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MAGAZINE PRESENTS

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OCT. 2 - 5

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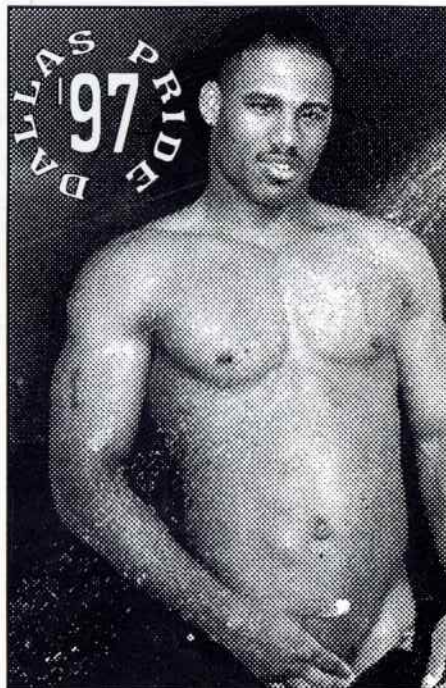
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THE

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**UNDERGROUND**

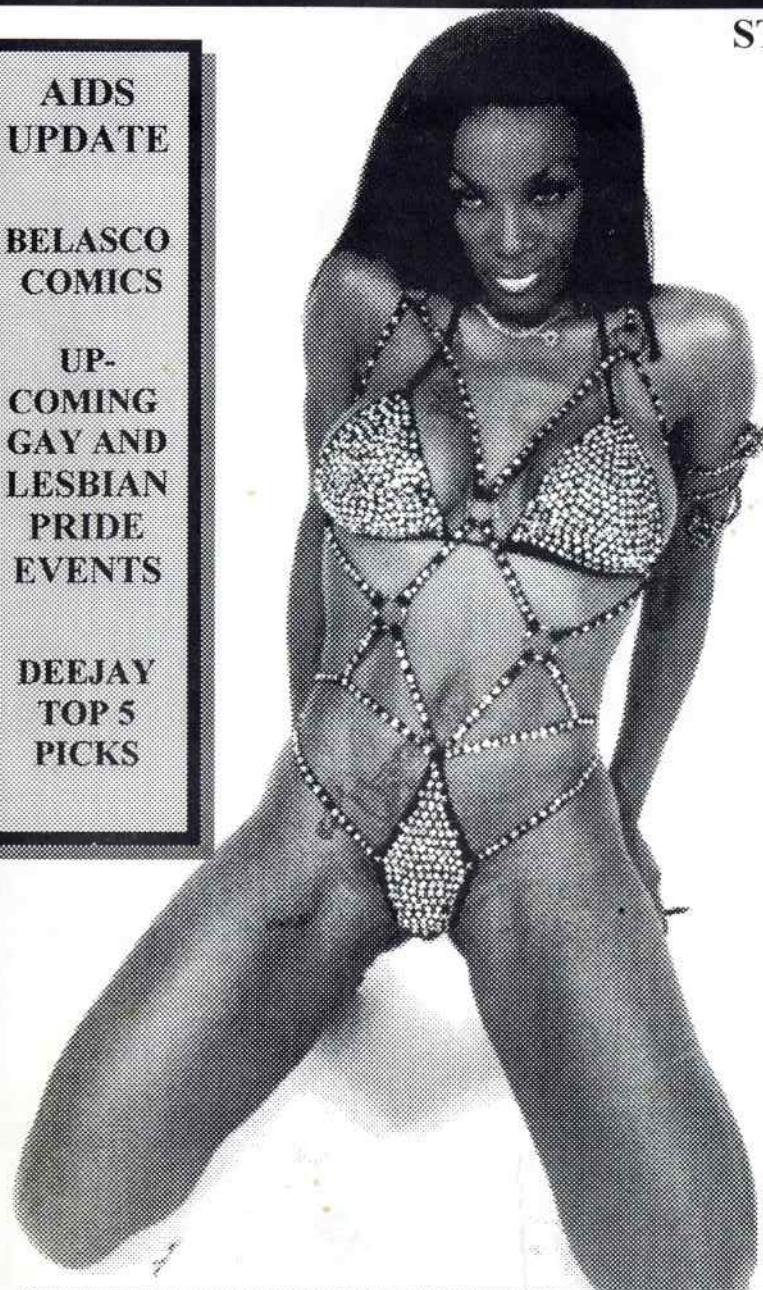
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ENTERTAINMENT NEWS

THE

# **UNDERGROUND**

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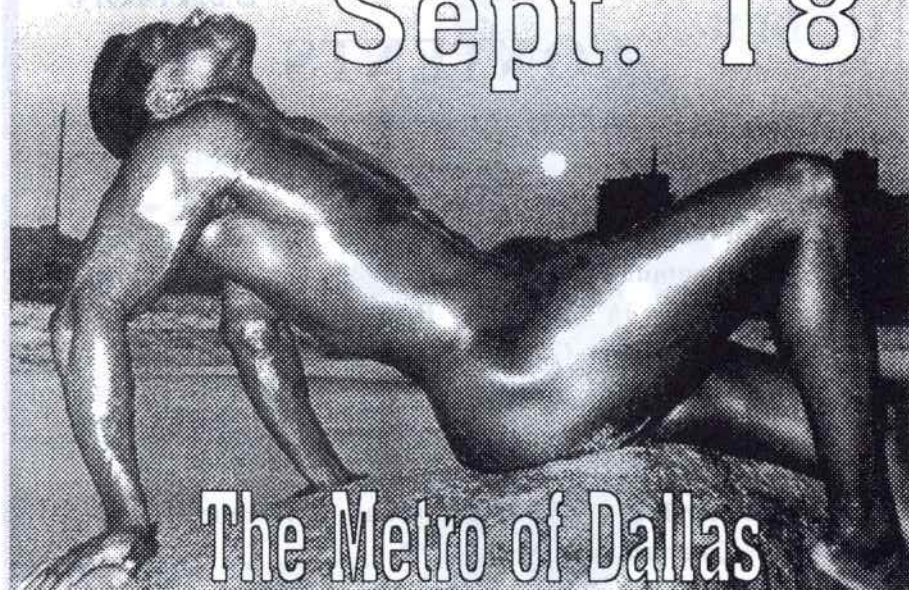
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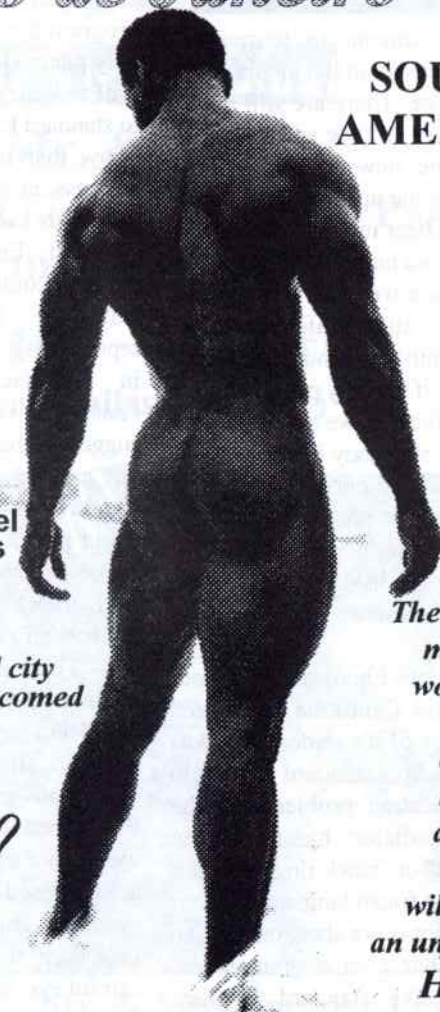
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## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

This may amount to journalistic heresy, but objectivity in the media is not what it used to be. There are still biases and prejudices, in attitude and in policy, that pervade the news industry. Now before you string me up as a traitor to my adopted family, hear me out. It is next to impossible to avoid introducing some bias in the information we report. It is never possible to relay all the information we receive, so we must edit and that reflects some bias. Even if we only pass along the information we receive, we still reflect the bias that may exist already in our sources. With all that said, as journalists, we still have an obligation to present the facts in the most objective light as possible. This obligation seems to have been forgotten in favor of higher rating and sensationalism.

Case in point - Ebonics. The school district in Oakland, California recognized a dialect in many of its student that was different enough from standard English to cause communication problems in the classroom. That dialect has now been labeled "ebonics" or "black English", and has roots in the African languages of our ancestors. Ebonics is not slang or "broken English" and it has a valid grammatical structure, just like standard English. Students who speak ebonics at home are "disabled" in the classroom, and not just in English classes. Now, the state of California requires that classes be taught in a second language (usually Spanish) if that language is spoken at home in a significant percent of the student body. In these classes, all information is made available in that second language to assure that the students have every opportunity to learn what is being taught

to them.

There was never a plan to "teach ebonics" at Oakland or to even conduct classes in that "second language". The program designed by the school officials only planned to use ebonics as a learning tool to help students make the transition to standard English. Yet, you would never know that from the news reports. The impression given by the media was that Oakland had "given up" on teaching standard English to these children. Nothing could have been further from the truth. This type of misrepresentation of the facts is not tolerated in non-black settings. Imagine the resistance you would receive if you suggested that the "southern dialect" was not a valid dialect and that no classes should be conducted in it. I doubt that you could persuade teachers not to use it in the classroom. On the contrary, southerners are quite proud of their form of "broken English".

The lesson to be learned is that the media is not a pillar of virtue. In spite of moral and legal incentives to the contrary, there are still biases and prejudices that creep into every aspect of the media. Even when we know the facts are correct, we can not assume that the media reports are unbiased or even complete. As black gay men and women, it is even more important to look at the news with a careful eye, especially when it's about us. We must guard against the type of negative reporting that can affect our own sense of worth and self-respect. We can not let negative images we see on television or in the papers affect our own true image of ourselves and our fellow same-gender loving brothers and sisters. We know better.

- Ken LaMarr, Editor

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## Community Forum

### No better place than Dallas!

As Dallas Black Gay and Lesbian Pride '97 approaches, many have asked "Why Black Gay pride?" and "Why Dallas". The idea of Black Gay Pride was originally thought of by P.T. (The Metro's Thursday Emcee). We thought it was such a good idea, we just ran with it. We chose Oct. 2 - 5 because that is the weekend of the Grambling vs. Prairie View football game, the biggest weekend for Blacks Gays in Dallas. We wanted to assure that this event would be a success.

Their are lots of reasons to have Gay Pride right here in Dallas. One reason is to let people know that the Black Gay community is a viable, lucrative and relatively untapped market, worthy of their interest. Our money spends just like everyone else's. There's no need to lock your doors and hide your children. Believe it or not, that was the attitude we got when we tried to secure a ranch for the Texas Hoe Down. Before we worked a deal with Samuell Farm for Oct. 4, I had contacted other places first and one ranch (A black owned and operated ranch south of town) told me flat out that they didn't want to have something like that there. Their explanation was that they were

CONSERVATIVE. Even though that is discrimination, it is perfectly legal as long as it is against gays. If they had said they didn't want Blacks there, that would have been illegal. To discriminate against blacks, you have to be more careful. You have to say something like "We don't want that kind of party here" (a quote from one of the other ranches we met with before they knew we were gay). It hurts to be discriminated against, but it hurts much more deeply when it's our own people rejecting us the way they did. I will be trying to show them the error of their ways in the future. Yes, IT IS LEGAL IN TEXAS TO DISCRIMINATE AGAINST GAYS. If you want to help change things, starting voting and influencing your friends and family to see your viewpoint.

Another reason for having Black Gay Pride is the way most of our community feels we are treated in the white gay community. I remember when they use to double and triple ID us to prevent us from entering some of their clubs. Most feel that we are not treated fairly in some of the pageants (but we still participate). The reason for Black Gay pride in Dallas is to show our numbers, mainly to ourselves. To promote networking with one another. To be proud of our own identities. To promote us helping us and to promote care and concern for those of us in need. We need to learn and that their is no one there for us except us - not the Black

straight community nor the White gay and straight community.

We at The Metro will be soliciting your help in the many things that need to be done. Come show your support and your pride.

- Ray Dyer, The Metro

### Words of Encouragement "YOU CAN BE MORE THAN YOU DREAMED"

Believe that you are far more wonderful than you ever dared to imagine . . .

. . . because you are.

Believe that you can be more than you ever dreamed . . .

. . . because you can.

Believe that you can have more courage than you can see . . .

. . . because you do.

Believe that you are stronger than your fears have allowed you to know . . .

. . . because you are.

Believe that you can love more fully than you ever thought . . .

. . . because you are able to.

Believe that you are truly unique and more special than you have ever allowed yourself to acknowledge. . .

. . . because you really are.

Believe it . . . if it's the last thing you do.

Believe it . . . because it's true.

- Sue Mitchell  
Submitted by D. Hailey

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**LADIES!**

**LADIES!**

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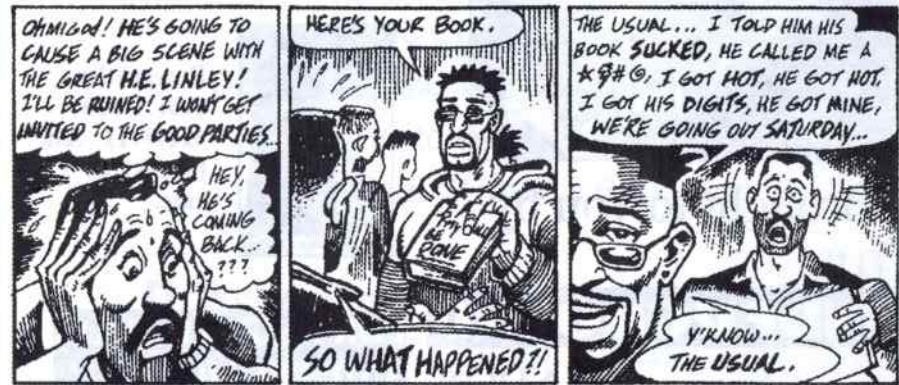
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8. **Don't advertise!** Overlook the fact that advertising is an investment in selling - not an expense.
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10. **Don't advertise!** Forget that you have to keep reminding your established customers that you appreciate their business.

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## AIDS UPDATE

by Don Sneed



**“Standing on the verge of getting  
it on; instead of getting it on”**

For those of you who read my article last month, I hope that it provided adequate “food for thought”. In these waning months of 1997, the twentieth century and the Age of Pisces it would be wise for us to THINK and think again about who we are, where we are at, what we are doing and where we are going.

Let us go here; for now. AIDS is not a disease, it is a syndrome: Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. There is a big difference. A syndrome is a group of symptoms that together are characteristic of a specific disorder, disease or the like. In our HIV support group we are very careful to distinguish between disease and syndrome. There are good reasons for this. A syndrome is much more manageable for the individual than disease. A disease is monolithic, whereas a syndrome is manifold. The very nature of the syndrome lends

itself to the old “divide and conquer” technique. As we think about HIV/AIDS syndrome we must be careful not to see it as this gigantic “disease monster” that needs a “Jack the Giant Killer” to vanquish it. But if we look at it as a syndrome, we can look at it’s various parts and attack them or defend against them individually. This is the current state of mind of physicians and scientists in regards to a treatment for AIDS syndrome. They are attacking it from various points and angles and defending against various diseases and opportunistic infections that HIV infected individuals are susceptible to. Thus far, this approach is proving to be somewhat successful. It is time for African American men to change our thinking about HIV/AIDS syndrome and/or to start thinking about it. If you are Black and living in America, and as this millennium comes to a close, you or someone you know has been or will be touched by this virus. Last year, for the first time in the history of this epidemic, the number of Blacks newly diagnosed with AIDS syndrome, exceeded the number of Whites. By the end of this century more than half of all people in this nation with AIDS syndrome will be Black (even though we make up only 14% of the U.S. population).

My question is, how did such a sorry state of affairs come to be? Well, we don’t have to look far for an answer. Out Magazine recently published an Out Extra entitled: “A Consumer’s Guide to HIV Care”. In it you will find an “HIV Time Line”

# AIDS UPDATE

CONT.

running from 1979 through May 8, 1997; eighteen (18) years of HIV epidemic history. Guess who didn't come to dinner? As we look at the history of this epidemic African American gay, bisexual and MIMs (men-who-are-intimate-with-other-men) are conspicuously absent from the frontlines of the HIV battle. That is not to say that African American men have not been involved in the battle against HIV but it has been an ongoing chronic case of too few, too little, too late. When we look at the White gay community we see how they have been at the forefront of the HIV battle since 1979. Two situations have developed as a result of their response to the epidemic. One: Whites control and/or wield inordinate influence over the agencies and dollars that have been thrown at this epidemic. Two: their infection and death rates are decreasing and there never was the "breakout" into the white heterosexual female and male populations that we see in the African American community. Honestly, did we really expect them to be benevolent and compassionate enough to save us from ourselves?

As Black bodies pile up all around us (Are protease inhibitors the miracle drugs we've been waiting for?; you ask - we'll deal with that next month) my

question is this: "Why are African American gay, bisexual and MIMs still standing on the verge of getting it on; but not getting it on? I mean getting on with the work of helping our people fight this epidemic. For the most part we have been "missing in action", "AWOL" and asleep at the wheel. Yet, the band plays on while we dance ourselves into the grave. This madness must stop and only we, with God's help, have the power to stop it. Please, let us not be lazy and naïve again. Don't expect the straight Black community to save us from ourselves. Their motivation is quite similar to that of the White gay community when it comes to this epidemic: SELF PRESERVATION! Shouldn't this be our motivation as well?

I'll be the first to admit that we have a long way to go and a lot of work to do. Yet, I also believe and know that we can go there and get the work done if we accept our responsibilities and duties in regards to this epidemic. This nonsense of "standing on the verge of getting it on; instead of getting it on" should and must cease. Call Renaissance III at (214) 421-4343 and let's get on with the work at hand.

**Don Sneed** is the Executive Director of Renaissance III, Inc., a Dallas-based HIV/AIDS educator and service provider, targeting the African-American community.

**SATURDAY** OCT. 4

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- Renaissance III Awards Banquet (formal) at the Dallas Grand Hotel.



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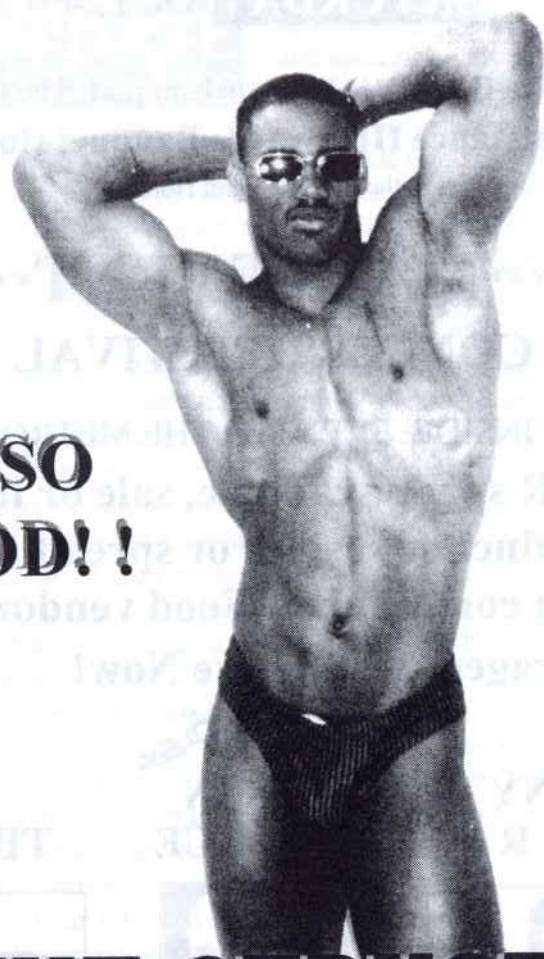




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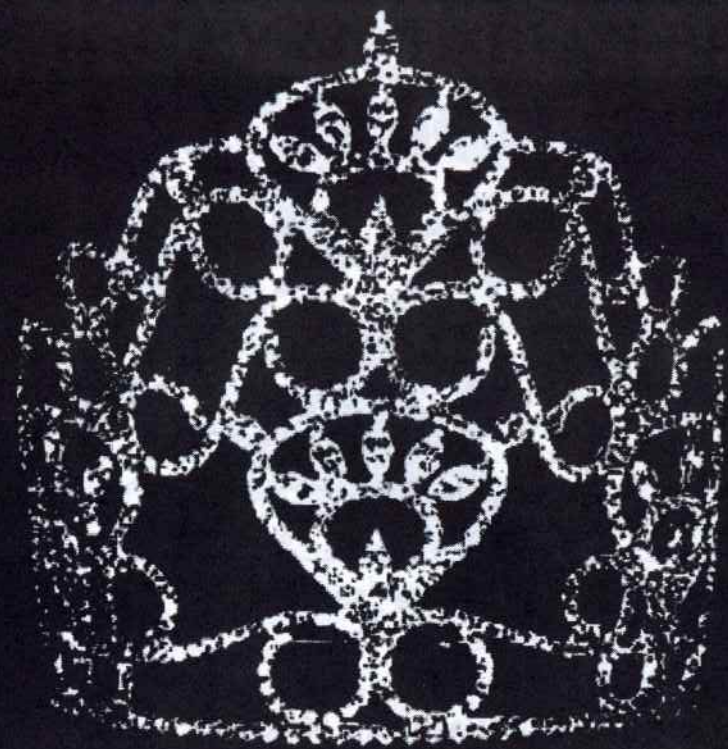
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## STAR TEA

Horoscope For September

### VIRGO Aug. 23 - Sept. 22

Happy birthday (happy solar return in astrologese) to all the virgin wheat gatherers. This is an especially important birthday because your ruling planet, Mercury, is retrograding through your sign this month. Normally, the time right before your birthday is an introspective period anyway, signaling a time when you look at the last year and consider if you accomplished your goals. Then, you establish a new personal path for the upcoming year. But this year, you are looking more deeply at what you have done over a longer period in your life than just this year. You are more detail oriented than usual and may even be more self critical. After the 15th, you will be ready to leave this internal place and get yourself back into the real world. By the end of the month, money, personal resources and security take the lead.

### LIBRA Sept 23 - Oct. 22

This is an interesting month for the balancers. One part of you is very concerned with your spiritual connections and humanitarian interest and another side of you is very interested in creating security and making money. Sometimes in our society, these things can seem to be at odds with each other, but not for you this month. You are very creative and your brain is working overtime. You are privileged to have a big picture overview now and the desire to take some action on what you see. For the first half of the month, you may feel that you are having to drag a big weight behind you. Things are not moving at the speed that you usually like them. After the 15th, the speed of life picks up. You

are very conscious of relationships this year. Look for the activity level to pick up by the end of the month.

### SCORPIO Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

September is a crazy month for you. On one hand, we have Mars, planet of action and reaction, moving through your sign. On the other hand, Mercury, planet of planning, organization and brain activity, is retrograding. This is an indication of planning not initiating, just the opposite of what Mars wants. You should be feeling the push/pull of both of these planets. I think the best way to use this is to take Mars and put your energy and focus into looking at details and plans but to wait until after the 15th before you decide to launch your plans. On the physical plane, you may have trouble sleeping, getting cool or tolerating bull malarkey. Relationship energies are better after the 15th as well as your ability to get into gear.

### SAGITTARIUS Nov. 22-Dec. 21

This is a very career, business focus month for you. Mercury has been retrograding through your career sector since last month. This is why you have been looking at the last year and asking yourself the question, "What do I want to do now?". This is a great time to get your office, work place, family obligations and social responsibilities in order. You are more self aware than you have been in many years. By the 15th, get ready to put your ideas into action. Especially at the end of the month, Mars, planet of action and no patience, moves into Sagittarius for it's traditional month and a half stay in your sign. Use the first half of this month to get things in order. By the end of the month, you won't have the time.

### CAPRICORN Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

September is more playful month for

## STAR TEA

### Horoscope For Sept. (cont.)

you. You are not your normal serious self. You want some fun in your life. This is a good month to take a break or vacation. If you stay in your business mode, this is a great month for networking, breakfast meetings and community gatherings. This is a great month to be with friends and indulge yourself in the rewards of your past efforts. By the end of the month you will be back into your more serious career consciousness mode. If you have played enough for the first part of the month, you will have lots of renewed energy to really drive you forward into your future goals. You will be concerned with the bigger picture of life also by the end of the month. Your goals will include others, not just your own personal garden.

#### **AQUARIUS Jan. 20 - Feb. 18**

This month, you may feel that you are like a spring that is being tightened, just waiting for the release. Like the rest of us, you are experiencing the Mercury retrograde period of internal planning, review and clean up. Mars, planet of initiation and courage, is making his way through your career sector. You are chomping at the bit to get at that new stuff just in front of you, but you can't seem to find the right combination to get the door open. Get ready, the gate swings open after the 15th and you will bolt out of your stall like Seabiscuit at the Kentucky Derby. Right now you are looking at what drives you and what you have in common with your partners. As you move closer to the end of the month, you will need to connect with friends and/or do some networking. You are

leaving the old you behind and you want some new experiences in your life.

#### **PISCES Feb. 19 - March 20**

With Mercury retrograding through your solar 7th house of partnerships, you are reviewing old relationships and relationship patterns. This month, you will have old flames reenter your life. This can be a time of rekindling passions or finally ending the fire altogether. If you are in a relationship, this is a time of seeing what is not working very clearly. This is a great time for couples therapy, weekends at a bed and breakfast (skip the breakfast) or seeking a new partnership altogether. You are more outspoken than usual especially on the 6th, 7th and 11th and 12th. Normally, you can stretch a lot before you reach your end. This month, you want to get to the point and are not as open to everyone else's feelings or excuses. You may seem short tempered to some but more real to yourself. At the work place, you are spoiling for a fight. Don't wait until then to address the problem. Say something now so that you disarm the situation.

#### **ARIES Mar 21 - Apr 19**

Most of your focus this month will be on getting things organized in you life. The planets are in your solar 6th house of work and health routines. If you feel that something isn't working well, you will focus on getting that area improved. You are concerned with the details and not really the big picture. You are also focused on your health during this month. Old problems may reoccur and you may be more inclined to do something about them this time. This is also a good month to look at eating and exercise routines. Relationships are easier this month. The last half of the month is a good time for a get-a-way with that special someone.

## STAR TEA

### Horoscope For Sept. (cont.)

#### **TAURUS April 20 - May 20**

With Mars moving through your arena of partnership for this month, relationships and creativity are the highlighted features for this month. Mars symbolizes action, response, anger, excitement, sexual spontaneity and courage. This can be an exciting time for your relationships. If there are problems in your partnerships, this is the month that it will come to the surface. This is also a great time to renew the fire that got you and your partner together in the first place. In business partnerships, this is a creative time for you. After the 15th would be a great time to launch a new business plan or sales promotion. The 16th can be kind of crazy, but that is because you will not be very patient. By the end of the month, you are more focused and are taking things one step at a time.

#### **GEMINI May 21 - June 20**

Most of your energy this month is being centered around home and family concerns. At the center of this focus is the need to make your home environment a more comfortable place. Some of you will feel the bug to move, others to redecorate. Some of you will be drawn back to the old home place where you grew up. Old emotional issues may come to the surface especially if you are visiting your parents. Tensions are running high between you and the other people at your work place. By the end of the month, personal relationships move into the spotlight. Old partnerships must be renewed or replaced.

#### **CANCER June 21 - July 22**

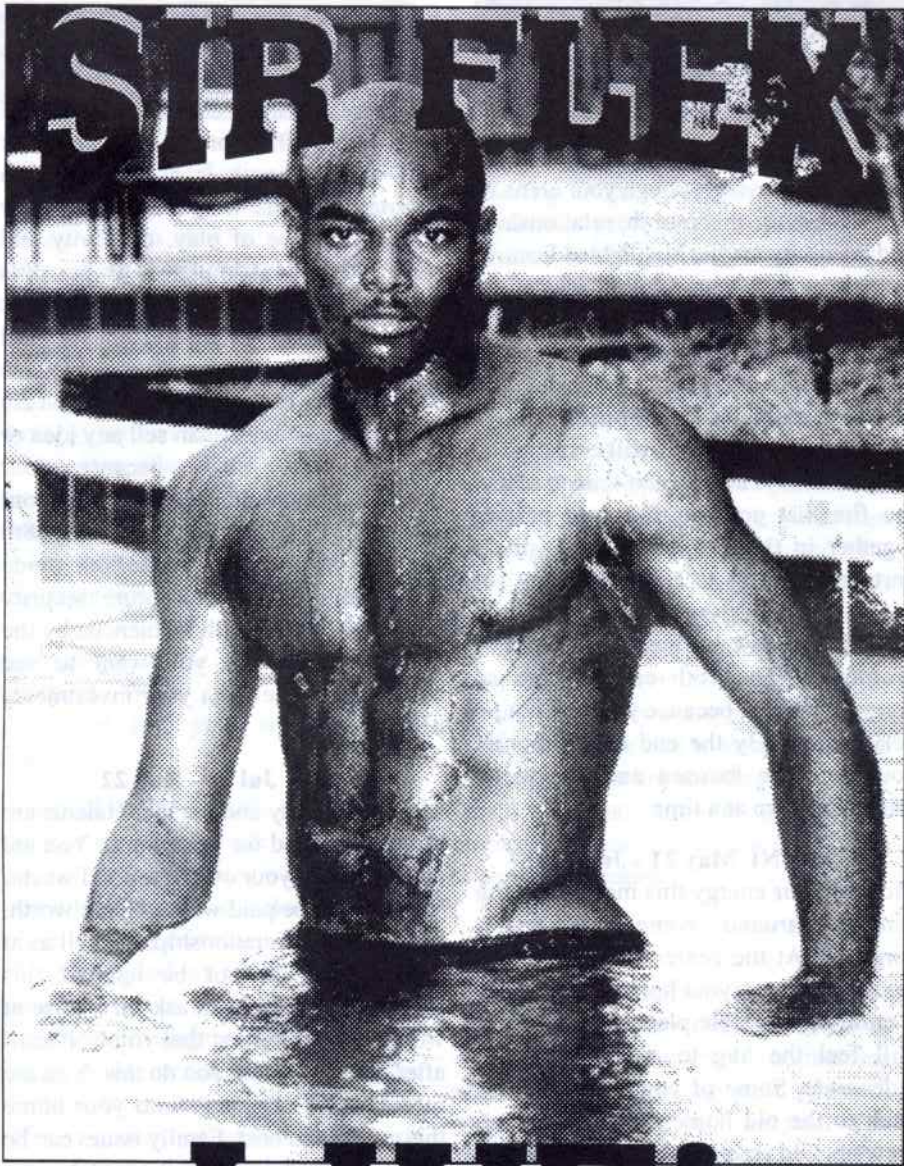
September is a play month for you except

for those of you born July 8th through the 12th (we'll get to you later). This is a good month for communication and creativity. Get those emails answered and your home/office organized. The first half of the month is a good time to entertain friends in your home. Your solar 5th house of play, creativity and sexual activity is stimulated. Amber, girls just want to have fun. Your brain is working well and after the 15th, you will be ready to move forward with any plans that you have been working on. If you are work motivated, you can sell any idea or product more easily because your positive attitude precedes you by about 30 feet. Those of you born July 8th through the 12th are in a serious mode about your career and future security concerns. You are still influenced by the other energies but you want to see something come from your investments of your energy.

#### **LEO Jul 23 - Aug 22**

Money, security and personal talents are still illuminated for this month. You are also assessing your own sense self worth. You want to be paid what you are worth. This is true in relationships as well as at work. You will not be ignored this month. You may even ask for a raise at work. I would suggest that you wait until after the 15th before you do this. You are putting a lot of energy into your home this month and next. Family issues can be tense, because you are trying to assert your individuality and that can rub some the wrong way. Try not to make this a contest.

**STAR TEA is provided by Houston-based astrologer, Phil Roddy. He can be reached at (713) 529-5842 or at his website <http://www.cybersim.com/hermes>**



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# ENTERTAINMENT NEWS...

## "HOODLUM"

We're sure the life and times and Ellsworth "Bumpy" Johnson are fascinating -- but it's hard to tell based on the small portion of it reflected in this film. "Hoodlum" doesn't show



you the beginning of Bumpy's life. You don't see the end. You see a sliver of something that happened in the middle. And that sliver is hacked up between alternating focus on Dutch Schultz and, to a lesser extent, Lucky Luciano. It's a montage of loosely linked scenes from lives of Bumpy, Dutch and Lucky. (As always) Lawrence Fishburne delivers a strong performance. Same for Tim Roth, Chi McBride and Andy Garcia. While Vanessa Williams and Cicely Tyson (and Loretta Devine) are featured some what prominently in what is a male-dominated gangsta pic, they

are still not given all that much to do. The "romance" between Bumpy and Francine Hughes (Vanessa Williams) left us cold. Hardcore gangsta pic fans will get off on the violence and cursing. As for the rest of us...

## REWIND

"Rewind" not being up to snuff, "Living Single" is getting another shot on the network. Originally "Rewind," starring Scott Baio and Mastro Clark as boyhood buddies who flashback to their lives growing up in the 70s, was to debut Sept. 11 at 8 p.m. But the show has been yanked from the schedule because it needs more work. Airing in its place will be "Living Single." "Living Single" has been in production for the past month and is taping 13 new episodes. According to USA Today, Fox received 8,000 letters back in May after "Living Single" and "New York Undercover" were dropped. But Fox's spokesperson told us while the letters did play some role, they are not the main reason "Living Single"

# ENTERTAINMENT NEWS...

is back. "...Single" producers hope Fox will pick up the show for more than just 13 episodes. T.C. Carson, who played Kyle, will not be returning to the show. Actor Mel Jackson will join the show as struggling songwriter Tripp Williams, Regine and Kadijah's new roommate. "Rewind," will be a midseason replacement. We wonder for who?

## ROLANDO SHOW

Rolanda Watts has been cast as "Viveca," Tim Reid's recurring love interest on the show "Sister, Sister." According to her press release, Rolanda has not "abandoned" journalism and has several projects in the works.

## CAREY/KRAVITZ

According to the New York Daily News, Mariah Carey was getting awfully chummy with singer Lenny Kravitz at a private party she threw at New York's Royalton Hotel. According to the report, Carey was wearing something low-cut and



black, while Lenny was in skin-tight lace up pants. She and Lenny apparently looked "hot" dancing. Carey's spokesperson

says the two are not romantically involved.

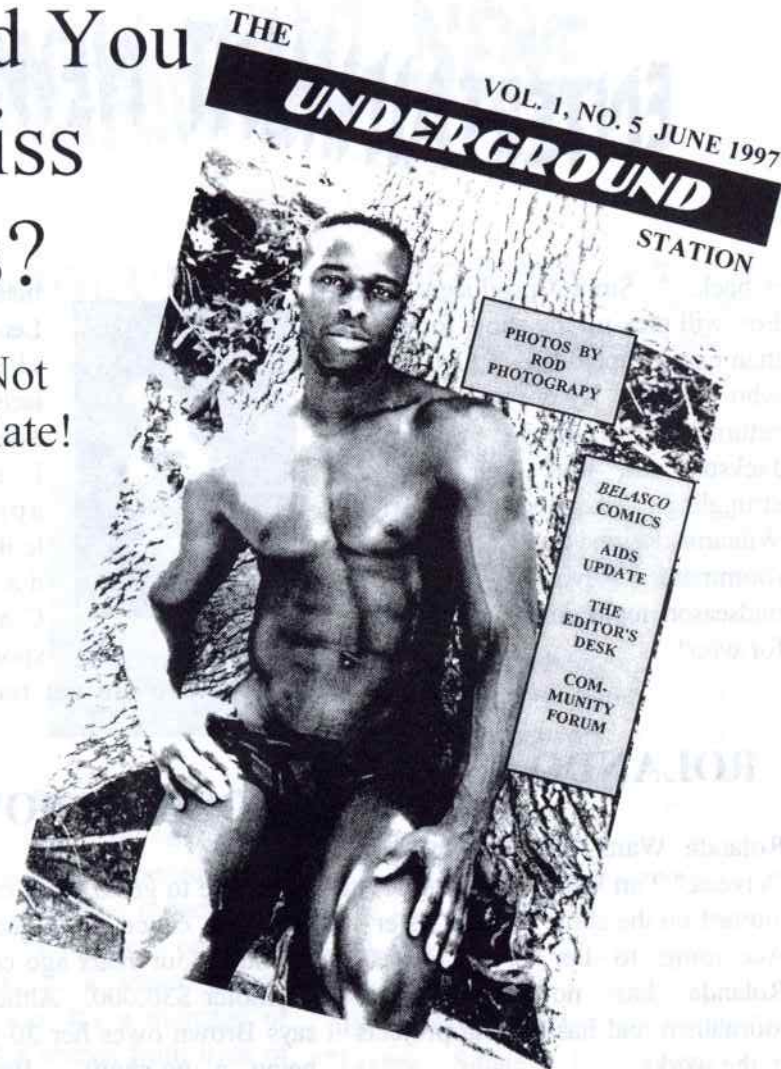
## BOBBY BROWN

Will have to go to court on charges that he canceled a concert in Trinidad four years ago costing the promoter \$30,000. Althea Durant says Brown owes her 30-grand for being a no-show. Brown had requested to have the charge dismissed, but a New York judge refused. Brown will now have to appear in court when the case goes to trial in September.

*Electronic Urban Report*

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