

As I was perusing the material from which we selected the contents of this issue, it occurred to me that our subject, Underground Comix, is not a new phenomenon. It't as old as cartoon art. Many of the techniques of today's creators of underground comix are refinements of the styles of early comic book and strip artists: Windsor McKay, Edward Gorey, Charles Addams, Will Eisner, Al Capp, Walt Kelly, and so many more.

What happened was, when books devoted solely to comicstrips (previously a "gimmick" added to written publications) became popular, kids were particularly attracted to this easy-to-read, visually exciting, illustrated form of literature. Sometime in the 50's, the "censor syndrome" set in, which means parents got tired of taking responsibility for the content of the books read by their children, and decided to pass a law (and the "buck"!).

Comic book publishers couldn't pull the books out of the kids' hands, of course, so they created the Comics Code Authority, which systematically pulled the sex, blood, drugs, violent crime, reality, politics, and pretty much the pizazz out of comics. The field of underground comixs emerged as a branch of the art that refused to be censored. The success of these comics and their offspring (the ground-level comics, graphic novels, adult animation, etc.) is a testimony to the courageous few who have expanded and diversified the industry to its present, multi-faceted form.

What the censors and pro-censorship parents want to know is, "Do you really need the crime and gore and sex and all? Are you trying to tell us that it's not "real" comics without that? And what does that say about the medium?"

Well, quite aside from my feelings about censorship, it should be observed that this special combination of illustrated characters and action scenes with dialog makes the comic medium a fusion art form. It incorporates components of acting, direction, layout, costume and, in fact, becomes as close to a form of theatre as is possible for a written medium (with the link completed in the animated film). As a theatrical presentation, the comic creators have the magickal task of suspending disbellef, of evoking an experiential communication that transcends mere storytelling and data transference. Artistic and aesthetic constraints are particularly untenable in such a medium.

And, as in theatre, the non-conformists among the artists are particularly revolutionary.

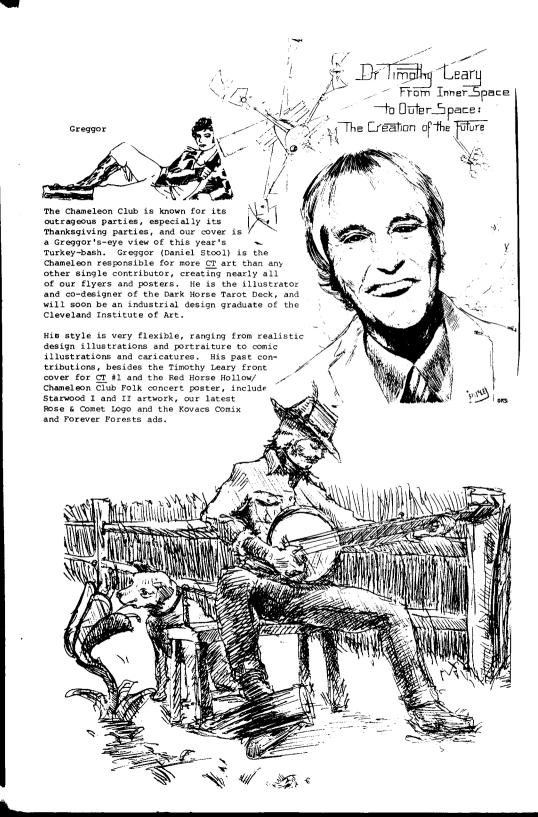
This periodical is dedicated to the expansion of the frontiers of your consideration. We of the Chameleon Club would like to introduce you to some of our most facinating topics for discussion and contemplation both ancient and modern. This literary creation reflects the same spirit as our other projects and events: to intrigue and entertain you with knowledge, art, and fantasy; to offer, perhaps, a few new touchstones for tomorrow's world, and our shared adventure in it.

We would like to thank our contributors: Daniel(Greggor)Stool, Larry Cornett, Jay Kinney, Gilbert Shelton, Leonard Rifas, Michael T. Gilbert, Mike Schwartz, Jeff Rosenbaum, Mishlen Adams, Brenwyn, Iskandar R. Alexandar, Gwydion Pendderwen, Otter G'Zell, and Kathy Weems for our Gwydion illustration. Special thanks, also, to Victoria Ganger for typing work and Ruth Miller of Creative Copy for her help.

Issues and back-issues are available for \$1.50 apiece from the Chameleon Club, P.O.Box 174, Perry, Ohio 44081. The Changeling Times actively seeks submissions. We hope to provide stimulating, widely diverse viewpoints on reality and things resembling it, particularly around the eyes. All rights to submissions remain with the creators; all other rights reversed.



The 1983 Starwood Festival will be held July 22nd-24th at Devil's Den Park in Eastern Ohio. We are considering extending the festival to include Trurs. the 21st. For class proposals and further information write Starwood c/o the Chameleon Club P.O.Box 174 Perry, Ohio 44081



Michael T. Gilbert first caught my interest as one of the contributors to Star*Reach. Star*Reach Productions was started in 1974 by Mike Friedrich and featured adult sci-fi and fantasy material by some of the best Marvel and DC personnel, as well as independents and underground comix folks. Star*Reach was the first major "ground-level" comic, the format which gave birth to magazines like Heavy Metal, Epic and Eclipse, and features like Marvel's Graphic Novel series.

Gilbert's best known character is "The Wraith," whose adventures were a regular feature of Quack! comix. Quack! was a running joke on the wave of funny-animal characters popping up in the business, especially on the onslaught of ducks that accompanied the Steve Gerber character for Marvel, Howard the Duck. Artistically, The Wraith was a dog-character version of Will Eisner's detective character, The Spirit, but Gilbert uses standard characters and scenes in his stories to create false expectations, then explodes the story from within with a new twist. Classic fight layouts dissolve into metaphysical digression, or insights into aspects of the characters and his relation to the paper-and-ink world in which he lives, which breaks down the "fourth wall" (between performer and audience) in a strange new way.

Examples include "The Rebirth" (New Paltz Comix #3), in which we get a glimpse of a more "realistic" picture of a 60's superhero: J'onn J'onnzz, the Martian Manhunter who, like Superman, was an alien trapped on Earth, living in secret among human. In "Worlds Without, Worlds Within " (Star*Reach #9), a small circle of campfire light and the warm glow of held hands cup a bit of Earth and humanity in the sparkling depths of space. One of his best works is "A Dream of Milk and Honey," (Imagine #4-5); a 32-pg epic chronicling yet another adventure in the search of the Jewish people for a homeland, this time pioneering a new planet.



c. 1977 Michael T. Gilbert



THE WRAITH @ 1982 MICHAELT: GILBERT

Michael T. Gilbert

Michael Gilbert's latest work can be seen in Fantaco's chronicle series, the new collection of his work, called Strange Brew (Aardvark-Vanaheim, Inc.). He'll also be working on Pacific Comics' new Elric series (based on Michael Moorcock's character) with Craig Russell. I hear he's moving to Warren, OH. Welcome to the area, Mike!



I WISH YOU'D I WISH YOU'D I WISH YOU'D



c. 1974 Michael T. Gilbert

Quarterly international magickal newspaper with rituals, articles, contacts, reviews, local and national calendar, news and more. 1 Yr. subscription: \$7/USA, \$9/USA&Canada lst class, \$13/Elsewhere Air Mail. Sample copy: \$2/USA&Canada, \$3/Elsewhere.

Magickal Catalog: \$1/USA&Canada, \$2/Elsewhere.
Free brochure on Circle available on request.

WORKING WITH NATURE SPIRITS by Larry Cornett

Most pagans are concerned with nature, celebrate the seasons, and work with the elements and other natural flows. Unfortunately, some "city witches" perform all their rituals inside (often with curtains drawn). As a result, they do not experience the beauty, the joy, the power, and the knowledge that comes from working in wild places. Many pagans do not know how to make the most of opportunities to work in natural settings. Ignorance can cause serious problems when inappropriate techniques are used.

With proper attunement to and respect for nature spirits, pagans have experienced spectacular physical manifestations while working in the wild. Birds have joined rituals, flying around the circle and joining in chants. On a cold, rainy day, a site selected for a ritual was dry and comfortable, with a circular hole in the clouds directly overhead. Foxfire marked the boundaries of the magick circle, and friendly spirits provided information and tremendous amounts of magickal energy.

If approached with disrespect, commanding rather than listening and inviting, nature spirits may flee, rebel, or attack. Magicians should know better than to try to command spirits whose true name they do not know.

Each plant, rock, or other natural entity has a spirit. These spirits can join together as a spirit of an area in a hive-mind. It is possible to sense the spirits, determine if they are receptive to a ritual planned, and obtain their help if they are.

When entering a wild area to find a site for a ritual, it is useful to first purify oneself, relax, focus on breathing, ground and center, and magically charge oneself. Bring out the Shaman Self, who naturally communicates with nature. Approach plants and places as living spirits, and intuit receptive sites. Send out love energy and project thoughts on your intentions and on how spirits can respond to signal receptivity. By squinting your eyes and entering a mild trance, you may see light coming from areas that are receptive. Perhaps, the type of response will be unexpected; follow your intuition on interpreting it.

Approach the receptive site beaming love energy. Extend your aura to the site and sense the energy. If the vibes are good, enter the area; if not, locate another more receptive area. When entering the site, look around. Perhaps the energy will be concentrated around some singularity (a bush, a tree, a moss covered rock, or other entity that stands out). Perhaps the energy will be more general. Use your intuition and feedback from the spirits to guide your actions. If it feals right, send out a signal that you would like to touch the singularity (or the ground). If the response is good, approach beaming love energy, touch or hug the singularity or the ground. One can knock on wood to awaken nature spirits. Treat the spirits as you would other pagans you meet the first timebe sensitive, open, and listen.

By casting a magic circle and calling the elements, the Goddess, the Gods, and the local nature spirits, the level of communication can be greatly increased. It is possible to awaken the far memory of the spirits, when people and nature

spirits communicated regularly. Explain to the spirits the purpose of your coming to them and the nature of the ritual planned. If they are receptive and it feals right, explain the details of the ritual and invite them to join. Listen, they may provide suggestions on how to improve the ritual. If they are not receptive, thank the spirits for their attention, close the circle, and move to a more receptive site. For a first visit to a site, Earth Healing Rituals often give positive responses. Nature spirits have even helped with money magick and other mundane matters. When finishing a ritual in the wild, thank the spirits of the area, channel love energy, trigger your memory of the experience, and leave in peace and love.

Rituals to attune a site and get the aid of nature spirits performed the day before Sabbott and Esbot rituals brought the results described in the second paragraph of this paper during the main rituals. The Goddess was given time to gather her children. Friendly nature spirits, birds, animals, and natural forces from all around were able to prepare to do their thing.

There are other ways of working with nature spirits. This is one approach. The author thanks Selena Fox for teaching some of the above techniques at a tranceworking session sponsored by the Chameleon Club in 1981, and Carlos Castenada, the Gods, the Goddess, and various nature spirits for teaching the rest.

Larry Cornett

Jay Kinney

Jay Kinney has played a vital role in the creation of some of the best-known underground comics. He is a co-founder of <u>Bijou Funnies</u>, which has featured early works of such artists as R. Crumb, Gilbert Shelton, Jay Lynch & Justin Green. He is also a founder of <u>Young Lusting</u> and his present magazine, <u>Anarchy Comics</u>. Jay started out in the Cleveland area, attending Baldwin-Wallace College.

Featured is Jay's cover from Young Lust #4, to show the difference in style & visual impact between line-drawn comic illustrations and the photocopy & paste-up style becoming popular today. Comics have always favored low-budget techniques because they often came from privately funded, small-press companies or groups. Ironically, photo reproduction is now much less costly and quicker than drawings, with the equipment readily available. Many colleges and art schools have photocopied "guerilla art" flyers being produced and distributed by hand, in the tradition of mimeographed newsletters and underground papers of the 60's campuses, leading to the acceptance of these artists' work in the college papers and providing a launching point for the careers of many comic writers and artists.







YES, CONFUSION REIGNS IN MEATVILLE.

NUFF SAID!!

AND WHILE WE'RE ON THE SUBJECT, DID YOU GET TO VOTE ON WHETHER YOU WANTED THESE DIABOLICAL LITTLE

"UNIVERSAL PRICE CODES" STUCK ON EVERYTHING ??



NO, OF COURSE YOU DIDN'T THAT'S BECAUSE WE LIVE IN A FREE COUNTRY, BUB AND DON'T YOU FORGET IT... OR REMEMBER IT .. OR SOMETHING ...

JAME I DO HOPE YOU'LL

RE THERE ON SUNDAY IN

WHAT RIGHT DOES THAT

ANITA BRYANT HAVE TO

TELL VALUE ME WHAT TO DO

THE GAY FREEDOM MARCH



DEPRESSED. IN A MAD ACT OF DESPERATION HE STARTS DISMANTLING HIS "REC ROOM" GEE I SURE HOPE I CAN MAKE A FEW BUCKS BY SELLING OFF THE WOOD PANELING.



NOW JOE IS REALLY

MEANWHILE, LAMBARE OF THE BAD NEWS, JANE IS YOU KNOW MIDGE, LHENRI HAS A POINT THERE! ! AT HER HAIRDRESSER'S THINK I'LL BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY TO THAT MARCH!

> YES, I'LL BE THERE IN THE ANARCHO-FEMINIST CONTINGENT!

BACK HOME, JOE STRIPS THE T.V. FOR PARTS ... KNOW I CAN GET \$29 FOR THESE DO-HICKIES AT THE FLEA-



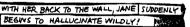
THAT MIGHT, JOE CASUALLY BREAKS THE NEWS OVER A FAMILY GAME OF BILLIARDS.



















STILL SUSPICIOUS ? JUST REMEMBER THESE THREE IMPORTANT RULES ...



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2 BEWARE OF DON'T SWALLOW SUBLIMINAL IDEOLOGIES MESSAGES IN WHOLE! CHEW ADVERTISING. ALL THEORIES DEFACE BILL-100 TIMES BOARDS AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY SWALLOWING.



GIVE YOUR SUFFCONSCIOUS BREAK! MAKE ROOM FOR A WELL-INTEGRATED SUBJECTIVITY II YOUR SOCIAL STRUGGLES.



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3-5" in diameter, and anywhere from 30-70 years old. You can receive one with your

minimum \$50.00 tax-deductable donation to The Foundation for Research in Medical Botany, c/o the Chameleon Club, P.O.Box 174 Perry, Oh. Stoundation for Research Medical Botany



A TALE OF TWO (OR THREE) DEVILS

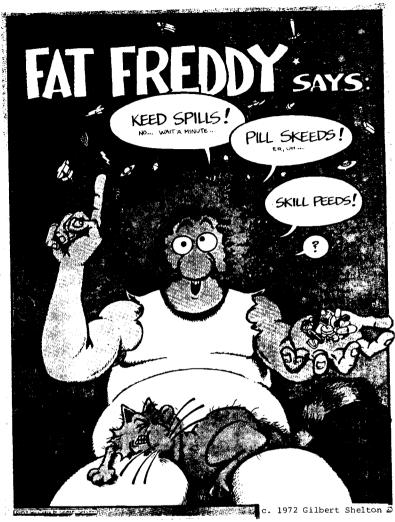
When Chameleons Jeff Wyndham and Daniel Stool created the Dark Horse Tarot, Daniel first came up with the Devil card you see below. This Devil incorporates many of the classic characteristics of the Christian Devil, sort of a super-version of a Hebraic demon: the Baphomet head and horns, the eyes all over the body, and hermaphroditic physical characteristics. He also has bat-wings in fantasy demon style, a fire-ball in his hand (with the other making the sign of the goat, or of the Horned Man), and an inverted pentagram floating above his head (as the Magician has an infinity symbol). They decided to re-do this card, judging it too "sciencefictiony" looking, and not in keeping with the Celtic/Pagan imagery of the other art. I felt the couple looked too much like aliens shooting at each other. They also, I thought, should be chained to the Devil's throne.

The card to the left is the one that was used. Note the Baphomet-headed serpent, and the couple's classic Lord & Lady poses. Take a good look, because you won't see it again.



A third Devil card has been included in the latest printing of the Dark Horse Tarot, which will be printed and discussed next issue. The reason we've dispensed with this version is that the confusion between the Devil and the Horned Man in people's minds might be increased, and this card is recognizably the Horned Man. This really implies an energy that, I feel, does not match the attributes of the Devil.





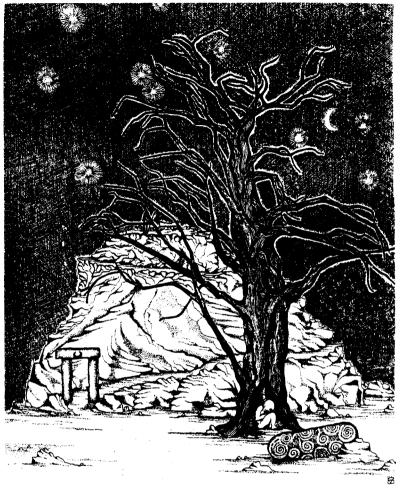
Gilbert Shelton ties with R Crumb for 1st Place in the Father of Underground Comix category. While Crumb creates surreal, usually impossible situations and characters (Yetti's, Buzzard-headed Amazons, cosmically-aware holy men, etc.) with a heavy dose of sex-fantasy, Shelton's characters are right from the streets of San Francisco. The Fabulous Furry Freak Bros are college-aged, dropped-out pot-heads, living on occasional jobs and occasional scams in a cheap apartment in the psychedelic 60's. Their adventures and situations are outrageous and unlikely, yet still built around the familiar day-to-day life of a hippie household: rent, food, scoring dope, opposing the authorities, avoiding the authorities and partying outrageously.

Shelton carried his characters through adventures from single-panel scenes to book-length epics, often parodying other authors' work and bringing versions of their characters into his stories. Stoned fantasies and dream sequences are frequent. Gilbert Shelton's influence can be seen in the works of Rand Holmes (Harold Hedd), Larry Todd (Dr. Atomic), Lee Marrs (Pudge), other underground comix writers/artists, and the comedy of National Lampoon Magazine and Cheech & Chong.



c. 1970 Gilbert Shelton





Changeling Times Contributors

Mishlen

Iskander R. Alexandar is a member of the Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA), as are many Chameleon Club members. Most of his art that I have seen has a Medieval or Celtic/Pagan theme. The featured illustration (and his female centaur warrior from CT #4) is from "Yule Song", by Chameleon Jeffrey Wyndham (published by Cu'macha Shadowdeath Press, 1982), an excerpt of which was reprinted in CT #3 (Starwood I). I.R. Alexandar's work can also be seen in Harvest magazine. The sparkle ad is by Brenwyn, past editor of Harvest and the Sirius Conspiracy.

Mishlen Adams is another SCA friend, though I first became familiar with her work in the Cincinnati Journal of Ceremonial Magick. Her art is magically oriented, and often blends Egyptian symbology with Celtic and Thelemic arcana. We hope to feature more of her work in our next issue. Her submissions include "Erisian Dance" (CT #5), this goddess drawing which illustrated Bonnie Shore's poem, "Elixer of Phoebe" (CT #1) and the cover of CT #2, reprinted here.





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Feeling down

and unwanted?

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Cobrs

TO Spick Your

UP!

SPARKLE

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23 Discord by.

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GOITO

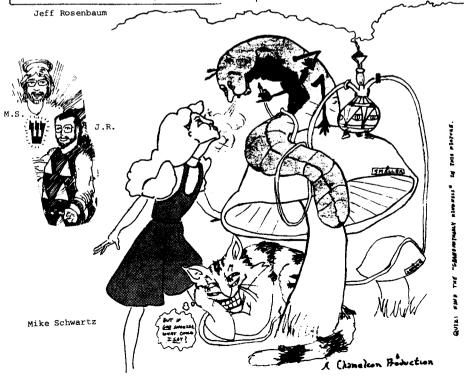
Brenwyn



Mike Schwartz has produced most of the Chameleon Club's party invitations, excerpts of which are shown here. He wrote and did art for HUH?, a Case Western Reserve Univ. private publication. He is presently working on the illustrations for a comic story by Jeff Rosenbaum, called "Passing Gas." He and Jeff are the major forces behind the Changeling Times production, in addition to being major contributers in writing and art.

Besides Mike's feature invitation art, he did the cover of <u>CT</u> #4 (also a reprinted Thanksgiving invitation), the tesseract design on the back cover of <u>CT</u> #00007, and all of CC's silkscreening. He also looks a great deal like Mike Doonesbury.

Jeff Rosenbaum doesn't venture into art too often, and is better known as the author of CT featured stores, "Gifts for the Angels," "An Escape," "Elementary Chemistry," "Starhenge" and various poems and articles. We've included his "What's Going On?" Thanksgiving invitation cover and mention should be made of his "Untied Snakes of Amerika" illustration in CT #00005.





Mike Schwartz

PROJECTS & GATHERINGS:

5th Annual Rites of Spring, May 27-30 about I hour's drive from Boston Sponsored by EarthSpirit Community & Athanor Fellowship. For registration information: Athanor Fellowship, P.O. Box 464 Allston, MA 02134.

sored by Circle and Pagan Spirit Gathering, sponsored by Circle and Pagan Spirit Alliance. June 18-26, at private nature sanctuary in Wisconsin. This year's focus Pagan Music & Culture. Workshops, Rituals, partyings, Bards & Storytellers, and so forth. Write: CIRCLE, Box 9013, Madison, WI 53715, or phone (608)437-8964 10am-5pm CST weekdays. (If you want to perform or make a presentation, contact Circle by April 20.)

1st Annual Goddess Gathering, June 23-26, at
A. W. Marion State Park near Circleville, Oh

Sponsored by Lifelight Temple (Kalamazoo, Mich.), Phoenix Pagan Temple (Gary, Ind.), & Temple of Wicca (Findlay, Ohio). For more information: Temple of Wicca, P. O. Box 1302, Findlay, OH 45840.

7th Annual Pan Pagan Festival, sponsored by Midwest Pagan Council. August 11-14, at Rogers' Lake Recreational Area, near Niles, Michigan. Workshops, presentations, Rituals & Ceremonies, partyings, and so forth. Preregistrations @ \$20/person. Registrations & Information-requests to: Stan Modzryk, 2735 Chicago Rd., So. Chicago Heights, IL 60411.

C.O.G. Festival of Mirth & Magic and annual Grand Council. August 18-21, at Circle Pines Center near Kalamazoo, Mich. Workshops, Rituals, and so forth. For more information: Orenda Au'Connor, P.O. Box 63, Mukwonago, WI 53149.



THE ASSOCIATION FOR CONSCIOUSNESS EXPLORATION

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A new center is forming in the Cleveland area, dedicated to the expansion of the frontiers of the human experience: The Association for Consciousness Exploration. It serves as a school, offering seminars in a number of subjects and training in techniques relating to the mind and its relationship with the body. It serves as a research facility offering the use of a variety of instruments, including bio-feedback machines, sensory isolation tanks, brain-activity synchronizers and monitors, and more, for your use and for the center's research. It serves as a theraputic facility where programs for stress management, relaxation, nicotine addiction extinction, and other beneficial purposes can be designed and carried out under the supervision of a medical doctor on the premises.

A.C.E. will also offer itself as a resource/research facility offering books, articles, and a selection of inexpensive sensory stimulation devices that have been shown to be entertaining and useful. A library of resource books, tapes, video-tapes, and periodicals will be maintained, with audiovisual equipment and a photostatic copier available.

Memberships will be available, which will entitle the member to a free subscription to the A.C.E. newsletter, the Chameleon Club periodical Changeling Times, access to our library, free use of our hot tub and other health facilities, and discounts on all A.C.E. and Chameleon Club activities and sales, as well as discounted use of sensory isolation, bio-feedback, and brain-activity equipment.

We expect to be operating sometime in May,1983. Our first two events will be: 1. a week-end seminar by Dr.Raymond and Tara Buckland on meditation, hypnosis, trance-work, and creative visualization.

2. New Tools for Consciousness Exploration with Dr. Bryan Grotte and Joseph Rothenberg, which will include hands-on experience with much of our equipment. Time for sensory isolation will be available for an extra fee.

For more information write A.C.E. c/o The Chameleon Club.



Chameleon Victoria Ganger has long been a member of the Society for Creative Anachronism (S.C.A.), a nationwide medieval group. She is known for her music (as well as for her propensity to party beyond all reasonable limita!) in both medieval and pagan circles, and has performed professionally in both the Cleveland and Athens, Ohio, areas.

Meandir,

Accompanied and assisted by fellow Chameleons on this one-hour cassette of 16 original songs, Victoria has created a unique blend of medieval imagery and contemporary music and energy - to sing you tales of dragons, unicorns, fair (but dangerous) maidens, valiant warriors and, of course, feasting, drinking and general revelry. Although originally produced for fine S.C.A., this tape is for all those who would have their fantasy, and their reality, too. A one-of-a-kind collector's item - available only through the Chameleon Club.

S.C.A. Cassette Tape \$8.50 (postage included S.C.A. Songbook (with chords) \$4.00 (postage included \$11.50 (postage included

Make checks payable to: Victoria Ganger. Alow 3-4 weeks for delivery

On Nov. 9th, 1982. I received a phone call bearing very saddening news: Gwydion Pendderwen had been killed in an auto accident. I was stunned. I couldn't believe that we had lost such a one. In the short time I had known him I'd witnessed his energy and warmth, the current of love and life he radiated. We'd spoken of music and magick, danced the Fairie Shaman's circle and shared water and laughter. He couldn't be gone.

The phone rang again... and again...and again. People from several states, from many divergent paths, were calling to share the news, and to plan passage-of-theway rituals and form a network of groups commemorating this event. And as I, too began phoning friends, I realized that, for this one moment. Gwydion had accomplished something in death that no-one yet had done in life: he'd brought the various magickal and pagan peoples together.

And I realized, too, that there is a part of Gwydion that will not be reborn, for it never died. That part lives on in Faerie, dancing in the forest, sparkling on the water, lighting now and again in an acorn shell - or a people's heart.

-Shalom

Gwydion's works are availableby obtaining them, you can help support the work of Forever Forests.



I'll be reborn

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(Book) \$4.50

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The Rites of Summer

two musical fantasies
by
Gwydion Pendderwen
illustrated by
Otter G'Zell



c. 1980 Nemeton

Otter G'Zell is part of the Forever Forest's extended family, and, with his lady Morninglory, is well known for the creation and raising of Lancelot, the living unicorn. (This beautiful single-horned goat will be the topic of a future feature.) They are also leaders of the Holy Order of Mother Earth(H.O.M.E.), an Earth-religion group whose essential ideas are in accord with those of Robert Heinlein's "Church of All Worlds" from his novel Stranger in a Strange Land.

Otter's art ranges from science fiction and fantasy poster art to the simple fairy tale illustration seen here in The Rites of Summer by Gwydion Pendderwen. During the tale the fox retells the legend of the creation of Man, and here the illustration changes to a cave-drawing style which enhances the sense of antiquity.



"'Perhaps,' said Pan, leaping high into the starry sky, 'we could change them!'

I carefully pulled the coils apart, and in a moment my friend leapt free of the snare and ran a short distance to an overgrown well whose masonry had remained standing all these years. Indeed, water flowed over its sides, feeding the lush tangle of herbs and vines that covered it.

Jumping up onto the well, the fox took a quick drink before she turned to me and barked in a voice that did not sound grateful.

"Ack! Ack! Ack!" she said, and leapt over the well and across a log into the forest beyond.

Taking off my knapsack, I went to the well to refresh myself. The water smelled sweet and was scented by mint and borage and other herbs. Drinking from my cupped hands, I was surprised to find that it tasted like honey wine, a discovery that pleased me no end. Looking to the other side of this wondrous fountain, I say honeybees buzzing about a piece of log fallen across the stone. Here was the source of the sweet drink that refreshed me and brought my strength back.

I took a second drink from the well and began to feel giddy, so I sat myself down in the damp herbs and began to sing, and the song I sang was this:

O honey comes from the honeybee
And water comes from the ground
Mix the two and you shall see
a drink that's seldom found.
Now add some mint and sprig-of-thyme,
And soon you will be gigglin',
For the potion of my rhyme
Is instant pure metheglyn!



A third draught from the well was certainly in order (for as all poets know, rhyming is thirsty work), and I leaned my head back to slurp the overflow, as by now I could not stand; but there on the well, right over my head, was the fox, as good as new, smiling at my drunken countenance.

"Well, my friend," I said merrily to the fox, "come join me in a wee drop of honey wine!"

"Thank you, no," replied the vixen, lithely leaping down to my side, "once is plenty. You yourself see what a second helping can do."

Merry as I was, I became very sober at that moment.

"Did I hear you speak?" I asked.

"Indeed you did," my friend calmly replied, and reached around to bite a flea.

"Oh my," I said. "Now what have I done to myself?"



"Only what is expected of humans," said the other. "The people who dwelt in this place took one too many drink from this well. As you can plainly see, it did them little good. But you have stopped just in time."

The fox scratched her ear thoughtfully, and smiled again.

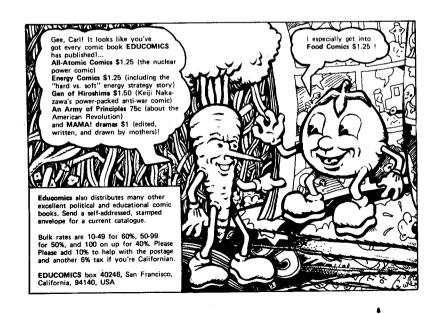
"I deserved to get caught in that snare for my stupidity, so don't think I'm grateful for your undoing my fate," and she rolled over on her back in the dirt, scratching like a dog. "But if you will comb the fleas and burrs out of my fur, I will answer you three questions of your own choosing."



Leonard Rifas

When I first saw Leonard Rifas' work in <u>Dope Comix</u>, I was impressed by the insight it showed into how he himself must look to his audience while expressing his opinion. His situations often involve the "wiser head" stepping in to clarify a "grey-area" controversy, with both sides displaying their characteristic form of tunnel vision.

Rifas' work can be seen in Gimme (Head Imports), Dope Comix and other kitchen sink productions. His most recent work is in Educomics. Ranging from thoughtful treatises on ecology and personal responsibility to light fantasies like the adventures of Tommy the Carrot and Carl Tomato, Leonard Rifas maintains an endearing personal feeling in all of his strips.





PACKASCATA THE BLACK HILLS



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sh the 1866 Fort Euromie Treaty, the U.S. government recognized the sight of the Lakota nation to an area, which included the jakosic Hills. The Black Hills (Paka Sapa) were and are the holy land of the Lakota people.







