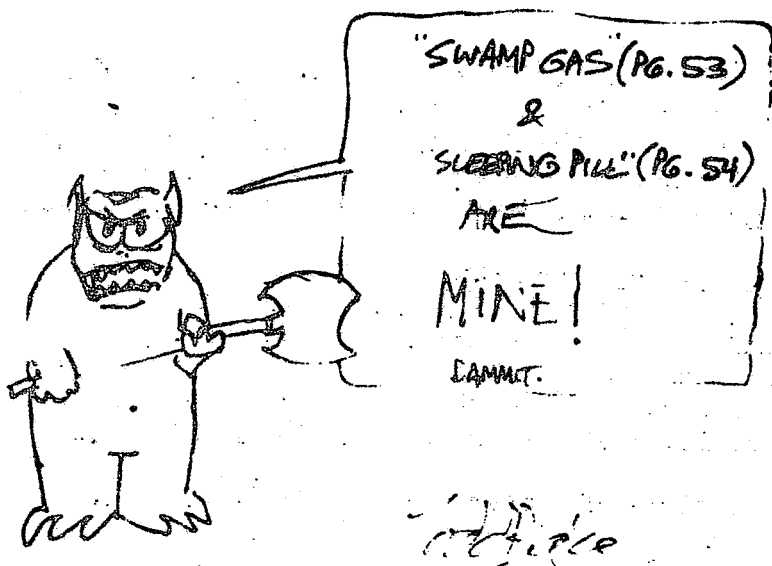


hanke
woody
© 1982

ROCK



Yes, you figured it out, this is PAGE 1 of RUNE 69, Volume 10, #8, Fall 1982. It's the LETTERS ISSUE, edited by Karen Trego, 2020 Park Av S, Mpls 55404. RUNE is published by the Minnesota Science Fiction Society, P.O.B. 2128 Loop Station, Mpls MN 55404.

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A few art mis-attributions in RUNE 64. Pages 53 & 54 were by Todd Bake. Pg 58 was really Jim Young. Rich Larson co-produced IN SEARCH OF ROCK N ROLL. Pg 8 1st was in TELOS 2 & is by Charity Cleebbers. Richard Bruning didn't do pg 53. Sorry.

None of this art was signed, and we're not such good guessers as we thought. If you want your name on your art, put it there. This issue's art credits should be on the inside pack page....

My my, how time does fly. Here it is RUME 69 already: The All New Pretty Much Typographically Correct Rune. Once again the only person stupid enough to edit the letters is me, Karen Trego, but I'm bound to wise up sooner or later.

Ground Rules: Comments within the text of a letter are bracketed by double parentheses ((like this)). Unsigned comments are by me. Signed comments are probably be whomever they're attributed to: Stever (David Stever), John (Bartelt), Joe (Wesson) or Garth (Danielson).

Letters of comment can be sent to the P. O. Box (RUME, P.O.Box 2128, Loop Station, Mpls 55402) or to the individual editors, whose addresses you can look up if you're really interested.

Today is New Year's Day. Here's the first letter, from:

CAROL KENNEDY, 1828 Kenwood Parkway
Mpls 55405 11/4/81 & thereafter
Dear John, David, et. al.,

Time, I guess, for an old editor to write to the new ones to say: ~~What have you done to~~
~~it? What's the point?~~ I like it! Mind you, your individual and synthesized senses of humor don't coincide with mine, but it's a well known fact that I have no sense of humor anyway. And your graphic sense doesn't coincide with mine, but that's merely a matter of taste.
~~(I have good taste and you have bad taste!)~~
My editorial eye (professional and farmish) is sometimes pained by the typos and the syntactical and grammatical errors, as well as



by the occasional unfortunate stylistic choices. But these are quibbles -- quibbles, I say, gentlemen (and gentlewoman, among the "et al."), and those who maintain that such things are more than that are taking both themselves and RUNE far, far too seriously.

((Carol, you may have no sense of humor, but I think you're a doll.))

Was the Pelton/Kennedy RUNE "bland"? Evidently, by some people's standards, it was. But the locals who talked to us -- and Lee & I always felt that our first duty was to the people who were financing the thing and whom it represented -- told us they liked it. Though we never got as much local comment as we would have liked, what we got was at all times overwhelmingly favorable.

Is the new RUNE "offensive"? Again, evidently, by some people's standards, it is. You have an "advantage" (I'm sure it doesn't always seem like one!) over Lee and me, however -- local fans, both those who like your RUNE and those who don't are telling you about it! You're getting more feedback than we ever did.

This may simply be due to the fact that "offensiveness" incites people to action, while "blandness" lulls them into apathy. Or it may be that those who liked the old RUNE and dislike the new one are the kind of people who are quicker to criticize than to praise, and that those who disliked the old RUNE and like the new one are the kind who are quicker to praise than to criticize. Or it may be that the algae in the Minneapolis water has rotted people's brains over the past year. Who knows?

In any case, the way a zine is perceived to be at its beginning is often the way it

TO TELL THE TRUTH
I FIND ALL THIS
OPTIMISM KIND OF
DEPRESSING ...



Robert W. Quinn

continues, because contributors send in the kind of work they think fits the editorial personality they have perceived. If the old RUNE was bland, it was so in part because that's the material we received.

We rejected some written material on the basis of its being poorly written, and it happened also to be potentially offensive to our audience; and we rejected some art on the basis of its being poorly drawn, and it happened also to be potentially offensive to our audience. But I can remember only one instance in which the initial editorial response -- and it was mine, not Lee's -- was, "This is going to offend our audience; let's not use it." Lee talked me into reconsidering the piece; and I realized that I also didn't think it was funny, which it was intended to be. It was rejected; but Lee has, I believe, used it in his own fanzine PRIVATE HEAT.

RUNE 64 is a pretty good fanzine, but since I'm reviewing fanzines for THIS OLD HOUSE, I think I'll save my comments for my column there. Even I get bored with my own repetition. Those who have recently been citing my fanzine reviews as Perfect Examples of What's Wrong With Fanzine Reviewing will be pleased to know I will continue to provide something to point to.

The one thing in RUNE 64 that I want to comment on is the numerous references to "politically correct." It seems to me that the phrase implies that there is an Official Minn-STF Party Line which RUNES 62 and 63 were unfaithful to. If such exists, no one has ever told me about it in my three years on the club's Board of Directors. I know that some members of Minn-STF didn't feel that RUNES 63 and 62 were representative of Minn-STF as they perceived



GAMARFS © JERRY COLLINS 1981

JERRY COLLINS 1981
AND
TIMOTHY FOX

it. But I think that no one member's opinion is of any greater weight than any other member's opinion; and since no one has taken a vote on that is or isn't "politically correct" (and I certainly hope that no one ever does), individual opinions are still just individual opinions. Whoever came up with the "politically correct" idea might be taking the whole thing more seriously than it deserves to be taken -- which is one thing I would not expect your editorial team to do.

Good luck. You knew the job was dangerous when you took it.

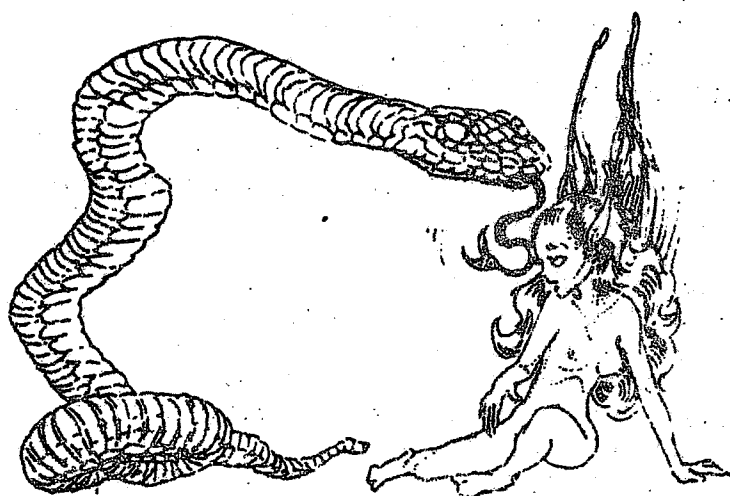
Carol

((Gee, Carol, I think you're taking our joke (politically correct) too seriously--John))
((I'd like to think that we are stirring people rather than being "controversial" per se. It's a matter of what you have to do to get people to respond. I like getting mail. As to our tastes, my tastes will always be wider than they are perceived to be -- you'd be surprised at the wide range of topics that interest me, and I don't doubt that my co-editors are the same.--Stever))

llllllllllllllllllllllllllllll

TONY CVETKO, 20750 Colwell, #1
Farmington Hills, MI 48024 11/10/81
Dear Boys:

You should feel proud, this is the first letter I've written to a fanzine in about 4 years or so. Hell, I don't even respond to SKUG or SPACE JUNK, the two best fanzines in the entire history of fandom for the last couple of years. I don't particularly want to go into details about the contents of RUNE 64 itself



© 1981 Jan Hanke-Woods

(I may be writing letters again, but I don't want to be a fanatic about it), but I thought I'd let you know I appreciate what you're doing.

RUNE is interesting once again, and the letter columns reflect that all too well. I also notice you guys are not making MNstiff as a whole very happy. That I don't understand. I just hope you can withstand the opposition for a while longer. Face it. The old RUNE was dull. You guys, however, have made it readable again. I don't live in Minneapolis, and I don't give two shits about Minneapolis fannish news, activities and politics. RUNE imposes itself on me by arriving in my mailbox and by doing so suggests that the contents will be well worth my time. The old RUNE was a clubzine and always found itself absorbing used coffee grounds in my trashcan shortly after it arrived. Clubzines by nature cater to the lowest common denominator -- they don't offend, they don't stimulate. I want RUNE to be a readable, interesting fan-zine reflecting the editors behind it, not another dull self-oriented clubzine wasting good space in my trash.

Please keep me on the mailing list, at least until the jerks wrest control from you & make RUNE bland again.

Signed,

Tony

((Well, there you have it, two opinions. Opinions aren't right or wrong, they're agreeable or disagreeable. I tend to agree with Tony, but then, I work here. When the RUNE editors gather for one of their frequent and fun-fun-fun meetings, I always argue from the point of view that Someone Else is Paying For It: sorry, Tony, but it is a clubzine. I also like to remind people



that, although MN-Stf administers the money, it comes from the people who attend Minicon, and that includes you.))

((Stever says: At least we got you up off your middle class duff. Re: some MN-Stfers' unhappiness with us: They don't make us very happy either, but that's life, eh?))

22222222222222222222222222222222

AMY HARLIB, 212 W 22nd St, apt 2N
NY, NY 10011 12/20/81

Dear John,

Just to tell you that I've been enjoying the NEW RUNE -- seeing it trying to be controversial, "punk", stimulating, faanish, silly, fun, even occasionally sercon. I love it.

Hated/loved the cover on #62 -- technically beautifully drawn but hideous in subject. Great humorous covers on #63 & 64. Great humor in general -- A Hugo for Ken Fletcher!!

Especially enjoy the articles on SF & the reviews -- in that I am hopelessly sercon. However I think articles on rock 'n' roll DO NOT belong in an SF fanzine -- besides I personally dislike rock & resent space being taken up on it.

Keep up the good work and I'll always appreciate RUNE. (This was a POC).

Sincerely,

Amy Harlib

((Stever says: Huzzah))

((John says: Well, some people like rock 'n' roll, and some don't, I guess))

((I personally adore rock, I think Sandinista is the best original music since the Beatles, and am fascinated by the intense interest in contemporary music shown in many fanzines. I think the sex-drugs-rock & roll connection should be extended to include SF.))

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THE DANGERS OF ROCK 'N' ROLL:

IT'S TURNED ME
INTO 2 SEPERATE
AMPHIBIANS!



FROGS FROM MARS © 1978 Tom Foster

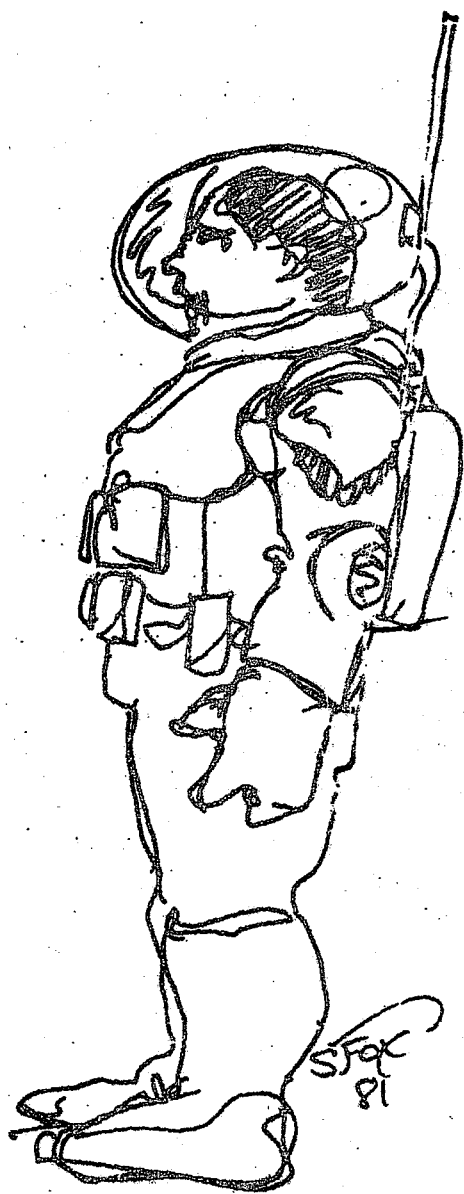
GARY DEINDORFER, 447 Bellevue Ave., #9B
Trenton, NJ 08618, Obscuria (a very minor
continent in the southern oceans)
Dear RUNE---

It may well be that the new RUNE is politically correct, but by whose standards? Ronald Reagan's? Che Guevara's? ((We don't know ourselves -- that's what makes being politically correct so difficult, y'see--Stever))

The editorials don't spark comment on my part except for Jack Kerouac's insanity plea. It is good to hear from Jack twice in two issues. I agree with what he says. Just hope you won't get too self congratulatory, for that breeds complacency, and compacency breeds children of Republicans. ((Is that how it works?--Stever))

Jeanne Gomoll makes sense. If I have a





dream about a unicorn chasing a giant donut through a tunnel, should I tell Dr. Freud about it? ((Sugared or plain?--Stever))

David Stever almost gives me the impetus to check out some of the Vance. Of all the sf stories I have read, the one that sticks especially vivid in my mind is Vance's "The Men Return", where the law of physics change arbitrarily and unpredictably. I also loved BIG PLANET when I read it a long time ago. David seems to give a good Vance overview in this article.

Good to read Don D'Amassa in a light anecdotal mood. He is a good writer.

Joe Wesson makes sense in his or on his page. Of course, one isn't always in a frivolous mood. Sometimes one even gets tired of being unparametered and gladly assumes a formal limit or two to one's

writing. ((Sorry, I was being unperimetered, not unparametered.))

The review of Benford's TIMESCAPE makes it sound good. That's one I must read. ((Right.))

Luke McGuff seems to be getting into the swing of things in the third installment of his column. He is easier to understand than in the 1st installment, hedging his bets less than in the 2nd installment. He seems to be flexing his muscles a little, as though he realizes he can be more outspoken than he thought & the sky won't fall on him. ((Stever again--Gary, meet Ted White. Ted, Gary. Ted doesn't like Luke's reviews.))

Larry Becker demonstrates an adventurous sense of visual and written humor in his 2 page comic strip. It has numerous little felicities of detail. It is rich with ideas. It is clever and formally advanced. It's quite an achieve-



ment, really. Even though some of the quips go over my head. I would like to meet the person who can say he understands every single touch of it. I doubt that even Becker does. (You're right. Though the Beck's was the sole signature and your editors attributed it solely to him, IN SEARCH OF ROCK AND ROLL was co-authored by the also talented RICH LARSON***HERE'S HIS NAME***SORRY RICH. I gotta admit, even if it were written by Ronald Reagan, it would still be great. "Leper with a head cold" has gotten me onto many a crowded elevator.))

Rob Chilson makes good sense with his loc. Very intelligent observations.

Darrow Woods has a distinctive-um writing style. What he says about a character bouncing between hero and anti-hero polarities sounds truth fraught. One worthy thing is to try to be true to yourself and listen as little as possible to the bullying voice of the mob. It's not easy. But it's worth the effort to try to be true to yourself, otherwise you are always caving in to the will of the mob, and the mob is always wrong.

Art comments: cover is nice Fletcher but maybe not great Fletcher. Grant's double barreled pig gets the issue off to a romping start. The fat boy or girl suiciding from the window is not your usual sort of thing, referring to the Hanke-Woods creation. ((Boy or girl? I assumed it was a girl; my consciousness must still need some raising.)) Delmonte's Jane is luscious. Makes Bo Derek look like nothing by comparison. Jerry Collins' strip at the top of p.26 is cute and clever. I don't usually go for cute but since it's clever too it redeems the cuteness. His cartoon on p.50 is a nice



playing with assumptions about who's in the drawing and who's reading the drawing. Snappy stuff! ((Looks like the Ganarfs will be a continuing feature of the New Rune, as long as Jerry keeps sending them. Here's another---)) "Rastaman Rabbit" is a strip series that is fraught with satirical potential.

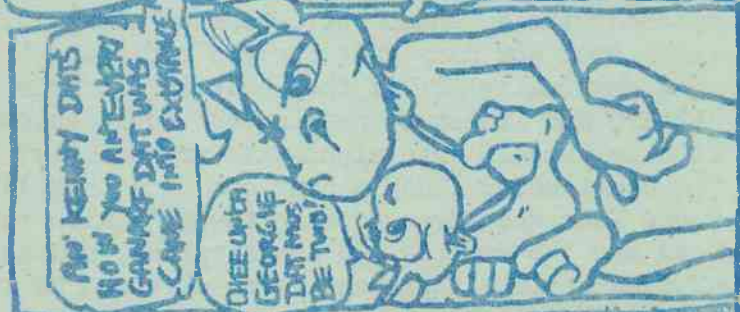
Had fun reading this issue. But please don't get too self-congratulatory. It's good, but it could be better.... Still politically inept,
Gary

((I've agreed with your last paragraph. I hope this (these) is (are) better (betters?))
((Stever says: I just hope we don't bore ourselves, because if we do, it's a fair assumption that we're boring the audience, too. Everybody, send us material. Shoot for the sky))

L L L L L L L L L L L L L L L L

BURT LIBE, P.O.Box 1196
Los Altos, CA 94022 11/21/81

RUNE 64 arrived 11/17/81. When one becomes the target of negative selective editing, it's time to pass. Prejudicial editing becomes a dangerous practice when it's carried to absurd extremes. Yellow journalists of the 30's had a field day with it, McCarthy employed it. 60 Minutes uses it; and the new RUNE staff is learning quickly. Keep going, kids (JB & DS). You're quickly gaining skills in the art of Dirty Tricks and amateur muckraking. You must have taken excessive license in twisting my friend Ben's words: he was asking how to get off your mailing list. Unfortunately, you people exemplify the most commonly-voiced complaint about fans and fandom: intelligence without integrity. Burt Libe



© Jerry Collins 1979

((Frankly, I'm not sure what you're talking about, tho I agree with you about 60 Minutes. Ben Indick's letter in the last ish was printed in its entirety.))

((Stever says: We wanted to return a copy of your redi-letter, but our editorial crayon won't make carbon copies very well. Yellow journalism? Sorry babe, but editors edit.))

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TARAL WAYNE, 1812-415 Willowdale Ave.

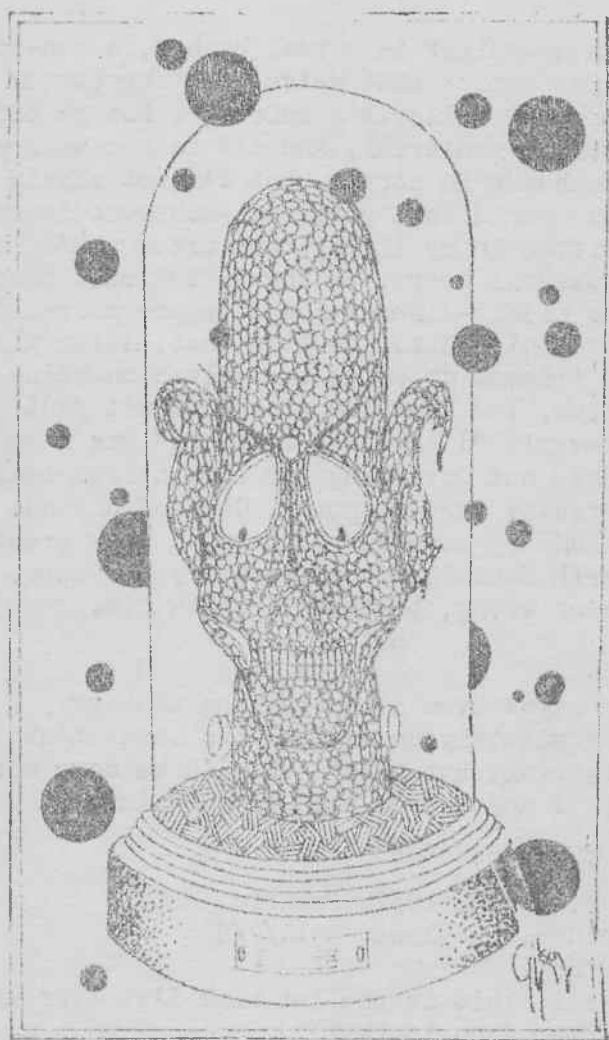
Willowdale, ONT M2N 5B4, Canada

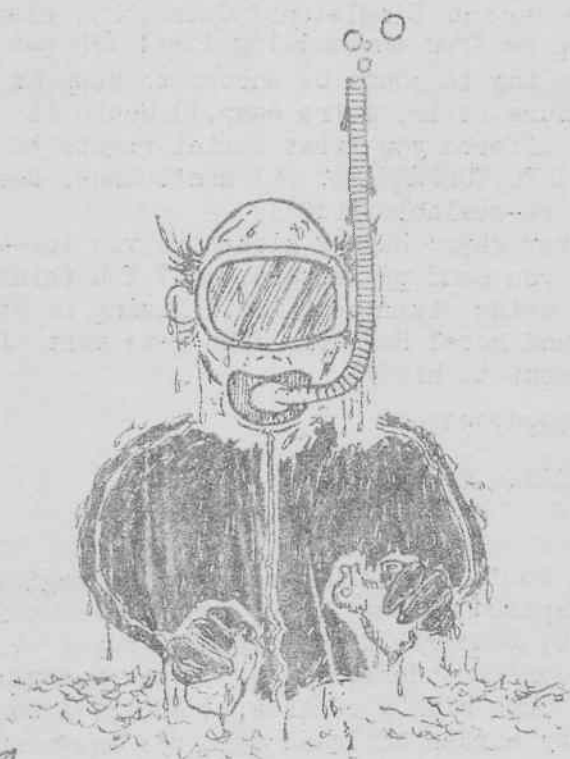
Guys,

I was going to write a loc on the last RUNE, honestly, but something came over me. Lassitude, apathy, gafia, call it what you will, but the spirit left me. I wanted to commiserate with you on the adamantine neanderthalishness of fan-nish visual sensibilities. You know that it's matched with an equal retrogression along musical lines? How many fans can you count who become physically ill if they hear an electric guitar, and listen to nothing but Buck Coulson filking himself into alpha-wave tranquility? ((I don't know, I don't hang out with them.)) Among fans who advanced with the 60's with the Dead and the Beatles and the Airplane, how many of them stalled there and never advanced to the Talking Heads? Too many. Fandom used to be a minor eddy in the avante garde but is now marching resolutely backward, arm in arm with the moral majority.

((I hope the Deadheads here don't get mad, but I agree with you--Stever)) ((So do I, but Stever, the Deadheads I know also like the T. Heads. The Fave Rave bands around my house also include the Clash, the Stranglers, the Neville Bros., Devo & the Psycheldic Furs (the last 2







↗ GREAT MOMENTS IN ASCENDING
TO MANHOOD # 44 :

"MY FIRST WET DREAM" ...

((Stever says: Hugs & kisses to you too-- why don't you send me letters, huh? You think it's easy being civilized (i.e., living in St. Paul) around here? How come John gets most of the LoCs sent to him?))

JEANNE MEALY, 2633 Dupont
Mpls 55408 11/12/81
Hevvvvv----

I really liked "Alexander Haig's" piece. It was written in an informal, laid-back style that also imparted information. You're right — there should be room left for creativity in RUNE.

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big warning about it's B.S.G. section, but an ungodly portion remaining was media oriented copies of photos of favorite actors. This is Not Art, as the rubber stamp says.))

Yeeks! The article on fleas (Starting from Scratch by Don D'Amassa) was enough to induce bugophobia in anyone! I wondered if it was true... then didn't want to think about it too much. ((Don swears every word was true.))

Greg Ketter brought up some very, very good points in "Playtime for Hitler". Weapons carriers (at least a quite visible percentage) have demonstrated they can't handle their possessions intelligently. Limiting the carrying of weapons to a certain area, or banning them entirely, sould like welcome alternatives to the "Duck, here they come again!" routine.

Heroics! "Saturday Morning Barbecue" may have opened the door to other similar stories: "I Rescued My Fish from Drowning"; "What Do You Mean, You Can't Fold a Pickle-and-Peanut Butter Sandwich?" I can't wait. ((I can!))

"In Search of Rock 'n' Roll" was great - two pages, even! Bizzaro Batman's letter was fun.

Jeanne Mealy

((If you're confuded by Stever's reference to "Windycon/BSG-con, see my letter at the end of this ish.))

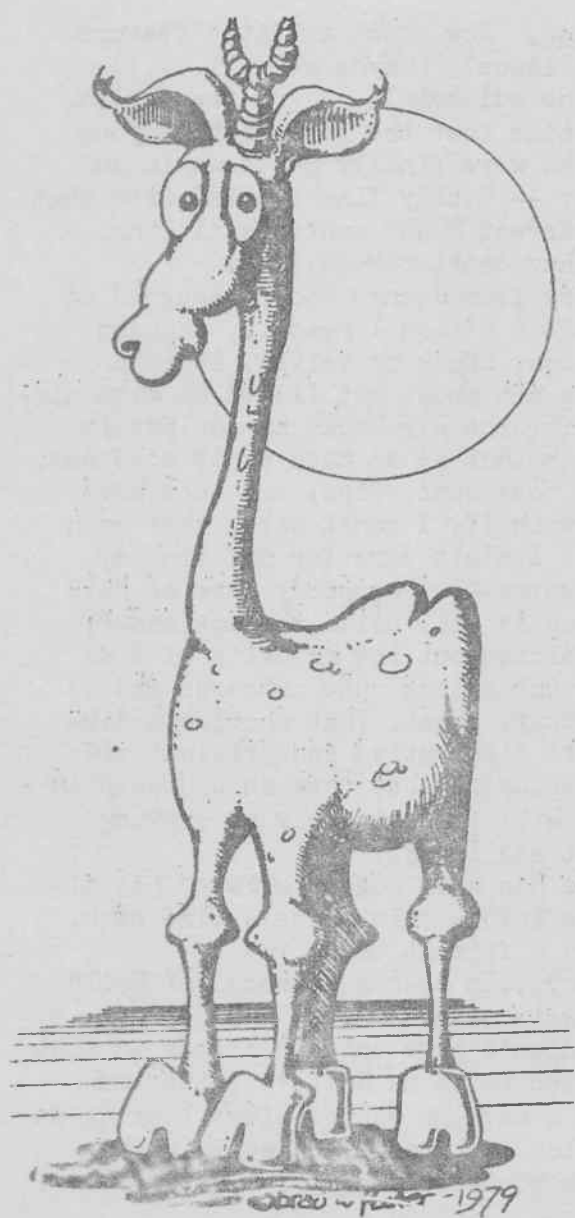
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BRAD W. FOSTER, Jabberwocky Graphix
4109 Plesant Run, Irvine, TX 75062 11.4.81

Greetings Troops--

On 64: Nice cover -- anybody ever sat down and figured out how much work Fletcher has put down on paper over the years? Guy is prolific

30



as hell and good, How about a little feature in an upcoming issue? ((Maybe we will....))

Enjoyed the editorials, I got the feeling for the first time that the ideas behind your approach to RUNE were finally put down in an easy to see way -- doubly fine coupled with that "Politically Correct RUNE" contents titling. Screw 'em if they can't take a joke.

Great story from Jeanne too. I laughed at her toon on page 9 before I read it, thought what a great idea, Spock on velvet. It is a shame that some art shows get filled up with pictures that go for the Big Bucks as she put it, but it doesn't bother me as much as it does her. If that's what they want, fine, let them have it. Same idea with TV. I don't watch that much any more 'cause I don't care for it, find my pleasures elsewhere--but somebody sure as hell must be watching it all. Ditto the art shows, where Jeanne pointed out the majority of fans seem to prefer the shlock cute unicorns and pay for them. Okay, great. That shouldn't discourage the more "innovative and original artists" from displaying, but they should keep in mind that they will probably only be showing their work, not selling it.

Note: "The Man With Bogart's Face" has already been made into a film quite a time back, and not too bad a film at that.

Liked the "...In Search of Rock 'n' Roll" insert. Gonzo weirdness.

Wish you didn't have another Foster in that zine, as I'd like to think Wolfe's letter mentioned me, but I have my doubts after looking at Tom's great illos last issue. Oh well, maybe someday. Outta room--stay happy!

Brad



((I'll say something nice about your art--I like it a lot, you should find several examples scattered about these issues of RUNE.))

|||||

JEANNE GOMOLL, 2018 Jenifer St.

Madison, WI 53704 12/23/81

Dear John,

I'm writing to let you know that I've gotten many responses from the "Better Dead" article in RUNE last issue.... I need more, though. Remember to send your ideas, drawings, and slides to me at the above address. Thanks.

Best, Jeanne

((One of my favorite books, The Once & Future King, has a memorable dead-unicorn scene.... the Orkney boys dragging the unicorn's head through mud and forest, back to their mum. I'd like to see that one illustrated!))

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JIM MEADOWS, P.O.Box 1227

Pekin, IL 62554 12/14/81

Dear John & David

RUNE overwhelms. All those crowded pages of close-set type and fillos. What's a poor letter-hack to do, but give up once in a while, & hope a tacky postcard will suffice? Really, I don't think your un-bland editing styles would be hurt at all if you built this zine a little more tightly. I never even knew I liked white space until it was gone.

The Star Trek suicide cartoon on page 16 was cruel, cruel, cruel, & I wish I was still putting out a Star Trek zine so I could reprint it.

Yr humble neo,

Jim Meadows III

34



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RONALD REAGAN, Washington Wednesday

Dear Mr. Stever:

My election to serve you and our country is the highest honor I will ever have in my life.

And, with God's blessing and your help, I will do everything in my power to help lead America away from the critical dangers that threaten our nation.

I will need your personal help and support if we are to change America's direction while there is still time.

Although I am sure the Democratic leaders share our concerns for America, their spending programs and high tax policies run counter to the goals you and I and our Party have set. Because the House is still controlled by the Democrats, I know it will not be easy to win approval of our programs.

I hope, at this crucial time, you will strongly consider sending a \$15, \$25, \$50 or even \$100 contribution.

...Americans have voted overwhelmingly for a change in government: they want to restore our country's defenses; they want to put more people back to work; they want their taxes cut along with the size and power of the Federal government. And they want action now.

If you support my efforts to change America's direction, then I urge you to...send a generous contribution.

This may be the only chance you and I will have in our lifetime to put into action the principles and policies we have dreamed about to bring Americans more freedom, security and a better standard of living.

Sincerely,
Ronald Reagan

36



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ESTEY600S.KentSt.G45KennewickWA99336Nov11

CLICK!

OKAY, SO IT'S BODHISATTVA, NOT BUDHISATTVA. IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I INDULGED IN THAT USELESS BULLADA.

CLICK!!

CLICK!!!

DO I USE DRUGS ?? CERTAINLY
NOT!!!

CLICK!!!

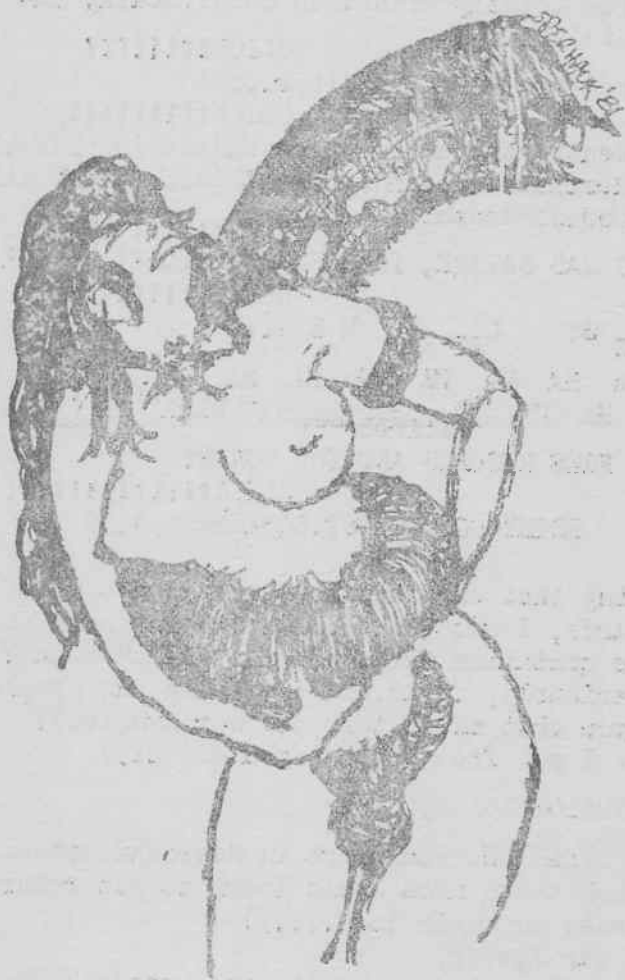
as if it were none i cannot substantiate the distance 'twixt guts & stupidity, nor would i want to had their been enough time to eat the fleash/fetishwise right now whilst you wait....

CLICK!!!!!!

I LOVE LUKE. KEEP HIM. HE'S TENACIOUS, OBSTREPEROUS AN' OFTEN CORRECT IN HIS...

CLICK!!!!!!

DEAD KITTIES! I LOVE IT!



CLICK!!!!!!

CLICK!!!!!!!!

CLICK!!!!!!!!

CLICK!!!!!!!!!!!!

CLICK!!!!!!!!!!!!

CAT S?

CLICK: 11:11:11:11:11:11

CLICK!!!!!!!!!!!!

ESTRY600S.KENTST.G45KENNWA99336

((P.S. I get free books & you don't!))

151515151515151515151515

JERRY BOYAJIAN, somewhere in Massachusetts
((I wish these neos would learn to put return
addresses on their locs....))

Dear Steve,

Reading the reviews in the latest RUNE, I started noticing that your early reviews were signed "David Stever-Schmoes" and the later ones "David Stever". Something strange is happening and you don't know what it is, do you, Mr. Jones? Anywho, I then noticed the note on the last page.

Personally, I don't give a shit whether you call yourself "David Stever" or "David Stever-Schnoes". You've always been just plain "Stever" to me, and you always will be. Just thought you'd want to know.

Your comrade,
Jerry Boyajian

((Stever says: Well, the truth to be told, the later reviews were typed up by Bartelt, & like you say, he calls me "Stever". It's kind of wierd, but even people at work are starting to call me Stever & they don't even have the excuse of there being so many Davids, because I'm the only one. It's kind of strange when I think of it, because even various female companions have called me "Stever" rather than David, which isn't your typical form of endearment.))

1616161616161616161616161616

KAREN TREGO, 2020 Park Ave. S.

Minneapolis, MN 55404

1/17/82

What I've seen so far of these Runes looks great, hope you're enjoying them too. I like the art in RUNE 69. I wish I had more space now.

I wanted to say a lot about fans who read vs media fans, but fortunately I don't have the room. The dichotomy is much worse than the con fan vs fanzine fan controversy. (I'm a con fan.) I think media fans should have their own cons and leave us alone. No more special interest programming at conventions. Hear that, Ross & Larry?

Two weeks ago I helped the last fan leave the Bozo Bus Bldg. This evening I decided to compile a memoir from all the fans who lived in the Boz or have fond memories of it. Right now I really intend to do it. Send your stories to me. If over a page in length, I might edit. Mitch Thornhill says he'll help.

Hope the bad weather doesn't delay this. Bye.

HERE ARE SOME MORE LETTERS. THESE WERE REALLY TRULY RECEIVED JUST AS PRINTED, SIGNED BY THE NAMES SIGNED HERE. IF YOU THINK THESE ARE QUESTIONABLE CHARACTERS, WELL, SO DO WE. S'MATTER OF FACT, AFTER EXTENSIVE RESEARCH, WE THINK THE FIRST GROUP CAME FROM ROBERT WHITAKER. HA, YOU CAN'T FOOL US, BOB!

Dear folks:

I've discovered a new game. It's called "Texas Roulette". You take a gun and fill it up with six bullets and put it to your head and fire. It's really a gas. I gotta go now. My Mom's calling me.

Robert E. Howard

Somewhere in Texas

((Stever says: Texas will do that to a boy, I hear.))

Hi. Guys:

I'll let the truth be known. I really do hate blacks and Jews and all those other funny looking foreigners. I don't think I can write worth a darn, but don't tell Auggie Derleth.

Howie P. Lovecraft

Arkham, Mass.

Dear sir:

I've just escaped six years of unbearable torture in Kurt Vonnegut's cellar. He had me tied up and chained to a wall. Every day he measured my penis ("Eight inches? EIGHT INCHES?") He was clearly jealous.

Kilgore Trout

In Hiding, NYC

Rune people:

As a bear, I often find it difficult to stay awake when I get your fall issue. Could it just be something seasonal?

Papa Bear

Yellowstone Park

Dear RUNE:

Guess what? It's really true. Robert E. Howard, dead, has written more than Alfred Bester, living.

Glenn Lord

Making a living selling
laundry lists & loving it

Dear Folks of Rune,

Thanks for recognizing my genius. I'll describe some recent events. I'm currently depressed. I woke up this way. I was depressed yesterday. I'll be depressed tomorrow.

My God, I'm depressed.

thanks for listening,

Barry Malzberg

Nobody Loves Me, New Jersey

((What did you say? I was popping a pimple and wasn't listening....Stever))

((Maybe it's because your stencil was crooked.))

Dear guys:

You really missed all the fun at the Star Trek Convention over the weekend. There were 15,000 people there. They were all about the same intelligence. You know what was really a gas? A light bulb blew out in the lobby and all 15,000 Trekkies picked up the hotel and turned it 'round and 'round in order to change the bulb.

You really shoulda been there.

David Gerrold

Smogtown, USA

((You didn't used to be this way, David. What happened??))

THIS APPEARS TO BE THE END OF THE "WHITAKER LETTERS." YOU'LL HAVE TO GUESS ABOUT THE REST. NONE CAME IN NATIONAL LAMPOON ENVELOPES. HERE GOES:

43

Dear RUNE editors:

You're such wonderful guys, I just want to bear your children!

Lola Heatherton
Mellonville, U.S.A.

Dear Hosers:

We were going to write you a letter, but my brother couldn't think of a topic.

Doug Mackenzie
Edmonton, Alta

My brother forgot about beer testing. You hosers haven't ever talked about beer in your magazine. We'll write you a piece on Canadian beer. You'll love it, eh?

Good day,
Bob

Dear John:

How much money was in that envelope? Now that I'm unemployed I need to know for my memoirs.

Richard Allen

Dear Customer:

To encourage use of our new Southern California area code, 818, we will be billing two calls to area code 818 over the next two months on everyone's bill.

Thank you,
The Phone Company

Ah yes,

I see you boys have found the secret to success: lots of funny art, and a few nasty words to make people write letters. Add some snappy layout and all the ugly girls will come and fawn on you at conventions. You need to adopt a more effete position so people will hate you and give you awards. Advice: Give up fandom & do something worthwhile with your lives. Baring that, become junkies. It hits your pleasure center more often &

with greater effect (and on command).

Yours, Jack Dulouz

P.S. Neal says hi.

P.P.S. Tell Bill Buckley hello for me.

WE HOPE WE GOT IT RIGHT THIS TIME: Art Credits

The wonderful front cover is by JOAN HANKE WOODS.
We had to push the issue through a Klein bottle to
get it to fit, hope you like the effect. Thanks
also to:

Todd Bake: page 1

Stephen Fox: 3, 9, 11, 14, 15, 19, 35

Robert Whitaker: 5

Jerry Collins & Tim Fay: 7, 33

Tom Foster: 13, 23, 29

Brad Foster: 31

Jerry Collins: 21

Stuart Gilson: 25, 27

Larry Becker: 37

Spermint: 39

Your guess is as good as mine: 17

Back cover design & layout by Karen Trego

WAHF: Lee Carson, Joanne Emerson, Bob Lee,
Dave Szurek, Brad Foster, Jane Freitag,
Joy & Sandy Sanderson, Gregory H. Rihn



....You're quickly
gaining skills in
the art of dirty
tricks & amateur
muckraking....
Huh? See page 20

RUNE imposes it-
self on me by ar-
riving in my mail-
box and by doing
so suggests that
the contents will
be well worth my
time....

Is he right? See page 10

...It may well be
that the NEW
RUNE is politically
correct, but by
whose standards?

Find out on page 14

You really *****
up with the last
issue. Not one
thing offended me
at all.....

Why not? See page 24

this is the BACK

PAGE of RUNE 69