GEORGIAN NEWSLETTER The Georgian Church March 1986
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Bakersfield--Again we are late with the newsletter. We're either going to have to change or publication date or change the schedule of the publishers. My schedule is changing a bit, so perhaps you'll see us in your mailbox earlier next month. Elizabeth has been helping with the typing this month and has done, as always, an excellent job. Delana and her good-looking friend have been helping dean enclose the front porch. Don is in the print shop anxiously awaiting this page so we can complete printing and start the collating party, so I guess I'd better get busy!

Subscription rates are $8 U.S., $16 foreign surface, $32 foreign air mail. Ad rates are $36 for a full page, $20 for 1/2 page, $14 for anything less than 1/2 page. Ads must be camera ready. We always welcome submissions--typed double-spaced if possible, but we're not real picky.

DON'T FORGET THE PAGAN STUDIES CONTEST! We have already begun to receive entries. The deadline is June 21st, 1986. If you haven't heard about the contest, send a SASE for information.

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Notes from The Doctor

A short parable:

One day in a lotus garden, a Master known far and wide for his great wisdom was approached by a novice who asked him how he, too, might be wise.

"My wisdom," replied the Master, "derives solely from my daily partaking of the Gems of Wisdom." So saying, the Master brought forth a small pouch. Taking the pouch, the novice withdrew from it a number of small brown balls which he ate with much eagerness.

As the Master watched, the novice soon slowed in his greedy repast and his face grew dark.

"Oh, Master," the novice cried as he spat out the remaining pellets, "these Gems of Wisdom are but balls of parrot dung!"

Whereupon the Master departed saying, "Behold, O Seeker of Knowledge, your wisdom has already increased considerably!"

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Ye Olde Herb Doctor by Tarostar

Four Step Plan to Treat Ulcers

1. It is important to begin to eliminate the tension in the nerves which brings on an attack of ulcers. For this, brew a standard infusion of scullcap (one teaspoon herb to one cup boiling water). Rx: two cups per day.

2. Treat the ulcerations of the intestinal and stomach lining with the powder of the slippery elm bark. One heaping teaspoon of the herb to one pint boiling water, brewed as a standard infusion. Rx: one cup two times daily before the morning and evening meal.

3. To treat the ulcers themselves, boil 1/2 ounce of licorice root in one pint of water for ten minutes. Remove that from the heat. Add thereto to steep a 1/2 ounce of plantain and one teaspoon lemon balm/melissa. Allow the mixture to cool. Rx: three cups per day.

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Ye Olde Herb Doctor (cont.) by Tarostar

4. Strive for a more alkaline balance to the diet. That means to cut down on meat and dairy products and increase the amount of raw vegetables and fruit eaten daily. Also, some experts recommend the capsules of golden seal, myrrh, and capsicum in combination for this ailment.

The main thing is to try to eliminate nervous tension with the nervine herbal remedies as much as possible. The only lack of success I have had with this method was with a local "lady of the evening" who would not do anything to relieve tension from her life--tension with her pimp, tension because of the vice squad, tension from the strange appetites of certain customers. Unless changes in lifestyle are made, no herbal or pharmaceutical remedy will help very much. Of course, the above case is the extreme, but it illustrates that constant tension will prevent any healing virtues in the herbs from being effective.

Ye Olde Herb Doctor does not suggest one go without orthodox medical advice if the condition seems serious, but once a proper diagnosis has been rendered, one is free to seek one's own cure. Herbalists do not want to precipitate an invectiva contra medicum, but there are decided limitations to pharmaceutical treatments which herbs can supplement. Also, herbs have limitations and could be augmented by a standard medical practice. A healthy balance of the two philosophies would be best.

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At the Sound of the Tone by A Friend

The Sun rises centered in the east--facing portals of the ancient temples of Babylon.

The worlds of light and dark approach balance.

Of old, the Tigris and Euphrates swelled pouring forth flood and fertility. The rays of the vernal equinox's star warms the face of the musing sphinx. The heavens await the birth of Aries as the pregnant Earth begins to warm and dry.

At home, the spiral-budded alder and golden-bedecked furze are blooming. The furze fires will be lit in the wastelands. Budding and new growth will be stimulated.

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At the Sound of the Tone (cont.) by A Friend

In ash groves, some clans will meet to honor the Lady of Whin.

About the time of Julius Caesar, Diodorus recorded that every nineteenth cycle Apollo would appear to his worshippers in Britain playing a harp and dancing across the sky. He would so cavort until the rising of the Pleiades (Diodorus Siculus, Book II, Chapter III).

The rapture of spring and promise of summer are ours as are death's kiss and the Summerland's breezes.

Some celebrate the equinox as Beltaine, others recognize Beltaine at Mayday. If you are in the process of planning or erecting a ritual worship site you should consider waking early on the occasion of the equinox sunrise. You may have noticed that ol' Sol, though always rising in the east and setting in the west, does not always rise in the same east. Sunrise appears to move north and south along the horizon through the course of the seasons. The centerline of the rising equinox sun is true east. If you mark it this year with a stake or stone or permanent indicator, then next year you will not need a calendar. When the Sun rises centered on your marker, 'tis time for the rites to begin.

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More from Miss Manners' Guide to Excruciatingly Correct Behavior (New York: Warner, 1982)

Ed note (LF): Another excerpt from Miss Manners this month has been predicated by yet another person who has completely ignored the sign on our front door, did not take it seriously, or who was illiterate. The sign says, briefly, if you don't have an appointment, if you haven't called, or if it is not an emergency, GO AWAY. There is one exception, and if you don't have a dog named Sam, it isn't you. For those well-mannered folk who would never think of barging in on witches without some forewarning, I hope you find as much amusement in this piece as I did.

On Visiting

The charming old custom of calling, or paying short regular visits to one's entire acquaintance to thank them for hospitality, mark the milestones of life, and generally

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More from Miss Manners (cont.)

acknowledge their existence, has died out of general use simply because it was time consuming, boring, and without content. Eventually, Miss Manners has noticed, it was replaced by television.

In its true form, calling was a lady's principal occupation. Each one chose a day of the week on which she declared herself at home to receive calls, and the rest of the week was spent out inflicting visits on others. Births, engagements, marriages, moves, and deaths required that those who performed them, or their immediate relatives, be called upon. Every guest had to call on every hostess after every party. Then every call had to be returned with a call equal in length but opposite in direction.

It kept the ladies on the streets, rather than off, and rebellion arose. Dear Edith Wharton recalled her mother's day, when "the onerous and endless business of 'calling' took up every spare hour,' and how 'by the time I grew up, the younger married women had emancipated themselves and simply drove from house to house depositing their cards, duly turned down in the upper left-hand corner, to the indigantion of stay-at-home hostesses, many of whom made their servants keep a list of the callers who 'did not ask,' so that these might be struck off the next season's invitation list--a punishment borne by the young and gay with perfect equanimity, as it was only the dull hostesses who inflicted it."

For a long time the drama continued symbolically with the actors absent from the stage. Small strange niceties developed, such as a lady's being honor-bound to be present in her carriage while her footman took the cards--one each from each lady in her family for each lady in the called-upon family, and a card each from the gentlemen in the calling family for every person in the called-upon family--to the servant whose job it was to announce that the lady of his house was not at home.

The virtual disappearance of this crucial servant brought an end to the vestigial remains of calling, everywhere but in a few diplomatic communities where the civilized pleasure of sitting face to face for fifteen minutes with someone with whom you have little in common, perhaps not even a language, is still appreciated.

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More from Miss Manners

Otherwise, modern calling has been reduced to the following paltry rules:

1. Real, old-fashioned, in-person calls are paid upon a birth and death and, if appropriate and welcome, on the occasion of an illness. Calling on new neighbors is charming but optional. In all of these cases, one must telephone to make an appointment, but new parents and the newly bereaved are supposed to make themselves available to receive these visits.

2. Hospitality is generally considered sufficiently acknowledged by the offer of comparable return hospitality. The exception is the seated dinner, for which a letter or a telephone call (Miss Manners prefers the letter) is required. Other letters of thanks for hospitality are always appropriate, but not mandatory.

3. Routine social calling is done by telephone. That is, one can call, in this fashion, nearly any time of day and expect, as the ladies plying the avenues in their carriage did, to be received unless there is a specific excuse offered. The facility with which people can be trapped by callers by telephone is, in Miss Manners' opinion, one of the serious drawbacks of modern life. (Ed note: A phone answering machine, which takes calls when one is not available, is a marvelous solution to convenience gone awry in this fashion.) She recommends leniency in accepting excuses by the called upon of not being able to talk, and makes it a point of honor never to recognize the voice of a lady explaining that she is not at home.

4. DROPPING IN DOES NOT EXIST IN PROPER MODERN SOCIETY. (Ed.'s emphasis.) Those who practice it should be prepared not to recognize by sight ladies who are trying to establish that they are not at home.

Ed. note (LF): There are two more excerpts from this section which I add to the above so that those who persist in dropping in on folks will be somewhat prepared for a cool reception:

"Dropping-in" is an old, warm, friendly, neighborly custom which is properly despised by those on whom it is practiced. Under no circumstances should one let an untimely visitor cross one's threshold. In the absence of a butler to say

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More from Miss Manners (cont.)

that one is not receiving, one must say it oneself. "I'm sorry, I can't receive you now," must be said firmly, after which the door must be shut firmly. The unannounced visitor must learn to expect this sort of nonreception. The world would be a better place if we all had butlers again.

and

Religious tolerance does not extend to donating one's time to whoever asks.

So there.

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Will The Real Witch Please Stand Up? by Stan

Panel Contestant Number One, are you a good witch?
Answer: Yes, I am.

Contestant Number Two, are you a good witch?
Answer: Yes, I am.

Contestant Number Three, are you a good witch?
Answer: I use my power as I see fit.

Question: Where do you get your power, number one?
Answer: I get it from our Lady, the Goddess.

Number two, where do you get your power?
Answer: I draw it from the Cosmos; I have learned to tap cosmic energy.

Number three, where do you get your power?
Answer: Some of it is called down; some of it is raised up.

Question: Do you wear clothes when you work, number one?
Answer: No, we work what we call skyclad.

Question number two: Do you wear clothes when you work?
Answer: No we do not.

Contestant number three: Does your group wear clothes?
Answer: No, we nearly always are robed.

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Will the Real Witch Please Stand Up? (cont.) by Stan

Contestant number one, are all of your rituals secret, known only to a few?
Answer: Yes, our rituals are very secret.

Contestant number two, are your rituals secret?
Answer: Yes, very much so.

Number three, the same question.
Answer: No, many people think they are but they can all be found in print if you look hard enough and recognize them when you see them.

Contestant Number One, what do you call your beliefs?
Answer: They constitute a religion, called Wicca.

Number two, is that true for you also?
Answer: Yes, it is.

Number three?
It is a religion and we call it Wicca.

Number one, how old is your religion?
Answer: Our beliefs go back many centuries to prehistoric times.

Number Two?
Our beliefs are centuries old.

Number three, how old are your beliefs?
Answer: Some of them go back into the ages, some of them date only to the turn of the last century.

Number one, are there any overtones of the judeo-xtian beliefs in your religion?
Answer: Oh, my--no!

Number two, same question.
Certainly not, such a thing is unthinkable.

Number three, do you agree?
Answer: No, I'm afriad I can't agree. There are many cabalistic overtones in modern day Wicca.

Number one, how do you contain the power your raise?
Answer: We draw a nine foot circle and hold it in there.

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Will The Real Witch Please Stand Up? (cont.) by Stan

Number two, how do you keep the power you raise?
We draw a circle containing our cone of power.

Number three, do you do the same?
Answer: No, we follow the old, old ways and work within a square.

Number one, does the name Vlachopoulos mean anything to you?
Answer: No, I'm afraid not.

Does it to you, number two?
Answer: No, it doesn't.

Number three, same question.
Answer: Yes, Doreen Vlachopoulos, a very gifted writer of some of our chants and rituals.

Number one, is there a god as well as a goddess in your beliefs?
Answer: Yes, a Lord and Lady.

Number two, is this true for you, also?
Answer: Yes, it is.

Number three, which is the most powerful, the lord or the lady?
Answer: They share power equally, although since we follow the olden precepts the magister is usually in charge.

Number one, do you have a written scripture?
Answer: Yes, we do. It is called the Book of Shadows.

Number three, do you agree?
Answer: In a sense I do, but our Book of Shadows may and sometimes does change. We are a very eclectic group.

Number one, is this book held by the High Priestess?
Answer: Yes, indeed.

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Will The Real Witch Please Stand Up? (cont.) by Stan

Number two?
Answer: Oh, yes.

Do you agree with that number three?
Answer: No, we follow the old ways and the magister always kept the book. A mother's children could be tortured by the xtians and would reveal the others.

Number one, do you think the burning times are over and done with?
Answer: Yes, I think so.

And you number two?
Answer: Yes, we no longer need to hide.

Number three, is this true?
Answer: Not really. A great deal of bigotry, intolerance, ignorance and the use of a scapegoat by thieving politicians still remains. Many would bring them back if they could.

Number one, do all wicca people agree in their beliefs?
Answer: No, they don't.

Number two?
Answer: No, they don't.

Number three, since different folk among you have different beliefs, which, if any, are valid?
Answer: It is true that you will find as many different shades of belief as you will covens, but if it works and it seems to for them, then it is a valid belief.

Panel moderator: We are out of time. Thank you, contestants, and now it is time for our panel to vote. Is it number one, number two, or can it even be number three? Will the real Witch please stand up?

How do you vote? Number one, number two, or number three? Or can they all be Witches?

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A lawyer of advanced age asked, "How old are you, madam?"
A long pause ensued.
"Don't hesitate, my dear," he urged, "The longer you wait, the older you become."

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Kore by Charles Arnold

Golden maiden
green hair ablaze in the sun
walking over the fields
stepping so carefully into every furrow
bringing fertility to the earth
with the first menstrual blood
as it drips from between
your loving thighs.

Walk with us gracious lady
bless our fields and our flocks
our herds and our selves
may we be fertile in your name
may fields grow green then gold
may bellies become round and full of new life
bless us as we serve you
with our work and our song and our loving.

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Ways of the Witchling by Tarostar

Gather to me, my Witchlings bright,
With sparkling eyes and inner light.
List well these words that I do cite,
To flower thy charms with Witchy Might.

Heed the Ancient Law of Three,
It hath the Witch's reason to be:
What thou givest the Gods to share
Returneth a blessing thrice made fair.
The good thou doest thy fellow Man
Thrice blesseth thy life's sure plan.
The evil thou wouldst generate
Returneth thrice strife and hate.

An' It Harm None, Do As Thou Wilt, be thy sacred bounden duty.
Responsibility to Earth, not taking Her as Booty.
Co-habitate in all thy ways
With every creature all thy days.

Perfect Love and Perfect Trust, seemeth unrealistic at first,
But it be that for which the World doth thirst.
Haphazard love it meaneth not to seek,
First find trust, then love shalt peak.

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Ways of the Witchling (cont.) by Taroster

Without the one, the other shalt die
And not even be found in the Bye and Bye.

A balanced life avoiding excess
Alloweth thee all to express
In moderation the joys of Life
Along with its ills that cut like a knife.

Cause and Effect and Compensation
Create this World's pomp and sensation.
Guard well thy thoughts and words and acts,
For they bringeth to thee accomplished facts.

Forth thou goeth into this World of travail.
Let my words gird thee with Witches' mail.
Be true to the ways of the Ancient Ones of Old
And thy Spirit shalt have the hue of pure gold.

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When the Hounds of Spring by Algernon Charles Swinburne

Ed note (LF): This is an excerpt from The Literature of England, Volume Two (George K. Anderson, et al, eds. Glenview, IL: Scott, Foresman and Co., 1979 ed.). The poem is from Atalanta in Calydon. The following note is also from the text:

Atalanta in Calydon concerns the famous hunt for the wild boar wich was sent, according to legend, by Artemis, revengeful goddess of the moon, to ravage Calydon, a province in ancient Greece. Meleager killed the beast and presented the spoils of victory to Atalanta, an Arcadian huntress with whom he had fallen in love. When Toxeus and Plexippus, brothers of Queen Althaea, Meleager's mother, attempted to rob the huntress of her prize, their nephew slew them. On hearing of the tragedy, Meleager's mother burned to ashes the fagot upon which her son's life depended, and which she had carefully preserved up to that time. The opening chorus of the drama, "When the Hounds of Spring" is sung by a group of maidens from Aetolia, an ancient Greek province.

The poem begins on the next page.

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When the Hounds of Spring (1865)

When the hounds of spring are on winter's traces,
The mother of months in meadow or plain
Fills the shadows and windy places
With lisp of leaves and ripple of rain;
And the brown bright nightingale amorous
Is half assuaged for Itylus,
For the Thracian ships and the foreign faces,
The tongueless vigil, and all the pain.

Come with bows bent and with emptying of quivers,
Maiden most perfect, lady of light,
With a noise of winds and many rivers,
With a clamor of waters, and with might;
Bind on thy sandles, O thou most fleet,
Over the splendor and speed of thy feet;
For the faint east quickens, the wan west shivers,
Round the feet of the day and the feet of the night.

Where shall we find her, how shall we sing to her,
Fold our hands round her knees, and cling?
Oh, that man's heart were as fire and could spring to her,
Fire, or the strength of the streams that spring!
For the stars and the winds are unto her
As raiment, as songs of the harp-player;
For the risen stars and the fallen cling to her,
And the southwest wind and the west wind sing.

For winter's rains and ruins are over,
And all the season of snows and sins;
The days dividing lover and lover,
The light that loses, the night that wins;
And time remembered is grief forgotten,
And frosts are slain and flowers begotten,
And in green underwood and cover
Blossom by blossom the spring begins.

The full streams feed on flower of rushes,
Ripe grasses trammel a traveling foot,
The faint fresh flame of the young year flushes
From leaf to flower and flower to fruit;
And fruit and leaf are as gold and fire,
And the oat is heard above the lyre,
And the hoofed heel of a satyr crushes
The chestnut-husk at the chestnut-root.

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When the Hounds of Spring (cont.)

And Pan by noon and Bacchus by night,
  Fleeter of foot than the fleet-foot kid,
Follows with dancing and fills with delight
  The Maenad and the Bassarid;
And soft as lips that laugh and hide
The laughing leaves of the trees divide,
And screen from seeing and leave in sight
  The god pursuing, the maiden hid.

The ivy falls with the Bacchanal's hair
  Over her eyebrows hiding her eyes;
The wild vine slipping down leaves bare
  Her bright breast shortening into sighs;
The wild vine slips with the weight of its leaves,
But the berried ivy catches and cleaves
To the limbs that glitter, the feet that scare
  The wolf that follows, the fawn that flies.

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When I was a child, I lived in Manhatten. Every morning my mother walked me to school, which was four blocks away, and every afternoon she walked me home again. One very hard winter she came down with pneumonia. She told me that now I would have to go to school by myself. Coming home the next day, I fell on some ice while crossing a street. Before I could get up, a car skidded toward me. It stopped within inches of me. The driver helped me up and I managed to get home. I didn't tell my mother because I didn't want her to worry.

The next morning the streets were even icier. When I had to cross my first street, I suddenly became terrified. I stood at the cold intersection for a long time. Finally an elderly woman came over to me. "I don't see very well," she said. "May I hold your hand when I cross the street?" "Oh yes," I replied. She took my hand, and before long we were on the other side. I walked on a short distance. Then I looked back to see how the woman was doing. To my surprise, she was crossing the street we had just crossed, walking all by herself and much faster than we had before. I relized immediately that she had pretended poor eyesight only to help me cross the street. It was much later before I understood that I could overcome my own fears by trying to help someone else.

---Mary E. Kinsolving

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From Moonrider

We are workers, healers, poets, seekers, mothers and lovers. We reach out to you, our brothers, our sisters, our mothers, our fathers, our sons, our daughters, our spiritual family; our kin, under the skin.

How many of you have felt change moving on the wind? How often have you wondered where we are headed in the vast infinity of our universe? The answer lies in our hearts and minds.

God, the limitless vibration of love, lies waiting within our inner space. The universal reason for our existance is a well of wonder and goodness. And, as God is love, that force takes form in our Goddess, the earth. Gaia, our Mother, our planet, is the form through which we can express God's love.

We, as workers, healers, poets, seekers, mothers and lovers, ask that you express God's love to our Mother, Gaia.

At this momentous cycle of time, as Halley's Comet returns, we ask that you take time to experience the earth's beauty. The symbols and expressions of that beauty will be as varied as the features on our individual faces, but the feeling will be universally the same.

Stroke a pet, water a plant, seek a dream, walk under the light of the moon, reflect the love you feel. Open your heart to the wonderous possibilities of life on this beautiful planet. Hug your children, make joyous music, praise the earth and seek life's meaning in your heart and mind. Let life speak to you and cherish it for the gift that it is.

When your joy and love reach the point at which they are no longer containable, remember the comet. Halley's Comet, nature's herald--always the bringer of change eternal, the comet will receive your love, and as the comet circles the earth, the love will circle and unite us all in the eternal light of God's love.

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No matter how often it is shown that money doesn't bring happiness, we're always willing to give it another chance.

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From Ted

I doubt you remember me. I came a couple of times looking for someone to teach me the ways of the Craft. From your silence I feel you have no need of me there. As the Mother wills, so shall it always be. Since I must learn my art on my own and stumble along the path to deeper wisdom, I started poking around as best I could. I have found an ad for a correspondence course in Witchcraft headed by Gavin and Yvonne Frost. I was wondering if you would be kind enough to instruct me as to whether or not this would be a wasted pursuit. If so, would you please turn my eyes in some meaningful direction?

Reply (jeannie): No, I don't remember you. If you have called to make an appointment, call again. We missed it. If you came to the house without an appointment, you're absolutely right. We don't need you here. Everybody stumbles along the path to wisdom alone for it is a path gained from within. I will not instruct you on which instruction is best for you. It is something you must find out for yourself. However, it is my opinion that anyone who pays to learn Witchcraft is getting ripped off. A meaningful direction might be Truxton Avenue, Kern County Public Library. When you finish everything under the heading "Witchcraft" in the public library (don't forget the Library of Congress Subject Headings, which the librarian will help you learn to use if you don't know how), write again.

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Note from the Editor: We really need articles, folks. We are down to sixteen-liners deen has written on napkins in the glove compartment.

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And here's another one! Laurellus noblus (Bayleaf). The leaves of this tree, when placed in bags of dry goods, will keep away them old weevils. The weevils are safe to eat, and you can get by with eating the cake mix anyway if it's dark chocolate or spice mix. The bay leaves, however, appear to be a more appetizing solution.

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Don't ever slam a door; you might want to go back.

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From Spirit Within News

Greetings! We are sorry but due to our present legal and financial situation we are unable to put out an issue of the Spirit Within News for Candlemas '86. We will however, be putting out a double-issue for Beltane '86, (circumstances permitting, of course). The cause of this dilemma that we are in is the administration here. They have frozen all the groups' funds and as you know, they have 'backed us into a corner' so to speak on the issue of allowing a High Priestess into our meetings, forcing us to file suit in the courts. We haven't received any of our exchanges, including your publication, since Samhain, this is also caused by the administration which has been withholding all incoming correspondence to the group. We hope that this has explained any problems that you may have had in contacting us since Samhain and that this hasn't caused you any inconvenience.

Included in this letter you will find a leaflet, (Pagans cry for help), which was written by myself (Anubis-Amen-Ra) to all the members of the "Pagan" community. This letter is our plea for assistance to all of you. If it is at all possible for you to print or distribute this, could you please do so? It would be a great help to us. Due to our situation we were almost unable to have this leaflet printed, but we were able to have a limited number of them made up and we are mailing them out to as many of our exchanges as possible. But, I fear that these few copies will not be enough. So we really need your help, because we really can't be sure how many of these letters will be stopped and/or confiscated by the administration here before they can go out. Also money for stamps, printing, etc., is low so your help in distributing this leaflet would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your support and I hope that soon we will be able to resume our normal correspondence. Until then dear friends may the Lady and Lord guide you always in the path of truth and understanding.

Ed. note (jeannie): According to the letter, the group went to court on the 21st of February. "Pagans Cry for Help" begins on the next page.

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By a sweet tongue and kindness, you can drag an elephant with a hair. --Persian Proverb

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Pagans Cry for Help by Anubis-Amen-Ra

Some of you may not know the dilemma the Coven of Dawn is in at this time, and how much we need your support spiritually and materially.

At this time, the prison officials are saying that our Wiccan group is not considered a true religion and it is also a bad influence on other inmates. They wish to disband our group. So at the risk of untold abuse, we few pagans have decided to stand and fight for our beliefs, in the court of law. Being prisoners behind these granite walls, we are truly at their mercy.

As many of you know, we have tried to remain self-supporting through our own contributions and by bartering with our newsletter, Spirit Within News, through advertising and trading. However, with the expenses that we have incurred by being forced into our present legal situation, paying for outside representation and the attitudes of our prison administration, we may be forced yet into stopping our publication of the newsletter. Worse yet, there may be a return of the times where penalties will again be imposed when we are caught practicing our beliefs. This situation may exist for an indefinite period of time. The mere thought of this happening brings tears to this prisoner's eyes. Three years of dedication, worry, hard work, struggling and fighting to have our group recognized as a legitimate, non-traditional alternative religious group, only now to be threatened with total destruction under the guise of a security risk deeply and emotionally hurts.

For several thousand years, certain religious vigilante groups have found game in their prey upon pagan groups. Their aims were to push the pagan beliefs out of existence as evil, just as they are trying to do to our group. It is for these reasons that we are calling for help, asking for pagan unity to come to our rescue with letters, prayers or anything that may help us in our struggle for the light. The spirits of darkness have surrounded us and are poised to pounce upon us, to destroy the flicker of light that we have. Although they will never succeed in the destruction of the light, our group may be and will not be reborn behind these prison walls if we are forced to no longer congregate in the light.

Please hear our cry for help. There are spirits of the light in not just our prison but many prisons who try to live

Pagans Cry for Help (cont.) by Anubis-Amen-Ra

within the light and are depending on the decision of what happens to us. Please show these modern day vigilante groups that unlike they, pagans will go to the rescue of those who are in search of the light. Please write and send letters to these people, and send carbon copies of your letters to: Dave Chamberlain, P. O. Box A B-6, Thomaston, ME 04861. Send letters to: Donald Allen, Commissioner of Corrections, State House Station 111, Augusta, ME 04333 and James E. Tierney, Department of the Attorney General, State House Station 6, Augusta, ME 04333, Attn: David J. Perkins.

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From Mathew

The past several months have certainly been trying ones for Paganfolk. We have seen our legitimate religious rights attacked in Congress by such men as Helms, Walker, and Schulze. Our brothers and sisters from the Grove of the Unicorn in Atlanta have been harassed and threatened, and have had their outdoor temple desecrated. We have again suffered from distorted or erroneous presentations in the media. In the face of such adversity however, the community has united as never before and has won important victories both in Washington, D.C. and elsewhere. Meanwhile, other struggles for Pagan religious freedoms and civil rights continue, and with our concerted efforts I feel we are sure to meet with further success.

In the midst of all this, yet another attack has been perpetrated against the Pagan community. I refer to an article that appeared in the January issue of Penthouse magazine entitled "The Devil Made Me Do It," that purports to describe a wave of murder, child abuse, and other serious crimes carried out by "Satanists." A close reading of this article, however, reveals the following: the terms "Witch" and "Witchcraft" are used at least eight times, in several cases explicitly linked to ritual murder or other heinous crimes; pentagrams are mentioned five times and covens three times; the term Pagan is used once, as are Druidism and Golden Dawn. Throughout the article, Witches are equated with Satanism, Satanists, and criminal activity. Nowhere does the article, or Penthouse itself, try to portray Witches or other Pagans as the ethical, peaceful, law-abiding people we are. Nowhere is it mentioned that Wicca and other Pagan

From Mathew (cont.)

paths are valid, legitimate, pre-Christian, Earth-centered religions. Nowhere is an attempt made to distinguish between real Pagans and those who would call themselves "witches" and abuse our sacred tools and symbols while praying to the Christian Devil and commiting criminal acts.

Clearly, the article was not well researched, or if it was, then that research was deliberately disregarded. Just as clearly, Penthouse has failed in its responsibility of editorial oversight (doubly so in fact, since the article was billed as the result of a Penthouse investigation). Whether due to incompetence or prejudice, the result is the same, and we Pagans need to once again take action to correct the situation. To this end I am sending a specially prepared copy of the article, along with this cover letter, to a number of Pagan networks, churches, and other groups listed in the 1984-1985 Circle Guide. I ask that your members be made aware of the article and its contents, and that they write to and/or telephone Penthouse to express their displeasure and demand a suitable clarification. I particularly hope that Wiccan churches or other pagan groups that are legally chartered would write on their official letterheads to remind Penthouse of the legal consequences that can result from defaming a religion or its practitioners. Pagan organizations with sufficient funds may wish to consult legal counsel about the advisability of bringing suit against Penthouse.

If I can be of any further assistance in this matter, do not hesitate to contact me. (Ed. note, jeannie: Mathew did not say whether we could publish his address; send us a SASE with your letter to him enclosed and we'll forward.) If you or your group should decide to take action on this, then I would appreciate being informed of your actions and any responses on the part of Penthouse, if you should wish to share such information. The Lady and Lord help those who help themselves.

To write Penthouse magazine: Penthouse International Ltd.
1965 Broadway
New York, NY 10023-5965

To call Penthouse magazine: (212) 496-6100

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If you don't want to battle the competition, pick the hardest job.

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A Delicate Plant You Can Neglect from USDA

One of the most hardy of ornamental plants is the lilac. Some varieties can survive winter temperatures of minus 60 degrees Fahrenheit, so is suited to all parts of the United States except where winters are too mild to provide the plants with the seasonal rest period they need. Lilac plants often grow and continue to flower for many years even if you totally neglect them. According to the USDA the easiest methods for propagating lilacs for the home gardener are by root sprouts and layering. Do not try to grow lilacs from seed because most lilacs are hybrids, so will not produce plants just like the parent plant. Some lilacs send out suckers near the base of the plant. Dig up these new sprouts in the fall and transplant them elsewhere in the garden or to a nursery. They may develop into satisfactory plants in about three years. However, this method will not be satisfactory for lilac bushes that are grafted because the suckers will not be like the top of the plants. Look for a graft union near the soil line to determine if the plant is grafted. If it is, try propagating by layering instead. It's an easy but slow process. Start layering by working peat or leafmold and sand into the soil where the branch is to be layered. Next, make a slanting one-inch cut on the upper side of the branch about a foot from the tip. Dust on the cut a powder that stimulates rooting. Bend the branch back, and fasten it to ground at a point between the trunk and the wound. Use a wooden peg or wire wicket, or simply weigh it down securely with a stone. Bend the tip upright at the wound and as you do, twist the tip a half-turn to open it. Then place another peg or pin over the branch at the point of the wound, and mound 3 or 4 inches of firmly packed soil over the wound. Place straw or leaf mulch on the mound, and water frequently. Roots will develop by the second spring. At that time, cut the new plant free from the parent, but leave it in place for three weeks to recover from the shock of being cut from its mommie.

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There were periods of meditation every day, and I learned that there was a difference between prayer and meditation. In a prayer one asks the Deity to listen while she talks; in meditation one listens while the Deity speaks. I have found that many people use prayer almost as a demand to achieve something when meditation might lead them to understand what would be the best for them. --Sybil Leek, Diary of a Witch

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Scourge Of the Ages by Tarostar

Many moderns look back to the ancient classical world and feel this age has been able to survive the so-called "decadence" of those times. They say the arbitrary whims of the Caesars were evil and that mankind has been able to overcome the evils of the Pagan past. The fact is that is is not the "Classical Age" that spawned so much harm to humanity, but the descent into ignorance engendered by early Christendom itself. Ideas of the Roman Emperors being cruel and absolute and harmful to the general public are erroneous. It stems from the writings of the historians who recorded only what went on in the imperial household.

An emperor was not an absolute dictator in the Roman state. He had no absolute authority outside of his clan as Pater Familias. Any head of a household had the power of life and death over those attached to the family. This preserved order in society of those days. But even then, there were bands of good behavior even for the Pater Familias.

The actions of some of the worst Emperors stand out because they broke those conventions. That is what made them worthy of remark by contemporary historians. That has given this age a view that the Caesars were absolute and cruel.

The Emperor was only "Princeps," or First Citizen in the city of Rome and not its ruler. He had no authority in any private household of any other citizen. He administered the city in the name of the Senate and people of Rome. He ruled by consent of the Senate, which ruled by vote of the tribes and clans of Rome. In effect, Rome always was a republic. Arbitrary and unpopular public acts by any Emperor brought swift condemnation and opposition by the Senate and populace.

This age sees the Roman emperors portrayed in novels and movies as dictatorial beasts and lunatics, causing damage to the peace and security of the Empire in general. The Senate was never able to evolve in order to administer the far-flung conquered provinces of the empire. It remained chained to factions and the parochial interests of the City of Rome. That is why the concept of "Emperor" was devised. A need was apparent to make necessary and swift decisions concerning the provences for military and civil matters which the Senate could not handle efficiently. The military and provincial governors, then, were directly responsible to the Emperor and he administered the territories outside the city of Rome as supreme commander of the army and chief administrator of the

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Scourge of the Ages (cont.) by Tarostar

imperial government, for the Senate and people of Rome. However, that still did not make him "absolute."

Romes's glory was not in its empire, but in its ability to create respect for law and order. An emperor's first duty was to uphold that. The military and civil services attracted quality persons who handled the daily administrations and ran the course of affairs regardless of and above and beyond who wore the imperial diadem. Caesars came and went, but Rome endured.

The fall of the "Classical Age" was a calamity beyond imagining as far as we are concerned in this point in time. The ensuing centuries brought the three scourges that have afflicted mankind in the Western world ever since; the Prince, the Priest and the Physician. By the concept of "Prince" is meant the ruler that emerged from the ashes and chaos of the break-up of the imperial administration in public affairs and resulted in the feudal baron or warlord. By "Priest" is meant the upholder of exoteric religion and intellectual bondage imposed on human thinking by the Medieval church. By "Physician" is meant the closed-minded system of scientific orthodoxy opposed to natural concepts of metaphysical wholeness in the medical healing of human afflictions. These three institutions in the history of Western man have held back progress and prevented advancement of human interests for the last 1,500 years.

The warlord, or the feudal nobility, as protector of the defenseless, emerged as a class of the only independant element in society during the years after the end of the Roman Empire. He owned land, the only sign of wealth. The feudal baron unleashed war and destruction upon all those around him. His interest was to maintain independence from a central authority which may have tried to curb self-aggrandizement. This system of government made the interests of the baron also the fate of those who lived in and upon his territories. The rise and fall of Baronial Houses swept the people along with it and their fortunes and fates were bound up in the security a feudal tenure could provide.

Moderate chaos was the general course of life under the "Prince." The baron's armies lived off and from the land, becoming a calamity to commonality farming and merchandising. The baron's enemies did likewise. Peace and security were very tenuous things. The long struggle of the Crown to

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Scourge of the Ages (cont.) by Tarostar

establish authority and reduce the power of independent warlords caused an alliance between the crown and the merchant class to preserve security. This bound cities and people up in the interests of the ruling dynastic houses. The victory of King and money over the barons and chaos produced another form of oppressive government. The cost of security was very high. Taxation and dictatorship by the Crown were the norms for the early nation states. It was to the advantage of the dynastic houses to keep the barony servile and the commonality quiet and generating revenue.

To this end, the kings, and at times the barons, employed the Church as an instrument of propaganda to maintain the status quo, advocating God so ordained mankind should live in subjugation to the Crown or feudal overlord. Suffering and sorrow were touted as virtues so "pie-in-the-sky-bye-and-bye" could be attained. That was the worst crime of all time perpetrated by Christian theologians on humanity. The "priest" then became the mouthpiece for a state of affairs designed to provide peace from dissatisfaction and change.

The historical church borrowed heavily for its rites and ceremonies from the religious traditions of the "Classical Age" of Greece, Egypt and Rome. Although it did its best to conceal the fact from those contemporaries, the borrowings are evident to us in this time looking back. From Second Thessalonians, the Church enlarged its view to say that any form of spiritual belief which was not approved by Church was of the Devil. That set the stage for the religious intolerance and deeds of violence and evil instigated by Christian theologians and divines. In the aftermath of the fall of the "Classical" civilization, the Church established the monastery system to preserve the remnants of culture, but only that which was not in conflict with the interests of Christian faith. It took a thousand years to break the throttle of priestly control of human knowledge input from the education systems. The Church did not encourage scientific and philosophical speculation to be conducted, because they may see, think and advocate things not condusive to the monetary and political aims of the priesthood. The School of Athens was closed by the Byzantine Emperior Justinian at the instigation of the Church in A.D. 529. With it, the last of the "Classical Age" learning went into obscurity for a thousand years.

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Scourge of the Ages (cont.) by Tarostar

The Great Darkness cast by the shadow of the Cross fell upon the minds of the entire Western world and its struggling Humanity. The insistance on dogmatic thinking, as the Church ran the institutions of higher learning, imposed the same attitudes on science. Closed-minded rehashing of old established theorems precluded any speculation that may have proven beneficial. Such a state of affairs resulted in a government (the Prince) as a force resistant to change, a theology (the Priest) afraid of debate, and a science (the Physician) unable to think. Such was the lot of Western Civilization all through the times we call the Middle Ages, which were the progenitors of our times. People who continued to think for themselves were a danger to both Prince and Priest and had to be removed from the body politic. Those who figured things out for themselves were a danger to the Physician and had to be prevented from having any influence. Hence the phobia of the Witch and Heretic. It is the great shame, both of government and church, that they allied themselves to destroy segments of the population in order to preserve their status quo. The Prince saw it expedient to allow the people to tear apart members of its own body rather than waste the realm in war. The Church saw it expedient to condone and advocate death to all who may think the world is not dependent on church and clerical policy. The Physician saw it expedient to eliminate any maverick in the field of thinking. Bonfires of bodies and books are the legacy from those times. When the rights of the people were advocated to the Prince, he resisted with repression. When spirituality was sought outside the Church, the Priest retaliated with death and fire. When natural and sane methods were sought for healing, the Physician screamed "Satan!" and brought both the Prince and Priest to act against them. It is the medical profession's great shame that doctors instigated the assassination of Theophrastus Paracelsus for being a "free-spirit" in scientific speculation. Fortunately, the Prince had been subdued to the will of the people through the slow and gradual establishment of democratic principles. Most fortunately, the Priest had been driven from control of the places of higher learning and reduced from being the arbiter of Right and Wrong in human affairs through the gradual process of secularization of education.

The one most important event that sounded the death knell to the rulership of Prince and Priest was the invention of the moveable type printing press by Johannes Gutenberg in A.D.

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Scourge of the Ages (cont.) by Tarostar

1454. That single event did more to move the world for the better than any king, emperor, pope or religious messiah that ever lived or was thought to live. It has only been a mere 531 years from that time but more progress can be seen as the result of that event than any culture, society or political or religious movement in the world to that time. It opened up the thought processes of the Physician and allowed science to escape the grip of the Priest. It forced the Prince to step down in favor of rationality in government and bow to an educated public. It spread ideas that exposed the spiritual bankruptcy of the Priest and the princely church and removed it from control of the human mind.

It is from the year of that invention that we should date our calendar and chronology of the passing centuries. 1454 A.D. should be Year 0. 1453 should be year 1 B.G. (Before Gutenberg) and 1455 should be year 1 A.G. (After Gutenberg). Johannes Gutenberg himself should be canonized as the only saint or hero needed by modern times from which to mark time. In this year, 531 A.G., we live in the Sixth Century of this age. It is the age that has resulted in the most marked improvement in the human condition and the betterment of life, society, education, science and technology that the world has ever known. Without St. Johannes of Gutenberg and the influence of his contribution to humanity, the three Scourges of the Western World might still hold sway to the detriment of the human spirit. This man and his resulting influence must be given honor and proper consideration for what has resulted therefrom. The good of the Classical Age without its faults has been able to be re-established in the interests of the welfare of humanity, to the shackling of Prince, Priest and dogmatic Physician. Through fire, sword and bondage the free spirit of the human intellect has triumphed and perservered. The Heretic and Witch have won out in the history of Western civilization.

Ed note (jeannie): How 'bout Lord Johannes?

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When I asked the man on the other end of the line for Jane, he told me, "You must have diled the wrong number." I looked at the number on my pad again and asked, "Are you sure?" There waas a moment of silence. Then the man said, "Have I ever lied to you before?" --R. H. Finch

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Return of the Star Cazer by Lady Fauna

The period from the middle of March to the middle of April is a time of tremendous energy and a good time for progressive, positive movement. Whether you're planting a garden or planting a new dream, you'll notice a new energy and life in your activities.

March 30th is a good day for healing, organizing, building, looking for gemstones and minerals, preparing the garden and cultivating, matters to do with your occupation, harvesting herbs. Blue candles.

March 31st is good for sending psychic messages, making changes, moving, eliciting cooperation and leadership. A good day for an organizational meeting. Face east.

April 1st is a good day for water sports, brewing liquids, and making music.

April 5th might bring a bargain at the bookstore, while the 6th would be an excellent day to write that article or speech you've been plotting.

The 8th of April is good for making oils and beverages. You may benefit by a trip to the sea. If you have dealings you have been putting off involving large institutions (taxes?) today's the day to proceed.

The 10th is a good day for fertility and marital pleasures, so have fun and don't get pregnant. Red candles, green candles, Venus oil.

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Tape this one to the back of your television set (see, it is good for something):

You can tell if a tornado is within 25 miles this way:
1. Switch to Channel 13.
2. Darken the screen to black.
3. Then switch to Channel 2.

If your screen glows bright white, head for shelter. A tornado is nearby. This method works with any set, even if programs are in progress, as Channel 2 is the closest electrical frequency to the natural frequency created by a tornado and Channel 13 by contrast is farthest away.

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Prevent Germ Farming in a Crock from USDA

Crockpot cooking is slow cooking, which means food is cooked at relatively low temperatures for long perods. The range for most pots is 170 degress to 280 degrees Fahrenheit. A short cooking time in a crockpot would be three hours--a long cooking time eight to twelve hours. As a result, there can be up to a two-hour danger period before the pot gets hot enough to kill most common food poisoning bacteria. This is especially true for meat and poultry which can be infected by bacteria that cause mild to severe symptoms similar to intestinal flu. The best solution to the crockpot time lag problem is to make sure no bacteria are allowed to grow in food before you put it in the pot. Here are some bacteria-stopping hints from the USDA:

Refrigerate all foods that need it as soon as you get it home. Refrigeration prevents any bacteria that could reproduce rapidly in the two-hour danger period from getting a head start.

Don't use frozen meat or poultry in your crockpot, even though some manuals say you can. It takes longer to cook frozen meat, which lengthens the time for the crockpot to heat it to a bacteria-killing temperature. Using frozen meat can also result in undercooking because cooking times given in crockpot cookbooks are based on thawed ingredients.

Don't overload your crockpot. Portions of meat or vegetables sticking up above the cooking area won't get fully cooked. Too many things stuffed in also increase the density of the contents, which means it'll take longer to cook thoroughly.

Don't reheat leftovers in your crockpot. Reheat leftovers at high, stovetop temperatures before re-serving the food. High temperatures kill most bacteria quickly.

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A young American at a banquet found himself seated next to the eminent Wellington Koo, a Chinese diplomat. Completely at a loss as to what to say to a Chinese, this young man ventured, "Likee soupee?" Mr. Koo smiled and nodded. Later when called upon to speak, Wellington Koo delivered an eloquent talk in exquisite English, sat down while the applause was still resounding, turned to the young man and said, "Likee speechee?"

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Life From Clay? from The New York Times

Scientists in California reported a major discovery that supports the emerging theory that life on Earth began in clay rather than the sea.

The discovery, announced at a symposium, showed that ordinary clay contains two basic properties essential to life: the capacities to store and transfer energy. With such energy, coming from radioactive decay and other sources, the early clays could have acted as "chemical factories" for processing inorganic raw materials into the more complex molecules from which the first life arose some four billion years ago.

In their analysis of common ceramic clay, the scientists said they had found evidence that "mistakes" made normally and repeatedly in the formation of clay crystals presumably create the conditions by which the material traps energy and holds it for perhaps thousands of years. Such defects in the clay microstucture also could be sites for storing information necessary to direct the chemical reactions and organize the eventual proto-organisms.

So, if the theory can be confirmed, it would seem that an accumulation of chemical mistakes led to life on Earth. The theory is evocative of the bibical account of the Creation. In Genesis, it is written: "And the Lord God formed man of dust of the ground," and in common usage this primordial dust is called clay.*

The chemists and biologists who made the discovery, however, emphasized that their findings did not prove the clay-life theory but did make it a more reasonable explanation worthy of further research.

The research was conducted by a team of scientists at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Ames Research Center in Mountain View, where studies of the origin of life have been under way for years in part to learn how to search for life on other worlds. The leader was Dr. Lelia Coyne, a research associate at Ames and also at San Jose State University. She described the findings, the result of research begun in the 1970s, at a symposium held at Ames and in a telephone interview.

Commenting on the report by telephone from Ames, Dr. Graham Cairns-Smith of the Unviersity of Glasgow in Scotland, who first proposed the clay-life hypothesis in the 1960s, said:

Life from Clay? (cont.)

"It's another talent that the clay has. It's the kind of thing you need if you are to run a chemical factory."

According to Cairns-Smith's theory, the chemical evolution that led to life began in clay. It was almost certainly common along the shores of the ancient oceans. It is often undergoing a continuous process of formation and change, in response to the environment, and so could have been an ideal medium for chemical evolution. And its mineral structure, scientists are now finding, is almost as intricate as a DNA molecule.

Despite the arguments for the clay-life theory, Dr. Leslie Orgel, a biochemist at the Salk Institute, at La Jolla, said: "If you took a vote, the majority of people who work on the origin of life would probably still vote for the old-fashioned soup. I'm a good soup believer still."

Alternative proposals, suggesting that life reached Earth from outer space in the form of hardy spores, beg the fundamental question of life-forming forces.

The research at Ames found that the clay minerals acquired and retained energy from the environment, primarily radioactive decay, and somehow transfer it from the deep interior to the mineral surface.

*Ed. note (dean): The Genesis version of creation seems to have been known to the Jewish peoples before their exile and appears to have been from a Babylonian myth which had its origins in a still more ancient Sumerian story according to H. G. Wells in his Outline of History (pp. 215, 775-76, Garden City Books, 1961).

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Little Johnny had swallowed a dime and his mother ran screaming to the street for help. A stranger passing by and hearing the mother's story ran into the house, seized the child by the heels, gave him a few shakes, and the coin rolled out on to the floor.
The grateful mother thanked the stranger. "You certainly kenw what to do. Are you a doctor?" she asked.
"No, madam," he replied. "I work for the Internal Revenue Department."

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Mummy? from AP

Scientists studying a 2,00-year-old mummified head a family had kept stored in a hatbox for years have determined that it was a woman's but they are disappointed that the brain was not intact. Examination, including x-rays and various laboratory tests, began Wednesday on the head, which has been kept in a hatbox since the 1850s and passed around among members of the family.

"The mummy has no brain, but it is a female, whereas before we were not sure," said Dr. Hugh Berryman, a forensic anthropologist. The presence of a brain, he said, would have been helpful in determining whether the Egyptian died of disease. The study is being conducted by 17 scientists from Memphis State and the University of Tennessee. Berryman said he had to figure out the mummy's approximate age before determining whether it was a woman or a young boy. "It's very likely in excess of 20 years of age," he said. The mummy apparently had an overbite and red hair, possibly dyed, said Berryman, who identified bodies in homicide cases.

Claire Austin of Memphis said the head was brought back from Egypt by her husband's great-uncle. It was ususually kept in the attic, but occasionally it was taken to school for "show and tell," she said. "We dealt with it as a curiosity rather than a valuable artifact," she said. Mrs. Austin recently took the head to Memphis State, and Dr. Rita Freed, an Egyptologist, called on Berryman. "It is one of the best preserved mummy heads in existence," Freed said.

After a cursory study of the head, Berryman called on other specialists to help him. "This is wide open; look for anything," he told his white-coated colleagues as they crowded into a small room above the Shelby County morgue.

Freed said the mummy head dates to about 300 B.C. and apparently was gilded, indicating the deceased was well-to-do.

Mrs. Austin said police were called to her house 30 years ago when the head was temporarily stored at a warehouse with other possessions.

"The movers got all upset about it and called the cops," she said. "They came to the house demanding to see the rest of the body."

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Plants Rid Homes of Pollutants from AP

A space agency scientist believes one of the solutions to indoor air pollution may be the ordinary house plant. Some of them, including the spider plant, the golden pothos, the peace lily and the Chinese evergreen, have been found to filter certain pollutants from a closed atmosphere, says B. C. Wolverton of the National Space Technologies Laboratories in Bay St. Louis, Miss.

Wolverton said in an interview that several species of plants, using tiny leaf openings called stomata, cleanse the air of three potentially dangerous chemicals commonly found in homes--carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide and formaldehyde. Carbon monoxide is a product of incomplete combustion and heavy amounts can kill by displacing oxygen in the bloodstream. Nitrogen dioxide, also produced by combustion, can cause breathing problems in high doses. Some researchers think there is a link between nitrogen dioxide and respiratory tract infections in children in homes equipped with gas stoves. Formaldehyde, a suspected cause of some forms of cancer, is emitted naturally by plastics and building materials.

As homes insultation has been improved to save on winter heating costs, concern over indoor pollution has grown. Earlier this year, the Environmental Protection Agency said that in two New Jersey cities situated near chemical plants, cocentrations of 11 chemicals were far higher indoors than outside, but were too small to worry about.

Wolverton said his discoveries are "a little bitty part of our research" for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration on removing air contaminants from sealed environments such as space vehicles.

In 1972, NASA discovered trace amounts of more than 100 chemicals given off by plastics and other materials used inside Skylab. Wolverton said that when a spider plant was placed in a sealed chamber with 12,975 micrograms of formaldehyde--about 28 parts per million--the concentration fell to 7.319 micrograms six hours later. In 24 hours, it had fallen to about 2,00 micrograms, an 85 percent reduction from the starting level.

Wolverton said the air-cleaning plants have two things in common. They all require relatively little light, and none is flowering.

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Didja Know? (various sources)

Didja know...
...there's a kind of fish that can survive although its temporary environment may be completely dry? It's the lungfish, which populates tropical regions of South America, Australia and Africa. One African species can live in a dehydrated environment by burying itself in mud and surrounding itself with a mucous cocoon that dries to form a protective case.

Didja know...
...why many large birds like the golden eagle can soar without flapping their wings? Large birds can fly by simply stretching out their wings to take advantage of rising air currents.

Didja know...
..."Taxicab" comes from the word "Taximeter", the machine that records fares, and "cabriolet", a French hourse-drawn, two-wheeled light carriage that's hired out to take passengers from place to place.

Didja know...
... in 1658, Virginia passed a law expelling all lawyers from within its boundaries? They've regretted ever letting them back in, I bet.

Didja know...
...the Oxford English Dictionary reports that the word "elven" originally signified a female member of the preteutonic race which possessed formidable magickal powers. The male of the kind was called elf.

Didja know...
...in medieval times, women convicted of a certain offense were forced to wear a "scold's bridle." Do you know what the offense was? Women convicted of nagging were forced to wear the device, which was a cage fitting around the head, with a barbed piece of metal that jutted into the mouth.

Didja know...
...in 1945, the first nation accepted the United Nations charter as drawn up at the San Francisco conference of nations. Can you name that first U.N. member? Are you ready? On July 6th, 1945, Nicaragua became the first nation to accept terms of the U.N. Charter.

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Book Reviews and Endnotes from jeannie

The Kwan Yin Book of Changes. Diane Stein. Llewellyn Publications, $12.95, 231 pp, illus.

It would be easy to label this volume as a feminist interpretation of the I Ching, but it isn't that simple. What the author has done is taken the principles of the I Ching and presented them in the light of feminist aspects, useful to both men and women who wish to know more deeply their feminine aspects. The traditionl methods of casting or throwing I Ching have been simplified. If one is throwing for prophecy, three two-sided objects (such as coins) will do. There are complete directions for casting, including suggested preparations for achieving a suitable frame of mind (for both women and men). There are also hexagram interpretations for the throws and keys to determine which hexagrams to use. Appendix A includes a calendar key to seasonal meditations on selected hexagrams for those who wish to follow the wheel of the year. The interpretations are also cross-referenced to the Tarot (Appendix B).

For those who practice divination, this volume may augment selected methods for special readings--particularly those where emphasis is placed on getting in touch with the querent's feminine side.

Pacific Circle Newsletter's editorship has changed. They offer a seven-page newsletter listing events, exhibits of interest, and carrying articles and poetry as well. In the Candlemas issue, there is an announcement of Pacific Circle VI and a registration form. Pacific Circle VI will be held June 13, 14, and 15. For more information on the gathering and newsletter, write POB 9513, North Hollywood, CA 91609. Although there is no charge for the newsletter, it would be nice to send some $.22 stamps with your inquiry.

Pluto: The Evolutionary Journey of the Soul, Vol. I. Jeff Green. Llewellyn Publications, $12.95, 352pp. Pluto was "discovered" in 1930 after a telescopic twenty-five year search of the heavens instigated by a theory of Percival Lowell. Hence, the effects of this planet in various astrological configurations is not the result of centureis of collected lore but years of painstaking research into the effects of the planet--which is somewhat complicated by the nature of it long-term (relatively) residence in signs. Jeff Green has provided an extensive delineator for this planet,

(cont. next page)

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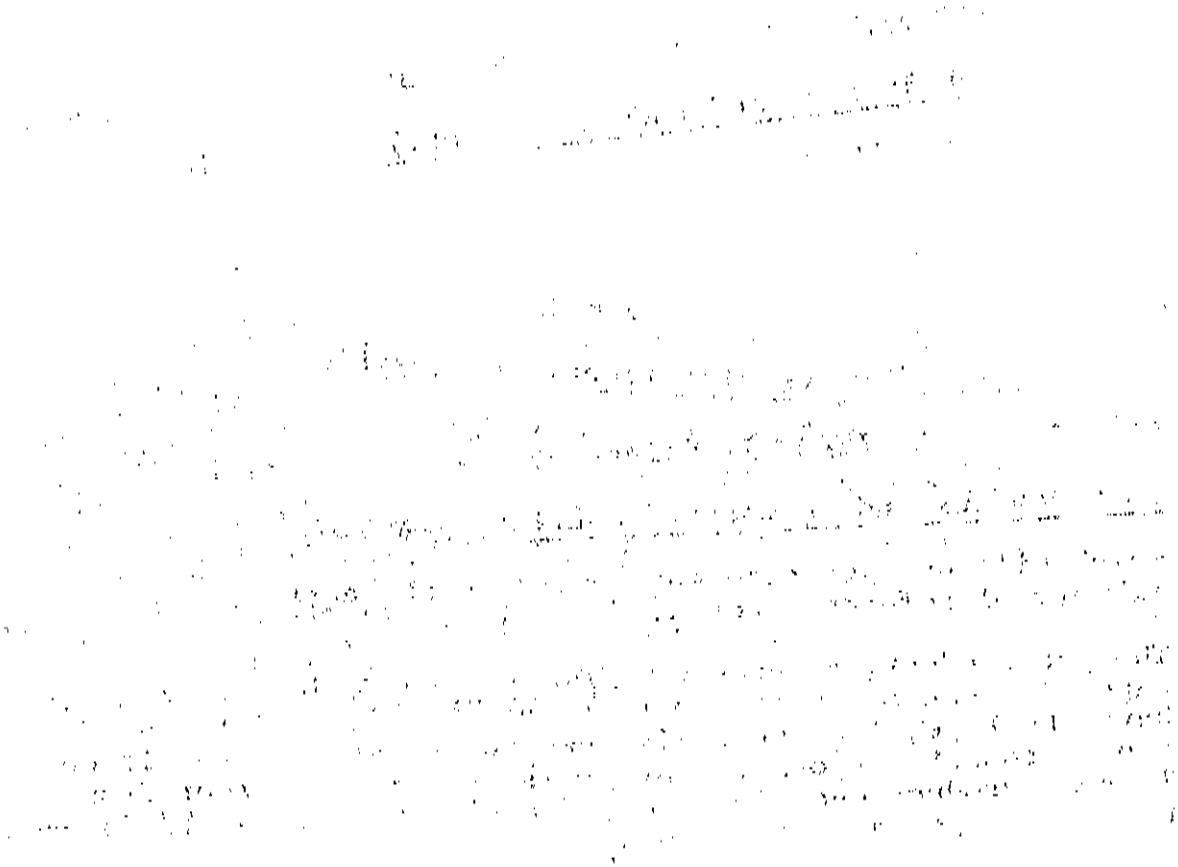
Book Reviews and Endnotes (cont.) by jeannie

which will be a welcome supplement to any astrologer's library of reference works.

Thoryan Productions presents Between the Worlds, a cassette tape of pagan-oriented songs by Mark Geisler. Although I have the tape, I haven't listened to it yet. I have it on good authority, though, that it is excellent. Order from Thoryan Productions, POB 9581, Seattle, WA 98109 $7.75 each plus $2.00 postage and handling.

That's all for this month folks!

Blessed Be,

dean, jeannie, and all the Georgians

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