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Disregard the Tattletales; Nancy's Fulfilling Her Unique Job to the Hilt

By Alan K. Simpson
Special to The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Nancy Reagan always seems to get a bum rap in the "tattletale" book business. She deserves a hell of a lot better. For when we elected her remarkable husband to this job of president, she was — and surely is — "part of the deal." She took on a tough job that has no definitions but many demands. She has fulfilled her obligations and duties to her country and to her husband with great grace, class and distinction.

The bottom line of the latest catty little revelation is that she is protective of her husband, who just happens to be the president. She is accused of unquestioned devotion and loyalty to Ronald Reagan. Egad, what will people think? It reminds me of, and strengthens the sageness of, the old saw that "If you want to have a friend in Washington, buy a dog."

The writer is a Republican senator from Wyoming.

But the issue is not now "Don Regan's book." It is apparently Nancy Reagan's activities. How ironic to see two fine men whom I have known — Larry Speakes and Don Regan — bring themselves down to a lesser level by spewing out these rather vengeful portrayals. Their lustre leaves their personalities as the bluster leaves their pens.

Can we all remember well the early days of the Reagan presidency? In just a few short months, Nancy Reagan came under heavy fire for being "uninvolved" in the vital issues of the day. "She doesn't take advantage of her unique position," the naysayers moaned and knurled their knuckles. Now she is being portrayed as some sort of flaky, all-powerful oracle. What guff.

I think one of the things that spooks people about Ron and Nancy Reagan is that they have a great thing going. It is called a love affair — and it has spanned 36 years and counting. They hold hands, they smooch, they share their lives and experiences, they wholly support each other, they laugh, they giggle, and all that pretty much threatens people who don't understand it or who don't live it.

All the chatter around the water cooler about Nancy Reagan is a distraction from the person who is really at the center of the controversy, Don Regan. Let's put his departure from the White House in full perspective and get things back in focus. Nancy Reagan didn't

drive Don Regan out. There were a lot of people lined up in the batter's box to do just that. Many weeks passed between the time the Iran-Contra story became page-one news and Donald Regan's hurried and harried departure from the White House. During those weeks I was honored to participate in any number of meetings with the president where he was counseled — and, yes, even directed — to dismiss his chief of staff. The congressional press crew and galleries worked overtime in those days to accommodate the calls for Regan's resignation and to provide the long knives to lop off his head.

In that time period, I also had several fine conversations with Nancy Reagan, who was, as always, alert, thoughtful, articulate and protective of her husband. We talked about the various views of the situation. We shared some personal observations. The person I talked to then — and always have — was an informed, loving and concerned wife. She wanted to hear "all sides." She came to her own firm conclusions about her husband's best interests.

I recall with amusement some observers being "surprised" to learn that Harry Truman had consulted his steady wife, Bess, before deciding to drop the atomic bomb. That revelation couldn't surprise anyone one whit who had ever seen a good marriage at work. Jimmy and Rosalyn Carter wrote an entire book about the way they tried to handle the rigors and demands of the presidency as husband and wife. Only a damn fool would suggest that the wife of the president of the United States has no role whatever in the governing of our country. It might not read that way in the civics texts or statute books, but that's the way it is in the book of real life.

I have a very fine staff of more than 25 thoughtful, hard-working and intelligent folks. They are there to assist me in my tasks and responsibilities. But there is really only one dazzling person in my life who keeps me "centered" — who helps me keep it all "together." That person is Ann, my wife of nearly 34 years. She is part of my inner gyroscope, adds the balance and leaven to my life — in or out of politics.

Nancy and Ronald Reagan, too, have found their own way to deal with the political world. They know where to turn when you don't know where to turn. They have deep reservoirs of faith in a higher being, in themselves and in others. Politics in itself as a singular pursuit is a rather barbaric quest. You often have to be leavened in life by a spouse and



Nancy Reagan

love and art and music and nature and faith and friends and loyalty and trust. The Reagans have that. They have it with each other. For them, his success is her success. Nancy's accomplishments and strengths are part of the president's triumphs and character too.

In this goldfish bowl of Washington (and it's odd how many sharks can get into a goldfish bowl!) Nancy Reagan has put her own distinctive and unique trademark on the role of first lady. She tackled the drug and alcohol abuse issue before it was ever page-one news. In fact, her steadiness and her stature and her tireless efforts to focus on that issue helped to bring it to the forefront of the American consciousness. "Just say no." There is no need to snicker or chuckle at that. It's right. She expresses it beautifully, authentically and sincerely. She has traveled more than 170,000

miles throughout the United States and in foreign countries as part of the antidrug and anticonnrolled substance campaign. I think all of us are struck by that gentle image of her listening attentively to the struggle related by a young person fighting to overcome the obsession and habit of drugs.

How sad that anyone would be titillated by what is really a vengeful portrayal of a beautiful lady. Throughout the remarkable presidency of Ronald Reagan, Nancy Reagan has been right there. She was the one at his side while they plucked a bullet from his chest or cut a section of colon from his body. We have watched her there, "steady at his side." She has always been the one to nurture and sustain him. You can bet the lunch money that he is right there now serving her in the same moving fashion.



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EL PASO, TEXAS

TIMES MAY 14 1988

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Now Reagan's Star Wars makes sense

The White House admitted ... that President and Nancy Reagan are deeply interested in astrology.

In a new book, former White House chief of staff Donald Regan claims Nancy Reagan turned to astrologers to help determine the president's schedule.

A day later, Reagan said in a speech that he wonders what would happen if Earth were invaded by "a power from outer space."

He said he imagines that an invasion from another planet would unite all nations in a common defense.

All of a sudden the president's enthusiasm for the Strategic Defense Initiative — Star Wars — begins to make sense. — The Times Record, Brunswick, Maine.

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Reactions to controversial 'For the Record,' differ greatly

WJ2 By JOHN BREWER and LESTER NELSON
Staff Reporters

Street Scene went to the Downtown Plaza to seek opinions on Donald Regan's recent book, "For the Record," wherein he claims First Lady Nancy Reagan has consulted an astrologer to plan President Ronald Reagan's schedule.

Comments varied from opinions on the believability of the book to concerns about the possibility the First Lady indeed consults the stars.

Jean Baker of El Paso, Texas,



said, "I don't think Regan should have reported it. Leave her alone. What's the big deal if she does? I read my horoscope every day. That doesn't mean I live my life by it."

Candy Rush of Coshocton doesn't believe the First Lady should seriously consult an astrologer. "I think it's kind of silly. It (astrology) is

more for amusement than to be taken seriously."

Keith Luce of Coshocton remarked, "I don't buy it. I don't believe Donald Regan is exactly quoting the truth," Luce continued, "He's trying to sell books. After all, he's unemployed."

What if the reports are true? "It's nice they're consulting something," Luce replied.

Cristina McCune of Coshocton said she was not aware of the book and its reports, but isn't really concerned. "I read my horoscope, but I don't

really follow it closely," she said.

Jim and Betty Jackson of Coshocton saw no problem if the First Lady consults an astrologer. "If she's up there, she should know what she's doing," Jim said. Betty echoed his thoughts and added, "She wouldn't be up there if she didn't know what she was doing."

Jean Gault of Fresno said, "I can't imagine making important decisions based on a horoscope." She noted that like many other people she checks her horoscope. "It's food for thought. It can be interesting," she

agreed. But I don't depend on it."

Cathy Dotson and Thomas Darr of Coshocton expressed mixed opinions. "It doesn't matter a whole lot," Dotson said. Darr said, "She probably does. He (Reagan) can't remember what he says anyway. He's too old to be president."

Asked if they believed Regan published statements, Darr responded, "Sure, he wouldn't have written it if it wasn't true." However, Dotson disagreed, saying, "No, that's not necessarily so. He could have other reasons."



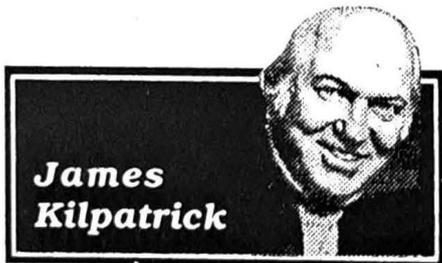
Saving a little sooth

WASHINGTON — To say sooth, the president and Nancy are in a picklement. The White House had to affirm that the first lady has been communing with an astrologer. The wiseacres are having the most fun they've had since Jimmy Carter fought off the killer rabbit.

The story broke on last week. Don Regan, the ousted White House chief of staff, has written a memoir. A few paragraphs deal with Nancy's consultations. It appears that after the attempted assassination in 1981, the distraught first lady feared for a second attempt. What dates, she wondered, might be lucky or unlucky? Could the president's schedule be shaped accordingly? She sought an answer in his horoscope. When the snickers began to spread around town on Tuesday, press aides went into a flap, consulted among themselves, talked high strategy and damage control. By Wednesday morning The Washington Post's Herblock had prepared a gleeful cartoon.

WHAT IS TO BE SAID of all this? For starters, astrology is the sheerest hokum. This pseudo-science has been around since the days of the Chaldeans and Babylonians. It is as phony as numerology, phrenology, palmistry, alchemy, the reading of tea leaves and the practice of divination by the entrails of a goat. No serious person will buy the notion that our lives are influenced individually by the movement of distant planets. This is the sawdust blarney of a carnival midway.

Yet the remarkable thing is that astrology continues to thrive in an age of universal debunking. Soothsaying is widely syndicated. In its most familiar form, tucked away with Dagwood Bumstead on the comic pages, astrology attracts the at-



tention of millions of newspaper readers. "Love plays role, protect self in emotional clinches ... What has been elusive now becomes available ... Be aware that recent lessons can now be put to good use." I have a granddaughter, age 5, who learned not long ago that her prestige was rising; romance figured prominently.

Now and then, of course, predictions uncannily but coincidentally come true. "Beware the ides of March," said the soothsayer to Caesar. In April the prophetic fellow raised his fees and made a fortune. Forecasts that fail to pan out are filed away pianissimo. One is reminded of the late columnist Drew Pearson, whose fearless predictions were 100 percent right, 50 percent of the time.

Soothsayers turn up in several of Shakespeare's plays. In a comic scene in "Antony and Cleopatra," a seer tells Charmian, one of the queen's attendants, "You shall yet be far fairer than you are; you shall be more beloved than beloved; you shall outlive the lady whom you serve." Charmian laughs. In "Cymbeline," an optimistic sage has a vision of "Jove's bird, the Roman eagle," and this portends, "unless my sins abuse my divination, success to the Roman host."

Whatever these arcane arts may have meant to playwrights, ancient priests and monarchs of the Middle Ages, they rank today with black cats and fortune cookies. Superstitions, let us face it, are as common as dandruff. So Nancy consults an astrologer? Has Herblock never knocked on wood for luck? Do winning coaches change their socks? Speaker of the House Jim Wright reacted positively to the week's revelations. He was glad to learn, he said, "that the president consults with somebody." Has Wright ever rubbed a rabbit's foot? Does the speaker step over the cracks in a sidewalk?

THE ONLY CONSOLATION that might be offered to Marlin Fitzwater, chief press aide to the president, is the advice the philosopher gave the king. Asked to provide a single sentence that would be equally valuable in good times or bad, the philosopher came up with five words: "This too shall pass."

Trouble is, as Marlin knows, some things take a long time in passing. Ridicule is the most disastrous of all afflictions in political life. One can endure mere calamities — Grover Cleveland's bastard child, Nixon's missing tapes, Reagan's arms to the ayatollah. It's the little things that cling in public memory like burrs in a collie's coat. We may not remember much about Gary Hart, but we will remember the boat in which he bounced off to Bimini with the blonde in his lap: It was the good ship Monkey Business.

Hang tough, Marlin! Other presidents have weathered storms of mockery. Remember when Jimmy Carter changed the part in his hair? Remember when Lyndon Johnson picked up that dog by its ears? Reagan's luck will change. Just make sure he never tosses his hat on a bed.

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COMMENTARY

⁵⁵
Let's hear it for Nancy!

By JIM WRIGHT
Dallas Morning News

Thank heavens — and I mean THE heavens — for Nancy Reagan!

For a while there, it seemed that newspaper subscribers were going to have nothing better to read than stories about George Bush and Michael Dukakis trying to outcool each other.

Now, thanks to the first lady, we can all be into astrology and the occult and other interesting stuff.

But fans of media fun are not the only ones who have good reason to be grateful. We conservatives can take it as a sign, this disclosure that Mrs. Reagan has had astrological counsel in scheduling meetings: It is OK to be a little strange, though Republican.

My wife, who has long been both, is furious with the smart alecks who are lining up to "jump on Nancy, just because she reads the horoscope." Why, explodes Dottie the Leo, "I read those things myself, sometimes. Of course I don't believe them, but I read them."

If you think I'm going to comment on that staunch defense of the administration, your moon must be in the seventh house.

Not only do I support my wife in this, I wish to apologize to my daughter for that time when I got mad at her after seeing her semester grade reports from journalism school. I blew my stack when I saw that she, under the influence of spring, had dropped every single course in subjects like journalism, history, economics and geology and was presently attending only one class, "witchcraft and occult practices in medieval times."

At that point, I leaped to the conclusion that she was down at the university wasting her time and our money. Now, I know

better. It was good job training. While journalism may be a maturing industry, the wisdom of the stars always will be ahead of the growth curve, marketwise. Executive astrologers never get laid off.

If our other industrial magnates were as quick to exploit a merchandising target of opportunity as the astrologers are in the current hooha, our country would not be in hock to the Japanese today.

For example, Joyce Jillson, the syndicated seer, quickly admitted to the press that it was she who advised Reagan, after consulting the galactic omens, to pick George Bush for his vice president.

After the Reagans said they didn't know — indeed, had never heard of — adviser Jillson, the Jillson organization shifted gears without a blush. An aide to the chief astrological officer said that though she had not actually met the Reagans, she had been to the White House and had been consulted by an unidentified "insider."

I can see no reason whatsoever to doubt this statement. I myself have been to the White House — several times a day they have tours for anyone who is not carrying a visible bomb. And I have worn my earlobes down to a nubbin, being consulted by unidentified "insiders."

Fully half the people who call me on the telephone at the office refuse to be identified by any other name, rank or job description. They are unfailingly more fun to listen to than other people I meet in the line of business.

I particularly admire the aplomb with which Ms. Jillson exemplifies the historic battle cry of astrologers and columnists: "Often wrong, never tentative!"

According to Ms. J, the economy may get shaky after May 31

and President Reagan's health position could be precarious. Both predictions sound right to me. So far as I can see, the economy has been shaky for months, but I thought only we worrywarts felt that way.

As for the other forecast, anybody, even a Democrat, who is much over 50 should consider his health position precarious. Above that vintage, a human inhabits a body that has evolved past its chronological design limit and is living on borrowed time.

Which is why I also agree with the quick-draw prediction of another swami, Ostaro the Hindu. Ostaro sees in the stars portents leading him to foretell that "from December, (President Reagan's) knees and legs will start to bother him."

I can foretell, even without consulting the stars, that my knees and legs will start to bother me when I get out of bed tomorrow morning. This reading is based not on the dance of the planets but on the fact that they have done that every morning for the past three or four years.

Anybody who can make a living peddling this kind of thing gets my vote for the Chutzpah Salesmanship Plaque. If the media astrology flap lasts longer than a week or two, I may get a pointed hat and a robe with weird symbols on it and go into the business myself.

As for the White House clipping its schedule for astrology's sake, I say, more power to the Reaganites. If Nancy called off some meetings because of bad astral vibrations, good for her! Anybody who cancels any meeting anywhere for any reason makes this world a happier, better place.

Jimbo the Presbyterian has spoken.



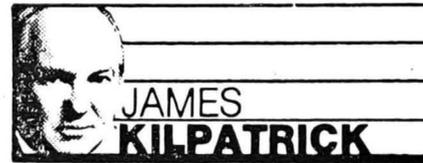
Reagan and stars — this too shall pass

WASHINGTON -- To say sooth, the president and Nancy are in a pickle. The White House will not exactly affirm, neither can it truly deny, that the first lady has been communing with an astrologer. The wiseacres are having the most fun they've had since Jimmy Carter fought off the killer rabbit.

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TWENTY-TWO

Reagan Religious Faith Is Stressed

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The President and Mrs. Reagan have "a great faith in God," despite an interest in astrology and often consult with members of the clergy, the first lady's press secretary said Thursday.

Elaine Crispen told United Press International she is cutting off telephone calls regarding the Reagans' interest in astrology on grounds that it is "getting out of hand."

The Washington Post said that several evangelical Christian lead-

ers, among them strong Reagan supporters, were disturbed over reports published in former White House chief of staff Donald Regan's forthcoming book that the first lady determined Reagan's schedule after consulting with an astrologer.

Crispen said that in the aftermath of the attempt on the president's life on March 30, 1981, Mrs. Reagan talked "to friends," to the late Cardinal Terence Cooke and to Rev. Donn Moomaw of the Presbyterian Church in Los Angeles, which they used to attend, to seek comfort as well as to a California astrologist.

But Crispen said Thursday that both the Reagans "have a great faith in God."

She also noted that the president had said after he was shot that he was going to spend the rest of his days serving God.

Crispen said she has been getting telephone calls from all over the country asking what kind of crystal Mrs. Reagan uses and "whether she wears a turban," not to mention the proliferation of astrologers claiming to have advised the Reagans.

At first she said the Reagans found some humor in all the publicity. Now, she indicated that it has gone too far and detracts from Mrs. Reagan's anti-drug campaign.

"Please, I'm out of the astrology business," Crispen said. "I'm cutting off the calls. I can't make a career of this."

Crispen said the recent books about the White House, written by Regan and former White House spokesman Larry Speakes, add up to a "betrayal" of people who take you into their confidence.



intent was submerged in what the press so far has resisted calling Stargate. There is serious business afoot, but there is also American Culture. Switch seats with a Virgo from Uranus who subscribes to a clipping service and watches TV, concentrate on three of our more interesting phenomena — first ladies, pseudoscience and marketing — and see if you, too, would come down from orbit.

Begin by piecing together these recent scraps:

■ Lady Bird Johnson is honored for her efforts to beautify America, though there remain certain areas still requiring attention. Newspaper photographs show her blowing a kiss to Congress. Some readers think of Dinah Shore.

■ Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis has her brief career as wife of Ari again portrayed — again unflatteringly — in ABC-TV's "Onassis: The Richest Man in the World." May is Sweeps Month.

■ Nancy Reagan reads horoscopes. So does the president. The Philadelphia Inquirer cites White House sources as saying astrological advice led Mrs. Reagan to insist her husband's signing of the INF treaty with Mikhail Gorbachev take place at 1:30 p.m. last Dec. 8. Officially, it is established that the first lady has occasionally consulted an astrologer about Reagan's travel and scheduling plans. The president is said to favor the number 33 and has joked about Lincoln's ghost.

■ Mary Tyler Moore portrays Mary Todd Lincoln on television — MTM playing MTL. Among Mary Todd Lincoln's many crosses to bear is her insanity trial orchestrated by her son, Robert. She is also remembered for her shopping binges. Some viewers think of Tammy Faye Bakker.

■ Further research by a vigilant press reveals that Reagan's 1965 autobiography "Where's the Rest of Me?" mentions his friendship with astrologer-columnist Carroll Righter and says that "every morning Nancy and I turn to see what he has to say about people of our respective birth signs."

■ Carroll Righter dies Sunday at age 88 in a California hospital. His business manager says Righter predicted it was a hospitalization he would not survive.

■ Even further research recalls Reagan's 1967 swearing-in as governor of California which occurs just after midnight — a time his defeated predecessor, Gov. Edmund "Pat" Brown, attributes to Reagan's belief in astrology. Friendlier explanations range from Reagan's desire to block Brown from last-minute appointments, to wanting to be free to watch an afternoon TV football

that she assisted in the choice of George Bush as Reagan's running mate. The Reagans deny knowledge of Jillson but not of Bush. Jillson says Reagan usually has his news conferences during a full moon, but an AP check of Reagan's last five news conferences finds only one was scheduled for a full moon. Jillson also says that things didn't go smoothly between Nancy Reagan and Raisa Gorbachev at the December summit because Mrs. Gorbachev's birthdate is not known in the West. On Wednesday, an advertisement for Jillson's horoscope column arrives in the newspaper mail.

■ "Saturday Night Live" spoofs Nancy, Raisa and Phil Donahue, in a skit which has the first lady largely ignored, and the make-believe Raisa offering advice to heal the breach between Mrs. Reagan and her daughter, Patti. The skit, as well as the show, is a rerun because of a writers' strike.

■ Son Michael Reagan (with help) writes a book, "On the Outside Looking In." He says that if he had ever seen his mother consulting an astrologer, "I guarantee ... it would have been in my book."

■ Donald Regan's 1987 departure as Reagan's chief of staff re-focuses attention on the rift with Nancy Reagan over her alleged belief that Regan failed to protect the president from the Iran arms sale fallout, and that he overscheduled Reagan after prostate surgery. In the Regan aftermath, the president denies that his wife is "a kind of dragon lady." Leaks of Donald Regan's upcoming book are considered his revenge. There is further speculation that Nancy Reagan's new sensitivity to non-intervention is saving the neck of Ed Meese.

■ Ex-White House types Michael Deaver and Larry Speakes (with help) write books. Deaver, convicted of perjury, likely will hand over his profits to his lawyers. Speakes' book costs him his six-figure Wall Street job after he confesses to creating presidential quotes. Deaver's book is nowhere in sight. Speakes' book is crawling up the best-seller list, just behind that of disgraced ex-President Richard Nixon, who in 1962 lost the California governorship to Edmund "Pat" Brown. Astrologer Jeane Dixon predicted "Lumpy" in 1974 that by 1983, "the country will wish they had Nixon back." It is recalled that Reagan in 1980 prior to election said that Dixon once predicted he would not become president.

■ Orson Welles, posthumously speaking for 16th-century seer Nostradamus, scares Californians into thinking the ultimate earthquake is at hand.

Sure, Mother Earth is a nice place to visit. But why would anyone really want to live there?



MAY 6 1988

Nancy Reagan consults astrologer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan says he wonders what would happen if the Earth were invaded by "a power from outer space," and imagines that it would unite all nations of the world in a common defense.

He made the comment Wednesday in Chicago during a question-and-answer session after a speech about human rights and the Soviet Union.

His telling of the story followed one day after the disclosure that Nancy Reagan has consulted an astrologer about the president's schedule and travel plans. Several members of Congress chided Reagan about the use of astrology and a group of scientists complained that it was a discredited practice.

Reagan, asked what he felt was the most vital factor in international relations, spoke of the importance of frankness and about a desire for peaceful solutions.

He went on to say that there had been "about 114 wars" since World War II, including conflicts between smaller nations.

"But I've often wondered, what if all of us in the world discovered that we were threatened by an outer — a power from outer space, from another planet," Reagan said.

"Wouldn't we all of a sudden find that we didn't have any differences

between us at all, we were all human beings, citizens of the world, and wouldn't we come together to fight that particular threat?" the president asked.

The president found an analogy in the threat of nuclear destruction.

"In a way, we have something of that kind today, mentioning nuclear power again. We now have a weapon that can destroy the world, and why don't we recognize that threat more clearly and then come together with one aim in mind, how safely, sanely and quickly can we rid the world of this threat to our civilization and our existence?"

The comment drew applause from the audience, a nonpartisan group that specializes in foreign policy and

national security issues, the National Strategy Forum.

As his next summit with Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev approaches, Reagan has been emphasizing the need for arms control in particular and for cooperation among nations in general.

In light of his past anti-Soviet rhetoric, he offered startling praise for Gorbachev during his speech Wednesday, saying the Soviet leader's reform programs are "of tremendous significance."

"It is my belief that there is hope for further change, hope that in the days ahead the Soviets will grant further recognition to the fundamental civil and political rights of all," Reagan said.

Reproduced at the Ronald Reagan Library

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MAY 4 1988

San Francisco Examiner

Reagan: Astrology doesn't make policy

Trips, speeches
planned by stars?

EXAMINER NEWS SERVICES

WASHINGTON — News that President Reagan's schedule was influenced by his wife's consultations with astrologers dismayed scientists and mystified the religious right, but came as no surprise to stargazers.

The business of state went on hold Tuesday as the president found himself insisting that "no policy or decision in my mind has ever been influenced by astrology."

Asked if astrology played a part in shaping his schedule, Reagan told reporters with a smile, "You know I'm still looking for the fellas that tell me every day what I'm going to be doing."

But neither Reagan nor White House aides denied that astrology has influenced scheduling of speeches, trips and appointments.

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater described the Reagans as upset by the disclosure of their interest in astrology. "They both feel it's unfortunate and a distraction and hardly relevant to the business of government and probably not appropriate at all," he said.

The Reagans' interest in astrology was put in the spotlight by advance word of the contents of a forthcoming book by former Chief of Staff Donald Regan, who frequently was at odds with the first lady before being forced out of his job early last year.

Regan reportedly wrote that Nancy Reagan consulted astrologers to determine the timing of presidential speeches and announcements.

Friends of the first lady said she was furious at Regan for what she considered an attempt to embarrass her. "It seems a little strange, not too gentlemanly, for a man to beat up on another man's wife," said one close associate.

Fitzwater, referring to the first lady, said, "Astrology has been her concern in terms of (the president's) activities. She follows it and is concerned with astrology. His travels were her point of concern."

Nancy Reagan's spokeswoman, Elaine Crispin, said the first lady's interest in astrology intensified after an assassination attempt against the president March 30, 1981, and that ever since then she has consulted with an astrologer about her husband's safety.

Regan has said 33 is his lucky number, and some noted the date of the attempted assassination, 3/30, repeats the numerical configuration.

Sources said Nancy Reagan had urged her husband to sign the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty at Washington summit at 1:33 p.m. That is when the accord was signed last Dec. 8.

Baltimore astrologer Margie Herskovitz said the time would make sense, astrologically. At that moment, "Jupiter in the first house indicates that for the U.S. the luck



Examiner file photo

PRESIDENT AND NANCY REAGAN ARE ASTROLOGY BUFFS
Says one astrologer: 'He's from California, so it's not surprising'

Reagans' horoscopes

Here are the Wednesday horoscopes for President and Nancy Reagan:

President Reagan

AQUARIUS (Feb. 6, 1911): It's a festive atmosphere at home. Expect lots of company. Some of you may join a club. Wednesday night you may be kept waiting or an engagement is canceled.

Nancy Reagan

CANCER (July 6, 1923): Try not to let friends distract you from what has to be done Wednesday. Morning hours are best for achievement. You may be upset about a partnership concern.

— Frances Drake

is in our favor," she said.

Regan has often spoken of himself as being superstitious, and often tells the story of seeing his dog barking at what he says seriously could be the legendary ghost in the Lincoln bedroom.

Reaction to the revelations from the scientific community was swift. "We are dismayed by reports that the White House has consulted astrologers," said an organization of scientists called the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal.

"We are concerned by the apparent return to medieval superstition," the group said.

Andrew Fraknoi, an astronomy professor at S.F. State and executive officer of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, said the claims of astrology have been subjected to dozens of scientific tests and have been found without foundation.

In one test, he said, two scientists examined more than 3,000 predictions by astrologers and found that they were correct less than 10 percent of the time.

"If the predictions are wrong 90 percent of the time, that's not the type of guidance we need from the federal government," Fraknoi said.

The president's followers on the religious right were also upset.

Members of several conservative Christian groups said they didn't want to be too quick to judge Reagan.

But they also said astrology is an inappropriate and un-Christian method for making decisions.

"I think it is just a form of ancient mysticism," said the Rev. Dan Ireland, a Southern Baptist minister and executive director of the Alabama Citizen's Action Program, a religious lobby.

"I'm sure everyone would have concerns about a leader who feels compelled to consult with mysticism prior to making major decisions," he said.

Alabama state Rep. Greg Beers, former state chairman of former televangelist Pat Robertson's GOP presidential campaign, said he found news accounts of the Reagans' past use of astrology "to be almost incredible."

"It's a myth, just like witchcraft and voodoo," he said of astrology.

But astrologers said it was no surprise that the Reagans are astrology buffs, and have been since he was governor of California.

"I refer to it as the world's worst-kept secret that President Reagan relies on astrology," said astrologer Sydney Omarr of Santa Monica, whose daily horoscope is distributed to more than 300 newspapers by the Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

Omarr said he had never consulted with President Reagan but

Astrologers tell
what Reagan's
future holds

By Nancy Bereckis
and Thomas Hargrove

SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

President Reagan's upcoming Moscow summit will be a success, but he might suffer a collapsed lung if his extensive travels prove too exhausting, astrologers predict.

Delighted with the attention they're receiving following reports that first lady Nancy Reagan consults astrologers and that the president often reads his horoscope, astrologers offered their predictions on the president's future Tuesday.

The position of the planets suggest Reagan, an Aquarian born on Feb. 6, 1911, is likely to receive frequent attacks from enemies this year but will prevail in the end, according to nationally syndicated columnist Bernice Bède Osol of Cleveland.

Osol, whose daily "Astrograph" column appears in about 700 newspapers, said Reagan's "image is fragile to attack. It will continue to be fragile until he leaves office."

But she said Reagan's astrological chart also indicated that he won't be personally or politically affected by the attacks of his enemies. "His image is good and strong and I don't think he will be harmed."

She said Reagan's summit in Moscow looks fairly promising: "Some incidents could occur. But all the behind-the-scenes workings should work out quite well."

Franklin Tate, a Birmingham, Ala., astrologist, said his reading of the stars shows that Reagan will be very busy for the rest of his term.

"This year will be more busy than the president cares for it to be," Tate said. "He will be making many short trips. It'll be exhausting on him, and if he doesn't slow down, he might end up in the hospital with a collapsed lung."

If born on any other day, Tate said, Reagan would not be compatible with his Nancy Reagan since she is a Cancer and Cancers and Aquarians don't make good partners.

But since Reagan and the first lady both were born on the sixth day of the month, they are extremely compatible, Tate said. Nancy Reagan was born July 6, 1923.

had received White House congratulations on his 25th anniversary with the syndicate via a phone call from former White House spokesman Larry Speakes.

Rita S. Francomano, an astrologer and owner of the Ayante Garde Book Store in Baltimore, said, "In astrological circles, it's always been rumored that Reagan uses astrologers. He's from California, so it's not surprising."

MANCHESTER, N.H.

UNION-LEADER

M - 69,882

JUN 1 1988

Full Moon Over Moscow? Nancy 'Wouldn't Know'

LENINGRAD (UPI) — Nancy Reagan ducked questions about her belief in astrology yesterday, promptly ending a briefing for reporters after being quizzed about the significance of the full moon over Moscow.

The American first lady, who visited Leningrad yesterday, was briefing reporters aboard Air Force One when journalists began questioning her about claims that she coordinated the President's schedule based on astrological influences.

Asked what the full moon over Moscow portended for the summit between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, the first lady laughed and said, "I wouldn't know."

When pressed on the subject, she said, "I ... everything's been said about that needs to be said, that I'm ready to say," and ended the briefing.

The accusations about Nancy Reagan's belief in astrology first emerged in former White House chief of staff Donald Regan's new book.

Mrs. Reagan told reporters she is planning her own book and advised Regan to read it. "I am going to do it my way," she said with a smile.

Mrs. Reagan's remarks came just a day after Raisa Gorbachev used the first lady's alleged belief in astrology as a point of ridicule.

When asked by reporters Monday if she believed in the stars, Mrs. Gorbachev said, "Not me, I believe in practical things like the facts, realism".



MAY 27 1988

ATLANTA, GEORGIA
DAILY WORLD

M - 20,000
S - 20,000

85

Nancy Not Alone

Nancy Reagan is currently the object of snickering and amusement because of recent revelation about her faith in astrologers. It's true that most of the world's respected minds view astrologers and their claims with a grain of salt—or more. But there have been other famous examples who were hooked on astrology.

The most recent one can recall is Charles DeGaulle, the strong man of France until two decades ago. It's said that throughout his life he occasionally consulted astrologers. Whether he was serious about it is not known.

Going back further into history, Queen Elizabeth I had her own private astrologer, who used a crystal ball. This was between 1533 and

Galileo practiced astrol-

ogy—also in the 16th century—but was never quite sure he was getting the right information from his guesses.

In the 18th century Marie Antoinette retained a court astrologer to give her the word at Versailles Palace. It's not known whether he forewarned her she was to lose her head.

In the 19th century J.P. Morgan consulted astrologers. So did Enrico Caruso and Mary Pickford. Present he-man film star Sylvester Stallone's mother was an astrologer. She predicted he would be a writer.

Thus Nancy Reagan is not the first wife in a high position hooked on the stars and their fortune telling. This form of mysticism has always been popular among film and entertainment types, which both the Reagans were.

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MAY-31-88

Stars? Nyet

MOSCOW (UPI) — Raisa Gorbachev, asked about reports that Nancy Reagan consults astrologers, told reporters she prefers to trust in "practical things like the facts."

The comment came when reporters asked for Mrs. Gorbachev's reaction to a book by former White House aide Donald Regan in which he says Mrs. Reagan used astrology as a basis for her advice to the president on scheduling and other matters.

"Not me, I believe in practical things like the facts, realism," Mrs. Gorbachev, a doctor of Marxist philosophy, said when reporters asked whether she believes in astrology.



MAY-20-88

Soviets bug first lady's call to astrologer

By Jack Anderson
and Dale Van Atta

148

WASHINGTON — First lady Nancy Reagan's calls to her San Francisco astrologer may have given the Soviets a stream of personal and political intelligence about the president that rivals anything they got from their spies.

Sources in the White House, National Security Council and Central Intelligence Agency told Dale Van Atta that they are assessing the damage the calls may have caused in sheer espionage terms. But they are doing it behind the president's back, so he doesn't take offense. He would not look kindly on someone who suggested that the first lady might possibly be a leak to the Soviets.

Our sources presume that the Soviets intercepted the hundreds of calls Mrs. Reagan made to astrologer Joan Quigley, since they were primarily made from either the presidential retreat at Camp David or the White



Jack Anderson

House. Both are top targets for Soviet bugging.

The sources also presume that Mrs. Reagan shared enough details about the president's thinking and plans to allow the astrologer to chart his future course.

The Soviets may have been making their own charts. Quigley is in San Francisco, where the Soviet consulate is acknowledged to have unparalleled access to all long-distance microwave-transmitted phone calls coming to that city.

A highly placed White House expert on communications told us that the CIA and the FBI know that "all 456 and 395 exchanges are targeted

for interception by the Soviets." Those prefixes in Washington are used only by the White House.

He said that besides calls which are scrambled, many local calls made from the White House to the Washington area are protected because they go by underground cable. That makes them more difficult to intercept than microwave transmissions through the air.

But microwave is the primary mode of transmission for long-distance calls between Washington and San Francisco. "We call that 'the vacuum cleaner' method in intelligence parlance because the Soviets can suck up anything they want to from these calls, particularly in San Francisco, Washington and New York," the expert said.

One of the few White House officials who knew about the astrologer for at least five years said others who knew shared their national security concerns among themselves. But they dared not take it up with the president

or Mrs. Reagan.

Mrs. Reagan has been discussing the president's business with Quigley since 1981, usually on Saturday afternoons. The kind of information she might have given Quigley pertained to scheduling events, taking action or assessing Reagan's moods. It isn't as dramatic as slipping a secret document to the enemy, but it is the bread and butter of intelligence, where part of the game is keeping one step ahead of the enemy, knowing what he plans to do and when and how he thinks.

"Let's assume," an alarmed White House official told us, "that Boris or Ivan is sitting in his little Soviet listening post at one of their embassies one Saturday and, at the same appointed time, Nancy Reagan calls her astrologer and she says, 'I need your advice on this. Ronnie's thinking about changing this policy or that policy. Are the signs right?' The astrologer is sort of a pseudo psychiatrist, and she asks for more information.

"Now Ivan is sitting there, latches

on to this gold mine and begins to notice the regularity of the calls. So every Saturday he's watching a football game on TV and ... listening to the regular 'Saturday feed' of intelligence."

A White House official has been asked to quietly find out if Mrs. Reagan had a secure line installed to her astrologer. He told us that as far as his people can tell, the answer is no. He added that the subject of the first lady and her stargazing was so odd, no one wanted to make it official by installing a secure line. "Nancy or those who knew her were so embarrassed that she was talking to an astrologer that she just used a plain old White House or Camp David line, as far as we can tell, oblivious to the fact that the Russians were listening in," the White House source said.

The president, Mrs. Reagan and her friends tried to paint the long-distance huddles with Quigley as harmless. But postponing a summit meet-

ing or closeting the president can affect policy in a major way, especially if the Soviets know when and why it is happening.

TOO MUCH TALK — In 1985, the Justice Department unveiled the National Partnership to Prevent Drug and Alcohol Abuse. It was to be an all-out assault on addiction, enlisting private agencies, local governments and the best minds of the nation. The partnership spent nearly \$1 million in less than a year and then folded. At the request of Congress, the General Accounting Office recently finished a post mortem on the program, and it is a familiar story of too much talk and not enough action. The partnership was doomed by poor management and waste. The GAO found that the partnership loaned money to a staffer, bought expensive furniture and used partnership credit cards for entertainment. It accomplished almost none of its original goals.

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MAY 30 1988

Astrologer: stars wrong for Reagan

LONDON (AP) — One of Britain's leading astrologers says the stars are wrong for this week's post-summit meeting in London between President Reagan and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Reagan, an Aquarian, and Mrs. Thatcher, a Libran, "enjoy a marvelous cerebral relationship" with all the right ingredients to get things done, but this isn't the week to do them, said Russell Grant, resident emeritus of the British Astrological Psychic Society.

Press Association, Britain's domestic news agency, said Sunday it commissioned the forecast from Grant.

Grant said Reagan's meeting with Mrs. Thatcher on Thursday and Friday, with Mercury starting to go backwards through the planetary system, comes during a "very unstable period."

The president flies to London after his meeting in Moscow with Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev.

"If he has got an astrologer advising him, I would have steered clear of this period more than any other time in the year," Grant said.

"You could reach an agreement today, and in a month's time people could renege on it," he said. "What is going on at the moment is so volatile and so unpredictable that you really cannot stand by what is said."

But the astrologer said the intuitive powers of Nancy Reagan, a shrewd Cancerian, could be "invaluable" during the president's London visit.

He said Queen Elizabeth II, a Taurus who is having a tea for the Reagans at Buckingham Palace on Thursday, would also be a positive influence.

Mrs. Reagan's interest in astrology made headlines around the world this month when former White House Chief of Staff Donald Regan published a book alleging that the first lady's astrological advice affected the president's schedule.

The president has denied this.

PROVIDENCE, R. I.
JOURNAL

M - 84, 275

S - 250, 264

MAY 14 1988

Soviets' 'secret silliness': Astrology

Mysticism, part fad, part faith, occupies major role in nation

By BILL KELLER
The New York Times

MOSCOW — In a one-room clinic a few paces from Moscow's most popular pedestrian mall, Dzhuna Davitashvili, celebrity psychic healer, gesticulates over the head of a deaf and blind man, as if pulling invisible weeds from his cranium.

Watched by a rapt crowd of disciples and waiting patients, Dzhuna works unself-consciously, chattering about the hundreds of people, high and low, who flock to her choice location for a sample of the healing touch she calls Effect D — for Dzhuna, naturally.

In the United States, land of all faiths, people laugh at Nancy Reagan for consulting an astrologer. But in the Soviet Union, land of scientific materialism, Dzhuna has a state business license, an honored spot on the Soviet Peace Committee, and a coterie of friends that includes scientists, artists, journalists, and intellectuals.

Horoscopes, folk medicine, psychic healing, and all manner of mysticism occupy a prominent place in Soviet society, part faith, part fad, but no joke.

'Leave Nancy Reagan alone'

"It is our secret silliness," said the wife of a government official, who admits that as soon as Mikhail S. Gorbachev became Soviet general secretary, the first thing she did was look up his sign. He is a Pisces.

"Leave Nancy Reagan alone," the woman admonished.

Except in the unlikely event that some Kremlin Donald T. Regan writes a tell-all book, it may never be known whether astral omens guide affairs of state here, as Regan, the former White House chief of staff, says has sometimes been the case in the Reagan family.

Dzhuna, who prefers to go by the first name she gave herself when Yevgenia seemed inadequate to her

gift, reputedly was summoned to the bedside of Leonid I. Brezhnev when the ailing Soviet leader was slipping beyond the help of conventional medicine. Dzhuna carefully does not deny this report, but says her "Hippocratic oath" forbids a direct answer. If you must know, however, she will confide that "Leonid Ilyich told the minister of health the country should build me a whole clinic."

Whatever Gorbachev and his wife, Raisa, make of the occult sciences, his constituents seem to feel they explain at least as much about life as Marx and Lenin ever did. Sophisticated Muscovites swap astrological signs at dinner parties, horoscopes are a hot item at the weekly public market in Izmailovo Park, and at one Moscow scientific institute a young engineer says he and his friends spend most of their free time running astrological computer programs for themselves and friends.

A Moscow-based New Yorker was astonished recently when a world-renowned Soviet physicist who had received permission to emigrate to the United States asked a parting favor — advice on where to get his horoscope drawn up in New York.

Oleg, a 49-year-old astrology buff encountered on Thursday on the Arbat mall, around the corner from Dzhuna's studio, professed to have retired a few years ago after winning about \$150,000 in the state lottery using a system dictated by the stars and planets. He said he was delighted to hear on a Voice of America radio broadcast that Mrs. Reagan shared his interest in the subject, although recently he has laid aside astrology in favor of a newer passion, collecting films of Broadway musicals.

Folk medicines

The affection for what Mrs. Rea-

gan's ridiculers would call superstition extends to fortune telling and folk medicines. Young Muscovites still hop the electric trains to towns outside the capital where fortune-tellers read palms or tarot cards.

Many a Russian grandmother is a textbook on folk remedies that can be made from vodka, garlic, or potatoes. A Western scholar who visited Moscow in 1986 was instructed in the art of "banki," hot cupping glasses applied to the skin in the belief that the suction improves blood circulation.

Although astrology is officially frowned upon in the Soviet Encyclopedia as a "false science," scholarly works have been devoted to such subjects as the healing properties of mumiyo, a tarlike resin collected from the places wounded animals go to die.

Parapsychology is accorded serious discussion in the Soviet Academy of Sciences. When Soviet newspapers or television feature practitioners like Dzhuna, as the hip late-night program "Vzglyad" did recently, there is nary a hint of smugness.

Dzhuna, who works two blocks from the American diplomatic residence where the Reagans will sleep during the summit meeting at the end of May, is perhaps Moscow's reigning queen of the occult sciences.

She is also a painter. A dozen of her self-portraits in oil gaze down with enlarged green eyes from the walls of her clinic.

She is a published poet, a recorded singer, a starlet, and a presence, with high Georgian cheekbones and a nimbus of stylishly tousled jet-black hair. She gives her age as 38. Dressed in her healing clothes — a short black skirt, black stockings, black blouse, yellow silk vest, and a cascade of jewelry — she brings to mind Cher in *The Witches of Eastwick*.

BURLINGTON, VERMONT

FREE PRESS

MAY 14 1988

500,000

New Agers join forces in California expo

By Judy Farah
The Associated Press

PASADENA, Calif. — Astrologers, UFO buffs, health enthusiasts and other assorted New Age advocates, apparently undaunted that the calendar read Friday the 13th, converged for the Whole Life Expo.

About 40,000 people were expected at the Pasadena Convention Center for the three-day event, featuring 200 speakers who will wax loquacious on such topics as "The Magic World of Crystals," "The Feminine Warrior: Embrac-

ing the Goddess," "Channeling: A New Way of Looking at Reality" and "Tibetan Gongs, Singing Bowls & Voices." A panel discussion on UFOs also is scheduled.

Convention-goers can snack on blue-green algae, tofu shakes and meatless hot dogs as they stroll among exhibits on spiritual healing, numerology, fire-walking and colon cleansing.

Celebrity guests include Michelle Phillips; Susan Strasberg and Timothy Leary.

Uri Geller, the psychic guru best known for his purported abili-

ty to twist spoons mentally, will take the stage, as will Elizabeth Clare Prophet, a Montana-based religious group's leader who will lecture on the lost years of Jesus.

The expo, first held in 1978, is sponsored by tofu maker Mori-Nu, a company called Naked Juice and Whole Life Times magazine.

"It's a show about health and awareness," said Brian Duggan, president of Teamwork Promotions, the concern managing the Whole Life Expo. "Our goal is to provide a variety of viewpoints and choices. There seems to be a

willingness for more people to try this. I think people want more fulfillment in their lives.

"The fact that so many people are interested and ga-ga over Nancy Reagan and astrology shows just what an interest there is in this."

He said more people are attending the expo each year.

Late astrologer's link to Reagans hits tabloid stage

Gannett News Service

And the Reagan astrology saga goes on: "The National Enquirer" reports Monday that Ronald Reagan depended on the late astrologer and newspaper columnist Carroll Righter for help in planning propitious dates for major decisions.

Righter's death April 30 came, ironically, just as former chief of

staff Donald Regan's book revealed the First Family's predictions for astrology. The "Enquirer" quotes Edward Helin of the L.A.-based Carroll Righter Foundation as saying Righter referred to the President and First Lady in phone conversations with them as "Mr. Aquarius" or "Mrs. Cancer," their astrological signs.

Helin is quoted in the story as saying the White House pressured

Righter's lawyer after the astrologer's death to say the 40-year relationship with the Reagans broke off 10 years ago. But, Helin says, "Carroll was dealing with them right up to the end of his life."

Righter's horoscope column appears in the Free Press. He worked ahead six months and prepared horoscopes through October 1988.



MAY -11-88

Astrology gets a boost from Nancy Reagan

X20

By Jim Wright

Dallas Morning News

Thank heavens — and I mean THE heavens — for Nancy Reagan!

For a while there, it seemed that newspaper subscribers were going to have nothing better to read than stories about George Bush and Michael Dukakis trying to outcool each other.

Now, thanks to the first lady, we can all be into astrology and the occult and other interesting stuff.

But fans of media fun are not the only ones who have good reason to be grateful. We conservatives can take it as a sign, this disclosure that Mrs. Reagan has had astrological counsel in scheduling meetings: It is OK to be a little strange, though Republican.

My wife, who has long been both, is furious with the smart alecks who are lining up to "jump on Nancy, just because she reads the horoscope." Why, explodes Dottie the Leo, "I read those things myself, sometimes. Of course I don't believe them, but I read them."

If you think I'm going to comment on that staunch defense of the administration, your moon must be in the seventh house.

Not only do I support my wife in this, I wish to apologize to my daughter for that time when I got mad at her after seeing her semester grade reports from journalism school. I blew my stack when I saw that she, under the influence of spring, had dropped every single course in subjects like journalism, history, economics and geology and was presently attending only one class, "witchcraft and occult practices in medieval times."

Good job training

At that point, I leaped to the conclusion that she was down at the univer-

sity wasting her time and our money. Now, I know better. It was good job training. While journalism may be a maturing industry, the wisdom of the stars always will be ahead of the growth curve, marketwise. Executive astrologers never get laid off.

If our other industrial magnates were as quick to exploit a merchandising target of opportunity as the astrologers are in the current hooah, our country would not be in hock to the Japanese today.

For example, Joyce Jillson, the syndicated seer, quickly admitted to the press that it was she who advised Reagan, after consulting the galactic omens, to pick George Bush for his vice president.

After the Reagans said they didn't know — indeed, had never heard of — adviser Jillson, the Jillson organization shifted gears without a blush. An aide to the chief astrological officer said that though she had not actually met the Reagans, she had been to the White House and had been consulted by an unidentified "insider."

I can see no reason whatsoever to doubt this statement. I myself have been to the White House — several times a day they have tours for anyone who is not carrying a visible bomb. And I have worn my earlobes down to a nubbin, being consulted by unidentified "insiders."

Fully half the people who call me on the telephone at the office refuse to be identified by any other name, rank or job description. They are unfailingly more fun to listen to than other people I meet in the line of business.

I particularly admire the aplomb with which Ms. Jillson exemplifies the historic battle cry of astrologers and columnists: "Often wrong, never tentative!"

Predictions sound right

According to Ms. J, the economy may get shaky after May 31 and President Reagan's health position could be precarious. Both predictions sound right to me. So far as I can see, the economy has been shaky for months, but I thought only we worrywarts felt that way.

As for the other forecast, anybody, even a Democrat, who is much over 50 should consider his health position precarious. Above that vintage, a human inhabits a body that has evolved past its chronological design limit and is living on borrowed time.

Which is why I also agree with the quick-draw prediction of another swami, Ostaro the Hindu. Ostaro sees in the stars portents leading him to foretell that "from December, (President Reagan's) knees and legs will start to bother him."

I can foretell, even without consulting the stars, that my knees and legs will start to bother me when I get out of bed tomorrow morning. This reading is based not on the dance of the planets but on the fact that they have done that every morning for the past three or four years.

Anybody who can make a living peddling this kind of thing gets my vote for the Chutzpah Salesmanship Plaque. If the media astrology flap lasts longer than a week or two, I may get a pointed hat and a robe with weird symbols on it and go into the business myself.

As for the White House clipping its schedule for astrology's sake, I say, more power to the Reaganites. If Nancy called off some meetings because of bad astral vibrations, good for her! Anybody who cancels any meeting anywhere for any reason makes this world a happier, better place.

Jimbo the Presbyterian has spoken.

Tiny chuckle for voodoo policy

By ELLEN GOODMAN
BOSTON — Okay, so it was funny. After all, few of us had associated the Age of Aquarius with the Reagan Ascendancy. We thought of Ron as more Old Values than New Age, more Stars and Stripes than Stars and Planets.

We worried about the influence of Elliott Abrams not Mars, about Jesse Helms not Jupiter. Sure, the guy came from Hollywood where people ask your sign the way they ask your profession in the East. But that was history, like his union work.

So when the news about astrology in the White House came out, it was played for the chuckles. Voodoo economics

and lunar foreign policy. I looked in Linda (no relation) Goodman's "Love Signs" to find out why Don Regan the Archer would tell on Nancy Reagan the Cancer. It turns out they were always as different as Day (Nancy) and Night (Don).

AS USUAL, THE President and his inner circle managed to laugh with us, having learned that there's nothing like a self-deprecating chuckle to turn away ridicule. The motto of this administration has often been, "Just kidding, folks." I could see Nancy Reagan polishing up her act for the next Gridiron Club musicale.

But at some point in the hilarity, McNeil-Lehrer

At Large



Newshour did one of those earnestly evenhanded debates about astrology, and I lost it. My humor, that is. There was Jeremy Stone, president of the Federation of American Scientists facing off with Darrell Martinie, the astrologist known fondly in these parts as the Cosmic Muffin.

As far as I'm concerned, getting your horoscope read is on a par with getting your colors done. (I'm an Aries and an Autumn.) It's like reading

your personality profile on the place mat chart in a Chinese restaurant. But a serious public debate on the validity of astrology? A serious believer in the White House? Two of them? Give me a break.

What stifled my laughter is that the image fit. Reagan has always exhibited a fey indifference toward science. Facts, like numbers, roll off his back. And we've all come to accept it.

This time it was star-gazing that became a serious issue for the sober "McNeil-Lehrer." Not that long ago, it was Reagan's support of Creationism that resurrected a more prolonged and disruptive de-

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Front Page Ed: Page Other Page

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MAY 12 1988

Goodman

Cont'd from Page 15

bate. Creationists actually got equal time with evolutionists. The public was supposed to be open-minded to the claims of paleontologists and fundamentalists, as if the two were scientific colleagues.

BEFORE THAT IT was "Star Wars," the most costly "science" fantasy in the Reagan constellation. The President just plain old believed in an impenetrable shield around the United States. While a galaxy of scientists protested, he clapped for this Tinkerbell and we paid \$12 billion.

It's been clear for a long time that this President is averse to science. He treats the scientific method as one of a range of interesting tools for problem-solving, just a notch or two below intuition. (Where is Bill Bennett when we need him?)

In general, these attitudes fall onto friendly American turf, because most of us today share not only a touch of superstition but a bushel of scientific skepticism. We've seen "facts" come and go. We've seen the evidence and experts shift. Few of us bow before experts or footnote every idea with comedian Elaine May's old line: "And that

man's a doctor!"

But at the outer edges, this skepticism about science easily turns into a kind of naive acceptance of non-science, or even nonsense. The same people who doubt experts can also believe any quackery, from the benefits of laetrile to eye of newt to the movement of planets. We lose the capacity to discriminate, to make rational — scientific — judgments. It's all the same.

No, I don't think the Chief Aquarian made crucial world decisions by a celestial calculation that's as accurate as the measurement of the flat earth. But this astrological news is in keeping with his fuzzy approach to science. On a pop quiz, would he really know the difference between physics and metaphysics?

How much worse, you ask, could the last seven years have been if there had been an astrologer in the Cabinet? Would the wisdom of the Zodiac have been less valid than the wisdom of Oliver North? Well, I will allow a small chuckle. But for the next eight moons, cross your fingers, don't step on any cracks, and wish upon a star.



CHEYENNE, WYOMING
WYOMING EAGLE

M - 9,369 85
MAY 10 1988

Art Buchwald

Look to the Stars

Behind every great man in Washington there is a great astrologer. The story that Donald Regan tells in his book is that the Reagans used astrology as a means of arriving at decisions in the White House.

Before the know-it-alls make their comments I would like to say that there is absolutely nothing wrong with a President ruling a country by the stars. It is a foolproof system and one that has paid great dividends for the country.

I don't know the name of the President's astrologer or even if she had an office in the White House. But what we do know, according to Donald Regan, is that not only Nancy, but the President consulted her.

We shall call the presidential astrologer Zodiac.

A dicey matter has come up in Panama and Noriega won't leave the country. After meeting with the National Security Council, the President calls in Zodiac. "What do you think?"

"I would do nothing until Wednesday, when Pluto conjoins Jupiter."

"This week?"

"No, next year. You can expect big problems from a full moon and a recalcitrant Congress. Your chart says, 'Don't make any new friends when you go to the Republican Convention this summer.'"

"I would prefer that Noriega get out by Thursday, but I hear that he won't do it until Saturn lines up with Venus."

"As an Aquarius, Mr. President, you have a right to be upset about Panama. After all, your chart indicates that Noriega should have fled the country last month."

"Did you come up with any predictions on my meeting with Gorbachev?"

"Well, sir, I would not give up any long-range missiles until the sun enters Gemini. Gorbachev is a Pisces and is dreamy, sensitive, artistic, romantic and a really tough SOB when it comes to making a deal. His astrologer has told him not to come to any decisions this year unless you give up Star Wars."

"Why is he so hellbent on me giving up Star Wars?"

"Because Gorbachev's astrologer is afraid Star Wars will mess up the entire universe map and make every astrological chart in the world obsolete."

"What signs do you see for Nancy?"

"Her natal chart indicates Nancy should wear red when visiting Lenin's tomb, which will prevent Raisa from blocking her out of the TV cameras. It also says this is not a good time for Nancy to spend a lot of money or invite the Donald Regans over for dinner."

"Anything in the solar system as to what's in store for Col. North and Adm. Poindexter?"

"If Neptune stays on its present path, you will pardon them."

"How do you know this?"

"I read it in the Evans and Novak column. Poindexter and North's destinies are entwined astrologically with yours, and you are responsible for them."

"Why?"

"Because they did all the things they did when there was a full moon over the White House. If you recall, when I dealt you a Tarot hand two years ago, I told you somebody was doing something in the White House that could injure you. You just laughed at me and said, 'Gin.'"

"Zodiac, I don't know what Nancy and I would do without you. You've been in on every decision I've made and you have never been wrong except on my nomination of two Supreme Court justices. I've never doubted you since you told me Saturn indicated Ed Meese would have money problems."

"This country is blessed to have a President and First Lady who believe in astrology. Where would we be if we had nobody to depend on but the CIA?"

(c) 1988, Los Angeles Times Syndicate

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

ADVERTISER

M - 49,529

S - 83,858

MAY 10 1988

Just For Fun

Several years ago, astronomer and author Carl Sagan spoke to a national meeting of newspaper editors. During the course of his address, Sagan digressed, enthusiastically chewing out the editors for allowing their newspapers to carry horoscopes.

Sagan's point was that such "pseudosciences" as astrology manage to hold the public's imagination for any length of time only because they are tolerated by various people who should know better. By carrying horoscopes, he maintained, newspapers gave them legitimacy in the eyes of the gullible among us.

Sagan's spirited remarks seemed to hit home with the editors. Over the next few months, we noticed several papers that moved their horoscopes onto their comic pages. (The Advertiser not only carries its horoscope on the comic page — where it belongs — but also labels it "for amusement only.") But we do not recall any newspapers that dropped the popular columns altogether.

Horoscopes for most readers are a harmless diversion. But for those few people who take astrological predictions and recommendations seriously and make decisions based on those

recommendations, horoscopes are not a laughing matter.

That is the real danger of First Lady Nancy Reagan's consulting with astrologers, and if former White House Chief of Staff Don Regan can be believed, letting those consultations affect the scheduling of the president's time.

It's not so much that any serious decisions would be made on the basis of the stars; at this point we have to believe the president when he says that never happened. But just the fact that the president's family even consults astrologers is certain to give this bunk an air of legitimacy.

It is unfortunate, but the revelations that the First Lady seeks guidance from astrologers is bound to ignite a renewed interest in astrology. It is also bound to hurt the president's credibility.

It would help if President Reagan would issue a full-scale denunciation of the practice of astrology as not having any factual or scientific basis at all. As a newspaper that carries a horoscope, we want to point out once again, it's there just for yucks — please don't take it seriously.





UNITED FEATURE SERVICE FOR PUBLICATION DAILY NEWS

Stars guide the ship of state

Behind every great man in Washington there is a great astrologer. The story that Donald Regan tells in his book is that the Reagans used astrology as a means of arriving at decisions in the White House.

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ART BUCHWALD



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"This country is blessed to have a president and first lady who believe in astrology. Where would we be if we had nobody to depend on but the CIA?"

Los Angeles Times Syndicate

Astrology Aims For The Stars With High Tech

By BRUCE HOROVITZ
Los Angeles Times

The nation's astrologers might thank their lucky stars for President Reagan.

After all, in a forthcoming book by former White House Chief of Staff Donald Regan, to be excerpted next week in *Time* magazine, Regan reveals that Nancy Reagan had a personal interest in the shifting alignment of the heavenly bodies. And Mrs. Reagan's interest, reportedly, played a role in the scheduling of some of President Reagan's appointments.

"All this Reagan stuff should do us some good," said Robert Cooper, executive secretary of the Tempe, Ariz.-based American Federation of Astrologers.

As astrology moves to the front page of the nation's newspapers from its usual spot in the horoscope columns, attention is focused on an age-old preoccupation that today is also a multimillion-dollar business.

Computers have taken over the once-tedious job of mapping the arrangement of the planets and stars at the time of one's birth. Supermarkets and pharmacies still stock horoscope books by the hundreds, and book stores still report a strong, if not booming, business in astrology.

Meanwhile, those who specialize in astrological readings are not all that keen about their craft being linked — in any way — with Ronald Reagan.

"People will soon be blaming the state of the country on astrologers," said Shania Light, a Beverly Hills, Calif., astrologer whose Yellow Pages advertisement refers to her as "psychic of the chic." But, she said, "It's not us, but people like George Shultz, George Bush and Reagan who are responsible."

And, of course, skeptics continue to say that astrology business is bunk. "This is absolutely a lot of spinach," said Dr. Joyce Brothers, the psychologist and radio talk show host.

As for the astrology's new high-tech approach with extensive use of computers, she said in an interview, "When you put garbage into a computer, you get garbage out of it." When people cannot deal with their expectations, she said, they become more anxious to "divine" what the future has to bring.

An estimated 50 million Americans know

The astrological community has taken advantage of the computer more than any other profession.

ASTROLOGY

Continued From Page 121

their astrological signs — and a majority of that number are believed to read their horoscopes daily.

"Probably every major newspaper in America runs an astrology column," said Sydney Omarr, whose astrological column, carried by the *Los Angeles Times* Syndicate, appears in 300 newspapers. What's more, his 10 books on the subject have sold more than 30 million copies.

Omarr says that Reagan is not the first American president to watch his horoscope. He said that George Washington and Theodore Roosevelt also kept tabs of their horoscopes. And Timothy Beckley, publisher of books on astrology, said that Abraham Lincoln also had astrological interests.

"Whether times are good or bad, there is always interest in astrology," said Warren Tabatch, vice president for production at Astro Signs, which publishes a series of miniature astrological magazines sold mostly at supermarkets. Indeed, the company sells up to 500,000 of these 2½-inch by 3-inch magazines each month.

It is also an industry that is fast-becoming high tech. That is, many of the nation's estimated 5,000 professional astrologers — who make their full-time living at the trade — have turned to computers for help.

With the aid of computers, astrology has evolved from a business that once required many hours of tedious mapping of the arrangement of the planets and stars at the time of one's birth, into a computer-generated profession that is nearly as dependent on computers as the airline industry.

"The astrological community has taken advantage of the computer more than any other profession," said Neil Michelsen, chairman of the National Council of Geocosmic Research and founder of Astro Computing Services, a San Diego-based publisher of astrological books and charts. "As soon as micro computers were in consumers hands in the 1970s, there was astrological software for astrologers."

Indeed, there are at least a half-dozen manufacturers of computer software who have generally seen business grow steadily in recent years. Most of them are heavily dependent on mail order sales.

One of these manufacturers is Astrolabe, a computer software company in Cape Cod, Mass., which sold nearly \$600,000 worth of the \$300 computer programs last year. These programs help astrologers produce and interpret astrological charts.

There is also interest in using astrology to help predict economic futures.

And that is a relatively new direction that some astrologers seem to be taking. "We're branching into the stock market field," said Patricia White, vice president of Astrolabe. "People on Wall Street are very pragmatic. They're open to anything that makes money."

Indeed, so-called financial astrology has evolved into its own mini-industry, with several newsletters on the market, including one published by Ray Merriman, a broker at Prudential-Bache Securities who has written extensively on astrology and who commonly uses it in his market forecasts.

A far cry all this is from the 16th Century French astrologer, Nostradamus, who studied the planets and stars and at the time made all sorts of wide-reaching predictions. One of those predictions was an alignment of the heavenly bodies that supposedly would result in a major earthquake this month.

Some companies are still making money from Nostradamus' predictions that astrologers say are based on faulty information on the position of the planets.

For example, more than 80,000 copies of Nostradamus' *Unpublished Prophecies* have been sold over the past year by a New Brunswick, N.J., publisher, Inner Light Publications, said Beckley, the company's president.

But not even Nostradamus could have predicted the widespread interest that Americans seem to have in astrology.

There are several national astrological conventions scheduled later this summer. More than 1,000 people are expected to plunk down their \$185 each to attend the United Astrology Convention in Florida. And on the Fourth of July, the American Federation of Astrologers is scheduled to host its own 50th anniversary bash at the Las Vegas Hilton. Some 2,500 are expected to pay about \$125 each to attend that conference, said Robert Cooper, executive secretary of the group.

And some of those who teach the craft say they have more willing students than they have time to teach.

"Astrology is 100 percent accurate, but astrologers are not," said Sylvia Sherman, founder of the American School of Astrology in West Orange, N.J.

PROVIDENCE, R.I.
MAY 10 1988
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JOAN QUIGLEY

Reagan's "an Aquarian, and all the best presidents have been Aquarian; Lincoln, FDR and Reagan. And Reagan is a very great president."

Astrology

Continued from Page One

quality. It means his life is a very important one."

Now that the truth has come out about her consulting, friends say that Quigley — an heiress, Vassar graduate, Junior League alumna and author of two books on astrology (with a third one in the works) who once hid her passion for the stars because her father thought it was too bizarre — has long kept a low profile in her extraterrestrial profession.

One friend explained that it simply was not Quigley's style to talk about it in public. "One would have to bring up the subject." Still, she always was looking for converts. "She did my chart, but I didn't ask her for it," noted one of her Nob Hill neighbors.

The verdict

With her background of full of wealth and social position, Quigley comes from the "creme de la creme" of San Francisco gentility, exactly the sort of woman whom Mrs. Reagan has embraced again and again as friends in California, New York and Washington.

Quigley's father, John, he owned and operated the old Drake-Wilshire Hotel for more than 30 years. (It is now the Campton Place Hotel, one of the city's most elegant smaller inns.)

John Quigley died of cancer in 1985 at age 80; his wife, Zelda, passed away a year later. Their daughters, Joan and Ruth, who are both in their 60s, stayed at home with their parents their whole life. They decided to continue living in the family apartment on Nob Hill.

A one-time financial analyst in San Francisco's Financial District, Ruth Quigley took after her father as a Republican Party activist and, like him, was a member of the San Francisco Republican Central County Committee.

Joan Quigley, however, took after her mother, who was the first member of the family to become interested in astrology.

Meeting Mrs. Reagan

She met Nancy Reagan through

entertainer Merv Griffin, who was one of her clients, she said. For 13 years — from 1972 to 1985 — she became a regular guest on his syndicated talk show. Through him, she became interested in working up the horoscopes of political figures. In 1972, for instance, Griffin requested that she construct charts for all the presidential candidates for one of her appearances on his show.

"I had made many predictions for Merv, and he always said they were correct," she said. It then occurred to Griffin one day, she added, that the first lady, who shared his birthdate of June 6, might also want her horoscope worked up. "And so he introduced me to Nancy by telephone and so forth."

Quigley said she first began giving Nancy Reagan her "serious, professional" astrological advice in the late 1970s, then continued it through the 1980 presidential campaign. By the time Mr. Reagan was in the White House, Quigley said she knew his horoscope "upside down."

After the 1981 attempt on Reagan's life, Quigley said Nancy Reagan began to consult her again more heavily. She would not comment, however, on whether she had warned of the assassination try.

Quigley, who said she consulted with Mrs. Reagan by telephone, usually from Camp David, met the president only once — during her sole visit to the White House, attending a 1985 state dinner for Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid.

She was reluctant to go into specifics about the advice she gave the Reagans. But, by her own account, it included data about when would be the best times for them to make their speeches, trips, appearances and other major scheduling decisions. This included telling Mrs. Reagan when it was safe to fly, or when her husband should have a news conference.

But, according to Regan's book, the relationship was so close that the first lady once complained to him in budgetary terms about revisions in her husband's schedule. "I wish you'd make up your mind," Regan quotes her as saying testily. "It's costing me a lot of money, calling up my friend with all these changes."

THEIR HOROSCOPES FOR TODAY



RONALD REAGAN

FEBRUARY 6
What had been lost will be recovered. Key is patience, persistence, willingness to play waiting game.



AQUARIUS



NANCY REAGAN

JUNE 6
Emphasis on power, authority, promotion, ability to "hobnob" with higher ups.



GEMINI



DONALD REGAN

DECEMBER 21
Do some personal detective work. Check clues, make inquiries, give full rein to intellectual curiosity.



SAGITTARIUS

— Journal-Bulletin Graphic

A private stargazer goes public

Her patrician roots, Griffin helped lead to Nancy Reagan

By NIKKI FINKE
Los Angeles Times

Joan Quigley knew it was going to be a trying week.

She saw it in her stars.

"I'm an Aries," the San Francisco socialite explained. "There's a major conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn, which is going to be terrible for many people. Accidents. Fires. Troubles. It's just a very difficult time."

And a very public one, now that she has been identified as Nancy Reagan's mysterious "friend" who former White House chief of staff Donald T. Regan says in his new book affected "virtually every major move and decision" made by

President Reagan during two terms in office.

The uproar has unnerved Quigley. "To be in this position is very awkward and very uncomfortable," she said in a phone interview. "But there's nothing I can do."

And what an uproar it has been, following her from San Francisco, to Paris and back home again over the weekend, touching on almost every major White House event of the last eight years, from the Reagan-Gorbachev summit to the president's surgery to his 1981 near-assassination.

It has prompted one comedian to wonder if there will be a "secretary of Health, Education and Voodoo"

and, a newspaper columnist to suggest that the next step for the Reagan clan might well be channeling. Nevertheless, Quigley predicted that President Reagan would weather the flap just as well as he had withstood all the other furors of his administration.

After all, she said, Mr. Reagan has much in common with "those other great presidents" — Abraham Lincoln and Franklin Roosevelt. "They're all Aquarians. They all have great vision."

Specifically, "Reagan has a lot of Capricorn in his chart because he's very practical," she explained. "Also he has three planets in their exaltation, which is a very good"

Turn to ASTROLOGY, Page A-2

Press Intelligence, Inc.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

Front Page	Edit Page	Other Page
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BRIDGEPORT, CONN.

TELEGRAM

MAY 10 1988

M - 18,339

8!

Mark Russell

I called Mrs. Reagan's office to find out about this astrology business, but she was having lunch with Mary Todd Lincoln.

□□□

What is this — the Reagan Era or the Age of Aquarius? Donald Regan's book tells of the Reagans' frequent consultations over the years with astrologers. That certainly explains the new tax law.

□□□

Occult practices in the White House — the president wasn't napping during Cabinet meetings after all — he was meditating.

□□□

Speculation in Washington is rampant. Reagan occasionally rubs a magic lantern and William Casey appears. They've gone from "Hail to the Chief" to "That Old Black Magic."

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA
ADVERTISER

M - 49,529

S - 83,853

85

MAY 10 1988

Nothing Bad About A Bit Of Astrology

By ANDREW J. GLASS

WASHINGTON — After it came out that Ronald Reagan and his wife, Nancy, share an interest in astrology, the president felt obliged to tell White House reporters that the stars haven't influenced his policy decisions.

But I say what's wrong with a bit of star-gazing once in awhile? After all, it's clear that readers go bonkers if they fail to find their pet astrology column in the paper, while they show much tolerance when a Washington pundit's efforts at rational thought similarly disappear.

Public persons ought to be permitted a peccadillo. The late Everett McKinley Dirksen of Illinois, once an impressive Republican Senate leader and a perfectly serious man, had a secret yen to be a rock star. In 1966, Dirksen even quietly cut a record. He might have gone on to enjoy some success in that demanding field had not a scornful press chased him back to the relative safety of a political career.

Jimmy Carter, whom Reagan chased out of the White House, loved to fish in secluded places, as alone as he could possibly be. In 1979, Carter's partiality to such solitary recreation led to a nasty assault on the president by a large water-borne attack rabbit. It happened when the two of them crossed paths in the south Georgia swamps near Carter's home.

Carter swore to Jody Powell, his press secretary, that the attack occurred. So why should non-fishermen doubt his word? Unfortunately for Carter, members of the White House press corps — then as now a callow lot — met his account with derision. One could even go so far as to

speculate that Carter — never one to mix it up with the guys and gals on the press bus — did himself in by letting that killer rabbit story make the rounds. It was all the news hounds needed to get even.



Glass

Earlier on, one should note, Carter gained political ground because his presidential rival, Gerald Ford, had a way of falling off airplane ramps or felling spectators with golf balls. Actually, Ford was a suburb athlete, retaining a high degree of fitness late into life. But it really did not matter for, nowadays, image is everything.

Ronald Reagan, for all one knows, could be a closet astronomer, rising in the middle of the night to watch Mars from the South Portico transverse the Tidal Basin. (For the ancients, astrology and astronomy were one and the same thing.) Shouldn't we take a tolerant attitude toward the First Couple — even if, from time to time, they decide to blow away a rig in the Persian Gulf because Mars wobbled a bit as it passed Jupiter?

You chuckled? Fine, for humor is one means of setting limits on even the most Jovian of presidents. And when they truly go off the deep end, as did Richard Nixon in the Watergate affair, we can always kick them out.

Usually, however, milder sanctions will suffice. Nixon's idea of fun was to study an intelligence briefing on a hot summer day, wearing his best Sunday suit, with the White House air conditioning system turned down to 60, as a blaze roared away in an Oval Office fireplace.

One time, however, Nixon returned from a state visit to Romania, where the Communist honcho had fitted his palace guards in zany uniforms right out of a silly operetta. Nixon insisted he would do the Romanian one better. He finally abandoned his goofy enterprise, dressing the White House guards in cutesy uniforms, but only after people laughed at it — and at him.

Reagan isn't running anymore. So, why shouldn't Aquarius heed the warnings of his feminine Cancer soulmate in going off to be the Muscovite Pisce, under the twin sign of the Gemini? He could do a lot worse.

Book: Nancy's astrologer ran White House

By Owen Ullmann
Knight-Ridder Newspapers

WASHINGTON — A scheming first lady Nancy Reagan, acting as a virtual co-president, has been dictating how her passive husband should conduct his presidency based on an astrologer's private predictions, former White House chief of staff Donald T. Regan discloses in a memoir released Sunday.

"Virtually every major move and decision the Reagans made during my time as White House chief of staff was cleared in advance with a woman in San Francisco who drew up horoscopes to make certain that the planets were in a favorable alignment for the enterprise," writes Regan, who blames the first lady for driving him out of his job in February 1987 after two years in the post.

In what may be the most revealing, inside account of an administration ever published about a sitting president, Regan asserts that Nancy Reagan relied on the astrologer to set the president's entire schedule — from trivial matters, such as the dates for political appearances, to momentous ones, such as Reagan's superpower summits with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

In a book that paints a very negative portrait of the first lady, Regan blames the president's four months of isolation during the height of the Iran-Contra scandal in the winter of 1986-87, as the direct result of the astrologer's warning that those months would be ill-starred for the president to travel or appear in public.

The astrologer's predictions became such a dominant issue for him, Regan writes, that he had to color code his calendar — green ink for "good" days, red ink for "bad" days and "yellow" ink for "iffy" days.

Regan said he was disclosing "probably the most closely guarded domestic secret of the Reagan White House" to correct news accounts at the time of his ouster that blamed the president's remoteness on inept management by his chief of staff.

But the White House accused Regan Sunday of attempting to "defame" Nancy Reagan as an act of revenge for her role in ousting him as the president's top lieutenant.

"Vindictiveness and revenge are

(See BOOK, page 4A)

Here are some excerpts from Regan's book

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Following are excerpts from Donald T. Regan's book, *For the Record: From Wall Street to Washington*.

Virtually every major move and decision the Reagans made during my time as White House chief of staff was cleared in advance with a woman in San Francisco who drew up horoscopes to make certain that the planets were in a favorable alignment for the enterprise.

Nancy Reagan seemed to have absolute faith in the clairvoyant powers of this woman, who had predicted that "something" bad was going to happen to the president shortly before he was wounded in an assassination attempt in 1981.

At one point, I kept a color-coded calendar on my desk (numerals highlighted in green ink for 'good' days, red for 'bad' days, yellow for 'iffy' days) as an aid to remembering when it was propitious to move the president of the United States from one place to another, or schedule him to speak in public, or commence negotiations with a foreign power.

A full month after the president's release from the hospital, his schedule was still a dead letter because Mrs. Reagan's 'friend' had not provided a list of auspicious days. The whole month appeared inauspicious for the president.

There was no choice but to humor the first lady in this matter. But the
(See EXCERPTS, page 4A)

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

Front Page Edit Page Other Page

MACON, GEORGIA
TELEGRAPH & NEWS

M - 68,924
S - 90,095

JUN 8 1988



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18 MAY 88

First Lady advised to read Oklahoma history

36
TULSA Okla. (AP) — First lady Nancy Reagan may want to take a lesson from Oklahoma history instead of from astrologers.

Former White House Chief of Staff Donald Regan's recent acidic memoirs of his tenure in the Ronald Reagan presidency have raised a furor, centered largely on Mrs. Reagan's use of an astrologer to help plan the president's schedule.

Regan's allegations of hocus-pocus in high places and an unelected woman dominating a chief executive have eerie echoes in Oklahoma's history.

In 1929, disenchanted Democrats and Republicans in the Oklahoma Legislature combined to impeach and remove the state's seventh governor, Henry Simpson Johnston, a Democrat.

Among the allegations against Johnston: astrology and domination by a woman.

"Apparently, just like this Reagan nonsense, Johnston would publicly admit he'd done certain things with

astrology," said Tulsa Junior College Oklahoma history researcher Danney Goble.

Other Oklahoma historians agree: the zodiac and Johnston's unpopular personal secretary, Mayme Hammonds, were a major part in his downfall.

"He ignored party leaders and legislators in favor of a strange coterie of private advisers," wrote historians H. Wayne Morgan and Anne Hodges Morgan.

"He procrastinated in making decisions and spent hours meditating over Rosicrucian philosophy or consulting with his private astrologer."

His private astrologer's name: James Armstrong, Ms. Hammond's uncle.

"On one occasion," the Morgans wrote, "he told a startled press conference he chose the specific hour to sign a bill because of favorable zodiac signs."

There are also parallels between Ms. Hammond's supposed domination of Johnston's affairs and allegations of Mrs. Reagan's power in the White House, as outlined by Regan and others.

"A lot of opposition centered on this Mayme Hammonds, who was essentially, and in fact, running the state," Goble said.

But, drawing from Johnston's story, President Reagan is safe in office as long as he doesn't endorse the wrong man to take his office.

Goble and other historians say it was the failure of Johnston's

political prognosticative powers, not astrology, that led to his downfall.

Johnston survived an earlier impeachment attempt before being removed from office March 20, 1929.



MAY 12 1989

OTHER OPINION AND COMMENT

How to manipulate the president



Mary McGrory

Donald T. Reagan has handed the Reagan administration its worst public relations crisis since Al-Shiraa spilled the beans about the scandal that cost him his job. But this one is worse. All we learned before was that Ronald Reagan was selling arms to the Ayatollah Khomeini. Don Regan is now telling us that the president of the United States is Nancy Reagan.

GOOD INSTINCTS

That shouldn't bother us too much. We are accustomed to strong first ladies, and Mrs. Reagan's instincts — for negotiation with Nicaragua, better relations with Russia and firing certain people like Regan — are infinitely sounder than her husband's.

The problem is that while she was running the country, she was being run by an astrologer.

To be fair, astrology may make as much sense as some of the deci-

sion-making processes that go on in Washington. The stars are certainly more reliable than some of the power-struck types who make such judgments as selling arms to Iran.

The president's reaction to Regan's unchivalrous assault has been personal and angry. And he can't go wrong in defending his wife against the perfidy of a cashiered aide. Still, it's something of a jolt to hear White House press spokesman Marlin Fitzwater defending astrology as a tool of statecraft and even suggesting that the first lady's recourse to it after the assassination attempt on her husband was somehow commendable wifely concern.

The White House is already regretting the reproach issued on the eve of publication of Donald Regan's attempt to "defame the first lady on Mother's Day, no less."

It was a wounding reminder that the Reagans have not been spared

by memoir-writing members of their own family: Patti Davis and Michael Reagan. It is the Reagans' sad fate to be treasured least by those who know them best. They have been trampled in the rush to print by people who have learned too well the precepts the president has been conveying since he took office: Get yours, and never take the blame.

The books by David Stockman, Alexander Haig, Larry Speakes and Michael Deaver are unanimous in the picture they present of the president. He is a good-tempered sort who doesn't know enough to get out of a burning room. He practically asks to be pushed around, manipulated and managed.

They all picture the chief executive as someone whom they rescued from blunders and excesses. Speakes, for instance, put words in his mouth about the Geneva summit — and the president didn't even notice. Stockman treacherously leaked his disdain for Reaganomics to the press, and then sneered in print at the compassionate boss who kept him on.

Regan dutifully compares Reagan to Franklin D. Roosevelt

as a president. But he pictures a kind of Dagwood Bumstead, an engaging simp who wouldn't hurt a fly, mainly because he wouldn't know how to go about it. What has been euphemistically described as Reagan's "management style" consists of doing what he is told.

In his first hour on the job, Regan told the president he could make no changes in the substance of the State of the Union speech that he was to deliver in two days' time and didn't like. Reagan meekly accepted, and didn't ask why.

MONEY AND SPITE

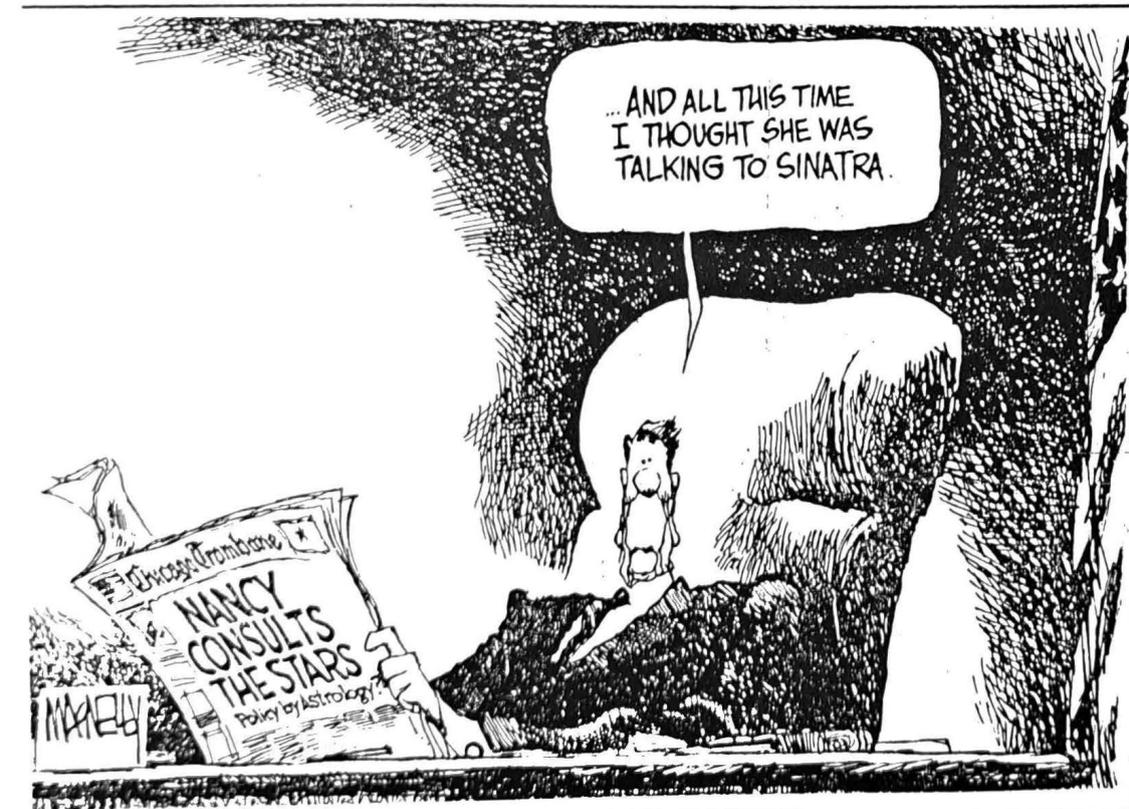
The others wrote for money. Regan has written for spite. Nancy Reagan got his job. Now he's going after hers. He was fired as the scapegoat in the Iran-contra affair. He cannot handle the fact his stewardship was described as "chaotic" by the Tower Commission.

The great contradiction is that he who boasted of his iron grip on White House personnel claims self-righteously that he was kept completely in the dark about doings in the National Security Council.

Says Ed Rollins, former White House political director, who was forced out by Regan, "He makes himself sound like a paper-pusher — he was a dictator."

History may be kinder to Reagan than his scribbling aides and children. It could hardly be harsher. As for Mrs. Reagan, she will survive the analogies to Lady Macbeth, which are, in any case, inaccurate. She spent more time trying to foil her husband's plans than to foster them. And more power to her.

Mary McGrory is a syndicated columnist.



...AND ALL THIS TIME
I THOUGHT SHE WAS
TALKING TO SINATRA.

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Regan's bitterness toward Reagans clouds validity of kiss-and-tell book

WASHINGTON — The words a skeptic wanted carved on churches — "Important If True" — should be stamped on the book in which Donald Regan says that the nation already has its 41st president and she was mean to him. The truthfulness of the book is hard to gauge but impossible to assume. In Regan, the vanity of the bully is now mixed with the bitterness of humiliation.

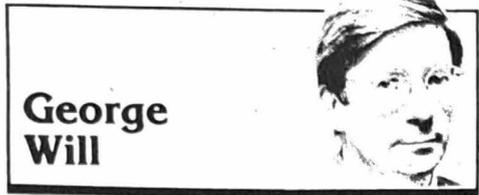
Furthermore, authors of kiss-and-tell books are dishonorable. A necessary condition of government is a climate of candor in inner councils — strong convictions bravely expressed. (Regan reportedly was as toadying around Reagan as he was overbearing around subordinates.) Candor becomes rarer as government becomes an incubator for memoirists who attend meetings with book contracts in mind.

CONFIDENTIALITY is central to government's ethic of collegiality. The violation of that ethic by David Stockman, Michael Deaver, Larry Speakes and now Regan may spring from a facet of conservatism.

Many conservatives despise government and, perhaps for that reason, disregard civilities suited to its functioning. People who despise government should not be entrusted with it. Important kinds of public spiritedness are foreign to them. You can identify them — too late — when they produce memoirs featuring personality conflicts and score-settling.

Regan's book, although basically an act of spite, contains material that is important — if true. Some is about astrology. Some is about Reagan's lassitude. The latter is the interesting aspect of Regan's assertion that Nancy Reagan is a continuing independent power in this administration.

Regan, who once announced that women do not want to trouble their pretty little heads with complex topics like throwweight, is true to form, complaining that Nancy Reagan has opinions "far out of her proper area of competence." His



competence evidently extends to defining such proprieties.

THE FIRST LADY'S most important reported interventions have concerned personnel, particularly in expediting the departures from the administration of Labor Secretary Ray Donovan, CIA Director William Casey and Regan. She was thinking (perhaps more coldly than some people find suitable in a woman) of the welfare of her husband's administration. And her political judgment was correct. Nothing more annoys Washington than a person who is prematurely right, meaning right in advance of the herd.

The reported resort to astrology in the White House has occasioned much merriment. It is not funny. Astrological gibberish, which means astrology generally, has no place in a newspaper, let alone government. Unlike comics, which are part of a newspaper's harmless pleasure and make no truth claims, astrology is a fraud. The idea that it gets a hearing in government is dismaying.

All Regan claims is that astrological considerations influenced only the timing, not the nature, of presidential actions. That is too much, but not much.

REGAN CLAIMS that his genius for running things was impeded by Nancy Reagan. But remember how he boasted of his comprehensive supervision of things. He boasted, that is, until the Tower commission agreed with his boast while disparaging his results.

Regan, whose presence in the White House was evidence of Reagan's fre-

quently frivolous approach to governance revealed in the power he enjoyed because of that frivolousness. But Regan adds little to the lore about Reagan's lassitude, such as that on pages 381-82 of Hedrick Smith's *The Power Game: How Washington Works*.

In 1985, in a radio interview by telephone from the ranch, President Reagan said something preposterous about South Africa: "They have eliminated the segregation that we once had in our own country." Smith quotes Deaver:

"You never let Ronald Reagan do an interview from his ranch. He's so much the product of his environment. ... He's probably dreaming about riding his horse. ... He's relaxed. ... He should be standing up. ... The way he thinks changes when he sits down. ... He's too relaxed when he's sitting. He's not careful. He's conversational, not presidential."

IF REAGAN is such a product of his environment, he should have taken the trouble to stock his environment with larger, better people than Deaver and Regan. Regan's book is suitable punishment for the unseriousness Reagan displayed when Regan, then treasury secretary, and James Baker, then chief of staff, decided to swap jobs.

Presented with the swap, Reagan was, according to Regan, "almost incurious." Reagan did not know Don Regan when he brought him to Washington in 1980. In a March 11, 1981, note to himself Regan wrote: "To this day I have never had so much as one minute alone with Ronald Reagan!"

When Regan left the Treasury Department, that still was true, so the president did not know Regan much better when the swap occurred.

Regan knows Regan now.

George Will is a nationally syndicated columnist.