

Clark University Pagan Alliance
Clark University Box B-58
950 Main St. Worcester, MA 01610

April 16, 1998

An open letter to the Clark Community:

We the members of the Clark University Pagan Alliance (CUPA) would like to take this opportunity to formally introduce ourselves. In the past three semesters, during which we have made a concerted effort to become more visible on campus, we have witnessed continued displays of hostility and ignorance against the members of our organization and the organization itself. We understand that it may be difficult for many of you to understand the purpose and function of our organization on campus. So we would like to clarify our position and dispel some popular myths and and misconceptions about paganism in general.

As Pagans, we are not devil worshippers. Our religious structure has no place for a being called Satan, nor a place called Hell. We are a nature based religion and individual practitioners of paganism construct their own pantheon of gods and goddesses based on their individual needs.

We do not condone or accept violence in any form, including, but not limited to cruelty to animals, animal sacrifice, environmental abuse, child abuse, spousal abuse and self abuse. We believe in the universal law of return: whatever one sends out will return to the sender threefold, good or evil.

We do not condone casting "evil spells," cursing, or hexing people. According to our belief system, such acts would only return such ill wishes to the sender according to the law of three.

We are not a cult. We do not actively recruit members for specific purposes. We do not seek to brainwash any person. Our religion holds sacred the free will of each individual. We believe every person has the right to seek their own religious truth; and it

harm none, do as thou will.

Paganism is an umbrella term used to describe various earth based religions including but not limited to Wicca, Buddhism, Asatru, Zoroastrianism, Voudon, and Norse and Celtic Druidism and Shamanism. This list is by no means exhaustive and people of all religions are welcome. Most of these religions are recognized by the United States government. Under the United States Constitution and the Freedom of Religions Act, any recognized religion has the right to celebrate their religious holidays without threat, persecution or discrimination. Some of the lesser known (to the general public) holidays include: Yule, which falls on the winter solstice, Imbolc, which is celebrated on February second, Ostara which falls on the vernal equinox, Beltane, which is celebrated on May first, Midsummer, which falls on the summer solstice, Lughnassah, which is celebrated on August first, Mabon which falls on the autumnal equinox, and Sawain, the pagan new year, which is celebrated on October thirty-first.

The purpose of our organization is to facilitate contact between students of Pagan and Neo-pagan faiths. However, the group does not limit its membership to people of pagan religions. Instead, anyone is welcome no matter what their religious beliefs. The Pagan Alliance will work to educate and foster a positive image of Paganism and Neo-Paganism at the university, and to enable pagan students to socialize and gain support from other members.

Thank you for your time

Sincerely,

The Clark University Pagan Alliance

Alexa Connell, Seana Lamothe, Marianne Kane, Jennifer Castle Jody Grey , Jeremy Goodman, Jessica Zakowski, Jennifer Jones, Daniel Pelland, Jessica Dydyn

and other members who wish to remain anonymous out of fear of prejudice

Top Ten Reasons Why Clark U. Is like a small communist country

By Ed Bradley

- 10 Every decision has to be made by three committees.
- 9 The most unimportant administrator can tie up anything.
- 8 We hear about President Traina, but we rarely see him in public.
- 7 Red Army, Campus Police. Both are overestimated.
- 6 Censorship of the press (e.g. Dean Wingood)
- 5 Student Accounts, Accounting, Financial Aid—three Departments all doing the same job.
- 4 Bon Appetit—we thought goulash tasted bad.
- 3 Drinking Vodka is safer than drinking the water.
- 2 We have our own Presidential Palace which no one can enter.
- 1 Work study: we pretend to work, they pretend to pay us.