

N O R T H E A S T T O D A Y

December 8, 1986

Tax Reforms Cut Gift Deductions

The Tax Reform Act of 1986 is the most sweeping tax reform legislation in more than 50 years. Almost every American will be affected by it. The law's provisions are phasing in beginning Jan. 1, 1987; so the time remaining in 1986 should be used to take advantage of savings that won't be available in future years.

If you're donating money to the University, this year may be the year to consider a larger gift. Since the tax reforms change the amount deductible for charitable gifts, 1986 may be the last year to take advantage of extra tax savings you can benefit from by giving Northeast's Development Fund Corp. an extra boost.

Provisions of the act:
WIDESPREAD LOWER RATES: Today, the highest tax rate is 50 percent of taxable income (the figure arrived at after various deductions and exemptions are claimed). Most taxpayers will actually pay at a rate of only 15 percent after Tax Reform '86.

DEDUCTIONS CURTAILED: Many popular deductions such as sales taxes, medical expenses, entertainment expenses and others have either been eliminated or limited by the new law. The standard deductions will, however, be increased.

OTHER REVISIONS: Those with large families will welcome increases in the personal exemption to be phased in over the next few years. Also, after 1986, capital gains (the increases in value of non-cash property such as stock and real estate) will be taxed as ordinary income. Today, the maximum rate is 20 percent; in 1987 it will be 28 percent.

CHARITABLE DEDUCTIONS SURVIVE: Taxpayers who itemize deductions will still be able to deduct their charitable gifts. The deduction drops from 50 percent of the donation this year to 38.5 percent in 1987 and only 28 percent in 1988. For example, a cash donation this year of \$500 would cost only \$250 with the present deduction; the cost rises to \$308 in 1987 and \$360 in 1988. Gifts of non-cash property will remain deductible at fair-market value for all who itemize their deductions. However, since the standard deduction and personal exemptions will increase under the law, those who do not itemize their deductions will no longer be able to deduct charitable contributions.

What does all this mean to you this year?

CONSIDER LARGER GIFTS IN 1986:

Larger gifts this year will result in larger deductions. The higher a person's tax rate, the greater the savings from deductions. Many professional advisers recommend that taxpayers take as many deductions, including making the largest gifts, this year instead of next when tax rates will generally be lower. Also, if you do not itemize deductions, 1986 will be the last year you can enjoy tax savings from your charitable gifts. Make some of the gifts planned for 1987 in 1986 to benefit from these deductions.

SEE IF YOU CAN ITEMIZE NEXT YEAR: If your tax adviser says you cannot qualify

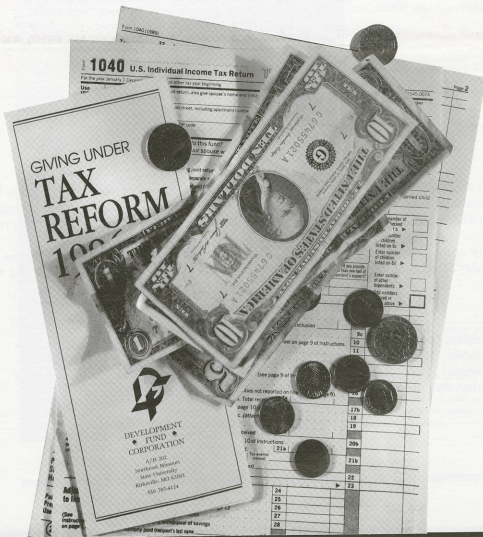
as an itemizer in 1987, consider taking as many deductions as possible in 1986.

What should you give?

CASH: Cash is deductible by all taxpayers up to the limit of 50 percent of adjusted gross income.

SECURITIES: Stocks, bonds and mutual funds are examples of securities that can be given. Giving securities that have increased in value brings two advantages: 1.) A charitable income tax deduction is allowed for the current fair-market value of the securities you give (not just their cost), and 2.) You avoid payment of the capital gain tax.

*Information from "Giving Under Tax Reform 1986," by Robert F. Sharpe & Co.; and from research by freshman Paul Shafer



Testing Your Attitude

"I should have crammed more for this test."
"I hate tests. They make me so nervous."
You have waited for it all semester, and here it comes. In less than three weeks you may be burning the "midnight oil" for finals. According to Mike Kacir, director of Testing Services, if you have waited this long to start studying, it may be too late. At this point, you should study hard, but keep realistic expectations.

"The biggest mistake students make is failing to plan. Grades reflect the time and effort you've put into a whole semester's worth of classes, not just a final test grade," Kacir said.

Students who have put off studying still have some last-minute options. Kacir advises students who feel as if they may have a problem with a class to meet with their instructor to decide what can be reasonably done to raise their grades. For instance, if you have a chance to raise a D to a C, that is where you should put your effort. If you have an F, and you need a 97 percent on the final to get a D, studying for days may not pay off and may in fact keep you from studying well for other tests. Also, students should remember to take advantage of study guides and to budget their time.

During the semester, a student with class problems can meet with Kay Clapp, director of the Reading/Study Skills Center. She sees

students on an individual basis.

"As my office is closed during finals week, it is important that the student realize his problem early in the semester. It really is too late to do much about improving studying skills now," Clapp said, adding that study skills take time to develop.

She also said that if students have a borderline grade, they should do whatever is needed to raise it. Her office is in Vignette Hall 267. Interested students should sign up for an appointment a week in advance.

Amy Hutchinson, sophomore, heard about the free student service through her adviser.

"I have used the study skills service before and really thought it to be helpful. Ms. Clapp knew about my teacher and the course he taught, so she gave me specific ways to study better for tests," Hutchinson said.

There are students who already know how to study and take tests but freeze under pressure. Fred Shaffer, associate professor of psychology, works with these students in the A/H 206 Biofeedback Lab.

"We train the anxious student to control his physical stress reactions. Once this is controllable, he can better perform in stressful situations, such as test taking," Shaffer said.

A good attitude at test time can only help the student. Dean of Students Terry Smith

points out. "You can't control how you come out of a test, but you can control how you go into it."

A few of the worst things a student can do to prepare for finals are pulling all-nighters, waiting until the last minute to study and eating lots of junk food.

University organizations are trying to ease the finals-week burden. PFM offers a finals-week late-night breakfast to be served in the residence hall cafeterias from 8:30 to 10 p.m., Dec. 14. Student Senate sponsors late-night hours in the Georgian Room for finals week studying. Those hours will be from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. during the entire week.

Jennifer Serail, Senate representative said.

"I have managed to keep up pretty well this time, but I will be doing some intense studying during finals week anyway. When things get hectic around my room, I probably will go to the Georgian Room," junior Dot McNally said.

Keeping perspective is the most important thing a student can do during finals week.

"Finals aren't the end of the world. They're only the end of a semester. Ideally, students should start studying for finals the first day of classes. But now it is important to remember to be confident, have a positive attitude and avoid the psychological 'funk,'" Smith said.

by Channing Dallstream, student writer

F I N A L E X A M S

All classes schedules for two consecutive periods will take their examinations beginning the first hour of the scheduled time. For example, students in ACCT 308 (01) Managerial Accounting, which is scheduled from 9:30-11:30 a.m. on Tuesday and Thursday, will start their final examination on Friday, Dec. 19, 1986 at 9:30 a.m.

Any student who has three examinations on the same day may appeal to the Dean of Instruction no later than Friday, Dec. 5, 1986 for permission to take one examination at a rescheduled time.

	7:30-9:20	9:30-11:20	11:30-1:20	1:30-3:20	3:30-5:20
Monday, Dec. 15, 1986	11:30 TTh	12:30 MWF	1:30 TTh	9:30 MWF	7:30 TTh
Tuesday, Dec. 16, 1986	10:30 MWF	3:30 MWF	8:30 TTh	2:30 MWF	7:30 MWF
Thursday, Dec. 18, 1986	8:30 MWF	12:30 TTh	1:30 MWF	3:30 TTh	10:30 TTh
Friday, Dec. 19, 1986	11:30 MWF	9:30 TTh	2:30 TTh	4:30 MWF	4:30 TTh

University Press to Publish Faculty

An English translation of a German mathematics text, a biography of a relatively obscure musical composer, a text on nursing in the home...you won't find these on any best-seller list, but they are necessary publications in communicating research findings and specific areas of knowledge.

Because specialized scholarly works, or monographs, don't produce large profits like best sellers, academicians are often hard pressed to find publishers to accept their scholarly works. The American Association of State Colleges and Universities, University Publishers Association and Northeast are trying to change that.

Northeast is establishing University Press Associates to help alleviate the publishing problems of its faculty, staff and alumni.

University Press Associates is part of University Publishers Association of Lanham, Md. Through this connection, NMSU gets all the advantages of a university press—recognition for the University and faculty through publishing—without the usual costs. The University provides the

camera-ready copy, and University Publishers of America carries the printing, marketing and distribution costs. University Publishers and AASCU contracted in an effort to provide a university press for all AASCU members who often can't afford presses or don't want to be encumbered with an in-house operation.

Under the direction of Robert Schnucker, professor of history and religion, the Press will publish music, books, plays and some poetry. Published works will bear the imprint of the University and will be copyrighted under Northeast's name.

Stephen Pollard, assistant professor of philosophy, credits the new press for the publication of *Das Kontinuum*, a world-renowned German mathematics and physical-science text he co-translated.

"It is doubtful that I could have published this work any place else for financial reasons. The University Press can make the small printing run that's necessary and not look for the profits," Pollard said.

Das Kontinuum will be the first book

published by University Press. Like all future manuscripts, the translation was first accepted by the Press. An editorial board does the internal screening then sends the manuscripts to outside experts in the field. Northeast will use a double-blind peer-review system.

Manuscripts will be sent to two experts in the field for review. The experts will not know the author's name and vice versa. Only after both experts approve the work will University Press publish it. If they disagree, a third expert will be consulted.

University Press will have to accept six manuscripts per year in an agreement with UPA. Schnucker said they should have that many contracts by the second year of the press' operation.

"It is fortunate that AASCU started this arrangement...at this time in Northeast's history. As a liberal arts and sciences institution, it is important for us to emphasize faculty scholarship," Darrell Krueger, dean of instruction, said.

Jorgenson's Last Messiah

Dale Jorgenson, head of the division of Fine Arts since 1963, will conduct George Frederic Handel's oratorio, "The Messiah," for his final time at 7 p.m., Dec. 14, in Baldwin Auditorium.

Jorgenson, who retires this summer, will take his "parting shot" at the work which he has conducted "around 25 times."

The performance, presented by the University Chorus with the University Symphony Orchestra, will feature students, faculty and alumni singers and orchestra members. All music alumni have been invited, with around 30 expected to participate in Jorgenson's farewell conduction. This is the first time alumni have been invited to participate in the presentation.

"This (the alumni participation) is a once in a lifetime thing as far as my experience is concerned," Jorgenson said.

Thirteen of the work's choruses will be presented, including all of the Christmas portions. Soloists will include senior Gloria Fields and alumni Anne Dawson ('83), Walter Sorenson ('83) and Eric Jorgenson ('83).

Admission is free and the public is invited.



Senior Julie Hoffmann gets her picture taken with Santa, Tim Eliason, Dec. 4, in the Student Union Building. The Student Activities Board sponsors the event annually but this is the first year they've held evening sessions to draw community support.

8 MONDAY

- Alpha Sigma Gamma** service sorority will sell chances to win \$25 gift certificates from the Campus Bookstore, A/H lobby and SUB.
- 10 a.m.-3 p.m.—**Amnesty International** petition drive for Chilean students, today, Tuesday and Thursday.
- 1-4 p.m.—**Open Enrollment and Free Add/Drop**, today through Thursday, registration hallway
- 3:30 p.m.—**Public Lecture and Slide Show**, presented by Michael J. Smith, professor and head of the painting area, Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, Baldwin Hall 318. Smith will critique students' works at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Tuesday.
- 4:30-6 p.m.—**Showgirl Clinics and Tryouts** for alternate squad positions, Kirk Gym. Clinics are today and tomorrow, with tryouts on Wednesday.
- 7 p.m.—**Delta Sigma Pi** professional business fraternity meeting, SUB, Alumni Room. Michael Thompson, owner of Mike's Book Store, will speak.

9 TUESDAY

- 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.—**Lunch Encounter**, Baptist Student Center, 110 Normal St. All commuters are invited to bring their lunch and leave at their convenience.
- 1:30 p.m.—**ACT/COMP Objective Test make-up**, SUB, Activities Room. Inquire in the Testing Services Office, A/H 103.
- 5-6:30 p.m. or 8:30-10 p.m.—**Writing Competency Test**, A/H 305. Retake exam for all students who have not achieved the minimal competency scoring, also taken Wednesday and Thursday
- 7 p.m.—**France and Spain Study Tour** informational meeting, A/H 304. Details about the trip will be discussed.
- "**It Happens One Night**," presented by the NMSU Forensics Team, Baldwin Hall Little Theater. Award-winning presentations from literature, drama and improvisational acting, as well as public speaking will be performed. Six members of the Forensics Team have qualified for the National Forensics Association Individual Events Tournament to be held in April in Mankato, Minn.

THIS WEEK

10 WEDNESDAY

- 5 p.m.—**SAB Applications** due, SUB, SAB Office. Any full-time student with at least a 2.5 GPA is eligible. One position is available for the spring semester. Applications are available in the Student Activities Office, A/H 204.
- 5:30-7 p.m.—**Writing Competency Test**, A/H 305
- 6 p.m.—**Summer Japanese Language and Cultural Studies Program** informational meeting, A/H 208. The program includes eight weeks of intensive language study at NMSU, three weeks in Japan at Hosei University and other Japanese cities, a weekend stay in a Japanese home and 15 credit hours. Financial aid is available.

11 THURSDAY

- 5-6:30 p.m. or 8:30-10 p.m.—**Writing Competency Test**, A/H 305.
- 6:30 p.m.—**Christmas Caroling and Christmas Discovery**, Baptist Student Union, 110 Normal St. First Baptist Church Bell Choir will present a mini-concert.
- 7 p.m.—**NMSU Ski Club** informational meeting, NEMO Distributing, North Highway 63. Refreshments will be served courtesy of NEMO Wholesalers and Miller Lite. Everyone is welcome.
- Amnesty International** candlelight vigil, Kirk Memorial.

12 FRIDAY

- 6:30 p.m.—**French Club Christmas Dinner and Party**. Contact Jenny Busche, 785-5956, by Dec. 10 if interested.
- 7 p.m.—**Beth Kirkpatrick**, 1985-86 Secondary Teacher of the Year, will speak on "1990s Technology-Physical Education of the Future," SUB, Alumni Room. Kirkpatrick, a secondary physical education teacher at Vinton, Iowa, has been selected as one of the top physical educators in the nation and will be featured in the February issue of *Life* magazine.

7 and 9:15 p.m.—"**Youngblood**," an SAB movie, Baldwin Auditorium. Admission is \$1.50 or free with an SAB sticker.

13 SATURDAY

- 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.—**Senior Test**—English (BA), IPC (BA), SUB, Activities Room
- Graduate Record Examination**, location to be announced
- ACT Assessment** (National Test Date), location to be announced
- 2-5:30 p.m.—**Senior Test**—English (BSE), Biology (BS), Chemistry (BS), Economics (BA & BS), History (BA & BS), Political Science (BA & BS), Psychology (BA & BS) and Sociology (BA & BS), A/H second floor
- 5:30 p.m.—**Women's Basketball** vs. Culver-Stockton College, Pershing Arena
- 6 p.m.—**Baptist Student Union Christmas Party**, Thompson Center. Cost is \$1 per person. Meet at BSU, 110 Normal St., for rides
- 7:30 p.m.—**NEMO Rockfest '86**, featuring Exploded View, The Squares and The Joker's Henchmen, Baldwin Auditorium. Tickets are \$4 in advance or \$5 at the door. Tickets are available at Mike's Book Shop, Radio Shack, Circle M Music and locations on campus.

NOTES

- Regular Registration** will begin at 8:30 a.m., Jan. 6. There will be no add/drop that day. Free add/drop will resume from Jan. 7-13. Instructors' signatures and a \$5 fee are required for add/drop beginning Jan. 14. Adviser's signatures are required at all times.
- The Index** is accepting applications for editors for the spring semester. Openings for the paid positions of copy editor, production manager, news editor, layout editor and sports editor will be filled. Applications are available from Kathleen Armentrout, Index adviser, or in the Index office, Ophelia Parrish, and are due Dec. 15. Any student may apply. Volunteer staff members are welcome. Call 785-4449 for more information.
- Campus Volunteers**, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, will hold meetings on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 8 p.m., in SUB 2 and 3, for the remainder of the academic year.