

Continued from Page 23

what's going to happen. I think they're more future oriented," she notes.

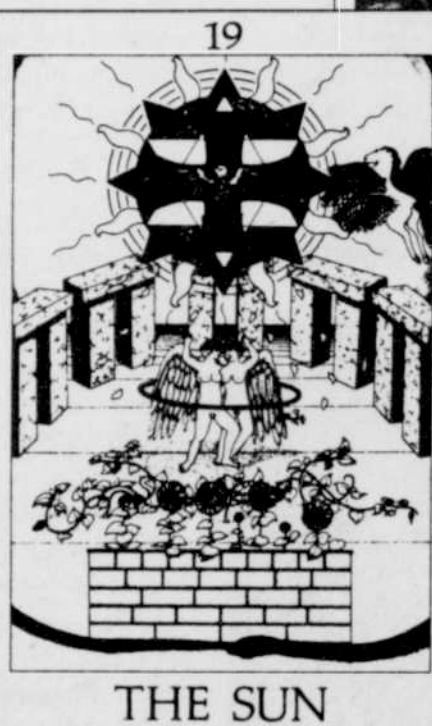
And if you must have an answer to a yes-or-no question, she'll whip out her pendulum and get a reply that way. She can even hold it over a map to find where you ought to look for a home.

Regardless of which approach she uses, Redwood says, "My scope is personal growth and change." She also likes to read at parties, although her focus then might be less serious.

She charges \$10 for a 10- to 30-minute reading at Touchstone, but to get the full benefit, schedule an hour at her Southeast Portland home for \$55. Redwood also makes house calls or can do long-distance readings via telephone. Find her at 503-771-8375 or mredjcon@teleport.com.

Crossing the threshold of Steve Marshall's Portland home feels a bit like entering another era—a time when monks labored over cryptic manuscripts, when pagan folk danced with fairies in oak groves, when alchemists guarded the secrets of their craft. Indeed, Marshall is adept at such pursuits.

The first thing I notice is the sweet smell of sacred



THE SUN



Steve Marshall lays out a spread using cards from his own deck (insets)

incense, not surprising since his spare bedroom has been transformed into a chapel where he conducts Sunday services as the priest of Queen of Heaven Gnostic Church. Books, candles and exotic spiritual symbols abound in his living room, and a peaceful mood permeates the space.

Marshall is a quiet, soft-spoken man who seems perfectly suited to these arcane spiritual endeavors. He even has written a book on Western

traditions associated with the tarot and published his own deck of cards.

"My life's mission is to find and devote myself to make other worlds available to people, a gateway to alternative reality. For a long time I had this anxiety that I had to read everything there was or I'd be missing something," Marshall confides. "Then my inner guidance said I need the experience, to get out of my head—and the anxiety just went away."

His "Tarot of Initiation" deck contains only the major arcana cards, but he spent years giv-



THE LOVERS

ing them a wealth of symbology. "I researched everything—how many fruits on the trees, the number of stars in the sky," he explains.

After drawing rough sketches, Marshall met an artist in the early '80s at Metropolitan Community Church of Portland. Emmett Brennan spent the next two years drawing the 22 cards. "I see it more for teaching and meditation and self-discovery than for divination," Marshall says.

For his own divination he's more apt to use the I Ching, an oracle based on the binary logic of yin and yang. "It always seems so correct and leaves very little room for your ego to interpret it," he says. "I find it to be very pure, very precise."

PICK A CARD

• www.voyagertarot.com: In a hurry? At this site featuring the profound Voyager deck by James Wanless, you can pick your own card of the day with its attendant message.

• www.webtarot.net: This is a fun site offering endless free readings from your choice of seven decks and seven spreads. The cards pop up in splendid color and arrive with a detailed—if impersonal—answer.

• www.learntarot.com: If you really want to get serious, click here for a free 19-lesson course on reading the tarot.

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