Ptolemy

—Maun Suang Boey

Inside the studio is utter chaos. It appears that George Bush had just arrived, and everyone is rushing about in preparation. You overhear a girl nearby gushing about how handsome he is. Another group are trying to perfect his accent. And everyone seems to be wearing an American flag pin over their top left pocket.

Kekovich looks like he is about to burst into tears, and you decide to leave him behind, sure that you can do this better on your own. A few minutes rushing around and you pass by something unexpected: Dubya's dressing room. Seconds later you glimpse the man himself down the corridor, and you duck into his room and hide behind a large Rodeo Machine, thanking the heavens for your good fortune.

Bush strides into the room and picks up the phone. "How are ya cowboy? ... Yes, it's mission accomplished here. Freedom loving *Os*-traylians have responded. ... Can you guess? ... Ok, fine, but y'all laugh when I tell ya. ... Mel-borne! ... I know! Apparently named after that little town in Florida. Cute, ain't it. ... One thing though, information is moving, and I've brought it to my attention that the gee-netic engine has been reversed, someone's reversed it, an *Os*-traylian scienceman working on the team. ... I know, I'm confident this time we won't misunderestimate them. ... We'll deal with it, you can count on me. ... Ok. I hear you. ... God bless America."

Bush marches back out, but you've heard enough. The genetic code had been reversed! A cure has been found! You just needed to find the identity and whereabouts of this "scienceman". On the other hand, it sounded like Bush isn't the mastermind after all, but you decide this is a question to ponder at a later time.

Rushing off to the TV control room, you are relieved to find it empty. The control panel is all lit up, the machine is buzzing with life, and you just need to work out how to use it. Snatching up an instruction booklet lying nearby, you turn to the first page. How does this machine work?

Sun:	TRULFPHG
Mercury:	AYFHQWEC
Venus:	BKDBVOZM
Earth:	SINQOEHT
Mars:	CFJAXNRU
Ring:	ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPRSTUVWXY

Read Ring at Mars.
Read Earth at Ring twice.
Read Sun at Mercury.
Read Sun at Mars.
Rotate Sun clockwise 2 places.
Read Mercury at Sun.
Rotate Sun clockwise 1 place.
Read Ring at Mercury.
Rotate Sun anticlockwise 6 places.
Read Mercury at Ring.
Rotate Sun anticlockwise 1 place.
Read Sun at Venus.
Rotate Sun clockwise 2 places.
Read Ring at Venus twice.
Rotate Sun clockwise 1 place.
Read Ring at Earth.
Rotate Sun clockwise 1 place.
Read Venus at Ring.
Read Mars at Ring.
Rotate Sun clockwise 1 place.
Read Earth at Sun.
Rotate Sun clockwise 1 place.
Read Venus at Ring.
Read Mercury at Sun.
Read Earth at Sun.
Read Venus at Sun.
Rotate Sun anticlockwise 1 place.
Read Mercury at Ring.
Rotate Sun anticlockwise 1 place.
Read Ring at Mercury.
Rotate Sun anticlockwise 1 place.
Read Mercury at Ring.
Rotate Sun anticlockwise 1 place.
Read Earth at Sun.
Rotate Sun anticlockwise 1 place.
Read Mars at Ring.
Read Earth at Ring.
Rotate Sun anticlockwise 2 places.
Read Ring at Mars.