

A certainty of life: the IRS taketh away

By LISA ALLEN
Staff Writer

When T. S. Eliot wrote that April was the cruellest month, he might have thought he was talking about the weather. Those of us who are frantically turning desk drawers upside down and sifting through piles of receipts with only hours left before tax forms are due know better.

The good part about filing an income tax return is the refund, which most college students who worked last summer will be getting eventually. The bad part about getting the refund is having to file for it. Unfortunately, the filing deadline for taxes is April 15.

Jim Cooke, an employee in the North Carolina State Revenue Department's Income Tax Division, said 919,000 refund checks have already been written by his department from the completed forms already received.

"We wrote 2,008,000 checks total last year," Cooke said, "so we're about half done."

Cooke said 2.6 million people paid out additional income taxes last year in North Carolina.

"We're expecting some increase this year since the economy is doing so well," he said.

Tom Grobleski, postmaster at the post office on Estes Drive, said there hadn't been a noticeable increase in

mail despite the April 15th deadline for filing income tax forms.

"There has been a general increase in mail this year," Grobleski said, "but hopefully people haven't procrastinated in filing their tax forms."

Grobleski said there might be an increase in mail at the mail processing facility in Raleigh, because most of the state's mail is filtered through there, but the volume of mail is nothing like the increase a major holiday brings.

"Every year around this time on Channel 3 out of Charlotte, they show people driving up to the local post office," he said, "and letters are hanging out the windows of their cars. That's never the case here."

Betty Francisco, a manager at H&R Block in the Glen Lennox Shopping Center, said her company, which does tax returns for individuals and businesses, had experienced a definite increase in the volume of business since last year.

Among this year's differences in the tax law is a change in the method of reporting auto expenses that requires more detailed information on the form, according to Francisco.

Anne Lobe, owner and sole employee of Computax, another income tax preparation company, said another change in the law allowed separated couples to file as singles after only six months of separation,

instead of the year-long wait previously required.

The law also raised the amount of exemption money that can be claimed when using a car for charitable purposes from 9 cents a mile to 12 cents, according to Lobe.

Lobe said more people started doing their taxes later this year because of some delays in getting out tax forms.

For those of you who plan on being late this year, getting an extension on filing your tax forms won't be difficult, according to Lobe. An extension on both state and federal taxes can be obtained by sending in a request, along with an estimate of how much tax money is owed to the IRS. Without an estimate, interest must be paid on the late taxes. The extension is until Aug. 15.

Betty White, a partner in Blackman and Sloop, another firm that aids in tax preparations, said people seem to follow a pattern in tax filing.

"The laws get more complicated every year," White said, "but it hasn't changed the speed at which people file."

Lobe said she has requested extensions for filing her taxes for the past four years.

"I've been so busy doing other peoples' taxes, I haven't had time to do my own."

Khadafy linked to bombing; Reagan considers retaliation

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Vice President George Bush said Sunday that "Libyans had their fingerprints all over state-sponsored terrorism," and the United States had a duty to punish those who threaten Americans overseas.

Deputy Secretary of State John C. Whitehead said U.S. officials have information implicating Libyan leader Moammar Khadafy in the bombing of a West Berlin nightclub in which an American was killed and indicating that Khadafy was plotting more attacks.

President Reagan is weighing the use of military force against Libya in retaliation for the attack, Whitehead said, but added, "the prospect of military action is something only the president will decide on. He has not yet made that decision."

Stockman dreams of job in defense

WASHINGTON — A biography of David Stockman, to be published on the heels of Stockman's hard-hitting memoirs, says the former budget director has told friends his dream job, if he ever returns to Washington, would be secretary of defense.

But Stockman's prospects for the Pentagon seem dim, according to the biography written by Owen Ullmann.

Stockman managed to avoid the draft during the Vietnam War. And after his former colleagues read the blunt criticism of them in his memoirs, many may agree with "one of his most antagonistic rivals," quoted anonymously by Ullmann,

State & National

who told the author, "I say he's finished here."

Ullmann's book, "Stockman: The Man, The Myth, The Future," recounts that Stockman signed a Students for a Democratic Society ad at Michigan State University in 1967 vowing to resist the draft and signed up for Harvard Divinity School, a move that allowed him to avoid induction.

The book also "Several top White House officials... recalled hearing Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger refer to (Stockman) when he was not present as 'the little draft dodger' or the 'blow-dried draft dodger.'"

Weinberger denied it.

Springsteen sues pub's owners

SEATTLE — Rock star Bruce Springsteen has sued a pub's owners for copyright infringement, alleging his hit song "Cover Me" was played in their tavern without permission.

Springsteen, the Doors Music Co., and T.B. Harms Co. filed a joint suit Friday in U.S. District Court against Terry Griffin and his wife, Kathleen, owners of the Islander Pub on Bainbridge Island, west of Seattle.

The pub had public performances of Springsteen's song and others that were covered by copyright, the suit alleged.

The Griffins violated the copyright because they don't have a license from the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, the suit charged.

Colleges across country push for divestment

Associated Press

Protesters at Yale University vowed to defend their anti-apartheid shanties after meetings with school officials ended in an impasse Saturday, and students and alumni blockaded a building at Wesleyan University to protest South African-related investments.

Students at the University of Illinois tore down their shantytown Saturday but vowed to erect the shacks again if the school does not end its investment in companies doing business in South

Africa.

The University of Connecticut's trustees voted unanimously to divest, while the University of Pennsylvania's board decided to keep an 18-month moratorium on such action.

In New Haven, Conn., Yale students said they would occupy the shacks, built more than a week ago to symbolize shantytowns in black South Africa, until the school agrees to sell its more than \$350 million investments in companies that do business with South Africa.

"Our position is that we are not leaving," student Charlene Gilbert told a cheering crowd of 200 students at the shacks.

About 400 Yale students and supporters attended a meeting earlier Saturday with six of the eight members of the Yale Corporation's Committee on Investigative Responsibility.

But another committee member, Eleanor Holmes Norton, former head

of the U.S. Equal Opportunity Employment Commission, asked students to continue their protest and "struggle for a free South Africa."

At the University of California, in Berkeley, the president of Theta Xi fraternity apologized Friday to apartheid protesters for an incident in which fraternity members stole an anti-apartheid shanty symbolizing the plight of South African blacks.

Jesse Jackson aids strikers

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Minn. — The Rev. Jesse Jackson met Sunday with protesters arrested in a violent demonstration during the nearly 8-month-old strike against Hormel and said his meeting with a company official earlier in the day was fruitful.

"The issue is not about jobs, confrontation and tear gas," the civil rights leader told reporters after his jail visit with the protesters arrested Friday. "It's about getting to work."

Jackson, who had offered to mediate the contract dispute, said his meeting with Hormel Vice President Charles Nyberg earlier was fruitful. But he said he did not get any promise from the company for renewed negotiations with Local P-9 of the United Food and Commercial Workers union.

Nyberg had said Saturday of Jackson's visit: "His suggestions, any suggestions, would be most welcome. A pure mediation role, we don't think, would be positive."

Jackson also met with law enforcement officials and Mayor Tom Kough and planned to meet with leaders and members of Local P-9.

"Ultimately I would like to see all forces back to the bargaining table," Jackson said earlier. "Only by workers standing up can we do it."

"Our concern is very basic here," he said. "We want workers out of jail and on the job."

Friday's clash between police and demonstrators erupted when more than 300 demonstrators attempted to shut the plant down by blocking the entry gates and roads leading to the gates.

Out-of-control car kills 1, injures 50 in Louisiana

Associated Press

PONCHATOULA, La. — A car went out of control Sunday and plowed through a crowd walking to the annual Strawberry Festival, killing one person and injuring as many as 50, authorities said.

Residents grabbed blankets and ice packs and turned their driveways and carports into first-aid stations, while ambulances tried to make way through the jammed streets, police said.

Festival officials announced on loudspeakers that the driver of the car was an unidentified woman who suffered a heart attack and pressed down on the accelerator of her vehicle when she became ill. Police at the scene say the woman may have suffered a stroke.

"All we know from our crews for sure is that it's real hectic at the two hospitals," said Joe Neumeyer, a representative of Acadian Ambulance Service. "We have no way of knowing how many were transported by private vehicle."

John Berault, a representative of for the Seventh Ward Hospital, said a 45-

year-old man was killed, but would not release his name.

"The injuries ranged from minor abrasions to one fatality," he said. "The total of injuries was somewhere around 50."

One person was listed in critical condition at Our Lady of the Lake Hospital, Neumeyer said, adding that his service had eight ambulances and three helicopters at the scene.

For the Record

The Daily Tar Heel erroneously reported two quotes in the April 8 edition's article, "Lecturer calls teaching his greatest joy."

Ben Cameron actually said that the person in his class who suggested that his topic be sex had a "short-lived tragedy." In the same article, Cameron actually said, "Life is too short to be serious, but too serious to be frivolous." The Daily Tar Heel regrets these reporting errors.



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