

ACCENT

www.thejournalnet.com

THIS WEEKEND'S BEST BETS

Bridal fair

What's there: More than 30 vendors from the bridal and event-planning industry and bridal style show

When: Noon to 4 p.m. Sunday

Where: Hillview Country Club, 1800 E. King St., Franklin, off Interstate 65 at the State Road 44 Franklin/Shelbyville exit

Admission: Free

Information: 294-1555

Father-daughter dance

What: Pajama-themed dance, games, refreshments and prizes

When: 7 p.m. today

Where: Mount Pleasant Christian Church, 381 N. Bluff Road, Greenwood

Admission: \$6 per person, \$15 per family

Information: 881-6727

'Annie' on the big screen

When: 2 and 7:30 p.m. today and 7:30 p.m. Saturday

Where: Artcraft Theatre, 57 N. Main St., Franklin

Admission: \$5 for adults, \$4 for students and seniors, \$3 for children

Information: 736-6823

WEB EXTRA: Find more events and activities at www.thejournalnet.com.

VIDEO GAMING



'Karaoke Revolution: American Idol'

You may watch the show and mock the bad auditions, but here's your chance to live the "American Idol" dream. You start from the bottom and work your way up to stardom.

In addition to the rudimentary gameplay modes you're already used to, this title is all about the "American Idol" experience, from the opening auditions to the final sing-offs in Hollywood. Almost every aspect of the show is tailored into the gameplay.

One area that cannot be overlooked is how poorly the judging is done here. First, there's no Paula Abdul to gush over your vocal stylings or offer to have you guest star in her comeback album.

Sure Simon and Randy are there, but the whole show is based on the dynamic of the three main judges, and her absence is noticeable.

Platform: PlayStation 2

Genre: Music

Rating: E for Everyone

Scripps Howard News Service

THIS WEEK IN TINSELTOWN



"The Devil Wears Prada," starring Meryl Streep, received Oscar accolades in the costume category.

Other Oscars

By now you've heard about the best actor and actress Oscar nominations and who did and didn't get nods for best picture and director, but there are 24 Academy Award categories.

Some of the less-hyped nominations: **Costume:** "Curse of the Golden Flower," "The Devil Wears Prada," "Dreamgirls," "Marie Antoinette," "The Queen"

Cinematography: "The Black Dahlia," "Children of Men," "The Illusionist," "Pan's Labyrinth," "The Prestige"

Original score: "Babel," Gustavo Santaolalla; "The Good German," Thomas Newman; "Notes on a Scandal," Philip Glass; "Pan's Labyrinth," Javier Navarrete; "The Queen," Alexandre Desplat

Makeup: "Apocalypse," "Click," "Pan's Labyrinth"

Visual effects: "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest," "Poseidon," "Superman Returns"

The Associated Press

Put heart into online profile

Seven ideas for crafting Web version of Cupid's arrow

By SAM DOLNICK
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK

It's almost that time of year when roses seem to bloom from the concrete, chocolate hearts rain from the sky and amorous couples clog every street corner. February can be a hard month to be single.

If Cupid keeps passing you by, maybe it's time to join the legions heading to dating Web sites, or, if you've already been there done that, brush the cobwebs off your profile and give it another shot.

But don't wade into the digital dating pool uneducated. With tens of millions of people looking for love online, you've got to work doubly hard to stand out.

"Think of it as going to a party," Jesse Keller said. She's president of Personals Trainer, a Web site that helps online daters.

"If you have a great profile, it's like being the life of the party. But most profiles are like the guy wearing the same outfit as everyone else, standing alone in the corner, murmuring monosyllabic answers," Keller said.

Don't be that guy.

Here are seven tips for men and women from experts who help lonely-hearts craft the perfect profile.

Don't kill them with adjectives

Sift through a dating site, and you'll find unending lists of adjectives: smart, kind, funny, adventurous, honest, caring. ... Why not just include uncreative and boring?

Ditch the list. Make your new mantra that old writing maxim: Show, don't tell.

"Don't tell me you're athletic; tell me about the marathon you just ran," Eric Resnick, founder of Profilehelper.com, said. Don't say you like to travel; talk about your trip to the Great Wall of China.

Go for a tone that's more natural and personal. It's also a good idea to survey the competition. Look at the profiles of other people in your demographic, and make sure you're different.

The photo

Even though starry-eyed suitors might say it's what's on the inside that counts, don't fool yourself: Your photo is perhaps the most important element of your profile.

Experts have a couple of strict rules.

For men: "I don't care how well-built you are, keep your shirt on," Resnick said. "Women are laughing at you."

For women: "No bikini shots. And if you're going to put up a bikini picture, don't be surprised if you get a lot of e-mails from guys you don't want to meet," Resnick said.

Dark, brooding shots usually aren't a good way to go, either.

"Smile," Resnick advised. "You want to look like someone people would want to spend time with. People like happy people."

Be careful about cropping out other people from your pictures. Your ex's disembodied hand hanging around your shoulder does not send the right message.



Stay out of the past

Nobody wants to hear how your ex-girlfriend cheated on you or your ex-husband was such a bore. Would you want to spend time with someone hung up on somebody else?

Another warning sign: People who keep mentioning the importance of "honesty."

"All it does is make it sound like you were lied to and aren't over it," Resnick said. "And don't ask for monogamy; it's expected."

A better approach is to talk about the present — what you've done recently, what makes you happy, what interests you.

This is not your diary

Honesty is important, but don't treat your dating service as a confessional. It's a delicate balance between sounding genuine and venting.

"Don't say that you want to settle down and have four children and get away from your alcoholic parents," said Susan Fox, owner of Personals Work.

Resnick said you should think of your personal ad as your movie trailer, not your movie.

"It's a 30-second snippet that makes people want to buy a ticket to the film," he said.

Don't try to be a comedian

Nothing can cause prospective paramours to cringe like a string of bad jokes.

"Don't say 'I'm going to write a funny profile,' because you're going to end up sounding like you tried to write a funny profile," Resnick said. "You just want to be yourself."

It's OK to make jokes, but don't treat your personal ad as an open-mic night. Firing off one-lin-

ers is a way to hide, not a good way to introduce yourself.

That doesn't mean you should be stiff and serious, though.

Tell a funny anecdote, talk about a quirky movie, show you can laugh at yourself.

Self-deprecating jokes can work, but don't go overboard; if you call yourself an idiot, nobody will have any reason to doubt you.

Don't fudge the truth

Lying will get you nowhere. If the hope is to meet your online crushes in the flesh, then exaggerations will loom large.

Keller said women tend to lie about their age and their weight, and men tend to lie about their height and their income.

"They're going to quickly see if you weren't being truthful, and they're going to wonder what else you're not being truthful about," Keller said.

Roll up the sleeves and get to work

Posting a good personal ad is only half the battle. The other half is scrolling through the ads to find someone you like.

"Don't just sit back and wait to be found," Fox said. "Perseverance is really important here. It's a process that works, but you have to stick with it."

When you do find people you like, don't be shy. Contact them, tell them you're interested, and then let your well-crafted witticisms and cute pictures reel them in.

What's my sign? Evidently, it's 'Get off the road and stay off'

As if I didn't have enough to worry about, I've just been informed that I am one of the worst drivers in North America.

And how was this determined? By my zodiac sign.

I am a Libra (born Oct. 17, same as Irene Ryan, who played Granny on "The Beverly Hillbillies"), and, according to a story carried by Reuters ("We Reut so you don't have to"), Libras are the drivers most likely to have accidents and receive tickets.

The ranking came from a study done by Insurance Hotline.com, based on 100,000 North American driving records collected during the past six years.

The best drivers, it says, are Leos, described as generous and comfortable in sharing the road.

The others, in order from best



Mike Redmond

to worst, are Gemini (good at multi-tasking), Cancer (who think of other drivers as extended family), Virgo (they pay attention to detail), Capricorn (goal-oriented), Sagittarius (experienced risk-takers but like their cell phones too much), Taurus (stubborn), Scorpio (tendency toward road rage), Pisces (daydreamers), Aries (have a "me-first" attitude) and, yours truly.

And what makes Libras the worst drivers?

According to the site, our craving for balance and approval makes us indecisive behind the wheel.

For this reason, it's recommended we just park it until rush hour is over.

(I fail to see how this is worse than someone who gabs on the cell phone while zooming through traffic, but perhaps I'm being too sensitive. It's a Libra trait, you know.)

Actually, I think this is all a bunch of hokey.

Take that business about Geminis being good drivers, for example. My brother is a Gemini, and he drives like a little old lady.

The reason my brother can multi-task — if that's what you want to call steering, working the pedals, lighting a cigarette, drinking a Pepsi, reading billboards out loud, fiddling with the heater and changing the

radio station every 30 seconds — is because he's going 35 miles an hour. On the interstate. In the left lane.

Now, it is true that I know one other Gemini, Mom, and she also drives like a little old lady, but that's because she is one.

But the rest of it? Hokey.

I'm a good driver, and I know it.

Why? Because I am a trained motorcyclist.

I recommend motorcycle-safety training through American Bikers Aimed Toward Education to everybody, whether they own a bike or not, because it makes you into a better driver. Lots of people who have taken ABATE training say the same thing.

Basically, it works like this: As a motorcyclist, you learn that everything else on the road is out there trying to plow into you, and it is your job to see them

and avoid getting smushed.

This is a good way to approach road safety no matter how many wheels you have under you. And it has nothing to do with the zodiac. It has to do with using your head when you're on the road.

So who are the worst drivers in North America? I don't think you can determine it astrologically. No, for this question you need geography.

Specifically, you have to get out there and drive through Boston at rush hour. People there drive like a bunch of Tauruses. And Scorpios. And Arieses.

Oh, yeah. Lots of Arieses in Boston. And that's no hokey.

Mike Redmond is the author of "Six of One, Half-Dozen of Another" and "The Night the Wheels Fell Off." Send comments to letters@thejournalnet.com.