



Chinese puzzles

Will it

雪 or 雨

today?

Solve our brainteasers times2

Weather page 86

Where is property hot?

Cool in Your Code

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Playing the Eton Ball Game – but now for the big thaw



There were high jinks in the schoolyard during a break at Eton College yesterday after Britain awoke to the heaviest snowfalls in 11 years **News**, pages 6-9

Free DVD

Coast Eastern England

Collect from W H Smith Coupon, page 48

Overstretched jails are told to spend less

The Prison Service has been told to find savings of £80 million a year for three financial years from an annual budget of £2 billion. Prison staff said that the cuts were impossible. **News**, page 25

Palestinian deal

Rival Palestinian factions agreed on the formation of a unity government at crisis talks in Saudi Arabia, an official said last night. **World**, page 41

Difficult package

Royal Mail Royal Mail incensed unions by signalling an end to its final salary pension scheme, as it won a support package worth £3.9 billion. **Business**, page 52

England substitution?

Steve McClaren has been England manager for seven months, but a replacement for him has already been mentioned before the next match in Israel. **Sport**, page 104

'The other woman with whom the British public had a long and passionate love affair'

Ben Macintyre
Page 23



Actress dies

Anna Nicole Smith, the troubled former Playboy Playmate, died last night after collapsing in her hotel room in Florida. The actress and model had a history of drug problems. **News**, page 5

Bernard Matthews faces 'illegal' imports inquiry

► **Turkeys came from bird-flu hit Hungary**

► **Disclosure threatens £400m-a-year business**

Valerie Elliott
Countrywide Editor

Bernard Matthews is under investigation by the Government amid concerns that the company has imported poultry from inside an

avian flu exclusion zone in Hungary, it emerged last night.

The company, Britain's largest turkey producer, is also being investigated for breaking EU hygiene regulations by leaving processed poultry outside sheds on its food processing site at Suffolk, where a lethal strain of bird flu was detected last week, according to senior Whitehall sources.

Another three of the units of the 22 at the Bernard Matthews farm in Holton, Suffolk, have tested posi-

tive for H5N1, it emerged last night, raising fears that the virus was more entrenched than originally hoped. Government scientists will be looking at establishing how the virus spread from hut to hut, or whether all four huts suffered separate, independent infections from the same source.

The Government has found that the strain of the virus in both countries may well be identical. If the imported birds were infected with the H5N1 strain, this virus could

easily have been picked up by wild birds and rats, which may have contaminated the chicks in one of the 22 sheds on the site at Holton.

The initial report by veterinary scientists into the conditions of the plant where 160,000 turkey chicks were gassed this week may prove serious for Bernard Matthews and his £400 million-a-year business.

The investigation also poses questions about the practices employed by the £3.4 billion British

Continued on page 4, col 1

Lucia van der Post

answers your
style questions

timesonline.co.uk/fashion



Luxury with Lucia

Love a little
spiritual
guidance? It's
all in the stars

If designers such as Dior (who regularly consulted the occult when strapped for inspiration), marriage-sorters in India and members of our Government can tap in to spiritual advisers when the going gets tough, why not you and me? Well, these days you can — the body, mind, spirit people have moved mainstream and these days you can consult psychics in the environment of a department store, such as Harrods or Selfridges.

From today, New York's own star-gazing couple, Starsky + Cox (Stella Starsky and Quinn Cox, partners in life, love and business, sextrologers to the *beau monde*, including Marc Jacobs, Mario Testino and Scarlett Johansson), will be ready to sort out your love life, work life or any other troubling little problems at Selfridges, just beside the stationery department. Their Cosmic Love and Sex Clinic runs until Wednesday — Valentine's Day, in case you missed the connection.

Love is what they're about on this occasion... how to make it better if you have it, how to find it if you don't. What most of us really want to know, of course, is whether we will live happily ever after, but Starsky + Cox aren't into the prediction business. They pull up your birth chart (instantly, from a computer once you've given them your date, time and place of birth) and then start talking to find out what is troubling you.

"Generally what we do," they say (they're a double act and it's hard to remember who said what) "is to try to get people to understand their strengths and weaknesses and what they can do to punch up in their lives. We're where psychology meets astrology. We study the birth signs [of which incidentally they believe there are 24 — a

masculine and feminine version of the usual 12] and typically look at Venus and Mars and work out how to use people's own power to help themselves".

Don't go along expecting an hour-long session — something between five and 15 minutes is more likely, though it's free and you just walk in, hoping for a slot. But Starsky + Cox tell me that they can do a lot in a short amount of time and if you check out starskyandcox.com, you will see that they offer consultations by phone, mail, and e-mail, and send out astrological charts. And if you can't make it to Selfridges, Starsky + Cox have produced a comprehensive guide to all things astrological, amorous and sexual called *Sextrology* (£14.99 from Ebury Press). No sexual proclivity or psychological peculiarity is left uncatered for. As *Time* magazine put it — it's a "deft melding of high-mindedness and raunch".

Not that this is Selfridges' first foray into the world of psychic services. A year ago it launched the Psychic Sisters, Jayne Wallace and Lindy Murray, so that for £60 an hour troubled shoppers could deal with the sort of problems that buying a new Prada handbag simply can't solve (jaynewallace.co.uk). It proved such a success that Harrods has followed suit, and the Psychic Sisters are proliferating fast — there are five now — with some available at Harrods' Urban Retreat and some at Selfridges. Meanwhile, also at Harrods, there is also a "professional intuitive" where, for £120, you can acquire some "personal guidance and confidence boosting". I've yet to call but a not entirely empathetic friend reports that it "was spookily impressive".

And if you'd like to do more from the privacy of your own home (I'm thinking of Valentine's Day, here) you could always check in to Alison Chan Lung's Soul Mate Relationship Programme on psychiclovecoach.com. Yours for £200.

DAVID DOWNTON

Marc Jacobs
navy dress,
£250
(netaporter.
com)



Yeojin Bae
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(matches-
fashion.
com)



Sara Berman
spot print
dress, £199
(www.urban-
outfitters.com)



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