

# Battalion Classifieds

# Planets to align tonight, Local happens every 200 years

**United Press International**  
DALLAS — For soothsayers and psychics, the future is in the stars.  
For thousands of years, movement of the planets and stars has been a popular basis for making predictions about the future. Catastrophic events have been predicted based on the more unusual planetary formations.

Syzygy is one of those rare astronomical events that in the past has been used to predict everything from earthquakes to the end of the world. To astronomers, syzygy is the alignment of three or more bodies within the solar system, an event which happens once every 200 years.

Beginning on March 24, the sun, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Earth and Saturn started moving into a nearly straight row. Earth, Jupiter and Saturn moved to one side of the sun with Venus and Mars on the other. The unusual alignment reaches its zenith tonight and then the planets slowly return to a more conventional location.

On April 16, syzygy will end, according to officials at the University of Texas-Dallas.

Today, most astrologers discount any great evil accompanying the line-up of stars and planets, though they say it does affect the astrological charts. "Before men understood what was going on in the heavens, they (astrological events) were used as a power," said Wade Elbert, a Dallas astrologer.

"The ruler would have an astrologer who could predict the eclipses, and he would threaten to put out the sun on a certain day if the people did not pay their taxes or do what he wanted," he said.

More recently, Elbert said most doomsday predictions are publicity stunts.

"I can remember when I was young, they were predicting the end of the world would always be of attention in the newspapers," the astrologer said. "But the public has become more sophisticated. Astrology has become more scientific. We are no longer talking to a totally ignorant public."

Hundreds of years ago when astrologers and alchemists were the only persons who understood the cycles of the planets and stars, people could be misled with predictions of doomsday and natural disasters, Elbert said.

"You know, if you predict an earthquake or a flood a thousand times, eventually one will happen," Elbert said.

For predictions to have any validity, Elbert said, astrologers must go back through history and determine the position of the stars with the events occurring at the time.

John Hawkins, another Dallas astrologer, said line-ups do affect the individual courses of events in nations, but he sees no great disaster occurring this month.

According to Hawkins, there will be a line-up in the 1990s that will be of more significance than this month's alignment. The astrologer said the line-up and the world are headed for troubled times.

One astrologer did say the present line-up has the power to cause extraordinary events. She said unusual line-ups are one of the reasons for earthquakes and even the shooting of President Reagan was due to the power of the planets as they moved into alignment.

Reagan was saved, she said, because his death was not seriously affected by the lineup.

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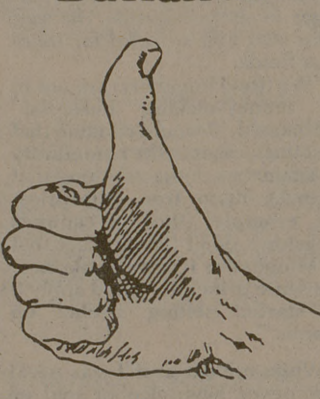
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# Window washer's lifelong dream to become reality

**United Press International**  
NEW YORK — Jim Cooke wants to become a window washer what Sir Edmund Hillary is to mountain climbers.

Cooke, a British window washer, will get the chance to do what could be every window washer's dream and probably every acrophobic's nightmare — wash the windows on the top floor of the Empire State Building.

Cooke, winner of a "dreamer of the year" contest for his wish to clean the 102nd-floor windows of the 1,250-foot-tall structure, took the first step toward his dream Monday — he was given an honorary membership in Local No. 2 of the Window Cleaners Union.

"This has been my life's dream — it's better than climbing Everest," said Cooke, 37, who arrived in New York from London Sunday.

He said he would be sure to have his "lucky" bucket and sponges on hand when he attempts to become the first Englishman to brighten the building's top-story glass next Tuesday.

Union officials aren't taking any chances with Cooke's window washing experience. Monday, after meeting his fellow window washers, he was shown some equipment he must learn to use before attempting the "big wash."

Today, he begins working on other window washers on the city's second tallest building — a couple of hours each day as he works his way up. Leonard Nork of Local 2. In addition, he is required to take a separate \$2 million insurance policy — just in case.

Cooke, on the other hand, he is putting his trust in his bucket and sponges to carry through the adventure 102 stories above the streets of Manhattan.

The Empire State Building opened in 1931, has 6,500 windows and they are washed twice a month. The building was the highest until the twin towers of the World Trade Center, each 1,100 stories high, opened in 1973.

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# Art works removed because of nudity

**United Press International**  
DALLAS — Four art works were removed from an exhibit at a hotel and shopping complex after two tenants complained the paintings depicted nudity, an official with the Plaza of the Americas said Tuesday.

"It wasn't obvious to me they were nudes," said Jo Stone, director of marketing for the complex. The four works included two col-

lages by David Zyanut, a pencil drawing by Bradley Donaldson and a painting by Michael Stone.

Stone, who reviewed all works in the current Plaza exhibit said she followed the company no-nude guidelines "to the letter" when she removed two works from the exhibit earlier. But she said of the four other works question, it was not obvious to her they were nudes.

"They were removed because of tenant complaints," she said. The six works banned from the Plaza were part of the annual exhibit by the Dallas chapter of the Texas Fine Arts Association. Stone said none of the banned works were personally obscene, but she was following Plaza guidelines.

"A nude is a nude and we cannot display any of them here," she said.

When the exhibit was booked for the Plaza, Stone said the Texas Fine Arts Association agreed company guidelines that no nude would be exhibited.

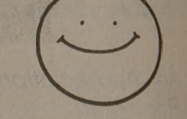
"People come here to shop and don't expect to see nudes," she said.

"I don't understand it," said Franco Bertolasi, manager of cafe in the Plaza. Bertolasi, who moved to Dallas from Italy last year, said he was surprised that works would be banned here.

He said he saw one of the banned works pictured in the newspaper — a nude drawing of a woman's back by artist Ed Soderquist. "It was quite beautiful," he said.

"The nude body can be beautiful," said Regitze Forner, manager of David Anderson of Norway. Forner said her shop presented an art exhibit last month by Danish painter Milš Obel, which included a painting of two reclining figures. "No one was upset about it," she said.

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