

Editorials

So what happened? Why do we have a September/December double issue instead of two issues as in the normal course of events?

As you might have guessed, the answer involves money. But no, it's not part of the normal ongoing financial jeopardy in which the Bulletin operates as a matter of course. Yes, it costs us more to produce the magazine than comes in from subscription revenues, and government grants have not materialized, so we're living on borrowed time unless we find another solution. But that's an old story, and you all know it if you've been around for a few issues.

This time was different.

There is a certain turnover in the CSTM membership. Every month a few new members sign up and every quarter a dozen or so members fail to renew, and stand to be deleted. Some of these are forgetful, or have temporary distractions or financial embarrassment, and rejoin if they can see their way clear. Others are "voting with their feet," are no longer interested in what the magazine has to offer (yes, some people actually are like that!), and just fade away without deigning to tell us about it. In recent years the new members have mostly balanced out the departees, and the membership numbers have remained relatively stable. For the most part, each issue generates enough membership renewal revenue to pay for itself and get a start on the next one, on average.

The pattern changed unexpectedly with last June's issue. Around 60 members had failed to respond to final renewal notices—about five times the normal number! Summer is traditionally the nadir of our financial orbit, and those 60 people

(potential \$1200 revenue) made a significant dent in our expectations. We were thus unable to produce an issue in September, and were forced to make an extraordinary appeal to the members.

Response to that appeal is still coming in. How it translates into renewals from the 60-odd I'm unable to tell yet, but I know some of the pink forms have crossed my desk. Nevertheless, that particular crisis has passed. The printer has been paid for the June issue, we're in a position to proceed with this issue (obviously, if it's in your hands), and the crisis has produced some heartwarming examples of support from our members. Many people have made donations, and one person (who wishes anonymity) set a Society record with a donation of \$500! Many folks have expressed appreciation for what we're doing with the Bulletin, and that in itself makes us feel good. But we shouldn't have to depend on individuals' generosity, encouraging as it is. We'd be happy to entertain members' ideas for putting the magazine on a stable footing, and equally happy to receive proceeds from fundraising events and such.

Are we out of the woods? No. This crisis was a temporary speed bump which we negotiated. However, we remain vulnerable to future curves thrown at us (and it'll happen, don't kid yourself), and the ongoing situation still requires some sort of resolution beyond hopelessly mixed metaphors.

A last word: remember, this is a double issue. Don't expect this amount of content every time. I'd hate to think we're creating a monster in terms of heightened expectations.

To those who helped us out, thanks.

[JL]



In the June issue of *Rogue Folk Review* from Vancouver, Steve Edge complemented a serious plea for support for the Rogue Folk Club (which I suspect would be well-deserved, though I don't live close enough to that city to have ever attended that club) to recommend that readers keep on the toes of CBC to increase their coverage of Canadian folk music. I'm not sure that I agree with Edge's sanguine view of our nation's "...thriving folk scene, with traditional music alive and well all across the nation." I suppose a lot depends on definitions; regardless of how you define "folk" or "traditional" music, it's a safe bet that it's *not* currently being featured or explored on national radio, though a few heroes like Jim Hiscott of Winnipeg

keep it on their agenda. They do need your support. Write or phone them and let them know what you want to hear; as Edge puts it, "...tell them we're still here and want to hear music that speaks to us about our roots, our country and our heritage." If you worry that the beleaguered CBC is so busy fighting off attacks from the new right, bear in mind that in this particular instance such demands are in fact a form of support—bureaucrats can show these letters as genuine evidence that the public cares enough about the CBC to try to help it get things right. As Texas progressive Jim Hightower once said of Bill Clinton, "Sure, I'm behind Clinton—behind him and pushing!" [GWL]



One last, heartfelt thanks for help during the Fall of our discontent: to Howard Kaplan, who responded promptly for a song to include in our nonissue. In fact, Howard sent us *several*, we will share the bounty with readers in future issues. Thanks, Howard. I'm sorry I missed you in Toronto!

[GWL]