

# Campus accounting honors fraternity offers free help

Community members and students will have three opportunities to get tax help from Beta Alpha Psi's service

By Danielle Gillespie  
Oregon Daily Emerald

For the mathematically challenged, it's that dreaded time of year again — time to fill out those tax returns.

Monday, April 15 is the deadline to file state and federal taxes.

Many University students perceive 1040 and W-2 forms to be a confusing pile of complicated paperwork, but the accounting honors fraternity, Beta Alpha Psi, offers an opportunity to make filling taxes less stressful and time-consuming.

Beta Alpha Psi will be holding its third annual free income tax preparation services for students and community members from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and again on April 6 and 13 in conference room 228 of the Chiles Business Center.

"I think that this is something the accounting profession can do to help people. For some people, filing taxes is not that simple and many students can't afford to pay for someone to file their taxes," Beta Alpha Psi tax preparation coordinator Ana Inclan said.

During the seminars, about 10 to 13 volunteers will help students complete their tax returns. Anyone from the community who needs help filing their tax returns can attend the event, except for small business owners and international students, because they have more complex paperwork, Beta Alpha Psi President Scott Rawitscher said.

The service not only helps fulfill Beta Alpha Psi's chapter communi-

ty service requirements but provides fraternity members the opportunity to work in the area of their interest, accounting.

"It's a great experience and it gives us skills for the future," Rawitscher said.

Last year the group helped nearly 250 people in a five-day period, but this year the workshops will be held only three days. Inclan said with the donation of 10 laptop computers from a Portland business firm this year, the group hopes to serve just as many people as in past years but in a shorter time span.

*"I think that this is something the accounting profession can do to help people. For some people, filing taxes is not that simple and many students can't afford to pay for someone to file their taxes."*

Ana Inclan  
tax preparation coordinator,  
Beta Alpha Psi

Before the seminars, the accounting fraternity prepares tax preparation volunteers with a two-day class taught this year by CPAs Andrea Wenrick from Moss Adams LLP in Eugene and Aaron Gorgensen from Anderson Financial Group Inc. in Portland.

Wenrick said the classes and the seminars are great experience for college accounting students because students learn basic skills for filing straight-forward tax returns.

Beta Alpha Psi fraternity will hold free tax preparation services 10 a.m.-4 p.m., March 9, April 6 and April 13 at Chiles Business Center in Conference Room 228.

April 15 is the deadline to file state and federal tax returns.

"I chose to help with this program because I like staying connected with the students and having them see where the accounting profession can take them," she said.

Wenrick and Gorgensen will be monitoring the volunteers during the seminars along with five IRS members who will be checking the volunteer's work before it's "e-filed" or printed as well as answer any questions.

"At the classes, all of the volunteers learned how to prepare tax returns for the first time and did not feel like they knew what they were doing in the beginning," Rawitscher said. "But after the seminar, they felt more confident and excited about what they had learned."

Students will have the opportunity to file their taxes electronically at the workshops using the IRS's e-file software. If students use the Internet-based e-file, they will receive a response in approximately 11 days, as opposed to a month later through traditional mail. Normally, accounting service companies charge customers \$50 to send an e-file, but Beta Alpha Psi will be offering this service for free, Rawitscher said.

Those who do not want to file their completed tax forms electronically can print and mail them at a later date.

E-mail reporter Danielle Gillespie at daniellegillespie@dailymerald.com.

A Second Season Production

**ARENA THEATRE**  
March 6-9 + 14-16  
8 PM

UO Ticket Office: 346-4363  
Hult Center: 682-5000  
UT Box Office: 346-4191  
Days of Performance Only

**poppi's**  
Anatolia

"The Land East"  
Traditional Greek & Indian Food

Lunch  
Monday through Saturday  
Dinner  
7 Nights a Week  
992 Willamette  
Eugene, Or 97401  
343-9661

**STUDENT**

Today's Army National Guard gives you the opportunity to be both. Take advantage of up to \$472 per month for college plus up to \$10,000 in student loan repayments, all while attending college full time. In addition, receive up to \$8,000 in enlistment bonuses and paid skill training.

**YOU and The Army National Guard... A Winning Team**  
1-800-255-2764

**SOLDIER**

## DDS

continued from page 1

bench seat next to her, put his arm around her and said, "How's it going, baby." When she told him to get his hands off her, he accused her of being "one of those."

She said the most frustrating part of the experience was that the driver and navigator did absolutely nothing to defend her. She said they could clearly hear what was going on, because she was in the seat directly behind the drivers.

"I wish the drivers could have at least said, 'Knock it off,'" she said. "I felt isolated even though I could reach out and touch" the drivers.

After a second instance when a patron joked to the drivers, "You should get blow jobs for tips," she wrote an e-mail to Sparks, she said.

In an e-mail response to Melissa's complaint, Sparks wrote: "I don't know of any employee currently working for DDS that would hesitate to interrupt an unsafe or uncomfortable situation for a patron if they are aware of it. ... We have very respectful men and women working for DDS, and our first concern is safety. We all have to remember that we do drive intoxicated students home. ... It is your job to let the driver or navigator know that you are uncomfortable."

Last week, Melissa found herself in another compromising situation on a DDS van, she said. The four male students riding in the van with her seemed close to fighting

— one student yelled "fuck" and punched the window, she said. Following Spark's instructions, she told the driver and navigator that she was worried the situation could get out of hand. They told her not to worry about it, she said.

Melissa is not the only student with complaints about DDS employees' conduct. During fall term, senior Niki Wilkins called DDS for a ride. After a female student at the front of the van vomited, the driver made the approximately eight students get out near the intersection of 15th Avenue and Patterson Street and then drove away, presumably to clean the van, she said.

Wilkins said the sick student, a freshman, was intoxicated and very disoriented, so Wilkins walked her back to her residence hall. She said she questions whether DDS employees' conduct complies with the program's mission to drive students safely home.

"The drunk driver shuttle was just going to leave her there to fend for herself," she said.

Sparks said it is DDS's policy to send another van on the rare occasions when a passenger vomits. She said she was never notified about that particular situation.

Drivers go through no specific training to deal with any harassment that may arise on the van, she said.

"But if something is uncouth, we have a right to kick them out of the van," she said. "Safety is our main issue. We're keeping people from driving."

As a University program, Melissa said, DDS has a responsibility to ensure its patrons feel safe.

"They are accountable for what does happen," she said. "They should provide a safe atmosphere for all customers."

\*Last name omitted for privacy.  
E-mail reporter Diane Huber at dianehuber@dailymerald.com.

**Brownie Ice Cream is Back!**

**PRINCE PÜCKLER'S**  
Ice Cream and Coffee Parlour  
"We make our own Ice Cream!"

**WEEKLY SPECIALS:**  
Tuesday- Hot Fudge Sundaes  
Friday- Euphoria Ultra Chocolate Sundaes

19th & Agate St.  
**Open Daily**  
12-11P.M.

**To earn a 4.00 in Brewology all you need to know is STEELHEAD.**

- 9 Award-Winning Micro-Brews
- Soups, Salads  Ribs  Fresh Pizza
- Sandwiches  Pastas  Burgers
- Spirits  Home-Made Rootbeer

TAKE A BREW HOME IN STEELHEAD'S BOX O' BEER

**Steelhead Brewing Company**  
199 East 5th Avenue Eugene, OR Phone 686-2739  
Eugene, OR - Burlingame, CA - Fisherman's Wharf, San Francisco, CA - Irvine, CA