

Dear *Rune* Fans,

Some of you read my *Rune* 85 editorial many months ago. Hopefully at least 125 of you have read *Rune* 85 so far; that's how many I handed out at Minicon and at Minstff meetings back last Spring when it came off the press. Others of you have just opened your *Rune* 85 envelope and found this insert and decided to read it first. So, for those of you who have no idea what is going on in the *Rune* world (which is most of us) be aware that since Garth, Tom, Ken and I took over from Dave and Jeanne in 1991 we have put out 5 issues: December 1991, April 1992, July 1992, January 1993, and March 1995. And the March 1995 issue, #85, is just now getting mailed. Something needs to be done, and soon.

We've gotten two letters, both including articles(!) on *Rune* 85, from Detroit and from Brazil. But from the local sphere, from the 125 people, many of whom I know personally, who have had their *Runes* since last Spring, I have yet to receive a single letter.

So what is *Rune*, anyway? It is an amateur magazine, or fanzine, funded by the Minnesota Science Fiction Society with income from their yearly regional science fiction convention, Minicon. *Rune* has been published continuously, if a bit sporadically, since the late 1960's. At one time it was meant to be the local club news source, a mission long ago taken over by *Einblatt*, a genuinely monthly, essentially local, information-packed single-sheet Minstff newsletter edited and produced by Denny Lein. If you aren't on the mailing list but think you should be, write to Denny c/o the club PO box and ask about getting on it. *Einblatt* can also be found posted in several places on Usenet: alt.fandom.misc, rec.arts.sf.fandom, and mn.general as well as at this Web address: <http://www.ddb.com/mnstff/>

The Board of Directors of Minstff have always looked favorably, if a bit wearily, at *Rune*, with its fits and starts and occasional total lapses. They see it as a valuable vehicle for club information. In particular they want the minutes of their monthly board meetings to appear regularly so that the membership can have some grasp of the vital issues being discussed. Well, coming out twice in 2½ years isn't quite what the Board has in mind.

Rune, funded by Minicon, has been available free to attendees at the last three Minicons. I don't know quite what our various predecessors did—I believe there was some sort of subscription arrangement here and there from time to time—but we have been hard pressed enough as it is to get issues published and distributed. Garth and I ran a Fanzine Room at these last 3 Minicons, and we put out stacks of our *Runes*, and they were all gobbled up each and every time. This is what I want to see happen—after all, Minicon pays for *Rune*. We took down names and addresses for the mailing list, and...this is where the Minicon connection gets interesting. Essentially the same 50 or 60 people came to the Minicon Fanzine Room each year for the last three years and put their names on the mailing list. None of them ever writes us a letter or sends us an article or artwork, but they loyally come around year after year expecting to see *Rune*.

So *Rune* has loyal fans, both locally and around the world. And I have a plan. *Rune* will get smaller, go to less people, come out more often. I will try to make this happen, but I am also actively seeking assistance. If you want to join our little publishing troupe, or, for that matter, put forth a strong proposal to the Minstff Board with a plan of your own, do it. Do it now. As much as I would like to maintain the continuity and control I've defacto acquired over *Rune*, I would support a viable proposal and/or provide publishing assistance to someone I thought I could work with.

Write to *Rune* or the Board via PO Box 8297, Minneapolis, MN 55408. Email: Rune@mnstf.org

In the meantime, we plan to have a *Rune* Web Page thank's to the efforts of David Dyer-Bennet and his establishment of the mnstf.org domain. Those of you hanging around cyberspace can query DD-B direct about this arrangement at ddb@ddb.com. A *Rune* Web Page will fulfill part of the *Rune* mission: regular postings of the board's minutes. Other than that, I don't know, but I'm working on it. Stay tuned. Paper-based fanac isn't dead yet. Geri and I just bought 100 cases of mimeo paper.

Till later—



Jeff Schalles

Toad Hall, September 1995

Rune

The Once And Future

Rune

PO Box 8297
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Recyclable
Printed on Fibertone® paper
made from 100% Minnesota trees
with genuine mimeograph inks

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