Pagan's Wake

The Semi-Regular and Barely Credible Exclusive Journal

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The Welcome!

In your hands you now hold the premier issue of Pagan's Wake! What is it? Good question... In fact, I can't really say that I have a good answer for you... But hey! You have one and it didn't cost you a single red cent!

But here's what I can tell you... Pagan's Wake is an exclusive document created by Greg Currie (aka "Frosty"--That's me!) for distribution to an exclusive circle of friends (That's you!). In this little treasure chest you'll find all sorts of pearls of wisdom, gems of knowledge, and golden nuggets of news about what is going on in this neck of the woods.

This way I can keep in touch with friends, share ideas, and waste lots and lots of time in front of the computer. In fact, I'd love for other people to waste lots of their time and write back! Pagan's Wake is open for submissions of poetry, articles, pictures, rants, interesting news articles, and just about anything else you can cram in an envelope and actually have Canada

Post deliver to my house!
But please remember that
Pagan's Wake is a private
publication funded by yours
truly, so keep the length
reasonable (Especially
those of you who tend to
ramble...no names...)!

So with all of that aside and finished with...

Welcome to the exclusive circle of Pagan's Wake! Remember! Make sure to hold on to this ultraprecious, limited edition, ever appreciating in value first issue!

-Frosty.



Frosty gathers autumn oak leafs in Sunnidale Park.

Frosty's Brew!

During the later part of autumn this year, I came across a little recipe for Oak Leaf Wine. As you can see (above) I eagerly scurried off to gather some leaves in a local park! For this brew I decided on the already fallen autumn oak leaves. The recipe also suggests trying leaves from different times of the year

or even walnut leaves.

Suggested ingredients for a 1 gallon batch of this recipe are as follows:

60 oak leaves
1.3 kg (3 lb.) sugar
3 lemons
3 or anges or 15 g (1/2 oz.)
citric acid
Yeast nutrient
Selected wine yeast
Water to 4.5 litres (1 gal.)

Clean the oak leaves in cold water and allow them to drain. In the primary fermenter (ie. a big bucket!) pour a gallon of boiling water over the leaves and let sit covered for 24 hours. Strain and then heat the liquid enough to allow the sugar to dissolve. Pour the hot liquid over the sugar and add the

citric juices. Stir well.

Simmer the grated peel of the oranges in some of the liquid and then return this to the fermenter. Top the brew up to 4.5 litres (1 gal.) with water. Once the liquid is cooled, add the yeast and yeast nutrient. Cap with an air lock and ашау уои до!

Remember to always

sterilize everything involved in the brewing process (excluding yourself of course! Ok... Sorry... I couldn't help that one...). Starting brewers should pick up a a good introductory book on brewing at a local library to learn all the background information important to a good brew!

-Frosty.

The Frosty Apdate!

Life's been relatively quiet as of late. Since moving back to Barrie I've been making new friends and and getting settled into my new job. As things look I'll be staying here until next autumn and then be moving back to Hamilton for some more courses at McMaster.

Here at Pagan's Wake HQ, we've now taken the great technopagan leap forward from my dying old IBM 286 to a Power Macintosh 7500/100/16 with a gig of storage, colour inkjet printer, and colour scanner. The old system has since been donated to my parents for whatever use they can find (wedging doors open, combining with old DIC 20's to make furniture, or whatever...). So any pictures you might want to include here can easily be scanned and edited.

Work is currently

underway on two books. The first is a collection of poetry written from over the last ten years or so. Right now it is a matter of selection, typing, and submitting for publication.

The second book is the "Wiccan Survival Guide" which covers the "what is nothing is more amusing than it?" question, but more importantly focuses upon pragmatic issues of Wiccan life. I'd like to be able to pass on some of the wisdom I've gained about the good and the bad sides of public and private Wiccan life.

The motorcycle is tucked away in the garage once more for winter...how far away is springtime? I miss my moonlit rides during warm summer nights. All the more reason to enjoy each season!

Zen and Scrumptious (my cats) continue to grow and grow and grow.... The new computer apparently has wonderful cat appeal,



to bat at the paper moving through the printer. Oh! Yes! The keyboard also appears to be rather comfortable!

Already I'm looking forward to WicCan Fest '96. Memories of last Fest include the warm beach and cold water (hey men, how cold is it?!), dancing around the fire pit until sunrise, Ja and his magical flute, the wonderful bardic-night performances, getting to know Toad Island, and some parts that are a little fuzzy from too much mead or honey-stout. I look forward to seeing everyone there again for next Fest and promise to bring my dancing bells and body paints!

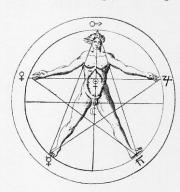
-Frosty.

The Rant

"The Rant" is a little section in Pagan's Wake for... well... ranting.... Everyone is welcome to send in their own rant on just about any topic whether it be about Wicca, politics, current events, or even how you hate the latest appliance you bought. I'll even publish a rant about how much you hate "The Rant!" Oh! Yeah... Take "The Rant" with a grain of salt and don't get bent over one person's opinions or satires!

This issue's rant is on the topic of public ritual groups. Should or can the Craft have a public face? Well, I've had some experience...

There are basically three types of people who come out to public rituals as I see it ... The first group are those who are merely there for social reasons. These people are looking to make friends, find a date, sleep around, try something



"occult" or supposedly forbidden, have a good time, gain social/political power, or to simply be amused. Usually these people are at a public circle with some agenda of their own either good or bad...

includes people who are there out of an intellectual interest. This includes news reporters. students, sociologists and the like, and people curious about Wicca merely to know what it is. In the words of Douglas Adams, "mostly harmless."

Thirdly, there are those who are at public ritual for spiritual reasons. These are the people who are Wiccans in the sense of an actual religion aside from the fact of being with or without other people. These individuals are there to worship their gods and to search for wisdom.

How do these groups all fit together into one great big public group? Well, not always very well... I've seen priesthood and circle members alike sleep their way through public ritual groups, people who control and destroy others to pursue their desire for power or popularity, Wicca used as a vehicle for just about every social or political interest group, and well... you get the idea.

Never in any other group have I come across as much backstabbing or pettiness. To be honest, it really isn't the sort of place I would bring my own children to (if I had any that is!)...

But is it all bad? No. The second group If you are looking merely for a social group of Wiccans and don't mind some social pettiness then it is a good place. Not all the people at public rituals are bad; those who are usually come from the first group listed. Seekers can find some good, knowledgeable, and wise people in these groups but unfortunately these valuable people tend to get turned off of public circles and leave for private Wiccan groups.

> The three groups listed are in order of what I personally consider to be of increasing importance. It is important to nurture and support those who are seeking spiritual growth, philosophers and knowledge seekers can help everyone's understanding of Wicca, and social butterflies? Well... They can find amusement just about anywhere in just about any group.

> > -Frosty.

