GEORGIAN NEWSLETTER The Georgian Church October 1985
1908 Verde
Bakersfield, CA 93304

Bakersfield--Congratulations to Delana who received her First Degree Initiation at Equinox. Dean has done a wonderful job of reroofing the temple and Don and Elizabeth did a fine job conducting the Fall Equinox celebration.

Note we have a new feature--in future issues, we are going to try to include a table of contents on the first page. We hope it will make it easier to reference back to articles.

Subscription rates are going up. For the first time in four years, we will be increasing our subscription rates effective January 1, 1986. One year subscriptions (12 issues) will be $8 U.S., $16 foreign surface, $32 foreign air mail. Our costs have increased and you know what's been happening to the postal rates (we just got another increase notice in the mail this month). The increase still won't cover our costs, but it will help ensure the GNL continues. From now until January, we will accept two year subscription renewals at the current rate of $6/year ($12 foreign surface, $24 foreign air). These funds will be used to purchase supplies before they (sigh) go up again and to pick up bargains whenever we're able.

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A Rational Approach to Psychic Attack by Persephone

One morning you wake up with a raspy feeling at the back of your throat and plugged sinuses, indicating the onset of a pesky head cold. You knock your coffee cup in the floor and it shatters as you pour the last of the pot in the cup. You glance outside and the lawn is withered and your pet chrysanthemums are sagging. But it is only when you put your panty hose on backwards and they run in six places that you begin to suspect you are under psychic attack.

One of the first things I do is to reenforce my defenses. An extra shot of vitamin C will help the cold, and orange juice is quicker than a fresh pot of coffee. I water the lawn, talk to the plants and explain this is just a temporary state. I wear kneesocks--panty hose aren't nearly as sexy--and kneesocks are difficult to put on backwards. I sweep up the broken cup before someone stumbles sleepy-eyed into the kitchen barefoot.

Once I'm aware something unusual is going on and I have taken and am taking precautions to alleviate the effects, a natural response is "Where in heck is this coming from?" I always reflect on whether I am reaping karmic retribution--but this process usually happens earlier in the first stage when I am determining whether what is happening is true psychic attack or Mercury retrograde. Obviously, I eliminate mature adults as they seldom have the time for such destructive and senseless behavior. This means it must be coming from someone with the mentality of a spoiled brat--the proverbial child tying tin cans to the cat's tail. While a fight or flight response is appropriate in a physically threatening situation, an adrenalin rush creates an enormous amount of energy inappropriate in responding to the socially unacceptable behavior of a child. It is important to remain calm as panic is the exact response for which this action has been created and only feeds the intensity of effect.

There are different schools of thought as to how to deal with the situation. Again, referring to the mentality of a mischief maker, child psychology, blended with a little witch law, is of much help. After all, karma will catch up with this child much more effectively and appropriately than I could and when this child sees that his/her actions have no apparent effect whatsoever, the results can be extremely wilting.

Sometimes I know exactly who it is, and this can be rather fun. It allows me to observe their consternation in the face

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A Rational Approach to Psychic Attack (cont.) by Persephone

of my aloofness and lack of obvious concern. If I don't know who it is, it is not important. I recognize the mindset and have neither the time nor energy to participate in more child games of destructive hide and seek. If I sense my poise is slipping, I read Miss Manners' Guide to Excruciatingly Correct Behavior, particularly the comments so wittily composed on dealing with ill-mannered children.

Should it become obvious that my rational approach is not having the positive effect I have been seeking (having sent the nuisance numerous psychic coloring books and Crayolas), there is always the Appeal to Higher Authority. This, however, I save as a last resort for I think my gods and goddesses have better things to do than handle trivial matters of which I am perfectly capable of dealing with myself. After all, there's no use calling the Juvenile Authority if Junior salts my coffee; however the little dear may be on the way downtown if it tastes a little funny and the box of roach poison lays freshly open on the kitchen counter.

The results of this approach are enormously rewarding. It allows me to continue my life without interruption, without harming another, and without harm to myself through incurring unnecessary karma. Perhaps next time this person will think of something more constructive and less frustrating with which to occupy their short hours on Mother Earth.

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Religion in the News (UPI)

A letter believed to have been written in 1825 by Mormon church founder Joseph Smith, Jr. sheds new light on the Mormon prophet. The church released the letter which, if authentic, would be Smith's earliest-known writing. It indicates that Smith dabbled in folk magic at the time he reported the heavenly visitations that are the cornerstone of the Mormon faith. The letter, if authentic, also would be among the few references to Smith and folk magic from sources that are not considered anti-Mormon. The church gives no explanation of how it obtained the letter. The letter writer advises a man interested in finding buried treasure to take a hazel stick and slice the end in two. If there's buried treasure near, the writer says the cut portions of the stick will rejoin when it's laid on the ground.

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The Physics of Magick (Conclusion) by Rik

A long time ago in a far away land a man called Euclides began to ask a lot of questions on how the world worked. He asked such things as "Why does rain fall and smoke rise?" and "What happens if you drop a sword on someone while riding a horse at full gallop in a circle?" and other such things. Well, everyone thought that he was crazy but he persisted and eventually came up with a set of rules about the universe which he called Physics. Everyone hated this because they then had to go back to school and relearn everything and the teachers hated this most of all because they also had to go back to school. But eventually physics caught on and people liked it because they could use this physics to predict the outcome of a situation before they invested a lot of time and money.

Everything went along well and good for some years until people began to see problems with the physics of Euclides. It worked sometimes but not every time and they were about to chuck the whole thing and start over when a man called Newton realized the problem. "Why, Euclides made two mistakes. He thought the world was flat and he kept his speed slow to a few km/hr. If we compensate for the curveture of the earth and increase speeds to that of a running horse or train, we solve the problems." Well, it worked and the teachers hated this because now they had to go back to school and who wants to be a freshman again, anyway. But eventually it caught on and all was right with the world.

One day, someone began to see a few problems with Newtonian physics but these were quickly repressed. But problems have a habit of revealing themselves and soon everyone who was anyone knew that Newton was wrong on some things and so could be wrong on others, and this scared the teachers to death. Then one day a postal clerk who worked in the post office because he couldn't do anything else was working in the mail room sending Schultz' mail to Hoffenburg as was his job when he realized the problems with Newton. "I've got it," cried Einstein. "Newton assumed that the universe was flat and he thought that 60 mph was an absolute. But we know that the universe is shaped like a saddle and that the speed of light is an absolute." Well, the teachers hated Albert and made funny jokes about his wearing penny loafers because he wasn't able to learn how to tie shoelaces and laughed at the signs he wore that told him where he lived because he couldn't remember his own address, but mostly they hated the thought of going back to school because they knew that they couldn't make it in the fraternities. But eventually Einstein's

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The Physics of Magick (cont.) by Rik

Relativistic physics was accepted until mistakes were found that didn't quite fit his theory.

But the teachers had learned their lesson and instead of developing a whole new system, they simply modified the old ones and so didn't have to return to school. The Theory of Relativity was followed by the special theory of relativity and the modified theory of relativity and the special modified theory of relativity to be used on Mondays and the third Thursdays of each month and.... Well, quantum mechanics and particle physics and a few other fields are thinking that maybe Einstein made a couple of mistakes. Perhaps the speed of light is neither constant nor absolute but is an average. Perhaps when Euclides looked at the world, he saw only his neighborhood which looks flat but Newton could step back and see the entire earth and see that it was round. This doesn't mean that Euclides was wrong, he simply was too close to the situation and needed to take a few steps back. Also maybe Newton was too close to the problem and could only see the solar system and it took Einstein to take a few steps back to see the 15 billion light years that make up the 'universe.' And maybe if we stepped back a few steps we will find that the universe isn't saddle-shaped but resembles a coiled garden hose and if you take a small section it will look saddle-shaped. But perhaps the universe is in constant motion and coils on itself and moves like a slinky. And perhaps this allows time travel, the objects in one part of the universe to influence another part, and even some of the problems of the previous physics aren't wrong, but simply local conditions. After all, when I walk in my kitchen, I use Euclidian physics but when I drive my motorcycle I use Newtonian physics and I assume that NASA uses relativistic physics when they send someone to the moon but when I do Magick, I use syncronistic physics which contains all of the prior systems. Does it exist? My results indicate that the universe believes that they do and that is good enough for me.

Any comments on the above article and conclusions will be greatly appreciated. Rik Johnson, Box 40451, Tucson, AZ 85717.

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"I've decided not to marry Charlie."
"Why?"
"I saw him in his swim trunks--and he looks so different without his wallet."

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Time and the Tarot by Linda Dice

Ed note (LF): This article was an entry in the Pagan Studies Contest).

One of the more difficult aspects of a tarot reading is to ascertain when the events depicted in the reading will come about. Fortunately, there is a relatively easy method of using the cards which will help considerably. After the cards have been shuffled, cut them in your usual way, restack them, then turn over the top card. This becomes your time card.

As with any other Tarot card, this will need interpretation, so you will need to use your intuition. But, as an example, to turn over a two of any suit (or even the High Priestess, whose number is two) may indicate two hours, two days, two weeks, two months, or even occasionally, two years. Each Tarot deck has its own time scale. The Major Arcana are associated with the synodic cycle of the Moon. Wands are days, Pentacles are weeks, Cups are months, and Swords are years. Bear in mind though, that occasionally, this varies depending upon the happening predicted.

If you have cut one of the Major Arcana cards, this represents an unexpected speeding up of events, good or otherwise, the foreshadowing of which wil occur within one Lunar Month. This, of course, depends on the nature of the event itself. Should it be possible that the prediction could be fulfilled within a month, then the card cut will fix the time more precisely.

To turn up the Magician shows that the next Quarter of the Moon will see the fulfillment of the issue. Therefore, if you are reading the cards two days after the Full Moon, the events foretold will come about in five days time when the Moon reaches her Third Quarter.

The High Priestess: by or at the next New Moon. The new Moon referred to is, of course, the visible New Moon.

The Empress: something happens within the next twenty-eight days which indicates which way the wind is blowing, but the event itself will not materialize until three months have passed.

The Emperor: The event will occur at the close of one full Lunar Month.

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Time and the Tarot (cont.) by Linda Dice

The Hierophant/Pope: five days.

The Lovers: Six days.

The Chariot: Seven days, although frequently, the event occurs within the seven days.

Strength: A full seven days.

The Hermit: The event will occur when the Moon is next at the Third Quarter.

The Wheel of Fortune: Ten days.

Justice: Eleven days.

The Hanged Man: twelve days.

Death: Often, due to an unexpected change in the circumstances of the questioner, the event promised may never come to fruition. (This change need not be for the worse, nor does it necessarily refer to death.)

Temperance: A good outcome within fourteen days.

The Devil: Fifteen days.

The Tower: There are two different interpretations. If the rest of the cards show a financial gain, it will come to pass within seven days. However, if some disaster, or negative influence is seen, it will happen in sixteen days. If the spread refers to neither of these two matters, gather the cards, shuffle and cut again. The Tower, I'm sorry to have to say, is not a reliable time card where other happenings are concerned.

The Star: Seventeen days.

The Moon: Either at the next Full Moon, or by the next Full Moon.

The Sun: Although a foreshadowing of the event will occur within a month, the event itself will not come about for another year.

Judgement: Twenty days.

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Time and the Tarot (cont.) by Linda Dice

The World: One full Lunar Month.

The Fool: If the spread shows an unfortunate event, then the disaster is already upon you, if you realize it or not. If the general spread looks good, to turn up the Fool as the time card means that this apparent good fortune will not materialize due to either rash or foolish actions on the questioner's part.

If you have turned up a Major Arcana card and it does not seem possible that the event can occur within one month, reshuffle and cut again. If the second card is also a Major Arcana card, reshuffle and cut again. If the third card reveals a Major Arcana card, however unlikely it may seem, the event will occur within the next Lunar month.

Both Rods and Wands indicate the event will take place within twenty days. However, for those of you who require a more precise timing, here is the time for each card in these suits.

Ace: One day, or occasionally, one week.

Two through Seven: These cards indicate the same number od days as the number in the suit, e.g., Six of Rods is six days, etc.

Eight: Swift receipt of news by word/telephone/letter, hastens the matter.

Nine: Twenty days. (This is the maximum number of days indicated by these suits.

Ten: Nineteen days.

Page: Eighteen days.

Knight: Seventeen days.

Queen: Sixteen days.

King: Fifteen days.

Pentacles or Coins stand for weeks, except for the court cards which refer to divisions of the year. From the Ace through the ten, this indicates the same number of weeks as the number of the suit, although the Ace can show events occuring within a week. So if you turned over the four of

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Time and the Tarot (cont.) by Linda Dice

Pentacles, this would indicate four weeks.

Page: Three months.

Knight: Six months.

Queen: Nine months.

King: Twelve months.

One more thing about the suit of Pentacles. If the questioner is male and the time card is the King of Pentacles, then the financial gain is usually immediate, or will take place within one month of the reading. (I forgot to mention that this is assuming the cards have indicated some financial gain.) This same timing holds true if the questioner is a female and the time card turned up is the Queen. If the male questioner turns up the Queen of Pentacles as his time card, then this indicates that the event will come about in either nine months or nine weeks. The female turning up the King of Pentacles as her time card will have the expected financial gain within three months or three weeks.

If the time card is from the suit of Cups, and the general spread appears to involve love, affection, a birth or creative work, then this is a good sign. It indicates a successful outcome within one year. Should the spread have dealt with some other aspect of life, each card will have its own significance.

Ace: One week or one month.

Two: Two weeks or two months.

Three: A speedy and unexpected conclusion to events.

Four: Four months.

Five: The event foreseen may well fail to materialize owing to the duplicity of a friend.

Six: Six months.

Seven: A satisfactory outcome to the reading within seven months.

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Time and the Tarot (cont.) by Linda Dice

Eight: a prediction of success may not come about due to a change of heart on the part of the Questioner

Nine: Today--by tomorrow at the latest.

Ten: One month.

Page: Two months.

Knight: Two months.

Queen: Three months.

King: seven weeks.

Swords signify years, although only in very rare cases can any card reading predict events that will happen beyond seven years ahead. If the time card is a Sword, then the heavy hand of Saturn will delay the predicted occurrence. Whether this occurrence is pleasant or otherwise is neither hear nor there to the Lord of Limitation.

From the Ace to the seven indicates the same number of years as the number in the suit. So a Three of Swords indicates three years. At the Eight of Swords, we return again to one year, and the Nine of Swords becomes two years, the Ten being three years.

The Page and Knight show that the happening will produce repercussions which continue to affect the Questioner for many years to come, but frequently, some prefiguring event will occur within one Lunar Month.

Queen: Three years.

King: Two years.

I would not advise attempting to use the cards to time events out of context of the Tarot reading.

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This sign appeared in the window of a store in New York City: "Don't be fooled by imitators who claim to be going out of business. We have been going out of business longer than anyone on this block."

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Musings of the Crone (Companion Article to The Law of an Anarchist by Shadowhawk

Gestalt! Sounds like something that would be said in connection with a sneeze, doesn't it? It is probably the most important aspect of a circle, its gestalt or group mind. As individuals, we each have a fairly good idea of who we are and how we interact with others. But (!) all this changes when we work together in a group situation, such as a circle. This change is reinforced by how well we know one another, by the energies raised by the group, and by the regularity and similarity of our rituals. The group may hold a completely different opinion from any of its individual members. The group, or gestalt, will act, and interact with other people or groups, very differently than any one of its members may.

These things have been studied and documented by modern science and have formed the basis of several branches, including psychology and sociology. In the Craft, these things were known for centuries, though not as well documented, and have formed the basis of many of our laws and customs. It is interesting to note that these laws and customs vary only slightly from tradition to tradition and culture to culture, not to mention century to century.

When we work magic as a gestalt, we form a bond with each other that runs deeper than the bond of marriage or family. We ACT as one, we THINK as one, we FEEL as one. We cast the circle and become a single organism, a "hive mind" composed of several individuals. The difference in the energy is unmistakable, even to someone who has had no prior experience. Also, the amount of energy produced rises tremendously. One person working alone raises a certain amount of energy. You would expect two people working together to riase twice as much, right? WRONG! Once there is more than one, and they are working together as a gestalt, or unified, directed circle, the energies do not multiply according to the number of people working. Although I know the numbers change from group to group and time to time, I have found that it works roughly like this: two people raise about four times as much energy as one person working alone. This ratio remains somewhat steady for groups up to four people. At five people, the energy level jumps to ten and seems to stay that way up to about a dozen workers. One dozen people will raise about 100 times as much energy as one person working alone. It may not make sense mathematically, but I have found it true.

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Companion Article to The Law of an Anarchist (cont.) by Shadowhawk

A careless word said in circle can be an immediate invocation and cause very quick results. The energy is there waiting to be focused, and because the bond is there, any one member's ideas, words, thoughts, or psychic climate will be immediately fed into the group mind. This is one of the reasons why it is important to keep a written record of your rituals and to follow as it is written, unless a change has been discussed and agreed upon beforehand. Sloppiness in a group working can quickly spell disaster for the group. The energies raised will effect EVERYONE in that group.

This does not, however, rule out spontaneity from the group workings. But such spontaneity must be firmly based with clear visualizations and the energy must be focused. Most often, this job falls to the HPs. She usually maintains the matrix of the group's energy and makes sure that the visualizations are clear to everyone. That matrix IS the ritual, and it acts as the framework upon which the energy is hung so to ensure the success of the ritual. Since the HPs conducts the ritual, it seems natural for her to also hold the vision of what the energy is supposed to do and to keep track of how it is being produced.

But what if the HPs cannot visualize well or cannot see the energy clearly? Does this make her unfit to be a HPs? No, it does not! The visualization can be held by ANY member of the circle. It should be stated so each member can see it in his/her mind, but the vision of what the exact results should be can be held by the HP or any designated member of the circle. It should be stated or understood in what way the energy is to be formed, such as a cone or net or whatever. Some forms are more appropriate for some works than others. Understanding how the vision holder "sees" the energy always helps when others are the ones raising and feeding that energy to the holder.

The HPs need not be a whiz at creating energy forms, nor a powerhouse of energy herself. She doesn't even have to be good at visualizing. She MUST be good at making decisions and at keeping everyone on circle together, co-ordinated and in touch. In other words, she must be able to make the gestalt happen when and where needed. A good HPs must have the qualities of leadership. This does not make her the most knowledgable or most powerful. It means that she knows how to rule; she directs the group Will. She must be compassionate and firm

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Anarchist (cont.) by Shadowhawk

at the same time. She must understand her people and know how to set them to work in order to achieve the maximum from their energies while harmonizing with the others and their work. She must be able to quickly change her perspective to compensate for the addition or subtraction of someone or their energy. She should be good at spell crafting and ritual performance so that such compensations can be instantly translated into accurate adjustments of the ritual.

The circle is a living, breathing entity, and the HPs must see to the welfare of that entity, of which she is a part, above the welfare or needs of any individual. Hopefully this can be done without harm to any individual. The wrong decision can effect everyone badly. This is the burden of the HPs. Nobody said it would be easy. She must understand that, in circle, the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. And she needs to make the individual members understand this also, as it will make them more motivated to work as a unit, a gestalt.

Just as she must look after the welfare of the circle even above her own or any other member's, so must the HPs look after the welfare of the Craft over that of her circle. Energy misused by one can be a disaster, but energy misused by many can be a catastrophe. The PHs and her circle must work for the good of the Craft, and ultimately for the good of all.

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Aphids, Anyone? (UPI)

Mayor Robert Boyle and other Richmond Heights, Ohio, officials have a better idea for ridding their city of aphids worms. The 100,000 killer ladybugs they have been dumping on the city's foliage may be just the beginning. Boyle says it's cheaper to use ladybugs than pesticides to rid the Cleveland suburb of the aphids worms that have been destroying bushes and trees. He says that if the first batch does their jobs, he plans to call for reinforcements. Boyle says ladybugs, which cost $45 for four packages of 20,000 to 30,000 are also less dangerous than using chemicals. He says he spent a week emptying boxes of bugs into bushes, trees, and ravines. But he spent nearly equal time explaining what he was doing to curious residents. Boyle said, "They probably thought the mayor was nuts. I didn't go out at night because someone would probably shoot me." Now he says he's trying to buy dragonflies to eat mosquito larvae.

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Can You Say...? by Tarostar

Heretofore, life has not brought Love, Prosperity, and Happiness? One does, however, see these things manifested in the lives of others. What do those others have which brings them the good things of Life? Certainly it is not moral or ethical superiority. Certainly it is not righteousness or any form of religious persuasion. For the wicked seem to prosper along with the good and also suffer and experience lack together. Disasters and plagues do not respect stations or persons and take both the good and the bad. Since such is the case, what Philosophy is the best? No particular Faith or belief system, then, can be superior to any other. It must not be the belief, but a quality of mind and heart that would seem to bring the good things into one's life. Then, what thoughts to think and what emotions to feel would be the answer to this dilemma of all the Ages?

Good comes to each as he/she is capable of expressing it. Thoughts, actions, and deeds dealing with ideas of lack and limitation, both for the Self and of and for others, will manifest experience in life after their own kind. Religion and/or Morality have little to do with the process itself. High Ideals can help to make a person better, but do not bring any material rewards of themselves. Verily there is nothing, right or wrong, which belief plus a burning desire cannot make real. Indifference to persons and things and situations only produces more of same.

Each person, place or situation is an expression of Divine Mind manifesting and experiencing Itself. That goes both for negative and positive happenings. Such is hard to fathom, especially to those taught to think in terms of an all-loving Deity. Deity, of Itself, is impersonal. Having established Laws, both physical and spiritual, Creation is left to navigate as best it can within that framework, by Deity. That which is called God/Goddess, Creation, the Universe, would continue and exist whether we as individuals experience it or not. This idea is the core of all secret teachings down through the Ages. The falling tree still makes vibrations in the forest, even when no one's ears perceive them as sound.

How, then, does one manifest benefit in life in the face of an impersonal Universe and Creator/Creatrix? First, forget the idea that the good are rewarded, or that the wicked always prosper. Such is not exactly true. Both the good and the bad receive blessings as they, as individuals, connect with the current of creative thought flowing through the Cosmos.

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Can You Say...? (cont.) by Tarostar

Ethics/Morals are manmade, not Divine. Good and Bad both prosper when in harmony with this flow, and suffer when out of sync with it. No implorations to any God Form will change one iota of the impersonal working of the Law.

Deity needs no worship for simply being what it is. Nothing, no matter how dastardly, a Human Being can do could insult or affect Deity in any way. If such could, It would not be Deity. You, as an individual, are an expression of Divine Thought experiencing Itself. Nothing more, nothing less. Lack, loneliness and dissatisfaction come to you when that is what you project and accept as your reality. Your World arranges itself according to your habitual thinking pattern, either for good or ill. The Past is writ and may not be changed. However, the Present is mutable and can change the Future. There is no Absolute Fate to shackle one into a hopeless situation, unless one allows and desires such to be the case.

The old Pagan Myth of Pandora's Box holds a key to the problem. Her curiosity caused her to open the box and all the evils of the World came spewing forth to plague Mankind. Hope was the last thing to emerge from the box. It, however, is the only blessing to be found in this World of travail. Hope for better things causes one to make changes in the present thought and habit patterns to change ill effects into good experiences. When one gives up hope, one is truly lost and Fate will take its due. The Fate of the consequences of the present course of action is what is truly important, because at any given moment in Space and Time, we can change the course of the Future through choice.

The World will do nothing for you unless you are willing to do things for yourself. To sit and bewail the fact of no money, no love, or no opportunity only fuels the force of those ills. That results in a stronger hold on you by them. Your word does not return unto you void, but brings that upon which it dwells. Even in the face of appearance to the contrary, affirm life, love, prosperity, and opportunity into a habitual frame of mind. That will generate sufficient Power to cause your bit of the World to arrange itself accordingly. The good things of life will gyrate to you as you are able and willing to accept and manifest them within yourself. Not otherwise. That is what is meant by being a Microcosm of the Macrocosm. Do not look for pity or compassion from the Deity, those are

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Can You Say...? (cont.) by Tarostar

Human qualities. Divine Compassion exists for Creation as a whole, not for the unit level. However, when you care enough about yourself to change the negative into the positive, and begin to do something about it, Deity will rush to meet you half way. The rest of the way is up to you.

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Saturn (from The Planets) by Tiffany St. Moonstar

Sun claimed Mars as his. But who is to say when Venus is the mother? Who the true father may be? I loved the boy as my own--a bit too headstrong and jumpy for my tastes--but nothing a little tempering wouldn't change. A few millenia out in my quadrant and he'd learn the wisdom of thought before action. Well, it didn't matter, he held up his side of the job, and I took care of mine. We were as good as a father/son partnership.

I am Saturn, lord of the darkness before light, ruler of death and dead things. I am "the bump in the night" as The People would say. I am the bogieman of whom they whisper and fear.

True, I am the tears on the widow's eyes, I am the horror in the heart of the parent who buries his own child. I am the banshee shriek of the living which knells the death rattle of the dying. I am the depression that comes even after all that. And I am there when the living make their pilgrimages to the cities of the dead as the years that seem like millenia turn slowly by.

But I am also he who brings the comforts of death; the end of pain and suffering and he who provides the soul's passageway to light. As the soul walks its weighty path through my mansions and mountains, it is cleansed of its life's impurities; it sweats out the pain and ugliness, the imperfections it has acquired on its material road of life.

My kingdom is cold and dark, fashioned of onyx and lead and black silk. My children are the embalmers and mummifiers; my shamans who perform my sacred and mysterious of corpse lore. They prepare and comfort in the best way The People's ghoul minds fashion.

Death is not so horrible that The People should hate and fear us so. All things must die to be born again. If all things remained the same forever the children of Chaos would

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Saturn (cont.) by Tiffany St. Moonstar

ride their harpies of Overpopulation, Famine, Madness, Riot, and Destruction. And thus, the Universe would be voided--murdered by its own life, its own abundance.

I keep a tender balance, a controlled lottery of percentages if you will, that The People should continue their living. I do not take at random the loved ones of your humanoid needs. I am a royal timepiece wet with jewels and my heartbeat is timely and logical. I will never move too fast or too slow, though to The People it often seems that way because even in the masterpiece of the universe the free will of The People causes accidents at times.

So cherish me. Respect me. I am not which you should fear... the TRUE HORROR WOULD BE MY ABSENCE.

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HELP! I need advice... from Rhea

You've heard about Boughans, otherwise known as "Krazy Kat," before.... Her antics are enough to drive any helpless "Owned-by-a-cat person" right up the wall--about the same time the cat goes dashing up it! But, I'm learning to live with her sudden mad dashes up the walls, woodwork and drapes. (Often wonder what she will do if she ever catches one of those invisible entities she pursues so diligently!)

My problem is that this cat makes Morris look like a garbage rummager! She is the most finicky eater I have yet encountered. One, and only one, dry cat food will she condescend to dine upon. And canned food? More goes into the compost heap than goes into her tummy. Tried to tempt her with sardines... no way. Up in the air went the nose and they sat until tossed out in self defense. People tuna or salmon she will eat a few dainty nibbles of, but milk, cheese, eggs, etc., forget it. All the delicacies adored by other felines are thoroughly ignored by this one. I work on the assumption that she will eat when she gets hungry, and she certainly seems to be healthy enough. But, can't help wondering if she gets enough nutritional variety in her diet. I've been asked what breed she is (seems some breeds have different dietary tastes than others), but all I can reply is "cat." Some indications that a travelling siamese salesman may have wandered by, but that is only a guess.... Any advice from out there?

From LF: Give cat vitamin supplement and try potato chips.

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Of Witch Law and the Tarot by Tarostar

The Past is absolute. The Present is mutable. The Future is nebulous. So many times, as a teacher, and as a writer on Tarot, I hear people say that they believe, but fear having the Tarot read. Many times, also, I hear Readers say that they sugar coat or even refuse to speak out an adverse prognostication. Both attitudes do the Tarot and themselves grave disservice.

The fearful Querent forgoes the insight into his/her affairs that a good Tarot reading can give. The Pollyanna Reader commits a violation of Witch Law by refusing to read the truth of an act of Divination or prognostication.

The fearfulness is understandable on the part of Querents because the Tarot is the one and only true "Magic Mirror of Snow White." Not all who cast a reflection therein are the fairest of them all, more often we have the evil Stepmother seeing the reflection of self. Each Querent, or more particularly prospective Querent, should not be coerced into having a reading, but allowed to decide for him/herself.

The reluctance on the part of a Reader to disclose the portends of a spread is wrong and may be harmful in the long run. The Reader does not know how the symbols in the spread relate to the personal life of the Querent and superficially does not know what the real secret desires of the inner Being really are. However, the Oracle does. By being a Pollyanna, the Reader deprives the Querent of a valuable opportunity to see the reality behind and before his/her current actions, thus not allowing the Querent to make any possible changes and adjustments necessary to offset the results of an indicated ill.

The future portends, be they good or ill, are only the most logical conclusion of a Querent's present course of action. If good is the result, that is surely the course to follow. If, however, bad is indicated, thereal gift of Divination comes into play. It allows us to make whatever changes as are right and necessary to set off a new path, thus bringing a different Future. That is the reason for the Arts of Divination. They help to properly navigate life. Portends in a psychic reading of any kind are not absolute and unavoidable. The choice for the Present rests with each and every individual alone. Call the cards as they fall and allow the Querent to do, or not do, as he/she feels is best with his/her own life situation.

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Of Witch Law and the Tarot (cont.) by Tarostar

Do not try to direct, nor advise, the Querent in any of the choices. Simply explain, as clear as possible, what the cards indicate, to the Querent's satisfaction, and allow the prognostication to sink in as best it is able.

Pollyannas, of either sex, in reading the cards, leave their own reputation and psychic insight highly suspect. We may not look only at what aspects of life please us. There are negatives that must be experienced and dealt with. The Reader does not know how, or why, that individual was drawn to him/her for a reading in the first place, but the Oracle does.

Be honest, straightforward, but not brutally blunt, and the Craft Arts of Divination will blossom forth from one as they should.

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I saw you last night
Beaten, worn, alone--
Cold, within a city of light,
Death, you passed me by
Grey wraith... without a sigh.
I mourned for you, ageless brother,
Where is she? Your sister? Mother?
Wife, child? Lover/
Bewildered child of city streets
Is peace found in uneasy sleep?
Goddess bless and warm you
My shadow, sister/brother.

Catherine Forrest-Lorde

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A distraught homeowner phoned the police that he had been struck down by an unknown assailant as he entered his back door on a dark night. A young policeman was sent to investigate. Soon he returned to headquarters with a lump on his forhead and reported sullenly:
"Well, I solved the case."
"Splendid! Was it robbery or teenage hoodlums?" asked his superior. "And how did you solve the crime so amazingly fast?"
"Easy," explained the young officer. "I stepped on the same rake."

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Power Behind the Crone: The Art and the Artist by Blacksun

I assume that the education that I got growing up in the USA is similar in many respects to the education in most other parts of the Western culture. Differences abound, of course, in methods, focus of interests, testing and teaching procedures, etc., but one thing that I believe is very similar between all the educational systems in America and Europe and other areas dominated by the people of Europe, is the overall philosophy and underlying assumptions upon which the education of the populace is structured. Much of that structure and philosophy is the product of Greek thought. It would seem that when we say "logic," we mean a system of thought analysis and information management which has been named after its most notable and popular proponant and user, Aristotle. Aristotelian Logic is raised close to the heights of the word of God in most of Western society's education. It is a template of correct thinking and any deviation from it is cause for the academic-minded to point their finger and call "fraud" upon the wayward thinker.

It must be recognized that there are avenues of inquiry which do not lend themselves well to this rigid structuring of thought. It should come as no surprise to anyone who is of the Craft that religion and magic fall into this category. Our very language that we use to communicate knowledge and discuss experiences and formulate questions at times seems to stand in the way. It is built around this template of "logic" which has proven so very useful to our material (tool using) culture. Often, however, language seems to fail us when we want to discuss that wonderful feeling or this wonderful experience. We seem to be faced with something very akin to the problem of describing a beautiful sunset to one who is blind. Logic, and its shadow-like companion, reason, are blind to some things. And to use them in our form of communication is frustrating and fruitless.

It takes an artist to communicate who the Goddess is or what magic feels like. Poetry, sculpture, dance, drawing and painting, these are all ways that have been used to try to transmit these non-logical thoughts and experiences. If a person is not good at one or another of these art forms, howeve,r it is often felt that they cannot communicate the great "secrets" of the Craft or relate the magical experiences. And this idea (wrong as it is) will sometimes lead us to believe that that person is not good at magic or not wise in the Craft. This is simply not so.

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The Art and the Artist (cont.) by Blacksun

We ALL are artists. It is one of the gifts that has been given to all things that live. Our lives are the canvas upon which we paint our visions. Those who love us can see the divine art that we portray. When we make love to another, we share our visions and weave another which is the combination of our and their artistry. The same is true when we are in circle with others. Ritual magic is a sharing of artistries which is beyond logic and reason. It is a beautiful tapestry of life energy, an orgy of air, earth, fire, water, and spirit--the flaming pentacle of love and trust which forms the bond which we feel as our religion.

"All acts of pleasure are mine own," says the Goddess. True pleasure is Art. It is never solitary, even if we are without company. It connects us with the universe and all the artists within it. The galleries of Art which are our circles are sacred and divine at the same time. Let all who enter in, do so in Perfect Love and Perfect Trust. So mote it be.

From dean: "Euclid alone has gazed on beauty bare."
-Archimedes, 3rd Century BCE

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Musings of the Crone: A Commentary on Power Behind the Crone
by Shadowhawk

It has been a long time since we have been regular contributors to the newsletter. For those of you who do not remember the first series of Power Behind and Musings, I will do a little explaining.

Where it is Blacksun's job to point out the joys of our Art, it is my own to help you remember them. I do this with the ultimate secret weapon, SARCASM.

These musings are MEANT to be sarcastic, caustic, and argument-provoking, because through good argument, will come clarity of thought and clear expression. And so Best Beloved, that is ALL the excuses I am going to make for myself. Anyone who wishes to argue my point, write me, don't use the newsletter as a forum for debate!!!

Ed note (LF): Why not?

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Musings of the Crone (cont.) by Shadowhawk

Comments on The Art and The Artist: Art is a very subjective experience. It is often difficult to understand and always it is evoking of emotion. Artists are often tempermental, always sensitive, sometimes volatile, and usually absent-minded. (Bs says that they aren't absent-minded, just that the mind is often absent from the here/now reality construct.) Some of us who practise the ART, (and I'm sometimes guilty, too) use this reputation as an excuse for not giving the Gods their due. (You know, starving Artist, can't afford to tithe?) This is why, when we say to Be True To Your Art, what is REALLY meant, is to give yourself over to it wholly and completely, and to raise that art above the standard that you were taught. In this way, shall the craft ever survive.

P. O. Box 30654
Seattle, WA 98103

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The Future (UPI)

We all wonder what the future will be like. The children's newspaper, Weekly Reader, took a survey. It asked their young readers what they think the world will be like when they're as old as their parents are now. Some of the most striking answers were those of students grades four through junior high about their expectations for the changing role of women. Students were asked to rank their agreement to a list of nine statements about the future. The statement marked most often was one that said women and men will be treated equally. Next in line was agreement with the statement that there will have been a woman president by the time the students are adults. The Weekly Reader says these were the top choices for boys and girls in all regions of the United States and in all grades. Some 625,000 children in second grade through junior high participated in the survey. The results are taken from a random sample of 100,000 replies. The overwhelming majority of students also said they expect to be married and most said they'd have two or three children. The older the student was, the more he or she thought that child care will be shared by both parents. The survey also found children surprisingly positive about their own futures. Weekly Reader editor-in-chief Terry Borton says although children think many situations such as the danger of nuclear war, pollution and hunger will be worse, they expect their own lives will be better. The students in the survey also said they believe they control their futures, not "government," or "business."

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Commentary on "The Law of an Anarchist" by Tarostar

Nine years ago, the Circle of Starmeadow drew down the Goddess and she spoke. The essence of Her Revelation runs thus: God/Goddess is calling all Covens of true initiatory tradition back together again. Many groups have an insight into the Mystery Faith of the Craft, but not one contains it all. Fragmented and apart, the true Craft has preserved its inner core during the long Night of Time. She asked the Elders of Starmeadow if they were able to undertake a Quest. In the awe of silence before the Goddess, each Elder saw his/her own heart revealed to its inner depths. She fathomed each and every one. Smiling, she laid a charge upon the younger Elders to bring forth the Laws of the Craft, as preserved by Starmeadow, and revitalize them to fit the modern World. She did not say how, nor in what manner the Laws were to be rewritten. Only that the Spirit of the Craft itself will inspire as it is needed.

All Elders received the same revelation at the same time. The older ones knew they were to aid the younger ones to undertake the task. Not every step was clear, nor were the understandings of the Goddess's purpose, but all present perceived the same "Blue Lady" in their midst. Most of the older ones have now crossed the veil and only two or three of the rest of us who were there remain. A spiritual overshadowing has guided our hands and inspirations to bring forth the Laws of the Craft and compile them into The Sacred Pentagraph, a work in five volumes. It is by no means totally complete to date, nine years later.

The article by Blacksun, saying how difficult such a task is, is understandable in the light that it is being done on a Human level, by Humans, for Humans. Not once did the article mention God/Goddess, as the source of Craft Law. It seemed to indicate the new Laws were for the group, by the group and at the consensus of the group. Therein, I think, lies the rub. God/Goddess do not say that each and every individual must be accommodated. Nor do they try to do so. It is not for the group to try and express its Will in the Laws, but to express the Will of the God/Goddess. Many Laws will then seem harsh or hard to fathom and it will be up to the group and its members to live up to the standard set down. Not for the group to set up its own standard. It is through the true Laws of the Mystery Religon that Adepts of the Future will be trained and taught. If some of your laws do not lead to pondering enigmas, they perhaps are not inspired.

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Commentary on "The Law of an Anarchist" (cont.) by Tarostar

Forget Lady Sheba, forget the Alex Sanders' Laws, they contain only hints, but no inner truths. They were conceived by individuals and made up to sound "Witchy." I would ask Blacksun to hold a Drawing Down the Moon, at the Full Moon of October four days before the Witch's New Year--Hallowmas. Seek the inspiration of the Goddess to reveal Her Will in the Laws of the Craft and to send forth the inspiration of the Spirit of the Craft. You may be surprised at what the Laws of the Craft really are. Those based on books by various authors are only the exoteric outer Court of the Craft. However, it is through them that admittance to the inner levels are gained. Seek not to please persons with your Laws, but to reflect Deity. Then and only then can and will all persons be served.

Ed note (LF): I do not doubt for a minute that each and every thought going into the rewrite developed by Blacksun and their group had the God/Goddess at its backbone. This would be so obvious to anyone in our "community" that perhaps it was not stated in the article. Writing the law of the God/Goddess(es) is presumptious on the part of man, but when we learned to write, we kept trying despite the obvious inability to express universals (even though they (the laws) are right in front of our pretty little Witch noses). We are left to writing laws for (wo)man by (wo)man which reflect the Perfect Law--Do As Thou Wilt, Harm None.

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From Judy in Santa Ana

There's still a lot of earthquake activity in California. Mother Earth speaks: August 21st--Jackson, WY 4.9; Peru, 5.7; California--Kern and San Bernadino Counties, 4.5. August 29th, Big Bear CA, 4.1, China, 7.4. There is a pattern forming of Japan, California, Cina, California, etc. Auugst 30th--Wyoming (again) and Idaho 4.9 and 4.3. Sept. 2nd--Los Angeles, 2.6. Sept. 17th, Greece, 5.9. I don't even list the aftershocks. Oct. 17th and 18th are the next dates to watch according to the planets. The correspondence to the phases of the Moon are very interesting to chart and research. I hope writing articles on Mother Earth's cry for help makes Her children more aware of what's going on, especially in California.
Ed note (LF): Judy's letter arrived before the quakes in Mexico. We will be looking forward to an update from her next month.

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From Tiller

Just flew back from the 1985 Grand Council of the Covenant of the Goddess (and boy, are my arms tired--yuk, yuk). The Covenant has started its second decade in good form. We dealt with a lot of complex issues at the Grand Council and, after a two-day business meeting, emerged from the meeting room singing, "We are an old people, we are a new people." A trip to the airport Labor Day, back home to Seattle late that night, and off to work the next day. Oy! And I thought three-day weekends were supposed to be restful! I picked up the mail from the New Wiccan Church mailbox on Saturday. I haven't read past page 10, but I feel I must reply to Thor of Connecticut's letter. I take exception with Thor's statement that the Burning Times are over. We have the power to forestall and even prevent them, but I am not comfortable with Thor's viewpoint of "These are our rights; let us stand on and for them, for they will protect us." I continue to hear reports from around the country about how people in the Craft are persecuted for their beliefs (fired, barns burnt down, ostracized by entire communities, run out of town, etc.) which, though unconstitutional and a violation of civil rights, are the realities of the situation. Although these people have been wronged, how shall they gain redress? Even assuming that the people responsible for these crimes were found and held liable in a suit for violations of civil rights, what does this really do for the person run out of town, victimized, or whose every belonging has been burnt? I agree with Thor that the right to worship freely is guaranteed by the Constitution, but I do not feel that this enjoins everybody to immediately come out of the closet. Even though I do not believe that I will be fired for my beliefs nor ostracized in my neighborhood, I also do not believe that it will improve my relationships with my co-workers and neighbors. In my opinion, the most effective way to support the Craft is to demonstrate the type of people we are and make friends with others exclusive of our religion. It was Franklin, I believe, who said, "A man's prejudice was not argued into him, and it won't be argued out of him." When someone says, "Boy, what rotten people pagans are," I can respond, "That's not true. Pagans are pretty good." I can even add, "Am I a rotten person? I'm a pagan and neither I nor any of the pagans I know do any of the things you say pagans do." The speaker now has two opposing beliefs to choose between: what s/he has heard versus what s/he knows from personal experience. At this point, it is the quality of my relationship with the speaker that takes over. If the speaker knows me as a good person,

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From Tiller (cont.)

reliable and trustworthy, then the example I have been is likely to outweigh any drivel the speaker has encountered. This is how to "Guard the mysteries, reveal them constantly." I have come out of the broom closet a few times with people that I wanted to have know about my beliefs and practices, but I have not made a general announcement of my religion to the world, nor, I note, does almost anybody else. I work with Catholics, Episcopalians, Southern Baptists, a Christian fundamentalist, and a doubtless wide variety of other miscellaneous Protestant sects that I don't know about, simply because the subject doesn't come up. I am not in this religion to proselytize. I am interested in seeing more public acceptance and understanding of my religion. I believe saying, "I'm a pagan," frequently hinders personal relationships and does not further public acceptance of the Craft. Starting a relationship with someone with the announcement of your religion allows the other person's own misconceptions to color their perceptions of your actions thereafter. I agree with Thor that we as pagans need not retrace our steps. We can learn from history. We have a great opportunity to help people understand what we do, and to further religious freedom for others as well as ourselves. I applaud the openness with which Thor is able to lead his life and am very glad to see him actively working for the preservation and furtherance of the Craft, but I prefer different tactics and strategy. It was not the people who were killed by the Inquisition that kept the Craft alive, it was the ones who went underground and taught privately that kept things going.

Ed note (LF): Just before press time, we received information from a very reliable source that a bill has passed the Senate by voice vote rescinding the IRS tax exempt status from religious groups practicing Witchcraft. Now, because of our non-profit status, we cannot comment on political activity, so we won't. We'll simply tell you that the last we heard is that the bill is on the way to the House, where a similar bill has already been proposed. We'll let you take it from there...and we'll try to have more info on this next month. If you have anything, such as news clippings, copy of the bill, etc., please send it in.

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Overheard: "He's the kind of guy who inspires confidence in others. They figure if he can do something, anybody can."

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From the Grove of the Unicorn in GA

And what a tale we have to tell! Only the beginning of it, for we are sure there will be much, much more to come. We know there will be if we have anything to do with it, for we are furious and intend to pursue the matter as far as possible.

A bit of background: In early Spring a friend of Lady Galadriel and Lord Athanor gave the group permission to use his land (a rural spot outside Atlanta) as our outdoor Temple. The group spent many hours clearing the site, building a stone altar, ringing the circle with stones, erecting cornerstones, planting herbs, etc. All were delighted with the spot and were willing to expend their time and energy in working to make the site as beautiful as possible.

Sabbats and Esbats were celebrated there and we felt very fortunate to have such a spot. At no time did we have any indication that anyone resented our being there. There were never any "wild parties" or disturbances of any kind--this was our Temple, we certainly would not desecrate it! As the spot was completely surrounded by dense woods, we felt there was also a natural sound barrier. Everyone would be gone shortly after midnight, or sooner, for most of the group are working folks who must be at work the next day.

In late July one of the group went out to the site and discovered that vandals had struck. Cornerstones had been overturned, a number of items had been stolen (statuary, cauldron, candles, etc.). Everyone was heartsick, to say the least. But, we got busy, rebuilt the altar, replaced the cornerstones, cleaned up the mess, put things back in order and felt we had learned a lesson--don't leave removable items unattended--especially in a place that is infested with red-neck teenagers!

Now to the gist of the tale: On Wednesday, September 18, two of our members went out to the site to do a bit of "housekeeping." To their horror they found that someone else had been there and much damage had been done to the circle, a cross had been erected in the center of the fire pit, the place was in shambles, and the words "Jesus Saves" and "In God We Trust" were scratched into the Earth in front of the Altar. They rushed back to inform Lady Galadriel of what had happened. Oddly enough, at that time the gentleman who owns the land was visiting with Lady Galadriel. He, too, was outraged. He left, stating that as soon as he reached

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Grove of the Unicorn (cont.)

home he would file a complaint with the police. Shortly after he left the phone rang... it was a Lieutenant from the county police, informing Lady Galadriel that the police had been notified that the neighbors at the site had formed a coalition "to stop the Witches" and had called a press conference for that evening to complain about the witches and the fact that the police would not do anything to stop them! A bit more conversation which boiled down to "stay away from out there or someone may get hurt."

An emergency meeting of the Grove was called for that evening to discuss the situation. All were outraged, but common sense prevailed and all agreed that the best thing to do is to refrain from going out there again. We're sure everyone can understand our sense of violation and frustration in such a situation. In the middle of the meeting the phone rang--it was a reporter from the local paper who had been at the meeting of the neighbors and wanted to hear our side of it. Lady Galadriel spoke with her at length and two somewhat sympathetic articles appeared in Thursday's papers.

THEN--the next evening (Thursday, September 19) we were even more outraged by local TV coverage of the matter. On one station we were treated to full views of the site with police, reporters and "curious spectators" (as quoted by the media) crawling all over the circle. Some of the comments made were less than flattering, to say the least, and many were out and out falsehoods. Then we turned to another station and were even more shocked--they showed basically the same scenes, but with shots of people desecrating the circle site! One man was shown in the act of dismantling the Altar, stone by stone, "to find out what is in there...," while everyone stood by, watching, and allowed him to do so! Another was shown picking up stones from the circle ring "as a keepsake."

We were outraged not only by the actions of these people, but by the fact that others stood by and watched as they desecrated our place of worship. We can't help but wonder what would have happened if such a thing had occurred at "the little white church in the wildwood!" Shock waves would have raced across the city and the uproar would have been felt nationwide.

Now it was our turn to act/react. And act we did. Lady Galadriel immediately contacted the TV stations to register

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From Grove of the Unicorn (cont.)

her protest. One station sent an interviewer out that same evening and a small segment of her response was presented on the eleven o'clock news that night. The other TV station responded the next day (Friday), did an interview, and presented another small segment that evening.

Several radio stations touched on the matter briefly. One, however, may be named in our law suits... announcers on the station made many derogatory remarks about our religion in general and about our group. One can understand that uncomplimentary statements may be made by participants on a "call-in-talk-show," but you would expect announcers to be more professional than to air their own personal opinion. Unfortunately, no one was able to tape the programs at the time, but we are requesting tape transcripts from the station under F.C.C. Regulation 73:234. (Thanks to Pat of the Georgians for passing out information on that subject many years ago--even our attorney was not familiar with the regulation and was delighted to learn about it.) (F.C.C. Regulation 73:234--Attack Against a Person or Group)

Lady Galadriel has had several radio interviews and one interviewer plans on putting together a taped program which will go across the nation via satellite. No date for this as yet. The program is "Southwind," so if you hear of it in your area, tune us in! Also, a live TV interview is scheduled for Wednesday, October 2, on the local NBC station noonday news.

Monday, September 23, we "got in OUR licks," so to speak, through a local radio talk show: WSB AM750--"Sound-Off," 9 p.m. weeknights. It is a four-hour program which covers two-thirds of the states--a75,000 watt station. Reference was made to the news about the witches, then WE started calling in. Not all of us were able to get through--the phone lines were jammed-but many of us did manage to "speak our piece." The program began with the talk show host being a bit snide and tongue-in-cheek, ended with him being defensive of us and our rights. AND an invitation to Lady Galadriel to appear on his program as a guest interviewee. Needless to say, she accepted, although a date has not yet been set. (We'll try to let as many know as possible when a definite date has been established.) Lady Galadriel is a very good speaker, mentally quick on her feet, armed with a vast amount of knowledge, and able to express herself clearly and concisely, even under adverse conditions. We look

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From Grove of the Unicorn (cont.)

forward to the program--it should be a good one! (Note: Lady Galadriel is not typing this, folks... so we can say these things.)

There were calls from Pennsylvania, New York, Tennessee, Kentucky, the Carolinas, and many other states. Of course, there were those of opposing views who called in to voice their opinion, and the usual garbage one expects to hear when the subject of witchcraft is brought up. But it was very rewarding to note how many people expressed a positive, tolerant attitude. We look forward to the upcoming program--it should be just as interesting and informative. And perhaps educational for some of the listening audience--at least those who may open their ears just a little and HEAR what is being said.

Since this report was begun, there has been another development. The plot begins to thicker (or should we spell that "sicken?"). One of the group members who had let his religion be known, and had been overheard on the radio talk show, was dismissed from his job. The supervisor who gave him the news almost told him the true reason he was being dismissed, but caught himself just in time, then made the lame excuse that the fellow "just wasn't a team player." Which is ludicrous, as the man had received several commendations from management for the great job he was doing. What will we do? We don't know at this point--no one else was present when the supervisor was speaking with him, so he has no witnesses to what the man waid. Without proof, there is little one can do. It makes us more determined than ever to follow this through.

We, personally, fell that it is past time that the Wiccan community stood up for their beliefs. We are all sick and tired of the derogatory remarks, being run out of places, and being generally classed as "low-life" because of our beliefs. And if we have to "get out our soap-boxes and go stand on a corner of the public square," we will do so. The group members are in cimplete agreement with this, and so far most of them have said they are willing to go public, if necessary. All of us have something to lose by exposure, but we all feel that we have much more to gain! We intend to take every opportunity to present our viewpoint and to stand up, publicly, for what we believe in. We realize that many people don't believe they can take the chance of going public, realizing the possible repercussions. None

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From Grove of the Unicorn (cont.)

of us look forward to what could happen... but until someone stands up to the bigots of the world, they will continue to push us, and all other people with a different belief system than their own, around. And, frankly, we are tired of being pushed! Non-Craft people in the area have suggested that it would be best for us to "go back underground," back into the basements and living rooms (with the blinds pulled down, of course), then there would be no more furor. Why should we???

So, there is our tale. We'll try to keep everyone updated as to what happens next. We would appreciate any positive energy which anyone out there would care to send. We've got a feeling we are going to need all the help we can get!

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Apologetic from a Friend

That rascal Aristotle. We do not know much about his church-goin' habits. We do know he was not a catholic. He died in 322 bce. While he lived, he collected quite a library of manuscripts, a wide array of maps and he kept an assortment of animals from all around the known world.

As a student he was troublesome: questioning and argumentative. He openly disagreed with the common wisdom and great minds of his day.

A small part of what he left the world as notes along his path is now called syllogistic logic. For its day, his logic was quite a feat. He was attempting to map uncharted territory. Today, logicians study Aristotelian logic primarily for its historic value; but it still gets around. One way or another, you got some in high school or were influenced by someone who had some. Even if mama taught you at home, you've probably been exposed to it some place along the line. Some folks would say you need a salve to banish the virus from you. Some would proclaim that the seed of a flower has been cast to the wind.

What is this thing then that Aristotle is supposed to have done? Most of the problem is rooted in two elements. The first is the language of the Greeks. To the ancient greek, for a word to describe something that thing must exist in some manner. It led Aristotle and his predecessors to do

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Apologetic (cont.)

some tall rambling and picking of nits that only serve to frustrate and elude us today. The second element is a bit of logic known as the rule of excluded middle. The rule is sometimes stated: P V -p. What it means is that something is one of the type of object under consideration, or it is not. So far, so good. The problem arises when we try to apply the rule and then lend credence to our conclusions. Because if either you are one of us or you aren't one of us; and we know you aren't one of us (becuase you do not do the dance of the Oh No Tooky Bird or because your eyes are the wrong color) then you must be one of Them. Now, we know we are good. If we are good and they are not us, the n they are not good. So, they are bad. Seems too simple, does it not? It is. Further, it is NOT logical. But, if it were; if Mr. Spock were to decree that our conclusion was quite logical, it is important to remember that he has not said anything about us or them or good or bad. It does not mean he agrees with our conclusion. Most folks say, "That's logical," and they mean, "I like that." Some people have read a book or two and when they say, "That's logical," they mean, "I don't even have a snappy comeback for that." There are a few who have considered logic itself and found it to reach from the foundations of mathematics to the skeleton of philosophy. They concern themselves with forms of inference. Should they utter, "logical," in reference to a conclusion they would most likely mean that the conclusion was the product of assumptions manipulated in manners which are demonstrably sound or valid. Still, they would not be commenting on the truth or falsity of either assumptions or conclusions.

This logic thing appers to be no small area to describe. But a fellow some 2320 years ago started and it has not stopped since, except for some brief stagnant interludes.

Did I mention that some of the good pagan ministry of the day wanted to bring charges of impiety against Aristotle? Impiety was a capital crime in those days. Seems as how the ol' boy did not believe in sacrifices, among other things. Aristotle might have reasoned:

My teacher was tried for impiety then executed	$P \rightarrow Q$
I am to be tried for impiety.	P
Therefore, I might be executed.	Q
I don't like that idea.	$-Q$
The sunrises in the Aegean are nice this time of year. I think I'll skip the country	$\therefore -Q \rightarrow -P$

Sounds logical.

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Odds 'n' Ends (compiled by Lady Fauna)

Recommended reading: "Sailing in Jason's Wake," in the September 1985 issue of National Geographic. Tim Severin retraces the route of Jason with modern day Argonauts and even a modern Medea. Surprising confirmations of the legend and evidence of persistance of ancient religions along the route. Watch for the book, The Jason Voyage, scheduled for release in spring by Simon & Schuster.

Omissions: Last month I omitted the address for The Rune. Write P. O. Box 2212, Shawnee Mission, KS 66201. I also omitted the address for Pagana. Write P. O. Box 9494, San Jose, CA 95157.

Corrections: From Lurline--the membership fee for ACLU is $30, not $300 as noted.

Seminars: The Coven of Uraeus is holding a Samhain Seminar October 18, 19, and 20 with a focus on the subject of healing. Rustic camping about 2 hours from St. Louis, $20 per person, Write Box 18623, St. Louis, MO 63118 for details.

Looking for Contacts: M. S. Ruebelmann, P. O. Box 30704, Billings, MT 59107.

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Publications from Other Folks (compiled by LF)

Circle Network News, Box 219, Mt. Horeb, WI 53572. $9/yr USA bulk; $13 1st class & Canada; $17 foreign airmail. This quarterly publication is developed around a theme. For Summer 1985, the theme is "Creative Rituals" and the Fall 1985 issue will feature "Sacred Space." Planned for Winter is a forum on "Pagan Family and Community." Other regular features include "Herbcraft," "Pantheon," and "Magicraft," announcements of gatherings, book reviews. "Passages," "Pagan Progress," and classified advertisements. The Summer issue features many helpful articles for those who enjoy writing rituals as well as samples of celebrations and circle to stimulate the imagination. Newspaper format, 24 pages. Some back issues available. Always a joy to find this one in the mailbox.

Magickal Childe Catalog, 35 W. 19th ST, New York, NY 10011. Tarot cards, books, runestones, lamps, tapes, jewelry, altar supplies, walking sticks, swords, daggers, crystal

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Publications from other folks (cont.)

balls, etc. $3.00 minimum shipping, NY tax added to shipment. Visa/Mastercharge phone orders. Good prices on selected books from the Time/Life Enchanted World series. Check for sales if you live in NY.

Spirit Within News, P. O. Box A, Thomaston, Maine 04861. Published by positive Pagans incarcerated in prison. July 1985 issue contains an interview with Samantha Glenner, a transsexual in the Maine State Prison, "Madame Ruby's Column" (reflections on being in prison), receipes for herbal lip balm, chamomile shampoo, chamomile conditioning rinse and chamomile hand cream; "Black Magic."

Outer Court Communications, Our Lady of Enchantment, Box 1366, Nashua, NH 03061. Bi-monthly. $12/yr USA, $16 foreign. First four pages of Issue 85-4 devoted to fund-raising, "Worshipping the Gods--Why I am a Polytheist," festivals and seminars, publications & newsletters, classified ads, an advertisement for a Witchcraft course from OLE, "Witchcraft and Poetry," "Dedication of a Sacred Space," "Solitary Lughnasadh Ritual." Would be interesting to know what the full Witchcraft course costs. What's in it, and whether completion leads to initiation. But, maybe I don't want to know.

Red Garters, New Wiccan Church, P. O. Box 162846, Sacramento, CA 95816. 8 issues/year. $8/year. A breath of fresh air in an ever-widening range of pagan publications. June 1985 issue includes: "A Look at Dionysus" (with footnotes, no less!), poetry, calendar of events, book reviews, "Notebook: The Charge of the Goddess," "Glossary," cartoons, art. I look forward to the plain red wrapper with "Not Junk Mail" in big letters across the front. Indeed, it isn't.

Stonehenge Viewpoint: Archaeology, Astronomy, Geology, and Related Arts and Sciences. 2821 De La Vina ST, Santa Barbara, CA 93105. $10/12 issues. Issue #66 includes Letters to the Editor, "Drystan and Adsilta," "A Guide to Velikovsky's Sources," "Venus--Hogah and the Archangels," "The Northern Foot," "Standards Used in Re-establishing Ancient Metrological Values," "Eden's Flaming Sword," "The Possible (Hidden Halo) Significance of Some of the Bricks of Comalcalco," "In Search of Intelligence--Nuclear Winter, The Cretaceous Comet and Greenhouse World," "Greenhouse Climate," "History on the Rocks," books for sale. All articles have lots of good and useful information and are documented with footnotes/bibliography for further reading.

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Publications from Other Folks (cont.)

Pegasus Express, Rt. 3 Box 962H, LaBelle, FL 33935. 8 issues/year, $6/year, $1/sample. Make checks payable to Richard Facchiano or Ellen Hansen. "We welcome all material sent in for publication; art, articles, rites, receipes, letters, poems, stories, points of view, etc." Fall Equinox issue contains "Moon Lore: The Way of Focus," "A Solitary Commitment," "A Point of View," "Spells and Hexes," "That Space," "On Mother Earth," "More on Mother Earth," "Herb Lore," "Myths and Legends," and "A Simple Little Pagan Rite for Fall (group)."

SigNature News. P. O. Box 8434, San Bernadino, CA 92412-8434. 6/year, $6,50/year to MENSA members, add $2 for non-members, add $4/ year outside U.S. Make checks payable to Jennifer Bowen. July/August issue contains "Report from Bermuda," "Highlights on Nature SIGers," "Superfund Dumped," "Off the Wall," "Action Alert: Mobilization for Animals," "World Environment Day," "Well's Farrago," "Film Ratings by the American Humane Association," "Ppribilof Seal Update," "U. S. Strategy on Biological Diversity," "The Antepenultimate Page," "Wet Woods,"

Seasonal Silver. P. O. Box 189, Alpharetta, GA 30201. 4/yr $8/yr. Make checks payable to Dorothy C. Pfaff. "The purpose of this magazine/newsletter is to express a love of Nature and a basically Humanitarian point of view. That whatever our beliefs, our gender, our color, our sexual preference, or whatever makes us unique individual human beings, we CAN get along and love each other. And we CAN love and respect Her: our Mother, the Earth." Summer 1985 issue contains "The Reflective Woods," "Cable Possibilities," "Hints from Hewescliff," "Nightwalk," "Traditions," "Herbs 'n spices," "Words of Power," "Keeping Watch," poetry, delightful artwork.

That's all for this month!

Blessed Be,

dean, Lady Fauna, and
the Georgians

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