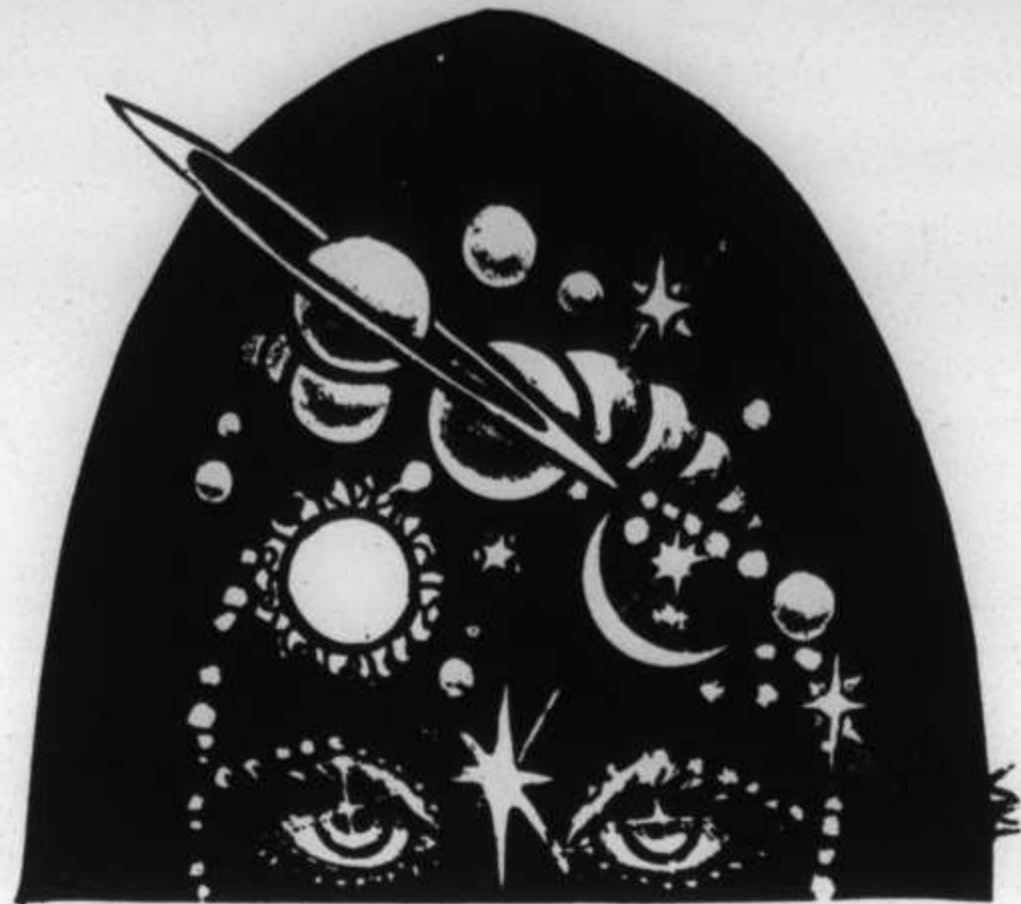


NUMBER TWO

ONE DOLLAR

X

Astrology and Occult



By Lady Laura

When I started to study the occult seriously, I was a mental mess. Perhaps the reason people become interested in studies of this nature are because they desperately need help. I actually started with Metaphysics, gathering every book I could get ahold of, reading far into the night. All along I searched for answers to what made me tick.

While Metaphysics will start you on the road to positive thinking, Astrology will tell you what you're up against. Astrology gives you an idea of what you mentally, physically and materially came in with. If you study the character analysis you'll find the weak spots, if you work on these (and it does take work) you'll sometimes have very strong character points taking over.

In other words, some of the greatest and most famous people in the world come in with all sorts of things against them, some might call them astrologically...bad aspects. By using them in a positive way, they become the very aspects that cause success.

There are no bad charts, no bad aspects...only negative use of mental equipment. There are many occult laws in the universe...but the greatest law of all is to know that you are the "universe"...and that you are mentally in charge of your whole life. Study. Learn. But most of all KNOW!

Lady Laura's Astrology column appears regularly in the LA Free Press.

X Underground Journal of Occult

Vol. 1 No. 2
Spring-Summer 1973

Rod Frye, Editor and Publisher.

X is a non-political magazine devoted to the Occult nature of Man and the Universe. We can NOT acknowledge general correspondence, or offer free samples. Letters may be cut, edited or omitted to suit space. When ordering, please allow sufficient time for delivery.

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Today's Occult

Today's occult scene is one of immense diversity and contrasts. At the surface are such familiar aspects as Astrology, Tarot, UFOs, ESP, Mind Control, Yoga, Zen and Hare Krishna.

Emerging into view is the new tide of Neo-Paganism, Witchcraft, Feriaria, High Magick and Hermetics. Although similar in many ways, these groups are autonomous and occasionally at odds over traditions or even basic tenets. While many groups -- such as those of the COER -- have allied for the common cause, some are still diametrically opposed. It would behoove the seeker to read as much about the different aspects as possible.

The editor's thoughts will be presented in the Xujo column, comments to letters, reviews or signed articles. Beyond that, we shall be as neutral as humanly possible.

We acknowledge the existence of the dark aspects and may touch upon them periodically, but we shall strongly accent the positive -- the pursuit of life and love and understanding.

We affirm that politics has no place in study of pure Occultism except, perhaps, in an historical context.

cover:

Dr. Leo Louis Martello



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Thoughts on



By The Editor

Contemplate nothing. Absolute zero. a universe of endless emptiness. It's a formidable task even for a veteran of many meditations. Even populated with moons and stars and galaxies, our universe is of incomprehensible magnitude. Picture it, if you can, void of celestial bodies, of light, gas, subatomic particles. Picture it — no, try to feel it as void even of yourself, the contemplator. What is left then is absolute zero. But can an absolute absence of everything exist?

My own thought is that it cannot. Even with a limitless incomprehensible void, I feel that something would still exist. Call it a potential if you will. There would be a potential for something to happen, a positive potential. There would also be a potential for nothing at all to happen, a negative potential. Attraction. Repulsion. An interaction of potential energy as devoid of physical matter as a muse. A universe of opposites flirting with one another. Stronger and stronger attractions emerging and building for eons.

Finally something akin to a critical concentration of interacting, attracting potential must have taken place. A great coming together of opposite potential.

George Gamow, an avid proponent of the expanding universe theory, says in his book The Creation of the Universe that our cosmos is now in a "state of rapid expansion" from a one time state of "high compression". He further says that it's "reasonable to assume" that atomic particles were formed during the first hour of expansion when conditions approached those in the heart of a nuclear explosion, providing "favorable

conditions for all kinds of nuclear transformations".

The New Genesis, by Carlton W. Berenda, Professor of Philosophy at the University of Oklahoma, which was recently reprinted in part in The Green Egg No. 52 and 53, says the same thing much better than I could ever approach. I shall quote a small bit of it, with Professor Berenda's permission, for it is nothing short of great:

"And the first particles were heavy, gravid, and shortlived. And their name is called hyperon. And they divided and begat other particles whose names are called meson, and neutron, negatron and proton; and the mesons and neutrons divided and begat yet other particles whose names are called electron, neutrino, and positron. Such is the generation of the first particles that populated the heavens when the heavens shined without stars and unseen, for there was not yet anyone to see."

Then, for millions of years, these newly formed particles continued to expand outward, interacting, and forming into stars, clouds, and galaxies. And there are numerous popular conceptions on how the earth itself formed from some form of cosmic interaction. And the earth would have itself cooled, and heaved and formed, and its elements separated into solids, liquids and gasses.

Then comes the question of life.

In his book, The Ambidextrous Universe, Martin Gardner writes that biochemists acknowledge that "spontaneous generation must have taken place at least once" several billion years ago when the chemical content of the oceans, together with

vast quantities of unfiltered ultraviolet and cosmic radiation from space, the electrical effects of lightning, and the earth's own heat, could have provided sufficient energy to transform "some of the simple hydrocarbon molecules in the sea to more complex chain molecules." As Carlton W. Berenda continues in The New Genesis - Chapter II, second verse: "...And in the air and waters were simple compoundings of carbon with carbon, in chains and in cycles, with the atoms of other elements joined unto them..."

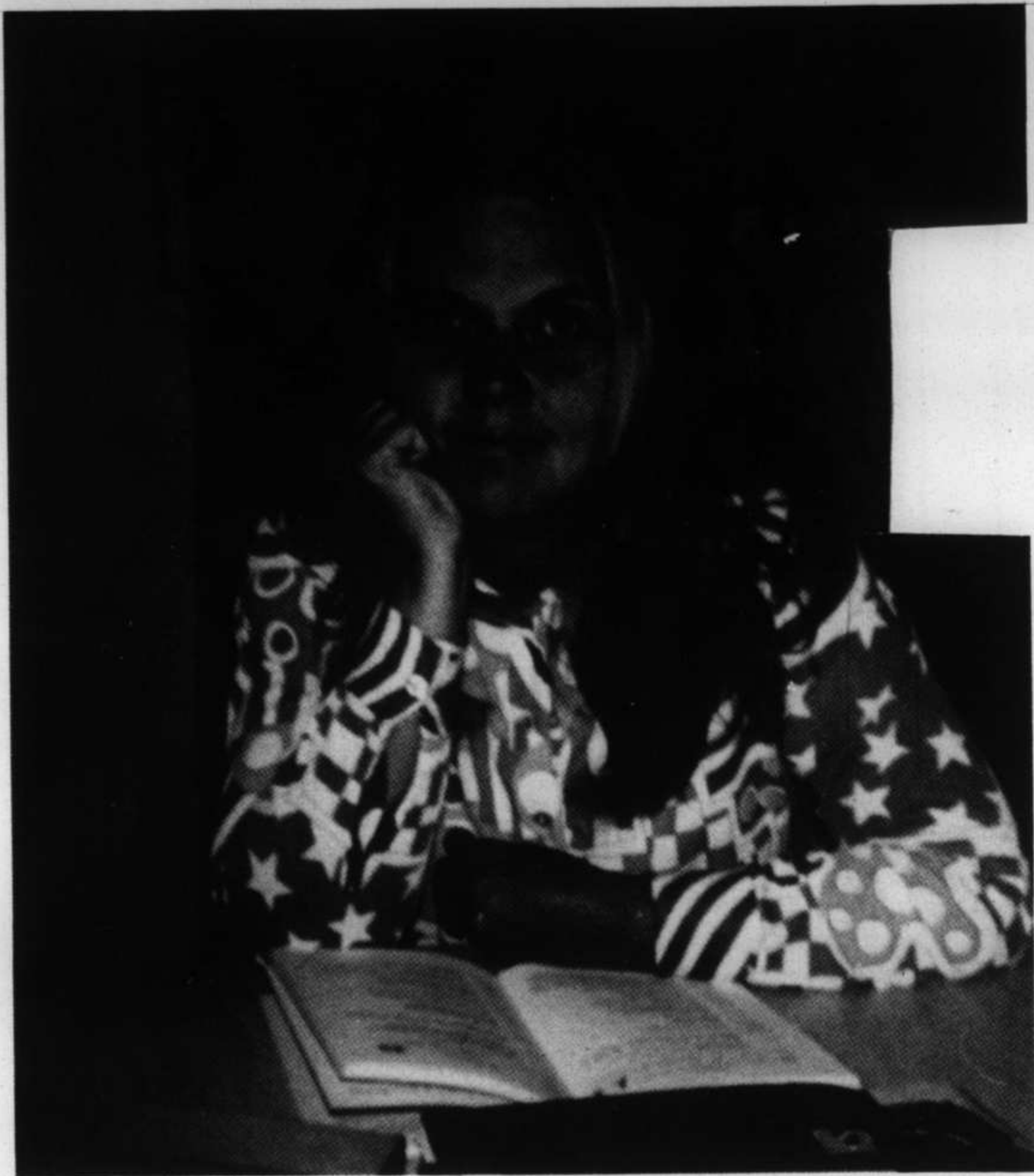
I have held my own similar thoughts on the creation of the universe and life for sometime, and have planned this editorial for sometime, knowing full well that many others shared similar views, yet unaware of The New Genesis until so very recently. It is a beautiful piece of religious writing.

Of course it is not the purpose of this editorial to review

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Editor, Rod Frye



Self-Styled Witch

"I like to think I'm like Debbie Sherwood, a self-styled Witch, not following anyone else's pattern," says blonde, blue-eyed Texas Witch, Lee Walsh. "I make up my own spells on the spur of the moment, usually, and they work sometimes — and sometimes not."

Lee, active in the Occult, UFO's, ESP, the metaphysical and Witchcraft long before they became popular, has been studying the I Ching for about three years. She is the artist for the "ESP Labrador", the rakish Lab Dog that appears in Al Manning's Lab Newsletter.

In addition, she paints, writes verses and plays the guitar. Although not a "health food nut", Lee feels that "fresh fruit and vegetables, nuts, ginseng, Mu tea and brown rice should be in everybody's pantry. It's in mine." She laughs, and adds, "Then I give in to my wild desire for Jalapeno pizza and black beer and blow the whole thing!"

Originally from New York state, Lee spends most of her summers in Maine. She has decided that she will have "a small cottage in the Maine woods, with a huge fireplace and a cauldron for my witch's stew -- and a raging snow-storm going on outside!"

Lee has twelve cats, three indoor -- Shantih, Tyffin and Piwacket and nine wild ones that live in her backyard. "They're just strays, but hang around because I feed them. Two of them are the biggest cats I've ever seen... the size of a cocker spaniel at least."

Piwacket's coming was foretold by Lee's Ouija board. Ignoring Lee's questions, it spelled out, "Help me, I'm ill, I'm lame. Mam, come to me. Goodbye." The next morning, Lee continues, "...about 3 or 4 a.m., I guess, there was clawing and mewing at my front door and I opened the door and

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In these modern times, when at long last the rights of minority groups have reached the forefront of our collective consciousness, there remains one religion that is the most feared, most persecuted and least understood of them all:

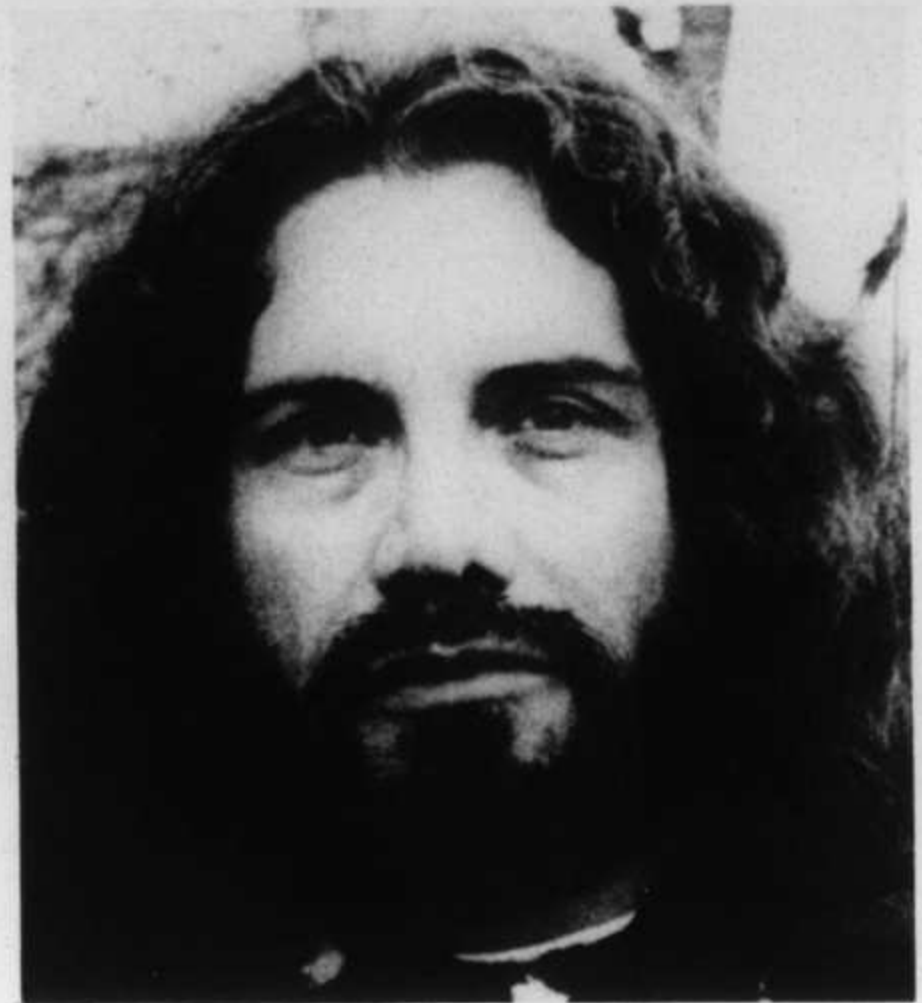
Witchcraft.

For indeed, Witchcraft is a religion. It stems from the paganistic roots of sympathetic magic as practiced by the very earliest of early man. This truth is documented by the prehistoric painting of a Horned God in the Trois Freres caves of France and by the discovery of a 20,000 year old stone female figure at Willendorf, the oldest known Mother Goddess image. The pagan God and Goddess came to be worshipped openly in Grand Assemblies with much gayity, food and song, but these festive celebrations were stigmatized and driven underground by the rise of so-called civilized religion.

Now, after centuries of persecution and superstition, the religion of Witchcraft - the old Religion - is coming into the open, demanding its rightful place among the religions of the world.

Perhaps the most outspoken champion of Witches' rights is Dr. Leo Louis Martello, who has been written about by Hans Holzer in "The New Pagans" and "The Witchcraft Report"; by Brad Steiger in "Revelation: The Divine Fire" and other books; by Florence Hershman in "Witchcraft, U.S.A."; by John Godwin in "Occult America" and others too numerous to mention. Dr. Martello is the Director of the Witches Anti-

MARTELLO



Defamation League, the Witches Liberation Movement, and the Witches International Craft Associates (WICA). He also publishes the "WICA Newsletter", which consists of news items and editorial.

Don't let the word editorial hoodwink you into thinking Dr. M's editorials are dull. Far from it. Dr. M is the one who organized the 1970 Halloween "Witch-In" in New York's Central Park. His editorials, including reprints of his published letters-to-editors "debunking" the popular misconceptions of Witchcraft, would put Patrick Henry and Thomas Paine to shame!

"Those of us who have gone public," Dr. Martello says editorially, "are sad and appalled by the many people who still regard a Witch in Christian terms. True Witches worship a Goddess and a pre-Christian Horned God. They don't believe

in the devil or Satan, so obviously don't worship him. Satanists are reverse or perverse Christians. Only a Christian can become a Satanist or vice versa. Witches are neither. No true witch would ever change his or her religion, becoming either a Christian or a Satanist. But there are many of the latter who were never initiated into the Old Religion now making false claims, dumping their distortions of Witchcraft and Satanism on the public." These people, he says, are "motivated by an inquisitional mentality."

One of those Leo Martello accuses of inquisitional mentality is Owen S. Rachleff, author of a self-admitted biased book called "The Occult Conceit", which won WICA's first annual Inquisitional Award by a landslide.

"It takes no guts to attack Witches or members of other minority religions," Dr. Martello says to Owen S. Rachleff, a member of the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League. "You, Mr. Rachleff, should know that better than anybody. During Inquisitional times you would have been burning along with the rest of us."

Dr. Leo Martello not only attacks the "vicious Anti-Wicca propaganda" of the "Archie De-Bunker's" but also what he calls "religious racism within the craft" with equal vigor.

A recent two-page editorial bitterly attacked the book "The Witches' Bible" by Gavin and Yvonne Frost of the Church and School of Wicca. "...It implies that ALL witches subscribe to and practice the Frosts' version

of 'Wicca' with no explanation that they're just speaking for themselves."

Another editorial just as vigorously attacked an article "Why The Differences" by Fian in an issue of "The Crystal Well", and, I suppose, should the opportunity arise to disagree with this magazine, Dr. M would not hesitate to do so!

It would be one thing to label Dr. Martello as "militant", as he is labeled in "The New Pagans", which, by the writings of his that I've seen, he is not. He is a fighter, however, and doesn't believe in turning the "other cheek". He attacks what he feels is wrong, and that is another thing entirely.

The Witches Liberation Movement has listed seven major goals -- although they're not limited to seven. The seventh one is a real kicker -- but not impossible. I'm not going to relist them here, as Dr. M goes into detail in his booklet "Witches Liberation", which is reviewed in this issue of X.

"Yes," he says. "I do believe in letting each person do his own thing -- provided that it doesn't hurt others. But it seems that when money comes in through the door, morality flies out the window."

"Someone has to counteract the damage, the misinformation dumped on innocents, and it won't be the underground or broom closet witches."

"Who's genuine? That's an almost unanswerable question. Since the Craft has been underground for centuries, all Initiations were secret. Covens

continued on page 6



...the right to free speech...
...the right to free assembly...
...the right to free movement...
...the right to free expression...
...the right to free association...
...the right to free religion...
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results of its study through various published articles and works with other groups of different philosophies to share ideas and concepts.

As there is very little known about the Western Esoteric Tradition by the general public (as well as Occultists!), and what is known is usually the bad press of the drug and sex cults, the Society also offers public lectures and study group discussions on the history and various philosophies of the Western Esoteric Tradition.

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For info about The Foundation write Box 25298, Houston, Texas 77005.

MARTELLO

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lives on the total acceptance and worship of the Ancient Ones... these truly are the Old Religionists!"

Leo Martello himself is descended from members of a group called the streghe which originated in Sicily many centuries ago. An initiated Witch for over 18 years, Dr. Martello is an Initiated Elder in four different traditions: Sicilian, Continental, Welsh Traditionalist and another underground Traditional group.

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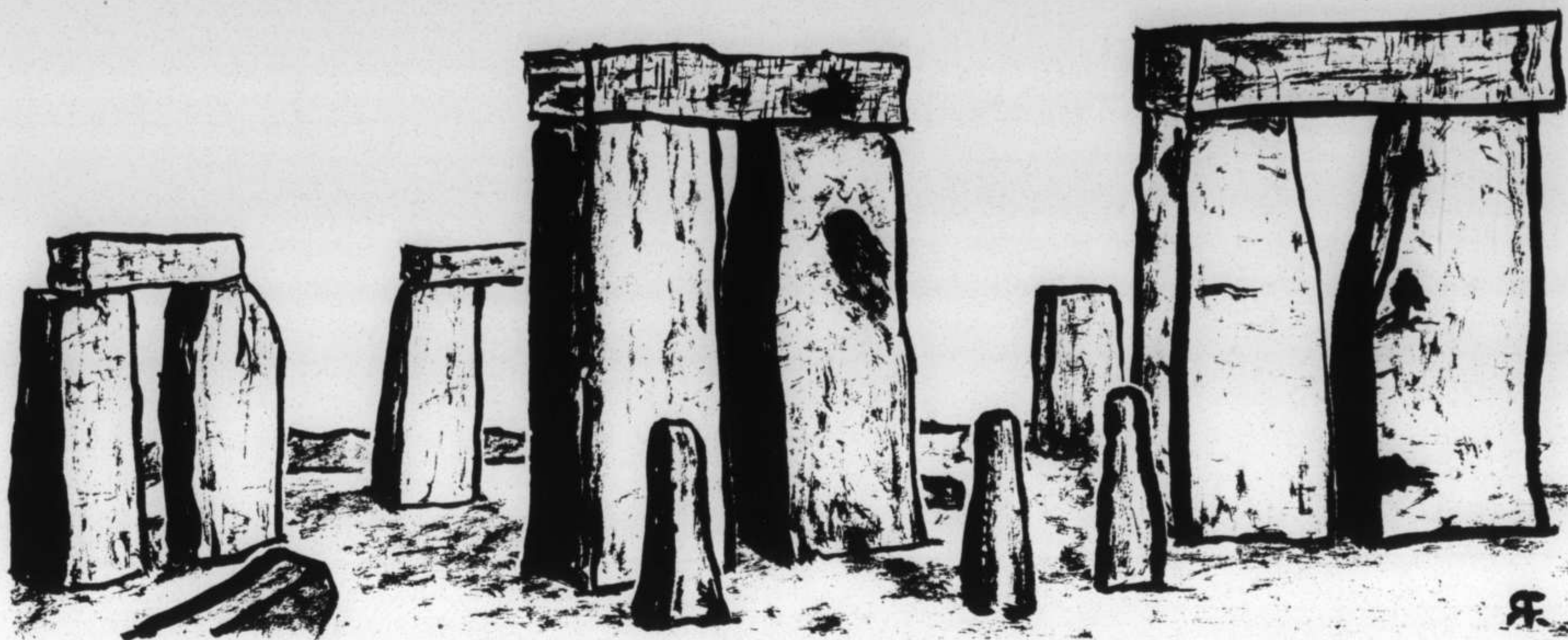
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The Seven Doors of Wicca Life

By Gavin and Yvonne Frost

Primitive peoples often found homes in caves in mountain sides: initially in communal groups, but soon in smaller family units. It became evident that a door built in the cave entrance was necessary to shut out the big dangerous world outside. The door was both a defensive closing-in device, and also the opening through which the outer world could be explored. It is this duality aspect of the doorway which the Wicca are most interested in exploring: the aspect which the Romans symbolized in their god Janus who could look simultaneously inward and outward. He was the god of doorways and of the new year.

For convenience we of Wicca divide life into seven doorways because seven is the mystic number preserved in arcane and esoteric knowledge. We recognize that there are many sub-doors and steps to take, but the main doors are the same as those recorded in trilithons, the giant stone doorways which some say were erected by Druids.

The doors are often taken in different sequence than I shall list them, but everyone is on his own path. Each individual comes to the earthplane with different experiences impressed on his spirit; hence each develops diff-

erently. "Follow the Path!" the Wicca say. Which path? Your path, which is not my path.

These, then, are the Wicca doors:

1. Cervix
2. Fear
3. Knowledge (neophyte)
4. Psychic Awareness (adeptus)
5. Materialism (doctor)
6. Sex-love and Possession (first initiation)
7. Death (second initiation)

(Listed opposite the names of the doors are the traditional Wicca levels of development.)

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continued on page 10



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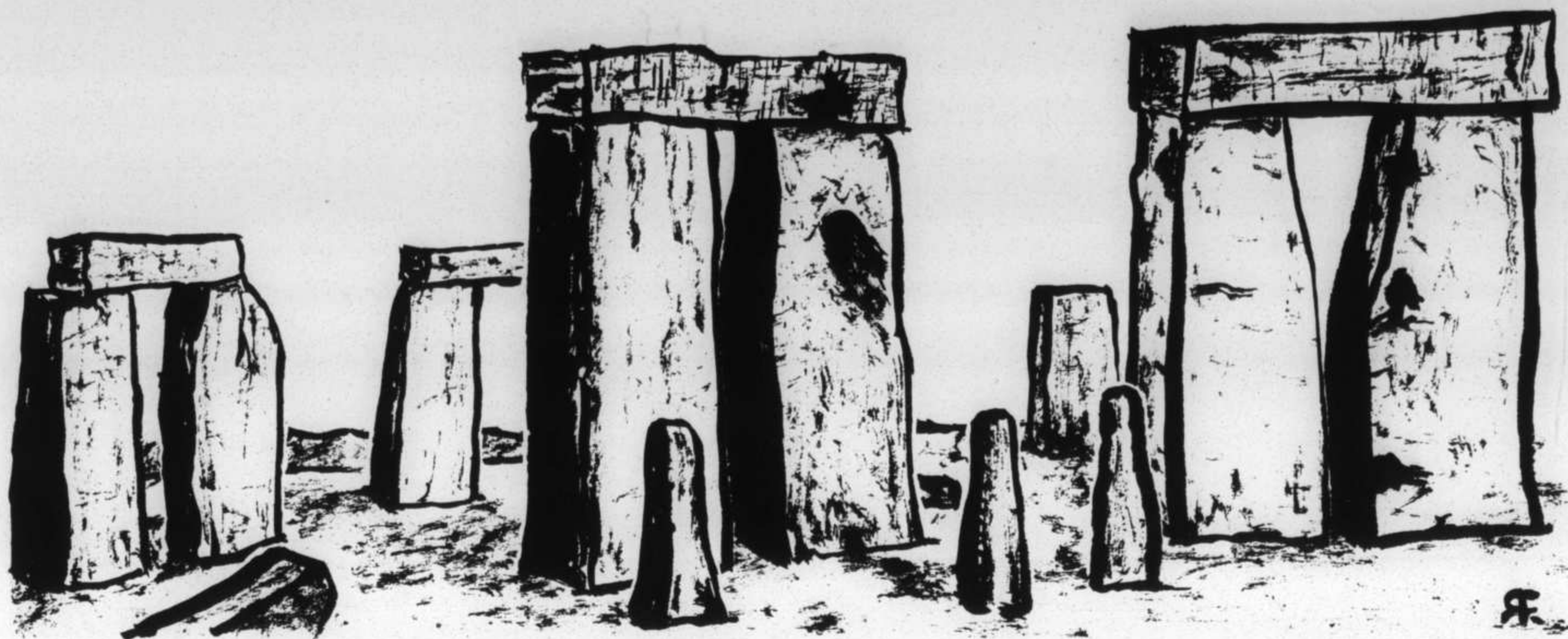
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Gavin and Yvonne Frost

The What and Why of Magick

By Frater Khedemel, OTA

Basically, Magick is the Western counterpart of Yoga. One would go into it for much the same reasons that persons today study Yoga. Self improvement, self knowledge, and so on.

These statements are, of course, vast oversimplifications, but they will at least give us a point from which to discuss the subject.

Perhaps the greatest difference between Magick and Yoga is the matter of the end result which is sought. As with most Eastern Mystical or Magickal systems, Yoga, and the people who really practice it in the Eastern sense, seek oblivion. The Western Magician, on the other hand, seeks to expand his identity or to identify himself with "God", rather than to loose himself in the ultimate.

The second greatest difference between Eastern and Western Mystical Thought, is in the emphasis placed upon time. To the Western Man, time is of the essence. Not so in the Eastern traditions.

In my opinion, the third greatest difference between these two systems, is the emphasis placed upon 'Real World' problems and solutions. The Western Magician seeks to become a more effective person in the real world about him. He is not attempting to deny the world as it actually exists, with all its faults. Neither is he attempting to ignore Science, as is usually the case with Eastern systems.

These basic differences continue throughout the two systems.

It is for these reasons (and many others) that most Westerners do not find Yoga (or other Eastern systems) as easy or as satisfying, as the person from the Oriental traditions would.

Magick is in the Western Mystical Tradition. Magick exalts the Ego, expands the consciousness, and focuses on the uniqueness of the individual.

Magick (in the non-mystical sense) is the application of self knowledge, self discipline, and self control, in order to control other things and (consenting) people. The practice of this control, brings more self knowledge, more knowledge about other people, and the universe about you, leading to more control, and so on.

Usually one's ability expands faster than the average magickal student's available time does. The common complaint is not "I can't" but rather "I haven't gotten to that yet" or "I don't have the time to explore that" or usually, "I'm too busy".

Magick takes time, study and work. It is not easy. It is occasionally dangerous. It requires intelligence and a good education. A strong grounding in any one of the following fields would be very helpful: Ancient History, Anthropology, Archiology, English or European Literature or Religion (preferably with emphasis on the Old Testament), Psychology, Medicine, most Languages (Hebrew, Greek, Latin, Sanskrit, etc.), Statistics, Spherical Trig ... The list is quite long, but I think that you can see the general trend. From this you might assume that not everyone could be an "adept" in Magick. Such an assumption is quite correct.

Generally, persons who claim to have had many 'mystical experiences' on their own, while not in some training program, DO NOT make good High Magick adepts. In other words, kooks, acidheads, and the like, need not apply. The reason for this is not what you might ex-

pect. Magick is done by the exercise of the practitioner's will. Anything which interferes with that willpower, means no Magick. It makes no difference what the cause of the loss of willpower is, the results are the same. Nothing happens. There are several additional, lesser reasons, which I will not go into here.

One of the first benefits derived from a study of Magick, is the establishment of an awake, conscious, two-way communication link with your sub-conscious (or deep mind). The method is simple, and is not hypnotic. The result is an objective (physical) manifestation. This manifestation is photographable. The method is fairly slow (at first), and requires privacy, peace and quiet, and almost no equipment. The exact method is not a very well kept secret, but I will not aid in revealing it to the uninitiated.

If you like meeting odd people then being on a recruiting team would give you quite a bit of fun. In this field, one is constantly meeting other persons who believe themselves to be 'Mighty magicians before the Lord', witches, kahunas, and such, as well as various hangers-on.

We seek, meet, and communicate with these people (or try to) because every once in a while we will find someone who isn't crazy, and who has that certain something which tells us that he or she would make an adept. This winnowing process is slow, and in some cases (when working with satanists, and other assorted nuts) dangerous physically, emotionally, and spiritually. This is the reason why we usually interview people with a team.

After going through several hundred potential recruits in or-



Standing before the White Pillar of Jachim, the Grand Master, Frater Aleyin, and Inspector General, Frater Khedemel, read from the Lemegeton of Solomon.

der to find one or two acceptable people, the really hard part is convincing them that they should join our Order.

The reason for having a Magickal Order (also called a Hermetic Lodge) is that such an Order can greatly speed up the training process, while reducing to a very large extent, the risk and wasted energy, time and money. Stated bluntly; This is where it is at, we have it and we know it. We can teach it. It works, and we can prove it.

We are a responsible organization, with responsible people. We want to keep it that way.

Please note, that up to now, I have not mentioned "faith". A common requirement in 'low magic' and 'witchcraft', etc. I would like to point out also, that

I have not loaded a bunch of mystic double-talk on you. The usual blather is of no use, and conceals the simple fact that we mean exactly what we say.

"Faith" is not a requirement for a Magickal student. In fact, "blind faith", would be a great hinderance. It is not necessary for a Magickal student to "believe" anything.

A religious background is important, however that background need not be particularly strong or even consistent, so long as there is either Jewish, Christian, or Moslem exposure during the student's childhood. In this regard, the important factor is that the student has not renounced whatever religious training he did receive as a child, however tenuous it may

have been.

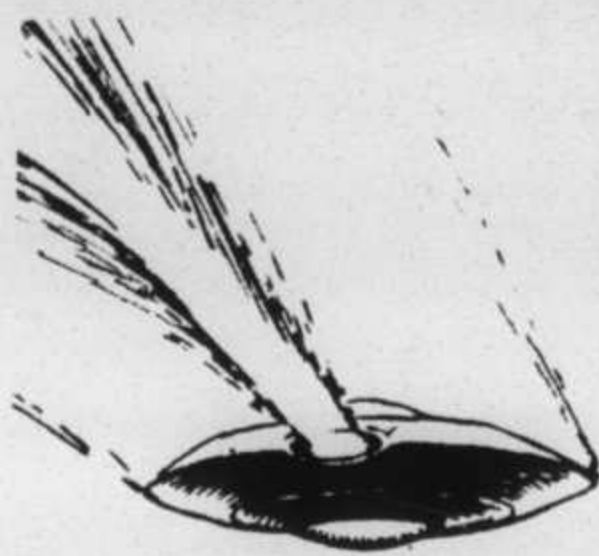
As OTA Magickal student is invited, at frequent intervals, to test that which he has learned, and to record such results in his Magickal Record. This record is reviewed at intervals, by his instructors. The student is invited to speculate upon the results (or lack of them) which he obtains. Experiments are then suggested. The only "belief" which is encouraged, is the student's own ability to produce a given result, by following a given procedure.

This is not to suggest that there is no mystical or religious atmosphere about the practice of Magick. Such practice is often quite an intense experience, however we have attempted (and

continued on page 14

SPACEVIEW MAGAZINE

If you are fascinated by Flying Saucer Topics, Space News, UFO News, then Spaceview is meant for you! An independent magazine specializing in world UFO news and the Flying Saucer Scene. Published bi-monthly, SPACEVIEW is professionally printed, with justified columns, and bound in an attractive art paper cover. Six issues for only \$2.95. Subscribe and receive a FREE bonus — a color photo of an authentic UFO plus a FREE back issue of SPACEVIEW. For your subscription, write:



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SEVEN DOORS

womb-cave.

Assuming that you have overcome this wish, and that you leave parental protection behind, it is natural immediately to substitute another cave in the form of an apartment or home of your own. Now you must think of how to pass the first voluntary trilithon.

2. Fear -- The cave dweller protected his woman and his family against all threats. She was the keeper of the fire: the flame of his inspiration: the flamenca. He, the flamen, was condemned to misery if this flame went out for any reason. His woman went abroad only on narrow paths carefully patrolled. Wives today are similarly trained to walk along narrow paths so that the husband can constantly

check whether the modern flamenca is well and -- more importantly -- happy.

A husband who goes to work and returns home to view the world only through the safety of his television window is completely afraid of the world. He is one who was probably heavily punished as a child and was thus made afraid of all adults. The child who wanders and explores has no fear of adults; nor in adult life does he fear others. To pass the second trilithon, you must go out into the world and must allow your family members also to venture freely past the door. We of the Wicca are most encouraged by the freedom our young adults treasure, for it shows that this fear is being conquered.

3. Knowledge -- This is one of the most interesting doors, for it is not a door only of gained knowledge; it is also a door of knowledge given away. You may have a penchant for learning, but unless you learn that you must give as much as you gain, you will overfill your brain cup and drown yourself. Knowledge is a commodity which must be freely given away so that more can be gained. The Guardian will not let you pass into the light of understanding until you can truly say that you are a teacher as well as a student.

UFO CONFERENCE: TEN

The Tenth annual National UFO Conference is being held (or was held, if you get this later) at Atlanta, Georgia on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, June 22, 23 and 24, 1973.

A public session at Lenox Square Auditorium, Friday the 22nd at 8:00 p.m. will feature Stanton T. Friedman as speaker. Tickets \$1.00.

Delegate Sessions, held at Rodeway Inn, 3387 Lenox Rd., Atlanta, Ga. 30326, will include an Award ceremony; workshop; and commemoration "Flying Saucers, 1947-1973". Delegate tickets are \$3. through June 20 and \$5. later. Room reservations are responsibility of the delegates; They suggest you mention UFO Conference Ten when writing for room.

TECH GROUP STARTS OCCULT TAX SERVICE

The Technology Group of Proprietary Companies, Box 3125, Pasadena, Calif. 91103, has inaugurated a special business and tax service for Pagans and Occultists.

They offer, for stated fees, to incorporate any group, coven, study center, etc. as a non-profit tax-exempt entity in the state of California.

"We feel that this is a genuine 'first' in the Occult world; a business, tax consultant firm of, by and for Occultists," says Alex Thorhoffen of the Business-Tech Division.

Writers Wanted!

We need short articles or current news (50-1000 words) on people, Covens, clubs, groups; Personality shorts (50-500 words); longer articles (to 2000 words) on Witchcraft, Paganism, Magick, Yoga, Mind Control, ESP, Tarot, Reincarnation, History, Myth, Spiritualism, Astrology, I Ching, Candle Burning, Herbs, etc. etc. Definitely need glossy photos or snapshots related to articles (returnable), with people identified. Payment by contributor's copy. SASE for return. No contrib copies for letters. No fiction.

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4. Psychic Awareness --

Throughout your childhood you were exposed to organized religion. For many people this set of beliefs is sufficient, though a few reject the dogmatic beliefs and myths that they were spoon-fed as devices of manipulation. The myths suddenly become 'not facts' and 'non-sense' -- and the questioners become insecure and run back toward the safety of the cave. To become secure and serene, a few search for the truth; they find through outward meditation the necessary security and serenity. By putting the shutter on the television window for a mere twenty minutes a day, they are enabled to open their psychic doorway, the "door at the top of the head", as the Hopis call it, and pass the trilithon of Psychic Awareness.

5. Materialism -- In today's world this can be one of the most difficult doorways to pass, for Materialism has become a god whose missionaries dwell on Madison Avenue and whose slaves are television, radio, and the other media of communication. How can you give away or share your possessions, yet retain them? If you will recall the time when you learned that through giving away knowledge you gain more, then you can rationalize at least an attempt at sharing your dearly loved possessions.

Currently many people are going to retreats or out into the wild with little or no money to sustain them. This is a first tentative step toward the trilithon of materialism. When you stop buying pretty new toys, when the jewelry lies undusted in the box, when the old jalopy is good enough to last one more year, the god of materialism is falling from his pedestal and you can start through the trilithon.

To pass the trilithon, say the Wicca, you must work only long enough to earn necessities and no longer -- at a task you enjoy. When the hold, well-made possessions become friendly and trusted, when you can ignore the coaxing of the materialistic

To travel North, one must know where North lies.

Blessed Be! Ankh em Ma'at! Never Thirst!

Evoo Kore Kai Kouros! Salutem Punctis Trianguli!

missionaries, then you pass the trilithon into security. (An aid in this passage is a squirrel-like cache of basic foods to give you confidence that your cave will be secure.) Now you are ready for the penultimate door, the sixth.

6. Sex-Love and Possession -- When you first glimpse this trilithon, you will have come to terms with the materialistic world. You will have broken through most of the physical and

psychic defenses so laboriously erected after your departure from the first cervical door. You are defenseless yet confident. But part of the confidence resides in the keeper of your flame: your own flamenca.

Love is sometimes defined as the willingness to let the loved one develop; to aid and encourage her in gaining experience and wisdom. Can you let your wife live with another man for a month, then welcome her back

A former member of NICAP, she has seen a UFO. "I was in Tarpon Springs, Florida, at the home of friends. We watched it hovering in a field for nearly two hours. I'm a terrible judge of distance, but it was about half as large as the full moon, which was out, and was pulsating, although it never changed colors. It was bright and white."

She has "never doubted the existence of UFOs. I'd be very happy if one would land in my back yard! I'm sure I wouldn't be frightened."

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... is located in Pittsburg, Pa., and is commanded by Soror Kara, Mistress of the East. Sor. Kara, who holds the degree of Philosophus within the Order, was the first initiate at the OTA's original Topanga Canyon Temple.

As Regent over Northeastern quadrant of the USA, Soror Kara has the authority to initiate and charter all those who qualify.

For information, in the Northeast, send self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Qadish Lodge, OTA, Box 7186, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15213.

... both Alexandrianism and Gardnerianism without being pro or con about either."

For more info, a booklet, "Witchcraft - the Way to Serenity", is available for \$1. from the Church and School of Wicca, Box 693, St. Charles, Missouri 63301.

SELF-STYLED WITCH

this black kitten was just desperate! It was dragging along and it's back leg swung like a pendulum... It certainly was lame."

Journals & Books

If there were one magazine that expressed the awakening tide of Neo-Paganism more than any other, it would be "The Green Egg", official publication of two relatively massive Neo-Pagan and/or Wiccan organizations, The Church of All Worlds (CAW) and The Council of Earth Religions (COER).

Truly beautiful and expressive, as is much in "The Green Egg". GE is published 8 times a year. Sample: 75¢ U.S. and \$1.00 elsewhere or by subscription: \$5. a year U.S. and \$7. a year outside of U.S. CAW, P.O. Box 2953, St. Louis, Mo. 63130.

X



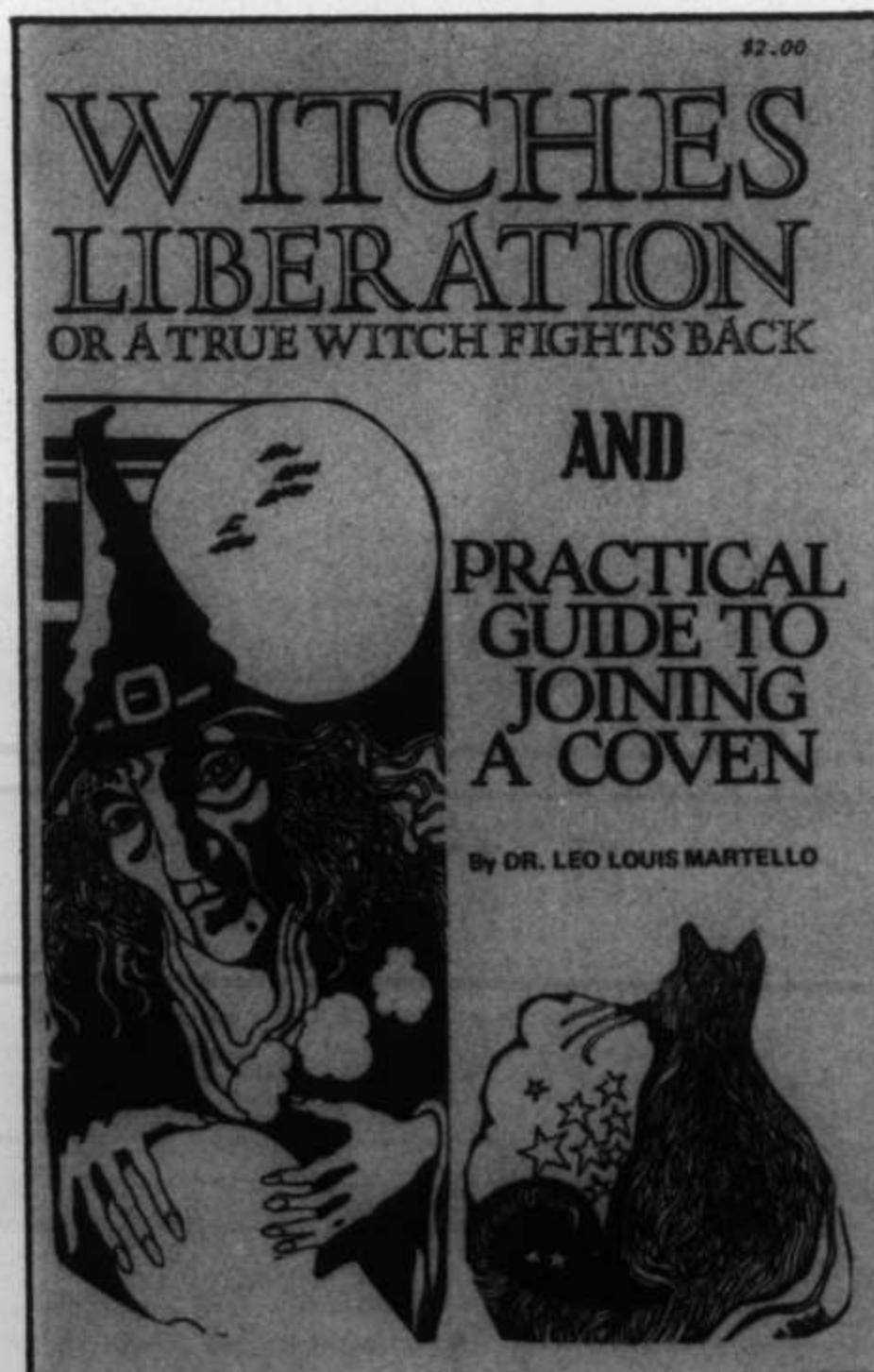
The tone of GE is more open and informal than many other mags and almost half of each issue is devoted to a letter forum that's really where it's at. Articles in recent GE's include a reprint of Carlton W. Berenda's The New Genesis; The Changing of the God by Tom Williams; The Egyptian Calendar by Harold Moss; a reprint of The Unanimous Declaration of Interdependence from "Ecology Action"; and one I especially enjoyed, Growing Free... by Barbara Wilson, which I must quote a few lines from:

"...It's a mortal sin to miss Mass.
It's a beautiful day and I feel religious outdoors.
God is everywhere.
Then why can't I worship where I please, when I please,
God is in everything,
How I please and with whom I please?
Barb, why haven't you gone to confession lately?
Cause I haven't sinned, Dad."

"The Seventh Ray" is the quarterly publication of the OTA, a rapidly emerging secret initiatory society that practices the "entire spectrum of High Magick". As such, this mag occupies a unique place in the current history of the occult.

Its emphasis is on Ceremonial Magick which is "the practical discipline of that most venerated esoteric philosophy, the Holy Qabalah", according to T7R editor and OTA Grand Master, Frater Aleyin.

I personally find the info in T7R extremely interesting and valuable to the serious occult seeker. The writing is somewhat scholarly, but then the people they want to attract are of above average intelligence, character and emotional stability. Subscriptions go for \$4. per year from P.O. Box 3341, Pasadena, Calif. 91103.



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For the newcomer interested in joining a coven, but not sure what to expect or what's expected of him, Dr. Leo Martello's booklet "Witches Liberation and Practical Guide to Joining A Coven" gives a lot of background about paganism and Witchcraft and lists 10 "dos" and 10 "don'ts" in seeking out a coven. He doesn't list the covens, but invites the seeker to write him for further info, with SASE. The four major articles, all by Dr. Martello, are reprints from Occult Magazine. The collection is priced at \$2. from WICA - Hero Press, 153 West 80th St., New York, N. Y. 10024.

X

The mag with the most beautiful cover, and the one I get the best vibes from, if vibes mean anything, is still "The New Broom".

Excellent cover art by Beet Scott shows a barebreasted High Priestess with her Book of Shadows open before her, and the Goddess appearing in her candle's flame.

Interesting articles are the Magick of the Craft by Mark Roberts, the beginning of a series; A New Look at the Book of Shadows by Diana Dem-

becloud the attempts at understanding the principals underlying the practice of the Art.

It is unfortunate that our admittedly clinical approach to the Art sometimes tends to turn away people who have usable talent, but who are so heavily structured that they are unable to accept (and reconcile with their religious views) the scientific method.

The Magician takes a general view. To him, there is no conflict between Science and Religion, or between Religion and Magick. Others may be creating misunderstandings and con-

flicts, for whatever reasons they may have.

This is one of the reasons why a Magician has need for tact and diplomacy. He realizes that others are unable to unwilling to adopt such a general view, and may be disturbed, alarmed, or enraged at him, for his Art. This is the real reason for the traditional secrecy which usually surrounds the practice of the Art. Such secrecy itself will alarm some people, but usually not as much as if the secrecy was not employed. The simple fact is that what a basically superstitious person does not understand, that person will fear or hate.

This is also one of the reasons for forming a Magickal Lodge. An individual Magician is frequently at the mercy of such hate and fear on the part of persons (many of which are in positions of power, of one sort or another), and that such persons may attempt to take forceful measures to suppress or harass that which they fear from lack of understanding. The individual Magician, of ethical persuasion, is at a severe disadvantage in situations of this type. If, however, there is a Magickal Lodge which the Magician can join, or affiliate with in some way, AND IF that Lodge is a legal, respon-

sible organization, such an organization can greatly reduce the hazard to the individual practitioner, on several levels. Such a Lodge can also act as a moderating influence in the case of intra-magickal disputes.

It is for these reasons (as well as several others) that the OTA was formed. We seek to take Magick out of the back alleys of the 'occult', and make it a positive, socially responsible, accepted, functioning part of society, for the betterment of the Country in its present spiritual crisis, and for Western Man in general.

For info about the OTA send SASE to nearest Lodge: Box 3341, Pasadena, Calif. 91103 or Box 7186, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15213.

XUJO

The New Genesis, or to categorically agree with all of it, even though such may be the case. My purpose is to present my own thoughts with references to supporting scientific or religious literature, both as an effort to discover myself and to establish myself with my readers.

The outcry about now will be "Where is the hand of God?" Our answer is that for the purposes of this editorial we are assuming a natural and spontaneous creation.

In his book, The Remarkable Birth of Planet Earth, Henry M. Morris condemns both spontaneous creation and evolution, and offers a maze of complex mathematical mumbo jumbo to prove that chances for the accidental creation of a perfect being are more than 1 in 10^{209} which he says is "absolutely absurd!"

All of this presupposes that 1) man is a perfectly-engineered creation and 2) life forms could not just happen.

We all know that man is far from flawless. His teeth fall and do not regenerate, his joints develop arthritis, his eyes go blind, his organs fail, become cancerous, his sons and daughters are born without arms and legs, bodies twisted or grown together in grotesque shapes. This list is endless.

Martin Gardner in The Am-



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NEXT **X**

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bidextrous Universe relates the story of Stanley L. Miller, who at age 23 in 1952 tested a theory of his teacher, Harold Urey. Miller put a mixture of water, ammonia, methane and hydrogen into a flask to simulate earth's primordial ocean and atmosphere. Electrical impulses were passed through the mixture for a single week, after which the mixture was analyzed. Miller found "organic compounds, including amino acids, which had not been there before."

Mr. Gardner acknowledges that this is a far cry from nucleic acid or protein, but that amino acids are the "asymmetric building blocks of protein" and "should not have been expected in such an incredibly short period..." He states that more complex compounds have since been created and, finally, "For all we know, primordial conditions may have made it difficult for amino acids not to form, and once formed, difficult not to form into complex chains."

Many of my readers whose only contact with the occult has been by comic books, TV late shows or other "popular" misconceptions are going to wonder what the devil (and we'll discuss him in a later issue!) the creation of the universe has to do with the occult and the answer must be that it has everything to do with it!

What a person thinks and feels about life and the universe determines to a great extent what his attitude toward the occult will be, and consequently



the degree of ease or difficulty in using his own natural occult powers.

In my first editorial I set the goal of X as the unlocking of minds, unshackling the chains of superstition, fear and doubt that have stymied the free and open growth of the occult arts for so long. It is a difficult task and it will be a long one. There are others in this crusade, and you will meet many of them in X. Eventually we will turn the tide completely. The first waves

have already crashed upon the beach.

As long as anyone believes that the use of the innate powers of the mind, whether called magick, witchcraft, psi, or what have you, is derived from a pact with an evil devil, our job is undone, for the devil springs from the mind of man.

As long as one path or one aspect pretends to be better than another, or more "official" than another, our job is undone, for all power springs from the same source.

This is not to say that certain attitudes or techniques do not work better than others, for they must. It is only to say that the people involved are not necessarily better or worse individually than the people who follow another path, for, in the final analysis, all true paths lead the same way.

In future issues of X, we will explore these paths more fully. In the next issue we, like early man, will discover God.



X

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