

Guarded About Gambling

Dear Tim:

It seems like gambling is everywhere these days. Casinos. Slot machines at race tracks. Riverboats. Lotteries. Bingo. You can gamble almost anywhere on almost anything. Is this really a good idea?

—**Risk-Free on River Park**

Dear Risk-Free:

As long as people realize that the house almost always wins and that you shouldn't risk more than you can afford to lose, gambling is just another form of entertainment from my perspective. But if you'd rather put your money in your 401k, good for you. You'll almost certainly come out better in the long run. And if you're looking for something that's no gamble at all, try our beef tenderloin. It's always farm fresh and as flavorful as it gets. It's a winner every time.

Dear Tim:

My wife and I have been thinking about having a baby, but the more I look into it, the more I'm getting sticker shock. Between prenatal care, doctor bills, food, clothing, education



**DEAR
TIM**

and everything in between, it costs close to \$250,000 on average to raise a child these days. I don't have that kind of money, and if I did, I'm pretty sure I'd be spending it on season tickets and golf vacations. What can you tell me to make me believe we can pull this off

—**Babyphobic on Bayberry**

Dear Babyphobic:

That's a hard point to argue, because there's no debating the facts. It ain't cheap. But I guess you have to look at it as an investment in a fulfilling life. Don't get me wrong, it's not for everyone, and there are days that you'll ask yourself what

happened to your old life and what you've gotten yourself into. But the other days are filled with things you can't possibly put a price on. So certainly give it careful consideration, but don't look at it like a balance sheet. Because although you can't see it now, it will pay off big time down the line — even while it's emptying your wallet. And when you need formula, diapers or sleep aids, I've got you covered.

Dear Tim:

I'm a big sports fan, but I'm beginning to wonder if we can believe the box scores anymore. Between beefed-up baseball players, basketball refs on the take, and football coaches stealing signals, what can we take at face value?

—**Doubter on Doten**

Dear Doubter:

I think most people are honest, and that applies to people in sports. Sure the stories are sensational, but I think most guys are playing by the rules. So keep enjoying the games, and if you're looking for an honest value, shop at Huffman's.

Dear Tim is presented as a public service by Tim Huffman, owner of Huffman's Market. Write to him in care of Huffman's Market, 2140 Tremont Center, Upper Arlington, Ohio, 43221, stop by and say hi, or visit www.huffmansmarket.com.