



favoritism
in



sports



discrimination keeps many
players on the sidelines

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More and more of us are every race

Sacramento Bee
Editorial

Race is a sociological, not biological, construct. The leading theory of human origin postulates that we are all descended from the same ancestral Eve, a woman born in Africa 100,000 to 200,000 years ago. Thus, we are all related; we are all multiracial. To be biologically precise — we are all one race.

That said, the sociology of race remains a powerful force; throughout history, it has been a mostly negative one. What is different today — reflected in a new study by the Public Policy Institute of California — is a welcome shift in attitude toward more racial tolerance. The tolerance is documented by the growing number of mixed-race births in California: 69,954 in 1997, 14 percent of the total and the third largest category of births in the state behind Hispanics and non-Hispanic whites.

Of course, mixed-race births are hardly new. Anyone who's followed the tale of the "black" descendants of Thomas Jefferson knows that. But unlike such births in the past, today they are openly, even proudly, acknowledged, the result of more mixed-race and mixed-ethnic marriages, representing the growing acceptance of those unions. More Americans today are willing, indeed eager, to identify themselves as multiracial. Call it the Tiger Woods effect.

Sacramento leads the way. The PPI study found that Sacramento County has the highest proportion of multiracial births of any major metropolitan area in the state — 19 percent.

This changing demographic reality poses challenges for government. Under pressure from people of mixed race, the U.S. Census Bureau now allows respondents for the first time to mark more than one race and ethnicity box on the census form. Other government agencies continue to resist. Standardized school test forms still list performance results using narrow racial categories. Students are either white, black, Asian or Hispanic — with no recognition that many are also black and white or Asian and Hispanic or another combination of the dizzying array of race and ethnic mixtures so common in Sacramento classrooms today.

Given the PPI study, it would be tempting to rhapsodize about the melting pot and suggests doing away with all those nettlesome race boxes. It's too early for that. The sad truth remains that race and ethnicity still really do matter in America, and that makes solid information about those attributes essential. Things have changed, but not enough, not yet.



Dr. Earl Carter

"The whites live in the suburbs and the blacks are in the city. That's the way it is in the churches. The eleven o'clock hour is still the most segregated hour in our country just as Martin Luther King said because we haven't learned how to accept the differences and to make no difference out of the difference."

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he said...

A Man's Man
by Josh Ezzell

Marriage. It's an institution that most people go through at least once. But why? Why would men go through such an ordeal if there's a chance of divorce?

Different reasons.

Sometimes men do it because they think it's the right thing to do. A perfect example is a man getting a woman pregnant. When this happens, some men try to do the honorable thing and get married. Many times this is a mistake.

These marriages often end up in divorce — the parents end up bitter and kids get hurt.

Another reason men get married is they think they're in love. They might be, but people and feelings change. This is especially true when men go through a mid life crisis.

The mid-life crisis makes men do crazy things. Men suddenly decide they don't like their current wives, and they want a new one. Often the new wife is younger and doesn't make the man as happy as his old wife did. I've heard from men that have been married multiple times that their first wife was usually their best.

Then there are the successful marriages. Since Angela thinks I'm stuck in the Eisenhower administration, I say let's go back forty years to when people stayed married. But in our society, which is supposedly better, successful marriages are a rarity. But why are people getting divorced today?

Strains. There are so many strains on us today. Money and careers are two of the biggies. Money can strain even the best relationships. Forty years ago, money wasn't a problem. Men controlled it and women didn't have any say. Society, of course, has changed. Now women are considered equals, which means arguments occur.

Careers also damage relationships. Forty years ago, women stayed at home and men worked. Now, women have careers, and as a result, marriages suffer. As a result, men and women don't see each other as much as they should and they drift apart.

Angela says that marriage is bad because she's against life-long commitments. She believes that you break a promise if you get a divorce, but she is willing to live with people for a long period of time.

Well, she's right about divorce breaking a promise. But I disagree with her about living with people for a long time. Living together is cool for a little while. It's a good way to see if you can stand a person.

Eventually, though, you need to get married. It's the best way to show your love and commitment to a person. It's too easy to quit when you live with somebody.

Married people can't just quit when things are rocky. They have to stick around and make things work.

The alternative is divorce, and it is a long, tedious process.

she said...

Atypical Woman
by Angela White

Marriage today makes about as much sense as Josh attending an equal rights convention.

It started out as a form of ownership — women were considered properties of their husbands. Until far too recently women were still expected to take a subservient role in marriage, playing the homemaker in some black and white Nick-at-Nite rerun. Things began to change in the '60s, when women began leaving the prison they called home and create their own identity.

Now that relationships are slowly becoming more and more equal, one must ponder why exactly marriage still exists in our society. Making a lifelong commitment in this day and age is simply irrational. Nobody can predict how long love will last. It can span from seconds to decades. Yet when one commits to marriage, he or she is making a promise to stay with one person for the rest of his or her life. It should come as no surprise that this promise is commonly broken.

Too many people in this society need a piece a paper to prove that they're a bona fide committed couple. What they don't seem to realize is that they will need yet another piece of paper, a bit harder to obtain, to prove that they are no longer the aforementioned couple. I could at least respect marriage if there were no divorce. But it has become an institution so riddled with failure and broken promises that I cannot help but separate myself from it entirely.

So why do people get married when the success rate is so low? Religion? Parents? Because your girlfriend won't have sex with you? Whatever the reason, many people enter it because of unrealistic expectations.

The worst reason to get married, or to stay in an unhappy marriage for that matter, is "for the children." It is ludicrous to believe that children will be better off with two unhappily married parents than two single parents. Everyone involved in this scenario ends up bitter and damaged.

I have nothing against long-term monogamous relationships. "Monogamous" is easy enough to define, but what is considered long-term? Who the hell knows?! Long-term is whatever you want it to be. A month? Great. A year? Wonderful. Half a dozen decades? Whatever. But the rest of your life? You may want to reconsider that one. Marriage may have its advantages, but the disadvantages far outweigh them. And most of the advantages can be achieved without that ridiculous piece of paper. So forget about fighting about finances or closet space or who left the toilet seat up or who left the makeup on the bathroom sink. Just live your life the way you want it. Break away from the restraints of conformity.

Or as our opinions editor Colin would say, "Screw it."

FEEDBACK

letter to the editor

While a very informative article highlighting the high ground, if you will, or relatively safe and informative web sites contained within the World Wide Web, I feel that this synopsis failed to delve into the depths of the "perilous waters" as expressed in the title.

There is little, besides a short paragraph warning of the dangers of credit card fraud, to alert the unsuspecting internet "surfer" of the "perilous waters" in which he/she will be swimming. Yes, the web is in a state at the moment that is almost completely unregulated by government laws. Yes, this is freedom of speech in its most pure, raw, powerful form. Yes, this is the medium of expression for the masses that humans have searched for since the glorious day that the "idea" was conceptualized. Yes, this is the "place" where you can write or display anything and express your viewpoint and lifestyle without subjugation to criminal law. And yes, it is a beautiful thing.

Yet as I ponder this newfound freedom of expression, an overpowering force knocks me to the floor like an arrow of sunlight from Apollo's bow. My mind screams in agony, "What of moral and social decay?"

We Americans, as the good little capitalist consumers that we are, must at some point realize that most everything we see and utilize is produced by big business in some form or another. This also holds true for the internet.

In this aspect, by "surfing the net," you are subject to consumerism in mass quantities. Big business creates and owns web space, and you pay rent to have your little piece. You pay the ISP to log on, or part of your tuition goes to the university to pay the bill for the campus ISP service.

Finally, after all this, you log on and realize that you cannot find a single site devoid of some advertisement or another. These businesses also pay the controllers of the web space and the ISPs for advertising space, which you actually pay in the first place by purchasing their products. So, in one aspect, the internet is a teeming hub of big business, advertising consumerism that you must first buy into before you can access ANY sort of information.

Now that it is established that you are paying for this supposed information, is what you find worth the price? This depends on what you are looking for and the information you are blindly willing to believe.

If you are looking for hardcore pornography, bestiality, and pictures of genuine rape, murder, and dismemberment, you have come to the right place. Interested in full-scale terrorism? Look no farther. How about information on the consumption of illicit drugs and how to manufacture them? No problem. Yet I have been hard pressed to find trustworthy sources of academia, biographies, and history that would take me less time to find in the campus library. The web versions are also less detailed and very condensed, packing volumes of information into a 17" computer screen.

Of course one must use his/her own judgment in trusting anything posted on the web, but many people have been seriously injured or killed by

following simple instructions found at certain web sites [experimenting with chemical reactions, drug usage, etc.]. What works for one doesn't always work for another. This brings me to my last point, the advent of communication technology.

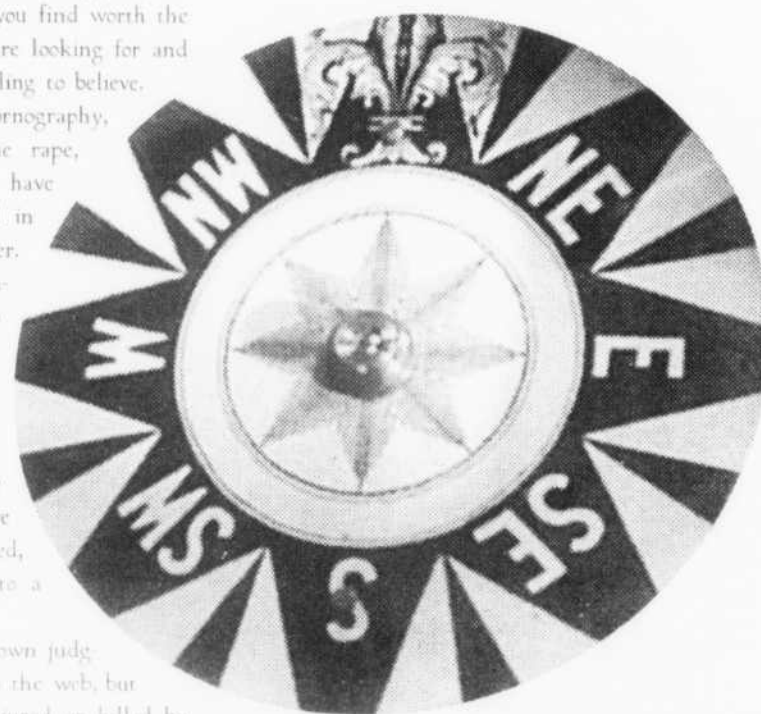
Yes, I will testify to the fact that in many ways the internet allows many people to communicate who would not have the chance to otherwise. If it were not for this medium of communication, somebody living here in the U.S. would not be able to communicate with schoolchildren in Kenya about the differences in culture. This is a wonderful thing.

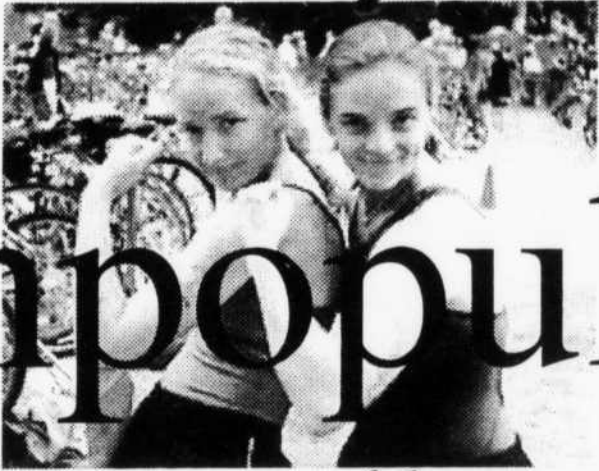
Yet, one must question the efficiency of written communication here. I am a firm believer in the written word, and I believe that all humans possess skills to express themselves clearly and with feeling through a written medium. But at this moment in time with many of us these skills are not refined enough to represent complete concepts and feelings to one another through a written medium. The process ends up being very crude and unfeeling.

Heavy reliance upon this form of communication could also lead to the eventual dulling of the skills of social relation in face-to-face communication and misanthropic tendencies. When you can work from your home, order food from your home, pay your bills from your home and communicate with other humans from your home, why go out into the mean, nasty, big city and deal with other human beings who don't want to deal with you either? This will eventually cause problems with social skills in the future.

There are still many moral and societal issues that must be critically evaluated when dealing with the internet. I do not think that it is "far too late to decide if the internet is 'good' or 'bad'." I think that we must confront these issues while we still have control over the power to change them for the better. Yes, I relish the opportunity to "cast off and sail into cyberspace," but I am not so willing to cast off the moral values and social ideals that upheld the standard of communication in the "Old World."

Mike Amrozowicz





Unpopular

sports strike out

by Robin Wallace
FLASH! Editor

Whether it be a male athlete or a male sport being favored over a female sport or vice-versa, the fact remains that in various ways the gender of an athlete or a sport renders unequal treatment.

Regardless if it is at the scholastic, collegiate or professional level, the three major sports are football, basketball and baseball. These "superstar" sports are thought of as "farm leagues" at the collegiate level, rather than an athletic component to a solid education. Consequently, the funding, facilities and staffing for football, basketball and baseball are considerably more than what other sports receive.

Such preferential treatment of "superstars" would never be tolerated by other departments at universities. Imagine if the English department gave huge scholarships and assigned the best professors only to the future "Stephen Kings" while hanging other students out to dry. Sounds rather insane when it's put that way, yet such practices in the field of athletics are perpetuated by the media.

The media covers these sports, which are overwhelmingly male, with the idea that "everyone" is interested in just these three.

"I'll admit that I give the majority of the coverage to the football team, just because I think that that is what people want to read," said Josh Ezzell, sports co-editor of "Sidelines." "We first have to fully cover the sanctioned sports before we can think about covering club sports."

Within these three major sports, which sit on the top of the totem pole, the female half of the sport is neither non-existent or simply left behind the curtain. This age-old battle of the sexes has dictated the careers of even the most accomplished female athletes. As a result, above any other group of athletes, women are the most invisible when it comes to media coverage.

Only 5 percent of televised sports news covers women and in print media, a study of four major newspapers found that fewer than 5 percent of all sports stories exclusively covered women.

Generally, the media reports on what readers and viewers want to read and see, yet a featured columnist on thriveonline wrote, "I say provide us with all the players and stories, male and female, and let the readers filter it how they wish."

Some retaliate against the lack of media coverage in female athletics, like Amy Love, creator of "Real Sports," a magazine solely devoted to female athletes and their sports.

"I came up with the idea because I was dissatisfied with the media's coverage of women's sports," said Love. "What has been lacking is a regular source of news and information - a way to follow the progression of a sports season - and behind-the-scenes stories about female athletes." Congress, in 1972, passed the Educational Amendments. One section of this law, Title IX, prohibits discrimination against girls and women in federally-funded education, including in athletics programs.



While Title IX may seemingly have addressed the problem of gender discrimination, there are still significantly fewer female athletes, as well as coaches and administrators compared to their male counterparts.

In 1972, 16 percent of college athletes were women, and 20 years later the number more than doubled to 36 percent. As more women are playing sports the meager amount of funding they receive is "disturbing," according to NCAA. After NCAA had conducted a study analyzing expenditures for women's and men's athletics, it was determined that men received 70 percent of all scholarship money, 77 percent of operating budgets and 83 percent of recruiting money.

In a more local setting, the 1998-99 MTSU Disclosure Report on Athletics, reports that 33 percent of all MTSU athletic scholarship money goes to women; 33 percent of the operating budget is allocated for women sports and 38 percent of the total monetary recruiting sources goes towards female athletes.

"There's a huge increase in the number of female athletes, but when it comes down to recruiting and being able to sign a player, it has to do with the money - the perks and the scholarships," said MTSU women's head volleyball coach, Lisa Kissee.

Such inequities deny women the opportunity to benefit from sports, and frequently ends their participation in their sport on the collegiate level or to attend college at all because they were not offered an athletic scholarship. But these are just the consequences that surface if a girl grows into a woman with her sport.

"The reality is that if this little girl does become an athlete, we know that a lot of good things will happen to her," said Jim Iams, University of Georgia women's volleyball coach. "She is going to do better in school. She is going to be less likely to be involved with drugs, alcohol or in an abusive relationship."

Although there is a lot of discrimination directed towards female athletics, certain male sports and athletes have felt as much bias as some female athletes. Nearly every high school has a girls' volleyball team, but rarely does it offer a boys' team or does a high school boys' volleyball league exist. If a boy wants to play volleyball in a scholastic setting he has to fight for the right to be allowed established girls' team. This scenario parallels the situation of a wrestling, boxing or ice hockey team where a girl has to contest the legal system, school board, coach and teammates to be allowed the opportunity to compete in a high school sport only offered to males.

Very few high schools offer gymnastics as a funded sport, yet on the Olympic level discrimination is still present. When the media covers gymnastics, the focus tends to lean heavily toward the women and not the men. This is another example of sports and gender discrimination. The sport faces discrimination created by the school which will not fund a gymnastics program.

Continued on page 6



Within the sport, discrimination continues as female gymnasts receive more media attention, which leads to advertising endorsements, thus creating a larger fan following of the women's division. All of these factors heighten the popularity of women's gymnastics, while the men's competitions and achievements receive little attention, making their division's popularity suffer. This scenario can again be flip-flopped to another sport and the opposite gender.

Some argue that the current system is fair. The system supports the theory that whichever sport brings in the most, gets the most in return via publicity, equipment, uniforms, better transportation and overnight accommodations. Moreover, if each sport were as supported by the high school or university through funding, and by the media through in-depth and frequent coverage as the three "major" sports, there would be a tremendous increase in public interest and profitable revenue.

So many sports lose athletes in high school because the perks and honor of significant achievements simply are not given. Many scholastic athletes do not see the need to join a team that has no advancement beyond high school and into the collegiate level. Though, if the sport does advance into the college arena, the perks and recognition are like high school, amounting to nothing but riddley-winks. Those athletes who manage to compete on the college level often end their careers at that point because a professional field of their sport does not exist or pay large enough salary for a training athlete or his/her family to solely live on. Thus, too many sports lose more athletes and popularity.

If "sideline" sports were given the same benefits that are given to the three major sports, in terms of salary and publicity, the professional level would rise in the number of sports, its fans and its athletes. Under the current system, an unpopular sport and its athlete are not given the opportunity to prove themselves capable of sustaining an audience and a profit.

Such sports and athletes are not heard from or watched because in the public's eye, "they" do not exist. For instance, does a men's field hockey league or a women's football league exist? If they do exist, how are these sports to gain interest and support if they are constantly kept from funding and media attention?

To a promising athlete or a hopeful Olympian, dominating sports that control the financial and media spotlights can literally end their career before it even has a chance to begin. In recent years, the number of professional sports, including women's, has risen; still many athletes and their sports remain on the "endangered species list." Not only the survival, but the very success of these sports is crucial to the development of our society.

The broadened success and popularity of these sports can break the stereotypes that bind children and parents into believing that there is only one true sport or set of sports. These endangered sports represent diversity as well as various types of skills and strengths that exist not only in our society but also in the universal human race.

So what can you do about the discrimination that sports and individual athletes face? For starters, begin by supporting women's athletics and those sports not often covered, such as our rugby, wrestling and even equestrian teams. Pay attention to what and how the media covers sports and demand more thorough and frequent coverage of the sport you want to follow.

Also analyze the presence of male coaches on female sports teams and vice-versa. [In 1972, the year that Title IX was signed into law, more than 90 percent of women's college teams were coached by women. Now, half of women's college teams are coached by men, but only about 2 percent of men's teams are coached by women.] Although there is little money for coaching female athletics, a female coach is found to get less than a male coaching the same women's team.

"I feel like we're finally getting some better support than in the past — which is better than what is has been before, but still it is not equitable," said Kissee.

by Jared Wilson
Staff Writer

Academy's looking back, films march forward

With all the attention on the Golden Globes and Academy Awards, the focus in Hollywood is last year's films. Here's a peek, with "Pro and Con" prestidigitation, at the here and now with a roster of upcoming spring movies.

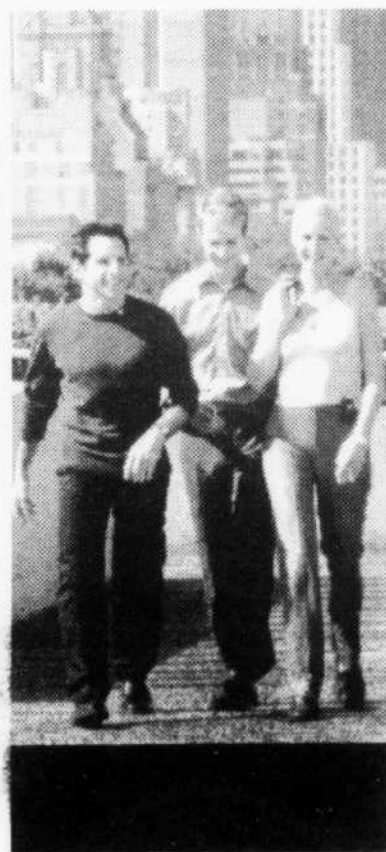
March

"The Next Best Thing": A one time fling leaves Madonna pregnant with gay best pal Rupert Everett's baby, in a bittersweet look at a different kind of family. PRO: Rupert Everett. CON: Madonna.

"High Fidelity": John Cusack stars as a record store clerk in this quirky comedy. PRO: Also stars character actor Jack Black, who's great in everything he does. CON: Also stars Lili Taylor, who always looks sedated.

"Erin Brockovich": "Pretty Woman" meets "Norma Rae," as Julia Roberts becomes enmeshed in a multi-million dollar lawsuit. PRO: It's directed by Steven Soderbergh, the same maestro who brought us "Out of Sight" and "The Limey." CON: What's with that title?

"U-571": Matthew McConaughey stars in a WWII submarine thriller. PRO: Supporting cast includes Harvey Keitel and Bill Paxton. CON: Has the potential to be a WWII "Young Guns."



"What Planet Are You From?": Garry Shandling stars as an alien visiting Earth to get some nookie. PRO: A Garry Shandling film? I'm there! CON: Anyone remember "Earth Girls Are Easy," "My Stepmother's An Alien," etc? Comedic alien flicks don't have a great track record.

"Ghost Dog": The Way of the Samurai: Indie auteur Jim Jarmusch casts Forest Whitaker as a modern-day traveling samurai — sort of a "Yojimbo" meets the WuTang Clan. PRO: Might be unique enough to work. CON: We've never seen Whitaker carry a film single-handedly.

"Mission to Mars": This NASA-approved sci-fi action film follows our first trip to the Red Planet. PRO: With Brian DePalma directing a distinguished cast including Gary Sinise, Tim Robbins, and, perhaps the most versatile actor in show business, Don Cheadle, this film seems like a sure thing. CON: Could be just another popcorn actioner like "Armageddon."

"Rules of Engagement": Samuel L. Jackson saves Tommy Lee Jones' life during war time, and later Jones must defend Jackson in a courtroom. PRO: Samuel L. Jackson and Tommy Lee Jones. CON: Could be more yelling-acting a la "The Negotiator."

April

"Frequency": Jim Caviezel operates a ham radio during a lightning storm and finds himself speaking to his



deceased father, Dennis Quaid. Suspense thriller ensues. PRO: Jim Caviezel was incredible in "The Thin Red Line." CON: The stuff hits the fan after grown up Jim speaks to himself as a child. Guess they bought Doc Brown's theories about interrupting the space-time continuum.

"Keeping the Faith": A priest and a rabbi walk into a bar . . . only this time the priest is Edward Norton, the rabbi is Ben Stiller, and they both love the same girl. PRO: Have Edward Norton or Ben Stiller ever done wrong? CON: Goofy Jenna Elfman is the girl.

"28 Days": In the tradition of "Clean and Sober" and "When a Man Loves a Woman," Sandra Bullock stars in this rehab dramedy. PRO: Supporting cast includes Steve Buscemi. CON: Lead cast includes Sandra Bullock.

"Time Code 2000": Director Mike Figgis shot this experimental film in one long continuous take! PRO: Great cast includes Holly Hunter, Laurie Metcalf, Stellan Skarsgard and Salma Hayek. CON: One long take?

"American Psycho": Christian Bale stars in this adaptation of Bret Easton Ellis' [basically] pornographic book. PRO: Most of the violence is toned down to emphasize Ellis' takes on '80s greed, commercialism and materialism. CON: It will be tough to picture "Empire of the Sun"'s kind-hearted child as a misogynistic serial killer.

"Return to Me": I've seen a sneak preview of this film starring Minnie Driver as the recipient of David Duchovny's dying wife's heart, and it is phenomenal! PRO: The best romantic comedy since "Jerry Maguire" also stars David Alan Grier, Robert Loggia, Carroll O'Connor, James
continued page 10



by Nathalie Mornu
Staff Writer

Escher creations fuse art and math

Maurits Cornelius Escher became famous for his highly-detailed woodcuts of impossible architectural constructions and impossible perspective. One print features a never-ending square of stairs. In another, a closed circuit of waterways constantly feeds itself.

Escher enjoyed creating visual paradoxes. In *Drawing Hands*, he depicts his own hands drawing each other. Another print shows a drawing on a book-strewn table. On the illustration, a design of stylized, interlocking lizards become real lizards towards the edge of the sheet. The lizards burst off the page, clamber over the books, and eventually circle back to the drawing, slowly melting back into stylized images.

"People enjoy that sort of visual punning," explained Christie Nuell, professor of art. She said that much of Escher's popularity lies in the visual games he created.

An exhibit at the Knoxville Museum of Art, which opened Feb. 4, offers audiences the opportunity to see actual prints of Escher's intricate

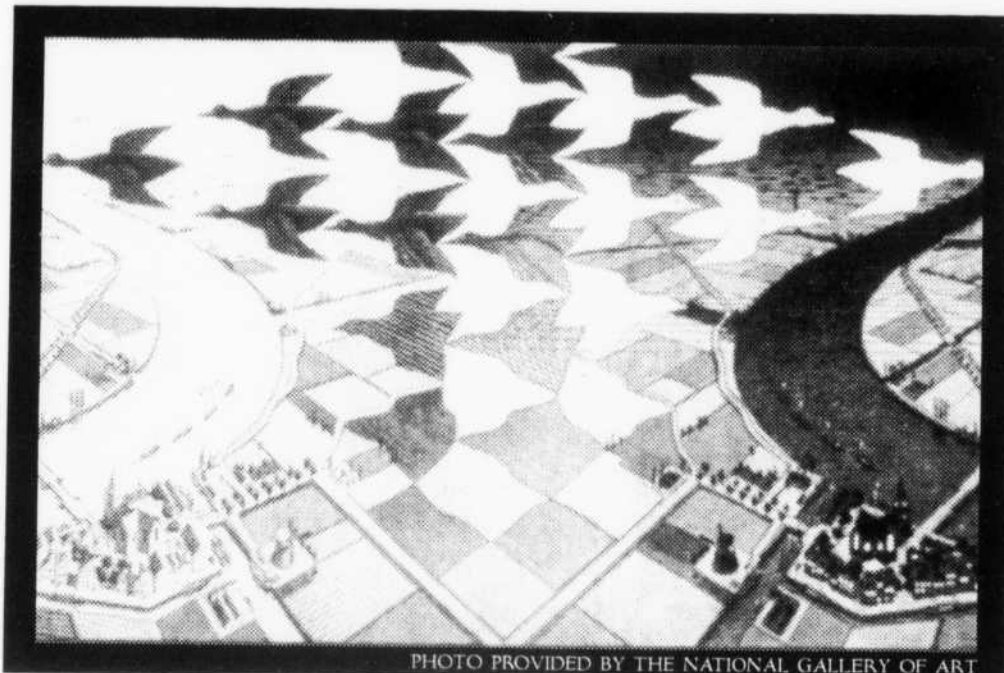


PHOTO PROVIDED BY THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

artwork, rather than the matchbook-sized reproductions typically pictured in the margins of math textbooks.

Charles Jansen, professor of art history, describes Escher as a sort of cult figure in the art world. Escher, who died in 1972 at the age of 74, attained international acclaim during his lifetime.

"He has always enjoyed an enormous popular response," said Jansen.

The exhibit of 85 works, on loan from the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., is the most comprehensive collection of Escher's art outside of the Netherlands. It features the artist's most recognized works. The Knoxville, Tenn., exhibit is the only showing in the Southeast, and the last stop in this country.

Later in his career, Escher drafted tessellations, complex images of interlocking repeated shapes. One of the prints in the show depicts women's faces interlocked at 180 degrees with

continued page 10

Theater
review

by Ruth Peltier
STAFF WRITER

Paying respect to love come and gone

It was a dark and stormy night ... no wait! That line belongs to Snoopy; may he always find food in his dish and water in his bowl, wherever retired cartoon characters rest in peace.

It was, indeed, dark and stormy though, as I drove down Old Hickory Boulevard looking for Lakewood Theater. Hidden away in the little Town Lakewood, this theater is one of the best-kept secrets in the Midstate. Built circa 1925 as a Becker's Bakery, the old building is on the main street of Lakewood, a tiny almost forgotten town that has disappeared into neighboring, Old Hickory.

Inside the building, the feel of a bygone age continues. The relaxed atmosphere in the lobby invites you to sit and chat with the reservations manager, Hilda Armstrong, who assures you that tickets are not necessary. She knows who has paid. This is obviously true. She greets many of the 71 theatergoers by name.

Armstrong, 83, is a delightful, gray-haired woman with a buoyant spirit who has been part of Lakewood Theater since it began in 1981.

The 1981 performance was "Our Town" which the new theater group presented outdoors on the shore of the lake.

Lakewood Theater then rambled from City Hall to the Community Club Building and the High School before settling down in the present building in 1983. The theater is small but obviously has used the space well. There are 75 seats "when all the chairs are up," Armstrong said. The atmosphere within the theater is as relaxed as it is in the lobby. The director of the play, James A. McCann II warns the audience to wait until intermission to use the

rest room facilities, because they are also in use as quick-changing rooms for the actors, "unless you don't mind company." McCann dedicated the performance to his grandmother, who, along with his parents, sat in the first row and seemed to enjoy the show very much.

"Cemetery Club" tells the story of three women who had been friends for many years, at first as part

"Cemetery Club" tells the story of three women

who had been friends for many years, at first as

part of three couples and eventually widows.

of three couples and eventually as widows. Their friendship now revolves around monthly visits to the cemetery where all three of their husbands are buried. The women are all approaching widowhood in different ways.

Lucille is "playing the field." Myra Anderson does an excellent job of presenting her as a happy go lucky gad-about, yet when she finally reveals her true feelings, she remains completely believable.

Doris wants to spend the rest of her life mourning her husband. For Doris, life ended when her husband died and she is determined to continue her monthly visits to the cemetery.

Lucille's behavior horrifies her and she is not at all supportive when Ida seems to be following

Lucille's example. Carol Caprio brings depth to what could have been an extremely one-dimensional character.

Carol Shaw gave a masterful performance as Ida, who wavers between the two others. She mourns her husband, but realizes that she has to move on with her own life. Yet, she is not ready for the life that Lucille is urging upon her.

Sam, the local butcher, meets the women at the cemetery on one of their monthly visits. He is a widower and he and Ida begin to date. This impels both of the other women into action, Doris because she is shocked and Lucille because she does not think Ida should settle for first guy she dates. The disaster that results from their efforts to break up their friend's romance results in the crisis that defines the play.

Doug Stephenson, a marvelous character actor, plays Sam. Because his character is very shy, he has fewer lines than the others do even when he is onstage. However, he is a master at using body language to show what his character is thinking as the women chatter around him.

Mildred, played by Barbi Pearl, gives a light-hearted performance in the second act as the "other" woman who Sam brings to a wedding the rest of the characters attend together. Her character does not have a clue what is going on, and Pearl does a skillful job of portraying her confusion.

McCann described the play as "a moment of reality in the lives ... of old friends." He added that he hoped it would make us appreciate the friendships we have now and those we will make in the future.



The Cemetery

There are three more performances of this play, March 3 and 4 at 8 p.m. and March 5 at 2:30. Tickets are \$10. Call 615-847-2585 for reservations.

She Loves Me

One of the loveliest of Ernsy Lubitsch's comedies, the James Stewart-Margaret Sullavan vehicle *The Shop Around the Corner*, serves as this basis for this underrated musical gem by Fiddler on the Roof tunesmiths Sheldon Harnick and Jerry Bock. Performed at Trevecca Nazarene Univ., in McKlurkan Auditorium: Wednesday - Saturday, 7 p.m. Tickets: \$6. Call: 248-1429 or 248-7726.

Singarama

The 37th annual installment of this David Lipscomb tradition offers musical adaptations of three Shakespeare plays - *All's Well That Ends Well*, *As You Like It*, and *Much Ado About Nothing* - by competing student casts. Performed at Lipscomb Univ., in McKlurkan Auditorium: Thursday-Friday, 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, 2 & 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$8. Call: 279-6057.

by Daniel Ross
Staff Writer

the score

akoosrik hookah

has crafted a unique sound layered with tight orchestrations and poignant songwriting through their organic fusion of rock, blues, funk and avant garde styles. Appearing at Jack Leg's, Thursday, 10 p.m. Tickets: 6. Call: [615] 255-1933.

Vertical Horizon

is expanding the horizons of the music scene through meaningful lyrics and an edgy style. Stroke 9, a band of newcomers with hard rock edge, will also perform. Appearing at 328 Performance Hall, Friday, 8 p.m. Call: [615] 256-6151.

The Katies

is an indescribable band with their loud rock sound, mixed with lots of harmonics, their catch phrases and play-on-words lyrics create a highly energetic show. Appearing at The Bero, Saturday. Call: [615] 895-4800.

Artist on the verge of a big break

I've decided to review a CD this week - by an unsigned singer/songwriter Dave Berg. First, let's check out Berg, because the big ape on the CD intrigues me. Hummm...

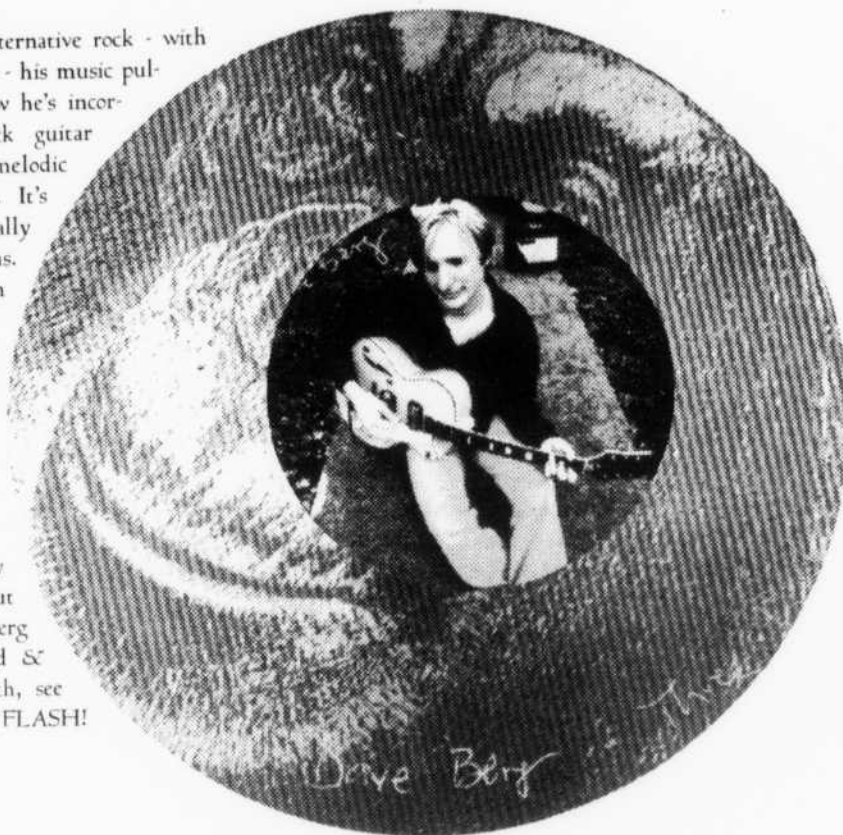
OK, I'm putting the CD in my machine ... I'm hitting play ... here it comes ... OK, uh huh, yes, I like it ... Oh yeah, it's a kind of slow, funky, rock groove ... oh yeah, I like it ... it's jammin'. "I don't wanna be that man that sits around and talks football with your Dad ... " "...I wanna be the scratch down the middle of your back..." Has this guy made it yet?

Well he must be on his way. Berg's work on his CD "Three Perfect Days" is really together - the title track and has really got me in a nice flow. He seems to have figured out the formula for what I consider popular, but serious music. All of the songs have really good beats, interesting and meaningful lyrics and he understands the concept of "KISS" [Keep It Simple Stupid]. I can hardly stop rockin' long enough to write this review. He's got a good voice to top it off. It's as though he's pushing every note out with as much passion and intensity as possible, yet he still keeps it smooth.

Berg's style is an alternative rock - with a touch of the euro-beat - his music pulsates. I really like how he's incorporated a kickin' rock guitar with really sweet melodic riffs, sounds and music. It's high energy, yet it really appeals to my emotions. I love the cello touch in "Blink" too.

This can bridge generation gaps. Berg is a hit in my book and I highly recommend him to all listeners who enjoy good rock and roll.

You'll definitely want to check him out for yourself. Dave Berg will be playing at 3rd & Lindsey on March 12th, see upcoming issues of FLASH! for more details.



Music
review

by Kevin McNulty
Staff Writer

Shepherd 'Lives On' with latest release

When Kenny Wayne Shepherd burst onto the music scene about five years ago, some people scoffed at this young blond-haired kid trying to play the blues. Others hailed him as the Second Coming, a sort-of blues savior. Whatever the impression one had, the fact remained that he was noticed, which in this business is half the battle.

On the latest release from his band, the Kenny Wayne Shepherd Band, Shepherd continues on the path laid forth by his musical god-fathers Jimi Hendrix and Stevie Ray Vaughn. The problem with this isn't the following of influences but rather the fact that there is little growth.

On his first two releases, Shepherd developed from a Stevie Ray Vaughn imitator to find a voice that was still heavily influenced but yet his own. Much of this can be attributed to the fact that he toured with such rock heavyweights as the Eagles, Bob Dylan, Aerosmith and Van Halen. The blues was still predominant but the rock influence was smattered across the canvas of his guitar playing.

However, on the third release, "Live On," Shepherd seems to be stuck in somewhat of a

rut. The necessary components are all there. There are the mandatory cover tunes such as Jimi Hendrix's Band of Gypsies song "Them Changes." The instrumental tune "Electric Lullaby," is also the last track, as usual. The shuffle feel of "Never Mind" is reminiscent of past work such as "Nothing to Do With Love."

While the framework is the same, the details are slightly different. There is the welcome addition of techno to the track "Was." The song appears to have been influenced by Shepherd's listening to R.L. Burnside's latest release. This and the track "Every Time it Rains" feature some tasty slide work by Shepherd that was conspicuously absent on previous releases.

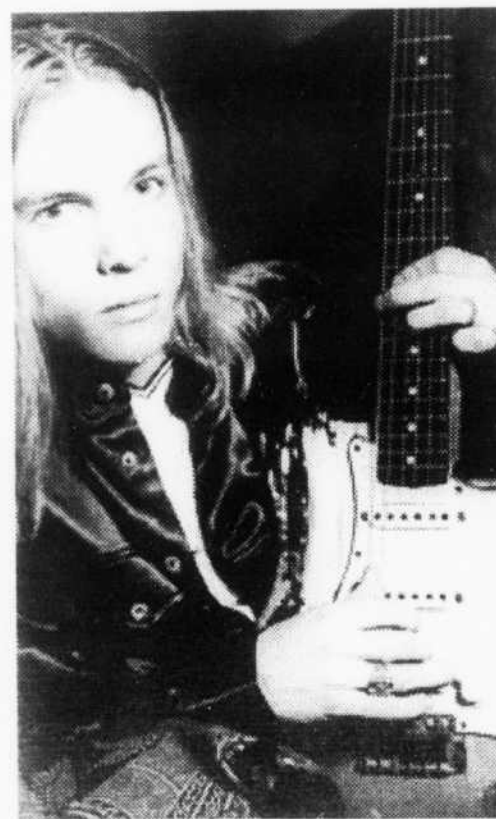
What might seem like the cliched power ballad, "Last Goodbye," is actually the highlight of the album. On a radio dial filled with bubblegum pop, rap-core metal and various asserments of drivel, this track is a breath of fresh air. Shepherd, not always known as the most restrained player, squeezes out every note of this track like the cry that the lyrics emote. Lead vocalist Noah Hunt also shows great strides in his vocals on this song and overall as he lets a little more soul out of his sometimes dry voice.

While the majority of the album is filler material, Shepherd occasionally lets loose with a pure gem. "In 2 Deep" is the perfect blues-rock song. While blues purists may cringe at this notion, the fact remains that blues needs an influx of new blood to stay alive. The previously mentioned "Them Changes" is also a wonderful piece. Filled with its original energy, Shepherd doesn't really go anywhere new with the song but rather remains true to Hendrix's funkiness.

Shepherd's music isn't pure blues by any stretch of the imagination. What it is, however, is a new generation of blues influenced as much by blues's baby, rock and roll, as it is by the parent blues. Unfortunately this album is almost a retreat of the previous two releases by this blues-rock wonder-kid [He's actually a young adult by now]. What Shepherd has going for him is an enormous talent that has the potential to take him to great heights.

Here's hoping he doesn't succumb to the trappings of success and that he develops more with the next release than with this one.

My Grade: B- [But he gets an A for a ripping guitar album.]



D'angelo puts fans under his spell with 'Voodoo'

by Shawn Whitsell
Urban Music Society

With his debut album in 1995, "Brown Sugar," D'angelo put some much-needed soul back into R&B. "Brown Sugar" echoed music of greats like Marvin Gaye, Stevie Wonder and Smokey Robinson. D'angelo covered Robinson's hit "Cruisin." With its poetic lyrics, smooth soulful melodies, warm vocals and hip hop beats, "Brown Sugar" quickly won the heart of many, establishing D'angelo as a soul music powerhouse.

After many rumored release dates came and went, D'angelo stayed in the public eye by contributing to several movie soundtracks. In January, he finally released his highly-anticipated sophomore effort titled "Voodoo." After one listen, I understood why it took five years to release another album. Clearly the brotha took his time and allowed inspiration to lead him through the journey that is "Voodoo."

"Voodoo" has proven to be just as poetic as "Brown Sugar" [if not more] and it tackles similar themes: love, relationships, materialism, etc. However, there is a very evident difference in the albums, which is the use of more live instrumentation on "Voodoo." "Voodoo" isn't too perfect, very raw and spirited, giving the album a jam session vibe. It's very intimate, allowing listeners to feel like they are right there in a small, dark nightclub with D and his band [which includes Ahmir "Guestlove" Thompson of the legendary hip hop band "The Roots"].

Some of the album's highlights are "Devils Pie" [previously featured on Hype Williams' "Belly" soundtrack], "Left and Right" [featuring hip hop's most-loved characters, Redman and Method Man], "Send It On," "Chicken Grease" and "One Mo'Gin." "Untitled [How does it feel]" is definitely a standout track, especially to women who can't take their eyes

off the screen when the video is playing, showing off D's newly sculpted nude body. The video is indeed classic, concentrating on the sensual man behind the sensual song and allowing the music to speak for itself. The simplicity of the video definitely makes a statement and doesn't allow special effects, props or even plot to take away from the music. The video is perfect for the song, which sounds like it could be the first cousin of various Prince hits, who is one of D's mentors.

Back to the album. My favorite track is "Africa," a tune inspired by D'angelo's son, Michael. The song starts out with political lyrics, "Africa is my decent/ And here I'm far from home/I dwell within a land that's meant/ Meant for many men not my tone." Towards the end of the song D wails about his son, "Everyday I see you grow/ And remember what you already know/ I receive the love/ That radiates from your glow." "Africa" is the perfect way to close the musical book that is "Voodoo."

"Voodoo" is a gem, a testament to the growth of an extremely talented man with a warm spirit and an old soul. Let's just hope it doesn't take another five years for him to do it again, but if it does, it's cool because now we understand "the voodoo he do." D'angelo has put us under his spell.

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Special Events This Week

March 9

Delbert McClinton will perform with his full band and special guest artists at a concert to benefit Nashville Children's Theater on Thursday, March 9th, at 8 p.m. Tickets: \$20. Call: (615) 254-9103.

Ongoing

Nashville Children's Theater is proud to present one of its favorite pieces, "The Reluctant Dragon." Based on the book by *The Wind in the Willows'* author Kenneth Grahame, "The Reluctant Dragon" tells the lovely story of a boy, a saint and a most unusual and wonderful dragon. The production runs until March 24, Monday through Friday, at 10 and 11:30 a.m. Tickets: \$8.75 adults and \$6.75 for children. Call: (615)254-9103.

An arresting exhibition of painter Marty Walsh's recent work based on this deceptively simple premise of everyday, ordinary scenes, displayed until April 1st, at the Murfreesboro/Rutherford County Center for the Arts 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call: (615) 904-2787.

Leu Art Gallery — Belmont University hosts an exhibition of works by Romare Bearden (1914-1988), arguably the most important African-American artist of the 20th century. Complex, improvisational and deeply personal, Bearden's art has been called visual jazz. The exhibit is on display through April 1.

SPRING MOVIE REVIEW

continued from page 6

Belushi and Bonnie Hunt [who also directed]. CON: Can't think of any.

"Ready to Rumble": Hipster doofus David Arquette plays a wrestler. PRO: Other wrestlers include Scott Caan and Oliver Platt. CON: Director Brian Robbins is best remembered as Eric on "Head of the Class" [though he did fine with last year's teen sports film "Varsity Blues"].

KNOXVILLE ART REVIEW

continued from page 7

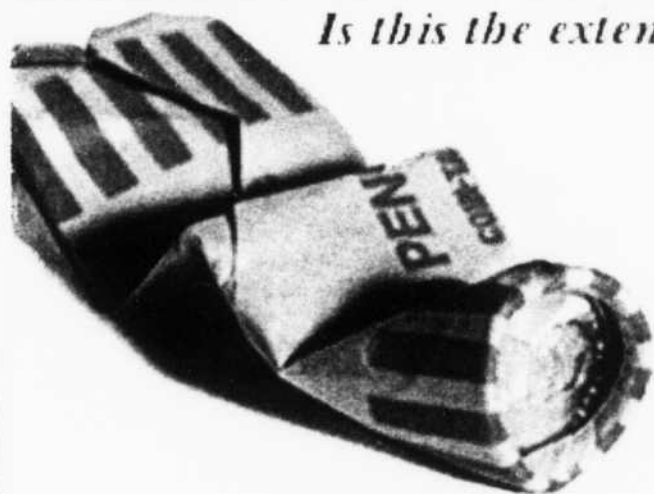
grotesque faces and classical silhouettes. Some of the tessellations are circular. Others gradually metamorphosize from one shape or pattern to another across a picture plane, as in the 23-foot-long *Metamorphosis*, included in this exhibit. A checkerboard pattern on one edge becomes cubes, which transform into hexagons. The transformations continue to the opposite side. Among others, fish mutate into honeycombs and bees, birds change into boats, and horses become chess pieces.

"It's an amazing thing to see," said Jansen. Escher's appeal is as much mathematical as it is artistic. Escher generated much of his work by drawing recognizable figures over geometric designs.

Jansen explained that art and mathematics have a big connection. Artistic composition is about making proportional relationships, while math measures proportional relationships. Underlying geometric templates give artists a structure for organizing their work.

The meticulous detail in Escher's prints fascinates viewers. Nuell explained that the lithography processes Escher used were very time-consuming, and not forgiving. Mistakes in the chemical processing of lithographic plates could lose hours, days or even weeks of drawing.

MTSU offers several courses in print-making, including lithography, etching and intaglio and silkscreen. The university also maintains the largest printmaking website in the world, according to Nuell at www.mtsu.edu/~art/printmaking. The Web site hosts a discussion board where people around the globe post messages and questions about printmaking.



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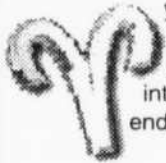
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HOROSCOPES | MARCH 1-8

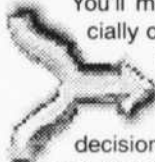
Aries (March 21-April 19)

You may be in a contemplative mood this week. On Monday, you may want to hide out, but you'll be rested up by Tuesday and Wednesday. On Thursday and Friday, stash your loot so you can buy interesting and educational toys over the weekend. Take a class, too.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You'll meet new friends this week, most likely, especially on Monday. You may feel pressed to get something done on Tuesday and Wednesday. Hurry and do it. You can set your schedule on Thursday and Friday and make a few solid decisions. Schedule your trip to the mall for this weekend. Get the best deal on a special treat.



Gemini (May 21-June 21)

Focus on success this week, especially on Monday. Look your best then. Listen and learn from friends on Tuesday and Wednesday. Take care of business on Thursday and Friday so you can relax over the weekend. Travel should go well, either long distance or your around-town errands.



Cancer (June 22-July 22)

Travel and higher education are the tone of the week. Monday's a great day to sign up for a class or a cruise. On Tuesday and Wednesday, you'll have to scurry to keep up with a stern taskmaster's demands. Your friends are a source of joy and comfort on Thursday and Friday. Answer all those phone messages and send thank-you notes this weekend.



Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)

Be careful with your money on Monday. You'll be in a generous mood, but don't give away the store. Go for a run on Tuesday or Wednesday and try a route that's less-traveled. You'll want to be more cautious on Thursday and Friday. You're being watched, so put on a good show.



Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

On Monday, working well with your partner is important. This could mean making concessions. Count your money on Tuesday and Wednesday, especially your secret holdings. Thursday and Friday should be good for travel and for communicating with foreigners. Go along with what an older person wants over the weekend and make points.



Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

Take care of others on Monday, but don't catch a cold in the process. Be sure you eat healthy, too. Follow your partner's lead on Tuesday and Wednesday to avoid a hassle. You're rewarded for a job well done on Thursday and Friday, possibly with permission to get a special treat. Finish the chores quickly this weekend so you can take off on an adventure with your significant other.



Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

Schedule an intimate, memorable romantic interlude for Monday. On Tuesday and Wednesday, your work gets in the way of everything else. On Thursday or Friday, follow an expert's advice. Shopping for household items should be productive over the weekend.



Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Listen to a loved one on Monday, in a private setting. That's the most loving gift you can offer. Tuesday and Wednesday should be a lot of fun, with more action than words. Thursday and Friday are your busiest workdays this week, so don't plan anything else. You could have a lively, competitive weekend, but don't stay out late Sunday.



Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Get together with brothers and sisters on Monday. If you can't meet, at least call. Catch up on gossip. Fix up your place on Tuesday and Wednesday so you can entertain on Thursday and Friday. Schedule your big date for Friday night. Do your homework, catch up on reading, and pay all those bills over the weekend.



Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Count your money on Monday, and then buy yourself something you've always wanted. Investigate a topic you're passionate about on Tuesday and Wednesday. You'll find all sorts of interesting data to further your hypothesis. Tidy up your place on Thursday and Friday so you can have a party over the weekend.



Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)

You're in the spotlight on Monday. Don't worry; you look marvelous! Use your imagination plus newfound confidence to increase your income on Tuesday and Wednesday. Run errands and learn new skills on Thursday and Friday. Get into household projects over the weekend. Invite your friends to help, and you'll turn the drudgery into a game.



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