GEORGIAN NEWSLETTER The Georgian Church December 1986
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Bakersfield--Many thanks to Elizabeth who has done most of the typing for the newsletter this month, and to all the folks who helped put the newsletter together last month--David, Hal, Percy, Moon Raven, Delana, and Don. We always have so much fun collating and stapling that it doesn't seem like work at all. Weather cold here--at least by our standards--and foggy!

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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. For those of you who are new to our mailing list, the opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Georgian Church. So there.

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A Winter Solstice That Was by Stan

While at the Beltane sabbat, Penelope was asked where she had gotten such a remarkable Pentagram. Her answer was, "You would never believe it if I told you."

It was the afternoon of the winter solstice, Penelope has just moved into their new home in the foothill country. While walking down to the spring she met an older gentlemen wearing the most unusual pentacle she had ever seen. Upon showing him her pentacle, she and her husband were invited to celebrate the winter solstice with them that evening. He pointed out his cabin just below the spring. It was made of logs and Penelope thought it must have been built to withstand an atom bomb blast or at least an indian attack. A thin wisp of smoke arose straight up from the fieldstone fireplace, a sure sign of good weather.

As Penelope and Jim followed the path past the spring, Jim remarked he couldn't remember having seen the cabin before. The floor was pounded earth, but clean and the candles had already been lit for the evening.

The family's name was Pickings and when Jim jokingly asked if he was any relation to Slim Pickins, the oilman, he said no, he reckoned not. He knew a Hiram Pickins back in Tennesee and he knew what coal oil was, but he explained his family name had been Pickingill at one time.

The weather was not cold but all wore heavy wool shirts and trousers and heavy square toed boots with copper rivets. Both the women and the men were dressed in a mode reminiscent of the forty-niners.

The welcomers were as warm as the room heated by the biggest stone fireplace Penelope and Jim had ever seen. Suspended form several hooks were large iron pots giving off the aroma of beef stew.

Penelope, a high priestess in her own right, had attended many a circle and sabbat but never one like this one. She was asked not to use her athame as the iron distorted the power flow. To her surprise, Mr. Pickings, obviously the high priest and obviously in charge, used an athame made with a flint blade. The work area was not the expected circle but a square bounded by models of farm equipment. One sickle-shaped object, having a crooked handle and little fingers extending out from the blade, was called a cradle. Penelope

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A Winter Solstice That Was (cont.) by Stan

could see no resemblance what ever. A besom marked one boundary, and a nicely made miniature cart another. The customary candles were in place. They were hand dipped and gave off a pungent but pleasant smell.

Mr. Pickings, barely recognizable in a dark robe and wearing a stag headress, paid obesiance to the Watchers of the four corners and to those above and below. He gave praise to our Lady, then lighting a candle from a splinter from the fireplace began his invocation to the Horned God: May this fire represent the spark of immortality that dwells within us all. May we be ever mindful, those visions we carry in our hearts are the fulfillment of yesterday's dreams, becoming tomorrows realities. As mortals we become as the Gods when we use the total of our own efforts knowing the Gods will extend the rest. What has been done is done. It has been good. Let us become one with the Universal stream of consciousness, opening ourselves to its benificence. Remembering our efforts will return three fold but we must do our share in confidence the Lord and Lady will do theirs.

Penelope had never heard an invocation to the Horned God couched in such terms. She would not have believed the gentleman acting as High Priest was capable of such simplistic erudition. Yet it bore the ring of experience. Here were people who lived every moment in the divine stream of consciousness. People doing their utmost knowing it would be rewarded.

After many "Thank Yous" for an enjoyable, albeit different, evening and promises to return, Penelope and Jim climbed the hill to home.

The next day, Penelope looked toward the cabin, but saw only the spring and the bare hillside. Later she learned from one of the oldest folk in the area, he had heard his granddad speak of a cabin in the area. But that was many years ago.

Jim searched with a metal detector and found the pentacle. Somehow he felt Mr. Pickings would have wanted Penelope to have it.

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People are usually willing to meet each other half way, but their judgments of distances vary considerably.

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Why Plant A Tree from the U.S.D.A.

Your home can be an inspiration to your neighborhood by simply planting a tree. A tree will add beauty to your home, inspire the neighbors to also plant trees, and can help increase the value of your property, sometimes by ten to twenty percent. According to the USDA, a tree can be a natural air conditioner. The evaporation from a single large tree can produce the cooling effect of ten room-size air conditioners operating twenty hours a day. Healthy and properly pruned trees are wonderful for shading the roof and keeping your house cool. You can even improve the efficiency of your mechanical air conditioner by shading it with a tree and thus keeping it out of direct sunlight. A well placed tree can reduce noise by as much as forty percent. It can also freshen the atmosphere around your home. For example, one cherry tree can perfume the air with 200,000 flowers. A tree can help clean the air. Because of smog, some urban areas now receive up to sixteen percent less sunlight than they did in 1920. Trees are so good at trapping dust that some cities have to "wash" their freeway tree plantings every so often. In one large city, the dust level in the air on the shelter side of planted areas was 75 percent lower than the dust level on the windward side. Trees also attract birds and other wildlife that can help control insects in your yard and garden. And wouldn't you enjoy a bird concert at dawn outside your bedroom window?

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There is hardly a race of Eastern Asia, Siberian, Tartar, Chinese, Japanese, or Polynesian which has not claimed to be the discoverer of American shores, intentionally or accidentally, or progenitors, more or less perfect or remote, of American peoples.
The Dutch are claimed to have discovered America in 1463; the Basques long before Columbus' time; Skolno, the Polish navigator, in 1476; the Norman Cousin in 1484; the Welsh in 1170; Chinese Buddhists in the 5th century; the Irish in the 10th century, and the Northmen about 1000 A.D. Christopher Columbus reached these shores in 1492.

I respect the man who knows distinctly what he wishes. The greater part of all the mischief in the world arises from the fact that men do not sufficiently understand their own aims.
--Goethe

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What Goes Around by Mariah

What goes around comes around!! THIS TIME IT TOOK 10 YEARS. As a witch, when we have any unjustice done towards us, we know that all we have to do is wait and the law of cause and effect along with karma will return to balance out life.

I gave up a top-paying job to raise my child and be a room mother and bake cookies to take to my child's classroom, do all the fun things a mother gets to do as a room mother. I am a mother that feels raising a child is the most important job to have. I could do just that because I have a husband that supported me and our child, and felt that I was doing an important job also. A lot of women can handle two jobs but I was not put together that strong.

When my son was in first grade, the problem started. The month was October and the teacher told the children to paint pictures of Halloween. I was the teacher's helper. The children painted pumpkins, cats, ghosts, ugly witches. The teacher went to my child's painting and told him that he was supposed to paint a picture of Halloween and asked him what was he painting? He answered, "A witch". The teacher said, "That is not how a witch looks". My son looked at me with a puzzled look in his eyes. I smiled at him and shook my head and put my finger over my mouth to be silent, and smiled again at him and shook my head and put my finger over my mouth to be silent, and smiled again to let him know everything was okay. The teacher gave him another paper to do it right and walked away. At that point, I walked over to see what he painted. He had painted a blond female with blue eyes, with a smile on her face. I knew my son was confused about everything, so I smiled at him and said his painting was lovely, maybe the teacher wants everyone to paint make-believe things of Halloween. I said maybe she would like him to paint our cats, or Gramma's pumpkins. That was when I saw that raising a witch child in the world of misinformation about witches could harm my child. That was the start of the teacher thinking I was an evil witch.

To help my son understand part of the world he has just entered, I took my child to Disneyland and went to the rides where the witch jumped out to scare the children. All the children started to scream. Again my son looked at me with a puzzled look in his eyes. I smiled and told him that it was all in fun and some people are taught to be scared of witches, but he will be stronger because he knows that real witches are not as the people say in make-believe. I told

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What Goes Around (cont.) by Mariah

him when a child is taught to fear or hate another person it only makes them weak and not a strong person. I told him I wanted him to always take that time to understand and listen to another person who is different then he is, he can only grow and become stronger.

There's more to this story but to keep it short for the newsletter I will leave the other part out. It was about my way to teach the children to read, and me dressing up as someone in books. Just like the Lord of the Hunt dressed up to get food for the tribe in the cave age.

Weeks later the school principal called my home and told me not to come to school the next day because there were thirteen mothers who would cause trouble for me. He added that they said that I was a witch and I had too much influence over their children. I told the principal that the children liked me, and the children loved it when I dressed up when we went to the room to check out books to read, by doing that the children started to read because they saw that they could become the person in the book. He said that he didn't want any trouble at his school, so I could not come to the school anymore. I was hurt so deep that it felt like I had been stabbed thirteen times by a mob of mothers. My dream of being in my child's room as a room mother was removed. Then rage set in!

I knew I better go to the ocean of emotions before I did something stupid. I went to a special beach that my high priestess, Lady Bathea, and I would go to often. I walked on the rocks, falling at times because I was crying and screaming rage at the world and thirteen mothers. I cried from the pits of my soul and found rage there. I remembered a chant Lady Bathea taught me to make something go away, "wind-wind blow thru me carry _____ away with thee." I repeated the chant over and over again. I began to pick up large rocks and threw them into the ocean of emotions. Each time I pictured the rage going into the rocks and returning to the Goddess of the ocean. I felt the world had gone mad and it would never change. If there had been people looking at my actions they might think me mad, they would not be wrong. I became weak from the rage and the release of it into the Mother rocks. I laid down on the rocks and looked at the clouds through my tears of weakness. Behind the clouds came the sun of strength. The sun was warm, I felt the warm sun upon my weak body. I laid with my eyes closed

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What Goes Around (cont.) by Mariah

until I was calm, warm and stronger with rays of the sun. I began to think clearer. My child is more important then anything on the earth next to my husband. As a Mother I am to keep my child strong.

I knew that I could sue all the mothers and the school system for taking away my rights as a mother in the school system and removing me because I believed another way than the other mothers. As a witch, our children come first and we must protect them from harm's way. I never returned to my son's classroom because I didn't want him in the middle of all the mess. I could see the newspapers saying, "Witch Sues School System." The papers would eat me and my family alive with words that are not true, just so they can sell a lot of papers. My son had to go to that school system for a long time and I did not want any problems for him, it was better to back off and say nothing.

Last week, ten years later. A lot of teenagers and their parents know that I am a witch. My son has never had any problems with other teens saying bad things to him because his mother is a witch. Parents let their teens come over to our home and they have said they feel that their teens are in safe hands. The teens know what a real witch believes, and the make-believe stories are just for fun, or were written by outsiders.

Last week the teacher was having the class read a book on witches. She said that there are no witches now days, and that they worshipped the devil. The star football student said, "BS". The teacher said, "What did you say?" He said that that was not so, Joe's mother is a witch and they don't worship a devil. The teacher ask my son is that so? My son said, "Yes". Then the teacher told him to have his mother write her a note.

When my son told me about his day in school, I was under great stress remembering ten years ago. But I said to myself, this time my son is older and stronger and he knows all the fears the christians put into people's minds about the witches. So I wrote a letter to the teacher. The teacher has not written back but I knew she wouldn't write. People never take the time to learn from people that are different from them. This is why the world can never form a bond as the human race, their own fears stop them.

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What Goes Around (cont.) by Mariah

I have enclosed the letter I wrote to the teacher. I was tired when I wrote the letter and tried to explain where a teenager could understand. I let my son and his football friend read it first to see if they thought it was okay to send to their teacher.

Just to add:

I think the teacher handled it well. After the class read the book, she showed the movie to the class. I have read the book and I have seen the play. It showed the witch trials in Salem and the lies the children told and the land went to the churches to make them rich.

The book and play ended differently, the play had the ending with the witches right and was in the view of the witches. The play is a must see!!

Ed. note (jeannie): Which book? Which play? (Pardon the pun....)

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Wierd But Wonderful by Rik

My roomate and I had gotten tired of the cornfields of Illinois so we decided to spend the night on the shores of Lake Michigan. In order to make the trip as enjoyable as possible, we invited every woman that we knew to accompany us. Our logic was that if we invited a dozen women, two would accept. It worked; two agreed to go with us but my "date" backed out that morning when her husband began to complain.

In Chicago, I dragged these two people (one a Southern Baptist, the other an Athiest) to every occult shop in the city. They became more and more nervous as they began to realize just what I was involved in but she wore her cross on the outside of her blouse and they stopped entering the stores.

That evening we finally made it to a beach in southern Wisconsin, parked the van, and prepared for the night. It was however, the Full Moon, so while my roomate was busy trying to neck with the woman who came up with us, I left to pay my respect to the Goddess.

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Wierd But Wonderful (cont.) by Rik

I found a private section of the beach that had enough vegetation to screen me from the rest of the area, yet still was open enough to allow me to see the lake. (It is amazing how much green growth you have out there.) I drew a Circle in the sand, set up my psychic watchtowers, and was well into the ritual (sans tools) when as I held my arms to the moon, I "felt" someone watching. Without lowering my arms, I turned my head and saw my roomate and his female friend watching. I stared for awhile then they became embarrassed, started to walk past me, stopped at the edge of my Circle, looked down, saw the Circle cut in the sand, edged around it facing me all the while, backed away towards the beach and left in a bit of a hurry.

I finished the rite and later met them at the van where they asked me what I was doing. I replied that I was celebrating a holy day in my religion and they refused to ask any more.

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The Witch and Mixed Marriages by Tarostar

Witches are human and do not always follow the path that would be least stressful for them in personal relationships. That can bring sorrow and misunderstandings to themselves and those they may love.

Often, as an Elder, Witches come to me with problems concerning spouses or offspring who are not of the Craft. They at times feel isolated from their families and often abused verbally by relatives for their Craft beliefs. In many instances a Witch has a non-Witch spouse. There are, however, some well meaning and intelligent among the "Stranger" who can accept and lend support to a Witch spouse, but those are few.

A Witch would complain he/she can not practice the Faith at home because the wife or husband, or lover/live-in, would just have a fit. Complaints about spouses who are only "Christian" when it suits their purpose to be so, during a family argument, using religious beliefs as a weapon to hurt, are par for the course in many situations.

Does it ever occur to Witches why others are called "Stranger"? That word fits the situation perfectly. I always ask, during the courtship, before the marriage or the

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The Witch and Mixed Marriages (cont.) by Tarostar

establishment of the relationship, were you open and up front with your personal convictions? Very often the answer is not entirely. The spouse was aware of some sort of interest in the occult, but not adequately informed of all the ramifications.

If such had been explored beforehand, the Witch certainly would not marry a Born Again, no matter how attractive personally. Love can make one not want to hurt the spouse, no matter what he/she may say to cause pain or grief, so the Craft takes a beating and comes out second best. The Witch begins to suffer loss of esteem for the self in family relationships.

Who says we are here to suffer and allow others to put upon us with religious BS when it is convenient to do so in a dispute? That kind of action is grasping at straws to try and gain the upper hand, when other arguments have been exhausted.

The "Stranger" spouse knows he/she can hurt by ridiculing the Faith of the Witch. That is unfair, unethical and immoral. In other words, totally Christian.

The ideal would be to have a spouse or lover who shares, if not practices, but at least shares, basic beliefs. When that is not the case, then the Witch needs to be the dominant partner in the situation. At least, the driving force of the family. Anything else would be a disaster for the Witch.

I would recommend, for the sake of peace of mind and sanity, to terminate or remove oneself from relationships where the spouse disparages the Craft. That each Witch must decide for the self, but a marriage or relationship without some sort of kindred soul in spiritual understandings can be stressful to say the least.

How else is the Craft to counsel in these matters? Perhaps we can get some feedback.

Ed. note (jeannie): I 'spect you will. I know of witches who are happily married to non-practitioners and witches who had insufferable marriages to other witches. Heard Billy Joel's latest hit? Listened to the words? The song is "It's A Matter of Trust." I think it does a real nice job of summing up what makes a relationship work. That, and communication.

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Star Gazer by Lady Fauna

December 16 through January 15

Key words for this period include adventure, mobility, financial luck, eloquence, pioneering, vitality, fun, overindulgence, the intellect, insomnia, perception, temper.

12/16. Full Moon. Good for intellectual activites, drawing things (but watch what you ask for). Temper tantrums result in accidents. Good money day.

12/17. Excellent day for metaphysical lectures and poetry readings in New York. Earthquake alert from now until the 23rd in LA area--particularly on the 22nd and 23rd!

12/19. Changes result in home life due to business ability--particularly in Chicago and Los Angeles.

12/20. Material luck is turned to anonymous help for the needy.

12/22. Solstice (occurs 12/21 for those in EST). Self-indulgence is not good for health. Power plays lead to quarrels.

12/24. An element of the unreal is hanging in the air.

12/26. A good day to study. Don't push your mind beyond your body. Use your intuition. New life phases at home in Baltimore, Cincinatti, Milwaukee, Washington, Portland.

12/27. Material luck; think like a magnet.

12/29. Avoid reckless ventures and flying. Watch your money. Your bluntness may give you more independence than you'll want in the morning. Be patient and careful.

12/30. New Moon. You will receive justice based on personal worth.

1/1. A good day to proceed with new projects in your business.

1/2. Watch your money and avoid sensationalism.

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Star Gazer (cont.) by Lady Fauna

1/3. Watch your money! Beware of charity games. Money comes through inheritance and earning.

1/4. Learn by experience.

1/5. Temper tantrums! Excellent material luck for men. Your daydreaming may be abruptly interrupted. Earthquake alert through the 9th--particularly on the 5th and 18th.

1/6. A good day for mother duties and tea.

1/7. Freedom in relationships through listening skills. Watch spending.

1/8. Watch out for cuts and burns resulting from impulsive or aggressive behavior.

1/9. Luck and health improves. Good day for studies, business, handicrafts.

1/10. A good day for creativity, scientific explorations, investigation, and invention--particularly in San Francisco.

1/11. Having a hard life? Depressed? Watch your money!

1/12. Intuition accented. Use versatility and intellect to make difficult decisions--but make them after dinner.

1/13. Analyze and use your intellect. Gambling is discouraged. Get the facts.

1/14. Full Moon. Financial help from Mother. Watch spending. Personality conflicts can be circumvented through tact and cheerfulness.

1/15. A graceful social leader delivers a successful, if short, speech in Philadelphia, Chicago, or Los Angeles. Material luck and happy times for married (merry?) folk.

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"Mother, are you very poor?" the boy asked.
"Why, no, Johnny," his mother replied. "I'm very rich. I have you and your brother Bill, and you two are worth millions to me."
Johnny countered: "Well, then, Mother, do you think you could mortgage Billy and buy me a new football?"

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Untitled Poems by Ceridwyn

My heart is heavy
Its consciousness sleeps.
It weighs a Stone

In order to find which way
The whirlpool flows,
Flush the Toilet!

Beware the one who tells you
What she/he thinks you want to hear.
For he/she may be telling you the truth.

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The Prey Gets You by Stephanie

It's Kismet--
Like a hunter on his haunches
Waiting for his prey
Wondering if the shot will be true
Or the prey will get away--
Wondering if the beast will turn
And "he" will be the steak.

Killers without sorrow
No compassion, no plan to play
Just senseless, cold-blooded killers
No guilt, no thought, no gaze--
Just killing with charisma
Just instinct born to place.

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We have the nicest garbage man,
He empties out our garbage can;
He's just as nice as he can be
He always stops and talks to me;
My mother doesn't like his smell,
But then, she doesn't know him well.
--Quoted by Peter Marshall

Never argue at the dinner table, for the one who is not hungry always gets the best of the argument. --Whately

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Ancient Teaching by Moon Raven

Let no mean thoughts of dissolution or fright,
or damp your spirits with dews of night,
the soul's immortal and can never die,
then Death and all his dreadful train defy,
another world is ready to receive,
immortal souls that earthly bodies leave
to dust the perishable parts return,
but at the grave eternal spirits spurn,
and if in virtue's paths they trod below,
in heavenly mansions it's their fate to glow,
but if by vice enslaved, their doom's to roam,
without a heavenly or earthly home.

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Steadily by Ogaea

Steadily,
like reaching water
(searches are impelled by
falling stones)
the sun of life stretches
over the bones of my ancestors;

their graves open and I learn.

No difference between life and death.
The differences are in which ways we run.

Steadily,
like ringing water
(water rings make
a real communion)
the bones of my ancestors
rise
through me their flesh feels
the taut canvas of
living warmth.

Steadily,
like the pulse of water
(elusive
as life)
we circle in revolution
none of our denials change anything,

the graves are always closing again
steadily.

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From Barbas

This letter is directed to any seeker who read last month's (September 1986) issue of the GNL: Dear Seeker: Do you know you are the most important person in the Craft? Without you, there eventually would be no Craft. So know your value and guard it with all your being.

Last month you may have read a letter from Umbriel. Being a Witch, I would like to share with you my feelings on the same subject matter. The word Witch in its most literal sense is not a definable one but an experience that for the most part is beyond definition. Another way to put it is a Witch is not a person per se but a personality.

The word Witch denotes an interaction between a personality and the creative forces... or Gods. Now can you define the interaction between opinions and knowledge. Take good counsel when one will share knowledge with you. Like unto like. From their knowledge comes yours. It is a very rewarding experience. Opinions, on the other hand, are another matter. Have you ever noticed how arguments most always result from exchanging opinions but will not be found when sharing knowledge? Think about it.

Back to our topic: When and if you decide to be initiated into the Old Religion, your interaction with the Gods in that rite is the true definition of the word Witch. And I might add it's your definition alone. From that time on, this interaction will grow and thus change. With this change will come a new definition of Witch. In effect, it's ever growing and ever changing. This is why there has been and probably always will be so much controversy connected with it. You can have a thousand Witches each with a different definition and they are all correct. Non-Witches, regardless of their definition of Witch, is to some degree incorrect.

I hope I have shed some light for you on this endless controversy. If you will notice, the person who has a problem with the word Witch... isn't one. Coincidence?

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There is a certain relief in change, even though it be from bad to worse; as I have found in travelling in a stagecoach, that it is often a comfort to shift one's position and be bruised in a new place. --Washington Irving

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From Ogaea and Canyondancer

Gentlepeople, I've not read William Gordon Gray's The Rollright Ritual, but I read the excerpts submitted by Umbriel in the September newsletter and I must disagree with Gray.

My Etymological Dictionary of the English Language (Skeat, Rev. Walter W., Oxford at the Clarendon Press, 4th edition, 1968) says that a witch is "a woman regarded as having magical power," and that though it is unusual for the modern word to apply to men, it can do so.

In Middle English, the word was wicche and applied to women and men. In Anglo-Saxon, the nouns were wicce (f) and wicca (m). These words came from the Fresian and Dutch wikken and wicker, meaning soothsayer, and those from the Low German wikken, to predict. These are comparable to the Scandinavian languages' vikja, to conjure away and to move, turn, and push aside.

The Anglo-Saxon wican (pronounced wee-can) meant to give away. But the substantive (noun) form, wicca, from which our modern word witch is evolved, was the agent, not the object: that which caused way to be given, not that which gave way.

Joseph T. Shipley's Dictionary of Word Origins (The Philosophical Library, New York, 2nd edition, 1945) refers us from witch to trance, where it tells us, "Witch, from A.S. wicca, is cognate with G(erman) weihs, holy, from weihen, to consecrate..."

That witch shares an ancient root, and therefore meaning, with wicked may well be a prejudiced conclusion. My Webster's New World Dictionary of the American Language, College Edition (1957) says that wicked is derived from the Middle English wikke, meaning evil, and that it is "akin to" A.S. wicca, a witch. But in its entry for "witch," Webster's shows a derivation from the Middle English wicche, and from the Anglo-Saxon wicce, which it says is probably derived from wiccian, to use sorcery. Wiccian is suggested in Skeat's Etymological Dictionary to mean to avert, with wicca meaning an averter. And nothing like wikke appears in my Bosworth and Toller Anglo-Saxon Dictionary (Oxford, 1964), indicating a later development, late enough to be influenced by the same corruption of Christianity that Chaucer (writing in Middle English) showed us permeating medieval life.

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From Ogaea and Canyondancer (cont.)

I cannot find evidence to support Gray's assertion that, as Umbriel's letter quotes him, "in plain Anglo-Saxon a witch was a fundamentally evil and dangerous person." Rather, the evidence is that a witch was, as s/he is today, someone of influence at the same time (to its own political and economic advantage) the resulting changes in the way "native" words were used. By imposing its cosmology on the existing widespread but fragmented pagan system, the Church gradually united the people of Britain (and Europe) in fear of their traditional diversity. Illiteracy made it possible to pervert the complex but destabilized Anglo-Saxon language with impunity.

In other words, witch meant and means "an evil and dangerous person" because the politically, economically and martially powerful people so said it meant, and still so say. But we can, as far as history and etymology are concerned, call ourselves witches in good tradition and conscience.

Special Notes

to Puck: Early in 1979 we took a two-week train trip around the perimeter of the U.S. In our 8,700 miles, we slept mostly in our seats. (The one night we tried to stay in a berth we ran into snow and ice near Willston, N.D., and we were wakened and transferred to a bus!) Unless you wanted to include most of the car, unbeknownst to other passengers, in your circle, you'd need to confine yourself to a mental circle.

Also, restaurants' little packets of salt, and sometimes bread, depending on what they offer, can be useful in emergencies.

to Tarostar, Bonnie, et al: is it mishmash, or is it stew? It can all be nourishing if we don't choke on it.

to Everybody: Watching "The Victory Garden" on PBS this weekend, we were delighted to see a segment filmed at Caprilands Herb Farm, Coventry, Connecticut, with proprietess Adelma Simmons. Caprilands sells a variety of goods of interest to pagans, from herb wreaths to books about our holidays that include traditional recipes.

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From Ogaea and Canyondancer (cont.)

They say "saints" there, instead of "aspects of the Goddess and God," but if you ignore the Christianity, which is more or less innocent, you'll find a lot of our wisdom is preserved. Their herbal lore and history is charming, and I've found some nice additions to our library and our kitchen repertoire there.

re Albion's contribution: He's right, pagan traditions all over the world have used an assortment of mind-altering substances to come into communion with the gods. Some people take the attitude that any use of any such drugs is entirely illegitimate under any circumstances; for some, even frequent or apparantly recreational use is always religious. The truth of this matter must be individual. I have found that psycho-active drugs can bring me to a reunion with the gods, but I know that this can be achieved in other ways as well.

Jeannie's concern with legality is also valid. One can maintain as a moral principle that the law cannot legitimately proscribe the religious use of psycho-active drugs, and this position has some credibility in the courts (I am aware of a couple of cases, but cannot cite them off-hand). As a practical matter, though, we are well-advised to exercise as much caution in getting a drug as in using it. Apart for concerns for personal safety, which should be paramount, no one of us needs the hassle, and the pagan community does not need the bad press of a bust. Any use of mind-altering substances should be private and well-protected, and as Albion advises, not approached lightly or by amateurs.

As usual, we very much enjoyed the newsletter. My son enjoyed the bedtime story, even though I read it to him in the middle of afternoon.

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A successful author confessed to Mark Twain that he was losing confidence in his ability to write.
"Did you ever get that feeling?" he asked.
"Yes," admitted the humorist. "Once, after I had been writing for fifteen years, it suddenly dawned on me that I did not possess the slightest talent for writing."
"What did you do?"
"What could I do?" shrugged Twain. "By then, I was already famous."

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From Thor

My writing arm has been silent these past few months... not by choice, but because of a variety of reasons--personal, business and Craft.

H*O*W*E*V*E*R - in the October GNL, Malcolm Brenner presented his information and asked for back up in opposing the film production The Witches of Eastwick. While it may have been HIS presentation--it is ALL OF OUR problem and I, therefore, give him my full support and hope that many others will follow suit. Now that we have, as a group, come through the flames of history and come out of the closet, our adversaries have likewise stepped up the attack. Now, of all times, we must not let up our counter attack. Although so many events have taken place in the past couple of years (and even months), we appear to be gaining ground, and as cases in point, I mention the defeat of the Walker bill last year and, more recently, the seeming turnaround in Circle's favor (in Wisconsin). For every "check" which our enemies throw our way on this chess board, we must be ready to "check mate".

What I would like to share here with our community is the letter which I sent in response to Malcom's request and I do so below. The c.c. party at the foot incidentally, is the A.C.L.U. lawyer with whom Selena Fox of Circle worked closely with in her valuable efforts to beat down the Walker Bill.

Messrs. Robert A. Daly, Chairman of the Board
Mark Rosenberg, President for Theatrical Production
George Miller, Director
Warner Brothers
4000 Warner Bl.
Burbank, CA 91505

Gentlemen:

I would like to go on record as voicing strong opposition to the film production of the "Witches of Eastwick".

A practicing Wiccan and follower of the old religion, I feel that the message to the viewing audience at large will be defamatory to all Witches and, moreover, portray us in a variety of unsavory and false categories, devoid of decency and contrary to acceptable standards of society. In short, libelous.

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From Thor (cont.)

This type of portrayal might be likened to what could have been expected from producers in one of the fascist countries during the thirties and forties showing the history and practices of the Jewish people. As you can see and, will no doubt readily agree, such a production would have had dire consequences on the victims being thus portrayed.

It might be suggested that if production does proceed notwithstanding, that a disclaimer be made at the beginning and end of the film, informing viewers that the purported magickal practices and rituals depicted in the film are purely ficticious and have no relation whatsoever to those practiced by modern neo-Pagan Witches.

c.c.: Barry W. Lynn, Esq.
Legislative Counsel
American Civil Liberties Union
122 Maryland Avenue N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

One of these days, I hope that THOR will be able to tuck his hammer into his belt and write instead about his use of herbs and stones in healings, or about how he is progressing in the study of the Tree of Life and the Tarot. Right now though, I feel that my writings must reflect the needs of our community. So mote it be.

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From Tarostar

I see by the tone of condescension in that Amber's letter in the October issue, that woman hates me, although she has never met me. When she can state "While some of his ideas might have merit,..." (Might, mind you!!!) I can see this woman will never give old Tarostar a fair hearing from now on. She is too busy trying to be cute appearing to be smart, she shows myopia and herself to be a nit picker.

I wish you people would take issue with scholarship and research or at least confront an idea on an intellectual level without complaining about uncapitalized adjectives and such.

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From Tarostar (cont.)

You take offense and attack on a personal level, always trying to call another's "Paganism/Craft" committment into question. I call foul.

Where does it say we must be peas in a pod as far as Craft is concerned? It makes us look just like Baptists who hate Mormons. Don't they all have the same Religion?

"I wonder why he chooses to consider himself Pagan at all." is the classic quote you can set down to Amber.

When I state the Christian Church captured the Western World, that is an indisputable fact of History, Lady! Deny it if you can. Does it make old Tarostar not Craft to state History? Again I say foul.

Myopia runs rampant among you people. Get the stars out of your eyes. We do not live in a Celtic Pagan Never Never Land. We have to deal with the World as it is. That means we must know the history of the past 2,000 years if we are to confront and make our place against an oppressive religious structure which would sweep us under the rug.

I see from the reactions to my writings many of you are unwilling to expand your consciousnesses beyond the immediate. You do not dispute, you prefer to pick up on unimportant points to blow out of proportion and seek to invalidate the whole idea.

If something goes against the grain of your pre-conceived idea of what Craft or Paganism is, you call other's Craftness into question in order to feel smug and appear superior. God/Goddess forbid you should learn anything!!!

So be it! I'm beginning to think it is a lost cause offering any insight into Craft to you people. You reject ideas and reduce them to the absurd, by being "cutesy", rather than intelligent.

GNL, put old Tarostar on the back burner until you have a higher milieu among your readership. If they want my input, they will have to ask for it.

Ed. note (jeannie): Wait! Wait! Don't go away mad. Better yet, don't show up mad! Then we won't worry about you taking it with you!

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From Rik

I received my Georgian today and couldn't resist the urge to make a few comments on some of the opinions presented therein.

RE: DRUGS...I knew a coven of new-witches who had never been initiated or trained. They read a few books and made up the rest, thus they often would come up with the most bizzare ideas, like the HP and HPS were reincarnated Atlantian priest-kings/queens. When I questioned them and kept notes, I presented them with the obvious inconsistancies to which they replied that it wasn't important because they knew that they had spoken the truth. In their case, they stated that the American indian religion used pyeote so it MUST be ok for witches to blow grass before during and after rituals. It was their religious right and duty. I tried to point out that they were not members of the American-indian church but they said that it didn't matter.

I find that a lot of these book-learned/self-taught from the imagination and ignore tradition and the rules and the religion if it interferes with our fun type witches don't seem to realise that Wicca IS a religion that does have a few rules. True, we are a skeleton upon which we hang the cloth of our chosen culture. That is why we can have egyptian witches and saxon witches and celtic witches and so on...BUT no matter what clothes that you fit on a human, if they fit and WORK, the person will still be easily recognisable as a human. So true with Wicca. There are a few basic beliefs that 99% of the Wiccan community MUST follow to be witches. These include the belief in the Goddess and Her consort (though we may also accept the existance of all other gods) the belief in reincarnation, magick, the Ritual Circle, and a few others. For the neo-witches to invent whatever they want and say that it is ok because they are "witches" tends to insult the religion that so many of our ancestors have died for.

So regarding the part in the eight paths to Power that refers to drugs, I submit that to follow a rule simply because it is a rule reduces that rule to a useless superstition. And then you can misinterpret it and rewrite it to your own pet perversion. Consider that much magick is done in the Alpha state (much, not all). In India they teach you to achieve Alpha through meditation. After twenty years of this you can reach alpha easily and quickly. But Western Europeans are lazy. We got tired of saddling up a horse whenever we wanted

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From Rik (cont.)

to go to town and spending the whole day on the road, so someone invented a faster and easier way to get around... the automobile. The same holds true with alpha. We now can learn to reach Alpha in just a few weeks or days if we use biofeedback equipment. This saves us a lot of time with which we can grow beyond these of the Indian fakirs. In the olden times, witches didn't have the equipment and the climate was too hard to allow us to sit under a tree for months so an easier way was developed... drugs! Give the student a little bit of hash or mushroom and the EXPERIENCED and STRAIGHT teacher can help the student experience alpha. The drug is tapered off and the student must learn to return to that state with his own mind. The drug is a crutch and a tool but was never used as we now use pot, coke, beer, etc. or as an outlet/escape. To go around stoned or drunk and claim that it is our religious right to do so simply proved that you don't understand our religion.

RE: THE TERM WITCH...I suggest that the word witch is an anglo-saxon word to describe a nasty person. After all, the germanic peoples were Odinists, not Wiccans. They would charge an army in full knowledge of their being hacked into dog-meat but the thought that a little-old-lady had put a curse on them would give them a stroke. Germanic magick was primarily Runic and not our definition at all. Thus the Odinists would kill magick users on sight (unless that person worked exactly within the odinist religion). And to justify this they invented a nasty word to describe a nasty person. Then when they succeeded in taking western europe from the celts (who had a Wicca-like religion in Druidism), they discovered that the land was full of magick users and so the nasty word WITCH was applied to these people. Well, we don't know what our Wiccan ancestors called themselves because they were illiterate and suppressed so the name Witch stuck.

Yes, Witch/Witcha/Wicca/Wicce/etc does mean a nasty person in old saxon, but we have no real choice in it as we have been called it for so long that it would be like trying to call quarks, it simply doesn't work! So we are saying as witches..."I know what it used to mean but it is applied to a different being so we must redefine the term and give it a new meaning." It happens all the time. Remember when CULT ment a sub-religion? The catholics had a mary-cult of people who centered their worship around mary and pretty much ignored the other saints and gods of their religion even though they still prayed to them in church and accepted their existance.

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From Rik (cont.)

Remember when MISTRESS meant the unmarried head of the household and MASTER ment the unmarried son or male head of the household? Now the only people who still call the son "master" are the rich. If I or a black call someone "master" it is an insult to me or the black. Times change and so does the language so let us not concern ourselves with what witch meant but rather what we make of it today.

The next Free University class starts this month. We have about four slide shows for the eight week class. If anyone out here has any photos or slides that they would like to loan us, I will be eternally grateful. I can have both photos and negatives made into slides. Our "coven library" now has about 200 slides with another 100 still awaiting developing. We are trying to meet the needs of the students and to improve the class each time.

Finally, to that person who is willing to dub The Wicker Man for anyone who sends in a blank VHS tape. He neglected to print his address so tell him that I have the music for some of the songs to the movie and will trade what I have for a copy. Have him contact me and I'll send the tape and music.

I was a bit disconcerted with the article Deputies to be on alert Halloween night for sacrificial satanic rites published in the Arizona Daily Star on Friday, Oct 24, 1986.

Aside from the numerous inaccuracies, the article does do a bit of possible damage by confusing Witches with satanists. Since I am the High Priest of a Coven of Witches and have been involved with the Wiccan Religion since 1971, I find this confusion to be personally distasteful and not a little dangerous. Please note: Witches DO NOT perform any form of sacrifice whatsoever. The Wiccan religion has but one law: And it harm none, do what thou wilt. This means that we can do whatever we want so long as noone or nothing is harmed by our actions. Thus we are forbidden the activities mentioned in this article.

Unfortunatelly, there is a small, but vocal group of people who will believe the misinformation within this article and use their legal/political power to repress and/or assault those of us who are innocent.

Perhaps a few examples may be useful at this point.

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From Rik (cont.)

I was on Mount Lemmon a few years ago to locate a site for Samhain. We found a place overlooking a lake in a flat area that had been previously cleared in a circular area and had a fire pit in the center. A perfect Ritual area. Unfortunately, one of the people who was with me looked into the fire pit and found some burned animal bones. She was certain that we had stumbled onto a ritual sacrifice complete with circle, fire and other such requirements. She began to fear for her safety from the satanists when I turned over a rock and found the remains of a Kentucky Fried Chicken box. This "ritual sacrifice" was the remains of a family picnic.

I was consulted by a park ranger regarding some human bones found in the desert. The bones had been burned and were little more than fragments. The Park was concerned about human sacrifices but I mentioned that a wood fire only reaches temperatures of slightly more than 451 degrees. Human bones don't burn into ashes for another thousand degrees, so this could not possibly be a sacrifice but was probably the cremated ashes of a person who had requested that his remains be scattered over the desert that he loved. The autopsy report came back... human remains cremated in a mortuary under normal conditions and no evidence of sacrifice. (Note I am describing what that ranger told me so I need not quote exact report wording).

The point that I am trying to make is that in this age of fundamentalist fear and paranoia, it is possible to see "satanic" activity everywhere. We should keep in mind that the majority of these "cases" are faked or mistakes and the few remaining are the results of a few kids who are trying to shock their parents or get a few illicit thrills similar to my generation's use of pot and long hair and yoga in the 60's and 70's.

But it is easy to lump Witches and satanists together and in the attempts to protect society from an imagined danger harm the innocent. My Coven had plans to visit the desert to celebrate the holiest day of our year but thanks to this article, we are afraid that we will be harassed by over-enthused police or irate rednecks. Thus we must celebrate our ties with nature indoors. Please remember that there is a BIG difference between Witches and satanists and to harm one while trying to control the other is in opposition to basic American beliefs.

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From Rik (cont.)

If I can be of any help, please do not hesitate to call or write. Also, our Coven teaches a regular class called Basics of the Old Religion (Wicca) through the Tucson Open University. The class is open to the public, free and designed to educate the public in this most misunderstood religion.

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Ed. note (jeannie): The following letter is printed verbatim. For the record, the only subs we send out unsolicited are to libraries and other such public institutions and for gift subscriptions.

18 November 1986
Mrs. Carelton Tewsberry
(address omitted)
West Covina, California

Georgian Church
1908 Verde Street
Bakersfield, CA. 93304

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Georgian:

We do not know whether to address you as the Reverends, Witches or what. Yesterday I found a copy of your SATANIC newsletter in my daughters room. We were appalled and sickened by what we read. We are BORN-AGAIN CHRISTIANS who have done everything we know to rid our area of SATANISIM AND WITCHCRAFT.

Perhaps you are not aware that only those who are social rejects and misfits seek to worship SATAN. There is no difference between SATANISIM and WITCHCRAFT if you will read the Holy Bible you will find that these beliefs are condemed and those involved will suffer a life in the pits of hell and those who worship the Son of Perdition will never be able to associate with those of us who know the true and only GOD and His precious Son Jesus Christ who has cleansed us and protects us who are covered in His Holy Blood.

My daughter will suffer shunning from her family, friends and church for one month for reading your despicable printted matter. This comming Sunday morning at all the services and again on Sunday evening my daughter will stand before the whole congregation of several thousand people and read

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Dear Mr. & Mrs. Georgian (cont.)

allowed your newsletter. Then it will be her duty to receive punishment from the congregation that is she will me made to confess her sins publicaly and read all the verses of the BIBLE that pertain to the sins of the occult.

You have allowed this to happen by printing such materials and letting them fall into the hands of eighteen year old children. Your newsletter deals with pornography as well as the occult. Promoting nudity explicily ,as you do, is merely and clearly the sinful acts promoted by pornographers but you do it under the guise of a religious institution. How sick can you be. We have been very successful in ridding the San Gabriel Valley of the evil occultis in our area and we don't want your newsletters comming into our Christian homes in an attempt to lead our innocent children down Satan's path.

This is one letter you will never print in your filthy newsletter as you work to promote evil and not good. You promote SATAN and His MINIONS and not the work of the only Risen Lord and Savior, JESUS CHRIST. You are condemed to HELL for you involvement with the OCCULT. READ THE BIBLE and perhaps GOD will gorgive you. But we doubt it.

Mr. and Mrs. Carelton Tewsberry
(the letter bears no handwritten signature)

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Dear Mrs. and Mr. Tewsberry,

I believe you must have me confused with someone else. I do hope you take time to read this before destroying it. First, let me thank you for sharing our humble pages with thousands of your friends. My belief system discourages proselytization so it is seldom we receive such mass attention.

I would like to point out, however, that you err in associating me with a diety from your particular mythology. I do enjoy a diverse and lovely population in my personal pantheon of dieties; and I try always to save room for a couple more, but your satan, or as you put it, SATAN, is not an occupant among them. I never really have understood your occupation with someone so yuckky. In short: I don't believe in him, you do. I really cannot yet fathom why you feed his continued existence by giving him so much attention. I would think that you would want to say JESUS and satan.

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Dear Mr. & Mrs. Tewsberry (cont.)

The sweet Jewish mystic is a much more pleasant companion than the other guy you have chosen to place in your mythology. You seem to emphasize too many negatives in your life. Try to accentuate the good things for a while. I honestly do believe you would feel better for the experience.

May I ask why you choose two males to worship? Don't take me wrong, we are very tolerant. Indeed, we encourage our people to draw their information from as diverse a base as possible; then to make up their own minds.

I could not be comfortable in the path you have chosen to follow. I can only encourage you to find the good things in the place you are at now, and then to move along; don't stop there. My religion is about love and trust, not pain, wretchedness, punishment, humiliation, censorship. My religion is also about personal responsibility. I don't get to sin, feel wretched, beat myself or someone I love and then be forgiven. I have chosen to take the responsibility for my actions and desires. I don't get to cop out by saying: the Devil made me do it. You are welcome to your beliefs; I see wealth in diversity, not a threat. It's a personal choice. I wish you well along your path, but I shall take another way. I have read your book, it is lovely.

By the By, Mrs. T., if you decide to write to the Vatican, there is only a Mr. Catholic there, but you probably knew that already. If you only carry away one memory from our exchange of perspectives, let it be this: If the Gods had wanted you to have fig leaves, they would have given you roots. I'm outta here. Ishmael, unfurl the sails. Gone but not gorgiven.

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The merely curious have no rights.
- Eugen Herrigel
Zen in the Art of Archery

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She: Are you doing anything for that cold of yours?
He: Well, I sneeze whenever it wants me to.

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I'll Sing You Nine Oh...

"It is the number of cabalistic power (Hebrew),the trinity of trinities (Christian), the number of perfection (Greek), and the superlative of superlatives (Sanscrit).

There are 9 heavens, 9 orders of angels, 9 planets, 9 Muses, 9 crosses, 9 worthies, 9 crowns of heraldry, 9 lives of a cat, 9 months of pregnancy, 9 days of mortification, 9 days of wonder, 9 regions of hell, 9 heads of the hydra, modern leases for 99 years, ancient leases for 999 years, and the cat-'o-nine tails suggests perfect punishment and atonement.

The ancients already knew it as the irrespressible number. Whenever it is used as a factor in a mathmatical calculation, it is bound to come out in the result. It is the last of the digits, and the highest number that can be expressed in one digit.

There is an endless number of examples to demonstrate the power of the mysterious number nine. Here are a few:

The nine digits, 123456789, when added across = 45, and 4 plus 5 equals nine.

Take any number, reverse it and deduct from the larger number, the result will always be divisible by 9. The difference between two such numbers is always a multiple of 9.

764
467
297 divided by 9 equals 33

An interesting figure phenomenon based on 9 is:

987654321	X	9 equals	8888888889
	X	18 "	17777777778
	X	27 "	26666666667
	X	36 "	35555555556
	X	45 "	44444444445
	X	54 "	53333333334
	X	63 "	62222222223
	X	72 "	71111111112
	X	81 "	80000000001

Every column has all the digits in every direction vertical and horizontal both up and down. The first and last figure in the two columns to the right add up to nine.

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I'll Sing You Nine Oh... (cont.)

If any number is multiplied by 9, the sum of the digits in the product will always be 9.

9	X	1	equals	9	---	9	plus 0	equals 9
9	X	2	"	18	---	8	" 1	" 9
9	X	3	"	27	---	7	" 2	" 9
9	X	4	"	36	---	6	" 3	" 9
9	X	5	"	45	---	5	" 4	" 9
9	X	6	"	54	---	4	" 5	" 9
9	X	7	"	63	---	3	" 6	" 9
9	X	8	"	72	---	2	" 7	" 9
9	X	9	"	81	---	1	" 8	" 9

There are no two numbers which when divided will give you an infinite row of nines for an answer.

-from The Wonder Book of Strange Facts of the Standard Home Library encyclopedia.

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Platituding The Madman by A Friend

I was born and promised only that I would someday die. Once dead, I may be so for a very long time. What evidence I can gather indicates that if anything, that which I will take with me when I depart this realm will be my memories. I believe, then, I should strive to make those memories as diverse and as pleasant as possible.

To grieve is only to wallow in one's own self pity. When I die, rejoice, for I have gone to seek the answers I could not find here. Hope that I have learned to be able to read the card index file in the next realm. There is joy in being able to return some part of me to the system which nurtures us. Only by dying can we effect the changes which will be necessary for our kind to survive.

What then of the interim?

Take what you need; give all you are able.

Gather memories.

Take responsibility for self.

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Platituding The Madman (cont.) by A Friend

Define good and venerate it. Be aware that to define good is to create God. Be responsible for my Gods and know that it is nobler to choose one's own Gods than to succumb to any other's who claims some alliegence or right to worship by divine existence.

Allow each his God. Embrace each that is good. To acknowledge a God which is by its own existence owed alliegance and obedience is to abdicate personal responsibility.

And it harm no other - do what you will. Love is the whole of the law.

Try to leave each place and thing encountered no worse off for the experience and better than you found it, if possible.

We are all in this together. There is no "them"; there is only "us."

Energy is required to maintain order from chaos.

Learn at least one thing every day.

If you aren't good yet - be a little better each day.

Meditate daily on the nature of time. If good transcends time and attainment of good is desirable, then reflect on the transcendence of time.

The warrior knows that he dies himself with each adversary dispatched. The only competition is with self. The only knowledge can be of self.

There is never only one right answer.

The simple things are the most difficult.

Be careful what you ask for - you usually get it.

Almost everything you have ever been told is a lie. Seek the truth and accept no other's until you have made it your own.

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A sign on the outskirts of a town in Nebraska reads: "Fine of $1 per mile in excess of 25 mph. Choose a speed you can afford."

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Books

Pluto: An Evolutionary Journey of the Soul by Jeff Green. rev. by Catherine and Kent (Llewellyn Publications, St. Paul, MN 55164-0383, $12.95).

It is refreshing to see astrology linked so expertly with the reincarnation factor. In this book, the astrological personality is described in conjunction with karmic lessons from past lives and valuable assistance is given to the reader to enable him/her to understand the many reasons for their current thoughts and actions. This specifically benefits future progression through this incarnation.

Pluto is invaluable when attempting to assess personal potential and the sometimes obvious but difficult messages being drawn by a crowded and clouded subconscious.

The in-depth study of Pluto's power in each house and the clarity in which the author conveys this to the reader proves his expertise in such areas.

Pluto contains many perfect diagrams to assist the astrologer reader and, indeed, they are so clear that the amateur or student astrologer will have no difficulty in aligning them to the written content. The illustrations and case examples of many world-famous identities show the thoughtful reader the full extent of Pluto energies.

We recommend most highly this book and the most knowledgeable author, Jeff Green. It is far from the "lightweight" ramblings of so many metaphysical dilettantes of this world. We look forward to reviewing Volume 2.

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Buckland's Complete Book of Witchcraft, Raymond Buckland, Llewellyn Publications, St. Paul, MN 55164-0383. Paperback, $12.95, 251 pp.

This is a tough book to review for several reasons. First, I'm a bit skeptical of any book that purports to be the complete anything, but this is Buckland's Complete Book so it may very well be complete. Second, Buckland says in the "Introduction" that "By the time you have finished this training (presuming that you take it seriously), you will be the equivalent of the Third Degree, in Gardnerian or similar." Again, I have to be somewhat of a skeptic and say

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Books (cont.)

I doubt it. But let's not chuck one of the most comprehensive primers on Witchcraft I've seen just because your editor is a skeptical Virgo.

The Complete Book is divided into fifteen lessons ranging from "The History and Philosophy of Witchcraft" to "Solitary Witches." Each lesson is followed by essay questions designed to inspire the reader's imagination and emphasize important topics. In addition, there are examination questions and answers, along with introductory notes on different traditions, original music, and a limited bibliography in Appendices. Perhaps we have come out of the closet, but I must confess that the essay question, "Describe where your Covenstead is located... Draw a map if you like..." made my skin crawl just a little bit. Perhaps a better question would have been, "Describe the qualities of your covenstead." Perhaps I'm still suffering from paranoia, but I had visions of some former student's copy ending up at the used book store--complete with a map. I also found the background and historical information a bit sketchy and practically nonexistent for the sabbats.

If you have outer court training and no formal outline for such, you will find the introductory material in this volume of much help in getting new students started and spurring discussions on relevant Craft subjects. The format is amenable to the teachings of most traditions as Buckland makes a genuine effort to keep most of the teachings of his particular tradition sublimated to exemplary comments.

I appreciate Buckland's closing comment, "... If you have worked through this workbook diligently, then you are actually better trained now than many Witches who have practiced for years. Many come into covens that have no formal training and that seem to simply struggle along from one meeting to the next, wtih no one there having any great knowledge." I would like to say I doubt it. I would like to say this is simply not the case.

A long overdue, practical workbook recommended highly in light of the darn few caveats offered above.

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When I play with my cat, who knows whether I do not make her more sport than she makes me? --Montaigne

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Books (cont.)

The Whole Again Resource Guide, SourceNet, Box 6767, Santa Barbara, CA 93160, $26.95 (in California, $28.44). "The Whole Again Resource Guide is a directory to alternative and New Age periodicals and resource books. Newspapers, magazines, journals, newsletters, indexes, abstracting services, bibliographies, handbooks, directories, and other sourcebooks are included. Whole Again lists over 3200 publications. Many are published by movement organizations or small, alternative publishers. These resources are not easily identified or found in libraries, newsstands, or bookstores. Whether ignored, overlooked, or avoided, they are often not listed in traditional directories." Updated for 1986/87.

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The Franz Bardon Foundation is a non-profit educational cooperative dedicated to propagating Hermetic knowledge. Inquiries welcome. POB 4869, Denver, CO 80204.

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If you've ordered Tarostar's Magical Beginnings Calendar 1987 and have not received it from the publisher, write Tarostar c/o us and we'll forward. Tarostar indicates some problems with publication this year.

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Publications

Recommended reading: "Who Do Men Say That I Am?" by Cullen Murphy, Atlantic Monthly, December 1986. An update on scholarly research on the mythology of Christianity and the abuses thereof.

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Events

Moon Web is a group of Witches and Pagans who join energies in healing and peace efforts. The upcoming Moon Web is scheduled for February 1st, 1987. It is the anniversary of last year's AIDS Moon Web. One year ago we came together to help find a way to break down the barriers to knowledge for the healing of AIDS. In the past year much progress has been

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Events (cont.)

made. It seems fitting to support that progress by joining, again, in ritual to continue the work that has started. Magickally we can give strength to the efforts of others.

This year, Pallas, the asteroid that marked our rite last year, is in Gemini. The Moon is waxing, and Venus and Uranus are conjunct. As Imbolc comes upon us we come to purify, asking the aid of Pallas (Athena). We mark our accomplishments and work towards a new ideal as the Moon grows.

To join the Moon Web mailing list, send $2 to Bone Blossom, 983 Haven AV, Redwood City, CA 94063.

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Announcements

Lady Raven and Moondancer of Starmist announce the birth of their daughter, Bronwen Elspeth Danu, November 6, 1986, 10:13 p.m. (PST). 7 lb. 4 oz. 20 1/2".

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That's all for this month, folks!

Blessed Be,

dean, jeannie, and the Georgians

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