

## **'An Inconvenient Tax' explains confusing financial system**

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Once in a while, mediums of artistic expression strive to act as a catalyst for change within a society. Nov. 9 at 4 p.m, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln will be presenting the documentary "An Inconvenient Tax" free to the public. The film's writer Vincent Vittorio and UNL economics professor John Anderson will be on hand to answer questions following the screening.

Politicians often promise U.S. voters some form of tax relief while campaigning for their support. However, what many citizens do not understand is that these frequent manipulations of the tax code add complicated clauses to an already convoluted system. Steve Forbes shed some light on the excessive revisions to the flawed tax program.

"In the last twenty years I think we've amended the thing fourteen thousand times, added over three million new words" Forbes says in the film. Max Baucus, chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance, recognizes the consensual ignorance regarding the tax system, explaining that "virtually no one in Congress has a sufficient grasp of the code."

Each side of the political spectrum acknowledges the problems with the U.S. tax program.

"The current system is a disaster for our children and grandchildren. Democrats and Republicans alike care about their children," said Leonard Burman, director of the Tax Policy Center.

"An Inconvenient Tax" attempts to educate people on the origins and development of the U.S. tax code, providing viewers with a comprehensive history of the system. The documentary includes opinions of the country's top economic experts, offering their solutions to the financial predicament.

The film's director, Chris Marshall, says that many are taking advantage of the defective tax program.

"There are plenty of people that are getting the tax code to do what they want it to do; special interest groups and what have you" Marshall said. "The American people, if they want to get their fair shake in the tax code, need to pay attention to these issues, they need to be considering this an important thing so it doesn't just work for the people who have enough lobbyists."

Director of the Tax History Project at Tax Analysts, Joseph Thorndike, believes the issues surrounding the tax code are bigger than most people recognize.

"We face fiscal problems in his country right now, over the long term that are so serious that we should all fear for the safety of our children down the road" Thorndike said. "Americans cannot ignore that they're going to have to adjust, cowboy up, and deal with this nasty, boring, tedious topic because it's just too important to ignore."

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