

## Organize the Masses to Seize Power-From-Within!

### May 1st Set for Uprising

The Central Committee of the Revolutionary Pagan Workers' Cell has set May 1st (Beltane) as the target date for seizing power from the decadent Crypto-Bourgeois forces who presently control the Reclaiming community.

Addressing the recent mass meeting of revolutionary pagan cadre, Cell Chairman Gusty Hail outlined the takeover strategy. "While the running dogs of Anarcho-Paganism are jumping over the Cauldron, our advance forces will seize the Maypole, proclaim a Pagan Workers' Democracy, and strike up our new chant:

*"We are the Vanguard of Everyone  
We'll seize control of the Moon & Sun"*

Fellow-travelers of the RPW Cell have already infiltrated the Reclaiming Teacher's cell, and are prepared to

### Elvis Spotted at Spiral Dance

Legendary rock icon Elvis Presley was spotted by numerous revelers at the 1997 Spiral Dance, re-opening a bitter debate between partisans and skeptics.

"This proves he isn't dead," exclaimed noted Reclaiming Elvisologist D. Quirky. "I saw him with my own eyes!"

"It proves nothing of the sort," retorted renowned Reclaiming Elvis-debunker T. T. Quarrel. "It just means that the veil was thin down at the end of Lonely Street."

Despite desperate attempts at mediation, the dispute remains unsettled, and has been placed at the top of the agenda of the next Reclaiming Wheel meeting.

announce a new Elements of Dialectical Magic class. The course will include invoking the ancestors (Mao in the East, Castro in the South, Gramsci in the West, and Lenin in the North), as well as a thorough study of Karl Marx' little-

known first book, "Das Ritual." Pagans showing a reluctance to enroll in this course will be sent to Reclaiming's new Indoctrination Camps, which will replace the ineffectual Witchcamps.

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### Surgeon General Warns on Dangers of Witchcamp

The Office of the Surgeon General has released this frightening photograph documenting an actual trance-overdose at Reclaiming's infamous Witchcamps. This is just one of the dangers awaiting neophyte pagans who are lured into the Witchcamps, which take place across the continent. Parents are especially

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### Reclaiming Opens Drive-thru Franchise

Reclaiming today announced the opening of its first drive-thru franchise, located on trendy Valencia Street in San Francisco.

"This is clearly the cutting edge of Earth-based spirituality," declared Reclaiming CEO J. Alfredo Money. "The future is now."

As they enter from Valencia Street, car-based pagans will order from a menu of Groundings and Invocations. Drivers then proceed to the Tunnel of Trances, where they can commune with the ancestors while dining on veggieburgers and amazake shakes (2% of net profits benefit the Witchcamp Scholarship Fund). A special all-in-one devotion exit will speed ritualists on to their next destination.

Some members of Reclaiming's Executive Committee demanded special paths for bicyclists and skateboarders, but the majority wisely vetoed these proposals as inconvenient for automobile drivers. "We need to be clear about whom Reclaiming is trying to serve," stated Money.

Rumors that all of Reclaiming's in-person rituals are being cancelled were dismissed by Money. "We will continue to cater to pedestrians for at least another few months."



*An unidentified Witchcamper trances out and slips towards the Exit of No Return — just one of the many dangers of Witchcamp, according to the Surgeon General. Photo by RPWV staffer Randy Ralston.*

## Alchem Lab Discovers Sixth Sacred Thing

In a terse announcement that sent shock waves through the Pagan community, Reclaiming Alchemical Laboratories today disclosed the discovery of a sixth sacred element.

Euro-pagan traditions have long built their thealogy around the veneration of earth, air, fire, water and spirit. The new discovery could shake this faith to its roots.

"We've hoped against hope that our experiments were mistaken," said Alchem Lab President J. Log-On. "But we can no longer deny the facts." Log-On refused to reveal preliminary findings concerning the nature of the sixth sacred thing, describing it only as a

"trans-centric element of uncertain magical properties."

Stunned members of Reclaiming groped for words. "Obviously, our tapes and CDs are obsolete," lamented spokesperson H. Hava DayDream. "Now we'll have to write new verses to all of our chants and invocations."

Meanwhile, Reclaiming Enterprises, Inc., was frantically recalling copies of Starhawk's best-selling novel, *The Fifth Sacred Thing*, from bookstores around the world. And thousands of pentacle necklaces were reportedly being melted down, to be re-cast as hexacles in time for this summer's Witchcamps.

## Reclaiming Rituals to Adopt Corporate Sponsors

In a major financial move, the Board of Directors of Reclaiming has agreed to corporate sponsorship of its 1999 cycle of rituals.

Already, Timberland has signed exclusive rights to the Fall Equinox, while the June 21st celebration will henceforth be known as the "Dr. Pepper® Summer Solstice."

"This will mean a few slight changes in the content of our rituals," admitted Reclaiming Treasurer P. Martian. "For instance, at the Winter Solstice, our west invocation will be of Evian Mineral Water®. And the Spiral Dance will be re-choreographed by our new sponsor, Arthur Murray Studios."

At press-time, only five of the eight rituals have sponsors, but others are in negotiation. The Trojan and Kimono companies are reportedly engaged in a bidding war for the rights to Beltane, while the Thrifty Drug Store chain has tendered an offer to sponsor the flaming cauldron at the Brigid ritual.

In a related move, the Witchcamp Scholarship Fund has signed a contract with Hallmark to produce a line of Samhain greeting cards, using the always-popular Peanuts cartoon characters to deliver snappy seasonal slogans such as "Blessed Be!™" and "May You Never Hunger!™"

Martian denied corporate sponsorship would alter Reclaiming. "Just because we work between the worlds doesn't mean we can't do a little business in this one."

### Obituary

## Lúgh Lamented by Pagan Community

Lúgh, god of light and Celtic lord of every skill, died June 21 from natural causes.

Beloved son of Cian (of the mighty Tuatha Dé Danann) and Eithne (of the Fomóiri), Lúgh was raised by the Fir Bolg queen Taitiu, who singlehandedly cleared the central plain of Ireland for agriculture. A distinguished war veteran, he killed his Fomorian grandfather, Balor, during the great police action at Mag Tuired.

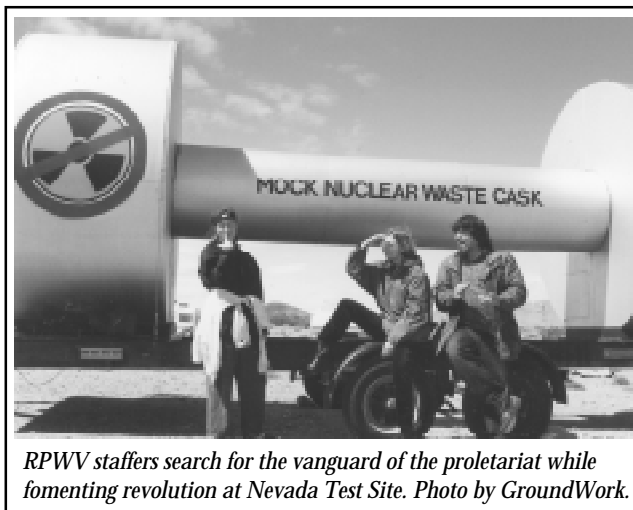
When Lúgh, aka the "Long Handed," sought to enter at the gates of Tara, he was challenged to define his distinctive craft for initiation. Lúgh was distinct as master of all crafts: the Samildánach, the "Many-Gifted One."

He is survived by his hurling buddies "the Lúghnatics," and Celtic pagans everywhere. A memorial for Lúgh is planned for Lúghnasadh, August 1. Donations may be made to the Goddess in his memory.

## Failed Uprising Haunts Pagan Workers' Cell

The failure of the Beltane uprising (*see last issue*) has set off a bitter internecine struggle within the Revolutionary Pagan Workers' Cell. RPW Chairman Gusty Hail, who tripped over the flaming cauldron and became entangled in the Maypole ribbons, triggering the debacle,

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*RPWV staffers search for the vanguard of the proletariat while fomenting revolution at Nevada Test Site. Photo by GroundWork.*

## Reclaiming Squad Off to Pagan Olympics "Quest for the Crystal"

With a rousing sendoff following the Lammas ritual, Reclaiming's Pagan Olympic Team left for the 1998 Games in Glastonbury, England. The Lammas ceremonies were highlighted by the blessing of the wand to be used by the 1000-meter Triple Spiral Relay squad.

Long an international power in Synchronized Aspecting and Speed Trancing, Reclaiming hopes to enter the upper echelons of such old-world specialties as Veiled Labyrinth Walking and Three-legged Maypole Dancing.

While Reclaiming-style Pagans still fare poorly in events such as Hex Dueling, the Reclaiming team shocked the field in last year's Between-the-Worlds Cup by taking the Crystal medal in the Spell-Casting Marathon.

But Reclaiming's hopes for top honors revolve around the Magical Decathlon. This grueling competition, which requires contestants not only to ground, invoke all directions and deities, lead a drum-trance, and devoke in

reverse order, but to anchor the ritual and sell newsletter subscriptions at the same time, has long been dominated by the older Wiccan groups from England.

Pundits agree that this year may be different. "With several groups now doing rituals in the Bay Area each Sabbat, the level of competition has gone up considerably," said a team spokesperson. "I think we'll reap the

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## Witchcampers Sue: Defective Cones of Power

Seven California Witchcampers have brought a class action suit against Reclaiming, alleging defective Cones of Power at the 1998 camp.

According to court documents obtained by the RPWV, plaintiffs contend that the Cones of Power — the climax of Reclaiming rituals during which participants chant and tone in ecstatic harmony — failed to meet advertised standards, resulting in irreversible psychological damage.

A Reclaiming spokesperson who identified herself as "Matterhorn" pointed out that the fine print in the Witchcamp contract disavows any guarantee of conal harmony or duration. However, an anonymous top-level source confirmed that Reclaiming is negotiating an out-of-court settlement to this embarrassing case. "We're offering them an all-expense-paid trip to Disneyworld's new RitualLand theme park if they will drop their suit," the source told the RPWV.

## Loch Ness Monster Repairs Stalled Car

Reclaiming community member Sue Pyrstitious reports strange auto mechanic activities during a recent trip to Loch Ness, Scotland.

"My car stalled as I was driving along the Loch one night," she stated, "and I was forced to leave it there to find a pay phone to call a tow truck."

According to Ms. Pyrstitious, that's when the monster went to work.

"When I returned to my car, there was a puddle of water on the ground, and a set of wet footprints led into the Loch. I checked my car, and it worked!

"The Loch Ness Monster is Mr. Goodwrench!"

## Revolutionary Pagan Cell Purges Dissidents

On the heels of the failed coup at the Beltane Ritual [see last issue], the Revolutionary Pagan Workers Cell has instituted a purge of dissident members.

"Purity of doctrine is preferable to mass complacency," stated RPW Chairman Gusty Hail. Using a purgative spell gleaned from Karl Marx' classic work "Das Ritual," Hail pronounced "nay-saying lackeys and crypto-bourgeois anarchists" anathema to the cause of worldwide Pagan revolution. The chairman then rallied the faithful cadre in the traditional RPW dance: "One step forward, two steps back..."



A NEAR-RIOT erupted at the Ms. Witchcamp 1998 competition at California Camp. Above, Goth Witch's rendition of demonic poetry upstages Trendy Witch's handcrafted costume. When Hippie Witch invoked the spirit of Jerry Garcia, the audience had to be restrained from storming the stage. Photo by RPWV staffer Morgaine Wilder.

## Sluggish Start for Reclaiming TV Network

"X-Trances" is only breakout hit

Ratings are in for the Fall television season, and the numbers are not good for the fledgling Reclaiming Broadcasting Network. Locked in a duel for advertising dollars with Warner Brothers, UPN, and the Christian Brothers, UPN, and the Christian-sponsored PAX network, RBN set record lows for viewers during the Fall sweeps.

One program, "Let It Begin Now," in which the famed Reclaiming chant was sung non-stop for the entire hour, drew only 17 viewers, all of whom were family members of the chorus. "Maybe we picked the wrong chant," admitted producer N. Shibar.

And "Mathilda the Middle-Aged Witch" lost half of its already small audience after devoting an entire show to Spells for Relieving Garlic-Induced Heartburn.

On a hopeful note, the Pagan Olympics broadcasts were among the

highest-rated programs for October, and the soap opera, "As the Wheel Turns," based on gossip from an actual pagan community, was picking up steam as the Fall season closed.

But most shows failed to draw a substantial audience. Even "Gwydion's Island," a comedy where seven Spiral Dancers are cast adrift on the Isle of Apples and have to contend with cantankerous ancestor spirits, appears to be little more than a cult favorite in its Sunday evening slot.

The one break-out hit of the season has been the critically-acclaimed "X-Trances," where special agents Mulley and Sculder investigate mysterious absences of paranormal phenomena at Reclaiming rituals.

Overall, however, RBN remained mired in last place among the eight national networks, finishing behind even the abysmal PAX network. "It's not a fair comparison," lamented a Reclaiming spokesperson. "Our membership has better things to do than watch TV."

## Reclaiming Rituals Go On-Line

In a first step toward eliminating costly and anachronistic live rituals, Reclaiming will launch a series of on-line interactive rituals for 1999.

Beginning with Spring Equinox, on-line pagans will access the complete cycle of casting, grounding, invocations and trances that comprise a Reclaiming ritual.

Minor changes in the content of rituals are to be expected. For instance, the on-line grounding, rather than envisioning a cord running from the base of your spine to the center of the Earth, will begin as follows:

"Place your left hand on your mouse. Feel the mouse cord going deep, deep into the computer. Pull up all that hot, flowing data. Feel it coursing through you, flowing up and out into cyberspace..."

In addition, earth, air, fire and water will be replaced by the new quadrad of plastic, javascript, fiber optics and silicon. Spirit, the fifth sacred element, will be replaced by invoking one's Internet Service Provider.

Basic Ritual Service begins at \$20 per month, with a set-up fee of \$25. Chakra cleansing will be slightly more.

## Gentrification Hits Isle of Apples

Condo developments on the Isle of the Ancestors?

That's just one of the changes in store for the famed Isle of Apples, which is visited by Spiral Dance trancers each Samhain.

As increasing numbers of yuppies pass over the Sunless Sea, the seemingly changeless land of the dead cannot help but be impacted.

"I'd expect with the influx of baby boomers," said renowned authority Petunia MayBloom, "we're going to see a dramatic rise in property values. Beachfront lots are already escalating

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*In a controversial move, Reclaiming replaced the ancestor's trance at the 1998 Spiral Dance with The Big Spin. "The only problem," said an organizer who asked to remain anonymous, "was a lot of grumbling from the losers. But isn't that always the case?" RPWV photo by Robin Roberts.*