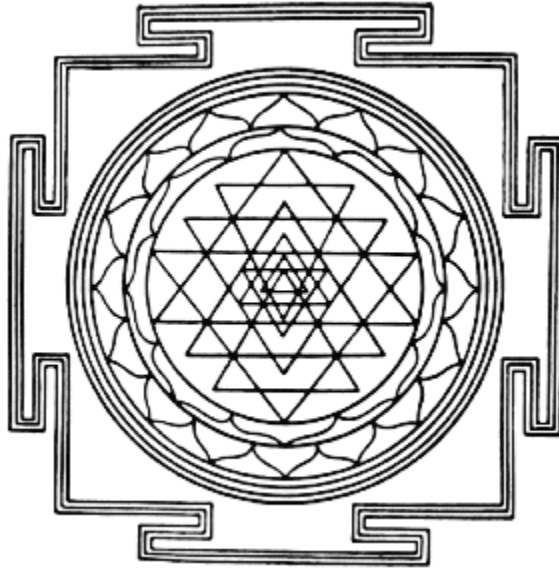


Sky Log

Astrological Report for
Julia Roberts
Feb 01, 2004 - Aug 01, 2004
by Steven Forrest



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Your Chart Data

Name: Julia Roberts
 Date: Oct 28, 1967
 Time: 00:16:00 AM EDT +04:00
 Place: Atlanta,GA
 084W23'17" 33N44'56"

Planet	Sign	Position	House	House Cusps
Sun	Scorpio	04°Sc03'	04th	01 27°Ca53'
Moon	Leo	24°Le47'	02nd	02 19°Le50'
Mercury	Scorpio	13°Sc53' R	04th	03 15°Vi34'
Venus	Virgo	18°Vi04'	03rd	04 16°Li45'
Mars	Capricorn	03°Cp45'	06th	05 22°Sc07'
Jupiter	Virgo	01°Vi22'	02nd	06 26°Sg55'
Saturn	Aries	07°Ar09' R	09th	07 27°Cp53'
Uranus	Virgo	27°Vi12'	03rd	08 19°Aq50'
Neptune	Scorpio	23°Sc21'	05th	09 15°Pi34'
Pluto	Virgo	21°Vi57'	03rd	10 16°Ar45'
Midheaven	Aries	16°Ar45'		11 22°Ta07'
Ascendant	Cancer	27°Ca53'		12 26°Ge55'

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 126 S. Michigan Ave., Big Rapids, MI 49307 231-527-2603*

Sky Log
Steven Forest

Traditional astrologers "make predictions." Often they are correct. But right or wrong, "predictions" turn you into a marionette, with the planets holding your strings. And in my opinion, that is not a very inspiring description of the way the cosmos works, nor a very accurate one. You are vastly more powerful than that. You can, to a great extent, shape your own life. That at least is my belief. The future isn't crystallized. It's a wavering, quivering web of possibilities. How will they manifest? Much depends upon how you wield the magical wild card we call your freedom.

So, what's the use of astrology? In a nutshell, it can help you make better choices. The planets never give a definitive answer to the question "What will happen to me?" Instead, they ask the question. But they ask the question in a very specific way: "Given everything you are, all the bridges you've crossed, all the contracts you've signed, there are several possibilities for what you might do next..." In other words, "Here's the menu. What are you having?"

Question mark.

And the question mark is the most important part of the whole inquiry, because that's where the uncertainty -- and your freedom -- lies. But the planets do even more. They offer advice. In a sense, they recommend certain choices over others. They seem biased toward your evolution. They often suggest that you take the less familiar path, the one that moves you into richer fields of your own potentiality. The planets express this rather philosophical bias in a very concrete way. Typically, when you make a less energetic response to a planetary question, the results, while initially comfortable, rapidly turn painful. Sometimes the pain is immediate and dramatic, as in the collapse of an important relationship. Other times, it's more subtle, as in the degeneration of life into deadening boredom and ritual. Either way, sooner or later we know you made a wrong turn somewhere.

In the pages that follow, we will be exploring the coming months of your life from this planetary perspective. There are three parts to the report, and any or all of them may be included here, depending on which have been requested. First, the big questions. In the part of the report called THE INVITATION, we try to get that "mountain-top" perspective that enables us to make sense of the details. In THE MEANS, we turn our attention to some secondary factors that offer suggestions, help, and support in responding to those big questions. And finally, we'll look at the report period month-by-month, day-by-day, to get some ground-level insight into THE DETAILS. Your report may be for three, six, nine, or twelve months and may include any or all three sections just described. For this reason, and because some years in your life are astrologically more active than others, report length can vary quite a bit.

Throughout the following text, I'll be endeavoring to write in plain English, but if you're

unfamiliar with the jargon of astrology, you'll encounter a few words that may require definition. A "transiting" planet, for example, refers to the actual, current position of that planet in the sky. Sometimes the transiting planets form critical geometric angles with the "natal" planets in the birthchart, triggering developmental questions in your life. These critical angles are called "aspects."

The "progressed" planets function in much the same way as the transiting planets, but we approach them a little differently. They're like a script that's been built into your birthchart. Just as we know that an oak tree will emerge from an acorn and bring forth its leaves in season, similarly each person's birthchart contains within it the seeds of certain predictable developmental stages. Progressions spell out those stages.

So sit back, open your mind, and engage your heart. It's time to consider...

The Invitation

Some years loom large in our memories decades down the road; others are blurry, easily forgotten. That universal human reality is reflected in the movements of the planets -- astrologically speaking, one year is often far more significant than another, just as in life. Most of the really important celestial factors move rather slowly; thus, it's not unusual to experience a time in which none of them have gone critical, when we can calmly keep on putting one foot after the other, on "cruise control."

Well, for you this is definitely not that kind of year. Something truly pivotal is occurring...

Tr. Uranus is Trine Sun

In effect: Feb 26, 2004 - Apr 3, 2004

Peak Date(s): Mar 15, 2004

The planet Uranus is presently stirring the pot of your life, and that always promises a tumultuous passage, peppered with unexpected developments and encounters. Outwardly, Uranus is the wild card, bringing unpredictable and unforeseen events into the picture. Inwardly, it signals a time of accelerated individuation...that is, a time in which who you really are and what you truly want are rapidly emerging and defining themselves. A portion of what you imagined to be your identity has, in fact, little to do with you; it is a side-effect of your social training, nothing more. And, like training wheels on a kid's bike, you are now ready to dump it. This has an unsettling effect upon not only yourself, but also those around you. Often during Uranian periods there is a distinct "changing of the guard" in our social circles; old relationships end, new ones appear. Claim your right to be yourself -- that's the essence of the transiting Uranus. Whatever it touches, changes. Trust the changes! Like a hard wind blowing the sand off a buried city, they are revealing who you actually have been all along. That's Uranus in general. Specifically, Uranus is trine your natal Sun: Mar 15, 2004.

Let's start unraveling the symbolism by recognizing that the action and developmental invitation are most evident in that part of your life we call the Eighth House, for that's the region of your birthchart through which Uranus is currently passing. Typically, such an astrological event suggests a period of moody intensity as old hurt feelings come up for healing and regeneration. It is probable that you have someone in your life now, be it a bed partner or a dear friend, with whom you can speak frankly about difficult emotional topics...and can do so in the spirit of Uranus, as we just described it. Often the person is himself or herself of that same planetary nature, or is at least going through a time in which that kind of force is making itself felt. What is less certain is whether you will cast politeness aside and actually broach the sensitive subjects. But what's the core issue? What part of your own life is being affected by these unconscious biases? To answer that, we turn our attention to the Sun, which is being invited into development as these inner pressures mount.

The Sun, as astronomers tell us, is the center of the solar system. Everything spins around it. With its enormous gravity, the Sun holds the entire system together. In a parallel way, the astrological Sun represents the gravitational center of your personality. Your ego. Your identity. The part of you that gets up in the morning and, without even a single sip of coffee, knows its name, rank, and serial number. Those same astronomers inform us that without the Sun's radiant energy, life as we understand it would cease to exist. Again, astrological meaning follows astronomical fact: the Sun symbolizes that spark of life inside you, your elemental vitality. Enthusiasm, energy, recuperative powers -- all these are solar themes. Thus, when the natal Sun is triggered in an important way, two critical questions come up for review: who are you, and what really makes you want to get out of bed in the morning?

Maintaining a healthy relationship with the force of the Sun is particularly central to your well-being in one key area: the Fourth House, which is where the Sun happened to be located when you took your first breath in Atlanta, GA. There, in the domain of home and hearth and also of emotional and psychological processes, a strong response to this planet forges in you a clear sense of who you are and what you want. Happiness has different sources for different people. For you, much of it comes from experiences connected to the Sun, as we just portrayed it. Claim them! Always sound advice -- but how you go about claiming them is currently evolving, partly as a result of changing external circumstances.

As we said, the aspect involved in the event we just described is the trine, which refers to a 120 degree angle between the natal planet and the moving one. Trines are traditionally viewed as positive aspects, and in fact they generally do correlate with opportunities. Additionally, their existence implies that support is available to you, if you are willing to move to claim it. And therein lies the rub with the so-called "good" aspects. They're not very dynamic. Just as pain is a more powerful motivator than contentment, the trick with trines lies in taking advantage of them before the wheel turns and their potential vanishes. With regard to the developments we described in the previous few paragraphs: a door is now open, a red carpet rolled out...but don't count on everything remaining that way forever.

What we've considered above is the underpinning of this phase of your life. It's truly elemental material -- the stuff of which milestones are made. There's no guarantee that astrological forces of such magnitude will be activated for everyone all the time. What follows is an analysis of

some slightly less portentous dimensions of your astrological picture...less portentous, but still powerful enough to qualify as part of this year's "Invitation."

Try to see what follows in the light of all that's gone before...

Tr. Neptune is Square Mercury

In effect: Feb 2, 2004 - Apr 3, 2004

Peak Date(s): Feb 29, 2004

The planet Neptune is presently tinting and shading your biography, adding its dreamlike quality to the existential stew. Close your eyes; there's a world in there. That's Neptune, the planet of consciousness itself. Now open your eyes. There's a world out there too, and it's hard to ignore it. In fact, the outer world has become so pressing in its demands that you've partly lost contact with the inner one. But Neptune, transiting through sensitive territories for you now, is fixing that. Your inner world is so full it's brimming over, overflowing its banks into your daily life. If you resist the process, you'll find a host of Neptune problems plaguing you: losing the car keys, forgetting to pay the electric bill, having the attention span of a three-year-old on a sugar jag. But there's an alternative: trust the process. Slow down. Meditate. Let the images come. Mould opinions. Breathe in, breathe out. Why? Because your unconscious mind has a message for you. It has to do with the possibility of happiness for you over the next few years, about how old sources of joy are drying up and -- critically -- about new ones you must learn to recognize. How do you receive the message? You stop resisting. You simply let it in. That's Neptune in the broad sense. How is it effecting you specifically? Neptune is square your natal Mercury: Feb 29, 2004.

Our initial step is to realize that the action and the developmental invitation are manifesting in the Seventh House, for that's the region of your birthchart through which Neptune is currently passing. This informs us that you have come to a turning point in your biography, but one whose successful navigation depends upon your receptivity to counsel, or more simply, your willingness to let another person influence you. "Soulmates" will appear at critical junctions. Recognize them through their resemblance to Neptune, which we just described. But what's the core issue? What part of your own life is at stake? To answer that, we turn our attention to Mercury, which is being invited into development by the advent of these pivotal people.

Your quickness, your alertness, your curiosity -- those are the dimensions of your life dominated by the planet Mercury. To say that Mercury represents your intelligence is quite accurate, but it's more connected to the natural style of your intelligence: not so much how smart you are as what interests you, and how your intelligence can be employed most pleasurably and efficiently. Intimately linked to such cerebral concerns is the question of your ability to communicate, since ideally there is some relationship between speech and forethought. Thus Mercury, the traditional Messenger of the Gods, is associated with both thought and conversation. When stimulated by a passing transit or progression, Mercury tends to speed up the flow of data in your life. You learn. You listen. You speak. Often events move at a hasty pace, and there's a feeling of excitement mixed with over-extension.

Your Fourth House figured previously in this report. Now we see it triggered again -- a clue

that in your present circumstances, one of the most active factors is the need for a radical clarification, in your own mind, of your personal needs and wishes. There is something inside you, something of the nature of Mercury, to which you must be true if you are to be happy. And it is now under accelerating developmental pressure. Some of this process may even involve some re-definition of your role in your family, broadly defined.

When quick-witted Mercury merges with spacey Neptune, the mind is often a bit befuddled. And there is definitely a heightened tendency to carefully file the bananas in the socks-drawer. Such embarrassments aside, the combination is actually a very fertile one for the creative imagination. The mind naturally turns now to the mystical, the metaphorical, and the symbolic, where the Neptunian energies are always at home.

The aspect connected with the astrological process we're investigating here is the square, as we have seen. The square, traditionally characterized as an unfortunate aspect, describes a geometric angle of 90 degrees between the natal planet and the moving trigger. To call squares "bad" is misleading. More accurately, they are compelling. In the area of your life we're considering, a terrific friction has arisen. It's not comfortable, but it is an extremely effective motivator. The trick in using the energy creatively lies in moving decisively -- determining precisely what you want, claiming it, and letting the rest go. A season of tough choices is upon you. Regarding the process we described in the previous paragraphs, there are costs involved in all the courses available to you...the most costly, for all concerned, being the course of indecision.

Tr. Saturn is Square Saturn

In effect: in progress - Apr 22, 2004

Peak Date(s): Feb 5, 2004; Apr 7, 2004

The planet Saturn is currently casting a gray light on your circumstances -- but is it the bleak gray of sorrow or the clear, comforting gray of wisdom and digested experience? That's the choice. Saturn is classically viewed as the "bad" planet, the "Greater Malefic." Don't believe it! Used correctly, its transits can bring dignity and self-respect. Essentially, Saturn is about maturity. The part of your life that's being touched by the Saturnian energies needs to grow up...which, despite the lies we're all told, is not a process one mysteriously completes on one's twenty-first birthday. There is an area of your life where you have simply outgrown yourself, at least inwardly. The task now is to adjust your outward circumstances to reflect the maturity you've already attained psychically and invisibly. It is a material problem, not fundamentally a psychological one. To succeed, there is first a need to face reality squarely, even if it's unsavory. Then to make a hard choice...that is, to reach an emotional bottom line and not be crippled by your awareness of the ambiguities in your situation. And finally, in a spirit of commitment, persistence, and self-discipline, to claim those circumstances in your life which reflect the hard inner work you've been doing over the last few years. That's Saturn in general. Specifically, Saturn is square your natal Saturn: Feb 5, 2004; Apr 7, 2004.

Currently Saturn is maneuvering through your Twelfth House, which is the last house of the cycle and often suggests endings and dissolutions. Your key to success here lies in sorting out what parts of your life and circumstances have truly run their course and are therefore ready to be released. That's hard, sometimes, since like the rest of us you're in part a creature of habit and

are therefore subject to getting too attached to the familiar. Of what should you be letting go? Part of the answer lies with Saturn, as we just described it: the part of you that's ready to "die and be reborn" is tangled up with that kind of energy and attitude. But we can go further. There is also some ending and releasing going in connection with Saturn, which is being invited into development by these essential and apt conclusions -- some of which, by the way, may be forced upon you by outside events if you're slow to recognize their necessity.

Getting kicked out of the nest, one way or another, is an elemental part of life. Faced with the stark, unyielding actualities of the "real world," you either die then and there or get on with the cunning, calculating business of staying alive. To accomplish either of those ends, you activate the energies of your natal Saturn: your self-discipline, your patience, and your practicality...if you choose survival. And if you choose to give up, you withdraw into fear and probably get into a mood of despair and defeat. When Saturn is triggered by passing transits or progressions, it signals a time in which hard work is appropriate, necessary, and the best insurance for happiness. Often it suggests that the circumstances or even people who have been a significant part of your past must now be left behind, making way for a more mature expression of your identity.

How does all that relate to your present circumstances? Recognize that Saturn occupies the Ninth House of your natal chart, an area which refers to the human need for adventure, variety, and escape from the ordinary. Periodically in your life it becomes necessary to "throw a monkey wrench" into your daily routines, to flee the scene and thereby gain the kind of "mountain-top" philosophical perspective necessary to keep your biography on a meaningful course. Under this current aspect, you have entered such a period. One final hint: those ventures, vacations, and journeys work best for you if they invoke the tone of Saturn, as we just encountered it.

When Saturn interacts with its own natal position, as we observe here, commitment is the highest path, and the one which brings the most joy in the long run. At some level, a vow is called for now...at least a vow to yourself. It will take effort, and the effort will be costly and exhausting. But it will be worth it. We hear so much about "being in touch with the inner child." Good advice, but not now. Saturn is about being in touch with the inner adult, which is to say, being in touch with determination, patience, and your own core moral values.

The two factors, as we mentioned, are linked by a square -- traditionally seen as a "bad" aspect, but more accurately seen as simply frictional. Squares generally suggest tough choices, external pressures, and at least some stress.

Tr. Uranus is Opposite Jupiter

In effect: in progress - Feb 14, 2004

Peak Date(s): sometime before the report period.

Uranus came up earlier in this report. Now we encounter it again. As you may recall, this planet represents the "wild card" in life, and often correlates with unexpected events. Behind the roller-coaster ride, the real issue is your ability to claim your true individuality, even if that involves destabilizing certain aspects of your existing circumstances. Uranus currently is opposite your natal Jupiter. The action peaks sometime before the report period..

Let's start unraveling the symbolism by first understanding that the action and the

developmental invitation are most evident in the part of your life we call the Eighth House -- a familiar territory, since it figured earlier in our analysis. Again it demands our attention, for Uranus is currently passing through it. Moody intensity dominates as old emotional injuries come up for review and rehabilitation -- processes inseparable from an intimate dialog with a certain person with whom you can speak frankly about difficult topics, and can do so in the spirit of Uranus, which we just described. But what's being triggered most deeply inside you? The answer lies with Jupiter, which is being invited into development during this season of probing psychological exploration and shared emotional risk.

Hope and faith are essential to sanity. Without at least a few bright dreams and expansive goals, a person grows flat and dull...becomes a time-server. The same can be said for self-confidence: we need it. And even if such assurance sometimes crosses the line into a sprinkle of arrogance, that's less troubling and limiting than sitting around afraid to take any risks at all. There is a gambler's circuit in your psyche that understands these notions perfectly well. Astrologers call it Jupiter. When stimulated by a passing transit or progression, it encourages you to extend yourself further into your world, to bet on yourself, and to recognize emerging opportunities. Be wary at the same time that you don't settle for glitter when gold may be just around the corner.

Good things in general come your way when you make a positive response to Jupiter. But one area has always been prominent in that regard -- the Second House, where Jupiter lies in your birthchart. There, in the area of providing yourself with a real basis for self-confidence, the optimal use of that energy is most critical. Sometimes it comes down to seeing to it that you have enough money. Other times, provisions, proper tools, or even skills are the focus. Always the key here is to recognize the intimate link between personal resources and personal assurance.

When Jupiter interacts with Uranus, unanticipated opportunities arise. It's as though the Cosmos manifests as Santa Claus; gifts are given to you, often completely "out of the blue." Accept them. The psycho-spiritual theme here lies in loving yourself enough to embrace abundance, and many times the test comes and passes so quickly that success depends more upon reflexive self-confidence than upon any philosophical "position papers" about self-esteem.

The geometric angle or "aspect" involved in the process we are studying is, as we said, the opposition. Not surprisingly, this suggests that the natal planet and the moving one are 180 degrees apart. Tension is thus woven into the spirit of this period of your life. The two forces we described are polarized, which often translates emotionally into a feeling of being damned if you do, and damned if you don't. How can you break the logjam? Recognize that any impossibilities you are experiencing in this area probably arise from an incomplete or biased perspective. The opposition aspect always calls for a leap into a new, more accepting level of consciousness. Something is missing in your view of the problem -- and that missing link (here's the corker...) lies in the wisdom embodied by those people or situations that are now antagonizing you. It's not that they're right and you're wrong; only that the truth that can carry you beyond this impasse lies somewhere between the two positions.

Tr. Pluto is Square Pluto

In effect: in progress - Jun 9, 2004

Peak Date(s): Feb 20, 2004; Apr 27, 2004

The planet Pluto is shading the spirit of your life nowadays, and in a nutshell that means that you are being challenged to heal. Pluto, as you probably know, is the lord of the underworld...or to put it more succinctly, the God of Hell. And it is disquieting, to say the least, to imagine that this deity is currently dining at your table. But take heart! The "hell" inside you needs airing out, and that is essentially what this transit is about. You've been hurt. You've been used, abused, rejected, exploited, lied to...the whole sad litany. And, like the rest of us, you've sometimes had to keep the proverbial stiff upper lip and simply get on with your life. But where does all that hurt go? Down deep into the unconscious mind, where it stays until you're clear enough and strong enough to handle resurrecting it and really going beyond it. Pluto's action is to bring up buried emotions. Its tone is intense. It often feels moody and confrontative. It can destabilize and disrupt the areas of your life that it's touching. The best course is to resolve to go deeper and deeper, truth above kindness and resolution over comfort. It's not easy, but in the end the energizing and empowering of the psyche make the process worthwhile. What is Pluto actually doing? Currently it is square your natal Pluto. Although Pluto is a slow-moving planet and usually unfolds its story over a period of two or three years, during the period of this report the action peaks Feb 20, 2004; Apr 27, 2004.

First, factor in that the action and the developmental invitation are unfolding in the Fifth House, for that's the region of your birthchart through which Pluto is now passing. Immediately, the focus on Fifth House energies suggests that you are currently entering an existential territory that requires creativity, unabashed self-expression, and experimental audacity. Your "inner child" is a little cranky now, demanding some fun and some self-indulgence, all of which is entirely necessary and appropriate to your journey at the present time. Thus, life's pleasures -- games, vacations, sports, loving interactions -- deserve attention now. Whether you know it or not, you need a boost...and you'll get it in part from the "playmates" and "new toys" of the nature of Pluto that are now passingly, fleetingly available to you. Don't let them get away! But what's the core issue? What part of your own health hinges on this renewal? To answer that, we turn our attention to Pluto, which is being invited into development by this period of playful, celebratory creativity.

Everyone has fears. Everyone has shames and wounded places. In you and me and everyone else, there are marks left by the times we've been lied to, abandoned, used, or exploited. It's not the world's cheeriest subject, but turning away only empowers those Plutonian hurts, gives them more latitude to influence your life. When your natal Pluto is triggered by a passing transit or progression, dark shadows are stirred within you. It's a signal that forgotten, unprocessed, or repressed elements of your personal history are asking to be investigated. The procedure requires intensity, honesty, and emotional courage. The results are worth the effort. If you work well with these energies, you emerge stronger, clearer, and often with renewed inspiration. If you hesitate, it's not unusual for the old wounding dramas to be re-enacted in your life.

It's helpful, of course, for you to embrace the power of Pluto positively in all departments of your life. But ever since you were born, one area has always stood out in that regard -- the Third House, which is where Pluto was located when you took your first breath in Atlanta, GA. There, in the area of communication, that energy is most critical. What you say, how clearly you express it, and how well you are heard are the issues currently experiencing developmental pressure. Finding your voice and using it are basic spiritual concerns for you; now they are being invited to take a quantum leap.

When Pluto forms an aspect with its own natal position in your chart, a crisis in perspective arises. There is something old and tired about the values by which you've been living, and a kind of reconsideration and renewal is necessary if the feeling of meaningfulness in your daily life is not to be lost. In what do you really believe? Be careful not to answer reflexively. Think, reflect, and make it the sort of truth you could say looking God in the eye five seconds after you've died.

The two factors, as we mentioned, are linked by a square -- traditionally seen as a "bad" aspect, but more accurately seen as simply frictional. Squares generally suggest tough choices, external pressures, and at least some stress.

Tr. Jupiter aligns with the Third House cusp

Date: Feb 20, 2004; Jul 14, 2004 - Continuing

The planet Jupiter is currently coloring your circumstances. Before we say exactly how, let's attempt to understand the more general significance of any Jupiter event. Essentially, this is a call to recognize an opportunity. Traditional astrologers view it more starkly -- to them, it is simply the planet of luck. And that is often the case: the toast does tend to land butter-side up when Jupiter is crossing sensitive territories. But the real, evolutionary meaning lies deeper. One key is that Jupiter is future-oriented...it is concerned with bright, unexplored possibilities. Stripped to its bones, Jupiter always asks one primary question: how have you been underestimating yourself? Its transits signal a time when new opportunities come into existence, but to seize them you must recognize that you deserve them, that you are capable of rising to them, and that old deals and compromises are finished. Trust yourself, have faith in life, and go for it: that's the spirit of Jupiter. How is it affecting you? Jupiter is conjunct your natal Third House cusp: Feb 20, 2004; Jul 14, 2004.

Serendipity -- that's the heart of the Third House. Bumping into the unexpected. Learning something utterly new. Traditionally seen as the "House of Communication," this phase of one's life is often characterized by an emphasis upon language. Writing, reading, teaching, learning, speaking, listening...all these are certainly Third House activities. But the essence of the house lies in the experience of surprise.

Jupiter is currently entering your Third House; and under that kind of stimulation, boring routine is your worst enemy, even if those routines are laudably responsible, moral, and productive. The mind hungers for the unexpected...and often gets it. There is a tendency during such phases for the "wild card" elements of human life to occupy center stage. The unpredictable occurs; the proverbial monkey wrench is hurled into your carefully-laid plans. You are pressured to adapt, to change, to open your mind in the direction of Jupiter. People of the nature of Jupiter come into your circle now who are message-bearers; they offer ideas, books, excursions into exotic neighborhoods. Underlying the apparent randomness of this phase of your life is one unifying principle: slowly, methodically, your attachment to certain familiar ways of thinking is being undermined.

Ultimately, the Third House represents a time of preparation...and it feels that way, although you are not sure exactly for what you are being prepared. Trust the process; a seed grows best in broken soil.

Pr. Midheaven is Opposite Neptune

In effect: in progress - continuing

Peak Date(s): Feb 26, 2004

Deep-sea voyagers observe that even the largest sailboat becomes extraordinarily small after a week or two at sea. Every quirk in the character of each crew member is magnified, and the way a person scratches his chin can become a motivation for homicide. At that microscopic social distance, personality looms painfully large. Now turn it around and look at the other end of the spectrum. How do people appear at enormous social distances? We no longer are aware of introversion or extroversion, of expression, of feeling or cold, clear reason. At those ranges, we stop seeing who people are. Instead, we think of them in terms of what they do or what they represent.

Astrologically, this dimension of our humanness is symbolized by the Midheaven. What we do for a living is almost always a significant piece of the puzzle here, but it's misleading to limit our understanding of the Midheaven to career concerns. Being known as a liberal or a conservative, a feminist, an environmentalist, a patron of the arts...all are Midheaven roles, even though we don't make any money doing them. (Usually the opposite, in fact.) One's role in the community must evolve as we mature, and that process is linked to the motion of the progressed Midheaven, which has gone critical for you this year. Typically, progressed-Midheaven events mark changes in your social status. More deeply, they suggest a need arising in you for a more multi-dimensional role in the world. You are ready to bear a new kind of fruit in the community; something inside you is ready to be unveiled...and an old role has grown thin and tired.

Currently the Midheaven is navigating your Eleventh House, suggesting that your own circumstances and possibilities are currently tied into larger developments involving organizations, committees, or your "crowd." This inevitably involves the use of a certain political adroitness on your part and the capacity to forge and nurture coalitions and alliances, even if they're just among three or four people. But behind the group dynamics, there's a deeper layer. What are your priorities? What do you really want? Certainly, those desires are currently evolving and their motion is in the direction of the Midheaven, as we just described it. In a nutshell: know what you want and choose your allies accordingly. But what's the core issue? What part of your own life is at stake? To answer that, we turn our attention to Neptune, which is being invited into development by these strategic alliances.

How is the progressed Midheaven currently touching you? It is opposite your natal Neptune: Feb 26, 2004. In thinking about this, remember that progressions are slow-moving events and that the action simply peaks then; it will be in effect throughout the period of this report.

Close your eyes. Don't think of anything at all. Just be aware of all that infinite, dark space. Welcome to Neptune. In your natal chart, it represents the part of you that knows how to enter trance, to meditate, or to "space out." Everybody's got one, and everybody experiences that part of their consciousness from time to time. When triggered by transits or progressions, Neptune asks you to let go, to allow material to enter your mind uncensored and unstructured. It's more akin to feeling than thinking, but neither word captures it perfectly. Dreaming is the closest

analogy...a sort of free-associative state in which your own mind works like an unpredictable movie theater. Why bother? Because such an astrological event signals that your unconscious mind or, if you prefer, your soul has an important message and is trying to get in touch with you.

Preserving a sound alliance with Neptune plays a leading role in one key area of your life: the Fifth House, which is where Neptune lies in your birthchart. And what are the concerns here? Pleasant ones, generally: playfulness, creativity, and self-expression. Life is hard work -- human beings, yourself included, require periodic doses of renewal, peak experience, and simple joy. You can meet those needs in yourself in a variety of ways, but the ones that work best and most efficiently come from experiences connected with Neptune, as we just portrayed them. And, in your current astrological circumstances, the need for that kind of re-charging is definitely up right now.

The two factors, as we mentioned, are linked by an opposition, which suggests some kind of tension or tug-of-war between them. You are asked to adjust your position, to adapt to the demands of the world around you, and to find a middle-ground between the various opposing needs and values.

Tr. Saturn is Square Midheaven

In effect: Jun 30, 2004 - Jul 15, 2004

Peak Date(s): Jul 7, 2004

Saturn played a role earlier in this account. Now it emerges again, in a new way. To refresh your memory, Saturn is ultimately the planet of maturity. It always places a strong emphasis upon hard work, decisive choices, and persistence. Saturn currently is square your natal Midheaven. The energies crest Jul 7, 2004.

Currently Saturn is maneuvering through your Twelfth House. As we said earlier in the report, this is the final house of the cycle and often suggests endings and dissolutions. A meditative, accepting attitude is best now, letting go lightly of the things that are taken from you, knowing that despite appearances what is lost now has no place in the journey to come. What is to be released? A hint lies with Saturn, as we just described it -- that part of you has completed a major phase of its work and must now "graduate" to a new level. But we can go further. There is also a need for some release in connection with the Midheaven, which is being invited into development by these vital resolutions and these necessary deaths -- some of which, by the way, may be forced upon you by circumstance if you're overdue in appreciating their necessity.

Doctor, lawyer, Indian chief -- we all play some kind of role in our community. Sometimes you're paid for it; sometimes you do it for the principle of the matter. The public "hat" you wear is symbolized by the natal midheaven. Physically, it's the highest point in your birthchart, and it corresponds to the most outward, obvious dimensions of your life: your profession, your status, your social role. When it is stimulated by a transit or a progression, you are advised of some impending evolution or revolution in your style of hat, so to speak. Much depends on the nature of the progressed or transiting planet, but certainly some adjustments must be made in your outward life to reflect more adequately those inner developments which have already taken place.

The two factors, as we mentioned, are linked by a square -- traditionally seen as a "bad" aspect, but more accurately seen as simply frictional. Squares generally suggest tough choices, external pressures, and at least some stress.

The Means

If you happen to have a cold on the day you win the lottery, will that taint your memory of the big event? Probably not. Ten years later, you will have forgotten your runny nose. Ten minutes later, more likely.

Life and memory work that way. We prioritize certain kinds of events, experiencing them more vividly and remembering them far longer than the trivial and the predictable. The details of a typical Monday morning aren't going to last as long in the memory banks as images of your moment of glory or your darkest hour.

In exactly the same way, not all astrological events have the same impact. What we have considered so far are all first-string milestones in your life. The rest of what we'll be considering is less central -- but that's not to say unimportant. What follows is a set of supplementary transits and progressions, presented chronologically. They're not quite as profound in their implications as what we've seen, but they're not without emotional and existential consequences. If what we have explored in the previous pages can be viewed as an evolutionary invitation, then, to that lofty end, what follows is....

"The Means"

As you'll see, each of these events stands as significant in its own right. But their deepest meanings lie in the way they interact with what we've considered in the pages above, enhancing and sometimes complicating the broader developmental patterns.

Cards on the table: you can skim the next several pages and, I think, learn some things about the coming months that will prove prophetic...and more importantly, helpful. But the real magic lies in putting all the pieces together, synthesizing them in your heart into an emotional whole -- just like you've done with, say, memories of a special summer long ago. No computer can do that for you.

Your own creativity, your own reflections on the material we're covering, your own translations, additions, corrections, amendments, and meditations -- these are what make the difference.

Let's continue.

Pr. Moon is Sextile Sun

In effect: in progress - Feb 2, 2004

Peak Date(s): sometime before the report period.

You don't need to be an astrologer to know what the Moon means. Just engage your

imagination. Immediately, the mind free-associates. Moon: night...feelings...falling in love...seeing a ghost... And that's pretty much what astrologers throughout history have said: the Moon represents your interior life, your "heart." Like all astrological factors, the Moon progresses, taking a little over a quarter of a century to make one circuit around the chart. It typically spends a couple of years in each sign or house, and eventually forms aspects with all the planets. How do we read it? Simple: at any given moment the progressed Moon tells us where your heart is. Or, to be a little less schmaltzy about it, the Moon says where your attention is. What is concerning you. Where your growth experiences are unfolding -- which is often to say where you're experiencing challenges, upsets, or opportunities to regroup and express yourself in new ways. Being an emotional factor, the progressed Moon always refers to areas of heightened sensitivity. Intuition comes to the forefront. Instincts must be followed. Somehow the unconscious mind has gotten ahead of conscious awareness, and now conscious awareness is catching up, following the trail of intuitive clues and impulses laid down by the wise, dark interior of your spirit.

Our first step is to realize that the action and the developmental invitation are manifesting in the Sixth House, for that's the region of your birthchart through which the Moon is now passing. This tells us that duties and responsibilities are currently being emphasized in your life, and that their mood is the same as that of the Moon, which we just described. The effect of these external, often somewhat self-sacrificial requirements is to pull your attention away from yourself and place it on the needs of others. But what's the core issue? What part of your own life is being stimulated into development by these services you're offering others? To answer that, we turn our attention to the Sun, which is being triggered by this period of hard work, giving, and supporting.

How is the progressed Moon currently impacting on you? It is sextile your natal Sun: sometime before the report period.. In thinking about this, remember that progressions are slow-motion events, and that this event simply peaks then; it will be affecting your mood for a period of two or three months on either side of that date.

The natal Sun -- that, as we have seen, refers to the very core of your being: your identity.

Your Fourth House figured previously in this report. Now we see it triggered again -- a clue that in your present circumstances, one of the most active factors is the need for a radical clarification, in your own mind, of your personal needs and wishes. There is something inside you, something of the nature of the Sun, to which you must be true if you are to be happy. And it is now under accelerating developmental pressure. Some of this process may even involve some re-definition of your role in your family, broadly defined.

When the Sun interacts with the Moon, your "head" and your "heart" are experiencing some complications in their relationship. The key to a peaceful resolution of the issue lies in each being heard and each being willing to bend a little. Your lunar need for self-nurture must be balanced with your solar responsibilities and sense of destiny. Your hardheaded reasonableness must be open to the "trans-rational" side of life, where happiness really lies. Compromise and balance are the essence of such an event.

The aspect pervading the event we've just considered is, as we observed, a sextile. Technically, that refers to a geometric angle of 60 degrees between the natal planet and the

moving one. Sextiles are traditionally viewed as "good" aspects. Certainly, they're exciting. There is a mood of eagerness regarding the process we're exploring here -- and that's glorious, provided you're wary of the excessive impulsiveness that sextiles sometimes breed. In any case, the spinning wheel of circumstances can be counted on to provide some fortuitous, unexpected opportunities for you during this period. You'll have to be quick to seize them, though. They're real, but they're short-lived.

Tr. Jupiter is Conjunct Venus

In effect: in progress - Feb 7, 2004

Peak Date(s): Jul 28, 2004

Jupiter figured earlier in this analysis. Now we meet it again. As you may recall, this is the planet of possibilities and the seizing of opportunities. Jupiter currently is conjunct your natal Venus. The action peaks Jul 28, 2004.

Let's first consider that the action is in the Third House, for that's where Jupiter is currently located in your chart. This is familiar territory. New information is coming your way. It may be somewhat startling or unanticipated, and it will most likely come to you through a messenger whose nature or mood is in accord with the tone of Jupiter, as we just described it. But what are the core questions? What part of you is most profoundly impacted by this new knowledge? The answer lies with Venus, which is being invited into development during this information-intensive period in your life.

Venus is the goddess of love, of peace, and of the arts. In each domain, balance is the ideal. Deep in your psyche, there is a place that seeks the comfort of balance and equilibrium, whether through shared fondness with another human being, an hour's peace in the garden, or the rapture that sometimes arises as we immerse our hearts and minds in something beautiful. That inner circuit is your natal Venus. When it is stimulated, we often see experiences arising which prophesy a change in your relationships, in what gives you serenity, or in your aesthetic experiences.

Your Third House figured previously in this report. Now we see it being triggered again, which tells us that one vitally important concern for you at present involves simple communication -- and that means listening as well as expressing yourself. Expect messages, perhaps even disconcerting ones, which embody the tone and nature of Venus.

When Venusian energies splice together with Jupiterian ones, opportunity (Jupiter) comes to you through other people (Venus). Sometimes what we might call "dumb luck" makes itself felt, but it doesn't hurt to help it along by understanding the planetary "rules of the game." Basically, they boil down to this: you've got to ask for what you want, you've got to know that you deserve it, and you've got to look that way...which is to say, there's no room for being apologetic, ashamed, or defensive.

As we mentioned, the aspect involved in the event we just described is the conjunction, which refers to a precise alignment between the natal planet and the moving trigger. Thus, the process emphasizes fusion, integration, and synthesis. Of all the possible aspects, the conjunction is the most intense. The explosion rattles your outward circumstances; but it originates inside you, and puts you in the driver's seat. It is appropriate for you to claim some

new level of power, of self-expression, and of autonomy. If you don't, no one will do it for you; and the opportunity will evaporate.

Tr. Uranus is Sextile Mars

In effect: Feb 21, 2004 - Mar 28, 2004

Peak Date(s): Mar 9, 2004

Uranus came up earlier in this report. Now we encounter it again. As you may recall, this planet represents the "wild card" in life, and often correlates with unexpected events. Behind the roller-coaster ride, the real issue is your ability to claim your true individuality, even if that involves destabilizing certain aspects of your existing circumstances. Uranus currently is sextile your natal Mars. The action peaks Mar 9, 2004.

Let's start unraveling the symbolism by first understanding that the action and the developmental invitation are most evident in the part of your life we call the Eighth House -- a familiar territory, since it figured earlier in our analysis. Again it demands our attention, for Uranus is currently passing through it. Moody intensity dominates as old emotional injuries come up for review and rehabilitation -- processes inseparable from an intimate dialog with a certain person with whom you can speak frankly about difficult topics, and can do so in the spirit of Uranus, which we just described. But what's being triggered most deeply inside you? The answer lies with Mars, which is being invited into development during this season of probing psychological exploration and shared emotional risk.

Sheer animal vitality -- that's Mars. In your natal chart, it represents your boldness and your pluckiness: what gets your blood flowing. Or boiling. All passions are linked to Mars. Anger and your ability to defend your boundaries are part of the picture. So is your inner fire -- your enthusiasm, your intensity, your sexual desire. When triggered by a passing transit or progression, Mars often signals a "go for it" situation developing in your life, but to make the best of it, you'll need to be brave and assertive. Such transits or progressions can also warn you of upcoming battles, and in general it's wiser to seize the initiative rather than surrender your power to the whimsies of circumstance.

Sustaining steady contact with the energy of Mars, always good for you, now figures especially prominently in one critical dimension of your life: the Sixth House, which is where Mars lies in your birthchart. What themes or issues come to the fore here? Responsibilities, duties, and the fulfillment of your commitments. But before we start sounding too much like the Boy Scout Handbook, let's remember that the pivotal issue of the Sixth House lies in recognizing the exact nature of your proper obligations, and not letting yourself be cowed into signing up for boring, self-sacrificial martyrdoms that are none of your business anyway. Clarifying the exact location of the thin line between humility and humiliation is on the front burner for you now. One rule of thumb: when your duties have the flavor of Mars, you're on the right track.

When Mars colludes with Uranus, a kind of personal revolution is in the air. Emotionally, an atmosphere of tension and annoyance often arises. Behind the smokescreen, a ragged but positive developmental process is unfolding: over the years, you have surrendered far too much of your autonomy and individuality. That's hurt you, and you're justifiably angry about it, even

though it's at least partly your own "fault." So: don't just get mad...Get free! Express yourself. Claim what is yours. And let the chips fall where they may.

The two factors, as we mentioned, are linked by a sextile -- traditionally seen as a "harmonious" or "mutually enhancing" aspect, often full of fast-paced events and emotional stimulation.

Tr. Jupiter is Sextile Mercury

In effect: Feb 25, 2004 - Jul 10, 2004

Peak Date(s): Mar 4, 2004; Jul 4, 2004

Jupiter figured earlier in this analysis. Now we meet it again. As you may recall, this is the planet of possibilities and the seizing of opportunities. Jupiter currently is sextile your natal Mercury. The action peaks Mar 4, 2004; Jul 4, 2004.

Let's first understand that the action is in the Second House, for that's where Jupiter is currently passing through your chart. And what does that signify? That the circumstances driving your development, at least in terms of this particular configuration, have to do with self-confidence...but not simply in the conventional psychological way. Here the self-confidence -- or lack of it -- is rooted in the quality and appropriateness of your resource-base. To use this time well, act in the spirit of Jupiter, as we just described it, and claim what you need for your journey, whether this be money, connections, equipment, or skills. But what's the deeper issue? What part of your own life now hinges on your gathering the right tools, funds, and skills? To answer that, we turn our attention to Mercury, which is being invited into development by this quickening of your dignity, self-reliance, and aplomb.

The natal Mercury -- that, as we have seen, symbolizes your intelligence, your capacity to communicate, and your fundamental curiosity.

Your Fourth House figured previously in this report. Now we see it triggered again -- a clue that in your present circumstances, one of the most active factors is the need for a radical clarification, in your own mind, of your personal needs and wishes. There is something inside you, something of the nature of Mercury, to which you must be true if you are to be happy. And it is now under accelerating developmental pressure. Some of this process may even involve some re-definition of your role in your family, broadly defined.

When Mercury hobnobs with Jupiter, an attitude of expansiveness (Jupiter) pervades the mind (Mercury). You are challenged now, like an optimistic Sherlock Holmes, to be alert to possibilities. Think inventively, think positively, and think big: that's the spirit. In some way, you have been underestimating your intelligence, verbal skills, or general competence. Recognize that, and change it.

The two factors, as we mentioned, are linked by a sextile -- traditionally seen as a "harmonious" or "mutually enhancing" aspect, often full of fast-paced events and emotional stimulation.

Pr. Moon is Square Saturn

In effect: Mar 1, 2004 - Apr 20, 2004

Peak Date(s): Mar 26, 2004

The progressed Moon figures in our thinking again. As you may recall, the Moon shows what you are feeling. It gives us insight into your mood, concerns, and general attitude...into "where your heart is," in other words.

Our initial step is to realize that the motion and the developmental invitation are manifesting in the Sixth House. We've met that house before, and it figures in our analysis again, for that is the house through which the Moon is currently passing. Obligations and responsibilities are emphasized now in your life, and the mood they create is the same as that of the Moon, which we just described. But what are the core questions? What part of you is being called into the service of others? The answer lies with Saturn, which is being triggered during this season of giving, of supporting others, and of plain hard work.

How is the progressed Moon currently impacting on you? It is square your natal Saturn: Mar 26, 2004. In thinking about this, remember that progressions are slow-motion events, and that this event simply peaks then; it will be affecting your mood for a period of two or three months on either side of that date.

The natal Saturn -- that, as we have seen, symbolizes your capacity for self-discipline and patience. Generally, it marks an area where you will be challenged to achieve excellence...or tempted to give up and sink into sorrow and self-pity.

Your Ninth House engaged us previously in the report. Now we see it turned on again, indicating that your natural adventuresomeness and philosophical curiosity are at the heart of the present situation. Sometimes chances must be taken and leaps of faith made. This is such a time. Learn something new. Take a vacation to somewhere you've never been. In the spirit of Saturn, blow out the cobwebs.

When the Moon interacts with Saturn, the mood of life turns serious and quiet. Sadness, loneliness, and pessimism can arise, but they are not necessary. Essentially, this is a season of clear seeing in emotional matters. It calls for sober, realistic thinking and a willingness to be strong enough to call a spade a spade...even you'd prefer diamonds or hearts.

The two factors, as we mentioned, are linked by a square -- traditionally seen as a "bad" aspect, but more accurately seen as simply frictional. Squares generally suggest tough choices, external pressures, and at least some stress.

Pr. Mercury is Trine Ascendant

In effect: Mar 4, 2004 - continuing

Peak Date(s): sometime after the report period.

"Living in reality" may be a noble ideal, but it's not a very realistic one. "Reality" is notoriously elusive: ask any quantum physicist. The world "out there" and the world in which we actually live -- the one we construct in our heads -- have only a tangential relationship. All of us, you included, peer at the universe through the heavy filters of our own personal biases, interests, and appetites. As they say in India, "When the pickpocket meets the saint, he sees pockets." Thus, we're always in an awkward position: we navigate our bodies around the real world based on a map we carry between our ears. And the two are not in perfect accord.

Sometimes when we imagine ourselves to be going to Oregon and we wind up in New Jersey -- translated, sometimes we blunder, sincerely imagining ourselves to be making a brilliant move. All because our map was wrong.

Clearly, one of life's primary tasks is the constant updating of our interior map. And that's Mercury-work. Mercury: the ancient "Messenger of the Gods," the planet of learning, thinking, speaking, and listening. Gradually our inner map evolves -- and that evolution is measured and guided by the progressed mercury. When it comes to a sensitive zone, we are asked to change our minds...which is much easier to say than to do. Always, it involves letting go of some previously-defended position, letting in new and often unsettling information. In this Mercury-intensive period of your life, your greatest allies are curiosity, open-mindedness, and flexibility -- and your worst enemy is dogmatic rigidity. Another word, by the way, for dogmatic rigidity is consistency. And that's something we often value. For now, however, think of consistency in less flattering terms; think of it as your right to be no smarter next year than you were last year.

First, factor in that the action and the developmental invitation are unfolding in the Fifth House, for that's the region of your birthchart through which Mercury is now passing. Immediately, the focus on Fifth House energies suggests that you are currently entering an existential territory that requires creativity, unabashed self-expression, and experimental audacity. Your "inner child" is a little cranky now, demanding some fun and some self-indulgence, all of which is entirely necessary and appropriate to your journey at the present time. Thus, life's pleasures -- games, vacations, sports, loving interactions -- deserve attention now. Whether you know it or not, you need a boost...and you'll get it in part from the "playmates" and "new toys" of the nature of Mercury that are now passingly, fleetingly available to you. Don't let them get away! But what's the core issue? What part of your own health hinges on this renewal? To answer that, we turn our attention to the Ascendant, which is being invited into development by this period of playful, celebratory creativity.

How is the progressed Mercury currently touching you? It is trine your natal Ascendant: sometime after the report period.. In thinking about this, remember that progressions are slow-moving events and that the action simply peaks then; it will be in effect throughout the period of this report.

Like the rest of us, you are a complicated, paradoxical individual, full of contradictions and undercurrents. That's human. But another part of being human is that, like the rest of us, you need to get out of bed in the morning and put on a streamlined, simplified social mask that allows you to function in the social beehive. There's no way that you can have a truly intimate relationship with every face you see in your daily life, nor would you likely want such connections. So we all keep much of what we really are behind our astrological Ascendant, which symbolizes that mask. Physically, it is simply the sign that was dawning in the east at the instant of your birth...and symbolically it represents how you "dawn" on people who don't know you very well. When triggered by a passing transit or progression, the Ascendant signals the need to make some adjustments in the way you present yourself in the social world, so that your outer appearance remains reasonably aligned with who you have become inwardly. The work is superficial; which is not to say unimportant. Often it has to do with changing how you hold your body, the way you speak, and the clothes you wear.

Always, it's advantageous for you to incorporate the force of the Ascendant positively in all parts of your life. But one area has always stood out in that regard -- the First House, which is where the Ascendant lies in your natal chart. There, in the area of assertiveness and personal power, the right use of that energy is most critical. In many situations you must react, respond, and play the cards you're dealt. But not in the First House. Here, you're in the driver's seat...and there are certain experiences you must claim for yourself, experiences of the nature of the Ascendant, even if the people about whom you care call you selfish for doing so.

The two factors, as we mentioned, are linked by a trine -- traditionally seen as a "good" aspect, but more accurately seen as simply enhancing or supportive. Generally speaking, with trines there is an opportunity...but to seize it, you must supply the initiative.

Pr. Venus is Sextile Moon

In effect: in progress - Apr 18, 2004

Peak Date(s): sometime before the report period.

"Love." What a word. Eskimos, it is said, distinguish two hundred different kinds of snow, each with its own name. Perhaps we should take a cue from them and cash in our word "love," replacing it with dozens of more specific concepts. It would still baffle us, inspire us, give us sleepless nights -- but at least we might then be able to communicate with each other more clearly. The love an infant feels for his or her mother...the consuming, volatile love of our teen years...the affection between old friends...the quiet affinity between those who have been well-married for decades: why do we put them all under the dominion of the same syllable? They're certainly different human experiences. Love evolves. Our capacity to feel that emotion takes on new resonances as we mature, and it drops old resonances.

Astrologers measure that evolution through the motions of the Progressed Venus. When it comes to a sensitive zone in your birthchart, you are invited to open yourself to new dimensions of human relationships. Typically, the passage of progressed Venus over a critical point coincides with visible alterations in our sphere of intimacy: friendships, business or creative partnerships, romantic bonds...all come to crossroads. Sometimes they come to endings. Other times they slough off deadening rituals and experience renewal, even renaissance. Many times such Venusian events mark the arrival of new people in our lives, people whose destinies are entwined with our own. Always, though, behind the outward relationship events, there is a deeper layer of meaning in these progressions: you are now asked to deepen the way you love, to love with yet another dimension of your being, to call still another part of your soul into the service of love. And, as always, it's possible to miss the point, squandering the Venusian force in wheel-spinning romances or soap-opera related interpersonal dramas.

First we must recognize that the action and the developmental pressures are rooted in the Fourth House, for that's the region of your birthchart through which Venus is currently passing. Immediately that realization places our attention on two fundamental areas: The first is your home and family, which may well be making their needs felt now in the "key" of Venus. And the second, often confused by the first, is your own happiness and that deep soul-feeling inside yourself to which you must be true if your life is to stay on course. Under this kind of stimulation, a person often benefits from considering his or her deepest beliefs and attitudes from a conventional psycho-therapeutic perspective -- which in essence is to say, "Figure out

what mom and dad taught you," and drop what is no longer consistent with your own course. But what's the issue? What part of your own life is at stake? To answer that, we turn our attention to the Moon, which is being invited into development by these familial and emotional pressures.

How is the progressed Venus currently touching you? It is sextile your natal Moon: sometime before the report period.. In thinking about this, remember that progressions are slow-moving events and that the action simply peaks then; it will be in effect throughout the period of this report.

The natal Sun -- that, as we have seen, refers to the very core of your being: your identity.

Your Second House came up earlier; now we see it stimulated again, once more suggesting that the deepest, most essential factors in the situation we're considering all hinge upon your personal resources and the resultant feelings of self-confidence and legitimacy that they engender. And what are the natures of the resources most pivotal to this self-esteem building process? A large part of the answer lies with the Moon, a planet whose basic skills, tools, and connections always figure critically in your efforts to improve yourself or your position.

When the Moon blends with Venus, a mood (Moon) of affection and fondness (Venus) often fills the psyche. Creative or aesthetic concerns come to the fore; social and perhaps romantic activities intensify. The heart hungers for connection, closeness, and the sharing of tender support. Relax a little. Take time with people about whom you care. And don't let this period pass without enjoying a slow, unfolding sunset.

The two factors, as we mentioned, are linked by a sextile -- traditionally seen as a "harmonious" or "mutually enhancing" aspect, often full of fast-paced events and emotional stimulation.

Pr. Mercury is Sextile Uranus

In effect: in progress - continuing

Peak Date(s): May 19, 2004

We encountered the progressed Mercury earlier. As you may remember, this represents your evolving capacity to perceive and communicate. When it comes to sensitive zones, you are challenged to see and understand things in a new, more mature way, and to find words -- and listeners -- for the expression of those perceptions. Its action is to accelerate, to complicate, and to conceptualize. The progressed Mercury has already figured in this report, but it's active in another way as well.

First, factor in that the movement and the evolutionary invitation are occurring in the Fifth House, for that's the region of your birthchart through which Mercury is currently passing. We've met the symbolism of this house before: creativity, unabashed self-expression, and sheer playfulness. You've reached a point in your journey where you need your batteries recharged, your "inner child" re-invigorated. A general loosening up is required. Life's pleasures -- sports, games, vacations, new friends, loving interactions -- need to figure in your experience now. But what part of your being most requires this rejuvenation? The answer lies with Uranus, which is being invited into development during this playful time of renewal and discovery.

How is the progressed Mercury currently touching you? It is sextile your natal Uranus: May 19, 2004. In thinking about this, remember that progressions are slow-moving events and that the action simply peaks then; it will be in effect throughout the period of this report.

There's a wild card in everyone, a rebellious, independent, free-spirited force that hates neckties and phony courtesies and all the slick moves that keep corporations and families from splitting apart. Astrologers call it Uranus. Stripped to its essence, this part of your astrological psyche is concerned primarily with the process of individuation, which boils down to whittling away all the parts of yourself which have arisen almost accidentally as side effects of your social background. When stimulated by transits or progressions, Uranus triggers your rebellions. It asks you to shed something unauthentic, unreal, or limiting in your life. Often it brings lightning-quick developments and unexpected circumstances. Almost always, there is a confrontation between you and some figure of authority, past or present.

Your Third House figured previously in this report. Now we see it being triggered again, which tells us that one vitally important concern for you at present involves simple communication -- and that means listening as well as expressing yourself. Expect messages, perhaps even disconcerting ones, which embody the tone and nature of Uranus.

When Mercury couples with Uranus, the combination is exciting, innovative, and original. A real element of genius is available to you now. Not that you'll necessarily go down in history alongside Michelangelo -- but you're quite capable of breaking out of accustomed, well-trodden patterns and creating truly novel ideas. Everything depends upon your ability to doubt, to question, and to speculate.

The two factors, as we mentioned, are linked by a sextile -- traditionally seen as a "harmonious" or "mutually enhancing" aspect, often full of fast-paced events and emotional stimulation.

Tr. Saturn is Trine Mercury

In effect: Jun 7, 2004 - Jun 23, 2004

Peak Date(s): Jun 15, 2004

Saturn played a role earlier in this account. Now it emerges again, in a new way. To refresh your memory, Saturn is ultimately the planet of maturity. It always places a strong emphasis upon hard work, decisive choices, and persistence. Saturn currently is trine your natal Mercury. The energies crest Jun 15, 2004.

Currently Saturn is maneuvering through your Twelfth House. As we said earlier in the report, this is the final house of the cycle and often suggests endings and dissolutions. A meditative, accepting attitude is best now, letting go lightly of the things that are taken from you, knowing that despite appearances what is lost now has no place in the journey to come. What is to be released? A hint lies with Saturn, as we just described it -- that part of you has completed a major phase of its work and must now "graduate" to a new level. But we can go further. There is also a need for some release in connection with Mercury, which is being invited into development by these vital resolutions and these necessary deaths -- some of which, by the way, may be forced upon you by circumstance if you're overdue in appreciating their necessity.

The natal Mercury -- that, as we have seen, symbolizes your intelligence, your capacity to communicate, and your fundamental curiosity.

Your Fourth House figured previously in this report. Now we see it triggered again -- a clue that in your present circumstances, one of the most active factors is the need for a radical clarification, in your own mind, of your personal needs and wishes. There is something inside you, something of the nature of Mercury, to which you must be true if you are to be happy. And it is now under accelerating developmental pressure. Some of this process may even involve some re-definition of your role in your family, broadly defined.

When Mercury mingles with Saturn, a thoughtful, reflective perspective enters the mind. This is a season of earnest study, of necessary but often rather plodding kinds of work. A precise, careful, conservative approach generally produces the best results. And, present cultural mythology aside, the cultivation of a degree of calculated pessimism often helps one evade costly blunders as these two planets interact.

The two factors, as we mentioned, are linked by a trine -- traditionally seen as a "good" aspect, but more accurately seen as simply enhancing or supportive. Generally speaking, with trines there is an opportunity...but to seize it, you must supply the initiative.

Tr. Saturn is Sextile Venus

In effect: Jul 10, 2004 - Jul 25, 2004

Peak Date(s): Jul 17, 2004

Saturn played a role earlier in this account. Now it emerges again, in a new way. To refresh your memory, Saturn is ultimately the planet of maturity. It always places a strong emphasis upon hard work, decisive choices, and persistence. Saturn currently is sextile your natal Venus. The energies crest Jul 17, 2004.

Currently Saturn is maneuvering through your Twelfth House. As we said earlier in the report, this is the final house of the cycle and often suggests endings and dissolutions. A meditative, accepting attitude is best now, letting go lightly of the things that are taken from you, knowing that despite appearances what is lost now has no place in the journey to come. What is to be released? A hint lies with Saturn, as we just described it -- that part of you has completed a major phase of its work and must now "graduate" to a new level. But we can go further. There is also a need for some release in connection with Venus, which is being invited into development by these vital resolutions and these necessary deaths -- some of which, by the way, may be forced upon you by circumstance if you're overdue in appreciating their necessity.

The natal Venus -- that, as we have seen, is where you store your romantic and affiliative sensibilities, along with your aesthetic tastes.

Your Third House figured previously in this report. Now we see it being triggered again, which tells us that one vitally important concern for you at present involves simple communication -- and that means listening as well as expressing yourself. Expect messages, perhaps even disconcerting ones, which embody the tone and nature of Venus.

When Venus collides with Saturn, a season of vows and boundaries in your intimate life is upon you. It's helpful now to remember that grown-up love is more than an emotion; it's also a

commitment, a discipline, and a promise to be honored even in the face of difficulties or passing estrangements. Take some time alone now; you probably need it. Be clear and be serious, and don't let anyone trick you into taking positions you outgrew years ago.

The two factors, as we mentioned, are linked by a sextile -- traditionally seen as a "harmonious" or "mutually enhancing" aspect, often full of fast-paced events and emotional stimulation.

The Details

In the mood for Mardi Gras? If you live in Chicago, it helps to know that New Orleans lies to the south. Head west or east and you'll never arrive . . .

What we've done in the previous pages is to show you the direction to New Orleans. We've looked at the big astrological themes that are affecting you this year . . .

As a reminder, at the beginning of our analysis of each month's events we'll make reference to any major configurations covered previously which happen to be reaching peaks of intensity then -- and please recall that some of them will have more than a single peak during the report period. There won't be any more analysis; just an allusion to the events so you can go back and review the earlier material, and see the patterns of the month in the light of the year's heavier transits and progressions.

Please remember that the fleeting, often forgettable influences we discuss in the following pages must always draw their real meaning from the far more monumental events we've already described. A "discussion with the boss," for example, is going to take on particular significance during a month when your whole career is up for grabs!

These minor transits unfold quickly. It's a rare week that doesn't contain at least a few. A report that discussed them all in the kind of microscopic detail we've applied to the major events would be several inches thick. In order to cover the daily astrological kaleidoscope within the practical limitations of the space available, we've resorted to producing capsulized one-sentence nuggets that compress a lot of information into a few words. So, slow down, shift gears, and let them wash over you. Think of these images more as daily meditations than as the kind of full-blown explanations to which you've gotten accustomed in the previous sections of SKYLOG.

One brief reminder: remember that many astrological events have not one but several peaks of intensity, so you may find a given "Invitation" or "Means" coming up several times in the pages that follow.

Even minor astrological events commonly have an impact over several days. In the following month-by-month analysis, configurations are listed chronologically according to the days they "peak" -- but don't take that date narrowly. The most colorful events and profoundest realizations might easily occur a day or two later or earlier.

February Invitation Peaks

Feb 05, 2004 - Tr. Saturn squares Saturn
Feb 20, 2004 - Tr. Pluto squares Pluto
Feb 20, 2004 - Tr. Jupiter enters Third House
Feb 26, 2004 - Pr. Midheaven opposes Neptune
Feb 29, 2004 - Tr. Neptune squares Mercury

February Mean Peaks

(None this month.)

February The Details

Feb 01, 2004 - Tr. Mercury trines Pluto

Keywords: dutiful communication enhances your usual inventive intensity.

Feb 01, 2004 - Tr. Venus opposes Pluto

Keywords: questing human connection is in tension with your inherent inventive intensity.

Feb 01, 2004 at 11:54 PM - Tr. Moon enters Twelfth House

The Moon in a month passes through all twelve houses of your chart. In so doing, it correlates with the passing whimsies of mood. One afternoon you're bright and cheery, the following morning you're blue...but energetic again after lunch. It doesn't amount to much, and it's not really very important in practical terms -- with one exception: the passage of the Moon through the Twelfth House. During that time you are going through a kind of emotional moulting, ending one cycle and preparing to begin another. Your attentions and energies are turned inward. Accept that, handle it well, and the period -- usually a couple of days -- is quiet and contemplative. It may even be rather pleasant. But if you try to keep up your normal level of activity, you'll find yourself confused, flat, and prone to dumb accidents. So when the Moon enters your Twelfth House, make sure that you have some unstructured time. Minimize distractions. Put off any significant new beginnings for a couple of days. And take a few unhurried breaths. This month, the transiting Moon crosses into your natal Twelfth House Feb 01, 2004 at 11:54 PM, and emerges Feb 04, 2004 at 12:47 PM, when a new emotional cycle begins.

Feb 02, 2004 - Tr. Mercury sextiles Neptune

Keywords: painstaking conversation excites your native self-expressive inspiration.

Feb 02, 2004 - Tr. Venus trines Neptune

Keywords: exploratory relating supports your typical child-like imagination.

Feb 03, 2004 - Tr. Sun squares Mercury

Keywords: collaborative identity conflicts with your instinctive cautious conversation.

Feb 04, 2004 - Tr. Mercury trines Uranus

Keywords: painstaking communication enhances your usual clever originality.

Feb 05, 2004 - Tr. Mars trines Jupiter

Keywords: on-the-job swordsmanship enhances your usual self-confident exuberance.

Feb 05, 2004 - Tr. Mercury opposes Ascendant

The mythological Mercury is the "Messenger of the Gods." The same is true of the transiting Mercury, which speeds around your chart, prompting conversations, dialogs, and sermons, both outgoing and incoming. It triggers the arrival of letters, faxes, and phone calls, and provokes the weaving of new data into your viewpoint. When it arrives at a sensitive point, your task is to listen, to ask questions, and to share intelligence.

Mercury enters your Seventh House Feb 05, 2004. Traditionally the "House of Marriage," the Seventh House is actually a reference to anyone and everyone with whom you are open to intimacy. Whenever this part of the chart is stimulated, it's a signal that someone is coming into your life to adjust your attitude or your course, and that the adjustment is quite necessary and appropriate. Who is this person, and what is the message? We don't know exactly, but here's a clue: he, she, or it looks, feels, and sounds a lot like Mercury. One bottom line: the quality of your deepest human connections profoundly affects the quality of your life, and at least one of these human connections needs some attention during these days.

Feb 05, 2004 - Tr. Venus opposes Uranus

Keywords: intellectually hungry affection is in tension with your inherent inventive originality.

Feb 08, 2004 - Tr. Mars trines Mars

Keywords: vocational courage enhances your usual helpful assertiveness.

Feb 09, 2004 - Tr. Mars opposes Sun

Keywords: employment-oriented swordsmanship is in tension with your inherent psychologically sophisticated personality.

Feb 09, 2004 - Tr. Mercury squares Sun

Keywords: loving conversation clashes with your instinctive emotional identity.

Feb 11, 2004 - Tr. Mercury sextiles Saturn

Keywords: collaborative communication excites your native intellectually hungry composure.

Feb 11, 2004 - Tr. Venus squares Mars

Keywords: intellectually hungry relating clashes with your instinctive painstaking swordsmanship.

Feb 12, 2004 - Tr. Sun squares Neptune

Keywords: passionate nature clashes with your instinctive spontaneous imagination.

Feb 13, 2004 - Tr. Sun opposes Moon

Keywords: spooky personality opposes your inborn self-assured attitude.

Feb 14, 2004 - Tr. Venus conjuncts Saturn

Keywords: adventuresome affection fuses with your natural expansive solitude.

Feb 15, 2004 - Tr. Mercury squares Mercury

Keywords: interpersonally sensitive conversation clashes with your instinctive psychologically sophisticated dialog.

Feb 20, 2004 - Tr. Sun opposes Jupiter

Keywords: probing personality is in tension with your inherent resourceful gambling.

Feb 21, 2004 - Tr. Mercury squares Neptune

Keywords: emotionally brave conversation clashes with your instinctive self-expressive contemplation.

Feb 22, 2004 - Tr. Mercury opposes Moon

Keywords: passionate communication is in tension with your inherent self-assured attitude.

Feb 22, 2004 - Tr. Sun sextiles Mars

Keywords: spooky identity excites your native dutiful courage.

Feb 22, 2004 - Tr. Venus conjuncts Midheaven

Venus: Goddess of Love, Goddess of Peace...in her fast transits around your chart, she offers you counsel and support, sometimes through friendship, sometimes through more romantic kinds of intimacy. Her arrival at a sensitive zone also suggests that a time has come to relax and to receive solace or comfort, or to recharge your inner batteries through the perception of beauty. People come warmly into your space; a chance to "let your hair down" arises; paintings, music, and Technicolor sunsets abound.

Venus arrives at a conjunction with your Midheaven Feb 22, 2004, and that always suggests a time of public visibility or career-related activity. The Midheaven is the top of the chart and corresponds to the most outward, visible parts of your life. It's an active point, generally not very subtle. To make the most of it, pretend that "all the world's a stage" and that the part you're playing is that of Venus, as we just described it. Don't be shy. Ham it up a little, and make sure the people dozing in the back row don't miss any nuances.

Feb 23, 2004 - Tr. Sun trines Sun

Keywords: emotionally brave personality supports your typical emotional nature.

Feb 24, 2004 - Tr. Mars opposes Mercury

Keywords: employment-oriented swordsmanship is in tension with your inherent psychologically sophisticated communication.

Feb 25, 2004 - Tr. Mercury opposes Jupiter

Keywords: emotionally brave dialog is in tension with your inherent resourceful opportunity.

Feb 27, 2004 - Tr. Mercury sextiles Mars

Keywords: probing conversation stimulates your normal supportive swordsmanship.

Feb 27, 2004 - Tr. Mercury trines Sun

Keywords: passionate dialog supports your typical sensitive personality.

Feb 29, 2004 at 08:01 AM - Tr. Moon enters Twelfth House

This month, the transiting Moon crosses into your natal Twelfth House again Feb 29, 2004 at 08:01 AM. It emerges and a new emotional cycle begins Mar 02, 2004 at 09:14 PM. As we discussed earlier, this represents a brief period in which you serve your own ultimate interests best by relaxing a bit, taking some extra precautions against physical mishaps, and most

importantly, delaying any major new starts, insofar as that's possible.

Feb 29, 2004 - Tr. Venus trines Moon

Keywords: employment-oriented affection enhances your usual self-respecting sensitivity.

March Invitation Peaks

(None this month.)

March Mean Peaks

Mar 04, 2004 - Tr. Jupiter sextiles Mercury

Mar 09, 2004 - Tr. Uranus sextiles Mars

Mar 15, 2004 - Tr. Uranus trines Sun

Mar 26, 2004 - Pr. Moon squares Saturn

March The Details

Mar 02, 2004 - Tr. Mars trines Venus

Keywords: vocational swordsmanship enhances your usual curious human connection.

Mar 03, 2004 - Tr. Mercury trines Mercury

Keywords: penetratingly real dialog enhances your usual self-protective conversation.

Mar 03, 2004 - Tr. Sun trines Mercury

Keywords: spooky identity enhances your usual cautious conversation.

Mar 05, 2004 - Tr. Mercury opposes Venus

Keywords: exploratory conversation opposes your inborn clever affection.

Mar 06, 2004 - Tr. Venus trines Jupiter

Keywords: vocational human connection enhances your usual self-respecting gambling.

Mar 07, 2004 - Saturn goes Direct (at 06°Ca17' in your 12th House)

Aspects: Trine Sun, Trine Mercury, Opposite Mars, Sextile Jupiter, Square Saturn.

Mar 07, 2004 - Tr. Mercury opposes Pluto

Keywords: routine-shattering communication opposes your inborn clever intensity.

Mar 07, 2004 - Tr. Sun opposes Venus

Keywords: intellectually hungry identity opposes your inborn inventive affection.

Mar 08, 2004 - Tr. Mars trines Pluto

Keywords: work-oriented courage enhances your usual inventive honesty.

Mar 08, 2004 - Tr. Mercury trines Neptune

Keywords: routine-shattering communication supports your typical self-expressive imagination.

Mar 08, 2004 - Tr. Venus trines Mars

Keywords: work-oriented relating enhances your usual competent courage.

Mar 09, 2004 - Tr. Venus opposes Sun

Keywords: career human connection is in tension with your inherent self-protective nature.

Mar 10, 2004 - Tr. Mars opposes Neptune

Keywords: visionary courage is in tension with your inherent imaginative inspiration.

Mar 10, 2004 - Tr. Mercury opposes Uranus

Keywords: exploratory communication is in tension with your inherent curious originality.

Mar 11, 2004 - Tr. Sun opposes Pluto

Keywords: routine-shattering personality is in tension with your inherent curious intensity.

Mar 12, 2004 - Tr. Mars squares Moon

Keywords: visionary assertiveness conflicts with your instinctive financially savvy attitude.

Mar 13, 2004 - Tr. Sun trines Neptune

Keywords: questing nature enhances your usual spontaneous inspiration.

Mar 13, 2004 - Tr. Mercury squares Mars

Keywords: adventuresome conversation clashes with your instinctive responsible swordsmanship.

Mar 15, 2004 - Tr. Mercury conjuncts Saturn

Keywords: questing communication combines with your characteristic exploratory composure.

Mar 16, 2004 - Tr. Mars trines Uranus

Keywords: group-dynamical assertiveness enhances your usual intelligent autonomy.

Mar 17, 2004 - Tr. Sun opposes Uranus

Keywords: expansive nature opposes your inborn clever individuality.

Mar 18, 2004 - Tr. Venus opposes Mercury

Keywords: career affection is in tension with your inherent psychologically sophisticated conversation.

Mar 21, 2004 - Tr. Mercury conjuncts Midheaven

The transiting Mercury surfaces again...this, as you may recall, is the harbinger of messages and new information to which you need to pay attention.

Mercury arrives at a conjunction with your Midheaven Mar 21, 2004, and that always suggests a time of public visibility or career-related activity. The Midheaven is the top of the chart and corresponds to the most outward, visible parts of your life. It's an active point, generally not very subtle. To make the most of it, pretend that "all the world's a stage" and that the part you're playing is that of Mercury, as we just described it. Don't be shy. Ham it up a little, and make sure the people dozing in the back row don't miss any nuances.

Mar 22, 2004 - Tr. Venus trines Venus

Keywords: employment-oriented affection enhances your usual curious relating.

Mar 23, 2004 - Tr. Mars squares Jupiter

Keywords: goal-oriented courage conflicts with your instinctive dignified exuberance.

Mar 23, 2004 - Tr. Sun squares Mars

Keywords: exploratory identity conflicts with your instinctive responsible courage.

Mar 24, 2004 - Pluto turns Retrograde (at 22°Sg15' in your 05th House)

Aspects: Trine Moon, Square Venus, Square Uranus, Square Pluto, Trine Midheaven.

Mar 26, 2004 - Tr. Venus trines Pluto

Keywords: vocational relating enhances your usual intelligent investigation.

Mar 26, 2004 - Tr. Mercury trines Moon

Keywords: vocational conversation enhances your usual self-assured sensitivity.

Mar 27, 2004 - Tr. Sun conjuncts Saturn

Keywords: questing nature fuses with your natural expansive solitude.

Mar 27, 2004 - Tr. Venus opposes Neptune

Keywords: priority-clarifying human connection is in tension with your inherent spontaneous inspiration.

Mar 27, 2004 at 04:11 PM - Tr. Moon enters Twelfth House

This month, the transiting Moon crosses into your natal Twelfth House again Mar 27, 2004 at 04:11 PM. It emerges and a new emotional cycle begins Mar 30, 2004 at 06:01 AM. As we discussed earlier, this represents a brief period in which you serve your own ultimate interests best by relaxing a bit, taking some extra precautions against physical mishaps, and most importantly, delaying any major new starts, insofar as that's possible.

Mar 28, 2004 - Tr. Venus squares Moon

Keywords: strategic affection clashes with your instinctive resourceful awareness.

Mar 31, 2004 - Tr. Venus trines Uranus

Keywords: long-term relating supports your typical curious autonomy.

April Invitation Peaks

Apr 07, 2004 - Tr. Saturn squares Saturn

Apr 27, 2004 - Tr. Pluto squares Pluto

April Mean Peaks

(None this month.)

April The Details

Apr 01, 2004 - Tr. Mars sextiles Saturn

Keywords: goal-oriented swordsmanship stimulates your normal intellectually hungry solitude.

Apr 03, 2004 - Tr. Mercury trines Jupiter

Keywords: on-the-job conversation enhances your usual self-confident gambling.

Apr 04, 2004 - Tr. Venus squares Jupiter

Keywords: long-term relating conflicts with your instinctive resourceful gambling.

Apr 05, 2004 - Tr. Sun conjuncts Midheaven

The transiting Sun is like a huge, dumb battery. Whatever it touches, it electrifies -- but

never for very long or very deeply. That's simply because it's a fast-moving factor, never staying anywhere long enough to develop true depth or complexity of meaning. In a year, it circuits the chart once...which leaves it only a few days to spend in each of your chart's many sensitive zones. Whatever it touches, however, is temporarily pushed into action. And sometimes, if more serious astro-psychological energies have been building or brewing in that area of your life, the Sun's transit over that point might just be the trigger that sets big wheels turning. The critical point is that the Sun represents your ego, and when it collides with sensitive territories you need to act accordingly: not "egocentrically," but with an awareness of your rights, your needs, and your desires.

Sun arrives at a conjunction with your Midheaven Apr 05, 2004, and that always suggests a time of public visibility or career-related activity. The Midheaven is the top of the chart and corresponds to the most outward, visible parts of your life. It's an active point, generally not very subtle. To make the most of it, pretend that "all the world's a stage" and that the part you're playing is that of Sun, as we just described it. Don't be shy. Ham it up a little, and make sure the people dozing in the back row don't miss any nuances.

Apr 06, 2004 at 12:18 PM - Mercury turns Retrograde

Three, maybe four times in the course of a year, the planet Mercury spends three weeks or so going backwards in the sky, a period we call Mercury Retrograde. Practicality sometimes intervenes, but to the extent that you can arrange it, you are better off if you can avoid signing anything important during this period, buying anything mechanical (unless its failure would be of trivial consequence), initiating travel, or attempting significant communications by phone or mail. This, of course, is a lot to ask; and sticking to it too firmly starts to verge on Cosmic Paranoia. Still, there is a heightened tendency for objects, messages, and plans to go awry during this Retrograde time. Sometimes a little patience exercised now will make your life a lot easier in the long run. If steps simply must be taken, it doesn't mean everything is doomed to failure...just keep duplicates, have backups, double-check everything, and be prepared for petty annoyances. The first appearance of a Retrograde Mercury during the period of this report occurs Apr 06, 2004 at 12:18 PM. Those conditions persist until Mercury again goes "Direct" sometime after the report period..

Apr 09, 2004 - Tr. Mercury trines Jupiter

Keywords: on-the-job conversation enhances your usual self-confident gambling.

Apr 11, 2004 - Tr. Venus sextiles Saturn

Keywords: group-dynamical affection stimulates your normal expansive solitude.

Apr 14, 2004 - Tr. Sun trines Moon

Keywords: vocational identity enhances your usual self-respecting attitude.

Apr 18, 2004 - Tr. Mars squares Venus

Keywords: long-term courage conflicts with your instinctive open-minded relating.

Apr 20, 2004 - Tr. Mercury trines Moon

Keywords: work-oriented communication enhances your usual self-assured awareness.

Apr 20, 2004 - Tr. Sun trines Jupiter

Keywords: professional nature enhances your usual dignified opportunity.

Apr 23, 2004 - Tr. Sun trines Mars

Keywords: professional identity enhances your usual supportive courage.

Apr 23, 2004 - Tr. Sun opposes Sun

Keywords: career personality opposes your inborn emotional nature.

Apr 23, 2004 at 11:42 PM - Tr. Moon enters Twelfth House

This month, the transiting Moon crosses into your natal Twelfth House again Apr 23, 2004 at 11:42 PM. It emerges and a new emotional cycle begins Apr 26, 2004 at 02:04 PM. As we discussed earlier, this represents a brief period in which you serve your own ultimate interests best by relaxing a bit, taking some extra precautions against physical mishaps, and most importantly, delaying any major new starts, insofar as that's possible.

Apr 24, 2004 - Tr. Mars squares Pluto

Keywords: priority-clarifying swordsmanship clashes with your instinctive curious honesty.

Apr 25, 2004 - Tr. Venus squares Venus

Keywords: strategic human connection conflicts with your instinctive open-minded affection.

Apr 28, 2004 - Tr. Mars sextiles Moon

Keywords: group-dynamical assertiveness excites your native dignified awareness.

May Invitation Peaks

(None this month.)

May Mean Peaks

May 19, 2004 - Pr. Mercury sextiles Uranus

May The Details

May 02, 2004 - Tr. Venus squares Pluto

Keywords: long-term affection conflicts with your instinctive inventive investigation.

May 02, 2004 - Tr. Mars squares Uranus

Keywords: spiritually open assertiveness clashes with your instinctive open-minded autonomy.

May 03, 2004 - Tr. Sun opposes Mercury

Keywords: professional personality is in tension with your inherent watchful dialog.

May 04, 2004 - Jupiter goes Direct (at 08°Vi55' in your 02nd House)

Aspects: Sextile Sun, Sextile Mercury, Trine Mars, Conjunct Jupiter.

May 08, 2004 - Tr. Sun trines Venus

Keywords: on-the-job personality enhances your usual verbal affection.

May 09, 2004 - Tr. Venus sextiles Moon

Keywords: priority-clarifying affection excites your native self-assured sensitivity.

May 09, 2004 - Tr. Mars sextiles Jupiter

Keywords: meditative courage excites your native financially savvy exuberance.

May 10, 2004 - Tr. Mercury trines Moon

Keywords: work-oriented communication supports your typical self-assured awareness.

May 12, 2004 - Tr. Sun trines Pluto

Keywords: career identity enhances your usual intelligent investigation.

May 12, 2004 - Tr. Mars opposes Mars

Keywords: private swordsmanship is in tension with your inherent competent assertiveness.

May 13, 2004 - Tr. Mars trines Sun

Keywords: reclusive assertiveness supports your typical sensitive nature.

May 13, 2004 - Tr. Sun opposes Neptune

Keywords: goal-oriented identity opposes your inborn creative imagination.

May 14, 2004 - Tr. Sun squares Moon

Keywords: long-term personality conflicts with your instinctive self-assured sensitivity.

May 16, 2004 - Neptune turns Retrograde (at 15°Aq24' in your 07th House)

Aspects: Square Mercury, Square Neptune, Sextile Midheaven.

May 17, 2004 - Tr. Mercury trines Jupiter

Keywords: employment-oriented conversation enhances your usual self-confident gambling.

May 17, 2004 - Tr. Sun trines Uranus

Keywords: goal-oriented personality supports your typical verbal autonomy.

May 18, 2004 - Tr. Mars squares Saturn

Keywords: meditative swordsmanship clashes with your instinctive questing integrity.

May 19, 2004 - Tr. Mercury trines Mars

Keywords: professional communication enhances your usual painstaking swordsmanship.

May 19, 2004 - Tr. Mercury opposes Sun

Keywords: vocational communication opposes your inborn sensitive personality.

May 21, 2004 at 06:21 AM - Tr. Moon enters Twelfth House

This month, the transiting Moon crosses into your natal Twelfth House again May 21, 2004 at 06:21 AM. It emerges and a new emotional cycle begins May 23, 2004 at 08:54 PM. As we discussed earlier, this represents a brief period in which you serve your own ultimate interests best by relaxing a bit, taking some extra precautions against physical mishaps, and most importantly, delaying any major new starts, insofar as that's possible.

May 21, 2004 - Tr. Sun squares Jupiter

Keywords: goal-oriented nature clashes with your instinctive resourceful exuberance.

May 25, 2004 - Tr. Venus sextiles Moon

Keywords: group-dynamical human connection stimulates your normal resourceful sensitivity.

May 26, 2004 - Tr. Mercury opposes Mercury

Keywords: employment-oriented communication opposes your inborn emotional conversation.

May 27, 2004 - Tr. Sun sextiles Saturn

Keywords: strategic personality stimulates your normal questing composure.

May 28, 2004 - Tr. Mars trines Mercury

Keywords: spiritually open courage supports your typical cautious communication.

May 29, 2004 - Tr. Mercury trines Venus

Keywords: employment-oriented dialog supports your typical curious relating.

May 31, 2004 - Tr. Mercury trines Pluto

Keywords: professional conversation enhances your usual curious honesty.

June Invitation Peaks

(None this month.)

June Mean Peaks

Jun 15, 2004 - Tr. Saturn trines Mercury

June The Details

Jun 01, 2004 - Tr. Venus squares Pluto

Keywords: goal-oriented relating conflicts with your instinctive inventive investigation.

Jun 01, 2004 - Tr. Mercury opposes Neptune

Keywords: long-term communication is in tension with your inherent spontaneous imagination.

Jun 02, 2004 - Tr. Mercury squares Moon

Keywords: group-dynamical conversation conflicts with your instinctive self-respecting sensitivity.

Jun 03, 2004 - Tr. Mercury trines Uranus

Keywords: long-term communication enhances your usual open-minded autonomy.

Jun 04, 2004 - Tr. Mars sextiles Venus

Keywords: meditative assertiveness excites your native clever human connection.

Jun 05, 2004 - Tr. Mercury squares Jupiter

Keywords: priority-clarifying communication conflicts with your instinctive dignified gambling.

Jun 07, 2004 - Tr. Venus squares Venus

Keywords: visionary relating clashes with your instinctive intelligent affection.

Jun 08, 2004 - Tr. Sun squares Venus

Keywords: group-dynamical identity clashes with your instinctive verbal affection.

Jun 08, 2004 - Tr. Mercury sextiles Saturn

Keywords: group-dynamical dialog excites your native intellectually hungry integrity.

Jun 10, 2004 - Uranus turns Retrograde (at 06°Pi48' in your 08th House)

Aspects: Trine Sun, Trine Mercury, Sextile Mars, Opposite Jupiter.

Jun 10, 2004 - Tr. Mars sextiles Pluto

Keywords: meditative assertiveness excites your native clever intensity.

Jun 12, 2004 - Tr. Sun squares Pluto

Keywords: strategic personality clashes with your instinctive verbal intensity.

Jun 12, 2004 - Tr. Mars trines Neptune

Keywords: meditative courage supports your typical creative contemplation.

Jun 14, 2004 - Tr. Mercury squares Venus

Keywords: long-term communication clashes with your instinctive curious human connection.

Jun 15, 2004 - Tr. Sun sextiles Moon

Keywords: group-dynamical personality excites your native self-confident sensitivity.

Jun 15, 2004 - Tr. Mercury squares Pluto

Keywords: strategic communication conflicts with your instinctive intelligent intensity.

Jun 17, 2004 - Tr. Mercury sextiles Moon

Keywords: group-dynamical dialog excites your native self-confident sensitivity.

Jun 17, 2004 at 12:23 PM - Tr. Moon enters Twelfth House

This month, the transiting Moon crosses into your natal Twelfth House again Jun 17, 2004 at 12:23 PM. It emerges and a new emotional cycle begins Jun 20, 2004 at 02:51 AM. As we discussed earlier, this represents a brief period in which you serve your own ultimate interests best by relaxing a bit, taking some extra precautions against physical mishaps, and most importantly, delaying any major new starts, insofar as that's possible.

Jun 17, 2004 - Tr. Sun squares Uranus

Keywords: withdrawn identity conflicts with your instinctive curious autonomy.

Jun 18, 2004 - Tr. Mercury squares Uranus

Keywords: spiritually open communication clashes with your instinctive open-minded originality.

Jun 19, 2004 - Tr. Mars sextiles Uranus

Keywords: private assertiveness excites your native inventive originality.

Jun 20, 2004 - Tr. Mercury sextiles Jupiter

Keywords: reclusive communication excites your native dignified opportunity.

Jun 20, 2004 - Tr. Mars conjuncts Ascendant

Mars, the God of War, is transiting through sensitive territories for you, suggesting some turbulent waters to be navigated. Always the trick with the red planet lies in realizing that the time has come to overcome a fear or a resistance in yourself, and to take what is legitimately yours. Your blood is up, and that's not a bad thing, unless you "chicken out" and misdirect the Martian energy toward some inappropriate target.

Mars arrives at a conjunction with your Ascendant Jun 20, 2004, and that always suggests a

colorful, active few days. A new cycle of experience is beginning for you. It's not earth-shaking in its implications, but you'll be happier if you act positively in the spirit of Mars. The ball is in your court. Decisive action, imprudent action, or inaction on your part now will have long-term effects, just as the experiences of childhood leave their mark on the adult character. Don't be afraid of a little apparent selfishness now. There are seasons of giving and seasons of taking; this one is for taking.

Jun 21, 2004 - Tr. Mercury opposes Mars

Keywords: quiet conversation opposes your inborn helpful swordsmanship.

Jun 21, 2004 - Tr. Mercury trines Sun

Keywords: private dialog enhances your usual emotional identity.

Jun 22, 2004 - Tr. Sun sextiles Jupiter

Keywords: spiritually open nature excites your native dignified exuberance.

Jun 22, 2004 - Tr. Mercury squares Saturn

Keywords: spiritually open communication conflicts with your instinctive adventuresome solitude.

Jun 24, 2004 - Tr. Sun opposes Mars

Keywords: private nature is in tension with your inherent painstaking courage.

Jun 24, 2004 - Tr. Sun trines Sun

Keywords: spiritually open personality supports your typical cautious identity.

Jun 25, 2004 - Tr. Mercury trines Mercury

Keywords: spiritually open conversation enhances your usual psychologically sophisticated dialog.

Jun 28, 2004 - Tr. Mercury sextiles Venus

Keywords: spiritually open dialog excites your native open-minded human connection.

Jun 28, 2004 - Tr. Sun squares Saturn

Keywords: reclusive personality clashes with your instinctive routine-shattering composure.

Jun 29, 2004 - Tr. Mars squares Sun

Keywords: assertive courage clashes with your instinctive self-protective nature.

Jun 29, 2004 - Tr. Mercury sextiles Pluto

Keywords: quiet communication excites your native clever intensity.

Jun 30, 2004 - Tr. Mercury trines Neptune

Keywords: withdrawn conversation enhances your usual imaginative contemplation.

July Invitation Peaks

Jul 07, 2004 - Tr. Saturn squares Midheaven

Jul 14, 2004 - Tr. Jupiter enters Third House

July Mean Peaks

Jul 04, 2004 - Tr. Jupiter sextiles Mercury

Jul 17, 2004 - Tr. Saturn sextiles Venus

Jul 28, 2004 - Tr. Jupiter conjuncts Venus

July The Details

Jul 02, 2004 - Tr. Mercury sextiles Uranus

Keywords: meditative conversation stimulates your normal clever individuality.

Jul 03, 2004 - Tr. Mercury conjuncts Ascendant

The transiting Mercury surfaces again...this, as you may recall, is the harbinger of messages and new information to which you need to pay attention.

Mercury arrives at a conjunction with your Ascendant Jul 03, 2004, and that always suggests a colorful, active few days. A new cycle of experience is beginning for you. It's not earth-shaking in its implications, but you'll be happier if you act positively in the spirit of Mercury. The ball is in your court. Decisive action, imprudent action, or inaction on your part now will have long-term effects, just as the experiences of childhood leave their mark on the adult character. Don't be afraid of a little apparent selfishness now. There are seasons of giving and seasons of taking; this one is for taking.

Jul 04, 2004 - Tr. Mars trines Saturn

Keywords: assertive swordsmanship enhances your usual questing solitude.

Jul 05, 2004 - Tr. Sun trines Mercury

Keywords: private nature enhances your usual psychologically sophisticated conversation.

Jul 06, 2004 - Tr. Mercury squares Sun

Keywords: decisive communication conflicts with your instinctive watchful personality.

Jul 08, 2004 - Tr. Mercury trines Saturn

Keywords: forceful conversation supports your typical questing integrity.

Jul 09, 2004 - Tr. Sun sextiles Venus

Keywords: withdrawn nature stimulates your normal inventive relating.

Jul 12, 2004 - Tr. Mercury squares Mercury

Keywords: forceful conversation clashes with your instinctive watchful communication.

Jul 13, 2004 - Tr. Sun sextiles Pluto

Keywords: meditative personality excites your native clever intensity.

Jul 14, 2004 at 06:27 PM - Tr. Moon enters Twelfth House

This month, the transiting Moon crosses into your natal Twelfth House again Jul 14, 2004 at 06:27 PM. It emerges and a new emotional cycle begins Jul 17, 2004 at 08:44 AM. As we discussed earlier, this represents a brief period in which you serve your own ultimate interests best by relaxing a bit, taking some extra precautions against physical mishaps, and most importantly, delaying any major new starts, insofar as that's possible.

Jul 15, 2004 - Tr. Sun trines Neptune

Keywords: private personality enhances your usual spontaneous inspiration.

Jul 15, 2004 - Tr. Mars squares Mercury

Keywords: decisive courage conflicts with your instinctive psychologically sophisticated communication.

Jul 19, 2004 - Tr. Sun sextiles Uranus

Keywords: withdrawn identity stimulates your normal open-minded originality.

Jul 19, 2004 - Tr. Mercury squares Neptune

Keywords: self-assured communication conflicts with your instinctive creative contemplation.

Jul 19, 2004 - Tr. Sun conjuncts Ascendant

The transiting Sun again -- this is the big searchlight that shines on each part of your chart in the course of a year, seeing if there's anything there that's just waiting for a little push...

Sun arrives at a conjunction with your Ascendant Jul 19, 2004, and that always suggests a colorful, active few days. A new cycle of experience is beginning for you. It's not earth-shaking in its implications, but you'll be happier if you act positively in the spirit of Sun. The ball is in your court. Decisive action, imprudent action, or inaction on your part now will have long-term effects, just as the experiences of childhood leave their mark on the adult character. Don't be afraid of a little apparent selfishness now. There are seasons of giving and seasons of taking; this one is for taking.

Jul 20, 2004 - Tr. Mercury conjuncts Moon

Keywords: resourceful dialog combines with your characteristic dignified sensitivity.

Jul 22, 2004 - Tr. Venus squares Venus

Keywords: goal-oriented human connection conflicts with your instinctive curious relating.

Jul 26, 2004 - Tr. Sun squares Sun

Keywords: resolute identity conflicts with your instinctive sensitive personality.

Jul 26, 2004 - Tr. Mercury conjuncts Jupiter

Keywords: self-confident conversation fuses with your natural self-assured gambling.

Jul 28, 2004 - Tr. Venus squares Pluto

Keywords: visionary affection conflicts with your instinctive inventive investigation.

Jul 29, 2004 - Tr. Mercury trines Mars

Keywords: self-respecting conversation enhances your usual supportive swordsmanship.

Jul 29, 2004 - Tr. Sun trines Saturn

Keywords: commanding identity enhances your usual questing solitude.

Jul 29, 2004 - Tr. Mercury sextiles Sun

Keywords: resourceful communication excites your native emotional nature.

Jul 30, 2004 - Tr. Mars squares Neptune

Keywords: dignified assertiveness clashes with your instinctive child-like contemplation.

Jul 31, 2004 - Tr. Venus sextiles Moon

Keywords: group-dynamical relating excites your native self-confident attitude.