IRS offers volunteers to help file tax forms

By Jake Berg Emerald News Editor

The saying goes that the only sure things in life are death and taxes. The Internal Revenue Service is trying to make taxes a little eas-

More than 850 volunteers statewide are available free of charge to help those people who need to file 1040EZ, 1040A or 1040 forms by the April 15 deadline

Volunteers are available in several Eugene-area locations, and appointments may be necessary: the Lane Community College Resource Center, Tuesday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; the Campbell Senior Center, 155 High St., make appointments at 687-5318; the Eugene Public Library, make appointments at 687-5450; and the Latin-American Center, 944 W. 5th, make appointments at

Those who visit these locations for volunteer assistance should bring all paperwork relevant to filing the form, said Dale Potts, an IRS spokesman.

The volunteer program was established about 20 years ago when the IRS realized many low-income people needed help filing returns, Potts said. It is still evident today, he said.

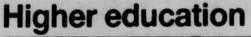
'What's happening is a lot of low-income people weren't doing their returns. They didn't have the education," he said. "And most of them had refunds coming.

The volunteer program is also aimed at those non-English speaking, elderly or disabled individuals who may need help.

Volunteers are trained during a weeklong program and are required to pass an exam at the end of the training. Potts said many of the volunteers are retired people, professionals donating their time or accounting students looking to get experience.

The only drawback to the program is the volunteers are not trained to do more complicated returns, but that should matter little, Potts

"If you do have complex returns, then you probably have some money coming," he said.





A person walks across the sky bridge between the Chiles Business Center and Gilbert Hall Tuesday afternoon

POLICE BEAT

The following incidents were reported to the University Office of Public Safety and the Eugene police department Feb. 22-29.

·An incident of criminal mischief was reported Feb. 23. Suspects broke into a van that was parked in front of Gerlinger Hall and broke a window, two dome lights and two speakers.

•Two University students reported thefts from Lawrence Hall Feb. 27. One student said she had three books, some drafting equipment, a cassette player with headphones and a pen set taken from her studio locker on the fourth

The second student reported that her entire desk drawer was taken from her studio. Drafting equipment worth \$140

 A pair of University students reported an assault and harassment on the 1500 block of Alder Street Feb. 28. One of the students said he was pushed to the ground and punched and kicked by five or six suspects. The student suffered a broken finger, a bruised nose and

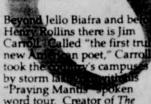
 A University student was arrested for consumption on an unlicensed

premise Feb. 28. According to police reports, the arresting officer observed the student, who was walking on the 1300 block of High Street, tip a clear bottle containing a red liquid. When the officer approached the student, the bottle was empty and the student told the officer that he had tipped the bottle to see if anything was in it. According to police reports, the student told police the bottle had contained cola.

After being cited, the student became abusive and said, "This is stupid. Shouldn't you be arresting criminals?" according to police reports. The two men who were walking with the student told police that the student had been drinking. The officer said the student was being uncooperative and was taken

 A criminal trespass was reported at the University Longhouse, 606 Columbia St., Feb. 28. Police said the Longhouse is used as a holy meeting place for Native Americans and is not a residence. The suspects broke into the house last week. Nothing was stolen, but some furniture was moved and condom wrappers were found on the floor, according to police reports.

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