



It's cold outside here in Malden, and it's probably cold almost everywhere Interregnum is read; though a few subscribers live down in the southern US, most issues are sent to cold climes. Contributors should remember that a good way to avoid frostbite without expensive heating bills is to engage in strenuous exercise—such as typing away like mad on your next zine. ☺



Church and State

I may not have made this sufficiently clear in past issues, so I'd like to stress it now: my roles as editor and zine author are entirely separate. On the editorial page I speak ex cathedra; I will make every effort to be as impartial and fair-minded as possible.

In my zines, on the other hand, I'll use the same artistic freedom to be colorful and controversial that every other contributor has. There would be little point for me to write a zine if I had to inspect every word twice over for fear of giving offense, and I'll do no such thing. But that makes it imperative for me to make it absolutely clear that everything I write in *The Log That Flies* is entirely my own opinion, and does not represent Interregnum in any way.

Arisia '95

Arisia '95 will take place on January 13, 14, and 15 (Martin Luther King weekend). This year promises to be particularly interesting for roleplayers, as there are going to be a number of panels on subjects we've covered in past issues. I plan to be there, representing IR. I'll have a lot of promotional issues to distribute, and will be sitting in on a fanzine panel and perhaps a few others.

Of course the convention wouldn't be complete without an Interregnum party. I'm in the process of working out the details, to avoid conflicts with panels and major events; Sunday afternoon is a possibility, or possibly Saturday afternoon. A post-con party in Malden might also be arranged, if enough people survive the festivities; a chance to decompress after the con, watch a few videotapes and relax.

The details of the con party will be posted on the Arisia bulletin board. Contributors and readers are welcome to come and chat, munch out, and contribute to an "at the con" supplement for Interregnum #11.



Hello Goodbye

Promotional copies of Interregnum will no longer be available at Pandemonium Books in Harvard Square (in Cambridge, Massachusetts for far-flung readers). On the other hand, Your Move Games in Somerville MA is now carrying IR.



TANSTAAFL?

I'm sorry to say that regular distribution of promotional issues of Interregnum is going to have to be cut down in the future. It's great that so many game stores have been willing to distribute IR, and the friends in distant places who've helped out deserve a great deal of thanks; unfortunately the production of promotional issues is taking an incredible amount of work and money. It takes at least two weekend days of work to produce the copies, and the cost of paper, cover stock, and postage has become prohibitive. Just getting the boxes to the Post Office takes a week of lunch hours, with five minutes wasted each day getting through the metal detector!

I'll continue to distribute promotional copies locally for as long as possible. I'll also send the occasional box of copies to more distant locales (if the present distributors are willing), but these will

be irregular.

The promotional issues have given IR a great deal of exposure; over 2,300 copies of Interregnum have been distributed in the past year. That's a larger circulation than many APAs have in three years of publishing.

The Interregnum Sampler project is still on, however. Copies will be distributed at Arisia and at RuneQuest Con 2. Extra copies will be made up for future cons, too.

Slow Down (You Move Too Fast)

There's been considerable discussion about the publication frequency of Interregnum. I've been sticking to monthly publication as a point of pride, but there are several good reasons to reduce the frequency of IR.

Deadlines are one reason. Thus far we've managed to have a respectable page count for every issue; but it's always been a close thing, with some zines arriving at the very last minute. Less frequent publishing will give everyone time to get their zines in on time. Likewise, issues will probably be thicker with a slower publication schedule.

Less-frequent publication will also give contributors more time to work on comments on the previous issue.

A number of contributors have urged me to cut down on issue frequency, on the grounds that the monthly schedule doesn't give them time to get a zine together for every issue; I've noticed that a fair number of contributors appear only in alternate issues, or even more rarely. I can sympathize with the difficulty of keeping up with the conversation while missing half of the issues.

The final reason is time—my own. I enjoy publishing Interregnum very much indeed, but each issue is a lot of work—so much so that the work from one month is often not finished by the deadline for the next issue. I'm not the only one who has commented that it seems as if as soon as one issue is done, it's time for the next. It's like being stuck on a treadmill in high gear, and that is definitely not fun.

What to do? An assistant editor would help take a bit of the pressure off, but it wouldn't help contributors—and in any case no one's volunteering. I've always resisted the notion of going bi-monthly; a two-month hiatus between issues would make it difficult to carry on a thread of discussion, and six issues per year is simply not frequent enough to suit me. Also each issue would probably be 120 pages long or more!

I was stuck at that point for quite a while. Monthly publication was too rapid a pace, and bi-monthly too slow. No happy medium existed, since anything between the two would be irregular and not intuitively obvious.

I owe thanks to David Dunham, who in noting my dilemma said (and I'm paraphrasing here) “Who cares if it's irregular?” ☺

The logic was perfect. I can simply go through the calendar for the year, scheduling issues at whatever odd number of weeks works best. Interregnum can come out once every five weeks, in which case there will be about ten issues every year; or we can come out every six weeks, publishing nine issues per year. Either option should let authors keep the flow of dialog going while allowing enough time to get zines together without feeling too rushed.

So. Ideas? Opinions? I'd like some feedback. The IR Net list is one way to reach most IR zine authors, but I'd be glad to receive letters via snailmail, too. The decision doesn't have to be made in a hurry, but I'd like to hear from anyone with an opinion before making the switch.

Take care, all! Stay warm!

—>Pete

