

Taxing Times

Dear Tim:

Taxes are due in two days. Any suggestions on how I can keep more of my hard-earned money in my pocket this year?

—Taxed Out on Teter

Dear Taxed Out:

I understand how stressful tax time can be, that's why I don't do my own taxes anymore. With the time commitment and the continuously changing laws, I found hiring a top-flight tax professional saved me both time and aggravation. You should talk to my accountant, Max D. Duction. He's a nice guy and always gets me a sizeable refund. He's tough to track down because he works out of the back of a van – I assume because he has lots of clients to see this time of year. And for some reason he keeps changing his phone number. Anyway, he says buying a house and having children are the best ways to increase your deductions. He said something about gambling losses, too, but I can't remember what it was. If you've got



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those options covered, maybe you can have us cater your next business dinner and write it off as an entertainment expense. I'm sure Max can tell you how, but the last time I talked to him he said he might be a guest of the state for awhile. Sounds like a cushy gig. I can't get the government to pay for anything.

Dear Tim:

I did miserably with my NCAA tournament bracket again this year. Who knew picking college basketball

games could be so hard? What's the secret?

—Ousted on Osborn

Dear Ousted:

You're asking the wrong guy. This year I pinned my hopes on Stanford, because basketball seems like a thinking man's game and they're supposed to have a lot of smart kids at that school. Turns out that banking on brains isn't something I should do. Since we both lost out, maybe you should stop in for a cold case of Budweiser. They seem to be the only folks who always win with these big sporting events. Aisle 1.

Dear Tim:

Is it true you're a Coke dealer?

—Thirsty on Third

Dear Thirsty:

It sure is. We've been selling Coke for years. It's pretty profitable, and folks can't seem to get enough of it. You'll find it in aisle 1 with the rest of the soft drinks. And tell your friends.

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