

Informative, insightful reading

from author **Stephen Monk**

Fascinating observations from a long time student of the workings of the human mind

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Recipe of the month

Chocolate Covered Strawberry Christmas Trees

12 ounces dark green candy melts
1 pound of strawberries, stems removed
24 Oreos cookies
white icing
sprinkles
candy stars

Icing:
2 1/2 cups powdered sugar
3 tablespoons heavy cream
Add water by the teaspoon and whisk until the desired consistency is reached. You want it to be thick like toothpaste.

Prep Time: 15 min. Cook Time: 10 min. Yield: 24

- Set a heat proof bowl over a small pot of simmering water on the stovetop (double boiler). Slowly melt the candy melts in the bowl, stirring occasionally. Do not allow moisture to come in contact with the candy.
- Spoon or pipe a small amount of icing onto the top of each Oreo. This will adhere the strawberry to the cookie base.
- Once candy melts are fully melted, turn the heat to low while you dip the strawberries using a toothpick inserted into the cut end.
- Shake off excess candy coating gently. Using a second toothpick inserted into the pointed end of the dipped strawberry, carefully place the strawberry on top of the icing on the Oreo.
- Decorate with sprinkles and a candy star while the candy coating is still wet. It will usually dry in about 10 minutes.

Source: <https://lovelylittlekitchen.com>

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Everybody's Talking

Wooden rug: A Spanish artist found a way to use her talent, express her feelings about her difficult upbringing, and provide an interesting and intricate piece to amaze viewers. Selva Aparicio used a wooden floor as her medium. Her finished piece is a rug that she carved into the wood. She calls it "Childhood Memories," and it contains designs that reveal her journey growing up in a chaotic household. The rug carving is elaborate and is complete with fringe on the ends and an overall design that appears to be that of an actual traditional Persian carpet, until the viewer takes a closer look.

Doing nothing: People don't often have jobs doing nothing, but that's exactly what Shoji Morimoto of Japan does, and he gets paid for it. Morimoto himself came up with the idea for the dream job by advertising his services. He offered to make himself available to anyone who wanted company. Since posting his ad in 2018, the married father has been hired about 3,000 times to simply sit and listen to people talk. Or he might stand in a line for someone, accompany the person on a walk, or pose for a photo. Basically, he eases people's loneliness without having to be a friend or even an acquaintance.

Cold spot: To someone living in a warm climate, -50 degrees Celsius (-58 degrees Fahrenheit) is unimaginable. But folks living in Oymyakon, Siberia, Russia, don't even flinch at the thought of that kind of cold. Known as the Pole of Cold, not even children mind the frostiness of this place in the winter. Kids in grades one to five keep going to school, many of them walking from their homes, until the temperature hits -52 degrees Celsius (-61.6 degrees F). At that point, school officials officially close the doors of the learning institution until the mercury creeps back up to a more balmy level.

Gaming costs: If odd charges keep appearing on a credit card bill, the card holder usually assumes they are mistakes, at best, and fraud at worst. But what if the charges were actually being amassed by the card holder's young child? That's exactly what happened to Jessica Johnson of Wilton, Connecticut (U.S.). She didn't realize that her young son was regularly playing a video game and was charging her card when he needed booster packs to play. Johnson called her bank when she started noticing the charges, but the total amount hit more than \$16,000 (USD) before her investigations revealed the culprit.

Quoteable Quotes

"Truth, crushed to earth, shall rise again." —William Cullen Bryant

"A friend may well be reckoned the masterpiece of Nature." —Ralph Waldo Emerson

What's Happening

Dec 12-Devon Christmas Arts Market Come check out our local artists, craftspeople and artisans each month at the Devon Community Center, 20 Haven Ave, Devon. The Market runs from noon to 4 pm. Free to attend

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Trivia

1. In the U.S., where will you find The Painted Desert?
2. Cass Elliot, Denny Doherty, and Michelle and John Phillips were members of what musical group?
3. If you are flummoxed, how are you feeling?
4. How many months of the year have 28 days?
5. What does SASE stand for?

(Flip bottom of page for answers)

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Lea Castillo of Grande Prairie

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Your Weekly Horoscope

ARIES
(March 21 - April 20)



You may feel highly emotional early this week. If so, it is better not to act impulsively. By waiting a few days, your actions may have a better outcome. Lucky numbers: 5, 13, 21, 23, 41, 46.

TAURUS
(April 21 - May 21)



There is an opportunity for you to patiently pursue your goals right now. Taking advantage of this energy can put you in good stead if there is future turbulence. Lucky numbers: 1, 10, 15, 16, 24, 31.

GEMINI
(May 22 - June 21)



It may be best to finish current projects rather than starting new ones. If you are having an issue with your sibling, it may be a good time for open communication. Lucky numbers: 12, 14, 15, 19, 34, 36.

CANCER
(June 22 - July 22)



Your sign has a talent for nurturing others. However, you may need to set boundaries for a while with anyone who asks for too much of your time and energy. Lucky numbers: 11, 28, 35, 37, 41, 45.

LEO
(July 23 - Aug. 23)



You may feel restricted or that you are coming up against opposition from others. If so, wait a bit longer or see how a reasonable compromise can break through the obstacles. Lucky numbers: 3, 5, 7, 13, 35, 42.

VIRGO
(Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)



An old issue in your personal relationships may surface. If so, there is a potential opportunity for successfully resolving the problem. To do so will require patience and hard work. Lucky numbers: 2, 6, 7, 16, 19, 40.

LIBRA
(Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)



This time may provide a good opportunity to let go of the past, so that healing can move forward. To do so, focus on identifying the source of the original wound. Lucky numbers: 6, 12, 13, 15, 20, 21.

SCORPIO
(Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)



If you are feeling frustrated about a lack of progress, take a deep breath and be patient. You may find that any obstacles will ease in a short period of time. Lucky numbers: 3, 5, 8, 19, 33, 45.

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)



You may find that you are no longer certain about your beliefs and values. If so, think about what caused this situation and it may point the way to a resolution. Lucky numbers: 18, 23, 33, 39, 43, 46.

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)



There is an opportunity now to focus on improving your career or business. Seek out others who can help and have a serious conversation about steps needed to do so. Lucky numbers: 2, 4, 13, 18, 21, 46.

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)



You may feel that there is an opportunity at this time for new experiences. If you approach new situations with optimism, there is the possibility for a successful result. Lucky numbers: 1, 19, 22, 25, 31, 32.

PISCES
(Feb. 20 - March 20)



An opportunity may arise now to begin to transform some aspect of your life. The process may be slow and tedious at times, but can provide a great sense of satisfaction. Lucky numbers: 8, 14, 15, 43, 45, 47.

Lucky numbers this week: This week's odds favour Aquarius winners with the luckiest number being 22.

Did You Know...

One use: A “nonce” word is one that is made up for a specific occasion. One very famous example of a nonce word is “supercalifragilisticexpialidocious,” from the Walt Disney film *Mary Poppins*.

Big horn: A *buisine* was a type of trumpet that was common in Europe in the Middle Ages. These instruments were about two metres (6.56 ft.) long and were used in ceremonies and for military purposes. Eventually, the *buisine* was used in musical pieces.

Muscle type: A muscle that pulls a limb away from the midline of the body, or away from a neighbouring limb, is called an abductor muscle. For example, abductor muscles are used to spread fingers or toes and to raise arms to the side of the body.

Natural talent: American singer Aretha Franklin, whose hit song “Respect” is well known, could not read music. She taught herself to play piano, and she played by ear.

Not thirsty: People with *adipsia* don’t feel the sensation of being thirsty, even if they are dehydrated, because the thirst centre in the brain has been damaged. Those with *adipsia* need to train themselves to drink fluids to avoid dehydration.

On the Lighter Side

Ike: Did you hear what happened at the flea circus?
Mike: No, what happened?
Ike: A dog came by and stole the show.

What kind of candies do mummies eat after dinner? Parch mints.

What do you get if you cross a racehorse with a giraffe? Something that wins a lot of races by a neck.

Knock! Knock! *Who’s there?* Sofa? *Sofa who?* Sofa, so good.

Did you hear about the girl who went to the beach and baked herself under the hot sun for six hours? She wanted to be the toast of the town.

Answers

Trivia answers: 1. Arizona 2. The Mamas & The Papas 3. Bewildered 4. 12 5. Self-addressed, stamped envelope

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