

Super Bowl Bettor

Dear Tim:

Let's just say I have a few dollars bet on the Super Bowl. Would I be better off telling my wife before the game or after?

—Gambler on Glenmere

Dear Gambler:

Trust me when I tell you that regardless of the issue at hand, you're always better off telling your wife before. And not just because she'll find out eventually – which she will – but because it's the smart thing to do. Even if it's too late to change your behavior, she'll think you're being up front and honest and will feel more in control (and we all know how much they like that). This way, if you lose, it won't be as hard to break the news that you're going to have to cancel your anniversary cruise (OK, that's a lie). And if you win, you'll probably just have to buy her something nice (which I'm sure you were planning on doing anyway). As always, your best bet for the Super Bowl is ice-cold beverages from aisle 1 and salty snacks from aisle 6. Anything more is too big a risk.



DEAR TIM

Dear Tim:

I've been reading this book called *Blink*. It's by this best-selling author who spent a lot of time analyzing human decision making and found that, while many of our decisions seem to be made in the blink of an eye, there's actually a lot more that goes into them than we're aware of. Interesting stuff. He also says that the best decision makers are people who have mastered what he calls "thin-slicing" – filtering through the infinite variables to quickly find the few factors that matter. Are you a thin-slicer?

—Psychologist on Sciotangy

Dear Psychologist:

When it comes to roast beef, you bet. But not just with roast beef. We've got lots of top-quality, farm-fresh cuts of meat to choose from, and the friendly folks in our meat department can slice it as thin or as thick as you like. As far as that thinking thing goes, I guess I buy the idea. I have to make a lot of decisions every day and I don't have a lot of time to ponder them by and large. Of course, I don't always make the right decisions, but I mean to, and that should count for something. And we've managed to stay in business for almost 20 years, so I guess there must be something happening between my ears besides hair growth. Glenda might disagree with me there.

Dear Tim:

Would you like fries with that?

—Burger Boy on Burbank

Dear Burger Boy:

What do *you* think?

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 or www.huffmansmarket.com.