

Stick an acorn  in your ear.

THE AMERICAN DRUID MONITOR

Issue #18

Circulation: <3 million

May 4th, AD 1987

Price: **FREE**

2nd Birthday Party



Palo Alto -- Much of the tribe of the wee American Reformed* Irish Druid (AR*ID) sect made their annual pilgrimage up to Stanford for Saturday and Sunday's Grateful Dead show. The Dead played at the Frost Amphitheatre, which is a pleasant, green, and grassy glad in a lush wood, and about as apposite for Irish Druidic pagans as any place this side of Galway.

The AR*ID sect was founded 2 years ago today when the 1 Reform* was symbolically nailed to an Alder tree in an old cemetery as a parody of Martin Luther's reformation. The date was picked from one of those "Every day's a holiday" calendars because it was called "Holy Alder Day," and that sounded like a good name for a Druidic holy day as well. Also, it was a Saturday, so everybody could come to the party.

It turned out that this is also the ancient Irish Druidic holy day of Beltaine, which marks the beginning of the Summer half of the year. It is 1 of the 4 main holy days of the Druidic year, and the antipode to Halloween. It has survived into modern American tradition with Hallmark cards of little girls dancing around May Poles, parades by Socialist Work-

ers, and old hippies truckin' up to Stanford to dance to Grateful Dead music.

A number of new members joined up when they found out that the AR*ID sect does not own a collection plate, and therefore has no money to buy one; that it is okay to be a pagan at Grateful Dead shows and a Christian when talking to your parents; and that the AR*ID version of communion was to burn a certain holy herb, and inhale the smoke.

It was decided to adopt the Grateful Dead as the "Druid Tabernacle Choir," in a parody of another American religion based in Utah. It is not known how the Dead feel about this, but afterwards the 2nd night was even better than the 1st, from the 2nd set opening of 'Iko Iko' to the encore 'Mighty Quinn.'

* No human sacrifices!

Reviews and Previews

by Fine Mc Art, Monitor Music Maven



At the Frost shows I had the privilege of previewing the Grateful Dead's new album 'In the Dark,' due out next month. It will be their first album since '81's quadruple album 'Dead Reckoning/Dead Set,' and the first studio album since the '80's 'Gone to Heaven.'

It opens with an exemplary version of the perennial favorite 'Touch of Gray,' which the Dead did on Sunday night. Jerry is just superb on this tune, as well as 'West L.A. Fadeaway,' and the newish 'Black Muddy River,' which they did on Saturday.

Ovate Paul's favorite song, 'Hell in a Bucket,' is very danceably covered on the album, and opened Saturday night's show.

Brent Mydland's 'Tons of Steel' fights Jerry's 'Touch' for best cut, and his 'Black Muddy River' for bluesiest. Something about it makes my head trip back to Pigpen and the early Dead blues.

The working cover (shown above), however, sucks. It is an insult to the great Dead covers of the past, such as 'Aoxomoxoa.'



The Irish rock band U2 has a new album coming out next month entitled "The Joshua Tree." Most of cuts have found their way into sneak previews on KLOS, or ~~LEWY~~ the Might Met.

U2 has sort of grown into its Irishness over the years and seems to have discovered some of their authenticity from American Folk music, which has so many roots in Irish soil anyway.

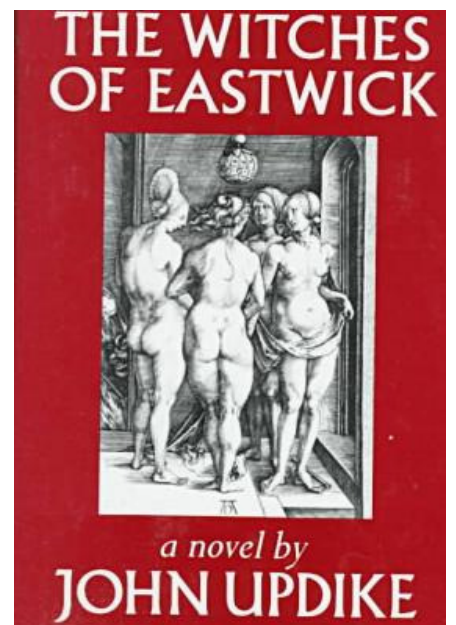
If the Grateful Dead are the Druid Tabernacle Choir, then "The Joshua Tree" is the AR*ID sect's newest hymnal. Especially powerful is "Where the Streets Have No Name."

A movie version of John Updike's very tongue-in-cheek, horror-comedy, neo-classic novel "The Witches of Eastwick" is due for release next month too.

It seems like everybody 'in the business' has seen a sneak preview or insider screening of it except me, but I have decided to give it 2 thumbs up and 2½ *'s (out of 3) anyway just because it stars Jack Nicholson, Cher, Susan Sarandon, and Michelle Pfeiffer, so how could it be anything but funny?

A lot of folks think that pagantry and witchcraft are synonymous, but that is not so, for the wee AR*ID sect anyway.

Those interested in witchery should check out Wicca, a religion of modern invention. The AR*ID sect is more about finding 1st Amendment protection for their parties, and excused days off from work for 'religious' reasons.



* No human sacrifices!

Sea News

May 4th, AD 1987

The American Druid Monitor

page 3



Del Mar's 50th Year

Founder's Theft Finally Revealed

Del Mar -- Some incredible detective work has revealed, after 50 long years, that "Del Mar by the Sea" was founded on a long ignored act of brazen thievery. The race track, which opened in AD 1937, was built by Bing Crosby and some friends 'in the business,' including Oliver Hardy, Pat O'Brien, and Gary Cooper. It is widely considered the most beautiful race track in America this side of Kentucky, except for maybe Santa Anita, Bay Meadows, and the Fresno County Fair.

Adept sleuthery has revealed that "Del Mar by the Sea" stole its very name from the even more lovely track "Tramore by the Sea," in Ireland, where racing began in AD 1785.

Police say there is little they can do about this due to the fact that Bing and the boys are now dead.

Del Mar does not open until July 22nd, but the thoroughbreds are running now at Hollywood Park, and quarter horses at Los Alamitos.

Horse racing is as much a part of the Irish soul as music, drinking, and fighting, and the American Reformed* Irish Druid (AR*ID) sect is the only religion in America (as far as we know) that has made going to the track a holy obligation, thereby enabling their members to claim a religious day off work to watch the horses and maybe place a wager or 3.

Irish Sweepstakes Ends



Éire -- The Republic of Ireland has replaced its venerable Sweepstakes with a mundane Lottery. Beloved by real American gamblers, the Sweepstakes was a bet on a horse you never heard of, in a race you could not follow, and the odds the ticket was counterfeit anyway were 7:3.

Although Southern California has about 3 times the population of all Ireland, there are 27 race tracks there compared to a mere 5 here. Ireland has more race tracks per capita than any other nation on Earth!

* No human sacrifices!

Expedition Eta Aquarid

Azusa -- Tribe members of the wee American Reformed* Irish Druid (AR*ID) sect will go on a hunting trip next Saturday, May 9th, for meteors in the Sky. Friends, the curious, and non-pagans are welcome to come along, although Irish Catholics and Protestants are asked to leave their opinions of each other behind.

We will meet at Pepe's Tacos for lunch at noon. To get there take the 210 Freeway to the Azusa Ave. exit, go North, then bare left onto San Gabriel Ave. It is about 2 miles to Pepe's, at the corner of Sierra Madre Ave. Pepe's food is probably inappropriate before a hike, but it soooo good.

At 1 pm, hopefully, we will head for the East Fork. It is best to caravan. It is 10 miles up Highway 39 to the easy to miss East Fork Road. Then it is a circuitous drive, which is only partly paved, to where we park.

It is a 2 or 3 hour hike up the East Fork of the San Gabriel Canyon to the camp site. Now a nice little hike and camping overnight with friends to watch a meteor shower is a quintessentially American thing to do. What makes it a Druidic pagan religious ritual is the Druidic view of Nature as a tribe of numinous beings -- the 'Good Neighbors,' or 'aes Sídhe' in Irish Gaelic.

Like any campers, we will sit around a campfire and sing or tell ghost stories or fairy tales, except as Druidic pagans the campfire will be the Triple goddess Bright, we will not tell any Banshee stories (because you really do not want to draw their attention!), and instead of fairy tales we will be telling Faery tales.

Druid Fred and Bard Jim, the 'miserable poet' (because his poetry evokes such sadness), have been working on the "Wooing of Etain," or at least an English translation of it. In the Irish



Druidic tradition it is important that the ancient myths be passed on orally, by mouth to ear alone. They have put a lot of work into this, so be prepared to be regaled.

There will be a bright gibbous Moon in the Sky most of the Night, which would be as bad for meteor hunting as it is good for telling ghost stories, but it will set about 4 am, and the best meteor hunting is just before dawn anyway. Twilight breaks about 5:30 and the Sun rises at 6.

The San Gabriel Canyon in the early morning light is alive with wondrous sounds and smells and a feelings in the air that no church building could ever enclose.

Dress lightly for the hike up but bring something warm for the Night. If possible, find someone to share a sleeping bag. Remember that every responsible camper packs out what they pack in, but Druidic pagans usually pack out even more than they packed in.

If you have any questions call Druidess Janice. If she does not know the answer, then it is not important.

* No human sacrifices!