

points of view

# Astrology: a political sign of the times

LARRY SPEAKES has spoken. Donald Regan's new book is a sign of the political times, astrologically speaking.

The latest round of White House "kiss and tell" books that have hit the best seller list are no surprise. The days of privacy in politics were over years ago, after bugs were discovered at the Watergate. Former 1988 Democratic presidential hopeful Gary Hart can attest to that.

Everything's fair game and everyone's out to make a buck. And sometimes the truth hurts, however colored by sour grapes it might be. We get that sinking feeling

when we hear our presidential policy may be influenced by a West Coast astrologer. And that the words coming out of our leader's mouth are put together by a staff of budding speech writers.

It's frightening to consider that the leader of a world superpower might simply be playing a role, directed by those more interested in their own agendas.

WE ARE surprised by nothing anymore, including the content of these books. There's no doubt they should be written, but it's a tragedy what they are uncovering. It's a



Casey Hans

shame we've come to this. Bits and pieces about a variety of Reagan administration blunders, including the Iran-Contra affair, have become public over the past few years. We are now finding out about

the personal, and sometimes racy, lives of the murdered Kennedy brothers.

Why shouldn't these tiny pieces be the tip of the iceberg? And what will we discover next?

The most interesting reaction to the books comes from those who are red-faced alongside the president. Members of the White House press corps were more embarrassed than angry when they discovered Speakes and his staff had "made up quotes" that were attributed to President Reagan. It made them look a little glib. Just what do they think the ultimate public relations machine

does? It's common practice in the PR industry for staffers to take information, fit it into a corporate mold, pass it by their executives, then pass it off as the "official" word. Why would the White House "spokesman" be any different?

WE CAN all be embarrassed by what is revealed in Regan's recently published book, "For the Record." Excerpts, published recently in Time magazine, paint a picture of a mild-mannered president who doesn't get involved in his administration because he doesn't want to

hurt feelings. White House officials answer more often to the First Lady than to the president, Regan said.

And not only does the First Lady use her astrological interests for personal matters — where the practice is very appropriate — but was allowed to bring them into the presidential scheduling arena, Regan said. Shame on an administration that would go along with this status quo, allowing the country to be guided by this sort of nonsense. Shame on all of us for not seeing through it.

Well, now they have our attention. Bring on the next book . . .

## Help beat tobacco lobby

AFTER YEARS of standing alone, state Sen. Jack Faxon must be feeling pretty good today.

Persistence really does count for something. And we should all be thankful that the Farmington Hills Democrat stuck to his guns.

For as many years as Fve known Faxon, he's been crusading against smoking. For just as many years, he has met with derisive cat-calls and looks of bewilderment from colleagues and constituents alike.

After all, the tobacco industry had a constituency the numbers of which outpaced even the National Rifle Association. Not too many years ago, just about everybody smoked.

Television, newspaper and magazine advertisements were check full of celebrities, even Ronald Reagan, touting the virtues of lighting up. And year after year, Faxon's attempts at getting legislation passed to ban smoking in public places would get trounced. Admittedly, Faxon's shenanigans didn't always help his cause. Although incredibly smart, he is known more for his idiosyncratic behavior, long-winded speeches and eccentric sense of humor.

But now the worm has turned. Smoking is under siege. Ads have been banned from television. Few celebrities lend their names to endorse the products and millions have dropped the habit.

And millions are calling for the action to rid public places of a disgusting and unhealthy addiction.



Steve Barnaby

Your support could make the legislation even stronger than now written. Some recent legislation has passed. Some essential bills need yet more support to reach the governor's desk.

One of Johnny-come-latelies who are scrambling to jump on the anti-smoking bandwagon.

And finally this week U.S. Surgeon General Everett Koop has given official sanction to the idea that cigarettes are just another drug — addictive and life-destroying.

Thanks Surgeon General Koop. We needed that. Now maybe we can get serious about this move to restrict smoking even more. Faxon's state Senate colleagues

are doing their part in seeing we reach that goal. Your support could make the legislation even stronger than now written.

Some recent legislation has passed. Some essential bills need yet more support to reach the governor's desk.

Senate legislation passed and now headed for the house would:

- Increase the maximum penalty for selling tobacco to a minor from a \$50 fine and/or a 30-day jail sentence to a \$1,000 fine and/or 90 days in jail.

- Require shopping malls to offer non-smoking sections in common eating areas.

- Ban smoking in hospitals, doctors' offices, clinical laboratories and other health-care facilities.

- Require outdoor signs advertising smokeless tobacco to carry a warning about the health danger of chewing tobacco and snuff.

Thanks largely to Faxon, we already have some laws restricting smoking. One prohibits lighting up in all public buildings, education facilities, meeting rooms, auditoriums and theaters, except where expressly allowed.

A bill was defeated that would have prohibited smoking in schools both by faculty and students. Another attempt will be made to pass that legislation.

But the politicians in the state Legislature need your encouragement. They will be lobbied heavily by the tobacco industry. And not all of them are as determined or persistent as Jack Faxon.

## Courts: lay off free press

HERE'S ONE kind of case: Coming home from work one December afternoon, I witnessed a two-car collision at Five Mile and Newburgh roads. Two young people in one car were injured.

I had an excellent view of the collision because, if my car hadn't stalled, it would have been a three-car pileup with maybe a third person injured.

I gave my card to the Livonia police officer and one to the drivers. Later I was subpoenaed to testify in Wayne Circuit Court in a lawsuit.

In such a case, I was glad to do my civic duty despite my occupation as a newsman. I had the best view of anybody of the collision.

HERE'S ANOTHER kind of case: A woman who apparently was tired of being beaten up by her husband did him in and was arrested.

Kathleen Stocking, reporter for the Traverse City Record-Eagle, asked the jail authorities and the widow's court-appointed defense attorney for permission to interview her in jail. Permission granted.

The widow had been sitting in jail for a week or so without a soul to talk to, not even her lawyer. The inmate poured out her soul to the woman with a notebook who visited her.

It produced a big feature for the Sunday paper, which was duly read by the prosecutor. Hm-m-m-m, reasoned the prosecutor, if this woman spilled her guts, maybe there is a confession quoted in the reporter's notes. So the prosecutor subpoenaed



Tim Richard

Stocking's notes.

The Record-Eagle's lawyers fight but lose. Stocking, though neither a witness nor participant, must turn over her notes.

Bad law, say we of the media.

THOSE CASES are from the 1970s, so let's take a current one. Reporters for the Detroit Free Press and News Interview Alberta Easter and her three sons, all defendants in the shooting deaths of three Inkster police officers.

The Wayne County prosecutor subpoenas them, although they were neither witnesses nor participants. Dirty pool.

Judge Richard Hathaway orders Freep reporter Joe Swickard, one of those subpoenaed to testify, to leave the courtroom during the testimony of other witnesses. But Swickard is covering the trial for his paper. Where does a judge get off throwing a reporter out of a circuit courtroom? Double dirty pool.

Hathaway won't even listen to the Freep's lawyer and has him ejected from the courtroom. Triple dirty pool.

YOU MAY HAVE read the dailies' accounts of the last-mentioned case, but the Freep editors weren't firm enough in explaining their position.

The issue is a global one. In many communist and "third world" nations, the press is considered an arm of government, like the army or the health inspectors.

In Western free-enterprise democracies, the press is independent. We are tools neither of the government nor the defense. A person in trouble should be able to talk through us to you, the reader, without fear that we will turn into government agents after the fact.

Judge Hathaway — along with quite a few prosecutors, lawyers and cops — subscribes either knowingly or ignorantly, to the socialist notion that news people are an arm of the government.

It's a notion that should be alien to freedom-loving Americans.

WHEN POLICE arrest someone, they give him his "Miranda" warning, which includes the words: "Anything you say may be used against you."

What's next? Should reporters give news sources a Miranda warning?

And after that? Will you have to be careful what you say around your spouse or kids because they might be considered tools of the prosecution, too?

ROLEX

See Michigan's largest in-stock selection of Rolex watches. Prices begin at \$790.

**GREENSTONE'S**  
CREATORS OF FINE JEWELRY

528 N. Woodward, Birmingham, 4 blocks north of Maple 642-2650  
Monday-Saturday 9:30 to 5:30

THE SOUTHFIELD **Star** SERIES

A great evening with Chuck Mangione at the Southfield Civic Center. Order tickets now!

**CHUCK MANGIONE**  
MAY 21 - 8 p.m.

This jazz performer's fourth album, "Save Tonight For Me," was completed last year. He has performed on "Good Morning America," "The Tonight Show" and many others. Billboard and Rolling Stone magazines voted him Artist of the Year.

**ORDER NOW!** Tickets: \$14 and \$10

Southfield Pavilion  
Southfield Civic Center  
26000 Evergreen Road  
(313) 354-4717

**HERALD WHOLESALE**  
EVERYTHING FOR YOUR HOME

3 of 10,000 Refreshingly Different Items AT HERALD WHOLESALE

20830 Coakette Hwy  
Just north of 8 Mile Rd.  
(313) 398-4560

Almet • Arrow • Bakkin •  
Hager • Head • Jello •  
Kwikset • Lawrence •  
Norman • Dorina Door  
Crown • Schlage • Kwik •  
Moore • Paul Associates •  
Tosani • Torges • Grohe •  
Kohler • Volk • Columbia •  
Bakwin Bath • DeMa • Aquo  
Glass • Serrano Amatic •  
Bassins • The Broadway

Jewelry • Bathroom  
Jewelry • Dorelle •  
Bormis • PD • Bormis •  
Serrano • Rexco • Auburn  
Bass • F.R. Monarch •  
Savory • Brian • Marone •  
Norman Casey • Franklin Brass •  
Colonial Bronze • Pennington •  
Koch & Lowy • Bares & Bates •  
Duke • Knox • Luma •  
Thylich • Jaccuzi

HOURS: 9-5:30 OR CALL FOR A SPECIAL APPOINTMENT ANYTIME MON-FRI. 9-3 SAT.

**Celebrate The Arts**

EXHIBITS • DEMONSTRATIONS  
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

MAY 19 - MAY 29  
Sponsored by Hagopian World of Rugs

**ART & DESIGN**  
The Detroit Institute of Arts  
*Woven from the Soul, Spun from the Heart*  
A Photographic & Video Preview  
16th-19th Century Textile Exhibition June 19 at DIA  
Exhibition Catalog & Posters on sale

**CENTER FOR CREATIVE STUDIES**  
Demonstrations of new A/V Computer Loom  
Weaving Techniques by CCS students

**GALLERY OF MICHIGAN ARTISTS**  
20% of all sales to benefit DIA

**WORLD ADVENTURE TRAVEL SERIES**  
A visit to World Art Capitals via video

**PERFORMING ARTS**  
Friday, May 20 - 11:30-2:00  
SUZUKI STUDENTS (Violin-Fiddle-Flute)

Saturday, May 21 - 12:30-2:00  
JERRY JACOBY & KIDS  
A fun-filled musical - "Celebrating Life"

Sunday, May 22 - 2:00-4:00  
KEIKO McNAMARA - Piano Stylist

Sunday, May 29 - 2:00-4:00  
ALEXANDER ZONJIC JAZZ QUARTET

Monday, May 30 - 2:00-4:00  
NEW MCKINNEY COTTON PICKERS

**SOMERSET MALL**  
Big Beaver Road at Coakette, Troy  
Sunday 12-5 / Monday, Thursday, Friday 10-9  
Other Days 10-6