



NEWSLETTER

NOW WEEKLY! With art by Vera !
from the Astrology Center of America / AstroAmerica.com

June 4, 2013

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Want medicine? Get a preacher.

A CENTURY ago the Christian Scientists established the religious right to say *no* to medicine and by accident established the right to a **religious-based medicine**.

So when—not if—you get cancer, do you want a chemo cocktail that will make your hair, teeth, nails and money fall out and *still not cure you*, or would you like to try a poultice of, say, ground lobster and garlic, followed by a poultice of leaves and buttermilk? Poultices won't work, you say? Have you tried? Know anyone who has? How many do you know on chemo? Do they look cured and healthy and happy to you?

Your preacher has the religious-based right to bless any kind of cure he likes. Traditionally they've messed around with hands-on faith healing, and while this actually works, it exhausts the preachers themselves.

Know that a mega-church already has competent herbalists as members. A mega-church already has lawyers and attorneys as members. You will need lawyers as even

preachers will get hit with every nasty bit of medical law out there. Patients will sign contracts releasing the church from liability. Which, by the way, is what hospitals make patients sign now. Mega-churches also have elected office-holders who can set about to change laws in favor of church-based medicine.

How intense is the need? Know that the first crack in the current medical dictatorship will be met with a torrent of popular support, bordering on hysterical relief. The first preacher brave enough to go *mano-a-mano* against the current system will quickly touch off a firestorm, from one end of the country to the other. He will be attacked, but he will have tens of thousands of supporters.

Is the current medical system good? Well, in some way yes it is, but in other ways it has had a century to prove itself and is, in fact, just too dang flabby to be successful. *Medicine has 2000 years of experience, of cures that work* that can be applied to virtually every ailment, without exception. It is a lie to claim the ancients had no medicine. They had lots. We are not, in fact, any different now than we were in Rome. To discard all history in favor of white coats is sheer hubris.

We need one preacher, who knows who he is and what he can do. I have a plan and am eager to share it. The best hospitals have traditionally been religious-based charities.



Studiosness, or what is called the book-worm tendency, is most commonly found under Virgo. It is specially noticeable if the cardinal principle is lacking, and Mars, the Sun and Jupiter obscurely placed or in airy signs. Gemini is upon the whole an active sign, physically as well as mentally.

Suicidal Tendency is usually shown by violent malefic afflictions to one or both of the luminaries, to the lord of the 3rd and often, to Mercury as well, while as a general rule Saturn afflicts heavily, and Jupiter is often ill-placed, being also very often in Saturn signs or in aspect to Saturn. The principal afflictor in such cases, however, is Uranus. The mutable signs are the most frequent ascendants. Neptune is usually in some relation to the 8th. Obviously the actual motive for the act of self-destruction must be carefully considered. The commonest zodiacal areas are about the 15th of the cardinals (often tentanted in the nativities of murdered people irrespective of suicide), about 25° of fixed, a notably violent area in many respects, and about 26° of the mutables.

— **Encyclopaedia of Psychological Astrology**, by C.E.O. Carter. [Buy](#).

ALMANACK

for the week (all times GMT)

04	01:23	♀	△	♄	
	06:10	☾	✕	♃	Void
	15:55	☾	♁		
05	13:26	☾	△	♁	Void
06	No aspects				
07	03:33	☾	♁		
	08:27	♁	SR		
	11:46	♀	△	♁	
	15:24	♀	△	♄	
	22:02	♀	♁	♁	
	23:58	♂	□	♁	
08	15:57	●	18II	01	New Moon
	18:47	♀	□	♄	
09	08:30	☾	♁	♃	Void
	16:17	☾	♁		
	22:08	♀	♁	♀	
10	21:16	☾	♁	♀	Void

Extracted from [AstroAmerica's Daily Ephemeris, 2000-2020](#). [Buy](#).

Vivian Robson's STAR OF THE WEEK

RIGEL beta Orionis 17 II 01

Notes: A double bluish white star situated on the left foot of Orion.

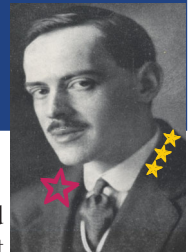
Influence: According to Ptolemy and Lilly it is of the nature of Jupiter and Saturn, but later authors consider it favourable and similar to Jupiter and Mars. It gives benevolence, honour, riches, happiness, glory, renown, inventive or mechanical ability.

If rising: Good fortune, preferment, riches, great and lasting honours.

If culminating: Great military or ecclesiastical preferment, anger, vexation, magnanimity, much gain acquired by labor and mental anxiety, lasting honours.

With Sun: Bold, courageous, insolent, unruly temper, hasty actions, bloodshed, many enemies, great good fortune, military success.

With Moon: Much worry and disappointment, injuries to life and fortune, sickness, bad for gain, ill health or death to wife or mother. — *From Fixed Stars*, by Vivian Robson [Buy](#)



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Ivy M. Goldstein-Jacobson
1893-1990

IVY'S GEM OF THE WEEK

ALL told, there are 20 first-magnitude fixed stars whose conjunction in either of two ways to planets or angles in your natal, progressed or age-directed positions will always emphasize them and make them more prominent in your life. From that standpoint they are very important in the all-over evaluation.

They bestow on your planet some of their own great magnitude & brilliance enabling you to accomplish your aims with the surety of their fixity of nature & purpose applied to your natural-born aptitudes.

When conjunct a natal planet at birth you are able to operate easily & gainfully each time a transit activates it either by conjunction or opposition, the later having the force of a double-conjunction as recognized by its symbol. If your planet reaches the fixed star by progression, age arc direction or pre-natal position within 90 days before birth, you profit for the duration of the aspect. The orb to allow is 10 applying or separating for registering.

If applying, you are building into your consciousness an additional power of self expression related to the nature of the planets that describe them, as listed on the next page herein. If separating, you have lately done so & are now using their influence.

The two ways a fixed star registers is by position. First by Constellation & second by Sign which are interchangeable since each astrological Sign has an astronomical position in the Constellation directly behind it; as a planet in 18° of the Sign Gemini is read in the Zodiac by the astrologer but the astronomer places it in 18° of the CONSTELLATION Taurus. That is why Aries people can't be ordered about — **Astrological Essays**, 1979. **Buy.**

Garrison Keillor

A man in search of someone to listen

I HAVE admired Garrison Keillor's marvellous weekly radio show since I first discovered it, in April, 1982. He began broadcasting it in 1974 and I greatly regret that I missed those shows. Why do I feel I should have been in the audience right from the start? Because both my parents are from southern Minnesota (Steele County), and while I was born and raised in Kansas, Minnesota has always had my heart. I listen to Keillor, I hear my parents, aunts, uncles, grandparents, cousins. Keillor's people are my people. The Saturday evening Prairie Home Companion is very much like going home.

Keillor's birthplace of Anoka, MN, is due north of the Twin Cities, while my ancestors were due south, from Owatonna and Faribault. There are three different pronunciations for Faribault, by the way, perhaps because there are three different communities in it. Mine are the Catholics. Keillor has the Lutherans and charismatics. While "Lake Wobegone" is fictional, Keillor in fact talks of real places. St. Cloud, for example.

In 1980, **A Prairie Home Companion**, Keillor's live show, was syndicated nationally. I spent 1975-1981 trying to establish myself, in France or London, as it turned out. As I am a radio person, in each new town I searched the dial to see what I could find. I can tell you about **Arthur Godfrey's** last broadcasts in the early 1970's, the delicious chocolaty voice of **Susan Stamberg** at the early NPR, France Inter, live concerts on BBC Radio 3, even a bit about pirate radio in London, c. 1981. Not to mention **Jim Svejda** in Los Angeles and the marvellous **Nimet**, in New York. Remember them?

I arrived in New York on the day Anwar Sadat was murdered, October 6, 1981. I spent two days at the Sloane House YMCA before arriving at the Times Square Motor Hotel at 8th and 43rd. The tiny room they gave me would be my home until April the next year, when I moved to The Roachland on W. 48th, just off of 8th Avenue. At last I had my radio back and immediately found Keillor. I was addicted, right from the start.

Well, okay, there is no hotel in New York named *Roachland*, though many will qualify. It was the Belvedere, which means *beautiful view*. From my 5th floor window there was

only the back of a tenement. Before I left in 1985 the place had reverted to a proper hotel and is now, I presume, much nicer. I paid \$400 a month 30 years ago. Current room prices are \$332 a night. They're still the same rooms, by the way, though the paint is nicer. But I digress. I hope there are fewer bugs.

LONG ago I found Keillor's date and place of birth, August 7, 1942, Anoka, MN. I did not have his time, as, before the internet, you had to subscribe to Lois Rodden's Data News Service to have proper birth data. I thought right from the start he would have a 12th house Sun, he just seemed to project that. Keillor was born at 6:40 am, CWT.

When I actually looked at his chart for the first time a week ago, I found I had been right, but then realized I had no idea how to read it. Over at **AstroDataBank** was the brief note that he had been married three times. Which means that marriage is important to him, which means a malefic of some sort in the 7th house. But when I looked at the chart, the 7th was empty.

So I looked for the ruler of the 7th, Saturn, ruling Aquarius, and found it in the 11th of friends. And I understood. Ruler of the 7th in the 11th, Keillor is unable to distinguish *friends* from *lovers* and so marries the wrong sort as he knows no better. I have an empty 7th with the ruler, Jupiter in my case, stranded in the 11th. Why do I talk so often of myself? Because we are each driven by our own private needs and as it happens I have always felt a kinship with Keillor, which is nothing more than admitting I am a fan. That is all.

I always want to believe that performers make up their routines to suit themselves, that they present their private lives, if at all, only in measured doses. Keillor is a story-teller. With Mercury in Leo exactly on the ascendant, ruling the Moon in Gemini in the friendship house of the 11th, Keillor would tell stories about his friends. All of that I understood, but if he told only his own stories, he would have run out of material a long time ago.

Keillor's chart is a bundle. All his planets are in a single wide square. He lacks oppositions and even trines. He has but one proper square and, true to his trade, it is a

This is a serialization of Vivian Robson's **A Student's Text-Book of Astrology.**

Part 19

The Alphabet

continued:—

Planets in conjunction tend to act alternately and it should be remembered that they do not altogether blend although they are both acting through the same part of the zodiac. There is usually a more or less rapid change from one body to another. Thus Venus conjunct Mars generally causes the native to change quickly from anger to smiles and vice versa, though it also gives energy to the feelings and some softness to the passions. In a conjunction both bodies are always active and it is a mistake to imagine that one is cancelled out. The relative strength, however, is not equal and depends largely upon the sign occupied, for Venus conjunct Mars in Libra is much more favourable to Venus, which rules Libra, than to Mars, while the reverse would be the case with Venus conjunct Mars in Aries.

A conjunction is usually rather difficult to interpret especially when three or more bodies are concerned and it tends to limit the native owing to the presence of several planets in one sign, for the various energies and experiences of the planets are all exerted or received through one channel.

Another position linking up two planets is that known as *mutual reception*, which occurs when each body is in a sign ruled by the other, as for example Jupiter in Aries and Mars in Sagittarius. This is also said to cause the two planets concerned to act as if in conjunction.

The *opposition* is usually classed as the worst aspect of all, but this is often not so as it frequently acts as a complimentary aspect and loses much of its evil nature. Furthermore with an opposition it is often possible to incline the balance to one side or the other, whereas in the case of the square this is not possible and the latter may usually be taken as the worse affliction. — **A Student's Text-Book of Astrology**, by Vivian Robson. **Buy**

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Saturn in Gemini

Saturn here, like all the other positions, has good news and bad news.

The good news is that these people are often found in the high I.Q. zone, they tell the truth, have a firm sense of right and wrong, are diplomats par excellence, and are blessed with limitless curiosity. They are loyal to their brothers and sisters; they know how to keep a secret, and they're polished conversationalists. This gang sparkles.

The bad news is they're afraid of going crazy. Let's look at how this works.

Combine a crushing sense of right and wrong, a worried nature and a deeply instilled parental taboo on discussing deep, personal stuff. They're terrified to confide in anyone, so they bottle it all up, tell themselves if a situation's bugging them that the fault is their own, and then wonder why they feel like they're coo-coo.

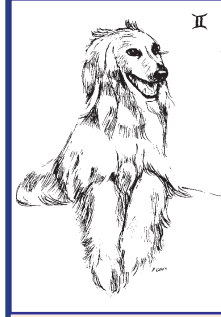
These people are blessed, as the solution to their problems is simple, and they are gifted with enough brainpower to think of ways round their problems. They need to talk about their personal stuff with a secret-keeping friend, or pay a therapist to keep their secrets for them. Perhaps they ought to light a candle before they spill the beans—it makes them feel they're banishing the taboo on talking heart-to-heart.

They can't bear to give bad news, so they just try not to tell you. Or they drive you crazy as you watch them loyally denying everyday abuse and frustration, telling you everything's "fine" when you know it isn't. They'll fight you off, too, if you probe too fast, so take it easy.

Most of them are terrified of being thought stupid. Some of them may have mild learning disabilities; remind them these have nothing to do with intelligence.

— © **Debbi Kempton-Smith**, 1999. **Buy.**

DOG OF THE MONTH



Most Gemini dogs are extremely intelligent & easy to communicate with. Just tell them once 'sit' or 'outside' and they immediately do it.

Lots of energy, no just staying around the house for this one.

Will fetch your paper, and all you have to do is talk to him, a real people animal.

He seems fascinated by the sounds his vocal cords can produce, and may happily carry on a conversation with himself. Will do anything for a ride in the car. Sticks his nose out of the window & the faster you go, the better he likes it.

These dogs especially like to play providing they're not hungry.

When you want him to come to you, try rattling paper bags & he'll come running. Geminis like plenty of love & affection.

© **Marian Futterman**, 1976, **Your Dog and Astrology**, \$3.00. Yes, Marian, we still have copies. Some of the best sun-sign writing I ever came across. **Buy!**

The New Newsletter

Most people, most astrologers, even, have no idea how rich, how varied, astrology really is. I'm lucky. For the last nineteen years, I've lived in what amounts to a world-class astrological library, which I've been passing off as **AstroAmerica**. Every week I will serve up a slice for your amusement.

'Til next week — **Dave**

- June 4:**
- 1411 – Roquefort cheese gets a monopoly.**
- 1783–Hot air balloon demonstrated.**
- 1940–Dunkirk evacuation ends.**
- 1942–Battle of Midway begins.**



Moon-Neptune, from Gemini to Virgo, the signs of stories and fussiness. Moon-Neptune squares, like Mercury-Neptune squares, are compulsive liars, to which Keillor has many times confessed. Each time we hear his admission we wave his guilt away, convinced that no stories so true to life could be entirely invented.

But in many ways Keillor has been telling the truth about his life and how he has lived it and it was the marriages that told me. Saturn ruling the 7th house from Gemini, Keillor wanted someone to *listen to him* and his life and his problems. Someone older (Saturn), someone mature (Saturn). A friend. With a Moon in Gemini, Keillor is not a romantic or passionate man.

MANY of Keillor's own opinions can be found on-line. On the perfect woman, aka wife: *The perfect woman is the woman who you love to converse with and who you want to tell everything to.* No, Garrison. That's a friend. Not a wife. There is a level of male camaraderie, noted by D.H. Lawrence and for that matter, by Oscar Wilde, which supersedes female listening. Most men crave that far more than a wife who listens.

A wife is different from a friend, in a ways that can be recognized but which I have difficulty expressing. A wife is a catcher to a pitcher, a receiver to a quarterback. A wife is your partner, your reflection, the other half of the Yin-Yang, that which is desired but which is never quite possessed, the frustration spinning the Yin-Yang at warp speed. Husbands and wives are *teams*. A wife is never just your friend and should this be your primary means of relating to her, she will eventually leave and you will not understand why, or, if the marriage lasts, it will be because you are each too addled to know what partnership is and too timid to find out. Very often a wife is anything but a friend.

Of his first wife, Mary Guntzel (now deceased), Keillor has said, *I really admired her*, adding that she found his life awkward and painful and felt self-conscious and inferior.

Ruler of the 7th in the 11th, spouse misidentification is compounded by a wide Moon-Saturn conjunction, 13 degrees and waning. It's not just that Keillor finds the wrong women, but that his Moon ties him emotionally to them. Moon-Saturn *conjunct* in *Gemini* in the *11th*, Keillor hesitates to talk to others — they may hesitate to talk to him — and as a result, is shy. Which has been an endlessly recurring theme on his show, right from the start. We might consider shyness to be a low-grade version of depression. If

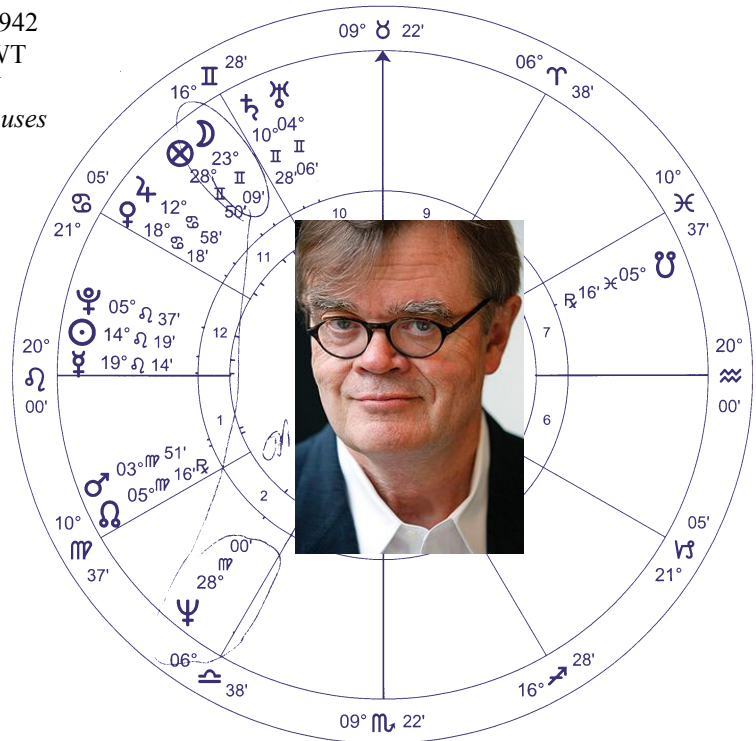
Garrison Keillor

August 7, 1942

6:40 am CWT

Anoka, MN

Placidus houses
mean node



the two planets were any closer together he would be depressed, possibly to the point of being mute, Saturn shutting off Gemini's speech altogether. The wide conjunction will make him choose his words carefully.

Just behind Saturn, what do we see? The modern ruler of Keillor's Aquarian 7th, Uranus, the bizarre. Combined with Saturn, the result is a certain minor streak of cruelty. Put your tongue (ruler: Mercury/Gemini) on the frozen pump handle. Dare you! Tear out the one part of your body that will cripple you from being a *story-teller!* How telling. It's one of his longest-standing teases, this barb aimed directly at himself.

As a result, Keillor does not tell great romantic tales. Seductive vixens, invariably attired in clothing so tight the labels on their underwear can clearly be read, appear only to wander away, unloved. Those who mistake friends as lovers compulsively avoid real passion as they are frightened of it. Keillor himself has said, *I've been brave in romance. Brave or irresponsible.* Which is to say, utterly devoid of reckless heat and passion.

Evelyn Bibelow, Lefty's long-time love, is notable by never actually appearing. The characters in Lake Wobegone are true bloodless Lutherans, or, more precisely, unemotional folk like Keillor himself. His stories, again and again, concern people who are just trying to get by. They are independent, they do their duty, they ask no help from

others: Moon in Gemini conjunct Saturn, both in the 11th. Garrison Keillor has spent 39 years compulsively telling us about himself and his 11th house. Keillor is a true Old Norwegian Bachelor Farmer, and I feel embarrassed to make the connection, it is so painful.

In Keillor's world, married couples treat each other as wary associates, which Keillor disguises by only talking of the long-married sort. He rarely tells stories of raw passion. It's not just that such things are unknown to him, as I presume they are, but that his talents are not broad enough to fake it.

SO why has Keillor's third marriage, from 1995, to Jenny Lind Nilsson, lasted so long? Why do you think? By the age of 53, sexual passions, for most of us, have nearly burnt out. Older marriages are often based on simple friendship. Sheer endurance has given Keillor what he has long sought.

Astrologically the first marriage is judged by the 7th house and its ruler, Saturn widely conjunct the Moon. The second marriage is the third house from that, or the 9th, which in Garrison's case brought him a foreigner, while the third marriage is three houses from that, or the 11th, ruled by Gemini, ruled by Mercury, conjunct the ascendant. At last, a wife Garrison could present to the world.

It is often said that we grow and adapt as we get older, but I have not found this to be

true. For the most part, we simply endure. Note that all four of Keillor's angles are fixed, as is his Sun and the ruler of his ascendant. Life is as it is.

Which brings me to that first two hour broadcast, in July of 1974, when Keillor was nearly 32 years of age. Before Prairie Home Companion, Keillor's career was checkered. He had gotten as far as a job at the college radio station (which were not that hard to come by) but then had gotten stuck. He had graduated in 1966 with a major in English. Which he came to parody only many years later, in the 1990's, as memory serves. Prior to that he was silent.

WITH both talent and interest, he should have graduated straight into a job in commercial radio, but did not. Like as not he found himself up against others who were younger, who had not wasted their time in college, but who instead had gotten hired, straight out of high school, as a go-fer at the local station and so were five years ahead of him. Such as, for example, Rush Limbaugh, nine years Keillor's junior, who got himself on-air at the age of 16 at his hometown radio station and never looked back. Or Dick Clark (1929-2012) who also started when he was 16. When your competition for jobs are people who are younger, have more experience as well as contacts that you cannot imagine, your chances are nil and your hard-earned degree a positive nuisance. Keillor could content himself being a giant in a tiny college station and that was it. He had no prospects. When station management became displeased at his antics in 1971, it was the end.

Which is the same bitter experience I found after I graduated with an equally useless degree, in my case, a B.Sc. in Photojournalism from the University of Kansas. For the few photo jobs that were out there, the competition was younger, more experienced and had better contacts. Not only were the years I spent at KU wasted, I had been saddled with debt that took 38 years to repay.

Like as not, Keillor had been told the same lie as was told to me: That a college degree would make everything okay. Keillor, a shy, unsociable kid, presumably went to college to "make something of himself" and "get a start in life." When it did not work he became more desperate with every passing year. Which led him to do the same as me: He acted out. He gambled. You will notice that while Garrison Keillor spent the years from 1960 to 1971 at the University of Minnesota, or at its radio station, and today often broadcasts from university campuses (I am lis-

tening to a show from the University of Michigan at the moment) he never, ever, talks of college. Nor do I.

As a radio announcer Keillor was good on-air. Mercury rising, he could talk. While Mercury is in its fall in Leo, this was actually an advantage, so far as radio is concerned. Big, bold, broad, regal proclamations go over well on the radio, whereas my Gemini rising, Mercury in Aquarius, is too fast and too slurred. It's true.

As shown by his 7th house, Keillor developed his show because he needed an audience, one in the room with him. One he could see. An audience which would listen.

Normally in the case of a Leo we would expect Keillor to get a show to promote himself, but with the Sun trapped in the 12th, Keillor does not know how. He knows he is important, all Leos know that, but in a cadent house, how to do that is never clear. In Keillor's case, the Sun has to "jump over" Mercury in order to claim the ascendant as his own and be a Leo. Mercury gets there first and Mercury will have none of it. Thus does placement on an angle supercede the ruler. Even the Sun.

So in Keillor's show, you rarely hear applause. You rarely hear the audience laughing. The audience in Keillor's show is miked, but not prominently. It's there for his pleasure, not to impress his radio audience. For his part, Keillor, alone, refuses to wear headphones or even an earpiece, refuses, in other words, to hear the broadcast in its actual form. Keillor is the only person on-stage focused entirely on the audience in front of him. Everyone else has the voice of the director in their ears: *Do this. Do that.* As you would expect, Keillor is a director's nightmare. Keillor is not listening to us. *We* are listening to *him*, and by his express decision. This is the insecurity of a debilitated Leo who craves an audience.

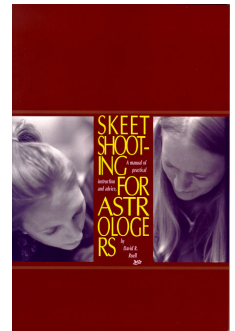
KEILLOR is not unique in broadcasting before a live audience, as this was common from the 1920's into the early 1950's. Keillor's show is in fact dominated, not by his Sun, but by Mercury which, ever restless, wants to rush on to the next thing, and the next, and the next, and the Moon, in Gemini, Mercury's own sign, which gets satisfaction by always flitting from one thing to the next. Keillor's show is, in fact, his chart.

This was clear in **Robert Altman's movie**, from 2006, Altman's last. Keillor could have had any part he wanted, and this regardless of his acting ability. Any of Keillor's regulars could have had any part

READ MY BOOKS

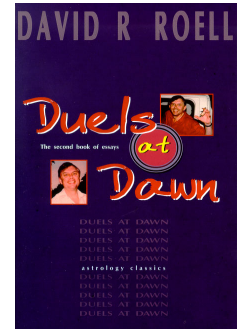
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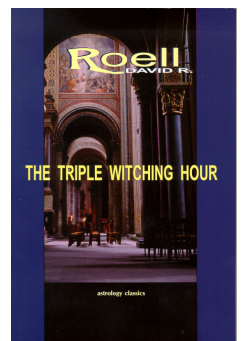
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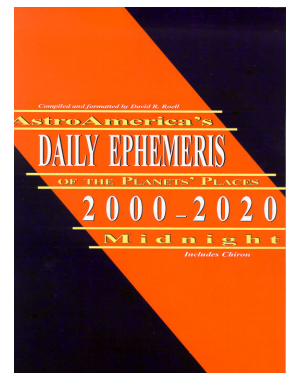
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they wanted, with Keillor's permission. Instead, we were treated to a strange show where the people we most wanted to see were in the background, upstaged by what I suspect were actors eager to be on a show they admired as much as I do. I have read comments from those who were first introduced to a Prairie Home Companion by the movie who were then quite surprised to find it was about some other show entirely. For the entire movie Keillor himself stood in the background. As a Leo, was he secure enough to let this happen on his watch, a proud king showing off his kingdom, or was it that at the age of 64, he still did not know how to be a Leo?

THE TRAINED MONKEY.

HAVING gotten a radio show and made something of himself, Keillor eventually tired of it. As he once said, a two hour weekly show is a great yawning pit that had to be filled somehow. As an avid listener I knew well that Keillor was in fact the sole writer, and that this was hugely demanding. In the last few years he now has a small stable of writers, but for those who listen closely, their primary contribution seems to be recycling ideas Garrison developed decades ago ("Piscacadawadaquoddy-moggin"), which means that Keillor himself is still doing the majority of the work.

The first attempt to free himself came in 1987, when he abruptly ended the show and announced his retirement to Copenhagen. The astrology is revealing. Transiting Saturn and Uranus were in late Sagittarius, opposing his Moon. Pluto was on his 4th house cusp, which is get-out-of-the-house-before-it-blows-up. Keillor likely concluded that his moment had passed and that he should leave. Which is how you should read the outer planets. When they gang up on you by transit, they're telling you the world has changed and you must somehow adapt, one way or another. By opposition it means you are no longer wanted. Does the adulation and love of his many followers actually reach him?

Having myself spent nearly three years overseas and having seen many Americans while there, I did not think Keillor would be successful in Copenhagen. Garrison Keillor is a typical white-bread American suburbanite. They do not do well abroad. Can we see this in the chart? Yes, if you like. Ninth house, of foreign adventures, empty. This is already a caution. The sign on the cusp is Aries, which, when overseas, becomes pushy, which does not impress the locals. The ruler, Mars, in Virgo, makes Aries whine. Near the 2nd house cusp and conjunct the north node, one never abandons his home values.

Which is to say, *how much is that in dollars, mister?* Such people hate being abroad. They typically count the days until their tour ends and are grateful to be back home. I was the opposite, my 9th is powerful.

This was during his marriage to Ulla Skaerved, a Danish native. The marriage also has astrological underpinnings. After the failure of his first marriage, to a friend, Keillor thought he should try something exotic. With Gemini on the 11th house cusp and the ruler of his 7th in Gemini, what was exotic? Well, the opposite of Gemini, which is Sagittarius, the sign of foreigners. This is another wrinkle about Garrison I know well: I have Sag on my 7th house cusp, the ruler, Jupiter, is in the 11th, I am naturally attracted to foreigners in ways that Keillor is not. Note that Keillor's third wife, born 1957, has her Saturn opposite his, in Sagittarius.

After the year in Copenhagen and with her marriage in tatters, Ulla did the sensible thing and took Keillor to New York, where she expected he would make something of himself. He got a job at the New Yorker but then, when management changed, left in a huff, or a pout. New York is the media capital of the world, Garrison was already established and could have had any job he wanted, if he wanted to be a writer. Or if he wanted to be in radio or TV, for that matter. By 1988 Keillor had paid his dues. He was now the man everyone wanted.

What happened instead? Two years after leaving the country Keillor ground himself back into what would be a reprise of A Prairie Home Companion, only without his earlier enthusiasm. He had realized his own limitations. He had, as it were, run out of options. There was only the past to go back to. Which reminds me of Johnny Carson, who thought his gig on *Tonite* would be a passing stop on the road to an acting career. Carson, like the *Daily Show's* Jon Stewart, played roles in movies. In my opinion the 1980's were the heyday of Keillor's show. Since 1989 it has been a copy of itself.

Rather than think of Keillor as a man with a weekly radio show, think of him as a performance artist. Remember that performance artists perform at the time and place of their choosing. Those without that critical control are little better than trained monkeys, dancing for our pleasure.

Shows like PHC, while they may start as one man's dream come true, often degenerate into a free-for-all (presuming they last that long) or, if one is lucky, skilled producers and directors arrive and provide a steady supply of material. Johnny Carson, Jay Leno,

David Letterman did not write their own material. They had writers, directors, arrangers, an entire staff. All the hosts need do was grab the night's script and get through it.

As I have trapped myself writing a weekly newsletter, I can say that sometimes they're a joy and write themselves, and sometimes it's just a job. I am often challenged by my weekly subjects and learn from them. I do not think Garrison Keillor has it quite as easy. I doubt that writing yet another routine for Dusty and Lefty, or Guy Noir, provides the same intellectual satisfaction. Indeed, as both of these skits have gone on for 20 years, there must be a great temptation to recycle old material.

Part of this, and one reason I would have liked to have been in the audience at his very first shows, is that Keillor has never been all that enthused about his own show. His delivery is a flat monotone and has become flatter over time. I have been listening long enough to remember Powder Milk Biscuit plugs that were genuinely enthusiastic, rather than mournful and sad (*Mournful Oats*, etc.) As a singer his voice is untrained and weak. Paul McCartney once had an untrained voice, you can hear the rawness on his early recordings. But McCartney, when he had the money and time, got himself voice lessons. Keillor never did. There is, in Keillor's chart, the underlying depression of Moon-Saturn, coupled with the underlying, unexpressed anger of Sun-Pluto, which, like Moon-Saturn, are also widely conjunct.

The result is an ongoing frustration with life, at what it has brought. Lasting fame, while desired by many, is one of the most stressful of all occupations, it is deeply scarring. For many years Keillor has been trapped by his own show, by his inability to end it and by his equal inability to let others give him a hand with it. So far as his writing, which I've not mentioned, Keillor is not a writer. A writer has a book inside him that must get out, must be published. Keillor has only stories. He is as incapable of writing a book as I am. Instead, we each have book-length compilations of materials we developed elsewhere, for other purposes.

IN 2001 his heart decided it had had enough. The astrology is revealing. Jupiter had just opposed Keillor's Moon, and from Sagittarius, its ruling sign. Jupiter is said to be a benefic, but this does not seem to be always the case. Mars was also in Sag, also opposing the Moon. Saturn was in Gemini, announcing Keillor's second Saturn return, the "retirement" return, which in this case was more like, "retire or die." Keillor

in fact gave up some of his responsibilities as a result. Uranus had just moved into his 7th house, Neptune was opposed to his Sun, Pluto opposed Saturn. This is the second time we have seen outer planet transits gang up on this man. It is worthy of note.

In September, 2009, Keillor was hospitalized briefly by a minor stroke. Mercury opposed to Pluto, Venus opposed to Sun, Mars moving to conjunct Jupiter, Jupiter opposed to Mercury (Aquarius to Leo, the heart), Saturn square the Moon, Uranus squaring the Moon from the other end, Pisces; Saturn and Uranus very nearly exactly opposed. Neptune trine the Moon. Keillor was lucky the stroke was minor, the transits to his Moon were not pleasant.

In March 2011 he announced his retirement, but as there were few relevant transits, the decision, as it turned out, was frivolous.

Or more likely, hasty. Having spent his entire life hosting a two hour radio show, I

doubt Keillor could imagine life without it. Love the show, hate the show but no way to get away from the show, that was and remains the dilemma. Like Johnny Carson, who early on tired of his show (the Tonight Show) but was unable to escape it. Or like me, with this newsletter. All three of us as one-man bands, worn out but unable to do anything else. So we plod on, taking our pleasures as we find them. In so many ways there is an existential despair to Keillor and his show. Which brings me to

NAKED DANCING GIRLS

I WAS talking to Eric Francis a month ago and mentioned my “lust” for naked females. Whereupon Eric volunteered to send a strip-o-gram. Which was not what I had in mind.

Like Keillor long ago, I face a microphone (this newsletter) with no idea who is listening. I need to be part of the community in order to be of use to it, but am not. This is

my own fault, as I have not been kind to it. And, like Keillor, a cadent Sun (and Moon) keeps me eternally in the background.

I, like Keillor, need to feel needed and, if not I, like Keillor, would bolt if I had some place to bolt to. Unlike Keillor I have never made enough money to be physically comfortable or take vacations and, unlike Keillor, when my heart demanded attention, I had to look out for myself. As a result I reached conclusions that were somewhat different.

On Friday May closed, the store’s worst month since April, 1995. Back then the store was less than **two years old** and had only gone mail-order the previous October, thanks to the first of a series of full-page ads in the **Mountain Astrologer**. It was a time of hope, of fresh starts, of every month better than the last. Now it is the opposite.

While I find Garrison Keillor fascinating, this has gone on too long. My apologies, and my thanks.