RUNE
The MIT Journal of Arts and Letters.

By Ann Ames
arts reporter

The call has been made for submissions
to Rune, The MIT Journal of Arts and
Letters. Under a team of motivated edi-
tors, the new-and-improved journal
promises an exciting exhibition of literary
and visual arts.

MIT seems a difficult place to keep an
artistic journal alive. Indeed, Rune has
suffered a troubled past. Battling disorganization
and the effects of periodically waning interest,
students have struggled to stabilize Rune since
the mid-1970s. Only 14 volumes have been
published during that time. But even with these
difficulties, Rune is impressive. Included genres vary
depending on submissions, but always encompass the
general areas of prose, poetry, and graphic arts.

Current editor Albert Y. Kim '94 feels this
is mostly because of poor publicity and disrup-
tion. Last year, for example, 600 copies of the
journal were printed and sold for $3 each in
locations unlikely to draw much attention.

The behind-the-scenes organization was
not much better. Publication of the Rune result-
ed almost entirely from the efforts of Leelila
Strogoff '93 and Tom Yu '95. The year before
that, the journal was not published at all.

In lines like
"That afternoon, we were deep in our fishing
tack, his flyline arcing across the sky," he
describes a scene. "Dark Stream,"
by David Duis '91, in 13Rune, is lines like
"first of a link between his
own loneliness and that of the fish trembling
in the deep.

This year's Rune will bring together some
obvious choices for publication — those
already honored publicly — and many
that have never been seen before. The editors have
published the journal through the grapevine
since October; sending e-mail to student
groups, approaching departments within the
MIT's artistic community. "There are pockets
of artists who are engineers," as editor David
Zapol '95 said.

Their greatest challenges now are finan-
cial, especially since the new volume will be
distributed free of charge on the black new-
stands around campus. Fund-raising is going
well, however, and the group hopes to receive a
grant from the Council for the Arts.

Most importantly, the editors are excited
about Rune and the direction they are giving it.
They have dispensed with bureaucracy —
everyone on staff bears the simple title, "edi-
tor" — in order to achieve their vision.

"That's why this medium needs to exist," said
"That's why this medium needs to exist." If subsequent
editors continue to feed the life that
Rune's current staff has breathed into it, this journal
should be around for a long time.

The Arts

New editorial staff revamps and revitalizes Rune

Rune's
deep

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