

DeKalb is denying Lady Sintana her right to freedom of religion

The Editors: With reference to your paper's reports on the controversy over the religious activities of Lady Sintana at her home in DeKalb County, I am appalled by the intolerance of some residents of the county, and even more horrified by the county Board of Appeals' support of those attitudes. Would these people even consider that a zoning variance would be necessary for homes that host Passover Seders, Bible studies, or Christmas parties? I think not, but these activities are directly analogous to the religious activities that occur in the homes of witches.

Witchcraft, or Wicca, is a positive, loving religion that celebrates life. Witches hold all of nature sacred and seek to encourage the divine spark that is within all beings. Witches believe in magic — the power of the imagination and will — to accomplish great good in the world. Wiccans' one commandment is "Harm none."

I do not know Lady Sintana or her specific cir-

In my opinion



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cumstances beyond what has been reported, but I do know that the U.S. Constitution guarantees all residents of this country free exercise of religion. What grounds, then, can DeKalb County have for

apparently declaring that people may not practice their religion on their own property?

I imagine that many of the distressed residents of Lady Sintana's neighborhood, say grace at mealtimes, help their children with bedtime prayers, include Nativity scenes among their Christmas decorations, read the Bible in their living rooms and carry on many other activities that make their homes places of worship. They are very lucky that no one questions their right to do so. I hope that in the future they will be more tolerant of those whose worship takes forms unfamiliar to them. And should Lady Sintana find it necessary to take DeKalb County to court, I wish her success in having this ruling reversed — for the sake of the free exercise of all religions.

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