

IDEAL

CONTRIBUTED STORY
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Emotive lyricism and silky vocals are just a few elements that make up **IDEAL**, the new R&B sensation on Virgin Records Urban. Along with these traits come an unmatched authenticity and originality, which help Houston's J-Dante, Maverick, PZ and SWAB emerge as major players on their self-titled debut album. Holding the best R&B tradition closely to their hearts, **IDEAL** developed an early appreciation for such artists as Frankie Beverly



& Maze, Stevie Wonder, The Isley Brothers and the Time, as well as more contemporary artists such as Take 6, Boyz II Men and Jodeci. In between football and basketball practice, they found time to scan their parents' old 45's for those oldies, but goodies. "We are influenced heavily by the sounds of yesterday and today. The traditional soul brings character to our music," states Maverick. Honing their craft in

church choirs and high school talent shows, **IDEAL** was eager to emulate their music idols by striving to bring integrity to rhythm and blues music from their hearts. Unlike most teenagers, who were laboring over college applications, **local producers and managers for a recording contract were scouting IDEAL**. Considering their options, they

decided to stay focused on a major label deal. Their relentless patience and persistence proved not to be in vain, when they were introduced to Virgin Records Sr. Vice President Eric Brooks, who signed them immediately. J-Dante, Maverick, Swab and PZ would dedicate the next few months creating the core of their album **IDEAL**.

Horoscope

YOUR WEEKLY (10/31 - 11/6)
HOROSCOPE: BY MISS ANNA

ARIES: (March 21 - April 20)

Don't believe everything you hear, and make sure to check your sources and facts. If you find yourself in a tense and confining situation, call a time out, thinking about the best approach to take. Make a connection to your past and pieces will fall into place.

TAURUS: (April 21 - May 21)

Use your intellect to solve a particular problem. Keeping your perspective will help you to hold your temper and avoid any unnecessary blowups about trivial matters. Relationships are present on your mind, don't deny any emotional turmoil that's brewing.

GEMINI: (May 22 - June 21)

Use your imagination and ingenuity to make the right impression with those around you, especially in the workplace. Love is not only on your mind, but present all around. You may be in the middle of an intensely new relationship, or an old flame may reappear.

CANCER: (June 22 - July 23)

Your craving for something different, which could have a negative effect on something or someone dear to you. Someone is likely to hurt your delicate feelings during the week - telling you to not be so sensitive is like telling you not to breathe ... try to relax.

LEO: (July 24 - August 23)

Two very opposite qualities need to be combined into a whole, something which will work best for you. You've got your work cut out for you, considerable energy and

thought is required to solve the problem. Stick with what you know, it makes you comfortable.

VIRGO: (August 24 - September 23)

Don't use your energies in ways that create a destructive end, no matter how tempting. It might be for the best to take time out from a relationship which seems to be going nowhere. Do something extra special for a family member who is having a tough time.

LIBRA: (September 24 - October 23)

Consider all things which are truly of value to you, and put your your energies behind them. Use your monies in a responsible way, long term investing is probably your best bet. Attend to all to all financial details now, and it will save you time and money later.

SCORPIO: (October 24 - November 22)

You value honesty and openness in relationships, and letting others know this will enhance any bonding which occurs. You are long overdue for a dose of relaxation and pampering - maybe a specially planned weekend away will do the trick. Tamper any criticism.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 23 - December 21)

Take any changes in stride and you will see that something new suits your purposes better than you would have ever expected. Look to positive long-term plans in order to subdue your anxieties. Make creative ideas attractive by gearing them to the needs of others.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 - January 20)

Both compassion and flexibility are necessary throughout the week. Someone close is going through a rough time and may be wallowing

in self pity, there is little you can do about it. Try to overcome any nervousness you may feel, your support will no doubt turn the tide.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 - February 19)

Your assertive approach at work will win you more friends than enemies. If the information coming to you seems confusing and excessive, take your time and review everything before making decisions. Keep a close watch on activities at home to insure a positive outcome.

PISCES: (February 20 - March 20)

It is very important to recognize your own limitations, and not take on something for which you are not equipped. If a spat occurred between you and a loved one - find common ground where both of you can get what you need most now. Listen to others' ideas and broaden your perspective.

IF THIS WEEK IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: Find clever and creative ways to express your feelings towards a loved one; making sure the message comes across exactly as you intended. Plan for an escape retreat to relax and enjoy all around you, and you will be surprised at how quickly your energy is rejuvenated.

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