

Miss Cleo knows what's coming to her!



Miss Cleo poses for the camera. The woman we know and love might be in trouble with the authorities thanks to allegations of fraud. Miss Cleo...please say it ain't so!

By Tanya Barrientos
Knight Ridder Newspapers

Back in August, I tried to call Miss Cleo. I wanted to talk with her about a bad moon rising. Mysterious sources, channeled through the Associated Press, had informed me that the television-commercial psychic with the Jamaican accent as strong as island rum was about to face serious legal problems. The state of Missouri was sore about the way she was peddling her sixth sense to the public, and it filed a lawsuit calling her a fraud.

Maybe she saw it coming, and that's why she was out every time I phoned. Maybe she could feel the wicked mojo emanating from the Show Me State, and sensed there was bigger trouble on the horizon.

If she did, she was right. Now the feds

are after the two companies the allegedly clairvoyant Miss C shills for. They say Psychic Readers Network Inc. and Access Resources Services Inc. cheat people out of their hard-earned cash.

On Friday, a federal judge ruled that investigators could not only peer into the phone-in fortune-teller's crystal ball, but also take a close look at the companies' business practices.

That ruling came after the Federal Trade Commission filed a lawsuit alleging that the firms scam callers into paying for services she advertises as being free, harasses patrons by repeatedly calling them at home, bills folks for things they never bought, and threatens to report them to collection goons when they argue.

Of course, the head of the companies, Peter Stolz, says the feds are wrong. Oh,

sure, some callers have complained (the commission puts the number at 2,000), but he says that's how it goes in the realm of the unknown.

"To say we are being deceptive is just plain wrong," Stolz said, adding that "99.999 percent of customers are happy with the service."

With Friday's preliminary injunction, the companies have agreed to take the mystery out of their pricing by telling callers up front what a glimpse into the future will cost them. The injunction will be in place until the court rules on the suit's allegations.

So, you think it's curtains for Cleo?

Open your mind. She already has a slick lawyer. I predict that she'll get an even slicker Hollywood agent, and that her planets will realign. She couldn't have asked

for better publicity.

After a few pesky court appearances and the negotiation of a hefty fine or two, she'll be free to pursue her true calling: megastardom.

My Magic 8 Ball says her chances are good.

She'll read Letterman's palm, then do Leno's chart. She'll trade in her turban for silky designer robes, and before we know it she'll be starring in her own TV show.

Think I'm crazy?

Look at John Edward. On his syndicated show, "Crossing Over," he supposedly speaks with the dead.

For an hour every morning, he stands in the center of a softly lit studio and makes people in his audience weep as he tells them that dearly departed Grandma, or Uncle Ted, or little sister Tess still remembers how much they love chocolate cake, and by the way, isn't it time to buy a new car?

All I'm saying is there's a market.

Miss C should use her down time to study Edward carefully. He's a master of making skepticism work for him. He has invited journalists to watch him channel, and according to their reports his readings miss as often as they hit. Still, through the magic of editing he has become a daytime TV star.

Florida authorities want Miss Cleo to prove she really is a renowned seer from Jamaica. That's her cue: All she needs is a sheepskin from the Shaman Community College in Kingston and it's goodbye, bad luck.

Want to know what Edward's psychic credentials are? He was a ballroom-dancing instructor.

Hey, Miss Cleo, give me a call and I'll be happy to give you more advice, for the low, low price of \$4.99 a minute.

HOROSCOPES

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

Today's Birthday (March 2). Have you dreamed of a fabulous cruise that you haven't quite been able to afford? Well, maybe this year you can get closer. How are you at setting long-term goals?

Delaying gratification?

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

Aries (March 21-April 19) - Today is a 5 - Finances are of growing concern. Getting the interest to grow on your savings might be your motivation, or maybe cutting the interest you're paying on debt.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) - Today is a 7 - You recently have been hooked up to a new source of power. Mars, the planet of action, adrenaline and assertiveness, has just gone into your sign.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) - Today is a 7 - Keep your eye open for bargains; they're all around you. Anticipate traveling delays and be patient.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) - Today is a 7 - A slight renovation at your house can make things a lot more comfortable.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) - Today is a 7 - Wondering how to make a special person notice you? A little gift might be nice, but nothing too outrageous.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Today is a 7 - You could do quite well financially now. It could be money coming in, or money you save on a purchase. Do the homework.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) - Today is an 8 - Having fun should be your first priority. That doesn't mean you get to be lazy, benefactor. Or, you might simply get a raise.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - Today is a 7 - If you let others know you're listening to them, they're more likely to listen to you.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - Today is a 6 - Earlier is better for having friends over. Later, you'll be more into solitude, reflection, contemplation... maybe even paying a few bills. Do it while you're in the mood.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Today is a 7 - The more you practice your craft, the better you become. Others appreciate your expertise and reward you generously.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - Today is a 7 - Get out for as long as you can with your true love, dearest friend or both. You may not get far, but you'll have a good time while you can. Make the most of each moment.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) - Today is a 7 - You'll be able to stay inside for a while, so do your chores quickly.

Through the Looking Glass

the weekly column that asks if there is intelligent life out there

by Mike Pingree
KRT Campus

IF I MAY SPEAK FREELY, HON

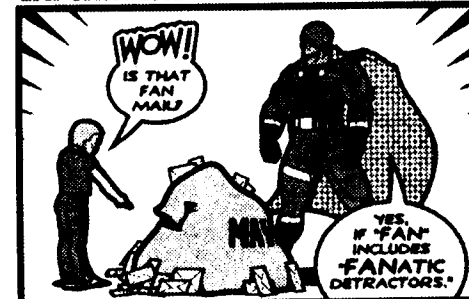
A Texas man suffers from a bizarre psychological disorder that causes him to fly into an uncontrollable rage whenever he hears certain words, among them, "Wisconsin," "Snickers" and "Mars."

He thought his girlfriend was about to say "New Jersey," so he shot her. He was convicted of aggravated assault.

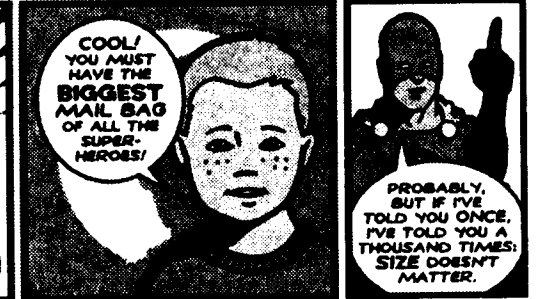
YOU'RE CHILLY, DARLING, I CAN TELL

Ten couples got married Valentine's Day in an outdoor ceremony at Runaway Bay on Jamaica's north coast. They were all nude.

CAPTAIN RIBMAN - PostMan



by Sprengelmeyer & Davis



PAUL

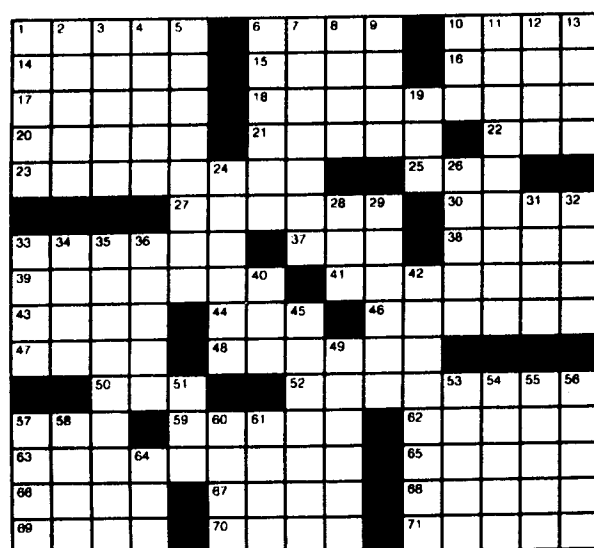


BY BILLY O'KEEFE www.billy.com



Crossword

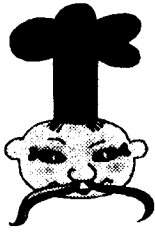
- ACROSS
- 1 Go away!
 - 6 Space saucers
 - 10 Trolley car
 - 14 University of Maine location
 - 15 Location
 - 16 Hawkeye State
 - 17 "Little ___ Lupe Lu"
 - 18 Town north of Denver
 - 20 Chew the scenery
 - 21 Glistened
 - 22 Anil or wood
 - 23 Graffiti artist's equipment
 - 25 Performance
 - 27 Cartoon sailor
 - 30 Ginsberg poetry collection
 - 33 Interrupt rudely
 - 37 Cowboy's nickname
 - 38 Black-and-white treat
 - 39 RSVP-er
 - 41 Hot fudge, e.g.
 - 43 Verdi opera
 - 44 Dashed
 - 46 Florida explorer
 - 47 The slammer
 - 48 Increase
 - 50 Put the collar on
 - 52 Viennese, for example
 - 57 Director Howard
 - 59 Overjoy
 - 62 Eagle's abode
 - 63 Too willing
 - 65 Andes beast
 - 66 Poi root
 - 67 Waistcoat
 - 68 1946-52 N.L. home-run leader
 - 69 Otherwise
 - 70 Concerning
 - 71 Eyelid swellings
- DOWN
- 1 Parts of shoes
 - 2 Constrict
 - 3 Distributor part
 - 4 Baker or Pointer
 - 5 Long/Hanks movie, with "The"
 - 6 Consumes completely
 - 7 Mesh fabric
 - 8 Football great
 - 9 Graham
 - 9 Visualized
 - 10 Betting guide
 - 11 Hope/Crosby movie
 - 12 Askew
 - 13 Manufacture
 - 19 Body of water
 - 24 Doomed ones
 - 26 Uses an axe
 - 28 Still
 - 29 Mass departure
 - 31 Departed
 - 32 Peacock of TV, e.g.
 - 33 Siant
 - 34 Military group
 - 35 At-home fast food
 - 36 Crownlet
 - 40 Have a hero
 - 42 Pre-game encouragement
 - 45 Most orderly
 - 49 ___ Vallarta, Mexico
 - 51 Hive builder
 - 53 Started the fire again
 - 54 Teheran man
 - 55 Singer Mann
 - 56 Closes in
 - 57 Memorization by repetition
 - 58 The ___ Office
 - 60 Volcano output
 - 61 Gets older
 - 64 Fish eggs



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Solutions

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Recipes for You!

Crab Puffs

Ingredients:

- 1 pkg. wonton skins
- 8 oz. cream cheese
- 7 1/2 oz. crab
- 2 tsp. soft breadcrumbs
- 2 drops sesame oil

Combine all ingredients except skins. Fill squares with 1 tsp. of the mixture and fold over, making triangles. Moisten to seal edges. Fry in oil heated to 370 F for 3 minutes, or until brown and puffed, turning once. Serve with Chinese mustard.

We want your recipes! Send your submissions to behrcoll5@aol.com. Don't cop out and raid your mom's recipe box. We want recipes from college students, for college students!

DITHERED TWITS by Stan Waling



Never ask a flamenco artist for a lap-dance.

Have any ideas for the Features Page? Is there something you like or dislike? Let us know! We give a darn about what you think! E-mail us at Behrcoll5@aol.com for suggestions or comments.