



**SCORPION GIRL:** Actress Jenny McCarthy will celebrate her 35th birthday on November 1.

#### SCORPIO (Oct24-Nov22)



**Loot:** 2007 may prove to be one of the most financially flush periods you've ever experienced. If you run your own business, be sure to raise your rates. People will pay the additional cost without a qualm, because you're worth it. If you're overdue for a raise, ask your boss for one on April 10, and then again on August 2, as your employer will probably recognize that you're invaluable.

**Luck:** You may find yourself living in the lap of luxury this year. Generous gifts, lavish vacations, and impressive status symbols will be yours for the taking. There's never been a better time to treat yourself to a sporty car, dream house, or sparkling jewel. Of course, your luck won't last indefinitely, so be sure to enjoy yourself to the fullest between January 1 and December 18.



#### SAGITTARIUS (Nov23-Dec21)

**Loot:** You may have a bit of extra money to play with between January 1 and January 4; buy yourself something special in the opening days of the year. If you're looking for a high-paying job or new source of income, intensify your search in the two weeks following January 19. It's probably a good idea to put this money into a retirement

or savings fund. After December 18, cash could flow into your life like a mighty river. This blissful trend will continue all the way through January 2009.

**Luck:** 2007 could prove to be one of the luckiest years you've ever had. Everyone will have their eyes on you, making it easy to showcase your talents. There's never been a better time to submit your creative work for review. Going on job interviews and auditions will also be very successful. If you're looking for love, join a dating service. You're sure to get tons of responses. Better yet, just go from one party to another. You'll be bombarded with phone numbers.

#### CAPRICORN (Dec22-Jan20)

**Loot:** The more creative you are, the more money you'll make this year. This has been an ongoing trend for the past several years. And while you're more comfortable dealing with facts and figures, it behoves you to develop your artistic side this year. Photography, film, dance, and poetry are all avenues that could yield fruit. And if this possibility seems unlikely, it's probably because you're not mixing with the right people.

**Luck:** You could take great pleasure in solitary pursuits this year. Reading, meditating, praying, nature

walks...all these pursuits can enhance your enjoyment of life. There's a strong possibility that you'll discover a hidden creative talent in 2007. Instead of going public with this discovery, keep it to yourself. Having such a secret will give your life an inner richness that is indescribably sweet. By the time December 18 arrives, you'll be ready to show off the fruits of your labour. Until that time, keep developing your gift in private.

#### AQUARIUS (Jan21-Feb19)

**Loot:** You'll continue to rise up the ladder of success throughout the first eight months of the year. Yes, there will be sudden disappointments, followed by thrilling advancements, but by the time September 2 rolls around, you'll be able to command a very respectable salary. A lucrative job could fall into your lap on March 19, when a Solar Eclipse sends an enlivening jolt of electricity through your second house of finances. Milk this opportunity for all that its worth, because by August 28, you could be ready to leave it for an even bigger and better break.

**Luck:** Good fortune comes to you through group associations this year. That's wonderful news for you, as you have always thrived on the company of others. Gravitating toward upbeat, adventur-

ous people will nearly always result in a prize for you. If you're seeking a job, spread the word among friends.

#### PISCES (Feb20-Mar20)

**Loot:** Your career continues to undergo the last phases of a dramatic overhaul this year. The final result could be a significantly higher salary, provided you demand what you're worth. Developing your self-confidence will make all the difference between working to make ends meet and making a comfortable living. The best time to find a new source of income will be in the two weeks following April 17. You'll have to work hard for your money for the first eight months of the year, but the situation will become much easier after September 2. Entering into a business partnership is strongly favoured in the last four months of the year.

**Luck:** 2007 is your year to attain your career goals. It's time to erase all of your previous assumptions of what a successful job entails. The fact is that you'll attain the greatest triumphs by doing what you love. If you always wanted to be a poet, pour all of your energy into writing verses. Does the prospect of appearing on the big screen appeal to you? Take acting classes and go on auditions. Turn a deaf ear to people who scoff at your well laid out plans.



**ROBERT  
O'SHEA**

## Cutting Santa out of the deal

IT WOULD be apt, would it not, for me to write an article on New Year resolutions.

Especially considering that I failed to mention them in the last two years that I have filled this space in the newspaper (a brief look back shows that the beginning of 2005 saw me banging on about Peter Pan for some reason while last year I gave you my predictions for 2007.

Let's hope we all pulled that one out and stuck it to the fridge so we can refer to it in the year ahead. If not, I would be willing to part with copies for an unreasonable price.

Last January, in fact, I began doing my research for this week's column, knowing that it would fall on the first day of the year. What I did was a survey on 100 acquaintances planning on making New Year resolutions.

After one week — surprise, surprise — only half had kept their promises to give up smoking, eating junk food, spitting at passersby etc.

After a fortnight, this number had dropped to 32 and highlighting the astounding lack of willpower that goes into these resolutions.

The third week it probably dropped lower but by then I had lost all interest in the project because it seemed a waste of my time and the opportunity to show the results (today) seemed too far away.

I don't even feel too inclined to continue writing on the subject right now; in fact, I know I'm off it but I'd love a beer. So pull up a stool.

The problem, as I see it, with the whole last couple of weeks was not so much the excess — though my stomach acids, if they had hands, would raise them at this point — but the forced conviviality and suspension of disbelief.

I truly don't understand how parents do it. Or why.

On a few occasions alone with cousins and nephews, I found myself faced with the Santa dilemma: Will I ask them what they got from him or would it be too condescending and upset them that their hip older cousin thought they still believed?

This led to a few moments where we would stand facing each other like those cowboys at the end of Spaghetti westerns: I would eye the 11-year-old — who surely knows! — and he would eye his eight-year-old brother, who would turn his believing pupils

towards my stare with a glint that said "Santy. Pah!"

But, before I could broach the subject, their six-year-old sister, who definitely believes, runs in and headbutts me in an area that corresponds to all crazily-running-around six-year-old heights.

So I am none the wiser on whether they still believe or not and will have to go through the whole rigmarole again next year (albeit wearing a cup). What I found out they positively don't believe is that their older cousin is any-way hip.

If I was a parent — and numerous state-sponsored bodies have vowed never to let that happen — there would be no Santa dilemma.

There would be no Santa.

I have a fine memory of my childhood Christmases — which I don't think I can say about most other people, who recall it as some sort of magical fairyland.

Adults think kids love Santa. Fact: Kids love toys. And sweets.

Just because grown-ups feel the need to spin some story about a fat old man coming down the chimney delivering them does not mean it is simply a sideshow.

And a creepy one at that.

So if I am the parent of a three-year old, who is just beginning to be infiltrated by the ho-ho-ho propaganda, I will take him, or her, — I don't mind once it's healthily cynical — and make a deal: I have to tell them some bad news but if they accept it they can have double the quota of Christmas gifts.

I'm guessing those with the sufficient teeth will bite my hand off right there for that deal.

First I will tell them their mother is dead. Then, when their tears are backing up, I will reveal that I am joking but that there is no Santa — the former false news will soften the latter blow.

Then I will tell them about another five-letter S-word. The Sales. I will explain that if they are patient enough to wait that extra week we will be able to afford double the presents we could have got before Christmas.

Result: A blissful holiday season.

When you have great ideas spilling out of your brain like this you don't need to make resolutions.

I'm just perfect as I am.