# The Weekly Arts and Entertainment Supplement to the Daily Nexus

Julianna Lavin had a talk with Artsweek recently about her new film, Live Nude Girls. A good time was had by all. Heck, we learned a lot, too.

Could you give me some background information on yourself and on Live Nude Girls?

I was a literature major at Creative Studies and a film studies minor at UCSB. I made a 16-millimeter student film at school that I wrote, directed and acted in which sort of inspired me to want to do the same thing on a bigger budget in Holor the girlfriends or the prostitutes or they are just sort of objects of desire and there's not an original idea in any of that. I was interested in handling women's sexuality in a way that is not supposed to be erotic. The film is more of a confessional. It's about the type of things that are interesting to someone like me but that you usually don't see much of on the screen. I mean, you really don't see that many movies about how women relate to each other when there aren't any men around.

Did you have a tough time getting those themes across in the dialogue you

wrote for the characters?
No, it was pretty natural. People asked why I decided to do a woman's movie and the obvious answer is that I happen to be a woman. I think "Write what you know" is always good advice. I mean, I certainly didn't have to do any research for this film; all the incidents and conversations are based on me and my friends and all the things that we have said and thought and done. I tried to make it as honest as

How did the film get financed? My friends and I weren't able to raise







lywood. So, I wrote a script which was optioned a number of times. Each time it got optioned, it got a bigger and bigger budget, but I got so frustrated that it wasn't getting made that I decided to write another script and make a film myself with credit card money. What turned out came to be Live Nude Girls.

What's the film all about? It's a female-driven comedy. It's basically the story of a bunch of women that grew up together in the San Fernando Valley who are now in their mid-30s. One of them is getting married and her friends decide to throw her a slumber party, like a bachelorette party.

And that's where the majority of the

story takes place?

That's where the whole film takes place. It's about the women's friendships with each other. It's also about female sexuality, which is the topic of the evening at the party.

What, in particular, did you focus on

in terms of sexuality?

Sex on film is very biased and predominantly comes from a male point of view. Women in movies are the mothers enough money from credit cards and solicitations from friends and family, but in the end, we were lucky enough to get money from a company, Republic Pictures, and the movie was optioned by this guy Steve White and we got about a million dollars for the gross budget. It became a real bona fide 35-millimeter film with real actors. The company continued to allow me to direct, which was really important to me, but they would not let me play one of the leading roles because they felt that my energy should be focused on

Did you agree with that decision? Initially, no. I was very upset because it was very important for me to act in it. But in retrospect, I think that it was absolutely the right thing to do. Dana Delaney ended up playing the part that I had originally intended to play and she's a really great actress and did a great job. Besides, we had to get a big name in order to secure the financing and her name was the one that did it. Also, because the character that I was going to play is in virtually every scene of the film, looking back, I think that it would have been really difficult as a

first-time director to stretch myself that

How does it feel to be a UCSB film

alumna and to be coming back to show your work in Campbell Hall?

Really good! Coming back to somewhere you haven't been in a long time reminds you of what you've accomplished. It was a long, hard road for me and sometimes you forget. Like right now, I'm in the middle of two studio deals and it's the middle of two studio deals and it's great. I'm happy, but I get really embroiled in all the difficulties and I forget to appreciate what I've got. Coming back is a nice reminder.

Do you feel that being a student at UCSB helped you make your film?
Definitely. I had a really positive exper-

ience in the Film Studies Department. I studied screenwriting with Paul Lazarus, who was incredibly encouraging. He told me point blank that he thought I could make a living writing and encouraged me

Were there any other classes or profes-

sors that you feel helped you? Yes. I feel like the production class I took with Dana Driscoll was a great help. The principles of filmmaking are exactly the same as they were when I was making 11-minute, 16-millimeter films in school. You're just working with a bigger camera and it's a longer process. I don't think that I would have had the nerve to ask to direct if I hadn't had some production experience and had an idea of what goes on in the editing room and what's involved on the set.

How much crap do you get for the title of the film?

It's very 50/50. People either love the title or they hate it.

What's the idea behind it?

I get asked all the time if the distribution company made me call it Live Nude Girls so we would lure people in. The answer is no, absolutely not. I chose the title myself and I like the title very much. It's making fun of the objectification of women. It's ironic because at a certain point in the film, the characters are all nude in front of each other, but it's a metaphorical title in that they undress emotionally they strip down emotionally in front of

You obviously made this film to get a woman's perspective out there and women are going to appreciate that aspect of it. What do you hope the male audience takes away from the film?

I never intended to make a movie that only women would like. I like men. My boyfriend loves the movie and so do most of my close male friends. I think for them it's a very voyeuristic experience because ... there's no way that a man is ever going to experience how women behave in a room with no men around. Once he walks in the room, it changes the energy. It's the same for women — you can't go into a locker room and have [men] continue to behave as they were before you walked in there. I've had men say to me, 'I always wondered if women talked like that' or I've had men who were offended by it say that they don't believe that women really talk like that. I have found that eally conservative men seem to be re threatened by it and be uncomfortable. They either don't like to listen to women talking for an hour and a half or they just don't particularly want to hear women talking like that. They would prefer to think of us as behaving like ladies, and it's threatening to them. But I would hope that most men can appreciate a glimpse into a world that they wouldn't ordinarily

What are the immediate and long-

term futures for the film? Well, the distribution process for the film is very heartbreaking. Unfortunately, Republic is distributing it themselves. They are not putting much money into it because all they really care about is seeing it go to video, so they are doing a lousy job and it's just opening in about five cities nationwide in a small platform release. But the good thing is that it has launched my career. The film was very well received within Hollywood and I'm really happy with how it turned out, so that's good. I'm really very proud of it. The frustrating thing is that a lot of people, including me, feel that it had a great commercial potential because it is funny and the acting is wonderful and it's kind of sexy and a good date movie. But I've made my peace with that and I've personally moved on to other things.

# HIS MASTER'S VOICE A Good Person, An Honest Person SIDE Sattler Youth Sattler Youth

"Do you find it ironic that 'octopus' only has seven letters?" Jay said, not bothering to watch the players madly racing up and down the basketball court.

"No, no, I don't," H. calmly replied. This was the usual way that H. had to respond to Jay's brand of conversation. Sometimes a simple "What are you talking about?" or "I don't know how to respond to that" would suffice.

Jay's over-generalized theories about human behavior and art came so frequently and with such confusing wording that H. could scarcely keep up. Jay had a ten-

dency to say popular song lyrics, making them fit into the conversation. Once, when having a late-night conversation about his mediocre grades in the previous quarter, Jay said, "Well, it's too late tonight to drag the past out into the light." H. was constantly on guard for Jay's strange, unpredictable witticism. When they first met, H. had wondered if Jay was the most intelligent person he had ever met.

Jay had recently gone through a time in his life where he evaluated everything, looking for answers about how to be a good person, a healthy person. He had dealt with his anger toward his parents. He began to eat well and exercise, shedding 30 pounds. Slowly he had passed his learning to H.

At the basketball game, while the other students watched the game, Jay and H. discussed the dynamics of relationships and the value of certain music. A group of several students who liked to come to the basketball games early and yell at the opposing team was present as usual. These students led jeers throughout the games and regarded themselves as an integral part of the university's basketball experience.

Jay and H.'s conversation was interrupted when they noticed one of these fans. He was an unusually overweight young man. He paced back and forth, motioning

to the other teams' fans. Occasionally he would make strange profane gestures that included pelvic thrusts. He stood right behind one of the cheerleaders, yelling across the court and right into her ear. Jay and H. returned to their conversation.

Jay continued, "I was saying some lyrics just like I usually do to my girlfriend. I said, 'I feel you in the future.'
And that's when she decided that our relationship was

getting too serious."

H. knowingly replied, "Now, that's truly amazing. But that's always how things happen. The moment you show your true self, you get shot down. Our society offers rewards for those who will repress their feelings the most."

"Well, it doesn't matter anyway," Jay said. "We were getting close to having a sexual relationship and I wasn't quite ripe enough for the horror of that. I don't feel mature enough to properly deal with all the emotions that sex would cause. I feel like I would treat it like a mere physical encounter."

"I don't know how you worry about things like that," H. said. "You're the only person who worries about stuff like that."

Their attention turned back to the same strange fan who was now in a full-blown fury. With a serious look of anger, he jumped and stomped around in front of the

stands yelling, "Yeah, bitch! You're in my house now. Don't ever come to my house with that shit."

H. said, "Oh, I get it now. No wonder he's so mad This is his house. He

now. No wonder he's so mad. This is his house. He lives here. I'd be pretty upset, too, if several thousand screaming people came to my house. He was probably trying to take a nap."

Jay looked hurt. He said, "He's projecting how bad he feels about himself on those other people. It must be really hard for him."

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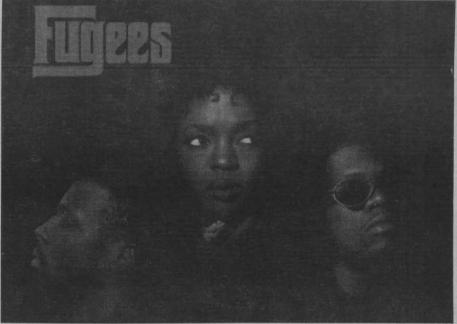
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**Fugees** The Score Columbia

# FUGERN

It's one thing for fans to be disappointed by an album, but when the group that put out the album says that *they're* disappointed by the quality of it, you know they're going to have to put in work to make a strong second effort. This is what happened with the Fugees. After they admitted being unhappy with their first album, *Blunted on Reality*,



the Fugees really let their talent shine and put together The Score, an album that will

likely be one of the best albums of 1996.

Production on the new album is handled for the most part by group members Wyclef and Lauryn. The duo definitely proves to the hip-hop world that they are not about gimmicks. From the irrepressible "How Many Mics" to the laid-back acoustic sounds

of "Manifest/Outro," this album is full of flavor.

Also, Salaam Remi hooked up the beautiful, booming track for "Fu-Gee-La" and Diamond D completely blows up the spot with his beat for the title track.

Throughout the album, the lyrics are clear, concise and full of meaning. The skills of Wyclef and Pras were doubted by many after Blunted on Reality failed to blow up, but the guys' vocals definitely add a lot to The Score. Of course, Lauryn flows with a natural ease on every song and she lets her beautiful voice shine on "Fu-Gee-La" and her rendition of "Killing Me Softly."

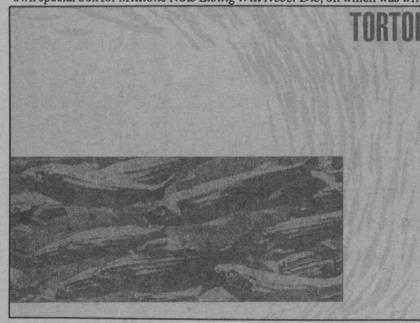
The Score is complete in every sense of the word and has a far more musical feel to it than most hip-hop albums. That musical quality, along with the overall variety of styles found on the album should help it appeal to a wide audience. This is something the group definitely deserves.

-Todd "One" Mumford



**Tortoise** Millions Now Living Will Never Die Thrill Jockey

I was at No Life Records, a little shop in L.A., this weekend. Not finding the new Tortoise record, I asked the nice young woman at the counter if they had it. She said, "You mean this one right here?" It was right in front of me on the counter. They had their own special box for Millions Now Living Will Never Die, on which was written, "It's



finally here!" I was pretty impressed, but not as impressed as I was when I got home and listened to it. Wow!

The first track, or should I say episode, is entitled "Djed." This 21-minute epic lulls you right into a trance. I'm not kidding. About halfway through, I realized that I had stripped completely naked and was playing with my roommate's pet turtle. Isn't that insane? "Djed's" strange explosion sounds coupled with a smooth bassline had me locked in. But who would have expected the beautiful guitar part to sneak in and turn "Djed" into something completely different? "Dear Grandma and Grandpa" is another

excellent selection from the album.

Tortoise is an experimental band from Chicago. They use noise and nontraditional instruments (televisions, toy synthesizers) and put them in a jazz/rock context. The

eeriness and melody that they manage to extract from this formula is truly phenomenal.

After I left No Life, I felt fulfilled. I could not have imagined the embarrassing encounter I would later have with my roommates as they discovered me with the turtle, but I knew what great music I would find with Tortoise. I have their previous self-titled release, which is also awesome.

My advice is to get close to Tortoise, but not too close. By all means, stay clothed. En-

-Noah Blumberg



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# Snow Problem

Snowmen In Orbit March

Snowmen aren't rooted to the ground, the floorboards or even the 10th floor. They are, essentially, In Orbit, as the title of their recent CD professes. Getting there is the best part.

Snowmen's mission begins with "Crash and Burn," a song fueled with what honestly can be called the fire at the bottom of a NASA rocket. The countdown is how long it took me to realize that my CD player was on the tape func-tion. It is a fascinating song, like the first shuttle mission. Unexplained. But by the time the vessel has left easy viewing by CNN cameras, more blueness than rocket fills the screen. The bizarre sounds lose their exotic appeal and turn to expected and predictable paper airplanes.

Friction between the elements and defiance of the atmosphere seem to dissi-

song, "86th," begins with, "I remember coming down...." Not a single air tank has been spared for the event of an emergency. It is nap time inside the bubble caps. The aircraft carrier is already at sea in anticipation.

Before lapsing into a complacent mood of "Just look out the window at the pretty earth," the first two songs undulate toward something that pollutes the silence of space. "Crash and Burn" includes organ accompaniment that gives it a current of unheard energy. The second track, "Dy-no-mite," is built more on traditional (not folk) guitars, drum, bass and voice, but it is infiltrated with a weird distortion that destroys any peace the song might have generated otherwise.

The strings in this song are aching and incurable and well balanced, if not amplified, by the serenity of the following track, titled "Corner Store." From the sound of this one, the singer is from a town where

pate and fall back to Earth once the fifth there was only one corner. On that corner was a store where he bought things, and this was very exciting to him. Inspirational, in fact. Considering the fact that the Snowmen are In Orbit, the dying excitement could be reaction to the fact that there is only one moon buggy on the moon, and because the Snowmen are in orbit, driving the mean machine is not what Houston shot them off the Earth to do. Or, perhaps more realistically, the Snowmen could be getting the blues from the inevitable Earth re-entry, a flamin' hot process that could intimidate the most rockin' of Snowmen. After takeoff, these things divert their power.

Although the CD loses a considerable amount of combustion after the first songs, it isn't without a successive gem in the latter half. "Market Song," quite possibly a follow-up to "Corner Store," picks up where "Dy-no-mite" left off. "Market Song" defies gravity to loom speechless above the succeeding "Undertow," an

"I'm a guy with a guitar and some letters I mull over" number. "Market Song" is effectively polluted with kazoo sounds and an expanding doorbell ring that flows through the music like a spaghetti noodle alone in a pot of boiling water. Possible effects of moving on from the Corner Store? I think so. There are so many op-

tions. There is even funny foreign candy.
Ultimately, the eighth track, "Alabama
Rain," brings back the weird thronging guitar and accordion/organ (I don't really know - I play a Roland myself) for a final encore. This saves the day except that it possesses the same tempo of Bruce Hornsby's "Mandolin Rain," which makes me wary of the South's ability to cope with precipitation.

The Snowmen, now launched, are worth the media build of a takeoff. What they do In Orbit, however, too often tastes as exciting as freeze-dried ice

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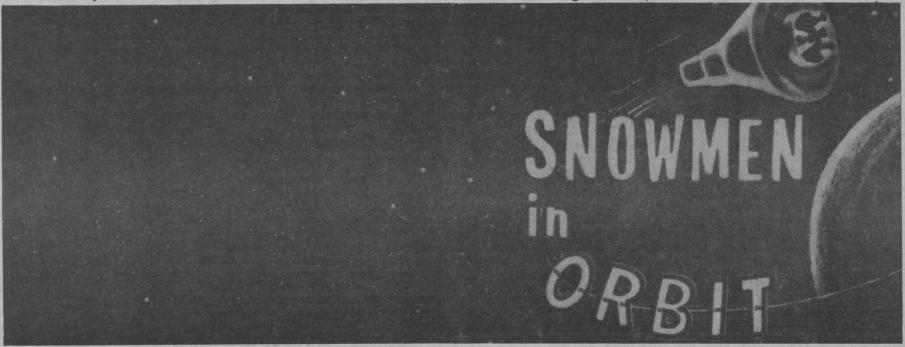
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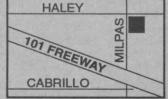
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### Kool DJ EQ, Q-Bert and Rob One / Mastermixes

I've been a fan of the turntable wizardry of hiphop DJs Kool DJ EQ, Q-Bert and Rob One for a while now and was very pleased to learn that these three respected heads have come together to produce a compilation tape that profiles each of them doing what they do best. Mastermixes has these kids tearing up much wax and proving that the DJ is still an essential part of hip-hop culture, no matter what the mallrats think.

Las Vegas' EQ is the editor of The Industry, an area hip-hop magazine. His work occupies the first half of the tape and the tracks he contributes to the effort are solid as hell. "How Many Emcees in This Mix?" is my favorite of the EQ cuts, since it has, at its core, a fat beat and verses by two of my favorite emcees: Lauryn and Mad Skills. On this track, EQ cuts the drums to shreds and splices

various song excerpts together to construct an ill chorus.
Likewise, Rob One and the world-renowned Q-Bert put in much work on the B-side of Mastermixes. Their scratch symphonies, "Age of Independence" and "One-Legged Centipede," show what having skills is all about.

If you wanna get a copy of this tape, call EQ at (702) 733-9418 or (702) 693-3914.

#### DJ Mark Farina / Basic Foods Seven and Eight

I usually don't buy much techno, but my cousin has hyped Mark Farina to me forever, so I figured I'd check his latest mix out. I was pleasantly surprised. Farina's play list is pretty much identical to what mine would be if I were a techno DJ. My favorite tracks in the mix are Johnny Fiasco's "Movin" and Carroll Park 2's "Happy We're So." Basic Foods Seven and Eight is a trance-inducing mix of jazzy techno, Chicago house and other wild sounds. I recommend it highly.

Apparently, Mark Farina has no phone number. But you can get his latest effort at finer stores that support underground and progressive culture.

—Eric Steuer



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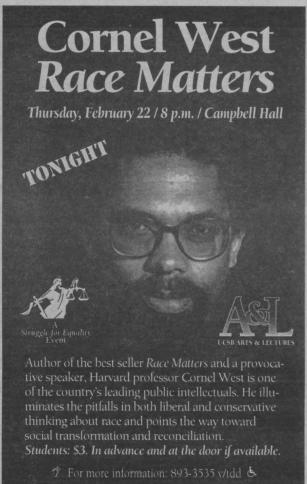
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## Acting



This photo is from "The Three Sisters" an upcoming UCSB Dramatic Arts Production.

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Sunday, directors Anna Jensen and Heather Rasche executed two diverse comedies with skill and style and had the audience laughing for the duration of both acts. The first play, Blind Date, written by Horton Foote, depicts the hell of an overbearing aunt with time on her hands interacting with her visiting teenage niece. Katie Rodda played the role of Dolores, the pushy aunt, with a rigorousness reminiscent of Holly Hunter in the TV movie The Adventures of the Alleged Texas Cheerleader Murdering Mom. That is to say, she was excellent.

To contrast Katie's perky performance, Erica Kylander-Clark portrayed Sarah Nancy, a wildly un-enthusiastic teenage girl. The combination of Kylander-Clark's hilarious facial expressions and comic delivery made her character one of the highlights of the play. One had only to hear her delivery of "stupid warthog" to think her the epitome of horrible blind dates. As for the men, Lance Anderson played Robert with a comic timing which greatly complimented the rest of the cast, and Jesse Cash's Felix was the perfect bane of Sarah Nancy's existence. Overall, Rasche made a successful debut at UCSB with this realistic play, one which was greatly contrasted by the bizarre hilarity of Tom Stoppard's 15 Minute Hamlet.

Anna Jensen directed this extremely short ver-sion of the Bard's masterpiece (yes, it really is only 15 minutes) with great creativity and vision. The play, which takes the most famous lines from Hamlet and crams them into a quarter hour, went over very well with the audience. Jeffrey Flowers, in the role of Hamlet, even had Mel Gibson-esque hair, which became more and more frazzled as the demanding play prog-ressed. The show was a laugh a minute, with a Hamlet joke in everyone's size. Whether you've seen the play a hundred times or never, this *Hamlet* is packed with stuff to laugh at. With actors playing multiple roles (Nanette Dadzie played Bernardo, the Ghost, Marcellus, Fornbras and the Gravedigger), one was constantly made to wonder: Who is this character? Oddly enough, that happens all the time in the actual Hamlet. This night was a great success for both Rasche and Jensen in these tremendously different

These one-acts lasted only from Thursday to Sunday of last week. So why, you might ask, are they being reviewed now? Only to sing the praises of the drama department here at UCSB, which brings you quality drama all year long. If you missed this production, be sure to see Moliere's *The Misan*thrope, which runs Feb. 23-25 and Feb. 27-Mar. 2, or Chekhov's The Three Sisters, running from March 1-3 and March 7-9. Come one, come all. You can never have too much culture

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-Lori Culwell

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Monday, February 26, 7:00 pm: The acclaimed film The Brothers McMullen is being screened in Campbell Hall.

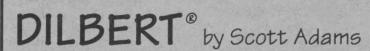
Tuesday, February 27, 8:00 pm: Folk singer Peggy Seeger performs at Veteran's Memorial Hall. 112 W. Cabrillo Blvd. Call 962-0838 for information.

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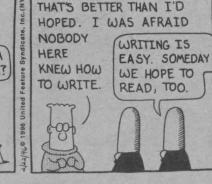


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PRESENTS

## BA FINDA C' BFUCH AN FINDA C' BFUCH

Aries (March 21-April 19). You're probably feeling pretty feisty today. That's not altogether good. If you go beyond invisible boundaries with a quiet type, you could get into trouble. Don't tell what you've learned recently, either. A casual remark could cause an explosion.

Taurus (April 20-May 20). There are complications today, and many of them are not your fault. Somebody else's breakdown could cause a big mess for you, so watch out! Be patient if your sweetheart is irritable. That one's under even more pressure than you are.

Gemini (May 21-June 21). You and a friend may try to get together today, but it won't be easy. Both of you have to deal with demands from other people first. The game board is constantly changing, so stay alert. You snooze today, and you definitely lose!

Cancer (June 22-July 22). Do what needs to be done, and quickly. If anything can go wrong, you can bet that it will. You're good under pressure, so don't flinch. The worst of it should be over by tomorrow, so what's the problem? Face the challenge, and win!

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). You're firing on all eight cylinders again today. You're very attractive, but may have trouble making the connection you desire. Work gets in the way. You may not have much free time until Sunday. Don't fret; make the most of what you have.

★ Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Things may look worse today than they did yesterday. It's just that you don't have everything figured out yet. Take it one item at a time, and set priorities. You're good at that. Also, don't be afraid to delegate something you can't do well.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You may have to use new skills quickly this morning. Act decisively and it should work out fine. Your dinner plans may be thwarted, however. Don't get to arguing with your true love and burn the chops! Better send out for pizza instead.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You could run into all kinds of trouble today. First, your sweetheart costs you money. Later in the day, it's a coworker who's in a dither. You could come up with a good solution to that problem. Relax tonight in a stress-free environment.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You should be in a good mood today.
You're lucky in love, too. Unfortunately, however, it looks like a possible breakdown this morning at home. Later, somebody you love could cost you quite a bit of money. Just keep smilin'!

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). A blowup this morning could strain your patience. If you have to do a job over, don't fret. It'll be better the second time anyway. A clash with a roommate around dinnertime could get ugly.

Best avoid a controversial subject.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Don't loan a friend money this morning. Make it a gift instead. Say you're repaying an old debt, which might be true. You may have to hit the books to solve a puzzle this evening. Your sweetheart should be able to help.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). A clash with an older person early this morning could be upsetting. Even worse, you may have started it. Don't be concerned about impending expenses. Figure out a way to make more money, instead. Avoid becoming dependent on a loved one.

Today's Birthday (Feb. 22). If you want a new career, start planning now. Your sweetheart may need financial help in April. More money's coming in, but it's going out fast, too. Take care. Good friends can help you stay on course. In December, you could get your break. Drop an old lifestyle for a better one. Celebrate in January with a big party. You may finally solve a private puzzle next February. What you've just learned helps it all make sense.

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