

Suburban Life



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(F3D)

WELL IT'S JANUARY, THE January every one has been waiting for. The January that somehow holds the magic panacea for all that ails the U.S. economy.

Will things better? Stay the same? Get worse? According to astrologer Evelyn Button, status quo may be the description of 1992.

"The cycle of change will continue on its merry way, mowing down anyone who tries to stop it," she says.

She has a few general observations about the new year:

- President George Bush is still in a difficult period which started a year ago. His health continues to be an issue along with his inability to get off dead center.
- The elections in 1992 will bring some real surprises. The mood of the country is very challenging and the Bush Administration will be burning the midnight oil.
- Look for some seismic activities around the Hawaiian Islands.
- Interest rates continue to fall, to unprecedented lows. The economy continues its slide through 1992 and into 1993, and then some. The stock market may visit the 2,000 mark and maybe lower.

"The news is not good, however, this happens to be the cycle we're in . . . and this too shall pass," said Button. "The universe is only telling us it's time to get back to basics."

As for event further into the future, Button foresees a breakthrough in the treatment of AIDS around 1996 — "Hopefully, the year 2000 may bring some real relief in this area," she said. "This is only the beginning but look for some form of national health insurance to be in place by 1993."

And what's in store for us in 1992? Let's see . . .

ARIES (March 21-April 20): You are known as the pioneer of the Zodiac, with an energy level that leaves most people in the wake of your dust. This is a year when concentration on your goals is a must as the cycle of the planets continues to rattle your cage.

The March 21-April 20 births can take a breather. Uncertainty and change await the April 5-20 births. Fear not, for many this may indicate some positive trends. Resistance to change may be the real culprit in this whole scenario.

Business activities or conditions related to domestic issues may prove to be challenging. Pay attention and stand alert as this is the year when opportunity may knock at your door.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): A penchant for the material world has sharpened your appreciation for the finer things of life. Thus you are known as the gourmet of the Zodiac. However, changes for you are never easy, and it may require an act of Congress to convince you.

This is your year to reap some of the rewards. New and exciting opportunities are in reach. If in litigation, look for it to be resolved.

The May 5-11 births may find some obstacles in getting focused, as relationships or domestic issues may for your view. Patience and fortitude are the key words here.

This is the year when "bored" will not be a part of your vocabulary. The favorable visit of Jupiter aspects to your sign will dilute any adversities that cross your path, keeping in motion your efforts toward progress.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Your T-shirt should read "The Great Communicator." You are never at a loss for words. Your nature and personality, unlike your Taurus neighbor, tends itself to ease in change and great flexibility.

1992 cycles for you, focuses on laying a foundation through formal or self-taught studies. Keep a sharp pencil handy along with a good eraser as taxes, insurance or legal papers may be highlighted, requiring your attention. Things in general are brighter as time goes on.

Your management skills are lending themselves as more confident and efficient, be it on the job or in organizational matters. The new home or plans for renovations should be approached with caution. Your optimism is high but needs to be tempered where major investments are concerned.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): The principal of nurturing and the gift of sensitivity to the needs of others is your hallmark in life. The challenges of the last year continues in the area of partnership and/or joint venture. Difficult marriages or relationships will be resolved one way or another.

Increased responsibility tends to hamper your need for self-expression. Control the urge to "burn your bridges." There is, however, a bright side as Pluto, the Planet of Change, suggests difficulties can be and are resolved.



1992 — A new future

Investments prove to be realistic. Be alert for opportunities to advance in your profession. The July 6-11 birthdays must remember the law of physics—four action there is a reaction. Your basic need to nurture may take second place as you start to expand your horizons in some public forum.

LEO (July 24-Aug. 23): The sign Leo is known as the great choreographer, as you tend to do everything with style and flare. Look for some improvements in cash flow as the year progresses.

Increased responsibility may tip into your energy level as the planet Saturn opposes your sign. Relationships in general may be testy, some of you may find you are forced to deal with unsupported relationships. Now is the time to resolve these feelings, stand up and be counted.

Put your house in order. Job changes, residential moves, repairs or remodeling continue to influence you. The Aug. 10-15 birthdays may want to consider a good physical checkup.

Rest and relaxation is very important to help offset some of the power struggle you are apt to engage in with others. Remember the old adage that "Patience is a virtue." You will win in the long run!

VIRGO (Aug. 24-Sept. 23): Who ever said "Everything in its place and in place for everything," had Virgo in mind as you are one of the most fastidious signs of the Zodiac. Your strengths lie in your practicality, thus wasting time can be very annoying.

The year 1992 finds you in a new 12-year cycle. For many of you, it is time to smell the roses. With the benefic planet Jupiter in your sign, you should experi-

ence more self-confidence, wise investments and, if you have children, resolution to past problems are within the realm of reason.

Saturn, a planet that forces discipline, may bring about some delays through obstacles in the work area. Standard concepts and traditions may be challenged. The earlier Virgos (Aug. 24-Sept. 7), relax; this does not apply to you.

A diet and fitness program may be just what the doctor orders. It will do you a world of good. Are you considering a new pet? Make sure you have the time, think twice and weigh the consequences of your decision.

LIBRA (Sept. 24-Oct. 23): The diplomat of the Zodiac, the negotiators in the Middle East could really use you. Your ability to soothe ruffled feathers is well known.

The Sept. 24-Oct. 8 births have taken their knocks the last year or so. Rest easy, these cycles for you are leaving. Some of the later births, however, may find the detours lead to a narrow, rocky road. Just hang on and get off at the nearest exit.

The most challenging problems you have are resistance to change. Remain flexible and take advantage of the new people and opportunities that will be presented to you. New doors will open, letting the sunshine in. Children should be a source of comfort to you.

House moves or renovations are likely as you in a restless mode. Just avoid impulsive actions and above all, be aware of the sleek con artist.

This is also a good time to see your ophthalmologist; the visit may help you see better in five years than one!

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 23): The most intense sign of the Zodiac, with a power of concentration that is equal

to none. You have your own cue cards and always seem to know when to make your move.

This is an excellent year to stimulate and stretch your mind and spirit. Transformation and change continues on its course determined to alter your resistance. It's time you started to go with the flow.

For some, wedding bells will ring, for others the possible gavel of the judge as he hands down the decree. Job changes are in the form of a promotion for some, while others have all they can do to hang on to what they have.

Just remember no matter what, you are in a cycle of self-empowerment. This can be a positive period, but you must go for the "burn."

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21): The song, "Don't Fence Me In," had you in mind; confinement or restrictions of any kind would be very distressful as it would hamper your charm and lighthearted manner.

Your need for honesty this year must be couched with diplomacy. Serious studies or other mental disciplines will be part of the scenario of 1992. It is a favorable year to make steady progress in your chosen field.

This is a year to see where you are going as you look back to see where you have been. Stick to your constructive plans. Care must be exercised when signing any contracts or engaging in any verbal agreements.

A generous attitude will come with ease where siblings or other family members are concerned. Watch the enthusiasm; you may promise more than you can deliver. Gambling and unwise speculation should be avoided. Focus your energy on goal setting and laying the foundation for future success.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 20): Ambition and determination are gifts bestowed on you at birth, along with organizational skills which endear you to upper management.

This is the year to define your goals, seek out new friends and improve your technique in networking. Jan. 3-10 births may encounter idealistic romances or fall in the trap of self-deception while in these encounters. The Dec. 22-Jan. 2 births can attest to this. The last several years, your standards and traditions have and continue to be challenged by none other than yourself.

The most difficult problem you face is the feeling you are not in control as you search the bag of surprises sitting at your feet. Life will not be dull. Travel, romance and job contacts will keep you bouncing. Believing in yourself will help you deal with whatever comes your way.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21-Feb. 19): Your sincere interest and concern for others is part of your charm. This is why Aquarians are known as the humanitarians of the Zodiac.

1992 finds you cautious and reserved due to the burden of responsibility this cycle has placed on you. The good news is your business acumen will be highlighted, shedding favorable light over you for all to behold.

Rest and relaxation are a must on your agenda as your energy levels will be taxed. Latent intuitive faculties are stimulated as you expand in business or in your profession. The Feb. 7-12 birthdays may engage in power struggles with yourself or others — job changes or a sense of "now what should I do" type of thing.

See your doctor as health issues may come up that are not very serious but let your doctor reassure you. New people are coming into your life that may help expand your horizon and dispel your fear of rejection. The sweet smell of confidence will do wonders.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20): Your sensitive and delicate nature is what most people observe. By contrast and not easily observed is your strong will and inner strength. Your gift of perception helps you avoid many pitfalls and the quality of your imagination enhances your talents in the arts.

The March 6-13 births can climb the higher rung of the ladder and experience a new found sense of freedom. This continues to be a time for personal advancement in organizations and/or business. New friends and financial benefits are favorable.

Nothing is perfect as small glitches will continue to nag you from time to time. You tend to fret over conditions that are not important. The opportunities are there, but the choices are yours. Get your reservations in early; it looks like you may decide to do some traveling.

Persons interested in astrology classes beginning in mid-January can contact Evelyn Button, a local astrologer, teacher, lecturer, radio/TV columnist and representative for Astrology Software, at 464-1691.

Old tool offers new alternative to a hysterectomy

By Sue Mason
staff writer

At one time, a hysterectomy was the solution for menorrhagia (excessive menstrual bleeding), but a procedure that has been used for more than 10 years to treat male prostate problems is coming to the forefront as the latest alternative.

The technical name is endometrial ablation — the cauterizing of the uterus's endometrium. The tool has a less than technical name: a roller ball electrode, for years used by urologists for the coagulation of bleeding vessels.

Very few hysterectomies are done because of cancer, said Dr. Michael Kent, during recent taping of a half-hour segment about the procedure for WXON-TV's

"Health Advantage" show. "Six hundred thousand of the 700,000 performed each year are done because of excessive bleeding."

Kent, an obstetrician/gynecologist with offices in Livonia and Northville, is one of a few doctors in the metropolitan area performing endometrial ablation using the roller ball surgery.

Roller ball surgery is performed with an instrument, called a resectoscope, a thin wand with an electrically charged ball or tip, equipped with a built-in light and miniature camera, allowing the surgeon to visualize the endometrium on a video monitor.

Karl Westergard of Walled Lake was one of Kent's patients to opt for the alternative surgery. At age 34, Westergard was experiencing heavy bleeding three out of four

weeks each month.

Kent recommended a hysterectomy, but Westergard balked. She waited six months before seeing him again. Expecting to hear about the hysterectomy again, she was surprised when Kent offered her a new option — roller ball surgery.

Westergard, who appears on the show with Kent, decided on the outpatient surgery and is glad she did.

"I felt so good after the surgery that I wanted to go back to work the next day, but I didn't because he told me to take a few days off," she said.

There shouldn't be any change in the woman, Kent said. "The cervix is still there, the vagina is still there. There's just no menstrual cycle."

KENT PERFORMS roller ball surgery

on an outpatient basis at Sinai Hospital in Detroit, one of the pluses of the new procedure.

A hysterectomy requires use of surgical suite, a hospital stay of 5-6 days and 6-8 weeks for recovery. Its cost can be \$8,000-10,000. And because it is major surgery, it has a higher complication rate.

Roller ball surgery, on the other hand, requires no hospitalization, no recovery time or disruption in work or home schedule. It is far cheaper than a hysterectomy at about \$2,000 and its complication rate is considerably lower, according to Kent, who lives in West Bloomfield.

Kent admits that the procedure isn't for every woman. While it is an effective treatment for excessive bleeding, it's not an ap-

propriate treatment for uterine cancer.

And, according to Kent, it isn't 100 percent effective. Some women will experience some bleeding after the surgery and in a few (2 percent), it fails to stem the bleeding, prompting a hysterectomy.

There also is one other problem. Because it is a relatively new procedure, the costs — all or a portion — aren't covered by some medical insurers. Patients need to check with the insurance companies in considering the surgery, he said.

The "Health Advantage" segment on roller ball surgery, with host Leland Weisand, will air at 6:30 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 12, 6:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 17, and 7:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 18, on WXON-TV Channel 20.