

Accountants help ease pressure of filing taxes

By **JOSH FUNK**
Staff Reporter

It's said there are only two things in life that are inevitable: death and taxes.

While you may be able to delay the first, taxes are due April 15. Traditionally, people wait until the last minute to file.

Bob Carver, assistant to the president of H&R Block tax services, worked for the Internal Revenue Service for more than 31 years. He was in Lincoln visiting the regional H&R Block office Thursday.

Carver said it was important for people to file their returns promptly and correctly, but, according to the IRS, it takes 30 hours to file a simple personal tax return.

Instead of making tax filing a part-time job, people are turning to professional accountants.

"By 'contracting out' to have your taxes done you can take advantage of the preparer's tax expertise," Carver said. "If an accountant can't find a tax advantage equal to his salary, he's not doing his job."

Accountants have the time and knowledge to devote to tax codes and procedures. They are able to take advantage of the most possible exemptions.

For those people who prepare their own returns, Carver warned to be aware of three common mistakes:

- Make sure the math is correct.
- Use the name and number listed on your social security card.
- Most importantly, sign the bottom of the form before mailing.

"Any one of these mistakes could cause a 10- to 12-week delay, and the IRS can just make corrections to your form, which may cost you

deductions," Carver said.

Contrary to public opinion, the IRS is willing to work with people who cannot pay what they owe, he said.

"If you make a reasonable offer to make payments, they are not going to say no," Carver said. "The important thing is you can't ignore the IRS. They won't just go away."

In fact, the IRS now is easier to find. And it is slowly trying to find ways to make filing taxes more convenient.

This year, the IRS unveiled its new TeleFile program, which allows people to file their returns over the phone. TeleFile was sent out to people who had previously filed the 1040EZ form.

Another innovation in tax filing is electronic filing.

"Hopefully, in the future, the IRS can create an electronic filing system anyone can use

with their computer," Carver said. "The main problem now is the security of the transmission, but they are working on a one-time encryption system to secure the returns."

Taxpayers will not have to worry about adjusting to new tax laws this year, Carver said.

"(Legislators) were too busy getting themselves elected in Washington to change the tax code," Carver said, jokingly.

But, he said, students should start looking for a tax code change later this year that will give them a deduction for attending college.

"Clinton and the Republicans have been talking about a tax break for college so it should go through," Carver said.

"It just remains to be seen how big the tax break is."

Great Weekend Escapes for as low as \$109 from MasterCard and United Airlines!

Take Off For The Weekend With United Airlines And Return The Following Monday Or Tuesday To Get Substantial Savings When You Use Your MasterCard® Card.

Weekender Zone Fare Certificate



Roundtrip Rates

Within Zone A or B	\$129 roundtrip
Between Zone A & Zone B	\$189 roundtrip
Between Zone A & Zone C	\$269 roundtrip
Between Zone B & Zone C	\$189 roundtrip
Within Zone C	\$109 roundtrip

Not valid for travel to/from IL/CO/AK/HI.

To enjoy these low Weekender Zone Fares - plus earn Mileage Plus® credit on your trip - just call your travel professional or United to reserve your flight and redeem your certificate.

To receive these savings, use your MasterCard® card to purchase an E-Ticket® between Feb 1, 1997 and May 15, 1997 for travel between Feb 15, 1997 and June 6, 1997. **Outbound travel** good on flights departing on Saturday. **Return travel** good on flights returning the Monday following departure. (An exception for travel between zones A-C, **Return travel** may also be on the Tuesday following departure.)

Zone Definitions:

Zone A - AL, AR, CT, DC, DE, FL, GA, IA, IN, KY, LA, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MO, MS, NC, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, RI, SC, TN, VA, VT, WI, WY
Zone B - ID, KS, MT, ND, NE, NM, OK, SD, TX, UT, WY
Zone C - AZ, CA, NV, OR, WA

Not valid for travel to/from IL/CO/AK/HI.

Use Your MasterCard® Card For Great Savings On United Airlines.

To make reservations, call United at 1-800-241-6522 or your travel professional. Please reference Weekender Zone Fare Certificate AV0027.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

Promo Code: AV0027

Valid Carrier: United Airlines/Shuttle by United/United Express.

Valid Routing: Roundtrip travel must begin and end in the 48 contiguous United States (IL/CO/AK/HI excluded). All travel must be via the routes of UA in which UA publishes Economy Class fares. One way travel/stopovers/circle trip/open segments/waitlisting/standby are not permitted. Open jaw permitted. (IL and CO excluded as origin/destination; however, connections through CHI/DEN are permitted.)

Valid Ticket Dates: Feb 1 through May 15, 1997.

Valid Travel Dates: Feb 15 through Jun 6, 1997. All travel must be complete by Jun 6, 1997. **Blackout Dates:** 1997: Mar 22, 29, Apr 5, 12. Outbound travel must be on flights departing on Saturday, with return travel on flights the Monday following departure, or the Tuesday following departure; if the passenger is traveling between zones A-C.

Class of Service: V class. (Seats are capacity controlled and must be available in the required booking inventory at the time reservations are confirmed.)

Advance Purchase: Within 24 hrs of making reservations, at least 14 days prior to departure.

Min/Max Stay: Saturday-night stay minimum. RETURN TRAVEL MUST BE THE IMMEDIATE MONDAY FOLLOWING DEPARTURE. AN EXCEPTION FOR TRAVEL BETWEEN ZONES A-C, RETURN CAN ALSO BE THE IMMEDIATE TUESDAY FOLLOWING DEPARTURE.

Mileage Plus Accrual: Discounted travel is eligible for Mileage Plus credit.

Ticketing: E-Ticketing only (electronic ticketing service).

Taxes/Service Charges: All fees, taxes and surcharges including Passenger Facility Charges (up to \$12) are the responsibility of the passenger and must be paid at time of ticketing.

Card Restrictions: Certificate is required for discount and must be presented at time of ticketing. Accept original certificate only. Non-extendible, non-combinable with other air travel certificates or discount fare offers (Mileage Plus awards/SilverWings awards/convention/group/hour/senior citizen/student/child/travel package/travel industry discount/military/government/joint/interline/wholesale/bulk).

not replaceable if lost or stolen. No cash value; may not be sold or bartered. Protection for flight irregularities will be on United/United Express/Shuttle by United flights only. Discount applies to new purchases only and will not be honored retroactively or in connection with the exchange of any wholly or partially unused ticket. One ticket per certificate redeemed. Void if altered or duplicated.

Ticketing Restrictions: Non-refundable. Non-transferable after ticketing. Change in origin or destination is not permitted. Tickets MAY BE revalidated for a \$50 per ticket fee.

©1997 MasterCard International Incorporated

Agency Ticketing Instructions: See S*PMA/AV0027 for detailed information

1. Treat as Type 'A' Discount Certificate
 -Use Fare Basis Code: VE14NSTU
 VE14NSTD (zones A-C)
 -Use Ticket Designator: AV0027
 -Endorsement Box: VALID UA ONLY/Non-Ref/No Itin Changes
2. Refer to ARC Industry Agents' Handbook, section 6.0 for details.
3. Failure to comply with promotion guidelines could result in debit memo.

UAL ATQ/CTO Ticketing Instructions: See S*PMD/AV0027

8 016 5003000045 7



©1997 MasterCard International Incorporated

CUT CERTIFICATE HERE