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# Local witch compares witchcraft rituals with fundamentalist religious experiences

By Paul Sturtz  
 Of the Emerald

Carol Queen used to read about fundamentalist Christian meetings where the faithful feel the spirit and get out of control: screaming, twitching and speaking in tongues on the floor of the church.

"I used to think these people were just whacked out, crazed," she says.

And yet, that's probably what the trick-or-treaters thought of Carol and her group of friends dancing around the bonfire, chanting and working themselves into a frenzy, last Halloween.

Queen and the coven of about 20 witches she associates with in Eugene don't see themselves as being far removed from the experiences of the fundamentalists.

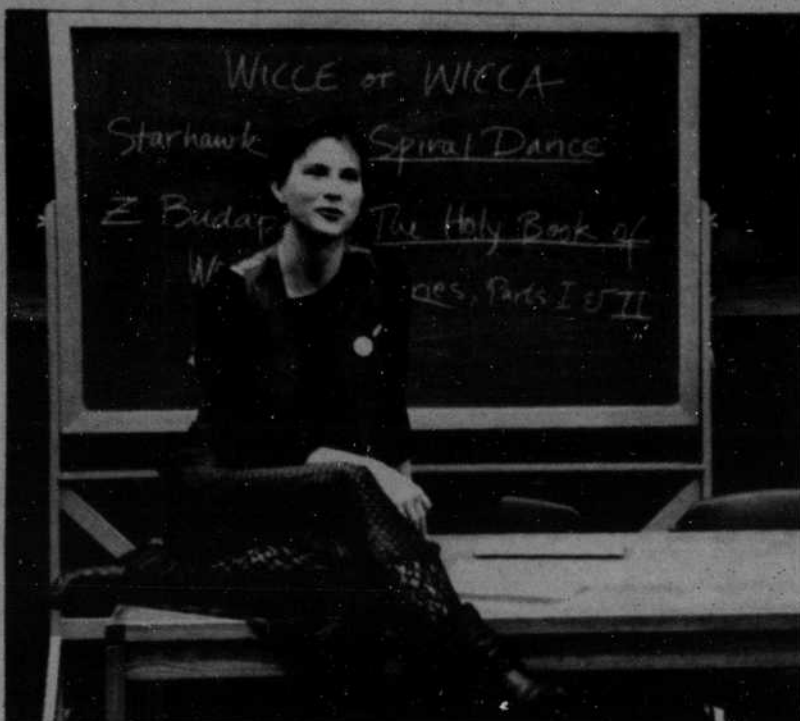


Photo by Derrel Hewitt  
 Eugene witch Carol Queen talks about her interest in witchcraft and her involvement with a local coven of witches.

"There's a sense that this religion business is real," she says. As a country girl in Cheshire, Ore., Queen might not have seen what she was attracted to as possibly the oldest religion in the world, one that she now says stretches back to the spiritual yearnings of the cave painters.

"I was just real, real drawn to this stuff," she remembers. "Lots of people who wind up calling themselves witches say they were 'real drawn' to it."

"I was drawn to mythology and especially to fairy tales, which are remnants of northern European mythology," she says. "I read constantly and I'd go to the library at an early age. I filled my life up with a fantasy world which really resonated with me."

By the time she was 13, Queen happened upon an advertisement about a witchcraft book in the back of a magazine. She ordered it and received a book entitled "Potions and Spells of Witchcraft."

The book detailed "How to Get a Lover" and "How to Make Someone Leave Who's Bothering You," but little else.

"It didn't say a word of witchcraft being a religion, not a word about a goddess except that witches were remnants of a religion that was once widespread," Queen says.

Nonetheless, Queen started making connections between the somewhat sensationalist rituals detailed in the book with ones she was already familiar with in Christianity. She says she was soon able to trace this emphasis on wonder practices to ancient common people who were content to just involve themselves within the satisfaction of rituals.

"It's just like plenty of Catholics today who have a real steady prayer schedule and have saints to call for but who don't put a lot of energy into the theological complexity associated with the religion," she says.

Queen, a sociology graduate teaching fellow at the University, has been dealing with these theological questions by researching religion for a number of years. A couple of years ago she even wrote a 32-page thesis on witchcraft, which discussed its history, belief systems and adherents.

In her dual role of witch and scholar, Queen is able to offer unique insights.

One minute she can talk about how witchcraft is part of a larger phenomenon called neo-paganism and explain that the Latin word "pagan" means country dweller. The next moment she can talk

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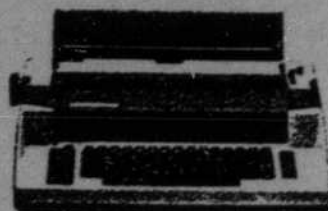
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Find out what's happening  
 Read the Emerald

## Women's task force sponsors forum to celebrate female creative endeavors

By Shannon Kelley  
 Of the Emerald

Celebrating women and creativity while dispelling some myths are the major objectives of the symposium, Women's Symposium: Creativity, being sponsored by the ASUO Women's Task Force May 1-4.

"Creativity" seemed to link together the diverse subjects of visual art, literature, film, politics, drama, dance and spirituality under one heading, says Shannon Meehan, a task force member.

Meehan also says women have as much to offer the world in their unique self-expression through art, but they not always are acknowledged in forums such as art history classes.

Many people associate the women's symposium with lesbianism, says coordinator Lien Shutt.

"It does include lesbians, but it also includes other women," Shutt says. "We want to represent all women, and men can celebrate women too."

Today's focus is literature. At 4 p.m.,

there will be a writers' forum featuring June Jordan, Chino Sole, Cecelia Hagen and Maxine Scates. Jordan is a noted black poet, essayist and playwright presently teaching at the State University of New York. Her latest book, *On Call*, is a collection of essays on South Africa. She will give a full presentation tonight at 8 p.m. in 167 EMU.

The symposium will "Explore The Arts" on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in 177 Lawrence Hall.

The Righteous Mothers, a comedy-singing duo, will perform an afternoon gig from 2 to 4 p.m. in the EMU courtyard. The program will be in Gerlinger Lounge in case of rain. After the performance, Melissa Howden, coordinator for the Redwood 1985 Music Festival in Berkeley, will speak on the treatment of women in the recording industry.

Roxy Ragozzino and Nancy Julian, both actresses in Eugene, and Terra Daugirda Pressler, a GTF in the University theater department, will speak on

their experiences in theatre at 5 p.m. in the EMU Forum Room.

At 8 p.m. in the Forum Room will be two dance performances. A portion of Pressler's play "Fat" and some monologues from "Talking With," a recent production at the University, will be performed.

"Alternatives" will be addressed on Sunday from 1 to 7:30 p.m. in the EMU Forum Room.

Karen Timekwa, from the Big Mountain Support Group, will address the issue of the forced relocation of 14,000 Dineh and Hopi native peoples from their reservation in Arizona at 1 p.m.

"Women in Nicaragua: After the Revolution," a movie will be shown a 2 p.m.

A panel, "Women's Diverse Spirituality" will discuss five different expressions of spirituality, including witchcraft, Judaism, Christianity, Indian medicine and Buddhism at 4 p.m.

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