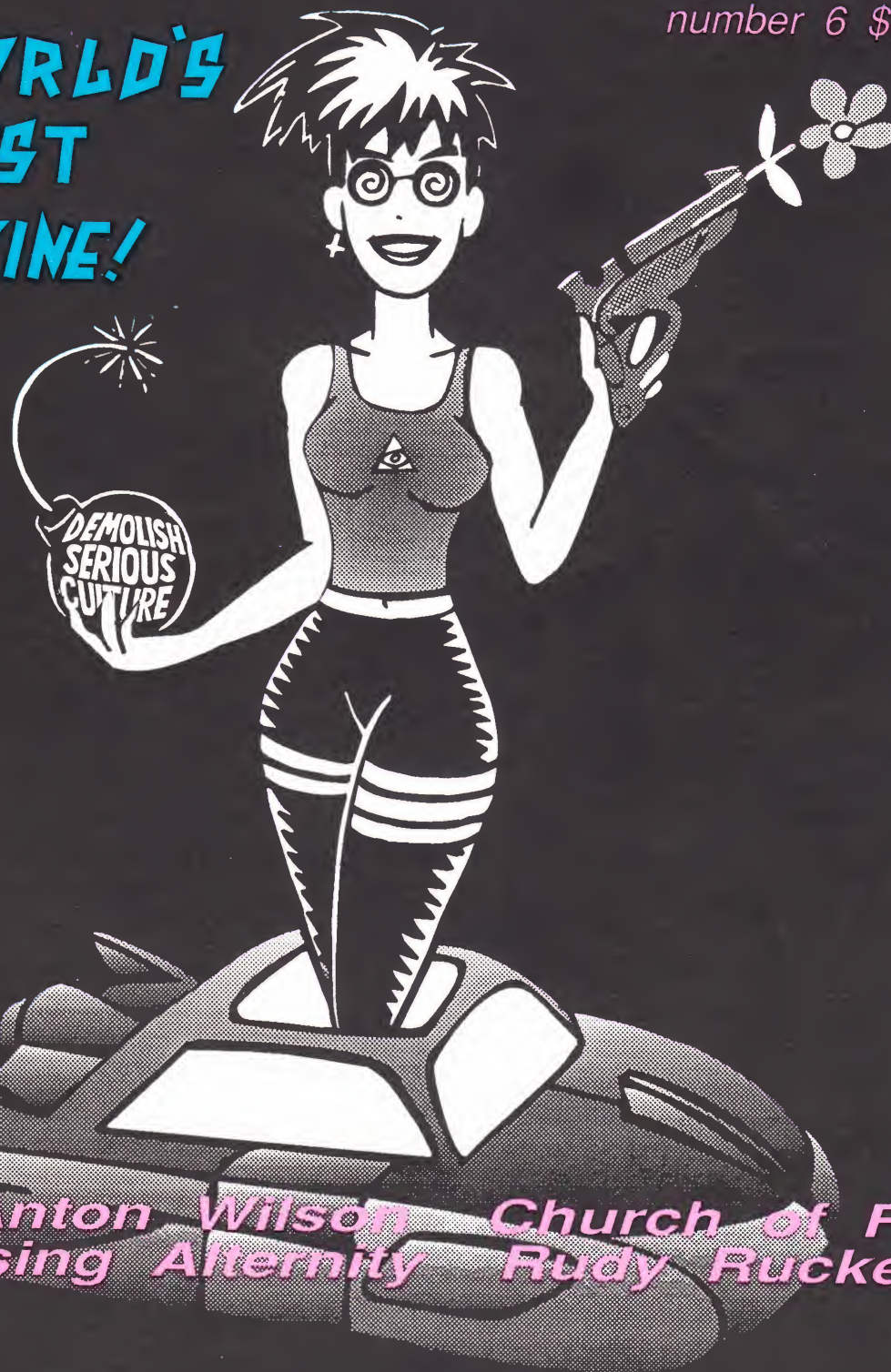


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# BOING BOING

number 6 \$3.95

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GREATEST  
NEUROZINE!



MARK FRAUENFELDER

Robert Anton Wilson Church of Fred  
Accessing Alternity Rudy Rucker



# Don't Tread on my Kundalini Serpent!



ou know, this inside front cover could be used for

something more interesting than a subscription advertisement. We've been planning on running a special feature on how to get free long distance telephone calls, how to alter your ATM card with an exacto knife and a cassette recorder to get free money, and how to combine four common vitamins and easily obtainable chemicals to make an immortality formula. All three methods are sure-fire and, if done properly, absolutely immune from detection by noxious government pests.

Unfortunately, there are still quite a few people who are too lazy, cheap, or snide to cough up a few crumpled bills for a subscription to *boING boING*. If it weren't for these stubborn imbeciles, we'd be able to free up this page and run the FREE MONEY, INFORMATION & IMMORTALITY article.

If you subscribe to *boING boING*, sit back for a moment and think about this: Anybody who isn't subscribing is cheating you out of potentially life saving information. They are restricting your life, liberty and pursuit of happiness in direct

violation of the Constitution of the United States of America. These unpatriotic recalcitrants come from all walks of life: they are bankers, data entry operators, four-star generals, phone-sex workers. If you live in a bad area, chances are that many of your neighbors are nonsubs (non-subscribers). Think about that, and if you have children, think about the lies poured into their hollow little heads by nonsub teachers.

A recent *boING boING* survey showed that an astounding 100% of those polled believed that the Number One problem in America today is *boING boING* nonsubs. We must develop a Zero-Tolerance for nonsubs. Tell your boss and congressperson that you insist on a

nonsub-free workplace. Call for random nonsub testing of all citizens.

And for those individuals who test nonsub positive, we must deliver a clear message about our position. The penalties will be harsh and they will be effective. This blight on our fair nation will not be allowed to continue. If you know of anyone who is nonsubbing, report them to the authorities. Children, if your parents are nonsubs, know that you will be doing the right thing by informing the police immediately. Only when every citizen is a happy *boING boING* subscriber, will we run the FREE MONEY, INFORMATION & IMMORTALITY article. So there. •

PO BOX 12311 **boing boing** BOULDER, CO 80303

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*Dear boING boING: I'm a good citizen so here's my \$14! I am both morally and intellectually superior to nonsubs and will imprison them to prove it.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

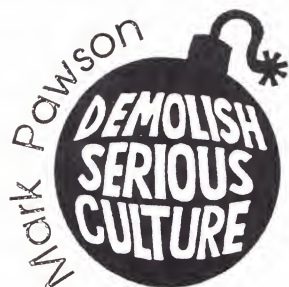
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- Dino De Longinus, Burkina Faso

*The last time I ate hominy grits, I developed an unusual sore on my upper lip. When I received the BOING BOING t-shirt, my ball-point pen talked dirty to me in the most delightful way!*

- Eugenic Porcine, Sonsorol Island

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- Jann Wiener, Shinjuku Pink Salon



Heavy white cotton BOING-boING T-shirts (L or XL) \$10 ppd..



# boING boING

issue 6

sometime in 1991

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## ALL I NEED TO KNOW I LEARNED IN THE MARINES

- Eat all your vegetables.
- Make your bed every day.
- Warm, moist footwear leads to severe problems with fungus.
- When someone tells you to, run full speed at another person and stab them with a bayonet.

- Steve Posner



**Heresy:** (From the Greek word *haireisis*, meaning to choose.) One who dissents from an accepted belief or doctrine. - *Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary.*

## The Ride is more fun than the destination

A small percentage of the human population has a hard-wired genetic imperative to oppose all forms of control. They are the Agents of Chaos who find ways to transcend established limitations of all kinds. The remaining majority of the human herd fear change and will do what they can to stop the heretics from spoiling their "good thing." Every imaginable Prigoginic leap that humankind has ever taken was the result of a few caustic individuals attacking and violating the hard shell of laws and moral codes formed to protect the majority's "good thing."

## Yesterday's revolutionaries are today's dictators

It's fun to laugh at self-important monkeys who call themselves legislators, authorities, and administrators; humans who've taken it upon themselves to dictate what is "good" for you. What could be funnier than the pudgy white policy-making poltroons in Washington, D.C.? Their tiny vestigial brains work fervently day and night, producing

unintentionally hilarious dictums and decrees that are supposed to wipe out "problems" by attacking their symptoms.

## Ideas are like butterflies that live through three-stages: Heresy, Truth, then Dogma

This issue of *boING boING* is chock full 'o acidic ideas, tempting you to sample the tangy nectar of apostasy. These memetically-engineered mutagens have been specially designed to disrupt human herd programming. You'll find articles, reviews and interviews about defecting from the Nation of Lemmings, becoming your own health expert, electronically-inducing samadhi, and dipping your neural-sponge into the electronic data-pool. Specialized information is available to anyone who wants it; it's no longer the tool of control once owned exclusively by priests, scientists and politicians. If you happen to form an alliance with a useful meme in here, remember not to let it become the senior partner in the deal. And for the final touch, we give you a bunch of comix and stories - the special sauce on our sacred-cowburgers.

I hope this issue of *boING boING* plants a happy buzz in your nervous system!

# MARK

*boING boING* issue No. 6. Sometime in 1991. Published approximately four times per solar year. PO Box 12311, Boulder, CO 80303 USA. Single copy price \$3.95 in North America, \$6 (U.S. funds only) international & beyond. 4 issue subscriptions \$14 North America, \$19 international & beyond. Unsolicited submissions are welcome, but please enclose an SASE for return of material. Copyright © 1991. All rights reserved by original contributors. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and institutions in *boING-boING* and anything in the real world is intended and any alleged similarity is either coincidence, Jungian synchronicity, or an alien conspiracy designed to drive you sane.

2 boING-boING po box 12311 boulder co 80303





**Dear BOING BOING:**

I would have written sooner but that damn gray van has been following me everywhere. I was starting to worry - thinking that suicide was the only way out when *BOING BOING* bounced into my life. Here's my money. I want a new life.

You don't know how difficult it's been. Eyes peering through blinds at all hours of the day and night. Having to explain to all your lefty friends why the *Men In Black* are always sitting at the next table over in the diner, sipping coffee and pretending to read *USA Today*. And have you ever tried to fuck when you know you're being taped? Thank Frauenfelder you can help me.

Oh, I know why they're out to get me. First the NSA started their file. I took part in an anti-apartheid protest at school. Then the CIA got into the act. I went overseas, to a RED MENACE, no less. Then, ever since I signed that Communist petition in England (I thought it was a student protest against the National Front, really, damn, nobody ever believes me) everybody from the Cosmic Captain on down has been after me.

So, Mark, what's my new identity? I hope you give me somebody with a little class. None of those yuppie accountants for me. I gotta keep my beard, long hair & wild eyes. Comes with the brain, inseparable. Okay, okay, if you twist my arm, but can I grow them back? Damn you drive a hard bargain. At least give me a dozen credit cards. I want to add a little to the national debt. I'll only buy American, that way they'll never find me.

I'll sacrifice a microchip to the Computer God in your memory,

Vance Anderson  
Rockville, Maryland

*(Vance's new identity will be that of the anthropomorphic canine McGruff, the dog who implores us through the magic of television to write to his Rockville address and learn how to "take a bite out of crime." This way, Vance won't have to move, and he can subvert the criminal justice system at the same time.)*

**Dear BOING BOING**

When I think of *BOING BOING* I touch myself.

Tony Hayes  
Radford, VA

*(BOING BOING is touched by your compliment.)*

**Dear BOING BOING:**

I beg to differ with Thomas Lytle's comments in his review of *The Manson File*. Manson and his "family" were not "practising through a system known as the 'left hand path.'" As I understand it the left hand path is one of indulgence rather than austerity, and Manson's group was clearly one of austerity - with tough rules, control, and repression. Just because there was sex and drugs and an apparent defiance of their parent culture's rules does not make it a left hand path. Their "path" does not deserve the apparent legitimacy you foist upon it by identifying it with any historic magical system (if the "left hand path" could be called a magical system at all). Their path was an ugly mishmash culled from widely diverse sauces that combined into a truly hideous and heinous contraption of fascistic control. A sick little power trip con is all it ever was, is, or shall be.

Manson, Shmanson.  
Dennis Worden  
San Juan Capistrano, CA

*(Thomas Lytle replies:*

*Charles Manson was a dark initiate, partially trained by The Ordo Templi Orientis Solar Lodge (Sanders, 1971), The Process Church (Schreck, 1971), The Fountain of the World (LeBlanc and Davis, 1970) and others. The O.T.O., especially, is classed as a "left-handed" school of sorcery (King, 1973; Grant, 1976, et al).*

*I wasn't promoting Manson's fascism, or trying to paint over what was (is) evil.*

*I'm not into Manson. I do think it's important to distinguish between a positive review of a book, and support for Manson himself. There is a mythos that has developed - why and how that happened is more at the root of my interests.*

*Thanks for your comments, Dennis.)*

**Dear BOING BOING:**

I am chairman of the *Gwynffygynwn Anti-Defamation League*, a society recently founded by the Ethical Multiversity of Chaorder to protect the rights of Welsh, Cornish, Breton and other Celtic peoples.

This letter is to inform you that we take offense to your use of the name "Fizzwygyp" as an "alien" place-name in the "Exciting News" column of *BOING BOING* #5. Your prejudicial and discriminatory use of stereotypically Welsh/Cornish (Brythonic or P-Celtic) consonants and syllables in a ridiculous farce of an article is INEXCUSABLE, as are your propagandistic attempts to make those of us who are of the Celtic persuasion appear to be *alien*, and to hint at *genocide*. Unless you immediately issue an apology, and remove all copies of *bb* #5 from the shelves, and cease distributing copies of this issue, we will have no choice but to institute legal action. Have a nice life.

Llyddwn ap Rhddwyffwnyr, chairman,  
G.A.D.L./E.M.C.

P.S.- The idea that your use of Welsh phonology is coincidental is blown to hell by your mentioning a *kilt* maker in the article. As everyone knows, kilts are a Celtic garment. Furthermore, killing a bagpiper usually results in a curse. You would do well to remember that.

*(Go soak your head in a bucket of haggis.)*

**WRITE TO BOING BOING!**



# PASSPORT to InVIsiBLE UTOPia



MARK F. 91



he idea for god probably came about when proto-humans started asking questions about the way the universe works.

People are *post hoc, ergo propter hoc* animals so they need reasons for everything. Even made-up reasons will work. When Alley Oop and his clan wanted to know why the seasonal herd of woolly mammoths hadn't appeared yet, the tribal priest explained that they were being punished for not giving the gods a large enough portion of the kill from the last hunt.

The god-meme was useful to the big-brained mammals. It explained why there were thunderstorms and avalanches, how stars got in the sky and tigers got in the mountains.

The god-meme gave early humans hope when they had to face situations out of their control. Gods help those who worship them. Thus, the god-meme became embedded in the early human nervous system and has reigned for millions of years ever since. When *any* meme becomes so firmly entrenched that challenging memes are unable to replace it (even when the defending meme has become useless or downright dangerous to the host and the universe), it is properly called dogma. Some wise-ass once said that humans use ideas, but dogma uses humans.

One of the most dangerous careers for a person is a philosopher who introduces new

by

Mark Frauenfelder

world-views (with new concepts about gods or the abolition of gods). The existing power structure (whose source of strength comes from its symbiotic relationship with the existing god/power-meme) will usually accuse these new-god or no-god meme-carrier/transmitters of heresy. Heresy comes from the Greek word meaning "to choose." Here's what happened to a few people throughout history who chose to choose:

- In 399 BC, the government of Athens, having recently been "ass-kicked" in the Peloponnesian War, didn't want Socrates waking up the minds of their flag-waving citizenry. He was brought to trial for "impiety and corrupting the youth of Athens," found guilty, and executed.

- In 1425, at age 13, Joan of Arc listened to the voices in her head telling her to liberate France from England. Five years later, she led the French Army and lifted an eight month siege on the city of Orleans. The government didn't like this young woman using the power of her mind instead of the power of the church, so they charged her with heresy and witchcraft. She was burned at the stake when she was 19 years old.

- In 1592, Giordano Bruno, a former Dominican Priest who became a pantheist, was burned to death by the Inquisition for daring to suggest that reality is constituted by the mind. The Inquisition was supported by the citizens of Europe, who saw it as a way to defend Christian living. If two anonymous finks reported you to the local church, you were dragged into a torture chamber to have your fingers and toes squeezed off, your limbs pulled apart, and your skin burned with hot coals.

- In 1633, Galileo was condemned to life imprisonment for teaching Copernican astronomy (which refuted Christian geocentric dogma). If he had not been friends with people in high places, he would most likely have been tortured and killed. He was recently pardoned by the Pope.

- In 1963, Timothy Leary and Richard Alpert were fired from Harvard University. Leary recognized himself as the carrier of a reality-challenging meme, and said "From this time on we saw ourselves as unwitting agents of a social process that was far too powerful for us to control or more than dimly understand." After being caught with 3 ounces of pot at the U.S./Mexican border, he was sentenced to 30 years in prison, the heaviest sentence ever imposed for such a "crime." The District Attorney of Orange County was hep to the danger Leary posed to the power structure and said "Leary is



responsible for destroying more lives than any other human being." (In fact, the few people who do die from psychedelics are

## Inquisitions are allergic responses to invasions by new ideas into the meme-pool.

usually guinea pigs for the secret police.) More accurately, the district attorney might have said "Leary is responsible for destroying the current behavior-control programming in more nervous systems than any other human being." After Leary escaped from prison and was re-arrested, his bail was set at \$5 million, the highest ever for an American citizen. The people who screamed for Leary to be incarcerated never read any of his books. Instead they relied on the "long newspaper spoon" to feed them what they wanted to hear. (Interestingly, these are the same Americans who sneer at Moslems who've never read *The Satanic Verses* yet call for the death of Salman Rushdie.)

Though the old Inquisition finally faded away, the god-meme is still very powerful. Gallup poll surveys conducted in 1952 and 1991 reveal a slight increase in the number of United States citizens believing in Heaven and Hell.

Besides relying on the god-meme to exploit people, the power structure also stages events, such as wars (on drugs, other countries, internal enemies, etc.), to strengthen tribal bonding. The church/state uses these events to steer the momentum of a patriotic mob to mow over innovative people who propose new ideas. In the sixties, before becoming infiltrated by government *agents provocateurs*, several progressive circles of individuals initiated programs to free humans from institutionalized behavior-control. Solar and wind energy, easy-to-build houses, communes, new religions and philosophies, radical economics and wealth-redistribution

programs, underground media networks and psychedelic brain changers all offered individuals the chance to unplug from the establishment. Thousands of people were creating new lifestyles and new communities because they didn't want to deal with the ugly aspects of the dominant meme-complex. They believed that the package offered by the existing system (dull work, mind-numbing television, highly-structured and hierachal religions, alcohol and tobacco) was useless. Even worse, this undesirable package of "benefits" had ugly costs associated with it - war, pollution, crime, and forced obedience to the demands of a cruel and corrupt gang of buffoons.

Unfortunately, the good parts of the Psychedelic Sixties were quashed by the secret police. By the mid 1970s, the only visible effects of the hippie movement were evident in fashion and advertising. (Witness the middle-aged businessman with Beatle haircut, Elvis sideburns, double-knit bell-bottoms and leisure suit, whose closest experience to a psychedelic epiphany was drunkenly puking on a call-girl at a business convention.)

By the end of the seventies, it appeared as though the existing power-elite had beaten the challengers. But the knocked-down freedom-meme began a quiet metamorphic incubation. Cheap information technology was about to hatch a bloodless revolution. Hippies, anarchists, cyberpunks and libertarians discovered that the computer (once hated by the counter-culture as the establishment's instrument of control), could give an individual the power to access and apply information to set her free. Today info-adepts are creating an electronic substratum where human consciousness will migrate and evolve. Virtual Reality represents the last Earth frontier where the dogma-weary pioneer can homestead with other like-minded individuals.

The *reigning* control-memes are waking up and have begun to direct their hosts to destroy the new-meme carriers. Hawaii's Criminal Justice Department recently included a piece about virtual reality in their newsletter, warning judges to be aware of this new drug-like technology. The overground media has jumped on the notion that virtual reality and LSD are similar. It's true, VR and LSD are similar - both challenge the current power structure's definition of reality. The word *real* comes from the Spanish word for *royal*. In other words, real is what the power-mongers define it to be. Real estate, or the ownership of land, is granted by the power structure to

those humans who accept the dogma of the state. But how can the lords of the land control *virtual* real estate?

Virtual reality poses a threat to the power structure because it is difficult to control - it's not real. The control-freaks can trick everybody into believing that their pieces of paper (contracts, Federal Reserve Notes and laws) have the power to manipulate things like people, land, food, oil and metal. Virtual reality can't be lassoed like everything else they've taken, however. Expect the power slugs to freak-out soon and attempt to impose a prohibitive tax for cyberspace travelers.

The *EFF* was created by John Barlow and Mitchell Kapor to keep the network free through legal action. On the other side of the virtual fence, cyberpunks, the pioneers of the datasphere, will do their part by shooting heavy blasts of pure anarchy into cyberspace. The network will always remain accessible to anyone with the desire to be free. The power-memeoids will try to control

Sixty percent of United States citizens believe that there is a place where those who have led bad lives and die without being sorry are eternally damned.

them, but they'll be unable to find or stop the electronic immigrants, who will slip back and forth between old and new style realities, using the best of both for their own purposes.

Buckminster Fuller said in his 1983 book *Grunch of Giants* "Because networking is apolitical and amorphous, it has no "cells"



to be attacked, as did the communism of former decades. The fearful sovereign nations' politicians will find that trying to arrest networking is like trying to arrest the waves of the ocean."

See you in cyberspace! •

Ooh, I can just imagine Barbie without any clothes!

#### FAMOUS QUOTES

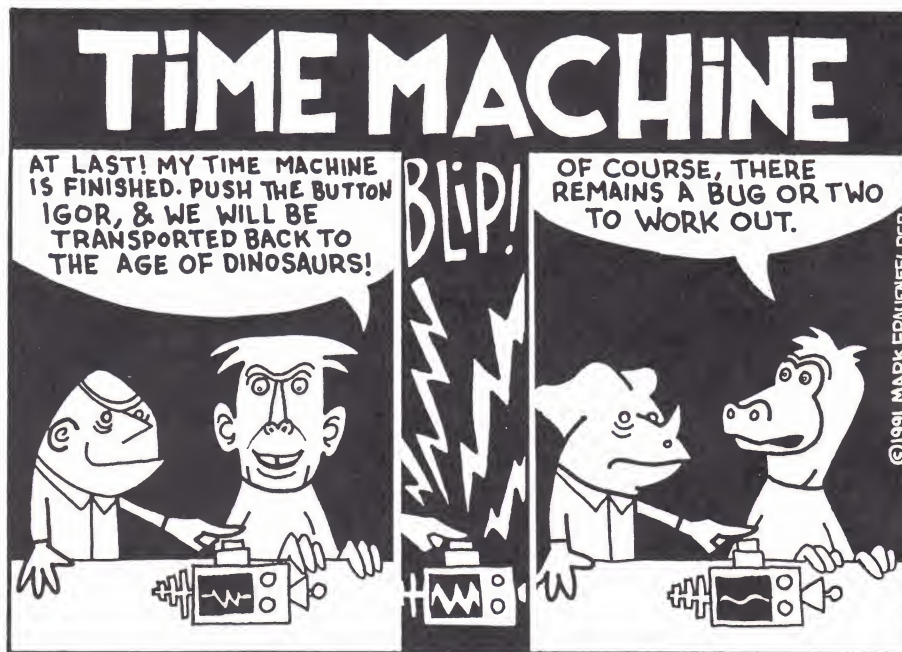
Mrs. Euclid to her husband: "You and yer GODDAM parabolas!"

*BOING BOING* absolutely guarantees that the following conversation actually took place:

"Want Bible software?"

"FUCK yeah!"

-steve posner



### Leading Experts Speak

Mel & Norma Gabler, founders of Educational Research Analysis, a schoolbook review committee:

**Norma:** *What some textbooks are doing is giving students ideas, and ideas will never do them as much good as facts.*

**Mel:** *When a student reads in a math book that there are no absolutes, suddenly every value he's been taught is destroyed. And the next thing you know, the student turns to crime and drugs.*

(from *Forum*, the Newsletter of People for the American Way)

### From Yippie! to Wow!

Jerry Rubin, the former Yippie! who promised "fucking in the streets of Chicago" during the 1968 Democratic Convention, is now pushing a product called *WOW!*, sort of a Tang-type beverage containing a high level of caffeine, and some vitamins and nutrients. As one of the leaders of a multi-level marketing scheme, Jerry is excited about selling the orange powder to frat boys. He envisions them having *WOW!* fraternity parties, and using it as an "excellent study-aid and motivational drink." Jerry, now a law-and-order type who loves to recant his past while being filmed by the media, will be happy to give you a bottom-of-the-pyramid position in this Orange Sunshine of the nineties. *WOW!* was created by Durk Pearson and Sandy Shaw.

### He Wanted to Chop Off Their Hands

George Bush's nomination of Kenneth L. Ryskamp to the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals is a good indicator of what the President means by a kinder, gentler nation. As a Florida district-court judge, Ryskamp told a group of black males (including one who had never been charged with a crime and had no criminal record) who had been mauled by police dogs "It might not be inappropriate to carry around a few scars to remind you of your wrongdoing in the past..."

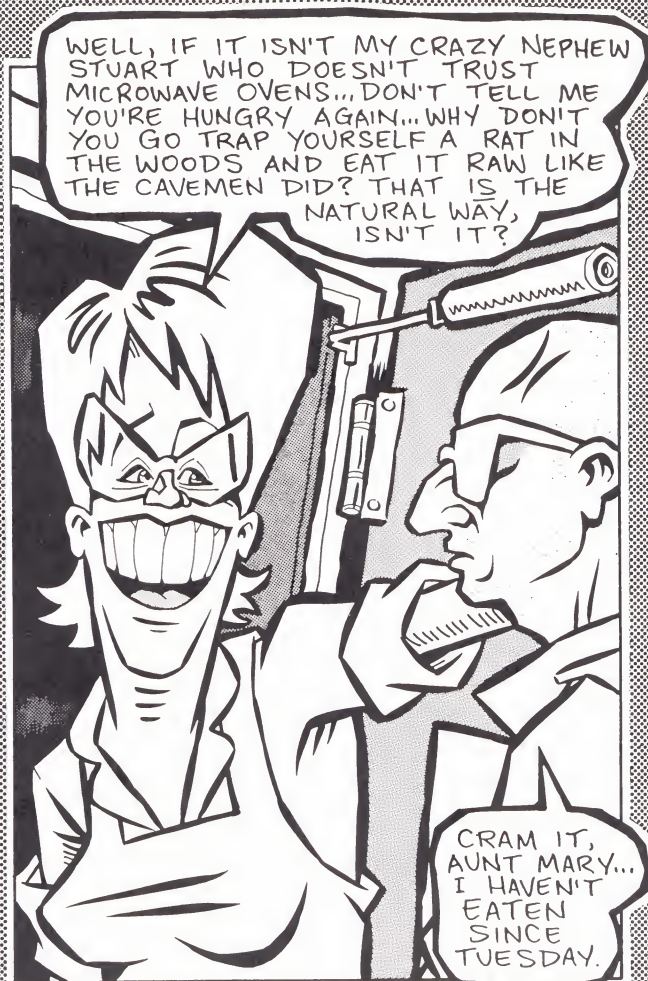
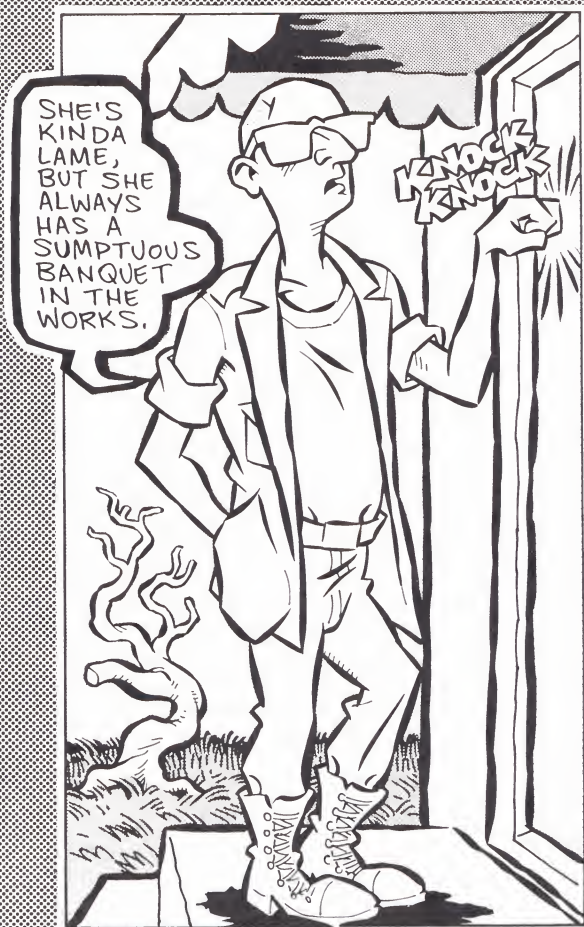
When Ryskamp learned of his nomination, he quickly quit his membership in a Jew and black-excluding country club in the pathetic hope that the public would never learn of *his* wrongdoings in the past.

### Narc of the Beast

The FBI employs 2,600 workers to catalog 187 million fingerprint cards. A federal program has been initiated to digitally store these fingerprints using electro-optical technology, which would enable local law enforcement agencies to electronically scan a person's fingerprints, and transmit the data over a phone line to the FBI for instant identification. •

**SEND US YOUR FUN STUFF!**





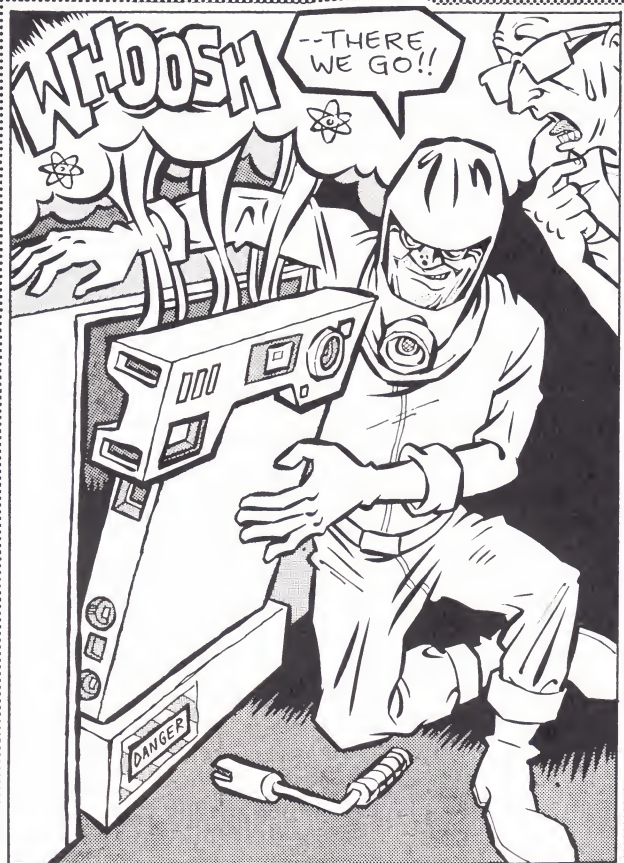








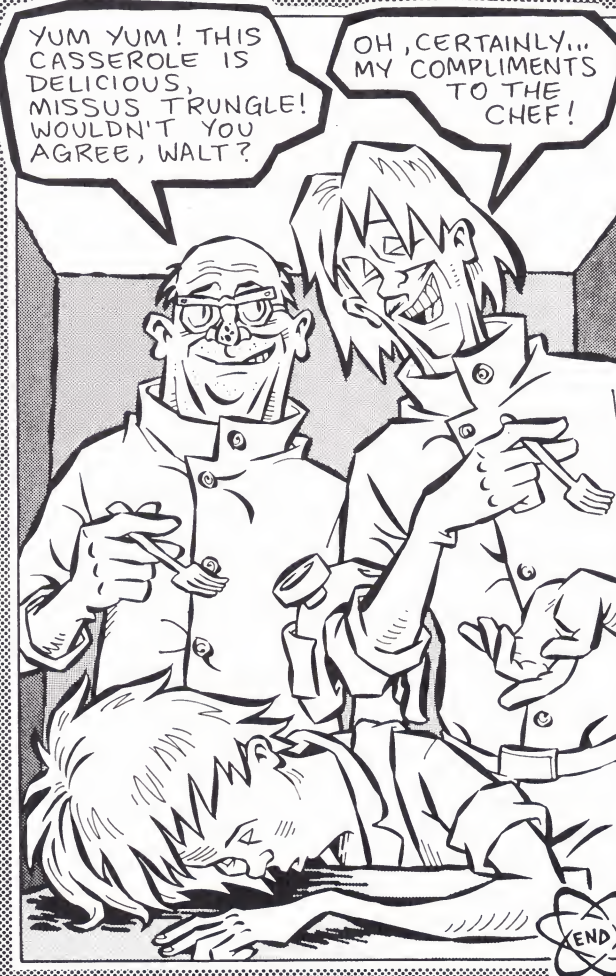














# ACCESSING ALTERNITY WITH CONSCIOUSNESS TECHNOLOGY



**consciousness technology.** The term itself conjures up myriad visions ranging from the sublime - a psychedelic neuronaut in some transcendent state of bliss - to the ridiculous - some "new age" channeler speaking in tongues yet to be created while sitting in the lotus position sipping jasmine tea. Whenever I tell a new acquaintance that I'm engaged in research surrounding consciousness technology I'm usually met with a stare that tells me their minds are travelling down one of the two roads I just mentioned. And then come the inevitable questions: What's that? and, What is it good for? The first question can be answered in a fairly straightforward manner in which I describe light and sound stimulation devices like the Mind's Eye Plus or Courier, the Inner Quest, and many others now making their appearance on the scene. (Future articles will go into depth discussing individual devices.)

It's also fairly easy for me to give a background of the technological development of this field. The first important breakthrough came in 1934 when Adrian and Matthews showed that the resting rhythms of the brain could be made to assume the frequency of photic stimulus, that is, flashing lights "entrain" the brain, teaching it to produce the same wave frequencies as the flashing stimulus it is receiving. The brain, in essence, was a programmable piece of hardware. But programmable for and to what? The answer to those questions came through the work of people like Kamiya (1968), Neher (1961, 1962), Green (1977), Cade (1979) and Lesh (1970) who discovered that various EEG

by  
**Bruce Harrah-Conforth, PhD**



frequency states seem to correspond to psychological states. While the actual meanings of brain waves are not understood, this research has permitted a consensus to be adopted with regard to these states. In general it is agreed that the beta state (13-30 Hz) corresponds to our normal waking consciousness; the alpha state (8-13 Hz), appears to be the equivalent of relaxation and concentration; theta waves (5-7 Hz), are such that they seem to reflect a deeply internalized state, deep relaxation, a sense of quieted emotions, and the production of hypnogogic imagery; and delta waves (.5-4 Hz), are those which are usually associated with sleep or other similarly unconscious states.

Current consciousness tech enables the user to program photic (LED equipped goggles) and auditory (a complete sound synthesizer) stimuli to any desired frequency within the Beta, Alpha, Theta, and Delta range.

Even the most skeptical audience is usually with me up until this point, and then the second question comes: Why do this? What is it good for? So you can make the brain work in different frequencies, so what?

Good question. Why should we care about programming our brains to other frequen-

cies? I think the answer to this inquiry needs to be approached through several avenues.

First off, the machines are just pure damn fun. They are a technological answer to psychedelics: they produce a new sense of the body, hallucinations and great visuals, true alterations of consciousness, and "a pleasant time was had by all" in a very safe manner.

From a purely empirical, scientific viewpoint, this type of brain stimulation generates a high degree of arousal of the brain's limbic system. Gellhorn (1972) demonstrated that these types of repetitive stimuli drive the brain's cortical rhythms which in turn produces a pleasurable, ineffable effect. In conjunction with this process is the balancing of the brain's left and right hemispheres. The phenomena associated with light and sound devices would seem to validate this claim and be associated with intense discharges from the sympathetic and parasympathetic nervous systems. This simultaneous discharge is indicative of trophotropic (non-dominant) and ergotropic (dominant) hemispheric arousal.

Trophotropic arousal can be seen through various parasympathetic changes (reduction in heart rate, blood pressure, and sweat

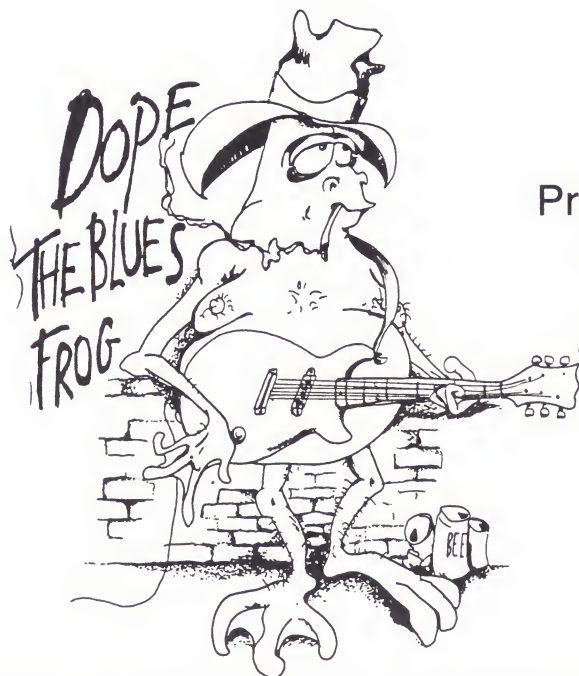
secretion), striated muscle relaxation, and synchronized cortical rhythms. Psychologically, this state is associated with Zazen and yogic Samadhi (Lex, 1979), and the accompanying production of progressively lower brain waves. In addition, Ornstein (1972) has theorized that this hemispheric arousal provides for a shift from the linear mode from time-bound verbal thought to the timeless "oceanic" mode of the mystic experiences.

Ergotropic, or dominant hemispheric arousal results in changes in the sympathetic nervous system that may manifest themselves as increased heart rates, blood pressure, sweat secretion, and increased catabolic hormone secretion, epinephrine, norepinephrine, cortisol, thyroxine, etc. Psychologically, this state results in an excited cerebral cortex and can induce creative, psychotic, and ecstatic experiences.

As these two states are induced an interesting combination of effects occurs. In animals, ergotropic arousal leads to rage while trophotropic arousal leads to sleep. In humans, these two states may be interpreted as hyper- and hypo-arousal, or ecstasy and samadhi.

Clinically speaking, therefore, consciousness tech has a number of legitimate

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applications. But even more than that, this new field is pushing toward an entirely new consideration of corporeal existence as an extropic tool for mind and life extension.

As William James and many others have pointed out, there lies within us all a peak performance state, which is indistinguishable from the realm of the mystic/spiritual continuum. For thousands of years we have followed time-honored and traditional methods for altering our consciousness, as well as accessing new levels of it. The new technologies are merely extensions of this traditional process. Ultimately, what these methods have proven is that indeed, we do create our own realities. If we accept this reality in all its totality, extending it into the realm of Gaia, we all become part of an Earth consciousness. Following this thought to its logical conclusion, if we are part of the Earth consciousness, the next extension places us directly within Universe consciousness. Newly emerging technologies are creating yet another means by which we may attempt to access this consensual realm. What is frequently overlooked, however, is that our existing reality, in whatever form it may or may not take, is also a consensual hallucinatory metaphor. What is lacking is only our ability to divest ourselves from the name-bound, linguistic bodies we wear.

This is where consciousness technology becomes linked with life-extension and extropic endeavors. By demonstrating that the brain, our most sacred and mystic of organs, is a piece of hardware that can be hot-wired, the boundaries between this realm of existence and extended, or reanimated existence, become much thinner. Consciousness technology, in a packageable mode (as opposed to ritual endeavors of the past) is reidentifying the life force as a far more tangible, malleable TOOL which we may use to our advantage, rather than as something which holds us within its capricious whims. There is no reason to accede to the failures of the flesh or mind, when those entities can be programmed, hot-wired through consciousness tech and nootropic drugs, reanimated, and manipulated to our own desires.

This muta-physics approach to consciousness places us within the realm of metaphors for a greater whole. We have been, in essence, all kin to the Little Jack Horner fable: for millennia we have repeatedly stuck our thumbs into the universe, pulled out a piece of it, and congratulated ourselves for increasing our understanding of the cosmos. In actuality, of course, we were still just sitting, like Horner, in one small corner of

an infinite consciousness.

The new technology of tools and concepts such as chaos theories, fractals, consciousness tech, virtual reality, and the new physics have all allowed us to take several steps further along the lines of chartering our universal psycho-Utopia. These tools have reaffirmed our idea that it is possible to step outside our personal metaphors, dissolve the artificial exteriors in which we reside, and experience the continuum of alterity. (To the best of my knowledge the word/concept "alterity" should be attributed to John Lilly.)

As we reach toward Millennia III, the boundaries of global politics will naturally reach out to include the politics of consciousness. The new technology that already has emerged, and that yet to come, will become what may be called a "psycho-politique," a process by which our neurobiology is linked with an interactive self-programming through consciousness tech. •

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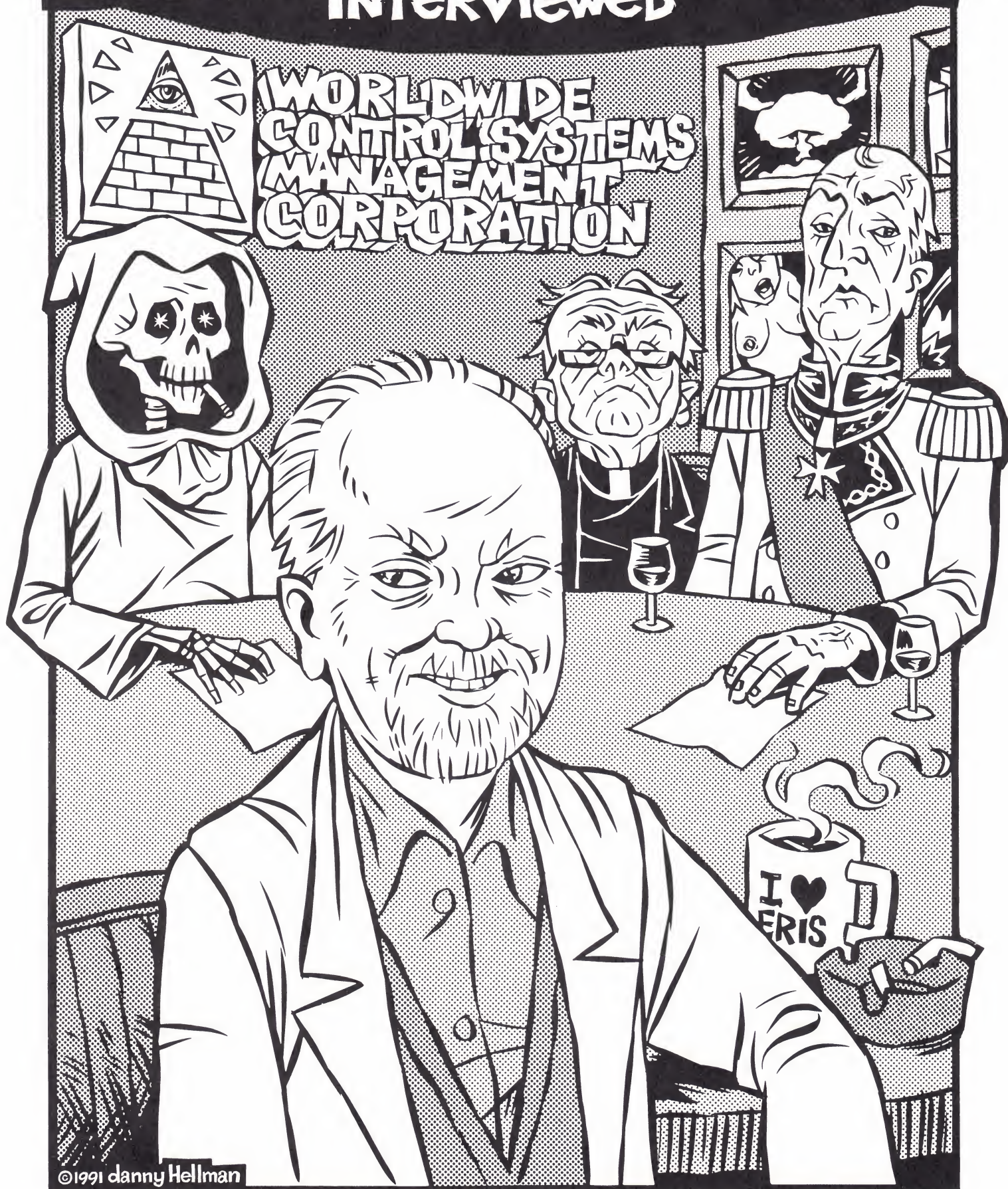
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# the NEW INQUISITION: ROBERT ANTON WILSON interviewed





**Robert Anton Wilson** is a novelist, poet, playwright, stand-up comic, futurist,

psychologist and author of *Cosmic Trigger*, *The Illuminatus Trilogy*, *Shrodinger's Cat*, *Prometheus Rising*, *Right Where You Are Sitting Now*, *The Illuminati Papers*, *Sex & Drugs*, and many more. One of his more recent works, *The New Inquisition*, explores the current suppression of unorthodox and dissident theory amidst the scientific community by fundamentalist factors also found in the religious establishments. Dr. Wilson travels around the world applying his iconoclastic wit and humor to such subjects as Space Migration, Life Extension, UFO's, New Religions, Quantum Mechanics, James Joyce, Conspiracy Theory, Synchronicity, Ceremonial Magick, and other topics occasionally unfit for print. This interview took place between lectures on his recent world tour. He appeared in casual yet bright, colorful attire, quite relaxed and open to whatever might tend to come his way. Even though he's from New York originally, Mr. Wilson has a distinctly Bavarian persona and could very well be mistaken for a European character actor who's just finished playing a futuristic Falstaff adjusting to our present era...

**Antero Alli:** Describe the social function of rebellion ...

**Robert Anton Wilson:** As Oscar Wilde said, "Disobedience was man's original virtue." If nobody ever rebelled, we'd still be living in caves. Rebellion is absolutely necessary to progress. I've been a heretic all my life.

One of my recent books, out on Falcon Press, is *The New Inquisition: Irrational Rationalism in the Citadel of Science*. The New Inquisition is a polemical label I picked for the Fundamentalist Materialists who dominate the scientific establishment. I think they're as nefarious as the fundamentalist Christians who dominate the religious establishment these days. To me, fundamentalism of all sorts is conducive to stupidity and interferes with the proper functioning of Intelligence, Creativity, Joy and Having a Good Time.

**AA:** What makes the fundamentalist mind tick?

## Interviewed by Antero Alli

**RAW:** Fundamentalism is a stage of innocence or arrogance where you don't realize the creative role your own brain plays in the reality tunnels you perceive. Sophistication consists in understanding your role as a co-creator of your reality. Fundamentalism is the belief that there's a reality tunnel outside of you that you didn't create but you know all about. Also, that everybody else must be in that reality or they're "crazy" and should be locked up and punished.

**AA:** Like when we "assume" we make an "ass" out of "u" and "me" ... (laughter) ... it's all about false assumptions, isn't it? How would you describe, in more detail, the characteristics of this thinking style which even seems prevalent amongst the supposedly progressive "New Age"?

**RAW:** It seems to be a perennial human aberration that pops up in all ages and cultures. The best way to deal with it is empathetically and realize it as an expression of deep modesty which should be admired. Nietzsche said that we're all greater artists than we realize. On that premise, I'm a great artist in that I create the most elaborate, baroque and fascinating reality tunnels to walk through all the time. Fundamentalists are doing equally impressive jobs creating fantastic reality tunnels but they're so modest they don't take credit for them. They say, "This IS reality." So, it's really a distortion of humility that leads to fundamentalism.

**AA:** According to your tunnels, what are some of the more exciting scientific theories currently being suppressed by fundamentalism?

**RAW:** Timothy Leary's work on

**Antero Alli is the author of *Angel Tech: A Modern Shaman's Guide to Reality Selection* and *All Rites Reversed: Ritual Technology for Self-Initiation*, both introduced by Robert Anton Wilson.**

re-imprinting the nervous system, I think is the most important psychological experiment done in our time. Leary's main discovery was that psychedelic drugs create "imprint vulnerability" for impressing a new reality tunnel. That, in itself, has been suppressed by keeping Timothy in prison for five years to discourage him from uttering such heresies. Ritual, of the right sort, can deliver the kind of shock to dislodge this same kind of vulnerability. Any kind of sensory deprivation also tends to bring it about ... isolation tanks, or being out in the wilderness long enough. The work of Rupert Sheldrake hasn't been suppressed that badly yet but there's been a tremendous attempt to smear and demean Dr. Sheldrake and his theories. There's an entrenched fundamentalist wing of the scientific community that keeps claiming that this so-called parapsychological research is meaningless and fraught with coincidences that peculiarly only happen in parapsychological laboratories.

There seems to be a fundamentalist backlash all over the planet these days, not just the scientific community. I think it's from going through so much rapid change that people are getting dizzy and are trying to stop the world or make it revolve backwards, so they can adjust and catch up. It's like seeing the 1980's through a 1950's conceptual filter with most of the scientific community because that's when they received their last major imprint. By and large, for most domesticated primates, the last imprint was taken during puberty during their first mating experience. For the most part, we don't change after that unless we learn how to re-create imprint vulnerability to deliberately change ourselves.

**AA:** What do you think's in store for the Nineties?

**RAW:** I think the Nineties are going to bring the kind of radical change we experienced in the sixties. Every major sociological trend on the planet is reaching a point of super-saturation wherein it's bound to mutate. For instance, the population crunch and how television has made us more aware of the suffering of the Third World. Things like Live-Aid were inevitable



once people realized how many human beings are starving on this planet. The international currency system is going to have to change as there'll be more unemployment than ever. The world's nations can no longer keep borrowing from the privately owned international banks ... some country's going to default and trigger a domino-effect. I suspect that the United Nations will issue some kind of planetary currency. As Bucky Fuller once said "The human race always does the most intelligent thing after it's exhausted all the stupid ones first." I think we've exhausted all the stupid economics and we're going to have to do something intelligent with money in the Nineties.

**AA:** *You often refer to two psychological models, Primate and Post-primate psychology. What do you mean?*

**RAW:** The order of primates is the order to which the human race belongs. Primate psychology includes ferocious territoriality. Primates all demand their own territory and mark it with excretions; domesticated primates mark paper with ink excretions also known as land titles that are filed in government offices. It's a primate tendency to regard one's reality tunnel as a fact outside of one's nervous system rather than something we have produced ... leading to typical, primate dogmatism. Post-primate psychology begins at the point where the brain starts studying the brain ... intelligence studying

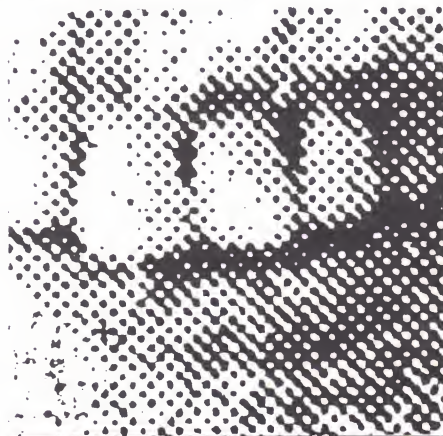


intelligence. Then you realize you're creating your own reality tunnels and can create even better reality tunnels.

**AA:** *It seems every primate pack has their alpha-male leader and their scapegoat(s). What do you see as the "new scapegoats?"*

**RAW:** It seems to be a trait of the domesticated primates to turn their alpha-males into scapegoats. That's got

a long anthropological background ... Fraser's book, *Golden Bough*, researches rituals whereby the kings were sacrificed. It seems we've been going through reruns of that ever since the United States graduated from a republic to an empire ... around 1900. Ever since this conversion, we've been sacrificing our presidents at a terrific rate



**"Post-primate psychology begins at the point where the brain starts studying the brain..."**

... dying in office from heart attacks, mysterious diseases, resignations and the multiple assassination attempts and completions.

**AA:** *Do you think the current "New Age" movement is a trend or are we actually giving birth to the future with it?*

**RAW:** It's not an either/or. Parts of it are trendy and faddish and will be replaced by other fads. Other parts of the New Age are integral to an evolutionary process transforming the planet. It won't stop until it has transformed the planet entirely, either. There's the movement away from national and state identification and a motion towards international cooperation on some level. The trend of modern technology is to abolish poverty and starvation. When we see that we can actually do something about these things, we do it. This same technology

will tend to make all of us a bit richer, too. Our lives will tend to become more comfortable. Technologies such as solar and wind power and space colonization will expedite progress immeasurably. Besides NASA, there are quite a few entrepreneurs starting their own space programs and industries. Then, there's the Scandinavian Bypass which is an attempt to create a totally peace-oriented space program and then, lure the USA and USSR into joining. It's based in Norway with a lot of interest generating amongst the Swedes and Danes.

**AA:** *Quantum mechanics is something of a second language for you. How does it help you communicate and live a better life?*

**RAW:** Quantum physics does help a lot in understanding daily life. The major discovery in this field is that the reality we perceive with our instruments is created by our instruments, partly. It's not an objective reality. It's created by our minds - by what instruments to use, what measurements to take, and what experiments to design. That happens in our daily life in the area of our decision-making, which is our instrument ... about what to observe, what to enter into, what to avoid and so on. Quantum mechanics just emphasizes by the magnification of scientific instruments what's happening all the time, anyway. Modern psychologists, especially those branching out into neurology and perception theory



make it very clear that the situation of a brain receiving signals has the same relativity and indeterminacy as you find in quantum mechanics' "brain plus instrument receiving signals." Whether there's an instrument there or not, the brain's the main creator of what gets organized ... not the only creator but the main one.

**AA:** *Thank God, huh? (much laughter...)*•



Brigitte Mars is an herbalist who lives in Boulder, Colorado. She is the creator of **UniTea Herbs**, a line of 12 different herbal tea blends: SereniTea, LeviTea, LongeviTea, ImmuniTea, ElectriciTea, SensualiTea, FemininiTea, MaterniTea, FestiviTea, PuriTea, Mental ClariTea, and DigestibiliTea. The entire **BOING BOING** staff quaffs flagon after flagon of these wonderful tonic beverages. (for information about UniTea Herbs write to PO Box 8005 #318, Boulder, CO 80306-8005) Carla talked to Brigitte in her home.



**BOING-BOING:** Tell me about yourself and how you became interested in herbs.

**Mars:** I think I've always been destined for this. When I was little, I used to always love to read fairy tales, and I was interested in those potions and brews and things that could make people fly or do incredible things. So I think I always had a predilection to it. I had this wonderful French-Canadian grand-mother, and she was, not an herbalist, but what I call a "wise woman." She had a lot of folk remedies of her own, and she was very tuned in to the forces of nature, and that gave me a love for it. Even though I grew up in Syracuse New York, I would frequently go visit my grandmère, and everything was about 50 years in the past. A horse delivered the milk, and she took me to where maple syrup was made, and these things gave me a love for the natural. The first time I went to a health food store was probably a big transformation for me. I was going to a very proper all-girls' school called Miss Halls School For Young Ladies. Now its actually co-ed. And I went into a health food store, and I bought a book, and I saw all this incredible food - carob, pumpkinseeds, papayas...

**bb:** Had you not seen that before?

**Mars:** No, and I really sensed the energy in the foods. Sprouts especially interested me. I felt, "Wow, this food is really alive." And I

bought a book on yoga, and the book said to try and be a vegetarian for two weeks, and see if it doesn't increase your energy. The book had all these other promises, like, "It improves your sex life." Well of course when you're 15 and in an all girls' school it doesn't do you a lot of good, but it did sound interesting.

During that whole time period I started to get into spiritual expansion, meditation, astral travel, all of that, all at once, and I really attribute it to being in a sensitive state and going to the natural food store and just being kind of amazed by it. There was an old couple that ran the store, and I would go back every week, 'cause they let us out once a week, we had to kneel down and make sure our hems touched the ground before they would let us out the door, and I would just keep reading and reading. I ended up being a help to a lot of the young girls in the school, because the nurse was kind of stodgy. So if someone was having menstrual cramps, or a bad psychedelic experience, or they were upset because their boyfriend wrote them a break-up letter, people would always come into my room and I would give them some herbs to calm them down, give them B vitamins, massage their scalp, or get them to breathe deeply. That when I started to get into healing work. I was actually expelled from Miss Halls.

**bb:** Why?

**Mars:** They didn't approve of some of the herbs I was experimenting with. It was six weeks before graduation, and my parents were so mad at me. I'm disappointed that that happened. Although I'm very pleased with how my life turned out, and I guess that was in the cards. I was accepted at Bards College, and I wanted to get into theater, and Eastern religion, but instead I ended up going to the Virgin Islands, where my parents had a condo. We weren't getting along at all. It was just hard times; I was pretty wild. And I said, "I'm just going to stay here, on St. Croix."

**bb:** It's beautiful out there.

**Mars:** Yes it is indeed. So I met this group of people, and they were opening a natural food store, and a natural foods restaurant, and they taught me how to cook and sew. We sold wonderful African import clothes in the store; we imported the material and then we sewed garments out of them. Those were really good skills. Then I'd go into the rain forest, usually on Sunday afternoons with my "tribe" and we'd talk to these old-timers in the rain forest, and they'd tell us about the powers of different fruits and the healing properties of different herbs that were growing there, and I was really interested in this.



Later I moved to Miami and had a natural food restaurant, *The Supernatural*. That was fun, but probably the biggest learning experience for me was living in a teepee in the Ozarks, in Missouri, and we lived far away from civilization. I was in charge of the food, and we didn't have any money, and therefore we didn't have any food from the grocery store. But what I found myself doing was finding out what plants we could eat that were growing around there, and what could we grow. I ended up finding from some of these old hill-billy women who were living around the area who I am greatly indebted to that many of the weeds, that I would have pulled out of the garden, were actually wild spinach and other edible plants. So I got twice the yield from my garden because we learned what weeds were edible and what we could do with them.

**bb:** *That's so interesting. How did you ever decide to go to the Ozarks in the first place?*

**Mars:** One of our friends had some land there. He had 200 acres that he paid 9,000 dollars for.

**bb:** *And you lived in just a regular old teepee?*

**Mars:** Yeah. Well it wasn't made out of skins, it was made out of canvas and poles, and I stripped the poles and drug the trees out of the woods. It was a lot of work. Circular homes feel very harmonious.

**bb:** *How long were you there?*

**Mars:** Two and a half years. Everything was like a spiritual experience. Like washing the clothes in the creek, and seeing the crawdads, and the sun sparkling on the water. Everything was peaceful and quiet. It was a lot of work. I had to build a fire if I wanted hot water - I had to fetch the water, chop the wood...

**bb:** *You must have learned so much.*

**Mars:** I learned a lot. I also learned that all the things that I grew up with that I thought I needed, I really can do without. The earth is so rich. We didn't have electricity, we didn't have a telephone, but we had a great

time.

**bb:** *Was there anything nearby in case you got desperate for civilization? Some kind of town?*

**Mars:** Well there was a town maybe 20 miles away. A little town. It had a little library, and I read every herb book they had in there.

My daughter, Rainbow, was born in a teepee, and I was a single mom then. I had been planning on naming this baby Rainbow, and right after she was born (my friends all helping), there was a rainbow in the sky.

**bb:** *Really?*

**Mars:** Yeah. So a few months later, I came to Boulder, and I enrolled in the Boulder School of Massage Therapy, and I realized which herbs were good for the kidneys, the liver . . . but I needed some training as to where and what the kidneys are and what they do. So I completed the two year program. I also met Tom in Boulder. We've been together for 14 years - my beautiful husband and helpmate is raising the girls.

I've been working for Alfalfa's (a natural food, products, and herbs store) for the past 9 years, and that's been a wonderful learning experience, because I've really gotten to put my knowledge to work, to help other people and Alfalfa's has given me a lot of networking opportunities, and I'm really grateful for that.

**bb:** *Alfalfa's seems like a great job.*

**Mars:** It is. I can't say at all that I'm tired of it.

**bb:** *And you're still learning from it?*

**Mars:** Yes, I am, and I challenge myself, rather than just doing work in the store. For example I'm writing an article right now on Measles, because I know there have been Measles epidemics. And I'm writing an article on ulcers. So I write articles because that encourages me to learn more, and then I can sell the article and make money on it, and it becomes a chapter in my book, but I also develop a level of expertise. I write the article, I do the research...

**bb:** *And then you learn about it.*

**Mars:** Right, and I have people try out stuff and let me know how it works, and then I put it all together. I probably would have lost interest in herbs after the first year if they didn't do anything, but I'm amazed, totally amazed.

**bb:** *What's a good book for people who want to start learning about herbs?*

**"30% of all the water used in this country goes to water lawns, and then people use more gas and increase the noise by mowing the grass, and end up putting all these chemicals on their lawns, and then they put all their grass in plastic bags and create 20% of the garbage."**

**Mars:** Well there are a few books I like. One that's wonderful is called, *Healing Wise* by Susun Weed, and it's about learning to acknowledge the weeds in your area - the dandelion, the malva, the chickweed. . .

**bb:** *I like that!*

**Mars:** Yeah, and these things are growing right outside your door. According to Susun, these are the plants that we really should be using a lot of. They're the ones that are saying, "Use me, use me up! We're everywhere, we're everywhere."

I also like *The Way of Herbs* by Michael Tierra. I've studied with him. And the *Holistic Herbal* by David Hoffman. So if someone were to say, "What are three good herb books?" those are good ones. But if you really get into herbs you end up wanting to have lots of books. Most herbalists go to used book stores a lot, and a big part of my library is based on that.

**bb:** *Rosemary Leary, who was once married to Timothy Leary is Sunflower's Godmother, isn't she?*

**Mars:** Yes. I have two daughters - Sunflower Sparkle Mars, age 19, and Rainbow Harmony Mars, age 14.

**bb:** *So how much do you know about Kava Kava?*

**Mars:** Well Kava Kava is a plant native to the Fiji islands. I've just used it a few times. I've simmered a tea out of it - you simmer about a heaping teaspoon of the herb in a cup of water for about 20 minutes, and then drink it, a big mug full, before going to bed, and you get this feeling of euphoria actually. It's quite pleasant. In his book *The Way of Herbs*, Michael Tierra says it induces epic







length dreams that you can remember I actually found that the feeling you get before you fall asleep is so pleasant; you have this pleasant numb feeling in your mouth...

**bb:** *So it doesn't stimulate you and keep you up all night?*

**Mars:** No, it's very relaxing. It's good for pain, too. I've got a few notes on it here - it's a Polynesian remedy for insomnia, restlessness, induces epic like dreams, it's analgesic once applied topically to wounds, so if you took the tea and rubbed it on a sore muscle or something it would help. It is somewhat accumulative in the liver, so if it's used for long periods of time it decreases pulse rate. It's used in the South Pacific to celebrate marriages, birth, death, beginnings and endings. So I'd use it basically as a sedative. I'm actually interested in all plants, and I believe that every plant has a virtue. Whenever a plant has a reputation of altering someone's consciousness, the FDA is quick to seize control of it.

**bb:** *And that way the pharmaceutical companies can stay in control. What about chewing Kava Kava and mixing it with saliva? What does that do?*

**Mars:** Well the native way of using it is, well I've never been to Polynesia, but I've heard they chew it, and then spit the pulp, and then it ferments. There's a very interesting book that has a lot of information like that - it's called, *Plants of the Gods*, by Richard Evans Shultes and Albert Hofmann. and it's all about psychotropic plants and their history and native use. It's really quite amazing, because most of the world's religions have a mention of plants like these, and of course they're often suppressed. But I

think it's very interesting.

**bb:** *So what legal plants exist that are consciousness expanding?*

**Mars:** Oh boy, let me think about that for a minute. One thing that's popular right now is calamus root. Supposedly Walt Whitman was a calamus head. And some people have experimented with nutmeg, however that can be dangerous. Unfortunately, I think some of the plants that are illegal are probably safer, and when you make things illegal, what happens is that you have teenagers trying things that are perhaps more dangerous and more reckless. I know in Colorado Springs, a boy ate some amanita muscaria (fly agaric) mushrooms and went into a coma. He was found in a coma on his front yard. This is the kind of thing you're going to find more of as safe, soft hallucinogenic plants are made illegal - you're going to find people experimenting with things that are dangerous. Just last week, a 15 year-old died from inhaling nitrous oxide.

**bb:** *That happens with everything that becomes illegal - abortion, prostitution...*

**Mars:** Yeah, and as a mother of teenagers, I would rather them use something that is time tested and known to be not so dangerous, than let them look around for things. I remember when I was growing up, kids would drink bottles of cough syrup, and sniffing glue, and that kind of stuff is real dangerous, that puts fear in a parent's heart. Whereas, unfortunately, I don't think that marijuana has those same dangers.

**bb:** *Are there herbs besides kava kava that are good for dreaming?*

**Mars:** Yeah, and this is really safe, and wonderful too. Make a sachet of rosemary. They say the herb rosemary is for remembrance. Our nasal cavities are in very close proximity to our brain, so when you smell things, your brain picks up on that. When you smell the rosemary plant, it's good for anxiety, and it stimulates creativity. So make a little sachet, maybe a 3x5 or 5x5 cotton cloth, and put it inside your pillowcase, and have it close to your face when you go to sleep at night, and you'll have incredible dreams. There's a story I like to tell. I had a rosemary dream pillow, and I would go to bed, and I would have such detailed adventures. And I did the laundry, and forgot to put the rosemary back in, and I woke up in the morning and said to my husband, "Tom, I dreamt that the FDA was going to make aloe vera illegal, but I met these people from another planet, and they were going to get it for me, but theirs

was day-glo, and I was supposed to meet them at a party, and it turned out to be a costume party, and I didn't know who was cool to talk to and who wasn't." Then my daughter came and said, "Mom, I found your dream pillow and stuck it back into your pillow case." So it's those kind of adventures.

**bb:** *Well I'm going to try that - it sounds like fun.*

**Mars:** Also rosemary's smell is supposed to keep you young longer. And they have found, at Rutgers State University, that rosemary was equal in food preservative properties to the chemicals BHA and BHT. So I think there's a lot of promise in that. The herbs have strong antioxidant properties - they help to slow down the decomposition of cells.

**bb:** *So what do you think about the repressive energy that has been in our country for over the last decade. Do you think it's going to last for a while?*

**Mars:** It saddens me. It saddens me because I see that along with that there's a lack in creativity. The music is not that interesting. I turn on MTV and see a lot of ego music - people sort of boasting about their sexual prowess, and how many people they seduce, and yet there's no love in their heart. Even the woman are like, "just look at me!" It's really lacking, and I think there's a lot of paranoia for people to even speak out. Of course, there are a few exceptions. I think a lot of people who once really had a vision in the 60's and 70's have kind of just put it on hold in order to raise their families and make money. Because now realistically you do need money. I mean, I'm glad I'm not still living in the teepee, although I could if I had to, but you spend all day long surviving.

I guess what really saddens me, though, is the environmental crisis, and how I see that this is all tied in. I read that book, *The Emperor Wears No Clothes*, and if there truly is a plant that we can make fuel, fiber, paper, rope, food out of, and it's the only plant that can do all these things... I do see

**"Poison ivy is a warrior plant. It tends to grow where clear cuts have been made, and where paths have been made."**



that marijuana is abused some, and I'm not in favor of that. I see that goldenseal is abused.

**bb:** *But so is alcohol.*

**Mars:** Alcohol is definitely abused. And I think there's a difference between use and abuse. People always say, "Oh, but the native Americans smoked tobacco," and I say, "Yeah, they smoked tobacco, but they smoked it in ritual and celebration, and that was a small percentage of the herbs that they did smoke." I think anyone who becomes overly indulgent in any substance is really looking for spirituality; they're looking for their connection with God. And people will fill that with other things. It might be having to have ten orgasms a day, it might be gambling, it might be alcohol, it might be chocolate. As a matter of fact, Andrew Weil's book, *Chocolate to Morphine* is one of the most balanced approaches I've ever seen.

I think there's going to be trouble by this suppression. I don't like the feeling of having to feel so paranoid. Even more important than the right to get high, is the environmental aspects of this plant. I could even tell you good things about poison ivy. Poison ivy is made into a homeopathic remedy - I'd say poison ivy is a warrior plant. It tends to grow where clear cuts have been made, and where paths have been made. It's almost as if the earth is saying, "Give me a break, give me a rest, give me time to heal with this plant." So as an herbalist, I see the virtues in all plants, and when I see someone who tells me they are suffering so greatly from their chemotherapy nausea, and the only plant that I know of that can help them is cannabis. It saddens me. Because I have known medical doctors that have been undergoing chemotherapy, and they asked me if I knew where they could get pot. I told them, "I'm sorry, we can't sell it in bulk at the store, but I'm sure you could get it somewhere." So I think there's a lot of greed and motivation behind the suppression.

**bb:** *Definitely. It's the big companies and corporations. They're the ones stopping it from being legal.*

**Mars:** My feeling about the drug war is that, yes, there's a drug problem in our country, and yes, there are some very dangerous drugs out there, but really the source and the root of all that problem is poor family life, lack of love, lack of communication. If we really wanted to do something to end the drug war, I would like to see a lot of that money funded into giving kids some chances

in life, a chance to play a sport, a chance to perform in a theater, or to sing, to put up youth service projects in those communities where there's nothing else but to turn to drugs. And I don't like the idea of clumping all drugs together.

**bb:** *Exactly. That's certainly another problem.*

**Mars:** And to me, there's a lot more problems and dangers with a refined substance, such as cocaine. Whereas, you look at the cultures that chew coca leaves, and they don't have the addiction problem, or the crime related to it. We're the ones with the problems, because of the lack of love in our society - the broken families, the fathers who don't stick around to raise their own children - and that's where the healing needs to happen. We need to get to the source of the problem. Just building more prisons and making more people criminals really isn't the answer.

**bb:** *That's right. So tell me more about how we can use plants to our benefit.*

**Mars:** Cinnamon is good for digestion, cinnamon's good for nausea, it's warming, it improves pores, circulation. So a lot of those herbs are actually medicines right there.

People are looking for alternative beverages. For too long as a culture we've gotten overly hung up on coffee and black tea and Coke and Kool-Aid, and there are other things to drink. The plants are so wise, they grow where the soil is rich in different nutrients, and they transform them so our bodies can obtain those minerals and vitamins. We have this incredible symbiotic relationship with the plants. The plants give off oxygen, which we need. We give off carbon dioxide, and the plants take that in. So learning to use other beverages - the flavors of hibiscus, and lemon grass and cinnamon - they all make wonderful teas. Roasted dandelion root tastes similar to coffee. We see many cosmetic companies using herbs in their products, because it's now recognized, and it always has been throughout history, but there's a new awareness that what you put on your body, what you put on your skin, is very often going to be absorbed into your scalp, into your face, and of course whenever you wash, whatever is on your body is going to go down the drain and into the environment. Therefore it makes sense to use more natural products.

And the biggest aspect of the herbal renaissance is herbs for medicine. People are starting to take more responsibility for their health. They are questioning the side affects

of the drugs they've been using. And rather than giving all the power of your personal health away to doctors, you find people seeking out different plants, and even that is suppressed. Over a 300 year period, 11-million so called witches were executed for witchcraft, and most of these were people who had no interest at all in anything evil or satanic. They were in tune to the plant kingdom. So it seems like there actually is a big clash between the natural and the synthetic.

But I'm very glad to see this renaissance going on. Very often, what we usually do is send our botanists and pharmacologists into the jungles of different parts of the world and have them look for plants with active ingredients. Very often, alkaloids. Some examples of alkaloids are codeine, caffeine, ephedrine, cocaine, and as you can see, alkaloids are very strong. And when you remove an alkaloid from a plant, they have side affects. Look at the difference between chewing coca leaves and the drug problem of cocaine. Because they become imbalanced. But you can't patent a plant. Plants are given to us by our creator, and they are here, growing freely for people to use. So the drug companies aren't really interested in that. It costs right now about 150-million dollars to introduce a new drug into the marketplace, and if you look at a wonderful simple herb, like dandelion, who is going to spend 150-million dollars to prove that dandelion works? As a matter of fact, dandelion has been found to be equal to the diuretic Lasix, which is a common drug. If you over use chemical diuretics, you get deficient in potassium. So then your doctor will suggest you take potassium. But the power of the dandelion is so great, that dandelions are not only diuretic, but they're rich in potassium. And yet that same frame of reference has people going to the hardware store and buying chemicals to kill the dandelions. I really feel that there's a lot of ignorance out there. 30% of all the water used in this country goes to water lawns, and then people use more gas and increase the noise by mowing the grass, and end up putting all these chemicals on their lawns, and then they put all their grass in plastic bags and create 20% of the garbage. And it's crazy. All of the plants are our allies. They are here, available, and Emerson once said, "A weed is an herb whose virtue has not yet been recognized." And I feel that is so true. There is no plant that is totally evil. Even if there's a plant that is poisonous, the fact that it's growing means it's putting oxygen into our environment. Or it maybe has a message,



such as the poison ivy plants.

So my mission is to help unify the people and the plants with our creator. I'm like a liaison for all of that, and it's wonderful. I feel like God is our father, the Universe is our mother. The goal is for everyone to love each other. I don't see a clash between god and goddess - they love each other. And the plants are here for us, and we need to honor not only other people, but learn about the plants. I really get perturbed when I see the trucks coming by with chemicals for the lawns. It would not really hurt our quality of life to learn the weeds, it would definitely improve it.

**bb:** And we could always have Japanese rock gardens.

**Mars:** There you go. I was riding up a chair lift with a doctor one time, skiing, and he said, "I don't believe herbs work," and I said, "Did you ever smoke marijuana?" And he said, "yeah." And I said, "Well that's an herb. Did it work?" He had never thought about it that way. So for many people marijuana may be the first herb that they try, but don't end there. If you find herbs are effective, next time you have a

headache or a stomachache, you might try a cup of peppermint tea or chamomile tea. Every plant has a story and a heritage.

**bb:** So what about Mellow Mint or some other kind of packaged tea you buy in the store? Do those work?

**Mars:** Sure, that would settle your stomach. I am very into quality herbs. I prefer plants that are organically grown, and picked at the right time. There's a whole art to being an herbalist, of knowing when to pick the herbs. I love plants that are grown in the wild, although for the mass market it's a lot better to have plants that are organically cultivated.

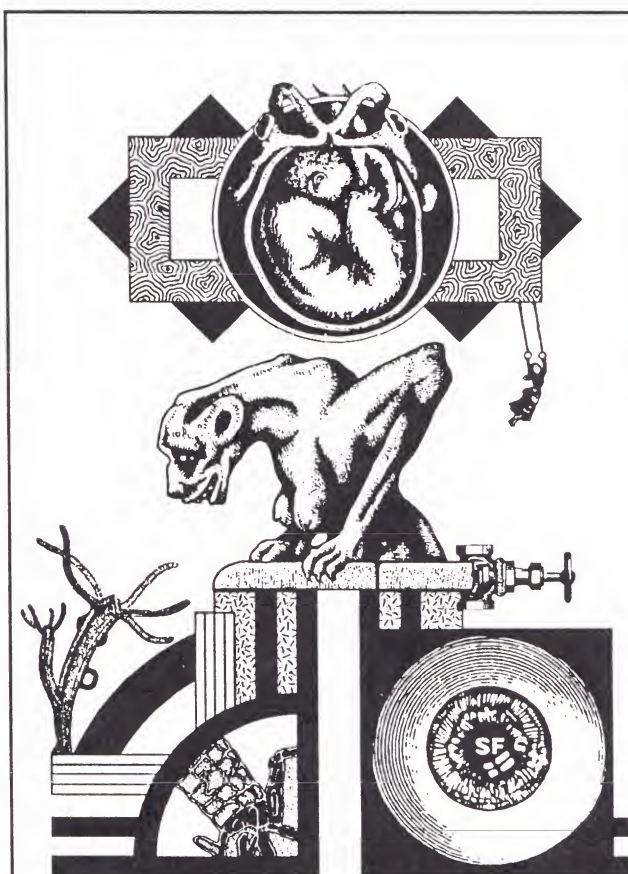
**bb:** Like your own line of herbal teas.

**Mars:** Yes, I make a line of 12 bulk herbal tea blends, using mostly organic herbs. The company is called UniTea Herbs and the blends have names like Mental ClariTea, SereniTea, SensualiTea, and LeviTea. Everything we put into our bodies does have a physiological effect. Health is a great high. You ask about what plants are mind expanding, and I think that being in good health is mind expanding. Our brains depend on oxygen. If we would focus on breathing more deeply, and on getting exercise that

would help us take in more oxygen, to surround ourselves with things of beauty, to create art and things that improve our self esteem. It seems that so much of our work is so transient. You know, you cook a meal, it's gone; you clean the house, it's messy. The real trick is to use all this creative energy that we've been inspired to do, and to make something that's lasting and beautiful. And I think a lot of people fall into the trap of like, "Well, I just do drugs," and they don't do anything with the potential of that energy, and I see that as a real waste.

**bb:** What about musicians and artists who do psychedelics and are inspired to create great things?

**Mars:** That's a positive use. But for some people they "Just do drugs." You go out on a date or out with your friends, and that's all you do. You don't do anything with that energy. And there are people who are still doing that 20 years later. I see that as a shame. The thing to do is, if you get a flash of brilliance, or a flash of illumination, put that out there in the world. Let's make the world a better place. Let's not forget the vision that we had. If you have that flash of beauty and illumination, use it. •



"... I read it with the usual mixture of fascination, admiration, irritation, and exasperation."  
—Robert Silverberg

## SCIENCE FICTION eye

"... too much content for the money..."  
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# confessions in a drug-free zone

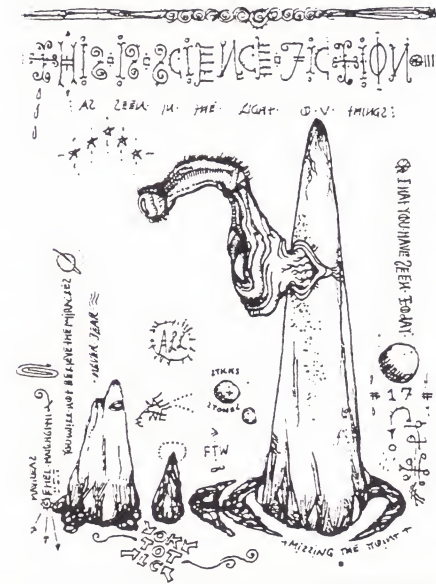


laudia sat in a closet at the end of a hall, and those who worked that floor confessed their dreams to her. And what warped

and stunted dreams they were: the suffocation-phobias of legal secretaries, the desperately erotic masturbatory confessions of fat-seated personnel managers, the glib analytical schemes of the Partners. They toyed with Claudia's things as they talked, shredding her dust-rags between manicured nails. One bright young attorney was an amphetamine addict who slept perhaps three hours a night, so his dreams were short and vivid; and he gouged entirely through a mop handle in one particularly gruelling confession held between midnight and 3:47 A.M. on a night when snow wrapped up the building in its parking lot so that it stood like a mirrored silver candle on a perfectly smooth vanilla ice cream cake.

His dream was not a dream exactly, it was an hypocrisy -- but that was good enough for Claudia. His basic conflict lay in his basic nature. He was essentially a good man, wasn't he? (Gouge-gouge.) Claudia said nothing, as she never did. She listened and wrote her own thoughts endlessly in the daylight hours on the yellow legal pads which were the only payment she requested of those whose testimony she took; and it was upon a shuddery steadily growing throne of those tablets, all covered with her fine script, that she listened to the young lawyer's dreams. While the attorney's goodness drove him to do good for humanity, his driveness led him to feel forever in danger of failing or falling far behind. He could go so much farther and faster with speed inside him.

Now, however, as a function of



amphetamines, he had been entrusted with the drafting of a sacred bill to be taken up by the hearts and minds of Our Nation and made one of the laws of this Land. And this bill, so he told Claudia (gouge-gouge), was nothing less than a total condemnation of the very thing that had enabled him rapidly and efficiently to reach the point where he had been elevated to set down a contaminated logic that would incriminate and prosecute himself among many others: namely, dear reader, your friend and mine: Drugs.

Now Claudia's eyes were exceptionally sharp and quick, being accustomed to see in dim light what few would have notice even in bright midday sun. The young lawyer, with his love of rhetoric and patriotic men, saw something moving there in the shadows, and it appeared to him that the movement of her eyes was independent of her flesh. He thought she could see through him, that she was omnipresent

and all around him in the cracked eggshell pores of the wall, in the clotted dust beneath his feet, in the miniaturized Soviet lens mounted in a dead fly's hollow leg that hung in an artfully draped artificial cobweb just above his head. He did not like to think of Claudia as omniscient, tracking his thoughts. He had always believed he had complete control of what he told her, but now he realized that she saw everything, including the way others looked at him when he turned away. He knew that her tablets were full of his confessions, that she wrote down everything he told her, and her own comments and insights besides; he convinced himself that her tablets were an encyclopedia devoted to himself. Therefore, he entered deeper in hypocrisy, following his nature, and deliberately imagined that her eyes were roaming separately; that little mouths were opening in the disembodied eyebulbs, opening into the coils of her brain which looked like groups of grey intestine. Hearing the growling of vacant thoughts that sounded like an empty stomach, he shrieked and gouged the rest of the way through the mop handle and buried the ragged, jagged end deep into each of Claudia's eye sockets, deliberately hallucinating as he did so that he was disposing of something Evil.

When Claudia was dead (at 3:47 A.M.) and the inner walls of the building had finally settled into a kind of peace just as the wind died outside, he picked up the topmost yellow tablet on which her limp arm lay. Locking the closet door from the inside, he began to read his way to the base of the foolscap throne, looking for clues to his own nature. but in this he was disappointed.

For on Claudia's tablets the young lawyer's fastidious mind discovered absolutely everything except the revelations that he chiefly sought, which are written only here. •

Art: Ehel

marc laidlaw





though it varies with each individual, it is in these Morning Rites of Passage that the astute observer can detect valuable spiritual information regarding The Process of Waking Up. The Wisdom of the Ages reminds us that we discover the universe in a grain of sand, the macrocosm in the microcosm... enlightenment in the toothbrush. Before exploring the profound implications of enlightenment, we must carefully probe our motives for doing so and make a spiritual pledge to complete self-honesty. It is in this spirit that the philosophy of Endarkenment has emerged as a realistic stepping stone to spiritual illumination. If we are not yet enlightened, then, perhaps it is safe to say we are "in the dark" or "endarkened." Those of us who are prepared to confess the truth may now claim their place on the path by memorizing the First Axiom of Endarkenment:

**NO MATTER WHERE I GO, HERE I AM!**

*"The early Morning Mantra"*

This axiom has been proven especially useful when spoken upon first waking up, however, if you are sleeping with "the uninitiated", it is suggested practice to say the mantra in silence to avoid unnecessary confusion. The secret hidden in the heart of this mystical muttering is, of course, somewhat obvious: if you are here, there is nowhere to go and nobody to be. This instantly eliminates the so-called modern day dilemma of the "identity crisis." Both simple and complex, this "simplex" axiom reflects the entire philosophy of Endarkenment, as it's disguised as a joke. Or was that a joke disguised as a philosophy? Either way, even confusion has its appropriate place in the Second Axiom of Endarkenment:

**CONFUSION IS THE HOLY CHAO** (Pronounced "Cow")

*"The Sacred Incoherence Between Dreaming and Awakening"*

Before getting out of bed in the morning, there is an essential disorientation period as our consciousness adjusts itself to another reality. This confusion is also reflected in periods of "high flux"

**P**ermit me, dear reader, the philosophical indulgence of Talking About Life. Life, as we know it, seethes with paradox ... that most elusive quality wherein contradictions unite in spite of ourselves. Good & Evil, Truth & Deception, Beauty & The Beast all trade masks throughout the magnificent charade of our ordinary consciousness. In fact, this interplay of opposites not only keeps Life interesting but, dare we say, keeps it going. After all, isn't paradox simply two doctors fishing off the same pier? If that sounded fishy, it was. Before getting too silly, allow me to address those of us who are delightfully disillusioned enough to realize that Life is a mystery to be lived and not a problem to be solved. We are not alone. There really is a spiritual awakening pervading the planet. The Early Morning Yawn of Humanity is upon us.

As you have, no doubt, already noticed: Most people move through elaborate rituals in order to wake up each morning. Even

# The Church of Fred

A Formal  
Introduction to  
Endarkenment  
by Antero Alli



where we are in transitional phases in our waking lives. Endarkenment refers to our true confusion as the Holy Chao because it is during these times that we are often the most vulnerable and open to suggestion. A "chao" is a single unit of chaos. In periods of intense chaos, our thinking process is put on hold, as it were. We are asked to "flow" or "ride" the chaos through. Endarkenment refers to these individuals who "ride chaos" as: Chaoboys and Chaogirls. Are you one? Periods of personal transformation can be, depending upon your perspective, very serious or funny ... or both, as Axiom Three states:

**IF IT'S TRUE, IT'S FUNNY. IF IT'S  
FUNNY, LAUGH.**

*"The Comics Section of the Morning Paper as  
Holy Scripture"*

When was the last time you started the day with a good laugh? Laughter is the quickest and most direct route to God, filling our heads with Light as we go. And humor is serious business. Laugh therapy is sweeping the nation in the hopes of curing us of the Curse of Greyface, that hideous plague of Terminal Adulthood leaving its victims prey to the Paralysis of Analysis. The world's problems will be solved the day everybody stops taking themselves so seriously. Life is a deep and meaningless adventure, moment to moment and if this idea offends our need for "substance" ... are we deep enough to be shallow? Paradox continues its dance on the tips of our tongues...

Fine and dandy, so we laugh it all off... the nuclear holocaust, world starvation & poverty, cruelty to animals... the dismal truths bring us back to a planet in crisis, as well as the Fourth Axiom:

**THE TRUTH WILL SET YOU FREE BUT  
FIRST IT MAY MAKE YOU  
MISERABLE.**

*"The Bathroom Ritual and the Morning Mirror  
Image"*

Disillusionment can be another term for enlightenment as we see our illusions fall away before us in order to be more real with ourselves and each other. Misery is Mystery's jealous cousin. The more we remain attached to an image of reality (self-image, image of other, etc.) after this image was revealed ineffective in the light of a greater truth, the more miserable we feel. As our true nature knows, there comes a time when it is more painful to remain in the bud than to blossom. The choice is ours...

Due to the profoundly simplex nature of the Fifth Axiom, those on the path are

suggested to play the game Which Is Which before graduating to the final principle of Endarkenment. Which Is Which begins with finding out the difference between illusion and reality...which is which? The business of seeing through our illusions and those of others is no easy task. However, there are distinct signs indicative of an attachment to illusion, the most common being those areas of personal rigidity and immobilization. These areas of "resistance" articulate fixed patterns of being, relating and doing. They are fixed because a certain idea about reality has become more important than the actual reality that idea represents. This is called "dogma" and is akin to eating the menu instead of the meal. The enigmatic Fifth Axiom of Endarkenment states:

**AFTER FIXATION, COMES DECAY**

*"A Cappuccino, A Croissant and Thou ..."*

Just as the most universal antidote to sleep is strong coffee, the philosophical antidote to the absolute belief of dogma is none other than the relative disbelief of catma.

Question: If confronted with a collapsing psychological structure within yourself and if given the choice, which would you opt for ... Slow Death or Quick Decay? In addition to Having It All Together, it is imperative we

**"Fred Mertz bore more  
than a cursory  
resemblance to the  
Buddha Himself..."**

learn The Art of Falling Apart. When a fixed pattern becomes "too strong" and reaches its critical mass, it collapses. The Taoists and Ancient Confusionists referred to this as "Yang into Yin", that is to say, Masculine transforms into Feminine after the point of its highest expression. Don't ask me, I just work here. Are we strong enough to be weak? Paradox invites our participation. The secret knowledge deftly hidden in this axiom is released through the Practice of Conscious Decadence. This includes the discovery of those "whimsical rewards" and "frivolous pursuits" which accelerate decay and bring absolute pleasure to The Art of Falling Apart. This Fifth Axiom is, perhaps, the most misunderstood due to its relative and even amoral nature. As with the previous four axioms, each individual forges their own path and travelling style. Right-and-Wrong are up to each of us to determine, as one person's Heaven is clearly

another's Hell. Before moving on, one final note is due regarding the Fifth Axiom.

If we give ourselves permission to accept and explore the expression of our fixation directly, perhaps enough self-knowledge may emerge to help find our own style of Conscious Decadence ... where a potential breakdown can become a breakthrough. Fixations or obsessions, are interesting for at least two different reasons. First, they indicate where we are in direct, intuitive contact with life energies ... indeed, they reflect the style by which each of us draws energy from our spiritual sources. This is called "Channeling the Lower Self" and when made conscious, it heals. The second fascinating thing about fixations is that the object of obsession (be it security, sex, power, etc) rarely is the source of the obsession itself. Instead, it usually the way we react to a traumatic experience ... we obsess to re-stabilize or ego, our basic sense of ourselves, so we may continue to function. Psychotherapy seeks to help individuals relocate the original traumas that triggered obsessive behavior and to guide us into re-integrating them, in order to release the need for obsession.

If that wasn't funny enough, consider our need for Gurus. In everybody's life, there comes a time when a teacher arrives and guides us into unknown territory, places where we would never even think of going. This experience is now available to everybody seeking it and even those who aren't, Thanks to Fred Mertz ... the Patron Saint of Endarkenment. Fred Mertz was the fat man in the background from the old I LOVE LUCY television series, you know ... Ethel's husband? This humble "fat man in the background" bore more than a cursory resemblance to the Buddha himself and has shown distinct signs of being a premature New Age Avatar transmitting his compassion over the neuro-electronic medium of television. Recently, privileged "viewers" have received transmission through the reruns, where sophisticated techniques as Senseless Bickering, Scathing Indifference, Advanced Balding, Bad Timing and the Five Secrets of Stinginess have revealed his timeless wisdom. Truly, a more vivid demonstration of our own fixations has never been portrayed with more guileless intensity as through the medium of this giant of American Spirituality. For more information, look for the TV GUIDE STUDY GROUPS and KUNDALINI LOWERING INTENSIVES in your neighborhood ... or simply catch Fred on your own time at the reruns. •



BOING BOING RECIPE: WACKY  
NOODLES

Ingredients:

1 cup partially hydrogenated vegetable oil  
1 lb. spaghetti  
2-3 cloves garlic, to taste  
1/2 cup sugar  
4 tbsps. salt  
2 cups lichee nuts, blanched and slivered  
1 lb. aged Havarti cheese  
6 lbs. elk jerky  
1/4 tsp. cinnamon  
2 cups vanilla extract  
juice of half a lemon  
4 fiddler crabs, raw  
1 12 oz. pkg. SeaMama dried conger eels  
2 lbs. saffron  
ground coriander to taste  
1/2 gal. Danish Medal Neapolitan ice milk  
1 tbsp. dried cilantro

Boil 8 qts. water in a medium saucepan.  
Send out for pizza.

Bumper Stickers of the Month:

- 1) Hugs AND Drugs!
- 2) Our Child Has Failed to Respond to  
Repeated Attempts at Discipline at JACKSON  
ELEMENTARY

JOKE

Customer: "Waiter, what's this fly doing in  
my soup?"  
Waiter: "Laying eggs."

Did You Know?

Embattled Los Angeles Police Chief Darrell  
Gates is the secret love child of two famous  
dead entertainers/social gadflies. Can you  
name them? Answer below.

Answer to Did You Know?: Lucille Ball and  
Satan

REMAINING NEW YEAR'S  
RESOLUTIONS

After some particularly exhaustive research,  
BOING BOING has come up with some  
resolutions that have not yet been made by  
anyone for the 1991 calendar year, and so are  
still available to any of our readers. Here they  
are:

I will eat more fudge.  
I will teach my child base-seven arithmetic.  
I will putt harder.  
I will force a seventh game.  
I will give until I've nothing left, or until it  
hurts, whichever comes first.

Psychiatric Labels: A  
Danger to the Psychedelic  
Community?

by Bartlett J. Ridge

The War on drugs is a war on people.  
The war is promoted by framing the  
"drug problem" in terms of a  
non-debate: "jail vs. treatment." The  
state prohibits marijuana and psychedelic  
enjoyment because "drugs" are  
supposedly a threat to "mental health."  
This threat is alleged by the *Third  
Edition, Revised*, of the *Diagnostic and  
Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders  
(DSM-III-R)* published by the American  
Psychiatric Association. The *DSM-III-R*  
implies that any and all use of marijuana  
and psychedelics is sickness.

The *DSM-III-R* presents misleading  
information about psychedelics. The  
*DSM-III-R* categories that most need to be  
re-examined are:

- 305.20 Cannabis Intoxication
- 305.20 Cannabis Abuse
- 304.30 Cannabis Dependence
- 305.30 Hallucinogen Hallucinosi
- 305.30 Hallucinogen Abuse
- 304.50 Hallucinogen Dependence

The truth is the classification of a  
mental state, or behavior is often the  
posturing of a moral position as a medical  
one. Labels put down and stigmatize  
millions of people who enjoy marijuana  
and psychedelics.

To alleviate the hardship and suffering  
caused by the War on Drugs, the APA  
must be reminded that it is their special  
responsibility to uphold human rights  
(*American Psychiatric Association;  
Ethical Standards: Section 10*).

The DSM Reform Initiative urges  
people who favor returning psychedelics  
into responsible adult settings by  
re-legalization to write letters in support  
of the APA re-examining their *Diagnostic  
and Statistical Manual of Mental  
Disorders* to present a more balanced

view of marijuana and psychedelic  
enjoyment.

You can make a difference. Send your  
letters to one of these addresses:

**Chair, Council on Research**  
*American Psychiatric Association*  
1400 K St. NW  
Washington, DC 20005  
**Nomenclature Committee**  
*American Psychiatric Association*  
1400 K St. NW  
Washington, DC 20005

Keep some copies of your letters and  
send a few around to editors in your area.  
This is a chance to make history; to raise  
the consciousness of nations.

The DSM Reform Initiative is a  
network concerned about the psychiatric  
labels that affect psychedelic consti-  
tuents. These labels serve to justify the  
criminal sanctions of prohibition that are  
eroding the civil rights of all citizens.

Consultants, writers and assistants are  
sought to prepare and distribute a press  
kit. The objective is to open a productive  
dialogue with the psychiatric community  
to advance the legitimate concerns of  
psychedelic culture.

*DSM Reform Initiative*  
PO Box 1562  
Albany, NY 12201

Some good books to read to help the  
DSM Reform Initiative are:

*Diseasing of America: Addiction  
Treatment Out of Control*, by Stanton  
Peale

*Ceremonial Chemistry: The Ritual  
Persecution of Drugs, Addicts &  
Pushers*, by Thomas Szaz, M.D.

*Drug, Set, and Setting: The Basis for  
Controlled Intoxicant Use*, By Norman E.  
Zinburg, M.D.

Whether you read these books or not,  
please write to the American Psychiatric  
Association to express your concern that  
their diagnostic labels affecting  
psychedelic constituents are unfair and  
do more harm than good. •

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# CATALOGS

**FLATLAND: CATALOG OF UNUSUAL LORE** (\$2, PO Box 2420, Fort Bragg, CA 95437-2420) Proprietor Jim Martin has taken care to include in Flatland what he considers to be only the finest of otherground zines and books. The catalog itself is a work of art, with excellent reviews and quotes & photos. Martin also interviews authors and zine editors. No information adept should be without the Flatland catalog.

**MEDIA MAGIC** (PO Box 507, Nicasio, CA 94946) THE source for books, videos, software and art about computers and chaos. Fractals, artificial life, computer animation, virtual reality, and the fourth dimension are just some of the subjects covered. Each listing has a photo and a 100-word description. Artists, scientists, and people who love anything as long as it involves their precious computers will want this catalog.

**LOOMPANICS 1991 SPRING SUPPLEMENT** (PO Box 1197, Port Townsend, WA 98368) 30 New titles from The Best Book Catalog in the World. Interviews with 100 people over the age of 100 show that there is no single "correct" formula for a long life. There are a few books about alternative dwellings, and of course, plenty of information about the IRS, diploma mills, anarchy, and censorship. This supplement's feature is an article about the Gulf War by happy-boy Bob Black.

**ROTHSCHILD-BERLIN** (\$5 & Age Statement to 2250 East Tropicana Ave, Suite 119, Las Vegas, NV 89119) Rare books dealing with alchemy, magick, erotica, Crowley, occult, etc. They even sell artifacts such as a real human skeleton in a black velvet covered coffin and a mid-Victorian satanic hand-carved grandfather's clock reportedly once owned by the Great Beast himself. They also offer a catalog of old adult paperback books for \$5, the kind with the nifty cover paintings.

**A-ALBIONIC CONSULTING AND RESEARCH** (PO Box 20273, Ferndale, MI 48220) Books and pamphlets about conspiracies and the secret societies that are supposedly running the show. Plenty of

politically incorrect stuff here also, such as the Lyndon LaRouche pamphlets and other books that smack of hate literature.

**HIGHLIGHTS** (\$2, MegaMind, 4013 Silver SE, Albuquerque, NM 87108) A cross between a newsletter and a catalog, MegaMind director Phil Safier explains mind machine and describes the various brain toys offered by his company.

**FRUIT OF THE TOMB** (Roy Tompkins, Box 16022, Austin TX 78761) Lotsa cool comics drawn in the Graham Ingles, Jeff Gaither, RK Sloan style. One stop shopping for the latest copies of *GRUNT*, *ST.INK*, *BRAIN DEAD* and *BOILED ANGEL*.

**FRY'S INCREDIBLE INQUIRIES** (HC76 Box 2207, Garden Valley, ID 83622) Books on many subjects such as cattle rustlers from the sky, mutant demon dogs, tripling your intelligence, and great gorilla battles. I'm still waiting for the book on *so-so* gorilla battles.

**STAR RIVER PRODUCTIONS** (PO Box 6254, North Brunswick, NJ 08902) "Museum quality sculpture and jewelry inspired by ancient images of the Great

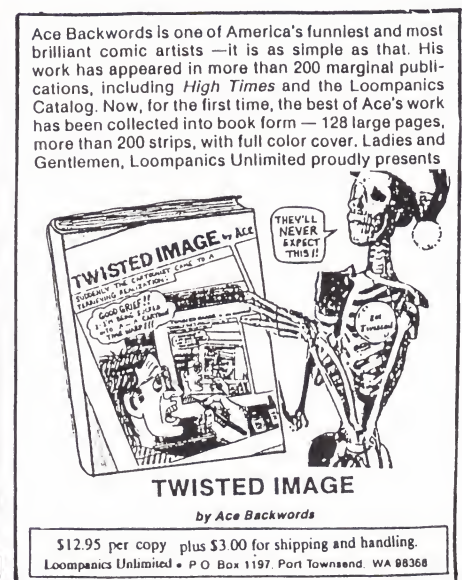
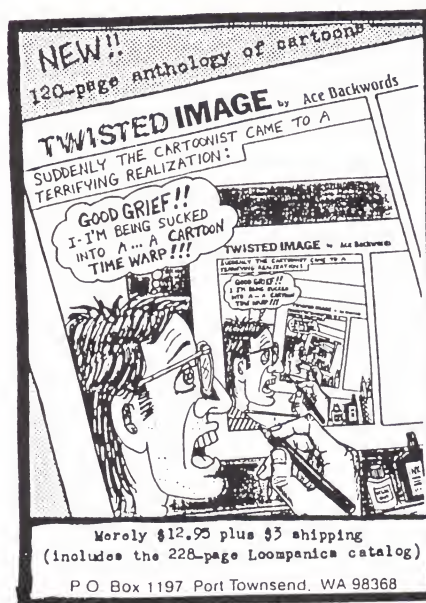
Goddess." The photographs look very nice.

**OLD GHOSTS DESIGNS** (\$3, 812 N.Martell, Suite #5, Los Angeles, CA, 9046) Clothing with goth-style art and sayings emblazoned upon them, like: "I love chicks with big tits," "My dick's bigger than yours," "Scumbag Hollywood trash," and "Dead people are cool."

**LUX NATURA** (2140 Shattuck Ave, #2196, Berkeley, CA 94704) Books about sacred plants, Terrence McKenna tapes and videos, mushroom spores, and psychedelic software.

**KLARK KENT CATALOG "SUPER SCIENCE - TECHNOLOGY FOR THE NEW AGE"** (\$5, Box 392, Dayton, OH 45409, (513)298-7116) This is the place to order different devices for self-experimentation, such as Lakhousky multi-wave oscillators (\$1049). Some blurbs from the pages of the Super Science catalog might give you a feel for what it's all about: "Communicate with rare blonde UFO occupants." "Electronically amplify your channeling." The UFO detector for \$239 may be of special interest to some readers - "Designed as a sensitive magnetic field distortion detector, this amazing device will alert you to the unseen presence of flying saucers while warning you of any sudden intrusion of parasitic Greys in your area." How can you resist?

*Do you have an interesting catalog? We'd like to see it! And readers, make sure to tell these businesses that you refuse to buy any products until you see them advertised on the pages of BOING BOING •*





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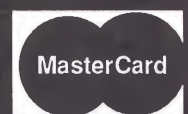
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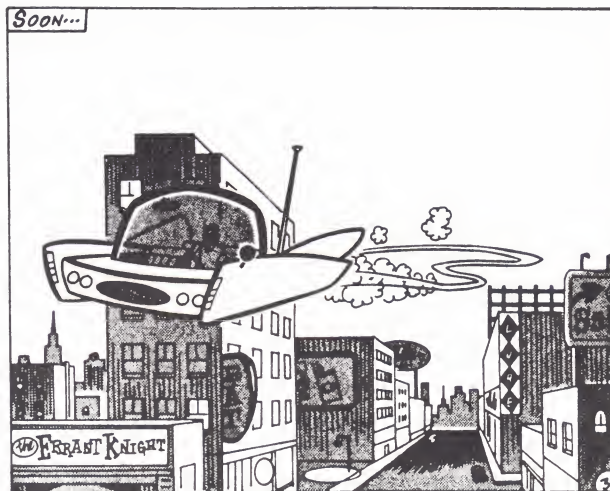


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# Comix Interview: Daniel Clowes

A boING boING Interview by B Barows



Have you ever been to Gooseneck Hollow, U.S.A.? You know, it's the place with that dog that lacks body orifices and survives on hypodermic nutrient injections. What about the girl who works at the diner, looks like Ms. Potato Head and drives a Bucky Fuller Dymaxion car; you've seen her before haven't you? While wandering through the local woods, if you stumble into the Esperanto Cult and their charismatic leader, God, say hello.

But if you can't find Gooseneck Hollow on any of your AAA road maps, fret not my little friend, for you can enjoy the town and its inhabitants in the comfort of your own living room, by reading **EIGHTBALL**, Daniel Clowes' new comic book, published by Fantagraphics.

Barry Barrows, **boING boING's** Funnybook Editor, talked to Dan about Eightball and his other delightfully tweaked work.

**boING boING:** Your work is kind of hard to label. How would you describe it?

**Dan Clowes:** I really don't like to describe it, because then I feel like I have to live up to whatever my description is. I don't want to state an agenda, because I might change my mind tomorrow, then people will say "You didn't live up to what you said you were going to do!" I don't want to do that. I just try to entertain the masses.

**bb:** That makes perfect sense; there's no point in limiting yourself. Since you both write and draw, which part do you think is more important in your work, and which part is harder for you?

**DC:** I think the writing has to be good. I don't think you can do a comic that's badly written and well drawn, while you can do a pretty good comic that's well written and badly drawn. But they have to be integrated, you have to know how to tell a story using words and pictures. You can't just illustrate the words. It's got to be a real synthesis of the two.

**bb:** Do you usually start with a story idea or with a visual image?

**DC:** It's vague. Sometimes I'll just have a title that seems to suggest things, or sometimes I'll just have a picture in mind. Then I'll work it out from there. It's a weird, vague



Art Copyright Daniel Clowes



process that's hard to describe.

**bb:** "Like a Velvet Glove Cast in Iron" is a line from *Faster Pussycat! Kill! Kill!*, one of my favorite movies of all time. Was the movie an inspiration for your story?

**DC:** Well, to some extent. Actually I got the phrase from a really cheesy crime novel. After I'd read it I thought "What the hell does that mean?" Then it was used in *Faster Pussycat! Kill! Kill!* I still had no idea what it meant.

**bb:** Oh, the crime novel was first?

**DC:** Yeah. It's in slang dictionaries, sometimes in slightly different forms. It's a known slang phrase. It never made any sense to me. I still don't exactly understand it.

**bb:** Well that's kind of like your story-line.



**DC:** It has that feeling to it where it suggests certain things.

**bb:** *Velvet Glove* does have a very surrealistic story-line and it could put some people off. Do you care about that?

**DC:** Oh no. I'm not out to reach a million people. If some people like it, that's good. If they don't like it, that's fine too. They don't have to read it. I don't see any point in changing it to reach people who don't understand, because why do I want those people supporting me anyway?

The people of Earth will be afflicted by a **PLAGUE OF GRIEVOUS SORES-- OPEN, RUNNY, PVS-FILLED ULCERS** that will cover every man and woman from head to toe!



**bb:** So you're real happy with a specialized audience?

**DC:** Yeah! It only seems limited and specialized because it's in the comic book market. If I could reach everybody who would be interested in this kind of story, it'd be a fairly good number of people. It's the only Fantagraphics comic where the sales are actually going up. I'm selling almost fifteen thousand now.

**bb:** *Love & Rockets* isn't going up any more?

**DC:** It's been going down for a long time. They only get two issues out a year and the distributors get really pissed off about it.

**bb:** Do you think you'll ever increase the frequency of *Eight-Ball*?

**DC:** I think it'll stay just about the same because I already work full-time to get it out that fast. I can't see doing it faster unless I hire an assistant. (laugh)

**bb:** Do you have goals beyond *Eight-Ball*?

**DC:** I definitely want to go further. I'm happy with *Eight-Ball* right now but I don't think it's anywhere near the best I can do. I'd like to keep

working at it and do something really good someday, by my standards, which are pretty high. I'd like to always be doing something better until the day I croak. I don't understand these artists that develop a style and then do the same stuff for thirty years. I'd get so bored doing that.

**bb:** Your stuff has changed a lot, like in that story about the future where you did a lot of cross-hatching and detail work. It was like eye-candy. I really enjoyed it.

**DC:** I've gotta get that out of my system every once in a while. After the first page of that story, I was really mad that I had done that, because I was totally sick of it. I mean, that takes forever.

**bb:** Do you feel that Chicago is a happenin' kind of place?

**DC:** No, not really. There's not that much going on here. But I like to live in a city. I'm not really comfortable living out in the middle of nowhere. And Chicago has just about everything New York has. It doesn't have a lot of the bad things New York has. People tend to leave me alone out here. I get a lot of work done. And, you know, it's home. It's got it's



charm. It's one of these big decaying urban centers that's ripe for story material.

**bb:** You're doing work for *National Lampoon* now. What kind of deal do you have with them?

**DC:** They hired Drew Friedman as their cartoon editor. They pretty much gave him carte blanche to hire whoever he wanted. So he's got Doug Allen and Kaz and Justin Green and Mark Newgarden and me and him all doing strips. It's a pretty progressive comics section. And so far he's pretty much let me do what I want. I just started a continuing character called *Zubrick*. It will be one page in every issue. I've done three pages so far, so we'll see how it goes.

**bb:** What distinguishes *Zubrick* from your other characters?

**DC:** It's one page that builds up to kind of a "gag" ending. Other than that, it's pretty obvious that it's one of my characters. If you can identify my work then I think you'll be able to tell that this is mine. I don't know what that means! (laugh)

**bb:** I remember somebody comparing your character *Lloyd Llewellyn* to you. Do you agree with that? He seems to be a bit of a cipher actually.

**DC:** After a while he got to look a lot more like me, because I'd have a mirror in my room and I'd say "How can I draw this expression?" and I'd look at myself. I think artists tend to make characters that look like them. I remember one time I was in New York and I was walking near the *Mad* building and I saw this guy, and for some reason I knew that it was Al Jaffe, the *Mad* cartoonist. I went up to him and I said "Are you Al Jaffe?" He jumped out of his shoes. "How did you know?" he asked. He drew himself exactly the way he looked.

As far as Lloyd's personality, he was just sort of an American addict/consumer. I didn't really think of him as having that much personality. He

was there more to play off the other characters.

**bb:** I heard that you're going to do something for *Raw*?

**DC:** I was asked. I turned them down. They pay seventy-five dollars a page and Art Spiegelman makes you re-draw everything a hundred times. It didn't seem like it was worth it.

**bb:** That's funny, because I was going to ask you about the *Raw/Weirdo* feud, and I know you had done some work for *Weirdo*.

**DC:** *Weirdo's* just a much cooler thing, I think. But this is supposed to be the last issue of *Raw*, too. (ed note - *Weirdo* expired late last year).

**bb:** What excites you about the nineties and what depresses you?

**DC:** I don't know. So far it's mostly depressing. I used to think that the whole spectre of censorship was kind of a false issue that had been blown out of proportion, but now it looks more and more like it's becoming an issue. In Europe they can't even import Eros Comics. They're completely verboten. I just heard that they can no longer sell *Yummy Fur* in Canada. You can't even buy a copy of it in the town where Chester Brown draws it. Right now America seems to be one of the most permissive countries in the world. It makes you wonder what's going to happen. But, if and when all that stuff comes down, people will still be doing this stuff. It'll just be harder to get. People can survive. I have no real feel for where the nineties are going. I used to have an intuitive idea of what's going to be happening, but I've kinda lost that right now. But I expect the worst. (laugh) But right now things are going very well so I can't complain.

**EIGHTBALL** is published thrice yearly by Fantagraphics Books, 7563 Lake City Way, Seattle, WA 98115. A three-issue subscription costs only \$5. •

## The Genesis of James Gleick's *Chaos: The Software*

by Rudy Rucker

I met James Gleick in September, 1987, at the first-ever workshop on Artificial Life, held in Los Alamos. He was covering the conference for the New York Times, and I was there both as a San Jose State University mathematics professor and as the author of two cyberpunk science-fiction novels about intelligent robots.

*Chaos: Making of a New Science* was published the next month. I happened to be assigned the job of reviewing it for the *Washington Post Book World*. I enjoyed the book very much; I found that it made a lot of frighteningly abstruse concepts understandable. Like many people, I'd been wanting to start thinking about chaos, and this popularly written gave us the courage to try. Presciently enough, my review said "*Chaos* could well prove to be something of a scientific best-seller."

A year later I was working for Autodesk, Inc., helping develop the software package that became *CA Lab: Rudy Rucker's Cellular Automata Laboratory*. James Gleick phoned Autodesk with a proposal for a software package illustrating some of the chaotic processes described in his book. To my delight, Autodesk agreed. *CA Lab* and *Chaos: The Software* are Autodesk's first two products in an ongoing Science Series.

James Gleick and I met near Disneyland in the spring of 1989 to discuss the kinds of programs we would put in, and then I spent most of the next year writing C and assembly language code for five of the modules: Mandelbrot Sets, Magnets and Pendulum, Toy Universes, The Chaos Game, and Strange Attractors. John Walker supplied the code for the Fractal Forgeries module. Starting late in 1989, Joshua Gordon began putting interfaces onto the programs and, where necessary, reworking the code, sometimes quite extensively. Throughout 1990, *Chaos: The Software* continued to evolve, with Josh and I sparing no effort to make everything excellent, often guided by



James Gleick's many valuable suggestions.

The manual is a hybrid work. James Gleick wrote the beginning of the chapters, and I wrote the mathematics sections at the chapter ends, with Autodesk technical writers creating the sections that lie between. Many other people at Autodesk helped on this project as well.

Being involved in such a complex software development project was an amazing experience for me. One after another of our chaotic simulations has come to and become fully interactive, and each one in turn took over my consciousness for weeks at a time. One month everything looked like a cubic Julia set, the next month everything was a Barnsley fractal, after that music began sounding like Henon attractors, then mountains became Fourier synthesized, and by November, 1990, political trends looked like the oscillations of a pendulum in a field of random magnets. After no matter how many thousands of hours with our chaos programs, I still kept discovering new things.

I'm happy to have helped make these wonderful mathematical forms easier to play with. If you have a PC/XT/AT/PS2 or compatible with EGA or VGA graphics and 640K of RAM, order your own copy of Chaos for a mere \$59.95 plus shipping by phoning (800)688-2344! •

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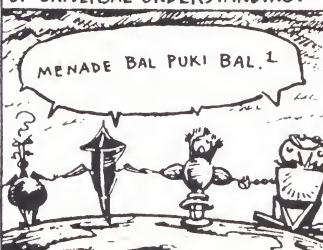
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BITTER QUARRELS SPLIT THE ACADEMY. DISGRUNTLED SPLINTER GROUPS EVOLVED LANGUAGES OF THEIR OWN. BY 1900, WORLD SPEAK HAD DISSOLVED INTO A BABEL OF FUGITIVE TONGUES.



BUT BY 1896, ESPERANTO HAD BECOME POPULAR AND, DESPITE ALSO BEING FRACTURED INTO INNUMERABLE OTHER LANGUAGES [IDO, ESPEREMA, PANSKRIT, LIPS-KITH, OIROPAPITSCHN, QUJI, ASTEGONAGRAPHIANEK, CLARISON, GEOGLOT, ESK, ETC.] IS STILL AROUND TODAY AND MAY YET BECOME LA LINGVO FAVORATA POR TUTA LA MONDO. CÚ KION VI DIAS AL TIO? 2



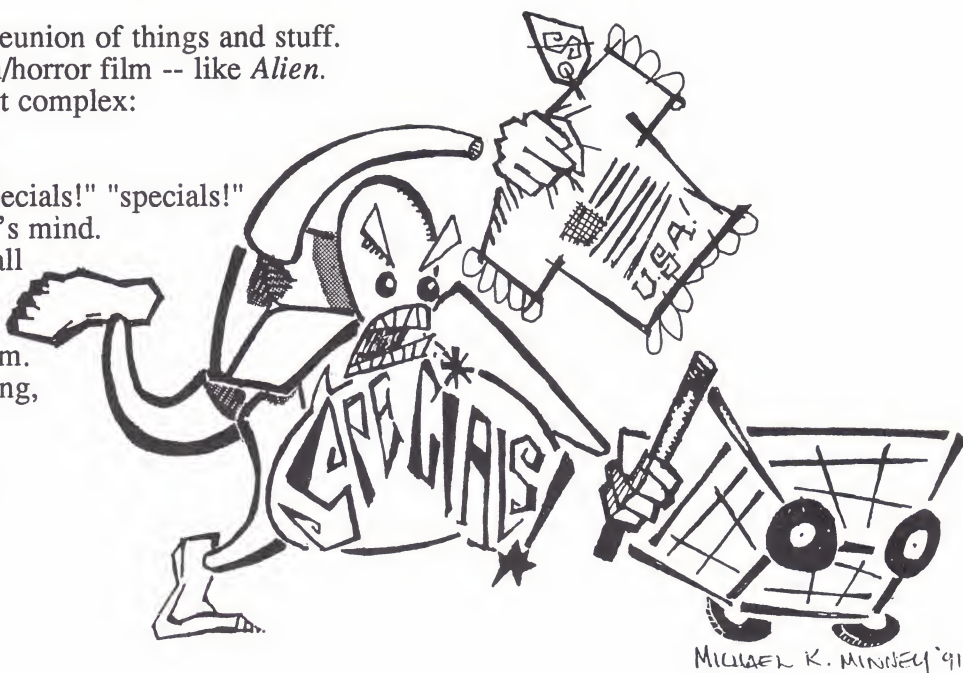
1. For one mankind, one speech" the Volapük motto. 2. Luftlandana: "We have invented a new language." 3. Timerio: "I love you" 4. Universalsprache 5. Dilepok 6. Kobaiian. 7. Gosmiani: "Where does it hurt?" 8. Arulo 9. "What do you say to that?" 10. Cosman. 11. Interlingu. 12. Mongling: "The language that is easiest to know and use is clearly the best." Sources: Mario Pei, One Language for the World, 1958; David Richardson, Esperanto - Learning and Using the International Language, 1988.

615 REVIDO, © MOT '90.



## The Reunion

I dreamt of a strange and furious reunion of things and stuff.  
It was worse than a science fiction/horror film -- like *Alien*.  
A high-rise parking lot/mall/airport complex:  
squatters living in parking spaces,  
screw driver loiterers in elevators,  
shoppers throughout muttering "specials!" "specials!"  
Something else was on everybody's mind.  
No humans peered out of eyes at all  
just pounding neon vacancy signs  
buffetted down corridors reacting,  
challenging events not making them.  
Peanut butter spread over everything,  
thick secret loss.  
What was not interesting  
bore through the brain like a drill.  
- Chris Dietz

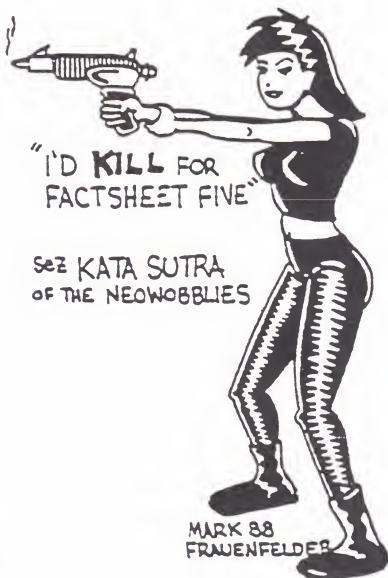


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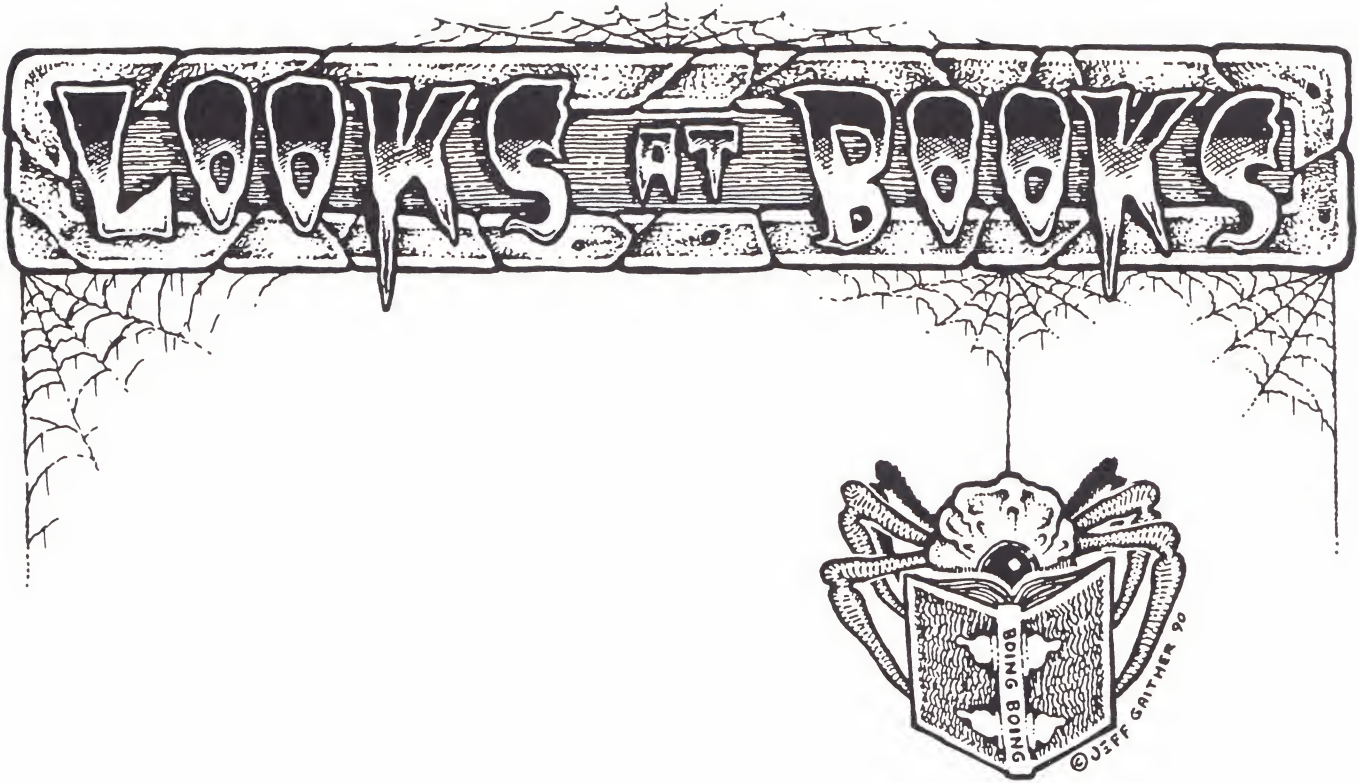


### QUE ES MAS MACHO?

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commodity	or	communication
worship success	or	understand failure
rock	or	hardplace
chaos	or	community
hammer	or	mirror
guns	or	butter
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play around	or	play a game
proof	or	pudding
intent	or	consequence
personal	or	political
peace	or	justice
responsibility	or	obedience
mind	or	body
friend	or	foe
freedom	or	security
theory	or	praxis
ontogeny	or	phylogeny
publish	or	perish
confrontation	or	invitation
fetus	or	adult

Luke McGuff





## LOOMPANICS GREATEST HITS

*Loompanics Unlimited*

P.O. Box 1197 Port Townsend, WA 98368

300 pp.

\$12.95 + \$3 p&h

Throw away your newspapers and magazines and execute a well-placed kick into your TV set. *Loompanics Greatest Hits* has all the answers you need. Containing about 60 essays and articles by various authors (Some names might be familiar to zine readers.), you'll find out about changing your identity, selecting a desert island on which to start your own country, and operating an underground business. There are also plenty of interviews with anarchists and other freedom-seekers.

The underlying message in most of the articles in *Loompanics Greatest Hits* is this: don't expect the masses to listen to reason and line up to fight for your revolution. Remember, these are the same slobbering folks who cheerfully flocked to the trumpet calls of the Inquisition, witch trials, Nazis, and McCarthyism. And don't count on the power-and-money-addicts in governments to change their ways just because you can eloquently point out the hypocrisy and cruelty of their policies. They're fat and happy, sucking the citizens dry of their wealth and civil liberties.

Anarcho-utopia in the U.S.A. is coming

some day. But personal freedom is here now, if do your homework and invest the time and/or money needed to make freedom. Those who are unwilling to work hard for self-liberation because they expect Papa Gov't to give them true freedom are dupes. What they'll actually get is U.S. government-approved, "constitutionally-guaranteed freedom." The "freedom" to vote for a republican or a democrat; the "freedom" to choose between Pepsi and Coke; the "freedom" to attend the monotheistic organized religious temple of your choice; the "freedom" to be drafted against one's will to kill or be killed by someone else who was drafted against their will. If that kind of freedom makes you retch, then *Loompanics Greatest Hits*, can be a teaser to introduce you to some important freedom-generating concepts.

## THIS'LL KILL YA, AND OTHER DANGEROUS STORIES

by Harry Willson

III Publishing

PO Box 170363, San Francisco, CA 94117-0363.

191 pp., softbound

\$6.00

A dogma-busting story about a subversive little book and its effect on different people. Police detective Keith Bright is assigned the case of finding out why several townspeople, some of them members of the local

censorship board, have died suddenly and unexpectedly. They were all reading the same book when they died. The book was purposely written to serve a dual purpose: to offend those who believe that words can be offensive, and to make smart people even smarter. Most *BOING BOING* readers will be familiar with the philosophy presented in *This'll Kill Ya*, but it is still an enjoyable book that contains some humorous gems. Other short stories of a similar ilk are included included in *This'll Kill Ya*.

## TWISTED IMAGE

by Ace Backwords

*Loompanics Unlimited*

P.O. Box 1197 Port Townsend, WA 98368

128 pp., softbound

\$12.95 + \$2 p&h

Reviewed by Ben G. Price

After you've thoughtfully turned the last page of *Fifth Estate*, retired the latest copy of *Anarchy* to the growing stack of political mulch, you may have flipped through *Factsheet Five* looking for more perverse, yet heartfelt literature. (There are those among us who hope to touch base with humanity without going through the Madison Avenue middlemen who shape the bulk of mainstream political literature.)

If you've ever actually mailed for copies from the eclectic selection of underground



and marginal literature catalogued by Gunderloy and others like *AMOK* and *Loompanics* (or if you've come across samples independently), you may have noticed an uncommon thread running through the best of them, something that stood aside from the gray page assaulting your gray matter. Something truly funny.

In recent years, the most consistent whiff of folly anywhere in the catacombs of the American samizdat print has steamed out of the frames of Ace Backword's iconoclastic cartoon strip, which can at last be snorted, line after hilarious line, straight from the pages of *Twisted Image*.

What's so damned funny about these strips is that they don't let "movement" bandwagoneers get away with just checking their image of themselves against the latest manifesto or rant. Because at the bottom of the page, in the zines where they first appeared, Ace Backwards presented the real countenance of the cowed followers of ideas like "anarchy", "peace & love", "punk", in fact a broad spectrum of ideas entertained by the self-illuminated. He showed the real, stripped of the hip hype, in strip after strip.

These boxed bon-bons of irreverence squirt everything from blood to sperm and napalm when you bite into 'em. They may even make you break out: in hives or from that boxed-in feeling you get whenever you start taking yourself too seriously.

The whole collection is a Rorschach test for anal retentives: you know you're one if all you see is filth and smut. True, there are lots of caricatures of penises and vaginas and what people do with them, if often only symbolically or in their imaginations. But what we do in dead seriousness is often animated by the ridiculous. Ace Backwards is adept at capturing and captioning just that.

A good comedian is a talented observer who knows when to reach inside our guts and dredge up some old bone of contention long lodged under the heel of the occupying armies of our ideologies. It takes timing and guts to do that, to invoke an upheaval of rage or, more appropriately, laughter -- the natural gag reflex we've been conditioned to repress while swallowing hype, propaganda, guilt conditioning and the rest of the swill over a lifetime.

Ace Backwards adds graphic dimensions to this subversive scheme of comedy. And *Twisted Image* is the handbook of revolting images: images in revolt against the humorlessness of everyone whose bowels are in an uproar over the hilariously ridiculous state of everything.

## HOLODYNAMICS: HOW TO DEVELOP AND MANAGE YOUR PERSONAL POWER

by V. Vernon Woolf, PhD

Harbinger House, 1990

\$9.95

ISBN 0-943173-33-7

Psychologist V. Vernon Woolf has designed a new model to look at the mind as a developer of multi-dimensional holographic units of memory storage called *holodynes*. By *Phase-Spacing*, or stepping out of one's usual frame of reference, Woolf maintains that one can determine the physical form of a holodyne and change its shape. Woolf borrows terms from chaos theory and quantum physics to explain his ideas, for example "You learn that all your senses detect both the 'particle' and the 'wave' aspects of reality. Your 'particle' sensitive senses send their information to your left brain, while your 'wave' sensitive senses send their information to your right brain.

Woolf believes that holodynes are "living thought-forms," and readers familiar with memetics will notice the similarity between memes and Woolf's holodynes.

People who are put off by "soft" use of quantum physics and mathematical terms have a valid beef, but this book seems to me to have potential usefulness for those interested in programming their bio-computers.

## SMART DRUGS & NUTRIENTS: HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR MEMORY AND INCREASE YOUR INTELLIGENCE USING THE LATEST DISCOVERIES IN NEUROSCIENCE

by Ward Dean, M.D., and John Morgenthaler

B&J Publications

P.O. Box 483, Santa Cruz, CA 95061-0483.

1-800-669-2030

\$9.95 + sales tax + \$2 shipping

If you've been taking your smart drugs, you'll remember that we interviewed the authors of *Smart Drugs & Nutrients* in *BOING BOING* #5. According to Dean and Morgenthaler, a smart drug has one or more of the following effects:

- Increased alertness, mental energy, and concentration.
- Increased ability to concentrate for longer periods of time.
- Increased ability to memorize material.
- Greater productivity, organization, and planning ability.
- Improved verbal memory.
- Improved problem-solving ability.

- Alleviation of depression.
- Improved overall health.
- Improved sexual performance.

*Smart Drugs & Nutrients* is indispensable if you're thinking about embarking on an intelligence-increase program. Dean and Morgenthaler went through on-line medical databases to find safe, legal smart drugs that can be obtained through overseas pharmacies. The results of laboratory intelligence tests on over three dozen different substances are presented, along with medical journal references and availability information. The book is full of useful information: a nootropics introduction (a new class of brain enhancers), the synergy of smart drug combinations, testimonials, the Alzheimer's-aluminum link, FDA policy, sources, a glossary, and a bibliography.

## MARIA SABINA: HER LIFE AND CHANTS

by Alvaro Estrada, with a retrospective essay by

R. Gordon Wasson; preface by J. Rothenberg

Ross-Erikson, 1991

240 pp., softbound, \$8.95

ISBN 0-915520-32-X

Reviewed by Thomas Lyttle.

Maria Sabina was a Mazatec Indian, a Mexican and Shaman-ess of no small repute. She died at the age of 93 in Oaxaca on Friday, November 22, 1985. She had gained fame nearly three decades ago as "the queen of hallucinogenic mushrooms." In 1955, Sabina's knowledge about provincial hallucinogenic mushroom use as a spiritual aid and for purposes of healing attracted New York banker R. Gordon Wasson due to his ethnomycological interests. His relationship to the Mazatec cult she represented and what all this might mean for modern America became the focus of a popular *Life Magazine* article. From this she earned international fame.

Thousands of people from all over the world traveled over dirt roads to the mountainous region of *Huautla* where Sabina spent most of her life. There they participated in ceremonies centered on the "children of God" as Sabina called the hallucinogenic mushrooms. Among the personalities who visited Sabina in Huautla were rock stars Mick Jagger, John Lennon and Bob Dylan, as well as countless anthropologists, ethnologists and mycologists. LSD discoverer Albert Hofmann also assembled the synthetic version of Sabina's magic mushroom as psilocybin, based on her exposure.

Maria Sabina was totally without formal



education, but like the poets who composed the *Iliad & Odyssey*, the *Vedic Hymns*, *The Song of Deborah* and others, she transcended and espoused wisdom(s) respected by many of the world's great minds.

Author Estrada opens his volume aptly:

The motives which prompted my decision to write *The Life of Maria Sabina* were: (1) the intention a testimony to the thoughts and life of the Mazatec wise woman whom journalists and writers from various countries have not known how to appreciate fully, and (2) the hopes that it may be a useful document for ethnologists, ethnomycologists, students of folklore and other specialists, and (3) ... to encourage young people in particular to treat the elements of the native religion with more respect. It is my hope ... this may stimulate young writers - above all Indians - to study Native customs, etc.

(Estrada pp. 25)

*The Life and Chants* is prepared more as Sabina's autobiography. It actually represents pure *autohagiography* (a spiritual autobiography). Author Estrada, beyond the prefacing of his work, remains editorially transparent. Allowing the true spirit of Sabina's wisdom to shine forth, through her own words, helps capture the merit and vitality of the lessons:

"In the brazier I burned the copal and with the smoke incensed the saint-children that I held in my hands. Before eating them, I spoke to them ... I asked them for a favor. That they bless us; that they teach us the way, the truth, the cure.  
... I said to the mushrooms "I will take your blood. I will take your heart. Because my conscience is pure - it is clean like yours ... Give me truth."

(Sabina/Estrada pp. 48)

... the ignorant could never sing like the wise. The saint-children dictate to me, I am the interpreter. The Book appears there and I begin to read. I read without stammering. ... for the sick there is one type of language, for those who search for God another ... And they say that because they spring up by themselves. Nobody plants them. They spring up because God wants them to ... the words of the children should be obeyed...

(Ibid. pp. 66)

Researcher Ruiz de Alarcon points out

how the *Hahuatl* "Wise-One" stresses the *amoxli* - the "book" - as the means at arriving at the secret knowledge that is used. Maria Sabina uses the Spanish word *libro* there being no Mazatec Indian word for *book*. It figures large in her (and other provincial magicians') world and cosmology.

She also stresses admiringly towards her cosmic male confrere in her vision workings - whom she names as Jesus Christ. In Maria Sabina's consciousness, and throughout the book, there is a complete synthesis of the Christian and pre-conquest traditions.

"It's true," she says. "that before Wasson nobody spoke so openly about the children. No Mazatec revealed what he knew about this matter ... the children are the Blood of Christ. When we Mazatecs speak of the vigils we do it in a low voice, and in order not to pronounce the name that they have in Mazatec (ntixitjo - "the little ones that leap forth) we call them little things or little saints. That is what our ancestors called them."

(Sabina/Estrada p.19)

*Folkways Records* recorded the night of July 21-22, 1956 by V.P. and R. Gordon Wasson in the home of Cayetano Garcia of Hualtla de Jimenez, Oaxaca (*Mushroom ceremony of the Mazatec Indians of Mexico; Folkways Records and Service Corp., NYC, NY; USA FR8975*). The translation of this particular session allowed A. Estrada to bring the Mazatec to Spanish. From the Spanish to English was the work of Henry Munn.

Excerpts of this phenomenal velada, or high spellcasting/purgation/seership include, on *side one*:

I am the woman who shouts, says I am the woman who whistles, says I am the woman who thunders, says I am the woman who plays music, says I am the spirit woman, says I am the woman who shouts, says Ah our Jesus Christ, says Ah, Our Jesus, says Our Saint Peter woman, says our Saint Peter woman, says our *Ustandi* woman, says our shooting star woman, says our shooting star woman, says our whirling woman of color, says ...)

(Sabina/Estrada/Munn p.105)

And on *side two* of the *Folkways LP*:

Our doll, our Virgin; My Father-Christ; it is your fresh flower of light, your flower of the day, my Father. Your poor flower, your humble flower, my

father... Why are you so poor and humble ...?

... It is your blood that I want you to give me, my Father; your heart is what I want you to give me, give me your words Christ, your slave, my Father who art in the house of Heaven. I will follow the path of your hands, I will follow the path of your feet, my Father. Where you stooped my Father; where you stooped, Christ, there I am going to leave my St. Peter woman, my St. Peter man. Accompany me my Lord, St. Peter; Lord St. Peter, Lord St. Paul ...

... I have your staff of support, your staff of the dew; I have your good and clean Bishop. I have paper; I have my Book; I am known in the House of Heaven. You know me, my Mother. God, my Father, knows me ...

(Ibid. pp.122)

Regarding the translation from Mazatec into Spanish, on onward into various tongues - Mazatec proper is an unwritten language. Being so, transcription is the usual method of transliteration or cross-current between cultures. Author Alvero Estrada speaks both Mazatec and Spanish, as well as living in Maria's home village and community.

To compliment Sabina's life history, the transcription of the above-quoted 1956 velada has been translated and included in the text. Also included, for comparison and reference, is a similar 1970 velada recorded in the house of Celerina Cerqueda and translated by fellow researcher Eloina Estrada and H. Munn.

Using tape recording devices on location, Estrada has pieced together the vital life story of Sabina from early childhood through the year 1980. By her own account and admission, the facts set a tone and atmosphere held in a crucial spiritual mount. Perhaps the latent vitality nourishing her work and her words has been set in virtue and against the odds of layered translation. Two come from Alvarez and Munn. Three if one accepts the original languages of the saint-children themselves ... Clarity remains throughout. Beyond sits otherwise excellent cords of substance. These seem to work with all the languages in good ways, setting hope that many will eventually hear the actual recordings for inspiration and character.

Maria Sabina pointed out many things, especially for those working with hallucinogens and in need of strong spiritual answers. Within the corners of academia, she re-kindled myth-laden links, bringing together metaphor and practising lifestyle. Certainly a masterful teacher, she worked not just to instruct, but to create grace and



ethic. Sabina held forth a worth of being and could have become both a spirit guide and hero. Why should she have wished to complicate her path? She instead chose to be more than mere hero, often representing true blessings in action ...

Certainly Jerome Rothenberg answers correctly, writing in this book's preface. He finalizes:

... In that sense we aren't dealing with something merely alien/exotic, but we are ALL Potential Witnesses, transmitters; all suffering exiles and losses; are all in an encounter with language and vision.

Maria Sabina's Language bears the traces of such an encounter and presents them in a form in no way incomplete; a language - centered poetics, and a guide that encompasses even that, writing that which we will still speak of in our arrogance as the final instrument of language that separates her and us ...

But, she has seen the Book as well ... the Book of Language and that makes this a book about a Book. And if we let it, it is also a Book of Healing; a language directed against that sparagmos - that classic split in consciousness - that tears us asunder! The wounds are deep and are probably irremediable, but the dream while we're alive is that of wholeness.

Here is a language as a medicine; its ancient function. For as she chants "with words we live and Grow" and (again speaking of mushrooms with a familiar Mazatec word):

"I cured them with the language of The Children" •

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**BELL BORN** (Music Cassette, Tranquil Technology Music, PO Box 20463, Oakland, CA 94620, Catalogue available for SASE) Musician Michael Mantra wrote and performed the songs on **Bell Born** after selling all of his electronic equipment and buying Tibetan bells and Burmese gongs. This is interesting stuff. Certain songs made my skull resonate, others entranced me with overlapping layers of bell and gong peals. If Gertrude Stein had heard about Tranquil Technology, maybe she wouldn't have

said, "The trouble with Oakland is when you get there, there isn't any there there."

**THE DEAD MAN** (Video Cassette, \$60, Drift Distribution, 83 Warren St #5, New York, NY, 10007-1057, Catalog \$2) This might be called feminist pornography. Filmed in stark black & white, the movie opens with a woman running out of a house containing a dead man. She then embarks on a series of adventures involving sex, vomiting, and other forms of body cavity evacuation. *The Dead Man* is infused paradoxically with refreshing humor and a light-heartedness that makes it a worthwhile experience. The Drift catalog features lots of non-mainstream films and videos.

**MANDELBROT 3 2.1** (IBM DOS software, \$25 or \$5 for upgrade (including new disk and manual), Midnight Beach, 1805A Felt St, Santa Cruz, CA 95062) An upgrade of the program reviewed in *boING boING* #5, version 2.1 features virtual memory, interface improvements and faster 80387 code. It ran without a hitch on my computer. Lotsa time-wasting fun.

**AVERTIVE POWERS: A SYNTHESIS OF ART AND SCIENCE IN MUSIC** (Music by Design, PO Box 30143, Seattle, WA 98103) The electromagnetic fluctuations at an ancient Zapotec Indian site were recorded during the Harmonic Convergence by two musicians, and later translated into audible tones. These tones were incorporated into the music on *Avertive Powers*. The listener will reportedly synchronize with the buzz of the planet. I haven't worked with the tape enough to put in my two cents on its ability to link myself with Gaia, but I imagine that people whose first (and last) reaction to new ideas is shrieking "popycock!" won't feel a thing.

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praise be to the Sun Absolute! -- is a refreshing absence of the cant, the pomposity and the deliberate mystification that makes most books on these subjects virtually unreadable; some may find Antero's realism a bit disconcerting..."

from the Preface by ROBERT ANTON WILSON, PhD

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## TWISTED IMAGE by Ace Backwords © 1991

FUNNY HOW THE MEDIA RARELY MENTIONS THE REAL ROOT CAUSE OF THE GULF WAR -- NAMELY, THE BRITISH ARBITRARILY CARVING UP THE BORDERS BETWEEN IRAQ, KUWAIT, AND SAUDI ARABIA AFTER WWI, WHICH DENIED IRAQ ACCESS TO THE GULF (AND KEPT ALL THAT OIL IN THE HANDS OF BRITAIN/U.S. ALLIES, NATCH).

HEY! WE NEED THAT WATER!!

IRAQ

KUWAIT

SAUDIA

PERSIAN GULF

DON'T WORRY. THE BRITISH KNOWS WHAT'S BEST, FOR THE BRITISH.

FUNNY HOW THE MEDIA RARELY MENTIONS THAT THE U.S., FRANCE, GERMANY, AND THE SOVIET UNION ALL MADE BIG BUCKS SELLING HUSSEIN SOPHISTICATED CONVENTIONAL AND CHEMICAL WEAPONS (INCLUDING NERVE GAS!) FROM 1982 RIGHT UP UNTIL THE DAY HE INVADDED KUWAIT.

I CAN TELL FROM THE COLOR OF YOUR MONEY THAT YOU'RE TRUST-WORTHY!!

FUNNY HOW THE MEDIA RARELY MENTIONS THAT THE U.S. HAS SUPPORTED "NAKED CRIMINAL AGGRESSION" WHEN ① THE ISRAELIS INVADDED LEBANON IN 1982, KILLING 20,000, ② THE INDONESIANS INVAD-ED EAST TIMOR IN 1975, KILLING 200,000, AND ③ THE U.S. FINANCED AND BACKED THE DEATH SQUAD GOV-ERNMENT OF EL SALVADOR, KILLING 200,000

YES, BUT HUSSEIN IS KILLING PEOPLE WE DON'T WANT KILLED!!

IT'S A MORAL OUT-RAGE!!

GUESS THEY'RE JUST TOO PREOCCUPIED WITH MORE IMPORTANT ISSUES...

...AND THE LATEST POLLS REVEAL THAT 82% OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC BELIEVES THAT HUSSEIN IS MORE EVIL THAN HITLER, WHEREAS 16.4% BELIEVE HE'S ONLY AS EVIL AS CHARLES MANSON...





hen this column began two issues ago, I rattled off some of the guidelines I wanted to use for the reviews it would contain. Briefly, they were something

like this:

- 1) Reviews will be positive; they will direct "toward" rather than "away from."
- 2) Reviews will generally be of non-mainstream material.
- 3) Reviews will focus on self-contained material rather than series that require background knowledge as one would expect with a soap opera.
- 4) Reviews will not bother to recount specific plotlines; it is a given that reviewed material has worthwhile plot structure or the equivalent thereof.
- 5) Reviews will concentrate on material that has generally low sales figures relative to other funnybooks on the market.

This many "rules" restrict the scope of this column, but it is my position that such stringent focus is for the better. The challenge is in the determination of whether enough material exists to continuously meet these specifications. It will be necessary to bend the "rules" a little now and then, and I want to make it clear when this happens.

The most difficult category to address of those five listed above will be the one that promotes good stories that appear outside of an ongoing soap operatic series. The reason for this is because of the preponderance of continued stories in the funnybook medium. In both the mainstream and independent presses, it is the norm to drag storylines on ad infinitum. This practice started as a gimmick to keep readers buying a series, but now many writers depend on this technique too readily as a crutch that enables them to get away with writing flabby stories. Too frequently will a story drag on until the reader loses all sense of structure or purpose. The reader will excuse an unsatisfactory issue and say, "Oh well, next issue will be better." But it never is. Or only one in ten issues will bring the satisfaction that is hoped for.

It takes a fine writer to write a short story. The novel can ramble while the short story must be concise and get to the point. This is true in the comic medium as well. The never-ending soap operas, as often as not, are comprised of meaningless meandering. For this reason, I appreciate the single-issue story all the more. With such stories, the reader does not have the additional burden of trying to decide whether the writer is trying to hide his or her lack of focus by using superficial cliffhangers.

# not funny ha-ha funnybook review by B BARROWS

Now it is time to look at a series that destroys everything that I have just said.

**BLUEBERRY**, *Epic Comics, Graphic novel limited series, color.*

*Blueberry* is the unlikely title of an unusually exciting Western series written by Jean-Michael Charlier and drawn by Jean "Moebius" Giraud. If their names haven't given it away for you - they're from France. And as non-Americans, they have researched the American West far better than your average Hollywood moviemaker; the result is a highly realistic representation of both the appearance of the West and the daily hardships that would be endured by anyone who might be taking up a bit of swashbuckling.

Charlier and Moebius produced this series of graphic novels from 1963 to 1986 in France and they are now being translated into English for the first time.

Moebius is best well-known for his work in *Heavy Metal* and *The Airtight Garage* and other ethereal new age-type fantasy pieces. his work on *Blueberry* couldn't be more different; it is gritty and dusty and solid. In the occasional landscape scene, one can spot the same sense of sculptural rendering that Moebius applies to his high-fantasy material, but by and large, he draws like two different



*Blueberry* ©1971 Dargaud Editeur, Jean-Michael Charlier & Jean Giraud. Translations & text © Starwatcher Graphics



people. His versatility is a miracle to behold.

Charlier, regrettably, died in 1989. Moebius is reportedly working on one last *Blueberry* story without him.

Michael S. Blueberry is a Southerner who fought on the side of the North in the Civil War. He took his name in a spur of the moment decision when he was hiding behind a blueberry bush and couldn't let the soldiers who found him know who he was. His luck in that situation is his trademark; Blueberry is the ideal rogue hero whose wit never fails. He is a master strategist; he ultimately assists President Ulysses S. Grant with his wild card planning.

There are a couple of dozen *Blueberry* books and it usually takes four or five of them to tell just one story. Unlike the rambling serials I lambasted in my introduction, *Blueberry* is tight, cohesive and lean. Every detail is vital. The emphasis is more on plot than character development, but the characters are consistent and real. The plots tend to start from a historical pretext (such as the attempt to retrieve the lost treasure of the Confederacy or the feud between the Union Pacific and Central Pacific railroads), but then focus on how Blueberry enters into those events. The star of the story turns out to be Blueberry's cleverness; against all odds, he reads his opponent's mind, works with nature instead of against it, and finally succeeds.

Blueberry is the hero for all the right reasons: he follows only the authority that represents justice; he treats Native Americans with dignity and respect (and

lived with them for a length of time, years before *Dances With Wolves*); his resourcefulness and strength of mind are his greatest attributes; and he perceives the best and most useful characteristics inherent in both people and places.

I have never been a fan of the Western genre, but when it is done right, it has incredible potential. The European perspective that *Blueberry* offers may reveal much about what qualities an ideal American may need to garner respect in the wider world.

If you can get *Blueberry* from the beginning of a storyline, you should. Fortunately though, each book has a summary of previous episodes that makes it easy to start anywhere, if necessary. These books could change your mind about the limits we have come to associate with the Western genre.

**EPICURUS THE SAGE**, *Piranha Press, semi-annual graphic novel, color.*

Writer William Messner-Loebs and artist Sam Kieth have created a whole new genre with this series: The Adventures of the Greek Philosophers! Or at least that's what this whimsical and reverently irreverent series amounts to so far. Messner-Loebs has taken all of the concepts that we associate today with Greek History and thrown them together as though it all happened at once. The effect of this immediately reveals that he is not concerned with historical accuracy, but with modern man's perception of a segment of history. Our perception is all we have left, after all.

Aristotle, Plato, Alexander the Great, Epicurus, Aesop and Socrates share scenes onstage with mythological figures like Zeus, Demeter, Persephone, Hera and Charon just as they do in our imaginations. Each character is fleshed out by little foibles usually not associated with the Founding Fathers of Western Civilization: Hades has a lisp; Plato looks just like Robert Crumb's *Flakey Foont* (and is similarly simple); Alexander is a

violence-obsessed brat; Persius is a hulkish brute, Aristotle is an anal retentive know-it-all and on and on. Only Epicurus, the philosopher most associated with practical materialism and moderation, is treated with respect by the author, if not the other philosophers. Messner-Loebs has chosen him as his vehicle for expressing the most reasonable path. Epicurus tends to save the day by flexing his mental muscles.

In the two books that have thus far been published, the conflict in both of them has resulted from the whims of the gods. The first book dealt with a retelling of the myth wherein Hades abducts Persephone and the result is the instigation of Summer and Winter. The second book involves the philandering of Zeus with umpteen mortal women. Obviously, there is rich enough material for many twisted retellings. Those crazy gods always did cause trouble.

Sam Kieth provides an art-style that is both realistic (and reminiscent of Berni Wrightson, who always reminded me of Graham Ingels) and delightfully cartoony all at the same time. This mesh of detail with cartoon figures is perfect for the book, as the tone of the writing also meshes historical reality with conjectured caricatures. It's like and extended political cartoon.

Finally, I would like to point out an enjoyable subplot running through the books, which is Epicurus' ideas and subsequent efforts to include women in his philosophy classes. As one shepherd put it, he may as well teach philosophy to sheep. The marvelous way that Messner-Loebs deals with this is that women are indeed too stupid for philosophy, but so are the men. All efforts to philosophize are silly extensions of the ego. All philosophies are selfish. The men who deny the women are the stupidest of all. Only Epicurus himself comes close to holding a thought, and he is continually frustrated by those around him.

With this interesting start, I am anxious to see what other thoughtful ideas will be thrown around in future installments of this truly clever series.

**DRAWN & QUARTERLY**, *Drawn & Quarterly Publications, Quarterly anthology magazine, Black & white (with some color pages)*

Anthology publications are always uneven. The best you hope for is a magazine that is mostly good. *Drawn & Quarterly* is such a publication. In its first years, it has presented a lion's share of quality material; it is filling the void left by *Weirdo*, and it's doing that without a star like Robert Crumb to headline

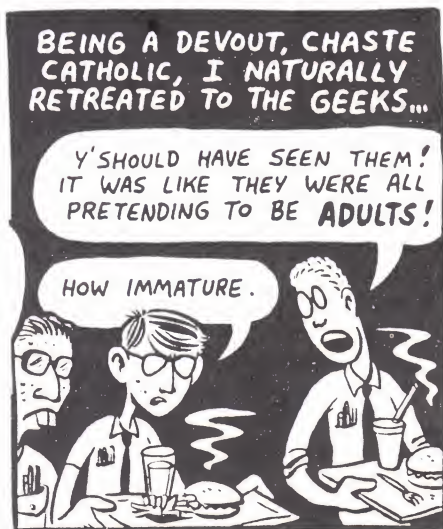


*Epicurus the Sage* © William Messner-Loebs & Sam Kieth



each issue.

*D&Q* comes out of Canada and its distribution in the U.S. is spotty, so I would ask for it in a specialty shop by name. It is a mag we shouldn't lose. It has *Weirdo's* loose and homemade philosophy of "sloppy"



Drawn & Quarterly © D&Q and Joe Matt

cartooning, and the personal stories and vignettes are heartfelt and insightful. It's a slightly more mature *Weirdo*.

If the mag has a star, it's Joe Matt, who has appeared in every issue so far. Joe tells stories "seemingly" verbatim from his own experience and spills his guts with admirable explicitness. He talks about his girlfriends, his occasional desire to see a dirty movie, his childhood, his money problems, etc. He crams a full length story onto one page using maybe 42 panels; an *X-Men* comic would take 6 issues to cover as much angst and pathos as Matt does in one page, and it would not succeed in equalling him even then. A busy Joe Matt page looks daunting at first and too text-heavy to bother to read, but by the time you finish it, you wish it would go on and on. I find his pieces to be exceptionally easy to identify with.

Other contributors of note are Richard Sala, who draws and writes even more eerily than Charles Burns; Michael Dougan, who rivals Harvey Pekar for slice-of-life vignettes; Julie Doucet, whose inky, messy doodles reveal a very interesting mind; Mary Fleener, whose cubist portrayals make you wish the world really looked like that;

Foolbert Sturgeon, who reminds us that ex-CIA directors are not ideal presidential material; Carol Tyler, who proves that Lynda Barry is not a one-of-a-kind freak; Dennis Worden, who is a remarkable satirist besides being the creator of the nihilistic *Stickboy*; J.D. King, whose *Beastniks* strip puts the priorities of life into perspective; Ida Marx, who shares her thoughts and nightmares concurrent with everyday affairs; Anne D. Bernstein, who provides some mildly disturbing probings into suburban life; and many more. Although categorization of the mag's material is elusive, most pieces tend to openly represent brief snippets of that particular author's mind. It reassures that poignant communication is still possible.

*D&Q* is far too rare an animal. *Raw* comes out only once or twice a year and may soon be gone for good; *Weirdo* is gone; *Rip-Off Comics* is uneven and too "hippy-ish" to have wider appeal; *Graphic Story Monthly* is good but it sure isn't monthly. Alternative anthologies don't cut it in the market; too bad they have the most editorially unrestrained and personal work available today.

## FULL DISCLOSURE (\$18/12

issues Box 903, Libertyville, IL, 60048) Want to find out what the FBI, CIA, DEA, etc. are up to in the way of surveillance, harassment, and covert activity? *Full Disclosure* is the

place to learn about how these government agencies are doing everything in their power to subvert the Bill of Rights and make life hard for people who want to mind their own business. *Full Disclosure* is considered to be dangerous by the FBI - a Freedom of Information Act request for files about *Full Disclosure* yielded a heavily censored report about the newsletter.

Issue #21 presents a wealth of information about recent developments in hidden video camera technology. They report that the "the Feds monitor the slums of Phoenix from the 27th floor of the Federal Building via a video camera disguised as a power transformer.

You'll also learn other interesting tidbits: "In a period of 10 years, 1976 - 1986, 248,000 new laws were enacted by the

# ZINES

states." Geepers, those congressmen sure work hard! And how 'bout this quote from George Bush: "I don't know that atheists should be considered as citizens, nor should they be considered patriots." Going down south? Don't stay too long - "In Alexandria, Virginia, there is a law that prohibits people from loitering for more than seven minutes and exchanging small objects." (Contraband dealers take note - deal in large quantities and be quick about it.)

*Full Disclosure* is a delightful way for the conspiracy junkie to get a dose of paranoia.

**SECT 7 #1(350 YEN per issue to Severin Head c/o Kimi Information Center, KS7 Building 6F, 2-54-3 Ikebukuro, JAPAN 171. Size 10x7, 28pp)** Produced by a gang of English-speaking expatriate anarchists living

in Tokyo. They borrowed the name from the paper *Sect 6*, put out by radical Japanese students in the sixties. The issue starts off with a letters page in which one reader talks about the way the Japanese government manipulates

the Narita airport protestors for the good of the economy. Howard Erlich writes about the gulf war from an anarchist perspective. A fine little piece called "The Case Against the Government" could serve well as a primer on anti-government theory for your non-anarchist colleagues and friends. Virtual reality is explained in an article called "The State of the Cyberpunk Nation." Elsewhere in *Sect 7*, credit cards are slagged, stories and comics are presented, and books and records are reviewed. Care was taken to lay out a 'zine that's easy to read and fun for the eye. If you don't have 350 yen in your piggy bank, try sending four bucks to Mr. Head.

**THE UNMENTIONABLE (\$2 to Miss Kelina, UCSC, Kresge #415, 1156 High St,**



*Santa Cruz, CA 95064. Digest, 50pp*) All sorts of stuff. No apparent focus, interesting and funny. My favorite part is the true stories that people send in describing their events from a day in their life. This is a real 'zine: strange, personal, fun to read.

**TASTY TREATZ** (50 cents to PO Box 1905, Boulder, CO 80306-1905. Digest, 20pp) Clippings from newspapers that point out that weirdness is the norm: IBM senior analysts who sexually torture kids, William Bennett, and lying politicians.

**THE SACRED RECORD** (\$1 to the Peyote Way Church of God, Star Rt #1, Box 7X, Wilcox, AZ 85643) When the pilgrims came to North America and presented the American Indians with blankets intentionally laden with the smallpox virus, they thought they were going to wipe out the indigenous religions along with the Indians. This bit of germ warfare didn't completely work. So, when the Native American Church of North America went before the white Christian judges of the Supreme Court to ask for permission to continue using peyote as their traditional sacrament, Justice Scalia said that to give them protection under the first amendment (which says Congress shall make no law...prohibiting the free exercise [of religion]) would be courting anarchy.

In all fairness, even some members of the Supreme Court were upset with the 6-3 ruling. Justice O'Connor remarked "The state proclaims an interest in protecting the health and safety of its citizens from the dangers of unlawful drugs. It offers, however, no evidence that the religious use of peyote has ever harmed anyone. The factual finding of other courts cast doubt on the state's assumption that religious use of peyote is harmful."

This ruling effectively states that minority religions don't have protection under the first amendment. So if you live in America and you aren't Christian or Jewish, watch out.

The Sacred Record states "We believe the so-called "war on drugs" has gone too far when the good faith practice of an individual's religious belief becomes a crime." They also reprint the concurring and dissenting opinions regarding this case. I thought that the concurring opinion was a bunch of legal gobbledygook, while the dissenting opinion was a long-winded but accurate redefinition of the 1st amendment. The "true believers" parking their ugly asses on the Supreme Court bench chose to ignore

the *American Indian Religious Freedom Act* and other Congressional decisions assuring Indians of their rights (When has the gov't ever kept a promise, especially those made to Native Americans?) But don't write them off as narrow-minded bigots. They are *semi-clever* narrow-minded bigots, who know how to apply all sorts of unrelated precedents and laws to further their holy war. Now that Brennan is out of the picture, we can all expect the Bill of Rights to be pushed through Ollie North's shredder any day now.

Order the *Sacred Record* to learn more. In the meantime, write your congressperson and ask her to support HR #5377, the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1990.



Young Lust © Last Gasp

**THE URINE NATION NEWS #1 & 2** (One first-class stamp per issue to Digit Press, PO Box 920066, Norcross GA 30092. Standard, 2pp) Editor David Ross is a libertarian who works at a company that requires its workers to go pee-pee into jars so they can insure a drug-free workplace. Companies that use drug testing programs don't care that drug metabolites stay in the body for days or weeks, they insist on clean urine. They don't care that false positives and negatives are common, they want clean urine. "It's a piss-poor company that judges workers on the quality of their urine, and not the quality of their work."

David's yellow newsletter is an interesting look at the inner workings of a company run by closed-minded cowards. David is also selling a book called *Pissing Away the Constitution: Government-Mandated Urine Drug Testing and the Fourth Amendment*,

available for \$8.95 from the same address.

**THE ENVIRONMENTALLY CORRECT BATHROOM/ THE JUST SAY NO TO TUNA BOOK** (25 cents each plus SASE to Argus IG, Dept. 15 PO Box 44802, Indianapolis, IN 46244) These are high quality Chick-tract-sized mini-comics printed on recycled paper. The art by Jason Salisbury reminds me of Dennis Worden and John Holmstrom. They are funny and educational (jeeppers!). The bathroom comic demonstrates the politically correct way to shave, urinate, etc., while the tuna book explains why eating tuna from "dolphin-protecting" companies is not helping the dolphin slaughter problem. I like these comics and hope they get spread around.

**GOING GAGA #8** (\$4 to Gareth Branwyn, 2630 Robert Walker Pl. Arlington, VA 22207) Every issue of GGG has something special about it. This particular issue was assembled in seven days. Gareth Branwyn waited for the mail every morning and ran every submission in the order received. The result is amazing. Branwyn is in the loop with so many highly creative people that the magazine has better art, essays, and info-noise than many zines that take months to produce. Lots of Gulf War stuff. Cartoonist John Bergin contributed a scary piece juxtaposing dismemberment and death with gloating and propaganda. The cover is heavy black paper with airbrushed stamps and color xerox panels. A must-have zine, as always.

**YOUNG LUST #7** (\$3.50 + \$1.50 p&h to Last Gasp Eco-Funnies, PO Box 410067, San Francisco, CA 94141, 44pp) The twentieth anniversary issue of one of the greatest comix of all-time, this issue of *Young Lust* was edited by YL cofounder and *Gnosis* publisher Jay Kinney, and Susie Bright (editor of the lesbian sex magazine, *On Our Backs*). This time around, the ubiquitous Betty Page finds herself in North Korea, thanks to Kinney and wild-man Paul Mavrides; the old song "Frankie and Johnnie" is put to pictures by Dan Clowes; and the secret thoughts of blow-up dolls are revealed.

**HOLY TITCLAMPS** (\$1 to Boxholder, PO Box 3054, Minneapolis, MN 55403, digest) Queer comics, poetry, drawings and fiction. My favorite was the "Andy Ruiney" strip by Jesse Kimball. I also liked the short story




**DIVERSIONARY CACTUS #14** (\$1? to Katrina Kelly, PO Box 624, Sherburne, NY 13460, 6pp, xeroxed, standard) Katrina writes about how she caused a bomb scare by sending a cassette to a friend and writing "Do Not X-Ray, Bomb Scare" on the envelope. Now the humorless feds are upset with her. Whoops! Funny absurdist stories, environmental comix, and bizarre quotes such as "I'm not gonna send my zine to a serial killer so he can make a paper mache gun and escape," and "If a tree fell on a florist and no one was around, would he make any noise?"

**The CyberPunk Journal**

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# STATE OF THE ART

FOR TODAY'S ARTIST



A. MURTA  
1917

**HORN FARM #1** (76 cents and age statement, 312 Harvard E. #109, Seattle, WA 98102) Dark and scary and bloody and funny and scatological and death-obsessed comics by Alex Mayer and Packy McNally. To be read at 3:00 am with lots of black coffee. •

**I try to review every zine as soon as I can. Zinesters whose work was not reviewed in this issue should refrain from sending feces, death threats, etc. We will get to you when the time comes.**



## When you ask a computer scientist how

modern computers have improved they will stick out their chests and boast that today's home computer is 10 times faster than the fastest computer was thirty-years ago. What they probably won't say, although they worry about it constantly, is that today's computers are still slow. Sure, they can process 10,000 checks faster than you can sign your name and sure, they can do integral expansions before you can say "Taylor series" but they can't do anything HARD. Like recognize a person. Or predict the weather. In fact, there are a number of so-called "grand challenges," problems that can't be solved by even our fastest computers in a reasonable amount of time. Now any computer hardware engineer will tell you there is a simple reason for this: software programmers are a lazy, stupid, and inept group of people. Of course programmers will claim that they would write great programs if the hardware engineers would just produce a decent machine.

In this article we will take a look at the hardware side and see what directions are being explored to make computers go faster. This field has a lot in common with aircraft engineering technology trying to make faster planes: a lot of the work is supported by the government, the fastest ones are incredibly expensive and temperamental, and there is only one physical limit: the speed of light. You see, computers work by sending signals that travel at the speed of light along wires. When a computer sends a signal from the keyboard to memory, it must wait until it gets there. This might not sound like a problem but some of today's fastest computers want to send signals every 6 nanoseconds. Light travels only four feet in this amount of time! Try to get everything packed into four feet and you have a serious heat problem. Computers don't run well when their circuits are

melting. But by using various techniques, including the ones I'm about to describe, the speed of light shouldn't be much of a barrier for at least another thirty years.

### HOW THEY WORK

Before I try to get into some detail on how to improve computers' performance, we'll take a quick, incredibly rough look at how they work. First the programmer writes a program in some high-level language such as C, Pascal, or Lisp. Programmers like to work in high-level languages because, as was earlier pointed out, they're lazy. A Pascal program to add two numbers would look like this:

```
begin
  price:= initial+tax;
end.
```

Now a program called a "compiler" would be run to translate the Pascal code into "assembly language." The result would look something like this:

```
MOV #$3000, A
MOV #$3010, B
ADD B STA #$3020
```

Even this is broken down further. Each one of these instructions requires a series of steps to execute. For example, to execute the first instruction, the computer must fetch it from memory, decode it, fetch the contents of memory address 3000, and finally store the result in register A. Some instructions require more steps than others, but they all follow this general pattern of fetch, decode, and execute. Now that you completely understand how computers work, we will look at the first method of how to make them faster: RISC.

### RISC

The time it takes to run a program can be written as  $N \times S \times T$  (Hammacher, p.428) where N is the number of machine language instructions in the

program, S is the average number of steps per instruction, and T is the time required to do one step. Back in the 1970's computer engineers realized that it was simple to decrease N. For example, a one line machine instruction that added the contents of memory location 3000 to the contents of memory location 3010 would decrease the size (N) of our above program from four lines to one! This was pretty impressive, so computer engineers started getting more and more outrageous on what machine language instructions should be included. The masterpiece of this baroque style of computer architecture was the VAX/11. This computer has more machine language instructions than any one person could ever hope to know. There is an instruction that solves polynomial equations; there is an instruction that searches text for a specific character sequence; in short, there is everything but the kitchen sink. The computer engineers finally rested and turned their machine over to the programmers, expecting amazing results.

But the programmers were not impressed. They wrote their programs in a high level language, put it through the compiler, then ran it. Or in this case, walked it, for their programs went even slower than before. The problem was with the compiler. You see, the programmer would write ten or so lines of Pascal code to evaluate a polynomial equation. This could be all be done with one machine language instruction but how was the compiler supposed to realize this? All it saw was a bunch of lines of code; it had no idea what the big picture was. It couldn't tell what the whole program was supposed to do. So it would never even use any of the fancy instructions that the computer engineers had worked so hard to include. The computer engineers were pissed and

by Steve Steinberg

they told the programmers to start doing real work and write directly in machine language and forget about the compiler, which was for wimps anyway. The programmers refused and so the engineers put their heads

# WHY WE NEED TO GO FASTER



together once again and decided to decrease the S and T variables instead. The name of this process became RISC, for Reduced Instruction Set Computer.

The engineers streamlined the hell out of the instruction set. All the fancy instructions were thrown out, leaving only the bare bones. The moves. The adds. The jumps. Then each of these instructions was fine-tuned for maximum speed. The result was that a program might require many machine instructions (large N), but the time and number of steps per instruction (S and T) were small. The way we are able to get S to be very small (almost 1 in fact) is by using a technique called pipelining.

Pipelining is really just a new name for the assembly line method popularized by Henry Ford [Bruckner]. Imagine standing outside an automobile plant that doesn't use the assembly line method. Inside the factory the workers first weld the chassis, put the engine in, put an interior in, and complete 17 more steps until 20 minutes later a car is built. Standing outside the factory you would see a new car being driven out every 20 minutes. Now go to a car plant that uses the assembly line method with 20 different stations, each station taking one minute. The first car would roll out in 20 minutes as before. But the second car would roll out one minute later! A new car will be completed every minute, despite the fact that each car took 20 minutes to produce.

Now apply this same idea to a computer. I stated earlier that each instruction consists of a series of steps: fetch, decode, and execute. The conventional way to process computer instructions is to execute all the steps for the first instruction, then execute the steps for the second instruction, etc. The assembly line, or pipelined method, would be to break it apart: the fetch unit would fetch the first instruction, then while the executor unit was executing the first instruction the fetch unit would already be fetching the second instruction. In this way all the step units would be running at the same time and an instruction could be completed every clock cycle! Of course in reality it isn't this easy, some instructions depend on the results of previous instructions and so can't be started until the previous instruction is completed. This is why the simple and fast instructions of RISC computers are best suited for pipelining.

RISC computers are fairly popular

today; most workstation computers (such as the Sun SparcStation) use this method. However some companies, such as Intel, maintain that RISC is an ugly solution and that there are better ways. But even computers which are not true RISC still incorporate elements of the RISC idea, and it is likely this will be true for many years to come.

### PARALLEL PROCESSING

There is a more intuitive way to make computers faster that bears some resemblance to pipelining that you may have already have thought of. The concept is very simple: instead of having one processor which slowly interprets and runs the program, why not have a bunch of processors, each of which work on part of the problem. Say we had a problem that had 1 million possible solutions, only one of which was the one we wanted. The conventional computer could try all 1 million possibilities, one after another. A faster method would be to have a computer with ten processors and each processor could do 100,000 of the possibilities. It would in effect be going ten times faster! Seems pretty easy, but in practice there are a number of problems. In fact, the main problems are very similar to those found when trying to do a project with a group of people instead of by yourself: how to split up the problem equally and what to do if one of the people/processors flakes or breaks. Let's take a closer look at the splitting up problem as it is the most difficult and an area of intense ongoing research.

Computer engineers love parallel processing because it is a fairly simple and cheap way to increase speed: "Oh it's not fast enough? I'll just throw in 64 more processors." But once again, the software programmers hate the machines because existing software does not take advantage of the multiple processors. Instead each program has to be completely rewritten so that it breaks the problem up into pieces which can be worked on simultaneously. A few programs lend themselves to this approach- things like factoring huge numbers are absolutely made for parallel processing. Other programs, such as compilers, are very hard to implement so that they take advantage of the multiple processors. And then there are programs that at first appear to be unsuitable for parallel processing, but upon closer inspection are ideal candidates. The

classic example is a program calculating wind turbulence over an airplane wing. The way this is normally solved is by forming a very complex integral that approximates the turbulence and then solving it with an approximation technique. This is very hard to break up into separate pieces. However, what we can do is let each processor pretend to be a group of molecules and see how they interact! The result can be just as accurate, if done right, as the integral approximation technique.

Ten, even five years ago, most people thought that parallel processing had its place but would never replace single processor machines. This is no longer true. Cray Computers, the manufacturer of America's fastest computers and last bastion of uniprocessor supercomputers, is coming out with a parallel processing machine. The Japanese are firmly in the parallel processing camp and have hired thousands of programmers to convert software so that it can be run on parallel machines. It will probably be a while before parallel processing hits the low end workstation/personal computer market, but in every other level parallel processing is rapidly taking over.

### FUTURE

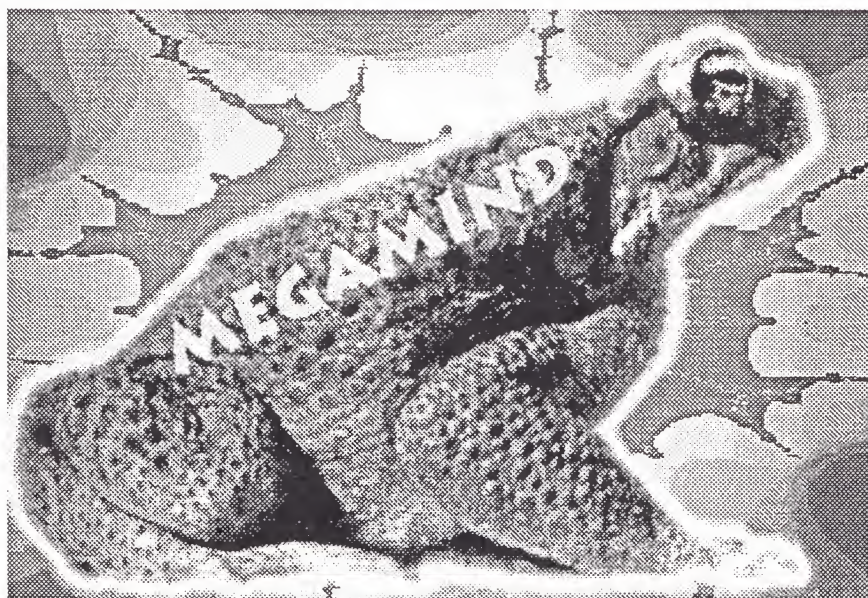
So these two methods, Reduced Instruction Set Computers and parallel processing, are two avenues to increased computer performance. Both techniques are being put into practice right now and will probably be around for some time to come. However, neither of these techniques by itself is going to allow computers to solve the grand challenges. Instead, it will take a combination of many techniques: Gallium Arsenide chips, extremely fast clock rates (1000 Mhz may be possible), and other developments awaiting discovery. The speed of computers has been increasing rapidly since they were first invented and it is unlikely to stop. Even the speed of light should not pose much of a problem because there is always nanotechnology where each component is microscopically small. When personal computers become 500 times faster than they are today, say in fifteen years, they will be no longer be just smart calculators but something much more complex. Almost human. •

Steve Steinberg is the editor of *Intertek, the Cyberpunk Journal*. See Zine reviews for information



# Kick the Electric Toad

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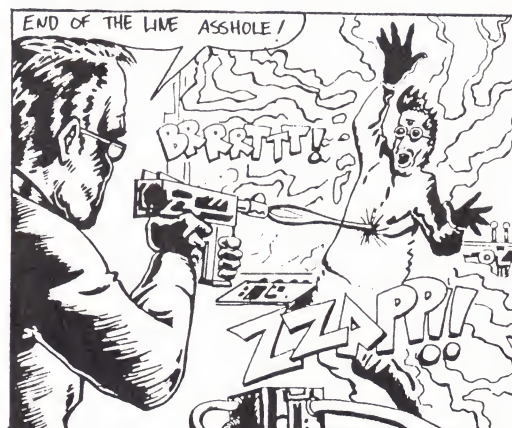
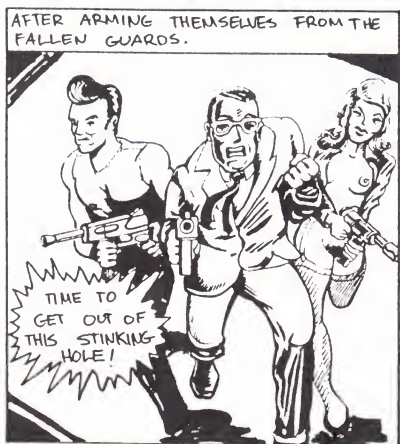
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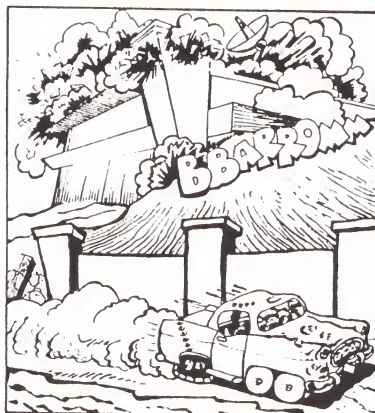
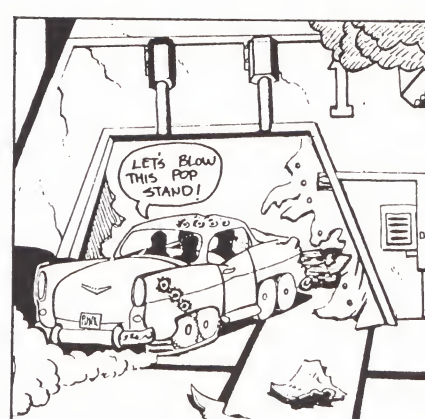
  
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Punk Warriors of Planet Baltimore by Steve Swink







## BACK ISSUES!

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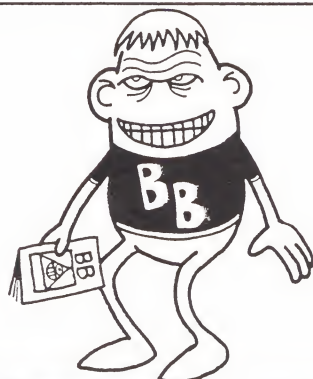
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#4 - Brain Software, U.S. Drug Policy, Antero Alli, Comix.



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# ESHU The Divine TRICKSTER

A traditional YORUBA folktale.

as rendered by:  
**L. L. MURPHY**

There were once two friends who always wore the same dress.



They had sworn to remain friends forever.

Ifa\* had advised them to sacrifice to Eshu so he would remain content, but they refused.



\*Ifa - God of Divination

So Eshu decided to disrupt their friendship.

One day, they were on the farm, when Eshu passed

working farm, when between them.



Who was that man in the white hat?

His hat was black not white!

Are you BLIND? It was white! How DARE you! It was black! White! Black! WHITE! BLACK!

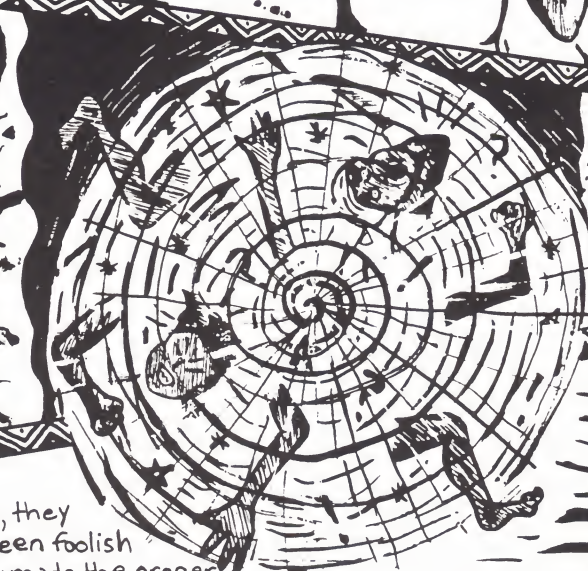
A while later, Eshu returned...

from the other direction.

X X X

I'm so sorry my friend - you were right! How could I have made such a stupid mistake? Of course his hat is white! Please forgive me!

Are you INSANE! How dare you try to make a fool of me! Do you think I'm blind not to see that its BLACK!!



When they both recovered, they realized that they had been foolish to ignore Ifa's advice. They made the proper sacrifices...



and promised to never be so foolish again!



\*ESHU is the Yoruba deity (Orisha) who acts as the messenger of the Gods by disrupting people's lives. In the Western world, he might be called "chance" or "fate", or be compared to the Greek God Mercury.