Financial problems trouble Rune

By Carol Yao

Rune, the MIT literary magazine, is having problems due to a lack of funds, a limited staff, and poor office conditions.

At the start of the fall term, Rune was in debt. The printing costs of last year's issue had gone $1000 over the original estimate of $5400, leaving Rune with $580 in arrears. To aggravate the matter, the Council of the Arts rejected Rune's request for $500. The Council had given Rune $1200 the previous year. The $1600 provided by the School of Humanities, the Department of Humanities, and Fontboard last September has already been partially spent to pay the debt.

At the end of the 1981 academic year, most of Rune's former staff had gone. Hoan Lee, the current editor, recalls, "I was left with an 8½"x11" sheet of paper with names of an advisory board and one key. A conflict mistakenly arose concerning whether room 50-304 was still the Rune office when Lee went to Salvator Lauricella, Manager of Catering and Vending with Food Services, and also responsible for room allotments in Walker. Lauricella told Lee that he could not give out the Rune key unless Lee got a letter of authorization. Lee, who already had one copy of the key, gave up on the situation. The fact that the office is located in Walker, a building on the east side of campus away from most forms, is aggravating Rune's situation. "It's hurting us a lot," says Lee. "Walker is very inaccessible for us. People tend to frequent certain areas of the campus." The office itself is unlovely. Small, with only one desk serving as furniture, the staff prefers not to use it. "As a meeting place," claims Lee, "it doesn't fulfill its purpose." The Rune staff recently met in the student center of the Humanities building until the space was taken away to accommodate offices. "Right now," Lee continued, "we are able to run without the office. We use it to store magazines. Rune is now trying to draw up a proposal to save itself. "So far," says Lee, "it's only ideas and I have to solidify it." They are already planning to resubmit a proposal to the Council of the Arts and possibly will apply to the Baker Fund, a grant towards money to humanize the space. Rune is looking for a terminal $1000.

Rune is considering a faculty involvement. Lee is looking for people who would help "without asking the running." The also hoping for increased funds from the Humanities W Program, which would run to publish two issues instead of just one. The added issue could be used to put the winners of the Hunta competitions as the lists of prizes.

In addition, Rune is currently revising the Activities Chapter of the 1981 Freshman handbook. If your group has not received a memo from the USO and is interested in being included in the book, please stop by 7:100 by February 15.

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Löwenbräu. Here's to good friends.