

The devil doesn't make you do it

In the Major Arcana of the tarot deck, card XV, or the devil card, represents the degradation of man's spirit. This card like all others in the book of tarot, holds a lesson for us all.

Most decks show the strong Christian influence on the European medieval tarot and the devil is used to depict all that is base, vulgar and bestial in mankind.

The devil on the cards like the mystical Pan, is usually pictured as half man and half beast. Chained to the pedestal on which he sits are the naked figures of a man and a woman.

Close examination, however, reveals that the chains which bind them are loose enough to allow them to slip free if they really "wished" to do so.



This card warns of the disaster that may befall man when he ignores his spiritual side and is bound to serving only the physical side of his nature.

IS A BEAUTIFUL New Afro-American deck now in the making, the card XV is called the bondage card rather than the devil card, and shows the male and female forms bound to a barren tree representing their own lack of productivity in life.

An angry red eye looks down in disfavor upon them from the sky above, as lightning and storm clouds depict the forces of nature working against them.

There again, however, the chains that bind these humans to the barren tree are chains they have forged themselves. They only imagine they can not free themselves.

IN ALL DECKS, this card represents passion as opposed to sensitivity, sensation without understanding, bondage to the material, temporary pleasures of life without

willingness to assume responsibility for one's own actions.

One young tarot student I know refers to it as the "cop-out card" and that is an apt description.

To be productive, well adjusted and happy in life, we must all recognize our physical nature and enjoy sensual pleasure and put them in their proper place. They cannot be totally neglected or denied but neither can we allow them to become all-consuming and interfere with our intellectual and spiritual growth.

Each of us must make his own choices in life. When we choose wrongly, it is easy to blame the forces around us—our parents and grandparents, the government, the society in which we live, or whatever other demon or devil comes to our mind. In reality, we ourselves are to blame for most of the difficulties we must face in life.

Next week: Pre-destination vs. free will

Regional Roundup

VULETIDE PAGEANT

Birmingham's 27th annual Christmas Parade will fill the city's streets with color and music Sunday, and bring Santa Claus back to town once again. His arrival will be at the parade's finale when he departs from a specially designed float and enters Fantasyland in the space at Third and Walnut streets. Dozens of Birmingham's bands and marching units will vie for awards and trophies during the parade, which begins at 2 p.m. Santa Claus' procession through town will be accompanied by refreshments in Municipal Park, courtesy of the Rochester-Knox Club. The parade is cosponsored by the Rochester-Jaycees and the Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce.

sure whether that care meets the city's needs.

SCHOOL CLOSING

Farmington school district took force on declining enrollment to seek a second look at its recommendations and suggested that the board of education close either Fairview or Lincoln schools during the 1975-76 school year. Both schools house students from Farmington and West Bloomfield. The committee will present its recommendations to the board of education at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 10 in the Harrison High School auditorium, 2299 W. Twelve Mile.

GOODWILLERS DO WELL

Southfield Goodwill President Jim Hawkins reports record revenues from this year's paper sales. Goodwillers collected \$263, compared to \$162 last year. As a result, Southfield Goodwillers will come closer to their goal of "No Southfield child without a Christmas." Hawkins said.

FUZZ WILL BUST

The Fuzz busters which some think will beat the system won't work in Troy. Troy police are cracking down on people who use the mechanical devices which intercept with police radar tracking equipment.

Although the legality of the Fuzz busters is still in question, Troy police are issuing citations for any persons caught using the devices or keeping them in their cars. Oakland County Prosecutor E. Brock Peterson believes the device shouldn't be operating to begin with. He is trying a test case in the detectors. Troy police are waiting for the outcome in court. Those using Fuzz busters will get busted themselves.

BLACKBOARD FILL

West Bloomfield schools were closed Wednesday when a number of district teachers called in sick. Teachers are still without a contract after three months of negotiations with the school board. According to a letter from president Ray Harris there was no concerted effort to close down the schools. He himself said he was going to a funeral Wednesday.

FMS EXED

An ad hoc group of Birmingham residents has formed a committee to evaluate whether the city needs an advanced Emergency Medical Service (EMS). EMS systems provide on the scene emergency medical treatment using trained paramedics. The six-member citizens' committee will look at what emergency medical care is now available in Birmingham and eval-

County refuses to plea bargain

Oakland County Prosecutor E. Brock Peterson will approve Thursday that his office will no longer engage in plea bargaining for breaking and entering cases after Jan. 1.

Plea bargaining is used for several reasons. It offers a potential reduction in sentence to the defendant by allowing him to plead guilty to a lesser offense than the one in which he was originally charged. It offers relief to the court, which may suffer from a crowded docket, and for the prosecution.

Vets' relief group created by Murphy

Oakland County Executive Daniel T. Murphy recently announced the formation of a non-partisan commission to disburse relief funds and burial expenses for eligible veterans.

The four member commission, called the Veterans Relief Commission, will be appointed by Probate Court judges with recommendations provided by such veterans groups as the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Murphy said the commission will distribute funds to those veterans who qualify for such aid and partial reimbursement of funeral expenses to families of eligible veterans.

Space for the four commission members is already available," he said, "and our present staff is trained and equipped to assist them, so there will be no cost increase for the Veterans Service Division."

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color, it promises a higher conviction rate. Breaking and entering will be added to a list of crimes for which plea bargaining is not accepted by the prosecutor's office. They include carrying a concealed weapon, armed robbery, sale of narcotics and negligent homicide.

There have been 902 of those cases so far this year. The addition of breaking and entering, Peterson noted, would almost double the number of cases excluded from plea bargaining. A total of 671 cases have been bound over to Oakland County Circuit Court this year.

We'll probably break the 1,000 barrier in cases tried as charged, which will make us the leading county in the nation," Peterson said.

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