GEORGIAN NEWSLETTER The Georgian Church July 1987
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From the Boob Tube

While all the exposure that Witches get in the media may not be as favorable as we may wish, I recently encountered one lovely little tidbit. While watching Nickelodian cable television, I quite inadvertantly stumbled upon a production for young people called, The Witches and the Grinigog, which was fantastic.

First of all, a grinigog is a sort of fetish which either through symbolism or spirit of the fetish exemplifies the core of the belief system or teachings of a religious sect. Doreen Valiente as well as others speak of such fetishes in their works if you are interested in the topic in itself. I digress. The grinigog in this story is a wonderful piece of stone statuary in the form of an impish sort of Cernunnos or Herne. The story of the grinigog which came into the possession of the gardener for the local parish minister causing all sorts of orchids and exotic flowers to sprout around it and the tale of a band of children acting as investigators to explore the insinuations that there were Witches indigenous to their area of the British Isles which they discovered in a diary of a young girl apparently from the time of the inquisitions is somewhat convoluted; but, perhaps, that is as things such as this should be.

I wish I had the names of the script author, producer and actors to give you, they all have my plaudits. Alas, I do not. The action of the story is punctuated by performances by a black man of commanding presence who is visiting the local town as an English educated African anthropologist studying the similarities between the presence of a dread white man in the myths of his land to those of a desirable but dreaded dark male presence in the myths of the British Isles.

The primary adventurers and investigators in this tale are the minister's daughter and son (who have been in the area only a couple of years) and their friend, the gardener's son (who is able to help them ferret out information which is on the fringes of his peoples memories). It turns out in the end, according to the Witches (three local older ladies ranging from precious to eccentric that nobody locally talks about much) that it must have been so. It was time for their story of older religion and as guardians of the mysteries of the grinigog to be told as simply a different belief system, not some ugly dark force. And they (the Witches) knew that that investigation, to have credence, must be done by outsiders too young to have adopted many prejudices.

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From the Boob Tube (cont.)

The safekeepers of the fetish needed their story told now for it was time for the grinigog to be taken to a home in which it would still be appreciated and its keepers venerated; the place, perhaps, from where the ancestors of this fetish may have descended, Africa. But first, the grinigog must be freely given by the one who 'owned' it, the gardener and the people of the parish. Kudos to whoever at Nickolodian TV was responsible. If you see this one listed in your local viewing guide, take the time and look. Someone is doing really commendable work.

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High Magick and Such from dean

Hopefully, you have noticed in our pages, among other resources to seekers of a path, the mention from time to time of The Franz Bardon Foundation. What I know of the foundation I will touch on in just a moment; if you will allow me, let us first loook at alchemy, Franz Bardon, then the foundation that takes his name and what any of them have to do with a pagan and primarily Craft publication.

Those of you who are coven leaders have quite possibly found that all who would grace the coven portal with their presence, though on a quest, may not be looking for what it is you have to offer. Some seek to worship the Goddess and her consort. Some seek magick. Some seek to command spirits. Some simply seek the fringes. I know some High Priestesses who will not accept a student unless the seeker has already partaken of the various other religious experiences available today. I have found more than one who approaches a coven for training is more properly looking for the path of the ritual magician. I respect all paths as much as I can. I have heard long dissertations and read lengthy essays which purport to show either the similarities or differences between an adept and an elder. That is a conversation we will skirt for a while. But, if you have an interest in alchemy, evocation, or the Quaballa, Franz Bardon, is, in my opinion, difficult to surpass. Any serious student of these topics would be well advised to seek out an instructor to accompany you in your quest; but the books by Bardon probably come as close to covering the topics as the written word alone can. His books, Initiation Into Hermetics, The Practice of Magical Evocation, and The Key to The True Quabbalah, are, in my humble opinion, the best

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High Magick and Such (cont.) from A Friend

available, in print on the topics. I concede, however, that they may only please a certain bent of mind. The treatises were originally authored in German but translations were available for the perseverent. For some time, the only outlet for the works of Mr. Bardon was:

Dieter Ruggeberg
Bookseller & Publisher
Postfach
D-56 Wuppertal-E
Western Germany

I believe they are still available from that source. The only other place you were likely to encounter the works of Franz Bardon was occasionally on one of those lovely musty shelves only found in the rarest of occult shoppes; and then the price was always exorbitant from the average pagan's financial perspective.

As I approached elder status in my home coven, an elder for whom I held much respect presented me with one of Mr. Bardon's books. My benefactor then faded away for a couple of years while I absorbed what was offered. A couple of covens and a good bit later, Pat & I were still reviewing the techniques of Mr. Bardon together at the time he (Pat) crossed over.

Now it appears that a non-profit educational cooperative known as:

The Franz Bardon Foundation
P.O. Box 4869
Denver, Colorado 80204
phone: (303) 825-6811

under the management of Jim Milligan is offering the works of Mr. Bardon and affiliated materials. The Foundation publishes a newsletter, The Franz Bardon News, published 6 times a year, every other month, for $10.00 U.S.; $15.00 foreign.

The Foundation says it sees its mission as one of striving to propagate the instructions of Franz Bardon. There is a computer bulletin board available as well other services for foundation members. As a fundraising project, the Foundation is offering a cassette tape (90 minutes) of the musical note

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High Magick and Such (cont.) by dean

'G' for $50.00, which, they say, Mr. Bardon espouses as , "...Hermetically analogous to the first and last letters of the alphabet--A and Z." Price includes instructions for use.

Volume I, Number Three of the Foundation's newsletter has a couple of interesting articles in it. One, by Curtis Bradley, describes Mr. Bardon as an incarnation of Hermes Trismegistos, and then gives a good description of the concept. There is also an article by Jim Milligan which describes Wicca as a descendant of the Hermetic path. While I do not agree with Mr. Milligan's assumptions, it's a nice article.

I am pleased to see Mr. Bardon's works offered for sale at a reasonable price by the Foundation ($17.00 - $27.00). So, if you are looking for a clue to give one who seeks the path of Hermetics, and lack a warm body to refer them to, there is the possibility of the Foundation's newsletter; or if it is someone personally valuable to you, you might want to consider one of the gorgeous leather-bound editions available from Mr. Ruggeberg and let the reader find the rest of the thread.

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When you see two cars a-comin' down the highway, side by side, it ain't no sign that both are goin' to the same place. One may ride down the road a piece and park it; while the other one may dart on down the highway and by sundown, they'll be miles and miles apart. When you see two fellers workin' on the same job in some shop, you can't rightly say they're gonna go the same way. One may stop and piddle, while the other feller keeps on workin' like a hoss. Pretty soon the first one's laid off and the other one is boss! What I'm sayin's pretty simple--folks are shaped in different molds. Some are gonna take it easy--a few will shoot for higher goals. If everybody parked and piddled everything would be a flop. But we all can't run the shindig from the office at the top. So I ask, why try to change things? Let each feller go his way. Allowin' some to park and piddle got us where we are today. You can grab a feller's shirttail and tell him what he ought to know, but you can't change his direction 'til you make him want to go! --Dwayne Laws

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Wicca and the Library by Jeannie

In the recent past, a number of folks have asked me where they could get more information on Witchcraft. Many are not near major cities like Los Angeles or New York where access to reading material is as close as a walk through the Yellow Pages. However, most folks are within reasonable distance of a public or college library, both of which are excellent sources of information on Witchcraft and related subjects. The purpose of this article is to walk the uninitiated through the mechanics of using a library for research.

Walk into the library, go to the information desk, and ask the librarian where the books are on Witchcraft. The librarian's head shoots up, eyes peer over glass frames, and you are dismissed to a limited selection of occult-oriented reading material or the card catalog. To save you this first step, occult-oriented books are located in the 133-numbers of a library using the Dewey Decimal numbering system and in the BF1563-1584 numbers in a Library of Congress system.

If the selection is small or non-existant, be sure to check the card catalog for additional books which might be shelved under a different subject heading. (Ask the librarian for assistance in using the card catalog if you have never used one before. They are usually happy to help.) Somewhere near the card catalog, a huge, two-volume work called Library of Congress Subject Headings will be lying around. This work contains major subject headings, corresponding Library of Congress number locations, and sub-headings which are listed elsewhere in the tome. It might suggest research areas you've never thought of before.

If this is your first visit to this library and you wish to check out books for home study, you must establish borrowing privileges. In public libraries, this is often as simple as filling out a 3 x 5 with your name and address. Some public libraries require some form of current identification and proof of your current address. If you are planning on establishing borrowing privileges, you may want to call the library first and determine what their application requirements are. If you are visiting a private or college library, fees and additional application requirements may be imposed, particularly if you are not a patron or student of the organization.

Some libraries have instructional programs on how to use their facilities. If you are not well versed in using a

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Wicca and the Library (cont.) by Jeannie

microfiche or on-line computer search system or the reference section of the library, the one or two-hour sessions may save you many hours and add a depth to your research heretofore unknown.

One service most libraries offer is interlibrary loan. What this means is if the library you are visiting does not have the book or article you want, you can request that the library borrow the work from another library on your behalf. Find out in advance what your library's policy is on interlibrary loans. Sometimes fees are involved, particularly if you are requesting an article which must be photocopied. Another helpful note: if you know of a book that you want to request through interlibrary loan, be sure to include the name of the book, author, publisher, and date of publication in your request. This helps to ensure you get the book you really want and increases the chances that your book can be located at another library. Also ask the librarian to help you make one final check of their collection before you request an interlibrary loan.

Before you leave home, there are a few items you may want to assemble prior to visiting the library. Of course, a writing implement is in order as is something to write on--whether that be a notebook, pad of paper, or 4 x 6 index cards (3 x 5's are too small for effective notes and get lost much easier). As many books and periodicals cannot be checked out, you may want to find out what coin the library's copy machine accepts so you don't have to embark on a change hunt. Also, grab something to help you convey your study materials back home. If you think it might rain, the librarian will grin from ear to ear if you break out a plastic bag as you leave. In my term paper days when I was riding the bus, I carried a fold-up luggage cart. It was easy to handle in the library and on the bus and rolled several pounds of books effortlessly from the stacks (shelves of books) to my front door.

One last word on libraries. Return the materials you check out promptly. I don't know how many libraries I've been in and been told, "Oh, yes, we used to have an extensive selection of occult books but people check them out and never bring them back." If efforts to educate the public on the positive aspects of the occult are to continue, the materials for their education must remain accessible. If you find that

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Wicca and the Library (cont.) by Jeannie

the book is something you just have to have, chances are it's available through a out-of-print bookseller, at the bookstore or at a used bookstore. Unless the library is selling part of their collection (which is a great way to add to yours and theirs) the library is not a place to procure these materials on a permanent basis.

Other readers may have additional library hints and I hope they send them in. Most of the "secrets" of Witchcraft are on the shelf of every public library--you just have to know where to look.

Knowledge is power.

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The Tome (cont.) by Stan

Many are the books I've studied, books of rare and arcane lore.

Books that yielded many answers, to the mysteries of yore. Yet this volume here before me, gave a promise never dreamed about before.

For the secrets of the Old ones lay before me, in the box upon the floor.

Secrets lost no more, no more.

Written in a tongue archaic, it tolled a warning like an ancient temple bell.

Read no further was the warning of this awful thing I tell.

I tell of forces, awful, evil wicked monstrous beyond belief, meddle not with matters herein. There is no rescue, no relief.

Seek ye not the door of evil, open not the fiery gate. Keep it closed to hordes of fiends, Lest ye suffer ghastly fate.

Seek ye not the race of Absu that await within the fiery gate. On the plain of Igigi they blood lustfully await.

Thy quest was foretold in this arcana. Need you now to search no more.

You have found the tome you covet lying on this dusty floor. Ye have learned the secret of the ages go before ye knock at evils door. Your Quest is over, no need to wander, never more.

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Most business people are so busy coping with immediate and piecemeal matters that there is a lamentable tendency to let the "long run" or future take care of itself. We often are so busy "putting out fires," so to speak, that we find it difficult to do the planning that would prevent those fires from occurring in the first place. As a prominent educator has said, "Americans generally spend so much time on things that are urgent that we have none left to spend on those that are important." --Gustav Metzman

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From USDA

A study shows that if a childless household, with the wife over 40 years of age, received an increase in income, the family would spend more on relatively more nutritious food. But households where the average age of the children was over 17 years would spend the greatest portion of an increased income on relatively less nutritious foods. As the average age of children in a household increases, a greater portion of an income increase is spent on less nutritious foods. In other words, older people without children would spend a large portion of additional income on more nutritious foods. A USDA survey in 1977-78 backs these finding. It indicates that yound adults and women in particular seem to be at a nutritional risk. The survey shows that yound adults, aged 15 to 22 years, now consume more soft drinks than any other age group. Young women, aged 19 to 22, were below their 1980 recommended dietary allowances for the average intake of six nutrients; calcium, iron, magnesium, Vitamin A, Vitamin B and thiamin. This means that you should stuff more food from the four main food groups into your kids... provided they let you. The four groups are: vegetable and fruit... bread and cereal... milk and cheese... meat, poultry, fish and beans.

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Susan was very fond of horses. Her heroes were gallant steeds in her books, her dolls were jockeys, her blocks built stables. Her whole world revolved around horses.

When she was nine years old, Susan began gradually to be polite and kind even beyond parental training. She held doors open for strangers, she said "thank you" to the sales people and was maturely courteous to everyone. Her mother finally questioned her about the continuing irreproachable manners. "Well, Mother," said Susan, "I honestly believe that people have feelings just the way horses do."

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To have entertained a number of opinions gives the mind a great deal of flexibility, and strengthens it in its preferences. --Joseph Joubert

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Mediocre people have an answer to everything and are astonished at nothing. --Eugene Delacroix

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A Witch On Handfasting by Tarostar

Craft Marriage ceremonies should be an expression of love and a committed responsibility to share life in common with the marriage partner.

Not to denegrate any Coven's or Traditions' methods and ways, as each couple must decide for themselves what dedication they will bring to a marriage, a few words on what a Craft marriage entails would be in order.

Many persons of the Craft would want a wedding not expressive of the traditional Judaeo-Christian concept of marriage. On the other hand, the looseness of a "Flower Child" alternative may not be appealing.

There were many forms of expression in the old Pagan society of the Rite of Handfasting. However, marriage was a formal tie in the nobility of old for dynastic purposes and property values. The folk were not necessarily included in its original intention.

Contractual agreements were part and parcel of the bonds of matrimony in bygone times for the noble class. The folk lived in married estate by unwritten customs which reflected, to a lesser degree, the marriages of the upper class.

As peasant families became wealthy, they took on some of the customs of the trappings of nobility and imitated the formalities as much as their estate allowed.

Legalities aside, a marriage is a formal public declaration that two persons intend on living life in common as a unit. Such a statement is made before the couple's peers.

In this age of loose bounds, where people change spouses as often as clean socks, perhaps the Craft Rite of Handfasting should not be undergone.

In this age where the paternal pattern in a family is viewed as minimal and the legalities for offspring are not considered important, perhaps again Handfasting should not be undergone.

The "Flower Child" alternative with pretty words, but not dedication behind them, perhaps is what many would want. That way they could split for parts unknown when times get tough and the mundane intrudes into their dream world.

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A Witch on Handfasting (cont.) by Tarostar

Marriage vows which say--Be Close, But Not Too Close--leave that kind of anarchistic opening in any concept of marriage. Pagans labor under the delusion that Nature is free! She is not. She is organized with order. Those who wish to live in harmony with Her, as Pagans avow, should reflect that orderliness in their lives.

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Star Gazer by Lady Fauna

8/1 - 8/22/87

8/1 (Sa). Lammas. You draw your heart's desire through magnetism, determination, and hard work. Jealousy, however, could be a barrier.

8/2 (Su). Avoid impulse buying. Personality conflicts could lead to disappointments in emotional relationships. Seek a sane emotional outlet.

8/3 (Mo). A combination of intuition and common sense helps to alleviate petty quarrels. A change of residence could bring independence.

8/4 (Tu). Exercise moderation in financial affairs. More gains are to be made through hard work and thriftiness than investment today. Excellent for family conferences.

8/5 (We). Business travel favored. Unconventional ideas may cause some tension; honesty will help.

8/6 (Th). Earthquake alert for the next eight days. Business travel favored. Also excellent for pursuing literary or artistic bents in seclusion.

8/7 (Fr). Watch finances. Success through organization and hard work.

8/8 (Sa). Continue to guard finances. New phases begin--particularly where scientific ability is found--which bring independence. Changes may produce some emotional stress.

8/9 (Su). Full Moon. Strong emotions and self-indulgence could affect your health. A tendency to quarrel exists.

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Star Gazer (cont.) by Lady Fauna

8/10 (Mo). Consider problems carefully before making commitments. Perspective is difficult to achieve. Lack of communication is disruptive to emotional relationships.

8/11 (Tu). A good deal of physical strength makes hard work seem much simpler today. The physical labor also helps calm jangled nerves.

8/12 (We). Avoid financial schemes. Watch out for accidents, temper tantrums.

8/13 (Th). There are excellent auspices today for accomplishing anything you have set your mind to do. Even if you are not in pursuit of some well-thought out goal, a sense of peace and tranquility abounds.

8/14 (Fr). Business enterprises are favored. Something special or unusual may happen--unexpected travel perhaps or a sudden change of direction in your life.

8/15 (Sa). Excellent for pursuits along dramatic lines or for taking in a play or other theatrical production. Gossip may undermine confidence in emotional relationships. Verify hearsay before reacting on an emotional level.

8/16 (Su). Heart-to-heart talks with children are favored. Reading, hobbies, and mild exercise will help alleviate tension and minor health complaints.

8/17 (Mo). Tackle a project which requires a great deal of mental ability and flexibility--perhaps a project requiring memorization. Social life takes a romantic turn--a serenade on your favorite instrument may win a heart.

8/18 (Tu). Matters requiring diplomacy and family relations are favored.

8/19 (We). Earthquake alert for the next four days. Avoid financial schemes. Emotional outbursts endanger relationships. Are you right or just being stubborn? Previous limitations will start to ease somewhat but you must still strive to retain a balance in your beliefs and control over financial and emotional extravagance.

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Star Gazer (cont.) by Lady Fauna

8/21 (Fr). Excellent for writing satire, poetry. Accept limitations for the time being and meditate on what can be accomplished within the given framework. If your hands are tied it does not mean that your mind is locked. Concentrate on educational pursuits. A tendency to be hypercritical can be successfully expressed through the arts.

8/22 (Sa). Find positive outlets for expression of energies. Pay attention to details and organization. Again, previous restictions begin to fade away.

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From A New Witch in California

I received a newsletter the other day, and I thought you might be interested in what was on the front page. It seems that the IRS has proposed a new rule affecting lobbying activities by tax-exempt organizations. The new rules construe as lobbying many activities which formerly were considered merely public education or public policy research analysis. The new rules state that any communication that "pertains" to legislation, even if no explicit view on legislation is expressed, is deemed as lobbying if the communication is selectively distributed to persons "reasonably expected" to share a common view of the legislation. The effect of this proposal would effectively stop us from conveying through our newsletters, information regarding any pending legislation. This would affect all non-profit organizations.

The new rules construe as lobbying many activities which formerly were considered merely public education or public policy research analysis. The new rules state that any communicaton that "pertains" to legislation, even if no explicit view on legislation is expressed, is deemed as lobbying if the communication is selectively distributed to persons "reasonably expected" to share a common view of the legislation.

The entire cost of preparing and distributing newletters or fundraising mailings or other "communicatons" that refer in any way to legislation will be considered lobbying expenditures since non-profits generally communicate with those who share their views.

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From A New Witch in California (cont.)

Depending on the usage, dissemination, or conclusions reached, the entire costs of a research project could be classified as lobbying expenditures.

Foundations will have to more closely monitor the grants they give to tax-exempt organizations in order to guard against the use of funds for lobbying activities. By expanding the factors which render certain activities lobbying activities, the new rule in effect increases the number of activities that are not tax-deductible.

The overall impact of these proposed rules is to expand the classification of activities considered lobbying and grassroots lobbying. The potential impact of these regulations on tax-exempt organizations may be that the groups will have to pay taxes and penalties and possibly lose their tax-exempt status.

This information was in the May issue of the newsletter. They stated that the IRS wanted comments, but that the comment period was up on April 3, 1987. They had not received the information until April 3, 1987. The following is a letter from the IRS after the person in charge of this newsletter had written to them for more information:

"Thank you for contacting me about regulations proposed by the IRS to classify lobbying activities by charitable organizations. I understand your concern and appreciate the time you have taken to write.

"After nearly four months of protest by charities and other non-profit organizations, on April 7, 1987 the IRS agreed to reconsider the proposed regulations. IRS Commissioner Lawrence Gibbs issued a statement pledging to consider whether it is appropriate to repropose part or all of the regulations and offered to include interested parties in future discussions on the proposed regulations. In addition, Commissioner Gibbs stated that when final regulations are issued, they would apply propsectively so that only activities undertaken after final adoption of the regulations would be covered.

Although the non-profit community may breathe a little easier, there is recognition that reconsideration of the rules is only a first step. Subsequent deliverations, promised by Gibbs, could continue indefinitely.

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From A New Witch in California (cont.)

Let me assure you that I will be watching for the final rules. At that time, if legislative action is necessary, I will consider any bills with your views in mind...." This letter was singed by Bill Lowery, Member of Congress.

I am not sure that this would have anything to do with GNL, but I did feel that you needed to at least be aware of it. My husband is president of a local non-profit organization and we had not been informed about this new rule pending. I am enclosing the address to write the IRS. Don't know if it will help, but you might at least want on the list of interested parties for future discussions.

Commissioner of Internal Revenue
ATTN: CC:LR:T:EE-154-78
Washington, DC 20224

Well enough bad news. I wanted to tell you how much I enjoyed the May issue of GNL. The scenarios by Stan, "The Applicant" (pg. 6), "From Blacksun" (pg 27), and the little story "From Tarostar" (pg. 24) were great. You have helped to remind me that the Goddess will always provide. That when my life is right I too will have a proper teacher and a circle. Thank you all very much.

The article "From Ima Non" (pg. 32) was terrific. I also have one to share: My husband likes to work the beach with his metal detector, but the salt spray is very corrosive. So he covers the electrical parts with those plastic bags from the produce department at the market. It is a simple task to change the bag, and best of all they are free.

I am sure that others have some hints to share with us also. Thanks for letting me bend your ears. Keep up the good work on the newsletter.

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Do you get the blues when it rains, and do you feel on top of the world when the day is beautiful? There's a scientific reason for the variation of your mood with the weather, according to scientists. It appears that the weather determines the quality of the air that we breathe, and the air, in turn, affects the chemistry of the blood, thus making us feel depressed and worried, or exhilarated and happy. Other forces, of course, may modify the effects of the weather--such forces as diet, infection, and physical and mental activity.

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In Defense of Concrete and Junk Food by Blacksun

Just this morning, a Great Truth was given to me by mysterious forces beyond my ken (My Ken is on the China/Mongolia border). Shadowhawk and I were coming back from one thing and making a stop at the house to feed our zoo so we could go back out and do another thing. On the way, we stopped at a local fast food drive thru and got what they term "breakfast."

Then, because we don't like spilling coffee and being unsafe on the road, we pulled up and parked at one of the stalls of this same burger joint. Immediately upon stopping the car, about half a dozen little sparrows flew up on the hood of the car and waited for us to start sharing our burger buns and french fries. This was expected, as this happens constantly at this drive-in as well as many other fast food places around town.

I must admit that the little feathered beggars are cute and it is hard to resist their approacch. When this first happened to me, however, I had some trepidations concerning the value of such a diet. I mean, after all, look what it has done to my waistline over the years. Nevertheless, I gave in from the start and even have been known to buy an extra bag of french fries just for these critters and their fellow beggars in the forms of pigeons and crows. But over the years, there seems to have been a marked increase in the number of flying panhandlers hanging out at such places. And this seems very strange since the concrete parking lots with fast junk food are on the increase also. One would think that the expansion of the plastic food places would thin out the population of the birdie beggars at any one place. But this is quite the opposite.

By now, you are probably asking yourself what this article has to do with the Craft. So I will tell you how I justify it: Life upon this planet is one of the major concerns of witches. Anything which effects that life is important. And now... my inspirational flash: there is a whole subspecies of birds which rely solely upon humankind for their food. Their primary dietary requirements consist of nothing but fast junk food which can only be gotten from drive-ins that are erected by us.

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In Defense (cont.) by Blacksun

As is the custom in the biological community, I shall exercise my privilege of naming my newly discovered entities. Henceforth, any and all species which demonstrate these unusual dietary requirements shall have Fastfoodius Beggeralis (as you can probably tell, I've been heavily influenced by Road Runner cartoons). I also contend that this discovery shall add a new kink to the ever expanding body of evidence in support of the Ghia theories. Once again, Mother has shown herself to be ever capable of withstanding even the most horrendous onslaught perpetuated by our species.

Our species... our SPECIES! Oh no! Do you think it's possible? Could we be Homo Sapiens Fastfoodius Beggeralis? I mean, I wasn't the only one at the drive-in. What a discovery! Eureka! All those government grants and private endowments funding thousands of scientists just to find out what the next evolutionary step might be--and it has been staring us in the face for decades! Wait 'til Scientific American gets hold of this!

What am I talking about? That rag doesn't pay diddly for even the really good stuff. I know, I'll go to the Inquirer. Can't you just see the headlines?: "Fast Food Will Save Earth, Claims Bird Brain Witch."

Gosh, it'll be great to be famous!

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The illness that we call "neurosis" is not spread by germs, and yet the seeds of such illness are passed from person to person, and most especially within families. The neurotic process is contagious exactly as a human emotion, such as panic, is contagious. The basic emotions of grief, anger, joy, fright are infectious forces in human relations. A gay mood is catching; a gloomy mood is also catching. In the family, each member contributes his share to improve or damage the total enviornment. In turn, the environment gradually conditions the mental health of every member.

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Conquer a man who never gives by gifts; subdue untruthful men by truthfulness; vanquish an angry man by gentleness; And overcome the evil man by goodness. --The Maha-Bharata

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From Ogaea and Canyondancer

I'm enclosing a page I wrote because on the bus, where I usually am when people ask me questions, there's not always time to cover all these points. I tried to touch on all the points people usually wonder about. If anyone else wants to use it, they're certainly welcome--and if anyone's bothered by it I'd like to know so it can be rewritten.

The Celtic Campers went to J.R.R. Earthclaw's cave again this weekend, and although we did not have a personal audience with him this time, his hospitality was evident and generous as usual. We can report that all is well in that dragon's realm, at least.

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Witches call their religion WICCA. At least 35,000 years old, Wicca knows and cherishes the cycles of nature. Not just the sun-up, sundown cycle, not just thebirth-growth-death cycle, but the rain-river-sea-cloud cycle and the big bang-expansion-contraction-collapse cycle, too. It is in the essence and subtlety of the seasons' cycles that Wicca finds its eight solar holidays in the year.

Wiccans celebrate Halloween and May Day, the Summer and Winter Solstices, the Spring and Fall Equinoxes, and two other "Cross-quarter" days, February 2nd and August 1st. The holidays honor and invoke the qualities and opportunities of each season. Witches also follow the moon's cycle, and meet to celebrate the phases of the moon.

In the ebb and flow of the energies of the universe, witches recognize resources to use in their lives. To tap these resources, Wiccas practice the Old Religion, worshipping a goddess and god who have many sacred names. The Goddess and the God symbolize the oppositely flowing, but not opposed, energies of the universe. They are not strange or exotic gods: they are Mother Nature and Father Time.

Some people call themselves Witches when they are Satanists. Satanists accept the Christian description of the world, and believing in the Christian god, choose an alliance with his opponant. Wiccans do not relate to the gods in an adversary way. Neither Jehovah nor Satan are gods of the witches.

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From Ogaea and Canyondancer (cont.)

The god of the witches is often seen with horns. His horns are the horns and antlers of the game animal which dies that the hunter may live. The Wiccan god is also in the grain that dies to leave seed from which grain will come again. In the sun, the god "dies" every evening (and every fall) to be "reborn" every morning (and every Winter's Solstice).

The Wicca goddess has many aspects. She is Maiden, Mother and Matriarch, creative and destructive. She and the god have different names in other cultures and in each season.

The sacrifice of the god, in game and in grain, is real. Wiccans acknowledge the gift of this death in the service of life by offering back to the gods a portion of ceremonial meals; or something handmade. A song, or homemade cookies, or a woven wreath of flowers is the sort of thing a witch sacrifices.

When a coven meets to worship, individuals' energies are focused in ritual, and the collective energy is directed. Witches work to heal, to soothe souls, to encourage success, to oppose harm. When the evening's work is done, witches share food and drink.

Many witches wear special robes when they gather to worship; sometimes covens meet without clothes. Working "skyclad" frees a witch from the distraction and constraint of clothing, and from the artificial materialism clothes can represent. Time, place, weather and company help witches decide what to wear when they work or worship.

Orgies and drugs are not part of wicca worship. Wicca holds the creative power of sex sacred, and witches invoke this power symbolically seriously, and make no abuse of drugs.

Wicca holds that what we put into the world comes back to us threefold. What magic a witch does, s/he does with that principle in mind. "An' ye harm none, do as ye will" is Wiccan law. Witches pay more attention to "harm none" than to "as ye will."

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Amiable people, though often subject to imposition in their contact with the world, yet radiate so much of sunshine that they are reflected in all appreciative hearts.

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From Lady Morganna and Aaron

In the world we live in today, it is a shame we have not learned from our passt, especially we Crafters who live in both realms. We still fight amongst ourselves over the most ridiculous reasons. There seems to be a constant power struggle for control over situations and people. Yet we all claim the right to walk our own path along with the choice of which path it shall be.

But it seems when we make these decisions, there are certain people who want to jump up in the air with fits of anger and claim that we are raining on their parade.

Well, I would like to say something to these people: the Sabbats do not belong to one person or coven. They belong to the Gods and we as their children celebrate them in their honor. The Gods do not care if we are in small groups all over the world for that is exactly what we are. They care about the fact that we have the wisdom and love to say, "Hey, we know you are there" and the courage to stand up and say so.

This is the individual right of every Crafter. We have the right to do this any way we choose or with any one we choose at any time or place. No one person or people has or have the right to say, "No, you cannot do this" for any reason that they may give. In this country, no person has the right to deny you this except the Gods themselves, and anyone who lives on this earth plane is not considered a God no matter what they might say or think. If they had obtained to this level of manifestation, they would not be wasting their time over such an issue.

So for whatever reason, if you are not happy with others or what they are doing, then it is best you do not associate with them. Walk your own path. You will accomplish much more and be a lot happier. We all strive to reach goals we just have different ways of reaching them.

Because we are individuals and our natures are different, it is best that we accept this in ourselves and consider this a gift from the Gods. Through this gift, we are able to reach different types of people from all walks of life and to be able to do the work the Gods have given us. So sometimes when we disagree or do not get along for whatever reason, it is far better to go our separate paths instead of bickering and fighting amongst ourselves so that we can accomplish our goals and be happy in our work at the same time.

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From Stripes

Blessed Be. My name is Stripes. I am Stan's cat. Actually I am the brains around this outfit. I am constantly getting Stan out of trouble or setting the record stright for him. The truth of the matter is Stan isn't really all that bright. He is nice enough as maters go but, it's just that he isn't terribly smart.

Stan doesn't write those stories he sends you, you know. Scout and I write most of them. I mentioned Scout, he is that big plug ugly dog the master keeps around, the Goddess alone knows why. All he does is gulp down food and bark all day long when civilized folk are trying to sleep.

I mentioned Stan not being all that bright, why just the other day, a couple of them missionary fellers came around, all dressed up and a wearing ties and it hot enough to fry mice, but then you've seen them I'm sure.

Well these fellers was a telling Stan how an angel, some dude named Moroni, came to visit some farmer back east somewheres and how he dictated a mysterious language with a message from another world. They claimed this was the first contact with angels since ancient times.

Do you know I had to remind Stan that John Dee and Kelly had a similar visitation from an angel and how they had been given a complete new language and a set of instructions on how to use it. This was in 1583 C.E.--several hundred years before that other feller claimed he was showed them golden platters. Now I know about such things because my people have always been familiar with those who work with these matters.

So, now if you would like to learn the straight truth about things, you just come up here and I will fill you in. Best if you come at night and I will brew you up a cup of catnip tea. But come quietly, and whatever you do, don't wake up that plug ugly dog.

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Henry Ward Beecher once was asked how he managed to get through so much work in a day. He replied, "By never doing anything twice. I never anticipate my work and never worry about it. When the time comes to do a thing, I do it and that's the end of it."

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From Rowan Moonstone

I have been so busy here. Just recently discovered computerized Paganism. I've already convinced a local sysop to carry the National Magick conference and I'm sub oping a religion board on one local bulletin board, and a Wiccan/Pagan board on another. So far, the response has been very good from the public on the two local boards. As a matter of fact, the SysOp on the board that I have the Wicca sub-boarded on is a christian, and he stoutly defends my right to be there and to practice my own religion. Actually, I've had the most trouble convincing people that I'm for real. Guess they just don't expect to find someone who comes right out and says, "I'm a Witch. In public." Ah, well, keeps them from getting too complacent. Ha!

One of my users the other day may have created a monster. He asked me if there were any stories about the "little people" which were native to America. Well, I started to investigate and found a lot of similarities between the legends of the Celtic Sidhe and the legends of the Cherokee "Little People." Also, it turns out that Charles Godfrey Leland, who wrote Aradia, collected the legends and tales of the Algonquin and Penobscot Indians, who just happen to be my ancestors. There are supposedly legends of the Selkies among the Penobscots. Needless to say, interlibrary load is being bugged again.

I'm so glad we finally got everybody initiated. I think we've done eight first degree initiations since the first of the year. Oh boy, I think I could recite that ritual in my sleep. The last one was really special though. We got to initiate my real life sister into the Craft the day after Beltane. It was great. I imagine that there are not too many Witches that have had the privilege of seeing their sibling initiated.

Also, when I get around to it, I'm going to write you all an article on computerized Wicca. I've really met a lot of nice foks through the computer network. I've now got Pagan friends in St. Louis, Dallas, Denver, LA, NY, Minneapolis, and a lot of other places.

I have what may be considered a piece of constructive criticism for the newsletter. I personally would prefer to see more letters and craft articles and less of the excerpts from the UPI and AP about gardening, and this and that. Those articles I can get in other publications, but I can't get news of other Crafters and especially other Georgians in

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From Rowan Moonstone (cont.)

many other newsletters. Just a thought. Will write more later.

Ed. note (jeannie): You writem, we printem. We can't printem if you no writem.

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From Isis Moonshadow

Equinox was a bittersweet celebration for Amber Moon. It included a Rite of Parting for Luinrandir who is leaving us to move to Ohio to be with Rachael. She came down and we did get to meet her. The next day we had their handfasting in a park. Several spectators enjoyed the unusual "play," as we overheard it called. Also, our Harper has been in New York helping to nurse her dying father since the end of November. She badly needs our positive thoughts of love and energy, as the situation is a bummer at best. If anyone has any to spare, please send some good vibes her way. Thanks for those of you who helped send energy to Angel a few months back. She's working with her students and doing charts again. Though she's still a little weak walking, she's almost her old self again.

Well, I see there's trouble in fundy land. Between Oral, and Jerry, and Jimmy and the Bakkers, those guys seem to be up to their butts in alligators. Perhaps some of their intolerance and negative energy is coming back on them. I sincerely wish them no harm, but maybe now they're going to have to clean their own houses and won't have time to bother with us for a while. Why can't people just live and let live?

p.s. A note to Tarostar, respectfully. I agree with most of what you say about the psychic scams. I know of the publication of which you speak. It arrives unsolicited in my mailbox every few months. I then take it to the next coven meeting, everyone gets a good laugh, then it is used as a litter pan liner for my catbox. However, I get the impression that you feel all psychics are hustlers. Not so. I personally know several psychics whom I feel are full of honesty and integrity. I also know some for whom I have no respect. One can't throw a blanket on all psychics, just as one can't say all "witches" are evil. Each case must be judged on its own merit. Thank you.

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Injured Trees from USDA

Injuries to a tree that expose wood or kill the bark may allow disease and decay organisms to enter a tree, and may even kill it. If you ran your car or snow plow or bicycle into your tree, check on its injuries. If you crushed its bark or knocked it from the tree, the USDA advises you to treat it one of two ways. If the bark is knocked off in a large piece, nail the bark back in place immediately, before its inner side or the exposed wood has dried. Then place a layer of damp paper, cotton, or spagnum moss about two inches thick over the wound and cover it with a sheet of plastic. This bandage should cover the entire wound and extend beyond it a few inches. Seal the edges of the plastic to the tree with asphalt paint. If necessary, smooth the bark around the wound to make a good seal. After sealing the edges, bind the bandage to the tree with twine. This should keep the inner side of the wound moist until the bark and wood reunite. If water collects inside the bandage, punch a small hole in the bottom of the plastic to drain it. If the bark and wood do not unite, then you should try method number two. Cut away all damaged bark in the wound area. Remove all splintered wood and smooth the surface of the exposed area. Shape the edge of the wound as nearly as possible to an elongated ellipse--that is, an oval shape with points at top and bottom. Inspect the large wounds occasionally to be sure they are healing properly. If any decay develops, cut it away. You don't need to put a dressing on the wound--unless you think it makes the tree look better.

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In almost any scrapbook may be found a clipping that reads something like this: "The only think impossible is that which has never been tried." One loves to read of that man who ran for the legislature of his state, but was defeated; who then turned his steps toward the business field, but failed; then spent fifteen years paying up the debts of a no-good partner; who ran for Congress, and was swamped; who tried to get an appointment with the United States Land Office, and again fell down; who became the candidate for the United States Senate, and lost; who wanted to be the Vice-President of the United States, only to succumb to defeat once more. But who finally became President, and whose fame will last as long as the success of these United States remains on the pages of history--Abraham Lincoln! Yes, it can be done.

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Structuring the Craft by Tarostar

It has been stated by various scholars and writers that the "scriptured" religions drive out and deny direct experience of God/Goddess by disallowing the spontaneous flow of the spiritual force alive within every part and parcel of Nature in the cosmic whole.

Those faiths termed "primitive" which are "unscriptured" but alive and open to the spiritual world around us have a tremendous appeal due to an individual's direct experience of and interaction with the flow of energy from the Godhead.

It amazes me how many people in the Craft believe the pro-establishment propaganda that Wicca's Sister-faith, Voodoo, is evil and negative. Voodoo is the craft of Wicca seen through Afro-american/Latin eyes. Haiti, Brazil, Cuba, et alia, are in and of the Americas and just as much a valid tradition of the Old Religion as the Celtic/Welsh/Norse, etc. Witches a la Gerald Gardner. In fact, the Voodoo, Santeria, Macumba, can show a "valid" line of continuity from earlier times to the present where Wicca, in many respects, cannot.

The occult workings of the Old Religion do, however, reflect the psychology of the culture in which they manifest. They take on racial and economic/ethnic outlook predominant among their practitioners and adherents.

I hear so-called Witches scream and shudder at the mention of Voodoo and see only the hex-dolls and nasty powders of its negative side. Do they have so little lore in European/American occultism of the Craft of Wicca that they do not understand nor see the negative side of Witchcraft also? Contrary to most so-called Witches' beliefs, the Craft has not always been nor was it intended to be "sweetness and light." It is no better and no worse than the individual practicing it. That has made Wicca/Craft truly human and appealing to myriad devotees through so many ill-fated centuries.

It is not based on theological absurdity as are many of the mainstream patriarchal faiths. Have you ever attended a Sabbat ceremony which was flat and lifeless because the members of the Circle were not open and alive to the force of energy? Many try to make their version of the Craft no more lively than a Quaker Prayer meeting.

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Structuring (cont.) by Tarostar

The Shakers, however, had the right idea with stamping and dancing. Pentacostal Christians almost have it and Afro-Baptist is pure Voodoo for Jesus, rather than Damballah.

Wicca/Craft was and is a folk-religion, not the stately pagentry of high church pomp. Suppressed emotions make it as dreary as a Papal funeral. God/Goddess was not meant to be worshipped that way, but by lively and excited emotional energy and outlet. The Old Religion was "fun" and attractive to the Folk. That is why it had to be extirpated by the church.

By screaming "evil" when Voodoo is mentioned, modern Witches of the European/American variety show their lack of knowledge and misunderstanding of what their own Old Religion was (and is) before the Witch-burners got the upper hand. God/Goddess is both positive and negative as a cosmic whole. Those who see or choose to see only the Lady's loving Nature and ignore Her dark mien fall into the same unbalanced Good/Evil dichotomy as misguided Christianity (Jesus/Satan). Such a black/white separation in thinking leads to self-righteousness and self-importance and contempt for others and, hence, attitudes that are conducive to persecution.

The Witchburners have triumphed because many in Wicca/Craft seem to reflect that thinking. Another consideration is that Voodoo/Craft is the folk religion of the Black Man. European/American, WASP thinking does not like nor appreciate good honest emotional/religious expression. The devotees of Voodoo/Craft throw themselves into the experience whole-heartedly and enjoy a communion with God/Goddess which American/Anglo-Saxon sensitivities shrink from.

So-called Wicca/Craft devotees, who say their religion is all goodness and light, a la the stars and flowers of Alice Bailey books, are nothing more than hot house lillies who wilt the moment the door is opened and the real world steps in. They faint when an honest emotional experience slaps them in the face. Wicca/Craft was never as thin-blooded as some of its modern day practitioners. They should stop play acting at being Witches and get down to some serious practitioning. That is where some structuring for the Craft is needed. There is plenty of room for individual and/or Coven peculiarity within the outward expressions so that the "Do your own thing" advocates can rest their vocal chords.

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Structuring (cont.) by Tarostar

The real Craft never was anarchistic, so those types can consider themsleves dismissed. Jut as there is divergence beytween and among the individual terrejos and ideas concerning the Gods in Voodoo/Craft, the same can be said of Wicca/Craft and different Covens.

Only the ignorant would dispute the efficacy of one version of the God/Goddess over another. The Craft works, whether one invokes Erzulie or Venus, Cernnounos or Damballah.

Those who foolishly say, "My Witchcraft is better than your Witchcraft!" display the same low-level mentality as some Fundamentalist Christians. No matter what God-form is invoked, no matter what words are used, no matter what expression a Coven may display, one form of structuring must be incorporated within a Sabbat or Esbat. That form is the very hypnotic effect of rhythmic music and repetitive dance steps.

The patriarchal faiths direct energy to the Deity as an act of adoration and worship. They do not try nor allow the energy to be invoked to manifest among the worshippers. They do not want to bring God/Goddess to Earth. If they do, it becomes plain and evident that their hierarchy is not necessary.

Music and dance have, since ages of years, been the means the Folk have invoked and communed with God/Goddess. Not just by listening and viewing the proceedings, but by allowing the beat and rhythm to be absorbed and accepted into one's being and going with the flow. That is how the channel to God/Goddess is opened and they allowed to manifest.

The High Priesthood, in charge of the Ceremony, must be attuned to the Psychic import of the happenings and be able to direct and control the "spirit" as it comes through the bodies of the Coveners. It must not be allowed to get out of hand. Coming into form is difficult for "spirit", so it may at times seem chaotic. The High Priest/ess must be able to calm it and direct it and keep it focused on the matter at hand, be it an Esbat for Magic, or a Sabbat for messages from "spirit."

If the High Priest/ess is not psychically intuitive and able to affect the "spirit" in that way, he/she is really in the wrong business. He/She is not a truly valid High Priest/ess of Wicca/Craft.

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Structuring (cont.) by Tarostar

If my words seem harsh and unbending, so be it. Living room Witches with sonorous and stately but quiet rites do not qualify as anything near Wicca/Craft. They do not open up to the free and lively and spontaneously "psychic" manifestations of God/Goddess. Therein lies the true Craft. Therein lies the Old Religion. Therein lies the power over the hearts and minds of true Witches down all these pallid and vapid centuries of the christian era.

The Old Religion is alive and well in Brazil and such Latin/French/American cultures. It is rather sick in the United States.

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Judas Priest by Stan

It has been said there are three types of bikers, the has beens, the will be's, and the never will be's. Killer McCain, six feet two inches tall, weighing three hundred pounds, could lift a five-hundred-pound motorcycle (someone elses) into the back of a pick-up truck with ease. He belonged to the latter group. Killer no longer ran with the biker pack but this night he was burning up the freeway. From hashish to heroin, Killer had tried them all and they had all left their mark on him. None gave him the high he experienced as his speedometer reached 105, 120, 160. Killer was a worthless bum and he knew it, but he could almost escape the fact as he blended with his speeding motorcycle. He rounded the curve with perfect balance and control until he hit a patch of oil left by a leaky transmission. His body was found three hundred feet from his machine which was a pretty far distance to throw a man who now weighed three hundred and sixty-five pounds. He was not found until daybreak. His spirit had spent the night vainly trying to right the bike and recalling every oath he had ever learned in the process. It was still trying, when Parson Benedict came across the fresh corpse, early the next morning.

Parson Benedict liked to tell how he was descended from Puritan stock. Privately many of his contemporaries throught he hadn't descended yet. The Parson took from the book he carried what suited his purpose and ignored the rest. His contemporaries would have been even more shocked had they seen the selection in his locked library. Alongside the hymnals were well-worn copies of Necronomicon. The Book of

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Judas Priest (cont.) by Stan

the Sacred Magic of Abra- Melin the Mage, along with a manuscript Napoleon had looted from the Vatican. It dealt with control of spirits of the dead.

Two things the Parson hated with a passion, bikers and witches. So it seemed a heaven-sent opportunity when he came upon the corpse and spirit of Killer McCain. Both had a place in his scheme of things. His first task was to enslave the spirit. For while Killer in life had been brave enough when with his gang or in a sure-win situation, in his present condition he was completely bewildered and anything but brave.

The Parson's second task was to volunteer to preach at the poor fellow's funeral and to get the body interred before complete separation could occur. His colleages were both pleased and surprised. They wondered what he could say in a positive way about the deceased. They were pleased it was not their job to do so for certainly there would be no renumeration.

They might have been more than a little shocked had they heard the eulogy. It made no sense at all to the few who attended services. But they never had made any sense out of a religious service, so why should this be different? But it made a great deal of sense to the frightened spirit. The Parson had delivered his finest hellfire and brimstone spiel effectively binding the shade to his purpose. For the shade to serve the Parson's nefarious ends was not only preferable, it was desirable since the spirit had finally realized Killer was dead. The Parson now had his tool to vent his hatred upon the witches. As Kahlil Gibran once wrote, "Does not the cripple hate the dancers?"

The Coven of the Happy Hearts was under psychic attack of a kind not even the oldest member could remember. Every covener began to have nightmares. Murphy's Law began to operate with a vengence. Water pipes broke, lights refused to work until the repairman came, then they worked perfectly. Coveners became ill and all complained of a loud noise like a motorcycle would make. Several members were in accidents and nearly killed. Finally the High Priest and the High Priestess agreed that this was not neuroticism but a full-scale psychic attack with intent to kill. Witches have been known to play psychic power games before on ego trips but never to kill. Something had to be done and soon.

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Judas Priest (cont.) by Stan

That night a circle was cast. It was not the power-containing ring of a healing ritual, but a three-ring ceremonial magic protective circle. Its design was to repel evil entities. Sulphur was burned to show the evil entity what it would be like to cross the barrier. A triangle was placed adjacent to the circle. Still a wave of pure evil hammered at the borders and the air became heavy and foul as though an animal had died several days back.

Finally the High Priestess got the spirit into the triangle. Establishing contact she asked, "Who are you? Why are you here? Who sent you? Why have you not gone on to meet your friends?"

The reply came slowly and with great difficulty. "I do not want to continue on. I want to stay here on earth. If I serve the Parson, I can do that. I do not hate witches but the Parson does. He is my only link with earth. Without his help I should be cast into the greaat pit and burn here forever. It was you people or me and it ain't goona be me. I ain't burnin' in no hell."

The High Priestess gave answer. "Do you intend to remain earthbound forever? You can see the Parson is an evil man. You dealt in evil while you lived, do you intend to deal in evil forever? Or would you rather rest a while and return to earth for another try? Maybe next time you would be a space pilot instead of a biker. Besides you are known to us now. We, too, have friends in the nether world. Powerful ones. Perhaps you had better arrange for the Parson to get what is coming to him and then continue your journey. The only hell you will experience will be the one you create for yourself. If you stay, we are far more able to deal with you than the Parson. Why don't you pay him a final visit and purge yourself of evil?"

The candles flickered but did not go out. The air became sweet and breathable again. It was as though the sky had cleared and the moon shone clear and bright. Peace settled over the Coven and even those without the sight knew the shade had gone.

The next day the paper carried an article describing the suicide of Parson Benedict. Near the swaying body was an open Bible. A passage was enclosed in red: "...and Judas went and hanged himself..."

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Tomatoes from USDA

The most popular vegetable in home gardens is the tomato. It's suited to spring, summer, and autumn culture over most of the north and upper south and grows in winter in the extreme south.

To spread the tomato harvest over the growing season, USDA suggests you stagger planting dates at two- to three-week intervals. Tomatoes need about one inch of water per week. If the rains fail, give your plants a heavy soaking at weekly intervals. Do not wet the foliage any more than is necessary. Water more frequently if the soil is sandy. Tomato plants benefit from fertilization while growing. Poor foliage color and stunted growth indicate a need for additional fertilizer.

You can also stake your tomatoes. Staking makes it easier to cultivate and harvest tomatoes and help prevent fruit rots. However, staked plants are more subject to losses from blossom-end rot than plants allowed to grow naturally.

Prune your tomatoes once a week. Remove the small shoots that appear at the point where the leaf stem joins the main stem. Do not disturb the fruit buds which appear just above or below the points where the leaves are attached to the leaf stem.

You need to remove weeds, too. Weeds compete with tomato plants for water, nutrients, and sunlight. Weeds also harbor insects and diseases and may be hosts for nematodes. Mulches help keep weeds down and also reduce water loss from the soil and stabilize soil temperature.

If you had nematodes in previous years, plant resistant varieties of tomatoes. And use crop rotation. Do not plant tomatoes in the same area year after year. Another organic way to suppress nematodes is to mix large amounts--about one- to three-percent of the soil weight--of finely ground dry organic matter such as mulches into the top three to six inches of soil. This has been useful in suppressing nematodes. If you need to use pesticides, check your County Extension Office for recommendations in your area.

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His thoughts were slow, his words were few, and never formed to glisten, but he was a joy to all his friends--you should have heard him listen.

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Events

MerryMeet Festival, September 4-7, 1987. Covenant of the Goddess, an international association of Craft covens, will be sponsoring its annual MerryMeet Festival in Northern California this year. It will be held at Camp Swig near Saratoga and San Jose. San Jose has a major airport and transportation can be arranged.

On Friday, September 4 is the Leadership Institute, a time when group leaders and prospective leaders will discuss the issues of working with groups. The following days will be filled with workshops and performances of music, magical theater and ritual.

Many prominent witches and magical people will be coming from all parts of the country as this is a national festival. Starhawk will be one of the many speakers. Covenant of the Goddess will also have its annual business meeting and elect officers. Merchants, crafts people, and artists will have a market area to offer their goods and services. Workshops will include Trance, Music and Magic, Crystals, Women's Rites of Passage, Shamanic Drumming, Prisoner Aid, Initiation, Psychic Skills, and many more.

The festival is being held at a residential camping facility. The camp includes conference room, stage, dining hall, meeting rooms, swimming pool and bunk-style cabins (with bunk beds and indoor plumbing, including hot showers). The beds have mattresses but no bedding. Vegetarian and regular meals will be served for brunch and dinner with snacks available. For those who do not choose the meal plan, food must be limited to closed containers in the dining area with no cooking allowed. Alcohol use is allowed, but somewhat limited. Most of the site is wheelchair accessible. All participants will be asked to volunteer for a short work-shift. This will provide us with the people to run things and give you the opportunity to meet some wonderful people.

The registration fee for the Full Plan (includes the Leadership Institute Friday and four nights with seven meals) is $100.00 before July 1, $120.00 before August 15 and not available after August 15. The No-Meals Plan is $15.00 a night before July 1, $18.00 a night before August 15, and $20.00 a night on site (space permitting). These rates include all activities. Booth space is $25.00 before July 1 and $30.00 thereafter. Write for brochure and registration

(cont. next page)

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Events (cont.)

form to: MerryMeet Festival, Covenant of the Goddess, Box 1226, Berkeley, California 94704.

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Northwest Fall Equinox Festival IV. A positive celebration involving primitive camping in a natural site (no hook-ups, no cook fires). No pets, illicit drugs, or children under 16 are allowed. (If anyone wants to help organize a children's program for future festivals, please contact the NWFEF Committee.) Although no health care facilities will be provided at the festival, we would like to know of any special health care problems or needs. September 18, 19, 20. Write NWFEF Committee, POB 13072, Portland, OR 97213 for more information.

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The Institute for Stellar Influence Studies presents "Case Studies in the Uranian System: An Afternoon Workshop" with Gary Christen on August 15, 1987 and "Prediction with Astrology: A Weekend Intensive" with Robert Hand October 24-25, 1987. Send SASE to ISIS, 1564A Fitzgerald DR Suite 143, Pinole, CA 94564 for more information.

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Publications

Converging Paths announces the compilation of The Branches Directory: A Pagan's Guide to Professional Services. This listing of service providers who are Pagans themselves, or who are sympathetic to our ways, includes doctors, lawyers, alternative healers, accountants, carpenters, plumbers, and the like. Names and addresses can be confidentially encoded if the provider so desires $15 for a 20-word listing; $.50 a word thereafter. Send listings or requests for further information to: Coverging Paths, Box 63, Mt. Horeb, WI 53572. Deadline: Samhain, '87.

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Goods

Jewelry by Abby Willowroot. Send SASE to Box 5509, Sacramento, CA 95817.

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Books

Abyss, 34 Cottage ST, Easthampton, MA 01027. Write for booklist.

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Excalibur Books, 15 Rockport RD, Craigavad, Holywood, Co. Down, Northern Ireland BT18 ODD. Write for catalog.

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Pagan Studies Contest

The Georgian Church is pleased to announce its third annual pagan studies contest. In order to stimulate interest and research in the area of the study of pagan peoples, their practices and belief systems, we are privileged to offer $100 as a prize to the author of the best research article, term paper, or essay submitted. Entries must be footnoted or endnoted and contain a bibliography. Formats can be located in the MLA Stylebook. All entries must be submitted with written permission of the author for one time publication rights in the Georgian Newsletter. Entries will not be returned. Entries will be judged by the board of directors of the Georgian Church, with the winning entry published in the January 1988 newsletter. One free copy of the newsletter in which the article appears will be sent to each published author. Deadline for submission is December 21, 1987. The cash award is made possible by an anonymous donation for scholarship purposes.

That's all for this month... Blessed Be,
dean, jeannie, and the Georgians

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