

THE ARIZONA ASTROLOGER
The Newsletter of the Arizona Society of Astrologers
ASA Website: www.AZAstrologers.org

THIS MONTH AT THE ASA

PHILIP COMI

Friday: OH, WHAT A YEAR IT WILL BE – 2003!

Saturday: THE DRAMA OF ONE ON ONE — RELATIONSHIPS

FRIDAY LECTURE

Phoenix astrologer Philip Comi will give a lecture with his predictions for 2003 on Friday, January 17, 2003 at the monthly meeting of the Arizona Society of Astrologers. Predictions range from broiling Mars-Fire heat to the frigid Big Chill of Uranus and Saturn entering water signs. This will be Earth's closest and brightest brush with Mars in 73,000 years! Learn what these considerations, the November "Stargate alignment" and an upcoming Neptune Yod portend. Philip will cover the planet for 2003 and major events in our future. Philip says: "I'll separate hope from hype and outline how you can survive, thrive and stay free in 2003!" He will also translate the upcoming Jupiter, Uranus and Neptune oppositions into opportunities. The lecture will be held at the Scottsdale Senior Center at 7374 E. 2nd Street in Scottsdale. The doors open at 7:00 PM. Admission is \$4.00 for members and \$10.00 for guests.

SATURDAY WORKSHOP

On Saturday, January 18, 2003, Philip will conduct a 4-hour workshop called "The Drama of "One on One — All About Relating Through Your Chart!" The workshop will be held at the Scottsdale Senior Center at 7374 E. 2nd St. in Scottsdale. Whether you're dealing with a spouse, lover, business partner or pet, learn useful tools for analyzing your chart's relationship factors. Philip will share 25 years of experience elucidating astrological considerations in meeting, marriage and divorce. Timing methods will include your natal, progressed and transiting charts. He will cover synastry and both the selfish and generous side of each sign. He will also share helpful handouts on specific Mars and Venus placements. Philip warns: "Come experience Madonna & Antonio Banderas making a "shocking performance." Bring your charts or just come and learn! The doors open at noon. Admission is \$10.00 for members and \$15.00 for guests.

ABOUT PHILIP COMI

Philip Comi has been regarded as one of America's foremost astrologers since beginning his professional practice in 1979. He is particularly noted for the unique insight and foresight he brings to his consultations.

Philip's background includes a degree in psychology and broad experience in all areas of metaphysics. He combines extensive knowledge of the astrological charting process with an instinctive and incisive analytical ability that translates volumes of heavenly data into practical, on-target advice. His skill is heightened through specialized meditative techniques that fine-tune his readings.

In addition to his highly successful practice, he has both studied and taught his craft in places throughout the world, including Aruba, Egypt, Greece, Italy, and Spain. He recently returned from his "Pax Millenium" European tour. Philip teaches at colleges and appears on cable TV and radio shows. He has published articles in astrological magazines and is preparing his first book.

Local addendum: Philip is also beginning new astrology classes in January at Paradise Valley Community College. Call or email Philip for details: 602-808-8884; PJCSTARS@aol.com.

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MERCURY RETROGRADE

Amanda Owen will be a guest speaker in March, 2003. Following is her article on Mercury Retrograde.

Amanda's January Newsletter

How to Benefit from the
Mercury Retrograde Period
January 2nd through January
22nd

Repeated cycles are part of the tao,
just as seven days brings a return.

The I Ching

The following article tells you all about the Mercury retrograde period. At the end, specific information is given about the current retrograde in Capricorn.

We live in a fast-paced, on-the-move, get-ahead society. Appointments are made, contracts are written, schedules are tight. We live in a technological age with speed dial on our phones, cell phones in our cars, and computers in our homes. Email, instant messaging, and faxes move information more quickly than ever.

Don't you sometimes feel like your mind is going to fritz out from all of the information speeding in all of the time?! You'd think that we would appreciate those three times a year when we can sit back and catch up and stop talking and thinking a mile a minute. You'd think we would just schedule right into our calendars and appointment books during Mercury retrograde periods: "slow mind down, gather information, put off making decisions."

Many people who know even a little bit about astrology have heard about Mercury retrograde periods. Even Regis Philbin told his TV audience that his astrologer told him not to sign any contracts when Mercury is retrograde! What exactly is this phenomenon that is so famous for communications snafus and dire warnings about not signing contracts?

When a planet is retrograde, it has the appearance of moving backward in the sky. It is an astronomical illusion. Obviously the planets do not change their orbits and screech to a halt to go backward! But, because of the planets' relationship to the earth and the speed of their orbits, it looks like planets begin to move backward. A common analogy for this phenomenon is this: If you are traveling on a train, and another train going faster speeds along beside you, you will have that momentary feeling of moving backward. That is essentially what a retrograde illusion is.

Simply, when Mercury turns retrograde it is time to clear your mind. As we turn the mind inward we can become open to new ways of thinking and new ways of perceiving. In the natural order of life, a thought or an idea precedes the manifestation of that thought or idea. When we try to manifest something such as an agreement or contract that has not been fully thought out yet, we are acting prematurely. People commonly feel anxious during a Mercury retrograde period. The feeling exists because we are skipping the thinking part and going straight for the manifestation. This time period is well known for people making mistakes. Knowing in advance when Mercury is going to be retrograde

gives you an advantage in all of your planning.

Obviously, you want everybody's mind in clear working order with all the necessary facts at hand when you are planning an event or something that is important to you. For example, you don't want the company that is printing the invitations for your daughter's wedding to make a mistake about the date of the wedding!

Snafus, mistakes, and breakdowns of communications equipment are among the things that tend to occur during all Mercury retrograde periods. The sign that Mercury occupies as it is retrograding colors the events. If you know your birth chart you will want to notice which house Mercury is traveling through as it retrogrades as well as the planets that it aspects or contacts. This will give you additional information about what needs a second look, what needs to be reviewed, and what additional information you need before you can move forward with your planning.

First, let's look at the many events that can occur during any Mercury retrograde period. Then we will look at the specifics of the current retrograde. With any Mercury retrograde period it is time to re-think, re-learn, rediscover, review. In fact, put a "re" in front of words and you will be on the right track! The important point to remember is that you do not have enough information to make a decision. Conclusions are premature. Any decision making that can be put off until Mercury turns direct will benefit you down the road. You will find that if you try to make a decision during this period that you will feel

anxious and you will keep changing your mind. If circumstances are such that it is unavoidable to put off decision making, then keep in mind that new information will come in. You may want to build in more flexibility, for example, into a contract that must be signed. You will certainly want to keep an open mind to allow for changes that will manifest along the way.

Use this time to do what Mercury retrograde periods encourage: research, gathering information, and taking another look at your schedules, routines, and plans. Meditate or put yourself into a receiving mode so that you can clear your mind and discover new ways to perceive. Work on your communication skills by paying more attention to listening than to talking. Work on becoming more flexible in your thinking.

If you focus on keeping your expectations in line with the purpose of this retrograde period then you will not go crazy like everyone else when typical retrograde events occur. Mercury rules all forms of communication. Any object that transmits information is vulnerable to glitches or breakdowns. This includes telephones, faxes, copy machines, and computers. Make sure you back up all of your work.

Speaking of communication, your own mind will tend to interpret information incorrectly. Misunderstandings are rampant during this time. To avoid miscommunications, take the time to repeat what others are saying to make sure you are getting the right message. Don't assume! For example, if you are meeting someone for dinner, make absolutely sure that you

are thinking of the same restaurant, on the same day and the same time!

If you are traveling during this period, double check all flight times and reservations. Because changes in schedules are common now, if you are traveling for business you will want to allow extra time. For vacation traveling, the vacation may not go exactly as planned - but that may not be a bad thing! Some years ago, a client and her husband booked on to an autumn cruise off the East Coast during a Mercury retrograde period. As they headed south, warnings about a hurricane coming up the coast were sounded. The ship had already been out on the ocean for three days. Apparently, whether or not this hurricane would affect the cruise was up in the air. Because of that, the ship turned around and went back to port. Everybody was put up in lovely bed and breakfast inns for the next couple of days with no charge and the entire amount of the cruise was refunded. My client and her husband had a wonderful free vacation!

Speaking of travel, this is a time when cars commonly end up in the shop for repairs.

Mercury's retrograde in Capricorn signals a review period concerning career matters, themes about what you want to accomplish in the world (even if they are not related to the work for which you are paid), what you want to achieve in the world. The symbol for Capricorn is the mountain goat climbing a mountain one sure foot at a time. The goal is to reach the top, the zenith. What is your goal? What do you want to accomplish? Capricorn is an earth sign and is therefore about tangible achievement. Chances are you could use the time to more fully formulate your ideas, thoughts

and opinions about this area of your life. The Mercury retrograde period provides you with the opportunity to loop back and give you that time to review. If you know your chart, look to see what house Mercury is traveling through to examine your material goals in that life area. It is time to be receptive to new ways of thinking and perceiving some of your life goals. When Mercury turns direct on January 22nd, you will be ready to begin a new phase.

Don't become impatient and move quickly during this time. Your communication in this area requires careful, well-thought-out ideas. There may be some profound disagreements. There may be delays. Don't sweat it - it's just part of the cycle. Don't allow careful thinking to slip over that line into pessimism or negative thinking. Mercury retrograde periods can provide the opportunity for gaining insight and illumination. See if you can schedule in some quiet time during this retrograde period. Write in your appointment book or calendar: "slow mind down, gather information, put off making decisions."

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DID YOU KNOW?

According to Judy Collins, former House Majority Leader, Trent Lott's birthdate is October 9, 1941. This is funny, because the Reverend Jessie Jackson's birthdate is October 8, 1941. The new House Majority leader, Bill Frist, has a birthdate of 2/22/52.

MERCURIAL INSIGHTS

By Kathy Lowe

First (c) June 1978, second (c) January 2003

This article was first printed in the ASA Newsletter in June of 1978.

The placement of Mercury in the natal chart, together with its aspects, is going to provide a dynamic portrait of mental capabilities. If we consider just Mercury's position, without knowing the rest of the chart, we would come up with the following. You must realize, however, that not knowing the complete chart considerably limits description.

Mercury in Aries is the first one to speak up in class, quick to engage in repartee or argument, the play on words, etc. Shows a lively, impulsive and enthusiastic thinker. Your mentality is ready to explore all new methods of communication. You have a forceful, alert mind; also an ingenious one, especially where anything of a scientific nature is involved.

Mercury in Taurus is stubbornly attached to his opinions; however, he is much less apt to blurt them out than Aries. You want your recreation and entertainment to be "refined." Not only are you dependable, you also have a pleasant disposition, which endears you to your co-workers. Toward the "people in charge" of things, you have a deceptively childlike attitude of trust; and you know the value of "discreet silence."

Mercury in Gemini is synonymous with quicksilver. You just can't be pinned down. Like a free glob of the element

mercury, you seem to go in all directions at once. In fact, you've been accused of having a tongue that is hung in the middle and split on both ends so that it can go in all directions at once. You have also been praised as scientific, ingenious and resourceful. Probably a conservative description somewhere between the two extremes would be more nearly accurate. You are adventuresome, perceptive, and shrewd; in business very few can get ahead of you. You have a resourceful mind. If you let disorder get a start it multiplies. For you, neatness should be cultivated early because it will develop the ability to keep thoughts in order. You like to talk, and conversationally you are occasionally as impressive as you think you are.

Mercury in Cancer is very adaptable; sometimes taking on the opinions of whichever member of the family is nearby at the moment. Cancer is rather touchy about what other people say or write, even to the extent of imagined slights. They are loyal, sociable, a little on the sentimental side, although they do not acknowledge this publicly. Cancer is highly receptive and somewhat conservative, preferring the old established ideas to the new and modern ones. The mind is persistent and the character is reserved and rather brooding. The mind tends to lean toward the negative rather than the positive, but is always conditioned by a large supply of sympathy and self sacrifice. This sign is ideal for success. Stress should be on keeping the

sympathies large and the general outlook free from morbidity. This placement of Mercury needs to keep the mind on a high plane if material success is to be gained.

Mercury in Leo is an ambitious position; high-minded, and occasionally hot-tempered. They are positive in mentality and organize their environment carefully and efficiently into controllable units. They have no affection for unpredictable people, although they do have a sympathetic heart and much kindness, along with high ideals. They are very generous, but always commanding attention or prestige. This sign is cheerful and inclined to self-sacrifice at times. Open at all costs and vitally opposed to intrigue or secrecy. Bold, often rather domineering. Fixed ideas, but a good deal of tolerance in expression of them. The mind needs to be led along lines of originality as far as possible.

Mercury in Virgo denotes discrimination. You don't base your work, opinions, or your relations with others on guesswork. You have to understand what you are doing, especially as part of the whole picture, in order to enjoy it fully. You have a good intellect combined with persuasive ability. You are ingenious and investigative, critical and cold when opposed and very skeptical until proofs are obtainable. Disease is your great bugbear and the mental forces are trained upon avoidance of it. Introspection is general and so is some measure of scheming. Mercury in Virgo is ideal for success in focusing the mind upon one thing at a time so as to gain a level judgement with kindly criticism.

Mercury in Libra gives refinement and a fondness for comparison. You quickly feel the temper of the social climate. You

dislike inharmonious gatherings, colors that clash, cluttered figures, complicated forms. When others ask your advice, it makes you feel appreciated since you already had the answers figured out. Mercury in Scorpio is a combination of the ruler of an air earth duo in the most uncomfortable, intense water sign. Alan Leo says of this position "... fond of occult and mystical subjects, but ever intent on gaining knowledge and mental power which is only acquired when the senses have been purified." Gives deep inner awareness.

Mercury in Sagittarius is a generous position, but inclines toward rashness or impulse. You are active both mentally and physically. With maturity comes wisdom no one ever thought you had. You will seek to express you world of thoughts with directness and impetuosity.

Mercury in Capricorn is tactful and diplomatic. You are usually rather quiet, not because you have nothing to say, but because you are observantly sifting your environment for factors which influence your business life.

Mercury in Aquarius is refined and critical, also capable of concentration. You are scientific and original. A constant reader and a deep thinker. While we grope to understand concepts, you have the answer.

Mercury in Pisces is adaptable, intuitive and understanding. A non-complainer, deeply resentful of much of the status quo, angry with things that seem to be inequitable, but unable to reason through to an intellectual solution of its own.

PREDICTIONS FOR THE NEW YEAR 2003

By Brenda Black

Because of the “five” vibration of the year 2003, we will have change, versatility and new activity. We will feel rejuvenated and working conditions will be better.

Numerology and astrology will flourish. Uranus will move from Aquarius to Pisces in March, bringing spiritual awakenings. Saturn will move from Gemini to Cancer in June, bringing healthy conservatism. Jupiter will move from Leo to Virgo in August - savings will rise and spending will be brisk. Here are some predictions:

Aries the Ram (March 21st through April 20th)

You will hear news from your siblings. Address things that have not been resolved in the past. You are emerging from several years of dormancy and are now moving forward to achieve your ambitions. Your job situation will improve and you will recover from a health problem.

Taurus the Bull (April 21st through May 21st)

Resubmit that manuscript to the publisher. You will make new friends who fit in better with your new lifestyle. Sign up for that seminar or class this year. A new romance may begin and good fortune will come to your children.

Gemini the Twins (May 22nd through June 21st)

A situation that involves joint property will be settled. There will be sudden new opportunities in your profession. Try to be careful about your spending and investments. You may have a windfall in real estate!

Cancer the Crab (June 22st through July 23rd)

Consult a specialist on any matter that may concern you. You can enhance your understanding of technology or take up the study of astrology. You have just completed a 14-year period of focusing on others, so this is the year to do things for yourself! You may have the opportunity for advanced training in your career.

Leo the Lion (July 24th through August 23rd)

Seek out your employer and discuss any problems you are having on the job. Finish up a project that has yet to be completed. Your income will increase by doing a job you love! For the Leo the key phrase is suddenly “out with the old, and in with the new!”

Virgo the Virgin (August 24th through September 23rd)

Express yourself on paper or e-mail to your loved ones. You may finally leave a relationship that has been unsatisfactory for many years and/or you will suddenly fall in love! Your participation in a group activity will prove beneficial. This a fortunate year for you and others in your life.

Libra the Scales (September 24th through October 23rd')

Communicate with your parents - something from the past comes to the forefront that needs to be resolved. You may have some surprising revelations about work and health. In your profession there will be leadership and achievement. You will find a spiritual teacher this year.

Scorpio the Scorpion/Eagle (October 24th through November 22nd)

You will meet new people and travel this year. You may find your romantic relationships are tenuous, but they will bring fun and surprises. Your psychic abilities will be heightened. Friends are supportive and will bring you good luck!

Sagittarius the Archer (November 23rd through December 21st)

You will experience change with property and money this year. You may move and old ties may be broken. You may have to depend on your own resources - your partner may elect to spend his/her money differently. You may have to travel because of your work. Expect a raise and promotion.

Capricorn the Goat (December 22nd through January 20th)

You may be involved in contract discussions. Whatever you are studying now in school has long-term benefits. There is a possible marital split, especially if the relationship has lasted 14 years. Traveling to a foreign country would prove enjoyable and beneficial.

Aquarius the Water Bearer (January 21st through February 19th)

You may feel like being alone more often than not this year. Work may be stressful. Pay special attention to your health. You will be involved with investments and banking. You may have a sudden windfall in 2003.

Pisces the Fish (February 20th through March 20th)

Visit with old friends this year. You may feel the need to break free and do new and different kinds of activities. Your offspring will face new growth experiences this year. You may discover your marriage partner in 2003.