

# Better off knowing?



What's My Point?  
**Kim Zuck**  
advertising manager

Do you ever wonder how your life would be different if you hadn't made certain decisions? Take the game of love for example. What if you hadn't hooked up with your significant other? You know the one you are so in love with you just can't imagine life without them? Or what if you had never went out with your jerk of an ex-boyfriend or ex-girlfriend? And instead had chosen to date someone else? Would your life be significantly altered?

Wouldn't it be great if we could foretell the outcome of the messy game of love before we even started playing? Wouldn't it be even better if we could choose different outcomes of our love lives and then pick the most desirable one? Remember back in grade school when the *Choose Your Own Adventure* books were all the rage?

Remember how you could turn to different pages for different endings? Wouldn't it be nice if we could do that with our own love lives? For instance, one of your books might say turn to page 100 if you want to stay with your new boyfriend or to page 160 if you want to start dating that cute guy from your biology class. You eagerly flip to page 160 because you just know that you two are meant to be, but you are surprised to find that he would start out as a really nice and fun guy, but after a month or so would turn into a lying, cheating jerk.

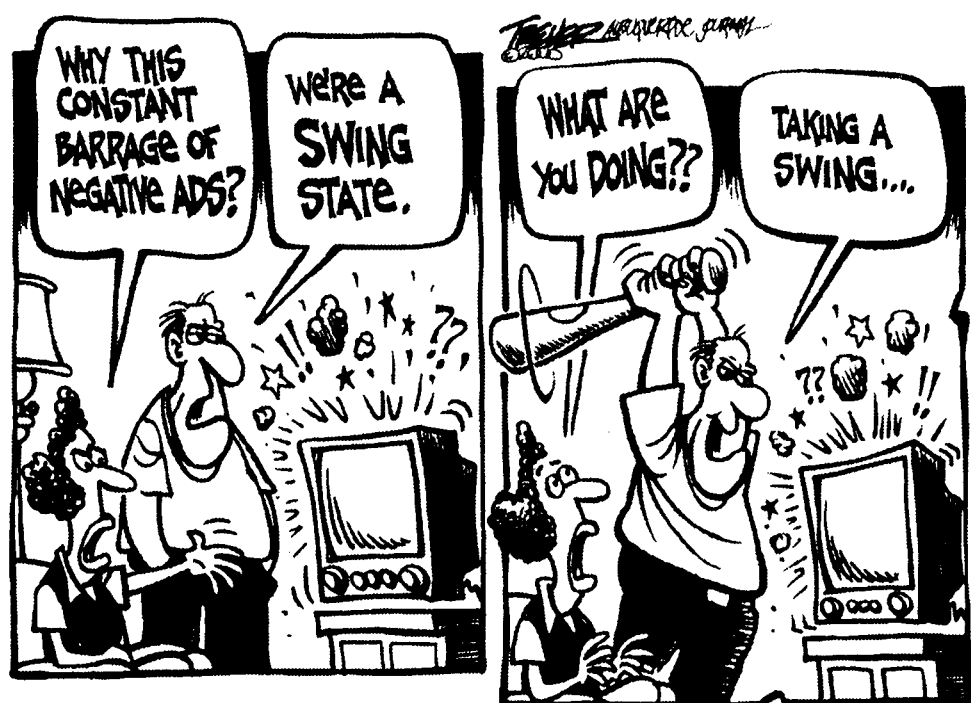
So, then you decide you won't even waste your time. Feeling a little guilty, you turn to page 100 and you discover that your current sweetie really is the one for you and that he really cares about you and that you two will have a long-lasting, fulfilling relationship. So, then you decide to put your heart completely into the relationship, because you know it is worth it.

Now granted, if we could know the outcome of our relationships before they even began, we would lose the anticipation and excitement of going out with new people. We would also never gain the experience and wisdom we get from our bad relationships. But, we would also be spared a lot of heartache, pain, and confusion.

So, would our love lives be easier if we were all the wiser beforehand? Probably not, because even without our own personal adventure books we still go out with people that we know aren't good for us. Maybe they're just not our type or we have nothing in common with them. We know all this beforehand, but we still try anyhow. Things may even string along for a few months, but we know deep down it will never last. Then a messy break up may follow, and we wonder what if I had never wasted my time in the first place?

So, what's my point in all this? Well, just to acknowledge that in the game of love it's impossible to answer the inevitable "what if" question. Although choosing the right person to be with may not be as simple as turning to another page in a book, we are all responsible for completing our own love adventure books. It will be difficult at times, but joyous at others, and all we can do is to keep searching for the right page to turn to and hope for a happy ending.

Zuck's column appears every three weeks.



## Tell us what you think!

### Send a letter to the Editor!

### Send all letters to: behrcoll2@aol.com

# 'The Hot Debate of The Week'

## My guy rules! Yeah he does!

### Who should you vote for in this election?

It's a matter of trust. It's what we fought for hundreds of years ago. It's an American tradition since the beginning of our time. George W. Bush is finally reinforcing it. This election isn't so much about who will spend more on certain things. It's not about who is more up to par on the issues. It's about two things. Trust and unity.

If you enjoy paying taxes to the federal government who will then give it to other people and keep it for their own uses, then don't vote for Bush. Bush is for something a little different. He's for trusting the American people to take our own money and budget it in a way that benefits us now and in our future. It's time that the American people take back our right to make a living for ourselves, and to secure our future the way we see fit. I don't want Al Gore taking my money, taxing me more than I am now, and spending my money on his trillion-dollar "lockbox" that holds my hard-earned money. Bush will unlock that lockbox, and unlock that lost idea of trust in American politics.

A person who knows all the answers and knows what every situation calls for lacks one important quality. Open-mindedness. People say Bush is dumb? If dumb means a flubbed up syllable, then we are all dumb—I guess everyone except Al Gore who is too smart for our good. We need someone who doesn't have all the answers...who won't close his eyes to other people's ideas. Bush wants to unify Americans politics and bring together Democrats and Republicans to make decisions for the betterment of this country.

Gore might think he has all the answers, but Bush and American history have shown us that it takes more than one overeducated politician to save our country.

Every week, two editors from the staff will debate a topic that is hot. Students, faculty and staff are encouraged to email suggestions for the hot topic. Send ideas to behrcoll2@aol.com

To put it quite simply, do we really think that Bush is the best man for the job? Does he seem like the type of person that we the people should entrust with control of the United States of America, arguably the most powerful nation in the world? Remember what happened when we made Jackson president? I don't either, but I'm told it wasn't pretty.

That's not saying that Gore is the best man in the U.S. either, but if the only feasible choices we have are Gore or Bush (and be honest, they are), then Gore should get your vote hands down. He is obviously more knowledgeable than Bush. Forget the whole Bush is stupid thing. Even if we give Dubya the benefit of the doubt and assume his brain isn't clogged with malted hops and bong resin, can we realistically assume that his general knowledge on a wide variety of subjects can even begin to compare with Gore's? I dare you to say otherwise.

Then let's look at the issues. There are some basic ideals that Gore believes in that should get any college student's vote in a second. One issue that should be on the forefront is the environment. Environmental problems are going to greatly affect our generation, and Bush's record speaks very poorly on this stance. Another issue is education. Something about Bush's idea of a voucher program really bothers me. Yeah, he'd give parents a choice, but how would public schools ever recover funding to improve once their money was gone? And finally, I don't know if the lock box idea will really work, but I sure don't want to have the responsibility of investing the money myself! That's one area I will gladly let the government handle.

So, read my lips: "NO NEW TEXANS!"

## Crazy for the greens

Whoever said money makes the world go round wasn't kidding. When I see all this money going (or in my case not going) around it makes me really dizzy (not to mention crazy). Money, Money, Money, Money, MONEY...can't live with it, can't live without it. If I had a nickel for every time I said that...well, I'd be rich.

You can't even think about doing something or owning something until you have the money to pay for it. Parents have been noted to repeatedly say, "...and how do you expect to pay for this...," or "...how much is this going to set me back." Again, both phrases are money-related.

A college student is encouraged not to work during the school year, so that they can concentrate on their studies. On the contrary, most students do work during their college career to defray, if not completely pay for their college tuition. You have to figure that it's kind of a half-a-horse apiece.

Student A works all through their college years. He or she gets decent grades, gets a



Chit Chat for Change  
**Christine Kleck**

decent job upon graduation, and is left with little or no college loans to pay off. Student B doesn't work at all during his or her college career. He or she gets good grades, gets a good job upon graduation, but the salary from that "good job" will be just enough to pay back his or her college loans in like 5 years or so. I guess it's just a matter of how long you want to be stuck paying for the education that got you that job (not to mention that income), in the first place.

Anyone that drives and is between the

ages of 16 and 21 can relate to this story:

Just the other day I got my monthly car insurance rate that I have to pay to drive my car. I don't want to give any nauseating figures out, but my insurance per year is almost 1/10th of what I pay (or will end up paying) for my brand new car. So I questioned it.

I got this lady on the phone and questioned my increase (last month my yearly insurance rate was about 1/13 of what my new car is worth). After a lot of figuring and reading she finally came to the conclusion that my accident-free discount was removed from my yearly rate because of an accident that I was in almost 14 months ago. Now keep in mind that the accident was not my fault, and my old car was totaled, and the other guy's car wasn't.

I proceeded to ask why it had taken over 14 months for this removal to go into effect. Thinking that I was questioning her intelligence, she rudely responded with "...well, I could send you the bill for the

difference from the last 14 months."

At that point I had to hit the mute button on the phone so that she wouldn't hear me say, "...you shouldn't make insurance customers mad, especially ones like me...we are the best business that you could ever have...I'm the reason behind your Christmas bonus...I'm a nineteen year-old driver with a record of 3 non-fault accidents in the past three years and I drive a NEW car." At that point, I almost gave her the "Geico" speech, (you know, "I'm going to call to see if I could get a better rate", but I figured that I was too mature to stoop to her level.)

Yes, folks, this is what it all boils down to. This is what we all strive for, but never have enough of. This is what people spend so much of to hopefully make more of, this is MONEY. Dead presidents, green paper, shiny circles, we just can't get enough, even if we have to go crazy in the process.

Kleck's column appears every three weeks.

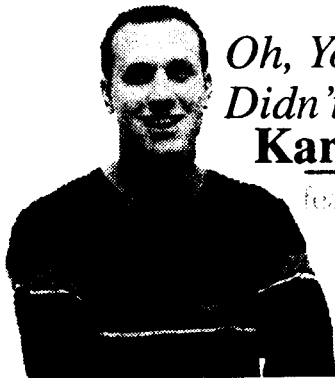
## Speak your mind!

Last week I decided to go to the library to write an article about the fall concert, which appeared in last week's edition of the *Beacon*. I quickly zoomed through the library to find a table to work at, but I could not find one that was open.

"Great," I thought to myself, "now I am going to have to squeeze myself into one of those compact study cubicles." But as luck would have it, I passed by the small conference rooms in the back of the library, and found that many of them were empty.

I casually entered one of the rooms, unpacked my book bag, and began to write my article. While writing the article, I noticed that a number of people were walking by the room, looking in as they passed. This didn't bother me at first, but after the same people kept walking back and forth, I wondered what they were looking at.

Then I started hearing voices. The people wouldn't shut up! I angrily tapped my pencil against the table and dismissed the



Oh, You Didn't Know?  
**Karl Benacci**

features page co-editor

urge to scream "SHUTUP!" All of a sudden, I heard a whiny female voice screech, "he stole our room."

What did she say? "Take a deep breath Karl, she didn't mean that, she must be slow." How did I steal "their" room? Was there anyone in the room when I got there? No! Were there other uninhabited conference rooms that they could have used? Yes! Did they own the room? No!

Did they reserve the room? I don't know, I don't even know if those rooms can be

reserved. But let's pretend that they did reserve the room, and I, unknowingly, was using it during their "time." Watching me through the window in the door will not get the point across. I had no idea what the people were doing. For all I know, they liked my haircut and wanted to peek in the window to get a closer look.

I would have gladly left the room (if they had reserved it) if one of the members of the "pissy gang" had calmly explained to me that they had the room reserved.

This incident teaches a valuable lesson, which is, we need to communicate with one another. Human beings are not (for the most part) mind readers. I believe that the importance of communication goes far beyond my example.

Communicating is not only a good thing to do, but it is essential! Every time someone retains their feelings (whether they are feelings of love, anger, sadness, etc.), they are being untrue to themselves and are

denying their individuality.

If you have warm feelings for someone, let them know; if someone is being an unfair jerk, let them know what's up! Holding your feelings in will not get your point across, and if you don't get your point across, how do you expect for people to know what you are feeling?

Now don't get me wrong, I'm not saying that an individual should say EVERYTHING that's on their mind, but I am saying that an individual should voice things that they feel strongly about.

Voicing what you feel is not only healthy, but it also makes you feel a heck of a lot better. I'm sure that many of you have told somebody off. Isn't it great? It feels good for a reason; you're letting your feelings be heard. So the next time you feel strongly about something, let it out, and remember, always be yourself.

Benacci's column appears every three weeks

## National Commentary

# Mr. Know-It-All Vs. Mr. Consensus

Knight-Ridder Tribune

Whether televised presidential debates are a great idea remains an open question. But this year's trio of confrontations has furnished some answers to questions often asked during presidential campaigns.

What do Americans look for in their candidates? If they seek someone who is well versed in policy detail, and eager and able to

point out his opponent's deficiencies in debate, they respond well to Al Gore. The vice president is clearly conversant with policies and statistics, and effortlessly rattles off the virtues of, say, the Dingell-Norwood bill. If voters prefer a candidate who expresses broad philosophical principles, and extols consensus instead of confrontation, they will probably find George W. Bush appealing.

Of course, Ralph Nader's and Patrick

Buchanan's comments notwithstanding, there are major differences between the two candidates: on taxes, the role of government, federal-state relations, affirmative action, foreign policy and other issues.

But if history is any guide, the public uses debates not so much to research differences of opinion, most voters have at least a fuzzy idea where candidates stand, but to illuminate character and leadership qualities.

On that basis, these three debates have not been helpful to Al Gore. In the first meeting, his condescension and seeming bad manners played poorly with voters. In the second

debate, he was extravagantly subdued, as if coached by his advisers to disguise his personality. On Tuesday night, in St. Louis, the old Al Gore was back: focused, argumentative, in command of his material, and also determined to polish a deskload of apples for various voting groups.

George W. Bush offered a contrast. The vice president sought repeatedly to goad the governor into argument, but Mr. Bush was determined to avoid rhetorical traps. He preferred, instead, to emphasize his record as a bipartisan leader of a huge state, and the importance of restoring common purpose in

Washington. Where the vice president was disdainful, the governor was conciliatory; when Al Gore addressed his opponent directly, George W. Bush answered to his audience.

Both candidates "did what they had to do," as they say; but Governor Bush probably did himself more good. Vice President Gore did an excellent job of comparing and contrasting himself with Governor Bush. But by emphasizing tone, temperament, character and general philosophy, George W. Bush probably came across as the more attractive figure of these two very able men. Of course, we will have to wait for Nov. 7 to know for sure.