

Tracking down your tax refund

(NU)—You got your W-2's early so you rushed out and paid to have your tax return prepared before the big rush. Because your preparer computed a large return for you, you filed the return immediately.

But you're getting impatient waiting for your refund. After all, you need the money to pay some bills. How long should you wait before calling the IRS to ask them to track it down?

Perhaps you have a different problem related to your refund. For example, the IRS may have sent you the wrong amount, or you may receive a notice saying that your refund was applied to a prior tax liability you know nothing about, or your check was lost or stolen, or your refund was offset to another state or federal governmental agency.

If you call the IRS before 10 weeks has elapsed since you filed your tax return, you will be asked to wait until the 10-week period has passed then call back. However, the IRS will consider your inquiry if you have received some type of a notice from an IRS service center or were advised by the IRS's Tele-Tax System to contact them.

Tele-Tax, is a telephone service provided by the IRS, that has recorded information on more than 150 tax topics. The service is available 24 hours a day.

The IRS will need the following information in order to help you:
The date you filed your return.

The name, address, and social security number used on the return. It is important to tell them if a different address from your current address was used on the return.

Information from any correspondence you may have received from the service center: the Document Locator Number (DLN), the date of notice, the SSN on the notice, and the tax ending period shown on the notice.

A day time telephone number where you can be reached. Give a number where you and your spouse can both be reached (if you filed jointly).

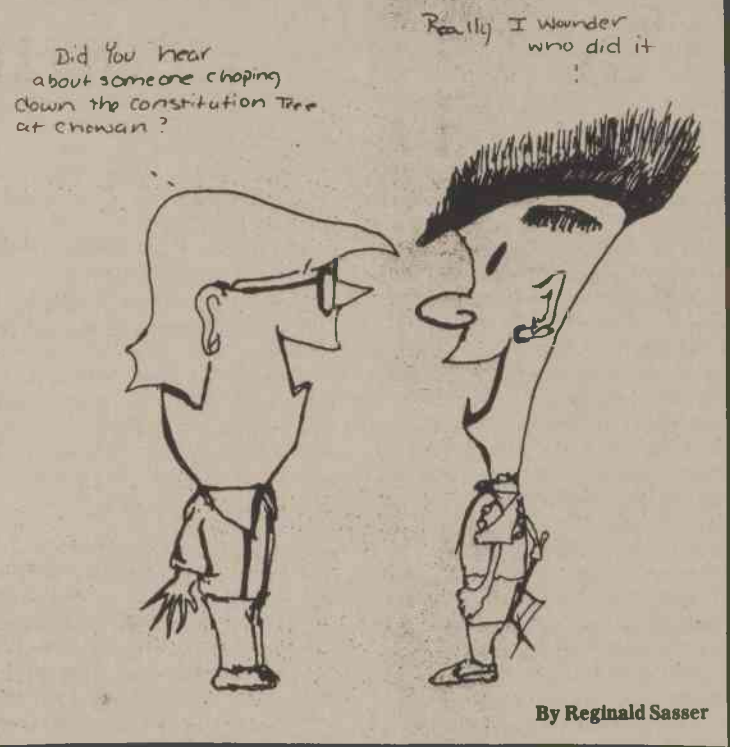
If it has been at least 12 weeks since you've filed your return and there is no record of the filing on the IRS Integrated Data Retrieval System (IDRS), you will be advised to file another return complete with original signatures and W-2's. The return should be marked "DUPLICATE" at the top.

If it can be determined that the refund was authorized and there was no computer problems or freeze conditions on your account, tracer action must be

initiated through the IDRS, or via IRS Form 3911, the Taxpayer Statement Regarding Refund. Sometimes the IRS applies refunds as credits to the current year's estimated tax account. If this occurred because of an error by the IRS, a refund will be issued.

Jack Warren Wade Jr., a former IRS revenue officer, is contributing editor to The Tax Savings Report. For a free copy contact Tax Savings Report, 711 Maryland Ave. N.E. Washington, D.C., 20003

Chowan Follies



Did you know...

Did you know...The largest named lake is Chaugogagogman chaugogoghaubunagungamaug and it is an Indian name meaning "You fish on your side, we fish on our side," nobody fishes in the middle?

...In Texas there was a woman who loved her dog so much that she married him in a standard religious ceremony presided over by a cleric?

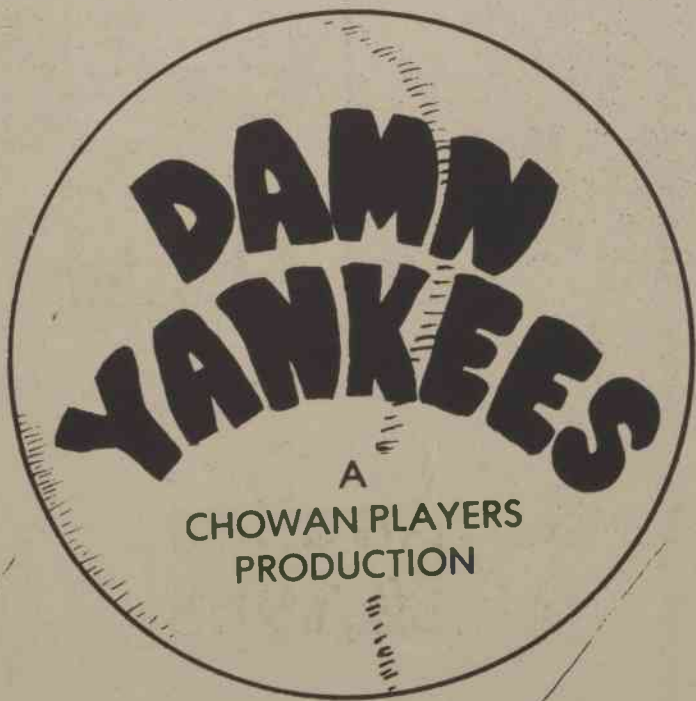
...An ancient toothache remedy was to eat a mouse.

...The sentence believed to be the longest ever to appear in literature is in Victor Hugo's "Les Miserables" and consists of 823 words, 93 commas, 51 semicolons, four dashes, and occupies almost three full pages.

...Eskimo boys of three and four years old may be seen smoking a pipe with the proud consent of their father because the habit is considered a sign of manliness?

Advisor/Advisee Day
Monday, April 11, 1988
10:00 a.m.

Individual Conference
Wednesday, April 13, 1988



COLUMNS AUDITORIUM — CHOWAN COLLEGE
EVENINGS MARCH 24 - 26 AT 8:00 P.M.
MATINEE MARCH 23 AT 1:00 P.M.
TICKETS \$5/\$2