

## HOROSCOPE

BY SOUP  
CAN SAM  
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PSYCHIC

Pisces (Feb. 20-March 20): No sense waiting on that personality bailout. It's not coming. You've got you, and only you, to navigate the jittery personal situations you've neglected to flush down the toilet years ago. It's not a grim outlook, however, but one that will take a steely resolve, tough decisions, and hope. And change. Can't have hope without change. And vice versa.

Aries (March 21-April 19): Our class, our basic needs, and now our minds are under attack, and ain't it always by those who "know best?" But who are these people? Don't let them use the power trip to nullify what you know best. It's your mind and your city. We are the government, and we're a class act in the finer sense of the word.

Taurus (April 20-May 21): It's not who you kiss, it's when. It's not why you kiss, it's where. It's not what you kissed, it's what you were contemplating before and after said kiss ... aw, screw it. What ever happened to the celebration of love in this town? Lead the revival of free love, hippy style, 'cause few people lie about what they did in the '60s — they just honestly don't remember it being such a big deal.

Gemini (May 22-June 22): It's not what you look like, it's who you look like, and there's nothing better than you, right now. So when you leave a mark, an impression, make sure everyone in your wake says, "Man, that was so you."

Cancer (June 23-July 23): Are you E-verified? Or have you ever been E-verified? I have. Nice melody surfing in on a wave of crap. If it weren't for the beaches, we would be swamped in this kind of prejudicial, political nonsense. Be the beach, crash the wave. It's up to you to hold back the tide of swill, and you're perfect for the task.

Leo (July 24-Aug. 23): We cheated and we lied and we tested. And we never failed to fail. It was the easiest thing to do. You will survive being tested. Find your Southern cross this month.

Virgo (Aug. 24-Sept. 23): Catch the wind.

Libra (Sept. 24-Oct. 23): Finding out that you are the hollow person you knew all along. Lost inside your head. Soup Can too. Battle through.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 22): Hard to breathe, think, speak, feel. Got something on your chest that's been needing to come out for a long, long time? It's best to be honest with yourself and those around you. The feeling's not going away. Hold your ground. Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 22): All cornered in? Boxed out? Unfit for another battle? Try finding that touch of grey and realize that not all things vulgar are rude, and not all things with a pretty red bow are worth what they seem.

Capricorn (Dec. 23-Jan. 19): Try finding the end between. Dance in the rain. Release yourself. Purge. Ignorance is bliss sometimes.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 19): Let go.

## Bad times for Bonzo: Reagan revisited

BY R.V. MURPHY  
REAL CHANGE NEWS

**The Man Who Sold the World: Ronald Reagan and the Betrayal of Main Street America** by William Kleinknecht, Nation Books, 2009, Hardcover, 317 pages, \$26.95

Feb. 6 would have been Ronald Reagan's 98th birthday, so this may be the ideal time to write a book about him. Or at least review one.

The nation's 40th president died five years ago and last served in the White House more than 20 years ago, but historians look back at 2008 as the real end of the Reagan era. According to William Kleinknecht in his book, "The Man Who Sold the World: Ronald Reagan and the Betrayal of Main Street America," it's a time in history that hasn't arrived soon enough.

If Barack Obama's acceptance speech at the Democratic Convention in Denver last August wasn't a death knell — "Our government should have worked for us, not against us. It should help us, not hurt us" — then the recent banking and stock market crises (blamed in part on government deregulation) were, pounding the last nails in the coffin known as Reaganism.

But Kleinknecht, a reporter for the Newark Star Ledger, points out that it was a different time in 1980. Reagan, who had been in the public eye since the 1940s and on the political canvas since the '60s, rode to the White House on the mantra of too much government regulation and the tyranny of welfare queens (read: black people).

However, Kleinknecht notes that Reagan's true legacy "was the dismantling of an eight-decade period of reform in which working people were given an unprecedented sway over our politics, our economy and our culture." It was a legacy that would include the near collapse of the economy, widening income inequality, increasing CEO salaries, 138 indictments in his administration (the most of any president), the end of locally owned media, the failed war on drugs, and an ever-increasing prison population, largely made up of blacks and other minorities.

Kleinknecht says this book is borne of annoyance: annoyance about the appeal of Reagan, an obvious enemy of the common man, an appeal that doesn't carry over to urban areas and disenfranchised youth living in the inner city. But Reagan was still being voted the "greatest living American" in Esquire magazine in 2003. When CBS planned to show a 2003 movie that portrayed Ron and Nancy in an unflattering light, there was such an outcry by Republicans that the network palmed the

movie off to Showtime, on cable.

"Much about Reagan's personality and even the vicissitudes of his politics can be explained by his father's alcoholism," says Kleinknecht. "As an 11 year-old, Ronald once found his father passed out in the snow on the front porch and had to drag him inside." Ron Reagan was a popular athlete who appeared in school plays but didn't have any close friends. Wearing the hat of amateur sociologist, Kleinknecht speculates that sons of alcoholics sometimes don't form close friendships but will just go along with the crowd.

This might also explain why Reagan easily switched from being a New Deal liberal Democrat to a conservative Republican. Like a chameleon, Reagan adjusted to his new environment, hobnobbing with the rich right-wingers who sponsored his GE Electric television show.

Reagan was more than eager to please when these rich Republicans got him to run for governor of California and later president. Reagan may not have been a good enough actor to win an Academy Award, but he was good enough to sell the right-wing message. "The Reagan Revolution has rested on a fallacy — that somewhere in the American past shimmers a halcyon era when the masses lived happily and private enterprise flourished without the dead hand of government," Kleinknecht proclaims. "The millionaire backers knew that his presidency was just a money grab by the upper class, but Reagan was a true believer. His idea that America's greatness would be restored only if freed from the shackles of government unleashed one of the greatest philosophical misadventures of modern history."

It does appear that there may have been some last-minute editing on the book. Chapters on commerce and the economy, probably not the most exciting of topics, comprise the center of the book, with crime and civil liberties at the end. Also surprising is that there's no discussion of Reagan's saber-rattling foreign policy, which has plenty of room for criticism, even though it is often brought up in positive light by his defenders.

Overall, "The Man Who Sold The World" seems both historical and topical, as the last vestiges of the Reagan Revolution seem to daily fall by the wayside.

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