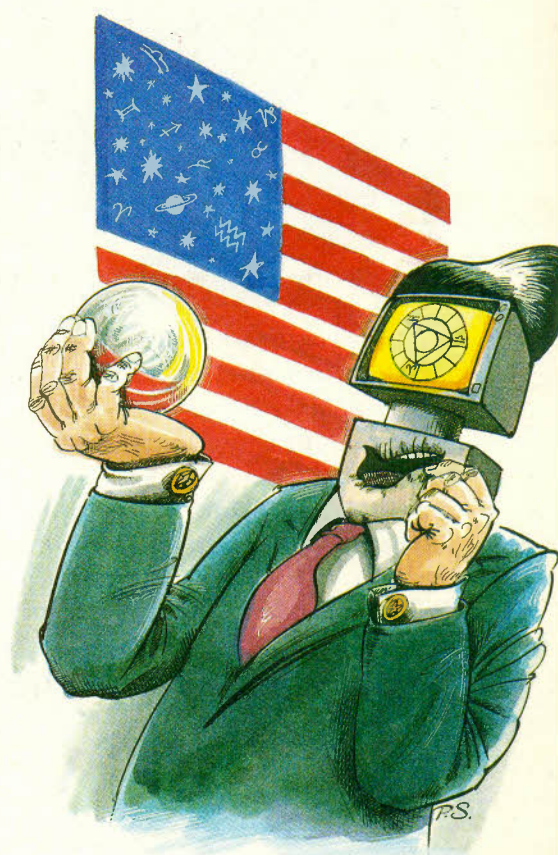


# What to do Ron Ron?

Ronald Reagan has been secretly programmed by a computer for the past eight years. It plots the President's astrological chart—and his every move. He consulted it before major events like the signing of the INF treaty . . .



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Pinochet's  
here to stay

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# Reagan's secret computer

Only a few of the Digicomp Research Corporation's unique model DR70 computers were ever assembled and sold. Even to this day, few people have the skills to comprehend or interpret the complex calligraphy with which the DR70 answers enquiries to its central electronic processor. Yet one DR70 has, throughout the 1980s, controlled key decisions that President Ronald Reagan has taken, or—more often—avoided taking.

One of the first DR70s ever installed was quickly and secretly harnessed first to the purposes of Reagan's 1980 election campaign, and then to the scheduling of the president himself. It is unobtrusively sited at 714 Duncan Street, two blocks off picturesque Castro Street, in the heart of gay San Francisco. It is an incongruous location for America's least known but most politically potent electronic brain.

The Digicomp DR70 is no IBM supermega-computer, plotting the interplay of nuclear strategy with global socio-economic forces. It sits on the living room desk of 39-year-old Nicky Michaels, who only found out six months ago that her computer had been playing a major role in running her nation's destiny. Although the DR70 is a ten-year-old design, it takes up less space than a contemporary Amstrad word processor. But feed in just a date, and a place, and the DR70 will tell you the future.

Here's the sting. Nicky Michaels is an astrologer. The DR70 microcomputer's unique output is planet and star charts, for the drawing of horoscopes. The president of the United States believes in clairvoyance. For the last eight years, Reagan has been governing America, signing treaties, holding press conferences, and only daring to go out in public when his personal soothsayer in San Francisco said it was safe to do so.

The soothsayer, an elegant Republican socialite called Joan Quigley, is another astrologer and a friend of Nicky Michaels. Michaels' computer projects the zodiacal charts for Quigley to use in her forecasts.

But Quigley is only the latest in a semi-secret line of personal astrologers that Reagan has used for at least 40 years. Her own role in the running of America was exposed this spring, when disgruntled former White House Chief of Staff Donald Regan published his memoirs. Regan's most riveting revelation was that the tool of "determining what the most powerful man in the world is going to do and when he is going to do it [had] been given to an unknown woman in San Francisco who believed that the zodiac controls events and human behaviour".

I tracked Nicky Michaels down in San Francisco.

She agreed to give me an exclusive interview about astrology, the computer and the President. Donald Regan, I learned, had missed out many important details from his autobiography, *On the Record*. He did not identify Quigley, save as Nancy Reagan's mysterious "friend" in San Francisco. He pretended that the White House obsession with astrology derived only from Nancy, whom he portrayed as a dominating and hectoring woman, interminably interfering in his relationship with the president. Regan also claimed to the US press that he never found out the "friend's" name. Nor did he seem to know about Nicky Michaels or her special astro-computer.

Nicky Michaels had bought her DR70 computer and started doing charts for Quigley just as Reagan began running for president. Month after month, she ran his charts on the DR70. She had known immediately that Donald Regan's suggestion that astrology was merely Nancy's obsession was disinformation. "This all goes back to Ron," she told me last month. All the horoscopes?—"Yes. It wasn't Nancy, it was Ron. Nancy was just the intermediary".

Like so many other non-secrets of the rich and famous, the evidence of the Reagans' obsession with astrology has always been there for those with eyes to see. While governor of

California (1967-1975), he consulted her (see my influence in 1980).

The public row about Reagan's astrological interests blew up in April, when Regan's memoirs were published. Yet none of it was news to the American people. Three months before Reagan was elected president they were warned clearly and loudly by a group of leading scientists that they might be putting into the White House a man who believed firmly in the "superstition" of astrology.

The Federation of American Scientists, were quite clear about the public dangers of a president dabbling in the occult. In a statement signed by six Nobel laureates, the Federation warned that they were "gravely disturbed" to learn that "the Republican Party candidate, Ronald Reagan, believes in astrology and in fortune telling".

"No person," the scientists said, "whose decisions are based, even in part, on such evident fantasies can be trusted to make the many serious—and even life-and-death-decisions required of American presidents." They invited Reagan to "dispel the notion that your presidential decision making would be biased by these superstitions". Candidate Reagan wrote back to promise that "I can honestly tell you [astrology charts] have never played a part in decisions I have to make nor will they".

But Reagan was lying on both counts. Relying on star charts and horoscopes had been part of Reagan's world for more than 30 years. When Reagan was inaugurated as State Governor of California, he opted to be sworn in at precisely a few minutes after midnight. "That's a bit bizarre isn't it", said Nicky Michaels. The timing had, of course, she explained, been determined by astrological predictions of a favourable conjunction of the planets for Reagan's future governorship.

Linking major political events to planetary motions was a pattern Reagan was to repeat again and again while in office. Every day of the last few years, the president's decisions and movements have been co-ordinated with the disposition of the planets. Coloured inks decorated the presidential appointments' calendar, green for "good", red for "bad" and yellow if the uncertain planets made the day "iffy". By 1985, wrote Regan, "virtually every major move and decision the Reagans made . . . was cleared in advance with [Quigley]".

The best-known astrologically controlled event of the decade was the signing of the INF treaty last December in Washington. The treaty was signed at exactly 1.33 pm. Nicky Michaels had switched on her DR70 microcomputer and checked the printout for that event, date and time. During the summit, Jupiter and Venus were particularly well-placed, she discovered. That and other features offered a "propensity

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California, Reagan regularly consulted a Hollywood socialite, Carroll Righter. America's *People* magazine has revealed that Nancy, disguised in a bandana and sunglasses, would sneak in semi-incognito to Righter's opulent Hollywood Hills mansion to collect the forecasts. Righter was neither the first nor the last of Reagan's astrologers.

Besides Righter, Reagan consulted a flamboyant California clairvoyant, Jeane Dixon, who told him in 1968 that the White House was not yet for him; he was first destined for the California governorship (Reagan publicly admitted this

**D**uncan Campbell has found the secret computer that's been programming President Reagan. His search ended, not in the bowels of the Pentagon nor a remote nuclear bunker—but in the heart of gay San Francisco



Jillian Edelstein

**Nicky Michaels: the astrologer whose computer charted Ronald Reagan's future**

for fulfilment between partners at a great distance and with a lot at stake," she advised me. "The chart has certain particulars of planets which represent a positive rather than a negative outcome" for the signing.

Jupiter and Venus are, Michaels explained, respectively the Greater and Lesser Benefics of astrological forecasting. And when the president went to meet Gorbachev in Moscow, it would appear that the motions of zodiacal Benefics (Mercury and Venus were, unhappily "in retrograde motion") were at least as significant to his assessment of Gorbachev's behaviour and

character as the humble, earth-bound predictions of the CIA.

President Reagan still believes in horoscopes. If you're not ready to believe that astrological superstition still rules in the White House, try calling them (on Washington 0101 202 456 1414) and asking for the President's birth time. To a nation groomed to adulate every slight detail of an all-too-often worshipped leader, such a request might seem as commonplace an inquiry as those from schoolkids asking for signed photos.

But not if you're into astrology. To reveal the

exact time of the President's birth would enable others to calculate his astrological birth chart, and—to the uninitiated—enable computation of the most intimate particulars of his strengths and weaknesses. "The birth chart is always the primary frame of reference," says Nicky Michaels, and it can't be done properly without the birth time. So the key to the Reagan birth chart is indeed a US state secret, guarded as closely as the codewords for access to nuclear planning. The White House press staff said last week that "that information is just not available". ●

*Additional research by Nigel Townson*