

Rosicrucian Chronicles

Serving the Ideals of the Rosicrucian Movement

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Letters...

"Dear Editor:"

"Someone brought your recent issue of "Rosicrucian Chronicles" to my attention. Like you, I laud efforts for truth and justice. I commend you and your stand that improper procedures were used against Mr. Stewart as to a proper tribunal. However, I must take issue to you response to a "Fratr from California" (page 6). The Chronicle's response was, "The above letter comes from one of our several readers who are operating under the false impression that Gary Stewart was Ralph Lewis' hand-picked successor as Imperator of AMORC. This rumor seems to have been generated and spread by Gary Stewart himself."

"We, at the Chronicles, have had access to all of the relevant files and records and nowhere do the records indicate that Ralph Lewis chose Gary Stewart, no where."

"The facts are that you, or anyone else, may not have any written files or records on Mr. Lewis' choice of Gary Stewart. There may well be no written records of this. However, as a member of the MCE for many years, I've been privy to oral statements made by Mr. Lewis. In the light of your statements it seems important for me to brief you on this."

"An MCE member had asked Mr. Lewis why he had chosen Mr. Stewart to succeed him. Mr. Lewis

replied that Mr. Poole, Piepenbrink, Schaa and Christian Bernard, for various reasons would not qualify for the position of Imperator. Mr. Lewis then said, in no uncertain terms, "Only Gary can do it!"

"I bring this information to your attention because you refer to Lewis' choice of Stewart as rumor. It is not rumor. Those of the MCE who are privileged to this information know this as fact."

"I'm in hopes you'll print this letter. It provides your readers with insight of the truth shared by some privileged members of the inner Council of the Order which was so dear to Mr. Lewis' heart."

"In the Bonds of Truth, I am"

"Sincerely and fraternally,"

"Dr. John Palo"

We would like to thank Dr. Palo for his letter. We were aware of the facts outlined it and were waiting for someone to come forward independently with this information. Dr. Palo relates the story, up to a certain point. This letter verifies our statements about everyone on the Board except for Gary Stewart,

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AND

PLEASE SEND ADDRESS CHANGES

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and, initially, it appears to contradict our statements about Gary. But, the question was answered by Mr. Lewis himself.

Mr. Lewis had discerned that several individuals were attempting to manipulate his choice of successor in ways detrimental the best interests of the Order. At the same time, as is related above, many well meaning members, without realizing it, were unduly pressuring Mr. Lewis to state his choice. Mr. Lewis knew that he would be playing into the hands of the manipulators if he made a final and formal statement prematurely. So, for a time, he only gave statements informally and orally, and he persistently declined to make a statement in writing.

When it finally came time to make his wishes clear, in a formal and final manner, he wrote an official letter that pointedly and clearly stated that he was leaving the choice up to the Board. In this manner all of the Karmic consequences of the manipu-

lators and deceivers are to be born by them alone. He took these actions with great deliberation in order to make sure that history would know that he was quite consciously acting in this manner and to be sure that his intentions would not be "lost". We have a complete copy of letter. Sections of which we now quote. Also, for those who think there is and has been no Tradition of democracy within the Order, please make careful note of the first paragraph.

"To: THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SUPREME GRAND LODGE OF AMORC"

"The election of one to serve in the honorable and yet humble office of Emperor of the Ancient, Mystical Order Rosae Crucis is one of the most momentous tasks that the Board of Directors of the Supreme Grand Lodge may ever be called upon to fulfill. It demands that the Board members have an open mind, free of self-oriented preference or prejudice."

"The innate attributes of one who is to serve as Emperor are only revealed in the tradition and history of those who have functioned in such an office. These unwritten qualities have been most important and compelling in the demands made upon an Emperor, for they are the dictates of conscience."

"These indwelling impulses to be abided by are moral orientation and creative motivation."

"The first, moral orientation, requires that the individual have a rational sense of the need for self-discipline. He must at all times be conscious that the esteemed office he holds has not made him a demigod. He is a human, imbued with all the natural desires and appetites, but he must not let any of them dominate or cause him to forfeit the noble ideas of his office."

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"Morality must be construed in terms of the goodness which it does, and not in a conformity to the dogma of a sect. This morality further requires that one exhibits, when necessary, a militant aggression to defend the Order in the performance of its right conduct. Withdrawal from a just need to defend is a worthless passivity."

Then on page 2, paragraph 8. Please make a special note of this section.

"I make no suggestion as to whom I would like or believe should be elected to the august office of Imperator. But members of the Board should make room for younger men who have the qualifications or exhibit the potential for officership in the Order...It takes vitality which, as we know, diminishes with time. That is why age is a factor in filling officership."

"Select one for the office of the Imperator, wisely guided by the God of your heart, and be always reminded of a phrase written by Dr. H. Spenser Lewis, my beloved father, in his Last Will and Testament published in the September 1939 issue of the Rosicrucian Digest, in referring to the obligations of officers:"

""And may nothing ever tempt them to break the faith or yield one iota, nor give tribute to the enemies of Light, but be ready at all times, as I have been, to sacrifice all, even life itself, to defend the Rosy Cross, its true traditions and purposes. So Mote It Be!""

"May you ever be guided by the God of your Heart!"

"So Mote It Be!"

"Ralph M. Lewis" "IMPERATOR"

We wish to thank Dr. Palo very much for sharing this privileged information. Unfortunately, he was not privy to the finish of the story. But, Gary and the rest of the Board had read the letter and knew what it contained.

Gary Stewart knew that Mr. Lewis had pointedly declined to name anyone, including himself, yet he has continued to claim otherwise. It is this false claim that Gary has used to promote his leadership of his splinter groups rather than to defend AMORC. He and the other Board members have continued to suppress publication of this letter, knowing that the contradictions would become obvious. This is the reason that the statements in the last issue were made as they were.

"To the Letters From The Readers Column."

"Let us begin with a few quotes from our Rosicrucian Manual."

""Know, then, there is a wonderful union or assembly of Master Minds, Master Personalities, who constitute the *Holy Assembly* of the Cosmic." Page 141."

"THE GREAT WHITE LODGE"

""There are a number of others; (Masters) some are on the Cosmic Plane, carrying on the great work while awaiting their next incarnation, and some are on this earth plane directing the physical work while developing for the Cosmic Plane period. Under their care a certain group of high Initiates are prepared in each incarnation for still higher work in the next incarnation, and some of these are assigned the duty, the service *and the real labor*, of maintaining the positions of Imperators, Magi, and Hierophants in several branches of the Great White Brotherhood organizations, of which the Rosicrucian Order is the Highest. These Imperators, Magi, and Hierophants in the various lands, together with the Masters, compose the Holy Assembly of the *Great White Lodge*."

"The *Great White Brotherhood*, on the other hand, is the school or Fraternity, of the Great White Lodge, and into this invisible Brotherhood of visible members every true student on the path prepares for admission." Page 141/142."

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"1. Publishers of the Rosicrucian Chronicles, in your pleas for democratization, have you consulted higher authorities under which we have always operated or do you view the above as a mere pie in the sky?"

"2. Do you give only lip music to the above quoted lines of authority as many religious devotees do with the existence of Soul as the true self rather than the Physical body?"

"3. You lament the loss of status of the Supreme Temple and the United States as housing the SEE of the Order. In what epoch has our Beloved Order ever built its foundation upon a perishable edifice?"

"You have my permission to print this letter if desired so as to render understandable answers should you choose to respond in print."

"Sincerely"

"Nigh Tel"

1. & 2. Bearing in mind the response to the previous letter, as well as statements in previous issues, we do not view the above as a mere pie in the sky and we do not just give lip service to our Traditions. But, if you have been keeping up with developments, those currently on the Board and running the Park have made it clear that they do give only lip service to our Traditions.

In our first issue, we promised to provide "a forum for the members to express their hopes, dreams and concerns." In the process of doing so, opinions have been expressed with which not everyone agrees. None the less, they are opinions which the Students have every right to express. Democracy is one of those ideas. Some feel that the Order needs more and some feel that the Order needs less. Many, who have not worked within a Lodge, do not realize that a great deal of democracy has been extant within the Order since ancient times. For example, groups of members

are not forced to become Lodges. They vote to assume the responsibilities of that function and they vote to decide whether to engage in various activities. If a member agrees or disagrees with a group's decisions, that member "votes with their feet" or "votes with their dollars" or their participation or lack there of.

3. We are not lamenting "the loss of status of the Supreme Temple..." per se. We are, though, lamenting the loss of honesty and integrity among the officers of the Order. But, we wanted to first demonstrate this loss by sharing instances of serious dishonesty. We did not want just to state the conclusions. We know that all true Rosicrucians are walking question marks who would want to know facts that support the conclusions.

The question also shows that the writer has only heard part of the story. We did not underline, italicize or capitalize the word status. The reference is not to "Status" as in status symbols, but, to broken promises and who had made them.

Before C. Bernard held his installation ceremony, some of the members had discovered what he had planned to do and had attempted to warn the membership. These individuals were excommunicated from the Order. In his acceptance speech, C. Bernard denied all of the allegations. He claimed that he had never planned to move the SEE and he promised that he never would. If the members that had attended the ceremony had known that he was going to break his word, they would never have allowed the ceremony to be completed. C. Bernard knew that there was the chance of this and so he knowingly lied to the hundreds members who had attended.

He made a number of promises to the membership in his speech and he has, so far, broken

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all of them. Every one of the items listed in the first issue of the *Chronicles* under "Areas of current concern", are concerns because they represent promises made to the members that have all since been broken. For example, we know that there is still, currently unrealized, the intention to sell the Park because the Grand Masters and Board members said so during the official proceedings of an official Board meeting in 1990. Our efforts and yours have, to date, kept them from selling the Park and running off with the money.

We wish to thank the Frater for his letter because it reminds us that not everyone was at the ceremony or has seen the video tape. (copies will be available in the future).

Comments...

"Please keep sending the *Chronicles*. The truth will find its way!"

"Please add my name to your mailing list and also let me know what you propose as a Solution to what is evidently a continuation of some errors of the past. I will make copies & pass them on to other Rosicrucians."

"Please keep me on your mailing list. Enclosed is a book of stamps."

"I have been reading the *Chronicles* from a friend who receives them. I am very impressed and interested in the subjects and have been a Rosicrucian since 1959-I always want to know what is going on."

"I'm enjoying your newsletter, namely the *Rosicrucian Chronicles*. The enclosed check is but a small appreciation of my sincere thanks."

Comments and Questions...

"Recently Kristie Knutson gave a public lecture in our city...I was informed that all the questions...from your Aug. issue...were "lies"- "all lies" attempting to undermine the truth of the Rosicrucian Order. I was told to forget about the

Chronicles - indeed everyone was told to stop reading them..."

"However, I am uncomfortable quoting "our sources" as an authority. Is it possible to have, for example, the name of the agency dealing with the alleged sale of the Park for the purpose of verification?"

Normally the answer would be yes. But, we have been forced to keep many of our sources private, for now. Many who have come forward have suffered greatly from the vicious attacks of these individuals. In this instance, if we told you the agency, they would just change agencies, the agents would loose there jobs and Kristie would just then claim that it never happened. She has acted similarly in other instances. We have not criticized AMORC only those that continue to misuse it. Many have been ordered to stop reading the *Chronicles* and the Lodges and Chapters have been ordered to keep copies away from the members. If we were so false in our claims, these individuals would not be so quick to engage in these nazi-like suppressions, repressions and misquotes of our statements.

One individual was concerned because comments were presented concerning Kristie's false claims about her family's long time involvement in AMORC. Our comments were all aimed directly at Kristie and no one else. Kristie cannot support the false claims that she made concerning her academic and experiential qualifications and so she then attempted to invent some Rosicrucian credentials. What was being pointed out by belaboring the point, was that her statements were no small stretch of the imagination, but that there is an enormous gulf between the facts and her story. The comments again were directed toward Kristie's behavior in an official communication to the membership. Almost all of our readers understand that.

There were also a couple of comments concerning the references to the lack of qualifications held by the salaried officers in the Order and at the

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Park. We have all known many individuals, especially Rosicrucians, who have had no formal training and yet have demonstrated great wisdom and knowledge. We have also all known many college graduates who did not. Many have heard them referred to as "educated fools".

In order to answer these and other questions, reference will be made to a letter that is printed in its entirety on page 7. In that letter we have been grossly misquoted, our words have been twisted and statements have been attributed to us that we never made. The letter was part of the newsletter of Rose Chapter in Santa Cruz, California, not far from San Jose.

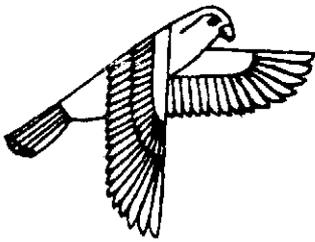
In the first paragraph it is said that "the major portion of this newsletter is devoted to the ridicule and outright slander of AMORC and its officers and members." We have never once ridiculed or slandered AMORC, its members or its volunteer officers. It is we who are being slandered by these gross misrepresentations. It goes on to say that "The writers claim that all of the wise members of AMORC have already quit; that none of the officers have any degrees or credentials and most are school dropouts. They claim that the members who are left and who are active in the order are all "fringe dwellers" who exist in a "state of denial". They go so far as to attack the character of our Grand Master's mother while proudly bragging of their own excellent family lineage." Again, we never once said such things and we have encouraged as many sincere, long time members as possible to stay as long as they are able. The officers that we referred to are the salaried officers and their lawyers, about a dozen total. Our readers understand that. The point we were making is that these few individuals are the last people on the planet who should be in these positions and that the many members and volunteer officers who should be in these positions, have been excluded by these few grossly unqualified individuals. It is you, the sincere and qualified members who should be in these positions. We did not "attack the character of the Grand Master's mother". She did not make the false

claims. We pointed out the complete lack of integrity of the Grand Master herself. It was Kristie who brought her mother into the discussion, under false pretenses and it is Kristie who should be faulted for doing so. The overwhelming majority of our readers have understood that we have meant just that.

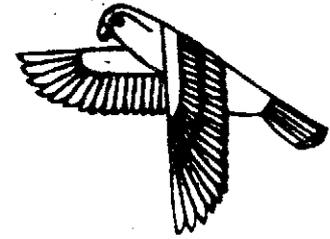
It is interesting to note that in the letter on the next page, is an excellent example of denial. In the last paragraph there is the attempt to minimize the seriousness of the concerns to the point where no action would be necessary and then indicates that it is somehow true to Rosicrucian Tradition for one to subdue oneself to tyrants. The only items that he places in the category of the "positive" are the polite and safe pleasantries and he argues that the only proper members' role is agreeable passivity. What will this member say when all of the facts come out and the questionable individuals are removed. All tyrants fall. How will this member explain his inaction. Will he say that he had his head in the sand and he didn't hear anything or see anything because the sand was in his ears and eyes, and that the fault, therefore, is in the sand? Remember the words quoted above from Ralph M. Lewis "Withdrawal from a just need to defend is a worthless passivity."

Many of our readers have asked for reprints of past issues. There are 5 issues in Volume 1, 1992 and there are 11 issues, with this one, in Volume 2, 1993. If you would like copies any of our issues please send us your address, the requested issue number(s) and one dollar each to cover to cost of printing and postage to:

Rosicrucian Chronicles
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MASTER'S MESSAGE



Normally I would reserve this space for some words of purely positive nature. However, I'm having a hard time with it because something has been bothering me and I have to say something about it. I have received some issues of a newsletter from a group organized by some disgruntled ex-members that "purports" to be "serving the ideals of Rosicrucians"... Such could not be further from the truth! In fact the major portion of this newsletter is devoted to the ridicule and outright slander of AMORC and its officers and members. The writers of this newsletter claim that all of the wise members of AMORC have already quit; that none of the officers of AMORC have any degrees or credentials and most are school dropouts. They claim that the members who are left and who are active in the order are all "fringe dwellers" who exist in a "state of denial". They go so far as to attack the character of our Grand Master's mother while proudly bragging of their own excellent family lineage.

The facts are that a great number of our leading officers and members do have college degrees and otherwise excellent educations. But more importantly we know that such alone is not the true measure of the quality of a mystic. One of history's greatest mystics, Jacob Boehme, was an example of the fact that wisdom often arises amidst humble circumstances. And the members? While it is true that the worldwide membership has dropped significantly, a majority of the current members are high degreed and Hierarchy members who see the wisdom of maintaining unfailing support of AMORC and its principles, as well as its organization.

I cannot continue to relate all of the destructive things that are being said by the antagonistic group under discussion, but there seems to be no end to their vindictiveness. One of the things that saddens me most about these attacks against the Rosicrucian Order is that they are brought against us by those who once benefited from the Rosicrucian teachings. Now they have chosen to turn on the Order with venomous and insidious propaganda; perhaps to self justify their failure to live up to the very Rosicrucian ideals they claim to be defending.

I do not claim that all is perfect with our organization for it is true that we have our share of problems and challenges, but the solution to our problems does not lie in destructive criticism. It is a shame that the writers of the mentioned newsletter did not devote their talents to constructive purposes. After all, a multi-paged newsletter requires a fair amount of creative work to generate. But we should not welcome such mental poisoning into our affairs. There exist a vast number of members of AMORC who have been through its troubles and successes for many years and even generations. They choose to eternally remain loyal and continue to work cooperatively within the Order and to strive for the greatest good.

To those who were looking forward to some uplifting message here, I apologize for taking this space to write about this disagreeable topic. Having done it, I will not write on this topic again in this bulletin.

May you dwell in the serenity of harmony with the Cosmic, sincerely and fraternally yours,

Gerald O'Docherty
Gerald O'Docherty
Master-Servant