or a plan in which the calls could be made only by customers who "subscribe" to them. The commission will take public comment on the proposals for 30 days.

PUC Chairman Dennis Thomas said the best solution might be to 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 Southwestern Bell requests it, but it could not be ordered by the commission, Thomas said.

Bill Free, Southwestern Bell vice

president, told the commission the company also would consider a system in which it would refuse to do the billing for dial-a-porn calls. Under the current system, the telephone company does the billing and then forwards the portion due to the company that provides the service.

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 in."

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 blocking 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.

Care Week  
Feb. 15-18

FEB 18, 7pm, 701 Rudder

**S. C. A. M.**

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A Panel Discussion on stereotypical perceptions, safe sex, and Spring Break planning.

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