



# Express Leisure

## The stereotypes that just don't ring true

**ARIES**  
(Mar 21/Apr 20)  
Love can work wonders this week, but unrequited amour could sour and spoil a budding relationship. Whether you're projecting passion or the recipient of romance you should be sure of your own feelings and not afraid to show affection to lovers or would-be wooers. A deep-seated desire or heartfelt yearning must be satisfied and satiated now.

**LIBRA**  
(Sept 24/Oct 23)  
The arrival of Venus in your Sun sign signals a rise in your view of you with a desire to make the most of your natural attributes and abilities. If you want to look and feel like a million dollars now's the time to get your act together and give your image a facelift. The results could be spectacular for your appearance and relationships!

**TAURUS**  
(Apr 21/May 21)  
"A stitch in time saves nine" — follow this proverb and you could prevent a health problem developing in November. Be especially careful when going outdoors or if you have to lift heavy weights for chills or back strains could lay you low now. A woman has your best interests at heart in a civic or work situation, follow her fine advice.

**SCORPIO**  
(Oct 24/Nov 22)  
You're wearing your most inscrutable mask this week but underneath there's a clearly detectable and discernable need for companionship and affection. Don't turn your back on a friend or loved one offering a helping hand for they need to give their feelings and emotions a tangible form almost as much as you need to open up and come clean.

**GEMINI**  
(May 22/June 21)  
You'll have nothing but scorn for someone who always has to pass an opinion or issue ultimately whether they know what they're talking about or not, so don't fall into the same trap yourself. You must mean what you say and be prepared to stand by your word this week and if necessary you should urge and insist others follow your worthy example.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
(Nov 23/Dec 21)  
Guard against being too trusting or giving your faith and loyalty to people who've neither earned nor deserved it. If things have been going your way recently you may have been lulled into a false sense of security so you must be especially cautious of folk who talk big, but have little or no way of living up to their huge promises.

**CANCER**  
(June 22/July 23)  
It's only a matter of weeks before Noel's social swirl will engulf us all and that doesn't leave much time if you're hoping to make changes to your domestic decor or familial arrangements. Swing into action by consulting colour charts or seeking estimates and if cash is thin on the ground roll your sleeves up and do it yourself!

**CAPRICORN**  
(Dec 22/Jan 20)  
If you feel hemmed in, hampered or hassled by elements in your lifestyle or everyday surroundings you should start thinking of ways to increase your independence and eradicate your problems. By planning long into the future you can construct a trouble-free Nirvana to aim for, but unless you stay positive it'll all be just pie in the sky.

**LEO**  
(July 24/Aug 23)  
It's hard to read the precise nature of your thoughts and feelings, but if you're labouring under a burden of secretive emotions you'd be better off getting them out in the open. The longer you suppress an inner need or desire the more likely you are to build up internal pressures that could be released in a destructive rush.

**AQUARIUS**  
(Jan 21/Feb 19)  
The world may be getting smaller everyday, but it can still make a big impact on your life-long vision for living. You'll soon realise how important decisions and crucial actions taken overseas can affect and influence you. A journey, new appointment or change of circumstance could follow hot on the heels of a November announcement.

**VIRGO**  
(Aug 24/Sept 23)  
If you have a deprecating view of your own intellectual or creative abilities you may never discover the full extent of your latent potential. Have faith in yourself this week and don't be bashful about outlining your thoughts, views or ideas to others. The more attention and praise you receive the more your confidence and self-esteem grows.

**PISCES**  
(Feb 20/Mar 20)  
Can you be sure folk are saying what they really mean this week? The chances are you can't for people will follow your lead and try to curry favour or avoid trouble by sublimating their views and opinions to yours. If you want a fair assessment of an idea or plan contact someone who stands to neither gain nor lose by telling you the truth.

ON Coronation Street recently, a Catholic priest appeared. Wandering into the TV room, I caught sight of this young, attractive, Irish, gently spoken clergyman, and asked of no-one in particular, "Who is that?" "Oh," said the eldest son, without so much as a smirk, "That's Father O'Stereotype."

I saw his point. I have known some church ministers so good and wise they should be sainted, but this chap had it all. You just knew that he would be organising an altar boys' football team, and he was. You just knew that he would exude charm and humility in equal amounts, and he did. You just knew that he would be Father O'Something, and Stereo-

type fitted the bill very well. It's not really in keeping with this particular soap opera, where the characters are famed for their three-dimensionality but, in general, stereotypes abound. Especially, I have always thought, in books for children.

Even animals and birds are generalised to a ridiculous and very irritating degree in young fiction. Owls, for example. Owls are so-o-o-o-o wise. No, they're not. How can any bird that sits up half the night hoot-hooting while everyone else is trying to get some sleep be considered anything less than daft?

Foxes get a very bad press, probably perpetrated by the hunting classes, whereas bears, capable of killing a human with one paw swipe, are portrayed as sweet and cuddly. And then, there are grandmothers.

Grandmothers, whether in animal or human form, are always visions of lavender and lace. Very confusing for the

child who sees granny in a designer suit managing a huge corporate, or even the entire country!

**Maureen Hurley writes**

But, the stereotype I loathe most, (and you just KNEW this was coming, didn't you?), is the Perfect Mom, so beloved of the advertising companies. Perfect Moms really care about the whiteness of their wash, the polished shine of their furniture, the newest frozen meal product to delight their family's tastebuds, and the eye-blinding gleam of the lavatory bowl.

I have always thought that, should the day ever come

when I am excited by the scrubbing of a lavatory bowl to perfection, then I might just as well flush myself right down it. And when I enter shops at gift-giving times, such as Mother's Day or Christmas, and see the tacky ideas labelled "Presents for Mom", I want to be sick.

Once, when my third son was small, and he was enchanted by a package of books displayed as a Mother's Day gift, I warned him that I wouldn't give such books shelf-space. "It says for mother," he told me, proud of his reading ability, "you're a mother." "I'm not," I said, "I'm just not that sort of mother", and I felt sad, even humble, when asked, after a moment, "Not a proper mother?"

O.K. I'm an Improper Mother. I don't hold the sports kit up to the sunlight to inspect it for stains. I don't revel in romance stories about doctors and nurses, I don't swoon with delight when the table smells of lemon

polish, and I don't even read the instructions on the oven chips packet.

But, I am human. I know this because I generalise, too. Late on the school run the other day, I said, "Oh, God save us from men in flat caps driving pale blue cars." Until I voiced it, I didn't know I meant it, but I do, I DO. They hold up all the traffic ALL the time, and always seem to be slowing down near farm entrances before accelerating wildly again.

Commenting on this erratic and exasperating behaviour in no small way, I was interrupted by a child asking, "What on earth do you think he is doing?" Mindful of the age group being ferried, I bit my lip and said, "He's probably looking for a rabbit called Peter dressed in a tam o'shanter, stealing carrots from Farmer Brown."

Squeals of delight. "Oh, Peter Rabbit!", said my daughter. "I love Peter Rabbit, he's so human." Oh, shut up.

### On Song with Aimee Turner

## Top trio coming to the Trout

They will rock you



● Top of the bill — Scousers on the way to the Psykik Dance Hall.

THIS band seems to be living up to its name as it prepares to release its first LP *Emotion Location*...and they are visiting Windsor on November 13.

Top are a Liverpool trio who have set themselves the earnest task of writing the perfect pop song.

To write the perfect song takes time and Alan and Paul spent two years putting material together before adding Joe to complete the line up. They have all been in bands

before, notably The Wild Swans, Shack and The Pale Fountains but now they feel in charge of what they are doing.

Alan explains: "When we were in bands before, they were very much other people's bands. We were just brought into provide a bit of guitar or a drumbeat or whatever, so we weren't really part of the creative process."

After recording three songs in demo form, Top had a dozen of the nation's record companies chasing them, and eventually decided to go with Island.

Two nationwide tours followed, supporting fellow Liverpudlians The La's and The Farm and their first single "She's Got All The World" was released to great acclaim.

Fresh, clean-cut and buzzing on a vibe, the band's sound was hardly retro as their second single *No-One Dominator* proved.

Released in July 1991 to more rave reviews, NME music paper voted it: "Loudly Throbbing Single of the Week".

Supporting Top are Cranberries from Limerick in the West of Ireland. In early 1991

they made a demo tape which paved the way for the release of their first EP *Uncertain on Xeric Records* label out this week.

Still to celebrate their 20th birthdays The Cranberries have toured the UK with Moose and supported The House of Love and The Katydids.

*Uncertain* contains four tracks, *Uncertain*, *Nothing Left At All*, *Pathetic Senses* and *Them*.

See both bands at The Psykik Dance Hall, The Old Trout pub, Windsor on November 13.

After weeks of painful decision-making, the line-up at the annual Express supported Rock Week event has finally been decided.

Rock Week Six takes place between January 6-12 at the Windsor Arts Centre.

The line-up is: **January 6:** This Year's Blond and The Chase both from Maidenhead. **January 7:** Or Bust from Windsor and Cleopatra's Needle — the Windsor/Maidenhead band's first appearance.

**January 8:** Drottes from Slough and Witness from Maidenhead — a heavy rock night. **January 9:** The Hatstands from Windsor and The Magic Carpet also from Windsor. **January 10:** Cheyanne from Windsor and Adrenalyn from Slough — a heavy metal night. **January 11:** Haight Ashbury, Bob Kyley's new band and Million Dollar Bash from Windsor.

**January 12:** Harauld Juana from Slough and Crazy Eye, a brand new band from Windsor. Doors open each evening at 8.30pm with DJs Dan and Simon providing their Interfusion sounds.

And there's a readers' poll too so you can vote for your favourite band, singer etc, whether or not they are participating in the Rock Week. You can obtain readers' poll forms when you buy your tickets which are on sale now at the St Leonard's Road box office.

### Guide to the gigs

**THURSDAY** (tonight)... South Hill Park Arts Centre, Bracknell — psychephonico combo, Pendulus.

**Friday**...Willow Tree, Langley — Midnight.

**Tuesday**...Old Trout pub, Windsor — Rileys/Hate Syndicate/Big Wednesday.

**Wednesday**...Windsor Arts Centre — Armitage Shanks and the Paisley Wheelchair Experience/Kabuki Smiles. Old Trout pub, Windsor — Top/Cranberries.

**Next Thursday**...South Hill Park Arts Centre, Bracknell — The Silo presents Ado Pike/Bittersweet — agit pop meets Irish folkiness. Old Trout pub, Windsor — Beautiful People/Zip Zip Undone/Saltank.