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University of Michigan Law School

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Tax Credits Available to Students

Every year, Michigan students pass up thousands of dollars available to them under two state programs: the Homestead Property Tax Credit and the Home Heating Credit. You do not need to be a homeowner or directly pay a utility bill in order to qualify for benefits, nor is it necessary to file a Michigan Income Tax Return.

Under the Property Tax Credit, a person is entitled to a credit if his/her property taxes exceed 3.5% of his/her "household income." In the case of renters, property taxes are assumed to equal 17% of rent paid by the person for a domicile in Michigan.

Here is how the Property Tax Credit might apply to a typical law student. The student's income from a summer job, a part-time job during school, dividends and interest equals $4,000. The student had an apartment in Ann Arbor, for which the rent totaled $1800 for the year. Seventeen percent of that rent equals $306. Three and a half percent of the student's income equals $140. The student is entitled to a credit equal to 60% of the difference between the taxes paid and the income figure: $306 - $140 = $166; $166 x 60% = $99.60. The student is entitled to a credit of $99.60 from the State of Michigan. The credit is not offset against income tax liability. The student would receive the full credit whether any income taxes were paid or not.

The Home Heating Credit works somewhat differently. The same 3.5% income figure is used, but it is offset against a standard allowance based on the number of exemptions the tax-payer may claim. In the case of a single student, the standard allowance would be $200. Assuming the same $4000 in income, the 3.5% figure is again $140.

The taxpayer is entitled to receive a credit equal to the total amount of the difference between the two figures: $200 - $140 = $60. There is one catch in the Home Heating Credit program. Unlike the Property Tax Credit, the Home Heating Credit may not be claimed by a full-time student who is claimed as a dependent by his parents.

The forms required for the two credit programs are included with Michigan Income Tax forms. The form packets may be obtained at some local banks or from the Secretary of State's office at 611 Church Street.

You may file your credit forms with your income tax forms or separately. The final date for filing a credit for property taxes paid in 1979 is December 31, 1981. This also means it is still not too late to file for a credit for taxes paid in 1978, since the deadline for this is December 31, 1980.

For further information about the credits, call the Michigan Treasury Department at 971-0112.

---Tom Wieder '80

Senate: Getting Your Money Back

If you have a good idea that you think merits Senate funding, or if you represent a law school organization which has relied on Senate largesse in the past, take heed! The Senate has changed the funding process to make it more democratic.

In the past, the Senate's pot has been divided up among existing organizations, based on budget request forms which broke down proposed spending into general categories. This has made it difficult for new organizations and programs to break into the funding process.

In order to remedy this situation, the Senate has approved a proposal adopting a zero-based budgeting approach. All organizations seeking Senate funds will be required to submit budget request forms which itemize their proposed spending, program by program, along with anticipated office/overhead expenses.

These requests will be judged on the basis of established criteria (enumerated on the next page). New program proposals will be judged on an equal footing with previously funded ones.

Senate funding decisions will take the form of authorizations of spending for specific programs, up to a designated ceiling. Once funding is authorized, receipts will be scrutinized to insure that they are consistent with stated program goals. Organizations can then split the budget, keeping track of their chances of renewed funding in the future.

The new budget request forms are available in the Senate office (217 H.R.), and should be completed by this Thursday, April 17. Budget hearings before the Full Senate will begin the following morning.

---Doug Ellman, LSSS President

R.G. Goes Small

Due to budgetary constraints, we are forced to give you a very small R.G. this week. Don't think you've been reading too much (although that may be the case) just because our print seems finer than usual. You'll soon discover that the news is no finer than ever.

Next week's issue will be the last R.G. for the 1979-80 school year. It is the last chance for all of you closet poets, muscikaters and want-ed writers to see yourselves in print. If we have a lot of contributions, the paper will continue with the fine print. If not, we'll be back to bold print. It's up to you.

LSSS Appoints Comm. Heads

At its meeting of April 9, the Senate approved the following appointments to faculty/student standing committees and LSSS student committees for the 1980-81 academic year:

ABA LAW STUDENT DIVISION: Bob Ling (rep), Chip Elam & Lee Tilson (alternates)

SPORTS DIRECTOR: Mark Bowman, George Schisler, Ross Crown, Tom Bourque

GARDUEN FILMS CHAIR: Gary Leiderman

PLACEMENT DIRECTOR: David Tachau

EDITOR, R.G.: Cub Schwartz

RESIDENTIAL COMMITTEE CHAIR: Charles Ryans

SOCIAL COMMITTEE CHAIR: Rudy Chavez, Ken Ross

SPEAKERS COMMITTEE CHAIR: Anita Wallgren, quart Blessing

STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN: Meg Hackett, Jan Van Alstyne, Bob Ling

YEARBOOK EDITOR: Mark Lazotta, Amy Wachs

STEREO CHAIR: Rudy Chavez

FACULTY MEMBERS REPS: Brent Graber, Joe Genevaux, Melissa Hanley

ACAD. STANDARDS & INCENTIVES: Susie Mitchell, Jody Leitner, Ann Oesterdahl

ADMISSIONS: Ken Salazar, Jan Van Alstyne, Val Bowman

ADMINISTRATIVE: Rick Halvorsen

CURRICULUM: Anker Bell, Elise Bean, Richard Blessing

STUDENT CURRICULUM COMMITTEE CHAIR: Alyssa Taubman

FACULTY SELECTION: Nancy Fredman, Ellen Durkee, David Tachau

We wish to thank all of the students who applied for committee positions, and to remind you that the student committees (Curriculum, Speakers, Social, Placement, etc.) are open to all and would welcome your participation.
HONORS CONVOCATION - April 20th, Sunday. All faculty, students, and staff are invited to attend the 1980 Law School Honors Convocation, to be held in Hale Auditorium at the Business School at 3 pm this Sunday. Dean White will speak on "The Importance of Being Eccentric." A reception will follow in the Lawyers Club Lounge.

The H.C. is an annual acknowledgement of academic achievement and student activities involvement.

PLACEMENT: Thomas D. Schoeller, Tax Partner and William B. Burnett, Tax Manager, of the Detroit office of Arthur Andersen & Co. will be present at the Detroit office of Arthur Andersen & Co. will be present at 10:00 am on Thursday, April 17, in Room 212 H.H. for an informal discussion of the tax services of A.A., an international firm of certified public accountants. Many of the individuals in the tax division of A.A. have legal backgrounds. This will be an informal discussion of the opportunities available to law school grads in the tax dept. of a large CPA firm, and should be of special interest to first and second year students.

If you have accepted a job, please fill out a blue job report form. These are available in the Placement Office and outside Room 100 H.H.

A foreign student at another law school is extremely interested in class notes taken in Prof. Conard's seminar on Multinational Corps. given last fall. He prefers notes of "considerable length and in readable hand writing because English is not [his] first language." He is offering $10 plus all xerox expenses. Contact Elisha Prero at 764-9287.

SFF REPORT: The SFF Board members are currently losing sleep agonizing over the 1980 fellowship awards. While over 120 of you (see breakdown below) have pledged over $4900, this is not enough to fund more than 10-12 of our 28 applicants. Consequently we have the difficult task of deciding which of these well-qualified applicants should receive funding. Many of them cannot take their job offers without SFF support. You can make our decision much easier by pledging, even if it's only a little. We hate telling people no. Thank you.

Pledges as of 4/11:
Class of '80: 34 Class of '81: 57
Class of '82: 34 Faculty, Alums: 4

Graduating Law Students who have received any type of loan through the LG program should attend an Exit Interview at 3:30 pm, Thursday, April 24, in Room 120 H.H. If you cannot attend this meeting, please contact the Loan Office, at 764-9083. (There will be one senior priority block.)

Any one from the 1978 version of $4, or anyone else, who wishes to be included in the Fall 1980 football ticket blocks, please get in touch with Darryl Miller in HH or at 764-9083. (There will be one senior priority block and one junior priority block.)

The Res Gestae

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Layout: Marc Abrams, Sanford Lewis, Terry Calhoun, Stuart Loga, Richard Gauley, Kathi Mach, George Cole, Stan Shapiro, Merr Erzen, Stephanie Smit, Brian Frankin, Tammy Stewart, Richard Levine
Business Manager: . . . Debi Kirac
Office: 306 Lawyers Club
Telephone: 763-4332
Deadline: 5:00 p.m. Friday
Submissions may be dropped off in the envelope on the R.G. door or at the envelope outside of Room 102A. L.R. Please mark all Docket items and submit them separately.
Distribution: Monday afternoons
Letters to the Editor must be limited to a maximum of 150 words. All submissions must be signed, even those to be printed anonymously.

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NEWS AND NOTICES

The News X-Press

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**Norts Spews**

In a tightly contested match last Wednesday night, CERT DENIED advanced in the core competitive volleyball "A" finals with a 4-3 win over the Orms Fishes. The match went down to the seventh game, which CERT pulled out 15-12. Exhibiting fine defense work and several key additions, CERT made several impressive blocks against the Fishes' six spiker. Captain Andrea Bergs bullet serves in particular, brought new life to the team. Rallying to the cause were setter Jan Van Allen, Bob "Cowboy" Cowell, supr-e spike Dan Petree and that master of the well-placed dig, [sic] Mike Olmsted. Team spirit award went to Sandy Levine who had to race to the game from Detroit.

**MINI - MARATHON REMINDER**

Don't forget the fifth running of the event. Meet 3 Mile mini-marathon this Thursday at 4:00 behind the U Hospital. All are welcome, whether as entrants or spectators. Registration will be conducted before the start of the race in order to facilitate the final tabulation. You need not be a team to enter the race. While awards are given to top finishers in each of the divisions, the race emphasizes participation rather than competition. Those wishing only to stretch winter and library, weary muscles are encouraged to enter.

Help is still needed with the administrative details. Anyone wishing to offer assistance or with constructive suggestions should contact Mark Eby at 996-5710.

**MACHE'S MUSINGS**

A couple of the amateur social scientists among us asked that I discuss some of the psychological data available on law students. You all remember those first year discussions about how the first born in a family are likely to attend law school. Well, a new, far more determinative characteristic has been discovered. Contrary to what Shakespeare via Juliet says, it's all in the name. Two years ago the first study of this phenomenon began. A second year student revealed her theory that all male law students were named either Steve or Dave -- and to prove it she took us to a Phil party. Sure enough, she went through the introductions of Steve and Dave before her theory failed. After being introduced to us as "Dave," the 28th subject looked puzzled and said, "I'm sorry, but my name is Julian." So much for Steve and Dave as the common characteristic.

Recently, however, the key to the characteristic has been uncovered. Two enterprising researchers have finally discovered the identifying factor: the last name. In an exciting twist, they noticed that all law students DO have one of two first names -- but they aren't Steve and Dave--rather, they're Mr. and Ms.
Docket

WEDNESDAY, April 16
- Christian Law Students. Prof. Reed will speak in the Cook Room at 4 pm

THURSDAY, April 17
- PAD Luncheon - Ms. Ruth McMahon, Program Attorney for the Institute of Continuing Legal Education, will speak to "Legal Ed After Law School ... or Meeting the Mandatory & Specialization Requirements in the Various States". She will answer any questions on practice requirements where you intend to practice.

FRIDAY, April 18
- Please turn in all LSSS reimbursement requests before today so the treasurer can study for a couple weeks.
- Public Access TV "Trilat Theatre" 7 pm

SUNDAY, April 20
- HONORS CONVOCATION - 3 pm in Hale Auditorium at the business school, reception following at Lawyers Club. Be there.

Classifieds

- Wanted: Refrigerator (apartment size or larger) Under $30. 973-1581
- FOR: GRAN TORINO, 1972, 73,000 miles, in good shape and very reliable. Was stored in garage all winter. For sale as so June 15 for $400. Must sell-leaving country. 764-8980
- Wanted: Leads on a 2-bedroom apt., Unfurnished, nice, and less than $300/mo. for next fall. Incoming student will be visiting this weekend looking for a place for him and his wife. David - 764-8972
- 6-bedroom house hungry for summer occupants. Extremely nice furnishings, 2 baths, etc. Driveway for parking 2 cars. $500 or $90/head. Elain - 764-9067 or Bob - 995-1421.
- Need roommate to share large 2-bedroom apt. May-Aug. Free parking. 5 min. walk from law school and I.M. Fall option available. Rent $120. 628 Packard #7, call before 10pm 994-547
- 2nd year student (male) seeks single room in house or apt. for Fall-Winter 80-81. Easy-going, taking lots of pass-fail, non-smoker, great cook. Dave - 663-8942.

This Friday:

*** The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly ***

Starring Clint Eastwood at his macho finest, turning in Eli Wallach for bounty money, and then rescuing him from hanging at the last moment.

*TIME: 7:07 and 9:59 pm
*PLACE: Rm. 100 Hutchins
*COST: Only $1.50 (1/2 price with law school I.D.)