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**GEORGE VAN DE WALLE**

Vol. 21 No. 30 July 22, 2024

**Everybody's Talking**

**Dress dilemma:** A groom's absentminded mistake led to disaster when he accidentally left his fiancée's \$2,000 (USD) wedding dress on the car roof and then drove away, leaving the dress to fly off the vehicle. Lindel Cain, the bride from Adelaide, Australia, shared the mishap on social media. The couple was retrieving items from a storage unit when the incident occurred. Despite frantic efforts to find the dress, it remained missing. The couple offered a cash reward for its return. But even with such a setback, the bride maintained a sense of humour, seeing the mishap as a future wedding speech anecdote.

**Tomato trouble:** A Nigerian woman stands on the brink of a potentially lengthy prison sentence for her online critique of a can of tomato puree, of all things. Chioma Okoli shared her discontent online about the excessively sweet taste of the product she purchased. Unexpectedly, her post snowballed, amassing thousands of comments. Despite warnings from someone linked to the food product company, she persisted in complaining online. Consequently, she faced arrest in accordance with Nigeria's cybercrime laws. The company is suing her for significant damages, citing negative impact on their business. In response, Okoli is fighting back, suing both the police and the company.

**Exquisite treat:** The chocolate made by the To'ak company stands out in the world of fancy sweets, made from rare Nacional cacao found in small parts of Ecuador. Priced at up to \$490 for a mere 50-gram bar, it's not just candy, it's an experience. To'ak sets itself apart by carefully selecting the finest cacao, once believed extinct. This chocolate undergoes a special aging process in wooden barrels, similar to aging fine spirits, giving it exceptional depth. Spices like Cambodian Kampot pepper further enrich its flavour. Although above most people's price point, To'ak's distinct taste makes it a sought-after delicacy for those seeking something extraordinary.

**Digital host:** Spain's adaptation of the Survivor TV show will feature a unique twist: a segment hosted by Alba Renai, an AI-powered digital influencer. Despite her non-existent physical form, Alba was meticulously created based on feedback from a focus group of 350 young people, ensuring she embodied traits that were likely to resonate with a wide audience. Be a Lion, the team behind Alba, emphasizes the extensive human collaboration in her development. Claiming that no human jobs were lost in the project, they employ 32 people, including AI experts. The emergence of virtual influencers like Alba are sparking discussions on AI's role in entertainment and employment.

**Quoteable Quotes**

"Our grand business is not to see what lies dimly at a distance, but to do what lies clearly at hand." —Thomas Carlyle  
"Character is much easier kept than recovered." —Thomas Paine

**What's Happening**

**Aug 21 - Weed Warriors Drop-in Event** Weed Warriors teaches students and community members of all ages how to identify and safely remove invasive weeds, as well as how to support the growth of native plant species. Taking place from 2-6pm at 2 Meadowview Dr

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# Your Weekly Horoscope


**ARIES**  
(March 20 - April 19)

 You may experience burn out at midweek. Remember that Aries are undergoing a long-term transformation process that will be in effect for three more years. Lucky numbers: 7, 12, 19, 31, 32, 47.


**TAURUS**  
(April 20 - May 20)

 This weekend may be a good time for you to retreat for a couple of days. Relaxation and comfort food might be exactly what you need right now to recharge. Lucky numbers: 6, 14, 36, 37, 43, 44.

**GEMINI**  
(May 21 - June 20)

 Your energy level may be substantially increased this week. To what part of your life should you apply this boost? Don't forget self-care as you zip through this process. Lucky numbers: 8, 9, 25, 30, 38, 42.

**CANCER**  
(June 21 - July 22)

 Cancers' deep-felt emotions aren't always easy to translate to others. But the next two weeks may present an opportunity to communicate more precisely when speaking. Lucky numbers: 12, 19, 24, 31, 33, 43.


**LEO**  
(July 23 - Aug. 22)

 The ruling planet of Leo is the Sun, and it is shining down on you during your birthday month. This is a good time to set your intentions for the next year. Lucky numbers: 4, 17, 19, 22, 26, 40.


**VIRGO**  
(Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)

 Try to use this week to nail down details on your projects, including communicating with others. After that, things may be a bit chaotic for a couple of weeks. Lucky numbers: 13, 30, 36, 37, 40, 42.


**LIBRA**  
(Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)

 Are you simmering below the surface about an issue? Try to find a positive way to address it, or the situation could impulsively erupt into the open at midweek. Lucky numbers: 14, 18, 20, 23, 31, 45.

**SCORPIO**  
(Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

 Your intuitive connection to those around you may be subdued for a few days at week's end. Rather than being disturbed by this dynamic, can you welcome it as a respite? Lucky numbers: 1, 14, 16, 18, 19, 23.


**SAGITTARIUS**  
(Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

 Sagittarians often have a broad, philosophical worldview. This may not go over well with others for the next two weeks. You might want to retreat until the dynamic passes. Lucky numbers: 2, 5, 11, 12, 18, 35.


**CAPRICORN**  
(Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)

 In the next couple of weeks, you may have an opportunity for your hard work and discipline to be rewarded. Just be sure you read the fine print of agreements. Lucky numbers: 9, 12, 15, 17, 42, 43.

**AQUARIUS**  
(Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

 You may be in a stalemate on how to proceed with your life. Making a list of pros and cons might help give clarity on adjusting your view of the situation. Lucky numbers: 5, 11, 23, 25, 26, 42.

**PISCES**  
(Feb. 19 - March 20)

 Pisces sometimes are overwhelmed by their emotions and those of others. Now may be a good time to make an adjustment that grounds you in a more joyful attitude. Lucky numbers: 3, 16, 24, 25, 38, 43.

Lucky numbers this week: This week's odds favour Capricorn winners with the luckiest number being 17.

## Did You Know...

**No relatives:** American author Mark Twain was born Samuel Langhorne Clemens in 1835. He married Olivia Langdon, and they had four children. However, the author has no direct descendants living today.

**Taking in flavour:** Wood ear mushrooms are well known to Chinese cooks. These mushrooms grow on trees and bushes and look a bit like ears. They don't have much flavour, but absorb flavours of the sauces in which they are cooked.

**Famous cars:** Hollywood has had many famous cars grace its screens, including a Volkswagen Beetle "Herbie" in *Love Bug*, a 1966 Ford Thunderbird convertible in *Thelma & Louise*, and a 1977 Pontiac Firebird Trans Am in *Smokey and the Bandit*.

**Canadian citizen:** Canada has a population of about 39 million, and that includes Santa Claus. In 2010, the Canadian government affirmed Santa Claus as a Canadian citizen during a special citizenship ceremony in Calgary, Alberta.

**Isolated world:** The Sentinelese, who inhabit a tiny island in the Bay of Bengal, have lived isolated lives for over 60,000 years. They resist any attempts by authorities or anthropologists to study their culture.

## On the Lighter Side

My mom gave some old rope a time-out. It was knotty.

First monster: "Are the monsters in your town ugly?"

Second monster: "Last year we held a beauty contest and no one won."

That poor piece of paper pinned to the wall! It was under a tack.

Knock! Knock! Who's there? Deduct. Deduct who? Deduct said, "Quack! Quack!"

What do you call a knight who just lost a fencing match? A sword loser.

## Answers

**Trivia answers:** 1. Glacier 2. Magnitude 3. True 4. Palindrome 5. Free-standing bell tower

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