

HOROSCOPE

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You are in a situation in which you are learning to fit in. You want friends but there are definite conditions that must be met. A particular person (not necessarily you) stands out in the crowd.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You are challenged to have both breadth and depth of knowledge. You're impatient to know everything and have trouble doing justice to your studies. You need to select the best representatives.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You can take a severe attitude toward others now. You tend to think it's fair but you may be taking an unfriendly attitude unnecessarily. Don't be blind to the good points of your friends.



CANCER (June 21-July 22): You have a powerful connection with certain people today. Some can be powerful friends but others can be unrelenting foes. Extremes of attitudes can be expected now.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You take a serious attitude toward people today. It's not fun as usual and perhaps some hard choices have to be made without regard for friendship. Important priorities must be set now.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): This can be a day for great efforts at artistic self-expression. Be careful in relationships now, as your personal biases are close to the surface and powerfully influence your thinking.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You may be too willing to compromise when you are in the right. Your task is to convince people and bring them over to your side. You must learn what others want and deal from there.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You love a mystery, so you must be careful about what is worth investigating. You become single-minded about new intellectual interests, which you want to master quickly.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You focus on what's in front of you and let the future take care of itself. You may need to pay extra attention to making plans to have a better idea of what you should be doing now.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Something grabs your attention and you're prone to obsess on it. You are challenged to study many sides of one topic instead of just one so that you have greater breadth of understanding.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You would do well to learn from someone who can teach you. You need to have guidance, someone needs you to learn. You are very concerned with precedent, past lessons and loyalty.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You are challenged to let in the right people and let go of the wrong ones. You must be clear about who is a positive influence and who is negative. Do not let yourself be controlled.



HOLLYWOOD

'24' getting movie treatment?



Television series '24' may be made into a film in the recent future, it has emerged.

Twentieth Century Fox's film and TV studios have reportedly recruited 'State of Play' scriptwriter Billy Ray to pen the story.

However, insiders say that the project is still in the preliminary stages, Variety reports.

The TV show's key exec producers, including Sutherland, may back the movie.

Seemingly, Brian Grazer's Imagine Entertainment, which produces the show along with 20th Century Fox TV, is involved too.

'24' is an American serial action/drama television series broadcast by Fox in the United States and syndicated worldwide. The series debuted November 6, 2001.

'24' is a thriller presented in "real time"; each minute of airtime corresponds to a minute in the lives of the characters.

HOT FIGURE

British PM turns to bananas for poll boost



Election fever is mounting in Britain, and Prime Minister Gordon Brown is preparing himself for the campaign trail by eating up to nine bananas a day, a newspaper reported on Monday.

Brown is convinced fruit can bring "radiance," a spokesman said, while declining to confirm the Sun report that the premier is scoffing the fruit as an alternative to his favourite KitKat chocolate bars.

Brown is gearing up for an uphill battle to hold power against the main opposition Conservatives, in elections due before June but expected on May 6.

"The prime minister has always taken the view that a balanced diet is very important," Brown's official spokesman told reporters Monday, neither denying nor confirming the banana story.

He added: "Portions of fruit and veg taken on a daily basis can only lead to good health and radiance."

BOLLYWOOD

Karan Johar meets Mumbai's top cop



Despite the verbal battle between Bollywood actor Shahrukh Khan and Shiv Sena activists coming to an end, Bollywood filmmaker Karan Johar is taking no chances ahead of the release of his film 'My Name is Khan' and has met Mumbai Police Commissioner D Sivanandan.

Johar has sought police security ahead of the film's release, and told media that he has received assurances of full protection and that the film will be released on schedule.

The representatives of the film's distributor, FOX Searchlight, are also meeting the top Mumbai cop along with multiplex owners.

Earlier, there were reports that posters of Bollywood flick "My Name is Khan" were being destroyed in Mumbai.

The entire team of the flick "My Name is Khan" is worried that theaters in Mumbai are not selling tickets and there are no advance bookings.

ODDLY ENOUGH

Woman in Saudi Arabia sues hotel \$1.3m over mosquito bites

A woman in Saudi Arabia sued a five-star hotel over mosquito bites, a Saudi newspaper reported Monday.



Al Hayat reported that a court in the city of Jidda started considering the lawsuit Monday as the woman demanded that hotel owners pay her 5 million Saudi riyals (\$1.3 million) in damages.

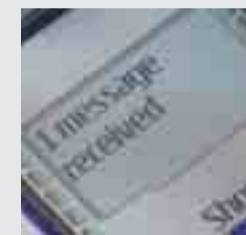
She claimed that as a result of numerous mosquito bites she had suffered while staying at the hotel she fell ill, started having severe pains and itching, while her skin turned red.

She also said a doctor advised her to undergo a medical examination and start treatment in a hospital.

All attempts by hotel staff to hush up the conflict were to no avail. The woman notified the hotel owners that she is suing them.

Tourist's texts to Greece save him in New Zealand

A tourist who got lost on a New Zealand mountain was rescued after sending text messages to his family in Greece, newspapers and websites reported on Monday.



Marios Symeonidis was visiting Mount Ruapehu, home to New Zealand's largest skiing and snowboarding area, this weekend with a friend, but then lost his companion while taking photographs, website www.stuff.co.nz reported.

He was not equipped for an overnight stay and was only wearing light clothing.

Symeonidis sent text messages to his family in Greece, telling them he was lost. They then passed on the information to police in New Zealand via Greek emergency services.

Record: Man swallows 18 swords

An Australian sword-swallower said he set a world record by showing 18 sharp swords down his gullet.



Chayne Hultgren, 31, nicknamed the Space Cowboy for his talents, said his record for swallowing 18 2.8-inch sharp swords shattered his previous record of 17 swords, set in 2008, The (Sydney) Daily Telegraph reported Monday.

"It's amazing," Hultgren said after setting the record in Sydney. "I've been preparing for this since I was 16. It is definitely one of my greatest achievements so far."

The performer said his art takes years of practice.

"I don't just straight away grab 18 blades and shove them down my throat -- you've got to practice a lot and build up to it. So I stretch my throat with hoses and use a few different techniques to basically enable me to do what, until now, has been impossible," he said.

Col. Sanders statue stolen from KFC

A Kentucky KFC is offering free chicken for the return of a \$1,200 bronze bust of KFC founder Colonel Sanders stolen from in front of the fast-food eatery.



Rhonda Hall, manager of the KFC in Berea, said authorities told them four young men were spotted fleeing the scene in a silver passenger car, WLKY-TV, Louisville, Ky., reported Monday.

"It's like, this big, his whole head. It's really detailed, all the features and everything. Some employees were in the dining room when four young guys came in," Hall said. "When she came back to the dining area, it was gone."

Hall said the restaurant is offering a reward of \$500 worth of free chicken for the return of the bust.

Class ring found after nearly 20 years

A Florida graduate who lost his 1989 class ring when it fell from a cruise ship 21 years ago said an Ohio woman called to say she found the ring.



Tom Whitney of Orlando, who accidentally dropped the 1989 West Orange High ring from a Port Canaveral-based cruise ship the year of his graduation, said he received an e-mail last Monday from a woman who said she believed the ring had been found, The Orlando (Fla.) Sentinel reported Monday.

"It was just this Monday, and I got a message from a woman who said she has my ring," Whitney said.

The message said the ring was found by the woman's metal detector-wielding father along Florida's Daytona Beach.

Great paying government jobs

Forbes recently reported that the government will be hiring 600,000 more employees during the next four years. If that's not reason enough, USA Today reported that the number of government employees earning six-figure salaries has increased too.

Here is mix of some of the highest-paying (and coolest-sounding) jobs currently being offered in government. Even if you are perfectly content in your current line of work, just the job descriptions for these positions are worth checking out.

Special Agent, FBI

I believe any position with the FBI at the end of it just has to sound so much cooler. But Special Agent already sounds pretty sweet.

The FBI is currently accepting applications for this position through the end of September this year. According to the job description, "As an FBI Special Agent you may work on matters including terrorism, foreign counterintelligence, cyber crime, organized crime, white-collar crime, public corruption, civil rights violations, financial crime, bribery, bank robbery, extortion, kidnapping, air piracy, interstate criminal activity, fugitive and drug-trafficking matters, and other violations of federal statutes."

Annual Salary: \$57,000 and \$74,000
Supervisory IT Specialist, FBI

This position may not sound quite as spectacular as Special Agent but 1) It's still at the FBI and 2) It pays more than \$100,000. This job "includes the procurement of equipment, hardware/software maintenance, training, design changes, long range planning, and all other system integration within the division." The FBI started accepting applications for this position earlier this week and will only continue to do so through Feb. 16, so hurry up.

Annual Salary: \$123,000 and \$155,000

Aerospace Engineer, Department of Transportation

To all the engineers out there who may have been labeled as nerds in college (or anytime thereafter), may I suggest you try out to be an aerospace engineer? This job entails designing and developing civil aircrafts, but you're bound to get some good stories while working here, which you can use later at parties. The Department of Transportation just started accepting applications for this position earlier in the week and will continue to do so through Feb. 23.

Annual Salary: \$91,000 and \$141,000

Writer/Editor, Securities and Exchange Commission

For all the struggling journalists out there. We found a position as a writer and editor at the Securities and Exchange Commission that pays as much as \$171,000. What do you have to do? Just proofread and update materials related to the financial services industry. Not too shabby. They are currently accepting applications from now through Feb. 8, so hurry up!

Annual Salary: \$96,000 - \$171,000

Archaeologist, Department of the Interior

Maybe I just have a secret fascination with Indiana Jones, but for whatever reason, the idea of being an archaeologist has always appealed to me. According to the job description, "You will provide expert advice, assistance, and guidance for preservation, public interpretation, and research related to archeological resources in the United States and beyond. The duties will involve work regarding units of the National Park system, as well as archaeological projects, programs, and resources related to other Federal agencies, Indian tribes, and other public agencies." The Department of the Interior is accepting applications until Feb. 15.

IRANIAN COOKERY

Kalleh-Joosh

Ingredients: (4 servings)

ground lamb or beef, 400 grams / walnuts, 2 spoonfuls / kashk (dried or thick whey), 1-2 cups (obtain from an Iranian store) / medium onions, two / mint, 100 grams / cooking oil / turmeric, 1/2 teaspoon (optional) / salt / black pepper

Directions:

Wash and finely chop mint. Peel and grate onions. Add onions and mint to meat with salt and black pepper and mix well. Shape meat into small balls.

Heat some cooking oil in a pan until hot. Add meat-balls and fry for a few minutes until colour changes. Add a cup of hot water, turmeric, and a bit of salt and cook over medium heat for about 10 minutes. Add kashk and cook for another 2-3 minutes. Remove from heat, mix in crushed walnuts, and serve.

LIFE STYLE

Different Colors Describe Happiness vs. Depression

The colors we use to describe emotions may be more useful than you think, according to new research.

The study found that people with depression or anxiety were more likely to associate their mood with the color gray, while happier people preferred yellow. The results, which are detailed today in the journal BMC Medical Research Methodology, could help doctors gauge the moods of children and other patients who have trouble communicating verbally.

Colors are often used as metaphors for moods, but no one had systematically researched color associations, study co-author and gastroenterologist Peter Whorwell of University Hospital South Manchester told LiveScience. To investigate, he and his colleagues picked eight colors — red, orange, green, purple, blue, yellow, pink and brown — and split each into four shades.

MICRO FICTION

That kilt is very becoming!

By Evan Greenspoon

It started in the park, the bagpipe drone. He walked to the street. It followed him there. He ran to his apartment. He stuffed his ears. Still, the bagpipes. His doctors scratched their heads. He whined to his friends and heard only the drone. He moved to a compound of similarly-afflicted people. But even they took solace in his plight. Most of them just heard flutes. "Fate plays cruel jokes," he concluded. And when all sounds turned against him, he embraced the man he had become and dressed — for himself and for the world — like a punchline.

INNOVATION

Microsoft E-health Research Taps Xbox, Mobile Phones

Microsoft is researching how gadgets like the company's Xbox game machine, surface computers and accelerometers in mobile phones could be used to improve health care.

One of those projects, an application called MyLife for Windows Mobile phones, could help a user log health metrics like blood pressure and weight, and monitor daily activities including exercise, walking and eating. Ongoing work on the application could allow it to help personal logs using built-in devices on a phone like its camera, its accelerometer and its microphone.