

Why wait until Sunday (January 4) and the Sunday after (January 11) for next year's horoscope?

YOUR STARS FOR '88



DON'T MISS JONATHAN CAINER'S 16-PAGE MONTH-BY-MONTH GUIDE ON THURSDAY



FERGIE: Pipped pal Diana

Fun-lover Fergie is tops with teenagers

THE Duchess of York is now more popular with the public than her close friend Princess Diana.

Fun-loving Fergie is especially admired by teenagers who rate the newest Royal recruit three times higher than any other member of the Queen's family.

She came fifth overall in a Marplan survey carried out last week, one place above Diana. Top was the Queen, followed by Princess Anne, Prince Charles and the Queen Mother.

Fergie's rise in the popularity stakes is thought to be because of her refreshing lighthearted attitude to life.

While she and Diana are both caring people, the future King's consort cannot be seen to let her hair down as Prince Andrew's wife did in the royal It's A Knockout last summer.

There is also a big difference in temperament. Diana is shy, while Fergie was a natural for royal PR from the word go.

Cracking

On her first public tour after the wedding 18 months ago she wowed the people of Jersey by sticking her head out of the Royal limousine, pulling funny faces and cracking jokes.

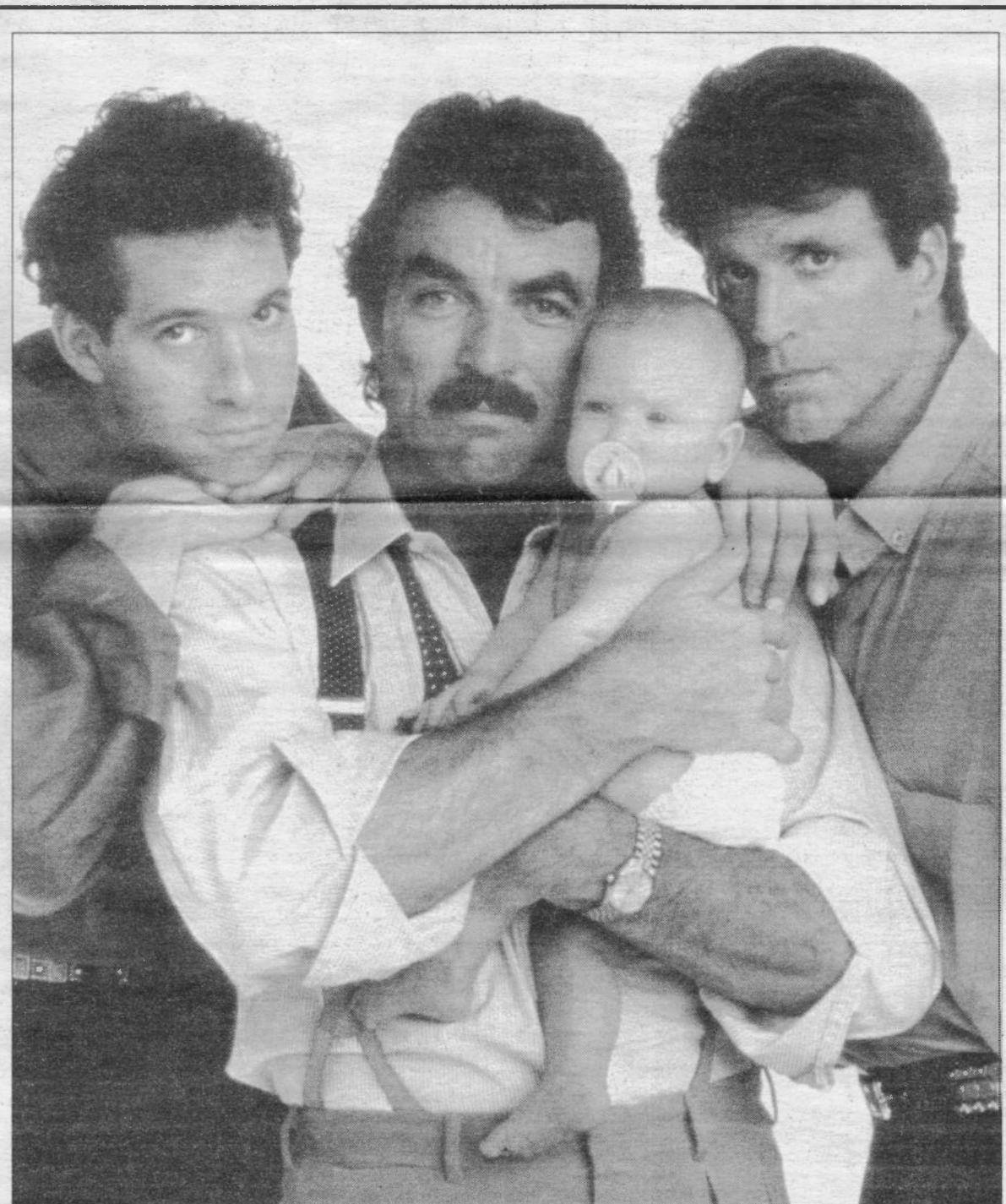
She was also admired for declaring she would master Andrew's flying skills so that she could understand his work more, and then winning her helicopter pilot's wings.

And it was mischievous Fergie who enlisted the help of comedienne Pamela Stephenson when they and Diana dressed as policewomen to gatecrash Andrew's stag night.

● Prince Phillip has ordered a reduction in the number of pheasant shoots during the Royal Family's six-week Sandringham holiday.

Last year more than 7,000 pheasants were shot on the 20,000-acre estate, but this time the figure will be far less because of a poor breeding season. Instead, the hunting royals will shoot thousands of wood pigeons, rabbits, hares and wild duck.

250,000 FREE BEERS FOR BRAINY DRINKERS



ACTING PARENTS: Tom Selleck hugs baby Mary with pals Ted Danson (right) and Steve Guttenberg

Brewery bottles out of contest

by PAUL WILKINSON

DRINKERS sank 250,000 free beers in three days after cracking a brewery competition code.

They queued up to claim their prizes after scratching special panels from cards handed over the bar in 200 pubs.

The promotional game, planned to last 12 days, was devised by mathematicians at Aston University, Birmingham.

But it was called off after just 72 hours when drinkers worked out the winning sequence.

One publican said last night: "We were told the game was worked out by university maths boffins, but people easily cracked the system. Soon everyone was a winner."

The competition was organised by the Midlands brewery Davenports, whose marketing manager Mark Whitrod admitted yesterday: "Our customers have proved just too clever for us."

"We have been forced to pull out.

Smarter

"The maths boffins worked out the probable odds and we had calculated our budget on their findings."

"Ten years ago the experts would have been right, but people are much smarter nowadays and they soon hit on the winning formula."

He has now written to all the company's pubs asking licensees to destroy any advertisements for the competition.

But the decision to pull out early has upset some drinkers, who still have not claimed their free half. So Mr Whitrod has told publicans to use their discretion about dishing out the winning drinks.

"We don't want any dissatisfied customers," he said.

● A scheme to offer free drinks to motorists has been scrapped after police protests.

Beefeater Steak Houses gave free tokens to motorists who spent £10 or more on petrol at selected garages. The tokens could be exchanged for drinks with a meal at the restaurants.

But police in South Wales led the fight against the scheme. A spokesman explained yesterday: "Apart from our obvious objection we pointed out that many of the Beefeater premises are accessible only by car."

Nappy daze for macho men

HE-MAN actor Tom Selleck is left holding the baby as he switches roles to play a reluctant dad.

But the Magnum star's new image has made him a happy man. His film Three Men and a Baby has taken nearly £20 million in America in three weeks.

Tom plays a New York high flier who shares a swish penthouse with two

friends, Ted Danson of TV's Cheers and Steve Guttenberg, from the Police Academy series.

Their macho lifestyle is thrown into chaos when an ex-girlfriend dumps newborn Mary, leaving them to contend with nappies and midnight feeds.

The movie is directed by Star Trek alien Leonard Nimoy — and who could produce a baby film better than a Spock?

FILM FANS KILLED

TWO people were killed in cinema riots when comedian Eddie Murphy's new film Raw was released in America.

One man was shot and another stabbed during performances at two Los Angeles cinemas.

Now theatres in New York are banning it and others have hired armed guards for performances.

Manhattan theatre boss Sal Guardino said: "The film seems to attract the worst elements. Murphy seems to whip the audiences into a frenzy and they go out of control."

Next year's horoscope?

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