

It's the all-new Dating Game with Duke and T

Sure he's rich. Sure he's intelligent. Sure he's a Democrat. Sure he almost was elected President. Sure Mike Dukakis is a reasonably attractive guy, but would you really want to go out with him?

Now on the other hand, take me. I'm Rich — after all that is my name. I'm intelligent. I'm a Democrat. And I was almost elected president of the Stamp Club my senior year in high school, but would you really want to go out with me?

According to Dr. Joyce Brothers in an article in the November 1982 issue of "Reader's Digest," dating is defined as the primal need to bond with the member of the opposite sex in a social arena. What does this mean in English? Everyone needs somebody to go out with on dates once in a while. I have no problems with this.

Actually, I think women out there in Aggieland would rather go out with me than the governor of Massachusetts.

Why, do you ask? Simple. When you stand the two of us next to each other and compare us, you'll soon see that, while neither of us are truly magnificent specimens of the human species, I am a much more attractive and loveable guy. All you need to do is take a look at the physical, financial and moral sides of my arguments, and you'll hopefully soon start to see my side of things.

First of all, it is a proven fact that women find men that are taller more attractive. Dukakis is 5-foot-5. I'm 6'4". If you can't take my word for it, studies have been made which determine that women are more attracted to taller men.

According to Dr. Mark Alexander, a doctor and psychiatrist from Dallas, women are more sexually attracted to men who have large feet and large adam's apples. "I have found that women are more attracted to the man who is tall and has an unusually large adam's apple, large hands and large feet," he said. "They take these large features as a sign of sexual superiority."

Aside from Dukakis being short and dumpy, he also has a large nose. Although the ancient Greeks and Romans considered a large nose as a sign of royalty, the harsh reality is that times have changed. Large noses in today's society are strictly taboo.

Any woman out there can sympathize with the fact that it is simply uncomfortable to kiss someone for an extended period of time who has, as Bloom County's Opus aptly puts it, a sizeable schnoz.

Also, Dukakis seems to only own a few ties, and all the ones he does have are all red. I personally have several ties in many different colors. There is also evidence that he may buy his ties second-hand, since he also buys his suits that way.

But I am not alone in my beliefs that you'd rather go out with me than the Duke. Other extremely knowledgeable and totally unbiased sources have even described me as more attractive than Michael Dukakis.

For example, Estrella Tijerina, my mother that I love so much, was heard to have said while eating dinner with me last weekend, "Dios mio, no me puedo imaginar ninguna mujer que vaya con el



Richard Tijerina Guest columnist

en ves de ti, Ricardo. Tu estes muy guapo."

For you non-Spanish speaking people out there, this means "My God, I can't imagine any woman wanting to go out with him more than you, Richard. You are very handsome."

Besides, Mike Dukakis' eyebrows are too bushy. No pun intended.

Now don't misinterpret what I am trying to say. I realize I am not Mr. Universe, or even Mr. Solar System, or even Mr. Earth, or even Mr. College Main. Instead, I present myself to you merely as only the lesser of two evils, much like the presidential election Nov. 8.

In addition to all the physical reasons I have presented, there also other financial reasons why I'd be a better date than Dukakis. To put it simply, his reputation is that he is cheap and tight with his money.

Imagine the situation: "Uh, hello is Mary-Lou there? Hi, Mary-Lou, this is Mike. Dukakis. Yeah, yeah, how ya doin'? Great. Well, uh, anyway, Kitty's gone out for the night to some kind of bingo function and I was wondering if you could fly up and maybe go out to

dinner and see a movie. You would? Great! Where do you wanna eat? You say you want to eat at Luciano's? Gee, that's kind of expensive, Mary-Lou, even on a Wednesday night. I was thinking of something more along the line of Kentucky Fried Chicken. Yeah, that's right: KFC. You see, I have discount coupons. You know, a good meal at a good price? What's that? Chicken makes you break out? I see. Well, I'll tell you what, I'll fly down there and we can just go out at A&M. Uh, (clears throat) do you still have that point plan account? Great. So, after dinner, what movie do you wanna catch? You say "Rattle and Hum" is showing at the Plaza 3? How much do tickets cost down there? Five dollars? Oooh. Ouch. Well, I actually had my heart set on seeing Young Guns. It is still at Dollar Days down there, isn't it? Great. Okay, baby, the discount flight I want to catch leaves in ten minutes, so I'll see you in a little while. Okay, gotta go, I'm paying for this call, you know."

Besides, let's face facts. It is just too expensive to fly back and forth from Easterwood Airport to Boston International on a regular basis. We're talking a lot of money here, and that hurts even if you do have a good job at a good wage in this now gender, kinder nation.

In addition to physical and financial reasons, it is morally questionable to go out with Michael Dukakis. He is 55 years old. My father is 54. And believe me, not any woman out there would want to date my father. Also, Dukakis is, after all, happily married to a woman named after an animal. Not very many women out there would be able to compete against a name like "Kitty."

And for those of you who know he was married, the cat is out of the bag.

Again, no pun intended.

Finding the right person to go out with on a date is both an important and difficult process. It takes much more consideration to mull over all the possibilities. I understand the position of Michael Dukakis and myself both: you out on the same night is, a remote one. But if it were to happen, I hope you'd turn him down and choose the alternative.

Me. I would have no hesitations in going your dinner and taking you to "Rattle and Hum." I know what to yell practice. I'm more on your level. I live off campus. I'm not married. And I make a mean breakfast.

So if you want to go out and see the historical impact of universal health care insurance for every man, woman and child in the country, go out with Mike Dukakis.

But if you want to go out, have a good time and have a laugh or two, go out with me instead. I realize that there are those who would want to go out with neither of us. I am not saying I am more attractive than the governor, or even a better person. I am merely saying going out with me would be a more practical choice.

Richard Tijerina is a sophomore journalism major, a staff writer and guest columnist for The Battalion.

Was it a bachelor's or M.R.S. degree that I was wanting?

When I was younger, I used to have this funny notion that if I didn't get married while I was still in college, or if I didn't at least meet the person I was going to marry, then I would be single the rest of my days. I sure hope I thought wrong.

I guess it had to do with the fact that my parents got married while they were in college, my friends' parents got married while they were in college, my teachers got married while they were in college and most marriage announcements featured college students.

All those marriage/college connections had convinced me that I had to meet my mate for life while I was getting my college degree.

When I got to Texas A&M, it didn't get much better. In one class, the teacher told us that of all the students at Texas A&M, probably 70 percent would meet the person they were going to marry before they graduated.

But I figured they were kidding. When I was a freshman, most of my friends were single. But by the spring semester, I was already noticing a lot of people pairing off.

In January, I introduced the girl across the hall to a friend of a friend. They both needed dates to a certain party, and I didn't think anything of setting them up together. Little did I know that they would continue to see each other.

When the girl and I roomed together the following year, she was still seeing the guy, and they were getting serious.

Then the big bomb hit. I got a wedding announcement from the two of them. They got married in October.

I went to their wedding, thinking how



Lydia Berzsenyi Editor

nice it would be to see all my old friends, especially since I hadn't seen some of them for several years.

But I certainly wasn't prepared for what I found.

My current roommate and I walked into the church and immediately noticed that we were the only ones without dates. We found out later that all our friends' dates were actually their spouses, fiances or significant others (ring-due-in-December type).

That's when we started to feel slightly uncomfortable. What happened to all the single friends we had? Had they all forsaken the single bars and gone for a life of broccoli for two?

Since my roommate and I were each others' dates for the wedding and reception, we started taking a good, close look at our lives. Should we be getting worried because we weren't married? Should we be looking for lifelong mates in the near future? Were we ready for all that married life would entail?

I am perfectly happy being single. No one but me has to answer for my actions, and I am not responsible for anyone else's personal life. I don't have to start picking out kids' names or start saving for my children's college education yet.

I'm don't want to start thinking about marriage at this point in my life.

If I were married, think of what I'd be in for.

I'd probably have to share a checking account. True, it would contain twice as much money, but that would cause twice as many complications, too.

I'd actually have to plan my finances so that there would be money for two of us instead of just me. When you're single and you spend all your money, at least you're not depriving anyone else of a meal or a new pair of shoes. But when you get married, you've got someone else to consider in your spending.

And what about food? I have a hard enough time remembering to feed myself most of the time. I'll usually remember about eight in the evening that I hadn't eaten dinner. If I were married, I'm sure I would be reminded that it was time for dinner, but what if they were just as forgetful or just as busy as me? We'd both be two starving people, that's for sure.

I'm not saying that I never want to get married. That's not it at all. I do look forward to having a husband one day (if anyone will have me). The thought of having someone to consult with and to share with does interest me. I'm just glad that I don't have to worry about the list of wedding guests while I'm sending out my graduation announcements.

I stopped believing the myth about the necessary college-marriage connection a long time ago. But as more and more of my friends enter the ranks of the married, I am reminded of that childhood belief. I sure hope it wasn't true.

Lydia Berzsenyi is a senior math major and editor of The Battalion.

Mail Call

Voter's Guide wording loaded

EDITOR:

Looking through the Nov. 7 Batt, I ran across an insert — the Voter's Guide — seemed like an excellent idea until I opened it, looked inside and discovered it was much too biased to be an effective "guide."

The pro-Bush rhetoric was so obvious that I started looking for the blurb that the guide actually being a paid political announcement for the Bush campaign. I could not find it anywhere. If this was supposed to be an unslanted piece of journalism, I think the writer should be reprimanded for his misuse and abuse of the language. If this was actually a paid political ad, then the Batt should've made sure that it was properly labeled as such. Either way, The Battalion has severely compromised itself as a newspaper by allowing such abuses.

On the inside of the insert, the author draws up a supposedly unbiased list of positions for each of the candidates. The wording of the positions is blatantly biased for Bush. Bush "supported U.S. liberation of Grenada." Dukakis "opposed it. The slant in the word "liberation" is obvious. Bush "supports providing military supplies to freedom fighters in Nicaragua and Angola." Dukakis "opposed the "freedom fighters. Anyone who "opposes" freedom must be crazy.

Under the category of "Civil Rights," George Bush "Supports the full enforcement of existing civil rights laws." Dukakis "Supports affirmative action legislation." By absence, is the author implying Dukakis doesn't support "the full enforcement of existing civil rights laws"? The author calculatingly works his way through the positions and leaves a veneer of objectivity covering a body of bias.

On the back page are two supposed articles about the candidates' stance on education. The article on Dukakis does nothing but undercut him with half-truths and insinuations. Bush, of course, comes out exemplary.

The only hint of a source is a small paragraph saying: "Information from Voter's Guide '88 was prepared by the American Freedom Coalition." This falls far short of telling the reader that it is a political ad, if that is what it is.

Checking on it, I found that the American Freedom Coalition is an ultra-conservative group formed to aid the Contra rebels of Nicaragua. This would indicate the the insert was a paid political ad. As such, it should have been much more clearly marked as an advertisement and not journalism.

The Battalion, in the future, must be more careful. But, more importantly, as readers must be more careful. Every day, our rhetoric is colored with bias. It is built into our language. Only close attention to what we say and read can warn against the misuse and abuse of language. Be careful where you point that way. It may be loaded.

Andy Vann '90

EDITOR'S NOTE: Aiding the cause of the Nicaraguan Contra rebels was the first issue the American Freedom Coalition worked to support, but was not the reason for the forming of the group.

Guide provided deja vu

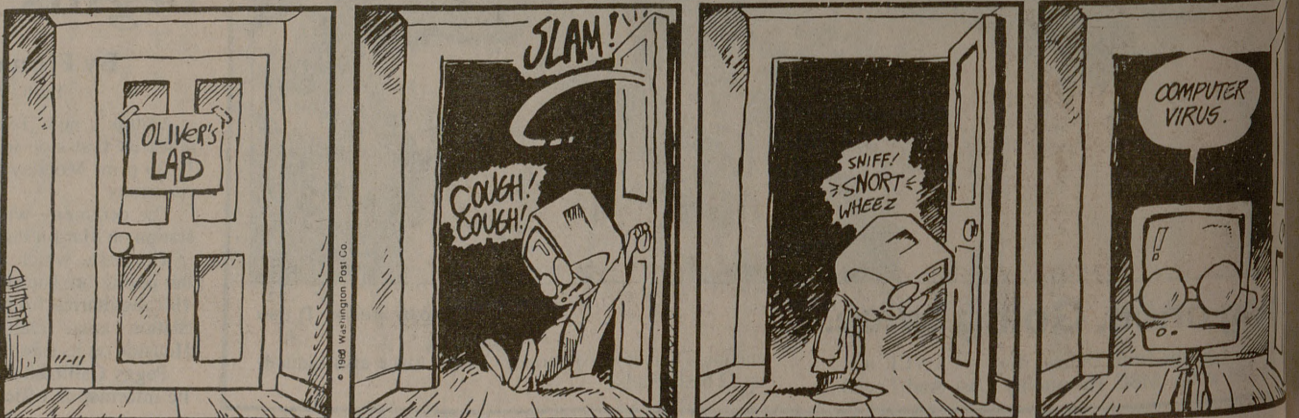
EDITOR:

We don't know what the American Freedom Coalition is but we resent the fact that The Batt inserted a political supplement on Nov. 7 that was obviously written by the Republicans.

The supplement should have been labeled as an advertisement. This reminds us of the pseudo-"Political Forum" held two years ago that turned out to be a Republican pep rally. It is interesting that both of these events took place the day before the election.

Chahriar Assad, Graduate student James Smith, Grad student

BLOOM COUNTY



The Battalion

(USPS 045 360)

Member of Texas Press Association Southwest Journalism Conference

The Battalion Editorial Board

Lydia Berzsenyi, Editor Becky Weisenfels, Managing Editor Anthony Wilson, Opinion Page Editor Richard Williams, City Editor D A Jensen, Denise Thompson, News Editors Hal Hammons, Sports Editor Jay Janner, Art Director Leslie Guy, Entertainment Editor

Editorial Policy

The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting newspaper operated as a community service to Texas A&M and Bryan-College Station.

Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the editorial board or the author, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of Texas A&M administrators, faculty or the Board of Regents.

The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography classes within the Department of Journalism.

The Battalion is published Monday through Friday during Texas A&M regular semesters, except for holiday and examination periods.

Mail subscriptions are \$17.44 per semester, \$34.62 per school year and \$36.44 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request.

Our address: The Battalion, 230 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-1111. Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station TX 77843-4111.