

# RUNE 40

Rod Day

AAAARG!



Listen, Nahutlotl—  
you seen one  
Sun-sacrifice, you've  
seen them all....

MORE  
HELIUM!



HASKELL & KenFletcher





This is RUNE, Volume 7, Number 2 (Whole Number 40). It is available by trade, letter of comment, contribution, expressed interest, because you are there, contribution of money, or the Spanish Inquisition....

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THIS IS A PLEA that you let us know ahead of time when you are planning to move, so that you may get RUNE uninterrupted, and so that we don't have to pay return postage....

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#### ART CREDITS:

Jim Young; pages 2, 15, 22  
Richard Tatge; page 18  
Tom Foster; pages 10, 12, 13  
Haskell/Fletcher; cover

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## THE PROBLEM OF THE HAPPY ENDING

by Dave Wixon

This article started out to be a book review, but, as happens to me when writing late at night, the process has gone awry. You may regard this as a book review that got loose....

Not many have yet heard of Richard Adams' book Watership Down, although it is beginning to create a small stir. I suspect it will get very popular when an American paperback is finally issued. (I read a British paperback version.)

Most of us are used to the idea of adult fantasy, and, aside from equating "adult" with "sex" and "blood" will think immediately of Tolkien. Richard Adams, too, is British, and this book is laid entirely within a few square miles of English countryside. But this book is more "adult" than even Tolkien's work.

That seems a strange thing to say of a story about rabbits -- rabbits who don't even wear clothes or drink tea; rabbits who simply live in the countryside. But they live, fully.

Of course, fantasy enters the picture, and the rabbits can speak to each other, and think. One even has a little ESP. But the author succeeds admirably in keeping them to the simple matters that one would believe of rabbits. They have a society, yes -- a rabbit society. Their problems are rabbit problems. The author paints a completely-envisioned society, displaying originality and a regard for rabbit physiology -- make that "biology" (somehow, they do seem people!) -- and psychology. This isn't a mere transposition of a human group into rabbit bodies; not a mere parable. But it is a story of the power of faith, courage, and loyalty, which can have meaning for all.

This story is basically of the rebuilding of a society by a group of survivors. Here is an epic journey, a struggle to build a future, a fight to survive -- as rabbits must fight -- and the growth of the rabbit Hazel into moral leadership.



The story is affectionately, and effectively, told; probably Adams is a better wordsmith than Tolkien was. Moreover, he is adept at giving the reader lines exceptionally evocative of the alienness of man to rabbit. He expertly paints the scenes from the rabbit's-eye view, reminding the reader that man, after all, sees the world from atop a six-foot pair of stilts....

Rabbits don't have the human concept of



romantic love (I wonder how long humans have had it?), and there is frank recognition of physiological urges. And yet, here or there, perhaps a suggestion of affection....

The concept of representational art arouses an instinctive feeling of repugnance in the rabbits, a sense that they are in the presence of something (for them) unnatural. The reader understands exactly the innate inability of the sane rabbit to relate to man's more esoteric ideas. These aren't little, long-eared, furry people!

Yet they live for the reader; for me, Hazel is with Frodo. I most highly recommend this gentle book, a quite epic.

Even the ending of Watership Down displays the thoughtfulness of the author, as he faces the problem Tolkien faced in the denouement of Lord of the Rings: how to meld reality and a happy ending? E.R. Eddison was one of the few to previously face the question; it led to the very title of one of the greatest of his sagas, The Worm Ouroboros (the serpent with his tail in his mouth) -- but his answer was very different from those of Tolkien and Adams.

The problem: when all the hero-ing is done, when the dragon is slain and the battle won -- what does the hero do then? The problem is familiar to the real world, suggested in the cliché: "The grass is always greener..." and only too real in the disillusionment which so familiarly follows every war to end war, every crusade, every grand alliance.

Possibly one indicator of approaching maturity lies in one's realization that "they lived happily ever after" is a satisfactory ending only for children. Adults know there's always a tomorrow, until death (a bit hopeful, we add: "if then"), and tomorrow usually has its new crises. That's why the concept of Heaven can become a bit hard to accept.

Yet it's always been hard to envision Frodo complacently retired, to think of Sir Galahad cultivating a paunch. But the only alternatives to this sort of anti-climax are death or further adventure (which explains the popularity of the sequel).

Thus, the reader (and the author) is thrust into the unenviable spot of wishing to feel his hero is alive, but not wanting to see him age, as we all do, out of that gleaming perfection of body and strength of purpose, as some weird Mad Magazine image of Prince Charming taking out the garbage....

Dagwood Bumstead could never conceivably have fought any evil greater than the Fuller Brush Man.

So Eddison's heroes, after all their triumph, sit around the fireplace pensively, and imperceptibly make the final turn of the Moebius strip, to begin anew the struggle which gave their lives meaning and purpose; which makes life, for the gigantic spirit, worth living -- over and over again. (The question arises as to whether this is really satisfactory, or if it's really a sort of hell; but a predetermined fate is distasteful only if realized.)

The great saga of Camelot came to an ending that is surely one of the saddest ever imagined -- the dream sinking, with the sword, into a twilight of death and stillness. But can't it be argued that this is better than the slow disintegration that came to Wilson's League of Nations? to NATO? to the New Frontier?

Euthanasia. A merciful revolver-shot in the suffering head. Perhaps that's



why some authors sometimes kill their heroes in their hour of triumph.

Most are familiar with the ending of Lord of the Rings, which saddens, but rings with the note of Camelot, of continuance and resurrection. And so goes Watership Down -- in a way. Not poignant, but matter-of-fact. Satisfying. Recommended.

--Dave Wixon

\* \* \* \* \*

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SUCHLIKE:

##### Science Fiction Course

An eight week science fiction course, to begin Tuesday, October 15, will be taught by Don Blyly. The course will be 7-9 p.m. for eight consecutive Tuesday evenings. Registration cost is \$10. To register, call 376-4505 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. The class will be held at Marshal-University High School, 1313 5th St. S.E., Minneapolis.

##### Minn-stf Meeting Schedule

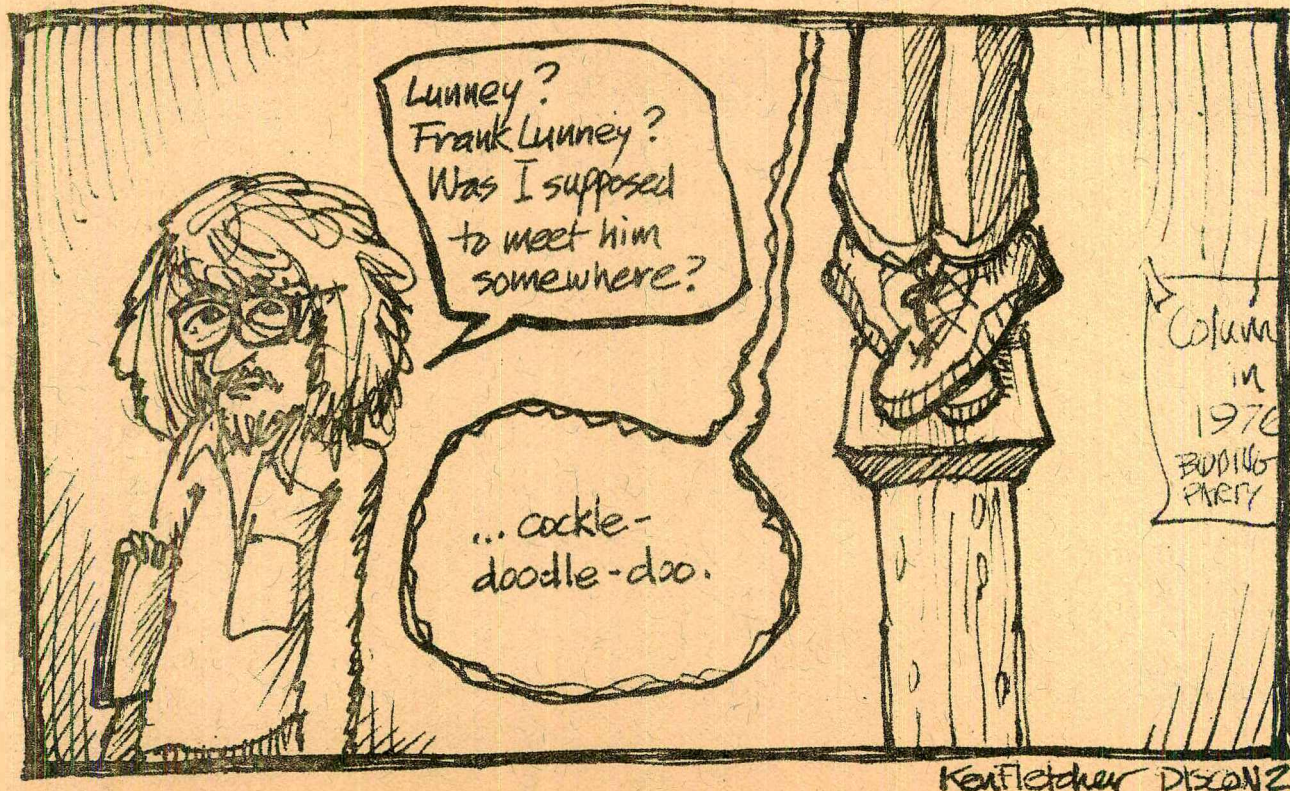
- October 19 - Mark Hansen et al, 1812 Clinton Ave. S. (at least apartment 4)
- November 2 - Hobbitat, 3755 Pillsbury Ave. S.
- November 16 - Bucklins', 4701 Park Ave. (must end before 7 pm).

(Please note that Minn-stf meetings traditionally begin at 1 pm)

((And I'm sure that none of these will break that fine tradition))

\* \* \* \* \*

((After many sleepless nights wondering who I was going to find to write a con report on DISCON II which would cover everything and truly convey the mood of the con, I went to Ken Fletcher and asked him for his advice. He smiled his secret KenFletch smile, and showed me a cartoon. I think it sums things up perfectly, and is the only DISCON II Report RUNE will need to carry....))





# WATCH OUT!

SECOND IN A SERIES

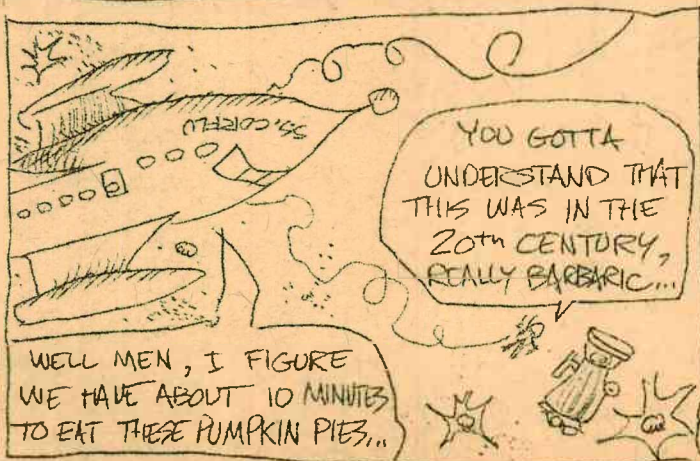


LAST ISSUE WE SAW TWO MERCENARY VEG-ETABLES DESCENDING UPON MINNEAPOLIS IN A RENTED FLYING SAUCER; HOWEVER, THIS MONTH WE MUST GO TO THE F'ESTUS FARZ SOLAR SYSTEM TO FIND OUT WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON, BUT FIRST A FEW WORDS WITH THE INTERGALATIC SQUASH....

TELL ME MORE ABOUT THIS... "VEGY-MATIC" EARTHMAN?

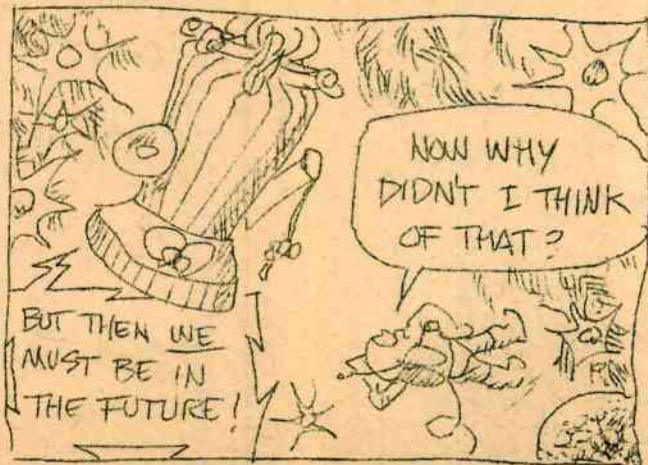


SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO HEAR ABOUT FRANK ZAPPA INSTEAD??



WELL MEN, I FIGURE WE HAVE ABOUT 10 MINUTES TO EAT THESE PUMPKIN PIES...

YOU GOTTA UNDERSTAND THAT THIS WAS IN THE 20th CENTURY, REALLY BARBARIC...



BUT THEN WE MUST BE IN THE FUTURE!

NOW WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF THAT?



MEANWHILE, ON THE ISLAND OF THE MISER KING....

YES! I'M PLACING AN  
INTERGALACTIC DISTANCE  
CALL TO ELROD CARROT  
YES, YES, EARTH, NO  
NO, THAT'S AS IN  
SQUASH!!

HELLO? WHOT!  
WHUZZAT! NO-  
NOT AT ALL -  
YEAH, OK.....

HEY! ANY OF YOU  
FELLOWS VEGETAR-  
IANS? THAT IS, ARE  
THERE ANY  
CARROTS HERE?  
HUH? HUH?

SMLEP HUNG

WHERE'S  
PIERS ANYHOW  
WHEN WE NEED HIM?

LETUCE  
SEE...

GLAP  
X100  
SLARP

WHO  
CARROT  
ALL?

ORP  
SNAG

ARE YOU SURE  
THIS, I MEAN  
THIS, IS THE  
FUTURE?

WELL,  
IT WAS  
YESTERDAY!

BZU! WHAT  
A DREAM!  
THERE I WAS  
BEING DE-  
VOURED BY  
A PUMPKIN!

CHECKOUT TO  
2343 A.D.  
Hotel

PHILIP K...  
FAN CLUB...  
MARKY NALZBERG  
AN WHID



...AND IN THE F'ESTUS FARZ  
SOLAR SYSTEM - 2342.6 AD.



SURE JUST LOOK  
FOR 'TELEVISION'  
YOU CAN'T MISS IT!

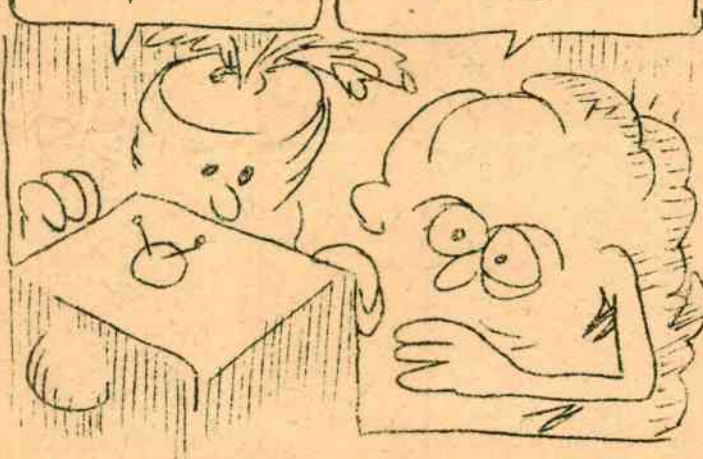
CAN'T WE WATCH  
SOMETHING ELSE,  
JACK?

I DON'T  
THINK ANY-  
THING ELSE IS  
ON THIS LATE!

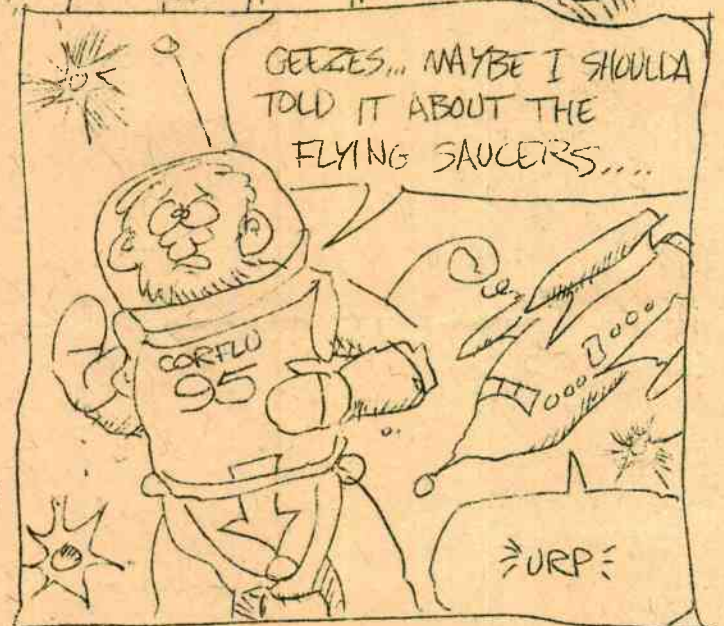


YOU'RE RIGHT  
NOTHIN' BUT  
RE-RUNS!"

TOUGH  
BANANAS, @#!  
ELROD!



GEEZES... MAYBE I SHOULD  
TOLD IT ABOUT THE  
FLYING SAUCERS...



URP!

IT'S A GOOD THING  
SPACE-TIME IS SHAKED  
LIKE A BASKETBALL  
OR I'D HAVE BILLIONS  
OF TIME GETTING HERE!



EARTH MUST  
BE OFF TO THE  
LEFT OF THAT  
ASINOV PLOT-LINE....

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE  
GREENIE: ANIMAL,  
VEGETABLE OR  
MINERAL?



THAT'S FUNNY -  
YOU DON'T LOOK  
VEGETABLE...

SMILE WHEN YOU  
SAY THAT, PULSAR DREX.  
PERHAPS YOU DON'T  
KNOW WHO I AM...

POP!



WAIT A MINUTE,  
SQUASH, I'VE GOT  
A PHONE CALL!

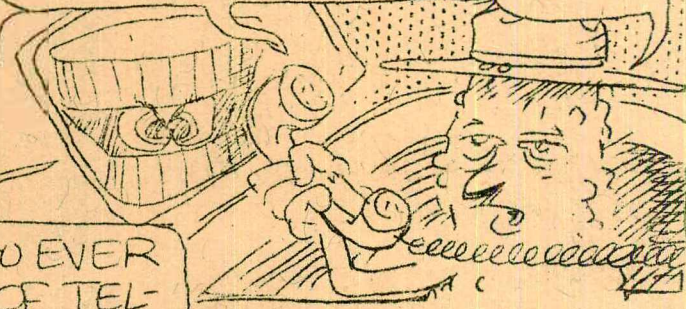
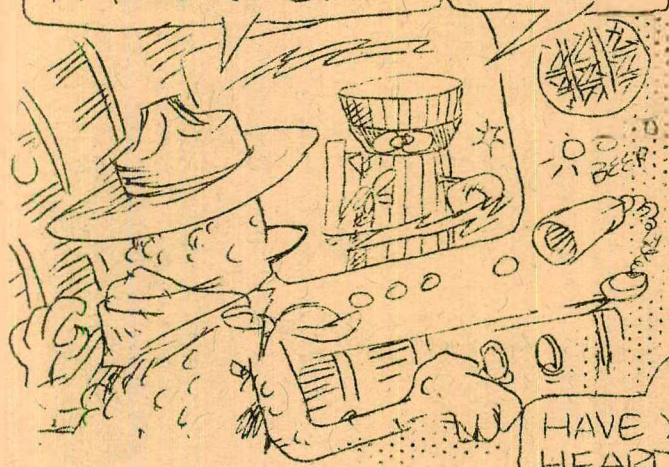
HELLO?

YES, IS THERE A  
MR. CARROT THERE?

NO...

WELL, THIS IS A  
WRONG NUMBER, BUT  
COULD WE INTEREST  
YOU IN A VEGY-MATIC?

HOLD  
IT  
THERE,  
BUD



HAVE YOU EVER  
HEARD OF TEL-  
EVISION, COPPER?

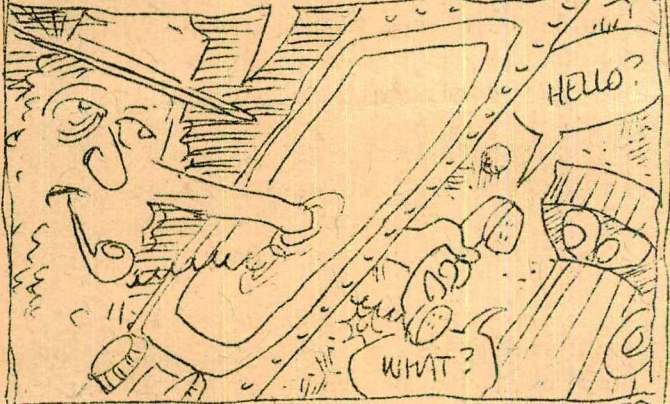
YOU'RE ON TV, GREENIE!  
AND IT'S MR. COPPER TO YOU!

WHAT?



...SAY - YOU EVER  
HEAR OF A  
"VEGY-MATIC?"

OH, THEN THIS CALL MUST  
BE FOR YOU...



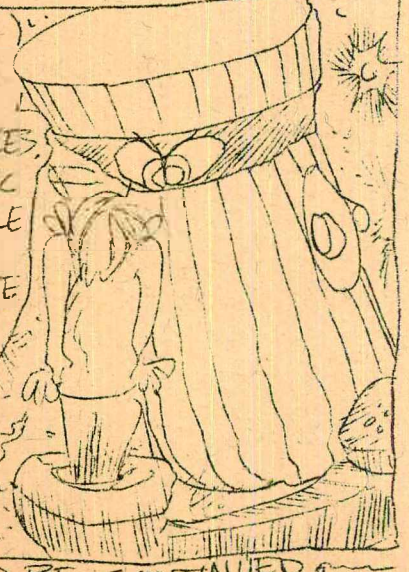
HEH, HEH, ANOTHER SUCKER...

OH, HI! JACK LANTERN HERE FOR  
VEGY-MATIC, THE WORLD'S BEST  
FOOD SUCER AS ADVERTISED ON TV  
FOR MAKING PUMPKIN PIES AND  
OTHER SALADS WITH ONE QUICK...

1316  
20 21 22  
27 28 29



OH, HI! THE  
INTER GALACTIC  
SQUASH! HERE  
FOR THE VEGETABLES.  
BEFORE I ANIMATE  
YOU INTO A PEOPLE  
PIE, PERHAPS  
YOU'D LIKE TO SEE  
WHAT IT'S LIKE  
TO BE A  
VEGETABLE...



TO BE CONTINUED



OFFICIAL MINN-STF BUSINESS PAGE

Minn-Stf Minutes, Back by Popular Apathy

Meeting of September 28, 1974, at Denny Lien's.

Called to an approximation of order at 2:24 by Denny Lien as an approximation of a presiding officer, in the absence of President or Vice-President. Joan Kusske appointed temporary Secretary.

OLD BUSINESS

Gerry Waasenaar again requested a Treasurer's report, but since everyone wanted the meeting as short as possible, it remained old business and got older.

Mark Hansen asked for Minicon 9 volunteer bartenders, but was ruled out of order by Lien as this was new business.

Caryl Bucklin announced that the Minicon 9 pre-party would be at the Bucklin house on the evening of Thursday, October 10. Bring your own pre (also your own bottle).

NEW BUSINESS

Lien indicated that the two items of business which necessitated calling the meeting were (1) lining up future meeting places and (2) lining up volunteers for various Minicon 9 functions. He requested anyone with any other new business to speak first and briefly.

Caryl Bucklin asked how many people were planning on going to Windycon (weekend of the 26th). Four or five were doing so. Feeling was expressed that we should thus revamp our post-con meeting schedule to leave that weekend without a Minn-stf meeting.

Joan Verba moved that our next meeting be on October 19, with subsequent meetings every two weeks thereafter. Seconded and passed 5-0, with approximately 37 abstentions, most of whom were collating and/or drunk (not counting the presiding officer, who was only the latter).

Upcoming meetings were set as follows: October 19 at the apartment of Mark Hansen, with probable back-up by Al Kuhfeld (same building); November 2 at the Hobbitat; November 16 at the Bucklins' home (with understanding that meeting will have to break up no later than 7 p.m.).

Lien announced that volunteers were needed to make STAR TREK costumes (contact Mary Himmelbach), to bartend at the con parties (contact Mark Hansen), and to usher and/or guard at the movies at the library (sign the posted sign-up volunteer sheet or contact Bev Swanson). Eight people were needed for the last function and this heart-felt plea netted five of them.

Jim Young asked if there was any further new business. There being none, Mark Hansen moved adjournment. Seconded by Caryl Bucklin and passed by voice vote with two vocal abstentions and dozens of silent ones. Meeting adjourned at 2:34 p.m.

Minutes taken by Joan Kusske and revised  
& typed by Dennis Lien, Minn-STF Secretary  
9 October 1974

\* \* \* \* \*

ANNOUNCEMENT: Blue Petal becomes Minn-stf President at one second after midnight, October 27, 1974. ("The King is a Petal!")





((This is Fred Haskell here again. I had so much fun answering letters last time, I decided that I would do it again this time. I don't know if there's anything else that needs to be said right here, so rather than stalling until I know for sure, I'll get on with it, and if anything else occurs to me, I'll just toss it in as it comes up....

The first thing we have is not a standard sort of letter, but a sort of advertisement or community service. It seemed to me to be worth printing, however, so here goes....))

Louis A. Morra  
PO Box 366  
N. Attleboro, Mass. 02761

Dear Minn-stf,

Hi, remember me, I wrote to you not long ago asking to be dropped from the Rune mailing list because I really wasn't interested in the zine.

Well, I'm writing again now because I have somethings to sell and Minn-stf is, I'm sure, the logical, but perhaps the only, place to make the sale at.

I would like to sell my copies of Minneapa mailings two (2) through twenty-nine (29). Yes, that's 2-29, inclusive. Could you please put a notice in Rune, and/or ask around at meetings, or perhaps put a notice in Minneapa itself (if it still exists)?

The reason I want to try selling them rather than giving them away is because I spent so much money on first-class postage (starting with around #9 usually a dollar but frequently a bit more). The reason I want to get rid of them in the first place is that I always try to keep my personal possessions to a minimum and I have too many fanzines now anyway and I could certainly use some money too.



Selling cost (i.e. price): I'd like to recoup some of that postage money, so that's the basis I'm using for figuring their price. And since I don't want to lose (too much) money on mailing them to the buyer (in expensive but reuseable! jiffy bags by cheapest possible rate, I assume, unless he wants otherwise and pays for it) I'll take offers between \$25.00 and \$30.00 for the lot. Which is how I'd prefer to sell them, to get rid of all in one fell swoopen.

So, I would appreciate your publicizing for me this sale. I assume you'd be willing to do it since it's as much a service to Minn-stfers as it is to me. For that, you'd have my thanks (and I wouldn't have the mailings if somebody buys 'em).

LOUIS A. MORRA

((Well, there you go Louis. I hope you are successful in your attempt. Mike Wood has also been kind enough to run a notice of your sale through Minneapa (yes, it is still going (the Fiftith mailing will be out in two weeks), and continues to be interesting). If anybody is interestd in getting into instead of out of Minneapa, by the way, he sould write to Mike Wood, 1878 Roblyn, Apt 3, St. Paul, Mn 55104.

And with that task completed, we now are free to move on to the actual letters. Being new at this game and not really knowing how to arrange a letter section, I have decided to go with a chronological order. Creative, eh? Well, anyway, they have to be in some order....>)

Dave Wixon  
343 East 19th St, Apt 5B  
Minneapolis  
Land of Sky-Blue Waters 55404  
September 9, 1974

Dear Vred:

(Note how I thriftily save postage money by hand-delivering this -- all the easier since you're only one floor up; Bob Lurtsema has nothing on me when it comes to saving!)

I'm sorry. I had no intention, in my disgust-inspired attempt at movie-panning (RUNE 38), of sweetly setting Harry Warner Jr. up for that terrible pun (RUNE 39); it can be verified that Mr. Warner (or Harry, whatever total strangers call him) and I are fauna incognita (at least to each other).

Not that I don't like a good word-play; I just hate being one-upped. To that end, I can't resist adding that Billy the Kid vs. Dracula, which climaxes ((that's one!)) in a mine shaft, is truly an ore story....

(I will nobly refrain from speculating as to what sort of vein the Count was seeking....)

But the association of the Old West with horror movies has interested me (I also saw Jesse James Meets Frankenstein's Daughter over the summer), and I find myself speculating on what would seem to be a natural in the field: The Lone Ranger Meets the Wolfman. Remember that the masked man always uses silver bullets.... I wonder if that ever occurred to Fran Striker?

DAVE WIXON

((I suppose that suggestion of yours could also be made to tie in with the recent fifties rock craze too, eh? In any case, Dave, it certainly has been, uh, interesting to have your thoughts on these and other matters. Thank you.

Well,  
Sarah Sue Wilde tells me that her letter that appeared in the last issue was her first letter to a fanzine. Now we have a letter here from Jon Singer, which he tells me is his first letter to a fanzine. It is indeed nice to be associated



with a fanzine that seems to inspire first letters of Comment out of fans like that. It certainly is a nice trend, and I hope that it will continue. In any case, I suppose I should quit for a bit and let Jon get on with it, so....>>

Jon Singer  
216 East 5th St, Apt 2  
New York, New York 10003  
September 10, 1974

Dear Fred,

I am at the Hotel Commodore at the moment, waiting to hear Werner Erhard (EST) speak, and, fool that I am, I neglected to bring RUNE 39 with me. However, I do have my previous attempt at this letter, which has some comments in it.

First of all, with regard to the Tatge con report, what the FooFoo is Dungeon?

Somehow, I can't bring myself to believe that Tucker is any older than 55 or thereabouts. I am convinced that someone is being put on by someone. I have known a few healthy 70 year olds, and none of them had that kind of zap. I remember him describing himself as "a 70 year old fan" at the first Midwestcon I went to, which was in 70 or 71. I didn't believe it then, either.

Tell me -- what kind of machine was RUNE 39 run off on, and in what ink color? I am Curious (Congressional Blue #116). (Congressional Blue #116 is the color I found in my machine when I bought it from Jack Chalker. He got it surplus. Appropriately enough, there is a small sticker on it which says "Property of US House of Representatives." I had wondered who would use a color like Congressional Blue....)

I can't find any art credit for the large comic strip and I am not quite familiar enough with various people's work to be able to tell. Is it KenFletch putting us on, or is it someone else putting KenFletch on? Are the vegetables going to capture him in the next issue?



I wasn't quite able to understand the three panel job on page twelve. Will I catch on if I keep reading RUNE, or was it a one-shot which someone will have to explain to me?

Jeez, am I dumb. Page twenty-two is a Foster/Fletcher, and it looks VERY much like the big comic strip. The 1¢ worth of "script" (the ASSHOLES!!) from E&B Supermarkets which I have enclosed is a bet that the big strip is Foster/Fletcher.

MORE KEN FLETCHER ARTICLES! (More zeppelins?) Really enjoyed the article. Here in New York the sounds of buses mating in the streets prevent us from hearing zines fall into our mailboxes. Instead, we have a different thing, more suited to the environment. In fact we have two things. One, for the cruder and more bathroom oriented, is to develop a talent for identifying the breed of dog by looking at his shit on the street. Some experts can even do this after it has been squashed almost out of recognition by shoes or cars. Of course,



there are pitfalls. Occasionally car enthusiasts will identify the wrong thing -- I mean, who the hell ever heard of a dog called a Pirelli Cinturato?

The other thing NY fans do is to identify the brand and grade of gasoline which a car is using by catching a wiff of the exhaust. One must, of course, look at the car to see whether it has pollution control gear on it, which changes things, and one can, of course, be thrown off by the guys who disable their PCV's, but real experts here can frequently even tell you the octane of the stuff to within a couple of points....

JON SINGER

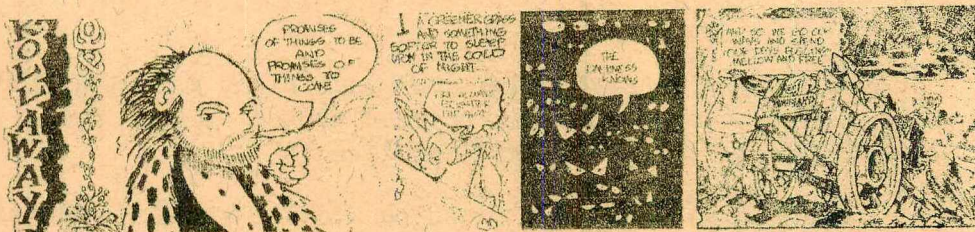
((It would be hard for me to explain exactly what the game of Dungeon is all about, as I have never played it, but I can give you some rough idea. The gamesmaster invents a maze-like castle interior (with as many levels as he wants), which is filled with magical devices, trap doors, and the like, and has rooms guarded by various beings and filled with various treasures. This maze is not shown to other players, but used for the gamesmaster's reference. The other players chose a leader, and "descend" into the maze, getting sorts of clues about ways to go, and blundering about in the maze. They are advised when they come to rooms and intersections. Evidently the game is quite fun, as it has developed a certain number of very rabid enthusiasts. It was apparently developed by Blue Petal (with additions from Dick Tatge and some of the other local fans). For further information, I direct you to the supplement which came with Minneapa #48; Craig Van Grasstek's Rules to the Game of Dungeon. It is apparantly somewhat limited, in that it merely outlines the variant played when he is gamesmaster, however it will give you a good idea of what the game is about. (Those of you who didn't get Minneapa #48 might be able to obtain a copy of this directly from Craig, if you are interested, as he says that he had some extras printed. He doesn't state a specific price for it, but I'd guess he'd appreciate at least a quarter to help cover mailing the thing to you. His address is: Craig Van Grasstek, 8803 Inver Grove Trail, Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota 55075.) Oh yes, I'd almost forgot -- the object of the game seems to be acquiring "treasure" without getting yourself "killed," and getting back out of the maze....

The RUNE is presently being run off on Don Blyly's Gestetner 230; and I believe that the ink color is called "black."

As to who's putting who on in the serial comic strip, and whether will actually be able to capture Ken Fletcher, I guess you'll just have to read along like the rest of us, and find out what happens when it happens....

The cartoon on page twelve was not a serial effort, so there will not be further "instalments" to explain it, but on the other hand, I'm not too sure that it can be explained with words on paper; though it certainly can be understood,

particularly if you look at it with the corner of your mind. Tom Foster said he would apply stylus to stencil so as to explain it to you, but as of yet, I don't have that



effort, so hopefully you'll be able to glean some explanation out of this other strip by Tom Foster, which I had electro-stenciled previously, and which I thought might be of some help here/now. I'm sure that Tom will be getting his actual explanation to me before this issue "goes to press", so I'll make a special note on that page, telling you that's what it is. Go ahead and look for it now, if you wish, or you can wait until your reading carries you to it.



As a final thought on the matter, it might help if you thought of much of Tom Foster's work as if it were dreamt rather than seen....

You're half right, so you're getting half your 1¢ "script" back. (You can try to spend that 1¢ by buying one of something marked "2 for 39¢" and giving them 19¢ and the half piece of "script," or the like. I hope you do so, and if so, please give us a report on the reactions and relative success....) As you ought to know by now, the "big strip" (or "Watch Out" as it is called) was done entirely by Tom Foster last time, and is a collaboration between Tom Foster and Ken Fletcher this time. They tell me they have some surprises in store for future (and past) episodes, including other guest artists and guest situations, so don't miss a thrilling instalment....

I agree that Ken writes peachy articles, and am presently working on him in an attempt to get him to produce more. MORE SUGAR!

Well, thanks for the letter, Jon. I hope that this gets you started on the Right Path, and that you will continue to LoC RUNE....

Sometimes they come short 'n sweet, like this next letter, and we like 'em like that too....>>

Joe Green  
1390 Holly Avenue  
Merritt Island, Fla. 32952  
September 12, 1974

Dear Fred & Minnefans;

Many thanks for Roon 39. It's as nutty and entertaining as ever. Also many thanks to all the Good People from Minneapolis for their hospitality to myself and Nita at D.C. Yours was one of the best continuous (I think it was continuous) room parties going. It was an overall good Con, and you made it better.

JOE GREEN

<Gosh, thanks, Joe. We're glad you appreciate us. We certainly do try our best to entertain. See you at our "Minneapolis in '73" party in KC, if not at a Minicon or other regional sooner. Thanks again....

This next letter came in an envelope like us editor-types really like to get. That is to say, it not only contained the following letter, it also had some artwork in it! I just happened to have been going down to Misheks anyway, so I pasted up the stuff and it's already on electro-stencil. Some of it may even be appearing in this very issue! In any case, I'll thank Al here for his art, and probably later for this letter: >>

Al Sirois  
233 County St.  
New Haven, Conn. 06511

Dear Fred---

Well, Rick Sternbach came over last night and with him he brought this goofy zine with some superbly-reproed photos of Bhub Tucker on the cover, called "ROOOOOOOON 39" (is that anything like Vat 69?).

I learn that RUNE is a clubzine and looking for submissions, no less! So.....here's some drawings.

My own club, the New Haven Science Fiction and Fantasy Association, does a clubzine too, called ANOMALY, and I'll send along a copy when I have more postage on hand. As it is I have to rubber-cement old stamps onto this envelope, but I should be able to get an ANOMALY to you in a week or so. So far there has only been one; NHSFFA has only been in existence a wee bit over a year. But #2 is on



its way....\*sigh\*. Too bad the club is so small....if we had as many members as you, we could probably absorb the cost of an offset-covered decently-reproed zine easier. Ah well, this is not the place to speak of ANOMALY...it is the place to speak of RUNE.

I liked Fletcher's piece "Whizzing and Pasting and Pooting" a whole lot; seems you people have a few Mothers freaks out there, as well as Firesign people. Good. Conn. faandom is ceremonially barefoot, true, but only on alternate Xmas. Conn. fandom on the other hand, is ceremonially naked -- which makes for wild collating parties, let me tell you. We do a lot of reproducing.

It must be nice to belong to a large, well-documented club. Ours is very loose, almost to the point of non-existence. But we've managed to make complete pains-in-the-ass of ourselves in the short time we've been around. Well, you'll find out when you get ANOMALY #2 in a month or so. Nobody said bullshit about NHSFFA in #1, so I devoted my whole column in #2 to talking about it. As a matter of fact, you folks will be getting an entire package from us, I guess....ANOMALY #1, #2, and our comics zine, TOTAL EFFECT, #s 1 & 2. Holy shit. Four zines in one mailing! Unless I send 'em seperately.

Well, don't hold your breath, is all I can say. The future is fun....

So what more can I say about RUNE? Well, send me some more and I'll formulate an opinion, Grid willing.

AL SIROIS

((It is quite likely that the NHSFFA will grow, just as all things grow, so I wouldn't worry about it if I were you. Rather, you should enjoy it while you can, so you can someday have fond memories of the days when the NHSFFA was small and intimate, and you could know every member really well. I can still remember the days when Minn-stf was so small that everybody in it was an officer (that's how I came to be The Official Happy Deadwood of Minn-stf -- it was the only office that I would accept). Not that I would necessarily go back -- it is nice that we have the money to put into a nice clubzine like this, and that we are able to throw highly successful and well-attended Minicons year after year, but those are nice memories....

Yes, there are some of us Minnefans who know enough to really appreciate our Mothers. And we're not insane enough to fail to appreciate the Firesign Theater. After all....

It will be interesting to receive this massive bundle of NHSFFAazines in the mail. Am I correct in assuming that interested RUNE readers may write you for sample copies? Should they include some postage money or somesuch with their request, if this is the case? Or what?

I'll certainly give the zines to our fanzine reviewer for study, if they ever arrive, and if I ever decide who our fanzine reviewer should be....

Your letter, artwork, and expressed interest has earned you a place on the RUNE mailing list. Be proud....>>





((This next letter is quite impressive. It is on yellow stationary, which has not only a name and address printed on it, but also a sketch unmistakably of The Boy Wonder of Canadian Fandom in full flight and dress regalia. It makes me somewhat sad that you folks at home can't see this wonderful sketch, so as to share my Sense of Wonder about it all. My goodness!!>>))

Mike Glicksohn  
141 High Park Avenue  
Toronto, Ontario M6P 2S3  
Canada  
September 17, 1974

Dear Fred,

Got the latest RUNE here with your announcement of the Big Changes in the future. I can only wish you luck and hope to see the fruits of your ambitious plans. It's usually difficult to turn a clubzine into a genzine, because a clubzine by definition should print club news, local interest stuff and anything submitted by a club member, and such practices make it impossible to produce anything of any real quality. You sound like a man with very definite ideas and standards though, so I suspect we'll see a gradual phasing out of these contents as you approach your goal. Either that or there'll be a coup in Minn-Stf and RUNE will get another less presumptuous editor. But I hope they let you have a free hand: I've enjoyed the few apazines of yours I've seen and I'd like to watch you forge a leading genzine out of the wilds of Minneapolis. It'll not be easy, but as I've always said, a man's reach should exceed his grasp or what's a heaving for?

I'm sure Harry Warner is going to be absolutely delighted with the cover page, since it provides him with the necessary evidence for a famous fannish legend for one of his books of fan history. I can see this page appearing as is in a future volume of "All Our Yesterdays" and I'll be quite surprised if Harry doesn't mention it in his loc on this issue.

And now for something completely different...a loc with three buttocks...

I'm supposed to make this letter provocative (at least I assume I am; I'm not the article writing sort) but I really don't feel all that controvertial at this time, and the contents of this issue, though pleasant, are rather mild & inoffensive. I could insult Jim Young, I suppose, but I haven't done that in a couple of years, and he might take it personally. I could heap abuse on you for holding a convention at a time when I can't attend it, but why should you cater to me? Besides, I'm on a diet and the last thing I need is being catered to. I could fail to remember Chuck Holst's name, but that's such a regular occurence that it's lost all its sting. Sorry, provocation will have to be supplied by someone to whom it comes more naturally: like Bev maybe. (Now what did he mean by that? Was he being rude? Is he serious? ...NOBODY expects the Fannish Inquisition!!)

What can I say about the conreport? I spotted it as one right away? I read it? It was there? Oh well. Actually learning that KC cons tend to be swamped with that most pisslike of American inferior brewery products, to (half) wit, Coors, is enough to make me regret I voted for them for 76. Let's hope the company has gone out of business by then and is no longer demeaning the name of beer with their insipid production...

Best thing in the issue is Ken's neat article on listening to fanzines. It's a fine example of the type of fannish writing one seldom sees nowadays, the solid and serious development of a ludicrous idea in a very witty manner. I'd not known Ken could write that well as well as draw that right. (I had to



say that because at the time I thought it might be symmetric. It isn't of course, so I've just made an assymetric of myself. Life is fool of surprises.) There's a wealth of fanzine articles in this idea and I only wish I could see what they are so I could write them up and become famous. (It is interesting to note that when this was written Toronto didn't even rate an aside as a fan center of note. Funny how things don't seem to change, isn't it?

I wish I could believe that fans are less sexist and less neurotic about sex than the rest of society but I'm too old and cynical I guess. Also I see too many fans at conventions who go seemingly crazy if a girl of any sort as much as says hello to them. Now it's true that there's a considerable degree of sexual freedom in fandom, but it seems to me that there are still a huge number of fans for whom fanac is a substitute for a sex life. Considering the physical attributes of quite a large percentage of fans, this isn't all that surprising.

By the by, I much approve of the degree to which you are evident in the lettercol. It certainly gives your personality a chance to come through... repellent, nauseating and disgusting though it may be. No, no, no: for a second I thought I was loocking OUTWORLDS. Sorry. It really is good to see your lengthy answers and your reactions to the points raised. Do continue this practice, even when the lettercol expands to twenty pages.

Your discussion of Minneapolis fanac made me start to consider what Toronto has going for it. I was surprised to find out it isn't as bleak as I thought. We actually carried through with our worldcon bid, of course (how's that for a stab in the back and a kick in the groin when you're down?), have a regional on next summer, an active local club, a writer's workshop, two or three smallish fanzines, and a couple of Hugo winners resting on their laurels. We might qualify for Fastest Burned Out Former Fannish Capitol.

Interesting to see how Harry had to work out the background for his pun on "went down for the Count." I wonder if he's even aware of the other meaning of the phrase?

By golly! An imitation Vardeman postcard typed on an ersatz machine by a simulacrum. Can't get more authentically fannish than that!

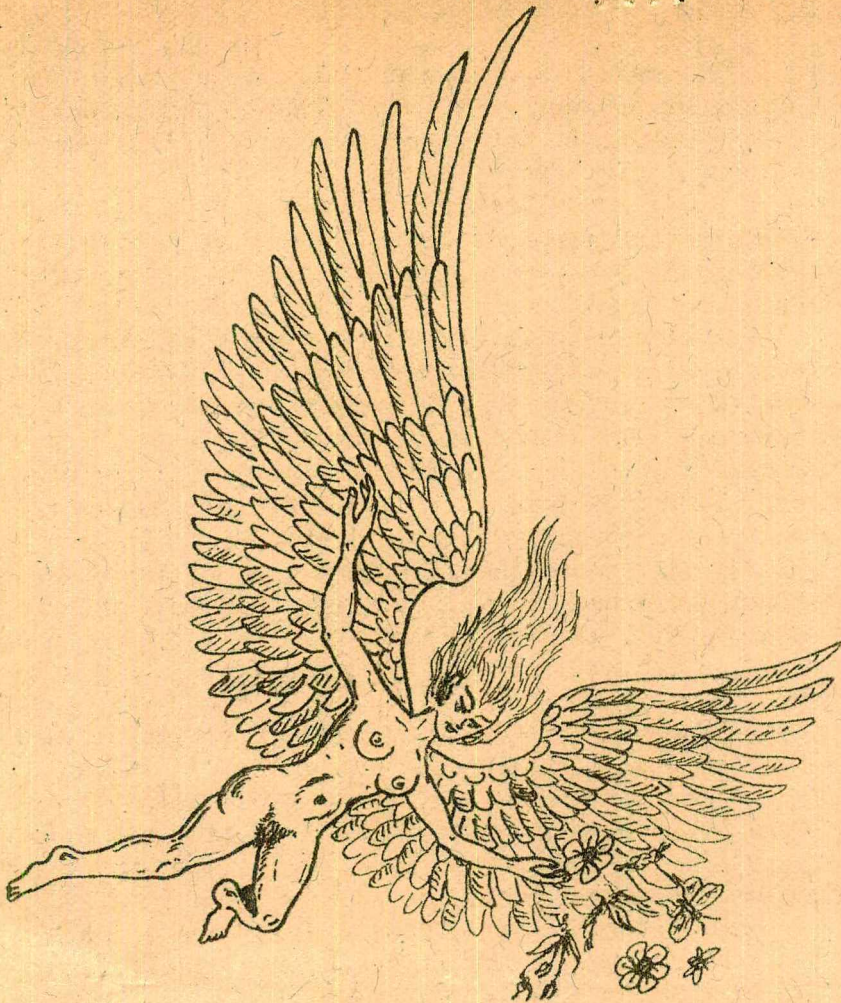
In request..no, no...in response to your poignant request, my Postal Code is M6P 2S3, not M6P 253. I hope this won't cause any permanent break-up in our relationship...

Good luck, but please **don't** publish monthly. I couldn't stand the pace!

MIKE GLICKSOHN

(I'm not that sure that it would be that difficult to turn a "clubzine" into a genzine in general, but I don't really know. What I do know is that it doesn't look as if it will be terribly difficult in the case of RUNE. Why? Well, a number of reasons. Perhaps the most important one is that Minn-stf isn't, never has been (and hopefully never will be) all that sircon. Oh, we seem to be Serious and Constructive enough to get things organized and done when need be (examples being Minicons and RUNE, among others), but the club seems to be pervaded with a sort of faanish lunacy -- so that these things turn out to be fun and not just well-organized. This means that the club doesn't really want a stuffy "club journal," or at least, seems to be tolerant of a crazy "clubgenzine." Also, this means that we have a club secretary who is none too sircon himself. So I don't mind having to run the official club business as portrayed by the minutes of our meetings, as Denny Lien (the aforementioned secretary) actually makes the damned things fun to read. (Related to this, but on a different mark, I don't really mind having to print a page or two of by-law changes (which are stuffy) every now and





then -- I figure that it's the price I must pay for the economic subsidy I get for this zine from the club. It doesn't take up all that much room, and can be easily skipped.)

Also, I don't have the problem about having to accept "anything submitted by a club member" that you might think. Or at least, haven't yet and don't really foresee one. There are at least two reasons for that (aside from the non-sircon club attitude previously mentioned). First, as you should know from having been a genzine editor yourself, I get damned little unsolicited material. (In fact, the reason that this issue is mostly lettercolumn is that whild I solicited material, I forgot to follow up and remind people that they were supposed to do things for me.) Second, I feel (and the club seems to agree) that

the function of a clubzine is not to provide an outlet for otherwise unprintable outpourings of club members, but rather to let people know times and places of club-related events, to entertain the readers (clubmembers or otherwise), and for public relations for the club and Minicon. And the last two functions are much more important than the first. As for RUNE as a public relations device, it seems to me that there are three club-sponsored activities which let general fandom know that Minn-stf exists, and what kinds of people we are: Minicons, "Minneapolis in '73" parties at other conventions, and the RUNE. All three of these are interlocked -- the existence of each one seems to provide public relations and other such aid for the other two, and the club. This seems to be a handy and balanced set-up, and is nice, if you can get it.... In any case, I feel that turning RUNE into a high quality genzine is not the least bit inconsistant with the needs and desires of the club, and in fact that doing so fits right in with the general scheme of things. If I am wrong, then one of the possibilities that you mention will come to pass -- a new editor will be found to replace me. If that happens, so be it.

Ahem, yes, I had forgotten that a zine with mild and inoffensive contents will not inspire provocative letters. I suppose that's one of the disadvantages of nebbishness. I certainly do appreciate your efforts on that score, however. One wonders what you'd be able to do with a truly controversial fanzine.... I am minded to invent some sort of



award for "The Best Letter in This Issue" or somesuch and award it to you, but I can't seem to come up with an appropriate name for it. The "Zagat" perhaps? The "Golden Minne"? The "Hot Fudge Gerbil"? I don't know. I guess I'll have to think about it some more first....

I guess Ken Fletcher is going to have to win some sort of award for having written the best feature of last issue. There seems to be some consensus about this among letter writers, and I am inclined to agree. Now if we can only get him to do more....

I'm pleased that you enjoy my presence in the lettercol, and I am going to continue to be here, so long as it's possible. Especially when I get letters like yours, which seems to have given me quite a lot to talk about, eh? In any case, part of the reason that I do it is that I find it easier to write off of hooks provided by other people than to think of things to write about off the top of my head (as proof of this, notice that this issue contains no editorial. This is because I couldn't think of anything to write about in one). Also, this bent has been reinforced by the fact that most of the writing I've done for the last couple of years has been for apas, where I do mostly mailing comments and thereby honing up that particular talent....

What do you mean you "actually carried through" with your worldcon bid? The only group still bidding for '73 is us -- you quit running in the fall of 1971, shortly after we decided to take a break from the pressures of bidding....

Maybe you couldn't stand the pace if RUNE were published monthly, but then neither could I, so don't worry....

Well, thanks for the letter, Mike -- 'twas much fun....

Now we have here a letter from M.J. Kudra, which I would introduce, but I think it speaks for itself....>>

M.J. Kudra  
2931 Blossom St.-  
Columbia, S.C. 29205

Dear Official Hapless Greenwood:

Now you've gone and done it: EDITOR!! Good Grief. What are you going to do now that you have a function? A useful Fred?! The remains of my overawed mind boggle. BOGGLE-BOGGLE. Enough of this Ego-Boo. At least now you'll read the rest of the letter.

You do have high hopes for the zine. I would feel much pleasure if all your hopes were fulfilled. Best of luck and I hope you wirk your ass off. Catching typos is a bitch, buf goob lvck!

How do you Miss-fts get that abbreviation out of "Minnes..." oh Hell, you know what I'm asking!?

Exciting to sit in the Old Southern Backwoods, reading adventure stories of fantasy worlds. Cars, Printing Presses, Women! EGAD..... MY HEART

Ohh. Shhewww. That felt bad. But I'm OK now (twinge). "RUNIE" is truly a sparkling window into the twisted imaginations of fandom. (DEF: Fandom.... You Tell Me. Please.) Please do not cancel my subscription, Massah. I need something to read besides the Baptist Hymnal.

If I were sure I was a fan, I would write something for your lettercol, if somebody told me what to say. I guess I'm not an author of any kind (cf. this letter). I base my judgment on the short stories I wrote when I thought I might



have some talent. But I outgrew that.

I imagine some cretins have nothing better to do than write letters, but my bathroom needs cleaning.

I hereby prod you to put more of your photowork in the zine. Somehow.

I've been thinking about going to Rivercon, and/or Windycon, and/or the Philly thing, and/or Minicon #~~00~~ and also about jumping the Marianas Trench lengthwise at 70,000 feet above sealevel in a Lear Jet Custom Deluxe. No decision yet. I got hit with some unexpected expenses, and.... But someday, when I cash in my shares of SPAM stock... Wowie! I'se gonnah bah de deluxe catfish stew sandwich special supper bucket and EEEAT!

But psoriasisly filks: Are there extant books of S.F. Art? Surveys or Samplers or whatever? Or Photos? Where! A woman who lives next door would really freak on some of the stuff I saw at Discon II! Sf, no big deal, but Sfurt! Also, where can I get a listing of names and addresses of Artists who comission...like maybe Florides or Spadoni?? or Sirois? If you know, I should too!!

MALCOLM KUDRA

((Ahh yes, you are wondering why "The Minnesota Science Fiction Society, Inc." is abbreviated "Minn-stf." As Well You Might. Many people do, you know. It is an interesting question indeed, and one that richly deserves an answer, yes indeed, it certainly does. I think that only your asking for a definition of the term "fandom" deserves an answer more than that, and defining "fandom" is a bit beyond my abilities, I'm afraid. So I'll throw it open to the rest of the RUNE readers: if you'd like to define "fandom" for Malcolm, go ahead and write me a letter and I'll print it here. Perhaps we'll even come up with a suitable prize for the best definition....

Also, though it seems to me that there are undoubtedly SF art books, I don't know what they are, or where to find them. Again, I'll throw this one open to the general readership. People?

(Ipoled you, by the way -- you ended up having written something for the lettercol whether you knew it or not....)

Thanks for the letter -- and hope to see you soon -- perhaps at Minicon 10?

And, as the saying goes, last but most certainly not least (these are in the order received, remember?), we have here a letter from Jodie Offutt....}}

Jodie Offutt  
Funny Farm  
Haldeman, Ky. 40329  
September 23, 1974

Fred,

It was kinda' fun reading your minutes about where to have your Minneapolis in '73 party after the fact. Where was it anyway? I mean whose room? I enjoyed myself at your party, what little time I was there. What I liked best about it was the popcorn. Actually, it was the smell of it that got to me. We eat popcorn nearly every night here at the Funny Farm and I remember thinking that it might be hard for me to go five nights without any, that maybe I could find a movie close by the hotel where I could find some popcorn. So you can imagine my utter delight when I walked into that room and smelled the stuff! I felt right at home. And the popcorn popper was just like mine. WOW! Nearly brought tears to my eyes.



I hadn't thought about taking the popper with me to the con. I already had enough trouble fitting in the coffee pot and the hair dryer. Maybe next time.... Please pass along my sincere thanks to whoever was responsible for the popcorn and the popper. I sure enjoyed it.

Good Grief, Ken Fletcher. Fanzine listening! You people are crazy. I suspect you all've done us down-home Kentuckians one better there, what with our favorite lazy-day sport being listening to Beach Boys records on the portable radio, chug-a-lugging Boone's Farm, and watching the grass grow. And you all are supposed to be the ipsy-pipsy up-town sophisticates from whom us rural folks can pick up on how to be suave and cos-mop-o-lite.

Fred, one picture is truly worth a thousand words, or in this case: Four pictures are worth one word. The cover is terrific; you captured Old Smoothie beautifully. Congratulations!

JODIE OFFUTT

((The Minneapolis in '73 party was in R701.

Oh, whose room. Uh, Jerry Stearns and Blue Petal, I think.... We're glad to hear that you enjoyed it....

I am most pleased to hear you like my photos of Tucker. I'm rather pleased with them m'self, actually.... And I'm glad to read your other kind words as well. Thank you.

(Do you suppose that Malcolm has wondered long enough about the derivation of "Minn-Stf" as a term? Okay, then, I'll tell him (and anybody else who doesn't know also).) The "Minn-" part obviously comes from Minnesota, and the stf is the old Hugo Gernsback abbreviation for the old Hugo Gernsback word for science fiction, which was scientifiction. Came time for naming the group, and Jim Young, with his great ability at naming things, came up with that as an alternate name, or appreviation, for the group, and we liked it, so....>>

WE ALSO HEARD FROM:

Grant Canfield (who also enclosed some juicy artwork that I'm dying to get onto electrostencil and into RUNE), and Garth Danielson. Also, we received a letter from Harry Warner, Jr., written after my deadline, so I couldn't include it this time -- but expect it to lead off the lettercol next issue....

\* \* \*

#### FANZINES RECEIVED

((I haven't yet gotten around to deciding what we're going to do about fanzine reviews, but I figure that it would be nice to at least list the zines we've gotten in trade lately, and mention how you might obtain them, if interested....>>

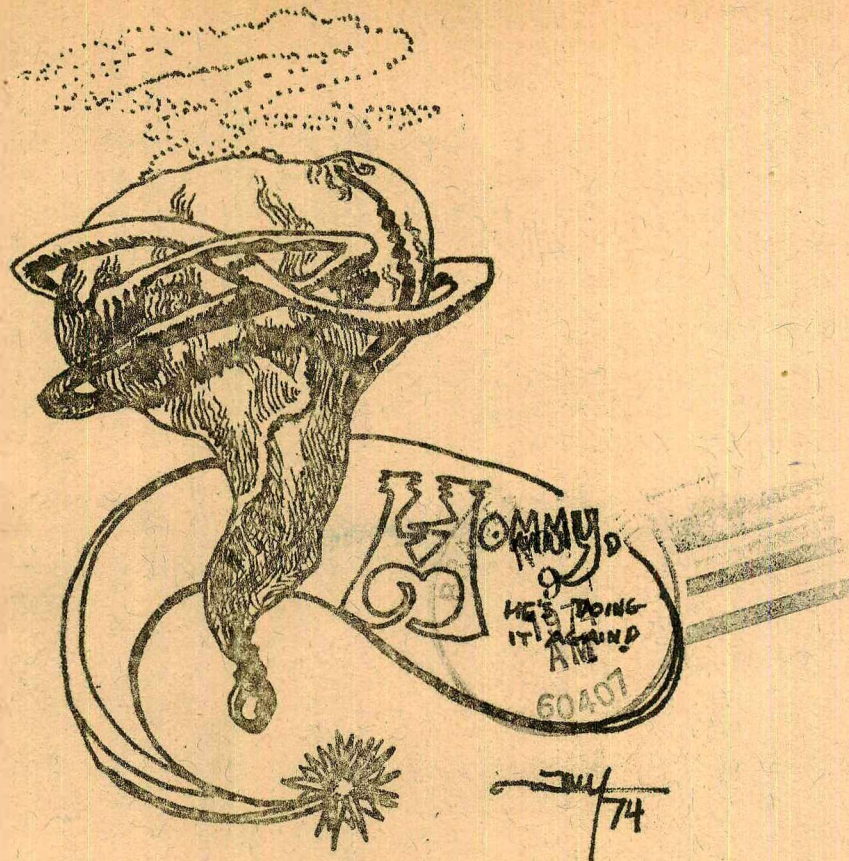
THE SPANISH INQUISITION #3 = Three or four times a year by Jerry Kaufman and Suzanne Tompkins, 622 W. 114th Street, #52A, New York, New York 10025. Available for 25¢, or the usual. Genzine. (36 pages).

SOITGOZE 9 & 10 = Biweekly by Tim C. Marion, 614 72nd St., Newport News, Va. 23605. Available for prearranged trades, 2/30¢, or two 10¢ stamps. No subs past issue 12, as Tim says changes may be ahead. Personalzine. (10 & 12 pages).

KALLIKANZAROS 8 = Irregularly by John Ayotte, 3555 Norwood Ave., Columbus, Ohio 43224. Charges \$1 per issue to encourage the normal instead. Genzine. (50 pages).

CHECKPOINT = Irregular by Darroll Pardoe, 24 Othello Close, Hartford, Huntingdon PE18 7SU, England. Subscription rates are 10/60p (N.America 5/\$1 (airmail); Australia 8/\$1 (airmail)). Free sample on request. Newszine. (4 pages).





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