

BUDAPEST, Xs.

REPORT FROM THE READERS

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the Papers" in your February 1976 issue. On page 18 Mr. Fuller is writing about "new firsts accomplished by radiocarbon dating" and the discovery that humans lived in eastern United States as long as 16,000 years ago. He says, "The site of this find is in the town of Avella in Eastern Pennsylvania." Avella is in western Pennsylvania near the West Virginia line.

I have been to this dig, met the archaeologists and also the owner of the land, a Mr. Miller. He noticed an overhanging ledge above a creek and thought it a likely place for Indians or other ancient people to have lived. He called in the University of Pittsburgh archaeologists who were happy to have a place for their students to get field experience. The results were far beyond their expectations!

Please give western Pennsylvania and the University of Pittsburgh credit for this historic first. — Iola B. Parker, Pittsburgh, Pa.

PSYCHICS, UNITE!

Zsuzsanna Budapest has indeed been persecuted as well as prosecuted despite what Wicca priest Gav-in Frost may think ("Report from the Readers" February 1976 FATE). Z. Budapest is a practicing witch and priestess of her own Wicca group. The local authorities were looking for anything at all to pounce on her and close up her small shop. That they eventually got her on the fortune-telling ordinance was an act of deliberate entrapment, for she was "set up" and denounced by a plainclothes policewoman. Zsuzsanna could have pleaded guilty and gotten off with a small fine but she chose to fight the injustice involved and to become a test case for every member of the psychic fraternity here in California. She is interested in others first—not herself first.

I tried to organize the psychics of this state into a working compatible

"Gate" 1976 May

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organization dedicated to changing the antiquated laws that placed Zsuzsanna behind bars but it was to no avail. The same egos and the same name-calling that Mr. Frost indulges in prevailed at the initial meeting of the legalization group. The upshot is that psychics will have to go it alone until they are forced to unite to save their own skins, for it's quite obvious they won't unite to save the skins of others.

As to the charge that FATE and I have perpetrated "an advertisement in story form to procure funds for a militant witch group which undermines the country and orthodox religions" (as Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Spencer of Arizona write), all I can say is that I'm proud to have written the article on Zsuzsanna Budapest and proud of FATE for having published it. If the Spencers and others wish to close their eyes and minds to what is happening in the psychic field in this country, they are doing themselves a disservice. They have no right to inflict their ostrich attitude on others. —David St. Clair, Hollywood, Calif.

Gavin Frost, in his letter in your February 1978 issue, may be technically right according to the letter of the law, but it is totally wrong as to the spirit. Zsuzsanna Budapest was prosecuted for reading Tarot cards for a policeman. The question is, with thousands of psychics, clairvoyants, fortune-tellers and readers of every description who openly advertise in California publications, why was she set up for an arrest? Her case is a matter of selective law enforcement.

Z. Budapest represents a threat to the Establishment. As a feminist and a witch she has two strikes against her. Some self-styled witches and pagans fail to see the political implications of this but the Establishment is not so shortsighted.

Neither were the Church fathers at the time of the Inquisition. Frost is not in a position to say, "Her legal problems have nothing to do with her religion."

There is much I disagree with concerning Z. Budapest. However, my concern is not with personalities but with the political, moral, religious and legal aspects of her case. During the Dark Ages the witch was the only liberated woman. All others were cast into the roles of mother, wife or nun—as I point out in my book, *Witchcraft: The Old Religion*. Furthermore, when I threatened the New York City Parks Department with a religious discrimination suit when they refused to give me a permit to hold my Witch-In on October 31, 1970 (I was backed by the American Civil Liberties Union and won), all those who had their names on our application lists were investigated.

Many of them got calls asking to have their fortunes told! I was a prime target for this. Many distraught women called claiming to be in need of psychic counseling. If I hadn't thought they were police-women trying to set me up, I'm sure I would have been arrested. Then the entire civil rights issue would have been undermined, perhaps negated.

As to the objection of Mr. and Mrs. Spencer that Z. Budapest's "militant witch group undermines the country . . ."—no, no, no! Undermining

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the country is the special province of our Establishment politicians. Witches had no part in Watergate.

Is FATE going downhill for publishing a story pregnant with religious, political, moral, ethical and legal issues which affect us all? No. Mr. and Mrs. Spencer, FATE has taken a giant step uphill! — Leo Louis Martello, New York, N.Y.

COP'S VIEW OF POT

In Curtis Fuller's articles on marijuana ("I See by the Papers," November 1975 FATE) he states that he is looking for the truth. Perhaps instead of burying his intellect in "scientific" data, he should take a long look at the actual experience of a New York City police officer, Alphonsus Sullivan, who has spent six years in police work in Harlem.

I quote from this officer's letter published in the *Staten Island* (N.Y.) Advance for December 13, 1972:

"I have never met a junkie on heroin who didn't begin drug use with marijuana."

This is the statement of a man who qualifies as an expert and who has had experience at close hand with the sinister results of pot smoking. His letter to the newspaper differs widely from some fuzzy scientific study conducted in a foreign country or the opinion of a writer happily tapping away on a typewriter in the fancied security of his ivory tower.
— Herbert L. Van Cott, *Staten Island*, N.Y.

ONGOING UFO STUDIES

With the formation in Austin, Tex., of Project Starlight International I believe that the public, both UFO skeptic and believer alike, will have access to the finest UFO research material available. I am much impressed with the overall project, its purposes and the quality of sophisticated research equipment that

(Continued on page 127)