

# STARGAZER

The weather may be cooling down but that doesn't mean that we have to. Enjoy the planetary heat of September when a cavalcade of planets sweeps through lusty Leo into energetic but pragmatic Virgo. It's time to channel our considerable passions into good gay deeds. Hey, who says good guys finish last?

## ARIES

(MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

Queer Rams go from the sublime to the mundane as September toadies along. Personal planets feed the creative fires early in the month when the combination of energetic Mars, inspiring Venus and creative Mercury tickles your gay muse. Express yourself while you can; by the 9th you'll be content to be just another cog in the corporate wheel... or is it a nut?

## TAURUS

(APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

Yikes! September sees a stampede of planets through Leo into Virgo. Gay Bulls trot along in tempo first concentrating on improving their personal surroundings and familial relationships and then, after the 9th, unleashing the festive beast from within. Sun in Virgo has you donning lampshades and boogying til the cows come home. They don't call you party animal for nothing buster!

## GEMINI

(MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

First think about what you're going to say and then shout it out loudly and proudly. That's the power of feisty Mars, intellectual Mercury and vivacious Venus in bold Leo on intellectual gay Twins. But rest your case before the 9th. After that, the planets move on and so will your agenda. Concentrate on establishing a Martha Stewart moment for close compadres. Wear only an apron.

## CANCER

(JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

What are pink Crabs doing about this bull stock market? Perhaps investing a bit of their swag. The combo of actionable Mars, contemplative Mercury and lucky Venus inspires otherwise frugal Crabs to heavily invest. Study your fiscal strategy carefully and buy low before mid-month. After that, you'll be tempted to broadcast your fiscal secrets to the immediate world.

## LEO

(JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)

The planets place you where you love to be in early September: as the undisputed center of attention. Take your bows before the 9th, proud Lion. After that, the Sun, Mercury and Venus encourage you to cash in on your charisma. You know that you're fabulous but does that translate into money in the marketplace? Consider selling your story to the Globe...or Jerry Springer.

## VRGO

(AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)

Good gay deeds are amply rewarded this month when actionable Mars, inquisitive Mercury and charming Venus heat up your charitable efforts. Karmic opportunities abound and hidden elements will be revealed. Give to the community early in the month, cousin; after the 9th you'll be too busy swatting away admirers and fanatical groupies to quietly toil behind the scenes.

## LIBRA

(SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)

You're in the running for Miss Popularity so surround yourself with jolly compadres until mid-month. Randy Mars, charming Venus and inspirational Mercury elect you leader of the pride parade. Good thing too; after the 9th, you'll desire more than just fleeting good times and will require many able hands to help you in loftier endeavors. Embrace a great gay cause.

## SCORPIO

(OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)

It doesn't take a genius to see that the planets are plotting a revolution for you in your career. Aggressive Mars, charismatic Venus and strategic Mercury conspire to put you in the right place at the right time. Make the most of the moment, queer Scorpio; your trump card must be played by the 9th. After that you'll be content to play the dummy.

## SAGITTARIUS

(NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)

Home seems confining to expansive gay Archers this month. The secret is to either gather a plethora of exotic, exciting folks in your living room or use feisty Mars, friendly Venus and chatty Mercury to go Out and seek new and refreshing stimuli. Call it recharging your batteries and take a few mental health days off from work. You'll electrify when you return.

## CAPRICORN

(DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)

You are at your pinnacle of sexual perfection when randy Mars, gorgeous Venus and flirtatious Mercury light your fire in early September. Queer Caps seem to know all the right things to say to sway their prey. Make your best moves before the 9th. After that, you'll ache for international adventure and would not be adverse to taking a special someone along. Pack the cooking oil.

## AQUARIUS

(JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)

Expect to spend most of your time on partnerships this September. Aqueerians run the gamut of emotions because domineering Mars, acquiescent Venus and talkative Mercury are all hurling through Leo, then Virgo and finally Libra. How much are you prepared to give to partners? What is the best combination of you, me and we? It ain't calculus cousin.

## PISCES

(FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)

Pink Fish cannot be easily distracted from the task at hand in early September. However, by the 9th, be prepared to cast all work aside and concentrate on one to one activities. If you're still swimming free, use the energy of feisty Mars, charming Venus and chatty Mercury to seek your mate. If you are already netted, lounge on the raw bar and be prepared to be eaten.

## --- the Cybershark

by Miki Thomas

a monthly look at the internet & the web

Another summer draws to a close, but not without looking back at some of the events that have affected the GLBT community. Perhaps the most disturbing thing that happened was the religious right's "ex-gay" advertising campaign that ran

ceremonies in front of 40,000 people. For more information about the Lesbian and Gay Bands of America, check out its new and improved web site at [www.gaybands.com](http://www.gaybands.com).

Before I close, I would like to mention a couple of sites that have been brought to my

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in several newspapers including USA Today and The New York Times. It is purely a phenomenon of the Evangelical Christian movement since no reputable counselor would ever consider "reparative" therapy on gays and lesbians without drawing the ire of the American Psychological Association. Having personally known gays and lesbians who have survived such "ministries" and seen the psychological damage these groups can cause, I can only shudder at the thought of some young gay or lesbian taking these ads seriously.

For those who have taken part in an "ex-gay" organization or currently in one, there is a study being conducted by Dr. Michael Schroeder and Dr. Ariel Shidlo called "Changing Sexual Orientation: Does Counseling Work?" sponsored by the National Lesbian and Gay Health Association. You can access information about the study as well as take part in the study at [www.jasperweb.com/therastudy](http://www.jasperweb.com/therastudy) or email them at [thereastudy@aol.com](mailto:thereastudy@aol.com). If you are interested in learning more about "ex-gay" groups, don't try the "Ex Ex" site I mentioned in an earlier column. Only the home page of the site is accessible with its hyperlinks leading to dead ends. Your best bet is snail mail, I'm afraid. Dr. Ralph Blair of Evangelicals Concerned has tracked "ex-gay" groups for 25 years and has done much to debunk the "ex-gay" myth. He can be reached at 311 E 72nd Street, No. G-1, New York, NY 10021.

Of Course, not everything this summer was icky. Vermont had another successful Pride on June 21 and there were the Gay Games in Amsterdam August 2 through the 8th. Noel Benoit, who so deftly handled the hosting chores of the entertainment portion of Pride, now has his (her?) home page. You can access Noel's page by clicking on "Friends and Neighbors" at Together Net's home page or by [homepages.together.net/~iris/homepage.htm](http://homepages.together.net/~iris/homepage.htm). Having known Noel for years, I probably am a bit biased in my opinion of his page but I like it a lot. It is tasteful, not flashy, with information available on where you can purchase his CD and a little bit of his philosophy on "female impressionism."

Although the Gay Games are over with, its web page ([www.gaygames.nl/index2.html](http://www.gaygames.nl/index2.html)) is still accessible with final scores available for most of the events. One word of warning however: the opening page has a blinding yellow background. Thank goodness there are no java applets on the page; I would wind up with a migraine. My brother got to go to Amsterdam (GRRRR!) as part of the Lesbian and Gay Bands of America. They played five concerts including the Gay Games closing

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attention. The "Mining Co. Guide to Burlington, VT" ([burlingtonvt.miningco.com/mbody.htm](http://burlingtonvt.miningco.com/mbody.htm)) is perhaps the most complete guide to the Burlington area on the web. It is not a "gay site" per se but if you want to rent a video at Waterfront Video or find out what the Lake Champlain marine forecast is, "The Mining Co. Guide to Burlington, VT" is your one stop resource.

If you have money to invest but you don't want it to go towards anti-gay corporations or you want to know the ins and outs of buying a house with your partner, the "Gay Financial Network" is the place to go to for GLBT specific answers for your financial questions. To paraphrase its logo, it is not just "gay friendly," it is gay. To access its articles, chat rooms, and investment advice, you need to become a member. It is free and all you need to do is fill in your name, email address, user ID and password. Articles available this month include one on Exxon and how "its gay and lesbian diversity is sailing about as smoothly as the Valdez," a new rainbow colored beer available in San Francisco (where else?), and issues regarding gay and lesbian "divorce." Even if you have no money, such as yours truly, the "Gay Financial Network" is still a worthwhile site.

Keep sending me those URLs. I appreciate hearing from you! My email address is [gossamer@together.net](mailto:gossamer@together.net).

## YOLANDA & the Plastic Family

"The drag musical community spawns its most intriguing performer since RuPaul in the form of wildly charismatic Vermont-based tunesmith

YOLANDA."

-Billboard Magazine, June 20, 1998.  
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