

STARGAZER

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

A light has been switched on in any relationship matters. Thank the Sun in charming Libra for the opportunity to set things queer with partners. Proud Rams shouldn't feel as if they have to put on an act. Be yourself cousin, ratty wool coat and all, and everything will fit into place. However, if that places happens to be Newt Gingrich's bedroom, I'd reevaluate the situation.

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

There is more than enough action on the job now that you won't be bored. Gay Bulls are advised to make hay while the Sun shines in helpful Libra. Any onerous, detailed task goes decidedly well and that even goes for new exercise and diet regimes. It's obviously no time to be lazy so stop smelling the flowers and get those sizzling gains into action. Do I smell BBQ?

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

Queer Twins are energized by Sun in sociable Libra so get Out there and show 'em why Gemini's are the most charming folks in the zodiac. You feel more expressive so dip into your creative well to see what surges forward. (Chances are you may gush with aptitude.) Thinking of writing the quintessential gay American novel? Start pecking at the keyboard... or something.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

Sun in diplomatic Libra throws a warming spotlight on home, health and family issues. Tackle the tough stuff now when the planets are on your side. Pink Crabs bask in the shine and can effectively tie up a few loose ends with family members. If the ends are frayed and untieable, go on undeterred. Compromise ain't in the stars cousin and you have to live your proud life.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)

Do I hear an affirming roar? It must be proud Leo when the Sun enters diplomatic Libra. Manifest a gay manifesto and start a revolution. Take it to the streets or gather a few kindred souls together for a delightful chaffest. Whatever you decide to do, don't lose the energy once the Sun moves on. Plan a course of action that will take us through the millennium in style.

VRGO (AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)

Conservative to the point of pernicious pink Virgins should muster their monetary moxie during the Libra Sun. Financial issues can be handled more effectively and the ability to make profitable decisions is sharper. Perhaps it's just a matter of seeking the right advisor or asking the right questions. Whatever the heck it is, do it now while the planetary energy is profitable.

LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)

Beat the birthday drum this month bubbe. Gather up your rosebuds while the Sun is in your own sign and get Out there and strut your stuff. Start new fires, begin new projects, plant seeds of ideas and meet new folks. It's that time of year to make an excellent first impression and become diva of the month. Drop the broom and leave the dishes and dusting to the drones.

SCORPIO (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)

Forgive the fates if they have been handing you a bad vibe or two. Sun in Libra now casts a warm light on any intuitive or self-sacrificing endeavor. That doesn't mean that you immediately levitate to a higher personal plane, but it does mean that good gay deeds now reap good gay karma. And we can always use a bit of good gay karma, can't we?

SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)

Queer Archers don't have to play alone when the Sun enters amiable Libra. Friends come Out in force so crank up the music and rock and roll. If you have a hankering to become social director, assume the position now. There's a superb opportunity to make amends for all the gaffs you made last week. Become a diplomat. Who said the planets don't have a sense of humor?

CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)

Sun in charming Libra makes even the most underachieving gay Goat sit up and take notice. Give your career the attention it needs and deserves now when it seems like you can say and do nothing wrong. Score a few points now in preparation for your grand ascent to the first class cabin, but please remember to think kindly of those of us still riding in steerage.

AQUEERIUS (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)

Aqueerians are tempted to take a flight of fancy or maybe just a plain old plane flight when the aspiring Sun enters lofty Libra. Expand your horizons through travel, a fabulous course of study or with some wildly exotic strangers. Whatever you decide to do, be sure that it brings you greater clarity of thought and purpose. Don't waste this enlightening opportunity on deck.

PISCES (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)

Whoever turned up the heat on the sexual stewpot must have been inspired by the hot Sun in flirtatious Libra. What self-respecting proud Fish can resist the lure? Personal psychological enlightenment is also possible with this planetary placement so if your sex life is overcooked, all is not lost. Whatever (or whoever) comes, make it worthwhile and affirming.

--- the **Cybershark** by Miki Thomas

a monthly look at the internet & the web.

Have you ever thought while surfing the web that you can create something better than some of the stuff you've encountered? Do you have something to say and desperate to let the world know what it is? However, like so many would-be webmasters, you are probably intimidated

from someone's site and add it to your's without some legal repercussions. You also can't reproduce entire articles or books on your page either since it isn't considered "fair use." Excerpts are fine but anything beyond that requires permission from the source.

You have a web site ready to upload; now

So you want to make a web page?

by the intricacies of web page building. Though I am limited to under 1000 words, I do hope to give you a few ideas to start you on your way to creating a place for yourself on the web.

It doesn't hurt first and foremost to do some research on the nature of the world wide web and what tools you'll need to build a working site. It is not necessary to fork over \$50 for a doorstop that only the geekiest of geeks could understand. There are the Dummies series of computer books that I have found helpful in the past as well as PC Novice's Guide to Building Web Sites, where for \$5.95, you get easy to understand explanations on everything from a step by step lesson on HTML (hypertext markup language) to reviews on the best web building tools. It's available on a magazine rack nearest you. On the web itself, there are several sites that offer lessons and links to free images, tools, and Java plug-ins for your page. The best site I've found is The Weary Wandering Webmaster's Essential Web Resources (<http://www.mud.com/webguide/>) that has links to HTML style guides, design guides, and free tools.

If you haven't been scared off yet it is necessary to go to the next step and actually plan your site. It is one thing to want to build a site; it is quite another to have the site actually be worth building. In other words, what is your aim? Are you trying to sell a service or product? Are you showing your devotion to a particular celebrity or art form? Are you simply giving your two cents on the issues of the day? The web is chock full of sites that are nothing more than vanity pieces that begin with "Hi My Name is Bob" and end with blurry photographs of the webmaster's trip to Bangor, Maine or somewhere. If you want surfers to visit your site, you need to make that visit worthwhile.

You also don't want to turn surfers off by poor design. One thing you don't want to do is wind up as an example of a Web Page That Sucks (<http://www.webpagethatsuck.com>). Do not go crazy on Java applets and animations unless your site is a salute to Las Vegas. They take forever to download and can distract from the contents of your page. Another pet peeve of mine are fancy backgrounds that render the text illegible. Believe me, there is nothing wrong with a plain white background. A good rule of thumb is to test your page on both Netscape Navigator and Microsoft Explorer to see how your design looks on each browser.

One important consideration as you build your site is copyright. Just because most of the legislation concerning intellectual property was enacted prior to the development of the Internet does not mean it is not relevant to it. You simply can not swipe text and graphics

It is one thing to want to build a site; it is quite another to have the site actually be worth building.

where do you go to get on the Information Superhighway? First, check to find out if your Internet service provider (ISP) offers free space (usually around 2MB, which is often more than enough for most web pages) for customer home pages. If your ISP doesn't offer free space, you can check out GeoCities (<http://www.geocities.com>) which does. For a huge listing of ISPs, The List (<http://www.thelist.com>) offers 4000 possibilities.

Once you get your site up and going, you'll want to publicize it. You can post your site on relevant newsgroups as well as contacting a number of submission services and search engines. A submission service send out your URL (universal resource locator) to a large number of search engines, sometimes for a price. PC Novice recommends the Ultimate Exposure 200 Index (<http://turnpike.net/~hotspot>) and the Web Site Promotion Services (<http://www.meh.com/meh>) as "excellent" submission services. You can also contact search engines such as Yahoo (<http://www.yahoo.com>) directly. If your site is aimed directly at the GLBT community, try contacting Gayscape (<http://www.gayscape.com/gayscape/welcome.html>), Rainbow Links (<http://www.cris.com/~rnbwlink/>), or Rainbow Query (<http://www.glweb.com/rainbowquery>).

However, I have found that the best way to publicize your site would be to email me at gossamer@together.net. I am more than happy to hear of new sites!

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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