

STARGAZER

Try not to act foolishly this April when retrograde Mercury in aggressive Aries can make even the most sophisticated of us drool farina on our tux. (That IS farina, isn't it?) Mercury careens through the cosmos, impacting other planets and disrupting carefully ordered lives with miscommunication. But, take heart cousin; what gets muddled in early April turns around after the 20th with the help of Mars. All is not lost!

ARIES

(MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

What adventures await you this April? Gay Rams are advised to stick to the tried and true while retro Mercury rampages through the zodiac and disrupts best laid plans. Social snafus can hog-tie and brand you through the 20th. Of course, some lesser folks like that sort of thing, but not domineering Rambos. You must wield the lasso or there is no rodeo. Wait until the 20th cowpoke.

TAURUS

(APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

Monsters in your closet call the shots in early April because of retro Mercury. This means that your imagination conjures scenarios that may never come to be or are over dramatized to say the least. This is no time to cringe in your closet, cousin; it's time to put your best foot forward and step Out. It becomes clearer, after the 20th, that the timing was just fine.

GEMINI

(MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

Even gregarious gay Twins may suddenly question their ability to schmooze during April's Mercury retrograde. At least until the 20th, carefully examine the way in which you treat pals lest there be misunderstandings of intent. Later in the month, the conversational cloud clears and you easily become the spark of the social circuit once again.

CANCER

(JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

It's a rocky road to corporate Olympus as retro Mercury tosses a few detours along the way. Proud Crabs deserve a chance at stardom but give yourself ample planning time. After the 20th you'll be in a better frame of mind to finalize plans for a coup d'etat. By then, however, will the spark still be there to do the deed? Feisty Mars channels desires to more social outlets.

LEO

(JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)

Itchy paws are scratched with a fabulous vacation this April but it may require extra planning. Gay Lions feel the impact of retro Mercury when guesthouse reservations in Key West are switched to a Holiday Inn's Friars convention in Omaha. It just ain't the same. All is salvaged with a reconfirmation and carry-ons. Escape before the 14th when Mars heats up your career.

VIRGO

(AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)

Uttering words of lust in some megahunks ear may not have it's intended effect in early April with retro Mercury. Communication may be misinterpreted or ignored. Rather than fold your tent and compete with the wallpaper, proud Virgins should make a concerted effort to do rather than say. Zesty Mars energy demands that actions speak louder and prouder than words for most of the month.

LIBRA

(SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)

In strong partnerships, words need not be spoken. However, for queer Libras who are either in the throes of an unstable relationship or who are still on the prowl, retro Mercury works like a cosmic land mine. Don't quibble over trifles now; the cost is too high. Instead, let water careen under the bridge and allow your hands to do the talking.

SCORPIO

(OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)

No matter how hard you try, the job will never seem to get done in early April. Instructions are not followed or the end results are all wrong. Take heart queer Scorpy; retro Mercury will wend its course and dissipate after the 20th. In the meantime, take a couple of coffee breaks and leave it to randy Mars to put a little mid-month zipadee-doodah in your life.

SAGITTARIUS

(NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)

Proud Archers are artistically stymied for a good part of April when retro Mercury throws a wrench into your most creative projects. Forget about planning something stupendous. Settle for something stupid until after the 20th. By then Mars adds a bit of oomph to your communications; ideas not only germinate, they explode on the scene. So get the word Out!

CAPRICORN

(DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)

The best time to bring up issues with family members may be after the Mercury retrograde on the 20th. Otherwise, your position may get lost among the general static. However, that doesn't mean that you have to kowtow to the straight and narrow; far from it. Queer Caps must not be subjugated; Live your life and tell 'em all about it in May.

AQUARIUS

(JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)

Mouthy Aqueerians should become reticent during the Mercury retrograde when things you say can be grossly misconstrued and blown out of proportion. Strong commentary should be shelved until after the 20th. Otherwise, you may find yourself hoisted on your own petard. Please, be sure to wear clean petards in case you meet someone special.

PISCES

(FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)

A fool and their money are soon parted. That goes double for pink Fish who try to maneuver high finance during the Mercury retrograde. The information you receive is flawed or misinterpreted. Wait, wait, wait until after the 20th before you plunk down your hard earned cash for a dollar and a dream. Fabulous baubles don't grow on trees you know.

the Cyber shark

by Miki Thomas

a monthly look at the internet & the web

I suppose that a group surfacing like "Take it to the People" was inevitable given the publicity the fight for same-sex marriage has been garnering. However, it is possible to do something about such organizations and the Internet and the web can help.

The web is an excellent resource for information about some of the more prominent extreme right organizations mostly because many of those groups have web pages chock full of the crap they've been flinging our way. I suggest you peek at these pages at your own risk; some of them are quite offensive:

The Traditional Values Coalition - <http://www.traditionalvalues.org/>, Christian Coalition - <http://cc.org/> (This address may be down; I've tried to access it recently and could not make a connection), Family Research Council - <http://www.townhall.com/frcl>, Eagle Forum - <http://www.eagleforum.org/> (Phyllis Schlafly's group)

Rough stuff, huh? After looking at these sites, you may want a quick reality check. Fortunately, reason and civility do exist on the web and there are several pages that provide an antidote to the likes of Pat Robertson and crew. The following pages offer extensive resources on the who's who of the extreme right and how to battle them: The Anti-Pat Robertson/Christian Coalition Site - <http://www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/7027/patrobertson.html> (The name says it all. An excellent site.) The Freedom Writer <http://www.berkshire.net/~ifas/fw/index.html> (The newsletter of the Institute for First Amendment Studies, an organization that monitors the right.) Fred Phelps Resource Page <http://members.tripod.com/~fredphelps> (A page devoted to exposing Fred Phelps and his anti-gay agenda.) Ex.Ex - <http://members.aol.com/exexgay/index.html> (This page features testimonies from those victimized by the so-called "ex-gay" ministries.)

Of course, these pages are for national organizations and those individuals with some national prominence. What about Vermont? Are there native grown extreme right groups making a home on the web? Believe it or not, there are a few despite Vermont's reputation for being somewhat hostile to fundamentalist religious groups. Indeed, back in the Nineteenth Century when Jonathan Edward was preaching fire and brimstone to rapt audiences throughout the country, Vermont had Hosea Balou preaching universal salvation. But, that doesn't mean there hasn't been a fundamentalist presence in the state.

For a peek at this particular subculture, a good start would be the Rebirth Ministries web page (<http://members.aol.com/rebirthool/index.htm>). A husband and wife ministry team working from the North End of Burlington have put together a bunch of links to area fundamentalist churches with web pages.

Among the links featured in the Rebirth Ministries page is the Jericho Congregational Church, pastored by Rev. Peter Anderson, who, along with his partner in crime, Rev. Dr. Craig Benson,

started that exercise in futility, the New Journey ex-gay group. The page (<http://members.aol.com/jccvt/news.htm>) has the usual information regarding its service times, history, and ministries but the real clincher for me about this site is its newsletter.

The March 1998 newsletter has the good reverend patting himself on the back for being a part of a church which in its history helped with

<http://> Know Thine Enemies

the defense of the Amistad mutineers. The irony of course that back then, those who shared Rev. Anderson's evangelical beliefs were the ones who happily defended the institution of slavery. To show that things haven't really changed all that much, right after Rev. Anderson's thoughts on Amistad is a big announcement for "Take it to the People." Some never learn.

There is a web page for the Vermont contingent of Promise Keepers, the men-only group for whiny born-again types (<http://homepages.together.net/~samoset/vtprmskp.htm>). However, true to Vermont's heritage, there's nothing to it. Clicking on each icon only leads to a dead end, even the one for the national organization of Promise Keepers. This little message found at the site says it all:

"For those who have been patiently waiting for the "new site," my apologies. This web site is not very current. It is quite dissapointing (sic) that local Christians have no interest in making this a fun, collective effort to help men (themselves included) be all that God intends. This page is still here hoping for some Vermont input.

By the way, it was last updated November 18, 1997.

However, don't think that just because Vermont doesn't have a strong extreme right presence on the web that those who subscribe to such views don't know a thing or two about getting power and keeping it. Hitler and his band of Nazis were once a noisy minority and look what happened. It is important for us and our allies to be the ones to shape the discourse regarding our rights, not the other way around. One way to do that is to be informed about what is happening here in Vermont and around the world and act accordingly.

YOLANDA

Tarot Readings
by appointment



YOLANDA and the Plastic Family
The "GAYPRIL" College Tour April, 1998
*Goddard College: Thurs. April 16...8pm
*Middlebury College: Fri. April 24...8pm

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