

Feng Shui Index 2013



**YEAR OF THE BLACK
WATER S-SNAKE**

Feng Shui Index WHAT'S INSIDE & WHAT'S AHEAD

60 YEARS, 12 BRANCHES, 10 STEMS, FIVE ELEMENTS, FOUR PILLARS, THREE KILLINGS, TOO MANY FLYING STARS... ALL ON ONE PAGE!

**FIVE ELEMENT THEORY
WU XING**
All five elements
are present this year

Find out why it's
good - but can be
bad - that all five
elements or energy
phases are present.
Sidebar page 4
and pages 12-13

The good news is
the flying "stars"
or energies return
to their home turf
this year. It's also
the bad news.
Sidebar page 4

**FLYING STARS THEORY
XUAN KONG**

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NORTHWEST
Travel & support



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WEST
Creativity & children



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SOUTHWEST
Relationships



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NORTH
Career



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**THE YEAR'S
GRINNERS
ROOSTER
COW
DOG**



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NORTHEAST
Self-improvement



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EAST
Health & family



Page 26

SOUTHEAST
Wealth & home



Page 15

**THE YEAR'S
GROANERS
PIG
TIGER
SNAKE
SHEEP**



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SOUTH
Reputation

HOURLY PILLAR	DAY PILLAR	MONTH PILLAR	YEAR PILLAR
戊 Wu Yang Earth	辛 Xin Yin Metal	甲 Jia Yang Wood	癸 Gui Yin Water
子 Zi Yin Water	丑 Chou Yin Earth	寅 Yin Yang Wood	巳 Si Yin Fire

Pages 4-5

SNAKE'S POSITIVE TRAITS
CHARISMATIC CONSERVATIVE HEALING
INTUITIVE PRAGMATIC TRANSFORMING

SNAKE'S NEGATIVE TRAITS
DEADLY COLD CRAFTY MANIPULATIVE
POISONOUS SELFISH VAIN VENGEFUL

Find out how best
to handle the year's
terrible trio of afflictions:
the Tai Sui, the Three Killings
and the Five Yellow flying star.
Page 31



It is written

Sitting quietly,
doing nothing,
Spring comes and the
grass grows by itself.

WHAT'SS ALL THISSS?

So, what is the CLSA Feng Shui Index? At heart, it's simply our annual, lighthearted (and, as we're often told off, lightweight) stab at predicting the Hang Seng Index's ups and downs over the year ahead by using little more than "wind and water" - which is basically how "feng shui" translates.



And what on earth do we know about feng shui? The sum total of knowledge we've acquired over the years probably could be scribbled on the back of a small *lai see* packet - no doubt with space left for something useful.

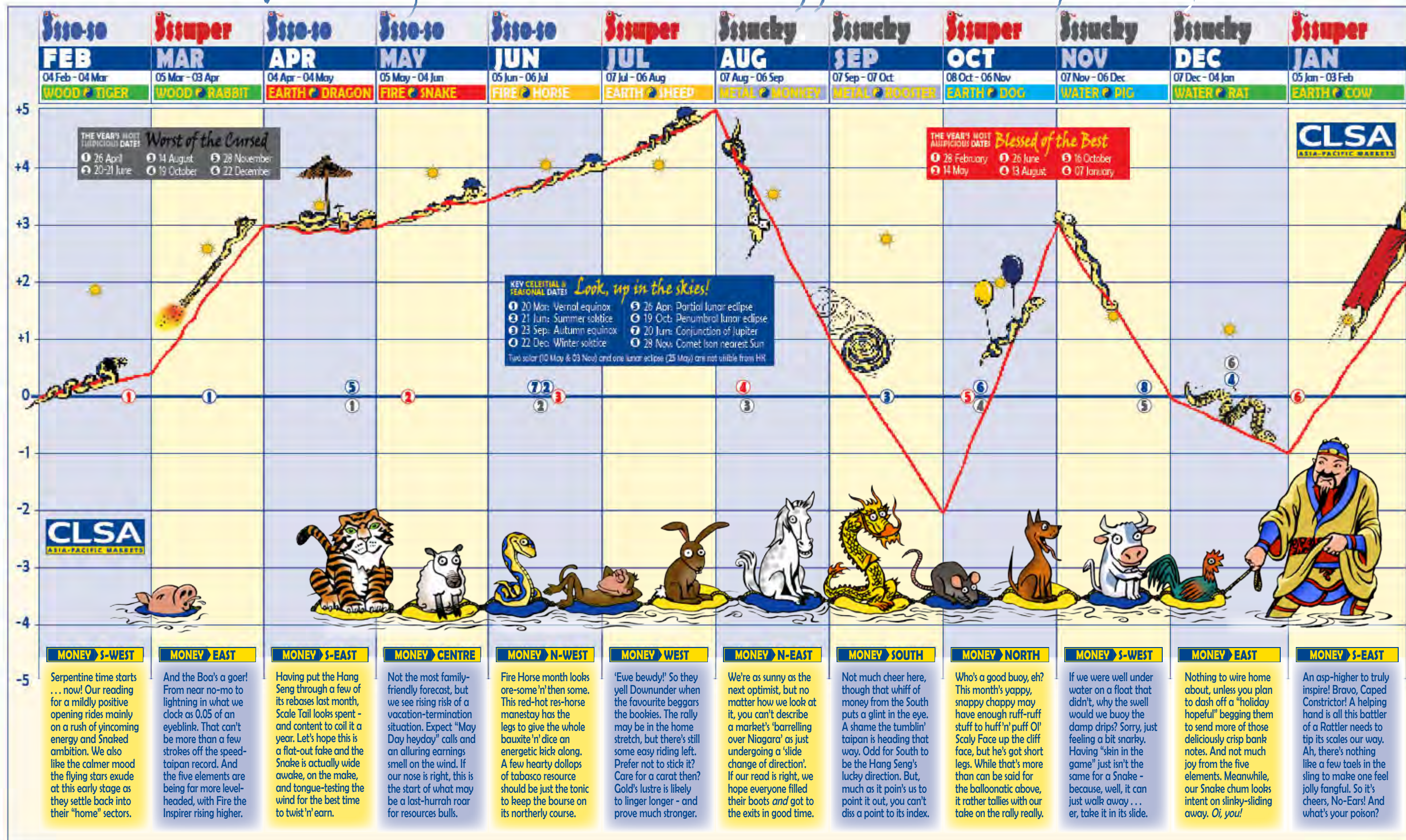


We quite sensibly rely on a muster of masters'n'casters who know a thing or three about *bazi* (fortune charts), *wu xing* (five-element theory) and *xuan kong* (flying stars), to name but a few of the methods that *sifu* use to forecast.



We then combine this mound of marvellous material and toss in our tuppence worth. The result, like the future it so fearlessly forecasts for this Year of the Snake, is in front of you. We hope you enjoy them both. May all your adders be tall ladders... *Kung hei fat choi!*

Has the Slideruler got the writhe stuff or is it a s'pent force? It's a tough coil



Whether the Slitherer? It may not be quite the way that most investors would frame the question, but we wager they'd all like to know the answer. Because this poser is simply a feng shui way of pondering market performance (particularly of the Hang Seng Index) over the next 12 months - starting just after midnight on 4 February.*

From that point, the course of the bourse (indeed, every aspect of life, as we know it) will weigh on the glistening scales of the great Black (Fire) Water Snake - or, if you will, the metaphorical manifestation of a much-maligned metaphysical energy mass.

What manner of beast is she then? That "she" is a big clue: Chinese zodiac Snakes always are female or *yin*, and this influence should be a sharp contrast to the moody, broody, maddening male *yang* energy that drove the Dragon to distraction during 2012 and many investors to despair. *Yin* is in keeping with other calmer energies that are likely to prevail this year.

For those devils who revel in the detail, the report is peppered with ophiological observations, starting with the sidebar at right. But those who prefer 'just the facts, ma'amba' (or what passes for them here) will do best focusing on the feverish folly at left, which we're confident is the answer - if not to your prayers, then at least to the question we posed at the start.

Whether this forecast for the Hang Seng has you nodding in agreement, laughing at its ridiculousness or merely dumfounded, such confounding twists and turns are often as not par for the bourse when a Snake has the helm (see pages 10-11).

As befits the yin-coming energy, this year's lead *sifu* are *she-fu*, with Mariana Kou and Emily Lam returning to toss the old oracle boas. In his newfound role as their apprentice, the ever-patient Oliver Lam is inevitably left to pick up the pizzas.

With that, may the Black Water Snake spread the good stuff far, wide and free - and leave us, like the man in the apothegm, healthy, wealthy and wise enough to know which matters. *Kung hei fat choy!*



THE BLACK WATER SNAKE OF 2013
 Zodiac position: 6
 Energy type: Yin
 Season: Summer
 Month: 4th (May-Jun)
 Day: Tuesday
 Hours: 9am-11am
 Element: Fire
 Direction: S-SE (SE3) 142.6°-157.5°

WHAT TO EXSSPECT

We're more upbeat than most about this Fire/Water Snake - or its *potential* at least (pages 4-5). We can't help but like the waves of Water, as it usually represents "wealth" in feng shui. And unlike last year, there's also a decent amount of Fire - regarded as "wealth" for the Hang Seng.

More specifically, we see a resources-led slowburn runup for the HSI from 2Q. As it builds, risk flicks "on". But August looks to be trouble - doubly so in terms of malevolent energies from the year's flying stars. The Fire-Water clash in the year pillar of the Snake's chart plays out as global power-grid failures, with solar storms as the possible trigger. For the rest of the year, the HSI has the look of a cat on a nine-life death bounce. The Fire Horse is up next. Looks as if it may be a bit of a buckler

STELLAR KARMA

Xuan kong or flying-stars analysis is like an air-traffic controller's log of the year's key energies or "stars". It never hurts to know if something big and ugly is about to land in your backyard. At first blush, the return of the nine stars to their home sectors this year suggests a more settled period. On the other hand (always seems to be one of them in feng shui), this once-in-a-decade event means the stellar energy is boosted, so we may see *more* volatility!



PILLAR FIGHT!

There are also signs of calmer karma in the *bazi* or destiny chart for the year (see the facing-page panel), because it contains all five elements. Yet that means more risk of "pillar fights". D'oh! What the lore giveth, the lore taketh away.

ANNUAL ODDITIES

Yes, this is a "widow's year", but no need to top up the old boy's policy. As flagged in the page 3 footnote, it simply means the lunar year starts later and ends sooner than the solar, the first day of which is *li chun*. So, bereft of a full spring, the year's a "widow".

Also of note: The end of this year marks the half-way point along our current 60-year zodiac cycle. Should be downhill all the way from here ... ☹

At the risk of putting the

Within minutes of the stockmarket's close at 3.30pm on Monday, 24 November 1969, and after a burst of frantic calculation and crosschecking, Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index was born, weighing in at 158.5 points. Portents, which are said to mark the arrival of great figures or events, were pretty thin on the ground that day - unless you count the arrival of a capsule carrying creatures from outer space.* We couldn't even find a birth notice (so we made our own, complete with "authentic" typos).

Birth Notices
Ho Sin-hang, chairman and founder of Hang Seng Bank is delighted to confirm the much-anticipated birth this day, 24 November 1969, in Hong Kong of the Hang Seng Index, for which he has the greatest hopes and expectations. Index weighed in at 158.5 points. Both Index and Bank doing well. Thanks to all at Hong Kong Exchange; also to "Uncle" Lee Quo-wei, "midwife" Stanley Shih-kuang Kwan; all at Hang Seng; plus the 33 "godfathers" to be responsible for the Index's fortune.. Inspired by Dow Jones Index, it will grow to become the "ultimate capitalist measure of Hong

Not that any fanfare was needed really. The index came of impeccable stock; the day and even time of its arrival, in true Hong Kong fashion, had been decided in advance; and the city's tycoons were said to have been desperately jockeying behind the scenes for weeks to ensure they'd be among the newborn's 33 blue-ribbon "godfathers".

A lack of portents was about the only similarity in the birth of our CLSA Feng Shui Index more than 22 years later. Any search for "godfathers" would only have emptied the bars of Wan Chai. Just between us, the thing was a bit of an accident.

With the markets as quiet as one hand clapping, we put out a light-hearted Chinese New Year note in 1992 with predictions from various feng shui masters. No one paid much heed to the contrarian "index" added at the last minute. But by year's end it had managed to correctly call all seven of the Hang Seng's major turns. No shortage of "godfathers" thereafter.

Hong Kong has remained the focus of our Feng Shui Index ever since, despite the addition over the years of enough bells and whistles to kit out every World Carillon Championships team plus all the referees from now till the Last Trumpet. This year, in our continual quest to further finetune our feng shui forecasts, we put the Hang Seng even more to the fore by casting its birth chart (top left of facing-page panel), and factoring key elements from it into our overall

*If you haven't guessed, this was the return to Earth of Apollo 12, which made the second manned moonlanding.

YOUR GUIDE TO THE INDEXSSS
This is what all the fuss is about, folks: the CLSA Feng Shui Index forecast of the Hang Seng for 2013.

THE SSSCOOP
'You are here', as the map chaps insist. It's your guide to what's inside. Plus *bazi* for both Snake and HSI.

THE MONTHSSS
A colour-cacophony of bells and whistles *aka* more detailed forecasts of our Index calls for each month.

THE HISSSTORY
And what a listless, shiftless, lacklustre, lowdown trogle of lazy limbless lizards this lot has been.

WHAT'SS INSIDE
PAGESSS 01-03

PAGESSS 04-05

PAGESSS 06-09

PAGESSS 10-11

chart before the bourse ...

Hang Seng Index's birth chart				Black Water Snake's birth chart			
HOUR 柱	DAY 柱	MONTH 柱	YEAR 柱	HOUR 柱	DAY 柱	MONTH 柱	YEAR 柱
庚 Geng Yang Metal	癸 Gui Yin Water	乙 Yi Yin Wood	己 Ji Yin Earth	戊 Wu Yang Earth	辛 Xin Yin Metal	甲 Jia Yang Wood	癸 Gui Yin Water
Monkey 申 Shen Yang Metal	Rabbit 卯 Mao Yin Wood	Pig 亥 Hai Yang Water	Rooster 酉 You Yin Metal	Rat 子 Zi Yin Water	Cow 丑 Chou Yin Earth	Tiger 寅 Yin Yang Wood	Snake 巳 Si Yang Fire

Those Eating Gods aren't in the graveyard again, are they?

Reading betwixt the blinds that are hastily drawn these days whenever we blot the landscape, we appear to have become *bazi* bores of the first Water. Or perhaps Earth. Yet how could one *not* be enchanted by an arcane and ancient art that entices Wood-be adepts with such a conjurer's kit of quaintly archaic terms and confounding concepts - from Heavenly stems to Earthly branches, Day Masters weak and strong, hidden elements, Hurting Officers, Eating Gods, killings, clashes, bings, dings, stables, farmyards, graveyards and entire families of three generations with all their pals! Why, it's a veritable Celestial Sim City, all packed neatly into eight little boxes (the Four Pillars of Destiny, or Eight Characters - hence, *bazi*). And it even tells the future! The mechanics of which need trouble you not one wee bit because, as ever, we've done the heavy-lifting, leaving you to peruse at your leisure the light-as-froth results. ☺

annual readings. The results should be more specific and sharply focused on finance and the Hang Seng, most obviously in our assessment of the key monthly element weightings. Rest assured, we have otherwise followed our usual methods of channelling late into the night whatever spirits we could find in unlocked drawers, traversing the length and breadth of our cubicle in search of scraps of paper on which we may have scribbled something sensible, and sparing no expense that had the slightest chance of being signed off.

No surprise then that, as always, we advise reading this report with a cheekful of tongue and a handful of salt. That said, we hope you enjoy what we predict will once again be the best (if not always the most reliable) guide to the Other Side this side of the Great Divide. ☺

THE SECTORSSS
Showcasing our HSI-focused, retuned, tip-top Sector-selector Element Detector forecast muddle.
PAGESSS 12-13

THE SSSZODIAC
Sign here 'n' here 'n' ... in fact, all 12 signs in four easy-peasy pieces. How's the Snake's coil for you?
PAGESSS 14-26

THE FACESSS
A baker's hot dozen fates of the famous, including CV Leung, Ai Wei Wei and Aung San Suu Kyi.
PAGESSS 27-30

THE HOT LOTSSS
Psha the sha at your peril, pal! We locate the Horrors' haunts. Plus: Our top feng shui property guide.
PAGESSS 31-33

THE UNIVERSSS
Money makes the world go round, but *qi* squares it all up. Check our feng shui *sans frontieres* map!
THE SSSCENTRE

THIS BE LUNAR SEER

Mere moons to the Dragons' suns, Snakes get less press - and that not half as hot. Ours is a sunny-side upbeat lunar seer: We reckon the birth chart of this Snake (see left) has plenty of *promise*, at least.

Sure, there's a clash in the year pillar, but it's no Apocalypse. We focus on Water Snakes' reputation for transformation and leaving wealth waves in their wake.

As well, we like: All five elements visible, especially Fire - the Hang Seng's "wealth"; no horror pillar fights; soft Fire support in a triple chain of strong hiddens (Fire > Earth > Metal); and no major meltdowns when we check the HSI's chart against the Snake's. In fact, we see some encouraging signs in terms of the market and money flows, not least the HSI's strong Water "daymaster" (being the heavenly stem of the day pillar, said to indicate one's true nature).

Yet we're far from convinced this Snake has the slide stuff to turn things around. Reviewing the impact of the five previous Snakes (see page 10) unearthed a trogle of boneheaded losers.

One final note: We've never heard even a hint that feng shui sifu were consulted before the launch of the Hang Seng. And yet its chart isn't bad for a stock index - bar the lack of Fire. That beggars belief, given how often we've had our fingers burnt! ☹

ART OF THE CHART

Herewith, four pages full to overflowing with the devilish details on which we built our CLSA Feng Shui Index this year - enough to sate the most American of appetites. Some may say: 'This explains a lot'. And we couldn't agree more.



1 We score each month (Ssuper, Ssucky or Sso-so) on how we see feng shui influences affecting the HSI.

2 Western-calendar months spanned.



3 Name of lunar month (animal plus seasonal element; Wood Tiger always first); colour of bar reflects "visiting element", which may differ from dominant one (see below). Main *jieqi* or solar-based agricultural event is the fineprint at right.



4 Dates for solar month (what the seeriest sifus choose) plus lunar (for calculating festivals).

5 Forecast summary for the time-tight exec.



6 Which zodiac sign is in luck and which may need plenty of pluck

7 Best market dates...

8 ... and ones to watch.



9 Best direction to seek windfalls; plus month's dominant element/s, based on our Hang Seng-focused reading.

Continued on facing scroll

February
Wood Tiger
04 FEB-04 MAR 10 FEB-11 MAR

Executive summary
Ignore unruly elements; Flying Stars exude a settling mood; back the Snake's ambition.

Signs of the times
Lodes of luck Hard scramble

Auspicious dates*
FEB 07, 15, 19, 28; MAR 06

Suspicious dates
FEB 12, 13, 21, 22; MAR 04

Dollars and elements
Money source: SW (Wood) Dominates: WOOD

Balances in the scales
More Wood than should be; or Water than oughta be; Fire's not worth the candle; Earth dearth's a scandal; Metal settles near mid-levels.

Balance of elements by % weight
40.0 4.5 6.5 16.5 32.5

Adder it all up
They're well out of line, and our call may be overly kind, but there's more to this caper than finding raw qi in queues. And anyway, we prefer to err on the "extra spoonful" side. That all nine Flying Stars are back on their home turf this year is enough for us to give the Snake's opener the nod.

Month's omens favour
Finance Health

Qi-wizz strategy
Axe excess Timber (some sale-stale slump of retail, perhaps); feed feeble Fire; and shovel on Earth for all you're worth.

THE HSI'S BEST FEBRUARY
Relatively (%) 67.27 1973
Absolutely (pts) 2,228.33 1998

March
Wood Rabbit
05 MAR-03 APR 12 MAR-09 APR

Executive summary
And the Boa's a goer! Quick pickup; better balance 'bout ideal 20% - weight to grow.

Signs of the times
Lodes of luck Hard scramble

Auspicious dates*
MAR 12, 21, 25; APR 02

Suspicious dates
MAR 05, 13, 20, 30; APR 05

Dollars and elements
Money source: E (Wood) Dominates: WOOD

Balances in the scales
Thar it glows! Flame-buoyant Fire runs down Wood's pyre; Rainfall, a drop in the Ocean, drums on pitch-perfect Metal; ... pay Dirt's ol' hole no mine.

Balance of elements by % weight
34.5 15.5 5.0 20.0 25.0

Adder it all up
At some point in almost every 007 movie, Bond puts some new gadget through its paces, typically pushing it well past the limits of Q's blood pressure. This month has that feel - of a warmup to gauge how much "give" it's got. No reason not to enjoy the ride. Mind the bend near the equinox, James.

Month's omens favour
Gaming Wealth

Qi-wizz strategy
With the engine ticking over so sweetly, why tinker? If you *must* get your digits dirty, grab a few handfuls of Soil.

THE HSI'S BEST MARCH
Relatively (%) 10.99 1999
Absolutely (pts) 1,083.71 1999

April
Earth Dragon
04 APR-04 MAY 10 APR-09 MAY

Executive summary
Takin' a break? Fakin' Snake! Our slowdown "lie-down" low-down winks it's wide awake.

Signs of the times
Lodes of luck Hard scramble

Auspicious dates*
APR 10, 16, 19, 22; MAY 01

Suspicious dates
APR 12, 24, 26; MAY 07

Dollars and elements
Money source: SE (Earth) Dominates: WATER

Balances in the scales
Herding cats? Ha! Try refining the aligning of this mercurial mob. Lumber grows limber... Tiiimber! Metal mirrors Fire; Tide rides a rip; Earth? Zzzip.

Balance of elements by % weight
29.5 16.5 5.5 16.5 32.0

Adder it all up
We had feared the celestial script for the month would call for a Bond-esque fireball finale, but we're assured it will be a 'gentle deceleration'. Still, it wouldn't hurt to don the old body armour around late April's lunar eclipse. You know how it is with these movie fellas and their last-minute rewrites.

Month's omens favour
Gold Career

Qi-wizz strategy
Slider may not truly be flat out, but four of the feisties are stout. And what to do about flat-Earthers except pile it on?

THE HSI'S BEST APRIL
Relatively (%) 21.85 1999
Absolutely (pts) 2,906.15 2008

May
Fire Snake
05 MAY-04 JUN 10 MAY-07 JUN

Executive summary
Vacation termination? 'May day' callbacks may be on the cards if Fire gets much higher.

Signs of the times
Lodes of luck Hard scramble

Auspicious dates*
MAY 07, 10, 14, 22; JUN 04

Suspicious dates
MAY 17, 20, 25, 31

Dollars and elements
Money source: C (Fire) Dominates: FIRE

Balances in the scales
Some time since we've seen an all-team gleam ride the mean so swell. No surprise the month is slideruled by ol' Skin-shedder Change-arranger, hisself.

Balance of elements by % weight
14.0 31.5 13.5 16.5 24.5

Adder it all up
This be the burst! Our divine of the aligns' designs marks this a milestone month. Focus on coil over call (lineball, stalled a whissper shy of Super). On reading 'tween the Serpentine lines, we see a surge emerge: a stock-and-ore last-gasp grasp o'er a quarter... ahh, then slaughter in shorts order.

Month's omens favour
Oil & gas Wealth

Qi-wizz strategy
The smoulder grows bolder when there's air to spare - so step back there and let it flare in earn, baby, earnest.

THE HSI'S BEST MAY
Relatively (%) 33.72 1974
Absolutely (pts) 2,650.01 2009

June
Fire Horse
05 JUN-06 JUL 06 JUN-07 JUL

Executive summary
No neigh-sayer, the res-Horse is primed to fire the bourse a good kick of tabasco resource.

Signs of the times
Lodes of luck Hard scramble

Auspicious dates*
JUN 11, 14, 19, 26; JUL 04

Suspicious dates
JUN 18, 20-21, 28; JUL 02

Dollars and elements
Money source: NW (Fire) Dominates: WATER

Balances in the scales
Soil's swollen with spoils; Metal beams steadily; have no fear, Tide's turn's near; Fire, bellow mellowed by crackling pace, draws in to burn flue backlog.

Balance of elements by % weight
19.0 13.0 23.0 16.5 28.5

Adder it all up
Major miner alignup. Boasting a bursting lode-laden girth, Mother Earth delivers for all she's worth. Happy returns on her birth daze. Another close call, all in all, scored Sso-so after much yo-yo. Baltic Dry ought to rise on the spurge. Watch 'n' await a shudder 'n' shake around the solstice date.

Month's omens favour
Resources Wealth

Qi-wizz strategy
Like free-rangers, this brood seems to deliver the scratch well enough if left to crouch their own Greta Garboat.

THE HSI'S BEST JUNE
Relatively (%) 21.78 1971
Absolutely (pts) 1,441.92 2000

July
Earth Sheep
07 JUL-06 AUG 08 JUL-06 AUG

Executive summary
'Ewe bewdy!' As is yelled Down Under. The run's not done, but gold may hold lustre longer.

Signs of the times
Lodes of luck Hard scramble

Auspicious dates*
JUL 09, 17, 23, 30; AUG 02

Suspicious dates
JUL 08, 15, 18, 25, 31

Dollars and elements
Money source: W (Earth) Dominates: EARTH

Balances in the scales
Elimmensely brill! It's the feng shui version of seeing a one-armed bandit's steal wheels stop, one after another, on the money, paralysed with payin'.

Balance of elements by % weight
20.5 16.5 25.5 14.0 23.5

Adder it all up
Wariness is ever warranted when money's on the line, but our horizon-tally of the five elements and sum-of-the-stars evaluation sees the commod bods still riding high on the bull's buck all through this month - and the Sheep not the fleeced bit fussed or bah-humbugged.

Month's omens favour
Resources Love

Qi-wizz strategy
That's half the year done and dusted and we doubt that fiddles and finesses would've added a whisker to the kitty.

THE HSI'S BEST JULY
Relatively (%) 13.07 1989
Absolutely (pts) 2,194.60 2009

From scroll on facing page

10 Short forecast using fundamental energy flows or *wu xing*...

Wood	Fire	Earth	Metal	Water
4.0	4.5	6.5	16.5	24.5
Total divergence from mean 32.5				

11 ... neatly summarised in our at-a-glance balance beam and mean-divergence box (higher number points to increased volatility). Check out the charts in our Sector forecasts section - pages 12-13.

12 Adder it all up then provides you with a précis of our analysis of the likely impact of the month's feng shui influences and drivers, which brings us to...



13 ... the most favoured investible sector (see also detailed forecasts - page 13) and which lifestyle area should get a boost: Health, Wealth, Love or Career (check what's on the cards for your sign - pages 14-26).

14 Balancing elemental energies is like trying to nail custard to the wall. That said, we suggest how to land a strategic blow or two.

15 Finally, we note the Hang Seng's best-ever absolute and relative result for each month.

And there you have it: a full year's rewarding reading in a mere four pages. We doubt that even a flying phalanx of burly *oshiya* (the peak-hour "people-pushers" employed on Tokyo's subways) could have squeezed more in. Not as prettily anyway.

* Dates indicated in darker colours are especially auspicious or suspicious.

* Dates indicated in darker colours are especially auspicious or suspicious.

It is written

The timber has been turned into a boat; and the rice is already cooked.

福

It shall be

So "last year" for Asia, dragonfruit becomes the latest health fad, buoyed by the usual claims of amazing benefits. As prices soar, growers across the region boost plantings, unaware that their eager green thumbs are no match for fashion's fickle finger.



And the next bubble to burst will be ... US municipal and corporate bonds! Tick, tick, tick!



Gold dazzles its way through US\$2,500/oz, silver polishes off US\$50/oz, and uranium goes code-red hot.

福

MONTH-BY-MONTH FENG SHUI ANALYSIS

Stucky August

Metal Monkey

07 AUG-06 SEP 07 AUG-04 SEP

Executive summary

'Slide change of direction' is one way to describe 'barrelling over Niagara' - pretty slippery way.

Signs of the times



Lodes of luck Hard scramble

Auspicious dates*

AUG 12, 13, 20, 29; SEP 02

Suspicious dates

AUG 09, 14, 23, 26; SEP 04

Dollars and elements



Money source Dominates

Checking balances

"Sweet" turns to "swill": Earth now exhausted; Metal on the scrap heap; Water's slurry is a worry; barely Fire for a kettle. Rotten rhymes; tough times.

Balance of elements by % weight

19.0 4.0 10.0 35.0 32.0

Adding it all up

Oracle-bone tossing ain't for the faint - oft we'd be aloft the moon to be right wrong. But as elements scatter and flying stars double-double, this swingeing Metal Monkey shrieks trouble. Rug is pulled, curtains drawn, lemmings leap, devils spawn. We hope our call is all that ends cactus.

Month's omens favour



Gold Health

Qi-wizz strategy

Whoa! This second half looks like a rockier ride: Stamp the Metal; fan the Flame; fatten Earth's girth ... woe be-Tides!

THE HSI'S BEST AUGUST

Relatively (%) 19.11 1971

Absolutely (pts) 799.20 2007

Stucky September

Metal Rooster

07 SEP-07 OCT 05 SEP-04 OCT

Executive summary

Not much cheer here, but we like clams from down South - the HSI's perfection direction.

Signs of the times



Lodes of luck Hard scramble

Auspicious dates*

SEP 11, 18, 24, 27; OCT 03

Suspicious dates

SEP 09, 19, 23, 25; OCT 02

Dollars and elements



Money source Dominates

Checking balances

Swill in turn's bilious as Plimsoll's horizon falls 'neath the Waters. Of Earth, there's barely enough to crust the coffin of a wee flea off the thin end of a whippet.

Balance of elements by % weight

13.0 6.5 4.5 35.5 40.5

Adding it all up

Ouch! They're nasty ol' mean divergence digits! We've not seen polarity pain akin it since the O Man and the Mormon hit the hatin' hustings. Ever silver-lining seekers, we huddle round the hope of Fire's faint flutter - not to forget South's double-wealth opps. Cows in particular: Mind the equinox.

Month's omens favour



Logistics Career

Qi-wizz strategy

Helter-skelter 'n' hell to pay. Crush Metal; staunch Water; mound Earth; pile Kindling 'fore the dwindling expffires.

THE HSI'S BEST SEPTEMBER

Relatively (%) 17.89 1979

Absolutely (pts) 3,158.33 2007

Super October

Earth Dog

08 OCT-06 NOV 05 OCT-02 NOV

Executive summary

He may have enough ruff to chase the Snake up North, but this Dog's got short legs.

Signs of the times



Lodes of luck Hard scramble

Auspicious dates*

OCT 16, 22, 24, 31; NOV 05

Suspicious dates

OCT 10, 15, 19, 25; NOV 01

Dollars and elements



Money source Dominates

Checking balances

A medal for Metal; a mulching for Wood; a cow pat for Soil's toils; 'Cheers, Fire. Done good!' But Water we to do with old floody-duddy puddle pants?

Balance of elements by % weight

19.0 10.5 13.5 21.0 36.0

Adding it all up

Far from best but well shy of worst. That said, wariness is the watchdog word of the month. If the May-July run was the resources bull's last hurrah, this burst is akin to an air-head fowl's frantic final lap of the yard. Howls may well be heard when the Horned Beast makes a lunatic leap.

Month's omens favour



Retail/Softs Wealth

Qi-wizz strategy

Phew! A little less squeal in the ol' equilibrium, but let's not get carried away - this limbless lizard ain't got legs.

THE HSI'S BEST OCTOBER

Relatively (%) 28.81 1998

Absolutely (pts) 4,210.11 2007

Stucky November

Water Pig

07 NOV-06 DEC 03 NOV-02 DEC

Executive summary

If we were well under water on a float that didn't, why the swell would we buoy the damp drips?

Signs of the times



Lodes of luck Hard scramble

Auspicious dates*

NOV 15, 19, 22; DEC 03

Suspicious dates

NOV 07, 18, 26, 28; DEC 06

Dollars and elements



Money source Dominates

Checking balances

Water's slaughter everywhere and now the bourse does sink. Wood makes a game grab for middle ground, but the crush of Water washes all aweigh.

Balance of elements by % weight

17.0 5.5 7.5 14.5 55.5

Adding it all up

Whatever floats your boat, as the antediluvian folk were wont to remark to Noah, but a sodden change in the ether of this order inevitably has a foreboding fin de seal feel. No surprise to sea this nadir of the year appear on the watch of the poor Porker. Perfect time for silver linings and rainbows.

Month's omens favour



Gaming Career

Qi-wizz strategy

Ever tried riding a bombora on an old wooden Mal while juggling a Firestick and an old brick? Balance is the least of it.

THE HSI'S BEST NOVEMBER

Relatively (%) 15.99 1999

Absolutely (pts) 2,120.24 1999

Stucky December 2014

Water Rat

07 DEC-04 JAN 03 DEC-31 DEC

Executive summary

Nothing to write home about, unless it's a "holiday hopeful" begging them to send money.

Signs of the times



Lodes of luck Hard scramble

Auspicious dates*

DEC 11, 17, 20; JAN 03

Suspicious dates

DEC 09, 19, 22, 30; JAN 02

Dollars and elements



Money source Dominates

Checking balances

And drown came the Rain: for Wood, a near doubling; but a dousing for Flame; Metal risks rusting; Earth's flooded again. Silver lining? Try lead balloon.

Balance of elements by % weight

32.5 4.0 6.5 14.0 43.0

Adding it all up

If the stars have had a jaded deja view look of late, your powers of observation are stellar, fella. Monthly cyclists repeat their opening pattern over the final quarter like a second helping of musical fruit. Look lively about the solstice, which really merely reminds us the only constant is change.

Month's omens favour



Retail Health

Qi-wizz strategy

After the rattle and roll of the past few months, this mere dog's breakfast isn't so hard to swallow and keep down.

THE HSI'S BEST DECEMBER

Relatively (%) 30.28 1993

Absolutely (pts) 2,763.18 1993

Super January 2014

Earth Cow

05 JAN-03 FEB 01 JAN-31 JAN

Executive summary

A final burst from the battler Rattler tips the scales. Cheers, No-Ears! What's your poison?

Signs of the times



Lodes of luck Hard scramble

Auspicious dates*

JAN 07, 22, 16, 30

Suspicious dates

JAN 14, 10, 20, 29

Dollars and elements



Money source Dominates

Checking balances

Fair Finnish, Feija. Indeed, if our read's right, the year's elements dispense more ailments than ailments, all in all. That sounds more than glass half full. Win!

Balance of elements by % weight

20.0 6.5 12.0 19.0 42.5

Adding it all up

Quite common, come the close, to feel a little tired, but to be swept off on a rip tide? Buoy, that sinks. We admit adding a padding of sunshine to our Moo Month score - just enough to see the Snake off with a win in his tael. In the words that failed to win Texas's top job for the Kinkster: Why the hell not?

Month's omens favour



Finance Health

Qi-wizz strategy

Two out of five is a passout as far as we're concerned at this late stage. Where's the Fire? Beggared if we know, Officer.

THE HSI'S BEST JANUARY

Relatively (%) 28.71 1975

Absolutely (pts) 1,956.10 2012

It is written

Things are not what they appear to be; nor are they otherwise.

福

It shall be

Retail goes reptilian with the likes of windscreen vipers, folding step adders, last-asp nebulisers, boa ties with taipan tie pins, pythong and cobra lingerie, mamba women's accessories, mamushi tushy bag, snake-steak-bake microwave meals and the one-eyed browser snake ('it's got a one-track mind of its own').



As HK developers feel the squeeze, new hi-tech, space-saving anaconda-minimums prove popular: Easy-slide wall panels uncoil with a hydraulic hiss to instantly transform basic living areas into a selection of multi-purpose rooms.

福

* Dates indicated in darker colours are especially auspicious or suspicious.

* Dates indicated in darker colours are especially auspicious or suspicious.

It is written

Not the wind,
not the flag.
Mind is moving.

福

It shall be

An earthquake
shakes things up a bit
somewhere and some
rather unusual weather
is recorded in certain
places around the
globe, providing quite
a number of people
with something to chat
about at the bus stop.
Mark our words.



Governments and
central banks
throughout much of
the world pursue either
financial repression
or programmes
to cope with the
collateral damage,
giving investors the
opportunity to book
what some see as a
relatively low-risk ride,
with robust returns.

福

Looks like a bode of old cobras

If the shiftless squiggles at right and particularly below are any indication of the fate that awaits tracker fundamentalists and index indigents when the course of the bourse is turned over to the Watery One... well, even those unfamiliar with the taipan's mother tongue or the viper's venacular will no doubt understand when we say things look rather forked.

We've seen worse one-offs, of course. What gives cause for pause in retracing these trails of woe over six decades is the soggy-serial nature of the bear-phased, pear-shaped backsliding that appears to be the arc of this fangless ts-ktsk of reprobate reptiles. After all, it's Wildely accepted that while one loss (1977) may be a misfortune, two (1977, 1989) look like carelessness. Three on the trot (1977, 1989, 2001) carry the distinct ordure of a Happy Valley fixture.

Discordian disciples of the celebrated Mr K (see the second entry of "Notable events of 1953", facing page) would doubtless dismiss our ophidiomantic* dabbings as a bode of old cobras. We almost hope they're right. But we'd be derelict in our duty were we not to at least note the recurrent coincidence of Serpentine times and an almost Austrian-esque stiffening of the winds of change. Pearl Harbour (1941), the Twin Towers (2001), Tiananmen (1989), the Fall of the Wall (1989), depression (1929), recession (1953, 2001), revolution (1917, 1989), war (1941, 1965)... these and more are but a moment's work for the Old Skin-shedder.

At which pessimistic point, the irrepressible sunny optimist in us bubbles to the surface to note that, of this pest of vipers, the last Water Snake was an adder (albeit only of a pip or two). As for change, after the past few years, we're game to grab any loose stuff on the table. ☺

*Divination by observing the movements of snakes - still practised by political journalists.

NOTABLE EVENTS OF 2001

- Mar USA enters what will be an eight-month recession in wake of "tech wreck".
- 19 Mar BoJ introduces quantitative easing.
- 20 Mar US Fed's third rate cut for year; by Dec, it's made 11, taking it from 6.5% to 1.75%.
- 28 Apr First space tourist (Dennis Tito).
- 14 Jun China, Russia and four others form the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.
- 11 Sep Terrorists fly hijacked planes into World Trade Center in NYC and Pentagon.
- 17 Sep When US markets reopen, the DJIA suffers biggest point drop in history (684.41).
- 02 Dec Enron files for bankruptcy; parent owes >US\$13bn, affiliates a further US\$18bn.
- 11 Dec China becomes a member of WTO.
- 31 Dec US markets end down for a second consecutive year - for first time in >25 years.
- 01 Jan Euro replaces currencies of 12 nations.

Earth Snake
1989

Hang Seng Index
04 Feb 1989 3,105.96 03 Feb 1990 2,736.55

Hang Seng Index
04 Feb 2001 16,071.29 03 Feb 2002 10,691.25

Metal Snake
2001

NOTABLE EVENTS OF 1989

- 1989 Tim Berners Lee invents World Wide Web.
- 24 Feb Funeral of Emperor Hirohito.
- 04 Mar Time and Warner announce plans for US\$15bn merger; completed Jan 1990.
- 24 Mar Exxon Valdez spills 240,000 barrels of oil in Alaska's Prince William Sound.
- 15 Apr Death of Hu Yaobang; the ensuing protests end in 04 Jun Tiananmen "incident".
- 25 Apr Japan PM resigns over stock scandal.
- 20 Jul Aung San Suu Kyi under house arrest.
- 13 Oct DJIA falls 6.91% on Friday 13th despite use of circuit-breakers; cause still not clear.
- 06 Nov Inaugural meeting of Apec nations.
- 09 Nov Fall of Berlin Wall amid waves of anti-communist upheaval across Europe.
- 29 Dec Japan's asset bubble peaks, days after big rate rise; Lost Decades follow.

NOTABLE EVENTS OF 1953: PREVIOUS YEAR OF THE BLACK WATER SNAKE

- 1953 China launches first Five-year Plan, with a focus on modernisation of heavy industry.
- 1953 Statistician Maurice Kendall publishes paper suggesting share movements are random.
- 28 Feb James Watson and Francis Crick reveal their discovery of DNA's double-helix structure.
- 01 Mar Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin suffers stroke and collapses; dies four days later.
- 26 Mar Jonas Salk reveals successful tests of his vaccine for poliomyelitis, amid epidemic.
- 13 Apr Ian Fleming publishes *Casino Royale*, his first novel featuring 007 James Bond.
- 29 May Edmund Hillary & Tenzing Norgay become first to reach the summit of Everest.
- Jun-Aug Typhoons, landslides and flooding across Asia; >2,500 killed in Japan alone.
- 27 Jul North and South Korean armistice.
- July End of Korean War also blamed for pushing the USA into 10-month recession.
- 25-27 Sep Nina, one of 10 strongest typhoons on record, and related storms kill >1,000 in Asia.
- 23 Oct Philippines' DZAQ-TV3 (now ABS-CBN) becomes Asia's first commercial-TV operator.
- Oct Launch of Univac 1103, the first commercial computer to use random-access memory.
- Dec More than 54,000 copies of Hugh Hefner's first *Playboy* issue sold, at US\$50¢.

Dow Jones Industrial Average*
04 Feb 1953 289.07 03 Feb 1954 291.16



1953 Year of the Black Water Snake

* The Hang Seng Index wasn't published until 24 November 1969 - see pages 4-5

NOTABLE EVENTS OF 1965

- 03 Mar USA abandons 25% gold-reserve requirement for Fed deposit liabilities.
- 08 Mar First official US combat troops (3,500 marines) arrive in South Vietnam.
- 18 Mar First spacewalk (Aleksei Leonov).
- 25 Jul Bob Dylan goes electric at Newport Folk Festival; festival folk go apoplectic.
- 09 Aug Singapore expelled from Federation of Malaysia; separate republic established.
- Sep Five-week war between Pakistan and India over Kashmir, Lahore ends in stalemate.
- 30 Sep Suharto-led Indonesian army crushes alleged communist coup; months of killings.
- 07 Oct Super-typhoon Carmen hits Japanese fishing fleet off Guam, killing >200.
- 30 Dec Marcos elected Philippines President; eventually forced from office >20 years later.
- 1965 Tokyo pips NYC as world's largest city.

Dow Jones Industrial Average*
04 Feb 1965 904.05 03 Feb 1966 981.23



Wood Snake
1965

NOTABLE EVENTS OF 1977

- 10 Mar Rings of Uranus discovered.
- 22 Apr Commercial phone calls carried over optic-fibre cable for the first time.
- 23 May Insulin first produced in laboratory.
- 26 Jun Elvis leaves building for last time (Indianapolis); dies at Graceland on 16 Aug.
- 13 Jul Looting and disorder across New York City during >24 hours of blackouts.
- 22 Jul Deng Xiaoping officially restored to power after expulsion of Gang of Four.
- 19 Aug Another revered Marxist, Julius Henry "Groucho" Marx, dies aged 86.
- 21 Sep USA, USSR and 13 other nations sign nuclear non-proliferation pact.
- 27 Oct *Never Mind the Bollocks, Here's the Sex Pistols* is released in the UK.
- 28 Oct Hong Kong police ("best money can buy") attack offices of the ICAC.

Fire Snake
1977

Hang Seng Index
04 Feb 1977 435.92 03 Feb 1978 411.03

* The Hang Seng Index wasn't published until 24 November 1969 - see pages 4-5

It is written

A bird does not sing
because it has
an answer,
but because
it has a song.

福

It shall be

Major shakeout in social
networking, after much
of it is found to be anti-
social and not working.



Having already
flashed past the USA
in terms of patents
filed, China officially
overtakes it for scientific
"smarts" - gauged
by publications in
reputable journals.



Libor "virus" proves
resilient to the
usual remedies and
becomes a deadly
pandemic, felling once-
invulnerable financial
colossi and leaving
an Austrian-esque
wasteland in its wake.

福

FORECAST CUSSIN'

Based on its "energy", almost any activity can be classified in *wu xing* terms. But few fall neatly under just one phase, which can make for frustrating forecasting. On the other hand, it allows lots of "wiggle" room.

WOOD 木

Forecast for 2013
Snake says: \$\$\$O-\$O

Associated with:

Agriculture; fashion; forestry; furniture; garments; packaging; pulp & paper; plantations; printing; retail; textiles; old media; soft commodities.

FIRE 火

Forecast for 2013
Snake says: \$\$\$UCKY

Associated with:

Accounting; advertising; aviation; entertainment; energy; fast food; foundries; internet; oil & gas; petrochemicals; power; technology; telecoms; utilities.

EARTH 土

Forecast for 2013
Snake says: \$\$\$UCKY

Associated with:

Agriculture; building materials; chemicals; construction; developers; hotels; cosmetics; insurance; resources (extract); pharma; property; soft commod.

METAL 金

Forecast for 2013
Snake says: \$\$\$UPER

Associated with:

Autos; banks; broking; currencies; engineering; finance; insurance; metals; machinery; resources (process); robotics; steel; white goods; technology; telecoms; utilities.

WATER 水

Forecast for 2013
Snake says: \$\$\$O-\$O/\$\$\$\$UPER

Associated with:

Advertising; aviation; beverages; breweries; gaming; hotels; internet; logistics; lotteries; marketing; shipping; technology; telecoms; tourism; transport; utilities.

ELEMENTARY SECTOR SELECTION

Humdinging a happy finetune

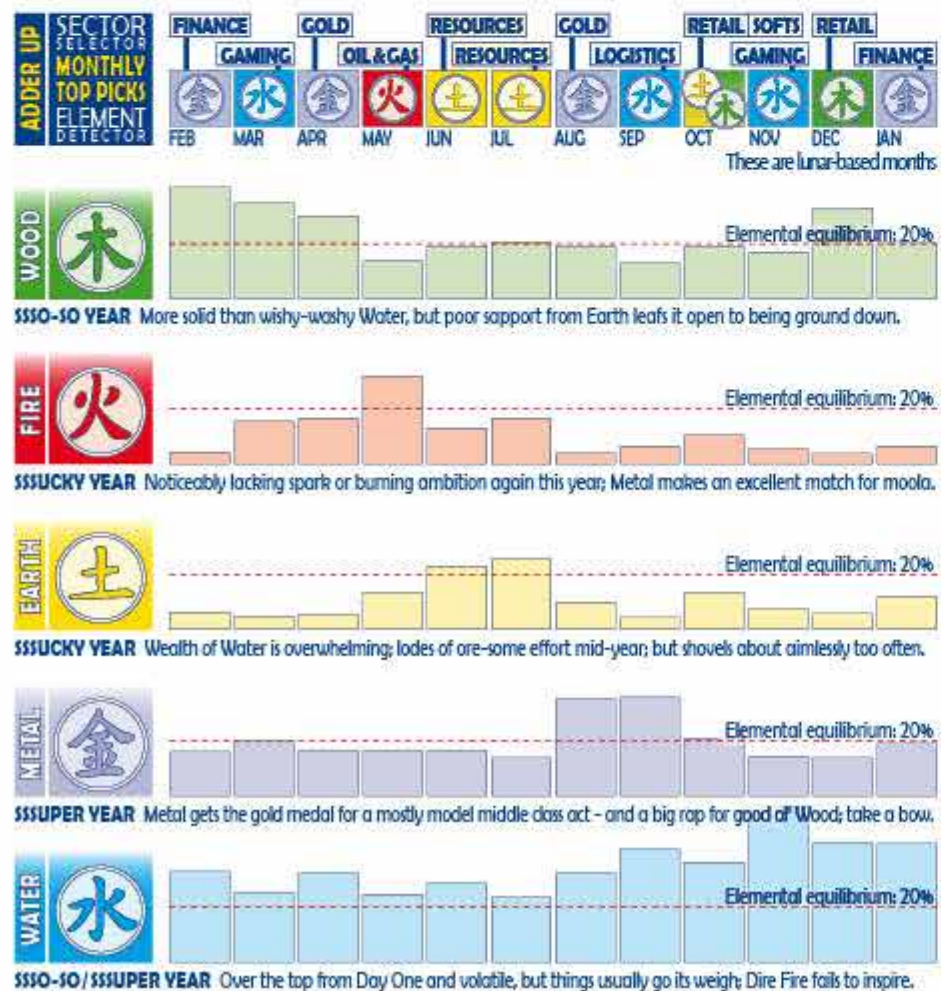
When it comes to modelling, we tend more towards the muddling, rather than medalling end of the scale. Which may well explain why we seem to be forever fiddling with the jolly things. Then again, our constant fiddling may well explain the muddling. Anyway, we like to think of it as finetuning.

This year, we're pleased as punch with the finetuning we've done to our Sector-selector Element Detector - a forecast model based on the *wu xing* theory of interaction between the five fundamental phases or energies. First, we've adopted the same Hang Seng Index-focused approach to assessing the monthly weightings of each element as we did in compiling the CLSA Feng Shui Index (see pages 4-5).

Second, rather than assessing each of the five elements in isolation, we've taken greater account of their interplay, particularly in regard to each element's "wealth" element. We'll spare you the convoluted details - and not only for fear of embarrassing ourselves (we do that as a matter of course anyway). In a nutshell, each element's "wealth" is the element that it is said to control (see the "overcoming cycle" on the facing page). Thus, Earth is Wood's "wealth", Metal is Fire's and so on.

Finally, and following from this, we favour elements that are "most balanced" (having a weighting closest to 20%), given that perfect equilibrium, with each of the five elements at 20%, is considered by those in the know to be the ideal for any system.

We're sotto confident that the resulting scores (see the charts below), if not yet quite pitch-perfect, will result in our forecasts being more humdinger than humbug. Now, if we could just get our muddling more like medalling. ☺



FOLIO FOLLIES

A sifu we knew who knew a thing or two once warned us that using feng shui to balance a portfolio was like trying to nail custard to the wall. Either way, you'd end in a right mess with egg on your face. Of course we went ahead regardless - and of course he was absolutely right.

WOOD	
East	3
South-East	4

FIRE	
South	9

EARTH	
South-West	2
North-East	8

METAL	
West	7
North-West	6

WATER	
North	1

Still, we never take our making a hash of things as proof of a problem with the process. If nothing else, it's a bit more fun than applying the usual anorak analysts' alphabet soup of metrics.

The theory couldn't be simpler: Balance your portfolio for equal weightings of each element. The trick is finding the best-fit element.

Easiest allocation is by sector (see the lists on the facing page). Or you could dicker the ticker: Add the digits of the stock's code until you're left with just one, then match it with the element numbers shown above. And there are plenty of other approaches. Wonderfully flexible is feng shui. Watch the custard is all. ☺



*Country elements based on date of founding - for China, this accords with tradition; forecast is for equities, not economy.

Generating cycle



Overcoming cycle



Utilities

FIRE

Rajesh Panjwani

Feng shui forecasts:

\$\$\$uper month MAY

\$\$\$ucky month FEB

SNAKE'S call overall \$\$\$UCKY

Resources

EARTH

Andrew Driscoll

Feng shui forecasts:

\$\$\$uper month JUL

\$\$\$ucky month NOV

SNAKE'S call overall \$\$\$UCKY

Retail

WOOD

Xiaopo Wei

Feng shui forecasts:

\$\$\$uper month DEC

\$\$\$ucky month SEP

SNAKE'S call overall \$\$\$O-\$O

Telcos/Internet

FIRE

Elinor Leung

Feng shui forecasts:

\$\$\$uper month MAY

\$\$\$ucky month FEB

SNAKE'S call overall \$\$\$UCKY

It is written
What you can not
avoid, welcome.

HOW TO FENG SAY

Don't know your *wu xing* from your *xuan kong*? Here's enough stuff so you can bluff.

Feng shui: Chinese system of geomancy, dating from at least 4,000 BC to discern interactions and flows of good and bad energy or *qi*.

Bazi: Life-fortune forecast chart called the Four Pillars of Destiny (year, month, day & hour of birth) or Eight Characters (each pillar comprises a heavenly stem and an earthly branch).

Wu xing: Five Phases or Elements theory is intrinsic to many Chinese systems of knowledge, from medicine to martial arts. Used to describe interactions between various phenomena.

Xuan kong: Flying Stars or Time & Space school is a comprehensive but complicated branch of classical feng shui that combines data from other methods such as Five Phases to create energy charts, typically for buildings and places.

Luo pan: Intricate and sophisticated Chinese magnetic compass used in feng shui assessments.

Enough zodiac-yak already

Have you heard the one about the feng shui *sifu* who walks into a bar? 'Ouch!' he says. 'Should have seen that coming.' Or the other *sifu* who wanders into his local and, seeing a dozen familiar faces having a round, walks over and says: 'Zodiacome here often?'

If you find yourself frowning at such frivolity, then free your forehead of that furrow forth-with and fear not, for we have adopted this light-hearted opening with the sole and serious aim of highlighting the Great Walls of China. And we refer not only - in fact, not at all - to the big, long one you can see from space. Anyway, ours is a beauty.

All wall and good, you might say, but what's our view on feng shui cures, talismans, trinkets and doodads? Glad you asked. Dim. Though that's beside the point. Our concern is not with their efficacy (*caveat empty*), but with professionalism and perception. Much as we're all for vertical integrity, how could we maintain an enigmatic veneer of *sifu*-ism if we were to simultaneously tout whatnots? Imagine if doctors, for example, not only told you what was up with you but then also jumped the counter and sold you the "fix". The very idea!

The answer is so simple: Chinese walls. We hide behind ours all the time. And when work's to be done, it occurs in a bathysphere of secrecy bordering on paranoia. So much so that we often have absolutely no idea what we're doing. Uncanny then, how many people call by our desk just as we're wrapping things up - usually one of those loveable rogues from Sales asking after our health (and, often as not, our name). And insisting on repaying hefty bankrolls we don't recall lending (shows how focused we've been lately). And then asking how it's all going and how we feel about, say, Fire in July. That's when we show them the door, of course.

The back of the door to be precise - where we tape up the index with all our calculations, forecasts, formulas and so forth. Heaven knows what they make of it all. Good of them to take an interest though. And they always check these zodiacs that start opposite. Some cheeky chums even ask us to change them! 'Shame,' we say. 'Shame we didn't lend you a lot more.' Uncanny how often it turns out that we did. Anyway, the wall's a beauty.

Not braggin', just flaggin' - our Dragon wasn't Lóng wrong



'Somewhere between the 3Cs (credible and creditably correct) and a blindfolded chimp hurling darts' is how we score our call of the Hang Seng Index's twists and turns for the past Year of the Dragon (or Lóng in Chinese).

We even managed a few wins with our largely tongue-in-cheek predictions: Facebook's IPO (we didn't exactly need a crystal ball); Liu Yang's historic spaceflight (see Famous Faces, page 30); and the widespread flooding (goes with the territory, but our focus was on the scale). Gold didn't say so much as 'boo!' to our US\$2,500 target, so we'll try our luck with it again. And our calls on best and worst dates were a shuffle shy of useless, despite highlighting the bottom.

Onwards and upwards! And we couldn't be more confident in our forked-casts for the Year of the Snake. Just in case, though, that chimp is a total cheat.



The **Earth Snake**

4 Feb 1929 - 3 Feb 1930
4 Feb 1989 - 3 Feb 1990

The **Metal Snake**

4 Feb 1941 - 3 Feb 1942
4 Feb 2001 - 3 Feb 2002

The **Water Snake**

4 Feb 1953 - 3 Feb 1954
4 Feb 2013 - 3 Feb 2014

The **Wood Snake**

4 Feb 1965 - 3 Feb 1966

The **Fire Snake**

4 Feb 1977 - 3 Feb 1978

蛇

Zodiac character



Money direction

Money month **APR**

2 Money numbers **8**



Best friends forever
[Secret ally: The Monkey]

AT YOUR BEST

Adept - Charismatic
Conservative - Healing
Intuitive - Pragmatic
Shrewd - Transforming

THE DARK SIDE

Cold - Cruel - Cunning
Lazy - Manipulative
Mendacious - Secretive
Selfish - Vain - Vengeful

The Snake

SSSUCKY YEAR

Executive summary: Bit of a hisser

Sssupporting Ssstars: Lucky, Auspicious

Ssscoundrel Ssstars: Inauspicious, Emotional, Bloodshed, Prickly, Indolent, Tai Sui

Famous Snake folk: James Bond, Bob Dylan, JK Rowling, Xi Jinping, Yang Liwei

It just doesn't seem right, eh? It's *your* year, but instead of three cheers you're more likely to cop one over the ear. It's just the feng shui of the world. So moan on your own or take it in your slide. Think of it as a great opportunity to test your mettle. And, as the doctor said to the boy who'd swallowed another marble: 'This too shall pass.'

Twelve months in four easy pieces



Health

A little down? Don't eat the duck. We jest. But with His Vexcellency* there staring daggers of disapproval if you so much as blink, you can expect a bit of stress this year. Care for yourself like the precious gem you are. Mr Grumpy will grouse off soon.

*The annual Tai Sui, who occupies the SE3 sector of the Snake in 2013. See page 31 for how to handle bad guys.



Wealth

The good news is it's not too bad. The bad news is it's not *that* good. You'll need to navigate a caution of caveats to collect the *ka-ching!* Such as the "don't" 3Gs: gamble (betcha can't); be greedy (cheapens you); be a gull (snake-toil salesmen).



Love

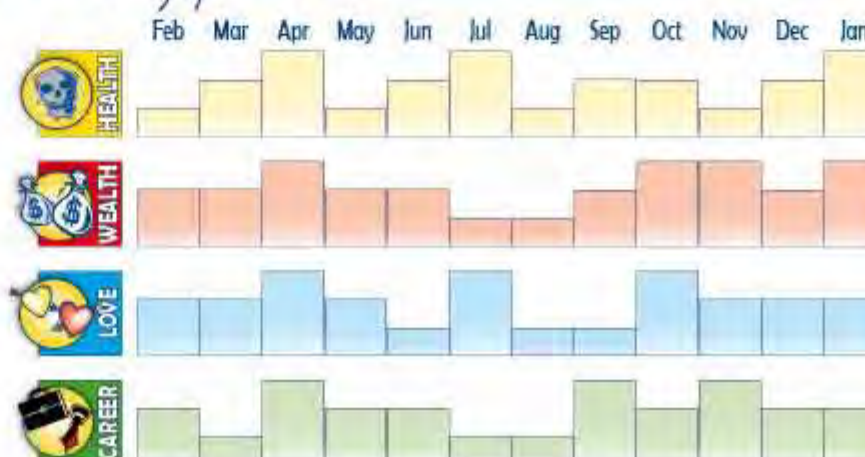
Oh, you sexy sinuous serpents! And yet to such little account this year. You may as well chase your own tail for all the action you're likely to get. Flick your wicked tongue and tempt all Eve if you wish, but it's no Paradise. All talk, no trouser, Snakes.



Career

An Australian Prime Minister's wife once primly dismissed a critic as 'lower than a snake's duodenum'. That's about the level to keep your bonce this year. Shotheads can't hit what they can't see. Sniff the wind, grow with the flow and slide it out.

Charting your course



CLSA
ASIA-PACIFIC MARKET**The Metal Horse**4 Feb 1930 - 4 Feb 1931
4 Feb 1990 - 3 Feb 1991**The Water Horse**4 Feb 1942 - 4 Feb 1943
4 Feb 2002 - 3 Feb 2003**The Wood Horse**

4 Feb 1954 - 3 Feb 1955

The Fire Horse

4 Feb 1966 - 3 Feb 1967

The Earth Horse

4 Feb 1978 - 3 Feb 1979

馬

Zodiac character



Money direction

Money month **MAR**3 Money numbers **7****Best friends forever**
{ Secret ally: The Sheep }**AT YOUR BEST**Determined
Dashing ~ Extroverted
Happy ~ Honest
Intelligent ~ Reliable**THE DARK SIDE**Arrogant
Insecure ~ Nervy
Ruthless ~ Sniffy
Sore loser ~ Tiresome

16

The Horse

SSSO-SO YEAR

Executive summary: Mane be sso ordinary

Sssupporting Ssstars: Success**Ssscoundrel Ssstars:** Tragedy, Unlucky, Void, Extravagant, Harmful**Famous Horse folk:** Jackie Chan, Rolf Harris, Hu Jintao, Angela Merkel, Wen Jiabao

Whoa! What's not to like? It's no laydown winny-winner, but there's neigh point in looking about for trouble. Besides which, a mirror will soon show what's most likely to trip you up this year. Don't be an ass! Reload that ever-reliable Horse sense, get your head in the right place and see how easily "ordinary" becomes "oat-standing".

Twelve months in four easy pieces

**Health**

There's no question that you've got the legs for the Great Race and much more besides, but how is the old head? Ah, the mind! What a marvellous machine - and one of those fiddly, unfathomable Enigma ones, at that. Got to love it!

**Wealth**

At worst, your wealth looks stable - but only the lazy or grazy'd saddle for that. Name of the mane game is being a force on the bourse, Horse. It's "first past the post" and with the rider stuff and your ears pinned for the wind, you'll clean up neighsly.

**Love**

Looks like pretty well every equine in Cupid's queue catches a quiver of the ol' magic balderdust this year. What mushy, gushy gumpf ensues! We'd advise giving it up for the late great Godfather of Soul - which is as close as most will get to *The One*.

**Career**

'No options' often belies a lack of imagination. But it's not an issue for work-Horses, who face a *surfeit* of tasty choices. What to do? An old man once told us telepathically: 'Choose divorce, Luke.' Not hitched; not our name. Odd. Any use to you?

Charting your course



The Sheep

SUCKY YEAR

Executive summary: Sheep be right, mate

Sssupporting Ssstars: Um . . .**Ssscoundrel Ssstars:** Aggressive, Mourning, two Conflicts, Mishap, Despair**Famous Sheep folk:** Coco Chanel, Chow Yun-fat, George Harrison, Zhang Ziyi

Jeepers Sheepsters, we 'feel your pain', as Big Bill was wont to coo in that way that you almost believed him. Being dogged by seven surly stars is no fun. But banish the bleatin' and you'll soon have the fleas beaten. And as the teacher said encouragingly to the boy struggling to unravel an unruly sentence: 'This too shall parse.'

Twelve months in four easy pieces

**Health**

Rams and lambs, ewe mutton let things get on top of you - things like SUVs driven by people incapable of keeping a shopping trolley on track. Sheep peeps shor'need their sleeps. If ewe can't count on yourselves for that, try reading *Finnegan's Wake*.

**Wealth**

'Sheep be right, mate,' as the blue-tongue lizards of Oz opine betwixt drinks. You'll earn it the hard way this year, and be all the better for it. Bettor? Better not. Throw the die round with dogs; set-up for fleece. Leave gambolling to Spring lambs.

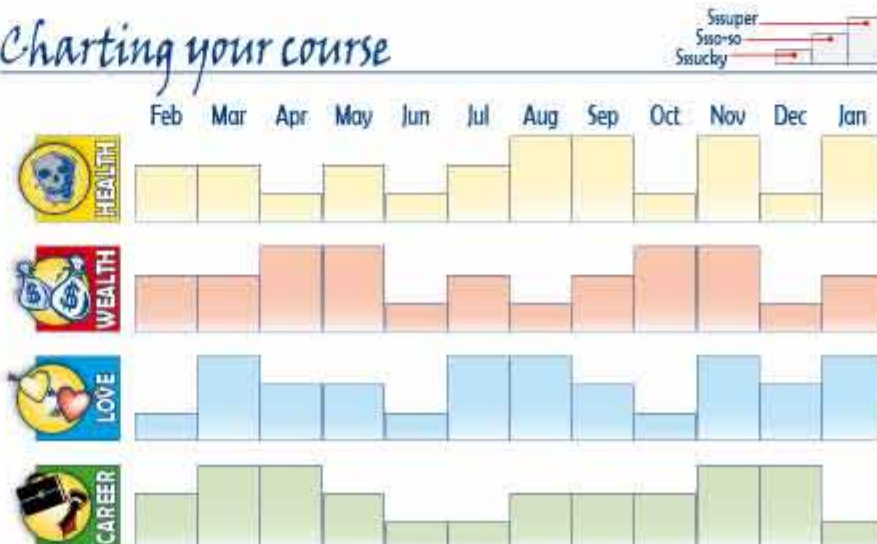
**Love**

Whether ewe yearn a soul mate or just a soulless date, there's mutton much doing - your fate's not great. Net great, you say? "Click" go the sheared - and shor'nuff, like clams to the water, flocks of fleecy types will be bleatin' a path to your door.

**Career**

Movin' on up? Travelling, anyway. Which could mean anything from a gruelling fact-finding tour of some of the world's top luxe resorts to a longer commute after "promotion" to the Tin Shui Wai branch. And ewes to say which'd be worsted?

Charting your course

CLSA
ASIA-PACIFIC MARKET**The Metal Sheep**5 Feb 1931 - 4 Feb 1932
4 Feb 1991 - 3 Feb 1992**The Water Sheep**5 Feb 1943 - 4 Feb 1944
4 Feb 2003 - 3 Feb 2004**The Wood Sheep**

4 Feb 1955 - 4 Feb 1956

The Fire Sheep

4 Feb 1967 - 4 Feb 1968

The Earth Sheep

4 Feb 1979 - 3 Feb 1980

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Zodiac character



Money direction

Money month **NOV**4 Money numbers **9****Best friends forever**
{ Secret ally: The Horse }**AT YOUR BEST**Artistic ~ Adaptable
Family-focused
Friendly ~ Funny
Kind ~ Warm-hearted**THE DARK SIDE**Dependent ~ Insecure
Narrow-minded
Obstinate ~ Reserved
Woolly-headed

17

CLSA
ASIA-PACIFIC MARKETS

The Monkey

SSSO-SO YEAR

Executive summary: Nuts so bad

Sssupporting Ssstars: Benefactor, Feminine, Harmonious**Ssscoundrel Ssstars:** Enslaved, Entagling, Harmful, Illness, Violent, Sorrow, Punishment**Famous Monkey folk:** Leonardo da Vinci, Han Yu, Socrates, Yao Ming

From where we're standing, it doesn't look as if it would take much to nudge that "ssso-so" up into "Sweet Street" territory or even higher up da vine. Sure, you've got seven ssso-and-ssso skunks to keep an eye on, but just look at the names who've got your back! Get your tail into gear, and razzle-dazzle with the old Monkey magic.

Twelve months in four easy pieces



Health

You're as lively as a barrel full of ... ah, yes. Two things to mind in a paranoid manner - both bruising. Just because the cars aren't out to get you doesn't mean they won't. And as for backstabbing gossips, well, they really are out to get you.



Wealth

Your wealth is "recovering", which sounds as if it's just got back from holiday in Colombia. We'll not pry. The good news is it's on the mend and we're not talking peanuts (that would be our bonus). Who's got a lovely bunch of coconuts, then?



Love

Ever had a hanker for a rock 'n' roll love-lifestyle, with more ups and downs (emotionally speaking) than Groucho's eyebrows? Has the Snake got a rollercoaster year ready for you Monkeys! You're spoken for? OK, a nice cup of tea then.



Career

Heads up: Keep your crown down, ears open, lip zipped 'n' nose clean. The boss is itchin' to dish a bitchin' as sniping by colleagues becomes machinegun chatter. Get wise, guys; don the shy guise; use the sly eyes; and keep out of that lyin' of ire.

Charting your course



The Rooster

SSSUPER YEAR

Executive summary: Cockydoodle you!

Sssupporting Ssstars: Wealth, Achievement, Commanding, Auspicious**Ssscoundrel Ssstars:** Separation, Conniving, Slander, Grievance, Disaster, Unlucky, Libel**Famous Rooster folk:** James Brown, Yoko Ono, Ye Jianying, Neil Young

As Family Guy's Peter Griffin would put it (ad nauseam): 'B-b-b-bird, bird, bird, b-bird's the word . . .' You Roosters surely must be getting sick of this chicken run of spanking good luck you've been having? Wouldn't like to toss a few crumbs our way? Oh well, never mind. Now, what is it they make feather-dusters from . . .

Twelve months in four easy pieces



Health

Two risks, Chicks. First, don't get yourselves run down, especially with flu on the loose. Second, don't get yourselves run down - you don't want the last words you ever hear to be a yolk joke: 'Why did that Chicken cross the road?'



Wealth

Shake that tael-feather and flex your pecks. You cocky Layers are players - and stayers, to boot. Our take is you Clucks have the pluck to parlay your luscious luck into big bucks. Fate is playing your fortune and it sounds like *We're in the money*.



Love

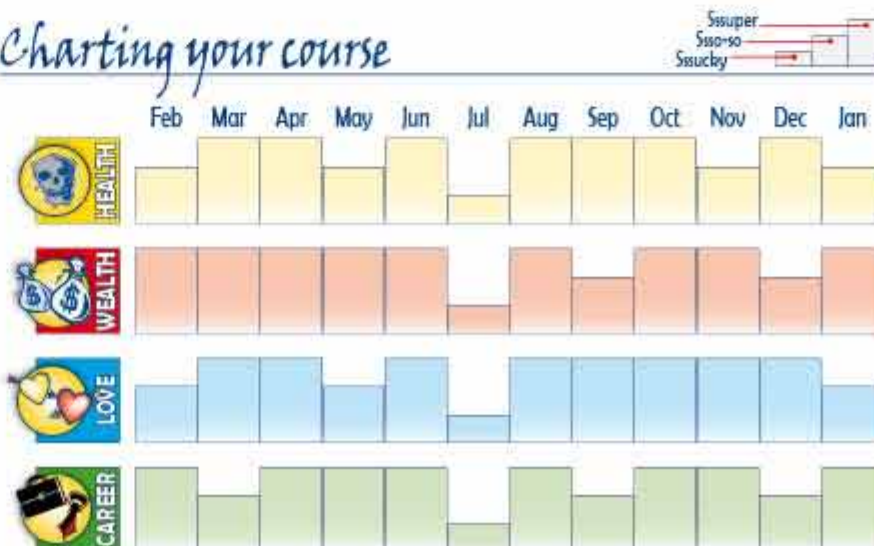
Ah, love is in the air. Pity you can't fly. No mind, that smile-high thing is such cuddle-class, back-of-the-plane-Jane stuff anyway. Stick to the grassroots, we say, and surf the home turf. No itch left unscratched with cheeky Chooks. Wing-wink!



Career

Looks like a challenging year ahead, Chicks, and we don't mean in that "hate-cha" doubletalk way. You'll have the opportunity to really show your talons - and to be hen-somely rewarded. Ignore the envy from the peanut gallery's chicken-feed breed.

Charting your course

CLSA
ASIA-PACIFIC MARKETS

The Water Rooster

4 Feb 1933 - 3 Feb 1934

4 Feb 1993 - 3 Feb 1994

The Wood Rooster

4 Feb 1945 - 3 Feb 1946

4 Feb 2005 - 3 Feb 2006

The Fire Rooster

4 Feb 1957 - 3 Feb 1958

The Earth Rooster

4 Feb 1969 - 3 Feb 1970

The Metal Rooster

4 Feb 1981 - 3 Feb 1982

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Zodiac character



Money direction

Money month AUG

5 Money numbers 8



Best friends forever

{ Secret ally: The Dragon }

AT YOUR BEST

Amiable ~ Ambitious

Brave ~ Honest

Kind-hearted

Passionate ~ Principled

THE DARK SIDE

Cocky ~ Inflexible

Insensitive ~ Smug

Social-climber

Superior ~ Opinionated

19

CLSA
ASIA-PACIFIC MARKETS

The Monkey

SSSO-SO YEAR

Executive summary: Nuts so bad

Sssupporting Ssstars: Benefactor, Feminine, Harmonious**Ssscoundrel Ssstars:** Enslaved, Entagling, Harmful, Illness, Violent, Sorrow, Punishment**Famous Monkey folk:** Leonardo da Vinci, Han Yu, Socrates, Yao Ming

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Twelve months in four easy pieces



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Twelve months in four easy pieces



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Love

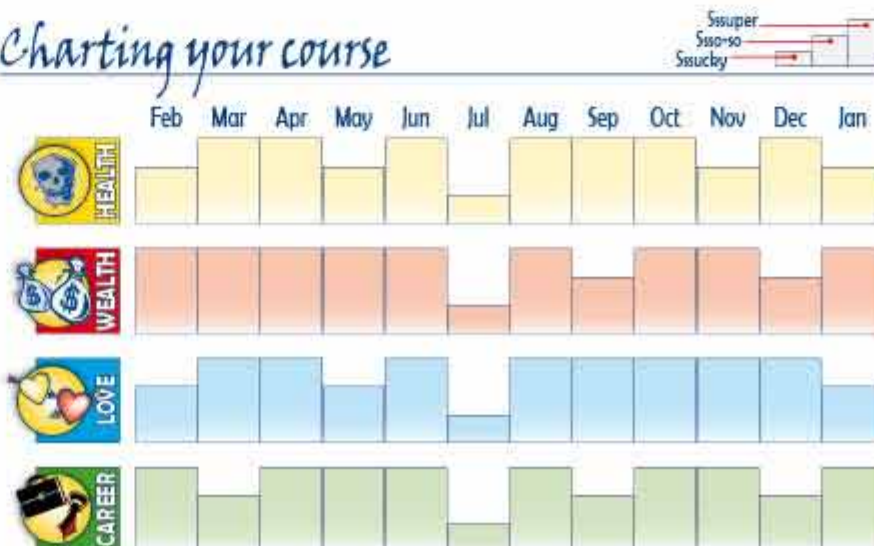
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Charting your course

CLSA
ASIA-PACIFIC MARKETS

The Water Rooster

4 Feb 1933 - 3 Feb 1934

4 Feb 1993 - 3 Feb 1994

The Wood Rooster

4 Feb 1945 - 3 Feb 1946

4 Feb 2005 - 3 Feb 2006

The Fire Rooster

4 Feb 1957 - 3 Feb 1958

The Earth Rooster

4 Feb 1969 - 3 Feb 1970

The Metal Rooster

4 Feb 1981 - 3 Feb 1982

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Zodiac character



Money direction

Money month AUG

5 Money numbers 8



Best friends forever

{ Secret ally: The Dragon }

AT YOUR BEST

Amiable ~ Ambitious

Brave ~ Honest

Kind-hearted

Passionate ~ Principled

THE DARK SIDE

Cocky ~ Inflexible

Insensitive ~ Smug

Social-climber

Superior ~ Opinionated

19

CLSA
ASIA-PACIFIC MARKETS**The Wood Dog**4 Feb 1934 - 4 Feb 1935
4 Feb 1994 - 3 Feb 1995**The Fire Dog**4 Feb 1946 - 3 Feb 1947
4 Feb 2006 - 3 Feb 2007**The Earth Dog**

4 Feb 1958 - 3 Feb 1959

The Metal Dog

4 Feb 1970 - 3 Feb 1971

The Water Dog

4 Feb 1982 - 3 Feb 1983

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Zodiac character



Money direction

Money month **FEB**4 Money numbers **9****Best friends forever**
[Secret ally: The Rabbit]**AT YOUR BEST**Compassionate
Determined ~ Honest
Loyal ~ Reliable
Responsible ~ Trusting**THE DARK SIDE**Anxious ~ Demanding
Excitable ~ Greedy
Loud ~ Nosey
Pessimistic ~ Stubborn

20

The Dog

SSSUPER YEAR

Executive summary: Looks A-OK9!

Sssupporting Sstars: Advancement, Kindness, Romance**Ssscoundrel Sstars:** Indulgence, Illness**Famous Dog folk:** David Bowie, Rahul Gandhi, Akira Kurosawa, Yang Zhenning

Talk about a turnaround story! If only we could have bought lots of lots of you lot last year, when you were totally out in the dog house and on the cold, wet nose. Now you're baaark! And you're practically leader of the zodiac pack. Howl lovely to see. Suddenly, Iggy Pop almost makes sense: 'I just wanna be your dawwg . . .' Woof!

Twelve months in four easy pieces

**Health**

You're in such tail-thumpingly rude form it's all we can do not to bitch-slap you all. Swear to dog, though, it's just what the dog-tor ordered for a year that promises to be both energising and exhausting. (You heel so well, anyway! Now, play dead.)

**Wealth**

Even if only half of it goes roughly to plan, you'll coin it like Croesus. But prick your ears, Pooch Peeps, and listen well, lest you land in the poop or worse: Strap the trap and stay out of bow-row-rows - blood-sucking legal eagles circle o'erhead.

**Love**

Don't expect pickups on these suave lines this year: 'Grab yer shiny coat, you're poodled.' In fact, the outlook for Tail-chasers is so doggone twee it grrrates. Players 'n' strayers become payers 'n' stayers; bitches flick their switches; attackers go slack-as...

**Career**

Not tiring of this outrageous run of luck? We ask only becurs, come 2H, you may hear the first sour notes amid the chorus of hosannas from every man and his dog. Any upside in snapping back? Better to bite your tongue; bide your time.

Charting your course



The Pig

SSSUCKY YEAR

Executive summary: Not squeally great

Sssupporting Sstars: Auspicious, Voyager**Ssscoundrel Sstars:** Extravagant, Trouble, Danger, Disaster, Tai Sui**Famous Pig folk:** Lance Armstrong, Gustave Eiffel, Lee Kwan Yew, Liu Xiang

It's more than a boar knowing some unseen, all-powerful presence is tracking your every move - and that's just Google. You poor Porkers have the Tai Sui on your tails as well. Snout to do but your best: Stuck pigs squeal and quit; stoic pigs deal with it. As the dentist said to the boy with the makings of an abscess. 'This tooth shall pus.'

Twelve months in four easy pieces

**Health**

When the goin' gets trough, groanin' 'n' gettin' stuffed just won't cut it. Porquoi? Bore the obvious reason: You can't fly unless you're in pig condition. You know the brill drill: Don't fill with swill; get plenty of roast; and lots of walkies, Porkies.

**Wealth**

Bringing home the bacon's nout a problem; it's making the buck stop there. Curly retail therapy for what sales thee? That's no cure, Hams. If you can't mend your spend, at least throw dough at something that may return the favour, with interest.

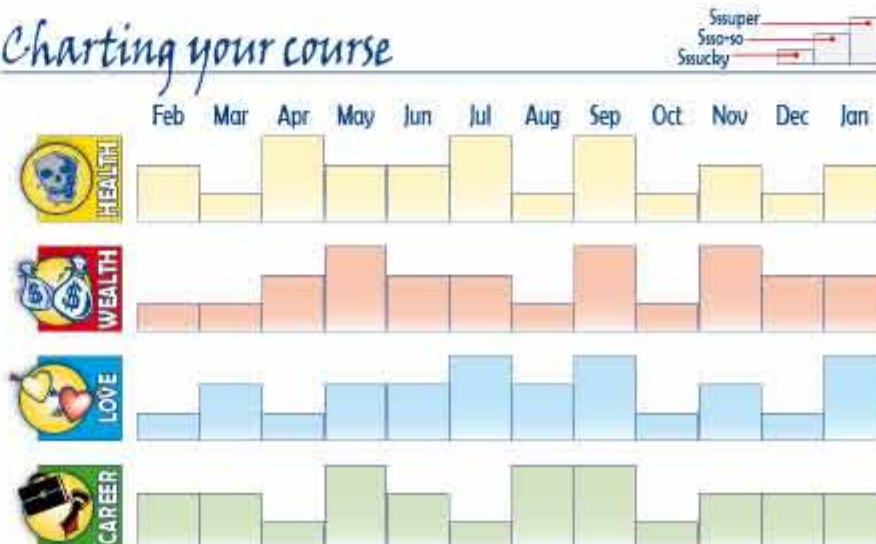
**Love**

We've not seen such universal slack of interest since Madonna last let fly. If truffles are thin underground close to home, try rooting foreign fields. It's not who you know but the 'net result, you know? In your case, though, it still comes up zero.

**Career**

If you've seen old news footage of Beatlemania, you'll have an idea of your year - except your "fans" have all got bones to pig with you. Of course they're all pigmies, but they can do a mean spit roast. Best strategy? Keep out of Ham's way.

Charting your course

CLSA
ASIA-PACIFIC MARKETS**The Wood Pig**5 Feb 1935 - 4 Feb 1936
4 Feb 1995 - 3 Feb 1996**The Fire Pig**4 Feb 1947 - 4 Feb 1948
4 Feb 2007 - 3 Feb 2008**The Earth Pig**

4 Feb 1959 - 4 Feb 1960

The Metal Pig

4 Feb 1971 - 4 Feb 1972

The Water Pig

4 Feb 1983 - 3 Feb 1984

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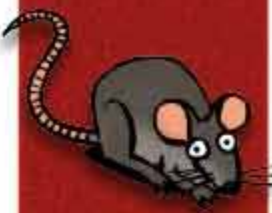
Zodiac character



Money direction

Money month **SEP**2 Money numbers **5****Best friends forever**
[Secret ally: The Tiger]**AT YOUR BEST**Caring ~ Diligent
Fair ~ Funny
Generous ~ Honest
Sympathetic ~ Sincere**THE DARK SIDE**Demanding
Gullible ~ Impatient
Inflexible ~ Obstinate
Reckless ~ Self-piteous

21

CLSA
ASIA-PACIFIC MARKETS**The Wood Rat**5 Feb 1924 - 3 Feb 1925
4 Feb 1984 - 3 Feb 1985**The Fire Rat**5 Feb 1936 - 3 Feb 1937
4 Feb 1996 - 3 Feb 1997**The Earth Rat**5 Feb 1948 - 3 Feb 1949
4 Feb 2008 - 3 Feb 2009**The Metal Rat**

5 Feb 1960 - 3 Feb 1961

The Water Rat

5 Feb 1972 - 3 Feb 1973

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Zodiac character



Money direction

Money month **MAY**2 Money numbers **8****Best friends forever**
[Secret ally: The Cow]**AT YOUR BEST**Charming
Clever ~ Funny
Generous ~ Loyal
Quick-witted**THE DARK SIDE**Calculating
Cunning ~ Gossip
Miserly ~ Selfish
Superficial

22

The Rat

SSSO-SO YEAR

Executive summary: Graw too shabby

Ssupporting Sstars: Benefactor, Prosperity, Aspiring**Ssscoundrel Sstars:** Calamity, Disaster**Famous Rat folk:** Silvio Berlusconi, Scarlett Johansson, Ozzy Osbourne, Leo Tolstoy

Leaving aside the caveat of 'the best-laid plans' and all that, your fortune is looking well on the bright side of "average" - indeed within a whisker of "wonderful" for many, especially Water Rats. That said (and twitch his own of course), use the old Mouse nous and go easy on the squeaks and squeals of delight. Gets up a few noses.

Twelve months in four easy pieces



Health

Give Freud the boid and develop a serious oral fixation - more than just a cure for ratbaited breath or furry mouse of a morn. Oh well, your floss if you chews to ignaw . . . you'll feel a right orthodonkey when the dentsk-nsk fits your rodentures.



Wealth

You've got an itchin', twitchin' nose for the needful. Dough should rise swell, but warrants a close watch and timely turns to ensure it earns rat-urns you could rat-ire on. Next year may find you scratchin' for scratch. Burnt paws for thought.



Love

There mayn't be no cure, as Cohen keens, but pity not the afflicted for most are hypochondriacs. Impaired rats: Patience is what the good doc ordered, but does your mate have enough? Singles: Pickup lines are for groceries. Top shelf looks tasty.



Career

"Back-rat-cha" as much as you like at the gold-tooth flash brat leering from the mirror at home. But while at work, lift your sighs and aim for humble. So easy to find the "rat" in "grateful", but gnawed the reverse. Indulge in a dormouse meek-over.

Charting your course



The Cow

SSSUPER YEAR

Executive summary: Milk it!

Ssupporting Sstars: Success, Harmonious, Aspiring**Ssscoundrel Sstars:** Unlucky, Desolate, Lonely**Famous Cow folk:** George Clooney, Li Bai, Jawaharlal Nehru, Barack Obama

How's "wow" sound, Cows? That's the word for the Herd once the Snake's on the make. Content is king, as a bullish Bill Gates argued, and there should be few more contented than you mob come the close, given the crème de la crème outlook. No call for grabbing bulls by horns - simply take the year by the ears and life as it comes.

Twelve months in four easy pieces



Health

Cud be better - that's probably the cause of most of your ailments. Be wary of dairy and choose your chews carefully. Steer clear of toxic shocks, rusty locks, wet socks and any poxy fox . . . or you may end up at the doc's. Lucerne up a bit, hay?



Wealth

Oddly, it's likely no one has heifer called you a bull. So we'd wager there's no need to counsel against a gambol - herdest thing from your mind, eh? Yet your steady money-making style is set to deliver bullion by the bucket. Cownt those coins!



Love

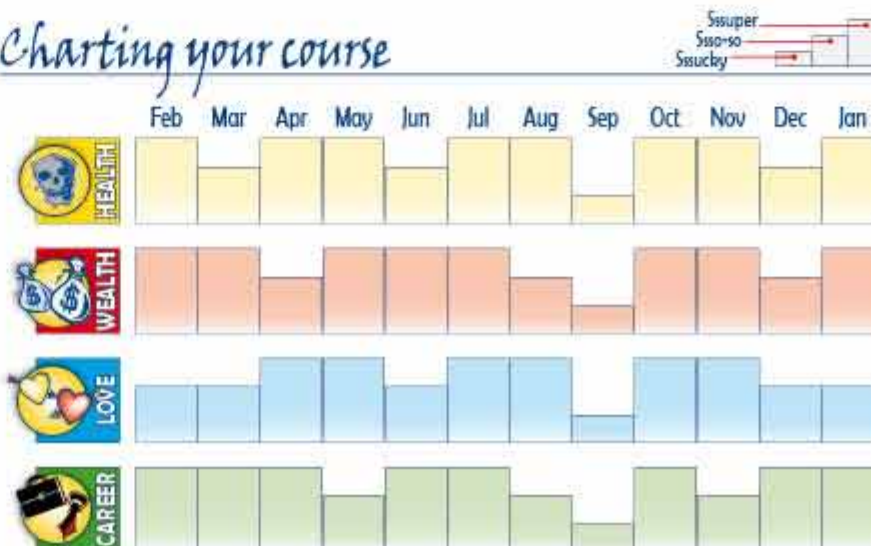
Not a word from us this year about what horny beasts ye be; getting your ox off; taking a tumble in the hay; or rolling over'n'over in clover. We'll even pass on those knowing, wild gloats and other such facile mooble entendre. How groan up.



Career

About time? To the plotters, not the plodders, go the spoils as a rotten rule. But it's *your* oats-annas they'll be singing all the year long. Accept the praise (and likely raise) with graze. On the udder hand, milk it till it curdles! Calf your luck.

Charting your course

CLSA
ASIA-PACIFIC MARKETS**The Wood Cow**4 Feb 1925 - 3 Feb 1926
4 Feb 1985 - 3 Feb 1986**The Fire Cow**4 Feb 1937 - 3 Feb 1938
4 Feb 1997 - 3 Feb 1998**The Earth Cow**4 Feb 1949 - 3 Feb 1950
4 Feb 2009 - 3 Feb 2010**The Metal Cow**

4 Feb 1961 - 3 Feb 1962

The Water Cow

4 Feb 1973 - 3 Feb 1974

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Zodiac character



Money direction

Money month **OCT**1 Money numbers **9****Best friends forever**
[Secret ally: The Rat]**AT YOUR BEST**Determined
Dependable
Hard-working
Honest ~ Sincere**THE DARK SIDE**Apathetic ~ Dull
Narrow-minded
Obstinate
Passive-aggressive

23

CLSA
ASIA-PACIFIC MARKETS**The Fire Tiger**4 Feb 1926 - 4 Feb 1927
4 Feb 1986 - 3 Feb 1987**The Earth Tiger**4 Feb 1938 - 4 Feb 1939
4 Feb 1998 - 3 Feb 1999**The Metal Tiger**5 Feb 1950 - 3 Feb 1951
4 Feb 2010 - 3 Feb 2011**The Water Tiger**

4 Feb 1962 - 3 Feb 1963

The Wood Tiger

4 Feb 1974 - 3 Feb 1975

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Zodiac character



Money direction

Money month **JUL**3 Money numbers **4****Best friends forever**
[Secret ally: The Pig]**AT YOUR BEST**Charming ~ Confident
Courageous ~ Kind
Never-say-die
Self-reliant ~ Strong**THE DARK SIDE**Aggressive ~ Arrogant
Broody ~ Cocky
Reckless ~ Selfish
Unsociable ~ Vain

24

The Tiger

SSSUCKY YEAR

Executive summary: Grumpy

Sssupporting Ssstars: Benevolence, Auspicious, Fortune**Ssscoundrel Ssstars:** Robbery, Failure, Dispute, Calamity, Six Harmful Clashes**Famous Tiger folk:** Hugh Hefner, Karl Marx, Ho Chi Minh, Michelle Yeoh

It may well feel like a jungle out there this year for you Striped Types, what with all the snipes, gripes and swipes. To get you through, take your cue from the Fab Four over the Stones and *Let It Be*. (You can always *Let It Bleed* later). And read the fine-print. As the chef said to the young apprentice with a sniff: 'This stew's well past.'

Twelve months in four easy pieces

**Health**

Fred Nietzsche was wont to advise relishing life's rough stuff ("What doesn't kill me...") and it may well be the best way to get through this bahumbug of a year, Tiges. There's sure no upside in fretting, sweating and letting it all wear you down.

**Wealth**

Money can't buy you happiness? We are ever ready and willing (if, sadly, unable) to give it a shot. Interests of science and all that. "Rich Uncle" Star 8 is your ray of hope this year. It may not leave the kitty groaning, but a grin or two won't go astray.

**Love**

More purrrdah than purrrple patch on the purrrsonal front for Felines. Don't be surprised to receive 'wish you were here' holiday postcards from your mojo. Fret nyet, Pet. It'll be back swoon. You'll just have to stroke your own ego in the interim.

**Career**

Your insistence that it's your way or their funeral can peers off sensitive colleagues. Fancy! Pygmies perhaps, but they can blow a mean dart. So maybe temper the temper this year? Put the roars on pause, store those claws and just play it cool, Cats.

Charting your course



The Rabbit

SSSO-SO YEAR

Executive summary: Bounder get better

Sssupporting Ssstars: Achievement**Ssscoundrel Ssstars:** Hazardous, Devious, Calamity, Injury, Mourning**Famous Rabbit folk:** Albert Einstein, Hu Yaobang, Jet Li, George Orwell

Amid machinations infernal, hop springs eternal - and with good cause in your case, Bunnies. The outlook may not be quite 24-carrot just yet, but it's still leaps and bounds ahead of what you've been catching of late. And there'll be high-fiving all round when the hooves of next year's fiery Horse hit the horizon.

Twelve months in four easy pieces

**Health**

You've more bounce per ounce in just one of your floppy, floppy ears than most folk in their entire bods. But you dynamos need lots of TLC, watt? Healthy ohm cooking; ample rest; and almost any exercise that involts getting the ticker tocking.

**Wealth**

In the words of the hoodoo guru, 'get on the good foot' and 'shake that money maker' (although 'like a sex machine' is optional). Either way, you'll feeel good! The odds of spanking speculative returns are high. Timing is all; greed ain't good.

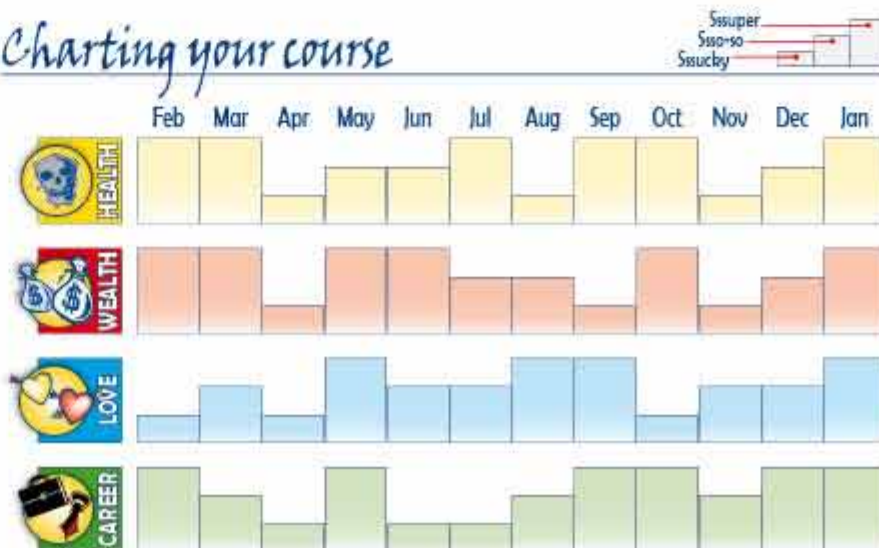
**Love**

You know what they say about rabbits - well, this year looks like a rule-proving exception. Folding up your jimjams may be as near as you get to pillow torque. No bad thing, given most post-cordial gibber we've endured.

**Career**

If you want something done, they say, ask a busy person - at least it's what we lazy, layabout loafers say. You are that person this year, Big Ears, because you'll be busier than a bee with hives. Burning yearning for learning? Can't hurt the earning.

Charting your course

CLSA
ASIA-PACIFIC MARKETS**The Fire Rabbit**5 Feb 1927 - 4 Feb 1928
4 Feb 1987 - 3 Feb 1988**The Earth Rabbit**5 Feb 1939 - 4 Feb 1940
4 Feb 1999 - 3 Feb 2000**The Metal Rabbit**4 Feb 1951 - 4 Feb 1952
4 Feb 2011 - 3 Feb 2012**The Water Rabbit**

4 Feb 1963 - 4 Feb 1964

The Wood Rabbit

4 Feb 1975 - 4 Feb 1976

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Zodiac character



Money direction

Money month **JAN**4 Money numbers **9****Best friends forever**
[Secret ally: The Dog]**AT YOUR BEST**Affectionate
Attractive ~ Ambitious
Clever ~ Clear-headed
Insightful ~ Intuitive**THE DARK SIDE**Affected ~ Bumptious
Foolhardy ~ Flippant
Irresponsible
Scheming ~ Smug

25

CLSA
ASIA-PACIFIC MARKETS**The Earth Dragon**

5 Feb 1928 - 3 Feb 1929

4 Feb 1988 - 3 Feb 1989

The Metal Dragon

5 Feb 1940 - 4 Feb 1941

4 Feb 2000 - 3 Feb 2001

The Water Dragon

5 Feb 1952 - 3 Feb 1953

4 Feb 2012 - 3 Feb 2013

The Wood Dragon

5 Feb 1964 - 3 Feb 1965

The Fire Dragon

5 Feb 1976 - 3 Feb 1977

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Zodiac character



Money direction

Money month **JUN**

7 Money numbers 6

**Best friends forever**

{ Secret ally: The Rooster }

AT YOUR BEST

Awesome ~ Confident
Cool ~ Eccentric
Energetic ~ Enterprising
Fearless ~ Passionate

THE DARK SIDE

Childish ~ Conceited
Drama Diva ~ Eccentric
Self-aggrandising
Stubborn ~ Unfaithful

► SIGN-BY-SIGN ZODIAC GUIDE

The Dragon

SSSO-SO YEAR

Executive summary: Bit short of puff'n' stuff

Sssupporting Sstars: Happiness, Achievement**Ssscoundrel Sstars:** Desire, Calamity, Illness, Precarious, Discord, Enslaved**Famous Dragon folk:** Deng Xiaoping, Li Ka-shing, Bruce Lee, Wang Xiaobo

The good news? Your fortune's far flashier than it was for last year. The bad news? That's probably not saying a lot, eh? We jest. Well, jest a bit. A fascinating thing, relativity - all the more so if you've got the foggiest notion of the theory behind it. Best left to the Einsteins, no doubt. Quark, strangeness and charm indeed.

Twelve months in four easy pieces



Health

If we read it right, this past year has been more stressful than restful and odds are you've had a gutful. Not naggin', Dragons, just flaggin' that you're sort of saggin'. Sleep is cheap (but not a pip less priceless for that). And the smoking? Not a good look.



Wealth

Naught worth the braggin', Dragons, but it's getting better all the time - and will do for the first six months, anyway. The bulk of your bundle is from the sweat of your brow, with a windfall or two to keep you keen. Ideal speculation? Idle, more like.



Love

There's something enchanting about you Dragons - and this year the dial is on 11! We hope you know how to turn it down. One tires of being mobbed by admirers - trust us. And it's a love that's only ever skin deep (which has always suited us, frankly).



Career

That ambition you've kept slow-burn smouldering for so long now you think it's dyspepsia rather than a dream? Well, its time has come. Let it grow, let it go, let it fly. It may crash and burn, but nothing from a Dragon's heart can ever disappoint.

Charting your course

**► FORTUNES OF A FEW FAMOUS FACES**

Leung Chun-ying

Chief Executive of Hong Kong

His sign is the Horse and he's nicknamed The Wolf, yet Hong Kong's Chief Executive seems more like a fish out of water at times. Which led us to wonder, while waiting for our usual at the Chipmy recently, just what sort of fish Leung would be if he were one. A salmon? (Pink on the inside.) A shark? (Wolf of the sea.) Or, given his awkward start, perhaps a flounder? After six months in office - and despite his much-hyped and hampered bid to meet the electorate-in-waiting - it can be hard to get a line on Leung. His fortune chart suggests that he's strong-willed, determined, has trouble admitting failings, acts on instinct, has a well-honed sense of injustice and makes enemies easily, if unwittingly. Who knew? Apparently, he's likely to also abhor hypocrisy. So what's ahead for the CE? Our dear old mum, being a kind-hearted, optimistic soul, invariably says of anyone who has been unlucky in life's great "looks" lottery that they probably have 'a good personality'. By that standard, we could probably say Leung looks to be in for a 'good year'. ☺

**Born: 12 August 1954****Wood Horse****SSSUCKY / SSSO-SO YEAR****Day Master***
Yang Metal (Strong)

*Unlike the zodiac sign of the year you were born, your day master (the heavenly stem of your *bazi* chart's day pillar) is said to represent your true nature

Ai Wei Wei

Artist & political activist

Say what you like about Ai Wei Wei... if you're allowed to, of course. An acquaintance of ours reckons he's the ant's pants and calls him the Great Balls of China. Another reckons he's just pants. Funny things, opinions. Bit like dogs, though - no good keeping them locked up. Just our opinion. Ai lets his out at the drop of a hat, as you might expect of a chap whose chart crackles with Fire. And given the Rooster-Snake affinity, it's no surprise to see a serpent in several of his works, notably *Snake Bag* (2008). The 16-metre piece is made from hundreds of grey school backpacks - inspired by what he saw amid the Sichuan earthquake's rubble. Schools were among the worst hit, almost certainly because of shoddy construction due to corruption. That was Ai's opinion and letting that "dog" slip marked his first major run-in with the authorities. As a Rooster, Ai should be set for a super year, though tempered a tad in his case. Windfalls are ever welcome, and there's the hint of one later in the year. Need to be hurricane-strength to cover his eye-popping tax whack, though. Just our opinion. ☺

**Born: 18 May 1957****Fire Rooster****SSSO-SO / SSSUPER YEAR****Day Master***
Yang Metal (Strong)

*Unlike the zodiac sign of the year you were born, your day master (the heavenly stem of your *bazi* chart's day pillar) is said to represent your true nature

CLSA
ASIA-PACIFIC MARKETS**It is written**

Only distance tests the strength of horses; only time reveals the hearts of men.

**It shall be**

Advertising industry undergoes major consolidation and job losses as budgets are cut to the bone and business models shredded. One weary veteran laments: 'It's a jingle out there.'



China steps up its neo-lebensraum policy by claiming as 'sacred territory since ancient times' all the nice bits of Japan, Australia, Southeast Asia, Africa, Antarctica and the Channel Islands, but none of the vast tracts it ceded to Russia five years ago. Beijing warns all affected nations not to interfere in what are now its internal affairs.



It is written

Rather than continuing to seek the truth, simply let go of your views.

福

It shall be

Reports that a breakthrough in 3D printing is near surpass combined sightings of UFOs and the yeti for the first time. The revolutionary technology, known as the macramé of the 21st Century, is officially voted into the Investors' Graveyard of Shame.



Class action by pretty much the whole wide world challenging Google's ability to know everything everyone has done, is doing and will do is dismissed by a US District Court. Google spokesman says: 'The decision comes as no surprise.'

福

**Wood Chicken**
SSSUCKY / SSSO-SO YEAR

Day Master*
Yin Earth (Strong)

*Unlike the zodiac sign of the year you were born, your day master (the heavenly stem of your bazi chart's day pillar) is said to represent your true nature

**Water Horse**
SSSO-SO / SSSUPER YEAR

Day Master*
Yang Earth (Weak)

*Unlike the zodiac sign of the year you were born, your day master (the heavenly stem of your bazi chart's day pillar) is said to represent your true nature

Aung San Suu Kyi

Myanmar Leader of the Opposition

'The lady's not for turning,' Margaret Thatcher famously said, defying the lowest approval rating of any British Prime Minister and growing opposition to her economic policies. She wasn't dubbed the Iron Lady for nothing. Aung San Suu Kyi is known simply as The Lady, but she may well be made of even tougher "mettle". After all, this Lady wasn't even for blinking. She not only went toe to toe with Myanmar's military rulers for decades without budging an inch, but actually stared the bullies down! There can't be many tougher tests of your beliefs. Other than perhaps the one she's now undertaking of holding firmly to those beliefs amid the hurly-burly of everyday politics, which some argue are inherently compromising and corrupting. Our reading suggests Aung San Suu Kyi may find the year ahead to be tough going - a worry considering what she's been through. As a Chicken, she *should* be in for a stellar time, but her Day Master and other configurations see things differently. Still, with her solid-gold form, we'd back The Lady against anything mere Fate can dish up any day of the week. ☺

Michael Bloomberg

Mayor of New York City

The man behind the name that's front and centre of more than 300,000 desks throughout the world ends his third and final term as NYC Mayor in November. Which leaves us wondering what the suave, politically incorrect, antiques-loving crypto-Marxist will do now. We don't mean Bloomberg, of course. With US\$22bn in the bank, he can do as he jolly well likes. But his departure will deprive our London-based Nipponologist John Seagrim[§] of one of the alliterative legs of what's almost a signature note of his emails: Mayor Mike's Marvelous Machine. Very 'Er... ijo desu'. As for Bloomberg, even critics admit he redefined the mayoral role, as he did with financial information. (It helps being able to dig into your own pocket to fund budget shortfalls, preferred projects and campaigning - his final term cost him a record US\$174 per vote.) In the process, Bloomberg has become a national figure whose independent voice is worth hearing - and he clearly loves it. Our reading points to a clever career change ahead. The Mayor may be leaving. But not Bloomberg. ☺

[§] Re John's Marxism, see last year's *IF Daily News* with him in Groucho guise conferring with Russell Napier's Harpo.

It is written

Riding a mule while looking for a horse.

福

It shall be

Drones come home to roost: Outcry and handwringing in USA in wake of spectacular terrorist attack using unmanned aircraft. As China and Japan step up their "drone-race", ratcheting up the risk of conflict, South Korea leads a rush of orders across the region.



Jackie Chan continues to pursue his delicious experiments with neo-Dadaist performance art, confounding critics and proving that he truly is a master of comedy, with his nonpareil portrayal of an ageing buffoon.

福

Ricky Wong Wai-kay

Founder and chairman, City Telecom

Back in the day, TV was like the weather - much as people griped about it, they felt compelled to watch, if only in hopes it would get better. And it did. An ever-growing spectrum of delivery systems and options left free-to-air (FTA) stations looking like dinosaurs. Audiences fragmented, advertisers followed. Not a pretty picture - unless you're Ricky Wong and the market is Hong Kong, where FTA is a monopoly, in effect, and the fare is like 'chewing gum for the eyes', as one early critic dubbed TV. Wong made his name busting the local telco's overseas-call monopoly in the 90s, and then took on the big broadband carriers by building a US\$4bn fibre-optic network. He sold it to get into TV when in 2009 the government, backed by viewers and advertisers, opened FTA to new applications - which it's still 'vetting' three years on. Perseverance may be a Cow trait, but there is a limit. Recent remarks suggest Wong is in no mood for his chart's advice to be patient. It also warns of possible setbacks and counsels against speculation! Oh, dear. If only we could change channels. ☹

Poman Lo

Executive director, Regal Hotels

What the Queen of England most enjoys about her corgis, it's said, is they think she's just Betty Windsor. Poman Lo, the poodle-pampering Princess of Hong Kong's Regal Hotels group, knows the feeling. 'I can be myself in front of them,' she says of her pooches. 'Totally nude and naked.' Maybe a dog's life isn't so ruff. Not if you're one of the Poman pack (we've counted up to eight), who typically go wherever she does, with a team of maids and guards in tow. Don't be misled by the poochie-cuteness, relentless charity-eventing and social-other-whirliness. This Monkey's no chump. She studied psychology at Duke - starting young, if we recall (an underage thinker rather than drinker). When the Asian Crisis hit the family firm, she impressed her father with her handling of a tough but crucial project and is now seen as heir, ahead of her older brother, who is also with the firm. Still, Lo may want plenty of pooch time this year, given the challenging outlook. But what are we thinking? She clearly *loves* it when the going gets ruff. This girl is the goods. ☺

**Metal Cow**
SSSUCKY / SSSO-SO YEAR

Day Master*
Yang Metal (Weak)

*Unlike the zodiac sign of the year you were born, your day master (the heavenly stem of your bazi chart's day pillar) is said to represent your true nature

**Born: 01 September 1980**
Metal Monkey
SSSUCKY / SSSO-SO YEAR

Day Master*
Yin Fire (Weak)

*Unlike the zodiac sign of the year you were born, your day master (the heavenly stem of your bazi chart's day pillar) is said to represent your true nature

It is written

A drop of water
shall be returned
with a burst of spring.

福

It shall be

Hollywood goes
"shoo-shoes nude-foot":
Stars stampede to
bare their soles on TV
talk-shows; paparazzi
tout grainy shots of
young hotties playing
footsies; shooting starts
on mega-budget
Achilles' Heel;
and pedoplasty for
the plebs surges.



Mind-reading goes
mainstream, as
big-data-based
predictive technologies
and brain-mapping
are adapted in
fields as diverse
as mobile-push
consumer purchasing
and new-generation
hi-tech prosthetics.

福



Rosemary Vandembroucke

Model, singer & actress

Water Dog
SSSO-SO / SSSUPER YEARDay Master*
Yang Earth (Weak)

*Unlike the zodiac sign of the year
you were born, your day master
(the heavenly stem of your
bazi chart's day pillar) is said
to represent your true nature

That she's "hot" is a truth most red-blooded chaps would hold to be self-evident, and no doubt wish they could hold more. Yet a close perusal of her fortune chart, rather than, say, the 2007 *Asian FHM* spread that brought her prominents to prominence, suggests Rosemary Vandembroucke has long been desperately in need of Fire. No surprise, then, to read of her big blowout at the Burning Man counterculture festival in Nevada a couple of years ago. If anything, we'd have expected a flare-up sooner. And with no harm done (the ding in the base of the landmark Reno arch is barely noticeable), we see it marking the start of a more balanced, happier stage. After all, she has been modelling since the age of 14, and looked to be at a bit of a loss after slipping free of her mother's management. What's ahead? Should be a good year, particularly in terms of wealth and relationships. And there'll also be plenty of support on hand, if she needs it - sometimes from unexpected quarters. There's even some sign (not that one back in Reno) of a mid-year career booster. ☺

DAVID WEBB

Shareholder activist

Born: 29 August 1965
Sign: Wood Snake
Call: SSSO-SO / SSSUPER

Never mind the polluted air, Webb does an excellent job of making breathing difficult for those who try to put one over their HK shareholders. Does a nice line in sleepless nights too. We were tempted to slip him an even brighter outlook... but we really like our sleep.

ROBIN LI YANG-HONG

Co-founder Baidu

Born: 17 November 1968
Sign: Earth Monkey
Call: SSSUCKY / SSSO-SO

Not the most stellar outlook. But with signs that this may be a significant year for Li, the Snake may turn out to be very rewarding. One bright spot we see is the chance to expand or move into new areas. Still, the hallmark of the year looks to be hard work and then some.

LIU YANG

First female taikonaut

Born: 06 October 1978
Sign: Earth Horse
Call: SSSUPER

We predicted Liu's historic spaceflight last year (well, her gender) and what a delight to see such a steady, balanced chart - with a few intriguing pointers towards the heavens. Simply being an Earth Horse ("heaven's blossom") is a great combination. Welcome back.

TONY CHAN CHUN-CHUEN

Fudge-away master

Born: 23 December 1959
Sign: Earth Dog
Call: SSSO-SO / SSSUPER

Fascinating chart for this fellow who seems to have bet on the old adage: 'Where there's no will, there's feng shui.' Despite intriguing 'stumbling blocks', the outlook is pretty spanking - and who's to say that may not mean a nice long holiday away from everything?

LANG LANG

Piano and erhu virtuoso

Born: 14 June 1982
Sign: Water Dog
Call: SSSUCKY / SSSO-SO

Our call strikes a bit of a sour note. After all, the Lang Lang phenomenon has really only just begun. Luckily, the discord we sense is likely to come from outside and can be contained. Still, no encore! Lang's charts are intriguing: Highly strung and yet beautifully balanced.

SINGAPORE

Parliamentary republic

Born: 09 August 1965
Sign: Wood Snake
Call: SSSO-SO

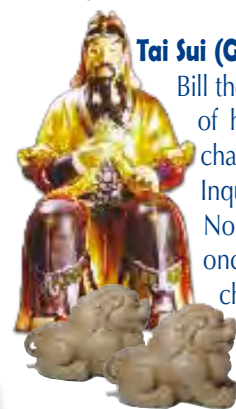
Whether or not you'd want to live there (views tend to be polar), today's Singapore is an Asian marvel - a testament to vision, self-belief, confidence, cunning, pragmatism, hard work and never-say-die. Odd that next year's big challenge may be widespread ennui.

Hush measures may be in order

'Know thyself.' Not bad advice, whatever you discover. Curiously, though, its more extroverted twin isn't mentioned in dispatches as often, despite being at least as useful, if not more so (as Sun Tzu realised long before Socrates didn't): 'Know your enemies.'

We wouldn't be surprised to learn that the sunny old art-of-warrior picked this tip up down at his local wind-and-watering hole. Because feng shui is fundamentally defensive, the chief aim being to enable an adept to identify and locate, then deflect or placate, any malevolent energy, or sha qi, doing the rounds.

This quick guide is as much as you'll need to keep clear or endear the top-three heavenly horrors, who sound like the in-laws from hell. Unannounced and uninvited, they descend annually on one or other of the nine sectors and proceed to make life uncomfortable, at best, for the usual occupant - not to mention the neighbours and even (sometimes especially) the poor chap across the way. What to do? Absolutely nothing is a good start, given their pathological aversion to the slightest disturbance. So, no more Mr Noise, guys.



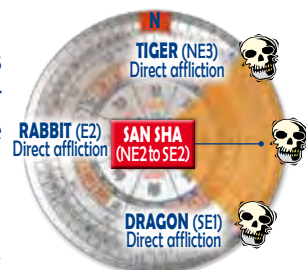
Tai Sui (Grand Duke) 'As flies to wanton boys are we to th' gods.'

Bill the Bard's Leary line pretty much covers the consigning of humanity's fate each year to the carelessness of a chap who looks as if he'd rather be running a Spanish Inquisition or slowly spit-roasting a cackle of witches. No doubt the "Dook" is a delight at the dinner table once you get to know him, but there's Buckley's chance of that. His dour demeanour puts us in mind

of Mencken's definition of Puritanism: 'the haunting fear that someone somewhere is happy'. Then again, his teeth-grinding insistence on silence rather smacks of someone suffering the mother of all hangovers. His Vexcellency reserves his darkest looks for the unfortunates parked opposite, which is why poor Porkers (NW3) are advised not to do anything rasher. For all the Medusa-like mien and deathray stares, His High Tai-ness turns out to be a pussycat when confronted by a happy yappy chappy - specifically a *pi yao* (above left), a sort of celestial pet that's part-pooch and part-flying lion. A pair of these in his corner (SE3) turns the "Dook" as docile as a moggie on Mogadon. Miaow!

Wu Wang (Five Yellow) His propensity for evil apparently knows no bounds, yet for some reason we can't help thinking of this Dr Evil of Flying Stars as Pig Pen (from the *Peanuts* strip), trailing trouble rather than a cloud of dust. A Pandora's box of trials and tribulations, this blot on the celestial skyscape is variously described as vicious, volatile, unstable and unpredictable (reads like our Grade 4 school report card). Bad news: With all the stars back on their "home turf" this year (a once-in-almost-a-decade event), their inherent energies are doubled - which means the Big W is baaack and baaader than ever! Good news: Admittedly this is a subjective interpretation and some take the glass-half-empty view, but being back in the Centre, the Yella Fella is boxed in, which should crimp its curmudgeonly cussedness.

San Sha (Three Killings) Mad, bad and dangerous to ignore, to paraphrase a Lamb of her lord. As snappy as the three-headed hellhound Cerberus, as sneaky as a dodge of pickpockets, as subtle as a Jerry Lewis punchline, the Three Terrors cover the gamut from amusing pranks to cleaning out your safety-deposit box... and then invalidating your insurance policy. These blisters warrant close watching. And a *chi lin* (right) is just the beast for the job. ☺



AFFLICTION FIXIN'

What: TAI SUI

Where: SE3
(142.6-157.5°)Who gets both barrels:
Pig (direct conflict)Collateral damage:
Snake; Tiger & Monkey

Background briefing:
The 60 personifications
of the Tai Sui each rules
for one year of the 60-
year cycle; stepping up
to the plate is General
Xu Dan, who usually
smiled only when he
unsheathed his sword.

Who you gonna call:
A pair of *pi yao* are the
only other surefire way
to make Mr Grumpy
grin; that done, keep
well out of his way and
make like a librarian.

What: WU WANG

Where: Centre

Who gets both barrels:
No oneCollateral damage:
Everyone!

Background briefing:
Henry-Pennies fear
this doubly energised
horror will have the run
and ruin of the place
from the Centre; we
reckon it'll be fighting
on too many fronts.

Who you gonna call:
No calls! No noise! No
nothin'! At most, dim
the lights, add a little
subtle Metal (not the
Megadeth kind) and
tiptoe far, far away.

What: SAN SHA

Where:

NE2-SE2 (52.6-127.5°)
Overlaps with malign
influence of Star #3

Who gets both barrels:
Tiger, Rabbit & Dragon

Background briefing:
Any one is baaad; as a
team, they're a terror.

Who you gonna call:
These three ruff-
Amigos will
soon have the
louts on
their bested behaviour:
a *pi yao*, a fu dog and
a *chi lin*. Oh, and mum
is still the last word. ☺

HOT POTS & NOTS

With the help of our qi-ful Property team, we highlight places worth watching in each of the sectors.

**NORTHWEST
\$\$\$UPER-ISH**

Overall
Lau Fau Shan;
Yuen Long

Island
Sai Wan; Sheung Wan

WEST
\$\$\$0-\$0 / \$\$\$UCKY

Overall
Tuen Mun
Island
Cyberport; Pok Fu Lam

3-WEST \$\$\$UCKY

Overall
Cheung Chau;
Tung Chung
Island
We drew a blank

4 SOUTH \$\$\$UPER

Overall
Mo Tat; Sok Kwu Wan
Island
Chung Hum Kok

5 SOUTHEAST
\$\$\$0-\$0 / \$\$\$UCKY

Overall
Lohas Park
Island
Stanley: Tai Tam

6 EAST \$\$\$UCKY

Overall
Hang Hau;
Ma On Shan; Po Lam
Island
Heng Fa Cheun;
Shau Kei Wan (6/7)

7 N-EAST \$\$\$UPER

Overall
Wu Kai Sha (7/8)
Island
Quarry Bay;
Shau Kei Wan (7/6)

NORTH \$\$\$UPER

Overall
Fanling; Lo Wu;
Shau Tau Kok;
Wu Kai Sha (8/7)

Island
Causeway Bay (8/9)

9 CENTRE \$\$\$UCKY

Overall
Kai Tak; Sham Shui Po
Island
Shouson Hill; The Peak;
Causeway Bay (9/8)

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All in the maps of the gods

Be it ever so humble, for Hong Kongers there's not much beats that first "pot of gold" (aka an apartment of your own). And once you've got one, you can *really* start playing the property game - possibly one of the most popular pastimes after mahjong and retail therapy.

Which makes CY Leung's apparent determination to blow the whistle on the Great Game seem rather . . . well, non-Kong. Why, the man used to be a professional player! And a dab hand at that. Last time we checked, he had a very tidy stack of pots, not least a double-barrel beauty up on the Peak with all the fixings. And then some.

Our property guide may not help with your pot problem, but it can alert you to which energies are deemed to dominate different sectors this year. We like the look of those clear blue skies across the north, for example. Unfortunately, there's not much on the ground.

A nous of prevention beats a pound of curse, and we advise those stuck in the middle to make like monks on a meditation marathon because the sector comes under the thumb of the noise-annoying Wu Wang (Five Yellow), a star of truly Liberace-esque horror. That's not good news for the Chief Executive's official digs or that lovely big pot on the Peak. But presumably no more additions are planned - even on the quiet. Anyway, intentionally or not, Leung* has been following the heavens' advice to a fault: Zip the lip and sit tight. 🙏

DEAR SIR . . .
In *Letter to CY*, Nicole Wong explains why we are Underweight HK developers. The government's heavy-handed intervention has done nothing to change her view.

SUPER-EST **SUCKEST**

Our Super-Sudometer ranks all nine sectors (see main map), from most promising to least



*See what fates await CY Leung and other Famous Faces in the Year of the Snake - pages 27-30

It is written

When the winds
of change blow,
some build walls
while others
build windmills.



It shall be

Investors pining for a payday continue to pour money into any opening into Mongolia and Myanmar, which live up to their “frontier” reputations; retrieving the money, never mind a decent return, proves challenging for some.



From almost nothing, asteroid-mining shapes up as a boom/bubble industry, with a rash of firms rushing out plans to launch probes - and attracting a rush of interest from investors desperate to back something that's actually heading up.



33

CLSA
ASIA-PACIFIC MARKETSSorcerer's
Apprentice
Mariana Kou
高頌妍Sorcerer's
Apprentice
Emily Lam
林恬儿Sorcerer's
Apprentice
Oliver Lam
林德家Sorcerer's
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Apprentice
Oliver Lam
林德家

THE NEW CLSA CELESTIAL FENG SHUI FORECASTER: TAKING YOUR GLOBAL STRATEGY TO THE NEXT LEVEL

Welcome to our inaugural global Qi-to-Qi map - a shameless (although not entirely shameless) bid to scramble aboard the big-picture bandwagon, with a baker's dozen forecasts covering our key markets (based mainly on *xuan kong* or flying star theory). We also rate each sector out of 10 (higher is better) on the strength of sheng qi or good energy we expect. Don't be overly troubled by a low score - it simply means there's lots more potential upside. *Kung hei fat choi!*

最新风水攻略 提升全球气场

全球“气”势大比拼地图闪耀问世！为了顺应全球化潮流，我们标新立异地（并非全无装模作样之嫌）对研究覆盖的十三个主要市场逐一做出预测（主要基于玄空飞星理论），并对每个地区的“生气”或受益能量给予评分（从1到10，数值高为佳）。当然，分数低只不过意味着有更大的上行潜力。祝君万事如意，蛇序呈祥，恭喜发财！

1 CHINA Days after PRC makes its first (unmanned) Moon landing, Beijing says there's no evidence of the Apollo missions; China claims the minerals-rich satellite as 'sacred territory since ancient times'.

中国内地 中国完成首次(无人)登月任务, 表示未发现阿波罗号登月的证据; 并声称这个矿产资源丰富的星球“自古便是中国神圣不可侵犯的领土”。

2 HONG KONG Illegal structures found at HK Housing Department, including a pool and bar. Officials claim 'they were there when we moved in' ... and then later blame their wives.

香港 香港房屋署官员涉嫌僭建, 包括一个泳池和一个吧台。官员们称“一搬进来就是如此”, 并将责任推给自己的太太。

3 USA Frakkin' hell! Republicans back an Obama programme to free the USA of Middle-East oil over the next five years, as Democrats falter in the face of heartland protests over hydraulic-fracturing.

美国 天哪! 总统奥巴马提出的结束对中东石油进口依赖的五年计划获得共和党支持; 广大民众对水力压裂的抗议令民主党无力招架。

4 JAPAN Shinzo Abe's enlisting of the year's Snake to support his 'skin-changing' reforms falters amid claims his medicine is snake oil; debate shifts to leopards and spots.

日本 安倍晋三如同“蛇蜕皮”一样的经济改革进程步履蹒跚, “灵药”似乎更像是蛇油; 投资者注意到: 江山易改本性难移。



SINGAPORE Merlion's triumphal spray repeatedly droops to a trickle, despite backups. With engineering experts stumped, the government calls in feng shui masters.

新加坡 尽管有后备水源, 但鱼尾狮喷出的巨大水流却一再无故变为涓涓细流, 就连顶尖的工程师也无法查出个中原因, 政府只得求助风水大师。

6 MALAYSIA 'Can-lah' gets the blahs as old-time mañana malaise seeps back into what was a star economy in 2012; 'Exhausting' elections are blamed for what locals call *tidak apa-thy*.

马来西亚 昔日萧条再次侵蚀辉煌经济, “可以啦”感觉。“令人精疲力尽”的选举备受抨击, 用当地人的话来说, “真的无所谓!”

7 TAIWAN Thorough review of nuclear-plant security and safety after a major 'incident' uncovers numerous oversights and errors, and questions adequacy of evacuation strategy.

台湾 在一次重大“事故”后, 对核电站安全性的综合检查暴露出大量疏忽和错误, 以及对疏散计划的质疑。

8 PHILIPPINES Western audiences get a taste for 'Flippa flicks' - especially 70-80s rom-com classics; gives brief fillip to a local industry that once rivalled Bollywood.

菲律宾 粗制滥造的“菲律宾电影”, 尤其是七八十年代的经典爱情喜剧进入西方观众的视线, 为这个曾与宝莱坞一争高下的当地行业增添了一分难以持久的生机。

9 KOREA Fast footwork sees Korea again dodge an MSCI upgrade to “developed market”, protecting its *chaebol* exporters from likely won appreciation.

韩国 跑不死的韩国人再次躲过摩根士丹利资本国际将其升级为“发达市场”的子弹, 出口财阀集团得以避免韩元潜在升值的冲击。

10 AUSTRALIA Cursed with a hung parliament last time when they couldn't choose the better of two awfuls (Cinder-ranga vs the Mad Monk), voters faced with the same choice hang themselves instead.

澳大利亚 上次议会选举中, 因各政党势均力敌, 选民难以在两害(灰姑娘格拉德与疯和尚艾伯特)之中取其轻, 这次面临同样选择的选民干脆选择弃权。

11 INDONESIA No slo-mo for the Komodo, thanks to delicious demographics, against ever-widening corruption scandal, rising econ-nationalism and policy polldrums ahead of 2014 elections.

印尼 尽管腐败丑闻不断扩大、经济民族主义抬头, 2014年票选之前政治陷入低潮, 得益于良好人口结构的巨蟒并未放慢脚步。

12 THAILAND Market's momentum surges and slows much of the year, in reaction to rolling rumours about the health of one of the country's key figures - and the return of ex-PM Thaksin.

泰国 在有关一位国家重要人物健康状况及前总理他信重返政坛的传闻影响下, 市场动能在全年大部分时间内时涨时落。

13 INDIA Scientists announce a breakthrough in a process that can extract electricity from rice crops ('the power plant you can eat') without having to harvest; say they will carry out further tests to see which grain strain is best.

印度 科学家宣布稻米发电(无需收割)出现突破, 并表示将做进一步实验, 看看哪个品种最好。

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