



# LIVING IN SYNC WITH THE CYCLES

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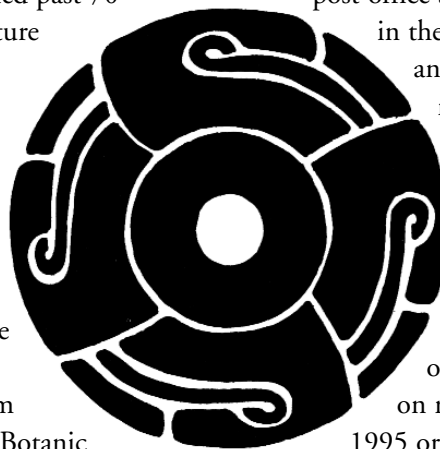
**I**T IS SLEETING IN NEW YORK CITY as I write this, but this is only the second week of Winter weather that we have had and it is already February. January is typically the coldest month of the year, but just a few weeks ago, the thermometer inched past 70 degrees. The temperature stayed in the 50-60 degree range from October until late January.

Around New Year's, the bulbs of Spring time popped up all over the neighborhood. The famous cherry blossom trees in the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens bloomed four months early. The potted snapdragons on my terrace were still flowering until the first deep freeze last week.

When it finally did start to get chilly, it was still quite comfortable in the high 30s and 40s. Today's forecast said that immediately following this icy Nor'easter, the temperature is supposed to return to the 40's. Though this warm weather was certainly pleasant — and most folks probably prefer it to the normal icy January — it was most disconcerting. Strangers stopped each other in the streets to comment on the weird

weather and to exchange sentiments of discomfort and foreboding about our eerily off kilter environment.

"It's global warming," people whispered with wonder and a tinge of trepidation in their voice. "It's global warming," echoed everywhere — in the post office and the pet food store, in the café, the fruit stand and the Chinese take out restaurant.



There is no denying that despite local weather variations, the globe, on average, is most definitely warming. Nine of the 10 hottest years on record occurred in 1995 or later. The last six years were among the very hottest.

The long-term trend of global warming — already blamed for bringing extreme drought to the Horn of Africa and Australia and melting of the Arctic ice shelf — is set to be exacerbated by the arrival of El Niño this year, the phenomenon caused by above-average sea temperatures in the Pacific.

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the United Nations agency that deals with climate prediction, issued a warning that El Niño is already established over the tropical Pacific basin. It is set to bring