



# NEWSLETTER

NOW WEEKLY!

With art by Vera!

from the Astrology Center of America / AstroAmerica.com

February 21, 2012

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## Found: George McCormack's Weather Astrology

**G**EORGE J. McCormack, "Gee Jay" lived from 1887 to 1974. He had a lifetime interest in weather astrology (AstroMeteorology) and was one of the greats in the field. In 1938 he was one of the co-founders of the American Federation of Astrologers.

In 1947 he published **A Textbook of Long Range Weather Forecasting**. **Holden** says it was limited to 100 copies. From what I have in my hands (thanks to Philip Graves of Sweden, who will shortly get that copy), it was 60 single-spaced, one-sided sheets of typing paper inside a three-ring binder. Given that the paper is watermarked and there are erratic typos and

strikeouts, it would appear that each of the 100 copies were in fact hand-typed originals. Up until photocopiers, this was what most astrologers had to do to get published at all. And while the content is of priceless value, books such as these, when they turn up as part of someone's estate, are commonly thrown away without a second glance.

I will publish in a month, perhaps sooner, as the book is not big. It will be reset and the typos fixed, just like any other proper book. The price will be \$20, perhaps less.

The concepts and detail are astounding. There is no other word that will describe. For the various planetary pairs, there are A, B and C configurations. There are Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter delineations. McCormack says Arctic air does not sweep thousands of miles south, but that cold air two miles aloft can suddenly descend. His descriptions of planetary effects reinforces my observation, that planets work directly upon the earth, bringing forth energies (e.g. signs of the zodiac) that are *latent in the earth itself*. This is especially true of the noted Taurus/Scorpio earthquake phenomena. The zodiac is not "up in the sky." It is right under our feet. McCormack is a revelation.

## ASTRO MED A to Z

**Mystery, Love of.** This is a well-known characteristic of Scorpio, who often displays a great delight in mystifying others and piquing their curiosity. In higher specimens there is a realization of the sacredness of even trivial things; in the lower there is simply a desire to keep their affairs to themselves; they often take pains to involve their simplest and most innocent actions in a "smoke-cloud" of mystification. To some extent the same tendencies are observable in Cancer and Pisces. Sagittarius has the least reserve and love of concealment.

**Mysticism.** Neptune is regarded as the planet of the mystic and in his higher aspects he represents the reunion of the finite with the Infinite. In the same sense the 12th house may be called the goal, or final deliverance. The more positive forms of "spiritual" development, usually referred to as "occultism", belong to Uranus.

**Leadership.** Aries, Leo, and Capricorn may be styled signs of leadership, and the ideal leader should have all three strong. Of the three, Aries leads by its energy, courage, and power of evoking loyalty, but usually meets many opponents . . .

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

### 2012 MAYNARD CALENDARS

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### ALMANACK

for the week (all times GMT)

			Notes
21	16:18	☽ Δ ♃	Void
	17:32	☽ ♃	
	22:35	● 02 ♃ 42	New Moon
22	02:56	♀ ♃ ♀	
	08:01	♂ ♃ ♃	
23	02:25	☽ ♀ ♂	Void
	02:48	☽ ♀	
	11:26	♀ ♀ ♂	
24	08:26	☽ ♂ ♃	
	20:31	☽ □ ♀	
25	06:07	☽ ♃ ☉	
	10:33	☉ ✖ ♃	
	11:40	☉ ♃ ♂	
26	00:37	♀ ♃ ♃	
	09:04	♀ ♃ ☉	
	12:52	☽ ♀ ♃	Void
	14:30	☽ ♂	
	21:08	☉    ♃	
27	06:53	☽ ✖ ☉	
	16:53	♀    ♂	

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



## STAR OF THE WEEK



**FOMALHAUT** alpha Piscis Australis 4 ✖ 02

**Notes:** A reddish star in the mouth of the Southern Fish. From Fum al Hut, the Fish's Mouth. It was one of the four Royal Stars of Persia in 3000 BC, when as the Watcher of the South it marked the winter solstice

**Influence:** According to Ptolemy, it is of the nature of Venus and Mercury. It is said to be very fortunate and powerful and yet to cause malevolence of sublime scope and character, and change from a material to a spiritual form of expression. Cardan stated that together with the stars rising with 23 Gemini it gives an immortal name.

**With Sun:** Dissipated, easily influenced by low companions, gain through inheritance but unproductive of good, may suffer for some crime committed, danger of bites from venomous creatures. **With Moon:** Secret business causing much trouble and enmity, but eventual gain after many difficulties. The separation is more benefic. —from **Fixed Stars**, by Vivian Robson

Ivy M. Goldstein-Jacobson  
1893-1990



## IVY'S GEM OF THE WEEK

### When Planets Change Direction

**T**HE year in which a planet changes direction and turns either Direct or Retrograde is usually singled out for importance in the life. Whether in the past or future it is desirable to progress the chart for that year in order to account for what has already happened because of that planet's influence, or to see what is still to take place; either way, it will register very strongly.

Allowing for a lifetime of 90 years we go forward 90 days in the natal ephemeris for the PROGRESSED area, and we also go backwards 90 days in the natal ephemeris for the PRE-NATAL area, remembering that in either case we consider the developments to materialize during the 90 years AFTER birth.

The number of days before or after birth showing any planet marked either D or R (Direct or Retrograde) is taken as the number of years after birth and indicates the native's age thereby, for chart-progression.

Using Chart #8 page 28, we note simply the birthdate February 24, 1957. Going forward 90 days we find no change during February, but Saturn turns R on March 23rd which is 27 days after birth or 27 YEARS after, denoting the year 1984 for special significance. Uranus turns D on April 10th, 45 days after birth or age 45. 2002 would therefore be worth progressing. Both Jupiter and Mercury turn D on May 19th at age 84, the year 2041. — **Foundation of the Astrological Chart**, 1959.

## Whitney Houston, 1963 - 2012

**T**HIS has been a week of tributes to **Whitney**, so I will add my voice. She was born on August 9, 1963, at 8:55 pm, in Newark, NJ. As I sometimes get stung with unverified birth times, I tried to trace down where Whitney's came from. The best I could turn up in a quick search was **Eric Francis** attributing it to Lois Rodden herself. Who claimed the birth certificate. Rodden had contacts. They got her data no one else could.

The two questions I have are, Will astrology tell us the cause of Whitney Houston's death?, and, Will astrology tell us if this was her proper time of death? Astrology claims it can do both. For those of you who say these are tacky questions, well, I suppose they are. To me, this is an academic exercise. Let's see if I am skilled.

Whitney Houston has Pisces rising. The ruler, Jupiter, is retrograde in Aries, just outside the 2nd house. This is ordinarily read as someone who eagerly goes after the money, and with the Moon very near by finds a great deal of satisfaction with all the money she has. Houston was in fact very rich, but as Jupiter is retrograde, she presumably got little satisfaction from it.

The harder Houston worked, the more money her manager took from her, as Mars rules Aries from Libra, where it is debilitated, but, note carefully, not retrograde. Mars is late in the 7th but shares the cusp of the 8th house. So, according to my usual rule, that a planet outside a house wants to get into it, Whitney's partner (and a manager is a partner) will want to "get into" Whitney's 8th house, where, due to Mars' rulership of Whitney's 2nd, will enable him to get his hands on her money. And she had a lot of money.

Moon conjunct Jupiter, Jupiter being the chart ruler, made her larger than life. Jupiter retrograde, the Moon applying, made her eager to take up the role of a diva. Both of them in Aries made her rash. Ascendant in Pisces meant that it didn't make any difference anyway, since, with Pisces, anything went so why not let the Moon have its way? If it feels good, do it!

Oppositions to the Sun and Moon tell us who the enemy is. When the Moon is beefed up by a conjunction with Jupiter, Mars, the enemy opposite, becomes their target. When that opposing Mars is in Libra, where it is

debilitated, there is a sense that "they should have known better" than to annoy the diva. Hence her temper. **Sakoian and Acker** note a tendency for Moon opposite Mars to act out and get drunk, spend money foolishly, etc.

Funny how I couldn't find any of this on Houston's Wiki page. Just as I couldn't find anything but blank praise for Madonna and Lady Gaga.

Whitney Houston was born a Leo Sun. We find it in the 6th house of service, where she wants to "shine". Conjunct Venus (also in Leo) we have someone who is cheerful and upbeat, who likes children. Sun-Venus conjunct in Leo can also be a narcissist. Both planets in the 6th of diet and health, there is the self-confident ease of "I know what's best for me" so far as medicine and food and health are concerned. Leo in the 6th has a weakness for rich, expensive foods, which are rarely good for you. The sixth house is also the house of drugs. Houston once said she did not take crack cocaine, as that was a poor person's drug of choice. Not hers. She was not poor. If someone like this takes up with drugs, it can be very hard to stop, since they will rationalize themselves as being right (the king can do no wrong) and will not listen to outsiders.

Such as Saturn in Aquarius in the 12th. It is opposite Houston's Sun and Venus. It is in the house of institutions, such as, for example, drug rehabilitation clinics. Saturn, representing duty and responsibility, as it is in dignity and opposite the Sun, Houston knew what she should do (so far as her reported drug problem went) but believed herself to be the exception to the rule.

Indeed, Saturn's nagging might have been what led Houston to drugs. There are exactly two squares in Houston's chart, both of them to Neptune. Saturn represents father - teacher - elder - authority - government - clinic doctor - friends and associates - (Saturn wears a lot of hats) who pointed to the one thing that Saturn and the Sun both have in common — the square to Neptune-as-drugs — and said, Don't go there! You'll be sorry!

Which Houston refused to heed. She did not refuse because she thought herself superior. To the contrary. She refused because she could not submit. The Sun rules Leo,

*continued, pg. 4*

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

**Part 80:**

**Mundane Comparison of Charts**

**T**O a much less extent the mundane positions in the respective horoscopes are important. Thus if the Sun is on the Ascendant in one map, and the Moon on the Ascendant in the other there will be an attraction even if no aspect occurs between them, as they hold the equivalent mundane positions. The houses in a map in which the other person's planet fall also produce some effect, and the benefics of one falling in the 11th of the other will produce friendship, in the 10th, help in business, and so on.

So far we have treated of radical maps, but the same remarks apply to progressed positions. Thus, Venus in one map progressing to a luminary in the other sets up a strong temporary attraction that will persist if the radical maps harmonize, but die if they are not in accord. The progressed Moon brings acquaintances in this way and causes temporary association. The course of a friendship can be easily foretold by observing the aspects formed by the progressed planets across the maps, and it should be noted that parallels are of great importance. In cases of marriage it is often easier to determine the actual date of the event in this way than by directions in one horoscope alone, as it is usually marked by strong aspects between the maps. — *A Student's Text-Book of Astrology*, by Vivian Robson. Next week begins Chapter X, Love and Marriage.

**February 21: Birthdays!**

- 1791—Carl Czerny, composer
- 1821—Charles Scribner, publisher
- 1836—Léo Delibes, composer
- 1844—Charles-Marie Widor, composer
- 1875—Jeanne Calment (d. 1997, 122 yrs)
- 1893—Andrés Segovia, guitarist
- 1903—Anaïs Nin, diarist

**Aphorisms concerning the placement of ♀**

**I**F ♀ be Oriental, and in Essential dignities, and ♃ in aspect with her, it Prenotes the Woman will be Master.

♀ in the second, argues the Native marries his Wife for Wealth.

♀ in the sixth, the Native marries a Wife of servile or low condition, &c.

♀ in the fourth, in □ or ♂ to ☽ in ♋, shows the Wife to be light: if she be in ☽, it portends the Native will be much given to Lechery.

♀ in the seventh, the Native is long ere he marry, and will love Harlots.

♀ in the eleventh, the Native will cohabit with a Woman having Children.

♀ in the tenth, the Native marries a gallant noble soul; if in aspect with ♃ the more noble.

♀ in the first with ♃, especially if in his own house, or else in the house of ♀, renders the Native a Wife that is either dishonest, aged, or a very poor, sneaking Wife.

♀ joined to ♀ in the fourth, or else in ♀ his house, ♃ posited in the tenth, portend the Native will marry a sordid Woman, or of no Quality: If she be at the same time in any aspect with ♂, she is strangely evil, and will be suspected of sorcery or poisons; in ☽ or ☿, it argues a Whore.

☽ in the fourth, and ♀ with ♃ in the tenth, the Wife will have no Children, either by reason of age, or defect of nature.

♀ in ♂ with ♃ and ♂ in the sixth, advise the Native to beware of Horns.

♀ and ♃ in ♂ in the seventh, show the Native has no faculty in, or is impotent to beget children.

♀ in ♂ with ♃, ♃, ♀, gives laborious Wives, good Housewives, Women affectionately loving their husbands. — *Christian Astrology Book 3*, by William Lilly.

**Is This You?**

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

Appearance of the third decanate:

**T**HE physique is clearly Taurian, with a tendency to stoutness in middle life. The eyes also resemble that sign and there is no indication of a "Hapsburg" under-lip. On the whole this is the most fortunate of the three decanates.

The *Taurus* decanate of Virgo is ruled by Venus. This gives an alert mind, combining artistic capacity with business ability or shrewdness if Mercury be well aspected. When this planet is afflicted there is often a tendency to indulge in shifty adventures, or by picking the brains of others. — *Man and the Zodiac*, by David Anrias.



**February 21: Mardi Gras!**

- 1440—Prussia formed
- 1613—Romanov dynasty founded
- 1804—First steam locomotive
- 1848—Communist Manifesto published
- 1878—The first telephone book
- 1885—Washington Monument dedicated
- 1916—Battle of Verdun begins
- 1937—The first flying car
- 1947—The first Polaroid camera
- 1948—NASCAR
- 1965—Malcom X assassinated



Saturn rules Aquarius. Houston's Sun - Saturn opposition was an opposition of peers. It was a stalemate. Maybe she took drugs (Neptune) merely to act out, or perhaps she took drugs expressly to thumb her nose at authority. An authority which she well-knew could never hold her to account, since she was its peer.

Notice how these two different oppositions have played out. On the one hand, the Moon and Jupiter have captured the weak Mars and berate him for their amusement, while Mars, on the sly, steals from both.

By contrast, Sun and Saturn butt heads over Neptune, resulting in a drug-addled person unable to help herself. It would seem that Houston had the worst of both worlds: A drugged out reality that hid an entourage that stole from her.

Note also that Houston's Sun and Moon are in trine. Always check the Sun-Moon aspect, as it is the fundamental aspect in the chart. (Even when they're not in aspect, they're still in aspect, just a more frustrating and dysfunctional one.) When the luminaries are in trine, you trust your gut. You go with the flow. Sun and Moon in trine reinforce each other. In square, they irate and goad. In opposition, they fight. In semi-sextile or inconjunct (which in Ptolemaic terms are not aspects) the head and heart are confused, which, like other aspects, is still an outcome.

Sun and Moon in trine can be a good thing if they help you better live your life, but too often the two luminaries in trine can successfully shut out the world, to their ultimate loss. We are talking here of a woman who had a severe drug problem and who ended up unexpectedly dead at the age of 48. That's not good. That's Sun and Moon as dysfunctional enablers. Watch out for that.

There is a third factor of interest: Mercury/Pluto conjunct in Virgo in the seventh. This is an powerful (Pluto), manipulative (Virgo) partner, one who knows (Mercury) too much.

Regrettably I can find no details of Houston's personal life. It seems to be a secret. How was she able to keep her life a secret? We have only her chart as a guide. So we start over and look at it afresh:

Pisces rising, she could be anyone or anything. The ascendant tells us nothing. Ruler Jupiter in Aries says, fun, outgoing, enthusiastic, except, retrograde, she's not quite.

Sun in Leo is proud, but in the 6th house, he is hidden.

Sun and Moon in trine, you fool yourself as to how the world sees you.

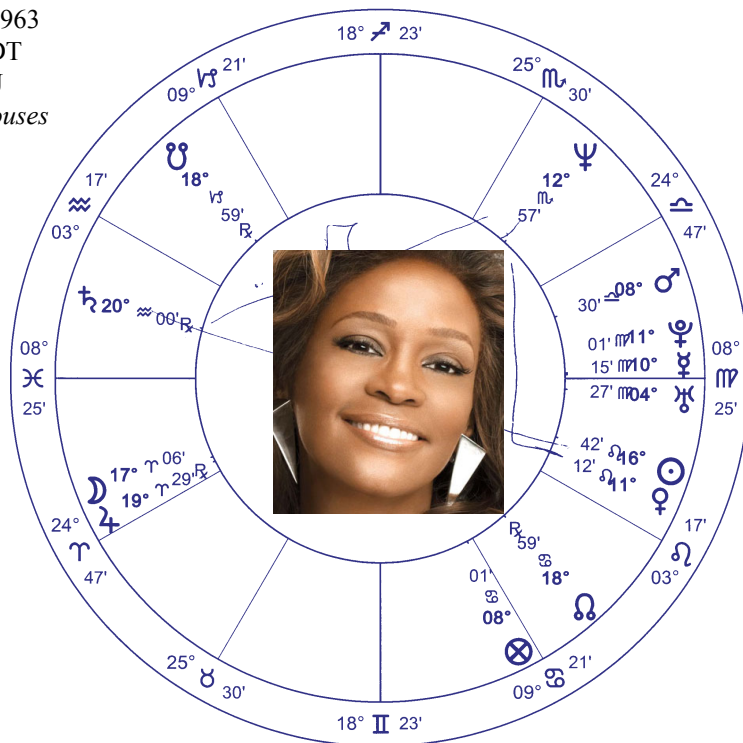
## Whitney Houston

August 9, 1963

8:55 pm EDT

Newark, NJ

Placidus houses  
mean node



Saturn in the 12th, your problems are well-hidden.

Mutable signs on the angles, you're so busy doing things that nobody notices who you really are. "Oh Whitney, sing us another song!" As with Madonna, as with Lady Gaga, Jupiter and Mercury rule all four angles of Houston's chart, and as with Madonna and Lady G, we seem to know very little about any of these women.

Of the two ruling planets, in Houston's chart, like Madonna's, Mercury is stronger planet, being in its own sign as well as being angular. Houston's Mercury, conjunct Pluto, is a manipulative and controlling personal manager (since I can't seem to make Bobby Brown, her ex-husband, into a villain). As with Madonna and Lady G, Houston's Wiki page drones on about the millions of records she sold. If that's all the epitaph she gets, I would judge her life a failure.

**S**o how good a singer was she? I am biased. My forté is orchestral, not vocal, music. My opinion of singers is not a whit different than **Alfred Hitchcock's opinion of actors**. To Francois Truffaut, Hitchcock notably said, "In my opinion, the chief requisite for an actor is the ability to do nothing well," by which he meant the actor should set aside his ego to serve the film in which he appears. For a recording star specializing in pop songs, this means the song comes first. Which is how Frank Sinatra viewed matters. But Frank was

a Sagittarius sun. Not a Leo.

Musical ability. From **Carter**:

Strong Venus and Neptune. Venus in Leo, conjunct the Sun, check. Neptune in square to both. Check. Carter says they should be angular, which they are not, but Venus is co-ruler of the ascendant, which enabled Houston to project beautifully.

Gemini. We find this sign on the 4th house cusp and its ruler, Mercury, well-placed in Virgo in square to it. This enables one to communicate.

Carter says Libra is appreciative rather than executive. In Houston's chart, Libra is the 8th house, which is to say, her partners thought she was very good. Well, we all did. Carter says Saturn-Moon contacts are frequent. Houston had them in sextile, which is good.

16° Taurus/Scorpio: Houston had Neptune at 13° Scorpio. Close.

15° cardinal: Moon at 17° Aries. Nodes at 19° Cancer/Capricorn.

In his summary remarks, Carter stresses Moon or Venus well-placed as regards Venus or Neptune, in fire or water. Which Houston had, one way or another. But no one has a perfect chart.

As a singing style, Pisces rising gave empathy, the ability to sell a song. Chart ruler Jupiter conjunct the Moon gave her power. As the Moon in a chart is literally one's own body, a Moon-Jupiter conjunction is literally power, or sheer size, depending on its place-

ment. As her voice lacked nuance, as her arrangements were pedestrian, I confess I never found her of interest. (Mere volume is a liability.) Michael Jackson had **Quincy Jones**, who gave him fabulous arrangements. Mike had him because Mike wanted that. Just like the Beatles had Phil Spector. Having now delineated three pop divas of middling talent, I think I might have a crack at Michael. He was huge.

**W**E come finally to Whitney Houston's sad death. The 8th house should tell us when. We find 24 Libra on the cusp, we note that Saturn last passed over 24 Libra on Thanksgiving and that it will pass over it twice more in the coming months. This is not important. We are not so poorly made that a mere Saturn transit can end our mortal lives.

I have recently become a fan of Solar Arc directions. There is an option to base them on the Sun's actual travel on the date of birth, rather than the **Naibod** mean, which is very close. I am in thrall to my theory that directions, in general, represent the rate of decay of the birth vibration.

In the Solar Arc chart set for her day of death, I find the descendant to be 25°25' of Libra. Which is very, very close to 24°47' of Libra that is actually on her 8th house cusp. If that were the basis of a rectification, it tweaks her birth time from 8:55 to 8:58 pm, a mere three minutes.

It is also in line with ancient theory, that when "something" set (i.e., reached the 7th house cusp), you die. But as the 8th house is neither the hyleg nor the alcoholoden, its setting cannot be termed fatal. Besides, if it was, life expectancy would never be more than 30 or 50 years, as everyone's 8th house cusp has set by then.

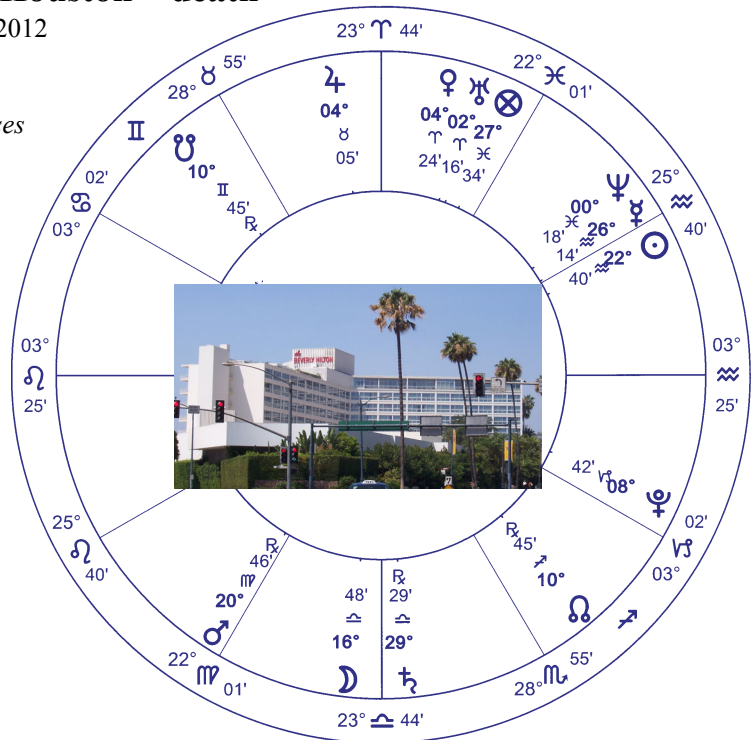
But note the SA 7th house is bracketed by Mercury at 27°16' and Uranus at 21°27', both in Libra. Their midpoint is at 24°21' of Libra. To change Houston's 8th house cusp to match that exactly will move her stated birth time backwards by less than one minute. That's tight.

Are these two planets malefic in Houston's chart? Mercury is the ruler of her 7th house cusp. It also rules her mouth, which is presumably how she came to ingest whatever it was that killed her.

In addition to the 8th house telling us when, the 4th house tells us how, as the 4th rules the ends of things. Note that the ruler of the 4th happens to also be the ruler of the 7th, the partner, and that ruler, Mercury, is physically located in the 7th and in the sign it rules, Virgo. Mars and Mercury hint that

## Whitney Houston—death

February 11, 2012  
3:55 pm PST  
Los Angeles  
Placidus houses  
mean node



Houston's death might not have been accidental.

So the question is not Who prescribed the medications? but instead, Who gave her the fatal dose, and why? Will that question be answered?

Probably not. Los Angeles is a very Neptunian city. Lots of murders are never solved, or are solved at someone else's expense. Remember their primary industry has long been the projection of shadows on a screen.

I take this straight from Sakoian and Acker, who are bold when so many others are timid, or merely cute:

*Mars in the 8th house may indicate the likelihood of sudden death; if Mars is afflicted, violent death is possible.*

Now that you have this firmly in your mind (Whitney had an 8th house Mars and ended up suddenly dead), I draw your attention — *again* — to the man who sits in the White House, who allegedly also has an 8th house Mars and who is, in reality, *the least likely man in the world to die suddenly*. Much less violently. If this is still not clear, I draw your attention to Jack Kennedy, who *also had an 8th house Mars*. Eighth house Mars people do not live to ripe old ages.

While we can be and often are fooled, **Astrology is never fooled**. If the chart does not match the individual, then *you must rectify the chart* until it does, but if that is not possible, then *the man in front of you is a fake*. Which sometimes happens. In this mat-

ter you must never grovel and make apologies. If you have done your work properly and know it to be correct, you may state your results boldly, without fear or doubt.

Was Whitney Houston "accidentally" murdered? Moon-Jupiter conjunct, Sun-Venus conjunct, she was *not* suicidal.

**O**UR final analysis of Houston's death is from Abu Ali Al-Khayyat, **Judgement of Nativities**. He gives us a formula for calculating the length of life.

We must first find her Hyleg, the *giver of life*. We first look at the Sun. In Houston's chart, the Sun is disqualified, as it is below the horizon.

Our next candidate for Hyleg is the Moon. In Aries, in the second house, it is in trine to the Sun, which is the co-ruler of Aries. It is hyleg.

We then find the Alcoholoden, the *giver of years*. It is the planet which is in aspect to the Hyleg (Moon) and is also the ruler of the Moon's sign, term or face.

For a Moon in Aries, we have two candidates: Mars rules the sign, and the Sun both co-rules the sign, as well as rules the second decanate. In this case we are to take the planet with the most dignities and the closest aspect. Which is the Sun in both cases.

Depending on the Sun's condition, it can bestow one of three possible years:

- Greatest: 120
- Medium: 69½
- Least: 19

As Alcohoden, the Sun bestows its greatest years when it is above the horizon, is angular and is in Leo. It bestows medium years when it is in succedent houses, and least when it is in cadent. As the Sun in Houston's chart is in Leo and is cadent, and as she lived far longer than 19, I would plunk for 69½.

To this we *add* years if the Alcohoden is aspected by the benefics Venus and Jupiter. As it happens, the Sun is conjunct Venus and trine Jupiter. So we add the lesser years of Venus (8) and Jupiter (12) to get 89½.

From this we *subtract* the lesser years of the malefics if they are conjunct, square or opposed. Saturn is in opposition, so we subtract its least years, 30. Which gives Houston a life of 59½. As this was not her actual life, I speculate that Saturn in its dignity (Aquarius) might penalize with its medium years, which are 43½. Subtract that from 89½ and we get 46. Which is 2009. Now we are close. Whitney lived two years further.

Abu Ali Al-Khayyat says the exact time of death will be when the Hyleg (the Moon) moves, in degrees of right ascension, until it comes to the conjunction or aspect of a malefic. Right ascension is used in primary directions, and I regret I do not have a program that will give me primaries. (I've refused to learn the process as I want something perfectly cut and dried, which primaries have never been.) Converse directions are a rough approximation but in this case do not produce good results. On the day she died, Houston's secondary progressed Moon was at 21 Capricorn, exactly semi-sextile to Saturn. Which isn't the right kind of aspect, but it's an indication.

There are all manner of rules for finding **death in a chart**. My belief is that we are individuals and can, if we wish, come to our final demise in unique and individual ways. Just as we clearly do with all our other earthly affairs. It is for the astrologer to figure them out, *ex post facto*.