

out in the stars

Y2K

by C. Lichtenstein
Special to Q-Notes

I've been handed the daunting task of predicting events for 2000 — the next millennium. Gay2K; Hey Y-not?

Impressive planetary events abound: In February, a solar eclipse delivers surprises! In May, Jupiter and Saturn multiply our life lessons as seven planets line up in stubborn Taurus. No matter what sign you are, expect a zing from these cosmic events.

Read ahead to see how the planets corrupt your hard drive this year:

ARIES (March 21 - April 20)

Gay Rams balance friendships with personal needs this year. Someone you trust disappoints you during the eclipse. The planetary line-up in Taurus bodes well professionally. How about a cheap and tawdry affair this summer? OK, maybe it won't be cheap.

TAURUS (April 21 - May 21)

More emphasis is placed on money than love this year. Dough evaporates during the eclipse, but magically reappears in the summer once you regain your fiscal common sense. Splurge? Forget about it, cousin.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

There are those who truly need your help and those who are sponges. Squeeze 'em to find out. Closed Twins are kaput and good thing too; Liberation is liberating! Imagine a dreamboat this summer with those bullish planets. Haul it into port, you old salt.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

Cash flows a little too easily early in the year when the eclipse makes you a sucker for a sob sister. Try hard to save for a rainy day or a fabulous summer oomph. Will you lose your heart? Quite possibly. Summer romance is highlighted and so are hot pink Crabs.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)

Partnership issues come to the fore with the eclipse. Summer romance is found on the job as single cubs are swept off their paws. Professional propulsion is assured in May, but set firm foundations beforehand to help you sail through the rest of the year. Gay Leos are on top of the heap. But which heap?

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)

Queer Virgos amass a small fortune if they adhere to a strict investment plan. Common sense conflicts with intuition during the eclipse so look before you leap in love. There's nothing for nothing during the summer Taurus pile-up; Only hard work pays off.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)

Creative pursuits reap big rewards, intrinsically and monetarily. Where will your gay muse lead you during the eclipse? You try to adhere to your bottom line, but planets tempt you to reach into other people's pockets. This summer is a hotbed of sexual activity, but don't restrict yourself to just the bed.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)

Gay Scorps have their share of emotional tension throughout 2000. The eclipse unleashes unresolved home and family issues. Do what you have to do. All is forgiven by the summer, you charmer you. Planning on a move? Wait until after the eclipse.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)

Blurting out your intentions won't have the intended effect during the eclipse. Avoid nasty comments as events percolate; a slip of the tongue slips you up and mouthy gay Archers are hoisted on their own petards. Meet your match this summer at the gym. You lucky thing!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)

What you value in life is due for a reassessment during the eclipse. It's a new millennium so look at life from a new angle; A new rainbow-you attracts multitudes. Fun has its profitable side this summer so party hearty, you party animal, you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)

Gay2K is a time of action and implementation. The eclipse either resolves festering issues or creates new ones. Aqueerians transform themselves with a new look. Good thing; Sexy new lovers beat a path to your door this summer. Is your welcome mat clean?

PISCES (Feb. 20 - March 20)

Protect your heart during the eclipse. Rainbow Fish are swept off their feet by someone who disappoints. Save your soft kisses for the summer when planets stroll through sensual Taurus. Ask and you shall receive. No names, please! ▼

For best results, read both your sign and your ascendant. For a free calculation of your ascendant, email your birthdate, time and place to Lichtenstein@AccessNewAge.com. Check out my website www.AccessNewAge.com/Stargazer.

CDC recommends names-based HIV reporting systems

by Wayne Besen
Special to Q-Notes

WASHINGTON, DC—The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued new guidelines for tracking HIV that includes a recommendation that states implement names-based reporting systems. In a nation with weak medical privacy laws, this is a risky proposition that threatens to deter the people who most need an HIV test from taking one, according to the Human Rights Campaign (HRC).

"One-third of people living with HIV are unaware of their status and desperately need to get tested to protect their own health and the health of other people," said HRC political director Winnie Stachelberg. "Names-based reporting decreases the likelihood that these individuals will take an HIV test because of legitimate privacy concerns. Until these fears can be alleviated, we are concerned that names-based testing will hinder the effective and accurate tracking of HIV in America."

The CDC's names-based reporting recommendation is part of its "Guidelines for National HIV Surveillance" which are designed to assist state and local health departments in the design and implementation of effective systems to track the course of the HIV epidemic. The new guidelines do not require states to implement names-based reporting — but strongly encourage it.

The CDC has indicated that it will continue to provide funding and technical assistance to those states that choose to implement unique identifier systems. In addition, the CDC has included language supportive of anonymous testing sites, which allow people to be tested without reporting any identifying (name or code) information, unlike "confidential" testing sites which require the person's name.

"While we oppose names-based reporting, we strongly support the CDC's commitment to testing and surveillance which are integral

components to effectively slowing the spread of this disease," said Stachelberg.

Thirty-eight states and Puerto Rico have implemented HIV surveillance systems. Thirty-four of them use names-based reporting, and four (Illinois, Maine, Maryland and Massachusetts) and Puerto Rico have chosen to implement reporting systems that utilize unique identifier systems. Several large states such as California, New York and Pennsylvania have not yet fully implemented their HIV reporting systems.

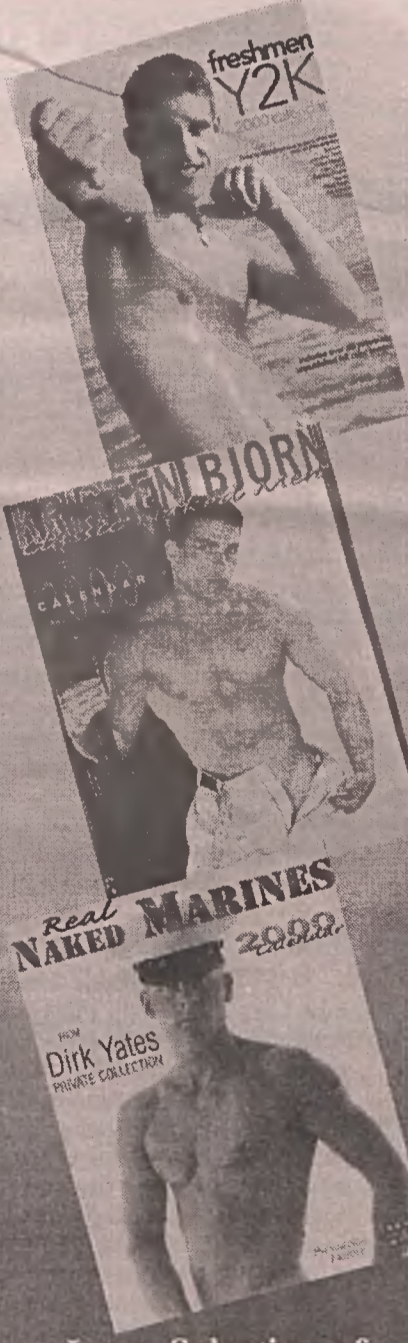
The CDC estimates that 435,000 people in the United States become infected with HIV each year. While absolute figures are difficult to gauge, the rate of HIV infections among young gay men, particularly African-American gay men, are rising. In one study, seven percent of young gay men surveyed tested positive for HIV and 41 percent reported engaging in high-risk sexual behavior. The same study found that young African-American gay men were five times more likely to contract HIV compared to other young gay men. In addition, almost half of all new HIV infections domestically occur in injection drug-users or their sex partners.

For gay African-American men, AIDS deaths dropped 35 percent in 1997 and 17 percent in 1998, while comparable reductions for whites were 51 percent and 22 percent, respectively. Surgeon General David Satcher reported that AIDS deaths rates for African Americans remained nearly 10 times higher than for whites.

There are 33.6 million people worldwide living with HIV/AIDS and a total of 16.3 million people have died thus far from the disease. Statistics released in August by the CDC show the steep decline in AIDS deaths in the United States that began three years ago has slowed precipitously. In 1997, domestic AIDS deaths declined by 42 percent, while in 1998 they fell by only 20 percent. ▼

Y
2
K

C
A
L
E
N
D
A
R
S



Large Selection of
Y2K Calendars
Now In Stock!

Independence News

- Gay Video Rentals as low as \$5⁰⁰
- New Shipment of Gay XXX Videos as low as \$8⁹⁵
- Gay CD Roms
- Gay DVDs
- New Releases
- Novelties

We buy used magazines
in good condition for 25¢

Open
Monday - Saturday
9:00pm - 12:00am
Sunday
1:00 - 9:00pm

(704) 332-8430
3205 The Plaza
Charlotte, NC

