



# NEWSLETTER

NOW WEEKLY!

With art by Vera !

from the Astrology Center of America / AstroAmerica.com

July 19, 2011

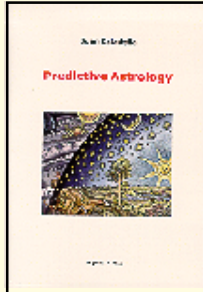
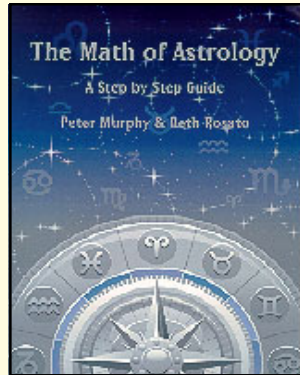
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## New Books

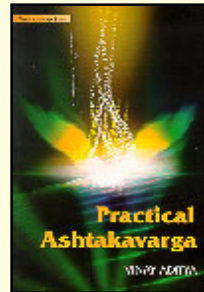
New books this week were disappointing.

From the AFA, a reprint of a dreadful treatise on chart calculation, **The Math of Astrology**. I'm frustrated. We need a good teaching guide, but this isn't it.



Newly imported from Spain, Juan Estadella's **Predictive Astrology**. This starts as Topocentric based Primary Directions and rectification, but quickly fades into the prenatal epoch, Cyril Fagan's precessed solar returns and 14 (yes, 14) different kinds of lunar returns, along with direct and converse progressions to more charts than you have ever thought about.

The exception is in Vedic. Been a long time since I had any new Vedic books to crow about. This is a good one. It's Vinay Aditya's second book, on Ashtakavarga:



**Practical Ashtakavarga**. His first book, **Dots of Destiny**, from 1996, has been a classic for many years. This one, published in April, goes further into application and interpretation.

Find all the newly arrived books for this year at the **New Books** page. There have been some good ones. Or just read my reviews & have a good laugh at my expense.

**Vettius Valens** continues to surprise. In Book II there are 40 charts, including a series of people who died for this reason or that (generally executed). Valens rarely gives actual dates, he just lists planets and signs & lets me figure things out. With the very last chart I miscalculated to get April 15, 33 AD. I looked at that, and *I looked at that*, and I thought it was the death chart for the Rabbi Jesus, "thrown to the lions"(!) But I was mistaken. The proper date was April of 91. Then I realized none of these charts were birth charts, as we had presumed. They are really all death charts.

## ASTRO MED A to Z

Handwriting may be to a large extent connected with the rising sign, Mercury, the third house, and the dominant planet, if any.

It is, of course, a subject that it almost a science in itself.

**LEO**: A large, bold script.

**CANCER**: Commonplace and characterless.

**GEMINI-VIRGO**: Small and neat, studental. Virgo often affects archaic formations and abbreviations, and is sometimes crabbed.

**TAURUS-LIBRA**: Generally harmonious lines, but without energy or character.

**ARIES-SCORPIO**: Abrupt, dashing, executive, hasty.

**SAGITTARIUS**: Flowing with generous sweeps and curves.

**AQUARIUS**: Often highly characterized and individual.

**PISCES**: Untidy, sprawling.

The above can, of course, only be applied in a very general sense.

Frequent use of the dash is Sagittarian; they often employ no other punctuation.

Afflictions in Gemini, especially if involving the 12th or Neptune, seem the usual cause of bad spelling.

—from **Encyclopaedia of Psychological Astrology**, by Charles Carter.

## ALMANACK

for the week (all times GMT)

Notes

19	22:58	☿		♃
20	11:15	☽	△	☾ Void
	16:26	☽	♄	
21	01:31	☽	♅	♃
	15:54	☽	♅	♃
22	01:35	☿	♁	♃
	21:36	☽	△	♀ Void
23	04:12	☾	♁	
	04:59	☽	♃	
	05:03	♁	00♃02	
	21:20	☽	♅	♃
24	15:14	☽		☾
25	13:13	☽	□	♀ Void
	16:35	☽		
	21:38	☽	✳	☾

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



## STAR OF THE WEEK



**PROCYON** alpha Canis Minoris 25 ♄ 57

**Notes:** A binary yellowish white and yellow star situated on the body of the Lesser Dog. From Prokuon, before the Dog, in allusion to its rising before Sirius

**Influence:** According to Ptolemy it is of the nature of Mercury and Mars. It gives activity, violence, sudden & violent malevolence, sudden preferment by exertion, elevation ending in disaster, danger of dog bites & hydrophobia [rabies], and makes its natives petulant, saucy, giddy, weak-natured, timid, unfortunate, proud, easily angered, careless & violent.

**If rising:** Artful, crafty, dissembling, wealth by violence & rapine, lust, dissipation, waste and ruin, military preferment, quarrels, loss in trade or by servants.

**With Sun:** Great help from friends, gifts & legacies if not afflicted, military preferment after great struggles and expense. If rising or culminating, kingly preferment.

**With Moon:** Occult interests, restless, . . .

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

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Ivy M. Goldstein-Jacobson  
1893-1990



## IVY'S GEM OF THE WEEK

### The Retrograde Condition

**I**T is this writer's observation of planets retrograde at birth that they represent persons ruled by the houses they are in who break promises they make to the one whose chart it is or withhold for a time something that belongs to him. Neither are they to be depended on completely in hastening the success, because they delay what the house otherwise offers.

Each house rests on the one immediately below it. The career-10th depends for success on the 11th-of-circumstances in life; a retrograde planet there at birth will delay but not deny any promised success. A square to it only inspires it to greater effort.

It is also observed that such retrograde planets represent persons of the house they are in who will become separated from the native and thus alienated to a greater or lesser extent, the more enduring when in Fixed Signs. If the ruler of the Ascendant goes retrograde after birth, the native deliberately relinquishes family ties and customs for the duration of the condition which may endure for life; but not with Leo or Cancer on the Ascendant, the rulers Sun and Moon, always direct, never abandoning the family.

If the retrograde planet is a malefic it reveals that a person of the house it is in is unfortunate, may have been put out of the house or family circle or may even suffer exile. If aspecting the Ascendant, its ruler or a planet in the first, the misfortune may involve someone near or dear to the native.

— **The Way of Astrology**, 1967

## GET TO KNOW YOUR CANDIDATES Mitt Romney *The used car salesman*

**W**ITH Romney I get a break. He ran for president in 2008. His birth chart is already established. I don't have grope for a rectification. I can grope for meaning instead.

Prior to this year I have never paid much attention to the Republican side of things. I just hoped and prayed for a Democrat of some sort. Which ended with Obama, as it is now clear that both parties are hopelessly corrupt as well as permanently established as our rulers, like it or not. I offer this as an apology for having to start at the very beginning with **Mr. Romney**, having not before looked at him or his chart.

Not having any other point of reference, I start with the ascendant. It is given as 1 degree, 1 minute of Gemini. Whenever I see the first or the last degree on the ascendant, I consider the possibility of the other sign being there, as the difference in time is rarely more than ten minutes and clocks, until the development of TV set-top cable boxes, were customarily 5 minutes wrong as hardly anyone knew the time exact to the minute.

In this case, given his appearance, I'm satisfied with Gemini as Romney's ascendant. Gemini rising is mutable and two-faced. Robson notably said it was mentally cruel. I know the sign well, it is my own rising sign. Let's see where it goes.

Ruler of Gemini, Romney's chart ruler, is Mercury, which I find retrograde in Pisces in the 11th house. Mercury in the formless water of Pisces is not bright. Retrograde it is further hobbled by being unable to grasp (cup) the water that runs through its fingers.

There's a lot of water, as Mars, a few degrees in front of it, excites it, heats it up, and pours it on. The square to Uranus makes it bizarre, the wide water trines from the Moon and Jupiter give Mercury fluency and emotional appeal. Which is useful to a politician.

This is not a great intellect. I have heard that he will basically say anything to advance his position, whatever today's position happens to be. Which is what we would expect of a mutable rising chart, with a retrograde ruler debilitated in a mutable sign, jacked up by Mars, inflated by Jupiter, made seductive by the Moon. He doesn't know what he's talking about, he doesn't really care. He is, so far, your average used car salesman.

So why does Romney run? It's not because of solar compulsion (Pisces have no

compulsion), it's not because of his chart ruler, and it's not from Martial drive, as all of that is chewed up chasing his tail, which is what mutable is.

Having examined the ascendant, its ruler, and the Sun, we next turn to Romney's Moon. It's void, and tightly conjunct to its last aspect, which was with Jupiter, both in Scorpio. Jupiter conjunct Moon is self-confidence. In intense Scorpio, boundless confidence, but intercepted in the 6th house, it would be hidden, even from him, until something reached out to help him find it.

When Moon and Jupiter are in the 6th house we would customarily expect a life of service to others. We would also customarily expect it to over-indulge in the foodstuff of the sign (Scorpio: alcohol), but note that Scorpio is not itself on the cusp. Libra is, and on the 6th makes it the house of odors. Neptune lurking nearby makes those odors nefarious. The result is that Romney might just be the tee-totaler his religion demands.

**B**UT we still haven't found what makes Willard Mitt Romney run. Our attention is next drawn to Saturn in Leo, late in the 3rd. My rough & ready definition of the third is "Daily Life". A week ago I had the realization that the house your Saturn is in is where you find your work. I now see this fits Romney quite well and if you're wondering about the serendipity of it, I have come to expect that. Saturn's-house-as-work is a good deal more true than Saturn-as-daddy, which I have heard elsewhere.

I have Saturn in the 5th, and this analogy has taught me much. You, dear sweetheart, are my (hot) date for the night and it is not my pleasure, but my duty, to seduce you. Elsewhere, it is not my pleasure, but my duty, to endure the day at **Hershey Park**, as best I can. Well! There is duty and then there is duty and one should carry out his responsibilities to the best of his ability. So if you should find yourself lured into a date with a hopeless Saturn-in-the-5th type like myself, don't think of yourself as his romantic interest, as he hasn't a clue what that is. Think of yourself as his teammate. Join with him, do the deed and then marvel at a job well-done. He will be amazed. Maybe you will be, too. He will thank you! That is certain. If you have your heart set on this man, this is the way that will lead to success. *continued, page 4*

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

**Part 48:**

**Finance, continued**

The following are the influences of the signs and planets on finance, and certain specific effects of some of the planets in the signs. It should be remembered that the position of a planet in a sign merely indicates connection with the matters mentioned and that the question of loss or gain depends upon the nature of the aspects it receives.

**ARIES.** Gain by own endeavours and shrewdness. Saturn here, acquisitive, gain or loss through deaths of uncles or aunts, competence at end of life if well aspected by Jupiter. Jupiter, voyages, shipping, or foreign investments. Mars, private sources, loss through marriage. Venus, gain through deaths of inferiors, secret affairs, and mother's relatives.

**TAURUS.** Economical, fond of investment, cautious and careful, gain by marriage. Saturn, industry and investment; fortunes improve later. Jupiter, investment & speculation, money from women. Mars, acquisitive, and persevering. Venus, profession. Moon, inheritance from parents, money from companies or wholesale trading. Uranus, from partnership.

**GEMINI.** Fluctuating, double sources of gain, do not save until the later half of life. Saturn, questionable means. Mars, by wits. Venus, by relatives, speculation, friends' advice, and secret methods.

**CANCER.** Acquisitive and careful. Gain through water or voyages. Saturn, occultism. Jupiter, property, intellect. Mars, servants, agencies, travel, public affairs. Venus, meeting public needs. Moon, property and shipping.

**LEO.** Speculation or public work. Often gives wealth. Saturn domestic or foreign affairs. Jupiter, marriage, mining. Mars, government or public work, music, success at end of life. Venus, inheritance. Sun, rarely in want. — **A Student's Text-Book of Astrology**, by Vivian Robson.

**Jupiter in the Seventh**

**I**T is a great mistake to think that the presence of Jupiter in the seventh house necessarily augurs a happy & successful marriage. It may, and frequently does so, but a great deal depends upon whether it is in a favorable sign and well-aspected or not. Jupiter primarily influences prosperity, and only causes happiness by the negative method of preserving the native from adverse conditions, or the positive one of providing him with enough of the good things of life to prevent discontent. A well-aspected Jupiter will tend to act in the positive way unless it is in an uncongenial sign such as those ruled by Mercury and Saturn, while a badly aspected Jupiter will bring bad luck and even serious misfortunes unless it is in its own sign or exaltation, or in good aspect with the Sun, Moon, or ruler of the ascendant. A good Jupiter in the seventh house will always indicate prosperity through marriage, but it will not necessarily cause a really happy union.

The partner indicated by this position is one of a generous, optimistic, and good-natured type, who is healthy, prosperous if not rich, religiously inclined, and somewhat conventional. In a woman's map it may denote marriage to a lawyer, doctor, or clergyman, or, in lower social strata, to a merchant, sporting man, grocer or a follower of one of the many other Jupiterian occupations.

In a man's map Jupiter in the seventh is said to indicate a beautiful, rich, and virtuous wife, but if one were to substitute the adjectives homely, prosperous, and respectable it might perhaps be nearer the truth in most cases, though the more enthusiastic description is not an impossible one. Beauty, in particular, is not a specially Jupiterian attribute, and it is said that if Jupiter happens to be in conjunction with the Moon in the seventh house the wife will not be at all handsome. — **Astrology and Sex**, by Vivian Robson.

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**Is This You?**

**20-30° Capricorn rising**  
*The Virgo decanate*

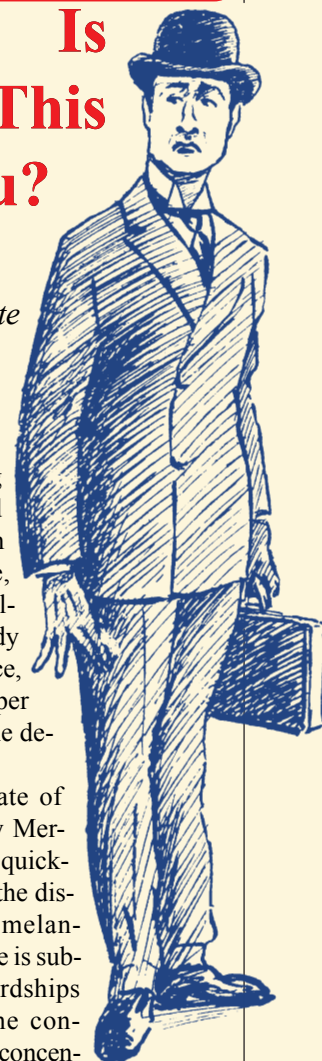
**Appearance of the third decanate:**

Here the drooping eyelids and the raised eyebrows of the sign are well in evidence, also the sloping shoulders, the angular body and the Capricorn voice, which takes on a deeper Virgo tone through the decanate influence.

The *Virgo* decanate of Capricorn is ruled by Mercury. This influence quickens the mind though the disposition is usually melancholy and the early life is subject to numerous hardships and limitations. The conscious mind is chiefly concentrated upon facts and mundane details; the temperament resembles that of the local town clerk. For this type of mind rarely possesses much initiative or independence of thought.

Another example of several planets in opposition to each other is the nativity of the late Annie Besant, only in her case the first and seventh were chiefly involved. Thus her mundane activities required a series of partners or coworkers who sometimes became open enemies to the extent of involving her in litigation. As in her case, both the first and seventh house planets afflicted *Jupiter* and the *Moon* in her fourth; the end of her life was a rather sad one.

— **Man and the Zodiac**, by David Anrias.



But I have digressed. Coming back to the third house, this is quite clear in Mitt Romney's chart. Saturn in 3, Romney sees his life as one of work. This fits his religion, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, perfectly, as it is a religion that is primarily about ceaseless, thankless, toil. Mormonism is also about a fate that cannot be escaped, which in Romney's case is Saturn in the house of brothers and sisters who will be with him, in Heaven or elsewhere, for all eternity. This is grim, but it is the Mormon way. Mitt is the youngest of four. He has two sisters and a brother.

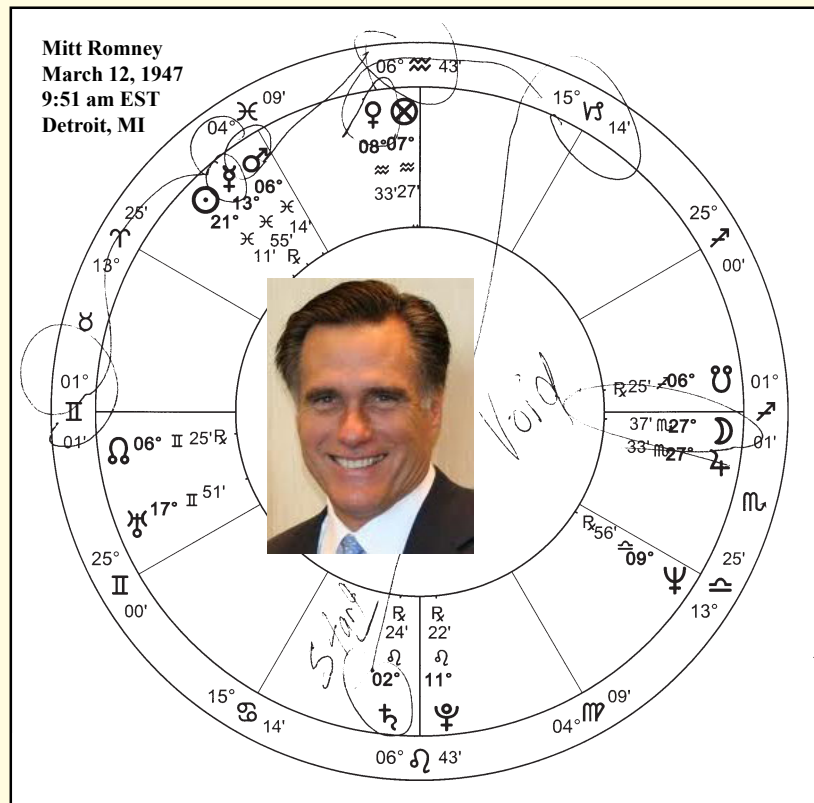
Romney first comes to prominence, in fact, during the mandatory year of service to his Church, proselytizing as an Elder. Saturn in the third house neatly represents the young Elder, going door to door through strange neighborhoods, doors slamming in his face, except that wasn't quite Mitt's experience.

**H**E went to France to proselytize. The Romneys are from Michigan with roots in Utah. Why France? I tell you every week to look at the houses the planets rule, that they will tell you interesting stories. Look at Romney's chart: Saturn, his planet of work, rules his 9th, representing both religion, as well as foreign escape. So Romney goes to France to proselytize. Nevermind that for a thousand years the French have resisted all such attempts, and easily beat back Romney's feeble efforts. There is something about France and Capricorn on the cusp of the 9th: I have that, and I learned French and went to France and had religious experiences, and then came back. Just like Mitt. But again I digress.

The French year was fundamental for Romney. He discovered he was a leader. Which is Saturn ruling his 10th. In other words, by a series of experiences, Mitt Romney discovered who he was. He was not born knowing this. His Sun, adrift in Pisces, did not tell him. His Moon in Scorpio, mindlessly self-confident with Jupiter but obscurely placed, did not tell him. His chart ruler Mercury, drowning in Pisces, was no help whatever. Duties to his religion gave him the key, but, the 9th house being empty and Saturn in debility, I would judge that Romney is not a particularly religious man. It was simply a tool he was once required to use, with surprising results. If not religion, it would have been something else, without doubt. In addition to all the other tools he's used since.

Attention now shifts to Venus. It had previously been (and, I presume, still is) the far end of the Saturn-Venus, and Pluto-Venus oppositions. Saturn-Venus is manipulating others for your own gain, and being manipulated in return. Pluto-Venus, which has been much explored by **Jeff Green**, is jealousy and envy and relationships that end abruptly. Which, out of all of this, is the first really hopeful thing I have seen for a Romney presidency. A president needs to know how to slam the door and then move on. It also helps if he's accustomed to others slamming the door on him. Pluto-Venus in opposition, angular to boot, gives both.

But there's more. The year in France accidentally uncovered Venus as an independent planet. Venus in the 10th, Romney has always looked good in public (like Rudy Giuliani, a pretty boy type). Saturn in Leo in 3 led to a year in France, which led to leadership of his group, which was much appreciated, which brought to Romney's attention the fact that the more he worked, the better he led, the more people liked him. And it was a genuine like. Romney wasn't liked because of his Pisces Sun, since Pisceans are liked precisely because they are marshmallows. Romney wasn't liked because of his Scorpio Moon, because, even if it was intense and self-confident, it is so obscurely placed, intercepted in the 6th, that he was –



and is – unable to reach out emotionally.

But when he *works*, when he stands before the crowd and shoulders the load himself, he attracts the love and admiration of the masses. And for a guy like Romney, it's the most seductive thing. It's Saturn in Leo in 3, learning to rule the 10th.

All of this he first learned in France. And, fired by it, it's tempting to speculate that in France he had a vision of everything that has come since. Pisces is like that, it gives hopeless visions to the befuddled. Specifically, that if he only had the means, he could acquire the power (10th house) to be of service (Moon in the 6th) and thereby do large things (Moon/Jupiter conjunct).

Which might account for his subsequent drive to acquire vast amounts of money. You will note that in his chart, money, the second house, is Gemini, ruled by his chart ruler, Mercury. What we seem to have here is a Mercury that is so hopeless and backwards that Saturn, the Moon, Jupiter, Venus and Mars could collectively gang up on it and force it to make money, first with Boston Consulting, and then with Bain Capital, as a prelude to public office.

Like a lot of self-made men, Romney did not start with local office and work his way up. His first attempt at elective office was against Ted Kennedy in 1994. His chances of success were slight, but one is reminded of Goethe's maxim, Be bold! Boldness has its own rewards. Romney lost the vote, but came back eight years later for his second campaign, for governor of Massachusetts. Which he won. Flush with success, he abandoned the governorship after one term for a run at the presidency in 2008. He lost to John McCain, but he's now back again, and, as of the moment (July 2011), the front-runner.

**W**HAT do I think? I've been studying the chart and reading Romney's Wiki page. Which was clearly written by the man himself, there are too many convenient details and far too positive a spin.

Mitt Romney is clearly not bright. Instead of Mercury providing intelligence, Romney has transformed it into a messenger, an errand boy, tasked with carrying out the desires of various other

planets in his chart. I have not before seen that in a chart.

I have the impression that while Romney may be two-faced and, frankly, brainless in what he *says*, he is sincere and honest and intense in what he *does*. Elevation to the supreme office may reveal a man with a calling. In this he reminds me of Lyndon Johnson, who, as a representative and then a senator, was the epitome of sleaze and graft and corruption, but, as president, saw his duty to reform America in fundamental ways. Which, as a master-manipulator, he was well-equipped to do. But so far as running for president on his own, Johnson's reputation in the Senate made him unelectable, which I think he knew.

**Y**OU will note that while Romney's Mercury is a mess, it is not in aspect to Neptune, nor Pluto. You will note that while his Moon is obscurely placed, it is not in aspect to Neptune, and only distantly square to Saturn and Pluto. Unlike many other candidates, Romney is neither a deliberate liar, nor does he show signs of delusion. In Palin's and Bachmann's charts, I saw signs of eagerness to accept bribes, which, should you be interested, are planets opposing each other in houses 2 and 8 (Bachmann), or the ruler of 2 disposing the ruler of 8, or vice-versa (Palin), in one house or the other. Romney has none of this.

So despite the blather of what he says, my best guess is that the man is honest and, to the extent that he's conscious, is sincere about who he is and what he wants to do. This actually gives me hope.

There are three final questions. The first, if elected, could he do the job?

I regret that I am skeptical. Washington is a nasty maelstrom of anger, manipulation and outright hostility. Romney has no experience there, and probably few friends. One would expect him to be ripped to pieces upon taking office, much as Bill Clinton was.

In his favor, while he was in the financial world he showed tenacity and adaptability, eventually resulting in considerable success. In his favor, he showed the same skills as governor. Against is the fact that learning on the job takes time and that mistakes will be made along the way. Also against him is the fate of Lyndon Johnson, who, while superbly equipped to be a domestic president, was hit with international affairs he knew nothing about. Mitt Romney has this same sort of blind spot. Not with domestic/international per se, but that even in the best of times, the presidency tends to seek out, discover and then cruelly magnify the slightest

faults. This is especially true of those, like Johnson and Romney, who want to do good things.

The second question: Can he be elected?

It's mixed. October-ish next year, Saturn will be in Scorpio, in Romney's 6th house. Which is bad for health. In the same sign as the Moon (Saadhi Saati, in the Vedic world) is also bad for health.

Jupiter, on the other hand, will be in Gemini in Romney's first house. It will pass over his north node in July 2012 (lucky for all manner of things) and in early October make a station a degree shy of his Uranus. Someone once told me that transits to Saturn generally trigger after the planet has passed over it, Saturn being slow to respond, but that transits to Uranus, ever eager, tend to happen before the aspect is exact. Presuming he is the Republican nominee, Jupiter going retrograde just before the election would seem to take the prize away from him. Gemini is Romney's ascendant, transiting Jupiter there will be a significant factor.

Octoberish, transiting Mars in his 7th will make him appear quite fierce. If there is a war afoot, he will look like a commander. If not, this is not good.

Uranus in Aries shades into Romney's 12th and is not significant.

October 2012, transiting Neptune is barely in Pisces, and is retrograde as well. The retrograde is good. It will make him look honest.

Pluto in early Capricorn is not significant.

The north node will pass over his Moon/Jupiter conjunction in September 2012. If **Judith Hill** is right, that the north node is a huge inrush of energy, then the node passing over Jupiter and the Moon will make Mitt Romney unstoppable.

**T**HE final question: Would I vote for him? In an ideal world, a candidate with only four years experience in government and none in Washington would be laughed out of the room. But if the choice was Obama, or Palin, or Bachmann, or Romney, which is everyone I've looked at so far, Romney's the clear winner. **I would vote for Romney.** I tell you this as a life-long former Democrat. I've had enough of that. I will henceforth be a member of the **Astrology Party** and pick my candidates based on their natal charts.

I urge you to join my party. Use astrology and your common sense and pick the candidate you judge to be the best.

# Developments

**I** WAS emailed last week with a 9:43 pm birth time for Sarah Palin, rated as "B" (February 11, 1964, Sandpoint, ID). I found this unlikely, as it would make her a strongly 5th house character.

And over at **Neptune's Cafe** (scroll down) there is a quite convincing story that Michele Bachman, when asked for her birth time, responded with, "12:08", allegedly with birth certificate in hand. Included was the city of birth and the name of the hospital, but Bachmann did not specify am or pm. Neptune guessed at am and got a chart similar to mine (April 6, 1956, Waterloo, IA), except with Sag rising and Libra in the MC: Rulers Jupiter and Venus, the two benefics. Which would make for a nice-nice person. Which isn't what we see in front of us. (I rectified the chart to 1:10 am, Capricorn/Scorpio, Saturn/Mars: A pit bull.) I am wondering if Bachmann misread her birth certificate. Since in the new post-Obama world candidates come waving their birth certificates, we should find out eventually.