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American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA)

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NEWS &views

IN THIS ISSUE...

- New Trivia Contest
- AICPA Internet Website to Debut
- AICPA Hoop Dreams
- Storm Policy News
- Team AICPA Sound Bytes

JANUARY 17, 1996 • For the Employees of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants

Information Technology Update

AICPA Internet Website Gets Ready to Open



The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants homepage became available January 15 for review by selected individuals, and within approximately four weeks, it will debut on the Internet. This means that anyone anywhere in the world who logs on to the Internet will have access to basic information about the Institute, and the AICPA's members who do not subscribe to CompuServe will be able to find out electronically about the Institute's products and services. "We want to demonstrate leadership to our members in this area." said Vice President John Hudson, who spearheaded this project, "This is the first step in a long journey toward an electronic environment which will revolutionize the way we work."

Hudson explains that the current look and content of the website are just the first in what will be an evolutionary process involving many Team AICPA members, and plans are already in the works to add more infor-

continued on page two

Internet Vocabulary

For those of us who have not yet become net surfers, some of this terminology can be confusing. Here is a short glossary of information superhighway terms:

Internet—The world-wide network of different computer hosts that are linked by telephone lines and modems that allow anyone with the right equipment to get a myriad of information. This information can take the form of computer graphics, written text, sound and video, or places where people can interact with one another. Using the Internet is a bit like entering an amazingly good library.

WorldWide Web (WWW)—That part of the Internet which can support computer graphics applications.

Homepage—The first thing that an Internet user sees when he or she enters a website. Home Pages usually offer users several categories of information that they can obtain at the website.

Website—A place on the Internet to stop and get information. A website is maintained most often by a single organization. It usually contains a moderate amount of free information useful to people associated with that organization or interested in that organization's activities.

Server—A computer that supports one or more websites in the network of the Internet.

Browser—A service that allows a user to hook up with the Internet, usually for a fee. CompuServe, along with the other information services it offers to its subscribers, including the Accountants Forum, offers a net browser service.

Surfing the net—This term just means visiting different websites in a manner which is entertaining to the visitor.

Chat—To chat is to interact with another Internet user electronically by typing text, waiting for a response, and typing text again. Given the technology that most Internet users presently have, the rhythm of this is often slower than a regular conversation but much speedier than exchanging e-mail messages with someone.



Team AICPA Anniversaries

Congratulations to the following Team AICPA members who recently celebrated various anniversaries with the Institute:

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| Linda Pierce |
| Library Services 21st |
| Bruce Biskin Examinations |
| |
| Tony Betances |
| Facilities Management 10th |
| Joanne Lindstrom |
| Marketing Services 10th |
| Nina Diamond |
| Direct Sales 9th |
| Anna Moa |
| Financial Management 9th |
| Lisa Winton Taxation |
| |
| Anita Dennis |
| Journal of Accountancy 8th |
| Gretchen Fischbach |
| Professional Ethics 8th |
| Ian MacKay |
| Regulated Services 8th |
| Janice Maiman Communications 8th |
| |
| Yvonne Steele |
| Examinations 8th |
| Velda Gardiner |
| Direct Sales |
| Andrea Smith |
| Accounting Standards 7th Irene Abramson |
| Micro/LAN Support 6th |
| Maria Eberwein |
| Graphic Design Services 6th |
| Marian Jozika |
| Facilities Management 6th |
| Gabrielle Ulloa |
| Human Resources 6th |
| Catherine Zaita |
| Professional Ethics 5th |
| Leticia Batacan Romeo |
| Academic & Career Development 5th |
| Marie Labranche |
| Materials Assembly & Distribution 5th |
| Dennis Silver |
| Graphic Design Services 5th |
| Rich Walker |
| Professional Publications 5th |

Update, continued

mation and to modify the presentation style of the site. Hudson led a ground-breaking meeting on January 3rd with a cross section of Team AICPA members from all three offices of the Institute. From that meeting, a "structure" working group and a "design" working group were formed. The "structure" working group will offer recommendations of how the website should be managed and maintained with useful, current information that will help our members and their clients. The "design" working group will offer recommendations on how to balance different elements to give the website a distinctive, professional look without overburdening it with graphic elements that could detract from its user-friendliness.

Plans include adding video and sound elements to the site and linking it to other websites, which will allow visitors not only to access AICPA information, but also information from State Societies. It will include elements which have not yet been imagined. Hudson added, "People who look at the Internet as only a different way to deliver the same old products are missing the point. The Internet will not only change the way we deliver products; it will revolutionize the nature of the products we deliver."

While these plans are still on the drawing board, the Institute has made a commitment to the accountants of the next century by opening the site, and it has already made a commitment to Team AICPA to provide appropriate training on using the Internet. "Everyone who needs to use the Internet for their work will be trained to use it." Said Gae Barbano, who attended the January 3rd Meeting, "The Internet is the most efficient way to get up-to-the-minute information at a fraction of the time it would take to do other forms of research. This will help the information-gatherers at the Institute to do their jobs better.

Is There an Echo in Here, Mr. Melancon?

In the January issue of *Working Woman* magazine, Multi-Billionaire Microsoft CEO Bill Gates is quoted as saying that in the near future, "...A key determinant of success will be how capable and willing a company's employees will be to embrace change."



Team Spirit In Action: Team AICPA Hits the Basketball Court This Season

As the AICPA works to foster a team spirit among the people who work here, a few of its employees at the Harborside office have entered a league of their own. Lance Waterman of Accounts Receivable got together with some of his colleagues, including Leonard Mai, Ronald Dunn, Dylan Clear, Shaun Roberts, Jose Morales, Lennox Muckett, Francisco Pacheco, Robert Genao, Timothy Henry, Rich Bruder, Will Avgerakis, Calvin Hawkins, Roberto Rodriguez, Torrence Francis, Cullen Bynum, Juan Rivera, Sterling Waterman, and Anton Espinal, and entered the men's basketball league of the New Jersey Corporate Sports League. They practice after work and on weekends, and they played their first game on Tuesday this week at St. Peter's Prep in Jersey City. This season they will play teams from banks, retail companies, and other corporations. They call themselves, simply and appropriately, Team

"The new teamwork is something to look forward to." said basketball team member Robert Genao, "Basketball is good for the AICPA because it teaches you to be a team player."

When asked who is the star player of the team, the entire group responds that no one is. Lance



Members of Team AICPA men's basketball team. Top Row from L to R: Dylan Clear, Lance Waterman, Francisco Pacheco, Roberto Rodriguez, Lennox Muckett, Robert Genao. Bottom Row from L to R: Jose Morales, Cullen Bynum, Torrence Frances.

Waterman, who acts as coach, explains that they play together as equals. "The Institute's restructuring brought about a team concept, and we're putting it on the basketball court. That means the whole team is the star."

Basketball Team AICPA would like people to come out and watch them play, and they would love to have a rooters' club. Unfortunately, they receive their game schedule piece meal and therefore cannot publish it in News & Views. Anyone interested in going to a game or joining a pep squad should call Lance Waterman at 3477.

Editor's note: Any women interested in forming a team should contact Anne Rothkopf at extension 3357, who will put them in touch with each other and help them find a league.

A Reward for Those Who Braved the Storm

Thanks to those intrepid folks who managed, despite much ice, snow, and many transportation headaches, to get to work on Tuesday, January 9th. In recognition of their dedication, the Institute has decided to extend an extra floating holiday this year to them. Those who were for whatever reason unable to arrive at the AICPA's offices on the 9th will be paid for the day.

Just a reminder: In the event of a severe storm, widespread transportation disruption, or other emergency, to find out whether the Institute's New York and New Jersey office hours are changed or if the offices are closed, Team AICPA members should call either (212) 596-6088 or (201) 938-3858. There they will hear a recorded message, accessible twenty-four hours a day, which will let them know the official business schedule of those offices. Team AICPA can also tune in to News Radio 88 on the AM dial for office closing information. The Examinations team has a separate number for emergency closings that can be called, which is (201) 938-3617.



New faces at the AICPA

We went around on a business casual day and took pictures of these people, who are new members of Team AICPA.





Pictured left to right:

Adam Rawson is already busy on the Production Periodicals Team.

Devan Bangaree is helping members with his work on the Order Team.



Cinema Trivia

Because of snow days and distribution delays, the deadline for entry in Sports Trivia

Contest #2 has been extended to Wednesday, January 31. In the mean time, take your hands out of the cement in front of Grauman's Chinese Theatre and answer these questions. The winner will receive a movie-related prize.

- 1 Hepburn and Carey Grant both starred in the movies *Bringing Up Baby* and *Holiday*. Who directed these films?
- **2** What song drowned out the Nazis in *Casablanca?*
- **3** We all remember Vivian Leigh's last line in *Gone with the Wind,* "Tomorrow is another day." But in what movie was her exit line, "I have always depended on the kindness of strangers"?
- 4 Richard Gere starred in the 1980's remake of *Breathless*. Who starred in the original? Who directed it?
- **5** Which character told Dustin Hoffman's character in *The Graduate* that the future was in plastics?
- 6 In which Hollywood musical does Cyd Charisse take off Gene Kelley's glasses and twirl them around?
- **7** Which actor played the character in *The Big Chill* whose funeral brought all the other characters together for post-baby boom ennui?

- What 1980's Oscar-winning film featured an English lord leaping over champagne glassladen hurdles?
- **9** What movie featured Woody Allen with Peter O'Toole, Ursula Andress and Peter Sellers with a script by Woody, but which Woody did not have the opportunity to direct? Who sang the title song?
- 10 Antonio Banderas is America's latest heart throb, but which director can take credit for discovering him before he reached L.A.? For extra credit, name four films he did with this director before going Hollywood.

Team AICPA Sound Bytes

Whoops! In the Special Implementation Teams Issue of this publication, we forgot to include Rich Walker's name on the list of members of the Design Team. Please consider him a resource for information about the changes taking place at the Institute and a sounding board for any ideas you feel the Design Team should consider.

Yes, it's 1996. Do you need another pocket calendar?—If you need additional AICPA pocket calendars for 1996, the person to contact is Al DiMauro in Distribution Services. He will need you to fill out a gratis publication request form.