

The Guest Corner

Editor's note: Kip should have submitted this about 3 weeks ago, but since he was too lazy, we didn't get it until this week. Our apologies for it's somewhat dated subject matter.

Kip: "Better late than never, you guys."

A thousand hellos to you all. This is me coming to you again by way of this marvelous printed media. This week's subject is the Winter Olympics and whether or not they serve any purpose. The World should do some serious thinking on the subject about whether to continue the games.

I, for one, really enjoy the olympics. I only wish that we could see the World Championships every year instead of just one Olympics every four. The olympics just completed did have it's highs and lows. Cathy Kreiner set the Alpine Skiing World, plus CTV commentators, on their ears by upsetting Rosi Mittermeir. The Canadian and U.S. Bobsledding teams were clobbered once again. The U.S. finished somewhat higher gaining a 24th and a 20th whereas all the Canadian team could get was a meager 30th. But this is to be expected from a country that outnumbers Canada 220 million to 22 million. Did you see the competitors from Liechtenstein? With a population of 26,000 (give or take an avalanche or two) they won several medals, including a couple golds, and just missed a few more. All I can say is that if Liechtenstein ever takes up bobsledding, we'd better be prepared to drop another notch.

I enjoyed reading the London Times which got quite critical of the poor performance of an inept British Ski Team. Out of 5 British skiers in the Alpine Events, not a single man even completed the course. Four of them fell, and the best British skier (which isn't really saying much) almost finished but he missed a gate.

Did you know that Argentine had a team in the Winter Olympics? Did CTV ever show any Argentine competing?

I also enjoyed watching the last competition in the men's slalom. He was a Hungarian and as he tried to complete the course he was literally chased down the slope by Austrian spectators who were trying to grab the slalom flags for souvenirs. The Austrian spectators, many of whom did a much better job at handling the course, hounded the poor Hungarian through the entire run and must have scared the hell out of him.

As for the Winter Olympics in general, all I can surmise is that if the Russians were allowed to enter 2 Olympic teams, they would win twice as many medals.

And it's quite possible that we have seen our last Winter Olympics. They really serve no purpose, as all the sports now have their own world championships, so the Olympics no longer represents the ideal which it once held. The next Olympics should be placed in proper perspective even if Lake Placid New York can afford to stage them, which they probably will not. Austria bailed out Denver, Colorado in holding the 76 Olympics. But no other Winter resort even bid for the 1980 games. So if Lake Placid backs out amid the concealment of commercialism and fear of terrorism that now pervades the games, the Olympics may be buried on the slopes of the Austrian Alps.

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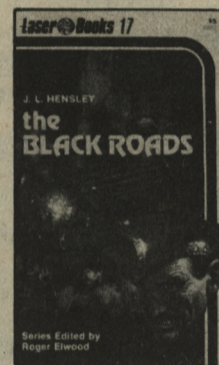
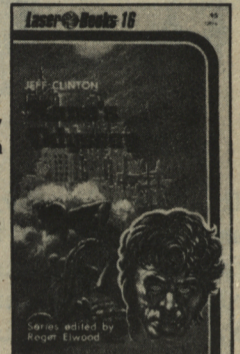
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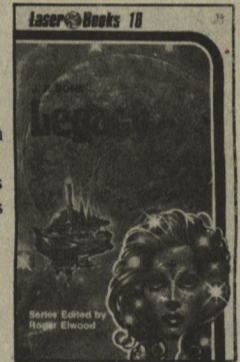


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