

Geocosmic Journal

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*F*ROM THE GUEST EDITOR

*T*he subject of financial astrology is wide-ranging, and in this issue we have covered only a few areas. The goal is to inspire you to begin to study this interesting facet of astrology. It can be both profitable and enlightening. (Poverty-thinking is not a requirement for learning astrology!)

Validation in our field is currently happening through recognition by *Timers Digest* magazine of the two top market timers, Arch Crawford and Bill Meridian, both astrologers.

At the recent 13th World Conference of Astro Economics®, speakers and attendees came from all over the world. They included hedge-fund managers, stockbrokers, bankers, commodity traders, newsletter writers and authors of financial books and business publications. Although most use both fundamental and technical analysis, they all use planetary cycle analysis as another tool in their success.

At a NCGR financial astrology conference in New York in 1984, I met others who were also researching and studying financial astrology. The confer-

ence was held in a hotel near Wall Street and I was amazed to see the audience of more than 200 "blue-suited" businessmen and traders who came to hear what "those astrologers" had to say. Several of the speakers at that conference are writers in this issue. Many more have continued their research, developed software and gone on to prize-winning endeavors. Among those speakers: Jeanne Long, who was guest editor of the *NCGR Journal's* financial issue Winter 1989 and long time NCGR board member, contributed to financial astrology with her pioneer software program, *The Galactic Trader*. Mary Downing, another longtime NCGR board member, spoke about her work with corporations.

Astrologers often refer to banker J. P. Morgan, who used astrologer Evangeline Adams, and said "Millionaires don't need astrologers, billionaires do." Today, corporations and those in the financial world still use astrologers. Most of my clients are CEOs of major companies, small business owners, commodity traders, stockbro-

kers and professionals in many fields interested in finance.

How can astrologers assist business people and those in the financial world? They can help with timing the introduction of new products, service announcements, mailings, seminars and workshops, and signing important contracts, including choosing the date and time of the company's incorporation, IPO (Initial Public Offering) date and first trade date. A personal consultation might include a psychological profile based on the birth chart with transits and progressions for the year ahead. A business profile using the incorporation chart might include the strengths and weaknesses of the company and the potential for the year ahead. These company profiles help clients make better choices for their businesses.

If you choose to pursue a career in financial astrology or want to learn more just for your own investing, start with the articles in this issue and the recommended reading list.

Grace K. Morris, M.A.

*P*LANETARY ECONOMIC
FORECASTING IN 2003

BY BILL MERIDIAN

*T*his study was conducted to discover which planetary cycles and phenomena have the greatest effect on the U.S. economy. The data was obtained in the 1980s, and the study began in 1998. It was conducted on two levels. The first was quantitative, comparing sidereal and synodic cycles to a monthly index of industrial production. Thus, one is able to determine the influence that Jupiter and Saturn, or any other planets, have on production at any point in their synodic cycle or at any degree of the zodiac as the planet transits. The second was qualitative. Charts showing the chronological placement of crises relative to synodic and sidereal cycles were constructed. In this way, one can see the events that manifested at any point in a cycle.

THE DATA

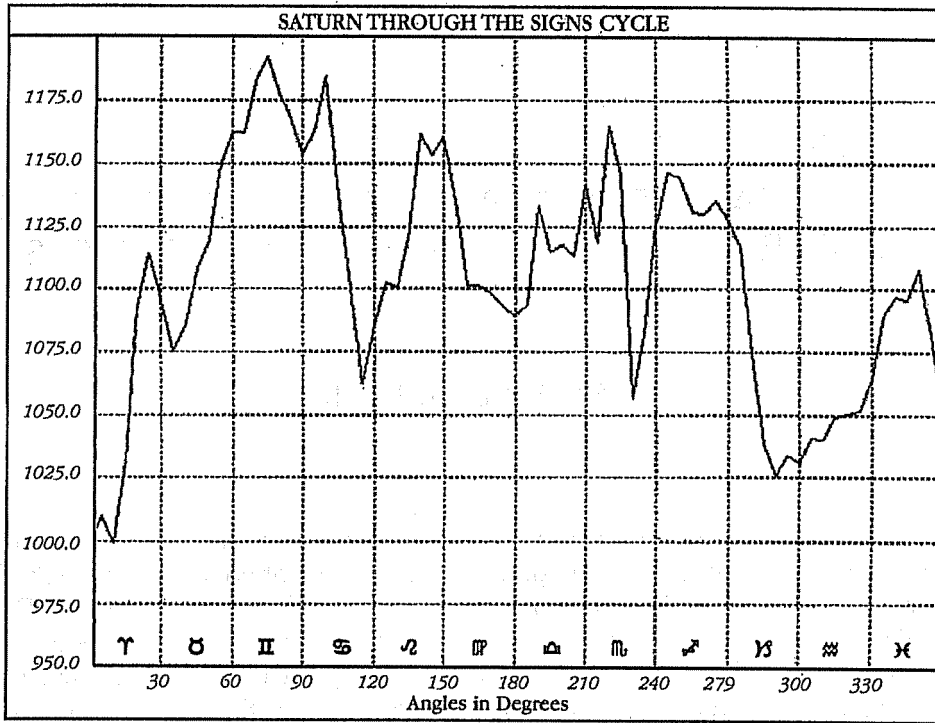
The time series was obtained from an analysis done by some innovative economists in a Midwestern bank. The bank was acquired in 1988, and their fine efforts came to an end. Their goal was to obtain an index of industrial production with a long history. They took whatever economic data was representative of the particular period and linked these data series together. This led to a combination of more than 20 time series from 1790. For example, from 1855 to 1902, the data is a combination of pig iron consumption, railroad freight tonnage, cotton consumption, etc. The

data was normalized per capita, thus eliminating the effect of population growth. From 1919 to the present, the Federal Reserve Board (FRB) index of industrial production, reduced by annual population growth, was used. I have kept that data current from 1988. The current FRB index of industrial production is multiplied by a factor to make it compatible with the previous series. The result was an oscillator that fluctuated around a level that represents a normal level of production.

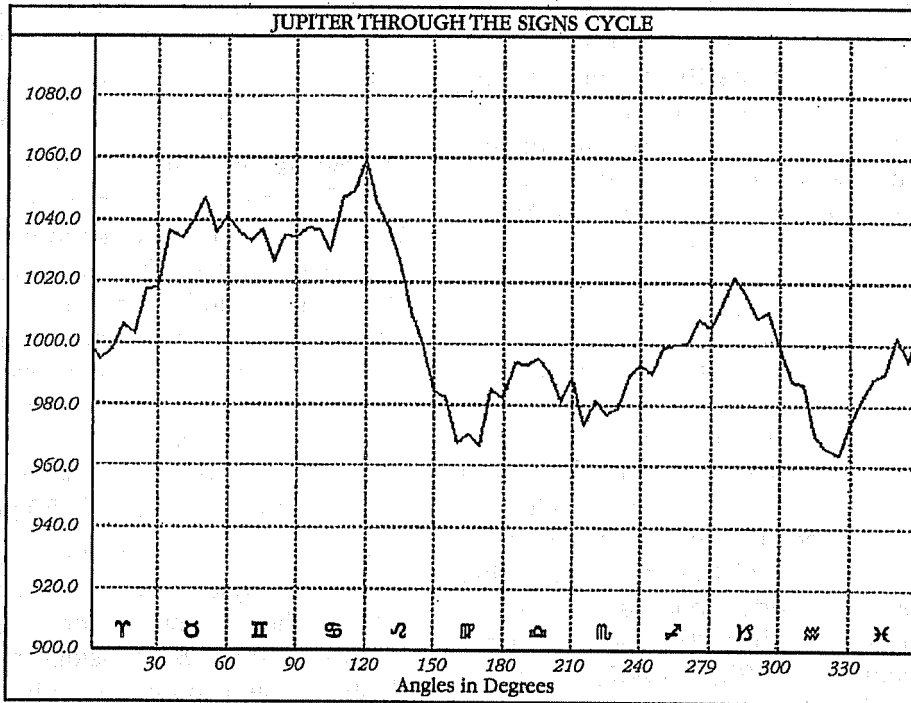
TESTING THE CYCLES

The cycles were tested for accuracy by two methods. The tests were arbitrary. When a cycle turned up, the index of economic production was measured. When the cycle turned down, the change in the index was measured. This process was repeated from the beginning of the data series to the end. The cycles were then ranked as to how much of the index rise was captured. So, if a cycle captured 100 points of the rise in the index over a time period, this cycle was ranked ahead of a cycle that captured only 50 points of the rise.

The cycles were then ranked by the percentage of the cycle signals that were accurate. In other words, when a cycle turned up and then peaked, the cycle signal was considered successful if production rose. If production did not rise, then the signal was not successful. The cycles of the Node



Cycle Length = 29.4 years No. of Cycles = 7



Cycle Length = 11.9 years No. of Cycles = 18

and Uranus through the signs were the least successful. Only 53 percent of the cycle upturns were followed by a corresponding rise in production. The Uranus-Node cycle was rated the highest with 85 percent of the signals being successful. This cycle, however, did not rank highly in the previous test. So, when Uranus-Node turns up, production turns up 85 percent of the time, but the cycle does not capture much of the rise. In contrast, the cycle of Jupiter through the signs is not as accurate when it turns up (73 percent), but this cycle captures more of the increase in production than does the Uranus-Node cycle.

The graph shows the transit of Jupiter through the signs on the horizontal axis. The vertical axis depicts the average change in the index of industrial production. So the graph shows that production tends to rise from the entrance of Jupiter into Aries until the planet enters Leo by an average of six percent. Production has tended to then drop sharply as Jupiter passes into Virgo by about 10 percent.

JUPITER THROUGH THE SIGNS

This is the most powerful of the cycles that were analyzed, and is depicted in the graph. Production rises until Jupiter exits Cancer, the U.S. Sun sign. Then it tumbles until it reaches Virgo. It has done so 15 out of 18 times. It rises in an irregular fashion until it peaks in Capricorn (14 of 18 times). Then it falls into Aquarius, but this drop has little consistency, happening only eight of 18 times. The stretch from the low in late Aquarius to the Taurus peak has occurred 11 of 18 times. Measuring from the same low to the Cancer high, production has increased only 10 times. The Greater Benefic was near its sidereal low on this graph when the economy bottomed after the 1989-1990 recession. I think that this analysis is telling us that Jupiter in the U.S. zodiac sign is a peak of optimism and of production.

Most of the commercial and banking crises in the past 200 years fell in the Leo to Scorpio span of degrees. This matches the quantitative graph in the sense that the economy slows first, and the

crises or panics follow. Businesses can hold out for a while, but the slowing pace of business eventually brings the crises and panics.

RECOVERY NOT AROUND THE CORNER

This cycle was the most reliable rhythm that was uncovered. It entered Leo in the summer of 2002, a bearish and a reliable phase. It was during the next month that the U.S. economic production numbers failed to meet the expectations of the business community. Even the President acknowledged that growth would be much slower for a while. Then European data also disappointed. This single cycle suggests that we will have to wait until the greater benefic enters Virgo in the summer of 2004 before the economy recovers.

Meanwhile, Saturn will enter Cancer. Note that production has, on average, dropped when Saturn is in the U.S. Sun sign. This will increase the drag on the economy in 2003. The combination of both Jupiter and Saturn in signs that depress production will push activity down further until Jupiter can enter the central decanate of Virgo in 2004 and provide some stimulus. Even so, we are unlikely to see an end to the individual crises in both the public and the private sector.

* * *

Bill Meridian obtained his MBA in 1972 and began to study astrology the same year. Bill first began applying computers to financial astrology in 1983, and eventually designed AstroAnalyst. He contributed the design of the efficiency test, first-trade charts, composite cycles and many other useful tools to the Market Trader program. Bill is the author of Planetary Stock Trading, now in its third edition, and Planetary Economic Forecasting. His study of the effect of the lunar cycle on stocks was accepted as part of accreditation for his CMT designation, a finding confirmed by two studies at the University of Michigan. His Cycles Research service was rated number one in the USA in the summer of 2002, the first month that the service was eligible for ranking. Since that time, he has remained in the top five. He currently is a fund manager. Information about his books and other services can be obtained from Cycles Research, 666 5th Ave., No. 402, Lower Arcade, New York NY 10103, www.Billmeridian.com.

C O M P A N Y I N F O R M A T I O N

BY MICHAEL MUNKASEY

When people become interested in the branch of astrology that focuses on equity markets, they seek information on the birth of companies, commodities and stock exchanges. Most who approach this area of financial astrology have some background in natal astrology, and thus the implication that a birth, or initiating event, is needed as a starting point. While this is good, it also introduces some preconceived notions about what the term "birth" implies.

I maintain and sell a data base of company and financial information. My data base is updated frequently to identify companies that have gone out business, merged, etc. Doing this takes a *lot* of time. But in the process I have learned a bit about company data.

My company data base is maintained on a computer, and contains the ticker symbol, exchange, official company name, its industry code, incorporation dates and times, first trade dates and times, and comments about the business and history of the company. In this article I often refer to this data base because it is a great asset. That said, let us begin with the first question.

WHAT IS A COMPANY?

Defining a company can be tricky. The first challenge is acquiring the correct company name. In the most direct case, a company incorporates under one name in one state, and that is the name

associated with its stock trading symbol. In a natal astrological sense, an incorporation is equivalent to a birth. Companies often use names which are trade names—not the official company incorporation name, i.e., the name under which the company is incorporated. A company might list its employee pension fund with a name similar to the controlling company. Banks often form holding companies with names different from the names at bank branch locations. A company's listing in the newspaper for its stock price may not show the full company name.

I have gone to some trouble to ensure that I have the correct spelling and format for the official company name. This is very important. Is this "ATT," "AT&T," "AT&T, Inc.," "The AT&T Company," "American Telephone" or "AT&T Incorporated"? Is this "ABC Corp," or "ABC Corporation"? Having the correct official company name is an important first step in identifying the company. Without it you cannot successfully search for other company data, such as its incorporation information.

One example can be seen in the fast food industry—a local Taco Bell or a KFC. When you try to locate these trade names in newspaper stock listings, you might not find them. Trade or brand names may be owned by other companies that do not always have common name recognition.

In my data base, company trade names are sometimes listed in the comment section of the com-

pany listing. If you want to locate a particular set or words, like a trade or company name, and you cannot easily locate that in the alphabetical listing of company names, you can try using the "Find" function in either Excel or Word to locate that word or set of words in the data base. Maybe the information you seek lies with a company which is out of business. If you still can't find a particular company, go to a local library or contact me and I will try to find the information for you (only companies traded on U.S. exchanges, please!). One use I make of this process is to locate a particular trading symbol in my data base, such as find "INFY." Sometimes people ask me for information, but they don't have the correct company name or trading symbol. In these cases the first thing I do is furnish the name information.

Some foreign companies are listed with the term "ADRs" after their names. This indicates that you are not buying stock in the company, but are purchasing its "American Depository Rights," or ADRs. ADRs are a bookkeeping way for foreign companies to deposit a block of stock with an intermediary in the U.S. The ADR is equivalent to one (or more) share(s) of the company, and will vary in price according to the exchange. An ADR simplifies the purchase of stock in a foreign company. ADRs trade just like any other stock symbol.

In recent years the establishment and trading of market equities with various names, such as STRIDES, MITTS and HOLDERS, has become popular. These are similar to stocks except that they track to a particular company or set of companies. They work like mutual funds, but are technically different. You can also purchase index funds, which trade like stocks and represent the more popular indices—the S&P 500, the Russell 2000 and so forth. Incorporation data for such equities is meaningless because these are not incorporated entities. They are fictitious market entities, or indices.

Companies become "official" when their incorporation, LLC filing and other documents are registered by a state or country. Note the word "registered." This does NOT mean "received in the

mail" or when they are mailed. It means when the state or country accepts the paperwork as complete and correct, and recognizes that paperwork as forming a legally valid and now defined entity. In essence, that entity has reserved a name and a state or country license to do business according to its laws. The company defines its tax status and similar legal categories at the same time.

Companies generally incorporate in only one state or country. If they incorporate in more than one location, they become liable for renewal fees and taxes at each location. A company may file "DBA (doing business as)" in other states, and this can cause problems for the researcher. For instance, if one calls for company record data in, say, the state of Delaware, and asks for the date of incorporation for "XYZ Company" which was incorporated in Ohio, then the people in Delaware will give the caller the "DBA" date for Delaware. This is *not* the same as the company's incorporation date. Because Delaware charges \$10 per request to tell you that "XYZ Company" is an Ohio company, asking for information on incorporation in other states can be expensive.

DBA dates so obtained are misleading. There is only ONE way to verify the state or country of incorporation, and that is to check with the official filings that all exchange-listed companies must make with various governmental agencies. Is this a LOT of work? Is this time consuming? Does this engender large long distance phone bills? Yes, yes and yes.

Obtaining official state incorporation times is not so easy. Some states record official times and have this information available. Other states will "time stamp" the incorporation paperwork, in which case you have to obtain that paperwork to read the time stamp. Not all states record incorporation times, but for those few that do, I ask for those times when verifying my information with the state offices.

What does a time of incorporation mean? This is the time the company was officially formed. If a state says that a company was formed at 9:00 a.m., then that is its official birth time. What hap-

pens if a state does not record a time of incorporation? I would assume 9:00 a.m., as opposed to noon, in the time zone of the state. Why 9:00 a.m.? Because, in general, company incorporations are batch processed; that is, many companies are processed at one time, and 9:00 a.m. is the general time assumed. For instance: Maryland assumes 8:30 a.m., Texas assigns 5:00 p.m. and Delaware assumes either 9:00 a.m. or 10:00 a.m. unless a company specifically requests a certain time, which is possible.

Company incorporation batch processing is often done at night, as in Virginia, when computer loads are lower. Not always, but sometimes. Thus, if a time is not recorded, or if the recorded time is simply the time that the receiving paperwork is time stamped, then there may be a problem. The time stamp on received paperwork is not as useful as the time when the paperwork is reviewed and accepted. But that time is rarely noted.

There are ways to astrologically rectify a company's incorporation time if you want that information. This is not the easiest thing to do, but it can be done. There are ways to use transits, solar arcs, progressions, etc., against company chart information.

When a company is acquired by another company, the exact date and time of the acquisition is not always made clear. There is usually an agreement made between the acquiring company and the acquired company. Often, the administrative mechanics are effected through a third or even a fourth party intermediary. Then the shareholders of the two companies vote on the merger. Sometimes there is a shareholder's suit about the merger, which delays the process. Eventually the two companies merge, and one of them files a registration statement with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the exchanges involved asking that its trading symbol be delisted. Sometimes the acquired company will continue to maintain its separate incorporation status, but as a subsidiary of the acquiring company.

Sometimes there is a name change date, which is different from the merger date. Sometimes there

is only one such date—the date of the initial agreement available in records, even though other processes take place. Just be aware that such posted dates may not be the exact date of merger, because often a merger date is difficult to define.

Does a merger or major acquisition change the company's incorporation date? It might or might not. You have to check with the state where the company is incorporated to see whether it has filed an amendment of name change or if it has reincorporated with a new name. If it is an amendment to the original articles of incorporation, the original incorporation date is still the one to use. If the company has reincorporated, I would use the new data. Microsoft reincorporated in 1993. Hewlett-Packard reincorporated in early 1998. In each instance the reincorporation drastically changed its astrologically-based company persona.

INCORPORATION VS. FIRST TRADE DATES

All companies listed on an exchange have first trade data—the date and time the company stock symbol first came across the ticker as a trade. You can get the time on the day that the company first trades by watching the minute-by-minute ticks come across the electronic board. Gathering these first trade times is difficult and time consuming, but assuming a first trade time generates other problems.

The "average" time for a first trade to be launched in active NASDAQ markets is about 11:30 a.m.—two hours after the market opening time of 9:30 a.m. First trades on the NYSE or AMEX will be closer to 9:45 or 10:00 a.m. There are instances where an exchange record will show that a symbol traded at, say, 10:30 a.m., even though the listing actually went across at a different time. So, I assume that this is the time the trade went to the specialist, not the time that the specialist executed the trade, which is the time sought.

What is the difference between the incorporation date and the first trade date? The incorporation

date (and time) defines the birth of the company in a natal astrological sense. The first trade date and time is when the ticker symbol first appears in trade. The incorporation date should be used for tracking and delineating the movements within the corporate structure. The first trade date and time is often more helpful for tracking the stock's price movements.

For instance, a company name is mentioned in a news report. To track this astrologically, I use the incorporation data. Use the first trade date for tracking the price movement of the company stock. If I know both dates, I seek a company with incorporation data compatible with my natal or progressed chart, and also a company whose first trade data is showing astrological strength.

Astrological strength for a company is an interesting concept. It implies that astrology lends momentum to the company's stock price movement. While this is true, it is not true that this is the *only* force affecting a company's stock price. You also have to be aware of the general market trend, the trend of the industry sector for the company, the company's financial status and other factors.

A company usually tracks with its industry category. About 50 percent of a company's stock price movement is attributed to the general market trend, and about 30 percent of a company's stock movement is influenced by the company's industry category. The other 20 percent of a company's stock price movement is attributable to the company itself, and this movement may be shown through the first trade data. To work in the markets you have to be aware of several trends, not just what is happening in the company's chart.

Defining the first trade date for a stock symbol is not so straightforward. Often the term IPO (Initial Public Offering) is used interchangeably with first trade date, but these are usually not the same. Generally they are one to two days apart, but can be as many as weeks apart.

There are several dates which arise when a company goes through its stock registration process. The company files with the appropriate governmental agencies, as well as the exchange, for per-

mission to list its stock. This complex but well defined process can continue for several months. Eventually a pricing and IPO date are set. The initial (anticipated opening) price might be changed several times, up or down, depending on the pre-release demand for the stock and the quantity of stock available. The IPO date is when people can first subscribe to the stock; that is, "reserve some XYZ stock for me." Eventually the stock is actually traded on the exchange and this becomes the first trade date, the date and time when the reserved stock (sometimes called "when issued" stock) can be obtained. In almost all instances each of these dates is different. What is included in my data base is the "first trade" date, the first time the stock symbol was initiated in an astrological sense. I recommend you seek a company's first trade data, not its IPO data, and take care not to use them interchangeably.

In addition, a company might create a secondary stock issue. This happens after the initial stock issue, and these two events may occur years apart. Be aware that you might be seeing the first trade data for the secondary issue, not for the initial issue.

In my opinion, the first trade data is better for tracking a company's stock price progress than is its incorporation data. For example, suppose you cast a first trade chart for a company and note that transiting Saturn will conjunct the company's natal Moon next month. Should you buy or sell its stock based on that observation? I would not recommend doing this.

First, you need to know and understand something about the company itself. Do not trade strictly based on astrological observations. You need to note and understand information about the company's current fiscal and corporate positioning. Further, you need to know whether this transit has historically affected the company in a positive or negative manner. This takes some astrological expertise to determine, and if you do not have that expertise, hire an astrologer. Pay for his or her education and judgment! This Saturn transit could indicate that a woman (Moon) on the corporation's board (Saturn) will be promoted or demoted, or that the public (Moon) will note dis-

satisfaction (Saturn) with the company, or that there will be a shut-off (Saturn) of water (Moon) at the company. There are many possible manifestations for astrological aspects.

On the other hand, if this were occurring in the company's first trade chart, I would check if the public (Moon) were being negatively affected (Saturn) by some action of the company; or, it could be that the company is doing something to restrict or call in some of its stock. There are many possible variations as to how astrological energy can manifest. The action of a transit in the first trade chart, in my opinion, is more likely to have a direct effect on the price of the company's stock.

The passage of the planets Mars, Jupiter and Saturn through the astrological quadrants of a company's first trade chart can be significant. Of special significance is when these (and other) planets cross chart angles. This is why obtaining a rectified first trade time is important. Jupiter crossing the Ascendant of a first trade chart will generally move the stock price up. Saturn crossing the Ascendant of a first trade chart will generally move the stock price down. But these are *not* hard and fast rules, and will, at times, reverse! Saturn relating to machinery or earth-moving companies can be positive. Jupiter involvement with the same companies can show negative trends. Do *not* assume that rules from natal astrology about planets or aspects always cross perfectly into company astrology. You must know your company and must know your industry category if you want to use this information in a meaningful way. What has held true in the past may not hold true in the future.

There are many companies, persons and services that offer professional advice about the astrology of companies and company strength and weaknesses as shown by current astrological trends. What is not generally available, though, is a reliable and thoroughly researched set of company data, and this is what you should seek.

In my experience, it takes about two hours to research an average set of company information, so do not deceive yourself that obtaining such infor-

mation is a simple task. It can be quite time consuming. I have spent as many as six hours on the phone with company legal departments trying to determine dates and times.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What about incorporation dates for company subsidiaries? If trading the parent company, I would use the data for the parent company. It is common for companies to spin off a division, maybe even have some of these divisions trade on an exchange under a different stock symbol, while the parent company retains, say, 80 percent of the spin-off stock. If you intend to observe the stock trading under the symbol for the company, then use the data for the company. If you intend to observe the stock trading under the symbol for the spin-off, then use the data for the spin-off. But I would also observe the parent company stock data if it has a significant holding in the subsidiary or spin-off.

Can astrology show dates on which a company's astrological energies are strong or weak? Yes, but only at best with about a 70 percent level of correlation. There are developed and tested methods that can assess a company's astrological energies through any particular time period, e.g., a computer program I created shows me the astrological strengths and weaknesses for XYZ company from October 2001 through October 2002. The value of such an assessment, which is a list of dates and strength numbers, is that these numbers show astrological strengths and weaknesses through time.

These numbers show dates that tend to mirror the company stock price movements. The correlations are often startling and, although never 100 percent, they often, over time, approach 70 percent, and generally average better than a 50 percent correlation. This can be very useful if you wish to determine when in time (present, past or future) a company will move from weaker or stronger. To do this, a rectified first trade date and time is required.

If two companies have similar names, does that

mean they are related? Not necessarily, and, in general, no. They might or might not be. Often companies will have names that look similar, such as "American XYZ" or "American XYY," but they are still different companies. Some financial companies will have trading symbol offerings which are variations on a financial theme, such as Merrill Lynch ABCD or Merrill Lynch BCDE. These are each separate entities in an astrological sense.

How can I find companies that are the most astrologically compatible with my natal chart? You can assess your natal or progressed chart against a wide range of company incorporation or first trade charts. What you would see is a list of companies in the highest astrological attunement to your natal or progressed chart.

I see that many of the incorporation times are exactly on the hour. Do these need to be rectified? No. If a time of incorporation is shown in my data base, then that is the time the state of incorporation officially recognized the existence of that company. Often this will be exactly on the hour. Not all states record an incorporation time. Regardless of when the paperwork was submitted or when it was reviewed for accuracy, the time of incorporation as officially affixed to the company's articles of incorporation is the official time. Because many states batch process paperwork, many companies will have the same time of incorporation. This is an immaterial administrative process. If the time says 9:00, use 9:00, and not 9:01, 8:59 or another time.

This does not apply to first trade times. These are taken from ticker symbols being inaugurated on the day of first trade and, depending on where this information is read from, there can be a few minutes of difference. First trade times do need to be verified through astrological rectification procedures; this is not a task for the novice, and takes some experience to effect.

What are some of the forecasting methods used to determine when a company will be astrologically strong or weak? The most important first step is to have accurate data for the company. Assuming you have an accurate first trade

or incorporation date and time for a company, cast the chart. Then note when the natal planets, cusps and angles in that chart will be hit by transit, solar arc, lunation, eclipse, planetary station, etc. If you do not have the astrological experience to do this, hire a competent astrologer.

For example, Mars squared Uranus on April 10, 2002 at 27 degrees of fixed signs. Which companies have the Sun or Saturn within two or three degrees of 27 fixed? What lunations, eclipses or stations will set off 27 fixed within the next year? A good astrological search computer program can provide answers to questions like these, but the foundation, as always, is having an accurate company data base to begin with.

How should I work with transits or stations against company data? There are several ways this can be done. I include a list of such events along with my company data. Cast a chart for a company you're interested in studying, either first trade chart or incorporation. Then obtain a copy of its stock price movements in a graphical form for several years. Your local library may have copies of publications like *Daily Graphs* and *Value Line* that show such information; copy the company's stock price graph. You can also download stock price graphs from the Internet, but generally the Internet free services do not give stock charts for more than three years in duration, and I feel this is not enough. With a graph of longer duration you can pick out those date areas where there was unusual price movement. You should train your eye to note such anomalies.

Let us assume that in working with company XYZ you notice that around April 20, 1998 there was a sharp movement in its stock price. Having cast the incorporation chart, you note that its natal Mars is at 9 Aries. On that date, as you can read from the stations file, there was a station of Mercury at 9 Aries. Further, from the transits file for that date, transiting Saturn at 24 Aries was sesquiquadrate (135 degrees) the transiting North Node at 9 Virgo, Mercury in the chart is at 24 Aries conjunct natal Saturn, and its Jupiter is at 9 Cancer, forming a yod with the transiting aspect of Saturn and the North Node. You can then

see the effect this had on the company's stock price. It would also be good to research the company to see what news items were put out around that date.

Further, noting that transiting Saturn will be semisquare (45 degrees) its Moon on March 27, 2003, you can anticipate that there might be some activity with the company around that date.

LOCATING COMPANY INFORMATION

Look in *Barron's*, *Investor's Business Daily* and *The Wall Street Journal*, and use resources available through the Internet and your local library. Read the company's press releases and SEC filings. Obtaining information is not always easy to do, and historical dates of first trade on the NASDAQ are difficult to obtain for years prior to 1998. Data obtained from the exchanges is only about 80 percent reliable, so beware.

Historical price data from commercial services is not necessarily reliable. For instance, if a company changed its trading symbol, such services will often show the original first trade date and not the date that the new symbol was first traded. Since you will be trading the new symbol, insist on working with that date and not the older symbol's date.

Contacting the company investor relations or legal department is not always a good idea. The people who answer such research requests rarely have the patience to extract exact dates from company archives. They might give you a date they think is correct, or the one when papers left their office.

With my data I include a separate listing of information on companies that no longer actively trade. These are purposely included so you can locate a company that was absorbed into another

company under a different name. For instance, what ever happened to "Kresge"? When did Exxon and Mobil merge? What is the data for the "old" AT&T, the company before the 1984 breakup mandated by the U.S. Department of Justice?

IN SUMMARY

The purpose of this article is to make you aware of how tricky obtaining and maintaining company information can be. If you want good and reliable company information, you might find it reasonable to pay a researcher for his or her efforts. Further, you have to keep company data current. In 2002, the three major U.S. exchanges posted more than 3,500 changes to listed company information. It is my experience that any company data which is more than six months old has at least a one-in-three chance of having had some changes.

* * *

Michael Munkasey is a world-renowned researcher and consultant. He holds degrees in engineering and management, and is also a Vietnam veteran. Michael worked for many years as an information scientist in the public transportation (bus and subway), air traffic control and health industries. He holds professional certifications from the International Society for Astrological Research (ISAR) as a Certified Professional Astrologer (CAP), the American Federation of Astrologers (PMAFA), The Astrologer's Guild and NCGR (Level IV). Michael served on the board of NCGR, for more than 20 years, and is a founding member of Kepler College. He has lectured internationally, written hundreds of articles and letters and appeared on many radio and television shows. Michael is a principal in the firm of COMPATTI.COM, which operates a Web site for assessing compatibility between people. He maintains a data base of incorporation and first trade information for more than 6,800 companies, and will soon have computer programs to allow customers to work directly with this company data.

THE SEARCH FOR WINNING SECTORS AND STOCKS

BY GRACE K. MORRIS, M.A.

Fundamental and technical analysis tells you which stocks to buy and planetary cycle analysis tells you when, as well as what, to buy.

The financial world has finally caught up with the idea of sector success. For astrologers, the concept of sectors as a cyclical factor is logical and observable. Stocks in a sector that is doing well tend to outperform other stocks in groups that are not doing as well. Therefore, it is worthwhile to look at the year ahead to determine which groups will do better than others. We are able to do this astrologically using the symbolism of planets in signs.

Examples: At the start of 2001, with Jupiter (expansion) in Gemini, transportation stocks soared. The airline and railroad sectors did particularly well. Stocks such as Southwest Airlines, Continental Airlines and American Airlines were soaring. The railroad stocks, Union Pacific, CSX Corp. and Canadian Pacific were also winners. The unbeatable Jupiter in Gemini transportation cycle (July 2000-July 2001) came to a premature end as Saturn (restrictions) entered Gemini (transportation and communication) in April 2001. Airlines as a group began to drop on the list of Best Sectors and some airlines began filing for bankruptcy due to lost revenue (even before 9/11). The Dow Jones Transportation Index began to fall as well as the telecommunications sector. This also meant a further erosion of technology stocks

that began as Neptune (dissolution) moved farther into Aquarius in 2000. Both Neptune and Saturn in air signs diminished the power of the communications and transportation sectors. The World Wide Web represents present-day communications, and Internet stocks quickly evaporated. When will the technology sector recover? Probably not until Saturn leaves Gemini in June 2003. This most likely will be the scenario for the telecommunications and the transportation sectors as well.

In July 2001, as the transportation sector faded, food stocks, home products and home building stocks began to move up as Jupiter entered Cancer (a keyword for Cancer is home). American Home Products symbolized the cycle. It is amazing how these sectors not only fit the Jupiter in Cancer symbolism (home) but also reflect the current mundane conditions. When the stock market resumed trading after 9/11, it was food and home stocks that went to new highs as other sectors lagged or faltered. General Mills and Proctor & Gamble made new highs that day.

The home building sector also produced big winners, such as Beazer Homes, Meritage, Ryland Group, Lennar and Toll Brothers. Restaurant stocks, Ruby Tuesday, Inc., Applebees and Cheesecake Factory, climbed, reaching new highs, as did home improvement stocks such as The Home Depot and Lowe's Companies.

Unencumbered by any planetary opposition, the food and home stocks continued to do well through July 2002, when Jupiter entered Leo and a new cycle began. The homebuilding bubble should come to an end with Saturn in Cancer.

The high-end retails, gaming/leisure products and precious metals moved up as Jupiter entered Leo in August 2002, and were topping the list of favored groups on September 1, 2002. The previous holiday retail season (2001) was a disappointment, with lots of sales but a poor bottom line for high-end retailers. The 2002 holiday season did very well, thanks to Jupiter in Leo. Jewelry stocks like Tiffany's, high-end retailers (Coach, Chicco's, Fas, Mothers Work, Jos. A. Bank Clothiers), leisure products (Nautilus, Polaris, Winnebago) and gaming (Harrahs, International Gaming Technology) all had an edge in the last half of 2002, as did the gold stocks.

In the next Jupiter in Virgo cycle (August 27, 2003 to September 25, 2004), discount stores and medical products, particularly generic drugs, should do well. In our stock market newsletter, *Astro Economics® Stock Market Newsletter*, we are looking at Hi Tech Pharmacal, Eon Labs, Mid Atlantic Medical Services, Pharmaceutical Products Development, American Pharmaceutical Partners, Biosite, St. Jude Medical, and Varian Medical Systems in this group.

CHOOSING THE BEST GROUPS, SECTORS AND INDUSTRIES BY ELEMENT

When Jupiter is in any of the signs by element, these sectors seem to flourish and to be in favor. Stock prices are high, and the industry does well.

When Saturn is in any of the signs by element, these sectors seem to lag and lose favor. Stock prices drop and the industry suffers.

Jupiter

- Favored groups, sectors and industries
- Favored companies and businesses
- Favored stocks

- Rise in stock price or overabundance of product

Saturn

- Companies and businesses that will not do well
- Groups, sectors and industries that will not do well
- Individual stocks that will decline in price
- Decline in stock price or shortage of product

The following areas are represented by element:

Fire (Aries, Leo and Sagittarius): Basic materials (steel, copper, platinum, etc.), military and defense, surgical, fashion, children's clothing, jewelry, accessories, upscale hotels, gaming, entertainment, sports and import/export businesses. (Jupiter in Leo, August 2, 2002-August 28, 2003)

Earth (Taurus, Virgo and Capricorn): Banking, insurance, lending, investing, food, restaurants, discount stores, generic drugs, practical clothing, cleaning, environmental, construction, home repair, building supplies, wood and restorations companies. (Jupiter in Virgo, August 29, 2003-September 25, 2004)

Air (Gemini, Libra and Aquarius): Autos, newspapers, educational services, transportation, railroad, airlines, beauty supplies, interior decorating, technology, space and the Internet. (Saturn in Gemini, April 21, 2001-June 4, 2003)

Water (Cancer, Scorpio and Pisces): Home building and furnishings, food, preservation services, healthcare, pharmaceuticals, oil and petroleum companies. (Jupiter in Cancer, July 13, 2001-August 1, 2002; Saturn in Cancer, June 5, 2003-July 15, 2005)

Within three weeks of a planet's ingress, there is a noticeable shift in the groups moving up or down in ranking. This is certainly enough time to see the direction sectors are taking.

Pluto in Sagittarius: Exposures and reforms in the legal system, Supreme Court, corporations, sports as big business, import/export business,

publishing industry (desktop publishing; downloading books, music, etc.) and religion (wars over religious beliefs).

Uranus and Neptune in Aquarius: Advances and new discoveries in technology, airlines, aerospace, electronics devices, biotech, digital, television, telecommunications and the Internet. Unfortunately, Neptune is less favorable to these sectors than innovative Uranus because it symbolizes dissolution (dot.com companies dissolve). Problems develop in these areas that seem unsolvable.

Uranus in Pisces in 2003 will begin a period of mutual reception between Uranus in Neptune's sign, Pisces, and Neptune in Uranus' sign, Aquarius. Left-brain thinking meets right-brain thinking. At its best, it could be like the integration of Western technology and Eastern philosophy. Could this be good for business?

SEARCHING FOR INDIVIDUAL STOCKS

After we have decided on the favored sectors, either using astrology or *Value Line*, which lists Timely Stocks in Timely Industries, or the *Investors Business Daily's Top Industries and Stocks*, look for the best stocks in those sectors as rated by *Value Line* (fundamental analysis) and the *Investors Business Daily* (technical analysis). These resources tell us what to buy. Planetary cycles analysis also tells us when to buy and when to sell. Use *Value Line*, available at libraries, for fundamental analysis (financial strength of company, debt, dividends, P/E ratio, safety ranking, earnings and capitalization). Use *Investors Business Daily* for technical analysis (relative strength, group relative strength, earnings per share, growth rate, timeliness, return on equity and sales for the last four quarters).

PLANETARY CYCLE ANALYSIS

First gather information you will need for analysis, such as the incorporation date of the company and the IPO (Initial Public Offering). For incorporation date, call Delaware's Division of Corporations (1-302-739-3073) and ask for date and time

of incorporation. If not a Delaware incorporation, call the capitol of the state in which the headquarters of the company is located or call the company's shareholders department. For first trade data, consult Bill Meridian's book, *Planetary Stock Trading III*, Michael Munkasey's software and IPO Central on the Internet.

For planetary cycles searches, I use Jeanne Long's Galactic Stock Trader software program. (Ray Merriman and Alphee Lavoie also have excellent software programs.) Use Stock database and program your transit search, for example, for January 1, 2003 through January 1, 2004. Select First Trade Data. Choose transiting Jupiter and Uranus to all planets at 60 degree multiples. (This first search will draw out the favorable stocks.) Then run a second search to the same data with transiting Saturn, Neptune and Pluto to all planets using 90 degree multiples. (This second search will indicate those stocks that may be in for trouble and at which point in time to buy or sell.) A third search of the same data can be done by choosing the dates of upcoming eclipses. (Eclipses to Sun, Venus, Jupiter, Uranus and Neptune are positive; eclipses to Saturn and Pluto are negative.)

DOW JONES GROUPS LISTED BY SECTOR WITH OUR EVALUATION, AUGUST 2003-SEPTEMBER 2004

Broad Sector: Basic Material

Sector: Chemicals NEUTRAL

Sub-sector: Chemicals, Community, Chemicals, Specialty NEUTRAL

Sector: Forest Products and Paper NEUTRAL

Sub-sector: Forest Products, Paper Products NEUTRAL

Broad Sector: Consumer Cyclical

Sector: Advertising and Media NEUTRAL

Sub-sector: Advertising, Broadcasting, Publishing NEUTRAL

Sector: Automobiles and Parts POSITIVE

Sub-sector: Auto Parts, Automobiles, Tires POSITIVE

Sector: Entertainment and Leisure NEUTRAL

Sub-sector: Casinos, Entertainment, Recreation Products and Services, NEUTRAL

Consumer Electronics, NEUTRAL, Restaurants NEUTRAL, Toys NEUTRAL

Sector: Home Construction and Furnishings NEUTRAL

Sub-sector: Home Construction NEUTRAL, Home Furnishings NEUTRAL

Sector: Retailers NEUTRAL

Sub-sector: Retailers, Drug based Retailers POSITIVE, Apparel, Retailers, Specialty NEUTRAL, Retailers, Broadline POSITIVE

Sector: Textiles and Apparel POSITIVE

Sub-sector: Clothing/Fabrics POSITIVE, Footwear POSITIVE Sector; Travel NEGATIVE

Sub-sector: Airlines Lodging NEGATIVE

Broad Sector: Consumer Non-Cyclical

Sector: Consumer Services POSITIVE

Sector: Cosmetics NEUTRAL

Sector: Food and Beverage NEUTRAL

Sub-Sector: Distillers and Brewers, Food Products, Soft Drinks NEUTRAL

Sector: Food Retailers and Wholesalers NEUTRAL

Sector: Household Products NEUTRAL

Sub-Sector: Household Products, Non-Durable, Household Products, Durable NEUTRAL

Sector: Tobacco NEUTRAL

Broad Sector: Energy

Sector: Coal NEUTRAL

Sector: Oil and Gas NEUTRAL

Sub-Sector: Oil Drilling, Oil Equipment and Services, Oil Companies, Major, Oil Companies, Secondary, Pipelines NEUTRAL

Broad Sector: Financial

Sector: Banks NEUTRAL

Sector: Insurance NEUTRAL

Sub-Sector: Insurance, Full Line, Insurance, Life, Insurance, Property/Casualty NEUTRAL

Sector: Real Estate NEGATIVE

Sector: Specialty Finance NEUTRAL

Sub-Sector: Diversified Financial, Savings and Loan, Securities Brokers NEUTRAL

Broad Sector: Healthcare

Sector: Healthcare Providers POSITIVE

Sector: Medical Products POSITIVE

Sub-Sector: Advance Medical Devices, Medical Supplies POSITIVE

Sector: Pharmaceutical and Drug POSITIVE

Sub-Sector: Biotechnology POSITIVE

Sub-Sector: Pharmaceuticals POSITIVE

Broad Sector: Industrial

Sector: Aerospace NEGATIVE

Sector: Construction Materials NEUTRAL

Sub-Sector: Building Materials, Heavy Construction NEUTRAL

Sector: Containers and Packaging POSITIVE

Sector: General Industrial Services POSITIVE

Sub-Sector: Industrial Services, Pollution Control POSITIVE

Sector: Industrial Diversified NEUTRAL

Sector: Industrial Equipment POSITIVE

Sub-Sector: Advanced Industrial Equipment, Electric Components and Equipment, Factory Equipment, Heavy Machinery POSITIVE

Sector: Industrial Transportation NEUTRAL

Sub-Sector: Air Freight, Marine Transport, Railroads, Trucking NEUTRAL

Sector: Transportation Equipment POSITIVE

Sub-Sector: Land Transport Equipment, Shipbuilding POSITIVE

Broad Sector: Technology

Sector: Technology Hardware and Equipment POSITIVE

Sub-Sector: Communications Technology, Office Equipment, Semiconductors POSITIVE

Sector: Technology Software POSITIVE

Broad Sector: Telecommunications

Sector: Fixed Line, Wireless Communications POSITIVE

Broad Sector: Utilities

Sector: Electric Utilities, Gas Utilities, Water Utilities POSITIVE

Sectors Continued on Page 45



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INTRODUCTION TO PLANETARY STOCK TRADING

BY BILL MERIDIAN

*F*irst trade charts are horoscopes set up for the date that an issue was listed on a given exchange. The time is that of the opening of trading for the exchange for that day.

The New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) and the smaller bourses began trading at 10:00 a.m. until September 30, 1985. Starting on that date, trading began at 9:30 a.m., and subsequent horoscopes are set for this earlier time. The center for Wall Street action is the Big Apple, so all charts are set for New York City.

The first-trade chart reflects factors that are in the minds of investors when they assess the stock. In discussions with other fund managers, the light in which they view a stock is almost invariably reflected in the first-trade horoscopes. For example, we were awaiting the outcome of a lawsuit between Advanced Micro Devices (AMD) and Intel. Mercury was very active in the AMD chart, and it was Mercury that ruled the fundamental that we were analyzing. Jupiter stationed on AMD's Mercury, and AMD's shares jumped as the company won the decision.

A bit of explanation about the history of a company and its shares will be helpful in understanding this concept. First, a business opens its doors. Then, if it has not already, it incorporates. If shares are sold to the public, the sale takes place through an underwriter. The underwriter lines up

buyers and then sells stock on the Initial Public Offering (IPO) date. This puts a supply of stock in public and institutional hands. About one to five business days later, the stock opens trading. A major new issue of a leading company may be listed directly on the NYSE, as *Readers Digest* was on February 15, 1990. The two dates, IPO and first listing, occur close together. I have found the first trade date to be the more important of the two.

For a big and well-publicized IPO, the company chairman or president customarily goes to the floor of the exchange and makes a token personal purchase of 100 or 1,000 shares to kick off the trading. (This will not be so for smaller companies that are not in the public eye or of great interest to Wall Street.) In the words of a NYSE official, trading in such big and public IPOs begins "almost immediately." Thus, the choice of the 9:30 or 10:00 am time for the charts is supported by fact. There is another good reason for using the opening time of the exchange. The actual time that stocks began trading years ago was not recorded and has been lost.

The IPO and the first-trade date are frequently confused. I have found errors on Reuters, IPO Central and the NASDAQ-AMEX web page. The point is that the stock was available for trade on a specific date at a given time. It does not matter if a trade is placed at that time. This defines another

set of angles that will be explained below. With very popular issues such as Netscape, there are so many orders that it requires some time to sort them out. During this period, the price does not change. In the case of Netscape, the orders did not get balanced until 11:05 am. It is not true that the stock is not trading; it is trading, but the price has not been settled. You can call and place an order, but you will not know what price the order has been filled at for a while.

George Bayer wrote these words 60 years ago:

"If listed on an exchange, erect it for the first day of listing on the exchange. In case a stock first listed on the Curb or some other exchange and later transferred to the Big Board, make a new horoscope for the Big Board and forget about the old listing. That horoscope died out with the transfer.

"Do not watch for the exact time of the first trade. It might occur at 10:10 or at 12:15, even the next day, but due to the fact that no important aspect occurred previously that would have caused a trade, the stock just simply did not sell. However, it could have been traded at 10 am, if one wanted to trade in it. This is important to recognize."

SOURCES OF FIRST TRADE DATES AND SELECTION OF TIME

I gather data from the NYSE, confirmed by Bloomberg or some system that shows daily prices. I see the new stocks as they begin trading, and this is the best confirmation. The NYSE has a website, but the dates of new first trades are sometimes wrong, as one was for GameStop (GME) on February 12, 2002. The stock began trading on the next day, as confirmed by Bloomberg. The same is true of the NASDAQ. The folks posting the data frequently confuse the Initial Public Offering (IPO), which is the prior day, with the date of first trade. The Bloomberg system shows when the stock first traded by depicting price action. Because the system has intraday

price information, one can actually pick the time at which the first transaction has occurred. This may differ from the 9:30 a.m. opening time on the exchange. These dates and times can be obtained from my website at billmeridian.com (select FT Charts). I recommend handling this data through the following analogy:

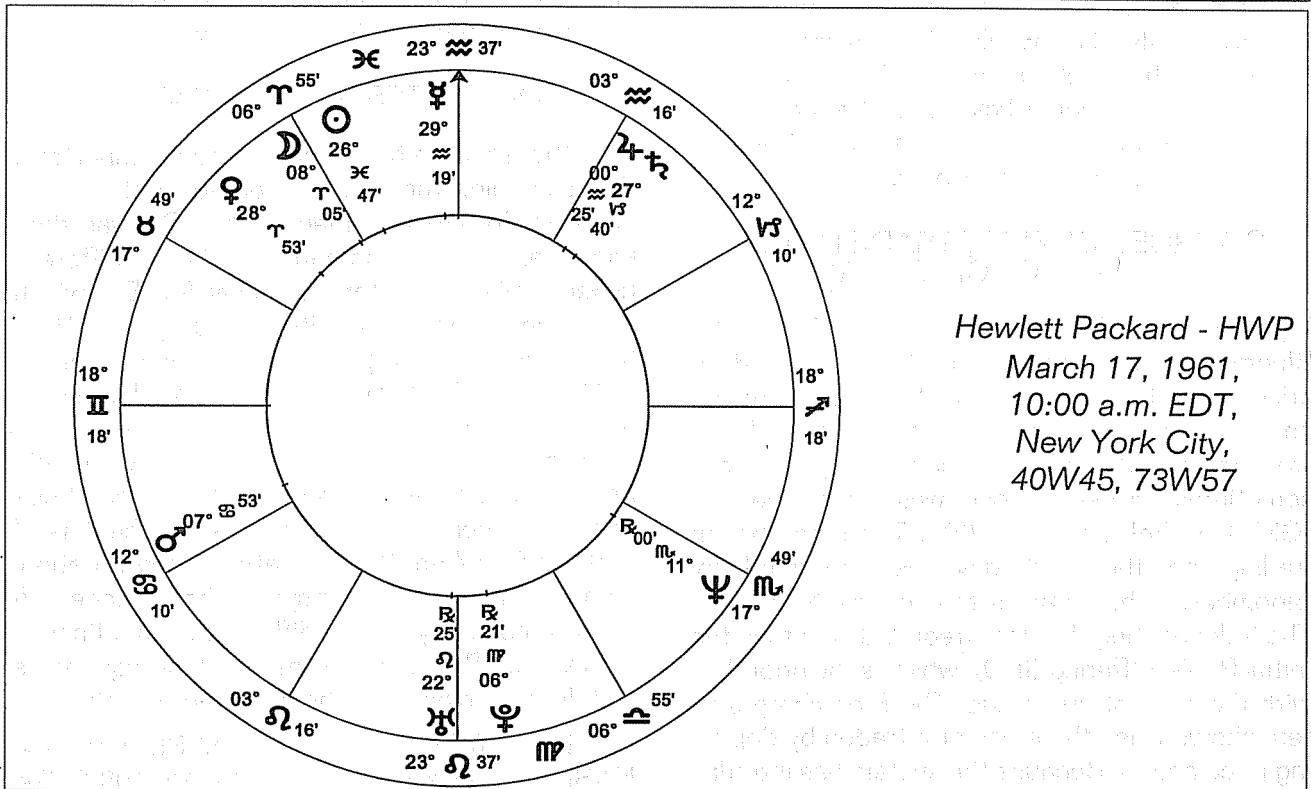
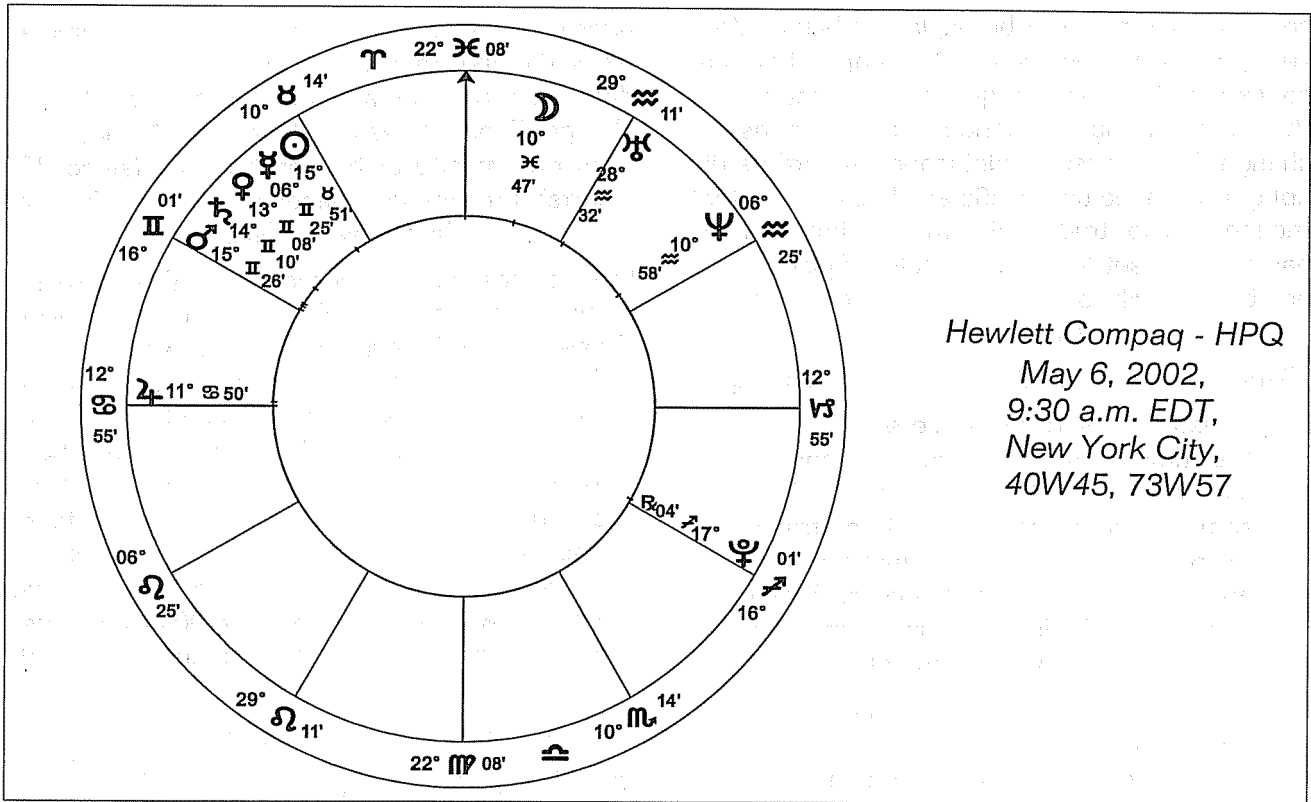
Most companies are incorporated in Delaware. Incorporation charts should be set up for Dover, Delaware, but, for example, Boeing resides in Seattle. I put both sets of angles in the chart. Thus, there are an Midheaven and Ascendant for both Dover and Seattle. In similar fashion, I place both times in the first-trade chart—the opening of the exchange and the first purchase. The former time, opening of the exchange, is the time at which the stock could first be bought. The second is the time at which it was bought. If you use 90 and 360-degree dials, then you can place the pointer on each set of angles.

The use of dual times works with new stocks due to the introduction of intraday systems. These times are lost for stocks that have been trading for many years. No records were kept.

OLD DATES VS. NEW DATES

I use the last date that I consider to be important. For example, there is an earlier date (June 23, 1892) for General Electric, but GE was then known as another company and had a different ticker symbol. The story is similar for IBM which also reincorporated on its February 24, 1924 first-trade date. It began trading on November 11, 1915 as another company (this is the date listed on the NYSE website). An extreme example is the old American Can (February 8, 1907), which sold its canning operations to enter the finance business as Primerica. Why would one use the date of first trade when the operation, incorporation, company name and ticker symbol had changed? A canning company is very different from a finance operation. (This occurred as Neptune squared a stellium of planets in the incorporation chart).

LSI Logic (LSI) entered the NYSE from the NASDAQ, where it was LLSI (May 13, 1983). The



new chart has many planets in the second decanate of Capricorn, different from its NASDAQ chart. LSI made ordinary chips, but then found a specialty, chips for SEGA Playstations. This made LSI into an ASIC (application-specific integrated circuit) company. As it turns out, all the ASIC stocks (XLNX, ALTR, LLTC, LSCC) have concentrations of planets in Capricorn. LSI has become, and trades as, an ASIC and not a run-of-the-mill chip maker, such as NSM and AMD. Its new first-trade chart is similar to that of stocks that are already ASICs. So the use of the latest listing date is proper in this case, as in most cases.

In some cases it is not proper, specifically where there is no great change in the company or the stock. The important point to keep in mind is whether the perception of the company has changed. In any event, I find that there is a shared degree area between all charts for a stock. For example, LSI has placements in cardinal signs in

common with LLSI.

The first trade chart reflects factors that are in the minds of investors when they assess the stock. If the underlying company changes radically, then investors will view the stock in a new light. Let us look at a recent change. Hewlett Packard began trading on March 17, 1961 as HWP. The company merged with Compaq and then began to trade as HPQ on May 6, 2002.

The company was scheduled to announce earnings in late February of 2003, as Saturn stationed square the Midheaven of this horoscope. Predictably, the announcement was bearish, and HPQ collapsed. By contrast, the Saturn station trined the MC in the old HWP chart. Perception of the stock had changed because the underlying company had changed, so we switch to the new horoscope.

HPQ dropped in February 2003 as Saturn stationed square the Midheaven.

Ranked #1 in USA by Timer Digest for August 2001-2002

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CORPORATE DELINEATION: THE BASICS

BY GEORGIA STATHIS

If we assign a birth chart to every living entity (based on its birth date, time and place), as well as set up birth charts for events in history, then it is appropriate that we should assign a birth chart to a corporation. The most commonly used birth time for a company is noon because an accurate incorporation time is difficult to acquire unless the incorporation papers were time stamped. A time determinant for an unincorporated firm is when it opens its doors for business. The most commonly used time is either when the business or company takes in its first dollar or consults with its first client. Calculate for noon if other information is unavailable.

There will be times when business partners will ask an astrologer about the planning phases of their business, and offer the time they first had the idea, when they agreed, when they met for the first time, etc. These are all very important dates, but the most important is when the contract of business is *set into motion*. This is considered the birth moment and the legal time that the business begins. Incorporation dates are always changing, particularly as larger companies gobble up smaller ones in mergers, and there are frequent changes in incorporation dates and charts. The standard rule of thumb is to use the most current incorporation date, using the city in which it was recorded as the birthplace of the company.

Several companies on the New York Stock Ex-

change are incorporated in either Wilmington or Dover, Delaware, so these cities are used as their places of birth. Multinationals have branch offices throughout the nations of the world. The original incorporation date of the parent company is always used, but it is also important to examine the date, time and place of birth (the opening date) of the branch office, particularly if an individual is considering employment at that particular branch of the corporation or business.

A good source for incorporation dates is Moody's Investor Services in New York. Each quarter the company publishes an updated manual that lists all of the companies currently offering stock on the NYSE, along with their history, products, a value line showing the activity of the company in recent years and other useful information. If a company has been reincorporated, the manual will reflect the change.

Another way to learn the incorporation date of a company is to call the head office's librarian or reference department. Since incorporation dates are a matter of public record, the company is obliged to give you that information, although it has been my experience that sometimes the data given by the librarian is incongruent with published data, or he or she gives you only the month and year without the specific date.

Falling back to using a noon hour as a default time

elevates the Sun, which represents the chief operating officer or president of a company. This person is the figurehead for the organization and thus is symbolically placed at the apex of the chart. The tenth house, or Midheaven, represents what the public perceives, as well as the reputation of the company.

SETTING UP A CORPORATION CHART

If a corporation has been formed, use that date, time and place for the business chart. But if you are fortunate enough to be able to plan your company chart, a few factors need to be taken into consideration. Keep in mind that probably there will always be areas that present stress or unforeseen difficulty when erecting the chart. Stress is not necessarily a bad thing to have in a company chart because squares and oppositions motivate and stimulate growth.

As in planting, it is a good idea to set up a company between the new and full Moon, but not during a void-of-course Moon. It is unwise to use a void-of-course Moon because the Moon rules employees and how the public sees the company. If the Moon is void of course, a vague quality may emerge and the identity of the company is never really established in the eyes of the public. Since the first quarter Moon can indicate structure and management, this phase should be considered. There are exceptions, such as holding companies, whose structures act as holding tanks while a company defines its foundations and structures. This is an appropriate use of a void-of-course Moon.

When establishing a company, note which planets are retrograde and which are direct. There will almost always be some retrograde planets since the outer planets usually retrograde for several months each year, but Mercury, Venus and Mars should not be retrograde. Mercury retrogrades three times a year for approximately three weeks each time. Venus retrogrades about every 18 months for approximately 40 days, and Mars retrogrades every two years for about three months. When working with these particular retrogrades, however, you should take into account what I term

the "pre-shadow position," as well as the shadow position. The shadow position is when the retrograde planet returns to the exact degree and minute at which it began its retrograde movement. I liken this to picking up a dropped stitch in a hem. Just because a planet moves into direct motion doesn't necessarily mean it will start operating at its usual pace. It takes either a few days (with Mercury) versus a few weeks with Venus or Mars. The pre-shadow position, however, is also powerful because this is the place over which the planet hits the degree and minute to which it will retrograde. Once the planet travels over this point, it weakens in some way, and is a subtlety to be watched for when forming a company or when delineating activity in a corporate chart.

Since Mercury rules legal contracts, communications and planning, particularly in business charts, Mercury retrograde is not recommended. Venus governs spending, talents, resources and monies, and a retrograde Venus could thus indicate a company that makes inappropriate choices in partnerships or purchases, or which may develop an uncomfortable working environment. Mars, the old ruler of Scorpio (banks and profit), when retrograde, suggests a company that might never quite reach its projected goals because it is easily sidetracked. Mars is the planet of action and aggression, and if retrograde in a company chart, may indicate a lack of assertive action. Also, when Mars is retrograde by transit, business slows down and the market can be depressed, or decision-makers are unable to make clear decisions.

A predominance of cardinal signs in a chart is good, suggesting a pioneering spirit and the ability to adjust to changing times. It is also important to have some fixed energy in the chart for follow-through and accomplishment, as well as mutability for a smooth flow of affairs. Too much cardinality can indicate a company that excels at developing new ideas but is not strong in following through on the vision.

The Moon in an earth sign is positive because it suggests practicality and tangibility.

Saturn should be strongly placed, although a ret-

rograde Saturn could be an asset because the company might think carefully about its organization and carefully investigate possibilities. Saturn rules karma in spiritual astrology, but in a business chart it represents organization and career direction. If the business has to do with building materials and contracting, then Saturn might be even more prominently placed since it rules concrete and construction. However, an angular Saturn is not beneficial for most business charts because it can cause company decision-makers to be fearful or inappropriately put the brakes on. This is, of course, a form of fear, which may also indicate that the decision-makers have a more difficult time thinking outside the box for alternative solutions when times are difficult.

A prominent (possibly angular) and well-aspected Jupiter is always an excellent placement since Jupiter rules sales and marketing; however, Saturn must hold its own in the chart as well. Jupiter placed in either the second or eighth house of resources or forming a positive aspect to the rulers of the second and eighth indicates ease in financing and cash flow—or it could be an organization that is overly indulgent or optimistic and doesn't necessarily plan for the more difficult times, which is why it is important to have a well-placed Saturn. A well-placed Jupiter is good for the company's vision, opportunity and support from others.

One of the primary rules is that the most important house rulers be well-aspected or simply well-placed. For example, the planets ruling the second, sixth and tenth houses should be direct because these are the earth houses. Earth traditionally represents practicality, grounding and the ability to formulate that which is in the mind. In addition, the signs on these houses are indicators of the type of business represented by the chart. For example, the ruler of the second house represents the spending habits of a company as well as its values and liquidity. The ruler of the sixth house shows the work ethic, the systems and methods employed by the company and whether employees will be helpful or difficult, stable or volatile. The planet ruling the eighth house, as well as its placement, shows the areas from which support is

received in joint venture partnerships. This is why it is important to pay particular attention to these houses and their rulers.

PLANETS IN A CORPORATION CHART

In order to proceed with corporate chart delineation it is important to provide meanings for the planets in a corporate chart. The following compilation of definitions may also be applied to transits through the horoscope for any business.

Sun: The life force drive; the company identity, its founder, chairman of the board or corporate head; the owner or top management. The Sun may represent government and administrators, authority figures; gold and speculation; or theater as the primary business. If eclipsed by transit, it can send the company in a completely new direction.

As a transit through the chart, the Sun brings attention and success through whatever part of the chart it is moving. It can also promote recognition and success if positively aspected. This cycle is a one-year cycle whereby the Sun "lights up" the different houses through which it travels annually.

Moon: The Moon symbolizes the employees or "family" of the company and their involvement in the company. It is the public image, how the public responds to the services or products offered by the company; women in the company in general; the home office and its functions; the company's ability to nurture its products, services and popular ideas to which the public responds; the crowds or masses, which respond to the product; harvests of crops; the ocean and water products in general. A stressfully aspected Moon may indicate a poor public image; if heavily aspected by Saturn, Neptune or Pluto, it may indicate some type of hazardous situation around employees.

As a transit, the Moon may temporarily increase the price of stock if it positively aspects the Sun, Venus or Jupiter. A temporary decrease in stock price may result from a difficult aspect to such planets as Saturn or Pluto.

Mercury: Mercury represents the sales, service and communication facilities of the company. It

rules the commercial or scientific/analytic abilities demonstrated by management; the "brains" of the company; the work force; literature and printing; information distributed; health and environmental concerns of the work force; company books; clerical staff; telephone operators; software; training facilities; advertising, food product or food supply services; small animals and veterinary; the media; trade and commerce; short trips; doctors; publishing and printing.

As a transit, it can bring out news or information that changes the attitudes of the employees or the public and the company investors.

Venus: The company's general assets and its appeal for partnering or merger possibilities; its popularity; public's approval or acceptance of product lines; credit. A well-placed Venus indicates a pleasing work environment; architectural beauty; aesthetics like art, fashion, music, cosmetics; recreation and pleasure perks. Venus retrograde is uncommon in corporate charts and should be avoided.

As a transit, Venus brings things to the attention of the public by making the company popular or appealing to investors. People are more content when Venus is well-aspected, and Venus transiting the second or eighth house could bring a successful sale or purchase.

Mars: Indicates stock activity; new beginnings; the company's ability to act; the urge to pioneer, to be aggressive; its motivation and drive; its competitive spirit; the desire to be the best. Negatively aspected, Mars can bring accidents, violence, epidemics and explosions. It rules such things as the military; athletics; surgery; war; iron; steel; diamonds; explosives; machinery and equipment; munitions; tobacco. (Note that the Mars/Jupiter midpoint is a point of prosperity, and positive results from strategic action that provide a key to the company's success).

As a transit, Mars indicates activity and volume in the markets. It may bring a general atmosphere of anxiety and action, and can trigger sudden negative activities in a company. When retrograde, Mars often curtails activity.

Jupiter: this planet represents the entire urge to grow, expand and be successful, as well as the company's moneymaking abilities. Jupiter brings foreign concerns, education, philosophy, publishing possibilities and optimism. It rules bankers, brokers, courts, churches, public relations, the horse racing industry and direct mail.

A Jupiter transit is an excellent sell signal, increasing prices or value. It brings promise and hope. If negatively transiting, a company can overindulge, over-expand or take a downward turn because of overly zealous actions.

Saturn: Saturn governs the administrative or management ability of a company; the corporation in general and its structure; the governing body (usually the board of directors); and the authority or policy-making branch. Saturn rules the company's stability, conservatism and ability to consolidate and limit in practical ways. This is where the corporation may adhere to traditional expression and paternal relations toward its employees and shareholders. Saturn represents labor or laboring places; land as in farms, real estate, grains, mines, mountains; and the elderly.

As a transit, a well-aspected Saturn may indicate a buy signal. It can decrease a stock price, limit or depress the market, restrict and create worry and concern with the company, or bring delays in progress.

Uranus: Uranus rules the innovative ability of the company, its progressive thinking and any new inventions. It encourages the company to be unique. It provides a future orientation. The company might be heavily leveraged in electronics, computers, high-tech developments, railways, strikes, radio waves, utilities, airlines, air carrier production or public information. Negatively aspected, Uranus might bring sudden shocks or changes within the company or bring acts of God, such as tornadoes and hurricanes, earthquakes and explosions.

When positively aspected as a transit, Uranus might herald news of stock splits, as well as new and unique efforts. The company could depart from the conventional way of doing things through some

crisis, or it could indicate a breakup, such as the AT&T trust bust. It could bring revolutionary breakthroughs, expansion and branching out or franchising. Jeff Green states that when heavy Uranus aspects are operating, sometimes there can be paralysis followed by healing. This concept can be applied to a corporate or organizational chart.

Neptune: This planet represents the company's ability to seduce others into purchasing its product via a specific image. Neptune indicates the vision held by management—realistic or unrealistic, illusion or dissolution. It indicates an organization's seduction potential created by successful ad campaigns, the potential for rumor or sabotage or behind-the-scenes problems. It may indicate a company that deals with acting, movies, beverages, hospitals or hospital development, narcotics and pharmaceuticals, oil, shipping, photography, political idealism or inspiration from research. It can bring a redistribution of money and create altruism and virtue in a company—or the polar opposite, as with drug and alcohol problems, confusion and deliberate hiding of assets.

As a transit, Neptune can make a company ripe for a merger. It can be inflationary and expansive in a bull market, but deflationary in a bear market; lead to uncertainty and confusion within the company; and dissolve a portion of the business in preparation for a new way of doing things. It shows the ability to take what is already there, reprocess it and create something better. It may indicate toxic and waste management.

Pluto: This is the power behind the company. Many good companies own a strong Pluto, showing the potential and ability to regenerate. It depicts the hidden treasure or assets of a company, its resources and its ability to research, develop and successfully mass produce, manufacture and distribute. It rules plumbing, sewers, rackets, plutonium, radiation, cancer research, atomic research, genetic engineering, life extension, redevelopment and urban renewal. Negatively, it indicates the potential to wipe out, to go bankrupt, to sabotage; dealings with the underworld of crime and corruption; internal dictatorships; and compulsive behavior patterns, such as unknown

gambling debts. Pluto may indicate power struggles within the company, as well as the inability of the leaders to face the issues that really undermine the company's success. A type of corporate denial can exist, and when major transits discordantly aspect the natal Pluto, there is an opportunity for these issues to be addressed; but usually a major restructuring emerges.

As a transit, Pluto may purge the company or even threaten to eliminate it, but it can also rebuild the corporation after a devastating period. It can indicate crisis and group movements within a company that are accompanied by mass hysteria. A heavy transit of Pluto might cause major changes in the structure of the company. If this is positive, it is successful, particularly in large ventures; if negative, it can bring bankruptcy.

A strong Pluto brings the need to reorganize or restructure to eliminate and get down to basics. It could be a factor in precipitating mergers, but my experience has indicated Neptune to be the primary planet for this action.

If a strong Pluto transit is occurring and a company has large outstanding debts, it might indicate buckling down on spending in order to survive the repayment period and reduced cash flow. The opposite might also be true in that the decision is made to take greater financial risks by spending to improve systems and equipment in order to penetrate a wider market. Either way, it requires caution. If Pluto is well-aspected and the company has few debts, then a period of long-term growth is just beginning.

North Node: This indicates contact with the outer world and the public's perception of the company. Transits to the Nodes bring the company to the attention of the public, and can change the company's direction every 18.6 years or 9.3 years.

THE HOUSES OF A CORPORATION CHART

Each house of the horoscope represents a different area. The houses of the corporation chart are similar yet different from those in an individual's natal chart. For example, the first house of a cor-

poration chart represents the shareholders of the company and the company's business objectives. Since the shareholders are the ones who have the say on how a company is run, it is appropriate to say that the shareholders come from the first house, the house of individual identity, the "me" part of the natal chart.

At the opposite end of this axis is the seventh house, representative of "others," or competitors, much like the seventh house of an individual's chart. The seventh represents how others see us and how we relate to them. Following are the meanings of the houses in a corporate chart.

First House: Personnel of the corporation, including shareholders; how the shareholders view the company; company morale; company's business objectives; general membership; place of incorporation and its relationship to the public; and its attitude towards competitors. (Note the ruler of the Ascendant and its house placement.)

Second House: Liquid assets; revenues; activities in money-making; earnings; voluntary expenditures; ability to earn profits; disposition toward investments.

Third House: Contacts with the public; financial and trade publications; financial and trade relations with adjacent countries and states; short-distance travel; neighboring organizations; education; library, publications of all kinds (bulletins and newsletters, magazines), methods of distributing news, literary work; technical publications; rails, telephones and telegraphs; commercial radio; demand for stocks and bonds; trade volume figures; advertising; internal agreements; traffic, transportation and communication departments; interoffice communications; in-house information dissemination, in-house policies and platforms.

Fourth House: Real estate investments and holdings, including land; tangible assets of the corpo-

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ration; hazards involving property; the original home of the company; direct competition; power of competitors; roots of corporation; base of operations or field of activity; location and condition of the factory, warehouse or office buildings.

Fifth House: Executive personnel (except the president or chairman of the board); governing body; attitudes or actions of shareholders or the board of directors in opposition to the president; committees; management teams; advertising success or failure; income from invested capital or results of speculative ventures; speculation; the place of deposit of capital, such as safes, vaults and banks; amusements, social affairs, conventions; educational enterprises, workshops, seminars, teaching; banquets; and dramatic or theatrical ventures.

Sixth House: Workers or employees (voluntary or paid); type of work and equipment; health policies and insurance; work schedules and work routines; inventories; lighting and heating bills; performance of workers on the job; employee cooperation; assistance received fellow employees; attitudes of employees; corporations connected with hostelries (inns or hotels); agriculture and agricultural products; business fixtures and furnishings; health condition of personnel; and the inception of employee strikes and labor troubles.

Seventh House: Relationship to other organizations; sales appeal; how effectively a product is put across; house of adjustments; trading volume (how much stock is being bought); public accountings; employee income and payrolls; relationships with others (supportive or hostile); political or commercial affiliates; trade agreements; mergers; open opposition to growth; lawsuits and legal affairs; and competitors and their activities.

Eighth House: Losses or gains through the closing of the corporation; financial responsibilities; private conferences; board of directors; credit, dividends; trade secrets; net earnings; insurance; handling of legacies; nonprofit status; donations to nonprofit organizations; financial conditions involving partnerships, mergers or lawsuits; financial relations with competitors; competitor's fi-

ancial condition; revenue from investments or liquidation of frozen assets; loans and income from sources not under immediate control of the organization; and the company treasurer.

Ninth House: Advertising department; shipping; activities abroad; completion of merger contracts; code of ethics and bylaws; audits; contracts with other companies; inter-company communication; philosophy of company; publications (same as third house); public and foreign relations; long-distance communications; results of mail-order campaigns; relations with educational institutions and publications; professional consultants; publicity and public relations; officials; and all legal affairs.

Tenth House: Supreme or governing authority; president or the chairman of the board; figureheads; national reputation; relations with governments and associations; public image; power; general business conditions as presented to the public; administrative department. (Study the ruler of the tenth house and its house placement for insight into the talents or gifts of the CEO.)

Eleventh House: Allied organizations; colleagues, friends; acquaintances; political connections; community connections; constitutional policies; resources available through the company head (the second from the tenth); long-range goals of the organization and what it stands for; public relations through group involvement; intangible assets (knowing people who know people to get things done); its indebtedness; mortgages; the treasury; and fraternal and club groups.

Twelfth House: Enemies and secret organizations against the organization; sabotage; secret intelligence department; strikes and labor troubles; dissolutions and negotiations. Also, behind-the-scenes research and development; trade secrets and formulas; secret assistance; designs for the future; and the effects of litigation.

HEMISPHERIC INFLUENCES

Charts calculated for noon will always have several planets in either the third or fourth quadrant.

If a relatively accurate time is available, the following is useful:

If there is a strong influence in the right, or western, hemisphere, the company's experiences might be subjective. As certain choices present themselves, the challenge might be in the choosing. Accordingly, when there is a strong influence in the eastern hemisphere, the company has more control. Of course, in having control, it must also take responsibility for the consequences of its choices. An eastern influence can perpetuate an aggressive company, but this also depends on other factors, such as the type of company or the product.

Since the Midheaven usually indicates the leadership of the company, the ruling planet of the Midheaven and where it is placed has much to do with the leader's interests.

INCORPORATION DATES AND TIMES

Grace K. Morris, a well-known Oak Brook, Illinois business astrologer who specializes in incorporation work, states that you can call the state of Delaware, 302-739-3073 (Web site: www.state.de.us/corp), press "0" for operator and request the date and time of a company's incorporation; you are allowed three inquiries per call. Have ready the exact legal name of the company, such as Texas Instruments Incorporated or CDI Corp. (you must have commas, hyphens and exact abbreviations; use Moody's or Value Line for this information). Be sure that the company is incorporated in Delaware. If it is incorporated in its state capitol, you might be given the date when the company began doing business in Delaware (this is NOT a Delaware incorporation; it's known as a foreign incorporation).

If a company is not incorporated, as is true of many sole proprietors, there are several dates that can be used for a natal chart. The first and most obvious, particularly if it is a service or retail business, might be when the company opened its doors for business. For example, there might be an announcement in the newspaper that a store is having its grand opening on such-and-such a date

and time in such-and-such a city. This is a good chart to use and, like a corporation chart, shows the structure and the manner in which the company plans to and ultimately does do business. The date and time the company or individual takes in its first dollar or check is similar to a first trade chart, and can indicate sales volume, moneymaking ability of the company and its ups and downs, as well as finances. The grand opening chart, similar to a corporate chart, shows the way in which money is made or spent, but the first dollar is more closely related to trade volume.

Other important dates could be signing up for a DBA (the "doing business as" document) or when the concept or idea first occurs. This chart usually shows the path of planning for the idea and can actually be used as a very successful planning chart if, in fact, the chart shows some strong potential. It is for these reasons that it's important to keep accurate records when you conceive, plan or run a business, and when you had the idea, registered the business, etc. Accurate data is a key factor in accurate delineation of corporations, which are quite similar to analyzing an individual's nativity. You can find more information about this in my book, *Business Astrology 101: Weaving the Web Between Business and Myth*, from which portions of this article have been taken. To order books, call toll free, 1-866-781-7249, or visit www.starcycles.com.

* * *

Georgia Stathis, a Pleasant Hill, California-based astrologer and popular lecturer, holds a B.S. from Northwestern University and an MBA from Pepperdine University. She has been a professional astrologer since 1977, and also is involved in real estate and land investments. A first-generation Greek-American whose cultural roots are in myth, story and trade, Stathis is a co-author of Financial Astrology for the 1990s and author/publisher of the Starcycles Calendar Appointment books as well as a new book, Business Astrology 101: Weaving the Web Between Business and Myth. A former vice president of ISAR, she is a faculty member at Kepler College. Frequently interviewed by such publications as Shape Magazine and The Los Angeles Times, as well as radio stations, Stathis has gained a respected reputation as an information resource. She can be reached through her Web site at www.starcycles.com.

THE IMPORTANCE OF STOCK CLUBS

BY GRACE K. MORRIS, M.A.

One of the best ways to learn about investing in stocks is to form a stock club. A group of people interested in studying together and pooling their resources can accomplish a great deal more than just one person. The first goal of a stock club is to learn; the bonus is to make money. Astrologers need to learn more about fundamental and technical analysis and then apply planetary cycles as a third tool to finding good stocks.

Our stock club (one-third of whom know astrology) has a Planetary Cycles Committee that usually meets the week before the full membership meets. The committee discusses the charts of companies that will be presented at the regular meeting. The Planetary Cycles Committee obtains the incorporation and first trade data, sets up charts and reports its findings at the regular meeting. Every club member follows the progress of one of the stocks in the club's portfolio and is responsible for reporting on a new stock at least twice a year.

Our club, Financial Cycles Investment Club (FCIC), was started in September 1995. We joined the national (volunteer) organization, the National Association of Investment Clubs (NAIC). We attend its study groups and investor fairs, and use its materials for studying stocks. We use its software for the club's financial records and used its handbook for writing our by-laws.

We elected officers, decided on a \$50 per month per person contribution to a money market fund at E-Trade and began studying and buying stocks. The size of our group has remained about 20, with new people replacing those who left the group. We meet the second Sunday evening of the month at a restaurant; our supper bill acts as our room rent.

Our first purchase was 20 shares of Dell Computer. It split several times. When we sold it in the fall of 2000, we had 800 shares. We had ventured into many technology stocks, such as Cisco, Sun Microsystems, Microsoft and EMC. We sold most of our tech stocks before and as the techs began to fall. (We have a 15 percent rule, which means we sell when a stock drops to 15 percent of its high.) We lost some of our profits but not nearly what many mutual funds and other stock clubs did in the same period. After selling our tech stocks, we bought railroad, airlines and educational services stocks. We took our profits in the spring of 2001 and began purchasing home building, food and restaurant stocks.

As of this writing, the club's worth is about \$125,000 (about \$6,250 per person on an investment of \$2,900). That's not a bad bonus for learning how to pick stocks for your own portfolio. If you should lose money as you learn, think of it as your college tuition. Just keep on learning and earning.

HOW TO FORM A STOCK CLUB

1. Visit already established stock clubs in your area.
2. Call your friends and any interested people you know and ask them call some of their friends and co-workers to invite them to an organizational meeting.
3. Choose a day, time and place to meet.
 - A. Homes (Not everyone has room for 12 to 20 people.)
 - B. Restaurants (Find one that has a private room; you might be able to arrange to have a meal there in lieu of paying rent.)
 - C. Meeting halls, such as churches, VFWs, etc. (They may charge you a fee unless one of your club members is a member of the organization.)
4. Appoint a bylaws committee.
 - A. Use the NAIC (National Association of Investment Clubs) handbook, *Starting and Running a Profitable Investment Club*. National Association of Investment Clubs, 711 West Thirteen Mile Road, Madison Heights, MI 48071;

1-248-583-NAIC.

- B. The work of this committee may continue for six months to a year as you see what works for your club. A committee can review the bylaws at any time.
5. Elect officers.
 - A. Appoint a nominating committee to present a slate of candidates.
 - B. An active club rotates officers each year so everyone gets a turn at leadership.
6. Discuss the members' philosophies, such as:
 - A. Long-term investing versus short-term buying and selling.
 - B. Whether to buy only stocks under \$50 or buy only Blue Chips or only small caps, etc.
 - C. Whether to buy tobacco or alcoholic beverage companies, etc., as an ethical issue.
7. Everyone participates:
 - A. Goes to workshops and study groups.
 - B. Takes a turn presenting a stock, at least three presentations a year.
 - C. Subscribes to *Investor's Business Daily*

FINANCIAL ASTROLOGY RECOMMENDED READING

Books

Bernstein, Peter L. *Against the Gods*.
 Gardner, David and Tom. *The Motley Fool Investment Guide & Workbook*.
Investors Business Daily, ed. *Guide to High-performance Investing*.
 Long, Jeanne, ed. *A Traders Astrological Almanac 2004*.
 McWhirter, Louise. *Astrology and Stock Market Forecasting*.
 Meridian, Bill. *Planetary Economic Forecasting*.
 Meridian, Bill. *Planetary Stock Trading III*.
 Merriman, Raymond. *Stock Market Timing, Geocosmic Correlations to Investment Cycles*.
Moody's Handbook of Common Stocks
 Morris, Grace K. *How to Choose Stocks to Outperform the Market 2004*

Negroponte, Nicholas. *Being Digital*.
 O'Hara, Thomas E. and Janke, Sr., Kenneth S. *Starting and Running A Profitable Investment Club*.
 O'Neil, William J. *24 Esstial Lessons for Investment Success*.
 O'Neil, William, pub. *Daily Graphs, Investors Business Daily*.
 Schwager, Jack. *Market Wizards and the New Market Wizards*.
 Stathis, Georgia. *Business Astrology 101*.
The Value Line Investment Survey (available at libraries)
www.valueline.com.
 Walden, Gene. *The 100 Best Stocks to Own in America*.

Newspapers and Newsletters

Astro Economics® Stock Market Newsletter. Grace K. Morris, M.A. Editor. Published by Astro Economics, Inc., www.astroeconomics.com.

The Astro-Investor. Carol S. Mull, Editor. Published by Mull Publications, mullpublishing@aol.com.
Better Investing. Published by National Association of Investment Clubs.
Crawford Perspectives. Published by Arch Crawford, www.astromoney.com.
Cycles Research Letter. Published by Bill Meridian, www.cyclesresearch.com.
Financial Cycles Weekly Update. Published by Tim L. Bost.
Investors Business Daily. Published by William O'Neill, www.investors.com.
Past Present Futures. Edited by James Flanagan, 1-800-545-9331.
3f Forecasts, Futures, Farming Finance. Published by Larry Acker, www.3fforeasts.com.

*P*LANETARY STOCK MARKET FORECASTING

BY BILL MERIDIAN

I can best explain this development in market analysis through my own experience. I became interested in the stock market in the late 1960s by reading the Edwards and Magee and the Jiler books on technical analysis. Pattern perception, valuable as it is, usually does not tell the trader when a pattern will conclude or manifest. In the 1970s, Hurst wrote a book about the application of cycles to assist in this task. This led me to an interest in cycles. A study of market cycles by the Foundation for the Study of Cycles demonstrated that some of the stock market rhythms were the same length as those of planetary periods, so I began to analyze the relationship between prices and planets. In the late 1970s, a computer program was designed for this purpose; the work was born on Lotus spreadsheets in the early 1980s. The first program created specifically for this purpose came on line in 1986.

Most efforts in the area of market prediction aim to associate time series and data that are believed to be related to the market. The dilemma is that almost all of the data is in the past. When I first learned about the technical patterns known as triangles, I first saw a pattern that defined a potential turning point in the future—namely, the intersection of the two lines that defined the triangle. The next time I encountered such a valuable set of indicators was when George Lindsay explained day counts from previous highs and lows.

Bob Prechter's explanation of the Elliott Wave was the last non-planetary technique that fired my interest.

Planetary positions can be determined far in advance with a high degree of accuracy. The trick is to associate the phenomena with the price series in question. We can test by either looking at which phenomena are significant at highs and lows, or we can look at phenomena to see how these affect the price series in question. Once we do this, we will find that:

1. The phenomena has no affect on the price series under study.
2. The phenomena has some effect.
In the latter case:
 3. It is coincident with highs.
 4. It is coincident with lows.
 5. It is coincident with either one.

INDIVIDUAL PHENOMENA

I designed the Efficiency Test in AIR's Market Trader as an improvement over the original tool in the AstroAnalyst program, which was itself an outgrowth of the original cycles projector algorithm that I began to use in 1983.

Individual phenomena may enable one to zero in on specific days of top or bottom. Phenomenon in-

cludes angles between planets (aspects) as they move through space, new and full Moons, eclipses, etc. These are separate from cycles, which are described below.

The effect that such an event has upon a market can be determined by calculating the percentage change in a market in the days before and after the event. There are several ways to look at the results. First, one can examine the "batting average," i.e., how many times the price series moved up or down at the time of the phenomena. Second, we can look at the percentage change in the price series. And lastly, the frequency of occurrence is important. There is little value in an event that has high reliability, good percentage moves, but occurs only once every 50 years. After conducting such research for 20 years, I can advise that there are few events that occur frequently, have a high degree of reliability, and generate sizable percentage moves.

The greater value lies in reinforcement, wherein several events occur very near in time that have the same or a similar effect on the price series. Thus, if three events that are all coincident with tops occur on the same day, we have a high probability potential high. I can make the same observation about potential lows. When there are no phenomena that are correlated to the market, then prices tend to move in one direction. When there are conflicting phenomena, the market tends to trade back and forth.

CYCLES

A full cycle would be that described, for example, by the lunar rhythm; the market's movement from new Moon to new Moon is a complete cycle. The most understandable cycle is the annual cycle in the U.S. stock market. All traders know the traditional summer rally followed by autumn weakness, etc. The calendar is determined by the position of the Sun, so this cycle is the solar cycle.

READING THE GRAPHS

The graphs depict a planetary event at zero on the horizontal axis. This axis represents time in the

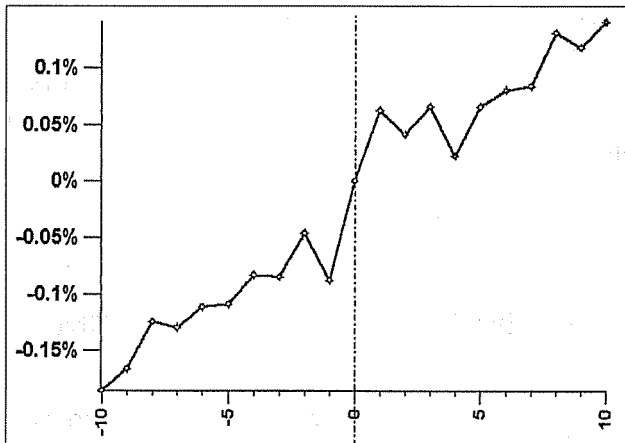
days before and after the event. The vertical axis is the average percentage change in the Dow Jones Industrial Average from 1915 to 2002. Thus, a line up from five days before an event until the day of the event from -0.5 percent to +0.5 percent is an average move of one percent. If the Dow were at 10,000, then this would be a move of 100 points over two days.

COMBINATIONS FOR FORECASTING

The ideal situation would be to have several events that have historically been associated with tops occurring close in time while a relevant cycle also tops. This set-up then only needs to be confirmed with technical indicators to identify a trading opportunity. Graph 1 depicts Sun-Mercury conjunctions (zero degrees between the two planets) versus the Dow from 1915 to the present. Note that the market tends to make minor highs. These are not reliable enough to trade profitably. The market is usually up from one day prior to the aspect until one day after about 56 percent of the time. Then a drop ensues from one day after until four days after 53 percent of the time, but the magnitude is small: 0.25 percent. Over any three-day period the Dow rises, on average, about 54 percent of the time.

The zodiacal sign acts as the great modulator. The reaction of the market depends upon the sign in which the aspect takes place. Graph 2 depicts the Sun moving into the sign of Aries and the subsequent short-term decline in the Dow. Note that this can only occur on March 20 of every year. The Dow has dropped 55 of 88 times (63 percent) from the day of the entry until five days later. The resultant Dow drop is only 0.35 percent.

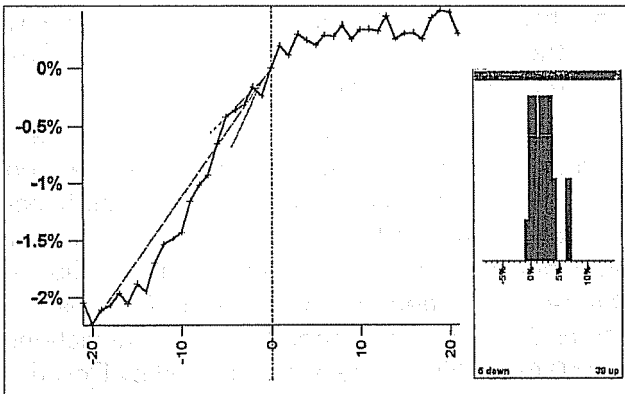
The value lies in Sun-Mercury conjunctions near zero degrees of Aries. In this case, the effect on the market is the combination of both as it occurred last on March 19, 1999, followed by a four percent drop in the following week. If we allow a three-day (or degree) orb around 0 Aries, or March 20, there have been 11 such conjunctions near 0 Aries. Nine have been followed by Dow declines of from 1.5 percent to four percent. One, in



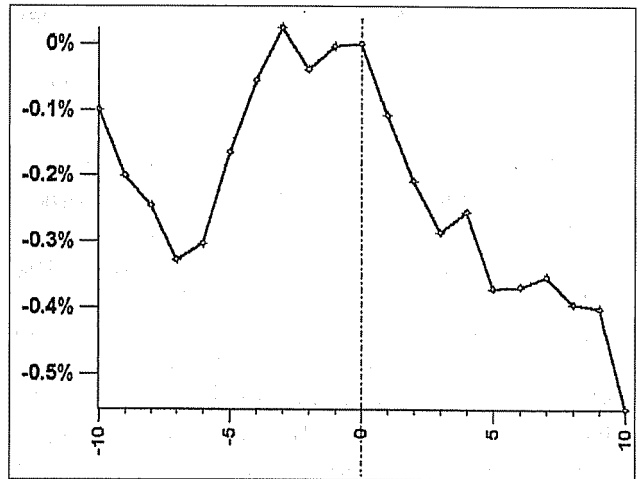
Graph 1: Sun-Mercury Conjunctions

1970, was near a low, with the Dow rising 2.5 percent in the next week. In 1979, the market was flat during the next week. Nine of 11 have thus led to tradable drops in the Dow. This is the principle of reinforcement. Frequently, one aspect will not move the market enough to generate a profit. In this case, the declining effect of the aspect is enhanced by the falling influence of the solar cycle.

Here are more examples of the better indicators. About every two years, there is a Sun-Mercury conjunction in the sign of Capricorn (Graph 3). The market has risen in the 20 days before the aspect until the day of the aspect by an average of 2.5 percent about 89 percent of the time (39 of 44 times). This indicator was discovered by Ed Dewey, the founder of the Foundation for the Study of Cycles. It can only occur between De-



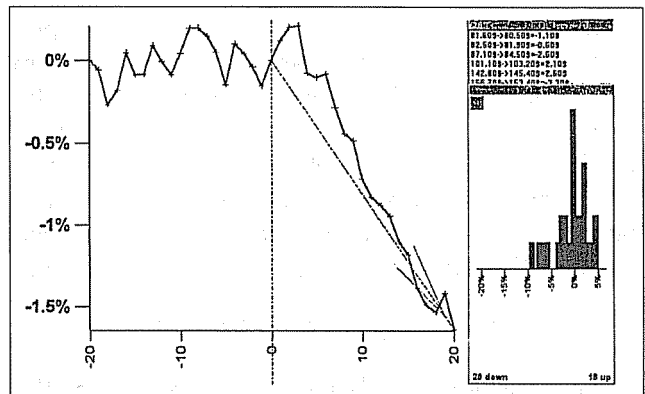
Graph 3: Sun-Mercury in Capricorn



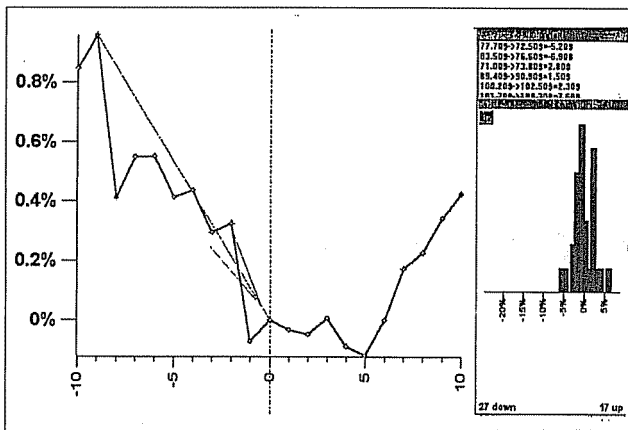
Graph 2: The Entry of the Sun Into Aries

ember 21 and January 19 each year. To provide better perspective, the market is usually strong during that time of the year, but it is stronger when this aspect occurs. The next one occurs on December 27, 2003.

There are two more Sun-Mercury conjunctions (Graph 4) that have value as potential turning points. The first is the one that takes place in Virgo, usually near tops. It can only happen between August 23 and September 21 annually. If the conjunction occurs in late August or early September, the following decline can be substantial as the September monthly weakness kicks in. The tendency is for the market to fall 61 percent of the time from the day of the conjunction to 20 days later. The average fall is 1.6 percent. The next one is September 11, 2003.



Graph 4: Sun-Mercury Conjunction in Virgo



Graph 5: Sun-Mercury Conjunctions in Scorpio

The next is associated with lows. It is the Sun-Mercury conjunction in Scorpio (Graph 5). This combination can only occur when the Sun is in this sign, which is October 23 to November 1 of every year. From nine days before the conjunction until the day of the conjunction, the Dow has fallen 27 of 44 times. This is a 61 percent average compared to the tendency of the Dow to rise over any 10-day period of about 54 percent to 55 percent. The average decline is about one percent.

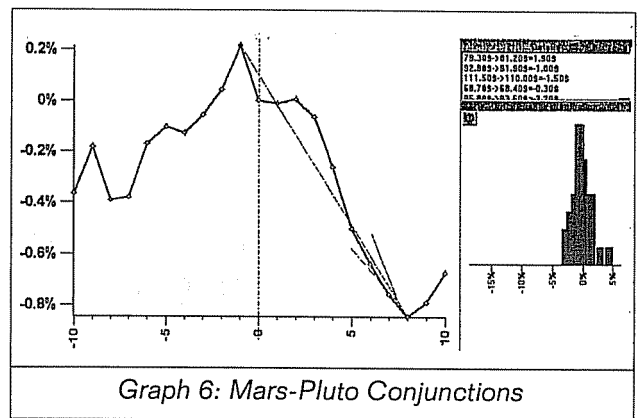
The next one occurs October 25, 2003.

The Mars-Pluto conjunction (Graph 6) occurs about every 1.8 years. This aspect is a harbinger of tops. The market has fallen from one day before to eight days after this aspect 75 percent of the time. The average drop has been one percent.

The next one occurs January 28, 2005.

KEY TO SUCCESS—FINDING THE RIGHT COMBINATION

The presence of a large number of planetary indicators is not necessarily enough to move a market. There have been periods when large configura-



Graph 6: Mars-Pluto Conjunctions

rations of stressful combinations have appeared in space. However, after analyzing the components of these configurations on a piece-by-piece basis as I have done above, the net effect was zero. That is, four were bullish, four were bearish, and some had no effect on stocks. The result was a volatile week that ended close to where it began.

The key to the identification of high-probability turning points is to isolate several phenomena in a tight time span. The maximum effect will be gained if a cycle is also reinforcing the effect of the indicators. In this brief article, the solar cycle was utilized. As this time period approaches, confirm the signal with technical indicators. In this brief article, I have explained the basics of such analysis and have introduced several high-probability planetary indicators.

The Jupiter-Uranus opposition on August 30, 2003 usually drops the market. It occurs at the onset of what has traditionally been one of the weakest months of the year, September. It also occurs just as these two outer planets change sign. This appears to be the right combination for a down in September 2003.

ASTROLOGY AND REAL ESTATE

BY GEORGIA STATHIS

*I*t has been said that the base of all wealth is real estate. The condition of wealth involves money, property, abundance and well-being. The ability to purchase, develop and sell real estate can be seen in the horoscope. This process uses both masculine and feminine energy, with all of the planets involved in the process.

The masculine planets are the Sun, Mars, Jupiter and Uranus; the feminine planets are the Moon, Venus, Saturn, Neptune and Pluto. Mercury, the planet that rules agents, communication, contracts and sales, has no particular gender affinity.

The Moon, ruled by Cancer, rules property and the fourth house. At the top of this axis, we find Saturn, ruled by Capricorn, as the natural ruler of the tenth house. Saturn rules real estate, including buildings, improvements and any adjoining assets, including minerals, water and petroleum. Saturn is the outward structural manifestation of the lunar principle of containment. Both the Moon and Saturn are feminine. The Moon is concerned with conception; it reigns over fertile territory that is movable and mobile, whereas Saturn is finite, structured and concrete.

THE LUNAR NODES

The Moon's Nodes transit through one complete cycle approximately every 18.6 years. The real es-

tate industry calls this the Brenner Cycle, but astrologers refer to it as the Nodal Cycle. It is important to remember that the Nodes are the points formed where the Moon's orbit intersects the path of Earth's orbit around the Sun (the ecliptic). The Moon displays public response. When the North Node transits through Cancer, prices and interest rates peak. As the demand for property escalates, there becomes a subsequent inventory shortage. While Cancer rules property, the North Node shows the trend in the marketplace. As the Node moves backward into Capricorn, more than nine years later, activity either declines or the availability of housing becomes scarce. Inventory of available housing is relatively high, but there are fewer buyers.

The two most recent examples of the real estate cycle of the nodal transit through Cancer were in the late fall of 1981, and the spring of 2000. In 1981, interest rates went as high as 20+ percent! Because of the slowdown, real estate agents, unable to make their margins, abandoned the industry and thus there was a correction in activity. This coincided with the election of a Republican president and the start of Reaganomics. In the spring of 2000, that same cycle of the Node reoccurred, where the Node passed through Cancer accompanied by the overly zealous and overindulgent Jupiter running through Cancer in 2001. Correspondingly, instead of interest rates rising,

housing prices rose, while interest rates plunged to an all-time low where, people were buying "payments" on houses rather than looking at the value of the houses. For example if a house was \$375,000, the buyer was willing to pay \$425,000 because a low interest rate offered the same payment as a higher one did for the lower priced home earlier in this accelerated season. Mortgage refinances escalated, and banks were more than generous in allowing appraisals of homes to escalate to meet the matching frenzy of home buying activity, particularly on the West Coast. Prices rose so rapidly that stock housing prices rose markedly during the same period, and in several San Francisco Bay Area counties increased 176 percent over the course of a few months! The reason for this particular switch was and is that a severe housing shortage exists for lower income people (well-known fact in California) and, although employment was at an all time high in the 1990s, the unemployment rate started escalating as the tech industry and the stock market plunged to all time lows. The continuing layoffs and the increasing prices of housing signal a much needed adjusted change in the ensuing years as Saturn enters Cancer. Banks are beginning to broker directly with clients and are bypassing the mortgage loan brokers to facilitate higher profit margins to offset the low interest rates.

Table 1 shows the outer planet transits to each other and particularly to the lunar Nodes. This projection is for the next three years when there are unusual configurations—ingresses of Saturn into Cancer and Uranus into Pisces, and the subsequent ingresses of Jupiter, Chiron and the Nodes. We also have Saturn opposition Chiron, which might begin to hybridize housing into the much awaited urban villages (neighborhoods combined with offices) to alleviate the ever-rising traffic problem. During the stressful aspects between Saturn and Jupiter or transiting planets to the Nodes in the form of conjunctions, oppositions, semisquares and sesquiquadrates of major planets, shifts occur in the industry. If Saturn is involved, there is usually a structural change that results because of the discomfort of

the present structure.

We are sitting at the precipice of a major shift in the real estate market or housing prices or simply housing availability as the cycle of Saturn in Cancer begins in June 2003. Long known for its harsh and pragmatic approach to business and the economy, when Saturn enters Cancer, those industries ruled by Cancer, such as food, antiques, housing and family, must adjust with the times. Those parts that do not adjust with the times suffer if change is not implemented.

As the North Node moves closer to Capricorn it is a good cycle to buy and hold property, allowing it to grow in value. When the Node is in Cancer it is a good time to liquidate since people tend to pay higher prices for property regardless of interest rates. Houses are popular during cycles of the North Node in Cancer.

Of course planets that either square their transiting positions or conjunct the North or South Node positions influence nodal cycles. For example, when Jupiter is in Cancer (property), Capricorn (real estate), Scorpio or Taurus (the natural eighth and second house signs), activity is high and people are willing to pay higher prices. The same is true when Jupiter conjuncts, trines or sextiles the North Node. The activity is heightened since there is public confidence.

The converse is true if Saturn is aspecting the North Node. Activity declines with only a small sector of the populous participating in distress sales (i.e., foreclosures). In times when the North Node is in Capricorn or there is a strong Saturn influence, there is a possibility that properties will be available from banks at a good price because they have gone into foreclosure. This is a buy cycle if you can hold the property as a longer investment.

TRANSACTIONS

Real estate transactions require the use of both masculine and feminine energies. After a period of incubation, the buyer of property must examine several economic factors to determine the feasibility of a real estate purchase, particularly when

Table 1

Ura (3)	Cnj	Pis (3)	March 10, 2003	00 Pi 00 D	00 Pi 00 D ingress
Chi(2)	Sqq	Nod (7)	March 15, 2003	17 Cp 00 D	02 Ge 00 R
Jup(9)	SSq	Sat (8)	March 27, 2003	08 Le 09 R	23 Ge 09 D
Ura (3)	Sqr	Nod (7)	March 28, 2003	00 Pi 57 D	00 Ge 57 R
Nod (7)	Cnj	Tau (7)	April 13, 2003	00 Ge 00 R	00 Ge 00 D ingress
Sat (8)	Sqq	Nep (3)	May 19, 2003	28 Ge 11 D	13 Aq 11 R
Sat (8)	Cnj	Can (8)	June 3, 2003	00 Cn 00 D	00 Cn 00 D ingress
Sat (8)	Tri	Ura (4)	June 24, 2003	02 Cn 42 D	02 Pi 42 R
Jup (9)	SSq	Sat (8)	July 8, 2003	19 Le 31 D	04 Cn 31 D
Jup(9)	Sqr	Nod (7)	Aug. 8, 2003	26 Le 02 D	26 Ta 02 R
Sat (8)	SSq	Nod (7)	Aug. 22, 2003	09 Cn 42 D	24 Ta 42 R
Jup (9)	Cnj	Vir(9)	Aug. 27, 2003	00 Vi 00 D	00 Vi 00 D ingress
Ura (3)	Cnj	Aqu (3)	Sep. 14, 2003	00 Pi 00 R	00 Pi 00 D ingress
Sat (8)	Opp	Chi(2)	Sep. 25, 2003	12 Cn 24 D	12 Cp 24 D
Sat (8)	Opp	Chi(2)	Oct. 24, 2003	13 Cn 14 R	13 Cp 14 D
Jup (10)	Sxt	Sat (8)	Nov. 1, 2003	13 Vi 11 D	13 Cn 11 R
Ura (3)	Cnj	Pis (3)	Dec. 29, 2003	00 Pi 00 D	00 Pi 00 D ingress
Chi(2)	Tri	Nod (7)	Jan. 5, 2004	18 Cp 56 D	18 Ta 56 R
Jup (10)	Tri	Nod (7)	Jan. 6, 2004	18 Vi 53 R	18 Ta 53 R
Nep (3)	Cpl	Nod (7)	Jan. 16, 2004	17S09	17N09 contraparallel
Nep (3)	Sqr	Nod (6)	Feb. 24, 2004	13 Aq 43 D	13 Ta 43 D
Jup (10)	Tri	Nod (6)	March 19, 2004	12 Vi 00 R	12 Ta 00 D
Jup (10)	Sxt	Sat (8)	May 1, 2004	08 Vi 57 D	08 Cn 57 D
Sat (8)	Sxt	Nod (6)	May 23, 2004	11 Cn 07 D	11 Ta 07 D
Jup (10)	Tri	Nod (6)	June 8, 2004	10 Vi 42 D	10 Ta 42 D
Plu(2)	Cpl	Nod (6)	July 15, 2004	14S17	14N17 contraparallel
Chi(3)	Cpl	Nod (6)	July 18, 2004	14S05	14N05 contraparallel
Jup (10)	Sqq	Nod (6)	Aug. 10, 2004	20 Vi 33 D	05 Ta 33 R
Ura (4)	Sxt	Nod (6)	Aug. 12, 2004	05 Pi 23 R	05 Ta 23 R
Sat (8)	Opp	Chi(2)	Aug. 15, 2004	21 Cn 34 D	21 Cp 34 R
Jup (10)	Sxt	Sat (8)	Aug. 17, 2004	21 Vi 50 D	21 Cn 50 D
Chi(3)	Sqr	Nod (5)	Jan. 20, 2005	27 Cp 20 D	27 Ar 20 R
Ura (4)	SSq	Nod (5)	March 19, 2005	08 Pi 01 D	23 Ar 01 R
Ura(4)	Cpl	Nod (5)	April 9, 2005	08S51	08N51 contraparallel
Sat (9)	Sqq	Ura (4)	June 11, 2005	25 Cn 45 D	10 Pi 45 R
Chi(3)	Cnj	Cap (3)	July 31, 2005	00 Aq 00 R	00 Aq 00 D ingress
Jup(11)	Opp	Nod (5)	Aug. 12, 2005	15 Li 05 D	15 Ar 05 R
Jup(11)	Cpl	Nod (5)	Aug. 24, 2005	05S43	05N43 contraparallel
Sat (9)	Sqq	Plu (2)	Dec. 31, 2005	09 Le 54 R	24 Sg 54 D
Sat (9)	Opp	Chi(3)	Feb. 19, 2006	06 Le 03 R 06	Aq 03 D

it is residential property. Is there enough income to support the purchase? Is there work available in the area? Are the schools the right ones for children? Upon deciding this and other personal factors, a real estate professional is engaged. Qualified agents must possess both assertive and receptive qualities. They must know the property inventory (a sixth house matter), the market, prices and existing interest rates. Both sides of the brain—the logical, rational left-brain, which is

referred to as the masculine side of the brain, and the right-brained intuitive, feminine function—are utilized in the decision-making process. (Both men and women have equal access to either the left or right brain.)

The agent must know to query about income, outstanding debts and how many bedrooms, baths, etc. the buyer requires. This is called the probe, a Plutonian process. The search begins when mas-

culine Mars is engaged. Much time is spent moving about from one property to the next in an automobile. Automobiles are ruled by Mars and are an integral part of real estate sales. (Mercury and the third house have some jurisdiction over cars since they represent means of transportation.)

Agents must know when and how to close the deal so that when a property best suited to the buyer and the buyer's qualifications is found they ask, "Do you want to buy this property?" Ultimately, the final decision about a piece of property is formulated through a gut-level response. After the decision is made, the numbers and closing costs are calculated and then the intuitive mode kicks in. This final emotional calculator is critical in closing a sale. Remember, the Moon rules property and it represents the feminine, receptive side that helps in the final determination. The neutral Mercury principle finalizes the transaction as escrows are opened and/or lawyers are consulted. (On the East Coast, attorneys generally process the transaction, whereas on the West Coast, the processing of a transaction takes place through a title company and its escrow department.)

THE PLANETS AND REAL ESTATE

The Sun usually represents speculative matters and conditions that represent some type of gamble due to its relationship to the fifth house. If the Sun is prominent and well placed by natal position or well aspected by transit, then the time might be appropriate to take a "gamble" on a piece of property.

The Moon reflects how the public sees you. If, for example, the Moon is in the tenth house at birth, the public might see you as one who deals in property, particularly if the Moon also rules the natal fourth house. Even the progressed secondary Moon has a great bearing on moves and home changes in some capacity. The other progressions are also significant, but you primarily use the progressed secondary Moon because it moves so rapidly and it aspects the natal chart frequently. Particularly watch when the secondary Moon

moves from one sign to the next. This often indicates a change in residence of the home situation. A progression moving over one of the angles can also trigger a move.

Aspects to the Moon might move you, change the way your home looks or create an emotional explosion or change in the home. The Moon might involve one particular property—occupied or leased—while Saturn can involve several properties as well as the sale, purchase or development of property.

Mercury rules communication, sales and written legal agreements—contracts. A successful transaction must have a well placed Mercury. Individuals who do well in sales transactions usually have Mercury well aspected.

If there are negative aspects to Mercury, the contract might be difficult to negotiate. For example, if transiting Mercury is opposing or squaring natal Jupiter or even transiting Jupiter, then you could pay too much for the property. Your judgment might be off. If Mercury is square transiting or natal Saturn, you might worry yourself needlessly concerning this particular real estate matter, no matter how long you own it! The other manifestation of Mercury square Saturn might be that something was forgotten in the contract at the time of its writing.

A good time to sign a contract is when either the Moon (property) or Saturn (real estate) is well aspected by Mercury through a trine or sextile. Always look at both the natal and the transiting planets and how they interact with each other.

If the Moon or Mercury is void of course at the time of the sale, the sale might not complete. When the move is scheduled, watch for challenging aspects to Mercury, particularly from Neptune or Jupiter, as there may be a tremendous disorientation. Much has been said about *Mercury retrograde periods*, and they do have an effect on real estate transactions. If a new contract comes in during such a time, there could be a problem with finalizing the sale or purchase. Sometimes a particular word or paragraph is inadvertently left out when the contract is written. At other times,

the intention of the purchaser to purchase may be based on some type of financial assistance from family or friends. When Mercury moves into direct motion, the missing paragraph is discovered or the funding is no longer available.

Mercury retrogrades approximately three times a year for about three weeks at a time. This is an excellent time to wrap up details in a contract or an escrow and uncover any problems about the property. One way Mercury retrograde "works" in a real estate transaction is that, perhaps, the property was viewed prior to the retrograde, but the buyer or seller was not necessarily sure this was what he or she wanted. In presenting the offer, precautions still need to be exercised, but sometimes if care is taken this will work out during Mercury retrograde periods.

Even if Mercury is well aspected at the time of the retrograde, there could still be a delay in the transaction. Watch the degree and minute at which Mercury begins its retrograde motion. Watch when it returns to the direct position. Particularly watch when it returns to the original "shadow" position—the same degree and minute at which it went retrograde. This is when any differences or problems are usually resolved.

Venus, the natural ruler of the second and seventh houses, governs money, cash flow, legal papers, and contracts. If Venus is well placed, it often indicates a natural ability to make things happen, particularly if it is well aspected at the time of a transaction in either the natal or event chart. If it is moving in retrograde motion, it might indicate either a delay in receiving funds or an inability to get the funds necessary for a purchase. Luckily, Venus only retrogrades about once every two years for about six weeks. When it does, however, you must be cautious because the purchase you decide on might not be entirely appropriate to your needs, or the buyer or seller might change his or her mind. Venus retrograde could also indicate that you settle for less than you really want.

Mars is the planet that triggers the gun. The entire sky can be set up for action, but action only occurs when Mars comes along and sets it off.

Where Mars is placed in the event chart is where stress will be experienced or where action takes place. For example, if it is placed in the first house of the chart, the seller might be agitated. Placed in the fourth house, the final outcome, the deal might not close or there might be trouble with the structure or the plumbing. Placed in the second house of cash flow and resources, there could be difficulty in raising the capital to purchase the property.

This is not to say that wherever Mars is placed you will find trouble. The other side of Mars's energy is that of courage and confidence. Mars placements in the chart can indicate areas in which you keep your nose to the grindstone.

Mars in the second house, while it can indicate difficulty in getting funds, might also indicate your all-out effort to pursue and obtain funds to successfully complete the purchase.

In a horary chart, if a question is asked about signing a contract and the Moon's last aspect is to Mars, some feel it is not a good time to close. If transiting Saturn is squaring Mars, people might easily be upset or angered.

Jupiter well-aspected to the fourth house ruler or placed in the fourth house of the horoscope can indicate luck in real estate matters. If this is found in a chart for a transaction, it might indicate a successful consummation of the deal. If transiting Jupiter is positively aspecting natal Saturn or the ruler of the fourth house, it often indicates a positive move in a real estate transaction.

Jupiter in flowing aspect to the Sun or Moon often indicates a positive outcome for a transaction. With the Moon (property) and Mercury (contracts) well-aspected, it is an indication of a good contract, a good buy. Mercury rules sales, so if Jupiter is in negative aspect to Mercury, you should check to see that you are not paying too much for the property.

Saturn was mentioned earlier as the ruler of real estate. It invariably takes an aspect to Saturn to purchase or let go of real estate or to enter a career in the building or real estate industry. Posi-

tive aspects by transit or natively between Saturn and Jupiter indicate positive real estate potential. Transiting Jupiter conjuncting, trining or sextiling Saturn indicate great times for property purchase.

Prior to telescopes and the discovery of the outer planets, Saturn was also assigned rulership of Aquarius. In modern times the rulership of Aquarius has been given to Uranus. Uranus also has its place in the delineation of real estate matters. It rules the "big dealers": subdivisions, developments, commercial property, REITS (real estate investment trusts) and leasing specialists, particularly if strong Pluto energy is also indicated.

Uranus prominent in the horoscope indicates an individual who has the ability to put together, in an innovative way, groups of people who collaborate on large real estate projects and work with syndications. Transiting Jupiter conjuncting, trining or sextiling Uranus could indicate a very lucky, almost windfall-like possibility for any large project, development or leasing.

Neptune has had a lot of bad press concerning financial transactions. It can show confused judgment, misinformation and looking at deals through rose-colored glasses, particularly if it is poorly aspected by transit at the time of the transaction. A property could be over-inflated price-wise, or you, as the purchaser, might misjudge what you can afford to pay. You could purchase at a time when things are beyond your current means.

The positive side of Neptune is the ability to visualize the potential in a property and to realize your vision. In a lecture about the pre-natal eclipse, Buz Meyers talked about Neptune-Pisces energy. He stated that the nature of this energy is to act as a bridge and to reprocess negative into positive.

A strong Neptune placement well aspected natively or by transit can give those involved in the transaction insight into how to improve the property, but favorable aspects to Saturn or Pluto must also be operating. Transiting Jupiter positively aspecting Neptune can help you realize your vision and aid in your inspiration.

A prominent Pluto might indicate a talent for renovating large shopping centers or building complexes that need refurbishing before they exhibit profitability.

Strong aspects to Uranus or Pluto can indicate the development or transformation of pieces of property. Strong, positive aspects to Pluto by itself might also enhance the ability to acquire loans and funding. The converse is also true. If there are negative aspects to Pluto, you could miss out on the opportunity to acquire funds or even have to declare bankruptcy if other factors in the horoscope confirm this.

THE HOUSES

In defining the houses, both the natal horoscope and the event chart can be used. The time to use to set up a chart for the real estate transaction, the event, can be found on the final contract. When a transaction is consummated, the date and time are recorded next to the signatures of the purchasers and the sellers. At that moment, the event chart can be erected. Always pay attention to these houses, but more importantly to the house rulers and the natal aspects (harsh or supportive) of other natal planets to these rulers or the transiting planets that might be aspecting these house rulers.

The first house represents the seller—how he or she views the transaction.

The second house is the immediate cash at hand—the cash flow. It also represents other resources available in a transaction in other property for trade; tangible assets like valued stones, furniture and refrigerators can be compensation for a transaction.

The third house represents the signing of the contract, the communication in the transaction. Negatively, it shows the loss of property (the twelfth house from the natal fourth).

The fourth house represents the property itself as well as how one deals with it. It also indicates vacant property and property damage, particularly in the plumbing. In corporation charts it repre-

sents warehouses and factories held by a company. As in horary astrology, the fourth house can also indicate the outcome of an event. Many planets in your fourth house often suggest that real estate might be a suitable choice for your profession or that you could profit from real estate holdings. This is particularly true if natal Pluto is placed there and is well aspected.

Traditionally, the fifth house signifies speculation or taking a gamble on property. It is also an indicator of income from real estate (the second from the fourth house). Sometimes recreational property is suggested by this house or income from recreational property. For example, a man was part owner of a duck club, and the income generated from the club plus the pleasure the individual received from going to his "investment" was a perfect combination of how this house works. When transiting Jupiter passed through his natal fifth house, the government offered to pay his group for NOT planting rice, which many clubs grow to attract the ducks; they turned around and sold the surplus rice for profit!

The sixth house of the chart reveals the agent, the tenants in a leasing situation, income property and the logistics of the real estate contract.

The seventh house is simply the buyer of the property. It can also designate legal contracts.

The eighth house represents the estate, a will, a settlement or a business or marriage partnership's assets (the second from the seventh). It depicts the joint holdings of a couple or a business partnership. In an individual's chart, it also indicates whether there is positive or negative financial support from the partner, as well as inheritance possibilities. It can define the qualities of the mortgage, the interest rates and the insurance required. Probate is represented by the eighth, as well as the escrow itself, which includes the title search.

Taxes are also an important part of real estate transactions, and anything related to taxes comes from the eighth house. Jupiter in this house or Sagittarius on this cusp can indicate luck in investment matters with a partner, inheritance or

investments that prosper. So can Venus in or ruling this house.

The ninth house shows the money that comes from an estate or settlement, as well as the care taking and any legal situations surrounding property.

The tenth house indicates landowners, landlords, land developers, land dealers and land in general.

The eleventh house designates money that comes from the individual's business or career, the treasury and, if negatively aspected, the loss of property. Sometimes loss is also assigned to the twelfth house.

The twelfth house denotes property in foreign countries (in the Hindu system, the twelfth is the house of gestation and foreigners) or it can indicate the end of a situation.

LONG-TERM PROJECTIONS FOR THE REAL ESTATE INDUSTRY

The outer planets (Uranus, Neptune and Pluto) have to do with future and outer trends in various industries. They are beyond physical sight and for this reason we look at them as indicators of the future. For example, during the past two decades there have been a series of synodic cycles involving Saturn, the ruler of real estate. By synodic, we mean relatively rare alignments of the outlying planets, which only occur once every so many years. In 1981, Saturn and Jupiter conjuncted in Libra, as they did in 2000 in Taurus; in 1982, Saturn conjuncted Pluto also in Libra; in 1988, Saturn conjuncted Uranus three separate times in Sagittarius and Capricorn; and in 1989, Saturn conjuncted Neptune in Capricorn.

When Saturn was conjunct Jupiter in the early 1980s, interest rates and property values expanded out of sight in terms of affordability, as did property values again in 2000. When the interest rates jumped outrageously in the early 1980s, many in the profession fled the field. Jupiter represents the professional sales field and the conjunction of these two planets might imply some sort of exodus or a new vision or philosophy (Jupi-

ter) in the field. The same was true in the following years as banks tightened their belts, and loans for property ended up being as difficult to obtain as water in the desert.

Whenever Saturn conjuncts Uranus, major changes occur in the real estate industry. This occurred during the early 1940s, when they were conjunct in Taurus. Contractors changed from building one home at a time to building tract housing in order to accommodate the influx of the post-war population.

In the 2000 conjunction of Saturn and Jupiter in Taurus, we witnessed large growth patterns toward the development of assisted living facilities for the aged. In Contra Costa County, California, assisted living facilities are becoming increasingly sophisticated in terms of what they offer residents as the competition for high-end facilities continues. Since Saturn rules the elderly, Jupiter rules opportunity and Taurus rules land and property, assisted living facilities will prove to be major moneymakers during the course of the next twenty years as aging baby boomers vie for housing.

It was also during this time that a new co-housing movement began laying down roots. This is a concept whereby people buy regular homes or condominiums, but the complex is designed around a central garden and/or central cooking facility in which owners may or may not participate. Think of it as the new extended family scenario.

During the early 1940s, an innovative idea that promised to improve vehicular travel was conceived and executed: the interstate highway system. It was developed to accommodate the growing population. Now, with these upcoming conjunctions, people are traveling a different way, via telecommuting on their computers as the information highway and its technology has moved us to new levels of travel and communication.

Since the last conjunction of Saturn and Uranus in late Sagittarius/early Capricorn, real estate professionals have become computer literate. The Multiple Listing Services are accessible nationwide on computers. The new standard for soft-

ware in the real estate industry incorporates not only the latest in listings for any county, but combines larger and larger areas in a region so that the ability to list and sell property far exceeds former boundaries. The software that is now being incorporated into updated boards includes major marketing programs, databases where one can order a search for such things as the latest defaulted notes and the names, addresses, and detailed tax information of every owner in several counties. The software has the capability of updating your clients as to the latest available properties in your market. As soon as the property is listed, the agent and his or her clients are notified. That same client list can have a preprogrammed flyer from you, the agent, on a monthly basis by just knowing how to use the software. This alleviates expensive and costly printing and mailing costs and targets swiftly and directly those specific people in your market.

Due to the passage of Uranus in Aquarius squaring the Saturn-Jupiter conjunction in Taurus, a lot more has been computerized and digitalized. One can set up an entire marketing program through the real estate board software to notify clients on a daily basis about the latest offerings, as well as set up a weekly or monthly direct mail (via email) campaign where the computer becomes your own personal marketing agent and search engine for the latest in properties. This ability to reach larger and larger markets suggests that, perhaps, as transiting Uranus moves through Pisces and trines transiting Saturn in Cancer, states will not only offer reciprocal licensing agreements but will also begin a campaign for different licenses that reach different levels of selling to a much larger area, perhaps even a national real estate license that meets the most stringent of standards that embrace both the eastern and western states.

The paperwork involved in real estate transactions has become so complicated that it easily compares to the paperwork required of a qualified attorney. In California, future real estate agents are now required to have several hours of college credit in order to take the real estate licensing exam. Because of the added dimension of com-

puter requirements in this industry, it is very likely that at some point the licensing will consist of not just agents versus brokers but, perhaps, Level 1, Level 2 or Level 3 agents who also have computer technology as part of their training. There are also courses offered online for people interested in real estate and appraisal licenses. This has happened quite suddenly with the 1980s conjunction of Saturn and Uranus in Sagittarius, which rules education. In the industry itself, there is a greater need for an "official education." For years there has been talk of making a real estate license a four-year degree and grandfathering in those agents who already have licenses. Since Uranus, the planet of motivation, is involved in this conjunction, the education required is somewhat different from a conventional education. The idea of an advanced bachelors or masters degree in real estate is not as inconceivable as in the past.

Since Uranus rules commissions, one of the things we have seen is a change in the commission structure of the industry. Most companies carry errors and omission insurance for their agents so that if there is any conflict, the company as well as the agent is protected. For this, the broker usually takes half of the commission on one side or the other of the transaction. The commissions are negotiable, but generally speaking the agent receives roughly one-quarter division of the total commission. There is currently a debate in the industry about the so-called negotiable commissions. As housing prices have risen to unbelievable levels, a home going for \$800,000 will pay a \$48,000 commission (six percent of total sales price) to the agents. Because of this new variable, many agencies are setting up such varied services as the virtual real estate office (whereby one broker has many agents working under him or her), where each agent works from home and doesn't necessarily check in to one office to conduct business. Some agents charge a per hour consult fee for the information they now give free in order to make a sale. Remember, Uranus rules public information, consulting and commissions. The accessibility to a higher volume of commissions has also become possible due to the full access

agents have to properties being bought and sold not only through other real estate companies, but also through such government programs as H.U.D., whose properties can be found at such Web sites as www.goldenfeather.com.

The current transit of Uranus in Pisces will offer more and more of what we call a "virtual tour" of each home. This again is a time saver, whereby you can send clients the tour link so they can preview the property before driving to the property. Uranus also rules awakening, invention and revolutionary new ways of doing things, and with Saturn, which also rules construction and building materials, we see new materials everyday that improve the quality of construction, particularly those in earthquake-prone zones, such as California. I have already mentioned the connection between Uranus and computers and electronics. Not only are the local boards of realtors hooked up to their agents' computers, but agents now the option to purchase memberships in adjacent local boards of real estate, which gives them a greater demographic market from which to buy and sell property. Agents have more freedom now since they can work from their offices, their homes, their cars or from another state.

Uranus's other recent innovations include the now common and indispensable cellular phone, the passing Palm Pilot and the new portable PCs that can access information updates from the airwaves and upload and download to your mainframe. Even the signs that are posted in front of a residence to announce that it is available for sale are changing because agents now place their email addresses and their Web sites where they used to post phone numbers. There are even "drive by" signs that are on a radio frequency allowing an agent driving by in a car with the necessary equipment to hook up to that sign and get the details about that particular piece of property.

Portable computers are used so that a salesperson on the road has accessibility to information such as current closing costs, and the status of loans, escrows and interest information.

If an agent is computer-phobic, he or she has to

get over this quickly. At the most basic level, an agent is now required to input all new sales data directly into the computer in the office, which in turn connects to the main computer bank, making the information instantly available to the entire real estate community through the Multiple Listing Service or, for some very large real estate

companies, into computers that hold all listings for all offices in a region. With the increasing travel that people are required to do as part of their jobs, it is possible that instead of time-share for vacation purposes, we may witness a new term, "property share," for those who have to live bi-coastally or in two different countries.

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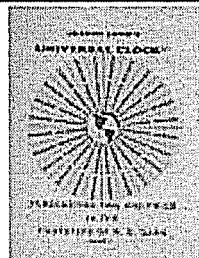
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Sectors Continued from Page 16

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coverage on radio, television and in newsprint, making guest appearances on CNN Headline and Business News, CBS-TV, CNBC, and ABC-TV. Astro Economics, Inc. sponsors the World Conference of Astro Economics, which features outstanding international speakers on the stock and commodities markets and financial investing. Grace Morris can be reached at Astro Economics, Inc., Regency Towers, 1415 W. 22nd St., Tower Floor, Oak Brook IL 60523, USA; Phone: (815) 464-8200; Fax: (815) 464-8163; email: astro@astroeconomics.com; Web site: www.astroeconomics.com.

W . D . G A N N U N V E I L E D

BY D. K. BURTON

W.D. Gann spent his life studying cycles and numbers. He was a financial astrologer and a Freemason, and studied the Bible to decipher cycles. Gann made large amounts of money trading, horse racing and playing the Cuban lottery.

Gann was a Shriner, the name applied to the "Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine." He also was a member of the "Order of the Magi" in Chicago and the "Mark Twain Society" (Mark Twain is the pen name of Samuel Langhorne Clemens, who also was a Freemason).

Gann told the *Buenos Aires Herald* (March 21, 1935) that he had records of grain dating back 1,000 years, and cotton records nearly 400 years. He was able to gather the most accurate grain information from old British records, and visited Egypt and India in his search for cotton cycle data.

Gann died in 1955, and his third wife died in about 1996. They married when she was 35, and Gann was about 65. A close friend of mine who visited her said, "One day Gann went to the races, and she received a phone call late one night saying could you come and pick up your husband as we fear for his life, he has made so much money it is bursting out of his pockets."

Some people say he died broke. I don't believe this to be true, as taxes were well over 80 percent in the 1940s and 1950s, and he most likely left his money in Cuba. You can't have an office on Wall Street for 40 years, employ nine staff, own two

planes and be earning no money. Gann was quoted in a number of newspapers that he used the planes to inspect crops; this is highly unlikely as he knew in advance what the market was doing. It was possible that the planes were a tax deduction, and he flew the money he made to a South American bank account.

Anyone who is a Freemason understands that it is a secret society and that knowledge is passed on through rituals and symbolism. It is only the initiated few of the highest order who would understand anything about ancient geometry and astronomy, being two of the several liberal arts. The seven liberal arts stand for each of the seven ancient planets: Saturn, Jupiter, Mars, Venus, Sun, Mercury and Moon.

Saturn is the master of the lodge, and the other planets are allocated to the other positions in the lodge. You cannot have a lodge meeting unless you have a least seven people attending. Lodge meetings in the past were conducted on every New Moon, although today it is not practical and they are held on a nominated day of the week, once a month.

The U.S. independence was set up astrologically by 57 men, 56 of whom were Freemasons, and specifically on July 4, 1776. Fifty-six is also twice 28, which is mentioned in the following pages. A large number of U.S. presidents have been Freemasons.

July 4 is 120 degrees from March 4 and November 4. In the past, the President was elected on November 4, and took office on March 4, completing the triangle. If you have studied history you would also know that the federal government never became effective until March 4, 1789, exactly 13 years after American independence was declared.

The U.S. one dollar bill is also coded, i.e., there is an eagle holding 13 arrows in one claw and a branch of 13 leaves in the other claw. There are 13 stars above the eagle's head and 13 stripes on the eagle's breast, totalling 52, which represents the weeks in a year. There are 13 original states. The eagle is represented by the astrological sign of Scorpio.

Gann never mixed well with his son, and his son didn't believe in astrology. His son used to sit in Gann's office making paper planes and tossing them out the window. Therefore, Gann didn't believe his son warranted receiving the knowledge he had gained from 50 years of research, and all his knowledge went with him except for the small amount he passed on through coded works.

A lot of Gann's astrology was coded or masked by the use of numbers, as is evident in the cycles in the commodity and stock courses, as well as two books—*The Tunnel Thru The Air* and *Magic Word*.

This is how Gann coded astrological cycles with numbers:

90 year cycle = 3 Saturn Cycles of 29.56 years, which equal 88.68 years, and two synodic cycles of Saturn/Uranus, which are 45.36 years. This equals 90.72 years.

The 82 to 84 year cycle is the Uranus cycle of 84.02 years.

The 60 year cycle is two Saturn cycles or three Jupiter/Saturn synodic cycles. 58.92 years and 59.58 years, respectively.

49 to 50 year cycle is Uranus changing seven zodiac signs of seven years each.

45 year cycle is the Saturn/Uranus cycle of 45.36 years.

30 year cycle is the Saturn cycle of 29.56 years.

20 year cycle is the Jupiter/Saturn synodic cycle of 19.86 years.

15 year cycle is half the Saturn cycle.

10 year cycle is half the Jupiter/Saturn synodic cycle.

9 year cycle is half the Node cycle of 18.6 years.

7 year cycle is Uranus changing one sign of the zodiac, or a movement of 30 degrees.

5 year cycle is 1/6 of the 30 year cycle or 1/4 of the 20 year cycle.

1 year cycle is the movement of earth around sun.

If you are looking for large cycles to coincide with major lows or highs exactly 60 or 90 years ago, then you are deluding yourself. The key is to know when the smaller cycles are lining up with the larger cycles. The larger cycles create the condition, and the smaller cycles, like Mars, create the trigger. The large cycles can force the smaller cycles to flip-flop, or reverse. This is why you might see the smaller cycle go low, low, high or high, high, low, etc.

When you have data for fewer than 30 years, you need to know which charts to draw and from where to run the geometric angles. Data from fewer than 30 years means you need to look at economic and weather conditions for an overall trend for the future.

Usually in a recession, depression or boom, most commodities top or bottom within two years of each other. Most commodities go back more than 30 years, and the major stocks go back more than 20 years. These types of markets with the longer term data are the ones to forecast and trade, i.e. wheat, corn and coffee.

The geometric angles are a moving average of price and time and, therefore, are much more useful than any other indicators utilized in today's modern trading. The reason is that geometric angles can be projected into the future, whereas all other systems are lagging indicators and are based on price only. The geometric angle works best on weekly and monthly charts because they

keep you with the trend when drawn correctly.

On daily charts the geometric angles are crossed frequently and, therefore, changes in the trend often occur. They are useful only as entry into the market when trading with the main trend.

Gann coded astrology with numbers because the Bible is coded astrologically and conforms to numerical principles. The *The Tunnel Thru The Air* is completely coded in numbers and astrology. Some examples of astrology in *The Tunnel Thru The Air* are:

On page 50, Ezekiel 1: 4-16: "As for the likeness of their faces, they four had the face of a man, and the face of a lion on the right side; and they four had the face of an ox on the left side; they four also had the face of an eagle."

This is represented in the Bible by the 12 tribes of 144,000 men to each tribe:

Judah	Leo	Sun =	Lion
Naphatli	Virgo	Mercury	
Asher	Libra	Venus	
Dan	Scorpio	Mars =	Eagle
Reuben	Sagittarius	Jupiter	
Dan	Capricorn	Saturn	
Simon-Levi	Aquarius	Saturn =	Man
Benjamin	Pisces	Jupiter	
Joseph	Aries	Mars	
Manasseh	Taurus	Venus =	Ox
Zebulun	Gemini	Mercury	
Issachar	Cancer	Moon	

The lion, eagle, man and the ox are the fixed cross of the zodiac and represent the 45, 135, 225 and 315 degrees of a circle.

On page 66, Robert Gordon states: "I believe in the stars, I believe in astrology and I have figured out my destiny."

On page 77, Robert Gordon states: "It is just as easy to figure out 100 years or 1,000 years into the future as one or two years ahead, if you have the correct starting point and know the cycle

which is going to be repeated."

On page 78, Robert Gordon states: "It is not my aim to explain the causes of cycles. The general public is not yet ready for it and probably would not understand it or believe it if I explained it.

"In every law of nature there is a major and a minor; a positive, a negative, and a neutral." Therefore, in cycles there must be a lesser, a greater and intermediate cycle, or cycles within cycles.

Like Ezekiel says—"Wheel within a wheel."

There are numerous biblical quotes in *The Tunnel Thru The Air*, and anyone who has studied the Bible knows that this book is also a mask for astrology. For example, on page 69 in *The Tunnel Thru the Air*: "For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son (Sun) of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."

The three days and three nights represents for the apparent standing still of the sun as viewed from earth, which occurs between December 22 and 25 each year. Jesus was not born on December 25; this is the first day that the sun moves north in the Northern Hemisphere (middle of winter). There is a symbolic ritual in Freemasonry when a Mason is raised to the third degree, where symbolically one is lifted from the body of earth in darkness. The three degrees represents the three days when the sun stands still.

"No sign shall be given, but the sign of the prophet Jonas."

"I believe there is a secret meaning in what he said; the son (sun) of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."

Jesus died on the cross, which represents the four main cardinal points of the zodiac—Aries, Cancer, Libra and Capricorn, the beginning of each of the four seasons. Aries is the start of the spring in the Northern Hemisphere and signals growth. At the death of every cycle a new one commences, and this is what is represented by Jesus dying on the cross.

Seven is a number used throughout *The Tunnel Thru The Air*.

W.D. Gann was born June 6, 1878, and Robert Gordon was born June 9, 1906, 28 years apart, or 4×7 years. The time between 1878 and the year he published the book (1927) is 49 years, 7×7 years. The difference between 1906 and 1927 is 21 years, 3×7 years. The book title has 36 letters, leaving out 1940. If you convert 1940 to letters, you have 49 letters, again 7×7 .

There are 36 chapters as well. The original dust cover has 16 planes, not scales, hourglass, compass, etc. The square, circle and triangle is not a Gann emblem, but a Masonic symbol. You need also to study the original dust cover.

Without decoding the whole book, Chapter 7 is called "Future Cycles," and it begins on page 75. There are 418 pages to the book: $418 - 75 = 343$, $7 \times 7 \times 7$. Anyone who knows astrology knows that 343 is half a Mars cycle.

Gann was born June 6, 1878, and *The Tunnel Thru The Air* was published September 5, 1927. Two of the major planets, Jupiter and Uranus, were conjunct Gann's Saturn on May 9, 1927. Also, Saturn trined Gann's Saturn (120 degrees), Neptune was conjunct Gann's Uranus and the Moon conjunct Gann's Moon.

The Tunnel Thru The Air is a love story for the masses, but Neptune being the planet of illusion and conjuncting Gann's Uranus reveals that there is more to this book than it being a novel.

The Magic Word: Jehovah is a great and sacred Hebrew name. It is written JHVH. The correct pronunciation is JOD-HAV-VAU-HAV, and it has a numeric value of 10-6-5-6 or 1656. 1656 is the total number of years of the patriarchs. The Hebrews used gematria for the conversion of letters to numbers.

Age of Adam at the birth of Seth—130 years

Age of Seth at the birth of Enos—105 years

Age of Enos at the birth of Cainan—90 years

Age of Cainan at the birth of Mahalaleel—70 years

Age of Mahalaleel at the birth of Jared—65 years

Age of Jared at the birth of Enoch—162 years

Age of Enoch at the birth of Methuselah—65 years

Age of Methuselah at the birth of Lamech—187 years

Age of Lamech at the birth of Noah—182 years

Age of Noah at the time of Flood—600 years

Total of years from Epoch—1656

Beginning of the record, B.C.—4004 years

Date of the Flood, B.C.—2348 years

Without going into further detail, to obtain a full and comprehensive understanding of the mysteries of W.D. Gann's work requires a lifetime commitment to study and research. If you are not studying astrology when studying the Gann method, then you are only completing part of the research. Modern astrology doesn't work; you will need to study ancient astrology.

It is not my aim to disclose 24 years of research, but to give you an introduction to the *authentic* methods of W.D. Gann. The methods I utilize are more for position trading than for day trading, which allows for further research and study of W.D. Gann's methods.

The wise man rules his stars and the fool obeys them!

To make accurate forecasts and trades you need accurate data. I use C.S.I. Data. E-mail rudi@csidata.com, mention my name and you will receive history data at a discount; Web site is www.csidata.com.

* * *

David Burton, a hedge fund manager, has studied the methods and theory of W.D. Gann for more than 20 years. As a direct result of the knowledge he has gained from using Gann's investment strategies, he has created an in-depth course and book. This course is the first to be written with fresh material since Gann's death in 1955. David is recognized worldwide for his remarkable predictions and for the insight he is able to provide into the brilliant investment strategies of Gann. Contact him at PO Box 216, Caloundra Qld, Australia 4551; www.commhedge.com.au, dburton@commhedge.com.au; phone: +61 7 54917443 or 07 54917443.

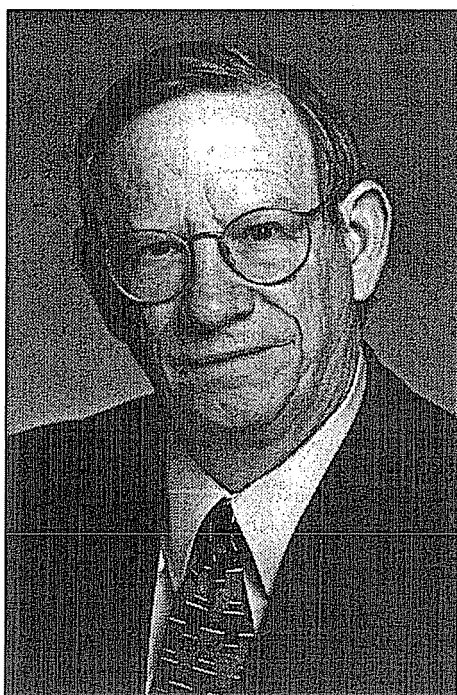
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~The Star-Ledger, October 20, 2002

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NEW DIMENSIONS IN FINANCIAL ASTROLOGY

BY ALPHEE LAVOIE

*F*inancial astrology appears to still be in its infancy, although many techniques yield very accurate results. The five Ptolemaic aspects and different zodiacs that astrologers use can provide the astro-trader with an edge when it comes to predicting the market. Being a professional astrologer for more than 40 years, and counseling thousands of clients, it was often easy to see an aspect forming simultaneously with events in clients' lives. However, sometimes major events occurred *without* any concurrent visible aspects to explain them. This "bloop" in our astrological system is also not uncommon when predicting the market. I always wondered why.

As astrologers, we all agree that cycles repeat themselves. If a client has Saturn approaching a square to his Sun, the first question to ask is what happened to him when Saturn last conjoined his Sun. This same approach of gathering past history when a cycle or aspect occurred is also necessary to make accurate market predictions. Actually, I think that we might have a better chance at predicting the cycles in the market than we do with clients. Clients have free will and the ability to influence the energies, while the stock market does not.

While writing my first astro-finance computer software a customer sent me a book by George Bayer, *Stock and Commodity Traders' Handbook of Trend Determination; Secrets of Fore-*

*casting Values*¹. Bayer was a master of his technique and discovered the importance of going beyond the traditional astrological concepts for market predictions. He worked with a wide array of techniques; one in particular grabbed my attention. He wrote that when "for one day, the speed of Mercury is 59 minutes from the speed of Mars for the same day, then wheat would be at a market decline." After serious investigation into Bayer's rather "far out" concepts, I realized how valuable and important these methods were as they filled the gaps that traditional astrology could not. It appears that he struck a very accurate chord that resonated a truth for me—if a moving body in the sky can be measured and calculated in relationship to other moving heavenly bodies, then it can produce and affect earthly events.

I frequently check stocks that made significant moves for which there were no major aspects occurring on or around the time of the movement. This led me to investigate the different relationships between the heavenly bodies in our cosmos. In doing so, my business partner, Sergey, and I discovered an excellent method to apply to market predicting. The method is one of using the planetary phases and the aspects between them. Just as our Moon moves through her phase changes, so do each of the planets. They, too, cycle through all the same phases, and on a cloud-

less night when Venus appears as the Evening Star, her phases are easily discernible. The phase aspects are calculated using the regular astrological techniques as we do for the Moon phases.

Here's an example: Let's say that the phase of Venus is 270 degrees and the phase of Mars is 90 degrees. When compared to each other, these two bodies are 180 degrees "out of phase," which places them in opposition to each other. Now let's see this concept in action when applied to the market. From April 11 through April 15, 2000, the Dow Jones dropped 900 points. There were three major aspects in play during that time. Mars squared Uranus, which is an aspect that moves the market up over 68 percent of the time four days before the exact aspect and two days after the aspect. Mars was conjunct Saturn, an aspect with a track record of providing a 50-50 percent chance of up-and-down. And, Venus and Mars were conjunct in planetary phase, producing a major up one day before the aspect and a major down one day after the aspect (see Figure 1).

Every aspect worked exactly as it was previously proven when reviewing past results with the statistical calculations. The aspect of the Venus-Mars phase was vital to predicting this drop.

There are some other rather startling results from our findings. Here are just a few of them: The phase of Venus conjunct the phase of Jupiter produced an up 68 percent of the time in the Dow Jones and 78 percent of the time in the NASDAQ. The seventh phase of Mercury (last quarter) produced a very strong up more than 68 percent of the time. Among the many tops that this phase produced, one was seen May 20, 2001. Venus in aphelion produced an up, and it brought the highest price of the NASDAQ in March 2000. Mercury at its maximum speed consistently brings the price up.

These findings are almost endless! It is so astonishing to see that there is more in the sky that affects life on Earth than we yet know about. Although these techniques might not be particularly useful for all astrological work, they certainly lend themselves to the markets and to certain kinds of

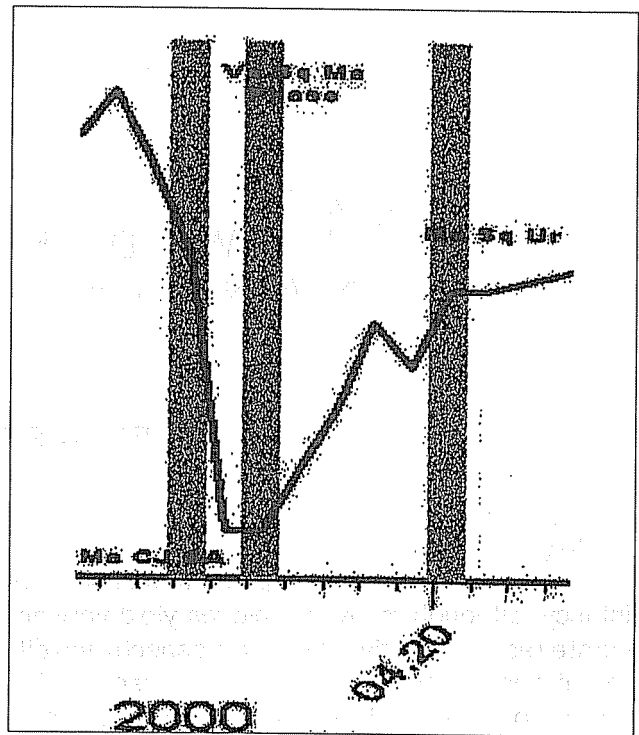


Figure 1

research.

In researching 800 schoolteachers we found that the sixth phase of Mercury (disseminating) was present in their charts more often than just by chance. According to astrologer, Dane Rudyhar, Demetra George and other noteworthy astrologers, the sixth phase carries the energy of the communicator and disseminator of ideas. Many astrologers agree that this is the phase of teaching. Could this be the mark of a schoolteacher?

Quite possibly.

We are also researching 800 charts of left-handed individuals. Interestingly enough, a significant percentage have Mars decelerating in speed in their charts. Very little research has been done in such a study, but now that we have the right tools in computers and programs, we can give this phenomenon the attention it deserves.

We seem to be on the brink of a new wave for the future of astrology in all of its branches, and as TV chef Emeril LaGasse says, "Let's kick it up a notch!" In my view, the most effective way to do

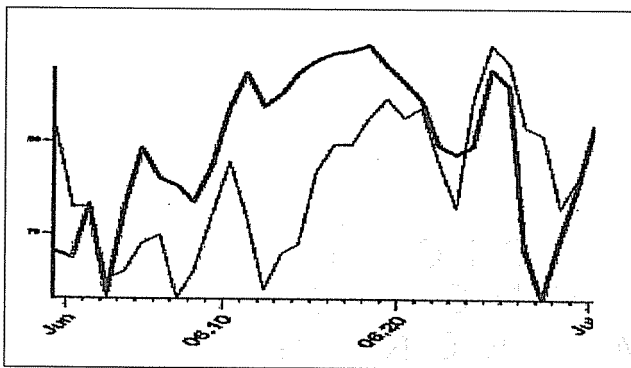


Figure 2

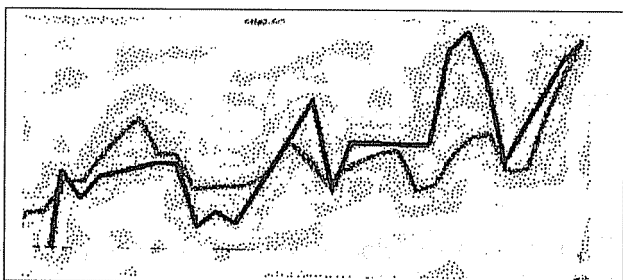



Figure 3

just that is to have our computers calculate thousands of criteria in the sky using past historical data for stocks, assigning different weights to each criterion according to its past track record and then using this information to project into the future.

Figure 2 was done in exactly the manner described above, and shows my prediction for temperature in Connecticut. I used 20 years of daily temperatures. My computer analyzed aspects, midpoints, planetary pictures, speed of planets, planetary phases and aspects in geocentric, heliocentric, declination and latitude, composite angles between planets and much more. The computer assigned various weights to each criterion according to the past temperature variation and then projected the variation into the future.

The heavier lines on the graph show the temperature projection and the lighter lines represent the actual temperature change that was superimposed after the fact.

Dimensions Continued on Page 111



Alphee Lavoie / Sergey Tarasov


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*A*STROLOGICAL
CORRELATIONS TO
LONG-TERM TRENDS
IN THE U.S. STOCK MARKET

BY RAYMOND A. MERRIMAN, C.A.P.

*T*he study of astrology related to the timing of reversals and trends in financial markets is one of the most exciting challenges available to astrologers today. The field is huge, and virtually untapped. It is a treasure trove for astrologers willing to do the research. And fortunately, daily price data is now available in many markets that cover several decades. Weekly and monthly data in some stock indices is available that goes back hundreds of years.

But where do you begin? What type of studies can you do? And which astrological factors do you start with? Once you answer these three questions, an incredible world of new discoveries about astrology, financial markets and even human (group) psychology awaits you. And for purposes of this article, we will look at some astrological factors that show promise of a correlation to long-term trends in the U.S. and British stock indices.

WHERE DO YOU BEGIN?

Like writing a book, one of the most difficult things about conducting a research study is deciding where to begin. Almost as difficult is the decision on where and when to end the study.

If you are an astrologer, you might want to pick a particular geocosmic factor, or a group of factors, and simply search back in time and identify what happened in a particular market when that factor was present.

If you are a market person who is just beginning studies in astrology, you might want to look at the price history of a particular stock, index or commodity, and choose particular dates or periods when something pertinent occurred. You can then do a quantitative or statistical analysis on those dates to see if any specific astrological factors stood out. For instance, perhaps you choose to identify the dates of highs and lows from which 10 percent or greater reversals in the Dow Jones Industrial Averages occurred over the past 70 years. You could then look at the planet-sign distribution of those dates, or planets in aspect distribution of those dates, and see which yielded the most frequency of occurrence. You could then compare those results with a baseline study that shows the number of instances during the study in which each astrological factor was present, just to be certain that the results of the study were not skewed by the fact that there were many more—or fewer—possibilities for such a reversal.

To do this type of study, you need two things:

price data history and a software program that can read this data and number crunch the astrological factors that correlate with your requirements. Price data on financial markets is available through a number of data vendors. One can find a list of these data vendors through various publications, such as *Stocks and Commodities* magazine, available at most large bookstores or their Web sites. There are several astrological software programs that can number crunch after dates are input. But the only program that I know of that can do a "filtered wave" analysis of 10 percent (or greater or less) waves, and then do a quantitative astrological analysis of those dates, is the F.A.R. for the Galactic Trader software, available through either P.A.S. in Jacksonville, Florida or MMA/Seek-It Publications in W. Bloomfield, Michigan (PO Box 250012, W. Bloomfield MI 48325).

WHAT TYPE OF STUDIES CAN YOU DO?

The field is wide open. You can do quantitative or statistical studies, case studies or simple observation—whatever your software program or level of understanding in research allows. You can do studies on trends in the markets or dates of reversals. You can do studies on small reversals that traders might appreciate or long-term trend reversals that investors might find of value. You can do studies on planets in signs, planets in aspect, harmonics, lunation cycles, midpoints—virtually anything that has an astrological cycle can be studied to see if it has a correlation to market behavior.

WHICH ASTROLOGICAL FACTORS DO YOU START WITH?

Almost all astrologers have a "pet" astrological indicator they swear by. Relationship astrologers might get excited when they see Venus in one person's chart conjunct or in opposition to Mars in another chart. A business astrologer might do the same when a client's Saturn is transiting up to the natal Midheaven. A mundane astrologer might be alarmed by Saturn and Uranus approaching a hard aspect to one another in the sky, especially when near a solar eclipse.

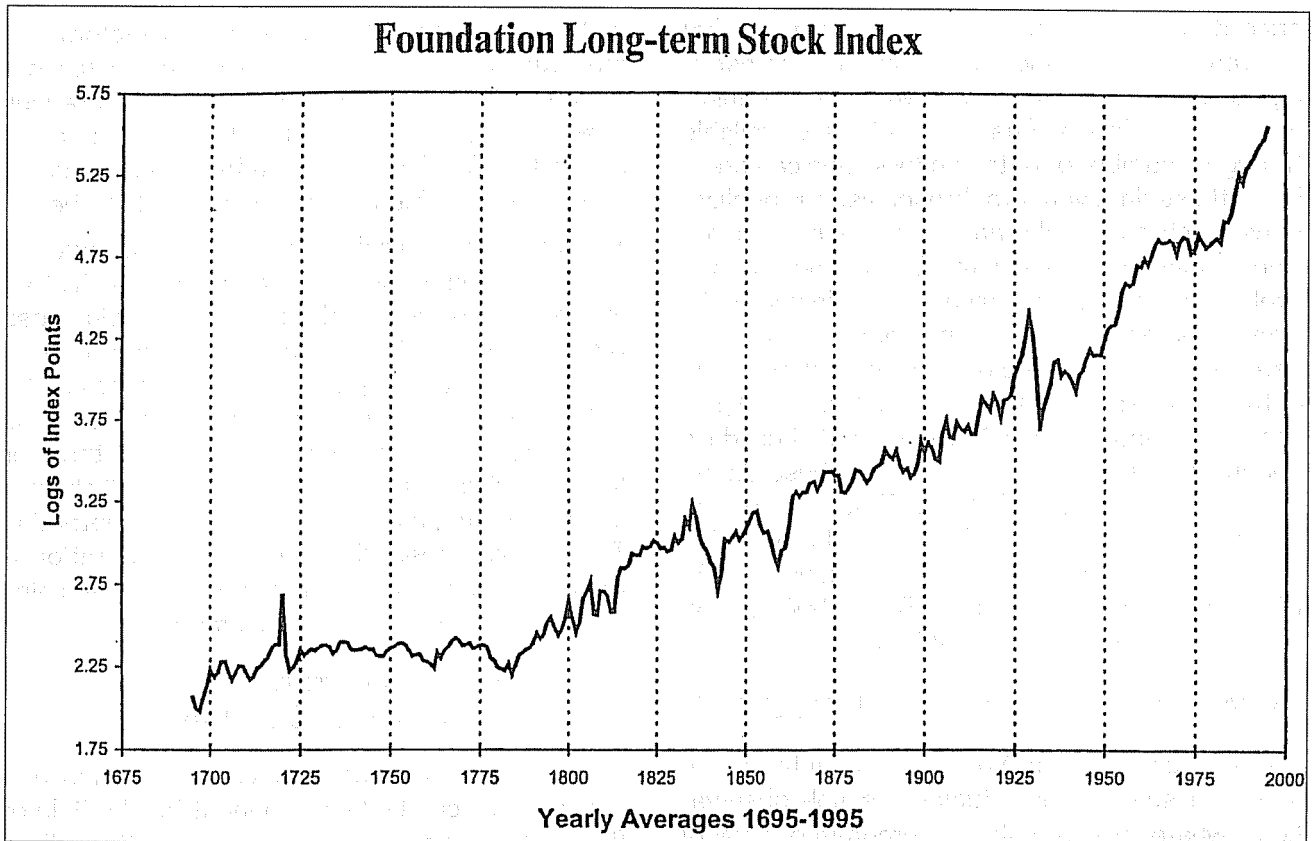
It doesn't matter which astrological factors you start with, as long as you have a few cases to work with. Generally speaking, the more occurrences used in a study, the more reliable the results are apt to be. The fewer the number of cases used, the less reliable the results are likely to be.

Yet some astrological cycles occur so infrequently that there simply is not enough market history available to do a reliable analysis. Should those types of studies be ignored totally? No. Even a study with just a couple of historical cases can be potentially useful; after all, possible correlations must begin somewhere. If there are only three or four historical cases present, and they all share a common result, that is a correlation with potential. This should especially be given consideration if the results are in line with the accepted principles of those astrological factors.

VERY LONG-TERM TRENDS IN THE U.S. STOCK MARKET

Let's start with an astrological assumption and see if a case can be built around it for the field of financial markets. Let us assume that "longer-term planetary cycles will correlate with longer-term market cycles." In other words, we know there are long-term, intermediate-term and short-term cycles in financial markets, known as *trends*. We also know that there are short-term, intermediate-term and long-term planetary cycles. So let our assumption be that there is a correlation between the two, that long-term planetary cycles have a relationship to long-term market cycles.

Now, how would one conduct such a study? As astrologers, we might want to look at the orbits of the Moon's North Node, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune or Pluto. Why? Because the latter four are the farthest-out planets in our Solar System and, along with the Moon's Node, they have the longest orbital cycles most astrologers use. Next we might want to check a long-term chart of U.S. and/or British stock prices, going back as far as possible, and see if there was a correlation of these planets and Nodal positions in any signs, or



sign types (elements or triplicities), to long-term tops or bottoms. This was exactly the premise used in *The Ultimate Book on Stock Market Timing, Volume 2: Geocosmic Correlations to Long-Term Cycles*.¹ Many of the thoughts which follow are reported in that book.

It is possible to look at the history of the U.S. stock market and proclaim that it has been in a singular long-term bull market since its inception in the latter part of the 18th century. Figure 1 is a chart of the yearly averages of the Foundation for the Study of Cycles Long-Term Stock Index, which includes the British stock prices from the *Course of the Exchange* prior to 1789, when the U.S. stock averages were first noted. This chart is provided by the now defunct Foundation for the Study of Cycles². As one can clearly see, there are three basic periods of long, strong upward trending markets. These are as follows:

1. 1762 – 1835 (73 years)

2. 1842 or 1857 – 1929 (72 or 87 years)

3. 1932 or 1942 – 2000 (58 or 68 years)

The years between these up trends consist of a severe decline that lasted three to seven years, followed by congestion in which neither the previous high nor the low were taken out for many years. In fact, these lows were never taken out, so it would be more accurate to say that once the three to seven year decline was completed, it would still be several years before new all-time highs would be achieved.

After the high of 1835, prices declined seven years, losing 80 percent of the market's value before completing its low in 1842. Yet it would not be until 1863 before prices would recover enough to record a new all-time high. After the high of 1929, it took 25 years before the Dow Jones Industrial Averages recovered the 90 percent decline it had suffered during the Great Depression.

The crests of 1835 and 1929—and the following

declines—were without a doubt the most spectacular in the entire history of the U.S. stock market, as of this writing (March 2003). Each of those crests was the culmination of the greatest bull market runs in history. And the third one of these mighty bull market runs—comparable to those of 1762-1835 and 1857-1929—is arguably in effect now, and has been since 1932 or 1942. In fact, it too may have topped out in 2000, 58-68 years after it began.

On closer examination, there appears to be some regularity, or “consistent interval of time,” in these three runs. If 1762 is used as the starting point for the first great bull market, which ended in 1835, it can be seen that this bull market lasted 73 years. This is nearly as long as the second great bull market as measured from 1857, which lasted 72 years. However, just as the period between 1842 and 1857 was considered “congestion” and not really part of the greater long-term trend, so too might the period between 1762 and 1784 be considered a congestion zone and not part of the greater long-term trend. It is interesting to note that this first period of congestion lasted 22 years; in the second case, the congestion period lasted 15 years; and in the third (current case), it could be argued that there was a 10-year congestion period (1932-1942) before the new bull market run commenced. This suggests a pattern that begins the extremely long bull market runs in U.S. (and perhaps world) stock indices. That is, after several decades of rising prices, stocks will decline for multiple years (three to seven years at the end of Cycles 1 and 2 so far in U.S. stocks only). They will then enter a period of congestion in which previous all-time highs are not exceeded for several years (25 to 28 years so far). During the congestion period, there will be a secondary bottom, usually 10 to 22 years later. From this secondary low, the next great bull market run commences.

Therefore, we could have two ways of determining the length—and character—of the great bull market runs in the U. S. (and British) stock market. The first could start with the absolute low in price (or first low). The second could start with the

secondary low that ended the congestion zone and truly began the bull market run. Here is how each would look.

*Bull Market Runs in the U.S. Stock Market
Starting from First Trough (Absolute Low)*

1762-1835 (73 years)

1842-1929 (87 years)

1932-present (68 years as of 2000)

*Bull Market Runs in the U.S. Stock Market
Starting from Secondary Trough
(End of Congestion)*

1784-1835 (51 years)

1857-1929 (72 years)

1942-present (58 years as of 2000)

In the first case, we have two completed instances of bull markets that lasted from 73 to 87 years, or 80 years with an orb of seven years on either side. If this is a valid bull market cycle (and two cases does not make it a high probability by any means), then we could outline a time band in which the next (current) bull market would be due to culminate: 2005-2019. After that, if the pattern of the first two instances were to repeat, the U.S. stock market would lose 80 to 90 percent of its value over the next three to seven years. The fourth great bull market would then get underway and could be expected to last 73 to 87 years.

Readers should keep in mind that because there are only two completed cases to study in the history of U.S. stocks, these projected time bands might not be so specific. For instance, an 80-year cycle does not necessarily have an orb of only seven years. In studies of many cycles throughout the history of financial markets, it seems the average orb is about 1/6 of the cycle’s median length. Thus, per the first study, it would not be surprising to see future instances of bull market runs to last anywhere from 66 to 94 years (80 years +/- 14 years). With this “normal” orb of cyclic occurrence taken into account, it is possible that the

high of 2000 ended the third great bull market in U.S. stocks, which began with the low 68 years earlier in 1932.

The study of the secondary lows yields slightly different projections, but not so different that it cannot be used in combination with the first. If 1784 is used as the correct starting point for the first great bull market, then we can see it lasted 51 years. If 1857 is used as the starting point of the second great bull market run, then it lasted 72 years. If we assume the third great bull market ended in 2000, and began with the post-depression secondary low in 1942, it lasted 58 years, which is between the lengths of the first two bull markets. Thus if we take the shortest of these cycles (51 years) and the longest (72 years), we can calculate the midpoint (61.5 years) and have the beginnings of a potential very long-term cycle in terms of bull market runs. It would be a 61.5-year cycle with an orb of 10.5 years. This isn't bad because, as already stated, most valid cycles will have an orb of up to 1/6 their median cycle length. In this case, a 61.5-year cycle would be expected to have an orb of slightly over 10 years.

If time proves this to be a valid historical cycle, then we can project a time band in the future of 51 to 72 years from the secondary low to determine the likely period for the end of future bull market runs. Thus, if the third such great bull cycle in U.S. stocks began with the secondary low of April 1942, then the current 61.5-year bull market run cycle is already near the midpoint of its due period: mid-2003, +/- 10 years. This gives us a probability time band of 1993-2011 for the crest, to be followed by a steep decline. The duration of this decline will likely be three to seven years (better yet we should say one to nine years), after which a secondary low will occur 10 to 22 years later. Again, these figures are only approximate, and are based upon the only historical cases available. They point to a possible correlation between market behavior and cyclical studies, and before this correlation can be given more serious consideration we need to see several more centuries of data unfold. Yet this is a start.

These time bands suggesting a crest prior to the

end of 2011 and a one to nine year severe decline to a trough have some very remarkable geocosmic parallels to the prior historical instances of the same cycles. For instance, between 2008-2013 (and mostly 2008-2010), Saturn, Uranus and Pluto will form a T-square in first mutable, then cardinal, signs. Pluto will be the midpoint planet. These same three planets last formed this same astrological pattern in cardinal signs between 1930 and 1932, which just so happened to follow the end (crest) of the last completed cycle of this potential series. But just as amazing is the fact that these same three planets were involved in hard aspects to one another in the 1835-1842 "crash."

Let us now look at some of the geocosmic signatures that occurred at these historical turning points and see if we can begin to appreciate the interplay between investor psychology (measured by extreme highs and lows in market prices) and reoccurring celestial patterns.

CORRELATION OF PLANETARY CYCLES TO LONG-TERM TRENDS

Tables 1 and 2 provide a list of the geocentric positions of Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, Pluto and the Moon's North Node at the times of the beginning (low) and end (crest) of each great bull market cycle in the U.S. stock market. The first table uses the absolute, or first, low. The second table uses the secondary low from which the bull market started in earnest. When dates prior to 1789 are used, they pertain to British stock indices. In these cases, the middle of the year (July 1) was chosen. Thus these planetary positions may be off by a few degrees, depending upon when that actual low or high formed during the year. For example, in the case of Uranus, it may be off by as much as eight degrees, which is the extent of Uranus's range in one year. It will be less in the case of Neptune and Pluto (perhaps four to five degrees maximum), and more in the case of Saturn and the Moon's Node. In the case of the Moon's Node, it moves with regularity about 18 degrees per year. So it is not likely to be off by more than nine degrees.

Table 1

Absolute First Lows—Planetary positions on or near day of absolute beginning and end of the three great bull markets in history of U.S. stocks.

<i>Start (Low)</i>		<i>End (Crest)</i>	
<i>1. July 1, 1762</i>		<i>May 15, 1835 (73 years)</i>	
Saturn	23 Aries	Saturn	17 Libra
Uranus	13 Aries	Uranus	0 Pisces
Neptune	22 Leo	Neptune	3 Aquarius
Pluto	0 Capricorn	Pluto	14 Aries
North Node	10 Taurus	North Node	8 Gemini
<i>2. February 15, 1842</i>		<i>September 3, 1929 (87 years)</i>	
Saturn	11 Capricorn	Saturn	23 Sagittarius
Uranus	22 Pisces	Uranus	10 Aries
Neptune	17 Aquarius	Neptune	1 Virgo
Pluto	19 Aries	Pluto	19 Cancer
North Node	29 Capricorn	North Node	14 Taurus
<i>3. July 8, 1932</i>		<i>Crest due 2012 +/- 14 years</i>	
		<i>(Assume January 14, 2000, 68 years)</i>	
Saturn	2 Aquarius	Saturn	10 Taurus
Uranus	23 Aries	Uranus	15 Aquarius
Neptune	5 Virgo	Neptune	3 Aquarius
Pluto	21 Cancer	Pluto	12 Sagittarius
North Node	18 Pisces	North Node	3 Leo

In cases prior to 1928, the exact week or month was known, but not the exact date. In cases in which only the month was known, the planetary positions for the middle (15th) of that month were used. In cases where only the nearest week was known, the planetary positions of the middle of that week were chosen.

Even before examining the planets, the first step is to determine the most probable time band for the top of this current bull market. This is done by overlapping the two time bands for the projected tops (Table 1 and Table 2). The projected time band for the end of the current bull market, based on the starting dates used in Table 1, is 1998-2026. The projected time band for the crest based on the starting dates used in Table 2 is 1992-2014. Both projections overlap between 1998 and 2014. This, then, is the optimal time band for the crest of this third great bull market in U.S. stocks, based upon two different starting points of the two prior instances of great bull market runs.

Now let's see if there are any geocosmic correlations between the previous two great bull market trends, the down trends which followed and even

the congestion periods that followed the absolute lows. For this we will study both tables, examining the distances traveled by the major planets, the degree sectors from which the reversals began and the relationship of the planets in their planetary pair cycles with one another.

THE PLUTO EFFECT

The problem with studying the farthest-out planet in the solar system is that it moves so slowly. In fact, it takes Pluto about 248 years to make one complete orbit around the Sun. It has yet to complete an entire cycle since the U.S. stock market started trading. Nevertheless, there are some remarkable astrological correlations that have appeared.

Looking at Table 1, the first bull market began with Pluto near the Capricorn ingress (0 Capricorn in 1762). That bull run continued until 1835, when Pluto was near the middle of the next cardinal sign, Aries. When the market dropped in 1842, and the next major bull market commenced, Pluto was still in Aries (about 21 degrees).

The second great bull market did not end until

Table 2

Secondary Lows—Planetary positions on or near date of secondary low which began the three great bull markets in U.S. stocks, and positions on date of crests, which ended those bull market runs.

<i>Start (Low)</i>		<i>End (Crest)</i>	
<i>1. July 1, 1784</i>		<i>May 15, 1835 (51 Years)</i>	
Saturn	21 Capricorn	Saturn	16 Libra
Uranus	12 Cancer	Uranus	0 Pisces
Neptune	9 Libra	Neptune	3 Aquarius
Pluto	11 Aquarius	Pluto	14 Aries
North Node	1 Pisces	North Node	8 Gemini
<i>2. October 15, 1857</i>		<i>September 3, 1929 (72 years)</i>	
Saturn	16 Cancer	Saturn	23 Sagittarius
Uranus	27 Taurus	Uranus	10 Aries
Neptune	22 Pisces	Neptune	1 Virgo
Pluto	6 Taurus	Pluto	19 Cancer
North Node	1 Aries	North Node	14 Taurus
<i>3. April 29, 1942</i>		<i>Crest due 1992-2014</i>	
		<i>(Assume January 14, 2000, 58 years)</i>	
Saturn	29 Taurus	Saturn	10 Taurus
Uranus	29 Taurus	Uranus	15 Aquarius
Neptune	27 Virgo	Neptune	3 Aquarius
Pluto	3 Leo	Pluto	12 Sagittarius
North Node	18 Virgo	North Node	3 Leo

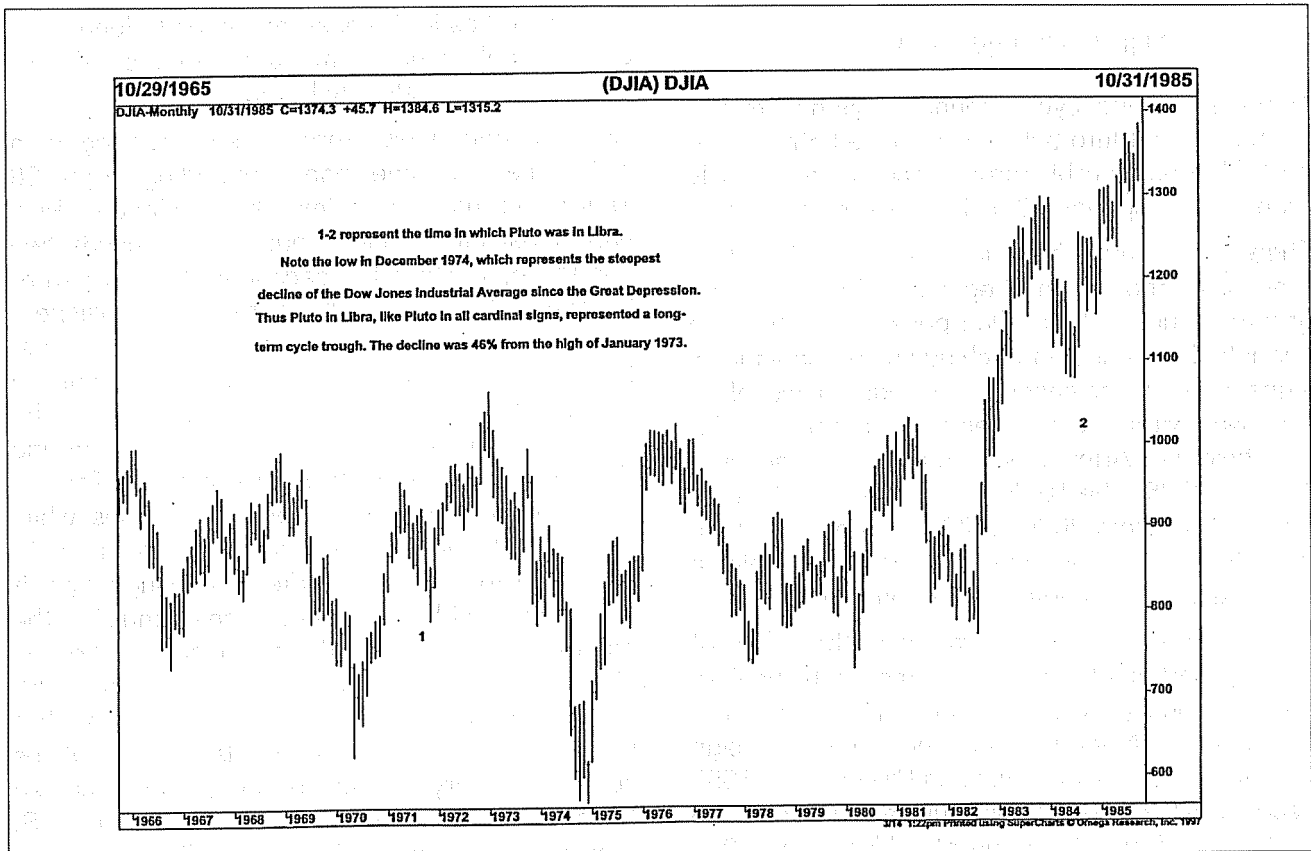
Pluto had entered the middle section of Cancer, the next cardinal sign, in 1929. Three years later the collapse was over, and the third great bull market began. Pluto was still in Cancer at the time. In all cases of the absolute trough and the two confirmed cases of the absolute crest (beginning and end) of each bull market, Pluto was in a cardinal sign. In fact, the beginning trough of each bull market found Pluto in the next successive cardinal sign.

The secondary lows from which the bull markets really lifted off, as depicted in Table 2, are also quite interesting. The first secondary low unfolded in 1784, as Pluto was in early Aquarius, the fixed sign that follows Capricorn (low of 1762). The second bull market witnessed the secondary low taking place in 1857, when Pluto was in early Taurus, the fixed sign following Aries, which is where the absolute low took place 15 years earlier (1842). In 1942, 10 years after the absolute low that began the third great bull market, Pluto was in the early degrees of the next fixed sign, Leo.

So far these cases have formed an astrological

correlation. That is, the absolute bottoms from which great bull markets commence occur when Pluto moves through a cardinal sign of the tropical zodiac. A few years later, as Pluto enters the early degrees of the next fixed sign, the market makes a secondary low, after which the bull market begins in earnest. It lasts until Pluto enters the next cardinal sign.

However, according to this pattern, a crest and a severe decline were due to unfold when Pluto entered Libra. Such a crest and ensuing decline did in fact happen. On January 11, 1973, the stock market made a new intraday all-time high at 1067, via the Dow Jones Industrial Averages. Pluto was at 4 Libra. The market then lost nearly 50 percent of its value (46.6 percent) in the following 23 months, as it bottomed on December 9, 1974 (see the monthly chart of the Dow Jones Industrial Averages, shown in Figure 2). At the time of the bottom, Pluto was indeed still in the successive cardinal sign of Libra. The market did not recover its 1973 all-time high levels again until late 1982, some nine years later. A secondary low was registered in August 1982, as Pluto hovered around 24



Libra. Following that secondary low, the great bull market of 1982 through the present commenced. These time lengths do not fit our linear conception of a cycle time band. That is, they do not coincide with an 80 or 61.5-year bull market trend cycle. However, due to Pluto's elliptical orbit around the Sun, these dates do fit nicely into an astrological time sequence. Unlike the other planets, which orbit in a more circular and thus rhythmic pattern, Pluto does not spend the same amount of time in each sign. It spends 12 to 13 years each in Libra, Scorpio and Sagittarius; 15 years in Capricorn and Virgo; 19 to 20 years in Leo and Aquarius; and 25 to 31 years in Pisces, Aries, Taurus, Gemini and Cancer. Since the first two of the three great bull markets took place between 1762 and 1929, when Pluto transited between Capricorn and Cancer (the slowest part of its orbit), the cycles would appear longer. But between 1956 and 2008, Pluto transits through the signs where it spends only half as much time, and thus cycles re-

lated to Pluto seem much more contracted. As a digression, this might astrologically explain why everything in life seems so speeded up in recent years, for Pluto is now in that sector of the zodiac where it moves so quickly in comparison. Between 1971 and 2008, a period of only 37 years, it will complete its passage through three zodiac signs (Libra, Scorpio and Sagittarius). In comparison, it took 90 years, from 1822 to 1912, to pass through three signs (Aries, Taurus and Gemini).

This later period (1822-1912), when Pluto sojourned through the most elongated part of its elliptical orbit, corresponded fairly well to the longest of the three great historical bull markets in U.S. stocks (1842-1929). But at the same time, it is possible to interpret 1932 to 1973 as a complete bull market against the time frame of Pluto's orbit. If so, this bull market lasted only 41 years, or the shortest of what would then be three completed bull markets on record.

THE NEPTUNE EFFECT

Neptune's orbital cycle around the Sun lasts 164 years. Unlike Pluto (which is unlike all other planets), Neptune's orbit through the zodiac is fairly constant. It spends 13 to 14 years in each sign.

There is not much historical evidence of a Neptune correlation to the beginning and end of the greatest bull markets. One possible relationship might be Neptune approaching one of the equinox signs. In the three cases of secondary lows, Neptune was within 10 degrees of its ingress into Libra (twice) or Aries. Neptune next ingresses into Aries in 2025. The 10 degree orb segment would be in effect from 2020 to 2030, a potential time band for the next secondary trough from which a great bull market might commence.

Another interesting observation is that each of the bull market's tops and bottoms (both absolute and secondary bottoms) since 1857 have unfolded when Neptune transited a mutable sign (Gemini, Virgo, Sagittarius and Pisces). The 1857 secondary low was with Neptune at 20 Pisces, the 1929 crest found Neptune at 1 Virgo, the 1932 absolute low had Neptune at 5 Virgo and the 1942 secondary trough found Neptune at 27 Virgo. Even if we use the 1973 crest as valid (Neptune at 6 Sagittarius), the absolute low which followed saw Neptune at 9 Sagittarius, and the secondary trough of 1982 occurred when Neptune was at 24 Sagittarius—all mutable signs. The next mutable occurrence of Neptune will be through Pisces, between 2011 and 2025. If this signature unfolds again as it has since 1857, the stock market would end its bull run and form absolute and secondary troughs during this time band.

THE URANUS EFFECT

What can one observe about the relationship of Uranus to these significant market events? *For one thing, all three absolute lows have unfolded while Uranus transited in—or just before—Aries* (see Table 1). The next transit of Uranus through Aries (or just before) will take place between 2008 and 2018, and if this phenomenon happens

again as it has in the past, an absolute long-term cycle trough could form during that period, or slightly before.

All secondary lows (three cases) formed in a rather narrow time band extending from 28 Taurus through approximately 12 Cancer. Perhaps most interesting about this are cases two and three, in which the secondary low formed at 28 Taurus (1857) and 29 Taurus (1942), respectively. Since the absolute lows formed in, or just before, Aries, this suggests that the financial community—as represented by the value of the U.S. stock index—was in a state of "flux" during the seven years in which Uranus transited Taurus. In astrology, Taurus rules money and values, while Uranus is the principle of sudden changes and unpredictability. When a market is in congestion, it is in a sense without a trend. Once Uranus left the money sign of Taurus, the great bull markets in U.S. stocks got underway in earnest. The stock market developed a clear, long-term up trend that lasted until Uranus reached the late Pisces/Aries sector. In a very real sense, then, Uranus has so far coincided with strong upward trends in U.S. stocks when it transits through the Gemini-Aquarius sector of the zodiac. Once the top is in, it declines sharply to form an absolute low while Uranus is in late Pisces or Aries. Throughout Taurus the stock market tends to trade up and down in a wide congestion zone. After leaving Taurus, it returns to its strong upward trend for several years.

Uranus will enter these various signs of importance in the next few decades. The overlap of years at the end and beginning of successive signs is due to the apparent retrograde motion of the planet as it moves through the signs. Uranus moves into a new sign, then retrogrades back out for a few months, and then reenters the new sign for about seven years before moving back and forth into the next sign.

Aquarius: 1995–2003

Pisces: 2003–2011

Aries: 2010–2019

Taurus: 2018–2026

The fact that the prior two secondary lows which preceded great bull markets happened when Uranus was about to ingress a new sign brings up an interesting possibility. Perhaps the ingress of Uranus might be a critical market-timing indicator by itself. Theoretically, this would make sense, for the astrological principle of Uranus correlates with the concept of reversals and sudden changes. The principle of any planet ingressing into a new sign correlates with the concept of a shift in collective psychology—a change in collective values, goals and even beliefs. Uranus ingressing into a new sign thus has the astrological qualities of what might coincide with changes of trends in financial markets—like stocks.

THE SATURN EFFECT

Saturn's cyclic orbit around the Sun lasts approximately 29 years. It takes approximately 2.5 years for Saturn to transit each sign individually. Its quarter cycles last about 7.25 years each.

The preponderance of long-term cycle troughs which commenced the greatest bull markets in the history of U.S. stocks happened when Saturn was in a cardinal sign. It did not matter whether it was the absolute or secondary low from which these great bull runs began. The results were the same. It did not matter whether one used the three great bull markets as identified by Tables 1 and 2. The results were the same. Saturn was predominantly in a cardinal sign when these great bull runs began. However, what is most remarkable is that Pluto was also in a cardinal sign when these absolute bottoms formed. This strongly suggests a Saturn-Pluto relationship as a planetary pair correlation to long-term trends.

Let's review Tables 1 and 2 with the positions of Saturn and Pluto in mind. In the first great bull market in U.S. stocks, the absolute bottom in 1762 (starting point) witnessed Pluto ingressing into Capricorn. At the same time, Saturn was in Aries, another cardinal sign that by sign relationship, is square to Capricorn. Another interesting celestial signature in effect was Uranus in Aries. The secondary low of that sequence unfolded in

1784. By that time, Saturn's 29-year cycle had transited three-fourths of the way through the zodiac and was posited in the cardinal sign of Capricorn—the same cardinal sign where Pluto was positioned at the time of the absolute low. Pluto by this time had moved forward into Aquarius. But by interesting synchronicity, Uranus was in Cancer, yet another cardinal sign, and in opposition to Saturn. Neptune was in Libra, squaring both. This then launched a 50-year great bull run that did not end until Saturn had traversed 1.75 times around the zodiac to Libra in 1835. Coincidentally, by then Pluto had entered its next cardinal sign of Aries and was opposing Saturn (in cardinal signs, of course).

The market then declined sharply, losing 80 percent of its value over the next seven years. The decline finally ended with the absolute bottom of 1842, which began the second great bull market in U.S. stocks. Once again, both Saturn and Pluto were in cardinal signs, this time in Capricorn and Aries respectively—another square-by-sign relationship. One other interesting observation is that Uranus was also in a cardinal sign then (Aries). The market stayed in a wide congestion zone for several years before finally completing its secondary trough in 1857. By that time, Saturn had advanced halfway through the zodiac to yet another cardinal sign, Cancer.

From this point the market launched its longest bull market, lasting until the climax in September 1929, 72 years later. Both Pluto and Uranus were in cardinal signs (Cancer and Aries respectively), but Saturn was seven degrees from ingressing into Capricorn. However, by the time the Crash had ended and the market put in its long-term absolute low in July 1932, Saturn had transited through cardinal sign Capricorn and was just two degrees into the next sign, Aquarius. Uranus and Pluto were in very close square to one another from Cancer and Aries respectively. In fact, just a couple of months before this, both were in T-square formation with Saturn in Capricorn.

The market then entered a 10-year congestion period. The secondary bottom ended April 29, 1942. At that time, Saturn, Pluto and Uranus

were not in cardinal signs. In fixed signs, Saturn and Uranus were conjunct in the last degree of Taurus (right before the Gemini ingress). The third great bull market was launched then.

This study could stop here and be impressive enough. However, if we now consider a fourth great bull market, per the Pluto Effect, the relationship continues. The crest of the next great bull market culminated on January 11, 1973. The market then declined sharply for the next 23 months, ending in the absolute low, which began the fourth great bull market on December 9, 1974. Once again, both Saturn and Pluto were in cardinal signs (Cancer and Libra respectively) and square one another by sign. An eight-year congestion period began. It ended with the secondary bottom on August 9, 1982, from which the current bull market began. At the secondary low, Saturn had transited around to yet another cardinal sign, Libra, as it approached a conjunction to Pluto.

Using the four cases of absolute lows and four cases of secondary lows, six of the eight lows found Saturn in a cardinal sign. One other (1932) found Saturn just barely past Capricorn, which would have made it seven out of eight possibilities. What is also quite remarkable is the fact that in each of the four secondary lows, Saturn had transited to a sign that was square or opposite to the sign it was in at the absolute low. *In fact, in the cases of cardinal signs, the secondary low was in almost the exact degrees of its absolute lows (square or opposition by degrees).* In the absolute low of 1762, Saturn was approximately 23 Aries at mid-year. In its secondary trough of 1784, it was at approximately 21 Capricorn. At the absolute low beginning the second great bull market (1842), Saturn was around 11 Capricorn. By the time of the secondary low in 1857, it was opposite, around 16 Cancer. In the 1932-1942 sequence, Saturn moved from 2 Aquarius to 29 Taurus, which is square by sign. However, more significant was the fact that it was exactly conjunct Uranus at 29 Taurus at that secondary trough. In the fourth case, Saturn was at 17 Cancer during the absolute low. At the secondary low, it was exactly 90 degrees farther—at 17 Libra.

Yet the most remarkable of all is Saturn's correlation with Pluto—and to some extent Uranus—at these absolute (and even secondary) lows. All four troughs shown in Tables 1 and 2, and that of the Pluto Effect, found Saturn and Pluto in cardinal signs. The only exception was in 1932, when Saturn was just past cardinal Capricorn at 2 Aquarius. The study on the Pluto Effect showed that the great bull runs began from absolute bottoms that coincided to the time Pluto was in each successive cardinal sign. However, during those 12- to 29-year periods in which Pluto transited each cardinal sign, it took the transit of Saturn through a different cardinal sign (never the same as Pluto's, so far) to launch the long-term trend reversal, end the trough and start the rebuilding process. It was during this time that the carnage was in process and then completed, and that the base-building of prices began in the consolidation stage (eight to 22 years), or congestion zone.

Glancing ahead, this signature unfolds again at the end of the first decade of the new millennium:

Pluto enters Capricorn (cardinal sign)
2008–2023

Uranus enters Aries (cardinal sign)
2010–2018

Saturn enters Libra (cardinal sign)
October 2009–October 2012

Saturn enters Capricorn (cardinal sign)
December 2017–July 2020

Somewhere in the overlap of these periods (October 2009-October 2012, or December 2017-March 2019), there is a higher than average probability of an absolute low forming in the U.S. stock market based upon past correlations of geocosmic signatures to only four such lows in the past. When these three planets are in cardinal signs together, history has shown that stock prices have collapsed, formed a bottom and started a congestion period, after which a long-term super bull market commenced.

THE NORTH NODE EFFECT

The Lunar Nodal cycle through the zodiac lasts 18.73 years. Its quarter cycle phase is about a 4.5

Table 3
Moon's Nodal Correlation to Stock Market Cycles—List of positions for Moon's North Node at troughs and crests of 18-year cycles.

18-Year Trough	North Node	Crest	North Node
1. 1797	13 Gemini	1806	25 Sagittarius
2. 1813	19 Leo	1824	6 Capricorn
3. 1829	11 Libra	1835	8 Gemini
4. 1842	29 Capricorn	1853	28 Gemini
5. 1857	27 Pisces	1874	8 Taurus
6. 1877	4 Pisces	1890	9 Cancer
7. 1896	24 Aquarius	1906	21 Leo
8. 1914	28 Aquarius	1929	14 Taurus
9. 1932	18 Pisces	1953	12 Aquarius
10. 1953	1 Aquarius	1973	16 Capricorn
11. 1974	10 Sagittarius	1987	2 Aries
12. 1987	2 Aries	2000	3 Leo

year interval. It spends about 18 to 19 months transiting each sign of the zodiac, and in one year its average rate of motion is about 18 to 19 degrees. A numerologist might find some significance in the frequency of the numbers 18 to 19 pertaining to various lengths of time regarding the Moon's North Node. A student of geocosmic studies, though, will find more interesting the fact that three Lunar Nodal cycles take about the same amount of time as two Saturn cycles (56 to 58 years).

As a slight digression, three Saturn cycles take approximately the same amount of time as one Uranus cycle (84 years), two Uranus cycles last about as long as one Neptune cycle and three Uranus cycles last about as long as one Pluto cycle. This is another reason to focus upon these five signatures: The Moon's Nodes, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto all have cyclic orbits that are mathematically (symmetrically) related to one another. More important, these five geocosmic cycles have significant correlations to long-term cycles—and trends—in the U.S. stock market.

It would seem natural that the 18-year long-term cycle in U.S. stocks would correlate to the 18.73-year lunar nodal cycle. However, the "fit" is not as tight as one would hope. First of all, the 18-year cycle in stocks is not a consistent 18-year interval of time. It has a range of 15-21 years. Furthermore, when it is part of the greater 54- or 72-year cycles, it tends to distort (contract or ex-

pand beyond the normal 15-21 year range). Consequently there is no consistency between 18-year cycle troughs in U.S. stocks and the sign position of the Moon's North Node.

Looking only at the U.S. stock market since 1789, let's create a table of the approximate (before 1870) and actual positions of the Moon's North Node at the time of the 18-year cycle troughs and crests.

At first glance, nothing might stand out in Table 3. On second glance, one might notice that of these 24 instances, 12 unfolded rather close (within 22 degrees) to the Aries (spring), Cancer (summer) and Capricorn (winter) ingress points. Only one happened close to the Libra (autumn) ingress. There were also three instances of troughs occurring while the Moon's North Node transited through Aquarius, and two instances of long-term cycle crests unfolding while the Node was in Taurus (the money sign). In fact, the last nine (of the total of 12) troughs unfolded while the Moon's North Node transited (retrograde) between 2 Aries and 10 Sagittarius (or roughly, between the fire signs Aries-Sagittarius third of the cycle, or 0 Aries to 0 Capricorn quarter of the cycle). Conversely, eight of the 12 long-term crests unfolded between the 21 Leo and 2 Aries sector of the zodiac. This, too, covers yet another third of the zodiac measured by the fire sign segment of Aries-Leo. The other four crests unfolded within one sign of the Capricorn ingress (one in Sagittar-

Table 4

Moon's North Node Between 20 Leo and 0 Aries—Time bands when the Moon's North Node transited 20 Leo-0 Aries sector, and the long-term crests that unfolded therein. The asterisks pertains to the 1946 crest, which may or may not be an 18-year crest, depending upon which count one uses, and the 1966 crest, which may or may not be an 18-year crest, depending upon which index one uses.*

Dates	18-Year Cycle Crest
1. 1831-1838 (approx)	1835: 8 Gemini
2. March 1850-July 1857	1853: 28 Gemini
3. Nov. 1868-March 1876	1873: 28 Taurus
4. June 1887-Oct. 1894	1890: 24 Gemini
5. Jan. 1906-June 1913	1906: 20 Leo
6. Sep. 1924-Dec. 1931	1929: 14 Taurus
7. April 1943-June 1950	1946: 20 Gemini*
8. Nov. 1961-March 1969	1966: 1 Gemini*
9. May 1980-Dec. 1987	1987: 2 Aries
10. March 1999-June 2006	2000: 3 Leo

ius, two in Capricorn and one in Aquarius).

This table thus suggests several things. Let's divide the Nodal cycle into three astrological sectors, starting with 10 Aries, with each sector lasting about six years. The first sector covers 10 Aries through 10 Sagittarius. The second covers 10 Sagittarius through 20 Leo. And the final sector covers 20 Leo through 10 Aries. The first contains a high number of long-term cycle troughs (nine of the 12 cases possible in Table 3). However, the area surrounding the 0 Capricorn ingress part of this sector also contains a number of crests (three), suggesting an extremely sensitive point in the zodiac sector for the Moon's North Node regarding major long-term reversals in stock prices. The second sector contained only one very long-term cycle reversal—the 18-year cycle trough of January 1829. This might make sense based upon astrological principles, for this sector surrounds the Libra cardinal ingress point—the halfway point of the zodiac's range. Libra represents the principle of "balance," according to astrological studies, and thus the idea of a major reversal or sudden change in trend may be less expected in this sector. The third sector, (Leo-Aries), though, has extremely promising correlations. The table suggests that there may be a greater likelihood of very long-term cycle crests forming when the North Node transits between approximately the 20 Leo through 0 Aries—and especially between the 21 Leo through 8 Taurus

sector (suggesting the significance of the area surrounding the 0 Cancer ingress point).

SUMMARY

This article analyzes the astrological correspondences to the three—and possibly four—major bull markets in U.S. stock market history. When a possible geocosmic signature was found in all cases, other instances of the signature were examined to see if similar correspondences existed.

The following relationships were found:

Pluto

1. Each successive transit of Pluto in a cardinal sign corresponded with an absolute long-term cycle low from which the greatest bull markets commenced.

Neptune

2. Secondary lows from which the bull market runs began had Neptune within nine degrees of the Aries-Libra equinox points.
3. Since 1857, Neptune in mutable signs has been in evidence at every absolute or secondary low and crest defining each long-term bull market.

Uranus

4. Each absolute long-term low preceding each bull market found Uranus just before or in Aries.
5. Each secondary low found Uranus between 28 Taurus and 12 Cancer.

Saturn

6. Absolute or secondary lows preceding great bull markets tend to unfold when Saturn is in a cardinal sign (75 percent probability).

7. The most powerful geocosmic signature corresponding with an absolute low in U.S. stocks preceding a major bull run is when Saturn and Pluto are both in cardinal signs. The most extreme combination tends to happen when Uranus is in Aries at the same time (or possibly in late Pisces or another cardinal sign).

8. The greatest bull markets in U.S. history ended within 19 months of a Saturn-Pluto opposition (1835, 1929 and 2000, or the double top in May 2001).

Moon's North Node

9. Long-term cycle crests tend to culminate when the Moon's North Node transits from 20 Leo through 0 Aries.

ENDNOTES

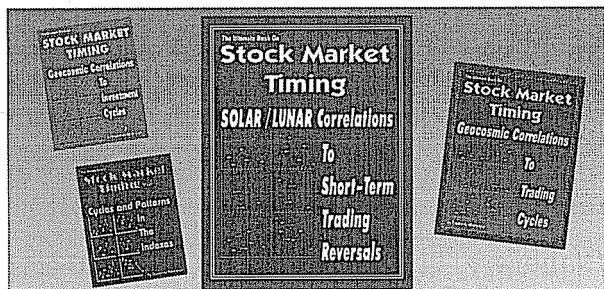
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Ray Merriman, president of The Merriman Market Analyst, Inc. is a financial markets analyst, and editor of the MMA Cycles Report, a market advisory newsletter that specializes in stocks, interest rates, currencies, precious metals and grains. A past president of ISAR, the International Society of Astrological Research, he received the Regulus Award for Enhancing the Image of Astrology as a Profession in 1995. He is also the author of several books on financial astrology, including The Ultimate Book on Stock Market Timing, Volumes 1, 2, 3 and 4, Evolutionary Astrology: The Journey of the Soul Through the Horoscope, Evolutionary Astrology: Journey of the Soul Through States of Consciousness and The Solar Return Book of Prediction. He can be contacted at mmacycles@msn.com or through www.mmacycles.com

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FINANCIAL
BOOK REVIEWS

BY TIM BOST

Planetary Economic Forecasting by Bill Meridian. Foreword by Robert Hand. New York: Cycles Research. Paper, 8.5 x 11, 168 pp. To order, send \$39.00 US for US domestic orders or \$49.00 US for international orders to: Cycles Research, 666 Fifth Avenue, #402 Lower Arcade, New York, NY 10103.

For some reason I end up making the same tired old joke every time I'm prevailed upon to teach a class in basic astrology. At one point or another in my lectures, I find it helpful to describe the various branches of astrology, so that the students can expand their thinking beyond Sun signs, natal charts, and compatibility questions.

"The study of mundane astrology," I tell the class, "is not about doing horoscopes that are dull or boring. It is the analysis of cycles and horoscopes that impact nations, or cultures, or even the whole world. Of course some mundane astrolo-

gers themselves may seem like dull or boring people when you meet them personally, but mundane astrology, when it is done well, is really the loftiest form of the astrological art."

My feeble attempt at humor typically goes over like a lead balloon. After all, the students in basic classes have typically been drawn to an astrology class by the glamour of natal astrology's vanities, and few of them are ready to leap toward loftier ideals. Even if they do have high aspirations, they will find that truly refined opportunities in contemporary astrology are rare indeed. Competent mundane astrologers are, alas, few and far between.

Bill Meridian is a notable exception. He shares his skillful insights into geopolitical matters in his monthly column in *Dell Horoscope* magazine; his writing alone is worth the price of a subscription. In the realm of financial astrology, which can rightly be considered a branch

of mundane astrology, he has earned a much-deserved reputation as one of the discipline's most rigorous and innovative thinkers. He has presented many of his most important concepts in financial astrology in his book *Planetary Stock Trading*, now in its third edition. And now, with the publication of *Planetary Economic Forecasting*, he has expanded his scope, broken important new ground, and made a truly significant contribution to the field.

In order to appreciate fully just how momentous this book is, I think it's worth noting how scarce really useful books in mundane astrology actually are. By this I mean the sort of books that go beyond merely making predictions and interpreting events to providing tools, concepts or approaches that can be repeatedly used by others to yield worthwhile results. The ones that have been published during the past half-century can probably be

counted on the fingers of one hand—Frederic Van Norstrand's *Precepts in Mundane Astrology* in 1962, *Mundane Astrology* by Michael Baigent, Nicholas Campion and Charles Harvey in 1984, the works of Barry Lynes, and maybe a couple of others. *Planetary Economic Forecasting* belongs in that league.

What makes this book so noteworthy? It's not a regurgitation of inane astrological platitudes. Nor does it claim to be the product of transcendent inspiration or channeled revelation. It is, quite simply, the result of exhaustive and disciplined empirical research—research that reveals what correlations really exist between planetary cycles and economic trends.

And therein lies the crux of the matter. The mainstream presentation of economic information has become so distorted, so willfully bastardized, so thoroughly imbued with double-speak and statistical skullduggery, that any serious independent attempt at meaningful economic forecasting (with or without astrology) constitutes a uniquely quixotic act of bravado. And yet Bill Meridian has not only attempted it, he has successfully pulled it off.

To accomplish that feat, he uses a uniquely devised data set that originated with an analysis done by a group of economists employed by a Midwestern bank. By using the economic data available for and appropriate to various historical periods, they created a

long-term index of industrial production dating back to 1790, normalizing the data on a per capita basis to offset the effect of population growth. When the bank was acquired in 1988, the research work came to a halt, but Bill Meridian acquired the data and has independently updated it since that time. The result is a tool that is wonderfully suited for studying the impact of outer planet cycles on economic action.

Planetary Economic Forecasting presents the results of that study in an orderly, understandable fashion, detailing first the passage of the planets through the tropical zodiac and then the synodic cycles of the planets. In each case, Meridian not only presents graphs that depict the quantitative changes in the long-term index that correspond with the planetary cycles; he also adds a truly innovative feature—a *qualitative* historical graph. By selecting roughly 70 key historical examples of economic perturbations that occurred during the past 400 years, and by then graphing them in a way that corresponds to the particular planetary cycle in question, he is able to show surprising correlations between specific astrological dynamics and seemingly unconnected economic events. For example, the 1637 tulip mania, the 1763 Dutch commodity panic, the War of 1812 recession, the 1837 land panic, the 1861 secession depression, the 1873 Jay Cooke failure, the

1960 recession and the 1973 OPEC recession all took place with a common astrological factor in play. One of the many tables in the book reveals this correspondence at a glance.

If that were all this book had to offer, its impact would be monumental. But there's much more between the covers. You'll find an excellent composite cycle analysis of the planetary factors at work in economic trends, with a decade-by-decade recap of the past 200 years of economic activity. There are future projections of economic activity that factor in global trading blocs, nanotechnology, the role of Israel and the probability of a global panic in 2015. There are clear definitions and explanations of basic economic concepts that help turn the gibberish of pundits into something approaching common sense. And there is one of the best introductions to the real workings of the Federal Reserve that you'll find anywhere, with an added astrological perspective that is, of course, completely unique to this book.

If *Planetary Economic Forecasting* has a fault at all, it's the chapter on eclipses. Bill Meridian makes one succinct point, in a chapter exactly one page in length, about the impact of eclipses on economic cycles. The point is well made and provides much to ponder, but reading the chapter is nevertheless a frustrating experience because the author is undoubtedly the world's foremost living au-

thority on the impact of eclipses and eclipse paths in mundane astrology! As readers, we can only hope that by giving the subject such short shrift in this book, he is saving up lots of goodies that will be included in a future volume wholly dedicated to the topic.

But after all, that's a terribly small nit to pick in what is otherwise a completely magnificent accomplishment. Bill Meridian has demonstrated once and for all that he not only understands and aspires to the lofty ideals of mundane astrology; he thoroughly personifies them.

The Ultimate Book on Stock Market Timing, Volume 3: Geocosmic Correlations to Trading Cycles by Raymond A. Merriman. West Bloomfield, Michigan: MMA Publications, 2001. Paper, 439 pp. \$150.00 US.

Raymond Merriman has done it again. With his usual style and finesse, this master trader and market analyst has put together a massive piece of research that is at once deliciously arcane and eminently practical, incredibly comprehensive and wonderfully accessible, broad in its vision and rigorous in its reasoning.

As the third volume in an encyclopedic five-volume examination of the cycles at work behind the movements of the markets, *Geocosmic Correlations to Trading Cycles* narrows the scope taken by

Merriman's first two books in this series. Volume 1 looked at market cycles from a broad perspective, from 13-week cycles to cycles lasting four years or longer. Volume 2 began Merriman's canvass of the geocosmic dynamics that relate to market cycles—the interaction of planetary energies in our solar system and their impact on earthly affairs. Geocosmic studies were long exclusively the domain of astrologers' obscure speculations, but are now (as Ray Merriman so ably demonstrates) a vital, increasingly essential tool for any serious market technician.

While Volume 2 dealt only with the longer-range geocosmic cycles, those involving the planets beyond the orbit of Mars, this current volume focuses as well on the synodic cycles of the heavenly bodies nearer Earth, including the Sun, Venus and Mars. *Geocosmic Correlations to Trading Cycles* also features an excellent section on the retrograde and direct signatures of all of the planets from Mercury through Pluto. The whole book is organized in a logical, easy-to-follow format, making it truly useful as a reference work.

Because of its particular focus, this volume is especially serviceable for active traders, as its name implies. Due to the duration of the planetary cycles included in the book, however, it is aimed more at short-term position traders or swing traders, rather than at day traders. Even so, anyone who is actively

involved in the equities markets who wants to gain a unique technical advantage would be well advised to keep this book handy.

What's especially nice about this book is the way Merriman combines meticulous research with pragmatic recommendations. In dealing with the various planetary combinations that can impact market dynamics, for example, he not only explains the underlying energies at work—he also cites historical examples of the geocosmic interactions, lists the dates when those interactions will occur again, and offers a quick paragraph of capsule advice for the trader who wants to consider the planets in an operative trading plan.

This is definitely a book that warrants a prominent place on the shelf nearest your trading station. But that doesn't mean that it's a volume that deserves to gather dust. Put *Geocosmic Correlations to Trading Cycles* to work as an active part of your trading analysis and this book will quickly pay for itself many times over. What more can any trader ask?

Conquer the Crash: You Can Survive and Prosper in a Deflationary Depression by Robert R. Prechter, Jr. Chichester, John Wiley & Sons Ltd., 2002. \$27.95 US, \$41.95 CN, £18.99 UK.

"How much time is left?"

That's the question that kept ringing through my mind as I fin-

ished reading Bob Prechter's new book, *Conquer the Crash*.

"How much time is left? And how fast can I take appropriate action?"

There's definitely a sense of urgency created in this insightful and wonderfully readable book. While it's not specifically about equities trading or financial astrology, the topics that provide the usual focus for financial cycles, it's required reading for market astrologers, active traders, and anyone else who wants to enhance his or her prospects for economic survival in the years ahead.

Prechter, the world's preeminent authority on Elliott Wave theory, makes an extremely convincing argument, not only that we are headed for a major market crash and a widespread depression much bigger than the one 70 years ago, but also that we will experience severe deflation, halting and reversing the inflationary trend that has been a bedrock assumption in virtually all financial planning throughout our lives. He examines market history, social psychology, and the prevailing money myths to create a startlingly clear vision of some pretty scary situations that de-

mand serious attention.

Along the way, he illuminates the workings of the Federal Reserve, assesses the impact of increasing terrorism, examines the outlook for government, and makes suggestions for employers, collectors and prospective retirees. And while he isn't writing about financial astrology, he does provide vital insights into the workings of economic and social cycles—not only Elliott Wave, but the Kondratieff long wave as well.

That's not to say that this is a technical book written only for seasoned analysts or would-be experts. In fact, the opposite is true. It contains some of the clearest, easiest-to-understand material I've ever read on Elliott Wave. But more importantly, its real charm, and its usefulness, comes from the fact that Bob Prechter is writing for average folks who probably haven't really given much thought to what might happen to the economy in the years ahead. And while some of the insights in *Conquer the Crash* are scary enough, this isn't really a doom-and-gloom piece. It's chock full of practical tips for specific actions you can and should take right now. You'll find valuable guidance here, not only on how to handle the stock market ("The opportunity to make money on the downside in a deflationary crash can hardly be overstated"), but also on real estate, bonds, insurance, banking, annuities and precious

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NCGR Level IV, PMAFA, ISAR-CAP
Tim Bost is the editor of *Financial Cycles* newsletter and the author of *How To Find the Money In Your Horoscope* and *Beyond Symbolism In Financial Astrology*.

"When people laugh at the idea of using financial astrology and tell me it doesn't work, I just ask them, 'What am I supposed to do? Give back all the money I've made by paying attention to the things Tim Bost has taught me?'"

--Norman Davis
Dallas, Texas

metals. And the actions Prechter suggests aren't vague generalities—you'll find easy-to-read check lists of the particular things you can do in various situations, plus specific names of financial and research institutions that can provide additional help, along with toll-free phone numbers, URLs and other contact information.

All at once, *Conquer the Crash* manages to be gripping, thought-provoking reading, a handy reference book, and a stirring call to personal action. As Prechter notes, he certainly gets into "concerns that most investment counselors view as little different from paranoia. As the old saying goes, I may be paranoid, but that doesn't mean there isn't someone following me. In the final analysis, it is better to be safe and wrong than exposed and wrong."

Robert Prechter deserves a lot of respect for the outstanding work he has done over the years in his analysis of social and economic trends. He never hesitates to define his point of view clearly, and he's never afraid to risk taking a stand. As a result, he is one of those truly rare commodities in today's hype-filled age: a genuinely original thinker. *Conquer the Crash* is a delightful case in point.

If Bob Prechter is right, the only question is how much time is left for you to take appropriate action. And if it turns out that he's wrong, taking the actions he suggests won't endanger your financial security or severely impact your current lifestyle in any negative way. So what have you got to lose? I strongly suggest that you get your hands on a copy of this book, read it and pay very close attention to what it says.

* * *

Tim Bost's work as a forecaster and consultant benefits from his more than 35 years of astrological study and experience, as well from his varied background in marketing, education, religion, business management, healing and the arts. Since 1988, Tim has also gained international recognition as one of the world's leading authorities on the correlation between planetary patterns and price movements in the equities markets. In 1988, Tim began publishing his market newsletter, Financial Cycles, a widely-read publication that has been cited in Barron's, the Chicago Tribune, Bridge News, and a variety of other national and regional business publications. In addition to publishing Financial Cycles, Tim conducts research into astrologically-based trading systems and counsels individual and corporate clients throughout the world. He has written regular astrology columns for a variety of publications including Natural

Awakenings, the Independent Observer, and the Sarasota Herald-Tribune; he currently writes "SuperFinancials," a cutting-edge financial astrology column, for InParadise magazine. In the summer of 2000 Tim published a forecast that correctly predicted the exact date in September which would mark the end of a history-making rally in stocks and the beginning of the bear market. His forecast merited a headline in Barron's and brought him much attention in the financial world. Tim has been a regular contributor to A Traders Astrological Almanac and a featured speaker at many financial conferences and astrology conventions. He holds professional memberships and the highest levels of certification from the American Federation of Astrologers, the International Society for Astrological Research, and the National Council for Geocosmic Research. Tim is the author of several monographs on financial astrology, including How To Find the Money in Your Horoscope, J. P. Morgan's Billion-Dollar Secret, and Beyond Symbolism in Financial Astrology. He is also the author of The Basic Stock Market Astrology Home Study Course, which features 30 hours of audio-taped instruction and a 230-page workbook. Contact him at 2831 Ringling Boulevard, Suite B-108, Sarasota, FL 34237, timbost@pipeline.com, 941-953-3545.

MILANKOVITCH CYCLES AND THE PLEISTOCENE ICE AGES

BY BRUCE SCOFIELD

*P*tolemy (c. 150 AD), whom many consider to be the greatest scientist of the ancient world, authored a major astrological work, the *Tetrabiblos* (four books on astrology). In it he divided astrology into two fundamental categories: Universal and Genethliological. The former was concerned with natural phenomena such as climate, weather, agriculture, plagues, etc. The latter was concerned with the affairs of humans. By the Renaissance these two branches had come to be known as natural and judicial astrology. During the scientific revolution there was little or no quarrel over natural astrology—it was judicial astrology that was under attack from several quarters, including religion.

Natural astrology survived the scientific revolution in the form of astrometeorology and is today generally included within the broader scope of mundane astrology. One could argue that during the 20th century the heliocentric work of John Nelson, the study of lunar periodicities by Frank Brown and the magneto-tidal resonance theory of Percy Seymour are exercises in natural astrology. Unknown to most astrologers, 19th and 20th century climatologists working with astronomical cycles have discovered correlations between planetary motions and Earth's climate. A mechanism has been developed to explain these correlations that involves 1) measurable variations in solar radiation, and 2) the measurable gravitational tugs

between planets which are referred to as "orbital forcing." Since climate patterns were originally a topic in natural astrology, astrologers might benefit from an understanding of this interesting topic.

ASTRONOMICAL CYCLES OF EARTH'S ORBIT

Milankovitch Cycles are astronomical cycles of the Earth-Sun relationship. Cycles of this nature were first suggested in a paper by Sir John Herschel in 1830. Joseph Alphonse Adhemar in 1842 (*Revolutions of the Sea*) and, more important, James Croll in 1875 (*Climate and Time*) developed the idea further. Serbian astronomer Milutin Milankovitch (1879-1958) brought these ideas into sharp focus over the course of his lifetime in his publications *Mathematical Theory of Heat Phenomena Produced by Solar Radiation* in 1920 and *Canon of Insolation of the Earth and its Application to the Problem of Ice Ages* in 1941. Milankovitch showed that three key orbital cycles of the Earth around the Sun modulate the amount of insolation (Insolation = INCident SOLar radiA-TION) Earth receives over long periods of time. Variations in insolation resulting from complex orbital cycles are now thought to be a major force driving the relatively rapid succession of ice ages during the previous two million years.

The three primary Earth cycles that drive long-term climate fluctuations are precession,

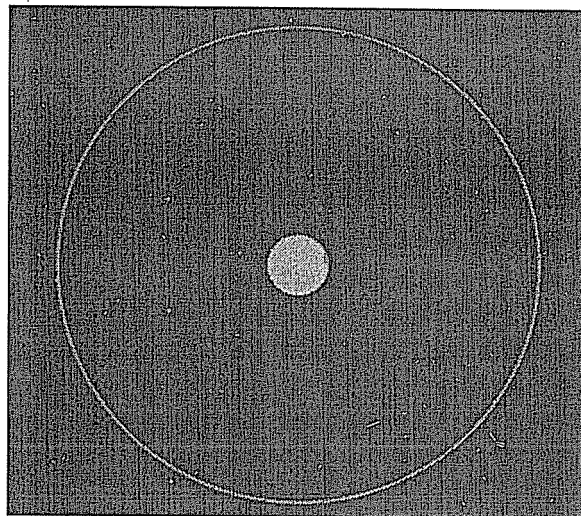
obliquity and ellipticity. These are defined as follows:

Precession: The cycle(s) of the gradual change in the direction of Earth's axis. The gravitational torques exerted by the Sun and Moon on the bulge of Earth at its equator cause the axis to wobble like a top. This motion is called *axial precession* and creates a cycle of about 26,000 years during which time the North Pole traces a circle in space. This cycle has been an important topic in astrology for many years and is the basis behind both the cycling of the 12 astrological Ages and the Long Count of Mayan Calendar of ancient Mexico. *Elliptical precession* occurs as the elliptical orbit of Earth rotates around one focus. The two effects result in the equinoxes and solstices shifting slowly around Earth's orbit with a period of about 22,000 years.

When Earth is nearest Sun at perihelion (today around January 3) the Northern Hemisphere is tilted toward the Sun. During summer (July 4) the Northern Hemisphere tilts away from the Sun. This moderates both seasons. At the present time Earth receives about 3.5 percent more solar radiation at perihelion than at aphelion (when Earth is farthest from Sun). It follows then that when aphelion occurs near the Winter Solstice, there will be less insolation from the Sun and winters may be cooler.

The *anomalous year* is the length of the year measured from perihelion to perihelion and is the key to understanding the difference between axial and elliptical precession. It is about 25 minutes longer than the tropical year, a figure that amounts to a full day every 58 years. The position of perihelion and aphelion shift over a 22,000-year cycle (21,700 is average, but ranges between 19 ky to 23.7 ky) at a rate of about one day every 58 years. Currently, there is a three percent difference in distance between aphelion and perihelion.

The fact that there is more land mass in the northern portion of the Northern Hemisphere than there is in the Southern Hemisphere accounts for a stronger response to lower insolation there. Precession effects cause warm winters in one



Variation in Orbital Eccentricity = 0

Credit: NASA Earth Observatory Website

hemisphere and the opposite in the other. The effect is strongest at the equator and tapers off toward the poles.

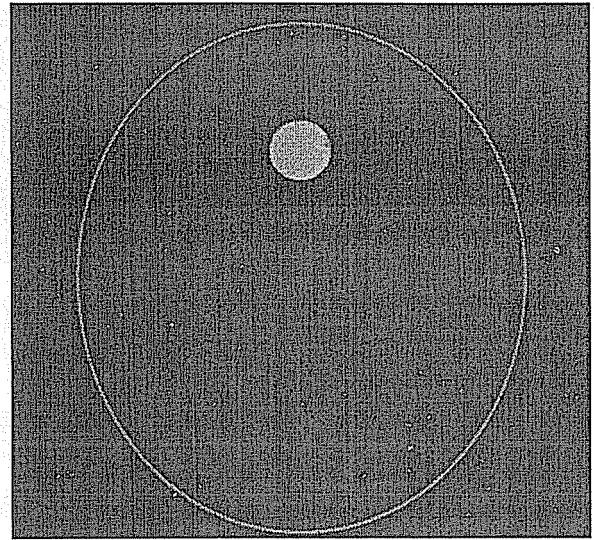
Obliquity: The Earth's axis is currently tilted from the vertical to the plane of its orbit by 23.45 degrees, but this is not a constant. This tilt varies from a minimum of about 21.8 degrees to a maximum of 24.4 degrees within a cycle of approximately 41,000 years. It is the tilt of the axis that produces the seasons, and it follows that when the axis is tilted less, the contrast between the seasons will be less. The effects of this cycle are felt equally in both hemispheres. Changes in obliquity have only a minor effect on solar radiation at low latitudes, but this increases in the higher latitudes. Changes in obliquity affect insolation in both hemispheres equally. The effect is strongest at the poles, weaker at the equator.

Eccentricity: The orbit of the Earth around the Sun varies from nearly circular to elliptical over a period of approximately 100,000 years (95,800 on average over the past five million years with a range from 95ky to 123ky). When the orbit is most elliptical (about six million miles farther from the Sun at aphelion), and when winter in the Northern Hemisphere occurs at aphelion, one would expect long cold winters and short hot summers. The reverse would be true of the Southern

Hemisphere. At maximum eccentricity, insolation can vary by as much as 30 percent, affecting the intensities of the seasons with opposite effects in each hemisphere. This cycle modulates the precession cycle. There is a second eccentricity cycle of about 400,000 years (413ky) that also appears to be reflected in long-term climate cycles.

Milankovitch theorized that the total summer radiation received in northern latitudes (near 65 degrees north, where ice sheets have formed previously) is the key factor in the development of an ice age. When summer in the Northern Hemisphere coincides with aphelion, obliquity is at minimum and eccentricity is high, conditions are most conducive to glaciation. The triggering of an ice age is thought to occur during times of cool summers which allow an accumulation of ice and snow from year to year in the higher latitudes. Eventually this builds into an ice sheet that reflects solar radiation back into space, which further cools Earth (positive feedback). The amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere declines as the ice sheet grows, yet another cooling factor. Less greenhouse gas means more heat escapes into space.

Earth's axis and its orbit are known to be further perturbed by the gravitational forces of the other planets. These perturbations also produce cycles in insolation. When the Solar System is viewed downward, assuming the plane of Earth's orbit as a fixed reference plane, the orbits of the other planets (their shapes) are regarded as factors that exert what are called "g" frequencies. This is something like a longitudinal effect. Differences in the planetary orbits on the vertical level (parallel to the plane of Earth's orbit) are called "s" frequencies, these being similar in principle to latitude or declination. Climatic frequencies are then produced by the combinations of the individual g and s frequencies as well as the precessional constant p. The limits of precision allow the g and s frequencies to drift over long periods of time, making it impossible to produce isolation curves for more than 20 million years into the past or future. At 200 million years there can be as much as a 40 percent error. The 404 ky cycle, however, appears to be very stable and has been found in the



Variation in Orbital Eccentricity = .5

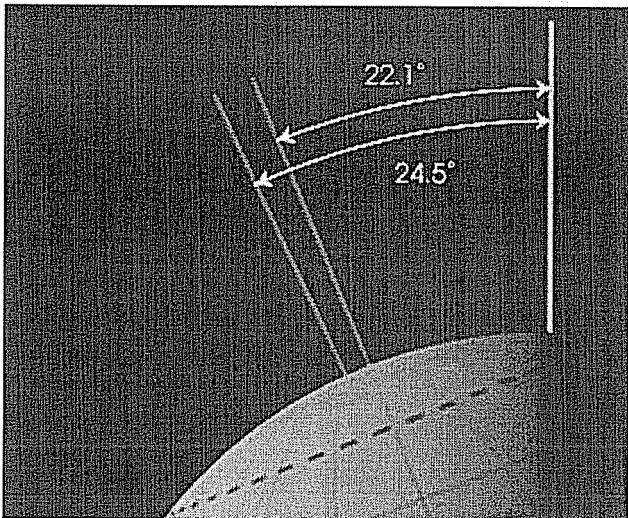
Credit: NASA Earth Observatory Website

geological records (Newark basin and other Triassic-Jurassic basin cyclical records). These may serve as a means of focusing the celestial mechanics of orbital variables in the remote past.

THE PLEISTOCENE ICE AGES

The actual beginning of the Pleistocene, the period of the ice ages, was first suggested by Lyell in 1893 to be the point in the geological record in which 90 to 95 percent of the fossils found were of organisms alive at present. Forbes later suggested that this era be dated by evidence of a cold climate. In 1948, it was suggested that the first appearance of cold-water species found in a specific southern Italian sediment marked the beginning. Later it was found that this point coincided with the Olduvai Normal Event, a magnetic pole reversal, at 1.8 mya.

Traditionally, four ice ages during this period were documented in North America and six or seven in Europe. In the 1960s, 100,000 year cycles emerged from data derived from Czechoslovakian brickyards (sedimentary deposits) and Caribbean deep sea core V12-122. It is now thought that during the Pleistocene (1.8 mya) there were at least 20 alterations of warm/cold cycles. The climatological record for the termination of the



Variation in Axial Obliquity

Credit: NASA Earth Observatory Website

previous ice age about 12,000 years ago is accounted for by the Milankovitch model—an increase in Northern Hemisphere summer insolation.

SUPPORT OF THE CLIMATOLOGICAL RECORD

In the 1950s, Milankovitch's theory was rejected by most geologists due to the advent of radiocarbon dating and the results it produced in regard to the Pleistocene. It was discovered that there had been warm climate intervals as recently as 25,000 years ago and other ice fluctuations over 80,000 years that were at variance with Milankovitch cycles. In the 1960s, however, the analysis of deep sea cores produced evidence that sea level fluctuations appeared to occur in a 21,000 year cycle.

Dating methods of deep sea cores include the following:

1. The ratio of Oxygen isotope 18 to Oxygen isotope 16 as found in the calcium carbonate shells of foraminifera. This data, originally thought to reflect temperature differences, actually reflects changes in the volume of the ice sheets.
2. Radio carbon dating tell the age of a sample, but is less accurate over 40,000 years.
3. Protactinium and Ionium are radioactive elements in the ocean floor mud and ooze remaining

from the decay of Uranium. This data has revealed eight cold climate periods alternating with warm periods from 700,000 years ago.

4. Magnetic stratigraphy analyzes the record of magnetic reversals and has produced a well-dated history of climate. Some extinctions concur with this data and some specific bench marks in Earth history are mapped in this manner. The Brunhes–Matuyama boundary occurred 700,000 years ago and the Olduvai Normal Event at 1.8 million years ago.

Using sediment cores from the Indian Ocean, Hays *et al* (1976) showed that there was a fairly consistent phase relationship between insolation, sea surface temperature and ice volume. They also found that the 100ky cycle was far more prominent than had been expected. Of the three cycles, eccentricity appeared to have the least effect on climate. The 100ky cycle has apparently been consistent for the previous 700ky, but before that time climate cycles of about 40ky (obliquity) appear to dominate. There have been two approaches to this problem: One seeks an explanation in orbital forcing by the 19ky and 23ky precessional frequencies which affect the terminations of glacial episodes. The second proposes that ice-volume fluctuations are modulated, not driven, by orbital forcing in a highly complex system.

Other studies have raised some questions about correlations between the three Milankovitch cycles and global climate. While skepticism is still high in some quarters, these astronomical cycles are now taught in universities the world over and have come to play an important role in the understanding of the relationship between Earth and the Solar System. Is this not natural astrology?

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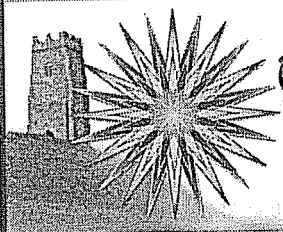
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STARS OVER LASCAUX

BY PAM CIAMPI

Is there a valid connection between astrology and pre-historic cave paintings? I never thought there was until, when living in southwest France, I came across an article about the famous cave of Lascaux. The title—"Lascaux Prehistoric Planetarium?"—suggested that the prehistoric paintings were actually animal representations of the zodiac. How could any astrologer resist? There was one slight problem, however: the article was in French. My Sagittarius Moon dared me to tackle the translation and to visit Lascaux to see the cave for myself. Armed (Mercury in Aries) with Webster's Pocket French Dictionary, I was confident that my Taurus Sun would keep me on task. Part I is a loose translation of the article. Part II is about my visit to the cave.

PART I: THE ARTICLE

Below is a translation of "Lascaux Planetarium Prehistorique?", an article by Pedro Lima published in the December 2000 issue of *Science & Vie*.

Translators note: The subject matter of this article was taken from a research study that was conducted in 1999 and 2000 by an independent paleo-astronomer (a scientist who studies the stars of the ancient sky), Chantal Jegues-Wolkiewiez.

The painters of Lascaux were astronomers! Cro-Magnon man painted a zodiac on the walls of the cave, which showed the formation of the sky

in the Magdalenian era, 17,000 years ago. This discovery of ancient astronomy, if confirmed, could change our understanding of pre-historic art and also of the people who painted the pictures. Research conducted and revealed in this article by independent prehistoric-astronomer, Chantal Jegues-Wolkiewiez could revolutionize presently held concepts of prehistoric man's knowledge of astronomy.

At the center of the controversy is Lascaux cave. A natural rock formation in the Dordogne region of southwest France that existed for 17,000 years before four teenage boys accidentally discovered it in 1940. Since that time the paintings found in the majestic Hall of Bulls in the cave are considered to be one of the highest achievements of humanity and have astounded and mystified both art historians and prehistoric archeologists.

In November 2000, Chantal Jegues-Wolkiewiez presented a paper, "Lascaux, the Magdalenians View of the Sky," at the International Symposium of Prehistoric Art in Italy. In it, Jegues-Wolkiewiez states that the cave paintings were records of the zodiac constellations, fixed stars and the solstice points. She confirmed her thesis by showing that all the constellations of the zodiac except Aquarius and part of Pisces are represented by the animals in their natural state of that time. The precision of the respective orientations, as well as the figure of the setting Sun, demonstrates that Cro-Magnons were remarkable observers of the sky.

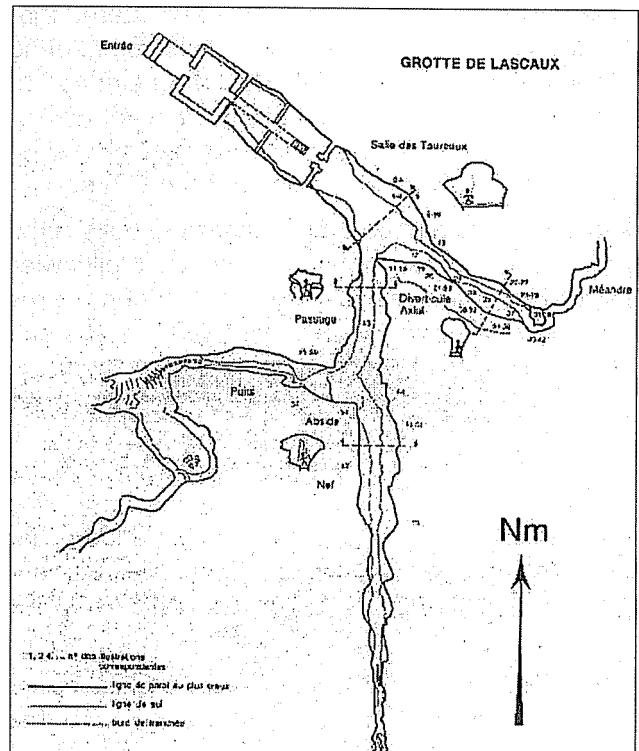
This announcement that Paleolithic men were great astronomers as well as extraordinary artists was revolutionary. The idea that they marked the zodiac belt as a band of sky that holds twelve constellations dancing in an eternal circle following the path of the Sun, and that they painted these calculations on rock, puts our understanding of the history of astronomy in a radically new light. In effect this says that in far-off time men represented the actual constellations by drawing/tracing them on the pictures of certain animals, particularly the bull. If this is true, they preceded the Babylonian astronomers by 10,000 years.

In order to represent the constellations in the cave, the ancient painters/astronomers had to find a way to mark the lines between the stars similar to amateur astronomers today who know how to make angles by using their fingers to measure distances between the different stars. Perhaps Cro-Magnons men used sticks as rulers to mark and measure the height of certain stars in the sky. When they returned to the cave, the painters traced the drawing of the sky from their observation. According to Chantal Jegues-Wolkiewiez, these first astronomer/painters were already capable of using the stars as heavenly guides to find the position of the stars that were not visible above the horizon. But how did Chantal Jegues-Wolkiewiez arrive at this conclusion? In 1999, she joined Jean-Michel Geneste, a member of the team who studied the Grotto at Chauvert in Ardeche. The idea that certain paintings at Lascaux represent stars or constellations was not new. But it was never verified by serious scientific studies based on astronomical measurements. This is exactly what he proposed that he and Chantal Jegues-Wolkiewiez should do.

From the first contact with the cave and the immense and poignant Hall of Bulls, the two scientists followed scientific procedures, which was different from past researchers. A constant humidity and temperature was maintained in the interior of the cave, and Jegues-Wolkiewiez scientifically demonstrated that the Lascaux paintings were 17,000 years old by using the Carbon14 dating technique.

The paleo-astronomers made constructions of the sky in the Magdalenian period, which was different from ours today, using astronomical software. They made models of the western map of each constellation. Then they made measurements of the orientation of all the paintings according to an astronomical compass, which is precise to half of azimuth (an arc of the heavens extending from the zenith to the horizon, which it cuts at right angles). Finally, through further measurement they compared the outlines of the paintings in the Hall of the Bulls with the sky in Magdalenian times.

Then, from measurements taken on site, the scientists established that the entrance to Lascaux cave faces west and slopes downward at a 12 degree angle. This was the plan that the paleo-astronomers presented: to prove that the NW entrance to the cave was identical to the one perceived by the prehistoric artists and that the 12 degree angle of the entrance led to the paintings in the Hall of the Bulls. From this Jegues-Wolkiewiez conjectured that the rays of the setting Sun at the



Map of Lascaux Cave by Genevieve Robert; source: www.mazzaroth.com/chapterone/lascauxcave.htm

Summer Solstice penetrated into the cave and touched certain paintings.

There was only one way to confirm this: to observe the direction of the light of the setting Sun on the following Summer Solstice on June 19, 1999. The point on the horizon where the Sun sets on the Solstice is a point which does not vary significantly from year to year and century to century.

Jegues-Wolkiewiez then verified her hypothesis that the rays of the setting sun at the Summer Solstice 17,000 years ago could have penetrated into the cave at Lascaux. She concluded that it was possible that these rays lit up the painting of the Red Bull on the back wall in the Hall of Bulls. On the Summer Solstice, June 21, 1999, Jegues-Wolkiewiez went to the Lascaux cave. At 21h GMT she observed the last rays of the setting Sun hitting the entrance to the cave for 15 minutes.

"On June 19 at 21h we saw the solar rays lighting, little by little, for 15 minutes, the large opening which marked the entrance of the cave," said Chantal Jegues-Wolkiewiez. She also stated that 17,000 years ago the last rays of the Sun during other Summer Solstices lighted the paintings of Lascaux! The discovery constitutes a revolution of all previous knowledge on the subject of prehistoric caves and on the art of the times.

In order to explain the predominance of bulls in the prehistoric zodiac, Chantal Jegues-Wolkiewiez says that it was precisely the constellation Taurus that culminated in the Summer Solstice sky and was of primary importance to prehistoric painters. The entire Hall of Bulls is proposed to correspond to the constellation Taurus. The eye of the Bull is in alignment with the supergiant Alderbaran in the center of the constellation. While there are also stars configured that make up the Hyades that encircle the eye of Alderbaran, the Pleiades are above his shoulder.

Further examples are found in the Facing Bulls who stand opposite each other. According to Jegues-Wolkiewiez, these bulls align with the constellations of Taurus and Scorpio. That these constellations are not visible in the same sky at

the time of the opposition strengthens her theory that Cro-Magnon man possessed a direct knowledge of astronomy. Parts of these same bulls also correspond to the rising and setting opposition of the fixed stars of Alderbaran (the eye) in Taurus and to Antares in the Scorpio Bull.

At the end of the Axial Gallery is an animal unique to Lascaux—the upside down or Falling Horse. The legs and the head of this horse are visible in the passageway and raised toward the sky, while the lower half of the body is hidden behind a fold of the wall. "I have measured the direction indicated by this horse and found it to be the point where the Sun rises on the first day of winter," explained the scientist.

This hypothesis is strengthened by the presence above the Falling Horse of another horse that is identical to the one in the main Hall of Bulls. This second horse is placed above the bulls and corresponds to the constellations of Leo and Scorpio. The mane of this horse points to the brilliant star Arcturus and is exactly visible at the end of winter at the point above the horizon where the Sun rises. As the horse above in profile corresponds to the sun at Spring Equinox, the Falling Horse below relates to the sun at Winter Solstice.

Art historians have long been delighted that the cave paintings are accurate to a minute degree in their knowledge of animal anatomy and seasonal habits of each species. But that is not what is important. What is implied is that each painting in the Hall is aligned with a corresponding zodiac constellation. "This is what we hold to be true," said Chantal Jegues-Wolkiewiez. It is the positions and relationships of the animals that indicate astronomical knowledge of the solstice positions, the constellations and the fixed stars.

Her computer simulations, her measurements and the experiment at the cave itself all led her to conclude that Cro-Magnon man did indeed possess the mathematical abilities to calculate and project the positions of the stars, regardless of their visibility. In other words, she puts forth the theory that Cro-Magnon man was not only an artist but also an astronomer and a mathematician.

In the interests of objectivity, author Pedro Lima ends the article with the comments from several French scientists who say that Jegues-Wolkiewicz's discoveries at the cave at Lascaux should be viewed as one isolated incident and that they must be verified by other studies and measurements in other caves of the same period. The scientists also argued that with the millions of stars in the sky there would always be some that could be found to be in correspondence to the paintings or to anything.

Lima's final statement is that perhaps other researchers will confirm the conclusion for themselves by statistical studies on many caves using a multi-dimensional approach. Perhaps further research will prove that prehistoric men were also astronomers and that, in the Magdalenian Period, ancient men held religious beliefs that were contained and revealed in the sky, and were of primary importance to them. Perhaps, Cro-Magnon man did look to the stars for answers to the deepest human questions.

PART II: POSTCARD FROM FRANCE, OCTOBER 2001

A few weeks after the article was translated, my companion and I loaded up the van and drove four hours northeast to a beautiful and cold campground above the Vezere Valley. Known in the *Lonely Planet* guidebook as "the cradle of civilization," the Vezere Valley is home to most of France's prehistoric sites.

The road to Lascaux turned uphill at sharp angles and ended in a parking lot dotted with tourist buses. At the gift and bookstore where we bought tickets for about \$5, we were told that all tours of Lascaux were guided tours and, but of course, in French. "Sorry, no translation or printed material available." Then they said the Lascaux cave was closed! (N.B. yes, Mercury was retrograde!)

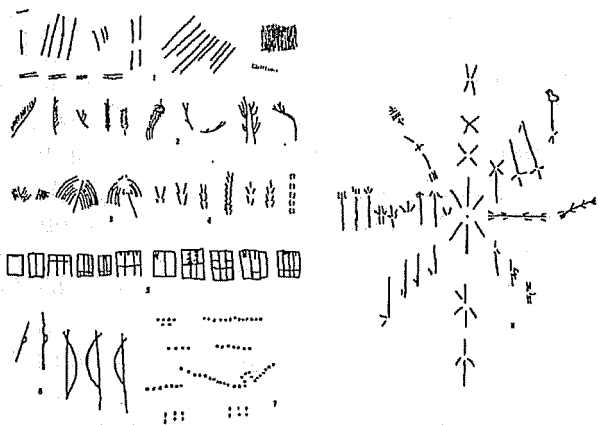
So Lascaux was closed, at least to us. Later I found out why. In the years between 1940 (when it was first discovered) and 1955, more than a million people visited the cave, which caused grave damage to its previously protected environment.

The large number of bodies inhaling oxygen and exhaling carbon dioxide brought about a growth of mold and calcite crystals on the cave walls, which caused the paintings to begin to disintegrate at an alarming rate. In order to save the paintings, Lascaux was closed permanently to the public in 1963. Since then the French government has installed equipment to assure maintenance of constant temperature, humidity and carbon dioxide levels, and restricted visitors to five per day. If you want to be one of the privileged five you must secure a permit from the government, which involves about five miles of red tape.

All was not lost, however. There was a cave called Lascaux II which was located a convenient 200 meters away from the original cave (now called Lascaux I).

Before leading us into Lascaux II, our guide gave us some interesting information. What we were about to see was built in 1983 by the French government as an exact but smaller replica of its namesake. Lascaux II is an underground cement tunnel suspended in a larger ancient cave, and is home to state-of-the-art reproductions from two of the areas in the original: the Hall of Bulls and the Axial Gallery. The government spared no expense to ensure its complete authenticity. The contours of the original walls of Lascaux I were first measured and photographed and then painstakingly reconstructed. Artists used organic paints and animal hair brushes similar to those of Cro-Magnon man when transferring the paintings to the reproduced cave.

The guide also informed us that there have been many theories about why Cro-Magnons painted animals on the walls deep in a cave. Scholars agreed that there was a conscious intention to preserve them, but for what purpose? One of the most popular speculations, especially with art historians, was the "hunting magic" theory. Hunting magic was based on the idea that prehistoric man conducted some kind of ritual before they hunted for food. Part of this ritual was the painting of pictures of the animals to "call" them to their death and ensure good luck in the hunt. According to our guide, this theory was laid to rest when



These mysterious geometric symbols have long puzzled historians and archeologists. Shaped like sticks, branches, fans, chevrons, quadrangles, clubs, dots and stars, they might have represneted letters, numbers or some kind of coordinates fixing the constellations in certain sections of the Milky Way.

archeologists analyzed the remains in the caves and discovered that Cro-Magnons did not live in the caves where paintings were found. Their research also showed that most of the animals that were painted were not a food source for our ancestors. (The case for the prehistoric planetarium was getting stronger!)

With these explanations in hand, it was time to start the tour. As directed, we obediently followed our guide down a slope into the opening of Lascaux II. The first thing I noticed was that the air temperature immediately dropped about 15 degrees. It was cold and it was dark, very dark. As we moved downward into the Hall of Bulls, and the safe and light-filled world dropped behind us, it felt as if we were moving back in time.

Suddenly my eyes were drawn upward in the dim lighting to paintings of enormous bulls on the ceiling and upper walls, painted with incredible precision. The artists were obviously not only immensely talented but also ingenious because they had used the contours of the walls to define and emphasize the shapes of the animals.

As we moved into the Axial Gallery, the walls and ceiling were covered with animals. There were no landscapes, no vegetation and very few humanoid shapes. Enormous bulls were snorting, horses

jumping and falling and delicate reindeer walking in lines. In some places geometric signs mysteriously appeared.

It was a puzzle. Even though I knew it was a reproduction, visiting Lascaux II was like seeing a sacred site. Surrounded by the majestic grandeur of the images I wondered if I'd stumbled into an underground animal version of the Sistine Chapel. Or maybe it was a subterranean library with books in an ancient language that I couldn't read but might remember at any moment.

After seeing the workmanship, the orientation to the space and relationships of the animals to one another, I'm still not sure whether Lascaux I was a primitive planetarium. But by translating the article and visiting the site I discovered something else. The paintings, which are masterpieces of art, also contain irrefutable evidence that an order, a knowledge of mathematics and a consciousness of the nature of the universe was firmly in place 17,000 years ago. If the scientific community accepts this concept, astrology might prove to have more in common with pre-historic caves than I could ever imagine.

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*T*HE UNITED STATES, THE
UNITED NATIONS AND THE AGE
OF AQUARIUS

BY ARMAND DIAZ

*T*he world community's perception of the United States is changing.

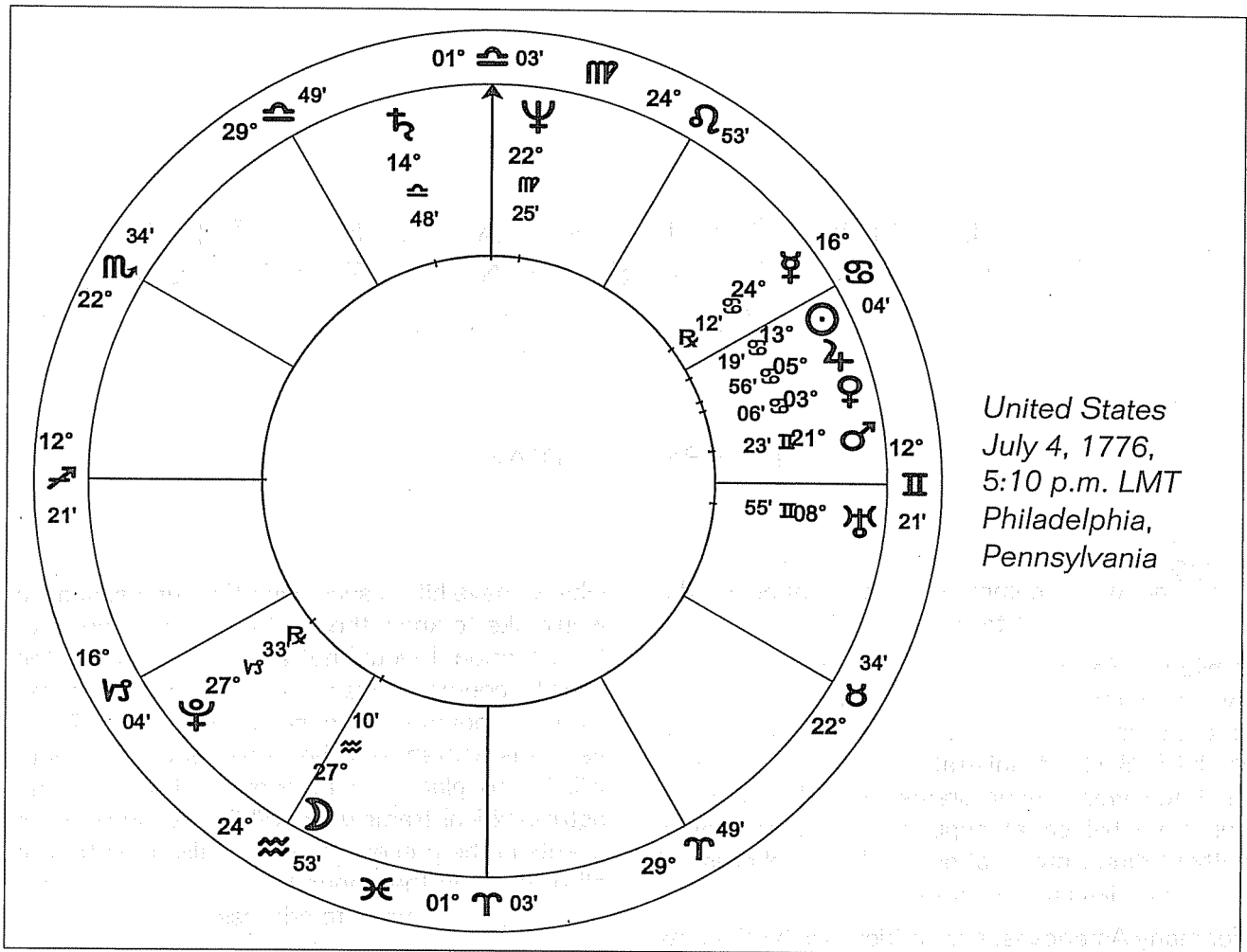
While the September 11, 2001 attack galvanized sympathy for the U.S., it also opened the country to criticism about its role in international affairs. With the Bush administration's emphasis on ending Iraq's weapons programs, even close U.S. allies have balked at support for military action without direct provocation, leading to charges of imperialism against the United States.

For many Americans, such criticism is baffling. As a nation, we have taught ourselves that we are the great defenders of liberty and justice. We began with a revolution against an oppressive King, we fought in two world wars and we held the line against Communism for 40 years, so how could we be perceived in such negative light? With the collapse of the Soviet Union the world is left with a single superpower and, oddly, the rest of the world is not overjoyed with the notion of U.S. supremacy. After a cruel and devastating terrorist attack we find our confidence shaken, the economy sinking, war pending and our allies shaking their heads and wiggling their fingers at us. What is happening?

Astrologers, like everyone else, have been looking for explanations for the changes which are occurring. At the very least, we would like to know

why we have hit on such unsettling times, and we would like to know the depth, or seriousness, of the situation. I would not attempt to predict the specific course of events regarding war with Iraq (which appears to be pending in February 2003, as this is written) or other areas of conflict, but I will try to place recent events within a larger astro-political framework. While the outcome of events in the present may be vitally important to all of us, it is the general historical trend that I want to address.

To put recent events in the proper perspective, we must be aware of the natal dynamics of the United States itself. With all respect to the other charts in use, I use the Sibly chart for the U.S., based on the assumption that an entity begins when it is declared to begin, not when it succeeds in passing some crucial milestone. Had Cornwallis never surrendered and had the Articles of Confederation never been adopted, there would still be a chart for the U.S. (I suppose there would be little interest in it, but it would exist.) Using the Sibly chart, the U.S. has a Sagittarius Ascendant, which fits with America's (and American's) expansion and expansiveness. It fits well with the American optimistic "can-do" attitude, and the sort of wide-eyed naiveté for which we are known in the world. Sagittarius is perhaps an appropriate sign for the doctrine of "Manifest Destiny" which led



America's drive to form a nation that stretches "from sea to shining sea." Sagittarius is also appropriate in the sense that we are a nation of people from overseas, a nation of foreigners, so to speak. This is one of the many ways the U.S. has set a trend that is followed elsewhere—global immigration is a fact now in Europe and Australia, and to a lesser extent in other areas as well, but the U.S. is a country of immigrants in itself, and always has been.

The Sun is in Cancer, part of a stellium that includes Jupiter and Venus. This Cancerian stellium represents the traditional, protective and materialistic aspects of the U.S., and helps to explain the ongoing success of somewhat vague terms like "family values" in U.S. politics¹, as the Sun is

where we find our identity, and Venus shows what we value. This Cancerian side comes through in our folk image of the independent farmer, a family business working the land, churchgoers following tradition with rugged determination. Picture a farmer pulling off to the side of the road to help a stranger get his car out of a ditch, and asking nothing in return.

Cancer is the sign of motherhood, of nurturing and growing. What is it that the U.S. is nurturing? The U.S. Moon is at 27 Aquarius 10, and this shows the "soul" of the country as progressive, idealistic and egalitarian. Our emotional reactions tend toward freedom and justice, our sometimes unconscious mindset. Yet, as a Cancerian country, the U.S. is still very much tied to tradition.

There is a kind of yod-by-sign among the Sun, Moon and Ascendant. In particular, while the Sun and Moon are quincunx by sign, they are sesquiquadrate by degree. Thus, the progressive, idealistic Moon and the traditional, protective, materialistic Sun are not harmoniously related; in terms of traditional astrology they do not "see" each other. The United States in a sense is "a house divided against itself."

This is a difficult configuration to resolve, but we are given a clue in that the Sun and Jupiter (ruler of the Ascendant) disposit to the Aquarius Moon, showing that ultimately the country's sense of identity and its leader will answer to the progressive ideals upon which the country was founded.

Despite the Aquarius Moon ruled by an angular Uranus (near the Descendant in the sixth house), it would not do to overestimate the "revolutionary" aspects of America or its commitment to progressive ideals. In a way, it is surprising that the U.S. ever broke with England, and it is worth noting that the fuel, if not the match, that finally got the fire going was an economic pressure which particularly affected wealthy colonists. America may be about freedom and liberty, but the Revolutionary War was largely about *taxes*. The Founding Fathers were a very conservative group of landowners and British-appointed politicians who took to the cause of independence only reluctantly. If there was a Che Guevarra among them, it was Thomas Payne, whose *Common Sense* spurred popular American sentiment to break for good with England. It was only when this pamphlet was published in January 1776, that independence was proffered as the goal of the war with England. Previously, Americans were fighting *for full rights as English subjects*. As late as 1766, Benjamin Franklin went to England to ask for better treatment of colonists, who, he said, generally loved being subjects of the King of England.

Payne, who more than any other figure was a catalyst for American independence, did not fit well with his wealthy and landed fellow revolutionaries. He was not given a role in the government, and toward the end of his life few of the Founding Fathers would even speak with him. He died in pov-

erty and political isolation in New York in 1830.

The United States has natal Pluto at 27 Capricorn 33, an indication that the role of the country will include transformation of governmental forms (it also says quite a bit about the role of big business in the U.S., which may or may not be a different story). Pluto is in the second house, and as a transpersonal planet shows that the country's resources will be used for this transformation. Situated opposite the stellium in Cancer, Pluto suggests a use of power and an urge to assert influence in the world in ways which might not go too well with the U.S.'s image of itself. In a professed democracy, the more traditional ways of power are likely to be repressed, but not necessarily suppressed.

THE CYCLE OF URANUS

Uranus was discovered at about the time of the founding of the U.S. and was given rulership over the sign of Aquarius. The planet itself is associated with revolution and freedom, two important key words for the United States. As if to demonstrate its affinity with democracy over monarchy, not to say the U.S. over England, the planet's first revolutionary act was to shake off the name suggested by William Herchel, its discoverer, *Georgium Sidus* ("George's Star"), which he offered to honor England's King George III². At the same time, Americans were framing the Constitution, and also "shaking off" George's name. Uranus's role as ruler of Aquarius indicates that it is at least a harbinger of the Age of Aquarius—and the founding of the United States at the same time suggests that the country is a prototypical government of the Age. Uranus, dispositor of the U.S. Moon and located near the Descendant, has had a powerful influence on the U.S.: at the first Uranus return the country was engaged in the Civil War, and at the second return the U.S. became a world, and nuclear, power.

The Uranus influence also shows itself in America's rapid flip-flops between isolationism and engagement. Both World Wars were well underway before the U.S. reluctantly joined, yet we have

also waged wars in Korea, Vietnam and Cuba. We have looked with fear and suspicion on the NAFTA and WTO trade agreements, but used military force in 1904 to open trade with Korea. The United States has always had an ambiguous relationship with the rest of the world, as might be expected with Uranus on the Descendant. While seeing ourselves as a beacon for democracy, we have historically been rather unconcerned about proliferation of our values abroad. European and U.S. democracy share common roots, but European nations took little directly from the U.S., while outside Europe our influence on democracy has been incidental, except where we have had a military role (e.g., in Japan after WW II). During the Cold War, we supported many dictatorships and monarchies, to the end that in protecting against Communism we gained a reputation for supporting oppressive regimes.

The cycle of Uranus can help us to understand the role of the United States in world history. We should start with the assumption that the coincidental founding of the U.S. and the discovery of Uranus indicate the U.S. as a prototypical nation of the Age of Aquarius. This does not mean that it is the typical nation, nor does it necessarily imply that we have entered the Aquarian Age. Indeed, many prototypes never "make it to market," and the French Revolution has a different but parallel role in history. But the U.S. is certainly a country founded on ideals rather than ethnicity, and it was created by a conglomeration of diverse states which shared a common interest but often had little in common. The Civil War, as Lincoln said in the Gettysburg Address, was a test of whether a nation founded on ideals could stand the strain of its diverse elements. With many a deep caveat, the U.S. passed the test at its first Uranus return and showed that democratic ideals are a solid basis for nation-building.

When Uranus next reached its home sign of Aquarius (also the sign of the U.S. Moon), the world was engaged in World War I. This horrific storm is quite difficult to understand in retrospect. While the immediate causes are well known, the deeper causes of the war are more ob-

scure, and seem to have been related to an eruption of a smoldering need for change at any cost, a kind of geopolitical futurism. The long-term effects of the war included a change from monarchy to more secular-rational forms of government (in Russia, the revolution involved a change from monarchy to communism). After the war, U.S. President Wilson suggested the League of Nations, the first attempt at a supranational governing body. The League did not have much success, with very little real power granted to it and the U.S. ultimately not joining, but it showed an awareness of the connected interests of the people of the world and was a try at putting Aquarian values in practical form.

If World War I moved many of the nations to more Aquarian forms of government, then World War II showed the limits that are to be placed on individual nations in the new Age. Of course, German, Japanese and Italian expansion was checked, but a lesson was learned by all—few European countries maintained colonies by the time of the war's Saturn return. A practice which had continued for hundreds of years was soon to be viewed as exploitive, and European colonialism was replaced by self-rule in countries around the world. True, this was not always a voluntary transition, and in some areas the change has actually been for the worse, but the principle of maintaining colonies was clearly repudiated.

With Uranus returning to its position in the U.S. natal chart in 1944, President Franklin D. Roosevelt was able to succeed where Wilson had failed. Hardly had the War begun when he started to research the possibilities for a United Nations³. Even in the name we can see a parallel with the United States, because here is a supranational governing body which attempts to bridge the differences between countries in the same way the U.S. tries to bridge the difference between territories.

Astrologically, we can see the U.S. Moon in Aquarius in a sense giving birth to the supranational government. The first attempt occurred with Uranus on the U.S. Moon in 1918, and the second just after the Uranus return in 1944. Perhaps it would be more to the point to say that the

conception occurred with Uranus in Aquarius, and the birth with Uranus in Gemini.

But the mother is not the child. There is a point at which the child begins to express its independence—a process which occurs in back-and-forth waves throughout development. While the U.S. has always tried to have a strong influence on the U.N., that influence cannot be maintained at an intensity if the U.N. is to truly act as world government. With the Uranus-Neptune conjunction in Capricorn in the early 1990s, the U.N. rose from a diplomatic forum to a true world power. At the same time, a new supranational power began to truly come into its own, this time without U.S. involvement, as the European Union started to take definitive form. Since World War II there have been supranational bodies for trade (e.g., GATT, WTO) and military alliances (e.g., NATO), most of which the U.S. had a role in creating and maintaining. But the E.U. represents a “U.S.-like” union without the U.S. As Uranus returned to Aquarius and conjuncted the U.S. Moon in the early years of this decade, we found that the child we gave birth to—the supranational power—was gaining an independence from us with which we are uncomfortable.

Despite accusations, the U.S. has actually shown little tendency so far to fly off in the face of international concern. Indeed, with Uranus returned to Aquarius, President Bush has even been described as being “Wilsonian” in some of his speeches⁴. The U.S. may be at odds with the world community on some points, but political isolationism is as much a thing of the past as economic isolationism. After the State of the Union address in January 2003, for example, Bush was criticized for saying that if U.N. approval was not forthcoming for military action in Iraq, the U.S. would “go it alone.” However, even in rebuffing the United Nations, he didn’t actually say the U.S. would act *alone*, but rather that it would “lead a coalition” against Iraq. In truth, it is not a matter of the U.S. doing whatever it wants (or what its president wants) regardless of international concern; it is a matter of the U.S. relinquishing its assumption of international *leadership*.

Where are the current trends likely to lead and what is the meaning of the crisis the U.S. now finds itself in? The historical trends during the past Uranus cycle clearly point to greater integration of the world community. In the past 84 years we have witnessed the end of open acceptance of expansionism, imperialism and colonialism. International pressure has also helped to end apartheid and has had at least a moderating effect on oppression in countries throughout the world. Most recently, the E.U. has been able to exert considerable pressure in terms of human rights on countries that hope to join the community. It is hard to avoid the conclusion that we are moving in a direction toward an international code of ethics enforced by economic incentive. The role of supranational governments will increase, while individual nations will grumble a bit about the loss of sovereignty while ultimately being persuaded of the rational and economic benefits of compliance. In other words, we are heading in an Aquarian direction.

There are, however, two potential hold-outs. On the one hand, Islamic states have never really embraced democracy and remain attached to religious law and traditional forms of government such as monarchies. These states bristle at the increasing influences of secular-rationalism and materialism, and place much of the blame on the U.S. (perhaps inappropriately). But while they view their religious beliefs as the ultimate foundation for human affairs, the increasingly global world culture shows just how local their faith is. With Pluto in Sagittarius, the lessons to be learned have to do with our beliefs, and it is likely that all religious views, especially the most extreme, will be relativized.

On the other hand, the United States maintains its prestige as a superpower. While much of the world is moving toward an international standard in government, and the Islamic world remains entrenched in medieval times, the U.S. is often referred to as the “Last Remaining Superpower,” a term which in itself implies the end of the line. As the Islamic world and the U.S. come to loggerheads, the former is likely to find that it cannot continue to participate from its position of isola-

tion and religious righteousness, while the U.S. is likely to learn that it needs international consensus. In other words, the end of the "religious state" and the end of the "super state" are the dual outcomes of the present conflict. Pluto in Sagittarius will have the greatest effect on the Islamic states (although we should remember that the U.S. Ascendant is in Sagittarius) while the U.S. will be greatly affected by Pluto's move into Capricorn.

The United States will have its Pluto return in 2022, which should indicate the timetable for the reckoning of U.S. power. Keep in mind, though, that Pluto works slowly and subtly, and it would be unwise to expect revolutions and grand gestures. More likely, U.S. superpower status will simply erode, landing us as a peer in the world community, much the way the British Empire gradually dissipated. The Pluto return will be a time when we question the structure of our government, but it is the way the government uses power that will be changed. And it will likely turn out that in the process of losing power and influence in the world we discover, as a nation, some of the darker truths about the way we have gone about things. Many Americans will no doubt be shocked to find that the world doesn't work the way we learned in tenth grade social studies.

The process will play out through the country's third Uranus return in the late 2020s. Uranus returns have been crucial to the country, and the next one will likely be no exception. With Uranus in Gemini at the Descendant, the greatest challenge to the U.S. might be to simply become "one of the guys." We should not be too surprised at the difficulty of the transition; how many of us, anywhere in the world, are willing to cede the power of our decisions to a larger community of our peers? Remember that political "maneuvering" is just as much a part of the international community as it is local government. Recent events have focused on the country's difficulty in relinquishing international power at the U.N. and NATO. This is by no means strange territory for the United States, as within the country we have long had tension between the "rights" of individual states against the authority of the federal gov-

ernment which they form. At the same time, the other countries of the world are expressing, largely through the supranationals, a skepticism about the U.S. as the world's sole superpower. But elsewhere in the world, while nationalism is now somewhat *contained*, it is not dead. Perhaps it is the role of the U.S. to set yet another example: how to settle down to being ordinary.

SUMMARY

Deep changes happen slowly and in a halting, back-and-forth manner. We knew, on paper at least, about the wrongs of slavery, colonialism, imperialism and nationalism, but we had to go through horrendous wars to bring about the changes we knew (or should have known) were inevitable. Today, we are faced with the need to move into a global culture and to create the values and follow the ideals that will guide us into the new Age. Religious doctrine confronts secular-rationalism, and sparks fly. The last remaining superpower confronts the supranational powers it helped create, and sparks fly. If we have learned our lessons, hopefully the conflicts will be less bloody than in the past. Regardless of the immediate outcome, in the big picture we are moving toward the Age of the Water-Bearer, for better and for worse.

ENDNOTES

1. Used frequently by both Republicans and Democrats. Al and Tipper Gore published two books on the family in 2002. Even more to the Cancerian point are two new terms, "compassionate conservatism" and "homeland security," both introduced by Cancerian George W. Bush.
2. Abell, George O. *Realm of the Universe, 3rd Edition*. New York: Saunders College Publishing, 1984.
3. Robbins, Dorothy B. *Experiment in Democracy*. New York: The Parkside Press, 1971.
4. *The Economist*, January 4, 2003, volume 366.
See also: Conrad, Courtney Roberts. "Uranus and the Age of Revolution." *The Mountain Astrologer*, #107, Feb/Mar. 2003, pp. 38-46; and Rogers-Gallagher, Kirn (2002). "The New America: Outer-planet transits to the U.S. chart in 2002." *The Mountain Astrologer*, #101. Feb/Mar. 2002 (I have used this article as the source of the Sibly chart. I had been using a different version, 4:50 p.m., which puts Uranus in the seventh.)

*N*ORTH KOREA:
RAISED ON TIGER'S MILK

BY GREG REESE

*K*orea is a peninsula that protrudes from mainland China and Russia, surrounded by the Yellow Sea and the Sea of Japan. Korea is bordered on the north by the Tuman and Yula rivers and, from the beginnings of its civilization, the bitter cold winters would freeze the rivers, allowing invading armies to cross. Through the centuries, Korea has endured the rise and fall of several Dynasties; however, it wasn't until the 20th century that Korea came very close to losing its heritage, identity and national dignity.

Korea naively considered Japan a friendly neighbor until early 1876, when Japanese expansionism began. The Koreans foolishly signed a treaty of friendship and commerce and, by 1893, the Japanese were declaring their intent that "Korea should be a part of the Japanese map." The did not challenge Japan, which defeated the Soviet Union's effort to fight for possession of the peninsula, and, in 1904, Japan substantiated its dominance. On August 22, 1910, the Korean government signed over all sovereignty to Japan, and Korea was annexed as a Japanese colony.

During four decades of Japanese colonialism, Korea simmered with unrest. In the 1930s, the last 10 years of Japanese rule in Korea, Koreans were forced to speak Japanese and change their names to Japanese names. Japanese was the only language allowed in schools. The dissatisfaction of the people created many clandestine

movements and secret societies, most of which were variants of either nationalism or communism. It is here that severe and fanatical origins of the left-wing and right-wing divisions began.

As Japan's grip intensified, so did the resistance, and when Japan declared war on Manchuria, many militants who had sought exile in China and the Soviet Union surfaced. This produced a guerrilla force made up of Chinese-Koreans and Soviet-Koreans. It was from this committed group of anti-Japanese militants that communist influenced Kim Il Sung first came to leadership. Despite the deep resentment and determination of the guerrillas, they could not aptly defend themselves against Japan.

As Japan ruled Korea, it had declared war on China and the United States. All the while, the Soviet Union had an interest in occupying the Korean peninsula, and the Stalin-led Soviet Union aided the northern rebel factions with ideology and arms. The Chinese also were aiding troops to the northern factions. As Korea was staving off the great surrounding powers, on August 6, 1945, America dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan. As a result Japan surrendered and Allied Forces liberated Korea.

Before the smoke could clear, the Soviet Union and China supported, aided, financed and maneuvered puppet dictator Kim Il Sung into northern

Korea. Kim, himself a homeland Korean, rapidly began manipulating the national patriotism of exiled and disillusioned Koreans. American leaders, aware of colonial unrest demanding freedom, and the power holds of its Communist enemies, took the initiative without consulting the Koreans and divided the country at the 38th parallel. Korea remained in constitutional process for three years. While the DMZ (Demilitarized Zone), or 38th parallel, divided North Korea from South Korea, the people, separated from their families, cities and communities, longed for reunification. They did not want a divided nation. On a broader spectrum, the DMZ represented the intrusive power of American anti-Communist policy.

SEPARATE WAYS

As the South began the process to establish its freedom through self-government with the support of the United Nations, the North mirrored this progress, but separately, through the Soviet-supported leader Kim Il Sung. Kim, a self-reliant Marxist ruler, had served with the Chinese Communist Army and the Soviet Red Army. His experience gave him powerful skill in organization. Kim Il Sung had taken the principles of Marxism to brand his own definition of national Communism.

Once defeated, the Japanese hurriedly abandoned Korea, allowing little resistance to a Soviet takeover. Quickly confiscating lands, the new North Korea leaders built an effective political party and altered the economic and power structure of the villages. Once the traditional power elites were eliminated, villagers throughout North Korea complied with Kim Il Sung.

Kim's leadership was nationalistic, keeping out all foreign elements and influence. Kim created required study groups and mandatory reeducation programs. Everything functioned under national security, and Kim Il Sung formed the Korean People's Army (KPA) February 8, 1948.

South Korea held an election May 10, 1948, and voted in a right-wing Korean nationalist, Syngman Rhee. On the anniversary of the liberation from Japan, August 15, 1948, Republic of Korea

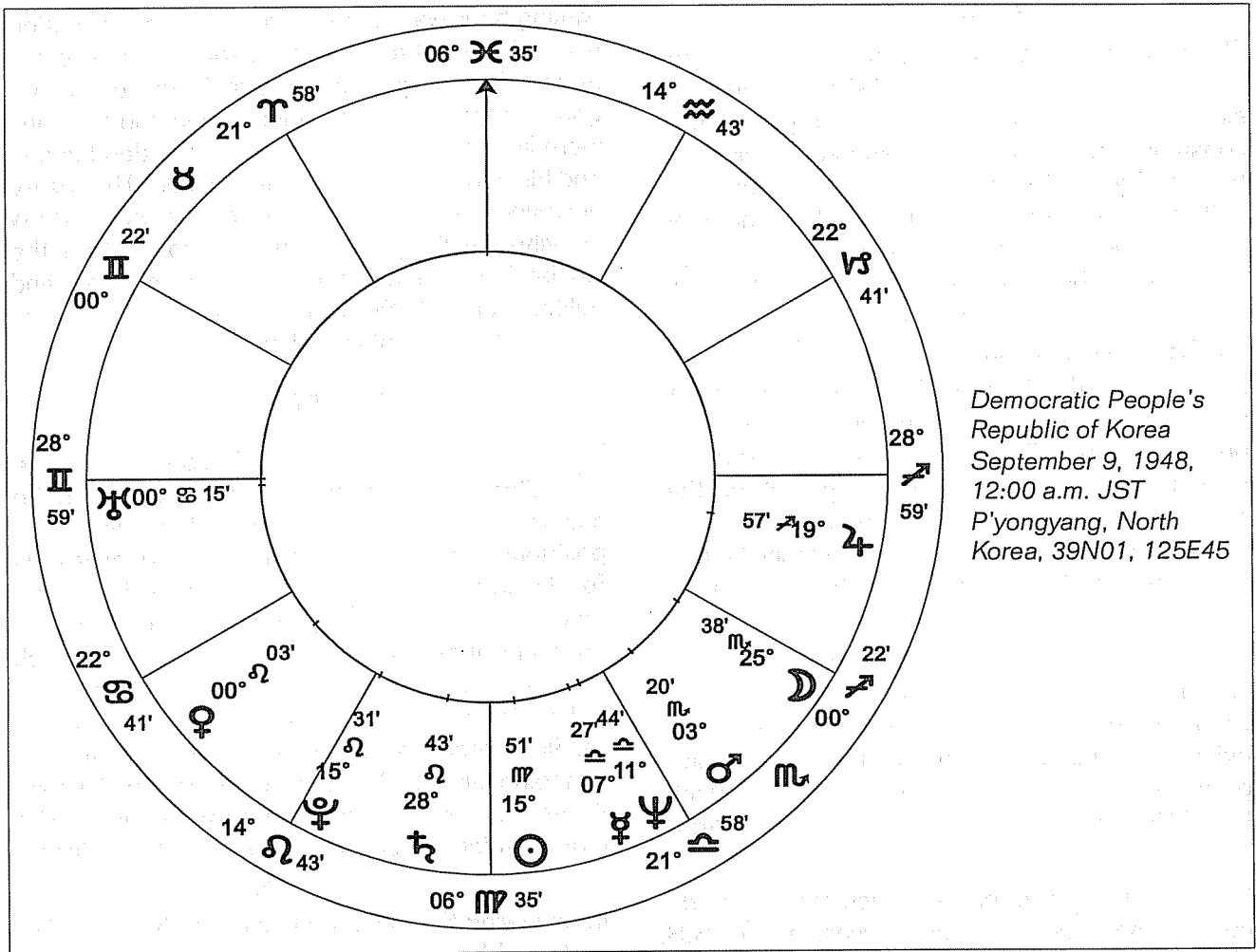
(South Korea) declared itself an independent nation.

With disdain and disapproval of the independence, Kim Il Sung, in a September 9, 1948 public ceremony, celebrated the founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea).

NATIONAL CHART OF NORTH KOREA

The birth hour of North Korea is unknown and this chart is thus cast for midnight, September 9, 1948, Pyongyang 39N01, 125E45. This data has been previously published in *Accurate World Horoscopes* by Doris Chase Doane and *The Book of World Horoscopes* by Moon Moore.

The Ascendant of a mundane chart is important because it represents relationships with others and the environment. The Gemini Ascendant in North Korea's chart may seem unfitting considering North Korea is a private nation that does little to communicate with the surrounding world. If we isolate Gemini, as the Korean nation is isolated, it can become mechanistic. Gemini can be adaptable and adjustable to controlled conditions without emotional engagement. Gemini can represent a cold, rigid and formal production. The North Korean Marxism is an ideology that basically determines human value according to cold, rigid, formal production. Gemini can be inclined to doctrine, as every endeavor of North Korea was contracted by the absolute rule of Kim Il Sung. According to Kim, human beings are only factors in the problem and, under his dictate, if people were a problem they were eliminated. Within the Marxist ideology there is no place for compassion, religion or spirituality. Similarly, as stated by Evangeline Adams, Gemini in mechanical definition is "absent of heart." This is a sign guilty of repetition according to Adams, as well as being blind to the truth. Gemini has the capacity, she adds, to manipulate words through accurate statements, yet tell profound lies. "North Korea is liberated," Kim would declare and continue to teach in his history books that Kim Il Sung was the single-handed victor over the Japanese. He never once mentioned the intervention of Allied Forces.



The Sun in a mundane chart represents the ruler or government of the country. A Virgo Sun indicates a government of practicality, hard work and discipline. Kim Il Sung urged his people to work for and serve the country, sacrificing individual needs. Kim reformed his country through a Virgo nature to dictate and indoctrinate. Kim calculated the agriculture and military needs tediously and eliminated any counter-proposals. Virgo, like Gemini, is a mercurial sign and can lean toward cold-blooded indifference in extreme negative expression. Kim exercised the negative traits of Virgo: mistrustfulness and excessive striving for security to the point of slaving his people for absolute order. Kim Il Sung would often visit the people in the fields and factories, always suggest-

ing and guiding them toward useful improvements in their organization, activity and alertness, typical of efficient Virgo.

The Sun as symbol of government or ruler is in an applying square to Jupiter. Jupiter, as the ruler of religion, symbolizes great suffering as religious freedom was forbidden under Kim's rule. Sun and Jupiter in ill aspect in mundane charting can reflect rampant death among government officials, which was certainly the case; every individual opposed to Kim's policies was removed and never seen again. Jupiter in the sixth house implies the health of the people is not good, and that the people do not prosper. Also, as observed by mundane astrologer H.S. Green, there is a "shadow of secret and mysterious crimes" when Jupiter is in

poor aspect in the sixth house.

The Sun in this chart is also semisquare Mars and Venus, which bodes ill and disharmonious tensions. This aspect also represents a government consumed by violent, brutal and aggressive tactics for financial control and revenues used for building armed forces. Kim Il Sung had one priority: massing a military threat to his own people and toward the reunification of Korea under his rule.

The Moon in mundane astrology represents the people, and the Scorpio Moon symbolizes the domination of individual expression through depressive control. The Moon is square Saturn, an aspect that Ivy Jacobson says symbolizes that people will suffer. Moon-Saturn can indicate a government that is troubled and financially crippled, and that the well being of the people is repressed.

Sublimely obvious to the affliction of the Moon and the people of this nation is the semisquare from Mercury to Neptune. This aspect is a clear indicator of lies and misinformation being propagated to the people. Mercury-Neptune reflects Kim Il Sung as a man who lied when he spoke to the people.

Uranus is in the first house, which represents the country and its populace. According to H.S. Green, Uranus often refers to the ruler as the supreme law-making power and source of all authority, and can symbolize the head of a nation dictating legislation, power and jurisdiction. Kim saw himself as a great liberator. He created an absolute monarchy and was tyrannical toward all opposition. Kim Il Sung assumed an exalted position as a national idol. He is personified as "Great and Respected Leader" while over-lording his rule with subordination of individual interests, respect for authority, loyalty to the state and party, and obedience. Kim's rule controlled all aspects of public life. Families could not even move from one apartment to another without permission from the government.

Kim built a party that drove the populace toward self-sustaining and rapid industrialization. Every

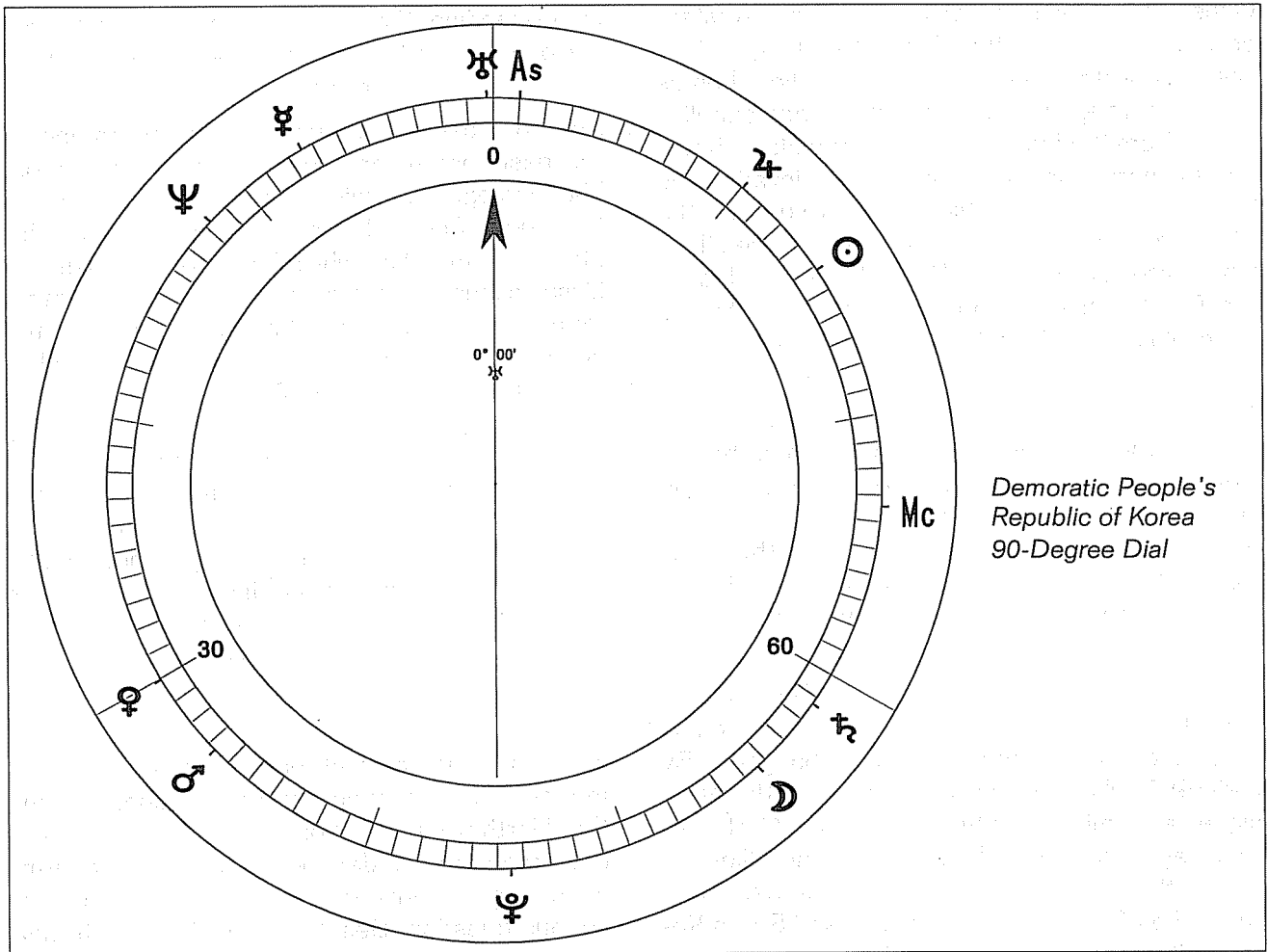
waking hour was to be devoted to reconstruction with minimum time allocated for rest and recreation. Wages were kept extremely low, consumer goods were given last priority and food rations were kept at a bare minimum. Kim prided himself and his people in Korean self-reliance. The reality however, was that Kim's government drew heavily on military and economic support from the Soviet Union and China. With the support and military aid of these countries, North Korea loomed as an ominous threat to South Korea.

90-DEGREE DIAL

The 90-degree dial places each planet by degree according to cardinal, fixed or mutable sign. In the cosmogram, or 90-degree dial, all cardinal sign positions are recorded from 0 to 30 degrees, all fixed points from 30 to 60 degrees and all mutable positions from 60 to 90 degrees regardless of quadruplicities (elements). The result is a quick composite using only 45-degree aspects and multiples. When placing a plastic 90-degree dial over the 90-degree wheel, it is easy at a glance to spot midpoints and combinations of planetary pictures. When delineating the planetary pictures, *The Combination of Stellar Influences* by Reinhold Ebertin is helpful.

In reviewing the major events of the Korean War, perhaps Mars, as the symbol of war, would be an appropriate place to start in that it aspects the midpoint of several combustible combinations. By June 1950, Kim Il Sung had armed and positioned 100,000 North Korean soldiers at the 38th parallel. Breaking through the DMZ on June 25, 1950 at 4:00 a.m. in Kaesong, the North Korean Army fought and pushed south past Seoul, South Korea. Kim Il Sung was determined to force reunification of Korea on his terms and seize the entire peninsula; he did, except for the southern port of Pusan.

Considering that Mars is in a fixed sign, Kim must have felt very sure of himself and his conquest. Having the aid of China and the Soviets, his conquest was a sure bet. In occupying the midpoint between Sun and Jupiter, Mars correctly symbol-



*Democratic People's
Republic of Korea
90-Degree Dial*

izes, as delineated by Reinhold Ebertin, conflicts created by "arrogance" and acting in "conflict with laws." It should be noted that these combinations still reveal the nature of this government.

Mars also contacts the midpoint between the Ascendant and Midheaven. Mars at this point suggests confrontation and aggressive actions creating conflict and fighting in its immediate environment. This trend is obvious in North Korea's continual belligerent attitude toward its southern neighbor.

Mars also carries the affliction of aspecting the Uranus-Midheaven midpoint, which time and again is observed in North Korea's inability to adapt to and accept universal rules of the surrounding world. A present example is the ousting

of international inspectors regulating its nuclear production.

Congruent with this described belligerence, Mercury has a finger in the Moon-Pluto midpoint and, as defined by Ebertin, this combination identifies the North Korean "fanatic fervor" and "violent tendencies" in accomplishing "far reaching plans" especially exemplified in its effort to invade South Korea. Mercury also occupying the midpoint of Sun-Mars reflects a "desire to bring plans to realization." This is apparent in the North Korean victories during the 1950 invasion. However, unassumingly, Neptune also occupied that midpoint, which dissolves the conquest into "plans without a chance of realization." What obviously was not apparent to Kim Il Sung was Allied Commander

General MacCarthy's arrival at Inchon, a western port just south of the DMZ. Suddenly, Kim's seeming victory vanished. The Allied Forces slashed through all communications and supplies to and from the North, and drove the North Koreans far northward. As North Korea invaded the South, China said nothing, but as soon as the Allies crossed into the northern side of the DMZ, China was up in arms. The U.N. forces led by MacCarthy took the upper hand, but the Chinese were obliged to help "little brother" and forced the Allies back south again.

As a side note, it was MacCarthy's intention to pommel the Koreans back into China and the Soviet Union, thus reuniting Korea under an auspicious democracy. President Truman wouldn't have it, and stopped General MacCarthy in his tracks. Truman fired MacCarthy for being insubordinate, and many in the U.S. viewed MacCarthy as "trigger-happy."

In spite of Truman's unwillingness to face the Chinese, for three years the Korean War afflicted terrible bloodshed and nothing changed. By mid-1953, when the North Koreans and the Allies signed an armistice halting the conflict, North Koreans again occupied the north and the Allies occupied the south. Devastation and ruin was left in the wake of the war in both North and South Korea. All ambitions for reconciliation were hopeless. On both sides were people separated from their homes and loved ones. They were a disheartened people, wandering in the midst of ravaged lands and burning buildings. The DMZ remains, separating the two Koreas to this day.

The United States, according to thousands of Koreans, is solely responsible for the division between North and South Korea. It's true that once America dropped the atomic bomb on Japan August 6, 1945, and again August 9, the Korean power struggle shifted. If MacCarthy had successfully eliminated communism from the entire Korean peninsula, we would not be wrangling with the recalcitrant North Korea today. Perhaps this disparaging history of Korea can aid us in clearly

understanding the disconcerting circumstances surrounding North Korea and the threat of nuclear armament.

Astrology can aid us quite well in understanding the basic nature and tendencies of this nation. The ideological premise on which this nation was founded is false. Marxism removes the basis for ethics and morality, which leads to barbarism, nihilism, alienation, hatred, resentment and a totalitarian state. Again, as the Sun represents the government, aspecting the midpoint of Mercury-Saturn and Neptune-Pluto, it aptly describes North Korea as a nation "subjected to separations and strange influences." Although Kim Il Sung died July 8, 1994, his son Kim Jong Il is the current North Korean Leader. He is steeped in North Korean Stalinism and was groomed to take power and embrace the policies of his father. Kim Jong Il is a shrewd negotiator, soliciting millions of dollars in aid from countries such as the United States, Russia and China for very little in exchange.

Yet in facing the current reality that South Korean factions are protesting American occupation and that North Korea stubbornly restarted its nuclear energy program in defiance of international arms control agreements, the fate of this peninsula is in serious question. Besides North Korea intermittently threatening its environment, testing missiles over Japan and South Korea, the real threat is not that North Korea will attack, but rather use nuclear technology for the proliferation and sales of weapons of mass destruction. There is hope, however, that if North Korea chooses to come out of its isolation and engage in equal give and take, it may grow and prosper and join the world family. It is the state of consciousness and choices it makes, not the hard aspects of its natal chart, that determine the outcome. The regimes of Russia and China are good examples of the process of change in attitude.

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*P*REDICTING THE SARS
EPIDEMIC

BY JEFFREY TRAISTER, PMAFA, C.A. NCGR

*M*undane astrology is the study of the effects of the planets on nations and communities of people. Planetary cycles and phenomena that include the phases of the Moon, Sun and other planets such as eclipses, New and Full Moons, Equinoxes and irregular planetary aspects, such as conjunctions, are associated with specific political, economic and social events. The nature of these events in any specific country, city or community depends on the planets, signs and houses in the horoscopes of that specific location at the time of the planetary cycle or phenomena.

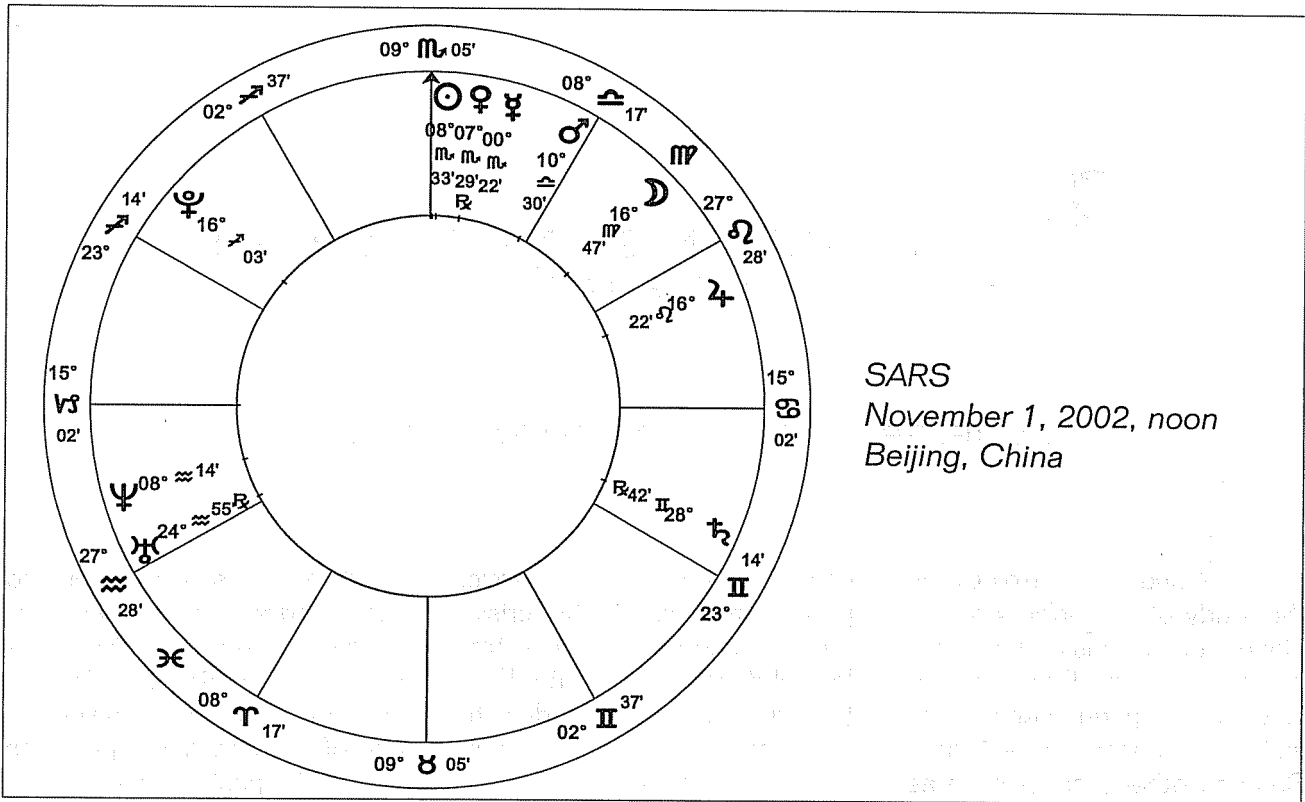
One such event is the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) epidemic that is among the fastest, deadliest and most mysterious diseases to emerge in more than 100 years. Yet after looking at the mundane horoscopes of the various planetary cycles and eclipses of Beijing, China, the capital and

center of the SARS epidemic, prior to and during this crisis, one can understand the astrological dynamics involved. First let's gain an understanding to the parameters of the epidemic.

SARS is an atypical pneumonia of unknown etiology that is caused by a virus and diagnosed through a method of exclusion. The World Health Organization (WHO) recognized the disease at the end of February 2003, but upon further investigation has determined the disease may first have appeared November 1, 2002, when cases of atypical pneumonia in China were first reported. Between November 1 and May 9, 2003, there were close to 7,200 diagnosed persons and more than 500 deaths in more than 30 countries on six continents. While approximately 3,000 persons have recovered, more than 3,000 diagnosed persons are still at risk to die. In just one week, more than

1,000 new cases and close to 100 hundred deaths were reported worldwide. WHO estimates that SARS has a 15 percent mortality rate, making it one of the deadliest epidemics in the past 100 years.

The SARS virus is mutated from viruses that cause the common cold and gastrointestinal and respiratory diseases in animals. WHO concluded that the virus can live for hours on surfaces, in feces and other objects and is spread through the air or contact by those infected or carrying the virus. As of early May 2003, WHO experts are still puzzled how SARS began and could jump thousands of miles from southern China, Beijing and Guangdong province to Hong Kong without infecting populations in between. Yet in just a few weeks, the disease is moving rapidly through southeast Asia and seriously affecting the economy. Furthermore, the disease strikes healthy individuals, yet death



cases are much higher among those who are older and have pre-existing health conditions. The disease has several features that correspond to Saturn in Gemini and Pluto in Sagittarius. SARS affects the Gemini-ruled respiratory system. It has a higher incidence and mortality rate among older persons, who are Saturn-ruled. The cause of the disease is a deadly mutation of the Coronavirus family; Pluto rules death, mutation and virus. The sign of Sagittarius is associated with vast geographical areas; the virus spread globally in only a few months. Furthermore, it affected the political and economic policies, such as quarantines and restricted travel, in

many countries. For example, University of California-Berkeley has restricted admission of students from SARS infected countries such as China, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

The time of origin of SARS is not known. WHO believes the first case originated November 1, 2002. The horoscope at noon in Beijing has Capricorn rising with retrograde Saturn, its ruler, at 28 Gemini 42 in the sixth house of public disease. The Moon is at 16 Virgo 47 in the eighth house and is square Pluto at 16 Sagittarius 03 in the eleventh house, suggesting a public event that would result in death. Furthermore, Sun in 8 Scorpio 33 on the Midheaven is square Neptune at 8

Aquarius 14 in the first house, the house of public health, suggesting a mysterious public health problem that would involve government deception. Retrograde Uranus at 24 Aquarius 55, also in the first house, suggests a public health problem that would suddenly emerge.

Eclipses are often ominous signs of things to come. The solar eclipse preceding the SARS epidemic occurred June 10, 2002 at 19 Gemini 54. Gemini rules the lungs and respiratory disease. On November 1, Pluto was at 16 Sagittarius 04, in an applying square to the eclipse. Yet Pluto was at 19 Sagittarius 43 and in exact opposition to the eclipse February 22, the

day Saturn changed direction and went direct at 22 Gemini 08, and about when WHO publicly recognized SARS as an epidemic.

The 2002 Libra Ingress in Beijing, China has the Sun in the ninth house of travel and commerce. Mars is at 15 Virgo 39, also in the ninth house, and forms an exact square with Pluto at 15 Sagittarius 07 in the twelfth house. Moreover, the New Moon directly preceding the Ingress was at 14 Virgo 20 in the tenth house square Pluto at 14 Sagittarius 56 in the first house. The New Moon also fell in the ninth house of the ingress chart conjunct Mars and square the solar eclipse. These placements and aspects suggest something secretive and deadly, perhaps involving disputes among scientists and research physicians. Saturn is at 28 Gemini 47 in the seventh house conjunct the Descendant, suggesting that the government would be cautious and apprehensive in relating with foreign officials.

The 2003 Aries Ingress in Beijing has the Sun in the eleventh house applying in a semisextile to Uranus at 00 Pisces 33 in the tenth house and sextile-trine the Ascendant-Descendant, suggesting the changes in government cabinet

and that leaders would be more cooperative with foreign officials. Yet with Neptune at 12 Aquarius 22 in the tenth house conjunct the Midheaven, and Moon at 6 Scorpio 27 in the sixth house square the Midheaven, Neptune and Jupiter at 8 Leo 23, it appears that the disease will spread and adversely affect a large populace and that the government may be involved in a deceptive scandal, such as providing WHO with inaccurate or false data, that can do further harm to the public health and prevent officials from discovering the cause of the disease.

The New Moon preceding the 2003 Aries Ingress was at 12 Pisces 06 in the eleventh house in an applying square to Saturn at 22 Gemini 12, Pluto at 19 Sagittarius 50 and Mars at 28 Sagittarius 52 in the seventh house. This combination indicates an adverse effect on the health and economy of the nation, and a weakening of the government cabinet. The New Moon fell in the eleventh house of the ingress, further exacerbating the effects of the above.

Since the Ascendant of the 2003 Aries Ingress is at 29 Taurus, a fixed sign, the public health crisis could affect China and its provinces the entire year. This crisis will involve not

just the health of the nation, but economic and foreign affairs as well.

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TECHNIQUES — Q & A

BY TERRY LAMB, M.A., CA NCGR

Q What do you think of the terms benefic and malefic. I've read that Saturn and Mars were described as the malefic planets. Is this a term still used today? It makes them sound negative, unless I'm not interpreting this correctly.

A This is a concept that comes to us from classical (traditional) astrology. It has profound meaning but has lost its original sense over time.

The practitioners of Hellenistic astrology came up with the notion of malefics and benefics. They assumed, in knowing what Saturn and Mars represented in the heavens, that they were not a good blend with human nature. Their whole approach to astrology was to use it *theurgically*, or as part of a system to improve "godhood expressed in humanity." The planets—using them properly however they lay in our charts—can lead us to enlightenment. This means balancing and counterbalancing the forces that are found there.

The terms "benefic" and "malefic" are indicators attached to the planets to tell us which ones work better with human nature so that the individual can rise to godhood. That is, we would seek to "mix" a malefic planet differently into human nature than we would a benefic.

The benefic planets were ones with which humans had to do very little work to make them turn out well in their nature, so astrologers would encourage their clients to find ways to strengthen them. Their proper use was a virtual guarantee with very little effort on the native's part. However, the malefics were the opposite; they would, if emphasized, come out in a person's nature in potentially harmful or dangerous ways.

The benefic planets are Venus and Jupiter. In Hellenistic astrology, they are given more latitude in granting positive effects in a chart. For instance, a Jupiter square or opposition will produce a weaker negative

influence than a Saturn square or opposition, perhaps even better than a Saturn trine!

The traditional malefics are Mars and Saturn. It's not that these planets are bad but that they are typically used badly by humans: Mars or Saturn + human = bad chemistry. A strong Mars would be aggressive and warlike. A strong Saturn would be authoritarian and heavy-handed. So these astrologers sought to counteract the natures of Saturn and Mars, reducing their strength in the chart. The modern outer planets—Uranus, Neptune and Pluto—have been added to this list.

What about the Sun, Moon, and Mercury? The Sun and Moon, as luminaries, do not carry benefic or malefic influence—they light things up. Mercury is neutral, neutral everywhere—in both theory and application, any way you slice it.

In modern humanistic-style astrology, we hesitate to say that

any influence is bad or good. In fact, I have seen just as much negative effect from a Jupiter trine as a Saturn square in a natal chart. For this reason, most modern astrologers do not apply the notion of malefic or benefic to a natal chart. It does seem to be true that we can find a way to make anything work positively, given a lifetime to do it in. However, where benefic and malefic fit to a "T" is in the interpretation of horary and mundane charts.

In horary astrology, we are asking a question at a certain time, to which the chart cast for that time gives an answer. In mundane astrology, we are evaluating the placements of planets which will be used by the vast, relatively unconscious, masses of people. In these instances there is no person to instruct or improve upon the expression of a planet. In the case of the horary, we are assessing conditions and circumstances. People represented in the chart are found as simple transitory archetypes that exist only for the purpose of answering the question. My sister's husband will not be Jupiter to me just because he was in a horary chart.

In the case of mundane charts, we are assessing impersonal factors: drought, enemies, foreign affairs, the legislature. We have yet to evolve to the point where a group of people will act in concert at a level that defies the benefic or malefic labels.

In the case of the outer planets,

they represent elements of surprise and forces that are beyond our ability to control. In that sense, they are considered malefic because when they are brought into human affairs, less-than-positive events occur.

Aspects and sign placements modify the disposition of malefic and benefic planets. Trines and sextiles improve their effects, while squares and oppositions undermine them. Conjunctions are neutral and only carry the preexisting energy of the planets involved. Quincunxes did not exist in Hellenistic astrology as a mathematical aspect. In addition, a planet's dignities (rulership, exaltation, triplicity, term and face) mollify and sometimes override malefic qualities, while debilities (detriment and fall) cause a deterioration or complete loss of the pluses a benefic can provide.

So, a Saturn in Libra or Capricorn will be considered wholly beneficial to the individual lucky enough to have it. What's more, it is questionable whether a person with Venus in Scorpio gets the benefic advantage at all since Venus is unable to act in its normal benefic way, or so the theory goes. Again, this is not in my opinion so much true in natal astrology as in transitory charts, such as horaries and mundane charts, which must stand on their own and apply impersonally.

The nature of the planets, in

part whether they are malefic or benefic, is elucidated further through their classification as nocturnal and diurnal, but let me leave that aside for now. By the time all the factors of traditional astrology are put together, we can get a profound and detailed picture of the disposition of a planet in any chart. We can tell how difficult it may be for the individual to come to terms with its nature and apply it usefully in his or her life. We can also tell how a given planetary factor in a horary chart is likely to be experienced as a temporary influence on a situation, or in a mundane chart as an impersonal one.

* * *

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*S*ADDAM HUSSEIN:
PSYCHOLOGY OF AN
EXTREMIST?

BY STEPHANIE J. CLEMENT, PH.D

*W*ith the strong focus on Saddam Hussein and Iraq in the news at the time of this writing, I decided to take a look at his chart, speculative though the birth data (April 28, 1937, Tikrit, Iraq, noon) may be. Although this article has the word "extremist" in its title, the question mark is the operative factor. Can we assume this man is an extremist just because he thinks and acts differently from the way we wish?

JUST WHAT IS EXTREME?

Let's first agree on a definition of extremism, if that's possible. The dictionary says "advocacy of extreme political measures," and also "radicalism." Extreme means "exceeding the ordinary, usual, or expected." While one definition of "radical" is "considerable departure from the usual or traditional," the other definition is "of, relating to, or proceeding from a root, as

growing from the root of a plant, or from a stem that does not rise above the ground."

This second definition (actually it comes first in the dictionary) suggests that we proceed with caution. What seems like abnormal behavior from our Western, Christian perspective may not be so extreme within the context of an Islamic nation. And while we may not support the actions of this Iraqi leader, we are in no position to dictate what his premises for government ought to be. On the other hand, we have come to expect that certain human rights should be shared by all people, not just those who live in the U.S. or in the West.

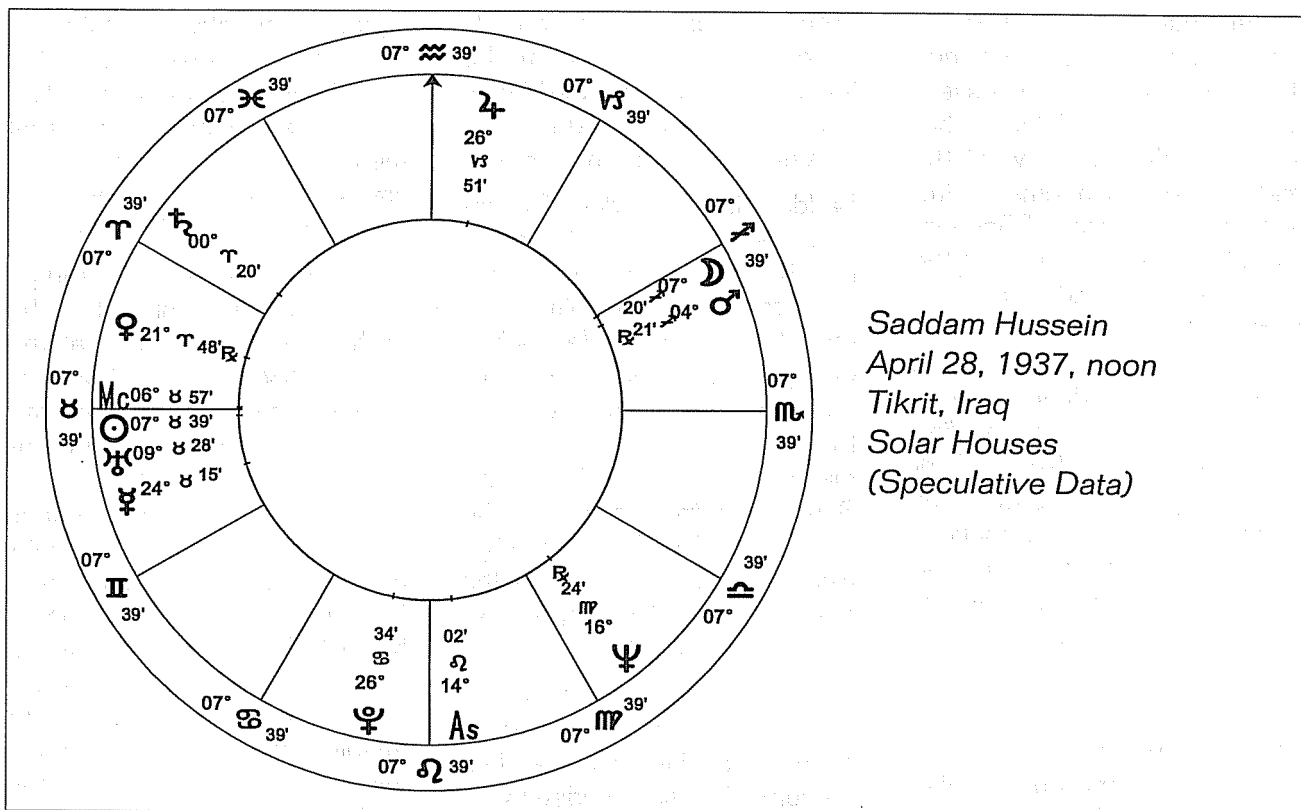
But let's go with this "root" definition of radical. Saddam Hussein certainly hangs out on a different branch from almost everyone I know. It is a virtual certainty that I will never have a conversation with the man, so I

will never have the chance to find out what he really thinks. My examination of his birth chart is as close as I am likely to get to understanding what his personal goals and aspirations may be—or what may him tick on the practical level for that matter. With no birth time, and some speculation about the date, I have chosen to go with the date his birthday is celebrated in Iraq.

ASTROLOGY 101:
CONSIDER THE
"SOURCES"

First we must consider the limited sources of news information about Saddam Hussein. While we get lots of news, it appears to be slanted in one direction, and none of it comes from reliable Iraqi sources.

Second, if we want to understand people—anyone—we have to consider their sources—their roots. This



Saddam Hussein
April 28, 1937, noon
Tikrit, Iraq
Solar Houses
(Speculative Data)

means whether they are male or female, what their culture is like, what religion they practice, and what their family situation is like. Knowing if they are educated, and how well, is helpful. Then we have to judge the chart on that basis. Therefore, I have attempted to think of Saddam Hussein in terms of Islam, Iraq, and the 20th century. While information about him is scant, and subject to questions about authenticity, I have tried to gather what I can.

Gathering actual facts about Saddam is not easy. I suspect that much of the information I found on the Internet is drawn from a single source, and it is strongly biased against the man. However, if even 10 per-

cent of it is the truth, this is a dangerous assassin who thrives on torturing others and whose chief aim in life has been to attain a position of great power and hold on to it. He has done that. We know that he has waged war on Iran and Kuwait, and that under his leadership the Kurds were systematically killed. Some sources say that after his father died/left the family, Saddam suffered at the hands of a cruel stepfather. His education was long delayed (sources vary on how long and on how far he eventually got).

The information sources available to us are unreliable. What we do know is that Saddam was born a peasant and rose to power through assassination

and terrorism. His personal roots include the Islamic religion, very limited family resources and a self-evident driving ambition to attain power (which may overpower any religious leanings).

In discussing Saddam's birth chart, I have drawn heavily from a chapter by Bernie Ashman in *Civilization Under Attack*. In "The Psychology of Terrorism," Bernie talks about how the energies of each of the planets can be taken to extremes in support of fanatical desires.

SUN, MERCURY, URANUS IN TAURUS

The Sun symbolizes the individual ego. Bernie states that for

the terrorist, "instead of an authentic development of ego strength, a terrorist is essentially deriving all of his or her sense of self through what the leader or group deems as important." In the case of Saddam Hussein, he is the leader of the nation, on one hand, and an individual following a train of thought on the other. In some ways he is totally driven by ego. In *Astrology: Understanding the Birth Chart*, Kevin Burk states: "The Sun [the ego] will resist any attempts to make it what it is not, by shining brighter and with greater intensity until its true nature cannot be denied."

With the Sun in Taurus (along with Mercury and Uranus, and with Neptune and Jupiter also in earth signs), Saddam is very likely a sensation type. Carl Jung describes the sensation type as one who relates to the world through the ordinary five senses. With five planets in earth, I am sure Saddam fits this type. On the plus side, we can take a page from Reinhold Ebertin's book, *The Combination of Stellar Influences*. Ebertin says Taurus will "safeguard the material foundations of life." And what are those foundations for the leader of Iraq? Primarily oil. The Iraqi economy depends on the sale of oil around the world, and the economy has been severely damaged by the United States and its allies in recent years. Of course, Iraq has waged war on Kuwait and Iran, and the world-

wide oil economy was threatened. Still, what seem to be ill-advised wars on Saddam's part do reflect the desire to maintain power in the region.

Saddam is the leader of a nation. He has gone to great lengths to get the rest of the world to acknowledge him in this role. How does he feel when George W. Bush and other leaders show such disdain for him? He digs in his heels and demands acknowledgment. Sounds like the makings of the Gunfight at O.K. Corral, which is where we are headed at the time of this writing (September 2002).

Saddam's sidekicks in this gunfight are Mercury and Uranus. They cheer him on. Saddam presumably is surrounded by individuals who agree to whatever he suggests. While he is inciting them to defend themselves to the last man, woman and child, they are brainwashing him to believe that he is almighty powerful, and therefore right. Uranus, whose energy could be used to seek a creative solution to the current political impasse, instead seems to be fueling the fire for Saddam.

The question I want to address is this: Is Saddam acting outside the basic belief structure of an Iraqi Muslim? The situation is extreme, and his response appears to us to be extreme. However, what alternatives does he have? I imagine myself in Iraq, fully expecting the U.S. to invade at any moment. What are my choices? From the psycho-

logical perspective, if I take the information offered about this man, I can only say he acts like a model sociopath. He uses all means at his disposal to increase his own power, with no apparent regard for others.

It is easy to say that Saddam Hussein is stubbornly set on the path to destruction, and at the moment (September 2002), it is not easy to see how he can step off that path and take a different direction. As astrologers we know that the nature of Uranus is to provide surprises. He might get one out of this situation yet. If his intuition is well developed, he could find diplomatic answers that astonish us. With his track record, however, it is hard to imagine that his own people won't try to get rid of him at the earliest possible moment, and revolution is ruled by Uranus.

During 2003, Neptune dances around the square to Saddam's Uranus. This provides potent energy for dramatic change, and it may promise more action than it will deliver. At the same time transiting Pluto is dancing around the square to his Neptune. What a combination of energies! I feel that Saddam, if he were able to listen to his own heart, might have turned out to be more charismatic and less vicious. With Neptune and Pluto, we can hope for further spiritual evolution. The balance between fanatical adherence to one's beliefs and a mystical transition to something new is delicate. I believe Saddam will not be able to accept anything that resem-

bles defeat, so he is unlikely to change, and unlikely to seek any true and lasting peace.

MOON AND MARS IN SAGITTARIUS

I have the Moon in Sagittarius myself, so I rather like this placement. The Moon indicates where we seek security, how we are nurtured and what we need in the way of a home. For the terrorist, all these needs are fulfilled by belonging to the group and by pursuing the cause. Without that, the terrorist is alone and frightened. Saddam is at home in his own country, surrounded, we imagine, by like-minded individuals.

For me, the Moon in Sagittarius takes great comfort from spiritual beliefs. I personally could not navigate through my life without them. Saddam Hussein may not be all that different. It's just that his beliefs are so different from ours. We find those religious precepts so alien that we often don't even try to understand them. He seems to say that he has no intention of understanding our position either. My feeling is that Saddam had to adapt (possible natal Moon quincunx natal Sun or Uranus) as a child, and that he is through with adapting to the desires or needs of others. He will have everything the way he wants it, or else.

Mars is there to offer support for the Moon. Mars is the warrior planet—self-centered and aggressive. Mars takes an in-

gained distaste for different values and molds it into hot rage. While Saddam could be using his energies to heal his nation, provide food and medical aid to his people, rebuild the infrastructure, etc., instead he is driving himself and his nation to the brink of disaster. Yet when I think of what I might do to defend my children or grandchildren, I realize I would go to extremes if necessary. I would act from rage myself if I felt it was the only way.

Is the approach that Saddam Hussein is taking the only path open to him? We could say no, that he could resign, and allow a more democratic government to be installed. However, that goes against closely held religious beliefs of Islam. Just as the U.S. would not welcome the kinds of change that would accompany victorious invaders, neither will the Iraqi people welcome our version of democracy.

VENUS AND SATURN IN ARIES

Bernie Ashman focuses on the social qualities of Venus, and mentions the close knit groups formed by terrorists. He states that the values they espouse are centered on accomplishing their goals. Saturn represents the authority structure within any organization, and Terrorist groups are no exception. Issues of power are also part of the Saturn equation.

Part of what makes Saddam a strong leader is his ability to

blend the group mentality into his authoritarian government. To the extent that the average Iraqi knows what is happening in the world outside, Saddam may seem like a bulwark against the influx of foreign ideas concerning everything from oil to religion to feminism. We don't really know what Iraqi citizens think about their government. We do know that, the moment it was possible, Afghani women discarded their restrictive clothing. This is one indication that Islamic women feel the limitations of their position. However, we don't know what those same women might do, if given sufficient freedom.

Note that Saddam married in 1958 (on his birthday, if we believe our sources), with solar arc Saturn approaching the conjunction to Venus. With Venus as the natural ruler of the seventh house, this conjunction is very appropriate. Ebertin mentions "love-unions with appreciable difference in age." As Saddam was only 21 years old at the time, his wife may have been younger, but the age difference would not seem like a large one now. Ebertin also says of this combination, "The sense of duty dominates the inclinations of the heart." Saddam may have felt that marriage was expected in his culture and that he would have better luck if he were married.

We have already looked at both Venus and Mars. At the time of the war with Iran (September 4, 1980), Saddam had solar arc

Venus opposing natal Mars, and solar arc Uranus sextile natal Venus. Venus to Mars, according to Ebertin, includes the following: "the state of being dissatisfied, excitability, a lack of tact, a sudden outburst of extreme passion followed by a quick reaction of coolness." We can't say anything about the coolness, but such an extreme action on Saddam's part fits with his life as a sensation type who can't get past the moment. To say the war was merely acting out this basic desire to always be satisfied is simplistic, but may be true to some extent.

JUPITER IN CAPRICORN

For an extremist, Jupiter becomes the touchstone for philosophical dogma. This planet is usually expansive and somewhat open to new ideas, but the terrorist uses one set of ideals and makes them rigid and uncompromising. People with different ideas become the enemy. There are at least two sets of ideas that cause friction in the Middle East situation. One is religion. We understand some of the differences clearly, and others remain a mystery. The bottom line is that most religions teach identical principles. The differences lie in the way these principles are applied.

The second area is international economics, focused on oil. This one is not so hard to understand. They have it and we want and need it. Very simple.

With Jupiter in Capricorn trining

Mercury in Taurus, Saddam Hussein makes the most use of communication to state his aims. If he were in the U.S., I would recommend that he hire a really good public relations firm to manage his image. Then he might be able to address the more positive side of Jupiter's energy. As it stands, any dialogue with the U.S. is layered with cultural differences and attitudes that interfere with the business of resolving conflict and settling disputes.

At the beginning of 2003, solar arc Jupiter is conjunct Saturn and the Aries Point. Patience is the best to be hoped for. Discontent is more likely. Saddam is probably intensely irritated by the present course of events. With solar arc Mars squaring the Sun, Saddam's health could suffer under the strain. He is personally inclined to violence at this time, and his track record shows that he is willing to make this choice. If the choice were his alone, I believe he would fight to the last. However, there are other figures who are not having the Mars-Sun square. They may be just a bit more sensible in their evaluation of the situation.

NEPTUNE IN VIRGO

Idealism or delusion? And who is deluded? We judge terrorists by our standards of behavior. What we must remember is that they are operating with a different set of standards. Their ideals lead them to desperate, terrible acts. We have strong

examples in our own history and religion. In fact, we share the same Old Testament beliefs among Christians, Jews and Muslims. And we all, when pushed to the wall, use these beliefs to support our wars. Our ministers pray for success in battle, and we all warp the Ten Commandments to suit wartime conditions. Saddam is really not all that different. The main difference is that he is in a position of great power, so his beliefs have great impact within his sphere of control.

In January 2003, transiting Neptune squares Saddam's natal Uranus. This transit is direct, and does not retrograde back to the exact degree (it will be within one degree of orb in October). There is a strong possibility of a loss of power, and even a lack of consciousness of the situation. January is a weak moment for Saddam. If his health is a concern, and I found no documented evidence of this anywhere, then he could suffer an illness at this time, with a second close call later in the year.

PLUTO IN CANCER

Among its possible effects, Pluto focuses destructive power in the environment. Pluto also reveals the capacity for self-mastery and transformation. With Pluto in Cancer, Saddam focuses on home and family and the values found there, while George W. Bush (Pluto in Leo) has a different agenda. Realistically, Saddam is being pushed into defending

himself, his regime, and his nation from a potential U.S. invasion. Assuming that his government holds together, it would be extremely difficult to invade Iraq and gain meaningful control. We simply don't have a good way to win the hearts and minds of the Iraqi people. If the government collapses, then we have a chance to align ourselves with a new government.

Covert activities are part and parcel of the terrorist's life. Saddam, in contrast, would appear to be in the forefront of the news. Of course, what we see in the news is not all that is happening.

At the time of the invasion of Kuwait (August 2, 1990), Saddam had solar arc Mars conjunct Jupiter and opposite Pluto. Mars-Pluto is reflective of approaching matters with excessive force and brutality. By that time (1990) Saddam had fallen into a pattern of using force on every occasion, where other strategies might have worked better. He seems to have lost the capacity to use the somewhat more positive leadership skills that are inherent in his birth chart with Jupiter opposite Pluto. He does not strive to develop leadership through any of the usual Jupiterian avenues, like rebuilding society or appreciating the need for religious growth. He risked losing everything, in fact.

In 1990, Saddam had solar arc Uranus squaring Saturn at the Aries Point. This was a moment when a rebirth could have occurred. However, Saddam got

through on will power, but instead of growing his position, he found himself more isolated and limited. The potential for violence was not reduced. With solar arc Mercury sextile Neptune, he was living in some sort of fantasy world. I feel he was the victim of self-deception. From our perspective, he acted without concern for his nation and its people. He wanted Kuwait, and therefore he went after it. Knowing the monumental power of the U.S. and its allies, we wonder how anyone could have thought he would win. Ebertin uses words like "faulty judgment, confused ideas, lack of clarity, and self-deception" to describe this combination. We can imagine that Saddam's military leaders were either unable or unwilling to talk him out of the invasion of Kuwait.

CONCLUSIONS

Saddam is nobody's ideal of a benevolent leader. He has himself perpetrated sadistic torture, engaged in wars against his neighbors, and shown that he cannot be depended on to promote stability in the Middle East. He, like each of us, had—and has—a variety of different potentials, as seen in his birth chart. With a different beginning, he could have been immensely popular. In fact, we don't know the truth about his popularity at home, we only know he is disliked in most of the nations of the world.

In his birth chart, Saddam has Neptune squaring the Moon's

Nodes. This combination suggests that Saddam has not acted from a place of concern for his people. Instead he has exploited his position. He may have depended on his military and the people of Iraq to support him in the past, but he has come to the place where he may be sadly disappointed now. Transiting Pluto conjuncted his North Node in 2002 and will return to make the direct station within five minutes of arc in August 2003, setting off the natal Neptune/Node square. This could bring about the final breakdown of Saddam's power in Iraq. My hope is that the world can see Saddam removed from his position without endless suffering of the Iraqi people. There must be a better way to effect change, without another war in the Middle East.

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* * *

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BOOK REVIEWS

BY SUSAN HOPPER

Astrology: Transformation and Empowerment, by Adrian Ross Duncan, Weiser Books. 368 Congress Street, Boston, MA 12210, 2002. Paper. 320 pp. \$29.95 US

After you have intrigued your client with the uncanny accuracy of a precisely cast and professionally interpreted horoscope, then what? Adrian Ross Duncan is about to become a household name among astrologers by answering this question with his second book, *Astrology: Transformation and Empowerment*. A London-based astrologer, Duncan is the author of *Doing Time on Planet Earth* and *World of Wisdom* software, *Horoscope Interpreter* and *Astrology for Lovers*. With *Transformation and Empowerment*, he expertly shows the reader how to use astrology as both diagnostic tool and prescription for better emotional and mental health. Divided into three parts, this book gives the reader information on how to evaluate the cli-

ent before reading the chart, gives insightful information on specific planetary combinations and teaches ways to assist the client in the process of growth and healing.

Transformation and Empowerment begins by "Setting the Scene" with Part One. Duncan introduces his philosophy of counseling and goes on to set the groundwork for what makes a good counselor. Imagine yourself as a student of the Bene Gesserit from the Dune Chronicles series, carefully trained to observe body language in great detail, down to the pitch of the voice and what is left unsaid. These are the things you will need to pay attention to if you want to maximize your effectiveness as an astrological counselor. From the moment your client calls or walks in your door, you will need to be aware of these nuances so that you can connect with and make him or her comfortable. Duncan gives the reader a thorough listing and explanation of what a

good counselor needs to make this first step successful.

I was most impressed by Part Two, which contains gripping descriptions of planetary combinations that tend to have a profound impact on a client's life. Considering the many texts I have read concerning planetary influences, I found Duncan's perspective to be both fresh and informative. Duncan avoids casting the parents as the villains by making it clear that even though some aspects may suggest a negative parental influence, it is the perception of the client that perpetuates destructive patterns. With each combination, he gives a prescription for working with the energy that is both profound and helpful. This is the perfect transition to Part Three, which concerns itself with how to make this information useful to the client.

With "Part Three: Transformation Methods," Duncan brings everything together to provide several strategies for assisting

the client. This includes interpreting the consultation chart, which is a horary chart drawn up for the time of consultation. By considering this piece of the puzzle, you can see more of the big picture and where the client currently stands within it. From here, the astrologer can begin to help the client find a new perspective. Solid intervention techniques, such as reframing, accessing memory, direct feedback, and others, are discussed, as well as how to discern which technique will be the most useful. While it may be tempting to simply console rather than advise, a counselor's true calling is to help the client move beyond old perceptions and move forward into a healthier emotional life. Duncan helps the astrological counselor do this with his groundbreaking work, which is well worth the \$30 price tag.

Horary At Its Best by Alphee Lavoie, forward by Noel Tyl. Astrological Institute of Research, 2002. Paper. 176 pp. \$16.99 US.

If you are serious about learning horary, you might want to check out Alphee Lavoie's *Horary At Its Best!*. This is a very interesting compilation of articles from Lavoie's popular Dell *Horoscope* magazine column. At first glance, *Horary At Its Best!* might seem like just another collection of previously released material, but closer inspection reveals it to be far more than just that. In fact, it

may answer many questions you haven't even thought to ask as Alphee takes the reader through the very real process of investigating each inquiry. This book moves straight to the business of investigating horary charts and assumes the reader will be able to follow along, so I wouldn't recommend it to anyone who is not yet relatively fluent in the language of the stars. If you are looking for an informative and entertaining text on horary technique, this book will make a great addition to your library.

The table of contents consists of 38 horary inquiries, all of which represent real world types of questions you or your clients might ask at different times in life. Queries such as "Should we buy this house?" and "Should I take this job?" are repeated using different examples so that the reader can get a feel for how many different factors can potentially influence these familiar life situations. Questions with multiple choice answers, such as "Should I buy car #1, 2, or 3?", are included so that the reader can begin to grasp the process of discerning how each car is represented in the horary chart. This simple format makes it easy to dive in and begin reading at any point that captures your interest, so if you like to skip around in a book, you will enjoy this feature. *Horary At Its Best!* concludes with a well rounded recommended reading list, designed to educate the astrologer who wishes to become

proficient at horary interpretation.

Overall, this book can help the growing astrologer develop a personal technique by demonstrating the thought processes that go into considering every angle of an inquiry. If you enjoy true detective stories, you will find *Horary At Its Best!* a fascinating read. Lavoie makes an entertaining and informative tour guide as he leads the student through the mental processes that makes him one of the world's best horary practitioners. After reading his intriguing examples of horary magic, you may very well want to dig deeper for information!

Time For Magick: Planning Hours for Meditations, Rituals, and Spells by Maria K Simms. Llewellyn Publications, PO Box 64383, St. Paul, MN 55164-0383, 2001. Paper. 298 pp. \$12.95 US, \$19.95 CN

Here is a wonderful book for beginning astrologers and Wiccan initiates who would like to explore the connection between timing, astrology and magick. Written by someone who knows how to make magick happen, this book is a must have for those who want to learn how to tap into natural energy rhythms. An astrologer for nearly 30 years and a practitioner of Wicca for nearly 20, Maria Kay Simms is well versed in both subjects. While *Time For Magick* doesn't discuss electional astrology in detail, it does serve as an introduction to a very complex branch of astrol-

ogy rarely written about. The author's "quick and dirty" techniques and tips for electional queries are worth the price of the book alone. They are easy to follow, make sense and can make life easier for both pagan and non-pagan alike.

Simms begins by explaining the basic meaning of the planets, astrological signs and lunar phases by emphasizing how to use energy and cycles in the most positive way possible. After all, the Wiccan code of ethics includes "with harm to none" at the top of its list, and *Time For Magick* makes this perfectly clear. In fact, Simms takes the time to cover ethics and magick as she reinforces the importance of proper intent and working to change yourself rather than interfere with others.

There is much to learn here as excellent chapters on meditations and rituals involving the planets will at least intrigue if not inspire you to try some of these yourself. The guided meditations help the reader to visualize the gods and goddesses within, while rituals described allow the new practitioner to find creative ways for soulful expression. While some of the rituals may seem too complicated for some, there will certainly be many fans of astrological magick in the wake of this book.

There are two appendices for those who desire additional information regarding the birth dates and planetary hours of famous and infamous people, as

well as information relating to the planets and related symbolism. In addition, a good portion of the book is dedicated to perpetual planetary hour and time correction tables, which makes this book a good reference wherever you travel. With an ephemeris and *Time For Magick* by your side, you can have access to the best timing anywhere you might go. In fact, the author's intent is to help replace Llewellyn George's long out of print *Improved Perpetual Planetary Hour Book*, which it very well may do. I found myself referring to it almost immediately, which is a good sign that my copy will eventually be dog-eared and stained from frequent use. Overall, this is a good book for those who have passed the stage of "curious" regarding astrology and magick and are ready to start putting the art of timing into practice.

Healing Mother-Daughter Relationships With Astrology, by Maritha Pottenger and Zipporah Pottenger-Dobyns. Llewellyn Publications, PO Box 64383, St. Paul, MN 55164-0383, 2003. Paper. 384 pp. \$19.95 US, \$30.95 CAN

Maritha Pottenger and Zipporah Pottenger-Dobyns know from experience that the mother-daughter relationship is so much more than interpreting the Moon's sign and house position. They generously share that understanding in their new book, *Healing Mother-Daughter Relationships With Astrology*. This

book is as unique as the two women who wrote it and is well worth exploring. Whether you are a counseling astrologer or you are a mother or daughter (or both!) who is interested in understanding and improving your relationships, this book has much to offer. A thorough, well thought out look at what makes the mother-daughter bond so crucial and how to make the best of what you've got, it is destined to become a new astrology classic.

Neatly organized into five parts, the book begins with a brief section on understanding the importance of the mother-daughter relationship and the ability to recognize repeating themes in the horoscope. Here, they introduce the "Zip Code" or alphabet technique that allows the astrologer to organize information by using the astrological alphabet. A nifty sort of astrological shorthand, you will learn how to recognize each "letter" of the alphabet to use in recognizing themes and patterns in relationships. This is useful information to have, whether you choose to apply it to mother-daughter relationships or not!

Part Two gives insightful descriptions of the various placements, aspects and themes that describe the mother in a natal chart. Ceres is considered along with the Moon, which should please astrologers who have long recognized the power the asteroid goddess has over

maternal issues! The asteroids, Chiron, Lunar Nodes and angles are given ample coverage, which is always a plus in my opinion. Affirmations and healing suggestions are given along with each Moon sign and placement to assist in working with and through lunar energy.

A third section covers mother-daughter synastry and helps the astrologer put the relationship into perspective. There is a lot of informative material here, making this book an excellent reference tool for counseling astrologers. I especially appreciate the chapter on contacts between the asteroids, Chiron, Nodes, and angles to each other, as you rarely if ever find these described in most astrological texts. This section is followed by case studies which will allow the growing astrologer to see these theories in action. These case studies are both detail oriented and sensitive, making them a useful study guide, as well as interesting reading.

The book concludes with "Part Five: Where Do We Go From Here," a very practical section that contains lists of significant astrological aspects and issues and the healing techniques and strategies that can be used to overcome them. Easy to use as a reference, these are the sort of features that make a book worth pulling off the shelf again and again. In fact, it would make an excellent textbook for a study group. This book is meant to be used, pondered, and then

some. At the very reasonable price of \$19.95, it should become a common sight on astrologer's bookshelves.

Guide to Natural Health: Using the Horoscope as a Key to Ancient Healing Practices by Jonathan Keyes. Llewellyn Publications, PO Box 64383, St. Paul, MN 55164-0383, 2001. Paper. 298 pp. \$16.95 US, \$26.95 CN

If you are interested in learning about four element medicine, its history and practical applications, you might want to check out *Guide to Natural Health* by certified herbalist and astrologer Jonathan Keyes. An art and science based on age-old traditional wisdom, four element medicine could very well enjoy a renaissance in the coming days as we move toward noninvasive ways to create and maintain good health. *Guide to Natural Health* can help you learn to avoid much dis-ease by restoring your inner and outer balance. Astrologers who wish to extend their practice to include health and healing will find this book is a very good place to build a foundation of balanced knowledge.

In Part One, Keyes begins by giving us a rich and interesting history of four element medicine, which was first made popular by Hippocrates. It is a testament in itself that this ancient practice still survives today, despite the dominance of Western medicine. Keyes then suggests techniques for balancing

your own energies and nourishing yourself according to your personal astrological prescription. Detailed descriptions of the planets and signs focus on energy qualities, influences and rulerships regarding physical and mental wellness. If you are looking for a reference on astrology and health, you will find an excellent tool here.

Healing techniques and rituals are explored in Part Two, which is a fascinating blend of shamanic, pagan and astrological traditions blended together to become something greater than the sum of its parts. I found this book comes closest to my own brand of combined practices, which focuses on the elements that various disciplines have in common, expressing them in the way that feels most natural and positive. This should help this book appeal to a wide audience, for it doesn't exclude one form of wisdom in support of another. Rather, it embraces the wisdom found around the world and through the ages to present modern day seekers with a practical application.

Probably the most useful feature of all can be found in Part Three, where the healing powers of various plants and foods, the spiritual significance of animals and the properties of stones and minerals are discussed in detail. While many have already been working with stones and crystals, working with animal and bird totems can be surprisingly powerful. If you

haven't considered animal medicine yet, it might be time to give it a try! This easy to use, informative section allows the reader to come back to explore whatever he or she may need or want at any given time. A good rule of thumb is for a guide to be both practical reference and inspiring educational tool, and *Guide to Natural Health* scores on both points. Engaging and informative, this book should appeal to seekers who have a special interest in health and well being.

Buddhist Astrology: Chart Interpretation From A Buddhist Perspective by Jhampa Shaneman and Jan V. Angel. Llewellyn Publications, PO Box 64383, St. Paul, MN 55164-0383, 2003. Paper. 359 pp. \$19.95 US, \$30.95 CN

The team of Jhampa Shaneman and Jan V. Angel is a fortuitous one. Their combined understanding of Buddhist philosophy and astrological expertise blend to create a more balanced vision of our spiritual futures. Their new book, *Buddhist Astrology: Chart Interpretation From A Buddhist Perspective*, intrigues the reader even before arriving at Chapter One. With a foreword by His Holiness the Dalai Lama and an introduction by the ever eloquent Steven Forrest, how could a book possibly go wrong? The only criticism I have for this book—if you could call it criticism—is that it does not lend itself to the quick read a busy

book reviewer hopes for. This is the sort of book you want to spend quiet moments with so that you can slowly absorb the wisdom within. If you are ready for East to meet West in your astrological practice, this book will start you on your path.

Although *Buddhist Astrology* takes care to explain Buddhist terms as they are used and includes a glossary of these terms, if you are brand new to Buddhism, you may find yourself struggling to take in so much new information. However, Jhampa and Jan teach with a patient and gentle style, so hang in there! As a recent inductee to the Buddhist philosophy, I found myself enjoying the time I took to digest and absorb the pearls of wisdom found within. Buddhist meditations and their applications are discussed and Jhampa shares his inspiring biography, giving the reader plenty of food for thought.

Shaneman and Angel's work is groundbreaking and represents the first of its kind to hit the shelves. A large portion of the book is dedicated to interpreting signs, placements and aspects from a Buddhist perspective. This is especially useful when considering the dynamics of the aspects, which ultimately urge us toward greater growth. So much of Eastern philosophy involves going with the flow, and what better way than to go with the spiritual energy of your own natal chart? We have to first humble ourselves and ac-

cept our challenges in life before we can truly meet them, and *Buddhist Astrology* gives a wonderful blueprint for doing just that.

This is the sort of book you end up reading over and over, because each time you are more open to learning something new. There is a time and a place for each bit of wisdom gained, and this is an amazing book to have if you are looking for assistance and support on your journey. If you want everything spoon fed to you, this might not be the book for you. But if you are ready to take a giant leap in consciousness, consider taking a look at *Buddhist Astrology* for yourself. I believe that the time has come for this sort of melding of traditions, and I'd like to see a sequel to this book in the future.

Born March 3, 1968 at 7:30 p.m. In Tampa, Florida, Susan Hopper became interested in astrology while still in grade school. Driven by her fascination with the human mind and interpersonal relationships, she earned her B.A. In psychology with a minor in sociology from the University of South Florida. As a freelance writer and homemaker, Susan contributes regularly to "Astrology on the Web," an Australian website. Her interests include off-road cycling, gourmet cooking, wildlife rehabilitation, gardening and creative writing. Always interested in discussing the language of the stars, she can be reached at shopper2@tampabay.rr.com and (813) 994-9407.

Dimensions Continued from Page 53

Figure 3 uses the same process as described above, but this time for the Dow Jones, April 2003. The lighter lines show the projected price on the graph, while the heavier lines show the actual price of the stock superimposed after the fact.

Many people may want to place these unique and somewhat far reaching criteria into the category of astronomy. However, the fact that they predict earthly events tells me that their rightful place is under the heading of astrology. It is astrology that shows our cosmic connection; they belong to the world of astrologers. Let's keep them in our cosmic toolbox.

ENDNOTE

1. Bayer, George. Stock and Commodity Traders' Handbook of Trend Determination; Secrets of Forecasting Values. Carmel, California, 1940, p. 13.

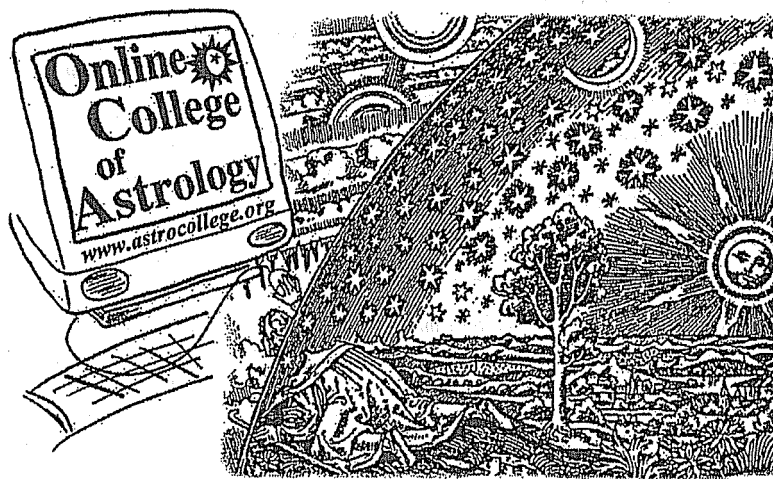
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For more than 42 years Alphee Lavoie has earned his reputation as a master astrologer. In 1977, he began the first astrology school in Connecticut, The Astrological Institute of Research. He is experienced in counseling, predictive, horary, electional, mundane, weather, rectification and financial astrology. His company, AIR Software, includes many "firsts," such as artificial intelligence. AIR is the home of Millennium Software and others, including, Nostradamus II, Father Time II, The Right Decision, and the award-winning Market Trader software. Market Trader Millennium software is used

worldwide by thousands of traders and financial institutions for successful and effective trading with astrology. It offers the most advanced yet easy to use innovations for financial trading. And, in February 2003, Technical Analysis Stocks and Commodities magazine, gave top awards to AIR's Market Trader for its artificial intelligence and neural net functions. Alphee has appeared on CNN, and his Market Trader software has been featured in Bloomberg Magazine and other publications.

His three books are: *Horary Lectures, Lose This Book . . . and Find It Through Horary and Horary at its Best!*. He writes a monthly horary column for *Dell Horoscope*, and is certified by the NCGR, for which he serves as research director. Visit his website for free software, downloads and a wealth of information at www.alphee.com. Contact him at Alphee@alphee.com, 860 232 6521, 1 800-659-1247.

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Contact: Stephen Poplin, PO Box 42691, Washington DC 20015, 202-363-7994, Eutopia9@aol.com, http://members.aol.com/dcastrology. Meetings 2nd Sunday, 2:00 pm, Takoma Park Metaphysical Chapel, 8120 Fenton Street.

FLORIDA
Florida Atlantic Chapter
Contact: Artemiss, PO Box 4991, Deerfield Beach FL 33442, 954-419-9621, artemiss@att.net. Meetings 2nd Thursday, 7:30 pm, Days Inn, Sheridan Street at I-95, Hollywood.

Paradise Found/Western Florida Chapter
Contact: Madelyn Ryan-Ingwerson 5000 Burnett Store Road, Punta Gorda FL 33955, 941-505-2992, Madelyn@helbing.net.

GEORGIA
Atlanta Chapter
Contact: Rene Goodale, 490 Broadland Road NW, Atlanta GA 30342, 404-261-6908, renel@mindspring.com. Meetings every other month, 7:30 pm, Harobi House, Atlanta.

ILLINOIS
Northern Illinois Chapter
Contact: Lisa Hagenbuch, 1181 N. Palos Avenue, Pala-

tine IL 60067, 847-705-0816, lhagenbuch@attbi.com. Meetings 3rd Wednesday, 7:30 pm, The Dance Building, 1330 Webford, DesPlaines.

Southwest Suburban Chapter
Contact: Pat Hanus-Dussman, 16963 Page Ave., Hazelcrest IL 60429, 708-335-2277. Meetings 2nd Thursday, 7:00 p.m., Palos Heights Recreation Center, 6601 W.127th Street, Palos Heights.

MARYLAND
Annapolis Chapter
Contact: Martin Berger, mberger@toad.com, Camille Adams, Cotswallian@juno.com or Rose O'Hara, 7934 Roxbury Drive, Glen Burnie MD 21061, 410-768-1404. Meetings 2nd Saturday, 10:00 am, Annapolis Hall for the Creative Arts, Greenfield Street, Room 205, Annapolis.

Baltimore Chapter
Contact: Margie Herskovitz, 410-466-1510, hersk@erols.com.

MASSACHUSETTS
Boston Chapter
Contact: Frances McEvoy, 617-484-1882; Monica Hable Dimino, 617-923-6424, ncgrbc@aol.com. Meetings Saturday 10:00 am, Belmont Town Library, 336 Concord Avenue, Belmont.

MEXICO
Mexico City Chapter
Contact: Louis Lesur, Montezuma 105-102, Col. Del Carmen, Mexico D.F. 01040, 65899-11, sirio@data.net.mx.

AstroMexico Chapter
Contact: Monica Escalante Ochoa, Cerrada de Miguel Norena #23 casa 2, Col. San Jose Insurgentes C.P. 03900, Mexico, D.F., (52) 5651-6598; astromonica@yahoo.com.

MINNESOTA
STARS Chapter
Contact: Marlys Wilson, 612-729-6542; Linda Fei, 1359 Sargent Avenue, St. Paul MN 55105,

651-698-1691, starsncgrmn@yahoo.com. Meetings 4th Sunday, 3:00 pm, Twin Cities Friends Meeting House, 1725 Grand Avenue, St. Paul.

NEVADA

Las Vegas Stargazers Chapters
Contact: Gayle Kirk, 702-558-6594, lasvegasstargazers@yahoo.com. Meetings last Thursday, 7:00 pm, Marie Callendar's, Flamingo and Decatur.

NEW JERSEY

Northern New Jersey Chapter
Contact: Joanne Castro, 908-755-6708, Jocat413@msn.com; Jackie Slevin, 973-744-5347, jcslevin@earthlink.net. Meetings 3rd Sunday, 1:30 pm, Quaker Meeting Hall, 224 Highwood Avenue, Ridgewood.

NEW MEXICO

New Mexico "Enchantment" Chapter
Contact: Sandy Bryan, 505-255-5001, sstars@thuntek.net. Meetings 1st Wednesday, 7:00 pm, 721 Jefferson NE, Albuquerque, www.swcp.com/nmncgr.

NEW YORK

Long Island Chapter
Contact: Lenore Grafmuller, 8 Eustace Drive, Commack NY 11725, 631-543-0228, lgastral@optonline.net. Meetings 2nd Thursday, 7:30 pm, Syosset Public Library, Syosset.

Mid Hudson Chapter

Contact: Joanne Ferdman, 3140 Route 209 #6H, Kingston NY 12041, 845-687-4768, joanne232@yahoo.com. Meetings 1st Thursday, 3140 Route 209 #6H, Kingston.

New York City Chapter

Contact: Michael Lutin, 212-529-6464, MichaelLutinNY@cs.com; www.astrologynyc.org; NCGR hotline, 212-255-3236; John Marchesella for classes and workshops, 212-255-8497.

Upstate New York Chapter
Contact: Karen Pavlus, 272 Hickory Hill Road, Ft. Plain NY 13339, astrogal@citlink.net, phone/fax: 518-993-2643. Meetings 3rd Sunday.

NORTH CAROLINA

Queen Charlotte Chapter
Contact: Steve Nelson, 2625 Bucknell Avenue, Charlotte NC 28207, 704-375-3759, SNelson1@carolina.rr.com. Meetings last Sunday, 2:00 pm.

Network Triangle Raleigh-Durham Chapter

Contact: Nancy Dimitrios, 919-677-8816, nancywatkins@mindpspring.com, www.ntastrology.com. Meetings 2nd Thursday September-May, 7:00 pm, The Dancing Moon Bookstore, 1818 Oberlin Road, Raleigh. Lectures 3rd Thurs. every month.

OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma City Chapter
Contact: Jim Hays, PO Box 12085, Oklahoma City OK 73157, 405-946-9517, jimhays@juno.com. Meetings 3rd Tuesday, 7:00 pm.

OREGON

Southern Oregon Chapter
Contact: Doug Kellogg, PO Box 1032, Ashland OR 97520, 541-482-8988, dak@mind.net. Meetings 3rd Saturday, 11:00 am., Headwaters Environmental Center.

PENNSYLVANIA

Greater Delaware Valley Chapter (Philadelphia)
Contact: Lois Livermore, 302-658-4319, LoisLivermore@aol.com. Meetings 3rd Wednesday, Parastudy, Chester Heights.

TENNESSEE

Nashville Chapter
Contact: Marilyn Sutcliffe, 7705 Indian Springs Drive, Nashville TN 37221, 615-662-5419, sutcliffem@aol.com. Meetings, 3rd Wednesday, 6:30 pm.

TEXAS

Gulf Coast Chapter
Contact: Lilly Roddy, lillycath@aol.com. Meetings

last Friday, Body, Mind & Soul Bookstore, Westheimer and Midlane.

VIRGINIA

Richmond Chapter
Contact: Edna Matthews, PO Box 8412, Richmond VA 23226, 804-740-1133, ematthew@mail.vak12ed.edu. Meetings last Saturday 1:30 pm, Jewish Community Center, 5403 Monument Avenue, Richmond.

Tidewater Chapter

Contact: JoeAnne P. Bridge, Ph.D., 7007 Hunters Chase, Norfolk VA 23518, 757-855-1907, JoeAnne@cox.net. Meetings 3rd Saturday, 2:00 pm, Central Library, 4100 Virginia Beach Blvd., Virginia Beach.

WISCONSIN

Milwaukee Chapter
Contact: Jan Warren Allen, 414-258-7563, astromuse@aol.com. Meetings last Monday, 7:00 pm, Cosmic Coffee Shop, 59th and National Avenue.

CHAPTERS FORMING ARIZONA

Tucson Astrologers NCGR Guild

Contact: Cece Stevens, 3311 S. Whistler Drive, Tucson AZ 85730, 520-745-8810, Ccecest@aol.com.

AUSTRALIA

Sydney Chapter
Contact: Gregory J. Montfort, PO Box 7120, Bass Hill NSW 2197, Australia, phone/fax: 612-9754-2999, gjdemontfort@iprimus.com.au.

HAWAII

Contact: Norma Jeane Reane, Paho, 808-965-0506, stsrrs@bigisland.com.

LOUISIANA

New Orleans Chapter
Contact: Blaine Anderson, Plutonian@juno.com.

MICHIGAN

Astrology Study Group of Washtenaw County
Contact: Richard J. Smoot, 1406 W. Cross, Ypsilanti MI 48197, 734-972-4347, asgowc@aol.com

MISSOURI

St. Louis Chapter
Contact: Nikki Davenport, 612 Cleveland Avenue, Kirkwood MO 63122, 314-822-0434, nikiastro@aol.com.

MONTANA

Contact: Bojana Nikolic-Tirkas, 406-723-8481, bnkolic@mse-ta.com

SIGS

AST SIG (Asteroids)
Contact: Nona Gwynn Press, 77-35 113th St. #4A, Forest Hills NY 11375, 718-263-8084, synona@earthlink.net. Dues \$15; \$24 overseas. Send to: Valerie Vaughan, 51 Longmeadow Dr., Amherst MA 01002. Contributions to newsletter and sample copies, \$1.50: Ninah Kessler, PO Box 812557, Boca Raton FL 33481, 561-470-0466, humdest@aol.com. For asteroid positions or ephemerides, Roxanna Muise, 360-456-7836, roxanam@oz.net.

DECL SIG (Declinations)

Contact: Nelda Tanner, PO Box 153, Chino Valley AZ 86323, rlg@northlink.com. Dues, \$15; includes quarterly newsletter.

Starwalks (Fixed Stars) SIG

Contact: Thea Marshall, HC 65, Box 110, Pie Town NM 87827, 505-877-9284, khutmau@thuntek.net.

The Uranian Society (Uranian/Cosmobiology)

Contact: Nona Gwynn Press, 77-35 113th St. #4A, Forest Hills NY 11375, 718-263-8084, synona@earthlink.net. Dues \$25 U.S.; \$37 others to Meira B. Epstein, 119 E. 83rd St. #6B, New York NY 10028.

SIGS FORMING

Hellenistic Astrology SIG
Contact: Levia Shanken, 504 E. 88th Street #1B, New York NY 10128, 212-472-3009, Leviams@cs.com.



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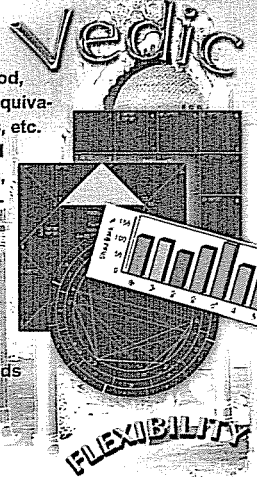
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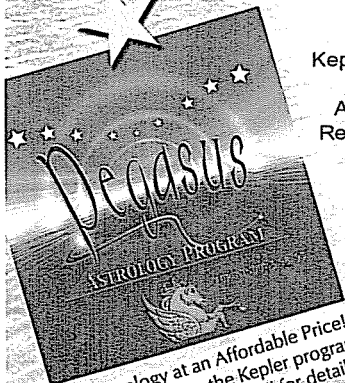
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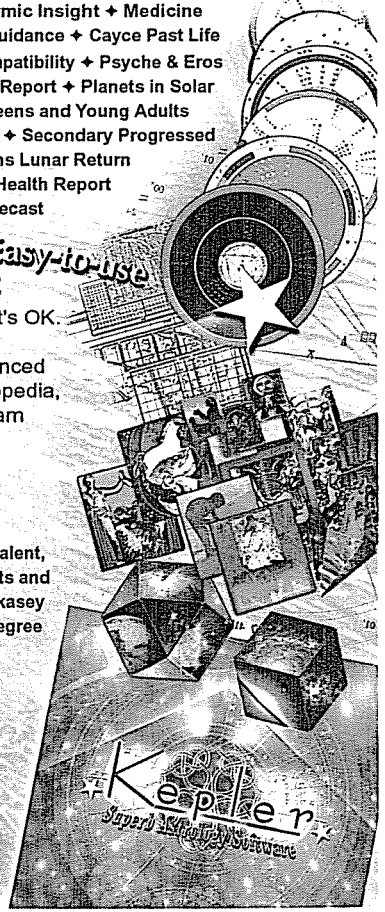


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