

PAGAN NEWS

The monthly newspaper of
Magick & the Occult

December '88

Price 30p



LUCIFER RISING?

For Hallowe'en, the BBC Six'o'clock news decided to run a special feature. Instead of the usual tales of wart charming or witch-hunting at Alderley Edge, we got Dianne Core and the Rev. Kevin Logan starring in what was undoubtedly a masterpiece of inflammatory reporting. We were informed that Tarot cards and Ouija boards are "the commonest way for children to get hooked", and a film clip of robed "witches" performing an outdoor ceremony was accompanied by a voice-over to the effect that "children are enticed into the shadowy world of witches covens and mystic ceremonies". Well, *Pagan News* can now reveal that the alleged "witches" in the film clip were a group of West Yorkshire magicians performing a ritual for the BBC documentary, *Lucifer over Lancashire*. Naturally, they are appalled at being used in such a way, and one participant spoke of organising legal action against the BBC. The original intent of the rite was to raise energy towards environmental issues, but that fact was conveniently passed over by the BBC.

The Reverend Kevin Logan spoke movingly about "the broken lives of teenagers and adults - after Hallowe'en we have to pick up the pieces". His own study found that of 300 children, 9 out of 10 had had some "experience of the occult" (whatever that means). If this is supposed to be representative of general trends, then it implies that there are more occultists around than Christians! The report ended with the warning of children being drawn into a world of "cult-like obedience".

Funny, I thought that that was what religions were all about. Occult study requires people to think for themselves - which is probably the real reason that people like Logan are worried about us!

A week later, the Daily Mirror came up with the headline "Victims of the Satanists". Yet more evidence of a ring of devil-worshipping child-abusers. The Mirror "had access to reports of these practices" but went on to admit "that they were too horrific to be published". Shame. Doubtless when any 'evidence' is brought to light, it will be seized on and made all the more credible because of the months of hysterical reporting by the press.

Save Our Stones

The islanders of Jersey are trying to recover a prehistoric monument moved to England two hundred years ago. The monument, a four-thousand year old tomb, was moved to Berkshire in 1788 by the governor of Jersey, Marshall Conway, to his estate near Henley-on-Thames. The estate, Park Place, is now up for sale, and Jersey residents, led by the island's Historical Association, hope to raise several thousand pounds to buy the stones back.

The stones were first 'discovered' in 1785, near St. Helier, and two years later, they were offered as a gift to Marshall Conway. Conway was encouraged to buy them by his cousin, Horace Walpole, who, on later visiting visiting them, wrote: "I have been to Park Place on a pilgrimage, to little master Stonehenge. Every morsel of stone that formed the circle originally is placed to an inch in its primitive position, and although the whole is very diminutive, yet being seen as the horizon it looks very High Priestly."

A spokesman for Jersey's Historical Association said that they were hoping to buy the stones, and that estate agents acting on behalf of the owners were considering an offer. The tomb forms a circle eight meters in diameter, composed of stones three meters high. It is the largest single monument brought to England from overseas.

Whale Meet Again

Last issue we reported the appearance of Dickens & co. on Yorkshire TV's James Whale Radio Show. Two weeks later, Whale did a follow-up, presenting a more sympathetic view of the occult, with guests Chris Bray, and Pagan News' resident Rune Master, Bryn Ormsford. Whale asked all the standard questions about sex, drugs and perversion, but was disarmed by Bryn's charm and Chris Bray's calm answering of stupid questions with intelligent replies. A video clip showed Bryn demonstrating the use of the Thoth deck to a bemused Whale, who admitted that he was superstitious and didn't want to shuffle the cards. The studio guests were interested and sympathetic, and Chris stressed that occultists only want freedom to follow their own belief, rather than proselytising. A caller rang in, babbling about "White and Black" magic and the dangers of being taken over by "evil" forces. Chris replied that evil resides in the hearts of people, not in any outside agencies.

Since the TV appearance, Bryn has been a guest several times on James Whale's Radio Aire late night show, and has taken every opportunity to dispell the myths and lies being propogated against pagans. And how did she get on in the first place? Well one of our readers sent James Whale a copy of Pagan News, where he saw her ad. Radio Aire now recieve Pagan News regularly, but alas, we're still "too controversial" to get on the air ourselves. But we're working on it!

Search for Craft Museum Continues

The campaign to buy the contents of Cecil Williamson's Witchcraft Museum has taken a new turn. It now looks as if the artifacts will not go abroad, but Williamson is not prepared to wait while a trust fund is set up by the campaign.

The campaign's co-ordinator, Lynn Brown, is now suggesting that we start up a new museum of our own. Wiccan solicitors & financial advisors have already offered their time, and the campaign has been widely reported in the "pagan press". What is needed, says Lynn, is for people who are seriously interested & motivated, to get in touch with her, offering some concrete proposals or ideas. Lynn can be contacted at [REDACTED]

Northants PL have set themselves the task of raising a £1000 in the next year towards helping the campaign. Lynn would also be interested to hear from anyone willing to donate magical equipment.

WHAT'S ON

Birmingham Moot - meets on the third thursday of the month, in The Brook, Selly Oak, from 8pm.

Bradford - Pagan Moot on the first friday of the month, from 8pm in the Crossroads Club, Leeds Rd, Bradford.

Crewe - Yule Bash at 28 Walthall St. Crewe, Cheshire, 23rd Dec, 2pm till late! Details from Kate "Manic Maggie" Howes. Bring several bottles; floor space available.

Harrogate Pagan Moot meets regularly. Contact Chris Smith for details - Harrogate [REDACTED]

Herts - Meetings on alternate Mondays at Chrissie's. Contact Chrissie Halo [REDACTED] for details.

Leeds - Pagan Moot on the first thursday of the month, from 8pm onwards in The Griffin Hotel, Boar Lane.

Leicester - Open House meeting on the 17th of December. Contact Ken & Yvonne [REDACTED] for details.

London, North - Regular meetings on alternate Thursdays, at The White Lion of Mortimer, Stroud Green Rd, London N4. Please phone Gary Todd, [REDACTED] to check details.

London, South - Meetings each Friday at the Catford Ram. Please contact Hasta Tyrs Priest [REDACTED] to check the details.

Manchester Moot - now meeting on the first thursday of the month. Contact Gordon (the toad) [REDACTED] for details.

Oxford - O.P.F. Incense workshop. 7.30pm, The Community centre, Binsey Lane, 4th December.

Oxford - O.G.D.O.S Forum 9th December, "Women & Magick": committee room 2 of Oxford Town Hall, from 7.30pm. Admission free. For details phone [REDACTED]

Oxford - 10th Dec, Green Fair at the Town Hall, 11am-4pm. Over 35 stalls. Contact Tim Andrews, [REDACTED]

Sheffield - Green Circle/PL meetings at the Foresters Hall, Trippett Lane. 6th & 20th Dec, from 7.30pm. Contact Paul, on [REDACTED] or Francis, on [REDACTED]

Sheffield Pagan Moot - The Pomona, Eccleshall Rd, from 7.30pm onwards, on the 29th of December.

Staffordshire Pub Meet, 7 Dec at the George IV, Bore St. Lichfield, from 8pm.

Wakefield Moot - meets on the first wednesday in the month at The Beer Engine, Westgate, from 7.30pm.

PAGANLINK UPDATE

KetCon One

KetCon One, held on the 19th November, was the co-ordinator's meeting arranged at Autumn Link-Up. Organised by Northants PaganLink, it took place deep in the wilds of Kettering and was widely attended by PL co-ordinators from across the country - Birmingham, Cheshire, East Anglia, London, Manchester, West Midlands, S/East Midlands, Northants & Yorkshire.

Several important and far-reaching decisions were made regarding the future growth of the network, these being:

That a central mailing address for advertising & mail distribution was required. Kate 'Manic Magpie' Howes has bravely offered to run this from her home address: [REDACTED]

A database is being set up to keep track of PL projects, resources and contacts (this prevents out-of-date information remaining in circulation) by John Walbridge (address below).

A working party has been set up to produce the Information Packs originally suggested at the Leeds Conference, and also examine the options for setting up a National Account to cover advertising & major projects. Further details from Kate, or us here at *Pagan News*. The original subscription fee of £1.50 will remain, but a new introductory booklet will be produced, and there is also to be a nationally-run Discount scheme (see below).

KetCon Two is scheduled for the 18th of February 1989. Details from John Walbridge, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Memorable scenes from the day include a certain Magpie swatting her fellows with a rolled-up copy of *Chaos International*, the announcement that the attendees had scoffed and boozed to the tune of £120, and the observation of several people in advanced states of stupefaction due to the stress of having reached three major decisions in just over an hour.

PL Discount Scheme

In the beginning, to join PaganLink Network, you sent off a £1.50 subscription fee to Rich Westwood in Birmingham, and upon joining, was sent the "Weaving the Web" booklet. At KetCon One, the thorny problem of membership & subscriptions was raised again, and it was proposed that the standard PL sub' should remain £1.50. A new Introduction to PaganLink booklet will be printed, and members will receive this and the new Discount cards. A wide range of pagan businesses & services have agreed to give a 5% discount to card

holders, and it is hoped that more will join in as the scheme becomes active.

The aim is to provide members with something of useful and lasting value in return for their PL subscription. The income from the cards will go into a PL National account, and used for national advertising and funding special projects. For further details, write to John Walbridge, or the *Pagan News* editorial address, enclosing an sae.

Yorkshire Regional Resource

Next year, PL members in Yorkshire will have access to a Regional Library - books, tapes, & eventually, videos. This project is being run by Paul Bennett (editor of *Earth* magazine), who has an extensive library of books and magazines covering a wide variety of subjects. PL members in the region have donated magazines and tapes, which users will be able to borrow from the library, subject to a user's contract. For further details, contact the *Pagan News* editorial address.

HOBLink is a network for Homosexual and Bisexual Pagans. Still in its formative stages, HOBLink needs support from any bisexual, gay or lesbian pagans who want to link up. For further info, contact Gordon, c/o The [REDACTED]

PL London a regional meeting for all London 'Linkers' is being arranged. For details write to Tanith, [REDACTED]

Interested in Eastern Religions? Robin Turner of Leeds wants to form a Special Interest Group. Contact via the editorial address.

POSTALINK - is being relaunched by Rona the Lovely & Linda. For details, send an sae to **POSTALINK**, c/o [REDACTED]

York has a new PL co-ordinator: Nick Jones, 27 [REDACTED]

Can anyone help Rona The Lovely, who is seeking someone to teach him Hindi. Any info/offers to address above.

INTER-LINK

Please note a change of address for T.O.P.Y Humberside: enquiries now [REDACTED]

Pagans For Peace PO Box 6531, ST.A.A, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M5W 1X4. Co-ordinating The Haiti Project, countering the U.S.A - funded persecution of practitioners of Voodoo.

The Green Circle, [REDACTED]



The Way of the Left Hand Path

by Magda Graham

Compare the achievement of Adepthood to the climbing of a great mountain. Everyone who commences a study of the Occult has reached base camp. Some will remain there, in their comfortable armchairs, reading about others' exploits. A few will make it all the way. Most occultists have the wisdom to perceive when to stop, when they have acquired as much knowledge and power that they can cope with. Some take on more than they can handle.

The terms "Left Hand Path" and "Right hand Path" are merely convenient labels to distinguish the alternative methods of getting so far as the Abyss. They have nothing to do with crossing the Abyss; **one** either crosses it or does not cross it. And, having crossed, the Adept has access to everything, so labels are no longer relevant.

Balance is the key to everything. In the early stages, one tries to equate balance with what one feels is the right thing to do. But "the right thing" is a subjective judgement. A world from which suffering has been eradicated would be as unbalanced as a world ruled by one mad dictator. It is emotionally difficult to accept that. And emotions must not be suppressed; they must be recognised and understood, so that, whilst they continue to exist, they cease to have influence.

When religion comes along, people suspend all logic, they expect a new set of rules to obtain in that situation. In fact, there is only one rule that upholds the Universe and everything in it, trying to use occult power to solve a non-occult problem is like trying to transmit electricity through a water-main. Developing one's occult skills without simultaneously developing the competence to deal effectively with mundane life leads to imbalance and therefore inhibits further progress in any direction.

The mechanical functions of the brain are awesomely complex, but it encompasses far more than the disciplines of neurology and psychiatry have yet realised. However, modern science has presented us with a relatively simple means of explaining the concept. Think of your own mind as a terminal, connected to the mainframe computer

which is the Universe. So everything that has ever been and will be is inside your own head and is available to you when you know what keys to press. Access to this capacity exists inside your subconscious mind. It is and always has been a part of you, and successfully invoking it activates a hitherto unexplored part of your subconscious which is able to do what is required.

The subconscious is often misunderstood and misrepresented as an almost automatic gateway to enlightenment. In fact, the uncontrolled subconscious is a **fraud**, a phoney which will give you false information. The management of the subconscious is, like the management of the ego, not a task to be accomplished in **one effort**, but is a continuing endeavour throughout one's **Occult development**. Start by recognising it; evaluate its **communications** and realise how much of a disadvantage to the host body the subconscious in its present form is. **Whatever** material success the unawakened person gains, he is never truly in charge of his life though he probably never realises this.

First Steps to Adepthood, revealed in Print. Quite safe to do this, because it is not exactly inviting. Occultism has its own system of elitism which has nothing to do with snobbery. There is no need for self-appointed Guardians of the Secrets because the secrets guard themselves much more effectively. We can spell it out in the pages of **Dark Lily**, and we have done so, but less than one percent of readers have realised that, much less comprehended what it is all about.

It is so much easier to put on the robes, light the candles and incense, and summon up a monster from the Infernal regions; he can be banished, probably without too much trouble. But you will fare otherwise when you stand alone, without the ceremonial trappings, and realise that this monster is actually within your own mind and it would be harder to banish him than to amputate your own arm. You also have to accept that this monster is as necessary as your arm. He must be assimilated and understood, because removing him would create an imbalance which could impede your work.

You see, the Secrets do not need to be guarded, their best defence is the seekers themselves. You will protect yourself from the truth until you are ready for it, and from then on you are on your own. The only people who will take any notice of you are the few, very few, who have set out or who are about to set out on that long, lonely and dangerous trek towards the Abyss.

(Magdalene Graham edits Dark Lily magazine)

Pagan News will consider "Viewpoint" submissions on any subject. Submissions should be between 800-1200 words. Please enclose an sae if you wish MS to be returned.

THINGS TO DO...

AND THINGS TO READ

An Occasional Series on Practical Magick

The Lightning Flash

by Noctilus Elaior

The following exercise in creative visualisation is based on some of the images in *Liber A'ash vel Capricorni Pneumatici*, a Thelemic document from Aleister Crowley's A.'A.'.:

1. See yourself as a gnarled and blackened oak, primal as the earth itself, standing solitary and erect in a desolate sacred clearing.
2. Imagine your roots extending deep below the ground, and your branches reaching high up into the night sky.
3. Visualise storm-clouds tinged with red gathering overhead. The air becomes filled with the ecstatic drumming of thunder and the fumes of electrical fire.
4. From the sky a stream of searing white fire flashes down upon you, following the path of the flaming sword¹, as a violent magical storm rages in the night.
5. Feel the lightning pass down into the fertile earth below, penetrating the chthonic depths, where it arouses your roots.
6. From the earth, feel a dynamic upward surge of creative force, as the saps flows through your writhing roots.
7. Feel this force shoot upwards, flashing from the earth to the sky, raising your consciousness to that of a solitary star in infinite space².
8. Close with the sign of Hoor-Paar-Kraap³.

(Sigils, mantras, mudras etc corresponding to gods and goddesses of the oak, the sky, the earth, lightning, creative energy, and the star may be used at appropriate points in the exercise).

1. This is a Qabalistic phrase, referring to the descent of energy from Kether to Malkuth.

2. See *Liber ALI.22*

3. The gesture of Silence - placing the first two fingers of the right hand to one's lips, signifying that the transmission of energy has ceased.

Further Reading

Magick, Aleister Crowley, p496-497.

The Mystical Qabalah, Dion Fortune

GOLDEN DAWN BOOKS

Specialists in Secondhand Occult Books

When next in Manchester, call in at our
New Shop

UNIT 30, THE CORN EXCHANGE

See our wide range of books, & New Tarot cards

A Magical welcome awaits you!

BRYN ORMSFORD

TAROT ... PALMIST

RUNE MASTER

Private Readings by appointment - £10

Party Bookings, Festivals & Fayres by arrangement

As seen on Yorkshire TV and heard
on Radio Aire

Tel: (anytime)

NONAME

25p + Stamp, No.4 out at the Winter Solstice
PO BOX 512 PRESTON PR5 6XL



12 New Station St, Leeds 1.

Tel: 0532 - 424983

Essential Oils, Ritual Incenses, Perfumes &
Anointing Oils; charcoal, herbs, resins, joss etc.

Call in or send sae for mail order details

Trade enquiries welcome.

REVIEWS

Chaos International, No.5.

£2.70 incl. P&P from: Phil Hine, c/o 179 Belle Vue Rd, Leeds LS3 1HG.

Dunno about the rest of you, but from my personal taste this is the best 'C.I.' to date. We've got a good cross-section of essays here. Stephen Mace exhorts the analogies between quantum mechanics and magick; Ray Sherwin deals with the practicalities of using aromatics in ritual. He tells of the effects that aromatics (incense and the like) have on us, and briefs us on their application. Those of you who are either the routine ufologist, or the new Age fanatic won't like Phil Hines' article on 'channeling'. But that's simply because it's truthful and accurate - and damned good too!

These three are the articles I prefer above the others, which include a most perplexing 'Loony File'; Pete Carroll's "Chaoism & Thelema" - an article which all Crowleyans will love: poetry, book & mag reviews; magical fiction; "Magical Formulae"; Cut-ups & William Burroughs... and plenty more besides.

Realistically, a decent review of C.I would take up three times the space I've been allowed. Maybe next time, huh? - Paul Bennett.

Nuit-Isis, Vol 1, No.5

£2.00 from Golden Dawn Publications, PO Box 250, Oxford OX1 1AP.

This is by far the best issue of *Nuit-Isis* so far, both in terms of quality and content. Thelemic magazines have a tendency to become too obscure for their own good, but *Nuit-Isis* neatly manages to avoid this pitfall. Articles range from American weirdness - the "Miskatonic Alchemical Expedition" of the E.O.D., to Tantrik weirdness - an entertaining autobiographical essay by Dadaji, founder of the east-west Nash order, AMOOKOS. A piece by Katon Shual on De Sade will raise a few eyebrows here and there, and an excellent (if rather short) essay on Hecate also deserves a mention. Nice illustrations, poems, reviews and local events, *Nuit-Isis* is excellent value, so try it out! - Phil Hine



Vision Seeker & Sharer, No.3

price 50p. UK subscription 4 copies £3.00 from PO Box HK9 Leeds LS11 8JF.

Here are 33 densely packed pages about the worlds' problems, with contributions from and about Australian and American aborigines, travellers, animal rights, & conservation. Also statements on political/economic reform, childrens' autonomy, land rights and a world constitution. If you're not too laden with guilt by now about being White and Western and you want to act, there's a 6 page directory listing everything from "Butterfly News" to "Peru Crafts" to start you off. I liked the article on edible wild plants, and the obligatory poetry pages don't have as much "Rune and June" as usual, but I would have appreciated a little humour to lighten what is an extremely heavy load. But you certainly get your money's worth! - Janet Cliff

Aquarian Arrow No.27

£1, from The Neopanthist Society, BCM-OPAL London WC1N 3XX.

Aquarian Arrow is simply one of the best "occult" magazines around. According to editor Zachary Cox, it's for "freelance explorers with minds open to those fringes of reality for which the loosely-termed "occult" area is the only fertile vehicle of discourse." Think that describes you? Then buy Arrow - you might be suprised. It is incisive, thought-provoking, eloquent and, at times, very funny indeed! - Phil Hine

Noname, No.3

25p+stamp, PO Box 512, Preston, PR5 6XL.

Noname covers a variety of topics from astrology to green issues, with what is very much a "news" angle - the Network 7 of pagan mags? The non-news items seem to be tasters for meatier versions published elsewhere. Of outstanding mention are the pieces on "New Age Fascism" and the heartwarming story of the police actually being helpful to members of N/W F.I.N. For its size and scope, Noname is a very informative little mag that leaves you feeling that things are happening out there! - Janet Cliff.

Reviews continue p.10

Choosing Your First Tarot Deck

by Steve Jones

I am often asked, as a Tarot reader, which decks I would recommend to someone who is just starting to get interested in Tarot. traditionally, your Tarot deck should be bought for you, however considering most decks nowadays cost between £10-15 you need to have good friends for this to work!

The first point to bear in mind when choosing a deck is that while all Tarot decks contain at least 78 cards, they can be divided into two types, those decks which follow a traditional pattern and do not have pictures on all 78 cards, and those intended for use as a magical or fortune-telling deck, which have pictures on all the cards relating to their meanings. The Tarot of Marseilles is probably the best-known of the former type and the Rider-Waite the best-known of the latter. You are better choosing a pack based on the Rider-Waite deck if you intend to use your deck for readings, because each of the Minor Arcana cards has a picture relating to its meaning, whereas traditional decks only use patterns - which are harder to remember.

There are some decks which are sold specifically for "beginners" which are not very good. The Starter Tarot, for instance, only contains the 22 Major Arcana cards, so is useless for doing full readings. The Prediction Tarot deck has no pictures on the Minor Arcana cards, thus making learning harder. The IJJ deck, which is commonly sold in stores such as W. H. Smiths not only has no pictures for the Minor Arcana, but replaces the traditional Pope & Papesse found in traditional packs with Jupiter and Juno, which newcomers to the Tarot can often find confusing.

Personally I use the Aquarian Tarot which is based on the Rider-Waite deck but is better executed. I find the Rider-Waite useful, but the pictures could be better. Decks based on the Rider-Waite (though in my opinion, better drawn) are the Morgan-Greer, Royal Fez Moroccan, and the Hanson - Roberts (a very fairylike deck).

I would not recommend aspiring readers to buy the Crowley-Harris Thoth Tarot, as it has very complex

symbolism and requires a good knowledge of Crowley's background and magick to use properly. The Witches Tarot by the way is something no self-respecting Wiccan would be seen dead with. It is actually the James Bond 007 deck from "Live and Let Die" under a new name and is really only of use to Bond fans! There is no Wiccan Tarot as such at the moment (eds note - the late Arnold Crowther produced a Witches Tarot, but alas, it was never published).

There are a number of decks which are aimed at those with specific interests. The Ukiyoe Tarot is done in traditional Japanese style with all the figures in period costumes. The Masonic Tarot is for those of us who enjoy rolling our trouser legs up! Feminists should look out for the Motherpeace Tarot which is an excellent deck, using circular cards. Some might find its price a bit exorbitant though. Cat lovers will adore the Tarot of the Cat People, unfortunately dog lovers are not catered for at present. Those of a broad-minded magical persuasion should look out for the Initiate's Tarot (also known as the Sexual Tarot) which is soon to be reprinted by the Sorcerer's Apprentice. It is a very good deck for those who know how to use it.

Finally, a word about non-standard decks. Beware buying any deck called a Tarock deck. This is intended for the game of Tarock and will only contain 56 cards. The Fantasy Showcase Tarot has each card illustrated by a different artist, thus making it very difficult to use for readings, and it also has a couple of extra cards. It is a good collectors item. Qabalists should check out the Tree of Life deck, each card of which just gives its position on the Tree of Life. Those interested in Meditation should look out for the Yeager Tarot of Meditation, of which the Major Arcana is specifically designed as aids for meditation/pathworkings.

Those of you with artistic talents might like to design your own cards. This is good if you can do it, since the deck will relate directly to yourself and your ideas. I personally like the idea of a photographic deck, though



Seven of Cups

none are available at present to my knowledge.

I hope this article has been helpful and I will be glad to answer any queries. I can be contacted c/o the *Pagan News* address. Please enclose an sae when writing.

(eds note: the illustration for this article - *Seven of Cups* from *The Initiate's Tarot*, appears by kind permission of the artist and publisher).

PAGAN NEWSLETTER NETWORK

Brigantia Beacon - A newsletter for Pagans in the North-West. Send sae to [redacted] Val is compiling information about Christian attitudes about the occult and would be grateful for any snippets of info.

Pagan At The Heart - Staffordshire's newsletter. From Steve & Lesley Colley, [redacted]

The Pagan Prattle - "The Journal of North-West PaganLink" from Karen & Sean, [redacted]

The Talking Fish - A newsletter for pagans in Yorkshire. From Iain McLeod, [redacted]

Seeds of Yesterday - Guildford's Newsletter. From Alan + Janet, [redacted]

The Manic Magpie - Crewe's PaganLink newsletter, from Kate Howes, [redacted]

The Worm - Newsletter for the North-East, from Nick Holden, [redacted]

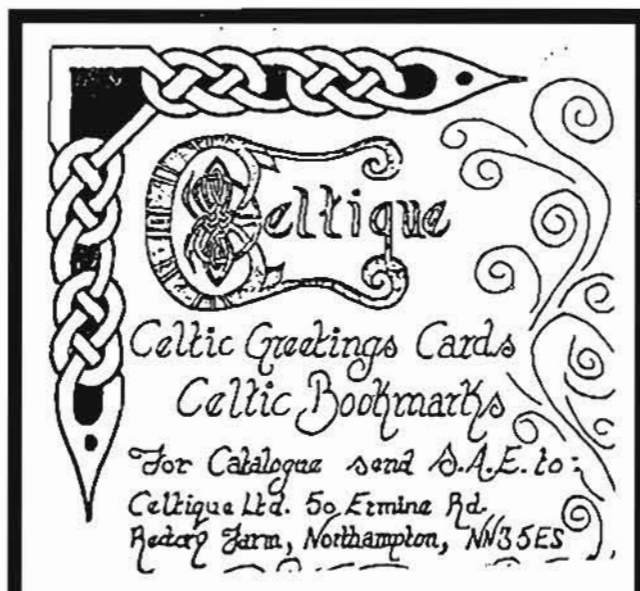
Songs From The Wood - London's free Newsletter, from Gary Todd, 5 Allington Ave, Tottenham N17 8JE.

The Dragon's Well - Oxfordshire's Pagan Newsletter. From Steve Avis, [redacted]

Habondia - Northants PaganLink Newsletter. From 1 [redacted]

Tribal Messenger - Dorset's newsletter, from Phil & Sara, [redacted]

Please remember to enclose an sae when writing to any of the above. These folk are doing their best to strengthen links between people in different areas, so please support them!



ARE YOU

looking for cheap thrills, drugs, or flagellation?

DO YOU

want to impress other people with your spiritual growths?

If the answer to these questions is

YES

THEN DON'T BOTHER WRITING TO US

DARK STAR

The Magical Order for the Millenium

Box No.175

52 Call Lane, Leeds

LS1 6DT

MOONSHINE PUBLICATIONS

Moonshine - lively and informative pagan magazine. £1.25 single issue, £7.50 year's subscription.

Manuals for awakening personal power:

- Weaving the Web
- Riding the Horse
- Awakening the Dragon

£2.50 each including p&p

Cheques & p.o.s payable to Kate Westwood, 498 Bristol Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham B29 6BD.

DELINQUENT ELEMENTALS

IS SOCIETY TO BLAME?

By Barry Hairbrush

This month, we look at what is becoming a major occult problem in society today - astral delinquents. These elemental beings, many unemployed and without qualifications, can often be found slouching round the lower regions of the qliphoth. They come from many different backgrounds - Western elementals, Wiccan familiars, Chaos servitors - but all are united by their cynical, contemptuous sneer and bored, glassy-eyed slouch.

What can be done for these poor outcasts? I spoke to sociologist Kay O'Chambers.

"Of course, you know they're all victims of society. They get conjured up in bright, breezy rituals and then, when they've been used and extorted, they're tossed on the scrapheap. It's a no-hope situation for them, and the government doesn't seem to be doing anything about it. That's why we set up the "Off the Planes" youth club for them. Like the name suggests, it keeps them off the astral planes and out of trouble, and a place where they can come in, talk to someone about their problems, and play table tennis."

On the other hand, some are not so sympathetic to delinquent elementals. We visited Hercules Wobble in Shrewsbury, a magus well known for his forthright views on keeping to tradition.

"Well I blame the angelic forces meself, for not keeping a tight enough rein on these hooligans. It was different back in the old days when they were all kept busy searching for treasure at crossroads or divining the fate of kings, but there's no call for skilled labour any more. And they had a lot less free time, elementals did - when they weren't out on the job, they had to sweep the magician's house, cook all his food... but these young buggers nowadays, they've all got hoovers and microwaves, so their elementals are left with too much time on their claws. A good dose of national service, that'd do them all some good. You see them all hanging round the town centre on a Saturday, drinking, fighting, shoplifting astral energy from people... we need to bring back stiffer sentences, that's what I say. in the old days, they had to

answer to Lucifer Rofocale himself if they went out of line, and woe betide them if they did! But it's the ones on motorbikes I really can't stand. Roaring round the aetheric plane at five o'clock on a Sunday morning, you can't even hear yourself think."

And what do these typhonian tearaways think themselves? After a long and tiresome ritual, I managed to get in touch with Kevin. Kevin was constructed to break up someone's marriage in 1982, and has been unemployed ever since.

"Well, it's you know, like, really demoralising. There's nothing to do, no money to spend or nowt. We cluster together round the forty-ninth pit of lesser darkness, usually on a tuesday night, and pass around a plastic bag full of Geburah."

(This is another problem associated with delinquent elementals - Sephiroth abuse.)

Did he see any prospects for the future?

"Well, we get handed round leaflets about these job schemes - getting a place in one of Dr. Svengali's moneymaking spell-bags. But there's

no guarantee of a steady job in the spirit world afterwards. It's hard to find a fixed address. A couple of my mates set up a squat in somebody's house, but a Roman Catholic Priest came and moved them on."

Cases like Kevin's are indeed heart-rending. Yet the blame lies neither with society, nor with the angelic hierarchy. It is up to the individual to make sure his or her elementals are brought up in a disciplined and moral way.

IS YOUR FAMILIAR A POSSIBLE DELINQUENT? TRY OUR SUPER SOARAWAY QUIZ!

1. Does it materialise on demand; a) often b) sometimes c) never
2. Does it keep its bottle/crystal/ring/wand tidy or do you have to do the job yourself?
3. Does it smoke strange-looking cigarettes? Does it keep



magazines hidden under its bed?

4. Do you regularly give it a time to be back home by at night?

5. What is its name? a) Hieronymous b) Ozymandias c) Dave

6. Does it announce its arrival by a) a distinct tapping sound b) an eerie glow round the room c) aerosolling its name on the walls?

Think about the answers carefully! It could mean the difference between a successful magical operation and *your* elemental ending up on the scrapheap.

REVIEWS

CONT. FROM P6

Paganism And The Occult

by Kevin Logan, Kingsway p/b, £4.95

It's here! The book to explain us all away, by the Rev. "Kev" Logan, he of recent TV appearances and much waving of crucifixes. The book is largely an attempt to explain "the occult" to fellow Christians, and what they should be doing about it. He's obviously tried hard to be thorough, but frequently serves up howlers like "Ying & Yang is known in the West as T'ai Chi." Our Kev also devotes a whole chapter to Chaos Magick, calling it 'punk magic'. I detect a certain envy when he writes about the psychonauts who "fly into their void without a safety net".

As expected, Kev trots out a series of anecdotes about the various "victims of the occult" he's encountered, which mostly illustrate that said "victims" are pretty weak and stupid.

A big surprise is Logan's personal attitude to people in the occult. He states that most of them are *not* motivated by evil; that many are genuine seekers; that it is possible to be deeply involved with it without being possessed by the Devil and that banning witchcraft would be counterproductive. He is actually distressed that so many of the witches and occultists he meets are such *nice* people! So why is he against it all? Because, of course, the Bible says so!

One last thought. Logan repeats a rumour that he is a closet witch, which he naturally laughs off. ...So what was Lancashire's own Witchfinder doing leading a torchlit procession of 400 singing, dancing revellers through Blackburn on the evening of Oct.31st? He says it was an all-Christian 'anti-Halloween' party ...well he would say that, wouldn't he? - *Val Dobson*

On The Box



The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

Sundays, 5.45pm, BBC1.

I say, Lucy, they've made us into a television serial. Yes, isn't it thrilling - talking animals, the White Witch herself, real castles, ...it's *only a model*. Oh, shut up Edmund, you beastly little sneak. Isn't it simply marvellous? *Isn't it rather pagan?* Oh, don't be so horrid, Edmund, everyone knows this is a deeply meaningful Christian allegory, loved by children (and adults) worldwide. *Where fauns frolic, and the beavers come on like good-natured bumpkins, and doesn't Bacchus himself turn up in one of the books?* Oh, do be quiet Edmund, Aslan will hear you and we'll all be turfed out of Narnia before you can say 'second series'. What larks, eh you chaps?

Okay, so I like it, no really, I do. So far the programme makers have kept pretty close to the book, and the 4 children achieve the right mix of appeal and awfulness that gives the Narnia saga its appeal to modern readers. From the same universe as 'Wind in the Willows', 'The Railway Children', and (gasp) 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang'. In other words, seasonal fun. Lots of snow and stiff upper lips. - *Screwtape.*



NEXT ISSUE:

- Animal Rights - Tina Pyc of P.A.R gives us a pagan perspective.
- B-DOG: a new regular feature on Occult organisations. begins with a cautionary guide to joining groups.

CHAOS INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE

No.5 out now!

Features on Wm Burroughs, Sorcery, Channeling, Aromatics, Magical Formulae, Artwork, Reviews, Fiction & Poetry.

£2.70 (incl. p&p) from: Phil Hine, 179 Belle Vue Rd, Leeds, LS3 1HG. Back issues available. Trade enquiries welcome.

LETTERS

From ASbN "Britvik" 55, Oxford

As I write, I have before me a clipping from The Sun, reporting that five members of the parish of St.Peter & St.Pauls in Portsmouth have recently been found guilty of child abuse. My immediate reaction, of course, was a gleeful smile - their turn now, but then I thought better of it. The fact is that if all the cases of child abuse perpetrated in the name of Christianity, Satanism and Siberian Shamanism were added together, they would only amount to a fraction of a percent of the total figure. The vast majority of children are abused by members of their own family, as I'm sure Dickens & co. are aware. So why do they continue? As far as I can see, their real purpose is to draw fire away from the true scale and causes of child abuse in this country. It would be very comforting for most people to believe that all sex crimes perpetrated on the young are committed by a highly organised network of cranks dedicated to absolute evil - it banishes any possibility of collective culpability.

So what, you may well ask, am I driving at? Well, when reading the local paper a couple of weeks ago, I noticed an interview with a local Wiccan, in which he dissociated Wicca completely from Satanism, whilst saying absolutely nothing else to challenge 'Mr.Dickens' accusations. To my mind, this is simply passing the buck - at the end of the day, this isn't going to stop the persecutions. If we are to do anything to really help ourselves and the tens of thousands of children probably being abused at the moment in this country, then we must challenge the whole lie on which Geoffrey Dickens and his cronies base their accusations, instead of simply denying our own guilt.

From Val Dobson, Preston

Browsing through the Christian press, I recently came across the news that Mike Dukakis' presidential campaign was opposed by the powerful fundamentalist lobby because, in 1977, as the Governor of Massachusetts, he approved the appointment of Laurie Cabot as 'official White Witch of Salem'. This, according to the zealots, lent tacit approval to occult witchcraft.

Also, did you know that CND & the ecology movement are part of Satan's conspiracy? Or that if you play Led Zep's "Stairway to Heaven" backwards, you hear "Satan my sweet Satan...he makes me sad...666"? Or that Satanist priests wear the peace emblem? You mean you never knew any of that? Then Satan really has got you hooked!!

Nuke 'em from orbit, it's the only way to be sure - eds.

From Alistair Livingstone, London

I suspect that as we move into the 1990's there is going to be a fascination with the millenium and a general interest in the usual prophecies of apocalyptic doom. To the extent that our culture is still influenced by the Bible, this is not good news for pagans.

However, to the extent that paganism draws on the image of an immanent god/ess rather than a transcendent god, there is a possible resolution. Unlike the god-image, the goddess contains both light and dark aspects which contrast with each other. The attempt to conceive of an all-male, all-good, all-light divinity breaks down into the opposition of 'God' and 'Devil', good and evil. No matter how hard one tries, the evil refuses to go away, so one is left with the 'final solution' of getting rid of the whole messy planet and starting again. No need for the unpleasantness of manifest existence, lets us all dwell in a new age of ethereal spiritual bliss. ... "A shining city upon a hill", as Ronald Reagan describes it.

*** STAR LETTER ***

From Diane, Wakefield

' ... Personally I do not receive this so-called *Pagan News*, but having this issue thrust at me, I glanced at a few pages. I was suprised to see that you had even printed Kats' letter (*see last issue - ed*). As a personal friend of Kats, I find your small comment very insulting, pathetic, and downright rude; but that's not suprising when this rag is run by a bunch of black, chaos minded, egotistic, immature people (*eds - that's us*). One day, some of you may be priviliged to see the truth of the New Age, but I doubt it very much. Instead, carry on spreading the blinkered ideas of the black side to young, impressionable people (*eds - that's you, readers*).

...It is clear from your paper that it truly has no aim in the Neo-pagan age. Only to attack people who speak against the Craft. The same as Christians who speak against Wicca, you lower yourselves to their level. Also, I do not like the way you preach the so-called left hand path.

... Make a sarcastic comment at the bottom of this letter. As no doubt, with your dirt filled pathetic minds you probably will. An apology to all true Craft people may be more in line, don't you think.

Would any other readers care to comment on this subject? I'm off to whirl through the slimy cesspits of depravity - Phil Hine.

By the way, we don't print letters which are anonymous or have no form of return address. If a letter is not printed, then we shall endeavour to make a personal reply - the eds.

EDITORIAL

One enduring feature of the occult "scene", found amongst adherents of all paths and systems is the willingness with which we accuse each other of being on "ego trips." Anyone who tries to accomplish anything, from stating a point of view to actually getting a project off the ground, is sure to be accused, at one time or another. From somewhere has come the idea that anyone who's motivations are not completely tied up with a "cause" (choose your own favourite) is somehow suspect.

Of course, we here at *Pagan News* are accused of being on ego trips all the time. My stock answer to this is, *yeah, so what?* It may come as a shock, but to actually get things done, you need a strong sense of purpose, to take you through all the inertia, hassles, and general shit that flies around once you decide to take anything past the idea stage. I've always been suspicious of those who negate themselves for "causes", whether they be social, political, or esoteric.

At the bottom line, I do something because I enjoy it, or so that I can move to a position of greater personal mobility. I will that I can crawl, and in crawling, realise the possibilities of walking. In achieving the goal of *walking*, I am intrigued by the possibilities of *flying*. Each challenge met, makes the next one better yet. Taking any one path implies being paced within limits of time and distance. Sometimes it is necessary to go all the way in *all* directions. Walking or warp speed, the choice, in the end, is yours alone.

Edited by Janet Cliff & Phil Hine

Rodney Orpheus is in Europe

Printed by AGIT PRESS

SUBSCRIPTIONS

For a six-monthly subscription to *Pagan News*, send at least £3.00 in stamps to the address below. Any excess

ADVERTISING

- Text ad - £1 per issue, or £5 for six issues
- Box ad - £2 per issue, or £10 for six issues.
- Display ad - £5 and upwards per issue, depending on size.

Please mention *Pagan News* when replying to advertisements.

Pagan News

Box 175, 52 Call Lane, Leeds, LS1 6DT

Classified Ads

PAGANLINK BADGES - 30p each + ssae. From Pagan News, Box 175, 52 Call Lane, Leeds LS1 6DT.

SIRIUS Magazine dedicated to the Goddess and other related occult topics. 80p single copy. £9 annual subscription for 12 monthly copies. From IDA Publications, [redacted]

QUALIFIED REFLEXOLOGIST - Chris Smith, 6 Glebe Road, Harrogate, HU2 0LZ; tel: Harrogate [redacted]

A PAGAN CHILD'S ABC alphabet and colouring book for the young and the young at heart. A simple and basic introduction to paganism with pictures and explanatory text. A unique and original book. £3 incl. p&p from Mrs. S.P.Newson, [redacted]

KEOGH'S BOOKS.- Off Midland Rd, Leeds 6 (0532) [redacted] (shop hours only). Open 10am-6pm, Mon-Sat. We buy esoteric books.

GEMSTONE NECKLACES - Ritual Necklaces a speciality. Prices from £11. Send sac for lists to: S.Class, [redacted]

AUSTIN OSMAN SPARE: An individually numbered limited edition set of quality postcard reproductions of all 13 illustrations from 'The Book of Satyrs'. Each set comes in a plastic sleeve and is £6 inc. P&P. Send SAE for new/second hand book lists - Occult, surrealism, Gothic, erotic. Including Crowley, Huysmans, Lautreamont, De Sade etc. Send cheques/P.O.s payable to [redacted]

Do You Need? - an illustrator for your catalogue or book, or a hand erected Talisman for any purpose, or embroidery or a hand-painted decoration on your ceremonial or household gear? If so, phone Valerie on [redacted]

Khabs - the official newsletter of the Typhonian O.T.O. Free with a first class stamp. From: P.O. Box TR24, Leeds LS12 3UQ.

Do You Know Where Uranus Is? Beautiful hand-drawn birth charts, just send time, date, & place of birth & £2 to [redacted]

TOSHIBA Photocopier free to a good home. It's ancient, needs a lot of work on it, but if you can come and take it away it's yours. Enquiries c/o *Pagan News* address.