

# Horoscopes secure element in people's daily routines

BY ZEINA MAKKY  
THE GAMECOCK

They may take up only a minimum amount of space in the papers or magazines, but they are sometimes the first thing people look up.

Those who religiously consult it cannot start the day without it. Not only can you find it in the press, but also on the Internet, on the radio, on phone numbers advertised on TV and in bookstores where dozens of books are dedicated to it.

Vedic (Indian) astrology and Chinese astrology are two forms of horoscopes.

Horoscopes are everywhere. Almost every single magazine or paper has a horoscope section, even The Gamecock. Students can check

out any search engine and type in "horoscope" or "astrology" and there will probably find over a hundred and fifty sites. There are thousands of books available about horoscopes on the Amazon.com website.

With such an overwhelming presence of horoscopes, who can honestly admit they never ever checked those precious lines revealing their daily or weekly oracle? A lot of us do, even if we don't believe in them.

"I don't believe in them, but I read them. I find them interesting on occasion," Abby Garcia said.

Some students wake up expecting their horoscope for the day.

"I read them every single day from the magazine," Hinda Moutawakil said.

Sophie Carter, a student from Washington D.C., said she had her horoscope sent to her daily by email, but only checked them after the day had passed.

"Sometimes it works [what was predicted actually happens], sometimes it doesn't, but I believe in them," she said.

"I don't believe in them. I don't think I've ever had an accurate one," said Job Richards.

With so many sources of horoscopes available, it may be hard to see which ones are reliable.

Several sites for the Sagittarius sign have conflicting predictions. For example, the horoscope from the Washington Post Online said for Monday: "Look behind the scenes for answers. Involvement with Scorpio proves

mysterious, stimulating." The NY Post Online's horoscope for Monday said: "You will put yourself out for someone today, do something above and beyond the call of duty, and get no thanks at all."

The horoscope dates aren't consistent. For those born on a boundary date like May 21st, some horoscope sections or books say you are Taurus, but others say you are Gemini.

Another interesting fact, broadcast on a French news magazine show, was that, according to the stars, there are actually 13 signs and not 12, and that their periods are not regular, with the shortest one being Scorpio, which lasts approximately 2 weeks.

So, with all those defects, it would be rather unwise to rely too much on the oracles sent

from the stars.

Many papers get their horoscopes from Web sites. One college paper in France even printed completely fabricated horoscopes written by two girls. Which might make you wonder, should horoscopes be taken seriously at all?



The spotlight desk can be reached at [gamecockspotlight@hotmail.com](mailto:gamecockspotlight@hotmail.com).



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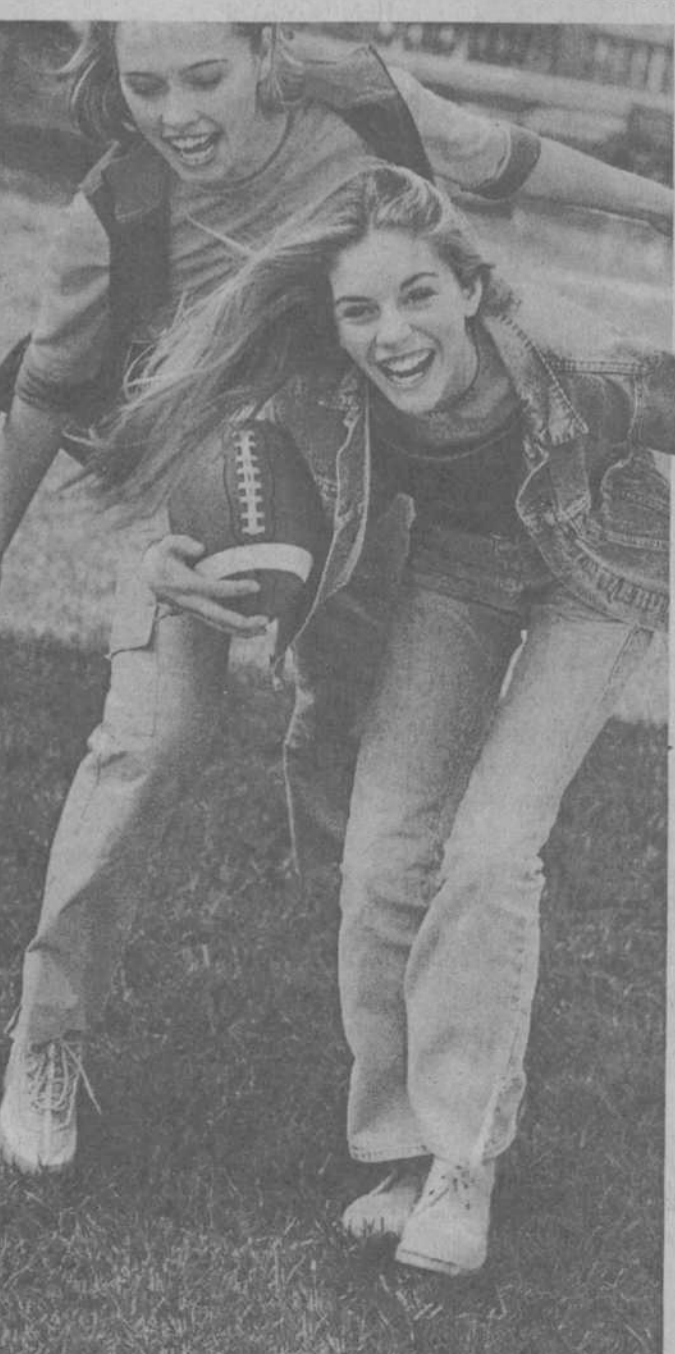
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# Roommate SURVIVAL Tips

**College** might be your first chance to live with someone else, or maybe you've been sharing a room all your life. Either way, there are compromises that must be made when you have to share space with a stranger. Here are some things to keep in mind to make the year go smoothly:

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The **most important** thing to keep in mind is this: To have a good roommate, **you** must **be** a good roommate.

Be respectful of one another's schedules. If you don't like her friends' post-midnight visits, chances are she doesn't like you turning on the TV at 6 a.m.

Decide upfront how you will split up bills and stick to it. Money issues can cause arguments, make living together stressful, and ruin even the best friendships.

If possible, get separate phone lines. Then you won't worry about getting your messages, and she won't mind when you tie up the phone all night.


Even if your roommate always lets you borrow her CDs, it never hurts to say thank you. Also, just because she lets you borrow her CDs doesn't mean that her favorite sweater, last cookie, or anything else is also fair game. Always remember to ask before you borrow.

**Some Roommates Share the Oddest Things!**  
 Although no one can explain why, it is true that women who live together often have menstrual cycles that coincide. So make sure you have plenty of Playtex tampons on hand to share with your roommate. That way, if your periods do coincide, you'll both be really comfortable - and easier to get along with.

Have fun together. Encourage each other to get out and explore your surroundings. Go for a walk, study in a local park, or catch a concert or museum exhibit. Take pictures of your adventures - because college only happens once!

Realize that most disagreements, whether they are about phone time, borrowing clothes, or late night visitors, really come down to respect. Respect each other's space, privacy, and beliefs, and you'll be ok.

Finally, remember that the school assigns you someone to live with, not someone to be best friends with. If you get to be good friends, great! But if you don't, that's ok. You have to share a room, not a life.



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