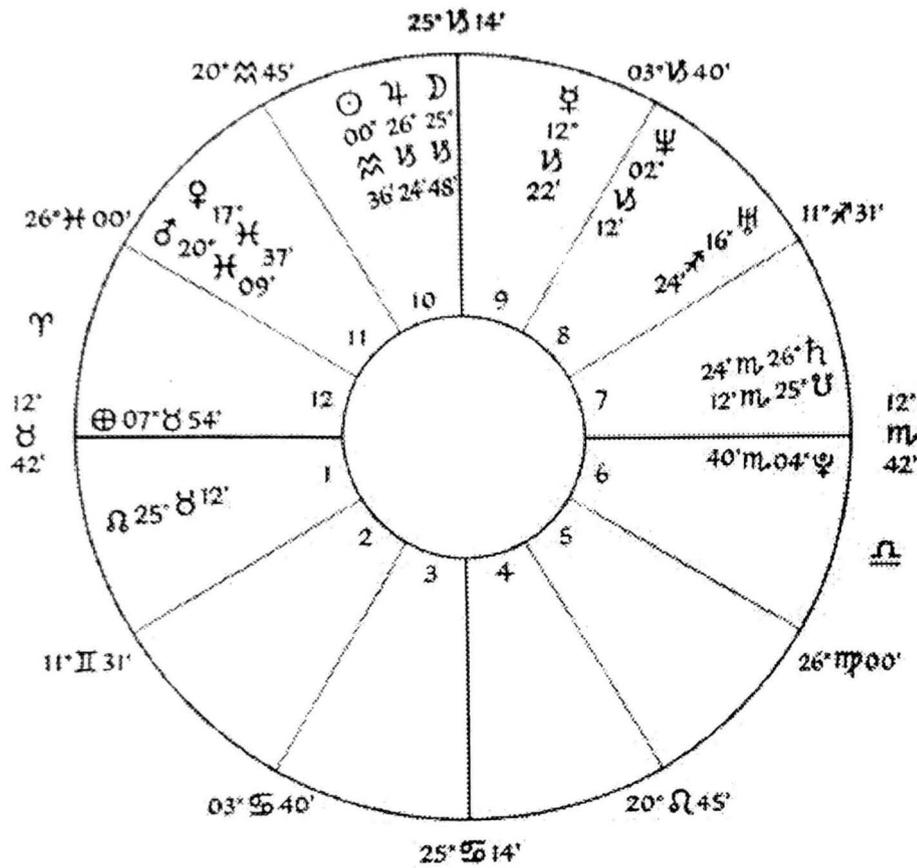


# Astrological Chart for Ronald Reagan's Oath of Office

January 20, 1985 - 11:56:50 AM - EST - Washington, DC



# Did Mrs. Reagan see an arms pact in her horoscope?

By JOHANNA NEUMAN  
and BOB MINZESHEIMER  
Gannett News Service

WASHINGTON — Ronald Reagan was sworn in as governor of California at 12:01 a.m. because of the alignment of the stars. He carries charms in his pocket, considers 33 his lucky number and often says Lincoln's ghost stalks the White House.

Those superstitions, held by the president of the United States, are widely known. But what was the talk of Washington Tuesday was the extent to which supernatural considerations have ruled the actions of Ronald and Nancy Reagan.

Triggering the talk was the leaked revelation by former Chief of Staff Donald Regan, from a kiss-and-tell book to be published May 16, that Nancy Reagan consulted astrologers to determine the timing of presidential speeches and announcements.

The time of the signing last Dec. 8 of the historic arms treaty between Reagan (an Aquarius) and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev (a Pisces) reportedly was dictated by Mrs. Reagan based on astrology.

"I absolutely know for a fact from people who work in Washington that that date was chosen astrologically as the time to launch a new era in our relationships with the Soviets," said astrologist Catherine Usha.

The White House reeled — mostly with jokes — at Tuesday's advance word on the book by Regan, an aide who was banished from the White House last year at the first lady's insistence.

"I knew they were out to lunch," said House Budget Chairman Bill Gray, D-Pa. "But I didn't know they were out to space."

House Speaker Jim Wright, D-Texas, said with a grin: "It's all right with me. I'm glad he consults somebody."

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater could only confirm the story, saying: "It's true that Mrs. Reagan has an interest in astrolo-



Associated Press

President Reagan says he has never based any policy or decision on astrological forecasts.

gy. She has for some time, particularly following the assassination attempt in March of 1981. She was very concerned for her husband's welfare, and astrology has been a part of her concern in terms of his activities."

Fitzwater said Nancy Reagan was interested in astrology long before arriving at the White House, but after the president was shot, she turned to Los Angeles astrologer Joyce Jillson for help avoiding such tragedies in future travel plans.

"I spent a lot of time at the White House after the assassination attempt," said Jillson, claiming to have consulted the stars and endorsed Vice President George Bush as Reagan's running mate and recommended the president hold news conferences when there was a full moon.

Asked about the influence of astrology on him, President Reagan said Tuesday he has never based any policy or decision on heavenly forecasts.

Fitzwater said as far as he knows, Reagan's interest in astrology is limited to reading his horoscope despite his frequent reference to lucky numbers and the ghost of Abraham Lincoln.

Reagan once said of his lucky number, 33: "It was my number on my jersey when I played football, I was the 33rd governor, and even when we were buying a ranch and I was on pins and needles as to whether we were going to get it," friends called to say escrow closed at 3:33 p.m.

More recently, friends who purchased a home for the Reagans at 666 St. Cloud in Bel Air, Calif., had to change the number to 668 St. Cloud when they learned that the superstitious consider 666 a mark of Satan.

"It just goes to shows that Mr. and Mrs. Reagan are human," said Rep. Jack Davis, R-Ill. "I bet you 95 percent of the people read horoscopes. Everyone likes to believe there's something to it. We all like to believe in magic."



**"I spent a lot of time at the White House after the assassination attempt," said Joyce Jillson, claiming to have consulted the stars and endorsed Vice President George Bush as Reagan's running mate and recommended the president hold news conferences when there was a full moon.**



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JUN- 9-88

# It must be magic: Black psychic claims to be advisor to president

By **GILBERT PRICE**  
Call and Post Political Editor

In spite of what you've read or heard, it is now clear that President Ronald Reagan is an equal opportunity employer. From Los Angeles, we have found that, in one of the most important positions of trust for the president, a Black man is officially in control.

Now, we are not talking about the National Security Council, although Reagan's appointment there of Gen. Collin Powell did make him the first Black to hold such a post. Nor are we talking about the civil rights chief in the Department of Justice, which is still being staffed by William Bradford Reynolds, a white and an aggressive foe of affirmative action.

No, we are talking about the important position of official Psychic Consultant for the president. This critical position, which ensures that all the stars, auras and other metaphysical forces have been lined up in presidential harmony, is currently being occupied by none other than Ernesto A. Montgomery, a British Jamaican Jewish psychic in Los Angeles.

"Although the White House denied the news report (of an astrologer consulting with the Reagans), the news item as reported is true, because I am the official Psychic Consultant for the president," said Montgomery, who is also the Chief Rabbi of the

Beta Israel Temple/Black Jewish Community of Los Angeles.

Montgomery says he is the official psychic advisor to a number of stars, including Madge Sinclair of the former hit series "Trapper John M.D."; given advice to Elizabeth Taylor and Sarah Purcell; and appeared as a psychic guest on the television program, "On Stage America."

His book, "Psychic Spy," also details a career in which he was an operative with British intelligence during World War II.

In his book about the Reagan Presidency, former chief of staff Donald Regan unleashed a blizzard of publicity when he said that the president's schedule was being directed by an astrologer in touch with Nancy Reagan. The astrologer, Joan Quigley, is a conservative San Francisco socialite who has been friends with the first lady for many years.

Montgomery said he was unfamiliar with Quigley. He had been the psychic consultant to the president since 1976, however, when Reagan saw him on a television program.

Montgomery said he has advised the president on a number of matters, including the Grenada invasion and a contemplated invasion of Iran. Montgomery advised against the Iran invasion.

"I think the president leaned toward my advice because of my background in British intelligence," Montgomery said.

The big disappointment in Montgomery's relationship with the president has been failure to champion the cause of civil rights, and his cuts in welfare expenditures, Montgomery said. He has also been displeased with the president's continued support for Attorney General Ed Meese, who has been the subject of several investigations into allegations of influence-peddling.

"Meese shouldn't be on at all, and I told the president he shouldn't be on," Montgomery said. "And I was told he would be out within the next three weeks."

Montgomery said he has come forward because of the recent presidential denials about the use of psychics, in the wake of the revelations in the Regan book.

"That (denial) did not sit well with me at all, knowing that for years before (the Reagans) left California they had been acquiring the services of gifted people," Montgomery said.

A call to the White House to confirm Montgomery's role was unsuccessful. No one in the president's office or the press secretary was available for official comment regarding the president's official psychic consultant.

"I don't even know that there is (an official psychic consultant)," one of the staff members in the president's press office said.

PINE BLUFF, ARK.

COMMERCIAL

F-21,320

S -22,590

MAY 6 1988

# Stargazing Peaks Interest About Presidential Strategies

By BARRY SCHWEID  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — "It's all right with me," said Jim Wright, the House Speaker and Texas Democrat. "I'm glad he consults somebody."

Tongue firmly in cheek, Wright was referring to President Reagan's newly divulged fascination with astrology, which history says Hitler and Julius Caesar also used in planning their strategy.

Since these three leaders had very diverse aims, it's impossible to make a judgment whether heeding the position of the planets is a good or bad influence.

For sure, though, nearly everyone wants to know how presidents make their decisions. Wives often are suspected of having undue influence. Or a chief of staff. Or poker-playing cronies. Or a "kitchen-Cabinet."

Suspecting wives of undue influence is not necessarily an expression of sexism. Since unlike vice presidents, they are not elected, the suspicion usually carries a suggestion of a "glitch" in the democratic process.

The same is true of chiefs of

staff and friends of presidents.

Sherman Adams is supposed to have done a lot more than keep administrative order in the White House for Dwight D. Eisenhower, although the revisionist view is that Ike really was running things.

Critics of Andrew Jackson, 160 years ago, questioned his practice of sitting around the kitchen stove with old friends and swapping ideas with them. The critics probably did not care much for this first common-man president anyhow.

Curiously, in the case of Jimmy Carter, the critics wished he consulted more with Washington wise men instead of old friends from Georgia. Toward the end, Carter turned more to people like Clark Clifford and Lloyd Cutler. So the critics found other things to complain about.

Vice presidents, on the other hand, generally are not considered all that useful to the man in the White House.

Two in recent history, John Nance Garner and Lyndon B. Johnson, were credited with getting their running mates elected.

Garner swung the Texas delegation behind Franklin D. Roosevelt,

while Johnson is credited with winning Texas, and the presidency, for John F. Kennedy.

Otherwise, presidents tend to look elsewhere for advice.

Like to the stars.

And that raises questions in an age that prizes reason and science.

Sixty-two years ago, when it turned out President Calvin Coolidge had a yen for astrology, Congress held a hearing.

Harry Houdini, the renowned escape artist, was called as a witness.

The results of the hearing are lost in history.

But Reagan's fascination with Coolidge is well-known. Reagan replaced Harry Truman's picture in the Cabinet Room with one of Coolidge, the former Boston police commissioner who made presidential inaction an art form.

What did astrology do for Reagan?

According to one unverified account, the treaty banning U.S. and Soviet intermediate-range nuclear missiles was signed exactly at 1:33 p.m. last Dec. 8 at the insistence of Mrs. Reagan, who evidently also fancies astrology.

\*1151 AP-Reagan-Astrology, 0441 Reagans Said Astrology Fans

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Syndicated stargazers say it was an open secret that President and Nancy Reagan consult their horoscopes, with their interest in astrology dating to the years when Reagan was governor of California.

The White House confirmed Tuesday that Nancy Reagan follows astrology and consults it for some of the president's activities, but the president said no policy or decision he has made has been influenced by the stars.

"I refer to it as the world's worst-kept secret that President Reagan relies on astrology. There's nothing new about it," said astrologer Sydney Omarr of Santa Monica, whose syndicated daily horoscope is distributed to more than 300 newspapers, including The Washington Post.

Omarr said he has never consulted with Reagan, but received congratulations via a phone call from former White House spokesman Larry Speakes when Omarr noted his 25 years with the Los Angeles Times syndicate.

"Franklin Roosevelt relied on astrology. Theodore Roosevelt did. George Washington's diary said he kept track of the position of the stars," Omarr said.

The confirmation of the Reagans' interest followed reports that Donald T. Regan, the former White House chief of staff, plans to reveal in a book that Mrs. Reagan turned to astrologers in shaping the president's schedule.

"It's an input that they receive. I don't like to use the word rely," said Joyce Jillson, an astrologer from the San Fernando Valley whose daily horoscope is distributed to more than 100 newspapers nationwide by Tribune Media Services.

Interviewed on CBS' "This Morning" show Wednesday, Ms. Jillson said she was not surprised at the sudden controversy over the Reagans' interest in astrology.

"This has been sort of in the offing for the last two weeks. .... I have been hearing rumblings about this through various channels," she said.

"I think they handled it beautifully. And frankly I think Donald Regan, who is a Sagittarius, tried to use this to get much more attention than it really got."

The Soviet Tass news agency had fun Wednesday with Reagan's reported faith in astrology, wondering in a dispatch what the stars are now telling the leader of the Western world.

"It is difficult to say what the May night sky, studded with stars, predicted to the president," Tass said, "But it hardly predicted that he would have to speak about the role of astrology in the politics of the U.S.A."

The recent disclosures in the United States that Reagan and his wife Nancy consult astrologers have opened them to taunts from Congress and criticism from scientists.

WHOR: Subject

THE WHITE HOUSE  
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

Call M E 003

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: DECEMBER 05, 1986

Dec 11

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MS. CONNIE ROMERO

SUBJECT: REQUESTS PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE TO MR. SYDNEY OMARR, SYNDICATED ASTROLOGY COLUMNIST, BEING HONORED AT A PARTY IN HIS HONOR ON DEC 11 86 IN LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Reproduced at the Ronald Reagan Library

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
MAUREEN KEEGAN	ORG	86/12/05		86/12/11
REFERRAL NOTE: _____				
REFERRAL NOTE: _____				
REFERRAL NOTE: _____				
REFERRAL NOTE: _____				
REFERRAL NOTE: _____				

COMMENTS: Harry speaks recommends no message for  
astrologer.

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:  INDIVIDUAL CODES: \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL USER CODES: (A)MESS861211 (B) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

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*ACTION CODES:          *DISPOSITION          *OUTGOING          *
*                       *                       *CORRESPONDENCE:  *
*A-APPROPRIATE ACTION  *A-ANSWERED          *TYPE RESP=INITIALS *
*C-COMMENT/RECOM       *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL *           OF SIGNER *
*D-DRAFT RESPONSE      *C-COMPLETED        *           CODE = A   *
*F-FURNISH FACT SHEET  *S-SUSPENDED        *COMPLETED = DATE OF *
*I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC*                       *           OUTGOING *
*R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY *                       *                       *
*S-FOR-SIGNATURE       *                       *                       *
*X-INTERIM REPLY       *                       *                       *
*****

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REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE (ROOM 75, OEOB) EXT-2590  
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS MANAGEMENT.

Linda/Maureen -

Larry Speakes

(per Charley  
Shepherd.) will

go along w/decision  
not to do, but says  
that the lady who  
made the request  
should be phoned.

KCS suggests  
just say "may want be  
forthcoming" without  
getting into any  
explanation.

Tx -

DM



DRAFT/Date 12/8/86 SPECIAL DEADLINE ASAP  
[printing, e.g.]  
RV LBK / DATE OF EVENT 12/11/86  
[drafter] [Rev.] (Straight Wire/Telegram)  
(Special Delivery/Express Mail)

INSIDE ADDRESS: Mr. Sydney Omarr  
"Astrological Forecast" Column  
Los Angeles Times Syndicate  
Los Angeles, CA

cc: Lori Kelly  
room 93 EOB

SEND TO: Ms. JoAnn Miller  
JoAnn Miller and Associates  
342 Rodeo Drive  
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

I am delighted to send warm congratulations ~~to you~~ as you celebrate 25 years of service as a columnist for the Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

Your many friends and colleagues agree that yours is a career marked by dedication and achievement. By promoting a greater understanding and appreciation of astrology, you ~~further the cause of science and~~ inspire all stargazers to new levels ~~of insight, discovery, and exploration. You can take great pride in your work.~~

You have my best wishes for a memorable evening and for every future success.



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON



*Dec 11  
assign to*

December 3, 1986

*4/12/87*

MEMORANDUM FOR LINDA WATSON  
Room 18 EOB

FROM: Connie Romero *Connie Romero*

*- Nothing in of m  
Sydney Omarr*

Larry Speakes requests that a letter from the President be sent to:

Mr. Sydney Omarr  
"Astrological Forecast" Column  
Los Angeles Times Syndicate  
Los Angeles, California

Mr. Omarr has written the astrology column several days a week for 25 years for the Los Angeles Times syndicate, and it appears in 300 newspapers. He will be honored at a party in his honor on December 11, at which time this message would be read.

The letter should be sent to:

Ms. JoAnn Miller  
JoAnn Miller and Associates  
342 Rodeo Drive  
Beverly Hills, California 90210

Thank you, Linda. Please call me on x2100 if you have any questions.



W/H Form Subject

ID# 561742

THE WHITE HOUSE  
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

*Col* **FG006-01**  
Box 28

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: MAY 10, 1988

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MRS. JEANE DIXON

SUBJECT: SENDS SENATOR BAKER A COPY OF AN EDITORIAL  
SHE SUBMITTED TO THE NEW YORK TIMES REGARDING  
ASTROLOGY

Reproduced at the Ronald Reagan Library

| ROUTE TO:<br>OFFICE/AGENCY | (STAFF NAME)                       | ACTION      |                  | DISPOSITION  |                           |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------|------------------|--------------|---------------------------|
|                            |                                    | ACT<br>CODE | DATE<br>YY/MM/DD | TYPE<br>RESP | C COMPLETED<br>D YY/MM/DD |
| HOWARD BAKER               |                                    | ORG         | 88/05/10         |              | C 88/06/07                |
|                            | REFERRAL NOTE: <i>HB answered.</i> |             |                  |              |                           |
|                            | REFERRAL NOTE:                     |             |                  |              |                           |
|                            | REFERRAL NOTE:                     |             |                  |              |                           |
|                            | REFERRAL NOTE:                     |             |                  |              |                           |
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COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES:

CS MAIL USER CODES: (A) (B) (C)

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| *ACTION CODES:           | *DISPOSITION         | *OUTGOING            | * |
| *                        | *                    | *CORRESPONDENCE:     | * |
| *A-APPROPRIATE ACTION    | *A-ANSWERED          | *TYPE RESP=INITIALS  | * |
| *C-COMMENT/RECOM         | *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL | * OF SIGNER          | * |
| *D-DRAFT RESPONSE        | *C-COMPLETED         | * CODE = A           | * |
| *F-FURNISH FACT SHEET    | *S-SUSPENDED         | *COMPLETED = DATE OF | * |
| *I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC* |                      | * OUTGOING           | * |
| *R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY * |                      |                      | * |
| *S-FOR-SIGNATURE *       |                      |                      | * |
| *X-INTERIM REPLY *       |                      |                      | * |
- \*\*\*\*\*

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LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS  
MANAGEMENT.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 6, 1988

Dear Jeane:

I thought your piece was excellent, and I am derelict in not having written you before now to say so. Both the President and Mrs. Reagan appreciate it as well.

Sincerely,

Howard H. Baker, Jr.  
Chief of Staff to the President

Mrs. James L. Dixon  
1312 19th Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036

HHB: nsw

Honorable Sir,  
The N. Y. Times asked  
me to do an Editorial.  
Sincerely hope you  
approve of this article.  
I would shoot a few  
people if I were you  
for talking.

Strongly Beautiful  
Sincerely  
Jews

May 10-1958.



Mr. Don Regan, like the Emperor Napoleon at Waterloo, has just had a head on collision with astrology. The great Corsican during his mighty rise habitually consulted an experienced astrologer on the timing of his conquests. But as most of the world fell before him, he no longer felt the need for such counsel and made his own decisions, thereby losing an army in the snows of Russia, botching his comeback from Elba, and perishing in exile on a far island.

Mr. Regan could have avoided his own Waterloo --- dismissal from a post of great power, if he had included an expert of the stars among the yes-men with whom he notoriously surrounded himself. A productive astrologer would have been more valuable to him than a dozen Special Assistants.

Since the first leaks about Mr. Regan's memoirs, there has been a rush to denunciation, not of his lack of honorable discretion, but of astrology itself. Every night on television, scientists vie with one another in declaring such study to be empty superstition, while certain religious leaders excoreate it as unscriptural and unholy.

The form of astrology which prevailed in the ancient world is pagan, indeed, according the sun, moon, and stars the power and glory that are God's alone. Hence, the Lord of Israel sternly forbade his people from worshiping the heavens as did their neighbors.



Of course this debased doctrine persists in our own world, often used as an excuse --- not as enlightenment. Its practitioners reject their free will ascribing instead their good deeds and ills, their success or failures, to the occult influence of stars and planets; a doctrine equally absurd and irresponsible. It is this farrago that scientists and religious leaders are right to condemn just as they should, but generally do not, condemn the evasion of personal responsibility through doctrines of genetic or environmental determinancy, or the colossal cop-outs that infest so much contemporary psychology and social science. Stones thrown from glass houses sometimes ricochet.

Indeed, the repudiation of responsibility seems endemic in modern life, but authentic astrology --- like authentic genetics or psychology --- is an antidote, rather than a reflection, for that phenomenon: a true understanding of astrological theories reinforces our sense of self-control, helping us too perceive our God-given strengths and weaknesses.

Astrology cannot make anyone president, but it can caution that an aspirant's timing is off, (as Senator Robert Kennedy's horoscope did in 1967-1968, when it was obvious that the moment of great glory in history for him would not come before 1976.) Had he listened to me he would have collected his "call to glory" and would have gone down in history as one of our great presidents. The turmoil in the middle east would have been avoided also as so many other trouble spots around the world. There's the rub! When we pursue goals in our own time, rather than God's, nothing coheres.

One of my most treasured mementoes is a lucky gold piece given me by Winston Churchill shortly after the end of World War II. It reminds me how wisely Sir Winston used astrology during Britain's worst days, when the Nazis had conquered almost all Europe. Knowing that Hitler sought astrological advice for his own military plans, Prime Minister Winston Churchill asked astrologers to tell him what their German counterparts were likely to be telling the Fuhrer, and from this could make his own triumph command decisions.

But enough of famous names. What about the rest of us? Let us be guided by this parallel: before the invention of modern navigational devices, skilled mariners "read" the sky, keeping to their course by following certain stars, and alert to the warnings of wind, cloud and tide. And thus we should use the stars today: not to tell us our goals but to alert us to the shortcomings within ourselves that may interfere with our proper progress. That I submit, is a positive trait in any leader, including a president of the United States.

Let me remind those who are scandalized that someone in high office might read a horoscope, of three astrologers of old, the three "wise men" who indeed, knew better than to glorify the lights of heaven: but they also knew that they should follow one such new-born star to find, as the ancient confession of faith puts it, "Light from Light". --- And thus brought the word that saved the life of the infant Jesus. They reached out, beyond the limits of their beliefs of their own time, to seek truth wherever, or in whomever, it might be found. To be "wise today", we must do the same.



I hope that this puts a different spin on the trivialized and sensationalized chatter that the First Family "consults astrologers". For three decades in public life the Reagans have been gracious masters of the old-fashioned art of listening to others while making up their own minds. Perhaps that is what some of this fallen staff did not understand. But they, and all of us, should be glad to know that the current occupant of the Oval office is sufficiently sure of himself and of his country's direction that he can, with good humor and an open mind, enjoy insight or foresight wherever they might be found. The Magi would have understood, and Mary and Joseph too.

- END -





DETROIT, MI

DETROIT NEWS

633,708 - S 826,111

MAY-10-88

# Astrologer Omarr praises Reagans

By Diane Hofsess 148  
News Staff Writer

"Thank God for us Americans" that Nancy Reagan consulted an astrologer before her husband, the president of the United States, made major decisions, nationally known astrologer Sydney Omarr said Monday.

"Only the ignorant" would laugh at the first lady's awareness of astrology, said Omarr, whose horoscopes appear daily in more than 300 newspapers, including The Detroit News.

The revelation that Nancy Reagan consults astrologer Joan Quigley came from Donald Regan in his book, *For the Record: From Wall Street to Washington*. Nancy Reagan led the campaign last year to force Regan out of his job as White House chief of staff.

**OMARR SAID** he was unsure of exactly how Mrs. Reagan used her astrologer.

"Don Regan only told one side," Omarr said by telephone from his home in Santa Monica, Calif. "He doesn't sound like she was obsessed

Omarr says he personally cranks



Sydney Omarr

out his horoscopes columns on an electric typewriter at his home, assisted only by a secretary.

"It's not a gift, it's a study," he says of his ability to write horoscopes. "It's knowledge that comes from studying the position of the moon in relation to zodiacal signs."

He said he writes six weeks in ad-

vance for the Los Angeles Times Syndicate, which distributes his columns. His horoscope books, he said, are written two years in advance.

**OMARR CHARACTERIZED** himself as a disciplined writer who sits down in front of his typewriter each day at 1 p.m. and works until 7. "Like all other writing, you develop work habits," he says. "You don't wait for inspiration, you welcome perspiration. Only amateurs wait for inspiration."

A Leo, Omarr was born Aug. 5, 1926, in Philadelphia. He has two older sisters; his father was a grocer; his mother a housewife.

As a child, Omarr dabbled in magic and performed some public shows. He brags that he published his first astrology article at age 15, when he was a student at West Philadelphia High School.

"People began to write to me," he said, "and send me money to solve their problems."

His fame as an astrologer blossomed during World War II, when he conducted a popular radio astrology program for servicemen. They sent questions to him in Okinawa and he answered them over the radio on a program aired throughout the South Pacific.

**BEFORE BECOMING** a syndicated astrologer, Omarr wrote radio news for various stations and worked as a news director for WPA radio in Pottsdam, Pa.

Detroit astrologer Cleo describes Omarr as a typical Leo and one of the nation's foremost writers of general astrology. He emerged during the 1940s, she says, when "there weren't a whole lot of people doing that."

Among the famous who have consulted Omarr are Angie Dickinson, Doc Severinsen, Hank Greenberg, Aldous Huxley and Henry Miller.

"There are a lot of other people I could mention," he said, "but I don't know if they would approve."



## For the Astrologers, And They Knew It

But When the Reagans Look  
To the Stars, the View  
May Seem Rather Bleaker

By KATHLEEN A. HUGHES  
Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

We were going to print this story yesterday, but our astrologer—we can't say who she is—advised against it.

She said the moment wasn't propitious, then muttered something about waiting till there is "an angular moon in our lunar return."

That's "an excellent time for publicity," agrees Henry Weingarten, the director of New York Astrology Center. He has been on radio and television all week, along with practically every other living, breathing astrologer in America. It really is a shame the famous old astrologer and Reagan friend Carroll Righter died last week and missed all this.

You know why this pseudoscience or alternative religion or whatever it is is suddenly such a rage. It's because of that Reagan book about the Reagans and where they (at least she) get their advice (at least some of it). They get it from the stars, not movie stars, but stars. A friend of Nancy Reagan's in San Francisco supposedly interprets the galaxy for her and tells her when the president should go where he goes and do what he does. Mrs. Reagan takes that advice, evidently without a grain of salt.

### Influential Adviser

As everybody also knows, the president takes his wife's advice on various matters, not just about when to fly to Santa Barbara but also about when to fire guys like Donald Regan, who then sign book contracts with Harcourt Brace Jovanovich.

Since the former White House chief of staff published his memoirs Monday in Time magazine and in hard cover, astrologers have been exceedingly difficult to tune out, turn off or disregard.

Sydney Omarr, a syndicated astrologer who appears in 300 papers, says, "I was interviewed by Dan Rather yesterday and Tom Brokaw today. Japanese television sent a crew." Mr. Omarr says he just made some forecasts about the upcoming Moscow summit at the request of U.S. News and World Report.

### Presidential Precedent?

Mr. Omarr has some other news for us: Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger have been "gung-ho" (a Chinese expression) on astrology, too. "I don't want to reveal my source at this time," he adds. "My background is journalism. It's unimpeachable. I know this for a fact."

Whether his sources are as unimpeachable as Mr. Nixon himself, we do not know and cannot say. Associates of Messrs. Nixon and Kissinger say they are unaware of any interest the two might have in the stars. And our own astrologer is no help at all. But we do have a sneaking feeling that astrology is here to stay, at least for a few days until everyone is so sick of it that the journalistic pack, book buyers and couch potatoes move on to the next sensation. For the moment, however, it really does behoove those of us who know nothing of astrology to root around a bit in the subject, particularly since conversation is inevitably (so our astrologer says) going to turn to planets and sun signs. Readers in California obviously have a head start in this.

The roots of Nancy Reagan's search for certitude go way back. Astronomers say it all began when ancient man felt confused and looked heavenward. Western astrology began more than 4,000 years ago in Babylon with a culture that linked a wide range of superstitions with the movements of the planets.

"It arose from a magical perspective on

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Eastern Edition

THURSDAY, MAY 12, 1988

WHITE OAK, MARYLAND

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# THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Continued →



## It's a Good Week For the Astrologers, And They Knew It

\* \* \*

But When the Reagans Look  
To the Stars, the View  
May Seem Rather Bleaker

By KATHLEEN A. HUGHES  
Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

We were going to print this story yesterday, but our astrologer—we can't say who she is—advised against it.

She said the moment wasn't propitious, then muttered something about waiting till there is "an angular moon in our lunar return."

That's "an excellent time for publicity," agrees Henry Weingarten, the director of New York Astrology Center. He has been on radio and television all week, along with practically every other living, breathing astrologer in America. It really is a shame the famous old astrologer and Reagan friend Carroll Righter died last week and missed all this.

You know why this pseudoscience or alternative religion or whatever it is is suddenly such a rage. It's because of that Reagan book about the Reagans and where they (at least she) get their advice (at least some of it). They get it from the stars, not movie stars, but stars. A friend of Nancy Reagan's in San Francisco supposedly interprets the galaxy for her and tells her when the president should go where he goes and do what he does. Mrs. Reagan takes that advice, evidently without a grain of salt.

### Influential Adviser

As everybody also knows, the president takes his wife's advice on various matters, not just about when to fly to Santa Barbara but also about when to fire guys like Donald Regan, who then sign book contracts with Harcourt Brace Jovanovich.

Since the former White House chief of staff published his memoirs Monday in Time magazine and in hard cover, astrologers have been exceedingly difficult to tune out, turn off or disregard.

Sydney Omarr, a syndicated astrologer who appears in 300 papers, says, "I was interviewed by Dan Rather yesterday and Tom Brokaw today. Japanese television sent a crew." Mr. Omarr says he just made some forecasts about the upcoming Moscow summit at the request of U.S. News and World Report.

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# THE WALL STREET JOURNAL



U.S. NEWS

# The twilight zone in Washington

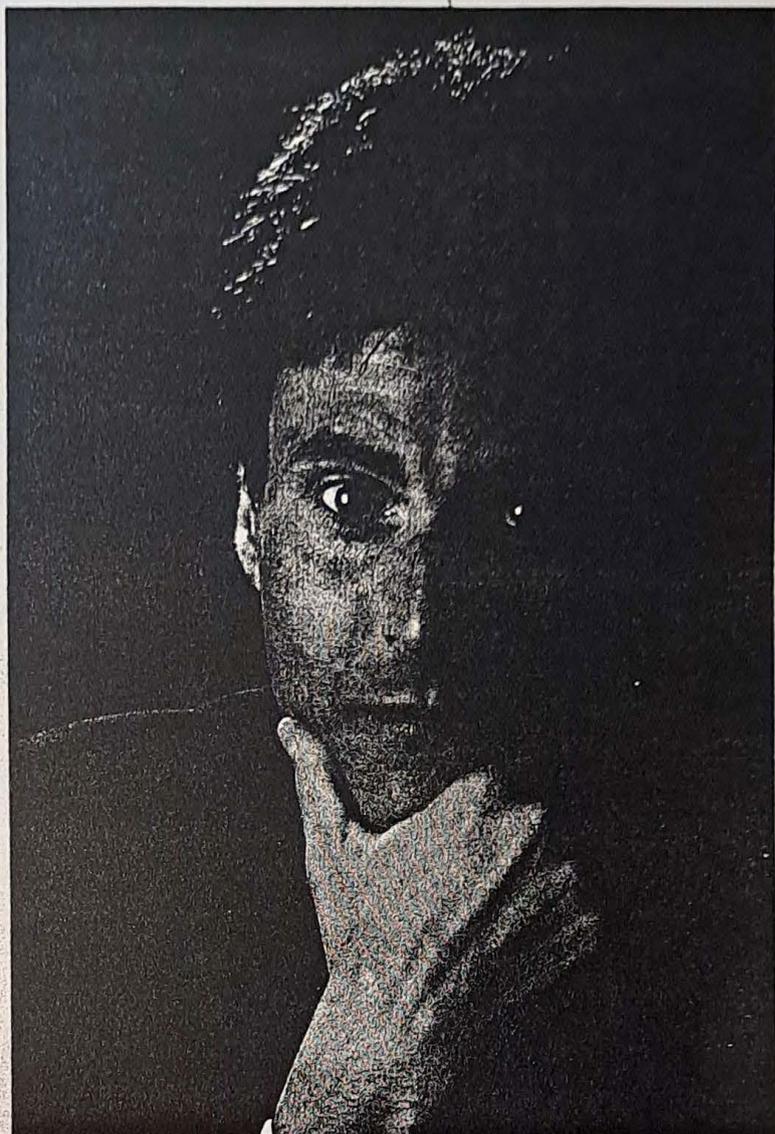
There are some important people in government who have enlisted psychics' help

It turns out that Nancy Reagan has plenty of good company. Last May, she was the butt of jokes around the world after it was revealed that she routinely consulted with a San Francisco astrologer about presidential-scheduling decisions. Former White House Chief of Staff Donald Regan, who made the revelations, derided the scheduling as a "long-established floating séance." Despite such digs and skepticism from mainstream scientists, there is extensive interest in psychic phenomena (called psi) in Washington. "At any given time, about one fourth of the members of Congress are actively interested in psi, be that healing, prophecy, remote viewing or physical manifestation of psychic powers [such as bending spoons or erasing computer tapes]," according to Representative Charlie Rose (D-N.C.). He is an eight-term veteran who founded the Congressional Clearinghouse on the Future, a forum that has given some psychics a platform in the capital.

**"Sharpening intuitive powers."** Most legislators and aides interested in psychic phenomena will not go public for fear of being ridiculed. Another fear among politicians is that they would be condemned by fundamentalists as being in league with the devil. But sources say that the capital's many psi aficionados satisfy their curiosity in the Eerie Zone by privately consulting with seers and discussing the subject with like-minded colleagues.

For instance, Speaker of the House Jim Wright (D-Tex.) and his wife Betty have attended classes and lectures that teach techniques of prophecy. According to one congressional source, "Jim thinks he has a great future, and he is interested in sharpening his intuitive powers to anticipate and shape the future." Anne Gehman, a Fairfax, Va., psychic who says she evaluated him, claims Wright has strong psychic gifts that he has developed in recent years. Wright's office denies he had extensive contacts with Gehman, insisting he only saw her lecture in Georgetown once or twice several years ago.

There has also been a long-running interest in some military and intelligence circles with psychic research. But advo-



**URI GELLER.** Age: 42.  
**Job:** Lecturer, inventor, consultant who uses psychic skills to explore for minerals and oil.  
**On skeptics:** "I don't care what those schmucks think. I'm a millionaire."  
**Hobby:** Bending spoons for the likes of Senator Claiborne Pell, left.  
**Best claimed feat:** Found gold in Amazon for Japanese firm.

cates of such research fear that government aid for future studies might be jeopardized following release of an Army-funded National Academy of Sciences study last December that found no laboratory evidence that psi was real or that research in psi merited Army funding. The committee, established by the NAS's research arm, the National Research Council, looked at the best-documented

psychic phenomena, including remote viewing (RV) and psychokinesis (moving objects with mind power), as part of a wide-ranging study. The panel found that the laboratory studies of psi were plagued by sloppy methodology and inadequate security against fraud. Psychic proponents denounced the panel as biased and dominated by skeptics.

Whatever the outcome of that debate,

there is clear evidence, according to knowledgeable sources, that psychics have played important roles in some key government circles:

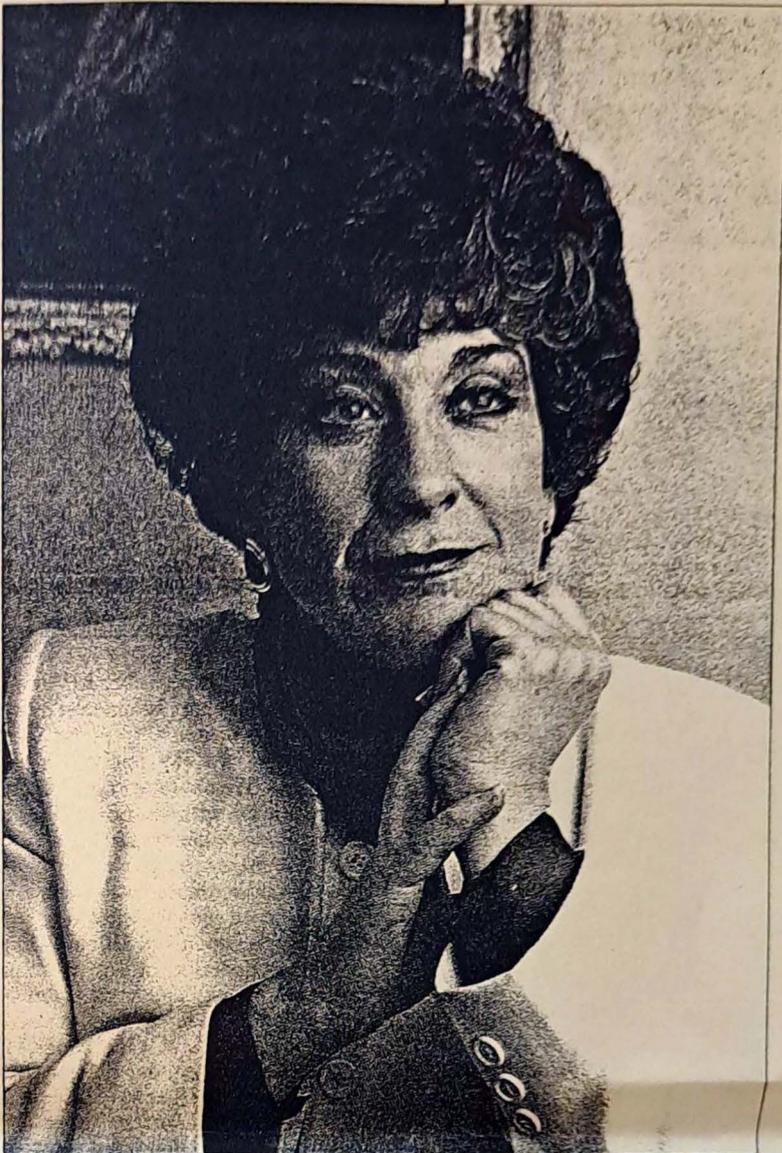
■ The Pentagon continues to fund small-scale classified psychic research at SRI International, formerly Stanford Research Institute, a think tank in Menlo Park, Calif., while the Central Intelligence Agency and the Pentagon monitor Soviet work in this area.

■ The U.S. military and CIA have occasionally used psychics to spy on Soviet weaponry and Gen. Manuel Noriega and to find terrorists and hostages in Iran and other countries.

■ The Federal Bureau of Investigation has hosted lectures to police officers by psychic Noreen Renier at its Quantico, Va., training center. She impressed her listeners by predicting in January, 1981, that there would be an assassination attempt on President Reagan in the spring, which indeed took place. FBI agents subsequently recommended her to local police departments, according to court documents and law-enforcement sources. FBI spokeswoman Kathy Bradford says, "The FBI doesn't use psychics to solve cases." But, she adds, "if they [local departments] want a psychic, we'll help anybody who needs help."

**Communicating with the dead.** In addition to seeking help in this world, some legislators, congressional aides and government officials have sought spiritual guidance. Senator Claiborne Pell (D-R.I.), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, is the most vocal advocate of psychic research on Capitol Hill. He has had an interest in the supernatural since his college days, when he considered becoming a minister. His bookcase in his private Capitol office is a testament to his fascination, with shelves crammed with such books as *The Astral Body*, which examines "out-of-body experiences," and the works of Shirley MacLaine. Pell notes that as he has gotten older he has become increasingly absorbed by the question of life after death. At times, he has sought to communicate with dead relatives. "I've been to mediums," he says, "but nothing has happened." He adds, with regret, "I don't have these [psychic] powers."

Nevertheless, from his readings and talks with researchers, Pell believes that there are genuine psychics. "Psychic claims are important, and they shouldn't be ridiculed or spoofed at," Pell says. "They should be studied." His office has been urging the National Science Foundation, the Defense Department and other government agencies to fund far more psychic research. He also asked for the skeptical NAS study to be withdrawn because of its alleged bias. But his efforts have met with little success.



**ANNE GEHMAN.** Age: In 40s.  
**Job:** Psychic, lecturer and teacher.  
**On her skills:** "You can communicate with the unseen world."  
**Listeners:** House Speaker Jim Wright, left, has attended her lectures.  
**Best claimed feat:** Prediction that Reagan would become President, which she said in a newspaper interview in the mid-1960s.

Pell's interest in psi is so strong that he has had a full-time aide, former naval intelligence officer C. B. Scott Jones, whose primary responsibility for 3½ years has been to monitor and encourage "consciousness" research, including studies of psychic phenomena. Indeed, Pell says, Jones "screens" psychics for him. In his off hours, Jones helped arrange at least one session in which efforts

were made to contact dead Soviet leaders. According to some accounts by psychic activists, the aim was to encourage these ghostly dictators to bombard the minds of living Soviet leaders with thoughts of peace. Jones will not discuss details. He will only say, "It was a very private experiment. We closed it down. We felt it was unnecessary." He adds, "This has nothing to do with the senator





Soviet healer Dzhuna Davitashvili showing "contactless massage" technique

IS THE EVIL EMPIRE UP TO NO GOOD?

## The Communists' psychic edge

The New Age movement has been taken over by Communists: There is a growing public fascination in the Soviet Union and China with psychic phenomena. In Moscow, a famed healer, Dzhuna Davitashvili, is mobbed by admirers at a demonstration and studied in prestigious labs. In Mongolia, a psychic master lectures before 35,000 people in a football stadium. The difference on that side of the iron curtain is that prominent researchers, institutions and public officials have taken psychics seriously. Both nations spend much more lavishly than the \$500,000 the U.S. puts into private and government psychic research. The CIA reportedly estimated in 1985 that the Soviets spent between \$70 million and \$350 million on psychic research.

It is not clear what the Communist giants are studying. But there is no question, as a 1976 CIA-funded review pointed out, "The Soviets assume the reality of thought transference." Soviet parapsychologists who have emigrated have contended that Soviet researchers funded by the KGB have studied evil applications of paranormal phenomena, such as trying to stop a frog's heart through mind-power or telepathically inducing sensations of suffocation and pain in a man over a span of 500 miles. "Why transmit all this nega-

tivity?" asks Larissa Vilenskaya of Monterey, Calif., a former psychic researcher in Moscow. Most Soviet officials and some American researchers say Soviet interest is far more benign. And it has become more visible and accepted under the *glasnost* of Mikhail Gorbachev.

"I have been convinced." In China, too, political reforms have led to a revival of government research in the occult, spurred in part by treatments some older leaders have reportedly received from healers. By April, 1986, for instance, Zhang Zhenhuan, the minister in charge of defense-related science and technology, was elected chairman of the China Qigong Scientific Research Association, the body that studies long-distance healing arts. Psi's most prominent advocate is the country's leading rocket expert, Qian Xueseng. "I have been convinced," he says.

Still, the psychic fad has been criticized by some younger scientists. Lin Zixin, editor in chief of *Science and Technology Daily*, worries that interest in the paranormal could harm China's progress, by promoting a passive hope for miracles and scientific illiteracy. Funny, capitalist scientists have made the same complaint. ■

by Art Levine with Esther Fein  
in Moscow and Dusko Doder in Beijing

that is being visited by SRI researchers. His descriptions are then compared with the actual site. Over the years, there have also been several published reports about the U.S. using SRI's psychics to spy on such things as a Soviet nuclear facility. However, last December, the National Academy of Sciences panel found the case for remote viewing to be "virtually nonexistent."

Yet true believers as well as desperate pragmatists in government have turned to psychics in emergencies posed by counterterrorism and espionage, according to government officials and psychic researchers. Some highlights:

- The families of American hostages in Lebanon have employed psychics to provide information, and some of these visions occasionally have drifted into weekly reports filed with President Reagan by the National Security Council about the hostages' whereabouts, sources say.

- In 1980, government officials asked a psychic hired by SRI to describe the health of hostages held in the Tehran embassy. The psychic, according to some accounts, was accurate regarding Richard Queen, a multiple-sclerosis victim Iran eventually released in July, 1980. But one former White House official familiar with the incident recalls: "I was unimpressed," because the psychic's description of Queen's condition was vague.

- Psychics were extensively used in the planning of a projected Iranian rescue operation following the debacle of Desert One in April, 1980, as well as in late 1983 during an operation to track down those responsible for the deaths of the 241 U.S. servicemen killed by a suicide bomber in Lebanon. But the missions were never carried out, and the psychics' reports could not be confirmed.

- In the early 1980s, sources say, the Army's Intelligence and Security Command (INSCOM), under the direction of psychic believer Gen. Albert Stubblebine arranged for psychics to describe the interior of the home of General Noriega, who was then suspected of drug trafficking and other crimes. The U.S. counterintelligence operatives in Panama who were given the psychics' top-secret two-page report never corroborated it because they were spotted by Noriega's guards before entering his home.

The future of such official use of psychics is cloudy, though it is likely that there will always be those who will turn to psychics in emergencies when other recourses have failed. It is even more certain that government leaders in Washington, like many citizens in other parts of the country, will continue to be drawn to the mystery of psi. ■

by Art Levine and Charles Fenyvesi  
with Steven Emerson



# White House astrology nothing new

By Robert Engelman  
Scripps Howard  
WASHINGTON

## Wilson consulted famous psychic

President and Mrs. Reagan are no different than millions of Americans — and a few former occupants of the White House — in their interest in astrology and such things as lucky numbers.

President Woodrow Wilson consulted famous psychic Edgar Cayce before signing the Versailles Treaty that ended World War I, and first lady

Mary Todd Lincoln conducted seances in the White House after the death of a son.

A 1985 survey of 2,005 Americans by Northern Illinois University found that one in 12 make decisions about their daily lives based on whether the "astrological signs for the day are favorable or unfavorable." Nearly 40 percent believed astrology is "very" or "sort of" scientific.

An even greater proportion — 43 percent — said they believe, as President Reagan does, that "some numbers are especially lucky for some people." Reagan's lucky number, he has said, is 33.

Many, if not most, daily newspapers in the United States carry horoscopes. Newspaper editors have debated whether this practice promotes a  
(See Not new, Page 2)

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## Not new...

(From Page One)

pseudoscience, but the horoscopes are popular and are unlikely to disappear.

At the headquarters of the American Federation of Astrologers in Tempe, Ariz., publicity director Judy Miarka said she welcomed the news the Reagans are interested in astrology. "We are thrilled," she said.

Robert Cooper, executive secretary of the 4,000-member organization, said he has been aware for years of rumors the Reagans had some involvement with astrologers. He couldn't learn the details, he said, because of "confidentiality between clients and astrologers."

Widespread public interest in and acceptance of astrology, however, makes scientists seethe.

"There's just no scientific basis" for believing the positions of stars and planets at certain times can influence human events, said Peter Boyce, executive officer of the American Astronomical Society. "The predictions of astronomy are no better than chance. You might just as well flip a coin."

Miarka of the astrologers' federation protested that "you can't put astrology under the microscope," but suggests celestial bodies could affect electromagnetism on Earth.

