



NEWSLETTER

NOW WEEKLY!

With art by Vera !

from the Astrology Center of America / AstroAmerica.com

October 23, 2012

[ARCHIVE](#) — [Subscribe/Unsubscribe](#)

Email Dave@astroamerica.com

Support the Newsletter: Become a Sponsor! [Donate](#), or make a monthly contribution: [\\$10.00](#) / [\\$20.00](#) / [\\$50.00](#) [Click to help!](#)

Third Debate: Fireworks

THE third and last presidential debate will be tonight, October 22, at 9:00 pm EDT. Bob Schieffer will host. He was born February 25, 1937 in Austin, TX, time unknown. Schieffer's Sun is exactly conjunct Romney's Mars. Schieffer's Saturn is exactly conjunct Romney's Sun. Schieffer's Mars is conjunct Romney's Moon-Jupiter. Schieffer is an old

pro. With in-your-face Mars and Saturn aspects between them, Schieffer will see to it that Romney's feet are, at last, held to the fire and "real" answers are got from him.

I AM a lousy forecaster. Yes, last week Mitt and Candy got on just fine, not that anyone but them knew it. Obama was in control of the debate for the first full hour. Romney battled to a draw the last half hour. The evening belonged to the president.

Why don't I analyze Obama's chart? Because I remain convinced he has a fake ID, a phony birth certificate. While it will bear a casual resemblance to his actual date of birth, I cannot triangulate to that level.

I HAVE been accused of being partisan. **I Yes I am.** My payables are now at 85 days and worsening. Thirty days is the mythical standard, and 60 is "pay up or else." I have not heard a peep from my suppliers, which means I am one of their better remaining customers, and the many donations and contributions have helped enormously (endless thanks!). We are all just that close to the end. The loss of a major wholesaler will immediately shutter dozens of mom & pop bookstores, the ones we really need, as well as doom many small publishers. With **sequestration** scheduled for January 1, 2013, I don't have four more years to wait. If this is the best Obama can do after four years, then I will take a chance on Romney, even if he brings a replay of Wisconsin, 2011.

2013 MAYNARD CALENDARS

Pre-order now - We ship in December

- Celestial Influences Wall Calendar
- Celestial Guide Datebook
- Pocket Astrologer
- Astrologer's Guide Datebook

A L M A N A C K

for the week (all times GMT)

28	10:34	☾ □ ♃	
23	00:14	☉ ♍	
	06:48	☾ ☉	
	11:15	☉ △ ♀	
24	01:28	☾ □ ♀	Void
	05:21	☉ ♀	
	11:01	☾ ♃	
	13:54	☾ △ ☉	
	17:39	♀ ♃ ♃	
25	08:33	☉ ♂ ♃	
	17:10	♀ ✖ ♀	
26	15:05	☾ ♂ ♀	Void
	19:32	☾ ♃	
27	06:07	☾ ♂ ♃	
28	01:33	☾ ✖ ♃	Void
	07:45	♀ ♃	
	12:55	♂ ♂ ♃	
	13:04	♀ ♃	
29	05:57	☾ ♃ ☉	
	06:16	☾ ♂	
	06:18	♀ ✖	
	17:40	♀ □ ♀	
	19:49	☉ 06♂48	Full Moon
	21:01	☾ △ ♀	Void

Extracted from [AstroAmerica's Daily Ephemeris, 2000-2020](#). [Buy](#).



Satire belongs to Sagittarius. This sign has a noticeable liking for "taking off" and making fun of other people, even in such minor ways as the bestowing of nicknames. Where Virgo is also prominent in the horoscopes the tendency often runs too far, and we get a native whose chief amusement is derived from making fun of others—often, apparently, as a sort of compensation for personal lack of success. Many great satirists have also a marked sensitiveness shown in their nativities, and it is obvious that sensitive persons, given literary ability, will often indulge in satire if they are attacked and hurt. We can therefore readily understand why Byron wrote great satire; he had Moon conjunct Mars and Uranus in Cancer opposition Mercury; he is also by some placed under Scorpio ascending. It is probable that Juvenal was a Scorpio, to judge by the terseness and fierce scorn of vice and degeneracy that characterize his work. Pope's writings appear to me rather of a Geminian type.

— [Encyclopaedia of Psychological Astrology](#), \$18.95. [Buy](#).



STAR OF THE WEEK



PRINCEPS delta Bootis 03 ♍20

Notes: A pale yellow star situated in the spearshaft of Bootes.

Influence: Of the nature of Mercury and Saturn. It gives a keen, studious and profound mind, with the ability for research.

If rising: Good fortune, but troubles, discontent and fear occasioned by own temerity rather than circumstances.

KHAMBALIA lambda Virginis 07 ♍08

Notes: A small star situated on the left foot of Virgo. From the Coptic meaning Crooked-clawed.

Influence: Of the nature of Mercury and Mars. It causes swift violence, unreliability, changeability, and an argumentative nature.

— [from Fixed Stars](#), by Vivian Robson. [Buy](#).

Ivy M. Goldstein-Jacobson
1893-1990

IVY'S GEM OF THE WEEK

The Two Faces of Danger

SOME of us bear a charmed life; we are the fortunate ones who escape unharmed in accidents that leave others badly injured or worse. Either we have a protected natal chart that sees us through life without much physical injury or we don't have Capricorn on the 8th at birth and the Ascendant square a malefic, or we don't start a journey under progressed aspects that afflict the Ascendant or its ruler or a malefic in the 1st or 8th House, or we don't board a vehicle of any kind at a time when the chart set for its departure threatens either the craft or its passengers.

About Capricorn on the 8th: it has to do with the Part of Peril, which we derive from the 1st plus the ruler of the Sign on the 8th, then minus Saturn. If Capricorn is on the 8th its ruler IS Saturn, meaning that we add and subtract the same planet so that the Part of Peril is exactly on the Ascendant ruling the body itself, and if square a malefic planet the body is sure to be injured in an accident at some time of life. Aware of this, the person whose chart it is appeases the aspect by literally "watching his step" so that he may sprain an ankle but not break a bone.

When Scorpio, Aquarius or Pisces is on the danger-8th cusp as we see here, each having two rulers, Pluto and Mars, Uranus and Saturn, Neptune and Jupiter, we have two Parts of Peril revealing double jeopardy and thus two dangers to face. In this tragedy, one was explosion and the other drowning as shown by the Moon, who carried the light from her trine to explosive Uranus... — **The Way of Astrology**, 1967.

Buy.

Carl Sagan

and Paul Kurtz, the famous 186 and academics in general

CARL SAGAN was born on November 9, 1934, at 5:05 pm, *not* in New York, as is stated on [Astro.com](#) and [Astrotheme](#), but in Brooklyn (per Wiki). While "Brooklyn" or "New York" won't change the actual chart in any significant way, so far as reading it is concerned, details like this matter, both because of Sagan's unmistakable Brooklyn accent, as well as his Brooklyn-based Jewish heritage. Charts are read in context with one's biography, and every now and then the exact neighborhood matters.

His chart, a "dual stellium" took a moment to puzzle out. Mercury, Jupiter, Venus and the Sun are all in Scorpio in the 6th. A very tight Mars-Neptune conjunction, reminiscent of that of **Bill Nye**, turns up in Virgo in the 5th. Again, like Nye, Sagan's Moon is in a fire sign and the 8th house. Unlike Nye, Sagan's Moon is not *opposed* to Mars-Neptune, but in *square* to it.

Oppositions are confrontational. They are in your face. They are polarizing. They are do or die. They are you against the world.

Squares are entirely different. Squares are stressful. Squares are challenging. Squares are an itch that can't quite ever be scratched. Squares never quite emerge into full consciousness. Squares are things you must fight but are unaware you are doing so. Squares are challenges that are never actually resolved. Squares are an irritant, and, in the case of Carl Sagan, an inspiration. Look at the details:

Sagan's Moon in Sagittarius is expansive, it is a seeker, it wants the truth. In the 8th house, it is hyper-sensitive. Saturn in tight sextile in Aquarius gives it a serious demeanor. Off to the Moon's right or left (I never understood *oriental* and *occidental*) we find Mars and Neptune conjunct in Virgo. These two produce a wealth of *constantly changing* (mutable sign) *detail* (Virgo) which *challenges* (i.e., squares, annoys) the Moon. The two planets in square, these are things which Sagan's Moon must deal with, but unlike Bill Nye, in Carl's case, the two planets do not confront the Moon directly. What they present to the Moon is not personal. Not threatening, but rather, bizarre and new and refreshing.

Now look at Mars and Neptune. Mars

in Virgo goes after detail, which Neptune then destroys, as Neptune hates details of all sorts. In Nye's case, his Mars-Neptune conjunction in Libra produced "strange partners" (or so it seemed to Bill), which resulted in a seven week marriage. In Sagan's case, Mars-Neptune results in "disappearing details." In both charts, what happens next is critical.

Sagan has a Mars-Mercury mutual reception, from Virgo to Scorpio, backed up — this is crucial — with a wide sextile, which brings the mutual reception to the fore. Scorpio is an absolute sign: Absolute life or death, sex or no sex, up into heaven or down into hell. Scorpio is the most intense sign. Mars-Neptune bring to Mercury things that *are* and *are not* real, *are* and *are not* true. Mercury must judge. Mercury must decide. Mercury's judgment, in a fixed sign, is absolute. In water, it feels things intensely. It will know right from wrong, by sheer instinct.

Mars' rulership of Scorpio then smears this into Jupiter, Venus and the Sun in general, with a particular emphasis on Venus, which is debilitated in Scorpio and which is tightly sextile to Mars. Sagan has Taurus rising, which is ruled by Venus. Mars sextile to, and ruling over Venus, the chart ruler, made him a very sexy guy.

Wiki, which literally fawns over the man, reports that Isaac Asimov said Sagan was one of two people that Asimov thought to be smarter than he was. Which I take to mean, *agrees with Asimov's point of view*. I regret that I fail to see great intelligence in Sagan's chart. What I find is an unstable intellect backed up with considerable dogmatism.

One type of true genius is an unstable intellect, with an instability that cannot be resolved and which drives one ever onward. Which will typically be based on an unresolved square or opposition in the natal chart. Such as we find in the charts of Isaac Newton or Johann Goethe, both full moon births.

When the instability can be resolved, as in the case of Nye and Sagan, what passes for intelligence are scapegoats and easy answers. Instead of pursuing the challenge of astrology — for example — to the very end and finding a solution for it, it becomes easier to simply dismiss the matter altogether, with, in Sagan's case, the full power of Scorpionic

(continued, page 4)

www.AstroAmerica.com
Order toll-free: 1-800-475-2272

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

Part 117:

Primary Directions, *continued*

The object of primary directing is to obtain the arc of direction which is finally converted into time by a simple proportion. It should, however, be understood at the outset that the system requires that the time of birth be known to great accuracy, for an error of 4 minutes in the birth time throws a direction one year wrong in its date of operation, and therefore unless the birth time is exactly known, or can be found by rectification, it is useless to compute primary directions.

The Sun, Moon, Ascendant, Midheaven and Fortuna are the bodies to which direction is made and are termed Significators, the other planets being called Promissors. It is usual to direct promissors to significators and vice-versa, but it is not generally held to be legitimate to direct the promissors among themselves, or in other words directions corresponding to the Mutual Directions of the Secondary system are not usually computed as it is considered that all events are indicated by directions between promissors and significators.

In order to facilitate calculation it is necessary first of all to prepare a "Speculum" or table showing the Right Ascension, Meridian Distance, Semi-arc, and Cuspal Distance of each of the planets. It is necessary also that the latitudes of the planets should be known and these may be obtained from the Ephemeris. [There follows nine pages of formulas and calculations, before the chapter concludes with:]

The interpretation of primary directions is similar to that of secondaries with the exception that lunar aspects are of much longer duration and importance. Note the planets, signs, and aspects involved, and interpret accordingly having regard to the houses occupied and ruled and remembering also that the house into which the moving body has passed is likewise of influence.

—*A Student's Text-Book of Astrology*, 1922. Price \$25.95. **Buy.**

From *La Volasfera*
by **Sepharial**

Scorpio

1° ♏. *A nomadic warrior, equipped with javelin and firearms.* It denotes a character that is ever ready for the fray, liable to become involved in many strifes and quarrels, and to resort to force rather than reason for his victories over others. Such an one is liable to become subject to the accusation of violence towards others, and will hardly pass through life without wounding some one or more of his fellow-creatures. In body robust and in mind offensive to the peace of others he will not fail to make numerous enemies. It is a degree of OFFENCE.

2° ♏. *A great headland over which the Sun is rising. It overhangs the sea.* It indicates one who is great and magnificent, imbued with feelings of magnanimity and reposeful strength. His opinions are lofty and elevated, his views wide as the seas, and his stability of purpose in all respects equal to his strength of mind. He looks forward to the future with confidence, and his hopes will not be frustrated. It is a degree of MAGNITUDE.

3° ♏. *An old man seated beneath a shady tree, his head bowed in thought. A pilgrim.* This symbol is the index of one given to solitude and deep philosophic thought, a lover of the mysterious and abstruse. Impressed with the unreality of things around him and the changefulness of human relations, he is disposed to the study of eternal verities and feels in no need of companionship. He is not a misanthrope nor a pessimist, but he has a true perspective of life and regards things and persons according to their true value. It is a degree of DISILLUSION.

4° ♏. *A lyre, upon the arm of which there hangs a wreath of laurels.* This is indicative of a nature almost wholly given to the pursuit and cultivation of the fine arts. The mind is harmonious, generous and peaceable. The life will be free from disquieting and stressful elements . . . — **Degrees of the Zodiac Symbolized**, by Sepharial (and Charubel). **Buy.**

From

The Sabian Symbols, A Screen of Prophecy

by *Diana Roche*

SCORPIO 1: A sight-seeing bus. *Keyword: Friendliness. Theme: Window-Shopping.* This symbol speaks to open-mindedness, inquisitiveness, and naive curiosity. The image of a sight-seeing bus alludes to a broadening of experience through vicarious participation in the affairs of others, without the usual obligations and responsibilities. It also suggests camaraderie, fellowship and the sharing of personal insights and viewpoints. The emphasis here is on the development of compassion and empathy, and learning that there are many different ways to live and express things. *Positive:* At its highest, this symbol represents objectivity and an absence of mind-set that makes it possible for the seeker to avoid getting entangled in conflict and controversy while, at the same time, recognizing the opportunities that arise therein. *Negative:* Irresponsibility, voyeurism and opportunism, or a tendency to take advantage of others and try to get by with the least amount of effort possible.

SCORPIO 2: A broken bottle and spilled perfume. *Keyword: Permeation. Theme: The Lingering Fragrance.* This symbol speaks to the indelible impression man leaves on his fellows when he pours the full essence of himself into his every experience and permeates the world with the fragrance of his soul. The image of a broken bottle and spilled perfume is one of the reversed or negative symbols, and it alludes to some great sacrifice in which an individual fulfills his potential in an extraordinary way and, in the process, leaves behind a persisting and poignant reminder of himself and his immortal contribution. Here in this image is nobility and a never-to-be-forgotten quality of greatness. — **The Sabian Symbols, A Screen of Prophecy**, by Diana Roche. **Buy.**



condemnation behind it. Why do we consistently fall for the loud-mouthed (Mercury conjunct Jupiter) color blind (Mars-Neptune hard aspect) and tone deaf (Mercury debilitated: Nye) among us?

Carl Sagan was not one of the 186 who signed the famous Humanist declaration, **Objections to Astrology**, published in 1975. Sagan said he refused to sign because he found the declaration to be “authoritarian,” and needing actual scientific support. These were bogus objections. Carl Sagan was, at the time, the leading astrophysicist, which is to say, astronomer with hair on his chest. At the time there was a widespread belief that astrology was exclusively a celestial phenomena, that it rained upon the earth affecting humans in some inexplicable and unique fashion. We now know that astrology is the Earth’s energetic interaction with the Sun, Moon and other planets, which the Earth then radiates into each and every one of us at point-blank range, like it or not.

As Sagan fell in love with the night skies as a small child (which hints that he was a reincarnate *astrologer*, reborn into a hostile environment), when we combine these factors, Carl Sagan emerges as the person who could most powerfully refute the very fundamentals of astrology, if such were possible and if had he chosen to do so.

Sagan was already famous enough that the promoters of the declaration, chiefly **Paul Kurtz**, would gladly have changed it to get Sagan’s signature, if its wording was the real problem. Sagan himself being the world’s leading astronomical authority, Kurtz presumably would have been delighted to let Sagan write whatever he liked.

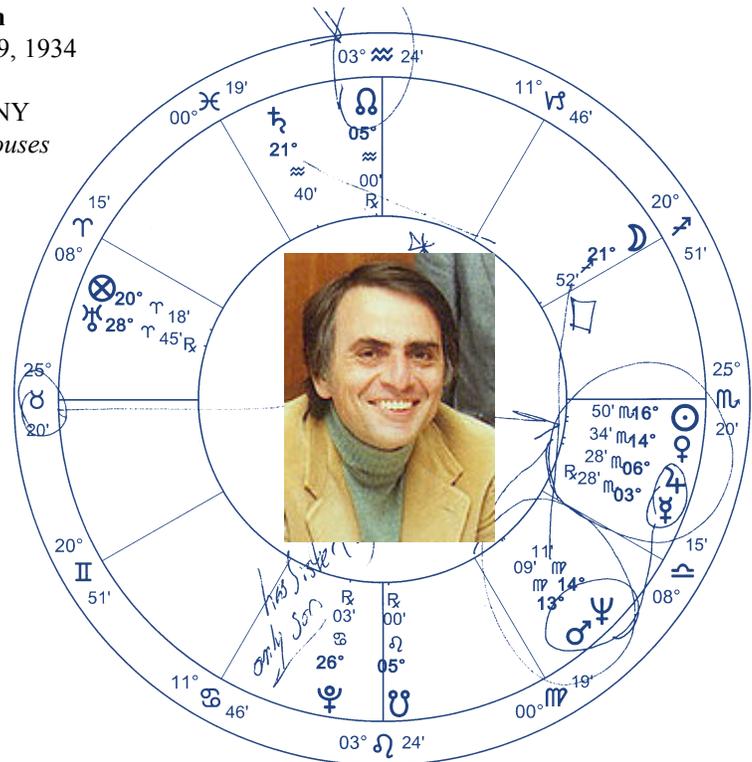
As Carl Sagan was not so **squeamish** in his dealings with Immanuel Velikovsky, I am inspired to look at the synastry between him and Paul Kurtz.

Paul Kurtz was born on December 21, 1925, in Newark, NJ. Zip Dobyns says he was born at 3:00 pm, which may be a rectification. I will therefore leave his angles and houses aside.

What are the factors that make men enemies? Surprisingly, they need more than some painfully unfortunate aspects between them. They also need aspects that are both *intimate* and *favorable*. They need good aspects as a lure, in order to be ensnared by the bad ones, resulting in enmity. As it happens, Sagan and Kurtz have both sorts.

Kurtz’s Sun, at 29 Sag, is conjunct Sagan’s Moon, at 21 Sag. This is an aspect of immediate identification. Kurtz’s Venus at 14 Aquarius is conjunct Sagan’s Saturn at

Carl Sagan
November 9, 1934
5:05 pm
Brooklyn, NY
Placidus houses
mean node



21 Aquarius. This gives serious respect, as well as — both planets fixed — a difficulty in getting away from one another. Such is the bait one man had for the other.

Kurtz’s Mars-Saturn conjunction falls on Sagan’s Sun-Venus, which is stressful. Kurtz’s Moon-Uranus conjunction is opposite to Sagan’s Mars-Neptune conjunction, which is an aspect of rabid mistrust. Kurtz’s offer to Sagan was presumably *pro forma*, Sagan’s excuse was presumably face-saving. Welcome to the art of diplomacy.

So far as Kurtz is concerned, note his tight Mars-Saturn conjunction, which **Oken** described in his withering, “*driving with the brakes on.*” Which are *square* to Neptune! Mars-Neptune, yet again.

WE’VE been thinking all along this is a science-astrology dispute, but I have learned this is not quite true. The impetus was not the Enlightenment of 1650, but rather, the Encyclopedie that followed 101 years later, in 1751. It was not produced by scientists, but by French academics writing on their behalf.

This becomes clear when we compare science to academics. If you want to be a scientist, you must be **curious** about the world. You must be **eager** to discover its true nature, as in the case of Carl Sagan. Or you might be driven by **fear** and apprehension, by a need to understand and **control**, as in the case of Bill Nye.

And you must be *humble*. You must let

your curiosity or fear lead through thickets and brambles to get to the final solution. Or you must be hell-bent and driven by inner demons to find and seize the solution, the goal of your ceaseless quest.

In many ways, a scientist is similar to a news reporter. He must pursue his “story” no matter what, regardless of consequence or outcome.

The one thing neither a scientist nor a reporter can do is prejudice his materials. If his mind is already divided into deep chasms of Truth and Falsehood, of Good and Evil, he is **partisan** and will **fail** in his quest. Among news reporters there is a well-known name for this: **Yellow journalism**.

ACADEMICS, on the other hand, live in an entirely **different world**. Academics are found in universities, which function as cities unto themselves. This is the start of their insularity.

Academics, most or all of which have Ph.D.’s, become *professors* upon being hired to teach, or *profess*, their subject. This is typically a lifetime appointment and makes them members of an exclusive club. They rate themselves according to the books they have published and the honors they have received. Which establishes hierarchy.

In teaching they use books. These are always books that were written by professors, and this is regardless of the subject which is being taught. Wherever possible, the books a professor will use are expected

to have been written by that professor himself. This makes professors competitive with other professors.

Given that professors teach and are required to grade the results, academics are judgmental. Judging means having definite standards. To settle disputes and as a general reference, the books these men have written are the final authority.

The requirement of teaching means the world must be known. There cannot be gray areas, there cannot be doubt. That they are insular means they are inexperienced with the world and therefore largely unfit to teach to it, but their very insularity denies them this critical fact, while the many books, which they themselves have written, convince them otherwise.

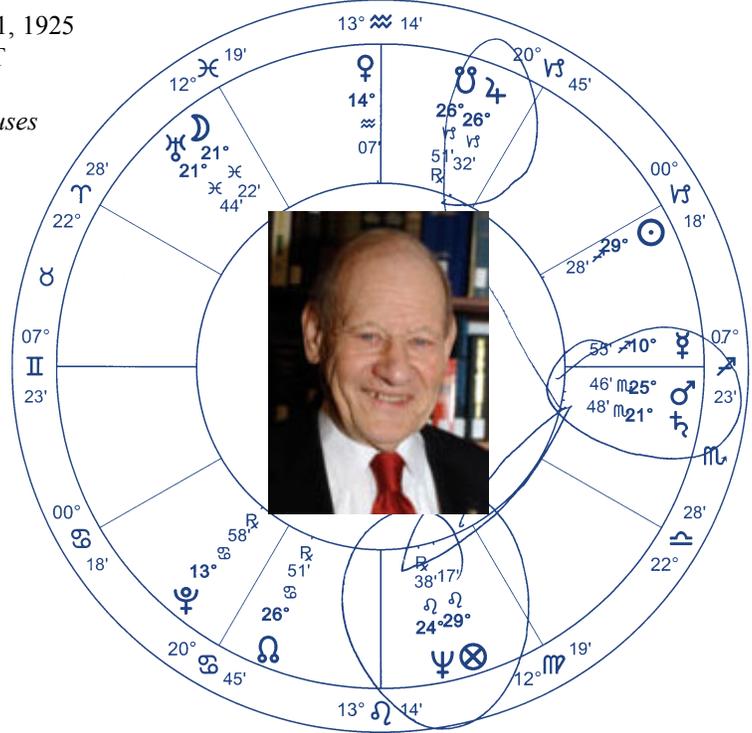
In this regard we see immediately that a non-academic authority must either be tamed and brought into the academic world, on the academy's terms, not his own, or his work, if it is acceptable, must be rewritten and summarized by accredited academics, before other academics are permitted to accept and make use of it. If an outside authority is *not* acceptable to the academic world, and if he is of sufficient stature that academics cannot ignore him (such as with astrologers), then he must be visibly denounced. This explains why, in Diderot's original Encyclopedia of 1751, all previous knowledge was simply thrown away, in favor of newly generated treatises, written by approved academics.

Which became the accepted textbooks, and while the exact texts have changed over time, they have all been, from first to last, authoritarian. The student's ability to learn, which means agree, with the text, as well as the professor, became the basis by which the student was passed or failed.

This had the side-effect of establishing knowledge as exclusively book-based. Oral teachings, oral traditions, were ignored generally, and whenever the orally-trained came forward, they were rigorously excluded, from the erroneous belief that oral meant illiterate, and that books were superior to oral. These beliefs, although widespread, are not actually true. The cultures of India and China are still largely oral, as is the Church, and it is for this reason they are misunderstood and largely dismissed by book-bound academics.

ALL of the foregoing then becomes a set of standards for admission to this exclusive club, which in many ways is reminiscent of middle-school girl cliques. In the early days of public education, which is the *raison d'être* for the existence of academics, the bar for admission was

Paul Kurtz
December 21, 1925
3:00 pm EST
Newark, NJ
Placidus houses
mean node



quite high: Mere admission to a university came with a strict moral code. Failure to observe the code meant expulsion, as Edgar Allan Poe and many others learned.

This was eventually relaxed, such that I could earn Bachelors degrees (two of them) without pledging loyalty to any professor or to the university system itself. But that was as far as I could go. Graduate studies came with a price I could not pay.

Which makes all of academia self-referential. It only admits those who are acceptable to it. It then holds itself as the ultimate arbiter of knowledge in general and science in particular. This is, in its entirety, an extreme and absolute and black and white system, from top to bottom.

Not surprisingly for a group of individuals in such an extreme environment, infighting can be intense and go on for decades, since, once tenure is granted, no one can be ultimately vanquished. Those applicants (i.e., grad students) who do not measure up can be, and often are, rejected outright.

In such a world, it really makes no difference if they accept or reject astrology, accept or reject ghosts, accept or reject witchcraft, or any of the other "occult" or disapproved subjects, regardless of the pejorative names given to them ("superstition" "pseudoscience"). No group, which is to say, *caste*, is perfect, no group encompasses everything, all groups have limitations and therefore all of them will have forbidden fruits. Just as

police departments invariably have racist cops, academics, due to their extreme isolation and rigid structure, will always be crude materialists. Of the four castes (priests, academics, merchants, warriors), academics are the least likely to take up the study of astrology. This cannot be helped. It is regrettable that academic whims, unlike police prejudices, have virtual force of law.

Note that, as a group, academics are *not* curious, they are *not* humble. Academics, by their very nature, are competitive and authoritarian. While individuals are individuals, academics, as a group, possess no scientific qualifications. It is not merely that academics are incapable of appreciating the subtleties of astrology, but these same academics also mangle and distort the science they claim to enshrine. Note that state-sponsored Communist parties, such as those of the old Soviet Union, are virtually identical, having their origin in the work of the brilliant academic, Karl Marx.

Scientists are simple people.

Academics are complicated.

We may also say that *scientists* are to *academics* as *reporters* are to *historians*. When we think about the media and the internet, we see that expert bloggers have largely displaced mainstream media, which makes us realize that the media, like academia, had become remote from the masses. While the New York Times once boasted *All the news that's fit to print*, they are no longer taken as

the sole, or even the primary authority.

Not so with Wiki, which is not so much “reverting to form,” as inventing and imposing an authoritarian facade which has never before existed. Wiki is now routinely cited as the *only* source, displacing all others. Increasingly under attack for its neo-religious, black and white division of the world into real and pseudo, they are becoming increasingly doctrinaire and exclusionary. It is rumored they will eventually be bought by someone like Google. If so, then at that time there will be a decision made: **Will Wiki become inclusive, or will Google become judgemental?** Who, exactly, will be taking over whom?

The solution to the academic mess is the same as for police and law enforcement generally. Who, like academics, are a “law unto themselves.”

In very large cities with very large and well-established and therefore powerful law enforcement agencies — police, sheriffs, deputies, etc. — the solution for police abuse has been civilian review boards, supposedly made up of innocents. In fact review boards invariably end up full of police sycophants, but their very existence gives community activists a goal, and that’s healthy.

Supposedly universities are ruled by Boards of Regents, but these are typically staffed by carefully selected academics. Which becomes yet another level of insularity.

THE solution is really quite simple. States should pass laws requiring universities to teach all subjects which are traditional and customary, regardless of their accepted academic standing. Universities should be required to “give back” to the communities which host them. An exception should be made for purely religious subjects, as religions are generally well-organized and usually able to look after their own interests, but if a given subject is not being taught by an established religious organization, *it must therefore be taught by the universities.*

A civilian review board, made up of advocates of non-traditional studies (or else

why have such a board) would publish a list of popular subjects, which would then be taught in university settings by accredited individuals regardless of their academic achievements or prior academic standing.

As a sop to traditional professors, and with a nod to university-based athletics, these subjects must support themselves through enrollment alone. You and I may think dowsing is the best way to find water in a desert, but if there are not enough ranchers who will pay for instruction, then there will be no Dowsing 101 class.

And it should not be hard. Community colleges, which traditionally award Associate of Arts degrees, already teach many non-traditional, non-academic subjects. Under the guise of non-credit Continuing Education, here are some of the subjects currently being taught at the nearby **Harford Community College**:

- Adult Dance
- Antiques
- Bicycling
- Birding
- Boating Safety/Chesapeake Boat Builders
- Cooking
- Crafts
- Dollar Menu
- Family Life/Parenting
- Financial Planning
- Fishing
- Fitness Certification
- Floral Design

Each and every one of these topics are economically self-supporting. The fees collected from students cover the teachers’ salaries, as well as make a tidy sum for the College itself. Which is why there are, at the moment, 45 subjects in the Community Education section and many times that number of actual classes. Community Education is the largest of five separate non-credit divisions at my local college.

You look at the list and you think, why in the world, if Fishing and Boating and Birding can be publicly taught, that Astrology should not join the list? You will then think, why shouldn’t Dave teach it, but I stir

people up too much. A few days ago I sent the college a brief email suggesting astrology, but there was no response. A straw in the wind: *No popular astrology magazines are sold in Harford county.* Not American, not Dell, not the Mountain. I have been here ten years, I have not seen one of them for sale anywhere. This cannot be an accident, I regret I do not know the backstory.

But if things are rosier in your home town, members of the **National Council for Geocosmic Research**, many of whom teach astrology, would find association with their local community colleges to be mutually beneficial. If you have a community college where you live, a diplomatic inquiry might produce results. It is by small steps that we begin.

CARL SAGAN, who was a professor at Cornell University and had to somehow reconcile his boyish enthusiasm with his professorial duties, died on December 20, 1996, at the age of 62. What was his proper life expectancy?

Sun in the 6th has set and is not hyleg. The Moon in Sagittarius is not in a female sign and therefore is not hyleg. The chart ruler, Venus, is in Scorpio in a cadent house, which I judge to be Hyleg, or giver of *life*. It is sextile to its ruler, Mars, which I judge to be Alcohoden, or giver of *years*.

Mars in a succedent house gives 40½ years. Sextile to Jupiter adds another 12, for a total of 62½. Sagan was 62 when he died, which puts him in his 63rd year. Why did I not add another 8 years for the sextile from Mars to Venus? Because Venus is debilitated in Scorpio, in a cadent house, and combust the Sun. And because Sagan simply did not live to be 70. It is by studying charts that we learn how to apply the rules.

Abu Ali Al-Khayyat says debilitated benefics, such as Sagan’s Venus, may add only months or days, not years. As I am too lazy — and ignorant — to compute the primary directions which may well specify an exact date, I know no more.

These are my notes on Carl Sagan. Next week, a real scientist.