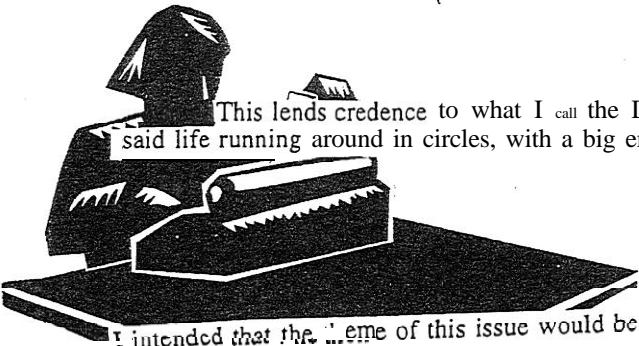


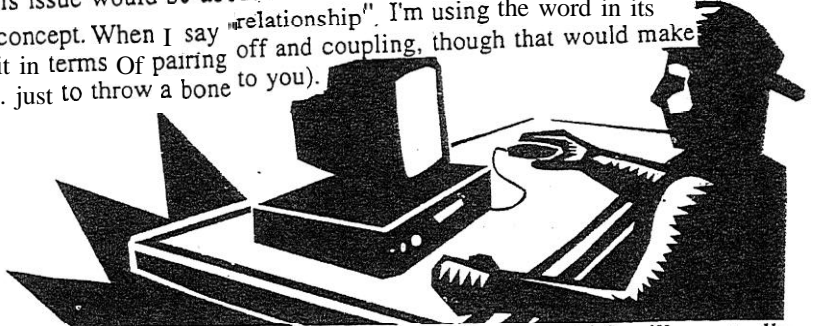
Notes on The Doughnut Theory

Everything in life is circular.



This lends credence to what I call the Doughnut Theory of Life - wherein you spend most of said life running around in circles, with a big empty hole in the center.

I intended that the theme of this issue would be about relationships, having no real idea where I'd go with it when I chose that concept. When I say "relationship", I'm using the word in its most basic sense, and not just limiting it in terms of pairing off and coupling, though that would make for juicier reading (I will touch on that. just to throw a bone to you).



My moving to KS has clarified this - it set off a small chain of events which will eventually impact: it put me back in touch with people I hadn't seen in over a decade and it finally hauled me onto the Internet & the world of e-mail correspondence and the avenues that it opened up. So basically, you'll be getting a walking tour through my recent life, with some brief stopovers in some intersecting lives for some perspective.

My relationships tend to always involved **distance** and *escape* (i.e., leaving and/or moving), both physically and emotionally. That seems to be the price paid in order to pursue my interests, which seems to have been fair. -- I've never really dated, in the conventional sense, except on maybe two or three occasions. Notice I said "dare": I've gone out and hung out with people, but those weren't considered "dates" (so I was told well afterwards in discussing what was & what wasn't a date), although they were much more fun. My first date was during high school; it was a double-date along with another couple, who fought with each other the entire evening - we were in their car, so there was no means of escape and it was an occasion where I was fixed-up with my date... she was very nice and it was difficult trying to get to know her, due to the bickering in the front of the car. Not a very good introduction to this person, or to dating in general. Considering the horrors that most of the people I know have put themselves through attempting to bring others into their life, I've gotten the better deal, overall. That took a long time to realize, since in this culture, you are a failure if at some point you haven't found another pathetic wretch to pair up with... in addition to having money & lots of expensive shiny toys. Like most of you, I too, tried to get with the program and did my share of pursuing, hoping to find the one person who would instantly validate my life & myself through their very presence, then we'd go off together - forever - in blissful harmony.