

JUNK MAIL

Heg... Do You
Hear A Biegele?
Stonewall

Publisher: Revelwood Press
Editors: Brother Rodney
The General
Contributors: Brother Rodney
Lady Cynthia
The General
Photographs: Tirani
(?)

Lady Cheron and The General Retire!

Iron Baron wonders...Who will sit at my sides?

The rumors of the retirement of the Lady Cheron and The General were confirmed at the 16th Annual Pipe & Pint. The announcement brought a mixed response of dismay and jubilation from the record breaking crowd. There were numerous shouts of intent to occupy the much coveted Spiritual Throne by many people in the crowd. They were combined with cheers and cat-calls as everyone fell into the excitement of a Throne of Power free-for-all.

The General regained control by describing the appointment process and the schedule for the new throne holders. The procedure is described

both on the Revelwood Web Site and later in this issue of the Junk Mail. Those wishing to seek the vacated thrones will need to follow the process in order to make a successful bid. The Lady Cheron and The General described their retirement as necessary for the growth of Revelwood. "We need new people with new vision on the thrones" The General explained. "We've held the thrones for over ten years. It is time someone else aspire to do great things."

Many important events occurred during the period of their reign. The Lady Cheron, as holder of the Spiritual Throne dedicated Druid's Circle as the most holy place in Revelwood. The strength of the Church of the Circled Holly kept Druid's Circle safe from the ravages of the real world that have left only the memory of



The Last Outpost and the Shrine of Saint Molson the Golden.

The General, as holder of the Physical Throne used his skills of planning, resource allocation, negotiations and hitting people on the head to create bonds with the many

continued bottom of Page 5

Unusual Sexual Laws

As reported by Lady Cynthia

Most Middle Eastern countries recognize the following Islamic laws: "After having sexual relations with a lamb, it is a mortal sin to eat it's flesh."

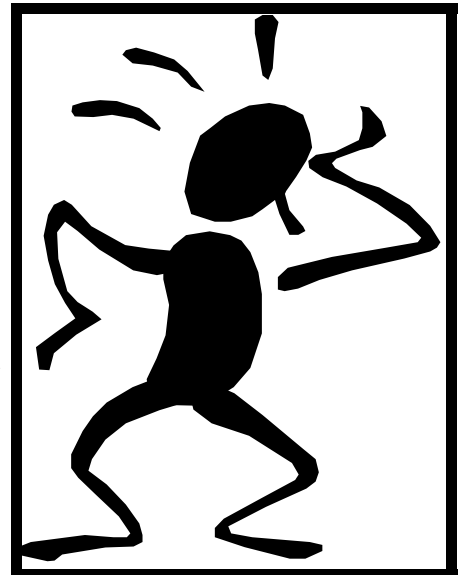
In Lebanon, men are legally allowed to have sex with animals, but the animals must be female. Having sexual relations with a male animal is punishable by death.

In Bahrain, a male doctor may legally examine a woman's genitals, but is forbidden from looking directly at them during the examination. He may only see their reflection in a mirror.

Muslims are banned from looking at the genitals of a corpse. This also applies to undertakers; the sex organs of the deceased must be covered with a brick or piece of wood at all times.

The penalty for masturbation in Indonesia is decapitation.

There are men in Guam whose full-time job is to travel the countryside and deflower young virgins, who pay them for the privilege of having sex for the first time. Reason: under Guam law, it is expressly forbidden for virgins to marry. (Now let's just think for a minute. . . Is there any job any where else in the world that even comes close to this?)



In Hong Kong, a betrayed wife is legally allowed to kill her adulterous husband, but may only do so with her bare hands. (The husband's lover, on the other hand, may be killed in any manner desired.)

In Cali, Colombia, a woman may only have sex with her husband, and the first time this happens her mother must be in the room to witness the act.

In Santa Cruz, Bolivia it is illegal for a man to have sex with a woman and her daughter at the same time.

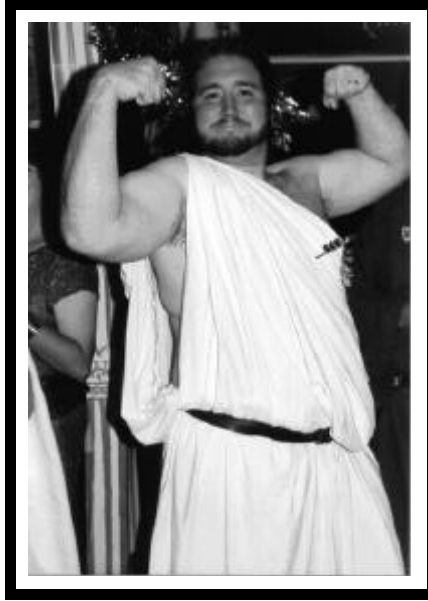
In Maryland, it is illegal to sell condoms from vending machines with one exception: prophylactics may be dispensed from a vending machine only "in places where alcoholic beverages are sold for consumption on the premises (gotta love the Good Ol' USA).

CITIZEN SPOTLIGHT

Olaf

This issues spotlights a true blue Revelwood fixture known as Olaf. This quiet, unassuming, gentle and generous fellow was known to rip trees out of the ground to use as kindling. At least he used to until we politely asked him not to.

Olaf has never sought recognition of any sort, but has always been there to offer a kind word of advise, suggest a different method of accomplishing a task



of some sort and often tote a barge and/or lift a bale or two.

Olaf has settled in the Chambersberg area. He is currently quite active in establishing a household of his own.

A lover of animals, Olaf is best known for befriending prehistoric dogs. Immense mastiffs that are as lovable as he. Olaf also competes in car audio competitions. Big dogs; Big speakers; Big Olaf. Who could ask for more?

Lady Cynthia s Brain Teasers

*I went to the woods and got it.
After I had it, I looked for it.
The more I looked the less I liked it.
I took it home in my hand because I couldn't find it.
What did I have?*

A SPLINTER

*Pronounced as one letter and written with three.
Two letters are there and two only in me.
I'm double, I'm single, I'm black, blue and gray.
I'm read from both ends and the same either way.*

EYE

*What runs but never walks?
What has a mouth but never talks?
What has a bed but never sleeps?
What has a head but never weeps?*

RIVER

*What can fly, but not stand still?
Devouring all, while eating nil.
What is wasted, but never lent?
Never earned, but always spent.*

TIME

New Teasers Next Issue

Personals

Wanted: One War. At the last Pint & Pipe, Gunnar explained that in order for Peace to have been declared, first War must be declared. If you recall, the last issue of the Junk Mail announced the attempt at a reconciliation between personalities in both Vykland and Revelwood. The article explained that the majority of members of both groups had maintained a friendly relationship, and that this was not in danger of ending. Sincere apologies were presented at the Pennsic War by various members of Revelwood.

Gunnar has invited any and all citizens to attend the Vykland Winter Thing and declare war. He described the need to pillage, loot, maim and kill so that the honor of the Vykland could be restored. Gunnar also explained that this is the way of the Vikings, and that without an actual war, there could be no peace. In response, Q warned him, "Be careful, or we'll declare peace again."

All those wishing to declare war on Vykland are encouraged to contact Gunnar for details.



Walkin' on God's Good Side: Laura Nyro Revisited

You know a Laura Nyro song. Even if you don't think you do, you do. *Stoned Soul Picnic*, *Wedding Bell Blues*, *Blowin' Away*, *Save the Country*, and *Sweet Blindness* were all hits for The Fifth Dimension; *And When I Die* for Blood Sweat and Tears; *Eli's Comin'* for Three Dog Night; and *Stoney End* for Babs Streisand (I've met her, I can call her "Babs"). Amazingly, Laura Nyro wrote all those songs before her 19th birthday. In fact, by the end of the sixties, she was the second most covered songwriter in history, after Lennon and McCartney. Her songs have been recorded by such diverse artists as Frank Sinatra, Jane Siberry, George Duke, Mongo Santamaria, Suzanne Vega, Carmen McCrae, Junior Walker, Patti Larkin, and a host of others. So, as I said, even if you think you don't know one of her songs, you probably really do.

Laura Nyro is owed a huge debt of gratitude (whether they realize it or not) by many of today's artists. Without her body of work and her influence, which has virtually seeped its way into music's collective unconscious, performers like Tori Amos, Paula Cole, Fiona Apple and Alanis Morissette wouldn't be half as good as they truly are. Echoes of Laura Nyro pervade all of their "unique" styles (again, whether they realize it or not).

It is dismaying, frankly, that you can't find a Laura Nyro CD for sale in any major store, because, as is often the case with unsung heroes, there is *real* magic in the real thing. Laura Nyro's strong soprano voice - steeped in equal parts of gospel, soul and the blues, her penchant for quirky time changes, her absolutely poetic lyrics, and her pure genius for stringing together infectious and indelibly memorable musical hooks comprise an *oeuvre* for our generation — nay, for the ages.

It is even more dismaying, personally, that I have only come to this realization fairly recently. Laura Nyro's first three records have been part of the Brother Rodney vinyl collection for over a quarter of a century — from the days of yore, when the General, the Iron Baron and I were disk jockeys together in college. It was toward the end of that idyllic time that the radio station received a copy of her 1976 release *Smile*. In my youthful haste, after hearing only two songs, I dismissed the LP as substandard and inconsequential, since it didn't contain anything remotely like any of her earlier pop tunes. My ongoing relationship with Laura came to an end at that point, and I was contented for the next two decades to simply enjoy her earlier works, and mistakenly regard her as a has-been. This opinion, much like most of the opinions I held in my twenties, ultimately turned out to be completely wrong. (She wasn't a has-been, of course. She just felt that celebrity interfered with her art, and was able, due to the success of her early work, to produce new music only when it felt right.) Thankfully, she didn't give a crap what I thought about her, and continued working both on the road and in the studio, all the while



eschewing the stardom she could have had, had she ever been willing to compromise) — for over thirty years all told, until her all-too-premature death from ovarian cancer in May of 1997 — five months short of her 50th birthday.

It was upon learning of her death that my interest was rekindled, and I upgraded her first two albums to CD format. *Eli and the Thirteenth Confession* (Columbia, 1968) and *More than Just a New Discovery* (Verve, 1966 — her first release, re-issued as *The First Songs* by Columbia in 1973) contain all the songs mentioned in the opening paragraph, plus a number of other incredible little three-minute gems — from the haunting, leanly soulful *Billy's Blues* and *Buy and Sell*, to the unknown pop classic *Lu* (whence the title of this article comes), to Laura's personal favorite, *Emily*, a tribute to her mother. There are so many fabulous tunes on these first two albums that I often wished for a "best of" release, so I could listen to them all without changing disks. It turns out that shortly before her death, *Stoned Soul Picnic: The Best of Laura Nyro* (Sony/Columbia, 1997 - above) was released. Laura herself had the final say on which tracks appeared on the collection. The only place I've ever seen this available is on the Web from CDNow (www.cdnw.com) or Amazon (www.amazon.com). It's a fabulous compilation that reveals the continually progressing emotional and technical maturity of her art.

This 25-year, 12-album retrospective includes her early works, two tunes from her third LP, *Gonna Take a Miracle* (a collaboration with Patti Labelle in her *Labelle* days), and a couple from each of nine others. It is in these nine others that I discovered something of a musical epiphany. Twenty years after writing her off, I was blown away anew by her prodigious talent. From 1969's *New York Tendaberry* (regarded by many critics as her finest work) comes the frenetic, yet pop-savvy *Captain St. Lucifer*. From 1970's *Christmas and the Beads of Sweat* there is *Blackpatch*, a three-minute masterpiece featuring Felix Cavaliere, which would have been at home on any Rascals album. There is the title track from *Smile*. From a 1977 live release, *Season of Lights*, is a slowed-tempo version of *Sweet Blindness*, as well as a live version of *Money*, which showcases both her piano and vocal skills. There are also songs from *Nested* (1978), *Mother's Spiritual* (1984), and five amazingly arranged, sung, played and produced songs from 1993's *Walk the Dog and Light the Light*, which was co-produced by Gary Katz of Steely Dan fame. The collection culminates with two live tracks (she was working on putting together another live album when she fell ill): a piano-and-vocal-only version of *And When I Die* (the first song she ever sold), and a harmony group medley of *Save the Country* and *Stoned Soul Picnic* that, like her life, was far too short.

While Laura Nyro is still alive in anyone who takes the time to get to know who she was and where her muse led her, her absence is still almost palpable. Her art cuts to the core. Her instrument was strong and sure. Her genius was a gift to us all.

Next time: Brother Rodney's favorite recording of all time, and a few fabulous books.

continued from bottom Page 1

important groups, helping to establish Revelwood as an instantly recognizable name throughout the Known World.

Their introduction to Revelwood occurred when The General, then known as Eldorane de Edolo took an opportunity to smack Q square in the cahones with his favorite mace at a fighting demonstration. They were instant friends. As active members (Knight's Marshal and Chronicler) in The Shire of Iron Bog, they used the organizational skills they had learned to help create the Revelwood we know today.

Their replacements will have a strong Revelwood upon which to build for the next millennium .

SO YOU WISH TO BE A THRONE HOLDER?

BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR...YOU JUST MIGHT GET IT!

This may come as a shock to some of you, but being a throne holder is not the most important job in Revelwood. Being able to install, fix, build, buy or steal the tap to the Keg o Vicar Brew is the most important job in Revelwood. It used to be the Keg o Guinness. But the last batch of Vicar Brew was equally as satisfying and substantially cheaper.

In the SCAdian realm, the Tripod of Power is the most recognizable structure in Revelwood. With the exception of that thing that hold s Stonewall s feather up.

Holding a throne on the Tripod of Power in Revelwood is a mixed blessing.

Whereas you are often depicted as a person of power by those outside of Revelwood, you are often accused of being powerless by those within.

Whereas you are often looked to for guidance and resolution to abstract problems, your advice is often poorly received and regularly ignored by those asking for your help.

Whereas you would think you have the best seat at the P&P, you ultimately have to stare into those annoyingly bright spot lights while the general citizenry mock your pronouncements and finishes off the Vicar Brew.

Have I changed your mind yet? No? Good.

Actually, it s not all that bad. I m just trying to weed out the partially committed.

A would-be throne holder needs to be fully committed. Immediately.

Well, you know what I mean. If you feel you are, or should be committed, then a seat on the Tripod of Power may be for you.



Let s have a brief review:

What is The Tripod of Power?

The Tripod of Power is one third of what the public considers is the structure of Revelwood. The other two are the White Cups and the Guild Leaders. A brief description of those centers of influence are found in the link called [A Brief History](#) on the Revelwood home page. A description of the Tripod of Power is found there also. However, that text is rather personalized to describe the current throne holders. This is a more generalized explanation of the role of the Tripod of Power.

The Tripod of Power includes the Intellectual Throne, The Spiritual Throne and the Physical Throne. In essence, they represent the mind, spirit and body of Revelwood.

The Intellectual Throne (Occupied)

Although this position is not available, it would be inappropriate to discuss the Tripod of Power without including this most venerable seat. This Throne of Power is held by the Iron Baron, Lord Esterhazy The Exiled. He serves as the figure head, or the personification of Revelwood. All organizations, no matter how loosely structured need a rallying point, and the Iron Baron serves that role with honor, dignity and a really dry sense of humor. He is the focal point for all parades, official events and baronial decrees. In function, he approves all new citizens, and distributes their pins at the Pint and Pipe. It is not expected that the Lord Esterhazy the Exiled will ever abdicate the Intellectual Throne. His most recent words on the subject were *I won t give up this throne until three days after I m dead. So forget it. Now that s committed.*



The Iron Baron has agreed to work with any who are appointed to the Spiritual and Physical Thrones. Just a word of warning. Always make sure you have plenty of Gin and Tonic available. Without it, he can be pretty brutal.

The Spiritual Throne (In the words of Lady Cheron of Wolfe)

I have been asked to give a job description of the throne for distribution to all of my fellow Revelmembers who may wish to compete for this Seat of Honor.

I strongly believe that the Spiritual Leader of Revelwood must care deeply for the members of REVELWOOD, to the extent that she/he will put Revelwood s needs before her/his own. When trials come, and they will, this Leader must face, understand and embrace these experiences so that she/he may grow in the true Spirit of Revelwood. This person can not be weak in Spirit... *because the Piranhas WILL come!*

The Spiritual Leader of Revelwood should have a doctrine that can be explained and understood by all the members of Revelwood, so that they will support the Throne and what it represents: *do not overpower the people...empower them!* This doctrine will make itself known and will influence the persons attempting to fill the Throne. Therefore, all who seek this honor must humble themselves and truly seek the knowledge and wisdom needed by Revelwood. The current doctrine (attached) is extremely old (over ten years) and has not been distributed to the new members... perhaps this can be changed in the future. It supports and expands on the Triple Trilogy of the Chart... 3x3x3. The new doctrine may expound on this or evolve in an entirely different direction. If you feel led in the direction of expounding on the current Doctrine, I will be more than willing to talk to with you in further detail.

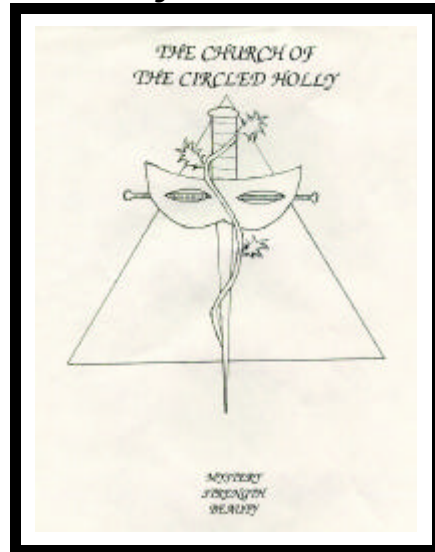
The Spiritual Leader of Revelwood must believe fully in the Magic of Revelwood. She/he must have personally experienced this magic and be able to impart her/his learning to the membership. There is no greater joy than to see Magic and understanding in the eyes of your comrades! The Spiritual Leader of Revelwood should always remember that *the needs of the many outweigh the needs of the one...*

May the Spirit and Magic of Revelwood lead you on a journey of understanding, comprehension and compassion.

The following is the doctrine of the Church of the Circled Holly:

The Principle:

HOLLY	Thankfulness
DAGGER	Loyalty
MASK	Magic



The Creed:

The intermingling of the White Cups, The Tripod of Power and the Guilds: mysterious, wonderful and magical.

Doctrine:

The keeping of the sacred mysteries is only for the chosen, yet all are her very being. As the Holly, Dagger and Mask are interwoven, so is the web... reflecting the surface yet hiding the depth from all who are unworthy.

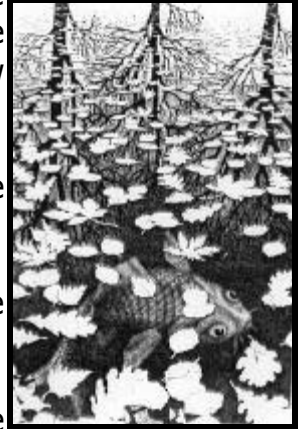
Web: Reflection/Surface/Depth

All are interwoven and depend on each other for their existences. The web of life is both fragile and strong, it captures the enemy yet bows to the elements... it exists in harmony with nature and reflects her beauty as the dew in the first rays of the rising sun.

Reflection: The *reflection* of the beauty of Revelwood is her first task... the *hope* of all who see.

Surface: On the *surface* one can glimpse all Revelwood embraces... she keeps the *faith* for all.

Depth: The *depth* can only be found by careful observation and true commitment... her *love* is extended to all who are willing.

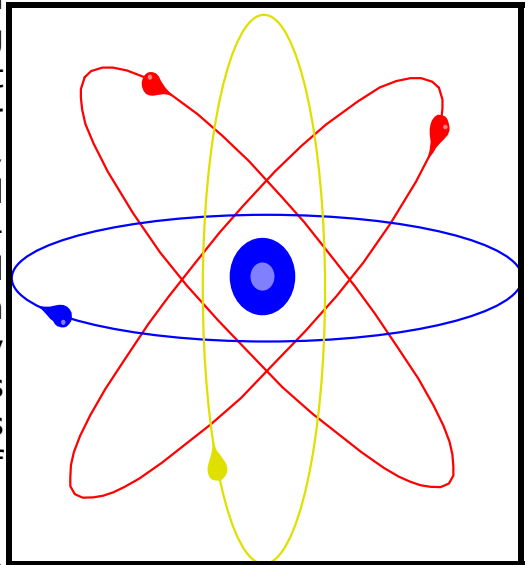


The Physical Throne

This throne concerns itself with those aspects of Revelwood that appeal to the physical senses. This is not limited to being able to hit someone on the head really hard with a blunt object, although that has come in quite handy at times for getting someone's attention. It means that if you can see it, hear it, smell it, taste it or touch it, the Physical Throne will probably have something to do with it. Fortunately, Revelwood is full of people that look, sound, smell, taste and feel great. And they are very willing to share these features with most everyone else. Therefore, it has become quite easy over the past few years, from that perspective, to sit on this throne. However, this horn-of-plenty requires another series of skills that fall on the Physical Throne. The skills of planning, resource allocation and negotiation.

Getting all those talents together at the right time, in the right order and moving in the same direction isn't all that easy. Ever been with Revelwood, about a half hour after dusk at the Pennsic War? You can imagine the chaos that ensues as one person, the Physical Throne, does their best to get everyone together and heading off in one direction. But it can be done. In fact, it is. Year after year. These are the kind of skills that need to be brought to the Physical Throne.

The Physical Throne seeks to provide the hands, eyes, ears, tongue and other popular appendages when they are needed. The throne holder must be confident of their abilities, observant of their surroundings, unafraid of challenge and have the charisma to lead. A loud boisterous voice is nice, but not a prerequisite.



The Physical Throne was often sought out by persons inside and outside of Revelwood for negotiations regarding mercenaries, military alliances and combat art support. The legends of the Revelwood Mercenaries are rich with tales of daring and honor. I recall there was a great deal of treasure also. Although these issues have become less frequent as the interests of Revelwood have become more broad, this does not mean a new holder of the Physical Throne could not rekindle those flames. Many people could use a blunt object dropped atop their head. Just look around.

How is the Throne Holder Selected?

Unlike the Guild Leaders that are voted upon, or the White Cups which are terminal, the members of the Tripod of Power are selected and appointed by the White Cups from those that openly seek the office. Once appointed, the holder remains on the throne until they abdicate. About 15 years ago, the Vicar had the spiritual throne. That is how he originally got the name The Vicar. Appropriately so, when he abdicated he kept the name as it was not the name of the throne. It was his name. This will be true of Lady Cheron and The General. They are our names. Not the titles of the thrones.

However, The Vicar's abdication is how The Lady Cheron found her way to the Spiritual Throne. The Iron Baron took office at the first Pint & Pipe and The General was appointed to the Physical Throne at the second. In those early days, there were fewer persons who stood to be committed, so there was less competition. Years later, during The Lady Cheron's bid for the Spiritual Throne, Krakesbone also sought the seat. It was a close race, but The Lady Cheron's doctrine was so well developed and presented that the White Cups selected her for the Spiritual Throne. Krakesbone's efforts were also noteworthy, but there could only be one throne holder. Besides, The Lady Cheron could summon the Iron Maiden. This proved a valuable skill during castigation season.

How Do I Apply for A Throne of Power?

The first thing to do is let the citizens of Revelwood know you are seeking the throne. This can be accomplished various ways as there are many methods of mass communication in Revelwood. I recommend you use them all. The White Cups are sometimes an obscure lot. But they do try to keep in tune (sorry) with the wants and wishes of the citizenry. If they hear from a substantial number of people that you would make a good spiritual or physical throne holder, your chances of appointment improve.

The next thing to do is prepare an explanation of how your abilities apply to the throne. What is it about you that makes you a good throne holder? Do you have any goals you see for Revelwood.

What Do You Mean?

One of my goals when I took the Throne was to see Revelwood become a recognizable, popular and sought after name at the Pennsic War. And it has become so. We are as popular as any kingdom-wide group. This goal was the result of a challenge by the leaders of the local SCA shire at that time. They told us to leave the SCA as we would never amount to anything. Now they are

lost in obscurity and we are the most recognizable name at Pennsic. I didn't do it alone by any stretch of the imagination. But it was my goal as a throne holder. I strategize as to how it could be accomplished (planning-entertainment, combat, journalism). I engaged the appropriate talents at the right moments (resource allocation-musicians, fighters, shire and kingdom publication writers). I cultivated relationships to make the goal achievable (negotiation-Royalty, merchants, kingdom service leaders, popular regional groups). Let the White Cups, and the citizens know what you plan to do. The point of us abdicating is to get someone else's vision working. Growth requires change. And we need to continue to grow. If we don't grow together, we will divide. That can only result in dissolution and obscurity. We have seen it happen to other once mighty groups. It is not pretty.

When Do I Take My Throne?

The anticipated schedule is as such... All those who wish to seek a throne should do so between now and the Restaurant at the End of the Universe Party (late February/early March). At that party, all official presentations should be made to the White Cups as this is their party.

The decisions will be made prior to and announced at the Art Show (late June/early July). This gives the new throne holders almost six months before the P&P. The thrones will be passed then.

Best of luck to all.

You're gonna need it.

The General.



Often times, when we tell our stories, those on the listening end begin to collect that grain of salt we've all heard about. Well, here's the proof. One late morning, after a traditional Pennsic downpour, a naked woman walked into our campsite and asked if someone would cover her in mud. Never one to turn down the simple request of a naked woman, we only charged her a dollar.

After all, it was Revelmud.

Now, about that naked albino violin player.

JUNK MAIL

PO Box 1
Stratford, NJ 08084

Brother Rodney & The General
Holding Each Other
Up at the Pint & Pipe



JUNK MAIL IS A REVELWOOD PRESS® PRODUCTION

Going Public

In an effort to enhance the world's ability to get to know about Revelwood, those two lovable Web Site Gnomes, Brother Rodney and The General have decided to place the site on a commercial server. This means that when you tell someone about the bizarre and exciting stories, photos and links, you will be able to say... "Just search for Revelwood!"

Of course, this is not free. It will cost about \$200 to start up, and about \$100 per year to keep it going. We have some serious plans for the site, including The Virtual Barn, The Revelwood Home Shopping Network, Chat Rooms, Electronic Green Pages, etc. This will take server space, and only so much of that is free. But hey, if we're going to compete for your interest with all those adult sites, we've got to be able to offer state-of-the-art nonsense.

Join us as we conga line into the next millennium with all the style and creativity that you have come to expect from Revelwood.

Brother Rodney & d'G