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How To Write A Love Letter

Valentine's Day shouldn't be the only time you express your love. Surprise your sweetheart on another special day! Use these tips to help you get over writer's block and write what you truly mean for your love.

1. Can't figure out how to begin? Make a list of adjectives that describe everything you love about your significant other. Then use the list to start your letter. Or, just pretend you're writing a thank-you note and thank your special someone for all he/she does.

2. Make sure to point out the length of your relationship and how your feelings have grown over time.

3. Compliment the usual features like eyes, hair, or lips, but give praise in a new way. A good example of this would be "Your smile is my favorite distraction."

Taxes. A Little Help, Please? By Rachael Cutler

It's that time of year again. You either love it and look forward to it, or you dread it. Tax season. Make this the year you don't stress over it. Make this the year you finish early. Don't know where to start? Below are some hints, tricks, and just plain reminders to help you in the next few months.

1. Do it early. Sure, taxes aren't due until April 15, but get them out of the way early. There are many benefits to doing your taxes early. First of all, if you're getting a large return, you'll get your money faster. If, on the other hand, you owe money, filing early helps give you the needed time to gather that money.

2. Do it right. Know your stuff. If you don't have a clue where to start, there are many places you can go to for help. Go to your parents or experienced friends; even the accounting school on the BYU campus offers help for those students doing taxes. If you're willing to spend a little bit of money to make sure your taxes are done right, you can hire an accountant or go to firms such as H & R Block or Liberty Tax. You may also find online tax programs helpful, like TurboTax.

3. Wait. Do I even need to file? This is a valid question. If you have made below a certain income, you do not need to file taxes. The IRS claims that millions fill out forms unnecessarily. It is a good idea to always file your taxes though, because you may be eligible for a refund of your Federal Income Tax withheld for the year regardless of whether you needed to file or not.

Have You Seen The Jazz Yet?

It's February – the month of love and the season for romance. And yes, I must not forget, the time of year all about basketball! The Utah Jazz just passed the halfway point of the 2007-08 season, and they are ready to battle to the end. Their official website reads: "This year's Jazz squad hopes to make the second half of the season even more memorable than they did last year. A strong campaign would put this 07-08 team in pretty good company."

The team finished with a first half record of 24-18. Last year, the Jazz pushed past a similar starting record to end in the Western Conference Finals.

So, it's midseason and now is the time for you to show your support. Go to a game! Gather a group of friends or treat a family member to a night on the town. Get up the courage to finally ask out your secret crush. Just go to a game! Single-game tickets are available as well as group packages. Upper bowl seating prices range from \$10 to \$49 while lower bowl prices go up to \$130. Look for current ticket promotions by visiting www.nba.com/jazz. **By Kailee Heger**

Pucker Up!

Not only is kissing good for your relationship, but also it's good for your health! Locking lips can boost your immune system, relieve stress, and even slow the aging process!



Oscar Stats

Tune in February 24th on ABC for the Oscars!

At 8.5 pounds and 13.5 inches tall, "the Oscar" depicts a knight holding a crusader's sword. He stands on a reel of film with five spokes, signifying the original branches of the Academy: actors, writers, directors, producers, and technicians.

Walt Disney has won more Oscars than anyone else. He was nominated for 64 and won 26!

The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King is the **only film** ever to have won every single Oscar for which it was nominated.

5 seconds is the delay between taping and the telecast of the Academy Awards (a lag which was introduced in 2004).

1996. The year Joan Rivers debuted as the host of E! Entertainment Television's "Fashion Police," striking fear into the hearts of red-carpet professionals everywhere.

11. The most Oscars ever won by a single film. It's happened three times with *Ben Hur*, *Titanic*, and *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King*.

3. Number of actors who have won an Academy Award without uttering a single word on camera (Jane Wyman in *Johnny Belinda*, Sir John Mills in *Ryan's Daughter*, and Holly Hunter in *The Piano*).

45 seconds. The suggested length of an acceptance speech.



6. Enjoy your refund

The best part about taxes is obviously the refund you receive. If you're doing alright with money, consider spending your refund on something you've been saving up for or need but haven't had the money for. Even though it was your money to begin with, it feels like free money! Happy Tax Season!

Mark Your Calendars! Run For Red 5K

The Mountain Valley American Red Cross Chapter will host its fifth annual Run for Red 5K road race and one mile fun run on Saturday March 8 at Independence High School in Provo at 10:00 am. Registration is \$20 for adults, \$15 for students and children and \$25 the day of. All proceeds from the event will benefit programs sponsored by the chapter, including local disaster relief efforts. For more information, visit www.runforred.org.

Want to know what's happening around town? Visit schooledmagazine.com to schedule your week and weekends. Submit your parties or events online! We know what's happening around town!

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Each month, Schooled Magazine distributes 10,000 copies to student & business doorsteps in the Utah Valley. Want to be involved? Here are some ideas.

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Our editorial and photography staff are always looking for fresh ideas and people to work for the magazine. All work is done part-time. We are also looking for models. Send a sample of your work and your resume to info@schooledmagazine.com.

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If you have a story idea for us, or would like to submit your freelance work, e-mail it to info@schooledmagazine.com.

Calendar

Our All-Inclusive Calendar includes events from all over Utah! If you have any events that you would like to invite our readers to, e-mail your information by the first week of the month, to get your event in the next month's issue. All submissions will be put on our online calendar. E-mail your event to info@schooledmagazine.com.

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Bored? How About a Board Game?

With the weather cold and snowy outside, why not stay indoors and curl up with a nice board game? I'll tell you why not: because board games are expensive. I'm not talking about your run-of-the-mill Monopoly or Risk game, but popular and award-winning designer games that retail between \$40 and \$80.

But what if there was a place were you could get these games at 30% to 40% off and you could try them out before buying? No you wouldn't be dreaming, you'd be at Boardgame Revolution, a store that not only sells games for cheap but also rents them out.

Located in Orem off of Orem Blvd. at 930 S 293 E Suite #26, this once Internet-only business now has a retail store that lets customers rent games for a week and a half. The cost is 10% of retail

(usually between \$1 and \$5), and the best thing about this program is that when you bring the game back, you can use the rental cost towards the purchase of any game in the store.

Rentals are limited to one game or two smaller ones; however, if that's not enough for you they also have a membership. A \$10 monthly fee gets you unlimited game rentals and a 10% off coupon for a single game purchase. Plus, members can have specific games held for them; otherwise, what you see is what you get.

So now that you know and the price is right, why not try out a board game? The weather's perfect – it's cold and snowy outside.

For more information check out boardgamerevolution.com or call 801-360-8594.

By Mark Hansen

New Play Project By Rae Harris

For all you theater lovers out there who are tired of seeing the same old thing, it's New Play Project to the rescue! Though this Provo-based troupe started from humble beginnings performing at the Provo City Library, it has recently found a new home at the Provo Theater Company.

New Play Project produces several play festivals each year showcasing all original works. Each play festival consists of several short plays which all revolve around a chosen theme. Performances are followed by "talk-back sessions" where the audience has a chance to weigh in with their opinions and insights. Themes for festivals vary throughout the year and include religious-themed play sets in April and October. Upcoming themes include "Eccentricities," "Lost and Found," and "Long Ago and Far Away."

For more information or to submit a play of your own, go to www.newplayproject.org. This is a unique theater experience that you won't find anywhere else, so be sure to check them out at their next show!

Book Review: Schooled's Exclusive Interview with Amanda Dickson

By Rebecca Rode

Have you ever gotten up early for a morning shift, grumbled at the mirror as you got ready, and silently sworn to find another job? Amanda Dickson, a KSL 102.7 FM morning radio show co-host, gets up at 2:45am every day—and calls the job her "soul's work." Dickson recently published a book called "Wake Up to a Happier Life: Finding Joy in the Work You Do Every Day."

And she knows about working for a living. Dickson has held 18 jobs in her life, including lawyer, college professor, disc jockey, newspaper columnist, telemarketer, restaurant manager, and WNBA announcer. After all this, she gives four basic ways to find joy in your position, whether it be student, employee, or professional TV watcher.

JOY IS A CHOICE.

"Joy is not in the job we do—it's in us," she says. "I know people in glamorous, cushy, highly-paid jobs who are miserable...and I know people in mundane, routine, low-paid jobs who are whistling a tune every day." When asked specifically about students, Dickson said that the same applies to school—the straight-A students aren't necessarily happier than those who are barely passing. "It really doesn't depend on anything outside of you. It depends on your deciding, 'This is going to teach me...This is my life—and I am going to live it with the most open heart I can.'"

TAKE A RISK.

Many students hope to find their dream career soon after graduation, but they're afraid of failure. To this, Dickson says, "It must begin somewhere. For every skier, there is a first run...For every singer or writer or professor or engineer, a first day on the job, a first moment of terror...Enjoy the beginner's spirit."

So what advice does Amanda Dickson, a woman who has held so many different jobs in her life, give to college students searching for their "soul's work?" "Jump

into anything that interests you without fear that you will stink. If you stink, they'll fire you—and then you can jump into something else."

SEARCH WISELY.

When you begin the career search, don't fall into the trap of wanting to make as much money as possible as quickly as possible. Why not find a job that has pay potential as well as fulfillment? Work does not have to make life miserable. Dickson was

a lawyer for almost three years before she decided law was not for her. She never dreamed then that life would

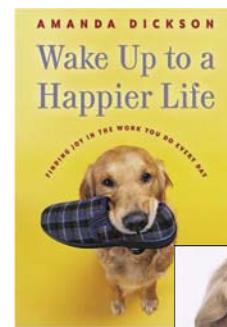
lead her to a career in radio.

"Imagine the place you'd love to work if you could work anywhere," Dickson says. "Apply there early and often...Call the manager who makes the hiring decision. Tell him how interested you are and how hard working. Offer to do anything." You never know what can happen.

WATCH FOR LIFE'S LESSONS.

Each position, from telemarketer to WNBA announcer, has taught her something. "My waitress job taught me to smile when I don't feel like smiling... My job as a lawyer taught me to keep researching. If you assume there is no way to accomplish something...keep researching, there may be. My job as a teacher taught me that people can be truly affected by what you say, so speak with encouraging words." Even if the lesson is that a certain job is not for you, that is an important lesson.

Amanda Dickson's book has other advice, but perhaps the most potent is this: "You were born to live, to engage, to attempt, to fail AND to succeed—all of it." This is the advice from one who knows—and one of Utah's most successful career women. Maybe it's time for all of us to wake up happy.



Puppy Love

By Mitch Mallory

There are thousands of homeless pets in Utah. Sadly, this problem goes unnoticed much of the time, and many of these creatures suffer greatly. The Utah Humane Society is an organization that does much to help this problem, and anyone who is thinking of adopting a pet can help.

Located at 4242 South and 400 West in Murray, the Humane Society has over 400 animals waiting for adoption at any given time. Although they have many dogs and cats, they also have rabbits, rats, hamsters, guinea pigs, and gerbils.

Many of these animals were brought in by their owners, who, after getting the animal, realized it would be more work than they had anticipated. Thus the Humane Society is trying to get people to really think about a pet rather than make an impulse deci-



sion that may result in a homeless animal later.

Another great advantage of adopting a pet is the price. While pet stores can sell dogs for hundreds of dollars, it is only \$75 to get a new best friend from the Humane Society. This includes having the dog spayed or neutered and his first set of health shots as well. Cats are \$49 and rabbits are \$25.

According to Callee Smith, adoption manager of the Utah Humane Society, much of Utah's homeless pet problem could be avoided if people would just have their pet spayed or neutered before it's too late. "If people would just fix their pets, we wouldn't have so many waiting for a good home," Smith said.

For more information on how to rescue an animal, or to see the animals available now at the Humane Society, visit www.Utah-Humane.org

GOBLIN IN DISGUISE



Best Worst Movie. . . EVER!

By Mitch Mallory

Many movies are bad. Some are terrible. But very, very few are continually brought up in the discussion for the absolute worst ever. Yet *Troll 2*, filmed right here in Utah, has somehow managed to secure its place in cinema's history.

In short, the "plot" of the film (if you dare call it such) is as follows: Joshua, the film's 8-year-old

hero, sees visions of his recently-deceased grandfather, Grandpa Seth. Seth tells Joshua not to go on his family's planned vacation to Nilbog. (A zenith of the film occurs when Joshua declares, "Grandpa! Nilbog is 'goblin' spelled backwards!") Joshua is unable to stop his family from the vacation, and they are forced to battle vegetarian goblins (no trolls in this movie).

Michael Paul Stephenson, who played Joshua in the film, decided to confront his inner demons (or goblins) after 17 years and face what he himself calls "the holy grail of bad movies." When he did, he was shocked to find *Troll 2* enjoys a cult status, complete with *Troll 2* tattoos, t-shirts, fan websites and much more. So instead of running from the film, Stevenson decided to embrace it.

Coming in winter 2008, Stephenson's documentary Best Worst Movie will trace not only the film's present cult status, but also its actors who desecrated their careers and their current lives. To view the trailer on YouTube, go to: www.bestworstmovie.com.



Learn Self Defense

For many who are here from other states going to school, Utah Valley feels safe. It doesn't feel like the kind of place where women should fear for their welfare, but no place is free from danger. Things happen, such as the Trolley Square shooting in February of last year when an 18-year-old decided to go on a shooting rampage at the local mall in Salt Lake City. You never know when you might need to defend yourself. Take to heart these common-sense reminders, and stay safe no matter where you are.

Be aware: Awareness is one of the most important things in self-defense. Notice your environment. Listen and be alert.

Safety in numbers: Do not go jogging/walking in the dark by yourself. Utah Valley is one of the fittest places in the nation, so it shouldn't be hard to find someone in your complex or classes who likes to exercise when you do. It might be a great way to make a friend, and you're less likely to be victimized.

Cell phone safety: Walking alone in the dark is never smart, but if you have to, take your phone out of your purse and carry it in your hand or in an easily accessible pocket. Heck, talk to someone while you're walking alone. An attacker may be less likely to strike. Do not listen to your iPod.

Guy help: Many girls don't feel comfortable asking for favors - especially when it's for something seemingly inconsequential - but girls, don't be afraid to ask. And guys, make yourselves available. Offer to walk home classmates or study partners. Once again, it might be a great way to meet someone.

Car safety: Always have your keys ready at hand. Park close to the building or a street light, or get an escort to your car. Get in on the passenger side if there is someone in the car next to your driver side, and don't hang around in your car after getting in. Drive away immediately.

Use what you have: If attacked, use anything within reach. Screaming is a great defense. Nail files, keys, pens, perfume and other things you generally carry can be used to defend yourself if necessary. You can even use your handbag itself. Don't be embarrassed to practice using these things as weapons. Suggest practicing at a Family Home Evening lesson or activity. It sounds corny, but it may help.

Remember vulnerable points: Jab the nose at an upward angle with your palm, or kick the groin. That should be enough to help you run away. If you want to learn more techniques on how to defend yourself and stay in shape, contact LA Boxing at 801-765-1BOX (www.laboxing.com) about a free class and student rates. Also visit safetyforwomen.com.

By Chelsea A. Pyle
Photo By Mark Hansen

Sundance Film Festival 2008

By Jamie Littlefield

Last month thousands of directors, producers, actors, and fans descended on Park City to share their common passion: film. The 2008 Sundance Film Festival was a 10-day long gauntlet of quirky movies, anxious deal-making and glamorous parties.

The Films

This year's festival featured 125 full-length films, chosen from a whopping 3,624 submissions. Included in the lineup were pieces from 55 first-time filmmakers and films from 34 countries.

While the films spanned a broad range of topics, festival organizers noticed that many of this year's selections focused on sharing stories from a personal level.

"As from the beginning, the Sundance Film Festival is about discovery of new talent and of issues that are resonating with filmmakers and artists alike," said Robert Redford, president of the Sundance Institute.

"This year filmmakers are putting a personal focus on issues relating to the world we live in rather than addressing them on a macro-political level. And it's exciting to me to see a new community of storytellers cross over from different points of origin: the playwright who brings his words to the screen, the poet who shares her story through music, the advocate who invokes social change through documentary and many other artists whose works extend beyond the screen."

Audience favorites included *Frozen River* (a story about two struggling women who smuggle people into the United States), *Trouble the Water* (a Michael Moore documentary about a family that survived Hurricane Katrina), and *The Wackness* (a portrayal of a troubled teenager who trades marijuana for therapy sessions).

The Party People

Bundled in heavy jackets, Sundance party-goers haunted Main Street well into the early mornings. Although below-freezing temperatures made it difficult for stars to strut their stuff, dozens of celebrities made it to invite-only parties in both Park City and Salt Lake.

So how could spectators spot a celeb underneath the layers of scarves, mittens, and hats? The loot bags. Promotional agencies ran festival-long "gifting suites," giving invited celebrities free clothing, electronics and even vacations.

Some film advocates criticized the presence of socialite stars such as Paris Hilton, claiming that the big-name celebrities detracted from the purpose of the festival. But that didn't stop dozens of stars from making Park City their party headquarters.

Sundance Celebrity Spotting

Who was spotted watching films and partying at Sundance this year? Here are some of the big names...

Tom Hanks
Colin Hanks
Paris Hilton
Quentin Tarantino
Paris Hilton
Nicky Hilton
Dave Matthews
Sarah Jessica Parker

Jessica Alba
Akin
Fifty Cent
Sharon Stone
Luke Wilson
Mischa Barton
Meg Ryan

The Sales

Due to the writers' strike, many filmmakers expected to see a buying fury from the studios this year. In reality, film sales were a mixed bag.

The first several days saw few sales; however, studios began opening their wallets as the festival neared completion. On the low end of the scale, some films were purchased for less than one million dollars. On the high end, the film *Hamlet 2* saw ten million dollars, coming close to the all-time record (\$10.5 million for *Little Miss Sunshine* in 2006). Studio purchase is no guarantee that a film will reach wide release. Still, many filmmakers went home happy with the hope that their creations now have a chance at making it big.

Shorts on the Web

They don't always take the spotlight, but amazing short films are a Sundance specialty. You can still watch this year's Sundance shorts via iTunes, Netflix, and Xbox LIVE. Just go to: www.sundance.org/festival/shorts.

Keep an eye out for some of these Sundance Film Festival titles coming soon to DVD.

The Great Buck Howard

This light-hearted comedy features Colin Hanks, son of Tom Hanks, as a law-school dropout who's looking for something better. To the disappointment of his father (played by Tom Hanks), the young man takes a job as a traveling show organizer for *The Great Buck Howard*, an old, second-rate mentalist.

The highlight of the show is the quirky magician, played masterfully by John Malkovich. Whether he's chewing out his assistants or charming small-town audiences with antiquated musical numbers, this egotistical magic man will have you rooting for him.

When the magician's show unexpectedly takes off, *The Great Buck Howard* has to figure out what success really means to him (and how to deal with his archenemy, Jay Leno). A kind-hearted take on choosing to do what you love, this movie's not quite magic – but it's close. **Grade: B**

Funny Games

This scene-by-scene remake of the Austrian film by the same name is a 2-hour long exercise in torture and a critique of contemporary entertainment. Two psychotic young men show up at a remote vacation home to prey on a family's politeness with mind games and, eventually, violence.

The director, Michael Haneke, really knows how to toy with an audience. The antagonists (inhuman and purely evil, in a casual way) turn and talk to you unexpectedly. When you finally get a bit of tension relief, they break the conventions of film and snatch it back from you. Think you can use foreshadowing to find out what's going to happen? Think again.

Unlike recent horror films (*Saw* and *Hostel* come to mind), *Funny Games* shows no gratuitous violence or gore. In fact, almost all of the violence takes place off screen, as the camera veers away to focus on some piece of furniture. This makes it even more terrifying, as the viewer loses any sense of control. By the end of the film, there's only one conclusion to make: you're the one whose politeness has been preyed upon. You're the one the antagonists have been torturing all along. **Grade: A-**



Photo By Mark Hansen

Do the Academy Awards Mean Anything?

By Chelsea A. Pyle

Soon ballots will be counted. In a last-ditch effort, campaigns scramble to garner votes by trumpeting their candidates and slandering their rivals. Hopefuls are dreaming up acceptance speeches they've been working on since before they ever started in this crazy business. No, I'm not talking about the 2008 Presidential race. I'm talking about the Academy Awards.

The Academy Awards are supposed to honor the best cinematic performances of the year and launch honorees into bigger and better roles. Anymore, that doesn't seem to be the case. True, Hilary Swank was far from being a household name when she won an Oscar for the independent film *Boys Don't Cry*, and winning that award led her to Clint Eastwood's *Million Dollar Baby*, for which she earned a second Best Actress Oscar. But Miss Swank proves my point both ways. Winning the Oscar the first time led her to the second Oscar, as it should be; however, she has since made such box office duds as *Freedom Writers* and *P.S. I Love You*, proving that a bald gold man sitting on your mantle guarantees nothing.

On the other hand, actors like Cate Blanchette and Tom Hanks are always being billed as "Academy Award Winner." They are, as pundits call them, "darlings" of the Academy, constantly nominated for just being in a movie. Then there are those stars who are consistently making good movies - even getting nominated on occasion - but never come away with the coveted statuette. Stars like Brad Pitt, Leonardo DiCaprio, and the box office king Will Smith constantly headline good, even critically-acclaimed films, without ever adding Oscar to their list of achievements. To those in their situation, George Roy Hill, awarded Best Director in 1973, asserted, "Time is going to be the final judge of merit regardless of what the contemporary awards say."

In any case, the Academy Award is anything but a simple accolade. For some it is an approval stamp on an already glittering career that shows no signs of disintegrating. For others the award is given to truly honor the best performance of the year. Then there are the few, the happy few, who are awarded the coveted Oscar out of hype and little else. I'm not blaming the Academy voters, but there is a reason why it's called 'campaigning' for the Oscars. Most major studios pick some of their favorites and push their chances with "For Your Consideration" campaigns. And come on, voters are just people who can be easily swayed by public opinion (which is the only logical explanation this writer can give for the titanic success of *Titanic*. Sorry for the pun.).

What's worst is that the Academy Awards mean little to audiences. No really, they mean almost nothing. Nominations mean enough to give the movies a little boost in ticket sales, and then they're done. Enough for millions to tune in Oscar Sunday to see the winners and then promptly forget all about them. Years in which audience favorites were heavily nominated (1997 for *Titanic* and 2004 for *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King*), the Academy Awards enjoyed phenomenal TV ratings. Then there were years when the audience favorite got nothing, and TV ratings for the annual show dropped drastically. And only occasionally does the top grossing movie of the year win any kind of Oscar praise. According to beckerfilms.com, it seems that "if a film makes too much money its artistic merits are in question."

So I guess in answer to the title question, I would say yes, the Academy Awards mean something for a little while in the form of publicity and a minor increase in ticket sales. For the actors the award makes a nice trophy to collect dust on a shelf; maybe they'll get a better movie deal out of it. But Oscar winners and fans alike will probably just continue on with their lives and careers regardless of one evening of glamor and glitz.

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QuizTime

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8 unique quizzes...

How Naïve Are You?

By Jennie Nicholls

1. Your role model is:

- a. Karl Malone
- b. Marie Osmond
- c. John Stockton

2. Global warming is:

- a. Not real!
- b. Going to kill us all in less than 3 years.
- c. A serious problem that needs to be addressed.



3. Your dream job is:

- a. To be an actor.
- b. To be an astronaut.
- c. To be an accountant.

4. You think that BYU is:

- a. The only respectable school of higher education in the state.
- b. A good school with amazing sports.
- c. Overrated.

5. What is your opinion on people with tattoos?

- a. Sinners! You will burn...
- b. They look kind of cool, but they aren't my style.
- c. They may look OK while you are young, but they get wrinkly with age.

Tally Your Score: ____ A's ____ B's ____ C's

Mostly A's: Naïve as an 11-year-old. It's good to be trusting, but it's not so good to be easily fooled. Watching a little cable TV should do the trick to help spin you into reality.

Mostly B's: Gullible, but not entirely naïve. It's sort of cute to be gullible. You haven't let the harsh reality of the world affect your natural naivety. You tend to let things happen, and you are happy to experience new things.

Mostly C's: Good head on your shoulders. You think you know what's going on in the world, and you don't believe everything you hear. Just don't let that keep you from having a little imagination, or you'll run the risk of becoming bitter.

Is He/She Into You?

By Ashley Walton

1. Which of the following describes your means of communicating with each other?

- a. He sends picture messages to you throughout the day, giving you his day play-by-play.
- b. She calls you to hang out every few days and text messages you with funny little quips everyday.
- c. He calls you on the weekends to invite you to parties or late-night Slurpee runs.
- d. You are the one constantly doing the calling.

2. What is his/her typical body language toward you?

- a. She can't seem to keep her hands off you and is constantly touching you or tickling you.
- b. He will often find an excuse to play with your hand or put his arm around you.
- c. She always gives you a hug at the end of the night.
- d. Somehow you two never end up sitting next to each other when you go out with a group.

3. How does he/she try to share interests with you?

- a. He gives you photocopies of all the love poetry he's written about you.
- b. She gives you her favorite books and CDs that she thinks you'd also enjoy.
- c. He invites you to go to concerts and sporting events with him.
- d. She puts down your favorite bands and movies and explains why her favorites are better.

4. What does he/she say?

- a. He is always complimenting you on how you look.
- b. She consistently remembers things you have said to her in previous conversations.
- c. When you two are together, you laugh a lot and there are few pauses in the conversation.
- d. He is always talking about himself and doesn't seem to really listen to your opinions.

5. What's the non-verbal communication telling you?

- a. When she is around you, she seems antsy and fidgety.
- b. When you are with him, his eyes are always on you, even when someone really attractive walks by.

c. She looks you in the eyes when you are talking.

d. He can't unglue himself from the TV or the Wii when you come over.

6. Who do the two of you hang out with?

- a. She always wants to be alone with you.
- b. He invites you on weekend trips to visit his family.
- c. She invites you to do things with groups of mutual friends.
- d. You always hang out with his friends and never your own.

Tally Your Score:

____ A's ____ B's ____ C's ____ D's

Mostly A's: Run for the hills. This person is definitely into you. Unfortunately, it has already progressed to the point where you might need a restraining order. You want to be in the kind of relationship where you can have mutual respect, not one where one of the parties is hopelessly needy.

Mostly B's: There is no doubt about the fact that there is chemistry between you two. Your so-called "friend" is definitely looking for a deeper relationship. If he hasn't had the guts to make the first move yet, then you should go for it!

Mostly C's: You are in the friend zone, which is not such a bad place to be. Many of the best romantic relationships start as good friendships. Drop some subtle hints that you'd be interested in hanging out with her more and see what happens.

Mostly D's: The bad news is that this person is not into you. The good news is that you don't want this kind of person to be into you. If he doesn't have the decency to respect you as a friend, then you don't want to be in a relationship with him. Move on.





What Song Best Describes Your Relationship?

By Jennie Nicholls

1. What is your ideal date with your boyfriend/girlfriend?

- a. Night out with lots of couples, getting gelato and seeing the latest movie.
- b. Laser tagging against eighth graders and making out in the black lighting.
- c. Cuddling on the couch watching 'Seinfeld' re-runs and eating pizza.

2. Where did the two of you meet?

- a. We live in the same apartment building.
- b. We met on Facebook.
- c. We met in Human Biology class.

3. What is your boyfriend/girlfriend's greatest flaw?

- a. Reading through your old text messages.
- b. The warrant out for his arrest.
- c. Forgetting the occasional anniversary.

4. When asked about your relationship, your friends say:

- a. They hope you two will work things out.
- b. You will come to your senses and dump her - eventually.
- c. They would be more crushed if you didn't work out than you would be.

5. If your boyfriend/girlfriend used a pick-up line on you, what would it be?
- a. Are you tired? Because you have been running through my mind all day.
 - b. The voices in my head told me to come talk to you...
 - c. Do you have a band-aid? Because I skinned my knee when I fell for you.

Tally Your Score: ___ A's ___ B's ___ C's

Mostly A's: Clingy, Better-off-as-friends Couple. "You Are My Everything" by 98 Degrees is your theme song. Every night I pray on bended knee that you will always be my everything. You two have the potential to work out great, but you have a few obstacles to overcome. One of you is a little more interested than the other and has the tendency to become jealous. Let's hope this one turns out better than Nick and Jessica.

Mostly B's: Dangerously Wild Couple. "You Shook Me All Night Long" by AC/DC best describes your relationship. The walls start shaking the world starts quaking my mind was aching and we were shaking. It looks like you are ignoring all the warning signs of a train wreck waiting to happen. You two are in it for fun and don't intend on it to work. You better play it safe before someone gets hurt.

Mostly C's: Made-for-each-other Perfect Couple. "Such Great Heights" by The Postal Service is your big hit. I'm thinking it's a sign when the freckles in our eyes are mirror images and when we kiss they're perfectly aligned. Couples everywhere are envious of the relationship the two of you share. You are attached at the hip, and you are willing to admit to friends that you are 'whooped.' Keep doing what you are doing because it looks like love.

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How Smart Do People Think You Are?

1. What is your major?
 - a. Physics, Math, or Political Science.
 - b. Business, English, or Psychology.
 - c. Dance, Art, or Philosophy.

2. What interesting fact do you like to tell people at parties?
 - a. The mantle of the earth is actually part peridotite, which makes the popular green gemstone, peridot.
 - b. You once met Johnny Depp in New York City.
 - c. You can burp the entire "Happy Birthday" song.

3. You are going to vote for:
 - a. Barack Obama
 - b. Hillary Clinton
 - c. John McCain

Are You a Good Date?

By Jamie Littlefield

1. That hottie from Econ, rings you up and asks you to the movies. You:
 - a. Explain that you've been dying to go out. Tell him/her that you haven't had a date in months.
 - b. Enthusiastically agree. Then, ask for details.
 - c. Ask why it took so long for him/her to get the hint.

2. Your date suggests that you go to a movie you've already seen (and hated). You:
 - a. Agree. It's easy to pretend you haven't seen it before.
 - b. Explain that you've already seen it and suggest another flick.
 - c. Adamantly refuse. Why should you have to see a bad movie twice?

3. Your date is treating you to dinner for the first time. What do you order?
 - a. A side salad. You don't want that hottie to break the bank. Plus, it's embarrassing to eat a big meal in front of someone so cute.
 - b. Whatever you want – in moderation.
 - c. The most expensive dish on the menu. And a specialty drink. And a couple side orders. And dessert. Hey, why not go all out?

4. Your second date is turning out pretty well. In fact, you imagine that wedding bells may be in the future. So, you:
 - a. Give him/her an extravagant gift.

4. How many dates did you go on in the past 3 months?
 - a. 0-2
 - b. 3-8
 - c. Does making out with someone in my ward count as a date?
5. Did Courtney Love kill Kurt Cobain?
 - a. Who? Did what?
 - b. If the shoe fits...
 - c. RIP front man of Pearl Jam.

Tally Your Score: ____ A's ____ B's ____ C's

Mostly A's: Smarty Pants. You amaze others with your wit and extensive vocabulary. Not only do you get the grades, but you actually retain knowledge from those pesky general education classes. People are jealous of how you never study and pull off perfect exam scores, but you secretly study for hours.

Mostly B's: Average Joe. You are the type of person that gets talked to most at parties because you are down-to-earth. You care about school, but not enough to let it control your life. You know when pulling an all-nighter to study is necessary.

Mostly C's: Grade School Reading Level. You aren't the sharpest crayon in the box, but you know enough to get by. You know a lot of random stuff, but books just aren't your thing. If you go to BYU, you got in by applying for the summer instead of the fall.

By Jennie Nicholls

- b. Chill out and keep those wedding thoughts to yourself for now.
- c. Write down a series of spiritual, financial, and practical questions to ask him/her. Offer to lend out your signed copies of *The Five Love Languages* and *Rich Dad, Poor Dad*. Then, ask when you're going to meet the parents.
5. After experiencing the worst date of your life, the culprit calls and asks you out for another date. You do not want to go, so you:
 - a. Say you have plans, but that you'd love to go another time. Eventually he/she will get the hint.
 - b. Explain gently that you don't think the two of you make a good match.
 - c. Tell the person what you don't like about him/her. Brutal honesty is the only solution in cases like this.

Tally Your Score: ____ A's ____ B's ____ C's

Mostly A's: You're a bit of a pushover when it comes to dating. Potential partners want to get to know the "real" you, not the person you're pretending to be. Don't hide your opinions; let your personality shine through. If your date doesn't appreciate that, then he/she isn't worth it.

Mostly B's: You're the perfect date. You don't hide your personality, nor do you come on too strong. Keep up the good work.

Mostly C's: Whoa, calm down! It's good to let your date know where you stand, but don't ambush him/her with your opinions. Remember, your date is a person too. Consider his/her feelings and try to be more considerate.

Am I Red

By Rachael Cutler • • • •

At times I wonder whether I am just a Republican because my parents are Republicans. I don't remember being taught in school what the parties' issues were, what their platforms are, or what they believe. So for those souls out there like me who have always wondered whether they are red or blue, here's a quiz to help make the distinction.

1. A boy buys a gun, goes into his high school, and opens fire. You think:
 - a. How did he get a gun? We should have much stricter gun laws to prevent this from happening.
 - b. Guns don't hurt people. People hurt people. There must have been other issues involved.
2. Although Fred has a minimum wage job, he still can't pay his bills. What should be done?
 - a. Raise the minimum wage.
 - b. Put Fred on Medicaid.
 - c. Tell Fred he needs to get another job.
3. Cleaner environment = stronger economy.
 - a. True
 - b. False
4. Julie and Sally want the same rights as other married couples. Should they have them?
 - a. Maybe not in the sense that they are married, but they should at least be able to have a civil union.
 - b. No. Marriage is between a man and a woman.
 - c. Yes, they should have all the rights that married couples do.
5. Your niece's school district is considering school vouchers. You understand the benefits and pitfalls of both, and you think that ultimately:
 - a. The parents should have a say in whether their students go to public or private schools. Yes on vouchers.
 - b. Public schools are government-funded and private schools are not. End of story.
6. Taxes are good for:
 - a. Government programs that will help better our communities.
 - b. Nothing. Lowering taxes is always the best option.
7. Global warming is:
 - a. A serious scientific issue that we cannot ignore.
 - b. A farce.
8. A convicted murderer faces sentencing and may receive the death penalty. What is your view?
 - a. Give him the death penalty. It's better than spending the money on keeping him in prison for the rest of his life.

Or Blue?

b. Explore other options. The death penalty is so harsh, and there has to be a way that society can benefit from keeping him in prison. Besides, what if you kill someone who is innocent?

9. South Carolina is currently flying the Confederate flag on its state capitol building. What should be done?

- a. The federal government should have the authority to demand that it be taken down.
- b. State government has the authority in this case, and the federal government has no right to make demands.

Question:	4. Same-Sex Marriage	7. Global Warming
1. Gun Control	a. 1 point	a. 2 points
a. 2 points	b. 2 points	b. 1 point
2. Minimum Wage	a. 2 points	c. 2 points
a. 2 points	b. 2 points	a. 1 point
c. 1 point	a. 1 point	b. 2 points
3. Environment	6. Taxes	9. State vs. Federal Control
a. 2 points	a. 2 points	a. 2 points
b. 1 point	b. 1 point	b. 1 point

Your Score:

15-18 = Democrat. Your views are aligned with the Democratic Party and their ideas about taxes, health care, and the environment.

12-15 = Somewhere in Between. Like most Americans, your views lie in the middle ground between hard-core Democrats and staunch Republicans.

10-12 = Republican. On every issue from small government to big business to people working out their own futures and fortunes, you are Republican.

Don't believe me? Visit these websites to take more tests.

- 1. politicalhumor.about.com/library/blpoliticalquiz.htm
- 2. www.selectsmart.com/FREE/select.php?client=dem_or_rep
- 3. quizrocket.com/political-party-quiz?gclid=CJKuhIvV_pACFRCYiQodeQbS_Q
- 4. www.wqad.com/Global/link.asp?L=259460

If you were going to create the ultimate reality show, what would it be like?

By Kailee Heger

1. Your ultimate reality show would consist of:

- a. The rich and famous like "Celebrity Apprentice."
- b. The rough and rugged like "Survivor."
- c. The graceful and talented like "Dancing with the Stars."
- d. The Dicks and Janes like "The Biggest Loser."

2. How would your reality show work? It would:

- a. Be a win-lose format like "America's Next Top Model."
- b. Focus on just one individual like "My Super Sweet 16."
- c. Feature contestants who are looking for love like "The Bachelor."
- d. Center around helping people like "Extreme Makeover."

3. How would the players participate in your reality show?

- a. Every person would fight for the win alone like "American Idol."
- b. They would begin in teams like "The Apprentice."
- c. Individuals would survive off of their relationship skills like "Flavor of Love."
- d. Players would compete in pairs or couples like "The Amazing Race."

4. You show would appeal to an audience of:

- a. Young adults of this country, like "Pimp My Ride."
- b. People with a light heart and sense of humor, like "Last Comic Standing."

3. When you work at solving a problem, you:

- a. Make a list and check off tasks as they're done.
- b. Make a few phone calls.
- c. Walk through all the steps in your mind.

4. If you went to a huge party, what would you be most likely to remember the next day?

- a. The faces of people who were there.
- b. The names of the people who were there.
- c. The things you said while you were there.

5. When you tell a story, you would rather:

- a. Write it down.
- b. Tell it aloud.
- c. Act it out.

6. Which are you most likely to do while standing in a long line at the movies?

- a. Look at the movie posters.
- b. Talk to the people around you.
- c. Fidget, move around.



c. Those seeking for affection, like "Beauty and the Geek."

d. Artistic personalities, like "So You Think You Can Dance."

5. What is the ultimate prize for winning your reality show?

- a. Receiving a contract with a billion-dollar company like "American Idol."
- b. Gaining fame and fortune like "American Idol."
- c. Finding your true love like "I Love New York."
- d. Earning a job like "The Apprentice."

Tally Your Score:

____ A's ____ B's ____ C's ____ D's

Mostly A's: Your ultimate reality show would catch immediate reaction, but it wouldn't last for long. Why? It appeals to only the wealthy. People can take only so much of watching a lifestyle that's far out of their reach.

Mostly B's: A reality show of this nature may not have the largest fan club, but it would definitely be a loyal fan club. Those who watched your show would be hooked season after season. (But beware, as the show evolves each year, don't get too creative. Stick to your beginning roots.)

Mostly C's: This kind of show would have the viewers getting in touch with their "feelings" – feelings of love and companionship. You as the creator shouldn't get scared, though. You'll see the show is not an instant hit, but wait for the success. People will start talking about it, and that's when the word-of-mouth phenomenon will strike. Result: the ratings skyrocket.

Mostly D's: Nothing compares to this type of reality show. It would be an immediate hit! No doubt about it, everyone would be able to relate to one aspect or another of your show. They would feel uplifted at times and possibly be motivated to change. Wow! It's exciting just to think of the possibilities.

What's Your Learning Style?

By Ashley Walton

1. To remember something, you have to:

- a. See a picture, chart, or diagram.
- b. Tell someone about it.
- c. Do an activity related to the topic.

2. Which of the following do you do while you listen to music?

- a. Daydream.
- b. Sing/hum along.
- c. Move with the music, tap your foot.

7. When you study, you remember things best when you:

- a. Use a highlighter to emphasize points.
- b. Explain the information to someone else.
- c. Use a chanting rhythm to memorize it.

Tally Your Score: ____ A's ____ B's ____ C's

Mostly A's: Visual learner

Study alone in a quiet place. You learn best through sight, so you need to read your notes when you're cramming for an exam. When you're in class, sit near the front and take tons of notes.

Mostly B's: Auditory learner

Study in a group so you can listen to others. You learn best by hearing, so you may want to read your texts aloud. If you have trouble remembering the steps to a concept, explain them to a friend.

Mostly C's: Kinesthetic learner

Study with one other person using role playing games. You learn best by action, so find hands-on work that can go along with your schoolwork. In class, sit near the back (or somewhere you can get up easily) since you concentrate best when you're moving.



"With the grace of ballerinas, the stamina of professional athletes, and the skill level of competitive gymnasts, the BYU Cougarettes are a sight to behold."



BYU Cougarettes

By Jeremy Holm

This isn't your average dance team.

Imagine rehearsing for three hours straight every single day. And you won't get paid to do it, nor will you receive a scholarship. In fact, you'll have to pay roughly \$2,000 a year to be on the team...after passing the grueling tryout process. Up to 150 applicants audition every year for a place on the 16-member team.

Now, imagine doing all that while maintaining a high GPA plus potentially working a part-time job. Imagine all that and you'll have a better understanding of just what it takes to be a BYU Cougrette.

With the grace of ballerinas, the stamina of professional athletes, and the skill level of competitive gymnasts, the BYU Cougarettes are a sight to behold. As a "precision dance team," the 7-time National Collegiate Dance Team Champions have a reputation as one of the most skilled teams in existence—at least among the dancing community. But here in Utah Valley, well, that recognition unfortunately drops below the radar.

"I wish we got a little more respect," said two-year Cougrette veteran Jamyn Swenson. "If more people around Provo realized that we've been national champion seven times, maybe they would view us differently. We aren't just 'the other dance team.' We're one of the top teams in the nation."

So good, in fact, that they have been named one of the top 25 collegiate dance teams in the nation by *Dance Spirit* magazine.

Despite their success as a team, however, the BYU Cougarettes continue to face stereotypes of all sorts.

"A lot of people think we are all stuck up," Swenson continued. "Or that we're just another cheerleading group. The fact is we try to be as friendly as possible. And there isn't a 'Cougrette look.' We have it all on the



team: tall, short, thin, round, blonde, brunette. Dancing is how we express ourselves. A lot of what we do is very emotional for us."

"We work incredibly hard," explained team dance captain Christy St. Pierre. "We're known for high technical skills that are displayed in our turns and movements. We're all dedicated and devoted to the team. We have to balance school, work, and Cougarettes. We practice every day: conditioning, stretching, and rehearsing. Our practices are like sprinting full speed, then stopping for a few minutes then sprinting again, for three hours straight! We also main-

tain high standards in our techniques, our appearance, and our morals. Other teams respect us for that."

In addition to their already heavy schedules, the Cougarettes make it a goal to perform acts of charity as a team throughout the year.

"We do a lot of service," said Swenson. "We teach dance classes for under-privileged kids at elementary schools, sing at homeless shelters, participate in Sub for Santa, perform at cancer charity events, and so on. We've even performed at the LDS Conference Center for General Authorities of the Church. We really try to keep involved with the community."

And to benefit the community, the team puts on a showcase concert every year to display their talents and abilities as dancers.

"This isn't a fundraiser," added St. Pierre. "It's just a chance for us to perform for the public. We'll have solos, trios, hip-hop, jazz, and contemporary, all designed to showcase our talents with the help of professional choreographers. We'd like everyone to come."

To learn more about the Cougarettes, visit www.bryucougarettes.com or call the Covey Center for the Arts at (801) 852-7007 for information on this year's "Cougarettes in Concert 2008" February 27 - March 1.



BYU Women's Basketball: An Exclusive Interview with Freshman Coriann Wood

Coriann Wood is one of BYU's toughest freshmen. She has become an important part of the team, and she will continue to be throughout her years here as a Cougar. She's definitely one to keep an eye on, so get to know her with our exclusive interview on her freshman experience.

SM: What brought you to BYU?

CW: I came partially because BYU recruited me. I knew I wanted to play somewhere, but I also knew I wanted to go to BYU. It was a perfect fit because I was able to do both.

SM: What do you like best about the team?

CW: I think the thing I like best is we can be ourselves around each other. We are all goofy and have different personalities. It's a party all the time. I can depend on a lot of the girls. It's like a family.

SM: What's your favorite thing about BYU basketball?

CW: Everybody wants to beat us. BYU is the one that everyone is after. We have a winning tradition. If you ask anyone in the conference, BYU is who they want to beat even if we're not ranked number one.

SM: Tell us about this season so far.

CW: Pre-season was an emotional roller coaster. We had some amazing games where we beat teams we shouldn't have, like UCSB. Then we lost to teams within one possession. It was hard for everyone to learn their roles and gel together. It was good for us though, and we've learned from it.



SM: How would you encourage someone who has never been to a game to come?

CW: You should go to a women's game because you'd probably get a front row seat! I think women's games are pretty exciting. Yeah, we don't dunk, but I think it's fun and funny to watch women play.

SM: Anything you want to say to Cougar fans?

CW: We're playing really good right now, and it's exciting. We'll be champs this year and years to come. So come watch!! And I'll work on my dunking skills for you.

Upcoming Home Games:

February 23 vs. San Diego State, 2pm

February 26 vs. New Mexico, 6pm

March 8 vs. TCU, 5:30pm **By Rachael Cutler**

Photos Courtesy of BYUCougars.com

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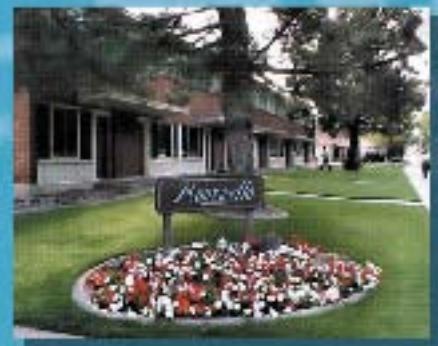
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