

# STARGAZER

Hot July stokes the inner flame with a planetary pride march into Cancer and Leo. Lovely Venus and zesty Mars enter romantic Cancer and the expansive Sun and cerebral Mercury waltz into dramatic Leo. Lets go for the gusto, friends. The time is ripe for romance and I suspect most of us are up to the task.

## ARIES

(MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

Gay Rams are advised to center their activities close to home since their sense of well being centers there this July. Family issues and unresolved matters involving the dominant parent in your life may take a turn for the better. This is good as long as you don't compromise to please others. Be your proud self and stop schlepping all that cockamamie ancestral baggage around.

## TAURUS

(APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

Venus and Mars set your sights on a particularly delightful goal this July and once stubborn gay Bulls get something into their craw; they cannot be dissuaded. Opportunities abound in social situations so get yourself properly situated with the right crowd and wax poetic with your wry observations. Ask and you shall receive. But first, decide what you really want.

## GEMINI

(MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

Gay Twins learn to control their finances in July when both Venus and Mars make a green mountain out of a pile of pennies. Hey big spender, why not let that golden touch grab onto one of our charities or political organizations? You have the wisdom and the wherewithal to set some major changes into motion now thanks to the expansive Sun and intellectual Mercury.

## CANCER

(JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

Happy birthday proud Crab! This a month to shine as your personal magnetism reaches a high luster level. Thanks to feisty Mars, July offers you ample opportunity to show the immediate world what you can do. Venus adds a touch of pink panache so don't hide in your shell, cousin. Friends may not understand your wild ways right now but don't let them cramp your style.

## LEO

(JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)

Queer Lions score major karmic points by getting involved in a major gay community effort. The more you give, the more you get so be generous and magnanimous. Pioneering Mars strongly suggests that you blast your closet off its hinges and toss out any psychological debris that hold you back from true affirmation. The Sun has some juicy rewards for especially tidy Lions.

## VIRGO

(AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)

Queer Virgins, like most folks, thrive on strong friendships. This July, charming Venus and active Mars energize your social circle and pull you into its wild epicenter. Friends reaffirm your personal pride and give you great self confidence. Who knows what can happen when a Virgo is so inspired? Take it to its logical conclusion and turn a cousin into a kissing cousin.

## LIBRA

(SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)

Concentrate on your career; the planetary push of facile Venus and directioned Mars point to professional success. Proud Libras attain palpable gains in any career effort if they work at it. Why do I think that your goals are more gloss than grit? Maybe because even the most onerous tasks go smoothly. Claw for it while you can, bubbele. Next month you could go hungry.

## SCORPIO

(OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)

Personal transformation take shape this July. (Or maybe you're just mellowing with age?) Travel is likely with both Venus and Mars lighting your way. Buy a ticket and get going, proud Scorp; it may be the perfect opportunity for you to find your inner voice. And who knows who may be waiting for you at the end of the rainbow? Let's hope it's not a troll.

## SAGITTARIUS

(NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)

Gay Archers are not usually motivated by sexual conquest but the delightful combination of romantic Venus and aggressive Mars pokes you in the embers. Feast while you can lover; this planetary push won't last forever and the wind can go out of your sail before you know it. Meantime, strive for inner fulfillment alone or with a friend.

## CAPRICORN

(DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)

July heats up partnership issues so expect to share your hopes and dreams with a significant other. If you are in the search mode, use the lucky combination of charming Venus and aggressive Mars to set your course of action. Gay Goats sometimes need a friendly push because they tend to lack self confidence. No problem, baby; you are high on spunk now.

## AQUARIUS

(JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)

Aqueerians will be amazed at how a little body work could have such dramatic effects. Both Venus and Mars accentuate and define your best assets...OK your body too. That is, of course, that you do the proper exercise and diet regime to make the possible probable. Think nude beach and tone those pecs. The glorious Sun brings you a big surprise after the 24th.

## PISCES

(FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)

How much fun can a gay Fish have? It depends upon how you use the splendid energy of creative Venus and zesty Mars this July. Enjoy your free time while you can. Any project that you undertake now can become a personal masterpiece. The secret is to apply it to your day to day job or long term career. Grow a rose garden in concrete.

# --- the Cybershark

by Miki Thomas

a monthly look at the internet & the web

I had a problem with this month's column. It wasn't so much that there weren't enough web sites devoted to poetry; there were too many! Not only were there sites for amateur poets to submit their work, there were home pages created by the poets themselves. It was all quite overwhelming.

However, I found some ways to help narrow my search for the best poetry sites. First, I went to one of the search engines devoted to GLBT topics, Gayscape (<http://www.gayscape.com/gayscape/welcome.html>). I clicked on the "Poetry" icon and got a sizable list of both general poetry sites and home pages. Each listing included a brief synopsis of the site that helped me decide whether to check it out. Like most search engines, you can click on the URL to go to the site.

Thanks to Gayscape, I found Gay Literature (<http://www.gayliterature.com/>), a site with links to book reviews, magazines and e-zines, poetry, and short fiction. It is updated regularly so you don't have to worry about dead links.

Among the poetry links featured at the Gay Literature site was Erato's Lyre (<http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/Stonewall/2801/index.html>), named for the muse of poetry. According to the webmaster, Erato's Lyre was "created as a safe haven for LesBiGay poets to express themselves freely and without fear of prejudice or censorship." Poets, inspired by Erato herself, can submit their work by clicking on the "Submissions" link and filling out a form. The poems themselves are of varying quality; some read as if Erato took the day off when the author pressed the "Submit" button. Interestingly enough, the most successful poems are those that are not gay specific such as "The Wall" by Greg Mackmim who uses colors to illustrate urban decay. Most, however, are erotic free verse and made up of tiresome clichés to describe intimate encounters. Perhaps to liven the proceedings, an ambitious poet could write a poem in iambic pentameter using such euphemisms as "throbbing meat."

Another showcase for the fledgling poet is Poet's Corner (<http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/5032/doc1.htm>). Like Erato's Lyre, by pressing the "Submit" button, you can have your poems available for the web surfer to peruse. There are 90 poems posted so far and according to the webmaster, nearly 289 more to put up. Whew! The part I liked about this site was that there appeared to be equal numbers men and women represented.

On the other hand, Lesbian Poetry (<http://www.sappho.com/poetry/welcome.htm>) obviously is focused on poetry of a "sapphic" nature whether written by women or, interestingly enough, by men like William Wordsworth and Samuel Coleridge. This is not a site for amateur poets but rather for poets with more established reputations (i.e. dead, so don't expect any new submissions from any of them). The webmaster has taken great care in researching the poets featured and has posted the fruits of her research. This site is part of a larger page called Isle of Lesbos, which also has a page devoted to lesbian depictions in the world of art (downloadable of course, heh, heh).

If Erato is paying you a visit and you suddenly want to dip your toes into the depths of poesy, perhaps a stop at the Q\*ink! site (<http://users.lanminds.com/~pherrin28>) might help. Q\*ink! is a virtual GLBT writing community that started as an AOL chat and grew to include a web site complete with a chat room. You can also subscribe to its free newsletter which lists calls for submissions, announcements, and upcoming events.

Next issue, I hope to continue on in this tour through the world of GLBT arts and literature with a look at GLBT theater. If you have a theatrical site or know of one, let me know at [gossamer@together.net](mailto:gossamer@together.net)

## Summer Reading and More...

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*Gay & Lesbian Entertainment I.Q.?* [Kensington Publishing] Karvoski pretty much covers it all: queer film quotes, drama queens, film and video trivia, film kisses, and who done what with whom and where and when in what medium.

This is the kind of book you just have to own—not only to wow your friends with your Hollywood knowledge, but as a great resource when pondering all of those great questions like was so and so REALLY queer??? And who DID so and so kiss in that movie—what was the name of it again??

And last, but certainly not least, *The Queen of Whale Cay: the eccentric story of "Joe" Carstairs, fastest woman on water* [Viking]—and in fact the most narcissistic woman perhaps anywhere—is a truly engaging and fascinating very true story. You've heard it said that truth is stranger than fiction, and "Joe" Carstairs and her story are living (well, no longer living, but you get the point) proof.

Her antics and her tantrums are as amazing as her accomplishments—and they are many. Summerscale has done an enormous job tracking down the details of Carstairs life and piecing it all together. Don't miss a chance to see the end result and to get a glimpse of this beyond eccentric woman and her life.

And, just in case you don't have time to read—since you're too busy driving to and from work and to and from that favorite vacation spot, Hall Closet Books has just the solution: and expanded list of available audio books on tape. Now you can listen while you work or while you work out, while you drive or while you daydream, and best of all you can listen to favorite gay and lesbian titles or bits of gay and lesbian history.

Of particular note is the two-cassette *Great Trials of Oscar Wilde*, adapted for audio by Gyles Brandreth and spectacularly performed by extremely talented and versatile Martin Jarvis. *Great Trials* is a good way to get some understanding of the indecency trials of Wilde in the late 1890s. History buffs, literature aficionados, and theater-goers alike will fully appreciate all three facets of *Great Trials* and will be equally amazed by Jarvis' portrayal of ALL of the male participants in the trials.

Summer is a splendid time for getting caught up—whether its reading, listening to books on tape, or just appreciating the latest in gay and lesbian art, and these are just a few recent titles worthy of consideration. Happy reading.