

Reclaiming Conclave Revises Articles of Faith

BRINGING TO A close a tumultuous — some would even say “anarchistic” — era in Reclaiming’s history, the first Conclave of the new Millennium has issued Revised Articles of Faith which will immediately be binding on all Reclaiming-tradition communities.

Unlike recent Conclaves which skirted controversy in favor of superficial consensus, the 2001 gathering dared to face the thorniest internal feud of recent years: how to spell the

Reclaiming sabbats.

Putting to rest the bitter disputes over what to call May Day, the Conclave came down firmly in favor of “Behltaeighne.”

And the festival around Halloween will henceforth be known as “Souwgh’ma’whain,” following the ancient usage in the southeast corner of the region of Paughcastle in Cornwall. *[Please note that these letters — u, g, h, m, a — are not pronounced.]*

The Conclave also took steps to shorten rituals. Most notable is the merging of directional invocations. Henceforth, Reclaiming events will invoke north and east together (element: dust). South and west will also be merged (element: steam).

Regarding matters of personal practice, the Conclave ruled that grounding cords in private spellwork are not to exceed four inches in diameter. For public rituals, up to eight inches is allowed. And the expression “so mote it be” is to be used only under careful

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Diversity documentary

The Color of Beer

IN THIS STIRRING documentary about race relations in the United States, fourteen men from seven different ethnic groups gather for an intense weekend retreat in Northern California. As the cameras roll, the men discover that their beer preferences are in inverse relationship to their skin color: the lighter one’s skin, the darker the preferred beer. This leads to bitter exchanges as participants devolve into shouting “Tastes great!” or “Less filling!” at each other.

The retreat takes a dangerous turn when it is revealed that one of the white men’s ancestors was a German brewer who held Mexican and Japanese beer in disdain. The white man’s inability to grasp the depth of his cultural conditioning threatens to undermine the entire weekend.

Just when the situation seems hopeless, though, a dramatic breakthrough occurs. During halftime of the Sunday afternoon football telecast, the fourteen men discover they can all agree on one thing: Budweiser sucks!

Running time 1:45.

Comes with discussion guide, tasting kit and calorie chart. Customized beer mugs extra.

Letters to the Vanguard

Dear Vanguard:

I have been having trouble getting out of bed lately, especially since you-know-who won you-know-what. Any advice?

X.L., Terre Haute, IN

RPWV responds:

In times of travail, always remember the words of RPWV Chairman Gusty Hail: “Out of the dialectical interplay of the opposing forces of the present will emerge a new synthesis — the future.”

As far as getting up in the morning, we would suggest buying a very uncomfortable mattress.

Dear RPWV,

As far as I can tell, you’re neither Revolutionary, Workers, nor a Vanguard of any sort. You might be Pagans, but I sure can’t tell from your newsletter. But hey, I admire your consistency.

A.R., Shreveport, LA

RPWV responds:

Says you!



Members of the Portland-based group “Reclaiming Our Wealth” proudly carry on Reclaiming’s tradition of magical activism. Photo by RPWV staffer Rowan Phillips.

The RPWV’s Greatest Hits

Coming this Fall: the collected works of Chairman Gusty — a complete bound edition of the RPWV, plus other humor and satire from the pages of RQ. Don’t miss it!

Factory-Occupation Witchcamp — Proletarian Alternative to Village Camp

In a striking and timely riposte to the quasi-peasant/crypto-bourgeois “Village Camp,” [see page 39], the Revolutionary Pagan Workers’ Vanguard has announced its first Factory-Occupation Witchcamp.

Modeled on the little-known 1848 occupation of the Acme gumball factory in Terre Haute, Indiana, the Camp re-creates the actual conditions of the 1840s — fourteen-hour days in a stifling warehouse, chained to a gumball-coating machine. Camp rituals lay careful groundwork for the Friday uprising, in which workers occupy the factory, seize control of the means of

production, and produce non-exploitive gumballs for the masses.

Like Village Camp, Factory-Occupation Camp is for all ages. Children as young as twelve can take full part in the daily work. Younger children can work half-days (seven hours).

Unlike Reclaiming Witchcamps, where you rarely see a pointed hat or a foaming cauldron, Factory Camp aims to be the most authentic experience possible. Organizers are researching clothing, diets and customs of the 1840s. And Camp teachers will tour Nike factories in southeast Asia to sharpen

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New Study Claims Lugh’s Death a Fake

Recent research into the life and death of famed Celtic God Lugh, said to have died on Summer Solstice, has called into question the celebration of Lammass (aka Lughnasad) — the Wake of the Sun God.

A new Glasgow Metaphysical University study presents convincing evidence that Lugh didn’t die at all, but moved to suburban Amsterdam, assumed an alias, and lived out his days in obscurity.

“Lugh-sightings can no longer be dismissed as a collective hallucination,” said Professor Xavier MacKilpatrick. “It’s time to set the record straight.”

For centuries, such claims have been dismissed as fantasy and wish-fulfillment. Even today, most scholars are dubious that Lugh was ever actually seen in chain supermarkets.

But the notion of Lugh’s Solstice death dies hard. In San Francisco, Reclaiming lit its Summer bonfire with copies of the Glasgow study. And BC Witchcamp, which will be in session over Lammass, pronounced the report anathema and vowed

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public service announcement

Regarding Your Reclaiming Grounding-Cord Warranty

Following this spring’s earthquake in Seattle, Reclaiming received numerous inquiries about warranties on grounding cords acquired at our Witchcamps and rituals.

While it has always been Reclaiming’s policy to guarantee the craftsmanship of all of its products, we are constrained to point out that every warranty contains the following clause:

Section VI:32(f) — “This warranty does not cover damages due to violence or mayhem committed by non-Reclaiming deities (‘Acts of God,’ etc).”

We are truly sorry for the many damaged grounding cords suffered by our customers in the northwest. And we do sincerely hope that you will re-ground with us.

See page D-117 for complete details.



Plans by Reclaiming Alchemical Laboratories to market a new men’s supplement called Pentagra® suffered a setback when tests conducted at Beltane revealed unexpected side effects. Further tests will be conducted at Witchcamps, with the projected release date for Pentagra® pushed back to Samhain 2001. Photo by RPVW staffer Susan.

Reclaiming Adopts Self-Invoking Deities

Combining a respect for scholarship with a desire for shorter rituals, Reclaiming announced that its 2002 Wheel of the Year cycle will work exclusively with self-invoking deities.

Recent research at Reclaiming ParaHistorical Academy strongly suggests that the adoption by the ancient Celts of these auto-activating gods and goddesses played a decisive role in the development of Western culture.

While the self-invoking deities will speed up rituals, a problem remains — timing. Researchers are conducting

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RPWV Holiday Giftshop

- Acme Inflatable Labyrinth® — Comes in 7- or 11-circuit models.
- Genetic Gerbils® — Kids will have a blast altering the genetic code of these furry pets and watching them mutate.
- Baby's First Athame® — Double-bladed for extra excitement!
- Junior Alchemy Sets® — Includes one Brigid's Flame bunsen burner, a collapsible cauldron, dehydrated Waters of the World, and 13 exciting elements to mix and match.
- Little Miss Goddess® beauty kit, for the divine in every child. Complete with crown of Aphrodite, glitter gel, and a talking affirmation mirror.
- PrestoMagic Knot-Tying Kit® — Dozens of knots and how to use them to enhance your binding spells and your love life.
- Kitchen Witch Easy-Bake Solar Oven® — perfect for Witchcamp or your Elements Backpacking trip.

Spiral Dance Gets 'Real' Makeover

Concerned that Reclaiming's annual Spiral Dance ritual was losing ground to reality-based programming, organizers this year took the dramatic step of altering the ritual script.

"We have to get 'real,' if you know what I mean," said Sunshine Moonbeam. "Magic is fine, but we need a healthy shot of down-and-dirty competition."

The changes start right at the entrance. While the timid will enter through the usual veiled passage, participants will have the option of passing through a flaming tunnel. Those who make it to the other end earn five bonus points.

The altars, while retaining their directional focus, will present element-based challenges. The West altar, for instance, will require people to submit to an ordeal by water. Those who last through three dunkings get 10 points.

STYLE POINTS

At the North altar, participants will be invited to eat eye of newt, wing of bat, and other traditional delicacies. Points will be assessed according to size and texture. Style points will also be awarded.

The trance will still visit the Isle of Apples, but instead of communing with the Beloved Ancestors, people will engage in a struggle for survival with a group of Reclaiming teachers aspecting the spirits of dead professional wrestlers.

Insufficiently competitive participants will get voted off the island by their peers, until only 13 remain. Those 13 will engage in a Reclaiming trivia contest to determine who gets to stand in the middle of the spiral.

Meanwhile, fundamentalist Witches led by Jimmy Bob Cernunnos vowed to cast a picketing spell on the ritual: "Thou shalt not tamper with the holy words of our most sacred ritual."

But Reclaiming planned to press on
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Two Witchcampers demonstrate the Full-Contact Spiral, which will be used for the first time at this October's Spiral Dance ritual. Photo by RPWV staffer Otter.

announcing

Karaoke Invokee Lounge

Avalon Hotel presents the grand opening of Reclaiming's newest hot spot, the Karaoke Invokee Lounge. Sip organic mead while you chant along to all of Reclaiming's classics. Don't know the words? Just follow the bouncing pentacle!

Reserve the Lounge for your coven's next initiation or dark moon ritual!