

the multicultural center's

# CULTURAL TIMES

SPRING 2001

horoscopes

foreign films

glbtsa

poetry

mandene's humboldt  
experience

El Salvador/ India

benefit concert

Teacher profiles:

Jaideep Singh

Asian Lunar  
New Year

Cesar Chavez  
Day

THE DIVERSITY  
CONFERENCE:  
CENSUS 2000

Humboldt State University

# The Cultural Times

---

Editor

Precious Yamaguchi

Photographs

Sarah Lindley

Sou Saephan

Contributors

Lorena Oliva

Priscilla Zuniga

Ryan Mann

Anne Serene

Brian Lee

Director

Marylyn Paik-Nicely

Office Manager

Lily Goloyugo

MCC Staff

Felicia Ellis

Sou Saephan

Claudia Tello

Liz Huaynate

Solana Foo

Priscilla Zuniga

Marvin Rodas

C.C. Sayasit

Elizabeth Smith

Mo Abdulfetah

Hector Sandoval

Mandene Thomas

Ryan Mann

Precious Yamaguchi

Jackie Therien

Veronica Robles

Daniela Molina

Gabby Ahmadia

Katya Amina

Brian Lee

Anne Serene

**The Cultural Times is the official newsletter of the HSU MultiCultural Center. It is funded by the Associated Students of Humboldt State University. The views expressed in the content of the Cultural Times are not censored or reviewed by the Associated Students. The Cultural Times invites students, staff, faculty, and community members to contribute work and to share experiences and points of view. All correspondence regarding this publication should be sent to:**

**MCC Cultural Times  
HSU MultiCultural Center  
1 Harpst St.  
Arcata, CA 95521**

**Copies of all correspondence should also be sent to: Associated Students of Humboldt State Univeristy**



# E

L SALVADOR & INDIA

BENEFIT CONCERT

BY LORENA OLIVIA

clubs

Latinos Unidos of HSU organized a benefit concert on Friday, February 9th 2001 to help out the earthquake victims of El Salvador and India. Both of these countries were struck with devastating earthquakes ranging over 7.5 on the Richter scale. Thousands were killed and many were left homeless.

As a way of helping them out, Latinos Unidos of HSU along with the help of the Gamma Alpha Omega organized the benefit concert. They were able to collect \$847.28 for these countries. The money will be given to the Red Cross where they will properly allocate the money.

Latinos Unidos of HSU would like to thank HSU Dining service, BSU, ASA, sociology club, GAD, GAD MCC, KHSU 90.5,

KRFH 610, Mecha and everyone else who came and supported this event. They would also like to thank the following bands who donated their tunes and skills for the 143 people that attended the concert and danced all night – New Struggles, The Fundamentals, The Super Dooper Superstars, and Luna Angel & I-Rise Band. They would also like to thank the local business stores who donated items for the raffle – Wildberries, Safeway, Love Bead, Redwood Yogurt, Arcata Community Pool, Stars Hamburgers, Pancache, Day Break Café, Moonrise Herbs, and Revolution Bicycle Repair. With everyone's help not only was this event made possible, but the money made will make a difference in thousands of peoples lives.

---

## clubs (cont.)

---

# A

SIAN LUNAR  
NEW YEAR  
CELEBRATION  
BY BRIAN LEE

On February 11, 2001 the Asian Student Alliance hosted their 4th annual Lunar New Year Celebration. As in the previous years, the event was a success. This event, however, could not have been made possible if it were not for the ASA members as well as the many volunteers that helped participate. The Lunar New Year Celebration happens at the beginning of every year. As some of you may know, the official Lunar New Year was on January the 28th. Due to some complications we could not have the event closer to this day. But, none the less we were able to bring this spectacular celebration to HSU and to the community of Arcata.

The majority of the people who attended this wonderful event consisted mostly of families and some HSU students. Our goal for this event was to not only celebrate this tradition but to bring aware to the people about the history and knowledge of the orient.

As the event began promptly at 3pm, the ceremony was kicked out by the traditional line dancers from San Francisco. These Chinese dancers, called the "Yau Kung Mun", showed off their talented skills of the martial arts and per-



formed these difficult maneuvers with ease. We then were fortunate enough to have Paul Woodland, a fascinating storyteller who intrigued us with his brilliant stories. Right after that Dr. Wurlig Buo, a professor here at HSU, sang some traditional songs that sounded soothing. We were also fortunate enough to have our own HSU student, Sou Sephan, perform some very technical moves with the nun-chucks. Some other HSU students also performed some Japanese traditions. Ralph and Gab showed and explained what sumo wrestling was about. And that they did! Finally, the traditional line dancers brought our ceremony to a wonderful finale when they performed the dance with the elaborate dragon costumes.

Thank you again for everyone's participation and have a happy New Year! Remember, it's the year of the snake.

---

# G

LBTSA  
EVERYONE WELCOME  
BY ANNE SERENE

The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Student Association (GLBTSA) is proud to be a part of the Multicultural Center at Humboldt State University. This semester we started off with a picnic and a letter writing campaign –

what's better than a party and a little grass-roots activism?! Then we moved into the Transgender Series, Pride Month and the National Coming Out Day Gala – a wonderful workshop series, informative displays and a party (Do I sense a pattern here?) While this years group may like socializing with their information and activism GLBTSA has been active throughout the semester.

It looks like we can make this next semester even more exciting with a conference and a long list of activities with our normal blend of socializing, activism, information and support. If you haven't checked out GLBTSA lately, stop by we meet every Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Multicultural Center conference room. We welcome everyone – lesbian, bisexual, transgender, gay, queer, straight, questioning, community members ...



# opinion

# F

**FOREIGN DOES NOT EQUAL BORING**  
**BY PRECIOUS YAMAGUCHI**

I'll be the first to admit it. I have had a guilty pleasure of watching meaningless, shallow movies in the past. Depending on who the attractive actor or actress was in a movie would be my main concern and motivation for going to see certain movies. We all know we have gone to the movies just to see \$8 million worth of special effects, action packed violence, gratuitous sex, Jennifer Lopez, Brad Pitt or just to get a good laugh. Who hasn't? "Who cares about the story of the movie, I'm just here to see Brad," was my attitude and motivation for making my way into the theaters that were crowded with people who were there to see the same movie for the same reasons I did. Until one day, I ventured into taking a chance on a foreign film called *The King of Masks*. I'm not even sure how I made my way over to the foreign film section of Blockbuster. Perhaps, I had seen all the recent dramas, comedies, action and teen thriller movies that were out. Or maybe, through all the continuity of shallow story lines and familiar faces of actors and actresses, I was desperately seeking for meaningfulness instead of novelty in movies.

A door to a new genre of movies opened after my first experience of watching the foreign film, *The King of Masks*. My love for foreign films grew gradually, I would continue to rent the American movies when I went to the video store and once in a while rent a foreign film. The more foreign films I began to watch the more I learned to appreciate the quality in the stories and become interested in the culture. Soon, American movies became like American fast food to me: convenient, familiar and predictable.

Many people, including myself before I started to watch foreign films, may think that foreign films are movies that only those who have traveled, read romantic novels and poetry would like. And the subtitles, how boring! It is not until you sit down and give a foreign film a good chance, that you learn to appreciate the quality of the story and the characters. After the first 15 minutes of the movie the subtitles are not even that noticeable and the emotion in their voice still displays the character's feelings. Like American movies there is a wide variety of different types of foreign films, such as comedies, action, documentaries, horror and drama. A few films that can give you a good taste of the different types of films are *Life is Beautiful* (Italian), *Run Lola Run* (German), *Shower* (Chinese), *Ran* (Japanese) and *Like Water for Chocolate* (Spanish), to name just a few.

If you want to see if you like foreign films or if you have already acquired a love for them, take the Chinese Film Seminar (ML120) course and get credit for watching two movies for only two days! Or head to the movie theater to watch *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*, a film directed by Ang Lee (*The Ice Storm*, *Sense and Sensibility*, *The Wedding Banquet*) and the action sequences choreographed by Yuen Woo Ping (*The Matrix*). Personally, it is the best movie I saw last year and brings both meaningfulness and art back into the cinema. It is one of the few movies you won't want to take your eyes off the screen and will want to watch multiple times, and it doesn't even have Jennifer Lopez or Brad Pitt!

diversity conference

# CENSUS 2000: NUMBERS OR NONSENSE

---

**IT'S ABOUT TIME!!!**

---

It's about that time for the MultiCultural Center's 7th Annual Diversity Conference, "Census 2000: NUMBERS OR NON-SENSE? Our Changing Perspectives of America." We are offering a myriad of workshops, from defining transgenderism and cross-cultural communication to panels concerning the Diversity and Common Ground requirements and hearing from those who live with disabilities. Our keynote speaker this year will be Elliot Lewis. Lewis is a journalist who resides in Washington D.C. providing services on a freelance basis for a number of television news outlets in our nation's capital. Lewis is multiracial and has shared stories of his mixed background with audiences all around the country. While working in Portland, Oregon, Lewis produced a documentary on interracial families and the issues that mixed race people face. Lewis is currently developing his own census to help people of multiracial backgrounds better define themselves. Lewis will be

opening up the Diversity Conference Friday March 2nd discussing the history of the census and work that he has done. Lewis will also be doing a three-hour workshop on Saturday March 3rd concerning mixed race peoples.

Registration fees for this year's conference are \$15.00 for students and \$20.00 for non-students. If you would like to register for units, you can get your magic numbers from the MultiCultural Center. These fees include the keynote speaker who will be featured Friday, March 2nd, the workshops on Saturday, March 3rd as well as a breakfast buffet and a lunch buffet, which will be catered by Samraat restaurant. If you have any questions concerning the conference or if you would like to volunteer for the conference, please call the Multi-Cultural Center at 826-3364 or e-mail us at [mcc@humboldt.edu](mailto:mcc@humboldt.edu). Volunteers will be admitted to the conference for free!

---

**BY DIVERSITY CONFERENCE COORDINATORS**

**LIZ SMITH & MANDENE THOMAS**

---



---

## events

---

### THE DIVERSITY OF DISABILITY

BY PRECIOUS YAMAGUCHI

At Humboldt State University, when we think of the diverse population, we usually think of people of different ethnic backgrounds, races, religions and sexual orientations. Yet, we often forget that the word “diversity” includes all different ways people live their daily lives, such as those who have disabilities. At this year’s upcoming Diversity Conference, the Director at the Student Disability Resource Center will be presenting a workshop entitled, “The Diversity of

Disability.” This workshop will include a discussion and presentations on topics such as the nature of disabilities and the lives of Americans who have different disabilities. A panel of students with disabilities will be available to answer questions and talk about awareness and accommodations. All people are welcome to come and learn about the diverse lives of people who have disabilities. For more information call or email: Ralph Farland, (707) 826-4678, rdm7001@axe.humboldt.edu.

### MELT US INTO ONE

BY PRISCILLA ZUNIGA

America is known as the melting pot of the world where cultures combine, and the intermixing of different ethnicities occur. No one ever said it was going to be easy. Being of mixed descent only meant this melting process was relatively harder. For example, if an individual is half black and half white, what box on the census does this Jon Doe check?

If we say “African-American” then why don’t we validate the white background? And if we say “Caucasian,” then why don’t we validate the black background? The argument can be taken even further as to include all the people who are of mixed German, Irish, Spanish and Indian background, what little box does that person check? Will that box represent who that person is? To me it seems unfair that by only checking one box, the other aspects of the individual are never acknowledged. That’s exactly what the census attempts to do.

It takes away your voice and your individuality. How many people never get fair ethnic representation on the census form? The answer is: far too many.

That’s what this year’s diversity conference will address. The conference titled “Census 2000: Numbers or Nonsense?: Our Changing Perception

of America,” will discuss the discrepancies with the form, and the misrepresentation the form takes of America and it’s children. Our guest speaker, Elliot Lewis, will deliver his presentation titled “Chicken Gumbo for the Multicultural Soul.” He will be here at HSU on March 2 and 3, 2001. In his presentation, he makes it clear that we live in a biracial world with interracial families.

Mr. Lewis is of a mixed background. He believes that individuals should be free to identify themselves racially depending on their life experiences. Regardless of the mixture of blood, one shouldn’t have to identify with the color of their skin, if their life has taken another path.

The keynote speech will tackle the question of interracial families and biracial people and how they fit into the scheme of things. Living in this color addicted world will never be easy for anyone, not those of mixed cultures and ethnicities, nor those who aren’t of any mixed blood. However, one thing is for certain, those survey forms, such as the Census, won’t make it any easier. So what is it all about? Are those figures truly representative of us, Americans, or are they numbers or nonsense?

# teacher profile

## GETTING DEEP WITH JAIDEEP SINGH

BY PRECIOUS YAMAGUCHI

Have you ever been to a dance club and you are dancing with a person who you just can't keep up with? If so, then you can get an idea of what an intense conversation with Ethnic Studies Professor Jaideep Singh is like. Intelligent, witty and opinionated, he can talk up to the high heavens about the Sikh religion and it's beliefs than bring you back down to earth when he tells you his favorite basketball team is still the Chicago Bulls.

Jaideep Singh was born in India, but grew up in Michigan, not too far away from Chicago (which explains his love for the Bulls and Cubs). "Growing up in Michigan with a turban on your head, you learn not about ethnicity, but about race, which is how you look and how people judge you," he recalls. He grew up in a family that encouraged academics, his father is a college professor and his younger brother is currently attending UC Berkley. Majoring in History as an undergraduate and Ethnic Studies as a graduate at Berkley, Jaideep Singh knows what he is talking about when he talks about current events that are going on in the world. He became interested in Ethnic Studies when he took a class called The American Reaction of Modernization:1870-1920, which was constructed by historian, Lawrence Levine.

"I like Ethnic Studies," explain Jaideep," because it is not about assigning blame or culpability, but taking the lessons of our history and learning how to deal with them today." As a professor, Jaideep Singh educates students about such contemporary issues like segregation and the way the media portrays people in his classes The American Apartheid and Race & Gender in Film. "I love all my classes, they are all different challenges," says Jaideep.

Currently, Jaideep Singh is finishing up his Ph.D. in Ethnic Studies and hoping to publish his dissertation on the mobilization in immigrant communities of Sikh Americans. Although he will not be back next semester, many students have appreciated his time being here and the uniquely modern classes he has taught. "This is the first class (Race & Gender in Film) I am taking with Jaideep Singh and I am really enjoying it," says Brent Matlock. From now until the end of the semester, Jaideep Singh can be seen walking around campus or reading his favorite book of the moment, The Autobiography of Malcolm X. Whether you just take one of his classes or sit down to have a conversation him, you'll see that this intellect puts the "deep" back into Jaideep.

## student life

---

### ANOTHER HOLIDAY?

BY CLAUDIA TELLO

Cesar Estrada Chavez was "one of the heroic figures of our time," stated Senator Robert F. Kennedy. This man founded the first successful farm workers' union in U.S. history. In his recognition for his benevolence, the 103rd and 104th Congress have passed resolutions declaring March 31st a holiday in the U.S. There are currently 6 states, among them is California, who have officially named March 31st a memorial holiday honoring Cesar E. Chavez for his humanitarianism and leadership. March 31st was proposed as a holiday after his birthday. Cesar E. Chavez lived from March 31, 1927 to April 23, 1993. When he passed away, he

was the president of the United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO. He was a strong helmsman, who inflamed and led many unions and became directors of many organizations. Throughout his heroism, he has received many awards. Among them is Aguila Azteca, Mexico's highest award, and became the second to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor in the U.S.

Before Cesar E. Chavez became a full-time organizer for the Community Service Organization (CSO) in 1952, he was laboring in apricot orchards, which is why he began coordinating voter registration drives, battling racial and economic discrimination against Chicano residents and organizing new





---

## student life (cont.)

---

CSO chapters across California and Arizona. However, what he really wanted to do was to create an organization to help farm workers whose suffering he had shared, where he then founded the National Farm Workers Association (NFWA) in 1962. Then in 1965, the NFWA joined the AFL-CIO, which sponsored the union in a strike against the major Delano area able and wine grape growers. Due to his successful strike-boycott that rallied millions of supporters to the UFW, he forged a national support coalition of unions, church groups, students, minorities, and consumers. In 1966, both unions merged to form the UFW and became affiliated with the AFL-CIO. Then again in 1975, Cesar led another new worldwide grape boycott, forcing growers to support the 1975 Agricultural Labor Relations Act. Continuing many good deeds, one of the last ones was when Cesar conducted a "Fast for Life" in 1988 to protest the pesticide poisoning of grape workers and their children. After his death many skeptics declared the union dead, but in reality and in our hearts, reports have irrefutably shown that the struggle will continue and the unions will remain successful.

So why another holiday, you may ask. Cesar's son-in-law followed his passed down leadership to organize the UFW march from Delano to Sacramento to remind everyone that Cesar lives within our hearts and his endeavors will be recognized. Cesar E. Chavez had a dream, like Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, Gandhi, and other admirable leaders who also dream BIG. But this dream was to help farm workers whose suffering he had shared. Till this day, the UFW continues to win elections and negotiate contracts for farm workers.

"If it wasn't for Cesar Chavez, I would still be poor."

-Daniel Garcia. Toltec, AZ

These are some quotes from the Viva Cesar E. Chavez! Website,

"May his spirit live in all of us"

-Rose Hernandez. San Diego, CA

"Viva la raza!"

-Marisa Bautista. Sacramento, CA

"Is a great honor to read and study about Cesar Chavez. Viva los Campesinos! This is for the People Of The Sun."

-Marcos Rodriguez. Napa, ID

# M

## Y HUMBOLDT EXPERIENCE

BY MANDENE THOMAS

When I came here four years ago, (it has really been four years already!) nothing in my wildest imagination could have prepared me for all that I have experienced here. I came as a teenager of 18 years old, and also as an Afrikan and particular as a Namibian girl. Over and over I have thought of what my response would be if anyone had to ask me about my time here at Humboldt State University. My answer, I decided, would have to be from all aspects of who I came here as. The teenager that left home to some place on the other side of the world called Arcata, California has since then become an adult. My first day as a freshman was lonely and disorientating. It was not long though that I found people that I still call friends and will continue to do so long after my experiences here are said and done. These people, whom I proudly call friends, through pain, laughter and joy, brought me from childhood innocence to the realities

of adulthood! I also came to love someone that taught me a lot about who I am as a person and what it means to be a woman. I am still Afrikan and Namibian, more proudly so then I have ever been, because I was made to realize how little people here really know about the place I call home. Yet I am no longer only that. When I first came here, most people around me referred to me as an international student. This did not mean anything to me at all and it was almost as if though they were talking about someone other than myself. After my time here, I feel not just like an international student but like a student of the world! All the people that I have been exposed to here, opened my mind and heart so that I may see beyond the boundaries of my own perceptions, and truly see, other people! This and many memories that I will take with me wherever my life my lead me is what I call my Humboldt experience!

# LORD, WHY DID YOU MAKE ME BLACK?

## AUTHOR UNKNOWN

Lord, Lord,  
Why did You make me Black?  
Why did You make me someone the world wants to hold  
back?

Black is the color of dirty clothes; the color of grimy hands  
and feet.

Black is the color of darkness; the color of tire-beaten  
streets.

Why did you give me thick lips, a broad nose and kinky  
hair?

Why did You make me someone who receives the hatred  
stare?

Black is the color of a bruised eye when somebody gets  
hurt.

Black is the color of darkness.

Black is the color of dirt.

How come my eyes are brown and not the color of the day-  
Light sky?

Why do people think I'm useless?

How come I feel so used?

Why do some people see my skin and think I should be  
abused?

Lord,  
I just don't understand; what is it about my skin?

Why do some people want to hate me and not know the  
person within?

Black is what people are "listed" when others want to keep  
them away.

Black is the color of shadows cast.

Black is the end of the day.

Lord,  
You know, my own people mistreat me; and I know this isn't  
right.

They don't like my hair or the way I look

They say I'm too dark or too darn light.

Lord,  
Don't You think it's time for You to make a change?

Why don't You re-do creation and make everyone the  
same?

(God answered saying:)

Why did I make you black, you have the audacity to ask?

I did not do it as a joke, or as some cruel task.

Get off your knees and look around.

Tell Me, what do you see?

I didn't make you in the image of darkness.

I made you in the Likeness of Me!

I made you the color of coal from which beautiful diamonds  
are formed.

I made you the color of oil, the Black gold that keeps people  
warm.

I made you from the rich, dark earth that grows the food you  
need.

Your color's the same as the panther's known for (HER)  
beauty and speed.

Your color's the same as the Black stallion, a majestic animal  
is he.

No! I didn't make you in the Image of darkness

I made you in the Likeness of Me!

All the colors of a Heavenly Rainbow can be found through-  
out every

nation; and when all those colors were blended well, YOU  
BECAME MY

GREATEST CREATION!

Your hair is the texture of lamb's wool; such a humble, little  
creature

is he. I am the Shepherd who watches them. I am the One  
who will watch

over thee.

You are the color of midnight skies, I put the stars' glitter in  
your

eyes. There's a smile hidden behind your pain, that's the  
reason your

cheeks are high. You are the color of dark clouds formed  
during my

strongest winters in December.

I made your lips full so when you kiss the one you

love...they'll remember.

Your stare is strong; your bone structure, thick....to withstand  
the

burdens of time.

The reflection you see in the mirror...the Image looking back  
at you is

MINE!

# inner voices



## VIEQUES

BY RYAN MANN

500 years of colonization,  
100 of them under gringo domination.  
Animals to be taken, ransomed and sold,  
as your ships take away all of our gold

In this 20th century You still do as you please,  
Still the greatest force on the seas.  
Forcing your ways of dazed adoration  
On the dollar bill, that rules your nation

Mami, when shall the ground stop trembling  
From this constant bombardment  
Of naval ammunition.  
Without any prohibition  
Towards the lightly dipped,  
Uranium tipped,  
Naval shit,  
That keeps falling on the island

Is the earth deserving of this pain?  
Damn officers, are you not ashamed.  
Poisoning the turquoise waters of salt,  
Whose inhabitants have no fault,  
That you need to train.  
In order to maintain  
The greatest tyranny  
That you call the great democracy.  
If only the fish could pick up a gun,  
Then surely they would all have some fun

How long have our voices been silenced,  
How long have we maintained non-violence?  
Laborers, priest, fishermen;

Students, politicians, countrymen.  
All protesting together  
To end this bombing forever.

Mami, how can they force their choices  
Upon the many local voices  
That wish to claim their own rights

By Sacrificing many nights.

They have set up their tarps  
And opened up their hearts  
To the cause of liberty.  
Only to be surrounded  
By gunships, helicopters, federal officials,  
Carving their initials  
On the landscape and hearts of the people.  
Asking, then telling us to leave  
So that your uniformed abusers can do as they  
please.

387 days without bombs,  
filling the earth with our songs.  
An ending we have sought  
and together we have fought  
to liberate Borinquen  
from this constant onslaught

Yet on May fourth,  
Your assault was set forth  
Upon the peaceful manifestation  
Of the people for their nation.  
Por un pueblo y su cultura  
Ya cansado de su censura.

If the NAVY wants to play  
With their big scary bombs today,  
Shudder will the land  
Unprotected by our hand.  
Yet the next bomb you send our way  
We will stand beneath it and say  
Esta es la bella isla donde he nacido yo  
Es Borinquen la hija del mar y el sol.  
If you seek to bomb my shores  
Then you have just declared war  
In which I will not stand beside  
But against your egocentric pride.  
My blood or your blood  
We shall let the land decide.



---

# Afrological Horoscopes

BY PRECIOUS YAMAGUCHI

**Why should Black History month only celebrate the lives of great African American people for only a month? Celebrate throughout the year of the accomplishments, achievements and birthdays of the many African Americans that have influenced us and effected our everyday lives today. Correlate some of these great thinkers, artists, writers, musicians and activists with your own sign.**

**Aquarius (January 20-February 18)**

Happy Birthday Aquarius, this month is your month to change the lives of others and yourself for the better. Like Rosa Parks and Frederick Douglass you are a courageous leader and will influence many others in fighting for your rights. Versatile, creative and always finding new ways to communicate your ideas, you are definitely popular just being yourself, similar to Oprah Winfrey. You stand out in a crowd with your wit and great sense of humor such as your Aquarian mate Chris Rock.

**Pisces (February 19- March 20)**

Since you are a pisces, you are either intensely crazy and uninhibited or very mellow and laid back. Either way, you are extremely sensitive and full of life. You are interested in people and everything around you. Like W.E.B. Du Bois, creator of the NAACP, you are concerned about the well being of people and make sincere efforts in your attempts to make change. This month you will finally make a decision that you have been procrastinating to make.

**Aries (March 21-April 19)**

Aries, always so calm and cool, just don't get them mad! One of the most determined and intellectual signs in the zodiac, Aries are very straightforward and competitive (even when they think they don't appear to be). Jack Johnson, the first black heavyweight boxing champion of the world knew what hard work and success was all about. This month you will find a strange attraction to a person who is out of the ordinary, which is not unusual for Aries, since they have always liked people who are a bit quirky.

**Taurus (April 20-May 20)**

Logical, strong and influential, you can talk to almost any person and are not afraid of testing your limits. Malcolm X is a great example of a taurean's determination and courage. As fierce as the taurus bull can be, they also have the most sensitive heart and mind, willing to express their thoughts and sensuality such as Janet Jackson does. With their down to earth appeal, it is hard for people not to like taureans. This month, try your hardest at succeeding your goals but put aside some time for yourself everyday. It is very common for a Taurus to become a work-a-holic.

**Gemini (May 21-June 21)**

If there is one sign who has a great love for people, it is the gemini sign. Ever changing and restless, geminis are always looking for new people, places and things to do. Never leave a gemini alone. Geminis hate loneliness and will resort to hanging out with almost anyone to avoid it. Creative and curious, geminis will venture out and discover magnificent ways of life. Curtis Mayfield and Miles Davis, are excellent passionate geminis. This month, try to put your restless energy into something productive, and keep in mind what your priorities are.

**Cancer (June 22-July 22)**

Louis Armstrong, one of the greatest musicians is a cancer. Cancer's are strong and confident on the outside, but once you know them more intimately are often soft and sensitive. They will do their best at whatever they do, as long as they know they are not wasting their time. Thurgood Marshall and Thomas A. Dorsey reflect the strong creative nature of the cancer. Although a people person cancer's need their time alone and be sure to stay out of their way when they are crabby. If your life has been becoming too stressful don't be scared to ask for help.

**Leo (July 23-August 22)**

Leos, you are just too much! The center of attention grabber of the zodiac, you are your own true love. Confident, striking and not afraid of anything, you are adventurous just like Mathew Henson, who took an exploration expedition to the North Pole. Leos never have a problem finding a date. Like Halle Berry you are attractive and have a great sense of style. Try become a better listener, cause you are already a great talker.

**Virgo (August 23-September 22)**

Down to earth and humble, you are the most reliable sign. Like Alain LeRoy Locke you are very academic and a definite do-good type of person. You never like to hurt anyone's feeling but often can be accident with your sarcasm. Your ways are classy and you never settle for second best. During the end of February new opportunities will head your way. You will have no problem attacking any new challenge.

**Libra (September 23-October 22)**

It is no surprise that Mae Jemison, the first African American woman to travel to space is a Libra. Adventurous, smart and good looking, libras are charming without even having to put in much effort. Libras are ambitious and know what they want in life, except, when it comes to making small decisions it can take them hours to decide! Cultured and interested in life libras are never boring! New love is coming your way this month in the most unlikely place!

**Scorpio (October 23-November 21)**

You are usually noble but this month you may be overwhelmed by jealousy. Be sure you try to look towards the brighter side of any adversity you come across because in the long run it will work to your advantage. Scorpios often carry a sensual mystery with them like Lisa Bonet and will also crack you up with their wit and honest sense of humor like Whoopi Goldberg. Scorpios are unforgettable people who make lasting impressions. Don't stress so much over little things this semester, but don't wait until the last minute either.

**Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)**

Usually always happy and positive, you brighten many people's day with just a few kind words. Sagittarians usually have a sense of good luck that rides on their shoulders and are able to make the most out of any situation. Although they sincerely try to be reliable, they are often flakey. Film maker, photographer, writer and composer, Gordon Parks is a good example of the Sagittarian's versatility. During this year, Sagittarius, you will learn a lot of life long lessons that will make you a better person.

**Capricorn (December 22-January 15)**

Practical and old fashion, you are either very masculine or very feminine. Always down to earth and a good listener, you are an excellent friend to have. Take a chance this year Capricorn and do something you never thought you could do. Capricorns are often more capable than they think they are. Just don't make any big investments yet. Martin Luther King Jr. was a capricorn who had great leadership and compassion, traits that capricorns admirably possess.