

# Charts in the News



with commentary by Elisabeth Grace

**Angela Merkel**, July 17, 1954; 6:00 p.m. CET; Hamburg, Germany (53°N33', 09°E59'); B (biography): Sebastian von Bassewitz et al., *Angela Merkel — Das Porträt*, p. 14.

As with Elizabeth Warren and Marianne Williamson, Angela Merkel's Cancer Sun is closely conjunct Uranus, a sure sign of independence. (See **Chart 1**, at left.) Driven by the Moon in humanitarian Aquarius, we expect her to find fulfillment by creating homeland and/or family security in ways that are innovative and socially significant. Her Sagittarius Ascendant reflects how she needs to be seen: righteously opinionated and optimistic, with boundary-pushing ideals.

The western hemisphere emphasis suggests a need for public outreach. With her Pluto and Venus in the 8th house (co-ruled by the Sun and Moon), we see how she would be drawn to investigate shared values, and possibly help other people to manage their resources. Those with Pluto in the 8th can delve deep into what Rob Hand calls "the core processes of existence."<sup>1</sup> Did you know that Chancellor Merkel wrote her 1986 doctoral thesis on quantum chemistry?<sup>2</sup>

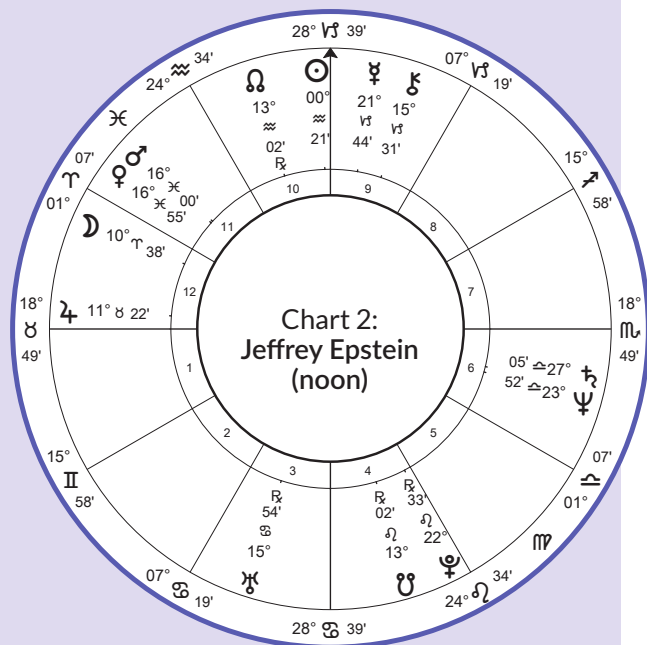
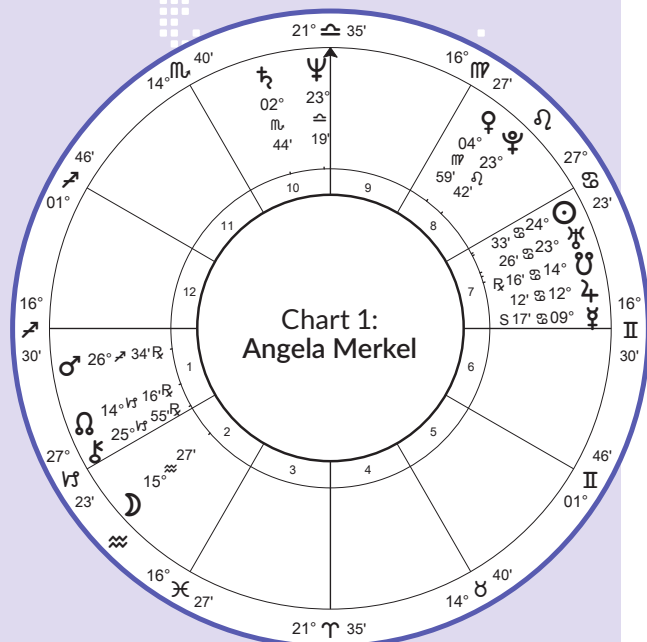
Merkel became Germany's (first woman!) Chancellor in 2005, as Saturn was conjunct natal Sun-Uranus. In 2014, with Solar Arc (SA) Pluto = Midheaven (MC), she became that country's longest-serving Chancellor. Now that Uranus has completed its squares to her cardinal planets and angles, she is often called "Leader of the Free World." With natal Neptune on her MC, we can see how she could be perceived as a visionary.

The year 2017 featured frustrating conjunctions of transiting Saturn with natal Mars, along with a life-transforming SA Pluto = Sun. At the end of three provocative squares to natal Saturn from transiting Mars (in Aquarius) in 2018, Merkel announced that she would step down as leader of her political party, but would stay on as Chancellor until 2021. At that time, I looked at her horoscope for 2019, and was struck by the multiple squares from transiting Pluto to her MC — another marker for major change.

Even more striking was the first of a series of squares to her Ascendant from transiting Neptune, exact in March. One potential of Neptune in hard aspect to the Ascendant is a state of bewilderment, possibly involving health. It was concerning to learn that Merkel has been experiencing bouts of uncontrollable trembling at public events. No explanation has yet been offered, other than that "she is fine" and is "psychologically processing" the first bout she had in June.<sup>3</sup> Bewildering indeed.

**Jeffrey Epstein**, January 20, 1953; time unknown (noon EST used); Coney Island, NY, USA (40°N34'40", 73°W59'40"); source: Wikipedia.

Previously convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein reared his ugly head again in November 2018, thanks to the tenacity of *Miami Herald* reporter Julie K. Brown. She exposed a secret plea deal brokered by former Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta.<sup>4</sup>



All charts use Placidus houses and the Mean Node.

That plea deal was declared illegal by a federal judge in March 2019. Both of these disruptive incidents occurred within a few weeks of exact squares from transiting Uranus to Epstein's probable 0° Aquarius Sun. (See **Chart 2**, previous page.) On July 6, Epstein was arrested on new charges of sex trafficking. Mercury and Mars had opposed his Sun days earlier; the two were now conjunct his Uranus/Pluto midpoint. "Forcing individuality into focus" and "coercion" is Noel Tyl's take on these transits.<sup>5</sup> As of July 15 (the time of this writing), Epstein is being held without bail in Manhattan.

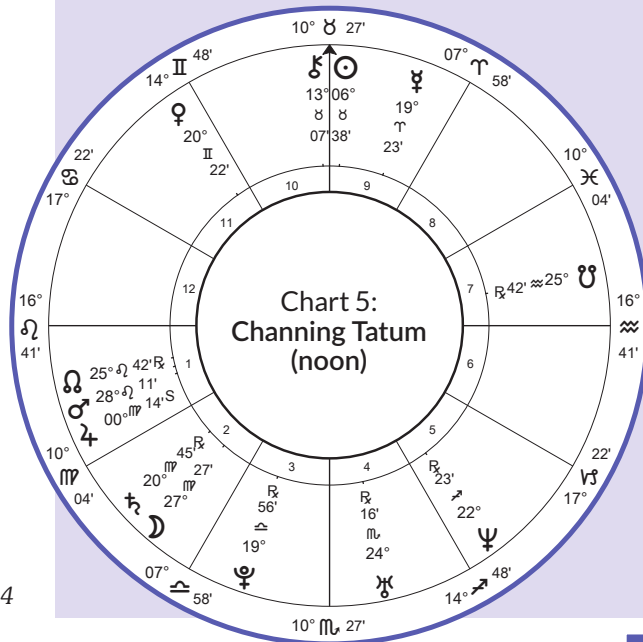
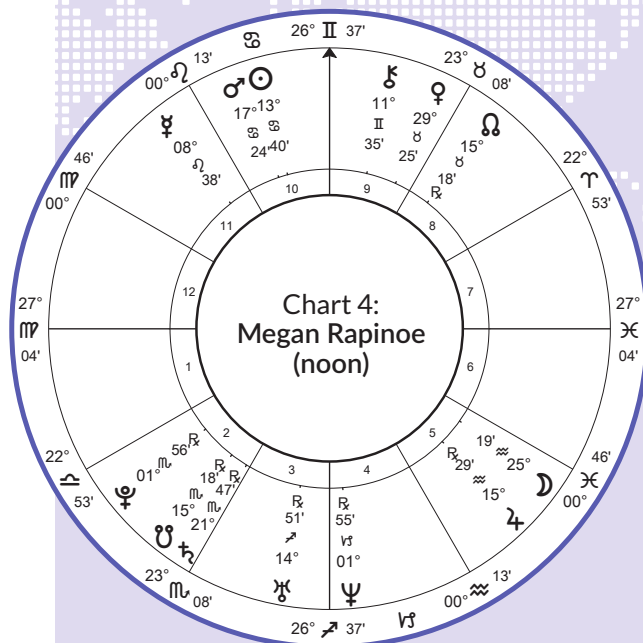
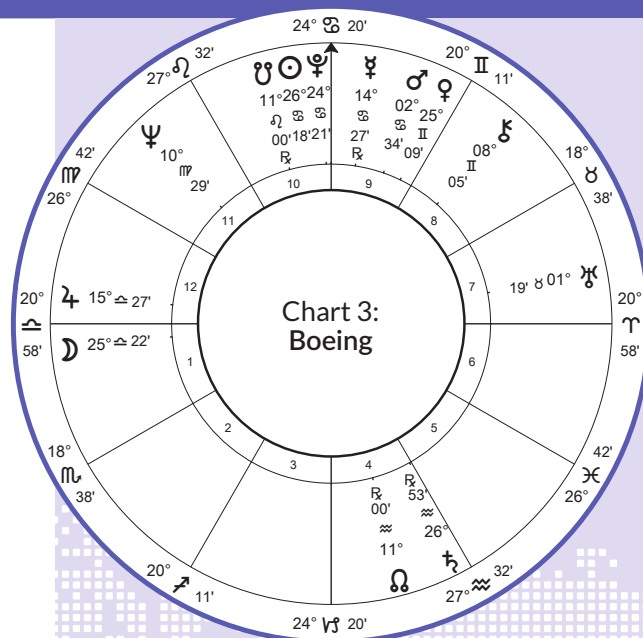
Without a birth time, we don't know whether transiting Saturn is squaring Epstein's me-me-me Aries Moon in 2019, though the isolating "reality check" associated with that pattern feels apt. Saturn and Pluto are definitely exerting a powerful, sobering influence on the potentially strategic and duplicitous mindset symbolized by his Mercury in Capricorn, squared natively by Saturn and Neptune. Meanwhile, as transiting Neptune continues to cross over Epstein's steamy Venus-Mars conjunction in Pisces, how could he not be further enveloped in lurid secrets and scandal? Since his arrest, more than a dozen women have stepped forward with new allegations of victimization when they were teens. Diamonds, cash, thousands of sexual photos of young women, and a fake passport were discovered in a safe in his \$77 million mansion.<sup>6</sup> As Pluto squares his Neptune in 2020 — and his Saturn in 2021 — we can anticipate scandal (Neptune) in the extreme (Pluto), followed by a likely anguished breakdown of structure (Saturn).

*Fun fact:* One of Epstein's biggest secrets is how he came to be so wealthy, as there isn't much of a paper trail to be found. Some in the financial world opined to *The New York Times* that the source of his income could be blackmail.<sup>7</sup> Time will tell, but one interesting marker in his horoscope for near-guaranteed notoriety among those with money and power is Jupiter/Pluto = the Aries Point (0° cardinal). In my experience, you can often take that measurement straight to the bank.

**Boeing, July 19, 1934; 1:00 p.m. EST; Wilmington, DE, USA (39°N44'45", 75°W31'49"); source: Carol S. Mull, Standard and Poor's 500.**

Boeing has been on my radar since October 29, 2018, when Lion Air Flight 610 crashed shortly after takeoff in Jakarta, killing all on board the nearly new Boeing 737 Max. On March 10, 2019, another 737 Max — Ethiopian Airlines Flight 302 — also crashed just after takeoff. No one survived. Investigators quickly focused on the 737 Max's new technology known as MCAS, an automated "safeguard" designed to lower the nose of the aircraft if a sensor detects that the plane is about to stall. Boeing was criticized for not fully explaining to pilots how to operate the MCAS and/or not informing them that it had been installed! Thus pilots did not know how to disable it, nor could they even consider it as the cause of their impending doom. The 737 Max is grounded at least until the MCAS software can be fixed. American and United Airlines say there will be no 737 Max flights scheduled until November<sup>8</sup> — right when Mercury (which is retrograde now) will be retrograde again (!).

Meanwhile, the July 16 lunar eclipse at 24° Capricorn-Cancer falls exactly on Boeing's Pluto-MC/IC axis. (See **Chart 3**, above right.) But that's not all! Note the 20° Libra Ascendant, the 25°



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Libra Moon, and the 26° Cancer Sun. Any planet transiting through 20°–26° cardinal is going to make huge waves in Boeing's life experience. The Boeing Max 737 was first put into service in May 2017 amid a tight wave of transiting Uranus in Aries making hard aspects to the MC, Pluto, Moon, and Sun. Now — and especially in 2020 — transiting Saturn and Pluto in Capricorn will be making similar waves. The symbols of streamlining and breakdown are already squaring Boeing's Ascendant. In January 2020, that Ascendant will be squared by the lunar eclipse! Days later, Saturn will be on the IC, exactly opposing Pluto. A severe effort affecting the company's core foundation would be in order.

In February 2020, Saturn makes its first square to the Moon and opposition to the Sun; the second in the series happens in August. In March 2020, Pluto makes the first of several oppositions to Pluto and the MC. Pluto rules Boeing's 2nd house: money and values. We'll likely see some changes, as lawsuits from airlines, pilots, and victims' families make their way through the courts. In other news, April headlines blared that *another* Boeing aircraft — the much ballyhooed 787 Dreamliner — was plagued by complaints of shoddy workmanship and safety violations.<sup>9</sup> The two fatal crashes and those April headlines occurred within a few weeks of Boeing's three Uranus returns. Are we surprised?

**Megan Rapinoe**, July 5, 1985; birth time unknown (noon PDT used); Redding, CA, USA (40°N35'12", 122°W23'26"); source: Wikipedia (and the rest of the Free World).

In the midst of harsh headlines reflecting late June's oppositions between Mercury–Mars in Cancer and Saturn–Pluto in Capricorn,<sup>10</sup> the U.S. women's soccer team gave us needed cheer. Captain Megan Rapinoe led her team to a successful defense of the World Cup title it won in 2015.

We have no birth time for Rapinoe, but like Angela Merkel, she is a Cancer with the Moon (most likely) in Aquarius. (See **Chart 4**, page 15.) A Sun–Mars conjunction trine Saturn suggests physical prowess, discipline, and endurance. Venus is at 29° Taurus, high-functioning in its focus on material security. Twenty-nine degrees of any sign is called the *anaretic degree*, adding urgency and challenges in matters

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related to that planet and sign. With an anaretic Venus, Rapinoe may have much to learn in the realm of relationships, values, and aesthetics.<sup>11</sup> And while we're on the subject of special degrees, note that Rapinoe's Sun, Mercury, and Saturn are all at *critical degrees*, offering focus and power.<sup>12</sup>

But back to Venus. In July this year, Rapinoe's horoscope had SA Uranus = Mars and SA Venus = Neptune. Uranus on Mars suggests an intense application of energy that may disrupt the status quo. Venus on Neptune can be deliriously romantic and/or erotic, in relationships and in aesthetics. In May, Rapinoe became the first openly gay woman to appear in *Sports Illustrated* magazine's seductive swimsuit issue.<sup>13</sup> In July, she experienced a "wardrobe malfunction" on national TV.<sup>14</sup>

Money is another Venus concern. While Rapinoe and her team may be champions, they are paid far less than the men's soccer team, which hasn't won a World Cup since 1930.<sup>15</sup> The women's team filed a lawsuit in March. Rapinoe is leading a crusade that goes beyond athletics — and the World Cup win was a literal rallying cry for social and economic justice. "Equal pay!" chanted the stadium crowd, after the final whistle was blown.<sup>16</sup> Within days, the makers of Secret deodorant ("Strong enough for a man — but made for a woman") became the first major sponsor to publicly support the team's demand for equality, contributing \$23,000 for each player and calling on other sponsors to do the same. The Secret brand feels like an apt reflection of Rapinoe's July solar arcs. Coincidence or conspiracy?

**Channing Tatum**, April 26, 1980; time unknown (noon CST used); Cullman, AL, USA (34°N10'29", 86°W50'37"); source: Wikipedia.

I was going to write about Mitch McConnell, until a friend told me to drop everything and watch a video that Channing Tatum had just posted on Twitter on July 12.<sup>17</sup> The actor–producer was unnerved by the uncanny accuracy of an astrology app on his smartphone. It had sent him a forecast that exactly matched what came up in his therapy session that day! How could a birth time reveal so much? Who even knows what time they were born? Was the app spying on his phone? These were a few of Tatum's burning questions — and now I had a burning question of my own: What was going on in his horoscope?

Tatum is a Taurus, driven by a Moon either in perfection-seeking Virgo (if born before 5:12 p.m.) or in people-pleasing Libra. (See **Chart 5**, page 15.) The earlier the birth time, the more closely configured the Moon is with a t-square involving Saturn in Virgo squaring a Venus–Neptune opposition. What a curious mix of sensitivity and idealism — possibly escapist fantasy — coupled with stark realism and possible self-denial. How fascinating to find out that Tatum once worked as an exotic dancer, which inspired his 2012 film, *Magic Mike*. Mars in drama king Leo is amplified *con gusto* by Jupiter, so if we expected a dazzling performance from him, we wouldn't be disappointed.<sup>18</sup>

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Tatum's Mercury in Aries closely opposes Pluto, suggesting a ruthless and perspicacious mindset and communication style. This opposition is currently under pressure from transiting Saturn and Pluto, offering opportunities for depth and focus. Since his split from his wife in 2018, he's gone into therapy (as he explained in the video). Transiting Uranus on his Sun gives him a chance to set himself free — and of course, astrology could be part of that, since Uranus rules astrology! And *of course*, he could have been highly provoked on July 12, when Mars was at 6° Leo, squaring his Sun! He was “under attack” (Mars) by astrology (Uranus)! Case closed.

## References

(All URLs were accessed in July 2019.)

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18. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b2BNu8vQ90Y> (This is the trailer for *Magic Mike*.)

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# SkyWatch

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## Meteor Showers

There are five meteor showers to observe during October and November. Three of these produce about 5 meteors per hour at their peak, which move relatively slowly: the **North Taurids**, the **South Taurids**, and the **Draconids**. The **Orionids** and **Leonids** produce more meteors that streak through the sky twice as fast as the Taurids and three times as fast as the Draconids. Showers are named for the constellation that contains the radiant of the shower — the point in the sky from which meteors tend to originate. However, meteors can then streak across the sky in any direction.

The Orionid meteor shower is active from October 2 to November 7, and peaks on the night of October 21–22, with an expected 10 to 30 meteors traveling at 41 miles per second during the peak.

The Leonid meteor shower is active November 15–20, and 10 to 15 meteors traveling at 44 miles per second are expected during the peak night of November 17–18.

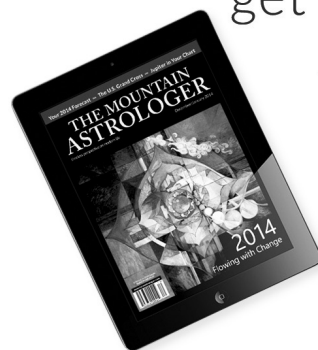
For visual aids that help you to locate the planets, visit “*The Mountain Astrologer Sky Maps*” tab at Julene’s website, <http://julnelouis.com>

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