

Astrology Game Reaching New Heights

By JACK FITZGERALD

Before the Super Bowl football game an astrologer, name of Jonathan Booth, sniffed some snuff, took a look at the positions of Jupiter, Mars and Pluto (but obviously not Las Vegas) and flatly predicted in print that the Pinesets would kick the Aquarius out of the Baltimore Colts.

I said to myself, "Never has a situation so beautifully presented itself to bring such a star gazer down to earth, and I clipped the article, and prepared it for mail (with some snide remarks) supremely confident that the Colts of Baltimore would do the rest.

Well, well. Remember the score: Jets 16 - Colts 7.

But don't go thinking that the astrologers are always right.

Newsweek magazine reports that Zoltan Mason who conducts astrology classes as well as advises clients at \$20 per hour, predicted two years ago that Jacqueline Kennedy would never remarry.

And just before last month's moon orbit, reports Newsweek, the Federation of British Astrologers predicted that "the possibility of personality changes among the astronauts during orbit is very high."

Obviously nothing of the sort happened.

But that doesn't mean that the ancient cult of astrology is not gaining adherents at a rapid pace in this space age.

Newsweek points out that

they are 10 million Americans who believe in astrology and another 40 million who halfheartedly indulge in the subject.

Showing the diversity of astrology adherents, the magazine says that people in a range from stockbrokers, to show business people, to even a psychiatrist in Atlanta look at the stars for guidance for themselves and their clients.

Predictably, the nation's newspapers got on the bandwagon. Of the 1,750 daily newspapers in the United

States, 1,200 carry daily horoscopes, according to Newsweek's figures. Dell Publishing puts out 30 horoscope magazines annually and in 1968 sold 8 million copies of its pocketbook-size editions.

Of the 5,000 astrologers gleaming a neat profit as professional star-gazers, Zolar is one of the more candid. He describes himself as a "salesman."

Zolar, 70, switched from more mundane sales pursuits to astrology because, he told

reporters, "with my business training, I thought I could become the biggest man in the field." He now has a line of 50 items including dream books and Zolaroscopes and has sold more than 100 million horoscopes.

There are many viewpoints as to the popularity of astrology including a yearning to escape the dreary chaos of the everyday world and to seek an approach to God through the cosmos.

A London psychiatrist has a similar explanation. John

Kolmar says: "When the concrete, day-to-day life becomes harder, people turn to the occult. Once a horoscope has been cast, the 'inner world' is settled for a while. Astrology takes the load off people. They're sharing their fate with an outside force."

But to return to the prognosticator who correctly called the New York Jets' gridiron victory. Perhaps he had only to study one star. The one called Namath.

The Colts of Baltimore should have done the same.

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Committee Urges Public Voice in Choice of Bishop

Albany — (NC) — The 40-member Committee on Episcopal Succession (CES) composed of clergy and laity has reiterated its recommendation that Catholics in the Albany diocese be consulted widely concerning a successor to the late Bishop William A. Scully of Albany.

The CES originally made recommendations along similar lines last October. Bishop Scully died Jan. 5. Bishop Edward J. Magin has been apostolic administrator since January 1968, after Bishop Scully was taken ill while attending the Second Vatican Council.

In October and at the present time, the diocese has taken the position that selections and appointments of bishops are reserved to the Holy See, and has recommended that any suggestions for changes in the procedure be channelled through the National Council of Catholic Bishops.

The CES has suggested the diocesan priests' senate should be instructed to ascertain recommendations concerning a new bishop from laity, priests and Religious in the diocese; submit a list of candidates to the Holy See; and recommended that a new bishop's term of office be limited possibly to five years.

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