

Stimulating The Economy

Dear Tim:

I still haven't decided what to do with my "economic stimulus" check from the federal government. I was thinking about paying part of the balance on my credit card, but I get the feeling the government would consider that "un-American" given the purpose of the rebate. I've had my eye on one of those flat-screen TVs, too, which would seem like something that could help both the economy and my enjoyment of Ohio State football. I've also thought about starting a "rainy day" fund with it, since I've never had one of those. You're a business owner so you must be good with money. What would you do?

-Loaded on Leeds

Dear Loaded:

I don't know that being a business owner necessarily qualifies me as being good with money. Seems like the business section of the newspaper is riddled with stories these days about business people who can do anything but. But I can definitely sympathize with your dilemma. Every one of those options has an upside. You just have to decide which one of those is going to do you the most long-term good. And if it



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turns out that that's the flat-screen TV, I'm sure you'll make the Federal Reserve chairman very happy. Just be sure to invite me over for next year's bowl game, and buy your chips, dips and beer here.

Dear Tim:

I just read that the five-year survival rate for cancer has gone up 16 percent in the last 30 years. That's great news, and hopefully proof that all the money that's been raised for research is doing some good. Knowing that, and now that I'm getting closer and closer to the average lifespan, I'm thinking

of ditching my bran flakes and prune juice for a little more "adventurous" diet. What do you think?

-Old Enough on Overdale

Dear Old Enough:

I think you've made it this far, why change now? You've obviously been very smart about your diet and reached maturity in good health. Why risk it for foods that could take you out of your groove? I know it may seem like you're missing out on a lot, but I doubt it. I'd keep "dancing with the one who brung you." Bran flakes and prune juice may not seem all that exciting, but they're keeping you on your feet, and that's the most important thing. And we've got plenty of both, so you won't have to worry about running out.

Dear Tim:

Do you think they'll find intelligent life on Mars?

-Planetoid on Palmer

Dear Planetoid:

I'm hoping they find more intelligent life down here.

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.