

July 2009 Blog
4-6 Capricorn/Cancer: a degree of Removal/Rebellion

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I have been focusing recently on 4-6 degrees of the Cancer/Capricorn axis. I think it's timely, as Pluto is coming up to those degrees, something I'll mention further in the blog. Combing through the incidents where this degree has been prominent, and the events connected with this axis in progressed and directed charts, I think a concise key phrase for the axis is **removal and rebellion**.

Standing by itself, the 4-6 degree range of **cardinal signs**, especially the Cancer/Capricorn axis in progressed and directed charts, seems to have association with events that could fall under the category of removal: abduction, banishment, and chastisement, the latter including rebuke, censoring and intervention activities. Keep in mind, the degree may show up in progressions and directions when the concepts of banishment and capture are metaphorical.

I have also seen it in the natal charts of people who feel "left out," as if banished, and some with this degree have been known to comment that they frequently feel like they have their nose pressed up against the glass of life, always looking into places where they felt they could not go. In some cases, this manifests as a confidence crisis; it doesn't mean the person can't be successful, but it may take longer than anticipated.

The degree axis can also be found in charts of those who are "captured," by concepts, ideas, and obsessions with other people, etc., though not literally taken prisoner. It can also come up when you are forbidden (chastisement/censorship) to do something that you see as a free expression, which is usually the forerunner of **rebellion**.

Removal

Let's first consider the concept of removal and 4-6 degrees of the Cardinal axis, with emphasis on Cancer/Capricorn.

I have seen this degree *literally* in abductions, and interventions (mentioned below), such as those associated with helping an addict come to terms with their problem, or legal intervention as in stopping wrongdoing.

Some examples that support the abduction/intervention theme of this degree range (i.e., between 4 and 6 degrees of the Cancer/Capricorn axis):

Betty Hill had a much-publicized abduction by UFO aliens on Oct. 19, 1961 when she had a **converse secondary progressed conjunction of Venus/Pluto** in 5 Cancer, which was in conjunction with her **natal Sun** of 5 Cancer 54 (9th house). The CSP **Venus** was also out of bounds by progressed declination.

Diarist Anne Frank and her family were captured in their secret hiding place on Aug. 4, 1944 by Nazis persecuting Jews, when Anne's **secondary progressed Sun** was at 5 Cancer 15.

Ettore Majorana, an Italian theoretical physicist, disappeared on March 27, 1948, and was never heard from again. At the time, his **converse solar arc Mars** was at 5 Cancer 43, opposing his **natal Uranus** at 5 Capricorn 07 (10th house).

When two-time Italy prime minister Aldo Moro was kidnapped by terrorists on March 16, 1978, his **solar arc Jupiter** was at 5 Cancer 17 in conjunction with his **natal Pluto** at 4 Cancer 23.

Mafia chieftain “Joe” Bonanno was allegedly kidnapped in October, 1964, when his **converse secondary progressed Neptune and Ceres** were both at 5 Cancer, squaring his **secondary progressed Mercury** at 6 Aries 39.

Terry Waite, the Church of England envoy, was kidnapped on Jan. 20, 1987, with his **converse secondary progressed Chiron** at 4 Cancer 57 configured with his **solar arc Uranus** at 4 Cancer 34 and conjunct the **converse secondary progressed Ascendant** at 3 Cancer 03.

At the time she was kidnapped by a radical group on Feb. 4, 1974, heiress Patty Hearst had her **solar arc Jupiter** at 6 Cancer 37, conjunct her **secondary progressed Moon** at 7 Cancer 53 and out of bounds by progressed declination.

Former US first lady Betty Ford began treatment for alcoholism following an intervention by her family on April 1, 1978. At the time, her **solar arc Mercury** was at 5 Cancer 18.

In another kind of intervention/chastisement: When US President Bill Clinton was impeached by the House of Representatives on Dec. 19, 1998, his **converse secondary progressed Sun** was at 5 Cancer 58 in conjunction with his **natal Midheaven**. The source of the impeachment was Clinton’s relationship with White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

When US Congressman Gerry Studds was censured July 20, 1983 by the House of Representatives for a sexual relationship with a minor and a subordinate, he had a **secondary progressed Sun** at 5 Cancer 44.

Removal: Banishment from family

Sometimes removal can manifest in banishment: One is ostracized from a group that is important, such as family, friends, co-workers.

Edgardo Mortara (b. Aug. 27, 1851, Bologna, Italy) was seized from his Jewish parents by the authority of the Papal States and taken to be raised as a Catholic on June 23, 1858. At the time, his **solar arc Mars** was at 4 Cancer 51 aligned with his **solar arc Ceres** at 6 Cancer 37.

Legendary fashion designer Coco Chanel was orphaned at the age of 12, when her **secondary progressed Mars** was at 4 Cancer 45.

In September, 1952, Charlie Chaplin, vacationing in his native England, found out that his re-entry permit had been revoked by the US Government. At the time, Chaplin had a **secondary progressed Jupiter** at 4 Capricorn 06. In April, 1972, he returned to the United States for the first time since being labeled a communist during the 1950s Red Scare. His **secondary progressed Ascendant** was at 6 Capricorn 34.

Arguably the most famous banishment of the last century was that of Edward VIII who renounced the British throne to marry American divorcee Wallis Warfield Simpson.¹ Natively, he had a nodal axis at 5 Aries/5 Libra, the other 5th degree signs of the cardinal cross. At the time that he officially abdicated (Dec. 11, 1936), he had a **secondary progressed Moon** at 5 Libra. This is interesting, since he abdicated two and a half weeks prior to a **lunar eclipse at 6 Cancer** that occurred on Dec. 28, 1936. What followed was a life of exile, as the couple never returned to England to live. Interestingly, his brother, George VI, became King of England when his (George's) **solar arc Moon** was at 6 Capricorn 33, and aligned in opposition with the lunar eclipse mentioned above.

Banishment can also include falls from grace, or turning points in perceptions by others. US Senator Christopher Dodd (D-Connecticut) currently has a **secondary progressed Saturn** at 5 Cancer 11. He has been criticized in the past year in connection with alleged personal, "sweetheart" mortgages while Chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, and in connection with bonuses paid to the executives of the failing AIG. Though Dodd's time of birth is unknown, I suspect that the secondary progressed Saturn is connected with an angle in his natal or progressed charts.²

Kronos/Pluto

One can't help but notice in the past year the many American CEOs and financiers who have been, in effect, "banished" from their positions, usually involving a fall from grace, with the country's economic crisis. Regardless of their individual charts, this is probably best symbolized by the **trans-Neptunian planet Kronos** which is currently at 4 Cancer³, forming an opposition to transiting Pluto. In Uranian astrology, Kronos represents high government officials, anything "high up," management, authority, governments and bureaucracies. This may symbolize the unrest in various parts of the world about their leadership (the Iran election, the Honduras controversy). Arlene Kramer has also described the planetary pairing of Pluto and Kronos as "Great changes. Transformation and development to a higher level. Changes in the form of government."⁴ Combined with the February eclipse at 6 Aquarius, a degree symbolized by "the consequences of great heights," this seems appropriate.

Though I don't consider this degree axis to be a death significator, it should be noted that two entertainers and icons—Michael Jackson and Farrah Fawcett—both died on June 25, 2009, with the Sun at 4 Cancer, opposing transiting Pluto at 1 Capricorn 55. (At the time, Jackson also had a Minor Progressed Moon at 5 Capricorn 29, opposing Minor Progressed Ceres at 4 Cancer 42. Fawcett had a Mean Tertiary progressed Midheaven at 4 Cancer 10, which was conjoined with her natal Ascendant.⁵

¹ Am I the only person who is curious that Wallis Warfield's first husband's name was *Earl Spencer*? Wallis became an instrument that rocked the British monarchy when Edward VIII abdicated the throne for her. Some sixty years later, Diana, Princess of Wales and daughter of the *Earl of Spencer* did pretty much the same thing, while alive and following her death. When I see things like this, I wish I understood more about names, and how important they are. Haven't you ever noticed how men tend to marry women whose names are similar or anagrams of their mother's or sisters'? And women tend to marry men with names similar to their dad's or brothers'?

² Senator Dodd's father, Senator Thomas Dodd, was censured by his Senate colleagues in 1967 for diverting more than \$100,000 of his campaign funds for personal use. The senior Dodd ran for the Senate in 1970 as an independent, but lost the election, and died a year later. I mention this only because I frequently see examples of what I call *situational DNA*, when someone repeats almost exactly a situation similar to a parent or grandparent. For the senior Dodd story, see *Newsweek*, June 8, 2009 edition, p. 47.

³ Data given in "Transneptunian ephemeris 1925-2020," *The Mountain Astrologer*, Oct./Nov. 2005, p. 52-53.

⁴ Kramer, Arlene A. "Planetary Pairs for Uranian Astrology," *The Mountain Astrologer*, Oct./Nov. 2005, p. 79

⁵ For Michael Jackson, the data I am using is Aug. 29, 1958 at 11:53 PM, CDT in Gary, Indiana. If I understand correctly, this time was rectified by astrologer Basil Fearington following a conversation with Jackson. However,

But there were *other factors* going on in both charts at the time, and I'm sure we'll be hearing about those factors for a long time to come.) That the Sun is in Cancer from late June to late July, the opposition with transiting Pluto can activate factors in a chart, bringing about Pluto/Sun events, which are usually associated with removals, transformations, endings and transitions. There have been an unusual number of celebrity deaths reported in the media since June 21 (2009).

Removal: discontinuation

Sometimes removal can mean discontinuation of employment. Lee Iacocca was fired from Ford Motor Company on July 13, 1978, but joined Chrysler Motor Company as chairman the following November. During that time frame, he had **secondary progressed Mercury** near the 4-6 Cancer/Capricorn axis at 6 Capricorn 59 and out of bounds by progressed declination.

On Oct. 3, 2003, entertainer Roy Horn was attacked by a tiger he had raised since birth during a performance of Sigfried and Roy, the sensational magic act that had been a fixture in Las Vegas for years. The attack seriously injured Horn, and forever changed his career and that of his partner's. At the time of his attack, Horn had a **secondary progressed Moon** at 4 Cancer 19 and in the 10th house of the *progressed chart*, AND a **solar arc Moon** at 4 Cancer 47 and in the 10th house of the *solar arc directed* chart. His partner, Siegfried Fishbacher had a **converse secondary progressed Chiron** at 4 Cancer 46. This is a case where a career abruptly ended.

Alaska Governor and one-time vice-president candidate Sarah Palin abruptly resigned her position as Governor of Alaska on July 3, 2009. At the time, she had a **converse secondary progressed Sun** at 6 Capricorn 09, and a **solar arc Ascendant** of 5 Libra 00.

I have seen the 4-5 Cancer/Capricorn axis prominent in a number of charts when an individual is reassigned within their career field, or when they change fields altogether. In most cases, the axis was connected with either the Ascendant or Midheaven.

Rebels with/without a cause

Let's turn now to the 4-6 Cancer/Capricorn axis and its association with rebellions and the rebellious.

The Sabian Symbol for 5 Cancer is "*An automobile wrecked by a train.*" The Sabian for 5 Capricorn is "*Indians rowing a canoe and dancing a war dance.*" Author Blain Bovee once stated on the Star Symbols list⁶ that he calls the 5th degree of Cancer (that is, from 4 Cancer to 5 Cancer) the "James Dean" degree, the degree of the rebel. There is a lot of truth to this, particularly in the wide range of examples of people who have the degree in their natal charts. He recommends applying the Sabian symbols of this Cancer/Capricorn degree axis "with a mind to creative and skillful means to navigate extreme differences in power, guerilla tactics against a powerful foe; issues of being swept away by prevailing currents." I especially like his observation that "All is fair in love and war: the issue lies in what strokes of genius one brings to navigating that which is deep and powerful."⁷ (There is additional information on the Sabian symbols later in this article.)

the time is still in dispute, and the Rodden Rating is DD. For Fawcett, I'm using Feb. 2, 1947, 3:10 PM CST, Corpus Christi, Texas, which has an AA rating based on the birth certificate printed in her biography.

⁶ (Source: E-mail to Starsymbols@yahoo.com, quote posted on Jan. 18, 2007).

⁷ Bovee, Blain. **The Sabian Symbols and Astrological Analysis**. (Saint Paul, Mn.: Llewellyn Publications, 2004) p. 153.

People born with 5 Cancer prominent can be destiny changers. A good case in point is Giangiacomo Feltrinelli, an Italian publisher and editor who had an **Ascendant** at 5 Cancer 01.⁸ Granted, this Ascendant had a tight square to the Moon in 5 Libra (4th house), squared Uranus, squared Mars and trined Jupiter. It also formed a wide conjunction to an exact Mercury/Pluto conjunction at 13 Cancer 03, in the 1st house, with **Mercury** out of bounds by declination.

Feltrinelli was born into one of Italy's wealthiest families and at some point following World War II, he became a member of the Italian Communist Party (PCI). Near the end of 1954, Giangiacomo established a reputable publishing company, *Feltrinelli Editore*. In the late 1950s Feltrinelli accidentally came across the manuscript of the novel, *Doctor Zhivago*, by the Russian writer Boris Pasternak. Set in Russia, the novel follows a multitude of characters from 1903 to 1943, the period of revolution, Leninism and Stalinism. At once, Feltrinelli saw a masterpiece. Nikita Krushchev and the Italian communist leaders didn't agree.

Feltrinelli and Pasternak resisted attempts by the Soviet regime to halt publication of the novel. However, *Doctor Zhivago* immediately became an international best seller, to be followed by several popular film adaptations. As a result of his defiance of Moscow, Feltrinelli was expelled from the PCI in disgrace.⁹

In the late 1960s, he established the Partisan Action Group (GAP) carried out a series of small-scale bomb attacks against neo-fascist targets and employers, Feltrinelli was forced into hiding. He was shot dead in 1972, and some think his death may have been the work of GAP. At the time of his death, his **minor progressed Moon** was at 5 Cancer. A rebel to the end.

Other rebels and rebellions

The 4-6 Cancer/Capricorn axis is prominent in other acts of rebellion, whether they are politically-inspired, passion-driven or simply avant-garde breakaways from the norm.

Daniel Berrigan, a Catholic priest and anti-war activist, destroyed draft files in Catonsville, Md. on May 17, 1968. At the time, Berrigan had a **secondary progressed Mars** at 4 Cancer 48 and out of bounds by progressed declination. He also had a **converse secondary progressed Midheaven, solar arc Mercury and secondary progressed Sun** at 3 Cancer.

Ingrid Bergman had the **secondary progressed Moon** at 4 Cancer 30, conjoined with her **natal Pluto** at 3 Cancer when she first met Roberto Rossellini on Sept. 26, 1948.¹⁰ She began work on a film with him, which led to her divorce from Dr. Peter Lindstrom. The whole matter was a huge scandal at the time, since Bergman became pregnant with Rossellini's child prior to her divorce. (Moon/Pluto contacts can sometimes indicate obsessive relationships or obsessive love.) In addition, at the time, Rossellini had a **secondary progressed Mars** at 5 Cancer 21, out of bounds by progressed declination, and opposing a

⁸ June 19, 1926, 5:15 AM, Milan, Italy. Source: Quoted BC/BR. In Astrodatbank maintained by www.astro.com. RR: AA

⁹ Feltrinelli liked publishing avant-garde novels, and published some of Henry Miller's works as well, such as *Tropic of Cancer*.

¹⁰ This date is given in Astrodatbank. I don't know the original source and did not find it anywhere else on the Internet, though there are several references to their meeting in 1948.

secondary progressed Uranus at 6 Capricorn 52.¹¹ Bergman didn't return to America for another seven years, with this supporting the degree's banishment theme as well.

Christina Crawford, adopted daughter of actress Joan Crawford, blasted open the image of her mother in a tell-all book about her abuse, *Mommie Dearest*, that was published in 1978, a year after Crawford died. Christina had been left out of her mother's will. At the time, Christina's **solar arc Venus** was at 4 Cancer 11. Again we have the concept of rebelling, and revealing that which had been hidden, reflected in 4-6 Cancer/Capricorn.

Singer Britney Spears began a meltdown year in 2007 which included drug rehab, shaving her head, traffic misdemeanors, losing custody of her children, and what was said to be a disastrous performance at the MTV awards. At the time, her **secondary progressed Sun** was at 5 Capricorn 32.

In acts of rebellion, **Uranus** was at 5 Capricorn 18 retrograde when Chinese students took to the streets on April 18, 1989 in Beijing to protest government policies and call for a greater democracy.

One thing that I have also noticed in a lot of the work I've done with the degrees: The 4-6 Cancer/Capricorn axis can be prominent in directions and progressions when you are required to deal with *someone else's rebellion*. So—if you have a degree progressed/directed to 4-6 Cardinal, you may find yourself part of a scenario where others may be denying their responsibilities, or need an intervention, or are “hijacking” you with emotional problems of their own that keep you “captive.”

Rebels, yes, but game changers too

It should be remembered that a lot of things “start up” under the 4-6 Capricorn/Cancer axis and are only seen as game changing somewhat later. A few examples:

The Berlin Wall fell on Nov. 9, 1989 at 6:57 PM in Berlin, Germany.¹² East Germany opened the checkpoints in the Berlin Wall and people started streaming into West Germany and tearing down the wall. Venus was at 4 Capricorn 04 conjunct **Saturn/Neptune** at 10 Capricorn, **Uranus** at 2 Capricorn 55, and opposing **the Ascendant** for the event at 4 Cancer 27 and **Jupiter** at 10 Cancer 34.

When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941 at 7:55 AM¹³ in Honolulu, the **Ascendant** for the event was 4 Capricorn 25.

The Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, Ga., published its first report on the disease that became known as AIDS on June 5, 1981 when **Mercury** was in 4 Cancer 39.

On April 1, 2001, Dutch laws went into effect legalizing gay marriage. **The Moon** was at 4 Cancer 22 (the chart being for 12:01 AM on the date, using Amsterdam, Netherlands coordinates).

On Dec. 6, 1865, the 13th Amendment to the US Constitution was ratified, banning slavery. **Jupiter** was at 4 Capricorn 39 conjunct **Mercury** at 5 Capricorn 27.

Muhammed Ali defeated Sonny Liston on May 25, 1965 to become the world's heavyweight boxing champion at the age of 23. His **converse secondary progressed Mercury** was at 5 Capricorn 35,

¹¹ Conjunctions are often seen between progressed planets of couples when a relationship begins. For more on progressions and relationships, I'd recommend Paul Westran's book, *When Stars Collide*.

¹² Source: Astrodatbank (astro.com) and www.berlin.de/mauer/oeffnung/index.en.html

¹³ Source: www.history.army.mil/books/wwii/Guard-US/ch7.htm

out of bounds by progressed declination, in conjunction with his **solar arc Jupiter** at 5 Cancer 39, and **his converse secondary progressed Sun** at 3 Capricorn 30.

Peter Grunberg and Albert Fert, working separately, both discovered the Giant Magnetoresistance effect that is recognized as the birth of spintronics, ultimately leading to such devices as music players and laptops. In 1988, at the time of their separate discoveries, Grunberg had a **converse secondary progressed Mars** at 5 Capricorn 02, in opposition to a **solar arc Uranus** at 5 Cancer 13.

Michelle Obama became first lady of the United States with a **converse secondary progressed Venus** at 5 Capricorn 02, and out of bounds by progressed declination. (She also had her **converse secondary progressed Mars and Mercury** out of bounds as well.)

When Angela Merkel became the first female chancellor of Germany on Nov. 22, 2005, her **secondary progressed Mars** was at 5 Capricorn 03.

Helen Gurley Brown published a groundbreaking book, *Sex and the Single Girl*, in 1962, when her **solar arc Moon** was at 4 Capricorn 09.

When *The Oprah Winfrey Show* made its debut on Sept. 8, 1986, Oprah Winfrey had her **converse solar arc Sun** and **converse solar arc Venus** at 6 Capricorn.

Transiting Pluto and 4-6 Cancer/Capricorn

I find it particularly interesting to study this degree, since it is the axis that **transiting Pluto** now approaches, in Capricorn.

Pluto was transiting the early degrees of Cancer from June 1914 through July of 1919, and I was struck by some of the similarities then as compared to what is happening now, as it begins its transit through Cancer's opposite sign, Capricorn.

Obviously, World War I was in progress. It had been triggered by the assassination of Arch Duke Ferdinand on June 28 1914, a day when the **Sun** was in 5 Cancer 26, forming a wide conjunction with **transiting Pluto** which was then at 00 Cancer. As is frequently the case, the outer planets in 00 degrees of a cardinal sign can see some sort of eruption that involves the whole world. The Archduke also had a **natal Mercury** in 4 Capricorn 59, in his **first house**, and **out of bounds by declination**. At the time, his **solar arc Venus** was at 00 Capricorn 44 (opposing the **transiting Pluto** on that day which, as mentioned, was at 00 Cancer).

World War I was the first major global conflict, brought on by various alliances among countries. We are now in a period of financial peril that is also global.

The Treaty of Versailles, which ended World War I, was signed on June 28, 1919; The **Sun** was in the 5th degree of Cancer, in conjunction with transiting **Pluto** which by then was at 6 Cancer.

It's impossible to survey the events of that time period without being struck by the revolutionary fever, the most noted being the Bolshevik revolution in 1917, which hit its crescendo when the Bolsheviks executed Czar Nicholas II and his family on July 17, 1918 in Ekaterinburg, Siberia at 2:30 AM.¹⁴ (**Transiting Pluto** was at 5 Cancer 30, conjunct **Jupiter** at 00 Cancer 49.)

¹⁴ Source: http://www.astro.com/astro-databank/Nicholas_II,_Czar_of_Russia?lang=e

But a quick glance at the 1917-1918 period alone shows unrest and uprising, as well as merging and dividing of entities. It should be noted, however, that **transiting Uranus** was in Aquarius, which would have also reflected considerable influence on the revolutionary times, probably second only to the time of the American and French revolutions. I would advise anyone interested to go to the web sites listing 1918 events.

Another fascinating coincidence was the outbreak of the Spanish flu. The Influenza Pandemic ran from March 1918, with Pluto at 3 Cancer and didn't abate until June, 1920¹⁵, when Pluto was at 6 Cancer. Notice that with Pluto at 3 Capricorn, we have the "swine flu" outbreak.

Yet another incident that reminds me of present times: The United States passed the Sedition Act on May 16, 1918, with President Woodrow Wilson saying that in times of war, it was a significant threat to morale to speak out against the country or the war. The Sedition Act came on the heels of the Espionage Act of April 1917, and both made it a crime for any person to convey information that interfered with the country's efforts in World War I. (It was later repealed in 1920, but has a striking similarity to the current debate about releasing material dealing with the US treatment of prisoners of war, etc.)

One side note: Though it doesn't involve Pluto, it's interesting to note that the Korean War began on June 25, 1950 with **Uranus** in 5 Cancer 04 (in conjunction with the **Sun** at 3 Cancer). It is interesting that Korea is much in the news now with their nuclear weapon testing, and with Pluto approaching 5 Capricorn.

Sabian symbols for 5 Cancer/5 Capricorn

The Sabian symbol for 5 Cancer is *At a railroad crossing, an automobile is wrecked by a train.*

Dane Rhudyar says of the degree: .. *Individual man is brought to account for his obligations to society. Curbed recklessness. Tragic escape from emptiness. **Keynote:** The tragic results which are likely to occur when the individual's will pits itself carelessly against the power of the collective will of society.*¹⁶

This seems to be in keeping with the concept of removal and rebellion.

For 5 Capricorn: *Indians rowing a canoe and dancing a war dance* is the Sabian symbol. Diana Roche says: "This symbol speaks to impulsiveness and to the tendency of individuals to leap into action when there is something personal to be gained....The image of Indians rowing a canoe and dancing a war dance is highly aggressive and..alludes to retaliation, retribution or revenge for subjectively perceived injuries."¹⁷ Again, the symbol's "impulsiveness" also speaks to rebellion and removal.

Of railroads and Sabians

I can't leave the symbolism of this degree axis without noting that there literally are a number of railroad incidents connected to it.

¹⁵ Source: wikipedia.org/wiki/1918_flu_pandemic

¹⁶ Rhudyar, Dane. **The Astrology of Personality.** (Garden City, NY: Doubleday), p. 326.

¹⁷ Roche, Diana. **The Sabian Symbols: A Screen of Prophecy.** (Victoria, B.C. Canada: Trafford Publishing), p. 309.

On Dec. 7, 1993, the Long Island Railroad massacre occurred, when Colin Ferguson murdered six people and injured 19 others on the LI railroad train. The **Ascendant** for the event was 5 Cancer 37.¹⁸

On Feb. 6, 1951, a Pennsylvania Railroad commuter train plunged through a temporary overpass, killing 85. **Uranus** was at 5 Cancer 57 retrograde.

On July 9, 1918 in Nashville, Tennessee at 7:20 AM,¹⁹ the Great Train Wreck of 1918 occurred, with two passenger trains colliding, killing 101 people and injuring an additional 171. **Transiting Pluto** was at 5 Cancer 19.

Former US President John Quincy Adams was in a railroad accident on Nov. 11, 1833 near Highstown, NJ. His **secondary progressed Moon** was in 4 Cancer 13 conjunct **secondary progressed Saturn** at 3 Cancer 11.

Though slightly outside of the degree axis in question, terrorists blew up a commuter train in Mumbai India, on July 11, 2006 at 6:24 PM, leaving 146 dead. The **Ascendant** for the event was 6 Capricorn 33, the solstice point of 24 Sag, with Pluto occupying 24 Sagittarius at the time, opposing the trans-Neptunian **Hades** at 25 Gemini, which has 5 Cancer as its solstice point. (In another interesting solstice relationship, **Uranus** was at 14 Pisces, and the **Midheaven** of the chart was at 16 Libra, the solstice point for 14 Pisces. The Sabian for 7 Capricorn: *A veiled prophet speaks, seized by the power of a god.*)²⁰

On a milder note, Chicago's "L" train first opened to traffic on June 2, 1883 when **Jupiter** was at 5 Cancer 52.

Oddly, in this time of Pluto transiting close to the 4th degree of the Capricorn/Cancer axis, the automobile industry in the US has been partially nationalized following bankruptcy of some of the auto firms. Automobiles wrecked by a train? Time will tell.

People with 4-6 Cancer/Capricorn prominent in their chart

Some rebellious, avante-garde types or some people closely connected with such types, have 4-5 Cancer prominent include:

Salvador Dali, Spanish surrealist painter, **Neptune, 12th house**

William Penn, founder of original US settlement in Pennsylvania, **Mars, 9th house and out of bounds by declination (OOB)**

Karl Ernst Von Krafft, Swiss-German astrologer, originator of cosmobiology, **Venus, 11th house and OOB (opposing Saturn at 4 Capricorn 05, 5th house)**

Rhonda ("Mei Mei") Zhang, American adoptee and kidnap victim (by birth mother), **Moon, 11th house**

Mia Farrow, actress, **Saturn, 2nd house**

Dustin Hoffman, actor, **Venus, 6th house (squaring Saturn at 4 Aries 07 in 3rd house)**²¹

¹⁸ In most accounts, the time given was 5:33 PM, because that was the time of the train's departure. However, some accounts say that "30 minutes later" the train stopped in Garden City, New York, due to the massacre. So the time being used for this event is 5:45 PM.

¹⁹ Source: www3.gendisasters.com/tennessee/9204/nashville-tn-train-wreck-jul-1918

²⁰ Source: CNN.com and astrotheme.com

²¹ It is interesting with the natal charts of actors that the charts frequently reflect the roles for which they become famous, or through which they are associated. Of course, Hoffman's most recognizable role was as *The Graduate*,

Aldo Moro, twice Prime Minister of Italy, kidnapped and killed by terrorists in 1978, **Pluto**

Madalyn Murray O’Hair, atheist, activist author, **Pluto, 2nd house**

Marquis de Sade, sadist, writer, **Neptune, 8th house**

Leslie Van Houten, American murderer, part of Charles Manson family, **Uranus, 10th house**

Bernard Archeriaux, French accident victim known as “Mr. Catastrophe,” due to his proclivity to attract dozens of accidents throughout his life; he authored a book about his misfortunes, **Saturn, 8th house**

Willy Schmitt, German industrialist who designed the first plane in 1916, spearheaded Germany’s air attack in World War II, **Sun, 11th house**

Jackie Robinson, American baseball player, first to break the color barrier in major league sports, **Pluto, 11th house**

Farrah Fawcett, actress, **Moon, conj 5 Cancer Ascendant, and OOB** ²²

Natal placements between 4 and 6 Capricorn:

J. Edgar Hoover, director of US FBI, **Mercury, 1st house and OOB**

Cindy Sheehan, anti-Iraq/America war activist, **Moon, 3rd house**

Liberace, entertainer, **Ascendant (opposing Venus/Pluto conj at 5 Cancer)**

George Patton, WWII general, **Venus, 7th house, and OOB**

Betty Friedan, feminist/author, **Moon, 1st house**

Billy Tipton, a.k.a. Dorothy Tipton, female American jazz musician who lived life as a man to be accepted as a competent musician in the 1930s, **Mars, 3rd house and OOB**

Henri Toulouse-Lautrec, artist, **Venus, 2nd house and OOB**

Lindsay Lohan, actress, singer, **Neptune, time unknown**

Louis Pasteur, microbiologist, discoverer of cure for rabies, and formula for keeping milk from turning sour that is named after him (Pasteurization), **Sun/Neptune conjunction, 3rd house**

Henri Becquerel, discoverer of radioactivity, Nobel prize winner, **Mars/Chiron conjunction, 8th house, with Mars OOB.**

Dmitri Shostakovich, Russian composer, known for his daring and experimental style, **Uranus, 11th house**

Michel de Nostradamus, physician, prophet, **Mercury, 10th house**

Moving On....

While it’s fascinating to focus on the 4-6 cardinal axis, this is, of course, not astrology’s only indication of rebellion. Which brings me to something else.

Cosmos and Psyche. I was asked some time ago to give a brief summary of astrology to a local astronomy group. Knowing I only had 10 minutes to make my point, I provided the standard catch-all for

which I feel is in keeping with the 4-6 Cancer/Capricorn theme. He also played a number of other roles that raise the themes of the degree axis.

²² . Farrah Fawcett is also mentioned in this list. While many associate her with a famous pin-up poster, and the role on TV’s *Charlies Angels* in the 1970s, her best work was done in productions that emphasized rebellion (*The Burning Bed*), or abnormal behavior, such as her portrayal of Diana Downs, who attempted to murder all three of her children (*Small Sacrifices*). As previously mentioned, Fawcett died on June 25, 2009, when the Sun was in 4 Cancer.

why I “believe” in astrology. I told them I *didn't* believe in astrology. That’s like asking me if I believe in the alphabet. It’s a symbolic language, not a religion.

After that, I felt the topic would best be served by referring them to Richard Tarnas’ book, *Cosmos and Psyche*. I explained that Tarnas had done an incredible job of equating major zeitgeist changes in civilization with certain planetary alignments. One of my favorites has to do with his showing of the synchronic nature of the Jupiter/Uranus cycle.

He points out that during the 14 months following the Jupiter/Uranus conjunction in 1788-89, the American government began and the French Revolution started with the fall of the Bastille.²³ This is all very much in keeping with the symbolism we associate with Jupiter (ideals, belief systems) and Uranus (rebellion, uprising, change).

He shows that at the same time, a major mutiny was occurring on the HMS *Bounty* in the South Pacific, on the opposite side of the globe from the American and French revolutions. The mutiny was led by Fletcher Christian against Captain William Bligh on the return voyage from Tahiti, and was further immortalized in the movie, *Mutiny on the Bounty*.

Also running concurrently was the Belgian revolution, the West Indies slave revolts, the Polish revolution, the Irish rebellion, the wave of radical thought in England and Germany. While all of that could be precipitated by the French revolution, the *Bounty* was far from any kind of information on either. It set sail in late 1787, before the French Revolution.

Tarnas says: “That the most famous instance of rebellion in maritime history...took place at the same time as the most famous instance of rebellion in political history...yet thousands of miles away with no possible communication between the participants represented the kind of coincidence that supports Jung’s concept that a *powerful archetypal gestalt can emerge in the collective psyche and influence human affairs with no conventional causal connection.*” (*Italics mine.*)²⁴

The book is fascinating, and well worth the read. It also raises a question, and I’d be curious as to your answer: If given only one sentence in which to defend/define astrology, what would you say?

The Mercury Return chart. I talk about various planetary and other returns in my book, but confess that I usually don’t work with my Mercury return chart. This is despite having four planets in Gemini and the Moon in Virgo. For some reason, I never seemed quite “attuned” to it, probably a variation on the idea that the cobbler’s children don’t have shoes, the air-intensive charts ignore their rulership, blah blah, etc.

So on April 16, 2009, I had a Mercury return at 13 Taurus 22. (This little Taurean Mercury keeps all of my Gemini flightiness grounded, so I honor it.)

Anyway, I couldn’t believe the difficult day I had on the 16th. A few days earlier, I had just switched my television/internet and phone service from the cable network. I had thought that virus protection had been put on my computer, but I was mistaken. I managed to get a virus on my computer that took three hours to fix, which was remarkably well done by a technical genius in Arizona.

²³ July 14, 1789, 11:00 AM, Paris France, which gives 5 Libra (the 5th degree of a cardinal sign, again the degree of rebellion) rising, and 7 Cancer on the Midheaven.

²⁴ Tarnas, Richard. *Cosmos and Psyche*. (New York, NY: Penguin Group, 2006) P. 302

When I checked my diurnal chart, I saw eight degrees of Gemini on the IC. That is the degree of my natal Uranus. Intercepted in the first house was the Mars/Uranus in Pisces conjunction of the day. The diurnal chart had 24 Aquarius rising, which was in conjunction with transiting Chiron. Now, I should mention that I still don't quite understand Chiron, and am unable to get my arms around the wounded healer thing. Nevertheless, the technician who "healed" the computer works out of his home, as he has a debilitating disease. I frequently see Chiron in conjunction with an angle in charts for memorable events—natal, progressed, directed, diurnal, return, etc.

This also led me to appreciate at least one of the definitions for a Mars/Uranus conjunction, which so often is described as an "accident": It can symbolize virus attacks (Mars) on computers (Uranus). I should mention that I think all Mars conjunctions get bad press, even though some of it may be deserved.²⁵

Astrodatbank now available at Wikipedia. Astrodatbank's huge library of data on people and events is now available free at Wikipedia, http://www.astro.com/astro-datbank/Main_Page. I have the original software for this, and my own research would be lost without its capability of scanning. I don't think that's possible on the Wikipedia site, but the data is there, which is major.

Open Book Dept. A worthy thought from the late Richard Idemon: "If your Ascendant is the only placement you have in a particular element, you may feel fated or called upon to play a role that you inherently don't feel suited to play."²⁶

Pax vobiscum and blessings.

²⁵ Once I attended a classical concert and found myself thinking of Mars/Neptune conjunctions, mainly because I see it in the charts of a lot of musicians. Within about five minutes, the fire alarm went off in the theatre and everybody had to leave. Mars is fire; Neptune is music. A fire alarm in the middle of a concert. That sounds sort of like a Sabian symbol, but it definitely reflected my thinking of a Mars/Neptune conjunction. Did a Mars/Neptune conjunction *cause* the fire alarm to go off? No. My thoughts, and the fire alarm in the midst of a musical concert, all rose *in tandem* with some other energy that both incidents simply reflected. By the way, it was a false alarm, very Neptunian also.

²⁶ Idemon, Richard. **Through the Looking Glass.** (York Beach, ME: Samuel Weiser, Inc. 1992), p. 114