



NEWSLETTER

NOW WEEKLY!

With art by Vera!

from the Astrology Center of America / AstroAmerica.com

October 4, 2011

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Coming Soon

ZANE Stein, author of the best book on Chiron, has moved to Australia. As such he finds it difficult to continue supplying us with his book, **A View from Chiron**, which he had printed to order in small batches at his local copy shop. So this past week I asked, and Zane has graciously given his permission, for me to publish it. I should have it in print towards the end of the month. It will turn up with Amazon and the AFA shortly thereafter.

Also coming soon, my collected essays on the various 2012 presidential candidates, and their parties, in a book entitled, **AstroAmerica's Red White and Blue Book of Elections**. Do you think I've written anything I could get sued for? But if I was, wouldn't that be admitting that astrology is Really Real and not just made up?

2012 MAYNARD CALENDARS

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ALMANACK

for the week (all times GMT)

04	03:16	☉ 10♊ 34	First Quarter
	16:19	♀ II ♃	
05	05:59	☽ □ ♀	Void
	15:19	☽ ☿	
06	16:14	☽ △ ☉	
	22:02	♀ ♂ ♃	
07	14:37	☉ II ♃	
	22:08	☽ ♂ ♀	Void
	23:28	♀ △ ♀	
08	01:13	☽ ♃	
	07:17	☽ II ☉	
	16:51	☽ ✕ ♃	Void
09	05:50	♀ ♃	
10	12:57	☽ ♃	

Extracted & adapted from **AstroAmerica's Daily Ephemeris, 2000-2020**. Get yours!

Medical

IAM learning the hard way. The planet that initially caused the problem can re-live it when it ends its retrograde and goes direct, even if it is then nowhere near its original location (i.e., where it was when it created the problem months earlier). The Sun as its trigger can re-trigger the same malady when it reaches another square or opposition, even if there is no longer a malefic planet for it to trigger. If you did not keep a diary of the original onset of the problem, you would not know what was happening with the relapse, it would simply look too trivial to bother with.

Meanwhile doctors, who scorn astrology but demand much \$\$\$ money for cures that do not work, are clueless as to timing and onset. Because of this, they are blindly unaware that what appears trivial on Tuesday may rapidly intensify with dire results.

In a few days I will learn if this will be like the Battle of the Bulge (the last gasp of a defeated enemy), or the moment when all hope is lost. I am sorry to trouble my readers with this, but for those of you studying medical astrology, these trivial details are of value. Over the past six months I have learned, it has been seared into my mind, that medicine without astrology is a dangerous travesty.

ASTRO MED A to Z

FROM C.E.O. CARTER'S ENCYCLOPAEDIA

Insanity is usually shown, as might be expected, by exceptionally severe afflictions. It is often found that Mars afflicts the mental rulers, and Uranus one or both luminaries. Mars is often in the third house, and is especially dangerous if in a watery sign. The Moon and Mercury are often in bad aspect to Mars or Uranus; the Sun is also frequently afflicted, and the 12th house is generally prominent, probably because insanity usually involves confinement. This generally serves to differentiate insanity from epilepsy and other Mercurial and 3rd house complaints, as well as the comparatively much milder afflictions in these cases, but it is questionable if the 12th house element is still present where there is no segregation. 22° Virgo-Pisces seem the degrees most commonly involved, sometimes by square aspect. Unlike epilepsy, the ascendant is not necessarily afflicted. Example: **George III**. Four planets in Gemini on cusp 12 and opposed Uranus. Moon, ruling 12th, afflicted in 6th by Mars & Uranus. — **Encyclopaedia of Psychological Astrology**.



STAR OF THE WEEK

☆☆☆☆

ALGORAB delta Corvis 13♌37

Notes: A double star, pale yellow and purple, situated on the right wing of the Crow. From Al Ghirab, the Crow.

Influence: Of the nature of Mars and Saturn. It gives destructiveness, malevolence, fiendishness, repulsiveness and lying, and is connected with scavenging.

SEGINUS gamma Bootes 17♉49

Notes: A small star situated on the left shoulder of Bootes.

Influence: Of the nature of Mercury and Saturn. It gives a subtle mind, shamelessness and loss through friends and companies.

With Moon: Preferment by indirect means followed by disgrace and ruin.

— From **Fixed Stars**, by Vivian Robson

Ivy M. Goldstein-Jacobson
1893-1990



IVY'S GEM OF THE WEEK

Income from the Occupation

THE Eleventh is the income-2nd for the vocation-10th. If the ruler is strong by Sign or mutual reception, elevated in the chart or in a good mundane (house) relationship to the 11th House (such as the sextile 1st and 9th and trine 3rd and 7th) or favorably aspected to the Sun, Jupiter, Venus or Fortuna, the work pays well. Any malefic or Mercury in the 11th has only a small salary at the start, and also a slow return for any self-owned business venture. But if Mars or a benefic is in the 11th or the chart gives promise of good income through the money-2nd House or Taurus it is only a matter of time and industry.

The 11th is also the house of Circumstances over which the person has little control, since it rules everything intangible such as hopes, friendships or other unbounded relationships, memberships, politics and conditions developing unexpectedly and traceable to matters behind the scenes of the 4th house (this is according to the #14 Theory (14 - 11 = 3)) : malefics in the 11th thus register in the 3rd House which is the unfavorable 12th-House behind-the-scenes department for the home-4th, upsetting it by serious disagreements and lack of cooperation in the home or the home-office of a business or the National homeland.

The Moon in the 11th House brings many changes and much fluctuation in circumstances in general. When between two malefics (no matter how far apart), she is besieged and under duress so that life is not as smooth as otherwise. If intercepted, she restricts in general. — **In the Beginning Astrology**, 1975

The Unnamed One

MANY years ago at Henry Weingarten's New York Astrology Center, a letter arrived. In it was an order for a computerized astrological interpretation (the Matrix **Astro*Talk**, still available). The order landed on my desk and I had it in the mail later that afternoon. The birth data was September 21, 1947, 1:30 am, Portland, Maine.

There's a reason I remember this. Several months later word came back (from his biographer, who had ordered the report) that we had somehow figured out the data was for **Stephen King** and had custom-tailored the result as an effort to please. I wish we could have claimed that, but no, we were working slobs. Fast-in, fast-out was all we knew. Besides, at the time the program was virtually impossible to edit, as I well-knew.

But it is true that even on crude computerized levels, astrology paints such a convincing picture that knowledgeable persons can often recognize the subject.

Over at **WQXR** in New York, the late **Karl Haas** for many years hosted a monthly **Mystery Composer**, an hour-long program in which increasingly less obscure pieces of the **Mystery Man's** music would be played. The goal was to be the first to correctly identify the man. As the years passed and the audience got larger, the music, and its composer, got ever more obscure. A surprising number of people know Beethoven's Bonn sonatas, for example, which is about as obscure as Ludwig gets.

SO this week I will delineate a **Mystery Man**. It someone you all know, though he (it's a he, not a she) is not a musician. I will start where one should always start: With the Ascendant, then its ruler (and whatever comes of that), then the Sun, the Moon and finally the rest of the chart. Chart data is from the birth certificate. **Lois**, if she were still with us, would rate it AA.

The ascendant is Aquarius, and so that I will not be accused of bias, I will invoke **Sakioian and Acker** (hereafter S&A), one of my favorite references:

Aquarians are original, creative, independent, wishing to make their own unique contribution to the common good. They are at the same time fun-

continued, pg. 4

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Secrets
From A,
Stargazer's
Notebook

DEBBI KEMPTON-SMITH

The Chart of a . . . Building ???

LOUISE Duncan knocked herself out foraging through the old clippings and came up with the official birthday for the Empire State Building. This extraordinary building even celebrates its birthday every year, as befits its unique personality. The building had a bumpy start—Jimmy Walker was mayor of New York then, but everybody wanted Al Smith, the old mayor, to cut the ribbons, so they got him instead. Smith wanted his two grandchildren to cut the ribbons to symbolize the future generations, but the kids couldn't get the scissors to work, so Smith ripped the ribbons himself at exactly 11:15 am on May 1, 1931.

People born in 1931 are extraordinary, every one of them. They have terrible conflicts within themselves (see all the big squares in the Empire State Building's chart) and as a result of the pressure they often achieve eminence in some way. Like the building, they learn to bend and sway while still retaining their unique character, head and shoulders above the crowd. Newspaperman **Dan Rather** and Cosmicman **Ram Dass** both spring from the crop of '31.

The Sun is in the tenth house of the ESB's chart, so it fulfills itself best by being in the limelight, a pillar of the community.

The Moon is in the fourth house, so it feels very insecure about being moved. It wants the people in its hometown to accept it, and it loves its home very much.

The Midheaven is in Aries, so it wants to be Number One, and it wants to be original, unique and a big shot. Uranus is there at the top, too, so it looks unlike anything then or since. It's one of a kind. Remember the shape of Uranus? The top of the Empire State Building is a big television aerial.

Venus is square Jupiter in the ESB's chart, so it makes people happy and it's popular. The trine between Venus and Mars denotes a lasting sex appeal. Even King Kong liked it.

© **Debbi Kempton-Smith**, 1999

This is a serialization of Vivian Robson's masterpiece, **A Student's Text-Book of Astrology**. It is now in print.

Part 59:

Occupation and Position

The influence of the planets upon the occupation together with certain of their positions and aspects are as follows:—

Sun. King, nobleman, courtier, manager, government worker, goldsmith, jeweller, gilder. In 10th, occupation of power and trust, honour and success in middle age, help from superiors. Afflicting Moon, changes, trouble with superiors and in finding work.

Moon. Sailor, traveller, fisherman, barmaid, servant, nurse, advertiser, caterer, washer-woman, midwife, work to do with water or the public. In 10th, fluctuations and changes and if afflicted by Mars, scandal; if in good aspect to Jupiter or Venus and they in good aspect to the lord of the Ascendant or significator of profession gives great success. In Aries, Leo or Libra, fanatics, false religionists, enthusiastic preachers. In Aquarius, or Pisces disfavor of superiors. Afflicted by Uranus, sudden changes. With Mars, butcher.

Mercury. Writer, educator, accountant, teacher, schoolmaster, interpreter, secretary, clerk, postman, carrier, bookseller. In Ascendant afflicted by Mars or Saturn and in no good aspect to Jupiter or Venus, thief, or forger. In 4th afflicted, shoemaker. With Neptune, musician. With Saturn, geologist, mining engineer, bookbinder, printer, dyer, antiquarian. Afflicted by Saturn, potter, turner, thief. With Jupiter, painter, barrister, parish clerk; if in conjunction, ambassador, merchant. With Mars, sculptor, carver, quarryman, wrestler, strong man, footballer, etc., chef, steward, dairyman, scavenger, lavatory attendant. Mercury above the earth inclines to oratory, but below, to science or art. — **A Student's Text-Book of Astrology**, by Vivian Robson.

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Martha Lang Wescott's

ASTEROID OF THE MONTH



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Psyche

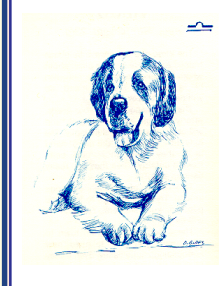
PSYCHE represents a point of damage; it indicates a psychological wound or trauma from which one has/does not really recover. It's an open wound or a raw place, a hypersensitivity to and from the planets in aspect. When Psyche is hit by major transits or directions, or becomes important by return chart angularity, you can expect some repeat of old pain or some situation that will not be resolved for a long time (the repercussions will linger, or one will be unable to adjust or "get over" what happened.) On the positive side, just as Psyche creates this "hole" or point of damage, it offers (under supportive aspect) insight in equal measure.

In Greek, *psyche* means soul, and is symbolized by the butterfly which well represents the fragility and vulnerability of the astrological point.

Where Psyche is retrograde, there is often a sense that one somehow escaped the damage, that they were "safe" even though they may know what *might* have damaged them. Often this thing that "might" have damaged them had as much to do with "crimes of omission" or psychological subtlety than an overt kind of trauma. As with other retrogrades, the retrograde Psyche may act out the damage to a high degree (it's obvious to everyone else but him) but maintain the perception that he's "fine" and he "made it" in spite of the odds (and childhood!) The retrograde Psyche has often repressed a great deal and may have trouble "connecting with" or getting in touch with the origins of psychological trauma.

—from **Mechanics of the Future Asteroids**, © 1988, 1991

DOG OF THE MONTH



The Libra dog is very tolerant of human & canine foibles & won't hold a grudge. He will also make do with what he has. If he has no backyard to bury his bone in, he will bury his dog

biscuits under the couch & then forget about them.

He is a very affectionate animal, and can be taught tricks like begging for his food. May engage in a little white lie but they are so lovable you can forgive them this human trait. Must have seen a human do it. Gets along well with other animal species, seeming to understand that there's really not that much difference between them. You can easily build up a rapport with this one. You don't have to constantly feed him to show love. —Just treat him fairly & he will require no extra efforts.

© Marian Futterman, 1976, **Your Dog and Astrology**, \$3.00. Yes, Marian, we still have copies. Some of the best sun-sign writing I ever came across.

The New Newsletter

Most people, most astrologers, even, have no idea how rich, how varied, astrology really is. I'm lucky. For the last fifteen years, I've lived in what amounts to a world-class astrological library, which I've been passing off as **AstroAmerica**. Every week I will serve up a slice for your amusement.

'Til next week — **Dave**

September 11:
1297—Scots defeat the English.
1609—H. Hudson discovers Manhattan.
2007—The Father of all Bombs, Russia.



loving, people oriented, and friendly in an impersonal way. They are modest and do not like to call undue attention to themselves. They would rather be loved than admired. They find their source of power in group activity within a close circle of friends.

The ruler is Saturn in Capricorn in the 12th. Of Saturn in Capricorn, S&A say they have *strong ambitions for worldly power, status and authority, usually through business, science or politics.*

Which in this case are expressed through the 12th house. S&A are one of the few to give delineations for each of the signs on each of the twelve house cusps. For Capricorn on 12, they say, *more conservative than they like to admit. And, their hidden strength is the discipline that enables them to work hard behind the scenes.*

Remember, the ascendant is what we see of the man, by way of the ruling planet and the house and sign it is in. So far, we have a friendly, impersonal fellow who works behind the scenes to satisfy his craving for power. Of Saturn in the 12th, S&A say,

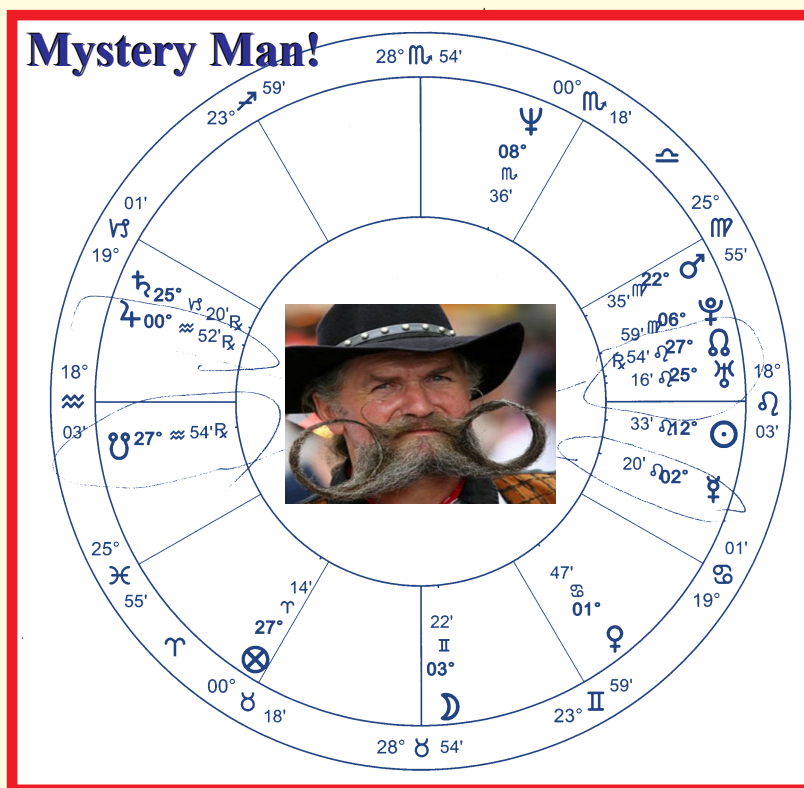
[I]ndicates that much time will be spent in seclusion or working behind the scenes in such large institutions as hospitals, universities, corporations and government agencies. Work may be carried out in psychology or in charitable institutions. This position makes it hard to obtain recognition, unless Saturn makes favorable aspects to the tenth house or to the ruler of that house.

THE tenth house is Scorpio, the ruler, Mars, is in Virgo in trine to Saturn and both are sextile to the 10th house cusp. It is Saturn's only significant aspect, all others being wide or out of sign. I assure the reader that the subject has been in the public spotlight, to a greater and greater degree, since first coming to national attention in the late 1990's. Of Saturn in 12, S&A conclude their delineation with:

People with this position need to get away from their own psychological problems by serving others and by energizing themselves in practical, constructive work.

Of Scorpio on the Midheaven, S&A say, *Historically, many Aquarians have been revolutionaries, since they are at odds with the established regime or those who have authority over them. Aquarians do not wish to dominate or be dominated.*

So, so far we have a friendly fellow who works behind the scenes in an institution for



revolutionary change. As this is qualified by a strong Saturn-Mars trine, we should have a look at that, too. S&A:

It indicates an ability for hard work and serious, purposeful action. Energy is seldom wasted. . . A tremendous will-power applied with systematic patience characterizes this trine.

Since Saturn lends mathematical precision to this combination, the natives often possess engineering skills, especially where precision optical and mechanical devices are required. They are highly ambitious and will work hard to attain positions of authority and managerial command. Often they are shrewd in politics, whether governmental or corporate. Men who seek military careers are likely to have this aspect.

. . . It favors those who must shoulder serious responsibilities, and gives the natives the ability to endure hardships and face, when necessary, dangerous situations. Under stress there is a high measure of stamina and strength.

And although this increasingly sounds like a corporal in the army who specializes in artillery (optics), I assure my readers that while the Mystery Man is presently associated with the military, he has never been part of it, and while he is now a recluse, for most of his life he was not.

Finally as part of our analysis of the ascendant, we must briefly look at the aspects the chart ruler, Saturn, and its subordinate,

Mars, make to the MC. While the orb may be a bit wide, remember that recorded times of birth can be a bit off, and that we should err on the inclusive side. Which is why I like whole sign aspects. S&A, again:

Mars sextile MC trine Nadir: *This aspect is favorable for constructive action in professional [10th house] and domestic [4th] affairs. There are opportunities for career advancement, which in turn leads to fulfillment in the home. Sometimes the home is used as a base for carrying on professional activities.*

In recent years we find the Mystery Man working at home, but as his home was provided by his employer, it does not seem as if all of this should apply. Now on to Saturn:

Saturn sextile MC trine Nadir: *This configuration gives the natives the ability to stabilize their domestic lives and steadily improve their professional standing through forethought, discipline, and sustained effort.*

A steady climb through the ranks of an established organization characterizes the configuration. The natives' ability to systematize and work hard gains the confidence of their superiors, making it possible for them to advance their careers and at the same time secure their home life. These natives often carry on the traditions of their parents and ancestors.

While this increasingly does sound like

a military functionary, I can say the man's father was a minor bureaucrat, while his mother (the two were divorced shortly after the Mystery Man's birth) was a traveller. Both parents are deceased.

There is one final detail for the man's ascendant: The south node. S&A do not give house delineations of the nodes, but they do give delineations of nodal aspects to the angles, and while the south node is 90° from the ascendant, it is in the same sign and house as the sign on the ascendant and so will function at least as a background influence, if not more:

The natives do not go out of their way to conform to accepted modes of social behavior. This attribute makes for strong individualism, but not for popularity. At times these people are very serious in manner and can make anyone who expects overt signs of sociability feel uneasy. They are also subject to periodic moods of personal inhibition.

The natives tend to be short in stature and somewhat dwarfish in appearance. They occasionally have speech peculiarities as well.

Francis Sakoian died in 1989. Her collaborator, Louis Acker, is still alive, which I think wonderful. He is as sharp as ever, and has a **blog**.

REMEMBER: The ascendant is how we project ourselves upon the world. The ascendant is how the world knows us. The native may well not recognize his ascendant, but those who know him always, *always* will. If this is not true, then astrology is false, a fake, a lie. I feel I have made this too easy and that you must all surely know who the Mystery Man is by this time.

We know ourselves, not by our ascendant, but by our Sun. The Mystery Man's Sun is in Leo, late in the 6th house.

We do not need Sakoian and Acker to tell us that Leos are proud and domineering, that *in their sphere of influence* they boss the rest of us around (emphasis mine). And while the Sun is in the same sign as the 7th house cusp (the descendant), my experience is that as there is no orb on the backside of the MC and IC (not even for the Sun or Moon), there is presumably no orb on the backside of the DSC. There is certainly not a 5°30' orb, which is the distance between Sun and Descendant. If you're curious, to move the Sun onto the DSC changes the birth time by 20

minutes. Which would be more than a casual mistake with the time. While one could rectify, we would need evidence of a strongly 7th house solar individual in order to do it.

Of the Sun in the 6th, S&A say this:

This position of the Sun gives delicate health, requiring proper attention to dietary habits. Recuperation after illness may be lengthy.

Our Mystery Man is known to be a chain-smoker as well as addicted to hamburgers. It could be that he is not yet old enough to have health problems. One of my best friends has Neptune, Jupiter, Sun and Venus all in Scorpio and all in the 6th and has never, to my knowledge, had serious health problems, but Scorpio is a tenacious sign. Continuing with Sun in the 6th:

Those having the Sun in the Sixth House seek distinction through their work and service. They are usually excellent workers because they take pride in their work. However, they demand outward gestures of appreciation, and if these are not forthcoming, they will be ill-disposed toward their employers and fellow employees and are likely to change jobs. Employers with this position of the Sun can be demanding and authoritarian toward their employees; employees with this position will demand many rights and privileges and will expect to be noticed and appreciated.

All of which is true of my friend. In the case of our Mystery Man, he has a history of skipping from one job to the next, pretty much on his own.

Astrologically, the 6th house has evolved over time. It originally concerned slaves, and then when slaves were outlawed, the 6th house became domestic servants, and now that they are rare, the 6th house now concerns wage-seeking employees and their employers. You will remember that Karl Marx and many others considered wages to be a form of slavery. More and more we are building a picture of a minor functionary. I assure my readers that this is not the case.

But here we have a problem. The actual sign on the cusp of the 6th is Cancer. Of Aquarius rising with Cancer on the 6th, Sakoian and Acker say,

Because Aquarians have the group instinct, they work where there are people and constant activity, regarding their co-workers as family members. Their work often involves civic and community life. Their health is contingent upon their emotional state.

IN fact, many years ago our Mystery Man worked with community groups. When a planet, especially the Sun, is trapped behind an angle like this, where its sign agrees with the angle but not with the sign on its proper house cusp, the result can be a decade or more of wandering, seeking, until one has come to grips with his own inner nature and then can move ahead in the house the Sun is actually in, which in this case is the 6th, not the 7th. In this particular case, we can trace how the Mystery Man moved away from his early career of community service, towards his present occupation, that of a functionary inside a large institution. Which is where he is currently to be found.

The solar impact on the 7th house itself, however, is profound. Here are S&A, Leo on the descendant:

Marriage and business partners who are powerful and well-established are attracted to Aquarius and occasionally dominate them. Aquarians are very independent, however, and this domination is never carried to the point of suppression. The marriage partners are generally amorous and have their own place in the sun.

And here is Uranus in the 7th:

Uranus in the 7th house shows a desire for freedom in marriage and partnerships. People with this position are prone to divorce if Uranus is afflicted. . .

Marriage ordinarily occurs suddenly and under novel circumstances. The marriage partner can be either unusually brilliant or eccentric, depending on how Uranus is aspected. At times natives resent their spouses because the latter outshine them.

Other relationships involve either extremely close friends or impersonal, superficial acquaintances subject to rapid turnover.

I saw the Mystery Man's wife on television a couple of days ago. I must confess she has never struck me in this fashion. Since I am certain by now all of you know who the Mystery Man is, I am hopeful that one of you can enlighten me.

Uranus is conjunct the north node. S&A:

Natives with this conjunction are likely to profit from sudden changes in surrounding social conditions. For example, if the conjunction is found in the Tenth House, they can benefit by jobs created by the introduction of new electronic technology.

Or, in the 7th, by rapid change of part-

ners based on outside social needs. Checking our Mystery Man's Wiki entry, I see evidence of only one marriage, which was late. Given the presence of both the node and Uranus in the 7th, I would have expected an early marriage, perhaps late teens.

What to do with Pluto? What to do with Pluto? It's in the 7th but in the sign of the 8th, 19 degrees away from the cusp of the 8th and with Mars standing between it and the 8th cusp. These things are always fudged, they are always a judgment call. As soon as I make a rule, that a planet wants to be in the house with the same sign on the cusp and that it will "run to get into it," I find situations like that of the Mystery Man, where I want to leave the planet in the house it appears to be in.

Can Sakoian and Acker help? Here is their Pluto in the 7th:

Pluto in the Seventh House indicates people whose lives are drastically altered by marriage, partnerships and dealings with others. The native attracts a partner who is strong-willed and even domineering, and who may manifest occult tendencies. This person [the partner] has an urgent sense of justice and intense reactions against any wrongdoings by others.

He must develop conscious spiritual awareness of the need for constructive cooperation with others. Positive efforts must be made to achieve this cooperation.

Which if true means our Mystery Man is completely dominated, if not by his wife, then by others in his immediate circle. In this regard I have seen this kind of writing elsewhere. It is usually a cover for some pretty icky stuff the writer does not want to get into. So here is another old favorite, **Alan Oken**, Pluto in the 7th:

In the Seventh House as an intensity in personal relationships. This position can bring a partner who functions as a great source of renewal and strength, or, if Pluto is poorly placed, it can cause breakups and sudden endings of relationships after long disputes.

Which is to say our Mystery Man either worships and adores the Mystery Lady and can do nothing without her, or is actively at war with her. In this regard, the Mystery Man's Pluto is poorly placed, being square to the Moon as well as widely conjunct Mars.

Or, well, maybe the Mystery Pluto is in the 8th. Sakoian and Acker prance all

around Pluto in the 8th (reincarnation, karma, astrology, yoga, meditation. None of which the Mystery Man cares for) before getting down to business with this:

This position gives natives a powerful will, sometimes combined with clairvoyant ability. Often an extreme do-or-die attitude is present, life to these people is a serious business, and they usually concern themselves with really important matters, having little patience for trivialities. Hence they are prone to getting involved with drastic life-and-death situations which sometimes cause them to reverse their way of life or their moral outlook.

And if I say that, well, this does not sound like our Mystery Man, then I also have to say that Uranus in the 7th, Pluto in the 7th, nothing sounds quite right. Again I must fall back on my readers, if they have further insight into these two Mystery people. The Mystery Man is, in fact, well-known for being conciliatory.

There is one more planet in the 7th/8th area of the partner and their resources: Mars in Virgo in the 8th. And Mars very much wants to be in the 8th. Not the 7th. Here are S&A, Mars in Virgo:

As with Mars in the other earth signs, many skilled craftsmen, such as precision machinists, have Mars in this sign. Mars rules operations and sharp instruments, and Virgo is a sign dealing with health, indicating skill also in medical work; surgeons often have Mars placed here.

People with this Mars position plan their actions carefully and execute them systematically (that word again!). They are unlikely to take action without good practical reasons. . . . Mars in Virgo wants to be the authority in exact details. There is a strong perfectionist tendency with this position, which can stand in the way of getting anything done at all. These people are fussy and highly critical, especially when detailed methodology and precision are concerned. They insist on a well-organized working environment.

Which, all in all, strongly agrees with what we saw of chart ruler Saturn's placement in Capricorn, the trine from Saturn to Mars, their sextile relationship with the MC, and the Sun's position late in the house of service, the 6th. We have a dutiful, exacting functionary, under the thumb of a series of dominating wives/partners. I feel I am describing the Mystery Man exactly.

We now come to Mars in the 8th. Here I must be very careful as it is generally believed that our Mystery Man is himself at no personal risk as he goes about his daily life. Indeed, there are presently many people dedicated expressly to his well being. I myself wish the Mystery Man no harm.

Here are Sakoian and Acker, in a book published in 1973 writing of Mars in the 8th house. Please also keep in mind that one of the authors, Francis Sakoian, passed away many years ago:

With this position are strong desires and emotional intensity; energy and persistence are expended in getting things accomplished. Aggressiveness with respect to other people's money in joint or corporate finances is characteristic. This position produces a powerful sex drive.

In many cases there is an acquaintance with violent death through war or other conflict. Mars in the Eight House may indicate the likelihood of sudden death. . . .

By "acquaintance with violent death through war or other conflict" is not meant watching it on TV. We all watch such things on TV. It is meant that *one physically sees others die in their presence*. This is the traditional meaning of Mars in the 8th, Sakoian and Acker did not invent it. And while it is true that many bear ill-will towards the Mystery Man, it is also true that he is perhaps the best protected human on the planet and that others with similar jobs, equally reviled in their day, eventually went on to live long and peaceful lives, dying of old age and of natural causes. I fully expect this to be the Mystery Man's ultimate fate, that, having achieved great age, he will die peacefully in his bed, surrounded by his loving family. We should all be so fortunate.

THIS has been a long ramble and you are most patient to have kept up with me. I have a few more trivial details. I note the Mystery Man has his Moon and Pluto in rather tight square. Here are Sakoian and Acker:

This square indicates an intensely emotional nature, generating a psychic field which can make others, especially women, uneasy.

There is a desire to forget the past or destroy all ties which have a confining effect.

The natives tend to be abrupt with their families and parents and to brook no interference from them. Attempts

by families to cast them in a mold of their own choosing generates resentment. . . . The natives are often annoyed by trivialities and petty details and want to be concerned only with things that are important or unique in some way. Very often they are impatient when things move too slowly to suit them.

There is a tendency to force actions and relationships with others. Many people with this square will seek to bring drastic changes in their lives or to resort to drastic solutions to emotional problems.

So far as the Mystery Man's parents are concerned, the father abandoned the child before he was born. The mother gave up the child at the age of 10. Looking at the chart, we find the father to be represented by a late degree of Taurus on the 4th house cusp. Taurus indicates an artistic and refined father, but the lateness of the degree indicates one who would soon move on, one way or another. As for his motive, we find his ruler, Venus, in his second house of money, in the sign of Cancer. It would seem the father wanted money more than his son, and abandoned the son to get it. Oddly enough, the son lionized his father, going so far as to write a book (mostly imaginary, or so I would presume) about him. The father's ruler, Venus, is disposed by the Moon in Gemini, which is in turn disposed by Mercury in Leo, which is disposed by the Sun, which is proud, but there is a great deal of distance from the actual father, to the son's pride in him. I think it rather tenuous.

The Mystery Man's mother was said to be a great scholar. We find her house, the 10th, to be empty, which means the mother was in no way significant in the Mystery Man's life. Her ruler, Mars, is in her 11th house. (I trust my readers are familiar with chart turning.) Sakoian and Acker tell me that Mars in the 11th makes for masculine and aggressive friends. Which applies to the Mystery Man's mother, not to him. In its turn, Mars is disposed by Mercury, which is in the mother's 9th house, indicating philosophy, religion and travel. She is known to have travelled a great deal in her life.

The Mystery Man is, in fact, a good speaker. Several years ago he toured the country and spoke before many thousands of people, to great acclaim. For this we look to Mercury, which we find it in Leo. Of that, S&A say,

Mercury in the sign Leo indicates a mind that has a strong will and a fixed

purpose. . . . They like to be regarded as authorities in their chosen fields . . . but if carried too far, this inclination can produce excessive mental pride and arrogance. . . . People with Mercury in Leo do possess continuity of planning and purpose, which gives them executive ability.

That's odd. Not a word about speaking. Maybe we'll find it with its house placement? Here are Sakoian and Acker on Mercury in the 6th:

Mercury in the Sixth House indicates people who acquire specialized knowledge and skills applicable to the kind of work they do, such as their profession. . . . This is, therefore, a favorable position for those involved in medicine, engineering, or science. . . . Mercury in this house indicates a concern with duty, personal hygiene, and correct dress. Mercury in the Sixth House can indicate a tendency to overwork and to perfectionism.

Which I can tell you is true of my friend with Mercury and three other planets in the 6th. Maybe it's an aspect. The Mystery Man's Mercury is tightly opposed to his Jupiter. Here are S&A:

[I]nclined to promise more than they can deliver . . . a lot of talk and insufficient follow up. . . . Woolgathering and daydreaming are the other negative attributes. . . . they are either agnostic or hold illogical beliefs. . . . they are likely to be unreliable. . . . natives are easily flustered and unable to defend themselves under stress. They are not good at keeping secrets.

Could it be that Sakoian and Acker do not mention Mercury's speaking ability in any of their house and sign delineations? Let's look briefly:

Mercury in Aries: Debate and argument.

Mercury in Gemini: Eloquence and clarity of expression.

Mercury in the third: Good writers and speakers.

Mercury in the fifth: Dramatic and forceful in speech and writing.

Mercury in the tenth: Politicians who have distinguished themselves by their brilliant ideas. (Politicians are by definition public speakers.)

One is left wondering how the Mystery Man speaks at all.

this point, but those of you who have struggled all the way to the end would merely read the name and say, "Of course. I knew all along." I thought of posting the name on my [blog](#), as a way of driving attention to it, but it would have the same result.

SO I have decided to let you tell me. Who is this Mystery Man, and what specific astrological reasons do you have for your choice? Speaking for myself, and speaking frankly, the astrological analysis is so unlike the man that I would think that babies were switched at birth and that at some later point someone grabbed the wrong birth certificate. If that is true, then it is also true that in cases of switching, there is always some trifling resemblance. Mistakes are never completely random. But the resemblance is never more than slight. What do you think? Stephen King's biographer got it right with much less detail than this. Could the Mystery Man be a fraud?

WHICH brings me to the end of this week's essay. I had thought of naming the Mystery Man at