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## FINANCIAL ASTROLOGY

# MMA COMMENTS FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING December 25 - 2006

Raymond A. Merriman©

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### Review and Preview :

We begin this week's column with best wishes to everyone for a happy holiday season. May it be filled with joy and happiness, and hope for the next solstice year (winter solstice to winter solstice).

Last week's stock market activity found many of the world's indices making new all-time, or multi-year, or multi-month highs on Wednesday and Thursday, right in the middle of the December 17-22 cluster of geocosmic signatures. By Friday, many of these indices had declined somewhat strongly - but not enough to declare with certainty that the top is in. Yet the possibility exists that the high of last week was significant, for we are now in the 50th month of the 4-year cycle. Historically, there have only been three cases since 1893 that the U.S. stock market has made new highs for the 4-year cycle past the 49th month. This will be the fourth case, so clearly, it is very late for this market to continue rallying before the decline to that 4-year cycle trough, which is still due by June 2007.

[Le Plan du site](#)

[Page d'accueil](#) ▶

[11 Septembre 2001 ... Les attentats](#)

[Le Marché du Porc BRETON Le pétrole brut, L'or, les taux d'intérêts](#) ▶

[MMA CYCLES In English](#) ▶

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en Français	
La fin du Mandat de G. BUSH	
MMA CYLES en Español	▶
Paramétrer eMule avec les Modems Routeurs D-Link	▶
Sommaire D-Link eMule Kad réseaux	▶
La météo de 2006	
Poèmes et Poésies	
Nous écrire	

Gold and Silver continued to show weakness this past week, with each posting lows on Monday, and then re-testing those lows by the end of the week. If the re-test holds, we could see a sharp rally in the next week. The same was true with foreign currencies against the U.S. Dollar. The Euro, for instance, made a low on Monday, and then rallied sharply for a couple of days before pulling back again into Friday's close, but still above Monday's low. Crude Oil traded in a narrow range last week, but still up considerably from its lows of October and November, which may have been the 4-year cycle troughs. .

### Short-Term Geocosmics :

This could be a quiet week due to the holiday season and closed market days coming up. Perhaps the most noteworthy signature of all, to those who speculate, will be the heliocentric Mercury in the sign of Sagittarius, December 21-January 3. Typically this is a bullish period for precious metals and currencies, and bearish for stocks. Although it has so far coincided almost exactly with the downturn in stock indices, there has been no sign yet that it going to be bullish for precious metals or currencies. But Mars also squares Uranus as this past week ends, and so any isolated lows or highs could be quickly followed by reversals.

Aside from that, there really is not much happening in terms of geocosmic activity related to financial markets this week, so it is a good time to enjoy the holidays. The following week will find the full moon on January 3, and that one tends to correspond with very inclement weather - snow storms of significance in the northern climates. But the next "cluster" of geocosmic signatures does not unfold until January 8-22. .

### Long-Term Thoughts :

The "big news" this week had to do with President Bush's inclination to send more troops to Iraq, as a temporary measure to shore up support for the Iraqi quest for democracy, freedom, and the fight against terrorism. On the surface, this appears to be a positive expression of the Saturn-Neptune dynamic, wherein Saturn represents the moral high ground and "honorable objective," and Neptune the principle of altruism and sacrifice for a "higher cause." And perhaps that is the real reason. But I get letters every week, some from unnamed personnel in the U.S. military, and there may be other reasons behind this desire to send more troops to Iraq, which have more to do with the lower elements of these same geocosmic principles. After all, Saturn also pertains to issues of control, and Neptune to behaviors of deception or "behind the scenes." Neptune also rules Crude Oil, as discussed last week. So let us consider another possibility for increasing troop allotment to Iraq: the U.S. companies that have been given (the no-bid) contracts to rebuild the infrastructure of Iraq (the Halliburtons and their subsidiaries) have decided to pull out because they no longer feel safe. It is becoming too dangerous to stay. They need more protection. And unless they get it in the form of more troops, it is not profitable or safe for them to remain. And what happens if the engineers and the builders of the Iraq infrastructure all leave? There goes the investment of nearly four years and untold billions of dollars to repair that which has been broken - and nothing to show for it. It is a failure that can probably not be accepted. So what is the solution to keeping those American corporations there, to protecting the investment made to date? More troops. And maybe it is all about Oil - or at least as much about Oil as it about democracy in the region too. The former (profits from Oil) is the lower expression of Saturn-Neptune, while the later (democracy) represents the higher principle of this combination.

There may be hope, however, in the not too-distant future. It seems that many moderate Republicans are not in favor of escalating the war in Iraq, and believe it is necessary to wind this campaign up before the election season begins in 2008. If Mr. Bush wants to give Republicans a chance to win in 2008 it

begins in 2008. If Mr. Bush wants to give Republicans a chance to win in 2008, it will be in his best interest to change his course in Iraq and start a dialogue with both Iran and Syria. I don't know if he will, but this is the opportunity and the hope with Uranus and Neptune in mutual reception (give peace - and diplomacy - a chance) through 2011. Otherwise we will have to deal with the issues of the Saturn-Uranus opposition in T-square to the USA natal Mars (war) in 2008-2009. As I see it, the choice is either to negotiate with Iran and Syria while the aspects favor negotiations and reduction of tensions are in effect, or plan on expanding the conflict between those two countries and USA in the following year. It may be a matter of which Republicans end up having the greatest influence on the Commander in Chief: the moderates who want to scale back the war and tensions, or the extremists who believe the only way to win 2008 (and maintain control of the White House) is to increase the tensions through the idea that "fear sells."

Let's hope that New Year brings with it new hopes for peace and stability. After all, with Uranus and Neptune in mutual reception, anything is possible. This is a signature of a renaissance (already taking place since 1993) and a period of very innovative ideas and solutions to existing world problems. And so we can have hope - hope that the leaders of the world will find a way to resolve these conflicts that keep us from having that which we all desire: peace on Earth and good will to all.

### Announcements :

**To all of our European readers**, and especially German-speaking audience, please note that I will be giving a talk in Cologne, Germany, titled: "Forecasts for 2007: A Mundane Astrological and Financial Markets Overview." It will take place **January 20, 2007**, 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM, at the one-day symposium, sponsored by DAV (largest German Astrology organization) and MMA-Europe, at the Maritim Cologne Hotel. The title of the symposium is "Signs for the Future: An Astrological Look at World, Economic, and Individual Conditions for 2007 and Beyond." Guest speakers include Claude Weiss (Switzerland), Christoph Schubert-Weller (Germany), Antonia Langsdorf (Germany), Alexandra Klinghammer (Switzerland), and Raymond Merriman (USA). Cost is 75 Euro for pre-registration. For further information, contact 49-221-6800050, or go to <http://www.mma-europe.de>. Or email [info@mma-europe.de](mailto:info@mma-europe.de).

If you are interested in receiving our free 2007 [catalogue](#) of products and services, please let us know. Go to our web site (front page) and click the link to make the request, or send email, with your postal address, to [ordersmma@msn.com](mailto:ordersmma@msn.com). The catalogue will be coming out in about 2 weeks.

**The Forecast for 2007** books are now out (English and German editions)! If you ordered an English copy and have not received it by the end of this coming week, let us know. If you have ordered the German edition and have not received your copy by the first week of January, let us know.

This year's book is a little larger than previous year's (8 pages longer), but as always, it shapes up to be another exciting year. All years of this decade are significant due to the "Triple Saturn" oppositions which started in 2001. Utilizing the study of cycles and geocosmic factors, the annual Forecasts book outlines forthcoming trends pertaining to political, economic, and financial markets throughout the world. Special sections included on The United States and its President, Interest Rates, Stock Markets, Precious Metals, Currencies, Crude Oil, Weather, and Grain markets. And of course: the all-important *Critical Reversal Dates* for financial markets in 2007. If you wish to order a copy online of this [year's book](#), or call us at 1-800-MMA-3349.

When they are gone, they are gone. Despite the fact that we increase our printing orders every year, we have still sold out two of the past three years. So

order now and make sure you get a copy - if you wish one.

For more [information](#).

~~The "SOS Stock Market Cycles Report" and will come out this week, December 5 and 6. These reports come out every 6-8 weeks to subscribers of these reports. This report is in two parts. The first report "SOS Stock Market Cycles" - focuses purely upon the long term cycles in the U.S. stock market, specifically the Dow Jones Industrial Average, followed by discussions on both intermediate and short term cycles. It is the "big picture" ahead. The second part is the "SOS Global Stock Markets Report." This covers the German DAX, London FTSE, Netherlands AEX, the Australian All Ordinaries, Hang Seng of Hong Kong, the NASDAQ Composite Index, and the XAU Gold and Silver Mining index. For ordering information, please go to <http://www.mmacycles.com/services.htm>.~~

The newly revised **The Sun, The Moon, and Silver Book : [Secrets of a Silver Trader](#)**, is also now completed and at the printer. It should be out January 10-20, so I am told. This book identifies all the key Sun-Moon combinations that have a higher (and lower) than expected probability of correlating with 4% or greater reversals in COMEX Silver. It also identifies "Big Range Days" - those days in which the range of Silver is most likely to be 3.5% or more of the price of Silver, which is a great tool for day traders. This book fulfills the dream of all traders: high probability winning trade possibilities, with minimal market exposure. The cost is \$125.00. For [ordering](#) on line .

All in all, this book provides the maximum benefit that all traders seek: high probability trades with minimal market exposure, making it a great reference book for short-term traders (1-7 day positions).

To those who live in Michigan, Ohio, or surrounding areas, please note that I will be presenting an evening on "Forecasts for 2007" at the elegant Birmingham Community House in downtown Birmingham, Michigan on Saturday, January 6, at 7:30 PM. Birmingham is one of the most beautiful cities in Michigan, especially during this holiday season, with many fantastic fine-dining restaurants. Cost is \$25.00/person or \$40.00/couple if reserved before January 4, or \$30.00/person at the door. To make a reservation, call us at 1-800-662-3349, or 248-626-3034.

If you are an **active short-term trader**, you may wish to consider subscribing to our Weekly or even Daily Market Reports with short-term trading recommendations. These reports give in-depth analysis of the DJIA, S&P and NASDAQ futures, Euro currency (cash and futures), Swiss Franc, Dollar/Yen cash and Yen futures, T-Bonds, Soybeans, Wheat, Gold and Silver. The daily reports cover all stock indices listed above, as well as futures in Euro, T-Bonds, Soybeans, Gold and Silver. Subscription to the daily report also includes the weekly report. For more [information](#), or call our offices at **1-248-626-3034**.

I have had several calls regarding a "**crisis investing**" portfolio that I suggested could be developed with the help of a money manager who subscribes to my reports, and shares my views about the next few years. If you are interested, you can contact him at [ted.fisher@comcast.net](mailto:ted.fisher@comcast.net). He will be more than happy to assist you.

**Disclaimer and statement of purpose:** The purpose of this column is not to predict the future movement of various financial markets. However, that is the purpose of the MMA (Merriman Market Analyst) *subscription* services. This column is not a subscription service. It is a *free* service, except in those cases where a fee may be assessed to cover the cost of translating this column from English into a non-English language. This weekly report is written with the intent to educate the reader on the relationship between astrological factors and collective human activities as they are happening. In this regard, this report will oftentimes report what happened in various stock and financial markets throughout the world in the past week, and discuss that movement in light of the geocosmic signatures that were in effect. It will then identify the geocosmic factors that will be in effect in the next week, or even month, or even years, and the author's understanding of how these signatures will likely affect human activity in the times to come. The author (Merriman) will do this from a perspective of a cycle's analyst looking at the military, political, economic, and even financial markets of the world. It is possible that some forecasts will be made based on these factors. However, the primary goal is to both educate and alert the reader as to the psychological climate we are in, from an astrological perspective. The hope is that it will help the reader understand these psychological dynamics

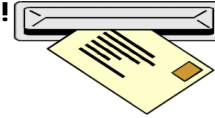


from an astrological perspective. The hope is that it will help the reader understand these psychological dynamics that underlie (or coincide with) the news events and hence financial markets of the day.

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