

Glasnost. It's not a word we see often in the news these days. Yet it's an excellent word to describe the editorial policy of this magazine: openness. Openness to new ideas. Openness to reader input. Openness to participation, from any quarter. And why this aggressive openness? Because I've run out of ideas of my own. 

No, just kidding. I couldn't resist. It's really not difficult to come up with ideas for Interregnum. But the last thing I want is for this to be a one-man show. Nor do I want to see an elite develop in this APA (not that I've seen any sign of that happening). So let me say for the record (as if I haven't already said it enough): Ideas, comments, and suggestions on any aspect of Interregnum will always be eagerly received from anyone. Along those lines, let me offer the following.

Wanted: Topics. I'd like to make a bank of possible topics of discussion to draw on. Send 'em in! You'll receive full credit when they're used (which means your name will be listed, not that you'll get a free copy of the issue ☺).

Lightspeed Interregnum? It's been suggested by several readers that an electronic version of Interregnum posted on the InterNet might attract more readers and subscribers. I have to wonder if that might not diminish the circulation of the paper version, instead. Why pay for a hardcopy when you can get it free instantaneously? True, there are good reasons to do so. The art and layouts of many of the zines are worth looking at in themselves, and greatly enhance the text. Also, paper has a solid, enduring quality that an electronic medium cannot match. I could go on and on...but these points might not be immediately apparent to Netters without APA experience. Ultimately the decision must rest with the contributorship. Is there interest in attempting something like this? Should it be a complete, or partial edition? Should there be a standard ASCII layout for the zines? 

Finances: It's been suggested that the total of each contributor's account be published in each issue of Interregnum. I have no problem with that, except for this: Would readers and contributors have any concerns about privacy in that area?

Full disclosure: In the interest of openness, here are the costs of producing Interregnum: Each single-sided page costs 3 cents per copy. The front and back covers cost 8 cents each. It's too soon yet to establish a page count, but I can report that the original print run of Interregnum #1 ran to 80 copies.

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Growth is obviously the major agenda for Interregnum now. Any suggestions on ways to promote the APA without major expense will be much appreciated. I've posted notices on the two **RuneQuest** discussion lists on the InterNet, which were fairly fruitful. Does anyone know any other likely sources of subscribers and contributors, either on the InterNet or otherwise?

About 110 additional promotional copies of Interregnum #1 have been distributed in Boston-area game and book stores. They've gone like hotcakes. There hasn't been any response yet, but I suspect that this method of promotion might have a delayed effect. About twenty promotional copies have been mailed to various gaming luminaries, too. Unfortunately I won't be able to do this sort of promotional distribution in the future, as it's fairly expensive (and I should make it clear that the costs for the promotional issues were not deducted from the Interregnum account; I'm doing this out-of-pocket). Still, I'd rather not focus overmuch on the Boston area—Interregnum should not be limited to any one locale. Anyone who'd like to distribute promotional copies in other areas should write or email me.

A number of **RuneQuest** devotees have written in response to the abovementioned postings on the InterNet. It's good to see that the system remains popular, even in the midst of turmoil. I'm sure that any RuneQuest-specific material will be especially welcomed, though zines about any system, generic systems, and even zines that aren't about roleplaying at all are always very welcome.

Experience on Interregnum #1 has taught a hard lesson: Deadlines *must* be adhered to. Much as I value every page of every zine, I can't afford the chaos and delays that result from having to copy and collate every zine separately. Please, if you think you may be late with a zine, contact me! I'd rather delay printing the whole thing than have to collate a separate zine. But the actual date of collation itself (as opposed to printing) *cannot* be delayed.

Take care, all! Til next time,

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