

# Tragedy in Colorado

By Marilyn Muir, LPMAFA

Colorado has had more than its share of problems this year with the rampant and extensive wildfires and flooding, followed by the tragic theatre shooting in Aurora on July 20, 2012. Like so many other citizens I followed the tragedy moment by moment, but the astrologer within was looking for vital birth information. Birth information for James Holmes, the alleged perpetrator, was not readily available. What could I use besides the chart for the incident itself? I needed a basis of comparison.

I started with Colorado's admission to statehood. The 38th state was signed into existence by President Ulysses S. Grant on August 1, 1876. With no time available, a noonmark chart was used and I chose the capital city of Denver for the location; an alternative would be the U.S. capital, Washington, DC. Aurora is a suburb of Denver so there literally no difference between the choices. What else could I use? The incorporation of the city of Aurora turned out to be a problem as the town of Fletcher was incorporated May 5, 1903, and renamed Aurora in 1907. State records indicate that the city of Aurora was incorporated in 1929, but I could find no record of the date itself. I chose to use the original incorporation date at noon in the state capital and the events of that tragic day showed quite dramatically.

I did the traditional work-up for both the statehood and the town incorporation: natal, progressed, diurnal, adding the event itself. That made seven charts, three of which would be almost duplicates of one another. That is impossible for deal with, so I did what I always do when I have multiples of charts: I created a spreadsheet with the pertinent information (10 bodies, Ascendant, Midheaven and North Node).

For those of you who are familiar with diurnal charts, they provide the personal transits for any day in question. How do you cast a diurnal? Enter the natal data into the computer and change the birth date to the day of the event. This produces personal transits. Although I did list all the positions because I did not want to leave out anything important, please know there is some redundancy in the entries. The only diurnal placements that can change dramatically and distinctly between the state and city diurnals and event chart are the Ascendant, Midheaven and Moon. Each natal is its own trilogy.

## Major Aspect Patterns

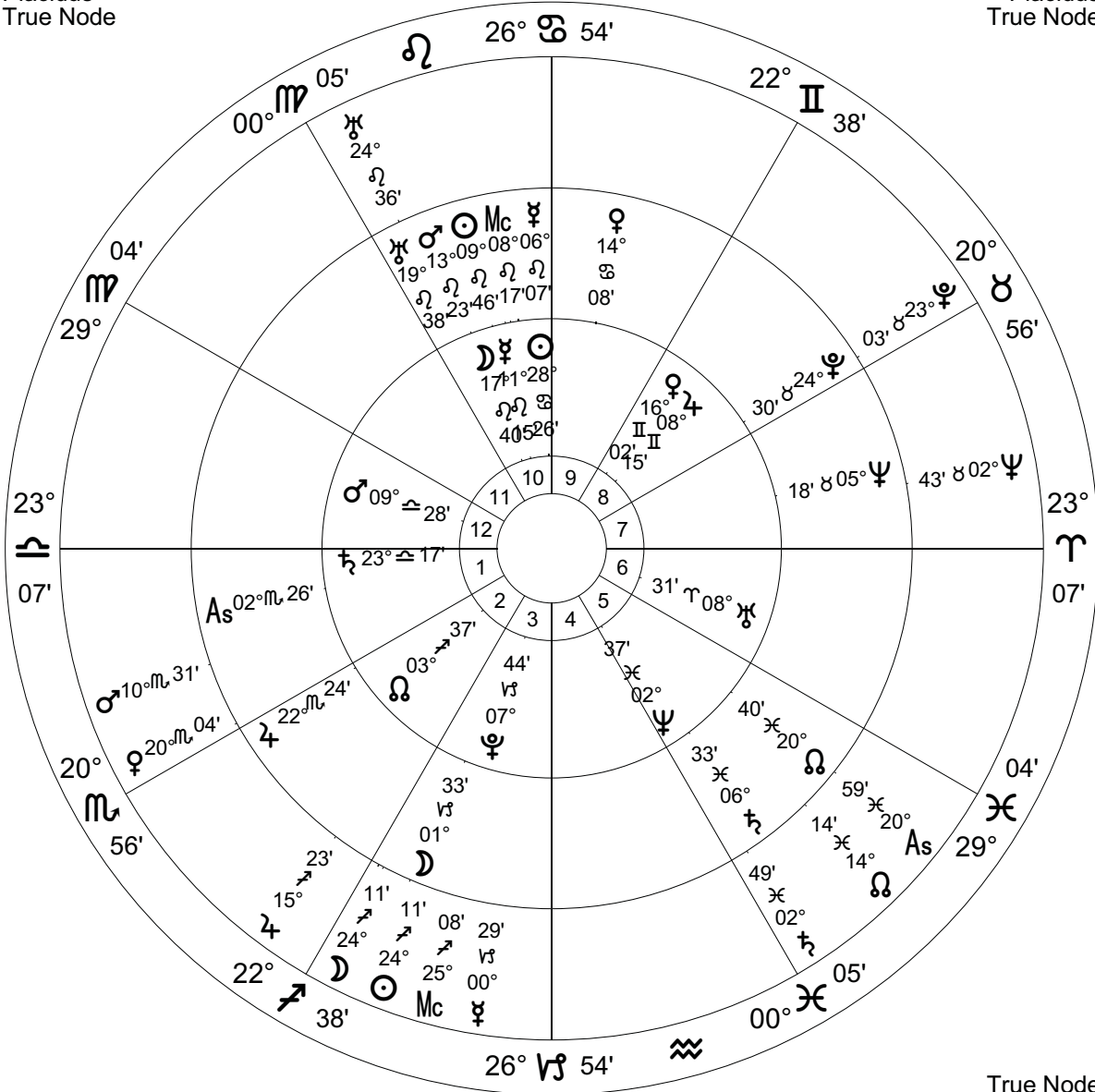
First I looked at the major aspect patterns for the state and town charts because such patterns tend to be triggered as a group. The state chart sported a major Leo stellium plus two fixed T-squares, one at 20 degrees, the other in early degrees.

Additionally the progression for the state for the date of the shooting produced a new stellium that was based on a New Moon within one minute applying—very powerful. The town chart produced a wide 5-planet (half the planetary positions) mutable grand-cross that fit directly into that progressed state stellium and I had not even begun to use the transiting event positions.

The stellium gave five positions between 8 and 19.5 Leo: Midheaven, Sun, Mercury, Mars, and Uranus. A stellium tends to act as a massive conjunction, so when you trigger one planet the whole complex can become active . . . as it was with the shooting. The two fixed T-squares that are part of that stellium were also activated within the complex. If you ever wonder if transits can activate progressions or if the pro-

Inner Wheel  
**Theatre Shooting Diurnal**  
 Natal Chart  
 Jul 20 2012, Fri  
 12:00 pm LMT +6:59:20  
 Aurora, CO  
 39°N43'46" 104°W49'53"  
 Geocentric  
 Tropical  
 Placidus  
 True Node

Middle Wheel  
**Colorado Statehood**  
 Natal Chart  
 Aug 1 1876, Tue  
 12:00 pm LMT +6:59:56  
 Denver, CO  
 39°N44'21" 104°W59'03"  
 Geocentric  
 Tropical  
 Placidus  
 True Node



True Node  
 Placidus  
 Tropical  
 Geocentric  
 39°N44'21" 104°W59'03"  
 Denver, CO  
 9:22:15 am LMT +6:59:56  
 Jul 20 2012, Fri  
 Sec.Prog. Naibod in RA  
**Colorado Statehood**  
 Outer Wheel

gressions show up strongly for an event, this is your example. The state, the town and the theatre are in lock step with activations involving natal, progressed and diurnal positions.

Talk about drama—Leo—(this shooting was considered larger than the horrendous 1999 Columbine school shooting), the shooting occurred at a premiere showing of the third Batman movie. Many movie-goers had dressed in costume. The shooter was dressed in a black flak outfit, head to foot. The victims thought at first that it was part of the opening. Talk about theatre, this was inside a theatre; talk about center stage, the exit door the shooter used was at the front, almost under the screen; talk about a Leo mane of hair (bright orange/red). The suspected shooter called himself “the Joker,” Batman’s nemesis.

## **Shooting and Aftermath**

Chaos erupted at 12:37 am, about 15 minutes into the film, with the launching of two canisters of gas, and rapid gunfire. By 12:39 am, calls poured into the police and they arrived on the scene about 90 seconds later. Amazing response. As they surrounded the building, the shooting was still in process. Lack of gas masks for the police was a problem, yet the suspect was in custody by 12:46 am. From beginning to end, the incident evolved in 9 minutes and left 12 people dead and 58 wounded. But this horror story was not finished.

The suspect told police his apartment was booby-trapped with trip-wires and explosives—a virtual death trap. Not only did that building have to be evacuated but so did several surrounding buildings. Eventually the police were able to gain safe entry.

All this was taking place while the story of the event, the victims, the survivors, the families, and our country unfolded moment by moment. Tales of heroism and personal sacrifice and anger at the lack of effective weapon legislation were hot topics. The question repeatedly asked was: “How many people have to die before something is done?” I am not sure there is an answer.

## **Charts and Spreadsheet**

I calculated the individual charts, the tri-wheels and the spreadsheet, and am going to briefly explain the spreadsheet. At the top are listed the state natal, progressed and diurnal charts, followed by the theatre shooting chart (Aurora natal). The next group is the Fletcher/Aurora city natal, progressed and natal. Although I have not mentioned it so far, because I had access to the information, I also listed the state natal, progressed and diurnal for the Columbine incident along with the natal for that incident (Columbine natal). Please note that the Columbine incident has nothing to do with the Fletcher/Aurora city charts. While Littleton is also a suburb of Denver, it has nothing in particular to do with Fletcher/Aurora.

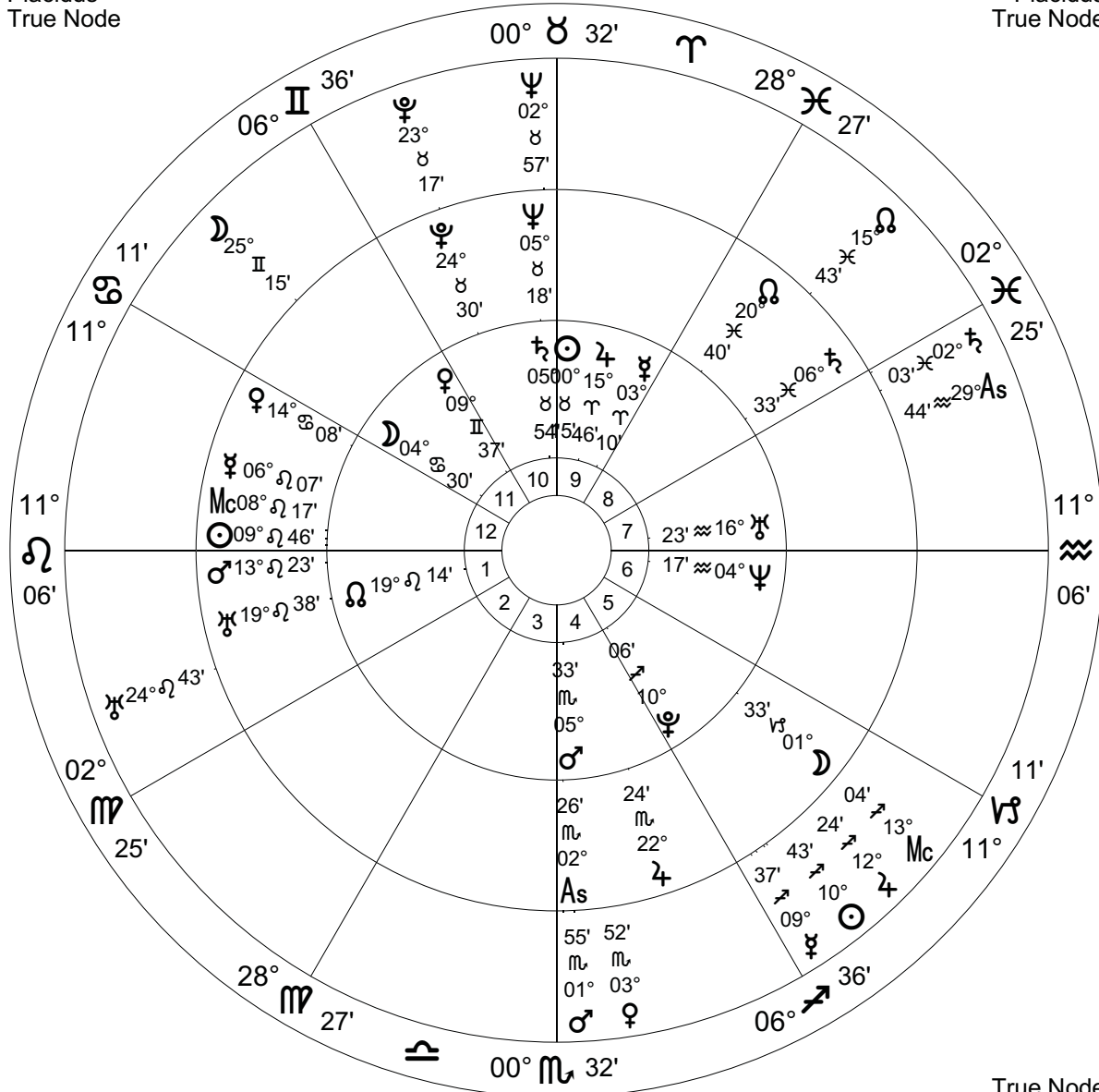
To make aspecting easier, I broadly color-code the groupings so I can isolate the activations. The first column is the natal and progressed stelliums, the T-squares and the grand cross previously mentioned. The balance of the columns are the aspects themselves. The natal placements are that which is activated, the receptive points.

Note that there are two columns of fixed placements. These are the keys to understanding the event itself. The fourth column is mutable aspects and the fifth column is cardinal aspects. While these divisions are equal in importance, there are fewer of both types as fixed positions ruled that day. I tried to keep the orbs quite tight and each block of information has a description at the top.

In addition, the last column came from a work-up I had done separately on the town of Fletcher/Aurora. I naturally grouped the natal, the progressed and the town diurnal with the state natal and then added the

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three personal points from the shooting chart. Five groups emerged as listed, but one proved to be key because the shooting chart dovetailed into that specific grouping, the 10 degree fixed aspect groups. This is why that aspect group or clustering is delineated first. It is the key to this event.

As you look at the aspects, remember the individual elements: the power and control of Pluto, the extremism shock of Uranus, the deception of Neptune, the organization and judgment rendered by Saturn, the violence and terrorism of Mars and the over-the-top Jupiter influence on the personal planets and positions. Almost every point of the charts are involved. And they say astrology does not work!

For separate research it would be interesting to study symbolic degrees. There are several techniques to choose from, and my preference is Charubel's. It is quite easy to isolate the Columbine material for a stand-alone event.

It is also possible to use the state natal, progressed other diurnal events to explore the terrible fires and floods Colorado has endured this year, perhaps adding the town/city charts where applicable.

After I had completed all this I also set the Aries Ingress chart for Denver to see if/how it fit, and there was 19 Scorpio rising, Serpentis, the accursed degree of the accursed sign, square the state natal Uranus and with Mars elevated in the 10th and ruling the Ascendant. Mars equals fire and Mars equals gunfire and both were experienced by Colorado in 2012.

This is how we learn.