GEORGIAN NEWSLETTER MARCH 1983

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BAKERSFIELD - It's the end of February as I write this, but my plumb tree has been covered with blossoms for about 2 weeks. Unless we have a severe winter, it usually blossoms at about Lupercalia... that's Valentine's Day for those who don't celebrate it.
By the time you recieve this it will be March..and Spring will be getting ready to Sprung! Only sad thing about this is that April 15 and the I.R.S. soon follow. I hate doing my tax return even more than I hate shaving!

So our rituals have gone as well and as pleasantly as always. Elizabeth (as always) is such a big help. In fact, she has typed the major part of this newsletter.

The radio station where I work is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. As part of the celebration of that, I have been replacing all the equipment and every bit of wiring for all 4 studios. I should be finished with that by the time you recieve this. What a relief that will be! Have been catching one cold after another each time it has been necessary to work sitting on a cold floor.

Happy thought! Today is Feb. 24. Tomorrow is the last performance of Camelot for the Bakersfield Civic Light Opera Association. That means Elizabeth and Debbie won't be tied up with rehearsals or performances any longer. But I'm sure they've enjoyed it.

Nice long phone call from Beth. She says she'd like to hear from other Crafters. P.O.B. 4431, Meridian, Miss. 39304-4431. One of those crazy new zip codes.

Also, a nice long call from Ava in Oregon. Glad I don't have to pay for those long long-distance phone calls.

ORION & LADY HECATE of Moonstar in Sarasota sez: hope things out California way are going great for everyone. We wish you all a great Spring Equinox. We are all planning a big time here - Moonstar will be going to visit Windstar, and there will be visitors from Miami and Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. - maybe others. We see a grand time ahead.

DENNIS, JANICE and all the Georgians in North Carolina sez:
Janice is doing great, our Witchling is coming along fine..no more trouble. Janice is getting nice and fat. Were you mad at us, because Janice has started to walk like a duck. Gosh..I hope she don't start quacking.
Good to hear that Shadowhawk & Blacksun have their papers.

ED. NOTE: Dennis enclosed an article (elsewhere in the newsletter) and a copy of a letter he sent to Pres. Reagan in response to the article on "Year of the Bible". Very good, Dennis.
With Dennis British accent and all those southern accents around there...wonder what that poor kid will sound like???

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FROM Lady Phoenix in Texas

C A N D L E M A S

TEMPLE IS PREPARED:
CIRCLE IS CAST:
OPENING RITE:
CHARGE (S):

MAIDEN: "...And the Goddess rested from Her Victory of the sun's re-birth. She gathered Her energies and returned. The year quickened to Her Life-force and the sun strengthened to warm the earth once more.

HP: "The Goddess knew the fears Her people had hidden through the dark of the year, and spoke to reassure them:"

NYMPH: "Know Me, My Children: I am the Maiden, your Sister--the potential hidden in innocence. I am the sweetness of Youth and the Mystery of unawareness. I am that which is unknown, that which will be known within.

Know me..."

(First Chalice--of Honey-water is passed throughout Circle)

MOTHER: "Know Me, My Children: I am the Mother of All Things. I am the essense of all that is, that has been, or will be. I am the earth and the winds, I am the seas which give birth to the flames of the sun. I am the sustenance of Life, the Mystery of Creation. I am that which you have begun to know.

Know Me..."

(Second Chalice--of pure water is passed throughout Circle)

HAG: "Know Me, My Children: I am the Crone, your Source. I am that which is known; I am that which is sought, I am that which is hidden--veiled and unveiled. I am the guide you follow through the underworld to find your path of rebirth. I am the bitterness and the sharp spice of Age, and the Mystery of hidden knowledge. I am that which you have always known.

Know Me, My Children..."

(Third Chalice--of vinegar-water is passed throughout Circle)

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Lady Phoenix (cont.)

NYMPH: "I am with you in all beginnings, in the struggles of growth in the small girl child lost in the wonders of a leaf, in the growing awareness of approaching womanhood.

I am with you when the Moon first appears--I am the Promise of what is to come."

(Light Candle on right of altar)

MOTHER: "I am with you in the fullness of your plans, in the fruitfulness of your efforts, in the first cries of birthing, the scraped knees of failures, the burned fingers of reaching too quickly, too far, in the thoughts set perfectly on paper on canvas, to music and movement, in the satisfactions of creating.

I am with you when the full Moon arcs the sky.--I am the fulfullment of the Promise.

(Light Central Altar Candle)

HAG: "I am with you in the harvest of your efforts, the completion of your plans, in the healing of failures, and in the fading glories of your successes.

I am with you when the Moon wanes from your vision--I am the understanding of the promise fulfilled, and the hint of Promises to come..."

(Light Third Candle on Altar)

"Know also this, My Children: You are myself. When clouds hide my symbol in the skies, or when the evening heavens remain unlighted by my presence, I can be found within.

You--and not the moon--are the expressions of my Sacred Flame. You, through the centuries have been the Keepers of the Flame."

HPS: "The Wheel turns, and the Earth stirs from the death of Winter, and warms to life once more.

HP: "It is Brigette's Eve once more; The Goddess has returned, and we celebrate with a Festival of Lights in Her honor. As the Poetess She speaks, As the Smithy, She strikes sparks of Life from Her Anvil, and as the Healer, she heals the fears of the Dark of year.

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Lady Phoenix (cont.)

(Maiden passes a candle to each participant, Circle is joined, and candles are consecrated with the chant: "Bride, Brigette, Brige" or "Kore, Demeter, Hecate" The Egyptian equivalent could be: "Bast, Hathor, Isis" or "Isis, Hathor Au Set")

(Candles are lighted from the three Altar candles and allowed to burn until the ceremony is completed. They are used to light all candles from through the year ahead)

HPS: "As we serve as the Keepers of Her Spirit Flame, let us share the feast of the Elements of Life--ever mindful that each meal is a sacrament, for our brothers and sisters of the field and forest have given of their lives that ours may continue to be..."

(Each Element person brings their element to the HPS, with appropriate phrase. With each element, HPS consecrates, then presents element symbol to HP to be passed on through Circle)

HPS: "Share with us this symbol of the element of _____."

AIR: "May our thoughts and words be expressions of the Goddess Within."

FIRE: "May our actions and the Light of our spirits be expressions of Her energies and Her Sacred Flame of Life."

WATER: "May our love be an expression of Her love for us and for all Life."

EARTH: "May the health of our bodies be an expression of the wholeness of Her Earth."

MAIDEN: "Merry do we meet"

HP: "And Merry do we part..."

HPS: "And Merry Meet again."

CHANT: "We all come from the Goddess..."

DISMISSAL OF ELEMENTS

CIRCLE IS CLOSED

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DIDJA KNOW????

In 1965 Canada dedicated its new red and white national flag bearing the maple leaf symbol. It replaced the old red ensign flag. French-speaking Canadians disliked the old flag because it carried a British Union Jack in its upper left corner.

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FROM Morven of Harvest in Mass.

Dear Editor,

I had just come home from work, after working 5 hours overtime, when I received the February issue of your newsletter. Normally, I don't have time to read it right away, but after two days shovelling snow, two more days working overtime, and 5 nights typing the manuscript of a novel I'm writing (thank Goddess night school was cancelled due to the weather), I was feeling rather weak and took the mail with me when I collapsed on the couch.

Your article/editorial on page 32 ("From Your Editor") had a familiar ring to it. As editor of HARVEST, I, too spend almost every waking moment dedicated either to the Craft or to the many aspects of the periodical. Like you, I receive a lot of flak from well-meaning and not-so-well-meaning friends about the amount of time I spend on HARVEST. Some of them come right out and say I'm wasting my time, shouldn't I be in a bar or something? Or going shopping? Or gossipping over tea? There's no possible way I can convince them that this is worthwhile, or that I derive some personal satisfaction out of it. I usually let it roll off, but sometimes, when I'm especially exhausted or an issue didn't come out well, or we receive an unfavorable comment, I find it difficult to be so "thick-skinned."

What I do (sometimes it helps, sometimes not) is try to visualize my life without HARVEST. Oh, sure, I could find plenty of things to do with all the time that would be freed up (like sleep, for instance! No, seriously, I play guitar/write songs, would love to learn the recorder or flute, have at least 20 books I want to read, etc.), but what about the wonderful connections I've made? The literally hundreds of people that I have come to know, either personally, or through reading other Craft publications (like yours) that we receive? I think my life would be rather dull, boring, and lonely without it!

So, I sequester myself in the HARVEST "office" (it used to be my bedroom...) and try to figure out ways to make the whole process less time-consuming, and bite my lip when people nag me about my hermitage, and remind myself that they probably have trouble empathizing, having never experienced it.

What am I trying to say? Just this, my dear fellow editor: there are those who would wish to "sit on a mountaintop and contemplate my navel"; fine, let them. And there are those who would wish to reach out, to touch, to try to communicate. Each situation has its rewards /drawbacks. One must do what one feels is right. I personally, like what I'm doing and what <u>you're</u> doing. Don't listen to those who say it isn't worth it -- only you can decide if it is. Do listen, however, to those well-meaning friends who tell you that you should take a break now and then, that you should be aware of what the business world calls "burnout". But most of all, listen to your heart.

Blessed Be,
Morven

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FROM Moon Mirror in Denver

Having been a witch since I was 11, has taught me alot. One; for the greatest part of my life keeping my mouthhshut-tight. Two; learning, studying and much research. Three; now coming out and facing the fact that we all have the right to worshipping the way we feel comfortable. After all this is America -- land of freedom.

I am now nearly 31 and since I went public with my faith, I have never, ever been happier in my entire life.

My dear sweet parents have accepted the fact without a single negative word, as far as other members of the family, well one could say shades of Jerry Falwell. Some are just to small minded to accept the things they don't understand. But I never give up, I feel that we all should try to educate without trying to be a postulant, for without education we would all be at the mercy of the stake. Right?

I now teach classes in Wicca (a wor more people are comfortable with, you know) the fundamentals, basically.

I describe myself as Eclectic for the simple fact that I agree with all the different paths in the Wonderful World of Witchcraft for they all are good for some, not all good for all.

One last word, after 14 years in Denver I am just finding out that all Witches-Pagans are no t underground, yet here in this city, they, for the most part, are very clannish.

Bye, for now and Blessed Be to all the wonderful Witches out there, stand up and be counted.

Much Love,
Moon Mirror)0(

An addition from Moon Mirror

I must bring something to your readers attention. Wintergreen is a wonderful smelling oil, it does not smell like a horse blanket, it has a minty or root beer fragrance. The use in douches is very old dating back to the 17th century, its cooling, used in SMALL amounts. And the use of Pennyroyal for delayed menses is very, very old remedy. Yes, it can be dangerous but so can most other herbs and oils if used unwisely. I can name a dozen herbs, some even household, that can be used for abortion, but anyone that would use them would be a fool. Maybe Catherine and Kent have an adverse reaction to Wintergreen oil like I do to Rose, I love real roses but hate the oil...

A refreshing bath for stress is to add ½ teaspoon of your favorite

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Moon Mirror)O((Cont.)

essential oil and a few drops of blue food colour. It really relaxes you and makes you very calm.

Try rose or musk oil and red colour for love or lust.

Food colour and oils can add alot to your life and to your ritual baths...try it, you'll love it...

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FROM Penny in Fla.

Greetings Pat:

I'm on my way to the hospital I will have surgery Feb. 7th at 7:30 a.m. There is a splintered bone that is causing infection, I have to have a new skin graph, and part of the old graph will be removed, also the muscle has to be moved.

The pain is finally getting less but my knee won't bend past 70° so any and all energy to get my knee to bend would be welcome. Of course, that must be worded carefully so I don't get more complications.

Our friends from Ft. Laudordale sent us the money to come for Candlemas. We had a wonderful time. The morning after the Sabbat was a beautiful Handfasting.

All goes well here. We have a new student, my lawyers secretary!

The case hasn't come to court yet and I've no idea when it will.

Social Security turned me down but I'm trying to appeal it. Makes me mad, I've been paying in since I was 14 years old.

Must get ready to go to the hospital.

My love is with you always and I send positive thoughts for the growth of the church often!

Love & Blessed Be,
Penny

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By the way, DIDJA KNOW?

In the late 1950's and early '60's moviemakers tried lots of gimmicks to lure people away from television and back into the theaters. One was "Smell O Vision". A process in which odors were piped to each individual seat. The only movie filmed in "Smell-O-Vision" -- In 1960, Mike Todd, Jr. produced the mildly successful aromatic flick "Scent Of Mystery".

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WITCHCRAFT -- RICHARD'S RAMBLINGS of Calumet Pagan Temple

Witchcraft the term itself conjures up images of ole crones gathered about a cauldron bubbling with a mixutre of bats' blood and eye of newt...or of a dark figure flying through the October air on a broom. Perhaps there are more sinister connotations, such as selling one's soul to the devil in return for earthly power or riches. Stories circulate about witches casting spells to make people suffer, or to cause other to act against their own best interests. But who starts these stories? Not the witches, but those who know nothing of the Craft, or knowing, seek to discredit it. We have had a bad press, and its time the facts were set forth by those who know.

This is an attempt to set the record straight. I cannot speak for the entire population of witches, for there are as many different varieties of the Old Religion, as we call it, as there are of Protestant Christains, or orders of the Catholic Church. I believe that most witches, however, will agree with most of what I have to say.

First and foremost, a Witch recognizes and worships the Goddess. This is the female side of existence, including magic, psychic phenomena, 'woman's' intutition, etc. We also know that the female without the male is sterile and we recognize her consort, the horned God, or male principle. Together, the God and Goddess make up the Godhead, the Cosmic One, or in Judeo-Christian terms, God.

I feel that our Western, or Judeo-Christian culture, means the same thing we do when we say "God". The problem is that what they have worshipped is the male principle, or the (horned) God, and ignore the Goddess. It takes both the God and the Goddess to equal God. In another setting, it takes the ying and the yang to make the Universe, or a baby.

Emphasis on the male principle, or the God, has resulted in our society and culture, with 300 hp cars packed bumper to bumper on expressways; and environment so polluted there is serious question whether it can continue to support life; endemic paranoia coupled with what might be described as moral decay, and a general feeling among people that they are not happy. Witches are happy!

So what do witched do? How do they get happy? The first thing is to get in tune w th nature. Respect life-all life, and know that the world we live on is a living thing, and we are part of it, just as a cell in our body is a separate living thing (a cell, or group of cells, may be kept alive though detached from its body) yet is also a part of us. Our world might be likened to an organ in a living solar system, and the solar system in turn a part of a larger living galaxie, universe, etc. ad infinitum.

To help get in tune with nature, we celebrate eight festivals a year. They are four Solar Festivals, God oriented, which coincide with the solstices and equinoxes. Yule, the Winter Solstice, celebrates light returning to us. All religions celebrate at about this time, something to do with light entering the world (remember, Jesus is the light of the world).

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Richard's Ramblings (cont.)

The Spring Equinox celebrates a triumph over death. Easter and Passover are similar in this respect. Think about it in terms of symbolic meaning coupled with the season, and remember that bunnies and eggs are fertility symbols.

Midsummer, or the Summer Solstice, celebrates the maturity of the God, and his marriage to the Goddess. June has long been considered the month to be married in.

The Fall Equinox may be likened to the death of the God. Nights are now longer than days again. In Christian mythology, the angel, Michael, threw Lucifer (a pagan sun god) out of heaven. I believe St. Michael's Day is September 26.

The cycle is then completed the following Yule when the God is born again.

The other four festivals are of the Goddess, are female in orientation, and seem to be more important to most witches-or at least, more fun. We start with Candlemas, February 2, the birth of the Goddess. Some folks call it Groundhog's Day, but in any event it has to do with the promise that winter will end.

Beltane, April 30, is Mayday eve. The virgin Goddess is heavy with child, and the more beautiful for it. Crops are ripening, and the earth in her bountiful maturity is bringing forth life and sustenance. In the old days, the virgin brides of June were pregnant now, or soon would be.

But all good things, the year, our lives, must come to an end. Samhain, the festival of death, comes on October 31. The Goddess dies, the grass turns brown, the leaves and flowers of summer are fallen, and earth becomes dormant for the long death of winter. This is the time when the boundaries between this world and the next are blurred, when we are closest to those who have passed over. It is perhaps unfortunate that witches are associated with this festival more often than with Beltane or Lamas. At Samhain, the Goddess is old (though never ugly), while at Beltane she is young and beautiful and lusty.

But so much for the festivals. In addition, we meet twice a month for moon rituals. The New Moon is the time for beginnings. A newcomers first glimpse at a ritual comes then, and it is the time to start new projects. It usually will consist of drawing a circle, doing a self-blessing ritual, a re-dedication to the path, and a period of magickal workings such as healings, request for financial help or whatever else comes up. In our group, spectators may come to New Moon rituals, but must remain out of the circle.

Full Moons are a time of rechargin one's psychic batteries. The Full Moon has long been known as the time of psychic happenings. It is the best time to do magic, and is also traditionally the time of lunacy and lovers. At a Full Moon ritual the witches invoke the Goddess into themselves, and partake of the four elements, air (incense), fire (a candle), water (wine), and earth (bread, cake, or crackers). It has been called a black mass by some, but again our

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Richard's Ramblings (cont.)

press has not always been good. As you can see, no where has there been mention of Satan or the devil. The devil is a Christian concept and the Old Religion far outdates Christianity. Any archeologist or anthropologist can tell you that the worship of a fertility goddess and her horned consort goes back several thousand years B.C. - they were on the scene long before the devil was invented.

In addition, an individual witch m ay do ritual magic meditation at any time, or several may get together for a specific purpose. Couples often work together in this context, and may feel that an even balance between men and women is best for working magic. Remember, it takes the God and the Goddess together to make God.

Frequently, one of the "pagan" deities may be invoked for a specific purpose. Isis, Diana, Mercury, Cernnunos, Venus, or any other may be called on for help in a special field. Some groups will concentrate on Egyptian dieties, while others will adhere to a Roman, Greek, Celtic or African (ever hear of voodoo?) pattern. The important thing to remember is that all Gods are one, the God, and all Goddess, and together they form the Godhead, or Cosmic Unity.

Now we come to one of those areas where witches disagree. Some groups will insist that to raise power properly, everyone should be nude, or skyclad as we say in the Craft. Another school says nonsense, wear your everyday clothes. Some wear robes, some hooded, some not. We Wear hooded robes, with as little as possible underneath, for our regular festivals and rituals. We feel this is a sensible comprom ise, for while skyclad might be ideal, it might create legal problems, not to mention that it's hard to concentrate on a ritual when you're in a cold draft, or a mosquito is nibbling on your backside. But it is also hard to concentrate if a girdle is cutting off circulation, a belt or keys in a pocket is gouging you, or you're worried about getting your slacks dirty sitting on the floor or ground. A loose fitting ceremonial robe is a good answer to these problems. We do not, however, discourage individuals, couples, or sub-groups from doing their own thing skyclad if they are so inclinded. So what are these "things" we do, be it skyclad, robed, or whatever?

Magic is what we do; magic falls into two categories, high and low. Low magic is getting the things you need for your everyday life, be it money, health, a car, a place to live, or someone to live with. It is defined as causing coincidence to occure in accordance with your will. You have a traffic ticket? Do a magic ritual and hear the judge say "dismissed". Need $50 to pay the phone bill? Do the ritual and get a check the next day-IRS decided you figured your tax wrong and sends you a refund for $50-or maybe $48.20, but then you could always find the $1.80 you still need.

Some words of caution: don't be greedy. One of the greatest witches said, you should ask "give us this day, our daily bread" in the needed amount, it will come. But don't hoard-it might get moldy before you can use it. And, don't mess with other people's heads.

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Richard's Ramblings (cont.)

Not even the gods intefere with man's free will. For example, "A" wants a romantic (sexual, social, financial) relationship with "B". It is unethical for "A" to cast spell to make "B" do his bidding with "A". "A" may, however, use magic to make him or herself the kind of person "B" would like to deal with. Or "A" may ask that in the event "B" is so inclined, that circumstances will see to a satisfactory outcome. Another taboo is sending out bad 'vibes'. You reap what you sow. So if you send out bad vibes, that is what you get back. If you cast moldy bread upon the water, your bread will be multiplied, but the fungus that returns with it will make your life miserable.

High magic, on the other hand, is directed inwardly. It has been said that the aim of this magic is conversation with the Holy Guardian Angel. This is much like meditation in many other disciplines. It is an attempt to balance the forces within one's being, and to recognize and tune in to the higher force. It has been said that the way to God is to "know thyself". By high, or cerémonial magic, we attempt not only to know, but to improve ourselves. As for conjuring demons and devils, this is an ethical, but misunderstood practice. If one is tormented by a demon of, let us say lust, what is more fitting than to conjure up this demon from the depths of one's own being and banish it?!

This last brings us to the matter of Black Magic. If you have a hammer, you can use it to build a house, a boat, or for many other useful things; then, it is a white hammer. If, on the other hand, you use it to hit someone on the head so you can steal his money, it is a black hammer. The tool is the same. It is how you use it and for what that makes the difference.

Which brings us to the final point to be made here. Once one has tuned in to Nature, mastered magic, high and low, and "knows himself", then this person is master of his fate. He knows that he is responsible for his actions, and that to be one with God, call it Nirvana, Salvation, or Initiation, he must act responsibly, in the fullest sense of the word. It has been said that in nature there are no rewards or punishments, only consequences. Witches believe this. We do not have a heaven or a hell to go to at some future date. The Kingdom of God is at hand, is here and now, and it is how we relate to it here and now that determines whether we are happy. We do not believe in the concept of sin as it is taught in Christian churches, but we do believe that each person is responsible for his or her actions. We believe that you reap as you sow, and that there is no way to avoid the consequences of your actions.

BLESSED BE!

The above is a position paper prepared by Richard Clarke of the Calumet Pagan Temple. I would hope that it represents the views of all Calumet Pagan Temple initiates. While we take full responsibility for our idiosyncracies, we also must give credit to Uranus and its Pagan Way predecessor for being the creative force behind us. They taught us, they trained us, and they guided us.

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RELIGION IN THE NEWS

F OM U.P.I. - The world's oldest Buddhist temple has re-opened in central Java after getting a 24--million-dolar face-lift. The 8th century temple...which houses over 500 statues of Buddha and 13--hundred carved panels depicting his life...came close to destruction after centuries of erosion and landslides and..and more recently..looters.

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A Roman Catholic nun who operates a massage center in St. Paul, minn., is refusing to have the establishment licensed under an ordinance she says is used to regulate prostitutes.

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Rhode Island Tax Officials say the Church of Pan is not really a church...but a nudist colony, trying to cloak itself in the trappings of religion. Members of the church hold their monthly meetings in the nude, but Church of Pan officials are pressing their 4-year-old case for a state sales tax exemption.

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Stockton, Cal. - An unpopular church sermon ended in the killing of a deacon and the jailing of a minister. Stockton police say the shooting occurred at the New Testament Baptist Church. They say 54-year-old Deacon Oscar MsAllister began to protest a sermon being delivered by 64-year-old minister M.L. Pastell. They allege the minister pulled a gun and shot McAllister four times as the congrgation looked on.

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L.A. - Two former Church of Naturalism employees have been ordered to stand trial in L.A. for the bludgeon slayings of two church officials. George Smith and Melinda Faulcon were bound over to superior court on two counts of murder and one count each of robbery and burglary.

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FRESNO, Ca. - The Universal Life Church has been found in contempt of court for refusing to turn its records over to the U-S District Court in Fresno. A Fresno judge fined the church 100 dollars a day until it turns over the court-requested documents. The church ignored two previous orders requiring ti to surrender certain documents.
The orders to turn over the records were issued in connection with a 10-million dollar suit the church filed in 1981. It wants the I.R.S. stopped from trying to disallow tax exemptions for some U.L.C. members. Kirby Hensley set up the organization in 1962. He has won worldwide attention over the past 20 years by selling mail-order minister's credentials for as little as two dollars.

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Back in December, Americans for Separation of Church and State asked Postmaster General William Bolger to cancel plans to issue a commemorative stamp honoring the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther, father of the Prtestant Reformation.
In a letter to Bolger, Americans United said that such a stamp would "violate the constitutional ban on the establishment of religion and the Postal Service's own guidelines on the issuance of commemoratives." Haven't heard any more on this.

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THE SYMBOLS OF THE WHEEL: The Meaning of the Legend by Lady Allusha

BELTAINE - Also known as May Eve, Rudemas, Walpurgis Nacht, and Lady Day. It is one of the great fire festivals, and the beginning of the second half of the Celtic year. It marks the end of the rule of the Horned God, and the beginning of the reign of the Goddess. It is a fertility festival, celebrating the powers of male-female interaction. Upon this night the seam Between the Worlds is thin, and beings may slip through to roam. The celebrations are festive and spirited, for this is an occasion of great joy. The Earth is bringing forth life, and her symbol is the blossom. These celebrations of Spring and the frenzy of love traditionally include: bathing in the May Dew, Bringing Home the May, the crowning of the May Queen and King, the Love Chase, cavorting in the woods and fields, fire magick, mazes, dance, song, story telling, the Maypole activities, merry trysts, lechery, and open hearts.

The word 'Beltaine' means 'the fire of Bel'. Bel was an ancient God of Fire, who had solar aspects. He was very honoured among the Celts. To pass over his fire made of nine sacred woods was to guarantee good luck and virility.

This is the festival of the coming together of the God and Goddess at the beginning of the Celtic Summer Season. It marks the transformation of the Goddess, from Virgin to Mother, and carries all the symbolism of her virtues: Love, Freedom, and Fertility. This is the celebration of unashamed sexuality, in which the God and Goddess bestow the Mystery of Sex, the Great Rite, upon the land. As such, it is the dramatized representation of the union of the Spring (Goddess) and the Summer (God). It is a time for the madness of youth, and is sacred to teen-agers and young adults, for we honour the rising sap and flowing juices of the plants, animals, and people.

There is an olde saying, 'caught between two Beltaine fires', which means being caught in a dilemma. This saying stems from a story of a young man who could not decide which way his luck should go, and thusly could not decide which of two Beltaine fires he should jump over. As a result, he jumped over neither, and had no luck at all.

NOTES ON THE STORY: Flowers are the symbols of the peak of Spring. The hawthorne is the symbol of the Goddess in her innocent (White) aspect. Together they form the opening between this and the Other world.

The traditional robe of the Goddess/May Queen is a gown of green and a garland of flowers in her hair. This symbolizes the fertility and blossoming of Earth. The robe of the God/May King is of gold and blue, the colors of the Sun and the Sky. He also wears the Horns of Herne, a crown or helmet with horns.

Ancient tradition has it that if a female were to get up at sunrise on Beltaine morn and bathe in the dew that lies upon the grass, she shall retain her beauty for another year, for it was believed that the Dew was the distilled essence of the Goddess' beauty.

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THE SYMBOLS OF THE WHEEL: The Meaning of the Legend (cont.)

It was common at all the great fire festivals to do various forms of divination.

In the days of the ancient Celts, no one could light a sacred Beltaine bonfire until the 'Ard Ri' (High King) had lit the first one on Tara hill. Tara was the capital/center of the fifth province of Ireland, Meath (meaning center). Thus it was considered the center of all Ireland, the home of Gods and Kings.

There were many important events of this day that were retold in the tales of the Druids. There was the tale of Partholan and his followers, who were the first inhabitants and partial creators of Ireland, who landed on that isle on a Beltaine Day, and three hundred years later, returned to the Otherworld, on the same day. There was the coming of the Tuatha De Danaan and their people, how they landed on this day and invaded Ireland. It was on a May Eve that Pryderi, son of Rhiannon and Pwyll (rulers of the Welsh Otherworld), was lost, and later (on another May Eve) was found by Teirnyon Twryf Vliant, and returned to them. Also it was told how, on this day "till the day of gloom", Gwyn-son-of-Nudd fought Gwyrthur-son-of Greidawl for the hand of Ludd's daughter, Creudylad. And so the tales are still told.

The Arts of Harmony, and the knowledge of those things free and wild, are part of the Mysteries of the Lord of Life.

Being 'worthy' was a very important prerequisite to obtaining any position of esteem, in the eyes of the Celts.

This was, in olden days, the only day on which the taboo against hunting the Hare was lifted. It was felt that as the Goddess was chased and then gave herself to the God, so too would her representative, the Hare, be chased and caught. The life of the Hare was offered to the Gods as a sacrifice, and the body was taken home and prepared for the feast. This was another gift of the Goddess.

The Maypole is a very strong phallic symbol, representing the God at the peak of his virility. It was traditionally cut from a Hawthorne, the Goddess' tree, so that it would always lead him to her. The Maypole was generally very tall, because it was thought to relink the Earth and the Sky, which until now had seemed so far apart. The people decorated the pole with garlands of flowers, which they had collected while 'Bringing Home the May'. They formed a circle around the Maypole, and, merrily weaving in and out, they danced around it. The circle was symbolic of the female principle, which was being pierced by the male principle. The weaving dance was a re-enactment of the Love Chase. Our modern ribbons entwined around the pole, descended from the garlands, connect us with this magickal sex act, and demonstrates the female accepting the male.

On Beltaine morning the young people of the community would go off into the forests and meadows to gather flowers and greenery, filling their May baskets to overflowing. With much song and laughter, they brought these back into the village, giving some to every person they met along the way. The remainder was made into wreaths and garlands to decorate their hair, the Maypole, the Sacred Wells,

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THE SYMBOLS OF THE WHEEL: The Meaning of the Legend (cont.)

and anything else they could think of. Thus did they bring the fertilizing powers of fully awakened Nature into the human community, by 'Bringing Home the May'.

All wells were considered special on this day, and would convey luck upon any person who skimmed the top of the water. The Sacred Wells were even more magickal, and in honour of this, the people decorated them.

The Great Rite is the sacred sexual act, the love-making of the God and Goddess incarnate in the persons performing it. It is an act of worship, honouring the very Essence of Creation itself. It is one of the most powerful forms of magick, and is self grounding. It is NEVER to be used selfishly, nor to be taken lightly.

BELTAINE(May1) - The Goddes Olwen has been travelling the lands, spreading Spring everywhere she goes. In the midst of a deep wood, she comes across a door, framed in an archway of hawthorne and flowers. The birds beckon her to pass through the door, for it is the Door Between the Worlds, through which she will enter unto the realms of flesh. The world beyond the door seems enticing, so she passes through. Her senses become dazzled with the simple beauties of the land, and she realizes her body is now of flesh. She is clothed in a gown of green, both lustrous and translucent, and the radiance of her beauty is such that the air mists about her and falls to her feet, becoming the morning dew. Olwen feels the stirring within her bosom. She realizes she is blossoming into womanhood, and longs for a consort. All of Nature now, too, feels the blossoming of life.

Meanwhile, Lugh, as he has been growing and maturing, has increasingly been feeling strange sensations as he views the beautiful women of the lands. Not understanding this ecstatic torture, he consults the Wyrrd.

They tell him of his growing virility, of lechery and love, of passion and ecstasy. They show to him his future. He will fall in love, and become the consort of the beautiful Nature-Goddess. From their union come forth the fruits of the Earth-Goddess. His strength encourages the growth and maturity of these fruits. Such is his destiny.

Encouraged by his new found virility, the Sun-God descends upon the land, into the fleshen body of the Horned One. As the Horned God, he is flesh of earth and spirit of Gods. He goes to the hilltop at Tara, a place of great magick and worship. There he lights a giant bonfire in thankful respect to Bel, the Fire-God, for the fire in his loins. And all across the land on hilltops were lit giant bonfires, for Bel and for virility. Then through these fires the people sained themselves and their cattle, before driving their herds into the summer fields. And the Druids told the tales of this day.

The Horned God now wanders throughout the lands, partaking of the sensual joys as he may. Thus he gives to the people the Arts of

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THE LEGEND OF THE WHEEL: (cont.)

Harmony: Music, Dance, Song, Poetry, and Love. He shares his knowledge of those things that are free and wild. He spreads the power of his virility throughout the land.

Finally, he sees the beautiful Goddess in a forested glen. His heart becomes totally entranced with her, and he discovers the meaning of real love. If only he could win her love! From afar he starts to play his wondrous musical pipes, weaving a spell of seduction as he moves closer to her.

Olwen, hearing the melodious sounds, feels a special stirring in her heart, and realizes the consort she has been longing for has come.

When the Horned God finally comes upon the Goddess, he is so taken with her radiant beauty that he kneels before her, and lays his Power at her feet. Now, as the Queen who wields the Power, she taunts him. She seductively declares that he must show his worth to win her. She laughs enticingly, and disappears.

He looks around in bewilderment, then sees her peeking from behind a large tree, beckoning. He runs to her, but she is gone, and the Love Chase is on! Throughout the lands he chases her, his love throbbing with every glimpse. As a Hare she is swift and cunning and elusive. As a Stag he is strong and piercing and determined. Joy and laughter fills the land, as the people watch this merry cavorting.

A giant Hawthorne pole is erected in honour of the Horned God's chase, and the people dance merrily around it, in order to aid him in catching the Goddess.

Coming upon a Sacred Well, the Goddess stops to gaze into its bewitching waters. Thus entranced, the Horned God is able to quietly approach her, and wraps his arms around her. She gives to him the Five-Fold Kiss, and declares him as her King, and consort. There in the deep woods, they made love. This Sacred Great Rite was not merely love of the flesh, for their bodies merged together, one in the other, as too did their spirits, Goddess and God, becoming one while still two.

Together they spent the rest of the day. From their love was born the fruits of the land. These, their children, were the Promise of Spring. And the Celts rejoiced.

The time for the Door Between the Worlds to close was approaching. The Goddess of Spring must now return to her own domain, so, bidding her love farewell, Olwen passes through the Door once again, leaving her fleshen body melting back into the earth. She calls back to him, telling him she will always be with him.

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BLACKSUN & SHADOWHAWK (DAO) sez: Haragano & Tiller were at our place when we got a call from one of our friends who got the newsletter earlier than we did. So we all toasted one another's good fortune and had quite a party.

ED. NOTE: Like the stationery. A funny pussy cat looking through a window. Inside sez: My cat's in heat again..
what's new with you?

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THE SYMBOLS OF THE WHEEL: The Meaning of the Legend (cont.)

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DOG DAYS

ROBYN in Australia sez: My doggy, Bobo, was put to sleep after a nasty fight, Little Dog was sick and sore, Ista was ripping all the plants out of their pots, I had asthma and Luci's dog, Spud, had to go as he was the cause of the allergy attack.
I spoke to Clair and Simon this week. It is such an uplift to speak to such lovely people. They, being animal lovers, understood my upset over the loss of Bobo. I must ask, why do people continue to let their dogs loose in the streets? Is it from lack of concern or is there any valid reason? I often wonder if Bobo would have been okay if the Bull Terrier hadn't attacked her. Another Bull Terrier in a different area tried to attack my Little Dog only days after. Why are they loose? Surely you wouldn't have a dog if the backyard alone wasn't large enough.
I feel sad going to the letter box now as I've not got a dog to take. Little Dog can't wear a collar yet as her neck is still healing. All the yobbos (Aussie slang, I think, meaning louts) try to pick me up on the way to the milk bar and letter box. How annoying can people be? It's different with a dog, believe me. They aren't so brave then. I can usually outrun their bomb of a car anyway...so much for their impressing efforts.
What is the world coming to? I think I'll dig a hole, fill it with furries, and we'll all live happily ever after.

Merry Part and Blessed Be,
Robyn & the furries

*

FROM U.P.I. Redbolt, the dog, really pulls his weight. The 72-lb. American Staffordshire Terrier..who lives in the Chicago suburb of Tinley Park...has pulled more than 3,000 pounds in canine weight-pulling contests. The muscular dog uses a special harness to work out on weight machines 5 days a week at a gym. His owner, Tom Shimak, says whenever Redbolt sees the harness, he "Gets so excited he jumps straight up in the air and bounces straight up and down." And when he's working out, the 5-year-old pooch does sets and repetitions just like the other bodybuilders.

*

Indonesia's resort island of Bali is throwing out pets of foreign origin..claiming it's a preventive measure against rabies. A spokesman said that authorities in Bali have expelled 1378 dogs of foreign breeding this month. 56 others that could not find asylum were killed. 9 monkeys and a squirrel of foreign breeding also have been declared "Anima Non Grata," but their fate still is not known.

*

Aided by a petition carrying signatures of 500 of his neighbors, Swen Bos and his goggled dog, Sheeba, have returned to the streets of West Milford, New Jersey...on their motorcycle. Sheeba, a long-haired white Collie that Bos rescued from an animal pound, has been riding with her master since puppyhood. Sheeba now weighs more than 40 lbs. Wearing goggles to protect her eyes, she clings to the gas tank, her ears blowing in the breeze. Judge George Kluff dismissed a charge against Bos of endangering the life of an animal by transporting it in an open vehicle.

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FROM RHEA IN ATLANTA

Greetings, O Great Sage--

Have begun innumerable letters to you and seem to get sidetracked each time. About to give up! Nope--never do that!

All goes well. Received the newsletter fairly promptly this month --enjoyed--as usual. Will miss the articles by Blacksun and Shadowhawk. Hope they keep their promise to contribute often.

PLEASE don't run off to sit on the mountaintop and contemplate your navel! Whatever would we do without you?????

Yes, it is all worth it, in spite of the disappointments, frustrations, and hard work. Doing something that must be done, and helping others to find what they must do. And, as you say, if you only get through to one or two, that is reward for all the effort. But you reach many more than that--and so you are even more needed!

But, do take time out every once in a while to contemplate something--everyone needs a bit of time for self. That isn't selfish--have to renew your ownself in order to have energy for others.

Read about the dog catcher in Texas who turned loose three dogs because he couldn't bear the thought of killing any more dogs? And was threatened with loss of his job because of it? Last I heard he was still employed. Must be a horrible job!

About teaching people to be kind to all living things--Yes, it can be done, but it takes a long time and a lot of hard work! And must be begun at the "student's" early age. The burden is on us, the adults. Not only to teach them that they should be kind to all things, but to be so ourselves, thereby setting the example. And it isn't always easy--particularly when you have to stick by what you teach and pick up some creepy-crawler that gives you the shivers and put it back outside where it belongs when you would much rather just quickly dispatch it! Children soon learn the difference between what you say and what you do!

And one doesn't have to deprive the children of the joy of discovering the "hidden" life of other beings. My children often brought in small creatures, which they were very careful with, to share and to enjoy for a few minutes. But they knew that they must return them to where they found them in no more than a few minutes. (So the creature could "go home to its mother".) And it stuck--all three of them are still very kind and considerate to all living creatures.

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RHEA (cont.)

Which reminds me--Lisa, in Florida: Do hope those "cookies" witch pup receives are doggie cookies and not people cookies!

As to changing the words of songs--great. But--what about using "They" and "Theirs"????Let's not make the same mistake our forebearers did!

Stroke of luck--ran across copy of Elizabeth Pepper's "Magical and Mystical Sites" in a used books store (book like new) for a fraction of cost. Real treasure find! Enjoying it.

And speaking of books--the suggestion of booklets, and your idea of booklets, and your idea of a book, are both good. (Think they have both come up before.) Many of the series-articles would be great to have in one paper! Save hunting through back issues for all parts of the series. That isn't too bad, except I always get side-tracked by reading all the other articles over again and it takes so long!!!

How about a series of booklets which could be "bound" into a book? Loose leaf, perhaps. And, then all the preliminary work would be done towards putting it into book form. Plus, those who may not be able to afford the price of a book at one time could get it bit by bit. Everyone would benefit, and the land fund could grow!

And I, for one, would be delighted to lend my typing talents(?) to the project. And even furnish my own stencils. And, as I have almost (hint) all of the copies of the newsletter, would have the material right at hand. Just let me know when to start typing, and what!

Weather still strange. Today, delightful. In the high sixties and bright. Love it! But, know it isn't what it should be. Perhaps we'll have our snowfall in mid-summer! Wouldn't surprise me, way things are going.

Imbolc/Candlemas was great. Celebrated with group of friends and it was very nice. New Moon was even better. The group has open circles at new moon, which works out well. The students are thereby able to participate in ritual more often than just Sabbats. Interesting thing happened: One fellow (initiate) sat outside because he had a very nasty cold. First time he has ever sat out and observed. When it was over, he was crying! Said it was the most beautiful thing he had ever seen--really gave him a different perspective on the entire thing. Sure he will approach the ritual much differently in the future. Perhaps there is an idea there???

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RHEA (cont.)

Looking forward to Spring and opening up the 'house' to air and light. So are my plants and my "resident monster", Miss Boo. (my chichuahua) She becomes more spoiled each day. Still my "protector" and will challenge anything that moves, no matter what its size.

My jungle" does well, although not thriving as well as it does when there is plenty of light and air. I try to compensate, and it manages to get through the Winter. Now if Tarzan would just appear.

Seems the question of Goddess/Goddesses and God/Gods keeps popping up! I agree with you, Pat. They are all one, yet each one one. Gets very complicated, doesn't it? I am still trying to work on that research project (among others), but it, too, gets very involved and is not something that will be accomplished in a few days time.

Still looking for a place to move--hopefully with some area for a garden. So far--no luck. I keep watching though, and know that one of these days the right place at the right price will appear. Just have to stay on the lookout for it! One thing I learned a long time ago--you can ask for things all you want to--but must do your part towards making it work! I can ask for a place to move to but if I don't go out and look for it, I may never find it, although it is sitting there waiting for me to show up!

So-better get back to work! Do take care-be nice-pat fur-people--(Ever see the "People Crackers" for dogs? Should get some for fur-people---they have some very nice postmen and policemen shapes in them!!!)

Bye--Love--Blessed Be! RHEA

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Three blessed events at the LA zoo--The zoo received a gift of six koala bears from the Australian government last March--the first of the cut little animals allowed to leave Australia in more than 50 years. Although one dies last May..smiling zoo officials say they got a bonus! All three surviving females are pregnant. Technically, the infant's, affectionately called "Joeys", already have been born. They have passed their month-long gestation period and crawled into their mother's pouch.

Koala bears are marsupials..and the tiny plum-sized babies are not expected to emerge from the pouch until July. They'll spend the next five or six months hanging on to their mother's backs. Zoo-keepers say they didn't expect the pregnancies so quickly since the little critters are subject to stress..But one keeper says they must have learned to relax in the artifical moonlight in the eucalyptus forest in front of the zoo's "Koala Hilton."

* *

TALL GREEN GODS by Rus of Arcane Crafts & The Witches' Annual

During the winter little buds appeared on the trees. Now they are growing, or "sweeling up," as it is commonly said. There is till snow around; frost still strikes hard. But the Forest knows the Sun is returning, and it's time to wake up. The sap begins to move in the early risers. If you put your ear against the trunk, you can hear it move.

There is a little time to do some last-minute work. You can still prune away some dead branches. This is the time to bring out the cutters and the tree wound paint, and fix up what damage the winter storms have done. In some parts branches rubbing each other in the wind may have chafed the bark away. One of the branches must go. Some trees or their limbs may have died during the winter; these must be trimmed off. The way to tell dead branches from healthy ones is by bending slightly. A live branch is springy; a dead one will snap off easily. Dead wood feels dry and rough to the touch. Often it is bare of bark, gray, and has splits along the grain. There may be splits in the bark from frost damage. These need to be bandaged with wound point and cloth. Especially now, when the sap is running.

On the other hand, you might want to tap a grove of maples for syrup. It's a nice idea, but...You need quite a lot of maples--very big ones--to get any worthwhile amount of syrup. It takes something like ten gallons of sap to make one quart of syrup, and many times that amount to boil down for maple sugar. But if you have enough maples for such a project, or enough birches to tap for birch beer, well best of luck to you, and let us all know how it turns out.

Spring is when termites swarm. Normally these pests live like monks--shunning light and fresh air, and doing their destructive work within the wood, carefully hiding all surface marks of their presence. But by this time they grow long wings, fly or crawl out for a few hours, and then burrow back into the soil, to work more damage. While they are on the outside, you might be able to destroy a good number out of a swarm by spraying with insecticide, or doing a dance on top of them, or by dashing them with boiling water. Once in the ground, you need to resort to special termite-control methods: With a thick rod poke several holes around the base of each tree. The holes should be 2 feet from the trunk, 2 feet apart and 4-6 inches deep. Mix 1 part Chlordane with 120 parts water (About 1 ounce to the gallon), and pour some into each hole. Figure on doing ten holes with each gallon. (In some states you can't buy Chlordane; you may have to go out of state to get it, or try one of those weak substitutes that are "legal" according to the "ecologists." Anyway, what you are looking for is a soil insect killer.) The same Chlordane, in the same mixture, applied the same way around your house, will keep termites from getting into the woodwork.

***

DID JA KNOW? Four score and seven pounds of milk make about four pounds of butter.

* *

PUSSY CAT CORNER

Lynne in Australia sez: I have never had a rapport with cats. My cat and I practically hate each other, yet she always deposits dead birds and headless snakes at my back door. Can anyone explain, please? I don't understand cats. I had an interesting experience with dogs and telepathy I'll tell you about next time.

Merry Part, Blessed Be

Lynne

ED. NOTE: Lynne, you're right: you don't understand cats. Your cat doesn't hate you. She brings you her little prizes expecting praise. The birds demonstrate that she is a good hunter. The snakes demonstrate that she is protecting the home from intruders. She is trying to show you that she is a very good cat. She wants your love. Although Sirius is a dog, he did much the same thing. A few months ago a mouse got in the house. Sirius knew that mouse didn't belong here. He would lie in wait for hours, watching, and chase the mouse whenever it appeared. A couple of weeks later when I came home from work, I saw the dead mouse lying in the middle of the floor. Sirius, as soon as I opened the door, ran to pick up the mouse and bring it to me. I petted him, told him he was a good dog, and disposed of the mouse. He demonstrated that he was protecting the home from intruders. Animals often try very hard to please the people they own. Hope this helps you to understand your cat.

*

Robyn in Australia sez: Sorry for the blunder on the new puss' name, he is Ista. The little guy is rapidly winning many hearts, so I'm hoping that I'm not wrong in thinking him my little black man from before. I know it's soon after Ebenezer's departure but there are many similarities.

*

FROM U.P.I. Stealing cats is no longer considered a misdeamor in Los Angeles County. Now it's regarded as just an infraction. The County Board of Supervisors also downgraded other crimes..including using a white cane if you are not blind, and roller skating at more than 40 miles an hour. The move is designed to streamline the courts and speed up the judicial process.

*

PAM IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA sez: I have already been claimed by two cats that have made themselves at home with me. One is black and white, the other is pure black. It looks like they are here to stay, not that I mind. I have always enjoyed animals and intend to get more.

*

In Clovis, California, Ernest Folk has been scrapping with the law over dog licenses. He has refused to get licenses for his three dogs contending the license fee is discriminatory because cat owners do not have to obtain a license. He was even jailed for one day after refusing to buy the licenses and pay a $50. fine. When animal control officers tried to impound his pets, he told them they'd need a court order. If we find out how this turns out, we'll report on it elsewhere.

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FROM Roweena in Oregon

MOTHER OF NATURE

The rain falls softly, out beyond the door,
As the Mother of Nature tends Her Gardens.

She urges the Birds to do their duty,
As they reseed the barren valleys.

Man, in all his wisdons, has;
Burned the forests,
Cut down the trees,
Choked the fish out of the seas,
Poisened his waters
And the air that he breaths.

The Mother of Nature, has a tiring task:
Cleaning up after man,
Replacing what he's destroyed.

She must be growing very weary of this task.

We're grown now, It's time to show our Mother some Kindness.
Let her know, we respect her wishes, and Loves...
...By treading softly in the garden,
Helping to return
Our Mother's garden to its former Beauty and Stature.
I Know I Will

Roweena

**

FROM Jean Opperman in Austrialia

NIGHT

The steady ticking of the clock,
In the selent night descends,
And the rhythm soothes my soul
For the night and I are friends.
When the dusk comes quietly creeping
On the hearth the red coals glow,
I hear the clock count out the hours
While the fire is dying slow.
As the evening subtly deepens
All vestige of the day has flown,
Time takes on the hours of substance,
Like the metered metronome.

Jean Opperman

* *

FROM JIM in Winchester

Greetings Pat and all the Bakersfield Georgians:

I have just finished rereading the newsletter for the umptenth time. We here at the southern outpost of the Georgian Empire sure look forward to getting the newsletter each month to hear all about the good friends and beautiful people we know up there. My Gosh! I was counting it up the other day. Its been about six years since the Gracious Lady saw to it that I met you and the Georgians, Pat! That meeting has certainly brought a lot of happiness to my life and if I have never come out and said it to your face - Thanks my Dear Friend. As you know, I am not one for words, but I hope that you understand that I care for all the lessons and hospitality you have always shown me.

I am busy transcribing BOS #4 and will send a letter to the man in Todlands and see what he seeks of the Craft.

I know Elizabeth is a great help to you and she has certainly made any circle that I have been in at which she was present extra special by her presence and lovliness. The Goddess has indeed touched her with a gentle hand. Pat, I better stop this before he head swells and you will have to get her a bigger Moon Crown to wear.

ED NOTE: Jim, we thank you for the kind words. We just don't get to see you often enough. As to getting a new Moon Crown for Elizabeth .....if we hear any more comments like the above, we shall not be able to find one large enough.

JIM (cont.)....

I see where Reagen is telling all the people in the U.S. to read their bibles and declaring this the year of the bible. Hasn't he ever heard of seperation of church and state? I can see all the Jerry Falwells starting to put up stakes in front of their churches now to start burning all those who do not believe as they do. Also did you happen to see the 60-Minute episode on the World Council of Churches and how they support violent overthrow of governments to achieve christian conversion of non-believers. Unless various Craft traditions can stop their petty bickerings amongst themselves and accept that we all basicly believe the same teachings but perhaps honer the Lord and Lady in slightly different ways we are going to help those who would strike us down for our belief in the Old Ways.

Well, all for now. Have a pleasant Lupercalia and give all the Ladies a big kiss for me.

Blessed Be,
JIM

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FROM YOUR EDITOR

What do the words mean? We have mentioned previously that some people think that "Witch" and "Pagan" are synonyms. This is not the case. Although all Witches are Pagans, not all Pagans are Witches.
Certainly in the Christian viewpoint, and judging by their behavior, some non-Christians seem to believe that "Witch", "Pagan" and "barbarian" are synonymous. This, also, is not true.
The dictionaries define "barbarian" and the forms derived from it as meaning not civilized, without sympathy for literary culture or art, rough and crude, savagely cruel, brutal, etc.
Certainly the ancient barbarians were Pagans, and in that sense the two words could be considered synonymous. But should this be the case today? What do we mean by the words "Witch" and "Pagan"? Perhaps we need to give some thought to this.

We'll add one more "Georgie" for the year beginning now through next April for the best article on "What Is A Witch" or "What Is A Pagan" ...or you can combine the two into one article, your choice. Readers will pick the winner as usual. Try to keep the length to not more than three of our pages, or if it must be longer, divide it into a series.
Now spend a little time thinking about it.

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SHOULD YOU MISS THE COVEN MEETING?
NO, NEVER, NOT! Not unless you have a really good excuse such as... you are really ill, you died last night, you have to go to work on your job, you are out of town, etc. And whatever the reason, you should always call your HPs or HP BEFORE the meeting, not 3 hours or 3 days later. They may have planned for you to perform a certain duty in a ritual that was planned. Perhaps your not being there may mean plans must be changed and this may take time.
You should also call if you plan to attend are unavoidably detained ..perhaps working late or a transportation problem. People usually won't mind waiting a half hour or so if they know you're coming but can't help being late. BUT..it is certainly thoughtless to expect people to sit around waiting for you thinking you're late, and then you don't show up. They will certainly be annoyed with you..as they should be.
Missing a meeting because you have a date, want to see a movie, or want to go to a party are poor excuses. If the Craft and the coven aren't more important to you than that, then you shouldn't be there in the first place.
Such behavior, besides being inconsiderate, can also be harmful to you. You might be missing a very important lesson that evening. You should not expect your teachers to spend extra hours going over the material again just because you wanted to play...nor should they do it.
When you become part of a coven or study group, you have a responsibility to others...and to yourself.

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FROM E-Seeker

PAT'S FRONT DOOR

Upon this lifes sojourn
There have been many lessons learned.

Some in spite of myself;
Some as natural as breath.

There have been times when
I've felt like a doe
Forced to walk on concrete.

Looking.....Searching.....

Up the sidewalk and steps, across the porch.

"Who's that knocking on my door?"

"Tis I; E-Seeker,

Are You In?"

**

FROM Jennie in Jacksonville

Dear Pat:

Enclosed is the $ for renewal & a little extra.

Things have been going fairly well, with the expected ups & downs.

My son had his bicycle stolen out of our shed about a week ago. That, along with the fact that I found out they've scheduled me to another 6 months on midnight to 8 a.m. shift. I guess I am used to it but still....

I'm still writing Penny and family & talking with Suzanne.

I am continuing my solitary path as it seems to suit my lifestyle better.

Hope you are fully recovered from the flu. Take care of yourself, Pat.

Love & Blessed Be,
Jennie

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LADY FAUNA, secretary of the Georgian Church sez:

WICCAN NON GRATA
It must be Friday; my sense of humor is back.

GREETINGS TO ELLEN: Yes, I had considered putting together a collection of works from the Georgian, but have not made time to plow through 120 issues and make monumental decisions about what goes in and what doesn't. So, if you all are willing to help, here's what we need to start:

1. Copies of articles you have submitted to the Georgian over the last ten years; and
2. Copies of articles you haven't submitted to the Georgian over the last ten years; and
3. Artwork; and
4. A list of articles you particularly enjoyed and would like to have under one cover; and
5. If you submit any of your own works, a release for one time publication rights (that means we can use it once, but otherwise, you can publish it as you wish).

Mail all this to:

J. Davis
P.O. Box 21524
Long Beach, CA. 90801

DO NOT MAIL IT TO PAT. He has enough mail to deal with as it is and he'll only have to spend money to mail it all to me. I'll keep everyone posted on what kind of response I get and what progress is being made toward publication.

My apologies to Jim and Lisa in Florida for not getting the stencil with their pictures done in time for the last newsletter. The pictures appear elsewhere in the newsletter this month. Once again, I am the recipient of the Bone Award (in the doghouse again...).

FOR PAT: You'd trade Panorama Heights for Bakersfield? Stay off those mountaintops: rumor is they're all blowing off anyway.

YOU ASKED FOR IT; PREPARATIONS FOR PUBLICATION

Lots of you have written over the years asking how to prepare articles for submission. Here are some guidelines that are pretty much accepted by editors throughout the United States.

1. Type it. The preferred method is double-spaced with one inch margins at the top, bottom and right sides with a one and a half inch margin on the left. This makes the manuscript easy to read, easy to type from and easy to correct and edit as necessary.

2. Type your name, address and the page number on each page (This is particularly meaningful if you've ever seen the top of Pat's dining room table.).

(continued next page)

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LADY FAUNA continued

3. Remember your audience when you compose your article.

4. Try to submit dated articles (an article that has an expiration date such as a gathering announcement or a seasonal article, such as "Yule Decorations") at least two months in advance.

5. Remember that Pat usually cannot use articles submitted after the 20th of the month preceding the month of publication. That means your Beltane article should be at Pat's by March 20th. General articles you'd like to see in print in May should be at Pat's by April 20th. It takes a lot of time and love and hard work to type, correct, print, assemble and mail your newsletter.

6. Artwork and pictures. Black and white with good contrast is best. Be sure to put your name and address on the back (use self-adhesive labels to preserve your works) and if you want anything back, please send sufficient postage and mailing materials with your submissions.

Pat is not going to reject anything because, for one reason or another, your work does not conform to the suggestions I've made. The points I've covered are pretty standard requirements throughout national editorial offices and if studied, are designed to keep your article from being misinterpreted and to give you the best possible chance of seeing yourself in print. Also, a lot is just plain old common courtesy. Remember, if you don't want to re-read it, no one else will want to either.

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ED. NOTE: Thank you Ms. Secretary. Now if you'd just move to Bakersfield and.....

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ELLEN in N. Hollywood sez: My book on ouabala for Pagans is coming along fine. There are afew books I'd like to get, but for now, I'm using meditation to develop some info I haven't found in books. We occult writers have some problems. I know of only 3 major publisheres of serious occult books, those written for practitioners rather than the general public. Of course, with 3 or 4 thousand dollars you can publish it yourself.

The idea on publishing the be t of G.N. is agood one. Put me down for a copy. Shall we all send suggestions as to which articles to include? Don't know if any of mine would be in the running, but if so, feel free to use them.
Pacific Circle is coming up again..June 16-19, and is going to be great. The info flyer is ready. Get reservations in early. We only have room for 125. Every year P.C. gets better and this year won't be an exception.
We've expanded to 3 nights by popular request. For more info..write Pacific Circle...Box 9513...N, Hollywood, Ca. 91609 Postcard will be fine.

Blessed Be
Ellen Cannon Reed.

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FROM Ed in El Cajon

Dear Pat:

Sorry for taking so long in sending my sub renewal, I've been busy trying to get a pagan--Odonist motorcycle club together--We are open to bikers with families. We are not one of these clubs that tears up little towns and cause trouble! Just a group of pagans who ride motorcycles for fun and relaxation! If you know anyone who sould be interested let me know! The club is called Odin's Sons M/C.

Hail to his victory!
Odin Lives!
Ed Conley

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FROM Gail in San Jose

Hi Pat!

This is just a short note to enclose with the subscription renewal. Too much going on right now to try to catch you up on it at this time. I'm just hanging on with the knowledge that this too shall pass. But I've about had my fill of learning experiences and am looking forward to "semester break". There are those that suggest that semester break may be non-existant but I'm trying to ignore that bit of negative thinking!

I'm still speaking with students from Santa Clara University from time to time. They give me the opportunity to think out loud and to discover the areas that I need to work on. It seems that I received a note to you, from you, from someone in this area that wanted to be contacted. I have lost that information--well, not quite, it's buried on my desk, which is pretty close to lost. Anyhow, should he again ask for contact with me go ahead and give him my address. If the University knows about me, what harm can come to from Crafters? Never mind. I don't want any gruesome details.

Studies are continuing quite entertainingly. I won't use the term "fun", but they've definately been interesting!

Hope all is well with you and everyone else.

Love and Blessings,
Gail

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DIDJA KNOW?

In 1909, New York City enacted the Sullivan Ordinance. The Sullivan Ordinance made it illegal for women to smoke. It also made it a crime for the manager of a public place to allow a woman to smoke on his premises.

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STUFF & THINGS
SOME LETTERS FROM THE GEORGIE WINNERS

LADY ALLUSHA (SLO-Pismo area) sez: I can't tell you how honoured and excited I am that the Georgie Award for best series was given to me. I want to thank all those wonderful people who like my work. It really does give a good incentive to do more things, when you know people appreciate it.
The award arrived safely a few days ago. It is quite cute. I've already found a permanent place for it. I'm very proud.

The suggestion Ellen made about putting some articles and series into booklet form, and offer them for sale, proceeds to go to the land fund, is a great idea. I volunteer my stuff for it, and will even help with the typing (so long as I can do it from my home).

I wish Blacksun and Shadowhawk all the best on their new endeavor to bring Paganism back to the people. Around here it is obvious that something of that nature would be very welcome. On Beltaine and Lughnasadh we sponsor day-;ong pagan activities before the Sabbat Circle. These festivities are attended by many assorted local peoples, and are always a lot of fun. We incorporate as many of the traditional activities as possible, and there is always a short explanation of the festival and its purpose. The locals here have become very accepting of this Pagan-style of celebrating, much more so than the Craft. By using 'fun' as a catalyst, the public can be brought closer in touch with the 'Olde Ways'.

I am almost caught up with all my correspondence. When I started going through my stack of mail, I couldn't believe some of it was dated as far back as June, 1981. Whew! What a chore! Next is income tax. Then back to writing.

All of us here are so glad that Spring is on the way. Between the days of rain are warm, wonderful, sunshine-filled days. Coven Tara's overall mood is picking up. My antsy Spring mood is starting to tease me again. It is so hard to ignore feelings and desires which occur naturally throughout the seasons, and Spring is getting harder and harder for me to keep up with! At weak moments I get to thinking that I'm just getting too old. Luckily, they pass.

Soon, it will be time for me to get out the old sewing machine, and start making some more costumes for the upcoming festivals. I hear that the theme for the Mountain Meet this year is the 'Enchanted Forest'. I'm trying to convince our men to wear fur loin cloths, capelets, and foot wraps. These outfits will be ready to wear and adjustable. If our men 'chicken out', maybe there will be some brave ones from the Georgian sector. I jope, I hope.

Well, I must go now. Still much to do. Take care. Blessed Be.

Love, Light, and Laughter,
Lady Allusha

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STUFF & THINGS

HARAGANO (New Wiccan Church of Washington, Seattle) sez: Today I recieved the Georgie. The first thing I did was to put it on the window ledge above my desk. It means a lot to me. Thank you all.
Like any other writer, it makes me feel good to have some tangible evidence people are reading what I have written. As a Pagan, I feel deeply honored that other Pagans found my article interesting enough for a Georgie.
The Georgie is going to sit above my desk and serve as a source of inspiration and as a reminder that I belong to a larger Pagan community, where ideas are alive and are welcomed when they are shared.

Thank you all! and
Blessed Be!
Haragano

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LINDA in Columbus, Ohio sez: Dear Pat and All the Georgian Newsletter Readers,
I want to tell you all how very honored I am to have recieved a Georgie for my article-poem, Holy Terror-Holy Tears. I was moved as it was my first contribution to the newsletter; and I was especially proud to appear in the company of the other winners, Haragano, Lady Allusha, and Catherine and Kent, all such regular contributors of consistently interesting, well-written material. UPS delivered the award in excellent condition on February 14. Thank you so very much.

As to the worth of trying to teach the Craft and help others through its ways, I think the folks who think it is so futile have maybe expected their students to turn out carbon copies of themselves. As children seldom behave exactly as parents would like them to, so, too, will students display their own perceptions, exert their own wills, and strive for their own place in the Craft as magickal children of the Priest and Priestess. Also, like children, there are some students who are almost too eager to please, and others beyond even exceptional guidance; of course, most are in between the extremes.

So, Pat, I am in agreement with you that even if you only help a few students create happier lives for themselves through the Craft, you have succeeded; for without your contribution, even those few might have been lost. Also, even if every student doesn't grow into a gifted High Priest or High Priestess or even an Initiate, perhaps some bit of Craft wisdom will have sunk in deep enough to come to his or her aid in time of need.

And besides counting your successes with individual students, don't forget to count every newsletter subscription and renewal as a success; for there are folks all over the country and beyond learning from the articles and meeting through your pages, perhaps finding covens in their home areas. So maybe some of your greatest successes you know only as a name on an address label. Thanks for sticking with it.

Blessed Be,
Linda

ED, NOTE: Thank you, Linda, for your kind thoughts.

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DOG DAYS

FROM Catherine & Kent of COTOR in Australia

Our natural remedy for our furry friends this issue deals with your pet being bitten or scratched in a fight with some Outsider, (even well behaved Wiccan dogs and cats suffer this problem at some time or other), First, bathe and clean the area with a solution of mother tincture Calendula, one teaspoon to half cup of tepid water, and give orally Ledum no. 6 potency each hour, or half hour depending on the severity of the wound, if this action is taken quickly after the injury has been done, there should be no infection. Repeat the treatment as you consider necessary until healing cleanly.

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FROM Lynne in Australia

Here I am again to report on Simon and Clair's oils. The formula you printed for restoring feathers on birds works great. Though I don't know which looks worse, a naked bird or a half naked one. It also works great on dogs with bald patched. One of my dogs had rubbed some hair off (pushing under the blankets). It's growing back nicely. I had a bit of sinus trouble, so Simon and Clair sent me some oil. John wanted to know what he could use for a horse with sinus. I thought, aha, if it worked for me, why not the horse. Only problem was how to get the horse to sniff. Ever resourceful, I mixed it with vaseline. Problem solved, sinus gone. He poked it up the horses nose. It cleared up very quickly.

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FROM U.P.I. Thanks to Pres. Reagan, Loner, the German Shepherd, will once again be digging clams so his disabled master can sell them to earn a living.
John Kehoe of Blue Point, N.Y., was disabled in an auto accident 4 years ago. His sole income is $475. a month from social security. He hopes to sell enough dog-dug clams to get off social security. In November, Kehoe telephoned the White House for help when town officials in the bay city of Patchogue refused to issue a commercial clamming license to his dog. They said that under a town ordinance, the license could be issued only to a human.
Three weeks ago, presidential aide Michael Batten contacted town officials, reported that the president was "concerned" about Kehoe's plight and asked them to work something out.
The presedential prod apparently did the trick. Yesterday...town Clerk Stanley Allan officially presented the dog's clam digging license to Kehoe.

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About 39,000 dogs are brought each year to S.P.C.A. in N.Y.C. Only about 8900 of the canines found a home last year. The ASPCA says part of the reason may be the dogs' scruffy appearance. And that's why they started a program to wash the pooches and make them more presentable. The first 2 strays in the program were taken before TV cameras to be washed by actor David Garrison. Garrison plays the lead in the Broadway play "Snoopy."

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FROM Catherine & Kent of COTOR in Australia

Merry Meet, Pat and all The Georgians!

We received TG and the wonderful news of our award only yesterday! Our sincere thanks to all who voted this to us, we feel very honoured and humble to have been given this twice, and our congrats to the other winners. The award is truly lovely, and has a place of honour in our living room, once again, blessings and thanks to all concerned.

Our congrats also to Starhawk and Blacksun on the opening of DAO, & their credentials, may the Old Ones ever smile on your work.

Jim in Winchester may like to know that the addition of wheatgerm oil to most oil blends will prevent it becoming rancid and give greater 'keeping properties, naturally all oils must be kept out of heat and in a cool dry spot.

We have started the year with more publicity, or rather, we should say, a refusal to accept said stuff. A national TV show asked to speak with us with reference to our appearing in an hour long programme being planned on the Occult in Sydney. We gave, altogether about six hours of our time, in four interviews, plus providing the usual hospitality one gives guests in the home. At the fourth interview we were told that they wanted us to dress up? in robes and do a 'mock' ritual on camera preferably a 'Witch Wedding', of course we refused! We realised that the show was not going to be what they were presenting to us, but rather a 'send up' of all those appearing. So after discussion with Cotor members and Coveners, we phoned and cancelled all further interviews and advised that we would not appear. Well, from then to now, we have been pestered and maligned, they kept phoning and asking us to reconsider, they offered payment, they offered to take us out to an expensive lunch or dinner and so on. We still declined. Now we are hearing from all over Sydney, that we messed them about, supposedly deliberately, just to get money and free dinners from the producers! These type of statements are coming from the research assistants and director, we contacted them and requested they stop discussing us in any context with their show, but as you can guess, they say they know nothing of such things, the Pagan community know us well enough not to believe all this, but there are people who will believe anything, so it appears our good name and our Craft integrity is about to take its first smack for 1983 although, we have heard we were splashed about a Victorian paper some weeks ago, after we wrote a letter of complaint about a junkie lay about, fellow on social security, who had set up as a High Priest, and was advertising himself as the first Church of Wicca in Oz, and offering spell craft and Witch weddings to all comers, we advised the paper editors that they could be sued for false and misleading advertising, and so could the purported priest. The

(Continued next page)

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Catherine & Kent (cont.)

week after we contacted them he changed his advert to read, Melbourne's BLACK witch, and the first Occult Church in Oz, and ceased mentioning weddings, which by the way, would not have been legal, although he pretended they were. He then, attacked us and COTOR in an open letter to the paper, when we finally get copies we will send to you. We have just bought a beaut new photocopier, so no printing probs from now on.

We are all very sad here in Oz today, in South Oz and Victoria, we have had devasting bush fires, talk about ASH Wednesday, 69 deaths, all burnt to death or suffocated by smoke, animals and livestock are dead in thousands and many hundred homes burnt to the ground, it is feared the death toll will still rise, as the fires are still burning, the most horrible part is that this morning, in South Oz, where 26 people died, a 19 year old youth has been charged with arson after deliberately lighting the original fire. We hope everyone over there will send energy to our poor burnt land, and to the survivors who must start to live again with just what they were wearing when the fire started, we know you will all invoke the Old Ones for these poor folk, we are still trying to contact one of students who lives in the worst hit area, but as all lines are down, we have no idea if she and her family are ok.

Love and Blessings to you all,
Catherine & Kent

PS. New fire report--over 2000 homes lost, 8 more souls missing!

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FROM Lynne in Australia

Merry Meet friends:

I hope you all enjoyed the season's festivities.
I agree with Lady Thea, at the moment it is an effort just to live, but it's not always just laziness that stops people from writing. All my life I've had a burning desire to write something stirring and profound, but can never put two words together to make sense. I get absolutely green with envy when I read some of the things people contribute to your newsletter, especially words put to music. I must admit, I'm very good with my hands. As you can see, modesty isn't one of my virtues.

Merry Part,
Blessed Be
Lynne

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DIDJA KNOW???

The caterpillar is a rippling specimen, boasting more than 2,000 muscles in its body. Humans have fewer than 700 muscles.

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STUFF & THINGS

We must apologize to Lisa & Jim about not getting in the photos. Lady Fauna did get the stencil..but we couldn't use it. Most of the A.B. Dick people don't seem to understand the electronic stencil machine or how to use it properly. All we got was a blur. The local lady was most cooperative, but after many failures, she finally learned the proper positioning and depth of cut for what we wanted. Then they sold the machines and couldn't make the stencils for us.

Some things didn't make it this issue. Either because of arriving late or because of space limitations, they just have to wait for next issue.

Ellen, Children of the Earth would like permission to reprint the Yule carols. POB 417, Keyser, W.V. 26726.

Long phone call from Lady Thea in Florida. She had another operation and is doing well. About Lady Thea's question about Karnayna: I didn't mean to imply that Karnayna was a goddess. I said Rhea might run across info on him while doing research on goddesses.

National Pagan Spirit Gathering June 18-26 in Wisconsin. Contact Circle to be part of the program by April 20. Box 9013, Madison, Wi. 53715 or phone 608-437-8964 weekdays 10 to 5 or 608-767-2345 and leave a message.

Pagan T-shirts. Blue Moon, Box 4413, Portsmouth, N.H. 03801. 15 occult designs, 4 sizes.

Someone asked for info on getting a robe made. I know we had an address in the newsletter a few months ago. Someone else asked about where to find some form of God ststue for the altar. They seem to be hard to find in some areas. Others have complained about the difficulty of finding nice athames at a reasonable price. There are some people who just don't have a lot of talent for making things themselves and must purchase them. And usually they don't have much money to spend.

Moon Magick Catalog, POB 395, Littleton, Col. 80160.

Sometimes it seems as though "Women's Lib" and "anti-sex" mean the same thing. Now they're complaining about a TV commercial because a man is looking at a woman's legs. I always look at women's legs. Did'n know that was such a terrible thing to do. Perhaps we should go back to ankle length skirts and 16 petticoats. Shades of Falwell and Reagan! Sex is only for making babies..and we're not too sure that's okay either.

That's all, folks.
Love and Blessed Be.
Pat and all the Georgians

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