

Amation



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* 1981IP, IR, KE, KI, 1982D, AK, HF, Bxm02, Qhp01 *

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FROM THE WIZARD'S MOUTH...

I'm getting kind of tired of that title, and the entire magician type theme. It doesn't seem to fit with the contents of most issues these days. Still, I'll stick with it until something better comes along. I guess I sort of like it...

Well hello again folks, welcome to another edition of the continuing saga of a teen growing up in a disease infested world that doesn't want him and he continues to try and rationalize it all. Yes, it's your favorite soap and mine -- As the SATs turn.

About that calendar project I mentioned a few issues back... I would still like to do it; but I just don't have the time right now. I have 5 college applications due on January 15th, and three more in February (not to mention the five I sent out last month!). In addition, the quarter is coming to a close and I must give a last surge to top up my grades (top up?). Yes indeedy, life certainly isn't dull in this (Great) Neck of the woods (har har). In any case, I'll try and have it finished before Winter vacation. I have all the info, but I want to do the job right. This is a sort of experimental year I think, but if you folks like the idea and it meets with a positive response, I'll do it again next year. Probably next summer. We'll see I guess.

I hope you all had a pleasant vacation over Christmas. Welcome to 1984! I spent my week off up at Brucie's get-together, and then at Byrnecon. A good time was had by all. Details at eleven. Did you ever realize how important one's mood is to putting together an issue? Well let me tell you, it is very important! Right now I'm in an excellent mood. Probably because school is going well, I'm optimistic about the future, and most importantly, I'm wearing a Union Jack shirt that I just bought! I've been looking for one of these for years!! If any of you chaps in Britain could get a hold of Union Jack shorts, underwear or socks, I'd be most grateful and more than willing to reimburse you for your effort if you could send them to me. I'll even mail you the money in advance. I'd really like to have a complete Union Jack outfit!

Next, let me offer apologies for some horrendous typos and spelling errors towards the end of last issue. I'm glad some of you are complaining because to tell you the truth, your comments hurt so I'm forcing myself to be extra careful. I don't like having correctable errors in my character or my 'zine.

This looks to be a good issue. The letter column is shaping up nicely, and I am making it my business to do a little writing of my own this month due to popular demand (?). Enjoy it!

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ANDUIN is a journal for the play of postal Diplomacy and other games (including Diplomacy Variants, Chess and Kingmaker.); as well as an open forum for the debate of various topics. It is published every five weeks by moi: Eric Kane, 109 Hicks Lane, Great Neck, NY, 11024. (516) 466-2361 (please call at a reasonable hour EST).

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There are no game openings, nor will there be any for quite a long time. Probably not until 1985! The anarchy game gets underway this issue.

Standby list for Regular Dip: Jung, Ellis, Hakey, Murray, Quirk, Makuc, Ansoff, Corbin, Anderson, Lorber, Dancause & Frueh.

Standby list for Variants: Scheifler, Anderson, Keller, Quirk, Dancause, Makuc & Chisholm.

Standby list for Kingmaker: None! (You guys better not NMR!) Anyone want on or off of these lists? Drop me a note.

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Next issue will be my special 18th birthday issue. Presents, donations and anything else you want to get rid of will be accepted graciously! My birthday is on the 19th, and I will probably go skiing over the February vacation.

THE DEADLINE FOR ALL GAMES IS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1984

E D I T O R I A L

The Hazards of Smoking - A New Perspective

It isn't often I am compelled into writing an editorial. In fact, I believe that this is my first one! Naturally, I have made many editorial comments in the past in responding to letters, and I guess my positions on many issues show through in the 'zine, but this is my first editorial per se. I think that the topic is worth discussing seriously. Then again, there are a lot of topics that could bear debating. I truly believe that we may be on the brink of a fatal disaster. Society seems to go about its merry way, totally disregarding the many dangers that surround us. Among these are nuclear weapons, environmental hazards, and lack of attainable natural resources, to name just a few. I often observe how wasteful we really are, without being aware of it until it is too late. You never realize how dear something is to you until you don't have it any more. We really do take for granted a good deal of things. But above and beyond this, we take many unnecessary risks. One of them I feel, is smoking. Why choose smoking to talk about, you ask? Well, for one thing, there were a number of comments sent in in response to something I asked last issue in responding to Paul Rauterberg's letter on page 15: "Will somebody please explain to me this obsession (some) people seem to have with drinking; and, for that matter, smoking? Is it that they really don't believe the facts that both are harmful to your health, or is it that they don't care? I'm really at a loss to understand why anyone would do something like this and knowingly shorten their lives." Well, I received a lot of feedback, and I appreciate those people who took the time to write and help explain it to me. I have also talked to a number of people about the issue. Finally, the topic of an essay I wrote for one college was: "If you had the power to eliminate any single problem facing society today, what would it be and why?" So a combination of all these factors have stirred me to write a little something on the subject.

Most people, smokers and non-smokers alike are aware of most of the dangers of smoking, but let me outline some of them here: The most obvious one is that it is carcinogenic, or cancer-causing. One might even go so far as to say cancer-inducing. It certainly increases your chances of getting cancer doubleplus manyfold (that's newspeak for those of you who didn't read 1984!). Smoking also causes emphysema, an unheard of affliction before tobacco consumption was "invented" (yes, I know the Indians were doing it long ago). Smoke entering your lungs also can paralyze the cilia that act as a filter and keep all the bad stuff in the air out. When these cilia are paralyzed (sort of like killing bees with steam), you have no protection and all sorts of garbage including dust, soot and other nasty thingies get into your lungs and can't be removed. Another major danger of smoking is high blood pressure. I remember the story of a guy who had to report to the health board to see if he was fit to be sent to Vietnam a while back. He was told to report in three days and was scared unto death. Not wanting to go to war for Unc Sam, he spent the next 72 hours smoking continuously. He was not a smoker

normally, but he was bright enough to realize what the effect would be if he smoked constantly. When he reported to the board, his blood pressure was well above what is considered safe, and was told to see his doctor before it was too late. Needless to say, the guy didn't go to Nam. I bring this up not because I approve of his actions (that is another matter entirely), but to show just how dangerous smoking can be. I don't think I have to outline the dangers of high blood pressure, do I?

People who constantly smoke often have brown-yellow hands and black teeth which I personally find revolting. I suppose that this really isn't a health hazard, but you wouldn't catch me dating a heavy smoker. I'm all for cleanliness. What many people don't know is that cigarettes contain polonium 210, a harmful radioactive material which can cause irreparable genetic damage. The health department recommends that a person not receive more than about 600 millirads during the course of a year (this includes X-Rays, ultraviolet rays from the sun, TV sets, etc.). A two-pack-a-day smoker receives something on the level of 8000 millirads from cigarettes. You figure it out. Another problem that many people are not aware of is that you don't have to be a smoker to be afflicted with many of these hazards. I met a man in the hospital last year, who was there because he had incidental lung cancer. I estimated that he was about 70-75. He had been a non-smoker all his life he told me, but had worked in an office where many of his fellow workers smoked constantly. His lung cancer, his doctors feel, was caused partially due to this fact. To make a long story short, I don't think he lived. But I remember how furious he would get when he caught someone smoking. He could smell a cigarette a mile away and he would go charging out into the hall, find the guilty party, snatch the cigarette away and scream bloody murder about how he was responsible for putting him into the hospital. I was quite moved by the experience, needless to say. This is why I am so infuriated by smokers and smoking. My attitude towards them is the same as my attitude towards religion, homosexuals, and other people who practice different habits or lifestyles. As long as it doesn't affect me, and as long as you don't try to convert me, go right ahead. But when my rights are infringed upon, I get mighty angry. With the case of smoking, I feel my rights are being infringed upon when the air I breathe is being detrimentally affected. I bought a button at Origins last year which reads: "I don't spit in your drink, why are you smoking in my air?" There are laws in our country to protect the people's rights (that is what this country is about, isn't it?), even from themselves in some cases. That is why suicide is illegal. People who smoke are disregarding warnings that are put on cigarette packages, one of the few products today which are required to carry such a warning by the surgeon general. Thus, my feeling is that they are acting negligent and should be sued. And, as John Caruso put it: "Smoking is a slow form of suicide.". So if suicide is against the law, perhaps smoking should be against the law. Now naturally, it would be impossible to prosecute and convict all the smokers, but perhaps it is possible to sue the tobacco industry. For negligently selling harmful products. Just as the company which invented a new type of diet pill about sixty years ago was

convicted because the diet pill contained a tapeworm (no wonder I lost so much weight!) in it. Unfortunately, this isn't likely to happen either, because of the necessity of the tobacco industry to our nation economically.

But smoking does have its good points, even if they are a bit morbid. For one thing, a great deal of research has been conducted, and today we know much more about cancer than we would have known if not for the necessity created by the preponderance of smokers ending up in hospitals. And also, one can't argue that smoking does help keep the population down. If you don't believe me, check the statistics for yourself. The world faces a serious over-population crisis today. Maybe smoking is the answer! Indeed, perhaps this is an example of natural selection, a theory suggested by Charles Darwin in the mid 1800's concerning the survival of the fittest. Those people who are smart enough to avoid smoking and smokers will undoubtedly have better odds of living a longer and more fulfilling life. Unfortunately, it is not always possible to avoid smokers, even for the most cautious of us.

I guess my point about the entire issue is this: Every day, we take risks. We make decisions, and then we act to the best of our ability. Many times, we will take risks that may be harmful to us (this is called "having fun") such as skiing or skydiving, or playing football. All of these activities can be fatal, and have been in the past. And yet we continue to do them because we consider them worthwhile, even if there is a certain element of risk involved. My feeling is that by smoking, you are taking an unnecessary risk that is not adding a great amount of enjoyment to your life. Or is it? Is there something I don't know? Or is it just that many people are addicted and can't help themselves? Those of you who have been to my house may remember that we have "no smoking" signs at the entrances. We enforce this "house rule" very strictly. Yet some people find it necessary to excuse themselves and go out for a puff. Now I might understand a need to smoke occasionally to calm yourself, or for the sheer pleasure I presume one can derive from smoking; but for it to become a necessity? How ludicrous! Yes, I know it contains nicotine, an addictive drug, but don't people feel remorse? Is it impossible to break free from its hold?

Well, with those last sentences, I've asked some more questions; so obviously this editorial was not complete. I would welcome any comments you people have, and if this topic held any interest for you, I would suggest you check out the letter column this month, and see what some of your fellow hobbyists had to say on the subject.

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The FRESHMAN LINE POLL is being conducted by Scott Hanson (233 Oak Grove, Apt. 305, Minneapolis, MN, 55403). The deadline is sometime in mid-March, and you are to rate the zines from 0 to 10. The eligible zines this year are: Alpha & Omega, Battle Stations, Corragliari, Lethy's Ramblings, DIJABH, The Diplomat, Festungs, Hof, Hell-Jahill, Manifest Destiny, Midlife Crisis, Politesse, Quintique, Leading Pain, The End Justifies the Means, 30 Miles of Red Road, Waisemell Dip-Press, and Who Cares?. I am uncertain as to whether the list is complete or not. Check with Scott.

IT'S A MISTAKE -- YET ANOTHER BYRNECON/VACATION REPORT

((Words and music from "It's a Mistake" by Colin Hay, of the popular Australian Band -- Men At Work.)

"Jump down the shelters to get away
The boys are cockin' up their guns
Tell us general, is it party time?
If it is can we all come"

Well, general Linsey says it is party time, so Kane and Lorber depart from Great Neck early one morn, and head for the bleak Northern wastes of (gasp!) Massachussetts. It rains long and hard all day long but the bus ride is relatively quiet, as the boys have no idea what they are in for.

"Don't think that we don't know
Don't think that we're not trying
Don't think we move too slow
It's no use after crying
Saying it's a mistake"

Arriving late in the afternoon, there is a little confusion as to co-ordinating how we shall be picked up, but all is settled relatively quickly and we soon meet up with Herr Linsey and his lackey, Steve Hutton. Dinner is had, and we are driven to the new VD headquarters at the soon-to-be-infamous 73 Ashuelot Drive. Just give Bruce a little time. Later that night Mike Barno arrives and much merriment is made by singing melodies from the newest VD; about Larry Peery's Diptax. The songs are mostly Beatle parodies, and I am most impressed with his ingenuity. The same can not be said for his singing ability however, and he is advised to stick to writing. The same holds true for Mr. Lorber, the kicker being the sad fact that he actually thinks he is good. Later that night a game of anarchy is played. I don't remember the result but I do remember getting blasted rather early. The rest of the night is spent chatting about the hobby, and particularly about Brucie's GMing practices. Unfortunately, He and Hutton side against me and Barno adds little more than moral support, so I'm pretty much out-numbered. I did get some good quotes though:

Bruce: "Eric, the idea of the game is not to make people happy, but to do it right."

and: "I GM as an outlet for my desire to be a prick."

Bruce was in top form this evening: "She (Kathy) is to the comma as Bill Highfield is to the exclamation point."

Later, MF Barno and myself were discussing a game we are in together in Russ Rusnak's zine...

Steve: "What zine is that game in?"

Eric: "Who Cares?"

Steve: "Well, I'm just curious."

MF also got in a good one before the night was out...

Mike: "He ((Tom Mainardi)) wouldn't know a joke if it bit him in the face!"

Later, talking about going out for lunch...

Bruce: "You guys want to eat at the pizza place?"

Brian: "I'm adaptable."

Mike: "You're sure not adoptable."

Eric: "Say, that's quotable!"

Uh, I guess I got a little carried away with the quotes there. Well the next day Jim 'Grouchy' Makuc shows up with Ted Furey; both loyal Anduinies. This made for another good quote...

Brian: "You won't believe this, but we actually have seven people here for Dippy!"

Brux: "Yeah, but Steve has to leave for NYC this morning."

Steve: "The way I play, that won't make much of a difference."!

Bruce goes out to pick up Ty Here who has come all the way from California so the rest of us play assorted games like Family Business and Risk. I remember winning one of the Family Business games and getting creamed in Risk. That game was interesting though as Grouchy eliminated Furey with only one army left to attack. Had he missed, Furey would have traded in his set and won himself. In other words, the entire game eventually came down to one die roll. Bruce comes back later and we are all introduced to Ty, who is one of the nicer people I have had the pleasure of meeting in this hobby. So we started a game of Dippy, with the country assignments being England (me), France (Ty), Germany (Lorber), Italy (Furey), Austria (Grouchy), Russia (MP) and Turkey the ole' Bruixer himself. Not much of interest happens at first except that Linsey opens to Syria and Smyrna. Sigh... We in the west form a triplet which quickly dissolves when Austria and Russia and Italy get suspicious. France and Italy get locked in a battle for the Mediterranean, and Germany, Russia and I play musical centers in Scandinavia. Eventually, I stab Germany but Barno hits me immediately. At this point, Mike actually could have had me dead to rights, but he made a careless error in writing his orders, and instead I gained the upper hand in Scandinavia. I made peace with him however, and concentrated on picking up centers on the mainland. I remained loyal to both him and France for the entire game, and although we called it a six way draw (Sans Linsev) on time, I'm sure the game would have ended in a three-way between E-F-R. A thoroughly enjoyable game all in all. Later that evening, we eat dinner at the New England Chowder House. Ty makes passes at the waitress but to no avail (better luck next time Ty!). We talk more about the great GMing debate over Lobster Bisque, Stuffed Shrimp, etc. I had a boiled Lobster for dinner, and netted a pretty little bib with a picture of a lobster on it. I still have it! After dinner we played another game of Risk. This one was quite interesting as different powers rose and fell. Barno and I knocked heads over North America and eventually came to peace, but a bit too late. Linsey knocked Barno out, and then went after me. In this game, too, it came down to one die roll. Linsey had two armies left to knock out my last one. He rolled a 2. Now, as you may or may not know, in Risk the defender wins on a tie or better.... I'm not going to say what I rolled. Lorber went on to the win game anyway so it didn't matter, so there! (Sniff).

"After the laughter has died away
and all the boys have had their fun
No surface noise now, not much to say
they've got the bad guys on the run"

On Friday, we drop by at the train station as he is headed for a wedding (not his own!) in Syracuse I believe. Then the rest of us, Linsey, Lorber, Barno, Mekuc and myself have a most uncomfortable drive down to Flushing. Yes, it's Byrnecon time! As usual, this was a great time. I had some allies in the 'Great GMing debate', and almost managed to have my only win declared irregular! I fared a little better this time gamewise. In the first gunboat game, I was Austria and allied with John Caruso's Turkey. The alliance lasted for about 4 years, at which point John built 2 armies and outnumbered me 9 to 6. I expected a stab so I attacked him. He did not stab, and afterwards explained that he was intending to stab in a year or two! Well, seeing his folly, he tried to convince me to back off by retreating his units OTE. Had this been a talking game, I probably would have backed off, but instead I continued to attack. So John suicided out in my favour and tried to give me the win. Well, he gave me nine centers, but the West rallied to stop me. Kathy was playing Italy and was based in Liverpool. She was doing her usual good job of getting the rest of the board hostile towards me, and convincing them that I was a 'win only player'. She even convinced John to try and stop me!! I might add that this was supposed to be a non-talking game... Well, anyway, the game ended in a two-way draw between myself and Turkey with 15 centers and 2 centers respectively. Personally, I don't see anything wrong with going for a win if you have a fair shot at it, or if it is being handed to you on a silver platter. The idea that I am a win only player is simply ludicrous, and such can be seen by my record so far. I have but one postal win. I guess my feeling is that it is much more enjoyable to play out a two or three-way draw with an ally. I get much more satisfaction when I can share something. I said this way back in Anduin #12, talking about my alliance with Gary Coughlan at Dipcon, and that I could have easily stabbed for the win, but that it was much more enjoyable to share the glory. Anyway, enough of all that. We played another Gunboat game later, and as Turkey, I ended up in a 3-way draw with Kathy Byrne's Russian and Julie Martin's England. The next day we tried a new variant called: Woodrow Wilson Diplomacy. Yes, that's right, all negotiations had to be carried out over the table! This turned out to be a lot of fun and again I ended up on the winning side. As England, I played to a two-way draw with Ben Schilling's France. Some of the other games going on around were Titan, a fantasy game which takes 4-6 hours to play but seems like fun, and Civilization, a game about building (you guessed it) civilizations in the Eastern Mediterranean. Some of the powers include Cyprus, Egypt, Assyria and Greece.

"Don't try to say your sorry
Don't say he drew his gun
They've gone and grabbed old Ronnie
He's not the only one
Saying it's a mistake"

The other game of interest that I played in was Bughouse. This is a four-player chess variant. The game is played on two chessboards. You and your teammate play opposite colors, and

every time you take a piece, you give it to your ally who can then drop it on his board. This makes for quite a bit of fun, and for some interesting chess positions, like the 8 knights defense! We rotated with the losing player going out. Mark Larzelere was the best there. The other participants included myself, Brian Lorber, Carl Russell, Robert Sacks, Bruce Linsey and Stu Schoenberger. Lousy can usually beat me, but in bughouse, the games get so wild that we are fairly evenly matched. There is a strategy to bughouse. Such things like knowing which pawns to push, what pieces are more valuable than in regular chess (like knights!) and where to drop pieces on the board. The game is also timed, you have 5 minutes on your clock, and that is how much time you have for the entire game. Anyone for postal bughouse?!

"Tell us commander, what do you think?
"Cos we know that you love all that power
Is it on then, are we on the brink?
We wish you'd all throw in the towel"

We all had a good time making fun of Robert Sacks, who unfortunately left before Woody arrived. I would have loved to have seen round 2! Did you know that according to Sacks, Rod Walker IS NOT A MEMBER OF THE POSTAL DIPLOMACY HOBBY! And do you know what the reason is? Because he publishes Diplomacy World!! You see, by publishing a professional zine for profit (even though Rod is taking a loss), he is not a member of the amateur hobby. Now that makes sense, doesn't it?! One of the funnier things was said by Steve Hutton when he asked Robert if it was possible for Rod to pay some kind of penance, and return once again to the hobby. Steve was curious because he said that someday he might wish to edit DW himself, and he wanted to be sure that he could re-enter the hobby afterwards!! The greatest thing about all this is that Robert actually believes in what he is saying. Now I think Robert is a nice guy, but just a tad strange...

The final game of the weekend was the blackjack game, with a nickel minimum and a quarter maximum. I managed to lose my suede leather jacket, as well as my shirt. Then I got it back when I started to unbuckle my pants! I did win a cute little red tote bag because I was the first one to correctly identify the met pitcher on Kathy's calendar. It was Jesse Orosco. The most enjoyable thing about these get togethers for me is exchanging wise cracks with Woody. I can't wait for my article about him to be published in the next KK! The great thing is, there is so much about Woody that you can make fun of. You should try abusing him sometime, to see what I mean. And so endeth another Byrnecon. Thanks for having us Kathy and John! See y'all at the next one!

"We'll not fade out too soon
Not in this finest hour
Whistle your favorite tune
We'll send the card and flower
Saving it's a mistake."

HAMLET

((The following is an extra credit paper I wrote for my Shakespeare class. The assignment was to write down any feelings that came to mind after completing the play, Hamlet, by William Shakespeare (I assume you are all somewhat familiar with him?). Anyway, I think you will all get a kick out of this...))

Well, it's past 12 'o'clock Sunday night, and you expect me to write an essay on Hamlet, which I just finished?? Fie upon thee! Oh sure, it's an "optional extra credit" essay. Yeah right. That means that if we do it, you might be inclined not to lower our grades by a full 10 points. But that's only if you're in a good mood. Well I'll not do it! You won't get an essay out of me -- you, you, you plain ordinary English teacher you! I know your game, I know all your tricks. Face it Schloss ((teacher's name)), you're just a high school English teacher of no special esteem and who's career is going nowhere! Not only do I know your tricks, but I also know something of your philosophy; so this fact shouldn't upset you too much. "There are more things in heaven and earth..." And speaking of the book, I suppose I should say something about it hey? Alright, they all die. There, I said something about the book. ... Well what do you expect me to say after reading what is probably the single greatest piece of literature ever written! Nothing I could say could possibly be new or even important. My words would be too lowly. Oh, I know, I should explore the book, like, philosophically. Like, wow man. The book was like, totally awesome! No, I'm in no mood to say anything heavy. I just want to go to school, get a half-decent to mediocre education, go home, do my ordinary dull and un-thought-provoking homework, get good grades and move onto another school (I think it's called "college"). The last thing I want is to be challenged and made to think!! Of course, that's not what I say in my college interviews: "Oh yes sir, I always sit in the front of my class and I participate in the discussions, and I challenge the teacher and he/she challenges me back, and I stimulate the class and I..." Sheesh, what a load of crap! The thing is that they actually buy it, and they even like it more when the teachers say that kind of stuff about the dumb kid. Which reminds me, I better say something more about the book or you won't write me a nice recd. will you Mr. Schloss? Yeah, I gotta play the game too.

Well, I liked Laertes. I think he was cool and I can relate to him more than I can relate to Hamlet. Forget all of that "deep" garbage. If you start thinking about things in a logical, orderly manner, you're just gonna blow your mind. Laertes had the right idea. None of that philosophy crap. I can't believe I just said what I just said. Well it's now a quarter to one and I'm in no mood to put this on the computer or even reread it. I just hope I BS'd enough for you not to get mad at me.

Good night!

Teacher's comment: Satisfactory extra credit. Kane baby.
((Ya gotta know which teachers you can kid around with!))

SCROLLS, SPELLS AND OTHER LETTERS

((This month's response is simply overwhelming! As usual, my comments will be in double parentheses like this.))

From Kathy Byrne - Flushing, NY:

This will be short and sweet. I read Larry Peery's comments on your letter column and I just want to throw in my feelings on the subject.

By far and large, ANDUIN has the best letter column in the hobby. Sure some of the topics keep getting rehashed, but the way I see it, writers are debating issues back and forth. In a logical and sensible manner, with very few personal attacks. There is nothing wrong with people exercising their brain.

I might not participate in your religious discussion, but that doesn't mean I don't enjoy reading other people's views. Let everyone have their say, I mean what is the harm.

As for baseball, I disagree with Kevin Stone - the Mets do play exciting baseball. You never know what is going to happen when they are on the field or at the plate. Any team can buy a pennant (the Yanks have been accused of this), but the real baseball fans will stick with their team, even through the disappointments. The true Mets fan (and there are many of us), enjoy watching Seaver pitch a great game, or Drosco come out of the bull pen, Mookie steal a base or Strawberry hit one out - that's baseball! We might not be a winning club, but they do keep their fans coming back for more!

((I occasionally go to Met games and usually have a good time. My ultimate baseball dream is a Yankees/Mets World Series going down to the seventh game! Thanks for your kind comments on the LC. I naturally agree fully with them. In fact, I don't know how many of you read the colophon, but I have changed the format somewhat in the last few issues. It now reads: "**ANDUIN** is a journal for the play of postal Diplomacy and other games (including Diplomacy variants, Chess and Kingmaker.); as well as an open forum for the debate of various topics." Which is what it really is. I believe that I am fulfilling that goal fairly well, and if you disagree with me, well, let's debate it!))

From Joan Extrom - Philomath, OR:

You and Hal put out another good issue. However, our copy was defective - pages 7,8,33 + 34 were missing. To add insult to injury, my letter + part of your reply were on page 8, so all I got was one paragraph of your answer. Was this planned? If so, the ploy didn't work. When BRUX called the other night, he just happened to have a copy of Anduin by the phone and read me your reply. We still would like to see the other missing letters, so please send us our page - we've paid for it! ((I've already sent them a copy, and I wanted to mention that if this happens to any of you folks, please just tell me. I usually have several left over pages when I'm done collating.))

And as if that wasn't bad enough, our copy of The Voice of Dggm that came today was missing some vital pages of the RIGEL press war. What's wrong with you guys? Playing Scrooge for the holidays + scrimping on pages? Been hitting the fruitcake a little too often? Or are you going to try to blame the error on poor Hal? Or just trying to entice me to write again?

Other than that, I will cheerfully step aside from the religion debate and let Rod Walker take over - he's much more eloquent than I.

Do you realize that females made up 20% of your lettercol? Hmm... maybe you left out our page because you're afraid we females are getting too powerful.

Maybe your spelling has improved, but I'd still suggest better proof-reading. You misspelled my last name in the table of contents. Sigh. Happy Holidays!

((Heh heh, I also misspelled your name on page 7 (hee hee). I bet you're going nuts! Seriously, see my comments on page 1 on spelling. Ken (1580 SAT score) Halpern has been helping me to edit this. Hopefully, that will help make a difference. Females, powerful? Fine with me. Men have certainly screwed up society enough in the last 2000 years or so. Let's give the other sex a try!))

From John Michalski - Moore, OK:

I find the talk by you East Coast types amusing regarding high school/college. It's like reading a Japanese or German dipzine: everyone all hot and bothered to get into the "right" school, the "best" classes, take the proper extracurriculars. Thank god none of that shit's true elsewhere. Normal people go to school; take whatever extra-curriculars they feel like, if they feel like it; go to one of the local U's, whichever they prefer; and restrict their game playing and role-acting to hobbies or "D'n'D". Why anyone would sweat to get to Hotshit U is beyond me. But then, some people sub to XENOGOGIC, don't they? Maybe it's because in NYC there are no mid-level, normal jobs? You're either in with Chase Manhattan, or driving a cab, is that it? Whatever the story, it sure makes the dull and safe and hicky midwest look good. Keep them reports comin'!

((On going to Hotshit U: It's a tough job, but dammit, someone's gotta do it! Go back and read my essay on Hamlet to get my feelings on "the system"!))

From Steve Hutton - London, Ontario:

I'd really like to argue with you about Bruce Linsey's "hypocrisy", but I have a problem. Let me explain:

In Anduin #22, you had an interesting but slightly unclear paragraph in which you mentioned the "hold-and-support" controversy, calling an NMRing player, and the terms "strict GM" and "hypocrite". Bruce Linsey and I seem to have interpreted this paragraph the same way. (This is not surprizing, since I'm one of Bruce's more obvious pseudonyms.) Namely, that a GM who calls

NMRing players and thinks 'hold and support' is a double order is a hypocrite. But, in your replies to our letters in Anguin #23, your position seemed to be: A GM who calls NMRing players and thinks 'hold and support' is a double order is not necessarily a hypocrite, but such a GM is a hypocrite if he calls himself a strict GM. (Since Bruce Linsey is such a GM, he would be a hypocrite if he called himself a strict GM.) But, then came Anguin #24 in which you said, "I believe the honor of being "most strict GM ever" goes to Linsey hands down". So, your position seems to be: Bruce Linsey is a strict GM, but is a hypocrite if he calls himself one.

Do you see my problem? I'd like to argue with you, really I would, but how can I argue against a case like that?

((Beautiful! I just love how you and Linsey make like good little Sherlocks and find the loopholes in my arguments! My position is not at all as you have stated it. It would be absolutely impossible to state my position in a single sentence, because of the philosophical implications involved (notice how fickle I am about philosophy when dealing with different subjects?!). Linsey is a strict GM. Linsey is a hypocrite because he calls players collect if they are about to NMR. This just doesn't fit in with the rest of Linsey's rules. But let us hear now, from the one and only Brucifer himself...))

From Bruce Linsey - Dalton, MA:

Last issue of Anguin was so full of juicy stuff that I don't know where to begin my reply. So many good letters. Sigh. I heartily approve of your running your letter column in the mold of the old Brutus Bulletin, provided you don't allow as much controversy into your zine as John used to. But I do want to compliment you on the format you are using. Most zines these days seem to be going to the European style of running letters: chop them up into itey bitey little pieces, by topic, rather than let the writer have his say all at once. This, in my opinion, destroys whatever style or continuity the writer may have tried to give his letter, and your policy of running letters intact is the reason that I'm hanging out here these days, rather than somewhere else like Europa Express. (Muddling Ministers also runs letters whole, but not often enough; stuff gets dated there.)

Dick Martin wishes that Gary and/or I would come up with "new" criticisms of him, and I'll be glad to oblige him. My complaint isn't exactly "new", but it's not the same gripe I've been expressing recently in Anguin, so it will be new to your readers. It is this: Dick owes me an issue of Retaliation that he refused to send me. Since I think it likely that he will deny this, I suppose I ought to explain the circumstances. I had a sub to Dick's zine which almost ran out several months ago. Actually, there was one issue left in my sub, but Dick's next issue was a double. So instead of sending me the whole issue (proper) or refunding me the price of one issue (acceptable), what did he do? He cut the double issue in half, diagonally, and sent me that. Since half of a double issue is a single issue, this, he claimed, fulfilled his obligation to me. Let me ask this question of you

and your readers. If you send me a check for ten issues of VD, do I have the right to send you cut-in-half copies of my next twenty (thereby rendering all of them unreadable)? I don't think so, and I doubt if many of your readers would either. As far as I am concerned, Dick still owes me an issue, plus all the postage that I have spent trying to get it out of him.

This tactic is nothing new for Dick, I might add. He pulled a similar stunt on Gary ((Coughlan)) some time ago. Angry at Gary for something or other, he shuffled the pages of a copy of Retail, putting them out of order, backwards, upside-down, etc.; and sent it to Gary like that. Gary will back me up on this charge if Dick denies it. What do you think of that -- would I be justified in sending someone a copy of VD that way just because I was angry at him? I don't think so, not if he was paying for or trading for my zine. How about it Dick? Where's my issue?

I might add that I don't have it in for Dick. I don't even dislike him, although I suspect that Gary does. However, I feel that he should expect criticism so long as he continues to make inaccurate statements about other hobby members, and that he ought to fulfill his obligations as a publisher more fairly than he has done in the past. Personally, though, I regard Dick as an all-right fellow, and I look forward to seeing him over New Years. So don't let my disputes with him bother you, since neither he nor I really minds debating the other in print. Really, I don't know if Gary is having such a ball with the whole discussion; but Dick and I sure are!

I agree wholeheartedly with Kathy's letter. A novice coming into this hobby is going to be far more likely to stay around if his first GM is a good one, sending out adjudications on time and using common sense. The problem arises, however, in that different people have different definitions of "common sense". For example, I think that "common sense" dictates that the GM will use the exact orders that the player sent in, even if they are miswritten; whereas your definition of "common sense" says just the opposite: that the GM will alter the orders if the player's intent is clear. Which way is best of course depends on the taste of the individual player, and a good GM will tell potential players how he runs games through the medium of his houserules.

Which brings me to the next point. You refer to a "preponderance of silly houserules" in VD. Ignoring for a moment such rules as the one about the North Atlantic Ocean not being a supply center, and two or three others that I admit are rather silly; I'd like to hear you list those of my houserules that you think are silly. It won't just do to say they're too detailed or too long as in order to trim them I'd have to know which ones you think ought to be cut. Go ahead Eric, tell me. Which VD houserules are silly? You said it; now back it up by giving examples.

Back to Kathy's letter. I have known for a long time that VD games aren't for everyone. She is just one example of a friend who won't play regular Dip in VD. Mike Barro is another. But so what? There are several good GMs who I won't play under, but that doesn't make them bad GMs. It just means that they run their games using different rules than I like to play under. A good example was Michalski, when he was GMing. John was and is a good

friend, and he was always an outstanding GM. Yet I would never join a regular Dip game of his, because I wanted deadlines longer than two weeks. Does that make him a bad GM? Of course not. Does the fact that I am strict make me a bad GM? No - it just means that my games are for players who like strict GMing. Players who, like Kathy, don't want to check their orders carefully each season are better off playing under more lenient GMs, such as Gary Doughlan (who was my best GM, ever). ((There you go being a hypocrite again Bruce!!))

And that leads me into the discussions of "strictness", which Ruth Glaspey brought up. She makes a good distinction between possible definitions of "strict". My personal definition is that a strict GM is one who requires a fairly exact format from his players, and will not change what players send to conform to that format. Having a lot of rules is not synonymous with strictness. And then there is Dick Martin's view, expressed two or three months ago, that "strictness" means adherence to the Rulebook. Using this definition, Dick is correct in pointing out that I am not strict, since I do not make full use of the "badly-written order" rule. ((Full use? Full use!! Hell, you ignore it!!)). But then, no postal gamesmaster goes strictly by the rulebook, because it wasn't written for postal play. If you doubt this, ask yourself who is the last GM you saw who used the 15-minute deadlines in his postal games, as per the Rulebook. ((Not only are your houserules silly, but so are your arguments. What are you trying to prove with a comment like that? You know as well as the rest of us do that the rulebook wasn't written for postal play, and you also know that a lot of things are not followed by any GM exactly in accordance with the rulebook, because of the loopholes, the errors, and taste. Sorry to interrupt here, but I just couldn't stand it any longer!! I had to reply!!))

I call myself strict because I fit my own definition of the term. Other people are welcome to call me lenient if they want.

Regarding the other point in your reply to Ruth, I'm so glad you think you're seeing right through the old BRUXer. You say that my true motives when I call players collect are to prevent NMRS so that my zine will look better. You say that this is inconsistent with my stated philosophy that I don't care if a player screws up his position. But you are missing a major point, Eric. You see, I'm such a sadist as a GM that not only do I like to see players' positions get all messed up, but I prefer to see this happen to the reliable players. After all, any GM can screw up the average careless player, but it is truly an accomplishment to outsmart the good players and make them louse up. My way of doing this is to make collect calls so that the deadbeats get their moves in. Obviously, this is detrimental to the interests of the reliable players, who already have moves on file. Therefore, I rub my hands each season in glee at the thought that I'm screwing the best there is, not just some average shmuck, by my actions. And you say this is inconsistent with my usual sadistic attitudes? Shame on ya! ((Having no reasonable answer, you choose to try to make a joke of it. It ain't gonna work because I've got you squirming around in a little hole, and I'm gonna SQUASH YOU LIKE THE BUG YOU REALLY ARE!!! You know that this HP doesn't fit in with the others, whether you claim to have

some lenient and some strict MRs or not, this just doesn't fit with your philosophy. Yes Bruce, I view it as GM interference, and I would have claimed as much had I not won the NEPTUNE game, and I betcha it would have gotten ruled as irregular too! Now don't get me wrong, I don't mind your interfering with my game. Hell, I have you to thank for my only postal win!))

The religion discussion is boring, but at last I've found something we agree on. Peter Gaughan is correct in pointing out that man's desire to control others is responsible for a lot of suffering. The problem is that religion has historically been the excuse most often used to justify this desire.

Nobody can deny that religion provides comfort to some people in times of grief, or provides some people with a good set of moral standards to live by. If someone else's pain is decreased because "God is with him", or if someone doesn't steal because "God says it is wrong", well and good. However, I can make up stories too. Maybe I don't steal because the Houserules say it is wrong. If I am brought up to believe this, and live my life to conform to these beliefs, then fine. It doesn't hurt anyone. But that doesn't give my beliefs any basis in reality. It just means that they provide me with an artificial excuse to be a good person. Myself, I don't feel I need such an excuse. I don't steal because I think my life and my society would be ill-served if I did. These are demonstrable points, not myths that have been drummed into my head since childhood. And, on the other hand, I don't truly feel that most evil-doers need the excuse of religion. But it is a very handy one; when you claim that "I let my child die rather than receive medical care because God told me to," why, who can argue with that? Right. You let your child die for a stupid superstition, buster, and I hope you live with it forever.

One other thought before I leave this dreary subject. The Bible and the Houserules were both written by fallible men. Both are accepted as Gospel by much of the world. So what is the difference? Why, the Bible is often used to justify silly, atrocious actions. The Houserules never are.

Joan is right when she says you really ought to improve your spelling and word usage, and to that I add your typing. Honestly, Eric, in my last letter to you there were seven errors that I doubt were in my original. I don't think I'm being overly picky to bring it up again: it really detracts from the zine. For instance, you quote me as saying that "I have GM'ed dozens of novices." My first thought is: oh those poor souls, will they ever recover? Then I realize that I wrote that "I have GMed for dozens of novices," and my sympathy is instantly redirected toward myself for getting my letter butchered to the point where I sound semiliterate. That's overstated, of course, but can't you be just a bit more careful? Please? I don't mind an occasional honest typo, but when you repeatedly change "experience" to "experiance" then I wish you'd consult a dictionary first.

Peery is right, but only partially so. It is true that in the hobby's very best lettercolumns, the same topics get hashed and rehashed over and over. In Brutus Bulletin, for instance, the topics of homosexuality and Bernie Oaklyn were in the limelight for months or even years. In VP, the hunting debate is still going on over a year after Alex started it. In Anduin, the topics

of the year seem to include my GMing in general and the Wrobel Affair in particular, and religion. ((And baseball!)) And it is even true that writer's style and viewpoints will often give away his identity. The point where I disagree with Larry is that he seems to be critical of this feature, whereas I find it desirable. Do you realize how many publishers would give their right arms to get the broad variety of letters and responses that you and I receive for print as a matter of course? Count your blessings, Eric, you're one of the Chosen People! Peery may grumble - but is he truly disgruntled or just jealous? Anduin's letter column is phenomenal - you're making the rest of us look awful by comparison.

Hmmm, this letter has come full circle, but there are still a couple of tangents I can go off on at this point. Why, I must ask, should Billy Highchair be ashamed to send in a letter such as his for public scrutiny in the New York Post? He has never displayed any shame in the past at flaunting his own ignorance, and his own publication has similar journalistic standards to those of the Post. So his letter there should surprise no one. But I will say this: his blatant bigotry and hatred of anyone whose views are different from his own, combined with his repeated calls for violence against people in other parts of the world, make him the most un-American person I've ever met. A true "modern patriot" would be disgusted by the sick values that Billy tries to pass off as patriotism. Killing to preserve one's own life or one's own way of life is justified. Killing because of differences of opinion is not.

Replying to Rauterberg, you bemoan the fact that people kill themselves and others through their over-indulgence in tobacco and alcohol. I am inclined to agree with you, especially on the topic of smoking. The problem is that it is far easier to rationalize than to change. I have a cousin who smoked like a chimney while she was pregnant. After giving birth to a healthy baby boy, she repeatedly knocked those who criticized her during the pregnancy, pointing to her son as living proof that she was right all along. Very good, Jill, I thought; you used your unborn child as a gambling chip and beat the odds. Congratulations. I have another cousin who smoked through her pregnancy and gave birth to twins, one of them stillborn. Everyone was lavish with their sympathy, but strangely, no one put the blame where it belonged. When I expressed to my mother the thought that Lorraine may very well have killed her own son, I was hushed up. You see, it's not polite to say such things out loud. But it's perfectly acceptable for a pregnant woman to smoke and jeopardize the life of her unborn child. Don't ask me...

As for drinking, I too deplore the stupidity of anyone who drinks and drives, or just drinks too much. I don't, however, know of any studies that conclude that occasional, moderate consumption of alcohol is harmful to the health ((it is)). Perhaps I'm just blissfully ignorant, but I'm a light social drinker and not at all worried by it. Unlike the smoker, who is sabotaging the lungs of those around him, the person who drinks in moderation is hurting no one. Of course, that argument does not apply to anyone who gets behind the wheel after drinking, or anyone who overdoes it or who drinks for the wrong reasons. Just remember,

the plural of "Bru" is "BRUX". (How many BRUX did you have at the last Byrnecon, eh?)

As a GM who has been running games for over four years, I can tell you without any hesitation whatsoever that I am accurate in claiming that novices write their orders more carefully than veterans. Typical thought process for a novice might be, "God I don't know what I'm doing anyway so I better cut my losses." while the veteran reasons, "What the heck, Bruce'll never catch all the errors in these orders and besides I'm in thirty other games anyway and this is a doomed position and I don't give a shit and I'm just gonna mail them in like this." ((Hear that folks? The longer we play, the worse we get. Thank for straightening me out on that Bruce old boy!)) Gotcha every time, you old fart. That's why VD is a good novice zine.

By the way, I noticed that the issue was a double one. I must express, as I have in the past, my disapproval of this practice. The way I see it, when I send out an issue, that's one issue. I have no right to type an extra couple of digits on the colophon and rip off my readers for an extra 50 cents. If I want to rip people off in a more acceptable manner, by gosh, I'll get 'em with the mid-monthlies. But an issue is an issue, goddammit (sorry, Ruth) whether it's 12 pages or 170. I admire your 40 pager. I would admire it more if it were a 40 page issue rather than a 40-page pair of issues. ((Your admiration is not worth \$60!)) Besides, now you're going to hit Anduin #100 and what are you going to say? "Gee folks, this is #100. It's the 71st issue I've put out." How awful. ((I'd say it's quite an accomplishment to put out 71 issues, and I don't care as much for records as I believe you do.))

The most redeeming feature of a Mark Lew letter is that, amidst the disjointed conglomeration of random thought fragments, one can indeed discover a pretty wide variety of true gems. I firmly believe that if someone put Mark into a gigantic blender and turned it on for a few minutes, he would emerge a genius. ((Yeah, but he'd be pretty badly cut up don't you think?)) The raw materials are definitely there; they are just sort of mixed up. Scrambled Igs, as it were. Kind of the opposite of, say, Feery, whose reems and reems of prose exhibit remarkable continuity, but lack the glitter of a lone Lew line.

In your game section, you put DIAS up to a player vote, saying that the situation had heretofore not been covered by your houserules. I doubt it. Do your houserules have a clause that says that the Rulebook will be used except where overridden? Then your games are DIAS, since the Rulebook is DIAS. This is why I disagree with Gary's contention that Dick acted improperly in invoking DIAS in R3 - it was already there, in the Rulebook.

It's funny, you know, that I just ate a handful of M&Ms. Not in-itself, that is, but just a little while ago I was pontificating about people who smoke themselves to death, and take their sweet little feti with them. And yet here I am, eating myself into semiobesity. Thank God I'm not pregnant. Pass the pickles and the peanut butter please. And the red pepper. Of course.

The dialogue you carry on with your computer is neat. Have you heard of Wes Ives's computer system, the Woodworks, on which he

is running Diplomacy games by electronic mail? You'll read all about it soon in VD and elsewhere if you haven't heard yet. You'd be a candidate for a position in his games, since you own a computer. You're lucky; I have to do my word processing in my head before typing anything; you computerists can just let your fingers dance away and then - PRESTO! - text edit mistakes.

Olsen wrote in about my excessive consumption of catfood at Byrnecon. Actually, I'm not as crazy as it must have seemed to everyone. You see, I really don't like cat food. The problem is that they were out of dog food. I was at Alex's a while ago, and she made me get down on all fours and eat the food out of her dog's dish. I almost puked, because at the time I thought it was cat food. Ask her if you think I'm pulling your leg.

Speaking of Byrnecon, your writeup was excellent, but you seem to have been victimized by the Cunning Syndrome. That is, you left out my name entirely. Cathy did the exact same thing in her Origins article last summer; it must be contagious. I knew I shouldn't have let her talk to you when she called.

Regarding the Baltimore Orioles, I think they're the best team around these days, but they're a far cry from the Orioles of '70 and '71. That Oriole team was in my opinion the finest ever to take the field. ((Wrongo, I can think of a lot of Yankee teams that were better by far.)) They had defense - Brooks Robinson, Paul Blair, and Mark Belanger were all outstanding; hitting in Frank Robinson, Don Buford, and Boog Powell; pitching in Jim Palmer, Dave McNally and Mike Cuellar. I lived in the D.C. area and was a Washington-Senators fan back then. It was amazing, the way the Orioles used to clobber them (and everyone else). As an avid Yankee-hater, I'm now a gung-ho Oriole fan. Watching the Yankees play is like playing Diplomacy with Houserules or reading the New York Post. Gross!

Gotta go. Keep up the great letter column. How do you do it?

((FINALLY! I thought I'd never get through that letter! Let me respond, to those items I didn't cover directly in the letter, one at a time:

I'm happy with the LC format, and so it seems is everyone else. I'll stick with it for a while.

I think what Dick did is hilarious. Naturally, he should follow it up with either a refund or the real issue, but you gotta admit it was a pretty funny idea!

Different definitions of common sense? Let's look carefully at those two words: C-O-M-M-O-N and S-E-N-S-E. Got it Bruce? I didn't think so. Which of your HRs do I view as silly? Alright, here are some of them: I.2 -Gender of Inclusiveness. I.3 -VD games are inhuman; I.7 -Transferring a game (the part dealing with the death, disability or dismemberment of the GM), III.2 Deadlines (the part about Daylight Savings Time), IV.7 could totally be dropped, V.1b is most silly, VII.9 is extremely silly, VIII.2, XI.7, XI.8, XI.10, and of course a personal favorite of mine, VII.6 -Parenthesized orders. Now I know what your response will be to most of this Eric, you'll ask what's wrong with the HRs mentioned? Well, it's not so much the HRs, as the interpretation

of them, and the interpretation of the orders by the GM (you). Anyway, enough said about the GMing stuff.

And so we get to my spelling and word usage, etc. Yes, there were seven errors in your last letter. I doubt there were that many this time. Of those seven, however, at least 3 were very minor, nothing to get bent out of shape over. I'll admit though, that I made some horrendous mistakes last issue. See the front page for my campaign promises.

The consumption of alcohol issue: Alcohol is a solvent. When you drink it, it gets into your bloodstream and goes to your brain. Brain cells are dissolved. These cells are impossible to replace once lost. We all start with a certain number of brain cells, if you want to waste yours uselessly for a few hours of comfort, go right ahead. Like I said in the smoking editorial, certain risks are worth taking. I don't even drink socially, but that is mostly because I just don't like the taste of alcohol. I'm glad I'm not tempted though.

As for double issues, it is not a normal practice of mine (I've only done it three times though this may be the fourth!) and I have already stated my position on it. I don't think I'm ripping anyone off by sending a 40+ page issue, especially when almost all of the feedback is positive. I'm willing to take a loss for putting out Anduin, I just can't afford too big a loss.

As for DIAS, it is one of those rules that most GMs have their own feelings about. I would say that it is accepted for a GM to state whether his games are DIAS or non-DIAS, no matter what the rulebook says. Since both types are considered regular by rating systems and score-keepers and bookies, I stated my position on my games several issues back -DIAS. My feelings about this have changed since then but the games will be completed as they were started. I did not start 81IP therefore I was in no position to state how the game was intended to be run. Thus it was put to a player vote and non-DIAS passed.

You need a modem for electronic Dip, I unfortunately don't have one. Yeah, having a computer like Hal really helps though.

Nice letter Brux, several pages, different paper, different writing utensils - don't you dare ever send me something that big again!!!)

From John Caruso -Flushing, NY:

Why would someone smoke or drink to their heart's content?

There is no rationale, but there are answers- They are trying to escape or rebel against what they are being told, or what reality has in store for them. I used to be a heavy smoker - 3-4 packs a day. It was a relaxing feeling - but that excuse was a copout. When I finally realized I was really hurting myself, I stopped. Call it what you want - continuous smoking or drinking is a slow form of suicide. Maybe the person doing it thinks no one really cares about them. Couple that with the person really doesn't care about themselves, and wala! Boy, will the "gut analyzers" have fun with this, and ripping apart my opinions. But my opinions are 1st hand - as a former smoker and at present, a problem drinker.

You "hate organized religion"? You must be fooling. I mean here you are, criticizing your elders for attempting to force you

to follow in their religious steps, and not allowing you to decide for yourself. And you are condemning them and their beliefs because they made just the choice you are complaining that they attempted to deprive you of. Hypocrisy! I am not a very religious person, nor do I know a lot about all the different religions, but from what I've read, most religions attempt to teach people to be at peace with themselves and to respect their brother (brother meaning fellow human). I'm sure what you mean is you disapprove of most (or all) organized religious beliefs. All religions that I've read about talk of going out and experiencing life. That's something you seem to believe in. The difference comes in the customs people follow, and they attach different names to the actual Spiritual Being they say is their God and Creator or Founder. No one says you must believe in Spiritual or Superior Beings. Believe in those things that are important to you, believe in facts, but most importantly, believe in, and respect yourself. You are your own temple. And try to remember that sometimes people's beliefs are all they have, and is all that keeps them going from day to day ((yes dad)). It may sound silly, but it's a sad reality.

In either case, I will respect you none-the-less. It matters not what you believe in - as long as you don't prejudice yourself against those who have different beliefs than yourself.

If I had a nickel for every time Bruce Linsey's GMing is discussed in all the zines in this country, I'd never have to work again. If nothing else, despite what certain people say, he is known for his GMing, whether strict, superstrict, nitpicking or just plain silliness. He "enjoys" GMing like that, and some people "enjoy" playing like that. I couldn't or wouldn't, in either case.

I'm sorry for the sloppy handwriting, instead of a typed sheet. Send my best to Hal!

I almost forgot - Anduin is looking very good, and you have an extraordinary letter column. Keep it up and the new publishers will be pointing to you as the prototype. Take care.

((Thanks, I hope so. I feel that I am entitled to hate organized religion if I want to. That doesn't mean I won't tolerate it, though. I don't know, maybe disapprove is a better word. Thanks for the advice (you sound like my father), I try to follow a not-so-well-trodden path(?).

From Brett Cameron -Hicksville, NY:

I've been following with interest the debate in Anduin about religion etc and feel I have something to add since nobody else seems to have properly defined the question. Pete Gaughan came close when he spoke of the fact that religion and other ideologies are used by some people as a tool to gain power over others. However he said you went wrong when he blamed this on the "inherent evil" of men. Evil is a subjective term and is therefore not a reason for all but literary purposes. What is "good" to one person is "evil" to another just as a scientist could refer to a temperature of 1° above absolute zero as "heat" even though to every else it would be "cold".

The real problem is not religion per se but irrational belief in anything. When someone believes in something so strongly that he is willing to kill or be killed for it, then he becomes a dangerous tool in the hands of somebody willing to use him to obtain power. These "believers" are the types who send people to death camps, burn heretics, and drive suicide car bombs into hotels. You expressed this type of belief yourself a couple of issues ago, I believe, on the death penalty. Beware!

Incidentally, I'd like to point out to you that "inherent evil", under the term "Original Sin", was originally a religious concept and was part of the dogma that led to the Spanish Inquisition etc.

Finally, an historical comment. You and Pete G. were in conflict over whether Hitler's persecution of the Jews had racial or religious roots. In reality, "Anti-Semitism" cannot properly be placed in either category although it had religious origins. In the Middle Ages, when the Catholic Church had absolute control over the lives of Europeans, the Church persecuted and suppressed any "dissident" group which might pose a threat to its power--i.e. Jews, heretics and Moslems--and irrational hatred of those groups was born. While Moslems could look for aid to Islamic nations and, after the Reformation, heretics could look after themselves, Jews had neither recourse and so anti-Semitism survived. Subsequently, groups as diverse as the Nazis, the Tsars and the American Federalists (who used Anti-Semitism to some effect against the anti-Federalist Jeffersonians) used Anti-Semitism for their own political ends until the religious origins of it were lost and it became an irrational belief unto itself -- neither religious nor racial. --Hope you had a Happy New Year.

Your Friendly Neighborhood Nihilist, --Scott.

((Ahh, so that's what you are! I was beginning to wonder. I find myself agreeing with most of what you said. I cannot dispute the historical evidence, and when it comes right down to it, "Good" and "Evil" are both subjective terms. Still, if we speak in general terms, these words were created by our society and thus we attach to them certain meanings. When I say that I feel man is inherently evil, I am speaking of his ability to do malignant things in my eyes, and in the eyes of many others. Such an act would be putting a child into a stove, driving a car bomb into a hotel, persecuting heretics, and sending people to death camps. More and more though, I am led to believe that not only is man inherently evil, but that for the most part, he is inherently dumb, and easily misguided. Thanks for writing a thought-provoking and insightful letter.))

From Rod Walker --Encinitas, CA:

Latest ANDUIN is here and... (mumble, mumble, grumble, sigh... get glasses...put on same...)...yes, great as always. Virtually illegible without extreme magnification, but great. The lettercol is nice (interesting) as usual.

I prefer "young" to "immature". I don't consider you immature. We all (or we all should) grow and change as we age. What would count as a mature approach to a problem would for

should vary according to age and experience. My approach to the religion thing was, when I was your age, very much what yours is now. Things changed. We have both responded to all the perceived inadequacies of organized religion and of the vision of the Biblical past projected by organized religion.

Reading the Bible: Well, you could do that, yes. The problem is, it's not an easy document to work with. Even the fundamentalists still split on some pretty basic issues. Furthermore, the book is loaded with stray interpolations, forgeries, and other nonauthentic material. Dealing with it adequately means getting down with some pretty technical literature on translation, exegesis, historical data, and what have you. As a single source, I'd recommend the Anchor Bible (in upteen volumes, one or more per book of the Bible). If you're serious about this reading thing, I'll recommend a number of books I've found useful enough to buy (especially the books of Paul Schonfield and Jesus by Edward Schillebeeckx). But don't tackle the book by itself. It is a document of very mixed virtues, very mixed sources, and very mixed authenticity.

Organized religion seems to be the topic last lettercol. You cannot ignore the historical context of the Church, but you are right in pointing out that the modern Church can neither be condemned nor praised for what its predecessors did. However, given that, then I assert that the Church is the most important single institution on the face of the earth. I am not so foolish as to claim that the non-Judaeo-Christian faiths have no part in the divine. Of course they do. But the Judaeo-Christian tradition, muddled as it is, is still the clearest and most coherent expression of God's thought wich we have at present.

This thought is embodied in a complex array of mythic material of which the Church is the custodian. Myths, whether they are based on truth, falsehood, or in-between, play important roles in leading people to organize and focus their thoughts and actions. This is important because that ultimately it is right behavior which counts toward the future of the race, rather than right belief. It is the function of the Church to induce people to become more Christlike in their behavior. Amazingly, it is this price function in which the Church has experienced, and is experiencing, its most remarkable failure. And yet if our race does not become more Christlike in the future, it is very likely to have no future at all. But, for better or worse, it is the Church which is charged by history with the mission of converting us from half human to fully human.

Consider this: Just under 2000 years ago, a certain man was born. It is relatively well documented that this man possessed abilities which today we would call "psionic"...abilities which are increasingly agreed as being within the potential of the race. It is documented that he was able to kill a full grown tree by an act of will. He was able to heal certain sicknesses and infirmities. He was almost certainly able to levitate and, by implication, to move other physical objects at will. It can be inferred, in fact, that his telekinetic abilities were of such magnitude that he could cause earth movements. This man rippled...what? That he was something wonderful? No; that he was real. He went about the countryside teaching, and the

lesson was that you must behave according to certain principles and that your head must be in a certain place. And then this man, who presumably had the power to level the city of Jerusalem by force of will, allowed himself to be (forced the issue, in fact, so that he would be) put to death. Now you can doubt the "miracle" stories if you wish, in which case the above narrative reduces to zilch. The only problem there is that if the "fig tree" narrative is unhistorical, it would have no reason to appear in the Gospels...and if that happened, few of the other "miracles" seem impossible by comparison. And once you conclude that a man possessing power of that magnitude allowed himself to become the victim of judicial murder, you have to start asking questions which are going to lead to some sort of metaphysics, whether of the conventional or unconventional sort.

Metaphysical questions are of course, fun to discuss/debate/argue about. I don't see them as being of practical importance. Jesus' continual emphasis on behavior modification and attitude adjustment shows where his priorities (and God's) were. Or Moses' insistence on the same things (essentially).

Believing in God: No, I don't suppose you have to. It's not necessary to adequate daily physical and emotional functioning. You're right there. For that matter, you don't need other people, either; you could always be a hermit, right? ((Wrong.)) If that were necessary, you could. But why bother? Aren't we all better people because of others? And for the sake of others? It is not the belief in others that is important, but your relationship with them. The same is true of the entity we term "God". Yet, of course, because this entity is not visible or palpable in any other physical way, it is the belief which opens the door to the relationship. It seems to me, in that sense, that a "He" God is a misnomer. God is (in my experience) more nearly a cosmic mother, loving and nurturing us to the extent we are capable of receiving that sort of input. And we are imperfect receivers. But love and nurturing are things of which we have a much greater need than we would like to admit or imagine. The important thing that orthodox Christianity (or any other religion, for that matter) will not tell you is that love and nurturing constitute a two-way street. Do you really suppose that God has no needs? (Assuming She exists, of course.) I daresay that "cui bono?" applies to deities as well as to mortals, and therefore even if God is responsible for the creation of the universe, there has to be some felt need behind... other than (if we are to believe the Calvinists) the creation of a very large number of living entities for the sole purpose of consigning most of them to an eternity in Hell.

Well, we've gone rather afield here, and I don't suppose you want to print all that. Still, it's interesting (but it's not Diplomacy).

((So what? This zine serves other purposes than just Dip (see my reply to Kathy's letter earlier). Still, I think that I will end the religious discussion with this issue. Everyone it seems, who had anything to say about it, has said their piece. Your letter is interesting, but I disagree with most of it. Still, you are entitled to my beliefs and you are entitled to yours. I do not

believe in the miracles described, and would ask you to reread Cameron's letter since he puts it all so eloquently, as far as belief is concerned. I could not exist without other people. I think I would find it unbearable. It's one of my inherent weaknesses... I haven't the time to tackle the Bible right now, and doubt I will have the energy to do so for quite a while. Maybe when I'm out of college... Too bad about the small print you old fogey!! This thing is expensive enough! Humph!

Rod has asked me to announce that he has restarted his old Dipzine, EREHNON. Subs will be \$6/10 issues and ought to feature some interesting things. I would send a stamp and ask for a sample first though, before you decide to subscribe or not. I would advise this before subbing to any zine as a matter of fact, so that you can see whether or not you like the editor's style. Anyway, his address is 1273 Crest Drive, Encinitas, CA, 92024.))

From Steve Langley -Sacramento, CA:

How would I react if God spoke to me personally? How would you react? I'd probably go through a momentary scenario based on the practical joke premise and, since it's really God speaking to me, end up listening very carefully to what God had to say. Yourself? I'm enclosing a small blurb about the Shroud of Turin. I thought you might be interested to see that scientists have examined it and dated it and have been doing so for the past couple of decades.

If course, I use the term scientist very loosely here. Most of the people examining the Shroud have degrees in math, physics, chemistry, etc. but are not scientists. They, like you, already know that the Shroud has to be a fake and are merely intent upon proving it. There probably are a few scientists in the group. The ones who are just taking data and haven't yet formed a hypothesis to be tested.

When I labeled 'science' as one of man's Gods I did so using the definition of God based on belief in a higher power that depends upon faith instead of direct knowledge. There are a lot of people who 'know' that 'science' has all the answers, or will make things possible and bring forth the millenium of prosperity and happiness that is mankind's fate. This knowledge about science is based on faith. It is 'common knowledge' and as such doesn't suffer examination. Granted, the details are a bit vague and the when of it all isn't today, but the faith is still pretty strong in science. If that doesn't make 'science' a God with a small 'G', why doesn't it? ((Because it isn't true.))

Congratulations on your VD win. You give credit to your style of order writing in your end of game statement. Does Super Nova carry an article giving novices a good example of how to write orders? I don't remember. If not, maybe you could write such an article. A lot of novices would bless you for it.

((Not a bad idea. How about it Brux? Science does not depend on faith. It asks questions, forms hypothesis, and searches for answers. Very few things in science are 'concrete' because it is so hard to prove something definitely. One must be very careful with the wording. Of course, you are talking of my faith in

science to "find" all the answers. I suppose so. I guess I do have faith in things. In many things in fact. In **ALL** things!!! Everything is based on faith. Just as I have faith that science may find the answers, I also have faith that the next breath I take will not be my last, &c. As for the Shroud of Turin, heh heh, just read the next letter. I'll let Fred do the talking (how I love being editor!!).

From Fred Davis -Baltimore, MD:

I've been meaning to write to you for about two weeks, but there was never any time. The letters concerning religion in the last two ANDUINS were quite thought-provoking. I think there ought to be a clarification that there is no necessary connection between "religion" and "faith." For example, I have often told people, "No, I don't go to church. I'm too religious." In other words, my particular Unitarian beliefs in a Supreme Being do not require the rituals and "magic" involved in most church services. (I find the passing of a collection plate in the House of God to be a particular abomination. I keep mumbling to myself, "And He drove the money changers out of the temple." The Jews are so much smarter. One pays one's membership for a seat or pew once a year, by mail.)

It's my belief that any individual can communicate with the power we call "God" at any time, in any place, with no need for intervention by middlemen. God must be very amused (and I'm sure he has an excellent sense of humor) that some people think they must take their hats off to pray, and others that they must put their hats on; or that some can pray only on Sundays, or Fridays, or what-have-you; or that one must kneel or assume some other posture to talk to Him.

My main reason for writing, however, was to furnish information on the Shroud of Turin. I, too, was quite disturbed when word was being sent out that the Shroud was genuine. I went so far as to say that if the Shroud was genuine, this left only three logical possibilities: 1. That Christ was an extraterrestrial. 2. That Christ had been manipulated by extraterrestrials, for unknown reasons. Or, 3. That Christ was actually divine.

However, a lengthy report on the status of the Shroud in the magazine, THE SKEPTICAL INQUIRER, Spring 1982 (Vol. VI, No. 3), clearly shows the Shroud is a hoax. To begin with, it popped up out of nowhere at Lirey, in north-central France, around the year 1350. How such an object could have survived for 1300 years and then appeared in such an out of the way place has never been satisfactorily explained. It is only when we learn that religious relics were constantly being put on display, for money, all over medieval Christendom, that we can see the motive. If all the pieces of wood being displayed as part of the True Cross, for example, had been put together, they would have formed enough wood to build a house.

In any event, by 1357 the Lirey cloth, as it was then known, was bringing large sums to the local church by being displayed to crowds of pilgrims from all over Europe. The Bishop, Henri de Poitiers, became quite concerned by this performance, and launched

an investigation. The official report is summarized in a letter from de Poitiers's successor, Bishop Pierre d'Arcis, in a letter to the Pope, Clement VII. Said letter is still in existence. It reads, in part:

"...the Dean of a certain collegiate church, to wit, that of Lirey, falsely and deceitfully, being consumed with the passion of avarice, and not from any motive of devotion but only of gain, procured for his church a certain cloth cunningly painted..."

"Eventually, after diligent inquiry and examinations, Henri de Poitiers discovered the fraud and how the said cloth had been cunningly painted, the truth being attested by the artist who had painted it, to wit, that it was a work of human skill and not miraculously wrought or bestowed.... I offer myself here as ready to supply all information sufficient to remove any doubt concerning the facts alleged."

As a result of this investigation, the displays were stopped shortly after 1357. Three decades later, they were once again in full swing. This is what caused d'Arcis to send his letter to the Pope. Clement VII considered the matter, and issued a Bull which allowed exhibition of the cloth, only if advertised as a "copy or representation." This Bull has never been rescinded. The Catholic Church has never taken an official stand on the authenticity of the Shroud. However, this directive was gradually forgotten, to the point where, today, the Shroud has become one of the most venerated relics in Christendom.

In 1978, samples of the "bloodstains" on the shroud were examined microscopically in the laboratory of the McCrone Research Institute in Chicago. Walter McCrone is the best-known microanalyst in the world. His studies included use of the electron microscope and multiple forms of analysis. The bloodstains were found to contain calcium and iron. However, they also contained quantities of mercury and sulfur. The latter two just happen to form a pigment called vermillion, an artist's red pigment widely used during the Middle Ages. Vermillion cannot come from the human body. Accordingly, its presence in "bloodstain" areas strongly indicates that the bloodstains were produced, at least in part, by an artist.

This is a brief summary of a 20-page article, which proved to my satisfaction that the shroud is a hoax. Back issues of THE SKEPTICAL INQUIRER are available from the publisher for \$7.50, from Box 229, Central Park Sta., Buffalo, N.Y. 14215. Or, it may be available in some libraries.

In conclusion, I just wish to add my opinion that most people do need some sort of faith or philosophy to live by, but it is not necessary to confuse faith with any type of organized religion. When things are going well, one can put this on the back burner. However, when faced with the loss of a parent or a loved one, there is a need to turn elsewhere for additional strength. It is irrelevant whether one chooses to call that strength something emanating from God, or the First Cause, or The Force, or whatever. It may even be internal. It is possible for most people to get some sort of nonphysical second wind from such a force.

Personally, I have kept an open mind on the subject of immortality. I don't think we have enough information to positively state whether or not this phenomenon exists. I do feel quite strongly that any immortality will be totally different from that preached by any sort of organized religion. As Mark Twain once put it, an eternity of harp-playing would be intolerable torture for most humans. As I see it, any afterlife would begin with a voice saying, "Well, now you've completed Kindergarten. Welcome to the First Grade!"

((It's nice to think like that, wouldn't that be neat?! Many thanks for the letter Fred, you saved me the trouble of arguing with Steve Langley on the subject. He'll still disagree, but at least now something for "our" side has been said. Yes, God probably does have an excellent sense of humor. He created Robert Sacks didn't he?))

From Tom Swider -Binghamton, NY:

The one thing I saw the most in your replies in the letter column was "college rebellion"; I found it interesting to notice your observation of "some" people's need to drink/smoke at the same time. This may sound corny, but that's what I was doing in my HS senior year 2 years ago.

It seemed to me, however, not too big a task to tackle. Being of conservative stock, I felt that many students "rebelled" to feel grown-up. They got involved in marches on Washington, organized nuclear protest rallies (personally, I'm in favor of nuclear war...), and so forth. Too many times I feel much of the ruckus they cause is not for achieving anything, but for the sole purpose of rebelling against the system, which is a pity.

My favorite book, Main Street, showed many examples of the one pseudotype I detest: the pseudo-intellect. A friend of mine at work and school is a member of the Young Socialist Democrats. The YSD wrote a guest editorial against Greyhound, where they stated that scab drivers were unsafe and inexperienced. Considering the fact that you need to have a class 2 bus license to drive a bus, and with thousands of applications, Greyhound should get some good drivers. I told my friend this, and he replied that their goal was to stir up resentment against "the system" and appeal to the reader's emotions. Exactly what good is it when some overzealous "college rebels" lie and distort their arguments? As someone once said, "a little knowledge is a dangerous thing."

What does this have to do with drinking/smoking? Guess it's peer pressure and all the yelling the pseudo-intellect/extremists do. In both cases, do what you think is best. Why rebel for the sake of rebelling? If you "rebel", make sure it's 100% sincere. Same for sex/drugs/booze + funny stuff/rock 'n roll. Drink if you like to, not because of peers. Drinking doesn't have to go to the drunken extremes either; believe it or not, it's possible to have fun without being drunk. Too bad some people forget that.

Well, hopefully you or Hal (what an awful name for a computer!) can find some use for all of this. I hope I didn't

come across as a snotty elitist, but I get the impression most people don't think twice, let alone once.
P.S. Apples aren't better than Ataris! If you think about it, all PC's are identical except

- 1) The "packages" are different.
 - 2) Slightly varied to disallow software A being used on PC B.
- Besides, Eadie (spelled "E-D"; like my subxyn) plays better games than Hal; so go to Hal! (heh heh...).

((("Eric, what was Tom's address?" Just a moment Hal, I'll get it after I reply to his letter. "Thank you Eric."

Well Tom, you've managed to get on Hal's bad side, but other than that, you didn't seem too snotty to me (just a little maybe!). I'm not really rebelling that much, do I come off sounding that way??)

From Gary Coughlan -Memphis, TN:

I really enjoyed Anduin 25/26 especially because now I know where it comes from by having seen it on your computer (Hi Hal!) at your home. You almost tempt me to get a computer for pubbing a zine. I see pubbing has caused you to see the sun rise the next day sometimes too! But I know you'll have to agree that pubbing has so many rewards.

You mentioned a comic book collection? Do you have any Classic Comics, like Ivanhoe, Ichabod Crane, Shakespeare's plays and the like? I'd be willing to buy these off of you for a decent price if you are indeed selling them for a trek in Europe (Be sure and buy some Union Jack socks like me!).

Speaking of your love for the British, you'll get a chance to put it to the test. Around Easter, Simon Billenness, who does the British equivalent of our Zine Directory is coming to the US to meet his future American in-laws. He says they'll be at Albany and on Long Island, which is your (great?) neck of the woods. Your father can tell about the-gong-trick-on-the-airplane episode. That really cracked me up!

Eric, I don't always agree with you on everything but you have a good head on your shoulders and I know you to be a fair guy and someone who is not afraid to express his opinions. You have a good grasp of what's what. But you really got to work on your Southern accent. You shamed us Southerners when we played Family Feud and you were on our side (good choice though!) at Byrnecon. Y'all heah, boah?!

In Anduin 25/26, Dick Martin raises several points about me, which, to use his words, is "the same stuff again and again" and "is getting really boring." My response is, then why doesn't he stop talking about my drinking, my GMing and the other things he says to needle me? I told him in EE#18 that I was through ignoring his cheap shots. This was October, 1982 but I guess it hasn't sunk in yet. I'm glad you told him last issue that: "Dick, you really have to be prepared to stand by what you say, especially when criticizing another person in the hobby."

First of all, the drinking of Gary Coughlan: you are correct when you say that a person's personal life is really no one else's business in this hobby. Most of the people in this hobby who have

not me have seen me drink. This is because I am at a con, which to me is a party-type situation. Most people there, I've met, drank. The most anyone has seen me has been 3 times in one year and that one person came to my home so most people have only seen me 2 times at the max in one year. I submit that they have no idea how I spend the roughly 360 other days of the year, and are in no position to judge.

I find it hilarious that Dick Martin would write about me in his Retaliation 53/54, page 4 during his hysterical "vendetta attack" (so labelled by John Caruso, pubber of Whitestonia) against me: "It's a good think I didn't mention this Memphis drunkard's name, or he might expect me to give him equal space." Hilarious because he has since gone to considerable lengths to say he wasn't calling me an "alcoholic" and how dare I get that impression! Somehow I don't think he was trying to educate the hobby on the "very different" (Dick's words in Anduin 25/26) meanings of "drunkard" and "alcoholic". His intention, as you pointed out, was fairly clear.

Secondly, EE #18 was in response to Dick's "vendetta attack" (where, incidentally I was in one of his games as a player) against me. It was not "fictionalized" or "embellished" nor did it "influence the final outcome of SIAM" (Dick's EE game where I was his GM). It carried his "vendetta attack", word for word, many of his letters to me and my responses to them. I also quoted comments of his from his own Retaliation and several other zines including Anduin. In all cases, I gave the zine issue numbers so the readers could check the facts out for themselves. He had a right of reply and he didn't use it. He knows he can't refute what I printed in EE #18 (because so much of it is Dick's own words) and tries to discredit it in the letter columns about the hobby, by calling it "fictionalized" and embellished" as he did in Anduin 25/26.

I appreciate your comments to Dick about my GMing but I don't expect it to do any good. He's been told as much by all the other players in SIAM (Bob Olsen, Randolph Smyth, Bob Osuch, Bruce Linsey and Garry Hamlin) as well as Kathy Byrne. Each of these people, including you, have experienced me as your GM so that makes your comments even more appreciated.

Now had I, as Dick's GM, imposed DIAS (draws include all survivors) on his game after it had been running for quite some time, had I delayed over weeks calling an ombudsman at his request, had I given him an ultimatum to shut up talking about my GMing to the other players or I would remove him from the game and replace him, and had I written an attack on him within my zine saying he tries to drive people out of the hobby, "stoops to just about any means to get 'even' with anyone who was foolish enough to do him 'wrong'", "started a campaign to destroy the (Runestone) poll", and called him a "drunkard"-----then I would agree that he would have grounds to say that I influenced the final outcome of his game ((illegally)).

But I didn't do these things to him. He, as my GM, did them to me when I was a player in his zine. And because of these actions of his, I tried to be the best GM that I knew how and especially to Dick Martin. I have worked hard to be as good a GM as I know how and I'm not going to let anyone, Dick Martin or

anyone else, through spite or maliciousness or a sense of petty revenge ruin that reputation without just cause.

You, Eric, in Anduin 25/26 said to Dick: "I think you may have a case of it (my EE #18 response to his "vendetta attack") affecting the game." I would like to show you why this is not the case, and if any effect was done to 81 AM it was through Dick's own actions.

In that game Dick was Austria. The game ended in a draw between England and France each of whom had 11 supply centers. Dick had 10 centers. The English player, in his endgame statement (EE #23, p. 18) said he had submitted orders attacking France had the draw not passed. Without Dick's vote the draw would not have passed. The English player also stated that part of the reason for this action, (against France who had been his game-long ally) was because of Dick's actions. The English player stated: "if Austria began submitting more "joke" moves, the French player would win." The "joke" moves referred to were when Dick let the French units move against him unopposed thereby gaining valuable position for France.

Considering the fact that the only other two players in the game had only one SC a piece, a Franco-English war would seem to be in Dick's interests. It's not my fault the draw passed.

Earlier when Dick and I had patched up our differences (again it was me who incurred the long distance phone call bill that ended that particular feud), he said he wanted an apology from me in EE and he wanted it in the headlines of his game, 81 AM. The games I GM all have headlines so one of them the next time read: "Gary Apologizes to Dick (See page 8)!!" I made sure I got a return apology in his Retaliation but I didn't insist that it be in my game's headlines as Dick did. Again this wasn't my fault that Dick involved 81 AM in our feud.

Finally, Dick demanded an ombudsman for "possible GM misconduct". In view of my own experience with Dick shilly-shallying around about calling an ombudsman for me, I called one immediately. Dick backtracked right away and I don't know to this day what he was going to accuse me of. This came right on the heels of his "vendetta attack" on me. If he had any basis for attacking my GMing, the ombudsman should have been the forum. Instead he prefers writing snippy comments about my GMing, implying that something is wrong. I'm tired of it.

Needless to say, the call for an ombudsman forced a delay in 81 AM and I made sure all the players knew why. I mean "possible GM misconduct" is a serious charge and they had a right to know why their game was being delayed. I might add here that the game had already been plagued with requests for season separation and one recent game year had had separate Spring, Fall, Autumn and Winter and was followed the next year by separate Spring, Fall, and Winter.

Then because Dick dropped his request for an ombudsman, the game was still delayed as the deadline passed. I can handle him one on one with any problem but when he tried to cloud my reputation as a GM on flimsy unspecified charges and thereby involve the other players in the game, I reacted strongly.

After this, Don Ditter the then BNC offered to lock over my shoulder to insure that Dick had no basis for thinking he was

being screwed by me as his GM. Any orders that Dick sent me a copy went to Don. Don was to call me if he received any orders from Dick (Dick was told he could send them to either Don or me). Any correspondence that I had with Dick, including game reports, was sent to Don as well. In addition Dick got 3 copies of everything I sent whereas the other players only got one copy. This was to insure that nothing concerning 81 AM was lost in the mail when it was mailed to Dick.

In other words, I bent over backwards in accommodating Dick as a player in my game. As I've shown above, it wasn't me who brought the feud into 81 AM nor did it affect the "final outcome" of the game as Dick alleges. It's high time he took responsibility for his own words and his own actions, instead of blaming other people.

As for Dick's comment regarding Bruce Linsey and myself: He said: "Those two have been after me for a year now." I've had my own bitter differences with Bruce and I'm not in cahoots with him against Dick. Dick's remarks are what cause my remarks regardless of what Bruce does.

((First off, I want to say that this is hopefully the last we shall hear about this entire matter, in Anduin at least. I don't know exactly what to say Gary, I feel you are right on some points (like about the drinking), and that Dick is right on some points (like about DIAS in your game in Retal). I feel that you have been wronged, and that Dick has also been wronged. I printed this because I feel you have the right of reply to what Dick said last issue. Dick has expressed to me that he has no wish to continue the discussion.

Yes, I do have some Classic Comics, if you're really interested, I'll send you a list of which ones I have.

Yeah, my Southern accent needs working on. I've been out of practice for so long now. Sigh!))

From Kevin Stone -Grove City, PA:

Finals are over!! Finals are over!! Finals are over!! One more semester!! One more semester!! One more semester!! I had my last one this morning in Marketing. I needed a 71% to keep my B and 120% to get an A. I kept my B, but I think I came up a little short for an A.

I just got done typing and addressing the last of my 170 letters to various firms associated with the commodity futures industry. The computer was a **great** help. Looks like I'll end up working in either New York or Chicago for the first couple of years. Much as I'd rather not be in a city, I'm looking on the bright side - I'll never be able to complain that there's nothing to do. My younger (I hesitate to say "little") brother wants me to go to Chicago because they are having **the** stamp show (convention?) of the year there in 1985. (Yes, I know I said there's no way I'd ever live in a city, but a job is a job.)

Things here have been pretty crazy because of finals week. We've been having the World Garbage Can Bobsled Championships on our floor. Our garbage can has four wheels on it, and the trick is to push it down the hall, jump on, and see how far you can

ride. We also broke a chair and a light fixture when they jumped in the way of a football. I'm going home on Monday, after watching the Raiders whip the Chargers tomorrow.

Yes, I too enjoyed 1984. It's good to see you are reading and enjoying the classics, because you'll be doing some reading if you go to a good liberal arts school. I've always enjoyed reading, but many of my friends hated our humanities classes with a passion.

Kathy Byrne's letter on the "Ed Wrobel Affair" reminded me of a definition from Mark Berch's Lexicon of Diplomacy:

Triple checked: What all orders should be.

As for your utter lack of respect for organized religion, did you know that almost all the non-governmental agencies that help the poor are either related to a religious organization (usually Christian) or have their roots in religion? Groups like The Salvation Army, United Way, food kitchens, the Red Cross, hospitals, etc. I believe if you stack up these benefits and compare them to the negatives of Christianity in the 20th century, you'll find the good aspects far outweigh the bad ones.

One of my friends bought two absolutely beautiful rocking chairs from an Amish craftsman who lives a few miles from campus. He is one of the Puritans (around here they are Mennonites) who your heart bleeds for in your response to Pete Gaughan's PS. You need not feel sorry for them. They are a very happy people. They believe in an honest day's wages for an honest day's work. (A rather refreshing concept in light of many people's cries that this country owes them something.) The joys of life Eric? It is rare to find an Amish person with high blood pressure, lung cancer, ulcers, etc. Those are the tolls the pursuit of the joys of life take on our bodies. If you are ever around Lancaster, PA, stop in and see an Amish family. They usually don't mind showing you around their farm as long as you don't take any photographs.

How dare parents instill in their children their beliefs, without giving them a chance to decide for themselves? Surely you jest. One of the main duties of a parent is to give their children guidelines to live by and attempting to enforce these guidelines. I'm sure you share many beliefs with your parents. This is not coincidence. Having a foundation for your beliefs gives a person self-confidence and a feeling of direction. The people who don't have beliefs instilled in them by their parents (lower class inner city youths come to mind) often stagger through life with no self-esteem and no direction.

The explanation about some people's obsession with alcohol is that alcoholism is a terrible, terrible disease. Alcoholics often do not realize what they are doing to themselves and their loved ones. They think they can handle their problem (often, they don't feel they have a problem at all). As for infrequent alcohol abuse, I must confess I am one of the poor souls who does this. About once a year I am stupid and drink till I get sick. Then I remember that getting sick isn't fun and I drink in moderation for another few months. When you get to college, there are a great deal of temptations, alcohol among them. If you ever start to drink, always keep alive your memories of the destructive properties of alcohol.

Speaking of alcoholism, I'll move on to Dick Martin's letter: My dictionary (The Random House Dictionary, 1980) defines **drunkard** as "a person who is habitually or frequently drunk." Turning to **habitually**, we find "1. fixed by or resulting from habit, 2. being such by habit." This leads us to **habit**, which is "an acquired behavior pattern regularly followed until it has become almost involuntary." Thus, a drunkard is a person who drinks almost involuntarily. Now if that isn't describing an alcoholic, I don't know what is. Dick made a mistake and should admit it, instead of trying to play games with words. ((Well said!))

Maybe Mark Lew, Dan Palter, and Rod Walker should come with English sub-titles. One point about Palter's letter: He said he should be mediocre in mid 1984 and merely poor in 1985. That would be digressing, because mediocre means average. ((proofreader's comment - the correct word there would be "descending" or some such, not "digressing", which means "straying from the topic of discussion")) I think it has acquired a bad rap because being average in America is not good.

Kenny's "All-Star Wars" story was hilarious! However, even if Cal Ripken, Jr. was the best player in baseball, it would not be enough to carry the Yankees to the pennant as long as George is upstairs creating chaos. The Yankees have no stability (Yogi just became their 11th manager in 11 years) and everyone lives in fear. By the way, when I listed the best players in baseball, I meant to say Andre Dawson, not Warren Cromartie. Another note: Dave Mattingly ((it's **DON** you slime!)) is a banjo hitter - lots of contact, but no power. I'll take the Straw Man any day. ((Yeah, and he'll strike out four times most probably.))

Moving on to economics, we come to your desire for the United States to still be under the mercantilist rule of the U.K. ((not just the US, but the entire world under the U.K.)) Do you know what the mercantilists thought the colonies existed for? To be exploited! They would ship raw materials from England, process them into finished goods and export them, sometimes to America, sometimes to other countries. Their coffers filled up with their gold while the colonies got raped. ((oh you poor, misguided soul!)) Why were the colonies revolting? ((Because they smelled?)) Because they wanted freedom? Because they wanted something in return for their hard work? We would not have become the greatest nation in the world if our forefathers had not stood up to the exploiting, protectionistic mercantilists. I am interested to hear why you would rather be living without many of the "joys of life." Maybe I have a narrow view Eric, but as far as I'm concerned, it's "America - love it or leave it!"

Finally, in response to Rod Walker, I contend that the Bible is absolutely accurate when read in its original Hebrew and Greek texts. It was written by human hands, but was the exact word of God. The flaws come up when it is translated into English and then misinterpreted. ((Oh give me a break!)) Obviously, with so much controversy and debate, somebody's **translation** is wrong, but the original text is the true word of God.

Overall, despite our many differences in opinion, I enjoyed your letter column immensely. Anduin's steady increase in quality

has been fun to follow. Keep up the good work! Have a safe and happy holiday season.

PS Sorry I won't be at Brux's or KB's over break. The Fire Department calls. If I get a job in the City though, we'll be seeing a lot of each other.

((Probably not, unfortunately, as I'll be off somewhere in college next year. Hey I appreciate the compliments Kev babe, you're all right!! (Even if we do disagree...))

As I said, you poor misguided soul. They have drummed into you this false notion that England was "the bad guy" in the Revolution. How come nobody considers that they were fighting to protect us? The French were a tremendous threat, both in Europe and in Northern America. The English fought many costly wars with them to protect us. Their coffers were not being filled to the brim with gold!! The wars were very costly and everyone in the empire was doing their share to chip in, except the snobby Americans. They didn't mind the protection, but when it came time to make a sacrifice, they wouldn't do it. My honest feeling is that the Revolution was entirely due to a misunderstanding due to the distance and time involved in travelling from England to the colonies. Somewhere in transit, there just have been a mix-up.

You are so right about alcohol being a disease. And you have saved me the trouble of writing an editorial about it!

As for the Amish families, maybe they lead content lives, and if that is enough, I'm glad for them. But I prefer a little excitement. You show a definite anti-city feeling Kevin, that shows right through in several parts of your letter (like about city kids.). No, I'm not kidding about parents instilling beliefs in their kids. When and if I have children (and I do intend to some day...), I will regard it as my most important function to bring them up to the best of my ability. This will include instilling in them some of my values, some of society's values, some of my wife's values, and most importantly, freedom of choice and thought. This right is the most important one, I feel. I'll admit that parents can't help but influence their children to some degree, just as I have been influenced by my parents. But we do disagree on many matters in politics, philosophy &c. The one thing we generally agree upon is religion.

Best of luck in your job hunting. I think you'll like NYC more than Chitown, but I suppose I'm a bit biased, huh?

And finally, as to the tolls for pursuing the "joys of life", ask not who the bell tolls for Kevin, for it tolls for thee!))

From Ken Halpern -Great Neck, NY:

Well, I have just completed editing Anduin, so you (readers) can blame any errors you find up to this point on me. Eric still has to type in some of the games, so credit or blame for the quality of same goes to Kane. This issue I am, in addition to editing, typing my letter directly into Hal's Anduin file, in the hope that I will not appear falsely semiliterate, as I did last month. I must admit, it will be difficult to write this letter without responding to what I have read in this issue. However, I'll do my best.

First I have to respond to Mark Lew's torrent of nonsense that appeared in the last issue of this journal. I had not yet encountered the criticism that I am hard to follow until I read your comment to that effect, Mr. Lew. Why am I hard to follow, Markie? Do you not comprehend the language used to express the ideas in my correspondences; the ideas themselves? I write in a very sequential and organized manner. If you fail to grasp the content of my letters, then at least do not criticize them on the basis that they are hard to follow, for the deficiency lies with you, not the object of your criticism.

In addition, my contention that the existence of God is not consistent with our body of scientific knowledge would clearly be supported by the artificial creation of life, since religion claims that only God can do so. Your statement that my "argument will fall apart if some person does create life" seems inane in light of that fact - I would appreciate an explanation of your point of view. In fact, I agree with you that it is not out of the question for man to acquire the technology to create life. Apparently, you did not even bother to read my letter. I know that you're naturally abrasive, and laugh at those who permit themselves to become incensed at your obnoxious comments, however, since I consider this a childish defense mechanism, I'm going to be mad anyway.

Gee, I wish I had a major baseball topic to argue about this issue, but I don't. I suppose I could kvetch (that's Yiddish for complain) about Eric's intimation that I am only a fan of Cal Ripken, Jr. because he won the MVP award this year (actually, last year), but Eric wrote it just to aggravate me, so I won't even dignify it by responding with any more words than I have just written. Stone's contention that the Orioles have a bunch of sluggers with limited mobility is not really descriptive of the kind of baseball that the Orioles play, and certainly the Mets are less exciting than the Birds even when compared in Stone's terms. You see, the Orioles have contact hitters and a few base-stealers mixed in with their awesome power-hitters. The Mets, on the other hand, have only one legitimate consistent power generator, one base-stealing threat who strikes out a lot more than he walks, one .300 hitter with above average power, and a hell of a lot of mediocre triple-A players. That cannot produce exciting baseball under most circumstances. I believe that most baseball fans would agree that the record number of comeback victories that the Orioles staged this past season indicates that they are very exciting to watch. Again, I must also harken back to the unavoidable point that games from August on are a lot more exciting if they mean something in a pennant race. When the leaves are brown, Mets fans are usually already blue.

Actually, Kev, when I referred to you as scrawny, I was just being mischeivous, trying to start a feud. You didn't bite, you warlike Republican/Conservative. I'm very impressed. Oh, well... 'Til next time, Ken.
P.S. Smoking? It sucks.

((Don't be mean to Markie, he knows not what he says... Gee Mark, two letters about you in one issue! Not bad!))

From Nick Fellela -Floral Park, NY:

As far as the religion issue, I agree with you on some points, but other points I think you are wrong on.

First, the existence of God issue has been argued by many great minds, and we still don't know the answer. I don't think we can prove there is or isn't a God in ANDUIN. ((I never tried to prove or disprove his existence. I was merely expressing my opinions and letting others (like yourself) express theirs''))

I agree with you 100% that people shouldn't use religion to justify evil acts. But see people at fault, not religion itself. ((You're probably right here to some degree. But see Linsey's letter for another point of view.))

I don't really see the Holocaust as strictly a religious issue. Hitler didn't like Communists, Slavs and a lot of others.

But if the Holocaust was a religious issue, how can you blame religion for the suffering! The religions were the good guys this time and blaming them is blaming religion. And I certainly don't think Hitler was a religious man! ((I'm not "blaming" religion for being prosecuted. I'm blaming the existence of religion as the cause of much political upheaval.))

And what about suffering not caused by religion, "religious" leaders or governments. Stalin was as bad, or worse than Hitler, some say. And surely you remember Pol Pot in Cambodia, and what he did to millions there. ((I'm afraid I'm not familiar with Pol Pot. But again here I'm just pointing to religion as a major reason of strife between people. Why we are so obsessed with power and control is beyond me. I guess it's the old 'inherent evilness' in us.))

One of my teachers always explained the Economics behind history. He had me convinced everything was caused by economics. Now I know better.

Anyway, very few mothers would send their sons off to battle for their leader's bank accounts. So the leaders find a so-called "noble" cause, like religion, communism, freedom, etc. Somehow I think the Spanish + Crusaders would have been just as bad, if not worse, if their wasn't any religion. Of course, it was terrible using religion as justification. ((Another 'cause', more common than those you mentioned would be national pride. But I disagree, religion was the basis for fighting.))

As far as the "God told me to put the kid in the oven" bit, that has very little to do with religion. I remember the reports said that NYC killer, Son of Sam, got his orders from the neighbor's dog. Eric, I haven't jumped to conclusions about the ASPCA, yet. Blaming things on God and the dog makes it easier to plead insanity in court, also. ((Yes, both the mother of the "roasted" kid and the Son of Sam were probably insane. I disagree with our gov'ts system on that issue anyway. But the point is, is that people use God to hide behind their actions, just as Son of Sam tried to hide behind a dog. See my point?))

I think also religion has helped many people with their personal problems. Of course, you may say religion caused the problems these people have in the first place. ((No, you're right. But there are other ways of getting help, like I said last issue. Gotta cut you here Nick, I'm out of room.))

1984?????

"Winter, 1900"

NEW GAME START!

We have seventeen people for the anarchy game! Before I list them, and their home centers, I'll briefly go over the rules. All the rules for regular diplomacy as outlined in the 1983 rule book apply except where stated differently below, and in the Anduin Houserules (last printed in Anduin #21). Unlike Regular Dip, there are no great powers and no neutrals. The seventeen powers each control 2 supply centers at the beginning of the game. These centers are his "home" and **only** build centers for the entire game. With your Spring, 1901 orders, please submit whether you would like an army or a fleet in each of your home centers (unless you are landlocked, in which case you don't have much say in the matter). Also please submit a name for your "nation". You may be asked to change the name if somebody else has already selected it, or one with the same first initial. In case of an NMR, the GM will place armies in the home centers of the NMRing player. This game will be **black press**, but let's try not to get too raunchy, ok folks? If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask. Good luck and happy stabbing!!

Don Scheifler, 23 Ponca, Kirkwood, MD, 63122 - Rom & Edi.
Mark Larzelere, 7607 Fontainbleau #2352, New Carrollton, MD, 20784
- Ber & Hol.
Ernest S Hakey III, 111 Webster Ave, #2, Cambridge, MA, 02141
- Sev & Mun.
Dave Anderson, 219 Oakland Ave, apt 2, Pontiac, MI, 48053
- Par & Mar.
Kevin Stone, Box 571, Grove City College, Grove City, PA, 16127
- Spa & Smy.
Mark Murray, 14220 Deloide Crescent, Newport News, VA, 23602
- Tri & Rum.
Jim Makuc, Box 111, Monterey, MA, 01245. - Nwy & Lon.
Dick Martin, 26 Orchard Way N., Rockville, MD, 20854. - Lpl & Mos.
Ed Kollmer, Mt Everett HS, Sheffield, MA, 01257. - Ank & Bre.
Ted Furey, 3 Brook Lane, Gt. Barrington, MA, 01230. - Den & Por.
Scott Cameron, 4 Meadow Lane, Hicksville, NY, 11801. - Bel & Swe.
Steve Hutton, 704 Brant St, London, Ontario, CANADA, N5Y 3N1
- Ser & Gre, eh?
Mark Lew, 3120 W79th, Anchorage, AK, 99502. - Bul & Kie.
Al Ross Jr., 6125 Honeysuckle Lane, Charlotte, NC, 28212. - Tun & War.
Ken Peel, 8708 First Ave, #T-2, Silver Spring, MD, 20910. - Bud & Con.
Ken Halpern, 11 Bellingham Lane, Great Neck, NY, 11023. - Ven & Vie.
Mike Quirk, 3830 Chester Dr., Glenview, IL, 60025. - Nap & St.P

Please note that these center-assignments were made purely at random. Martin, Ross & Lew still owe their \$1 game fees. These must be included with your builds and S'01 moves, or I must NMR you.

Lee Kendter Note: Can we have a Miller number Lee? Thank Q.

1981IP

"Spring, 1910"

Autumn, 1909: Germany retreats A Ber OTB. England retreats F Liv & F Bel OTB.

Winter, 1909: France builds A Par & F Mar; Germany removes F Bal, F Bot & A Apu; Russia builds A Mos; Turkey builds F Smy & A Con

FRENCH OUTGUESS TURKS!! RUSSIANS (AND AUSTRIA?) ON THE MOVE!!

England (Quirk): F HOL H.

France (Chisholm): F Edi-
NTH; F Lpl-IRI; F Eng-
MID; A Par-BUR; A Spa-
GAS; F Mar-SPA(sc);
A Rom-TUS; F LYD-Wes;
A BEL S A Par-Bur;
A YOR H.

Germany (Felella): A Kie H.

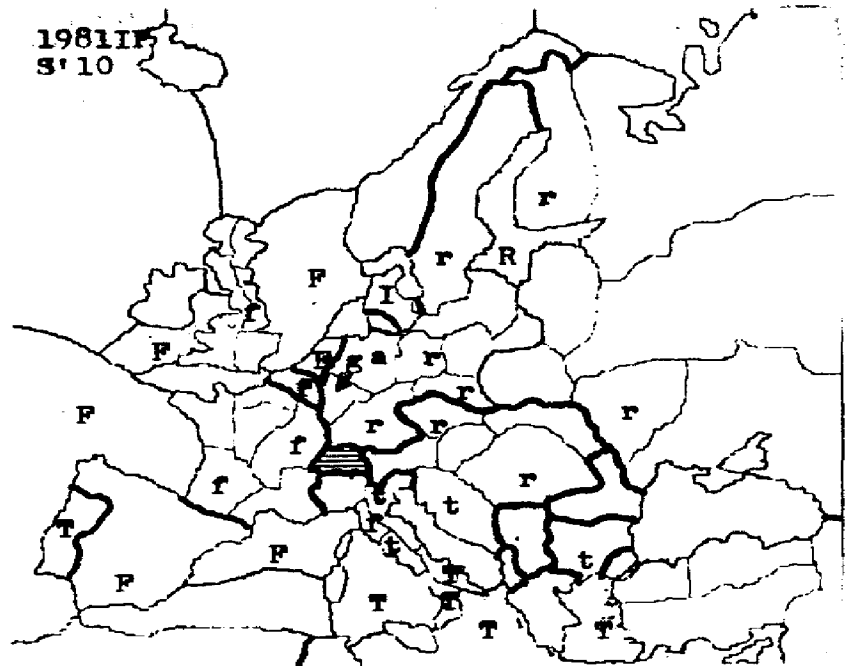
Italy (Palter): F DEN S
AUSTRIAN A Mun-Kie.

Austria (Ozog): A Mun-Kie.

Russia (Byrne): A BER S

AUSTRIAN A Mun-Kie;
F St.P-BOT; A Nwy-SWE;
A FIN S A Nwy-Swe;
A Mos-UKR; A War-SIL;
A Tyr-MUN; A BOH S
A Tyr-Mun; A BUD H.

Turkey (Nadner): F Mid-
POR; F IYN-Wes; F ION-
Iyn; F Adr-APU; A Ven-
ROM; F NAP S A Ven-Rom;
A Tri-VEN; A Ser-TRI;
A Con-BUL; F Smy-AEG.



The German A Kie must retreat to Ruh or OTB.

By vote, this game is now non-DIAS. The vote was 2 yes, 4 abstain and 1 no.

PRESS:

Russia-GM: I just know these conditions are as clear as mud!

GM-Russia: Better than those dumb little figures of yours!!

France-World: You guys are all out of control!! What kinda Dip game is this with 4 1-power players!? We'll be the laughing stock of all other ANDUIN games!

GM-France: That's why I always put you guys first!

Amsterdam-Ice Queen: Grant a dying man one last request. Stick a big icicle up Chisholm's ass.

Russia-Turkey: Oh, I can feel the blood oozing out now! Why do I just know that I never should have turned my back on you!

Amsterdam-Turkey: Watch your rear. Kathy is part Greek and can't resist a stab.

GM: Distrust? Where?

Russia-Germany: Your obsession with Swe is what cost you your centers!

Amsterdam-Orczog: It is better to die in Holland than live in Munich as Kathy's sex slave.

Amsterdam-Paris: Have a rotten 1984.

Russia-England: And you said - I'd be the first one out!

Russia-Austria: Hope my PC reached you in time!

+++++
1982HF "Spring, 1906"

First of all, there was an error made in last season's adjudications which everyone pointed out to me!! England's F Eng cut the French support from Bel for Bur-Ruh. Thus the French are still in Bur, the Germans are still in Ruh, and the French A Par goes to the box. Alright?

Autumn, 1905: Eng r F Spa(sc)-LYO; Ger r A Mun DTB. Rus F Aeg r DTB.

Winter, 1905: Eng builds F Edi. Germany builds A Ber. Italy removes A Pie & F Tyn. Russia builds A War. Turkey builds F Smy and declines other build. On to the action!

ITALIANS ON THE MOVE!

England (Hakey): A PAR-
Bur; F Swe S German
F Bal-Bot; F Edi-NRG;
F ENG S GERMAN A Hol-
Bel; F GAS-Spa(nc);
F LYO S F Gas-Spa(nc);
F ST.P(nc) hold and pray.

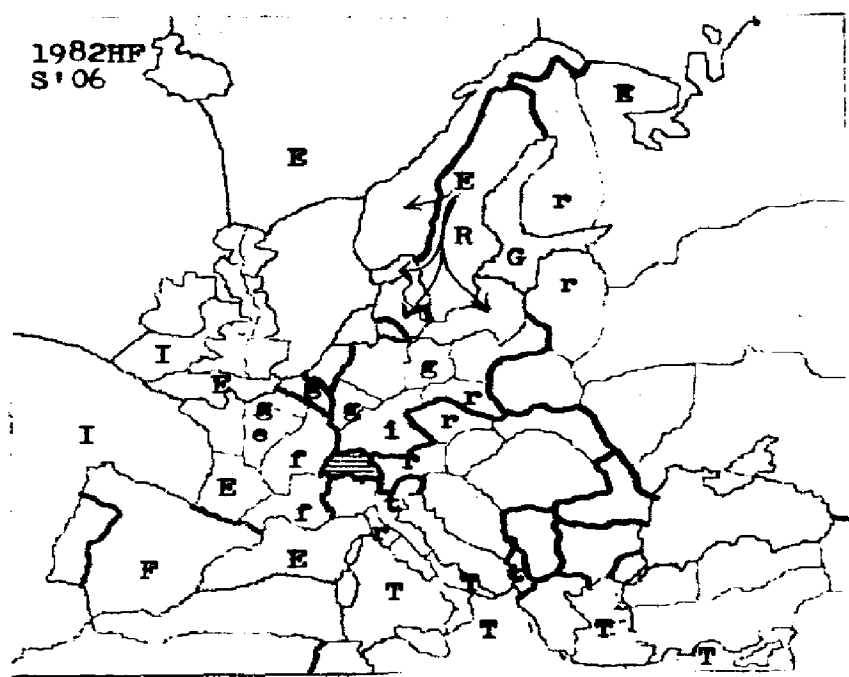
France (Brachman): A MAR S
F Spa(sc); F SPA(sc) S
ITALIAN F Wes-Mid;
A Bel-Ruh; A BUR S
A Bel-Ruh.

Germany (Makuc): A BER S
ITALIAN A Mun; A Hol-
BEL; A Bre-PIC; A RUH
S ENGLISH A Par-Bur;
F Bal-BOT.

Italy (Palter): A MUN S
RUSSIAN A Sil-Ber((nso));
F Mid-IRI; F Wes-MID.

Russia (Morris): F Bot-SWE;
A FIN S F Bot-Swe;
A War-LVN; A BOH-Mun;
A SIL S A Boh-Mun;
A Ven-TUS; A Vie-TYR.

Turkey (Frueh): A Tri-VEN;
F Tun-TYN; F Adr-APU;
F Eas-ION; F Smy-EAS;
A ALB H; F AEG S
F Eas-Ion.



The French A Bel is annihilated. The English F Swe can retreat to Bal, Den, Ska, Nwy or DTB.

PRESS:

Ankara-London: On no, you're not as stupid as your past moves suggested. Looks like your ally is having a bit of trouble. And what about you? How long can you keep St. Petersburg - I'll put a wager on that it won't be too long!

Lauderdale-Mamamadison: I sure hope you thawed out enough to send your orders in. Believe me I know what cold is. Why just the

other day it dropped down to 65 degrees!!! Brrr. Break out the electric blanket!

GM-Lauderderdale: Starting in with the weather again, eh wiseguy? This was sent in before Florida experienced a record low somewhere in the 20's. So put that in your pipe and smoke it!

Germany-GM: Any more screw ups and you lose.

GM: Anybody want the German units ordered any specific way, or should I just NMR the little runt?

Germany-Russia: Sorry, but the Prussian Junker blood in me won't allow me to capitulate.

Germany-Italy: YOU SCUMBICKET.

+++++
1981KE "Spring, 1909"

Winter, 1908: Italy builds A Ven and defers other. Russia builds F St.P(nc) and defers other.

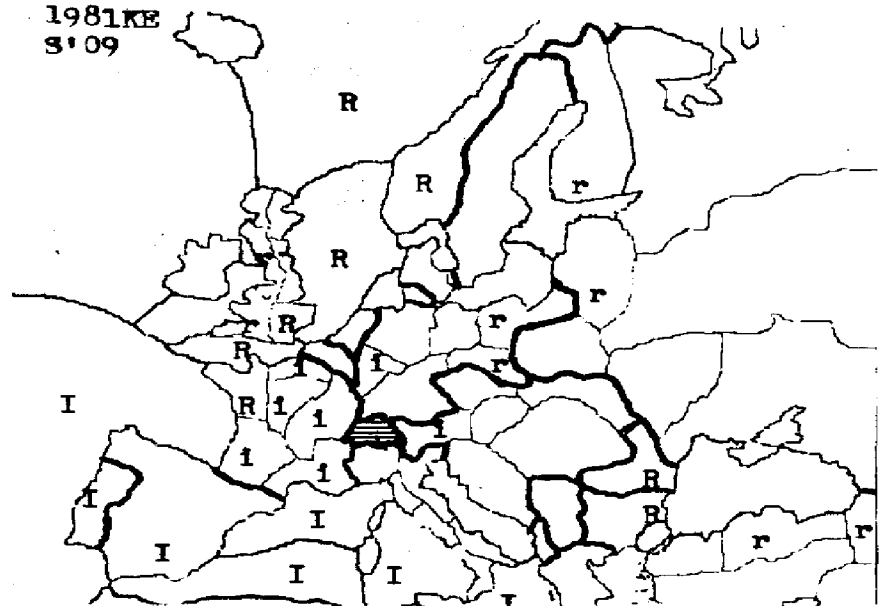
17 UNITS ORDERED TO HOLD!! FRENCH OFF BOARD!!

France (Morris): E For
& A Par H.

1981KE
3'09

Italy (Rauterberg): F ION,
F TYN & F LYD H;
F Mid-POR; A Ven-TYR;
A Pie-MAR; A Mar-GAS;
A Gas-PAR; F N.Af-MID;
F SPA(sc) S F Mid-Por;
F WES S F N.Af-Mid;
A BUR S A Gas-Par;
A Bel-PIC; A RUH S
A Bel-Pic((imp)).

Russia (Carter): F ENG S
F Bre; F St.P(nc)-NWY;
F Nwy-NTH; F Nth-LON;
F's NRG, BRE, BUL(ec)
& RUM H; A's WAL, LPL;
FIN, LVN, PRU, SIL,
ANK & ARM H.



The French A Par & F For are both dislodged and annihilated. If both remaining players prepose a two-way draw, and both vote YES to it with their fall orders, the game will end at the end of Fall, 1909. Winter and 1910 will not need to be played.

PRESS:

Rome-GM: Why are you whining about the lack of a draw proposal when you are the one who imposed the DIAS requirement upon us? I proposed a Russo-Italian draw 5 months ago, and you vetoed it for not including all survivors. Since Dave and I are playing for a two-way draw, we have to eliminate France, which we are doing at all deliberate speed.

Russia: zzzzzzz.....who asked for.....YAAAWWWNNNNN....DIAS..... zzzzzz.....anyhow?

GM: Alright you guys, cut it out! So I was a young and inexperienced GM, so sue me!

1981IR

"Spring, 1908"

Autumn, 1907: France retreats F Mid-Nao.

Winter, 1907: France removes A Pic. Italy builds A Vem.

DRAW FAILS. ITALIANS GAIN GROUND, RUSSIANS GAIN MORE!

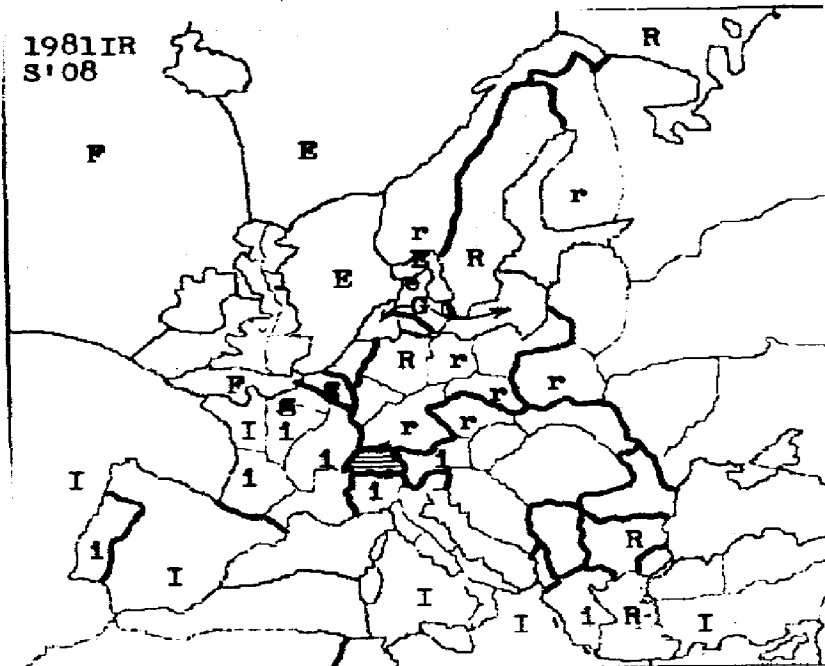
England (Ansoff): A Swe-DEN; F SKA & F NTH S
A Swe-Den.

France (Martin): F ENG-Iri; F NAQ-Iri.

Germany (Carter): A Bel-PIC; A Hol-BEL;
F Den-Nth.

Italy (Kollmer): A Ven-PIE; A TYB-Mun; A Mun-BUR; A PAR S A Mun-Bur;
F N.Af-MID; F Mid-BRE; A Spa-POR; A GAS S F Mid-Bre;
F Lyo-SPA(sc); F SMY H; A GRE-Tus((imp));
F Aeg((nsu)) & F TYN C
A Gre-Tus; F ION U, H.

Russia (Furey): A St.F-NWY; F BAR S A St.F-Nwy;
F Bia-BUL(ec); F AEG H; A Sil-MUN; A Pru-SIL;
A Lvn-WAR; A BOH S A Sil-Mun; F Nwy-SWE; A FIN S
F Nwy-Swe; F KIE H; A BER S F Kie.



The German F Den may retreat to Bal, Hel or OTB. The proposed DIAS draw was vetoed last turn, an illegal I/R draw was once again proposed. I'm not gonna remind you guys again that this is a DIAS game again.

PRESS:

Germany-England: Senility is no excuse for bad play.

Germany-France: Dick, could you transmit on a different wavelength? For the last 2 years we seem to have been operating on totally different spectrums of the band.

GM-Germany: That's not entirely accurate. Physics was the worst of my science classes, but I do remember that there is one spectrum with different wavelegths, not 'different spectrums'. Am I right?

+++++

What's this? Some extra room? Alright, I'll take this opportunity to explain the cover (hope y'all like it!). That's me looking so forlorn, and I'm playing against God. He has just moved his knight and it's checkmate! My sister had done a cover of Shiva, The Destroyer (an Indian God), but I thought this one was more appropriate considering the main topic of this issue's letter column. Shiva will make his appearance next issue.

Actually, it's not mate :... QxN; Qd6 mate!

1981KI

"Fall, 1909"

Summer, 1909: Austria retreats F Ion-Gre.

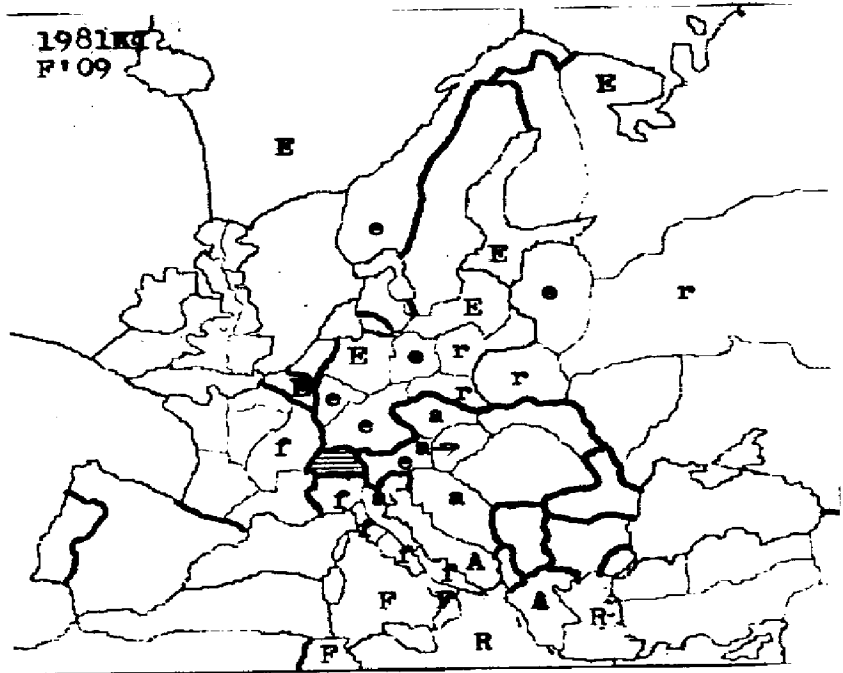
ENGLISH TAKE TYROLIA & LIVONIA! DOES THIS GAME STILL HAVE LIFE?!

England (Chisholm): F Nth-BEL; A RUH S A Ber-Mun; A Ber-MUN; A Mun-TYR; A Edi-NWY; A Den-BER; F NTH C A Edi-Nwy; F BAL C A Den-Ber; F KIE S A Den-Ber; A St.P-LVN; F BOT S A St.P-Lvn; F Bar-ST.P(nc).

France (Hakey): F Lyo-TYN; F Tyn-NAP; A IUS-Ven; A ROM S A Apu; A APU S F Tyn-Nap; F TUN S F Lyo-Tyn; A FIE S ENGLISH A Mun-Tyr; A BUR S ENGLISH A Ber-Mun.

Austria (Murray): A Tyr-Ven; A VEN-Rom; A TRI & F ADR S A Tyr-Ven; F GRE S RUSSIAN F Ion; A BOH S RUSSIAN A Sil.

Russia (Belliveau?): NMR!!! F's AEG, ION & Lvn U, H; A's MOS, WAR, SIL & PRU U, H.



The Russian F Lvn is annihilated and the Austrian A Tyr may retreat to Vie or OTB. Here is the 1909 supply center chart:
England: Home, Nwy, Den, Swe, Bel, Hol, Kie, St.P., Mun, Ber (12). Even.

France: Home, Spa, For, Tun, Nap, Rom (8). Even.

Austria: Home, Ser, Gre, Bul, Ven (7). Build 1 (1 anni).

Russia: Sev, Mos, War, Con, Ank, Smy, Rum (7). Eld 1 (1 anni).

Note that no centers changed hands this season. If this happens two more years (in a row), then I will declare the game to be a draw between the remaining great powers. Will Ken Corbin, Rt. 1 Box 26W, Philomath, OR, 97370 please stand-by for Russia? Will Dick Belliveau return with the next season? I certainly hope so! Dick, your sub has lapsed so you are only getting this page, please renew if you wish to continue playing.

PRESS:

Paris: The Prime Minister reported early today that there was nothing to report. Evidently the battle for Italy hangs in a delicate balance dependent upon the tactics of our troops versus those of the Eastern Coalition, and the PM is not willing to make a prediction.

John Chisholm: 119 Bay State Rd, Boston, MA, 02215.

Ernest S. Hakey: Address on page 38.

Mark Murray: Address on page 38.

1982D

"Fall, 1908"

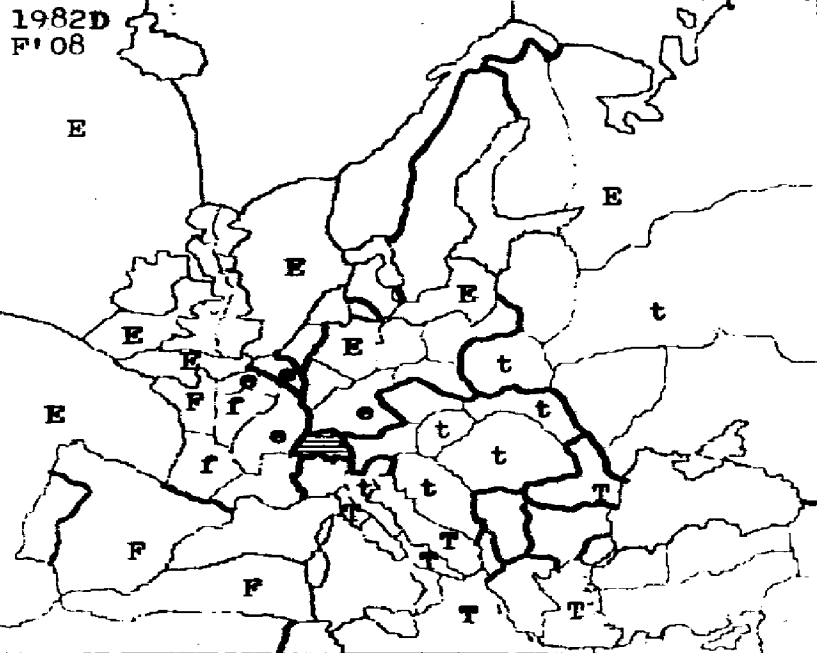
TURKEY COMES EVER CLOSER! BRACHMAN 'OUTGUESSES' BACK IN BUSINESS!

England (Carl): F Eng-
 MID; F IRI & F NAO
 S F Eng-Mid; F Lon-
 ENG; A Edi-BEL; A Bel-
 PIC; F NTH C A Edi-Bel;
 F Hol-KIE; F Pru-BAL;
 F Lvn-ST.P(sc); A Bre-
Par; A BUR-Mar; A MUN-
Buc.

France (Brachman): F Mid-
 BRE; A PAR S F Mid-Bre;
 E WES-Mid; F SPA(sc) S
 F Wes-Mid; A GAS-Mar.

Austria (Stone): A Gal-SIL;
 A Vie-BOH.

Turkey (Brawner): A Mos-
 WAR; A Sev-MOS; A Ukr-
 GAL; A Rum-BUD; F Bla-
 RUM; A Bud-VIE; A TRI S
 A Bud-Vie; F Ven-APU;
 F Rom-TUS; A Bul-VEN;
 F's AEG, ION & ADR C
 A Bul-Ven.



The English A Bre is annihilated. Here is the 1909 supply center chart:

England: Home, Nwy, Den, Swe, Hol, Bel, St.P, Kie, Ber, Mun, Bre (12). Even (1 anni).

France: BRE, Mar, Par, Spa, For, Tun (6). Build 1.

Austria: Vie, War (0). G-U-T.

Turkey: Home, Bul, Rum, Gre, Ser, Tri, Bud, VIE, Sev, Mos, WAR, Nap, Rom, Ven (16). Build 3 (was 1 short).

The two Austrian units are removed as he has no supply centers left. Thanks and two free issues for finishing out the position, Kevin.

PRESS:

Austria-Turkey: Unless you NMR'd, have fun with my centers.

1982AK

"Fall, 1907"

Summer, 1907: Italy retreats A Mar-Pie.

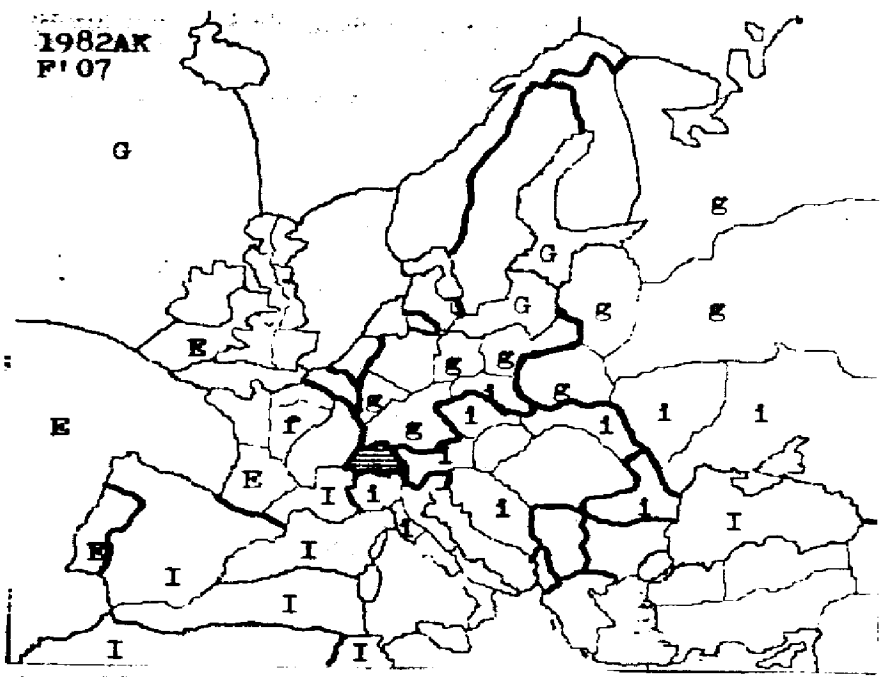
LINES ALMOST SET, FRENCH VACILLATE AGAIN!!

England (Jung): F Eng-
MID; F GAS S F Eng-Mid;
F Liv-IRI; F Mid-POR.

France (Tallman?): NMR!!!
A PAR & A Mar U, H.

Germany (Wrobel): A Kie-
ST.F; F BAL & F BOT C
A Kie-St.F; A Bur-MUN;
A Mun-BER; A RUH S
A Bur-Mun; A WAR &
A LVN S A Mos; A MOS &
A PRU S A War; F NAO S
ENGLISH F Eng-Mid.

Italy (J. Ellis): A SEV S
A UKR; A UKR S A Rum-Gal;
A Rum-GAL; A Bul-RUM;
F BLA "waves howdy to
F Bot" H; A Gal-SIL;
A BOH S A Gal-Sil;
F Spa(sc)-MAR; A PIE &
F LYD S F Spa(sc)-Mar;
F Wes-SPA(sc); F Tyn-
WES; E.N.AF-Mid; E TUN-
N.AF; A TUS S A Pie;
A TRI & A TYR U, H.



The French A Mar retreats off the board as per my houserules. Will Mark Frueh please stand-by for France? Will Terry Tallman become a little more reliable? Thanks, both of you(?). Here is the 1907 supply center chart:

- England: Home, Bre, POR (5). Build 1.
- France: Par, For (1). Even (1 anni).
- Germany: Home, Hol, Bel, Den, Swe, Nwy, St.F, War, Mos (11). Even.
- Italy: Home, Tun, Balkans, Turkey, Sev, Mar, Spa (17). Even

The DIAS draw failed, and is repropesed this turn. As is an illegal G/I draw. Players PLEASE note that ANDUIN games are DIAS (Draws Include All Survivors).

PRESS:

Germany-Still Smiling(?) Premier: On second thought, cancel my reservation in the harem.

Smiling Premier-Kaiser: First off, there is absolutely no admittance of Germans into the Greek refuge. Secondly, the way it looks, I doubt you'll need to seek refuge anywhere due to the !#%& (?/* Frenchmen.

Germany-France: See, we were just visiting. Hope that silly remark about "NMRing Standby" didn't offend you, good and necessary friend.

Italy-France: Hey, what's the idea of ruining my fun? Gosh, you're no fun anymore.

Mark Frueh: 1013 Milton St., apt #304, Madison, WI, 53715.

1982Bxm02

"Spring, 1906"

Autumn, 1905: France retreats F Bre DTB & A Par-Gas. India retreats F Borneo-Malayan Sea. Turkey retreats A Sev-Arm. Italy retreats F Gre-Alb.

Winter, 1905: England builds F Lon & F Liv. France removes A Algeria & F Por. Germany builds A Kie & A Posen (has two builds due to annihilation in S'05). Austria builds A Cluj. Turkey removes F Bla. India removes A Johore. China builds A Hankow & F Peking. Japan builds F Osaka.

ITALIANS RETAKE VENICE! CONFLICT IN THE EAST! NO NMRS!!!

China (Nadner): A TURKESTAN-Afghanistan; A TIBET-Calcutta;
(11) A NEPAL & A BURMA S A Tibet-Calcutta; A Outer Mongolia-MANCHURIA; F Canton-SOUTH CHINA SEA; F SAIGON S F Canton-South China Sea; A Hankow-SIKANG; F PEKING-Yellow Sea; A CAMBODIA MS A THAILAND.

Germany (Hakey): F BALTIC H; F Belgium-PICARDY; A Picardy-BURGUNDY (10) A Kiel-SAXONY; A WARSAW-Galacia; A Posen-SILESIA;
A UKRAINA S A Warsaw-Galacia; A RUHR & A MUNICH S A Picardy-Burgundy; A PARIS S ENGLISH F Brest-Gascony.

Italy (Keller): A Rome-VENICE; A TUSCANY & A APULIA S A Rom-Ven;
(10) F BULGARIA(sc)-Greece; F IONION-Adriatic; F ALBANIA S F Ionion-Adriatic; F Baghdad-Iran; F Gulf of Aden-ARABIAN SEA;
A Sudan-FEZZAN; F Tyrrhenian Sea-TUNIS.

Austria (Anderson): A Cluj-ROMANIA; A SEVASTOPOL H; A GALACIA-
(9) Ukraine; F ADRIATIC S A Venice-Apulia; A Venice-Apulia;
A TYROLIA-Venice; A TRIESTE S A Tyrolia-Venice; A GREECE-
Albania; A SERBIA-Bulgaria.

England (Scheifler): F MidAtlantic Ocean-NORTH PACIFIC OFF BOARD
(9) BOX; F NORTH PACIFIC-Japan Sea; F HIROSAKI S F North Pacific-Japan Sea; F Brest-GASCONY; F ENGLISH CHANNEL-Mid Atlantic Ocean; F London-ENGLISH CHANNEL; F OMSK H; A MOSCOW-Ukraine; F Liverpool-NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN.

Japan (Makuc): F Philippines S F Osaka-East China Sea; F Osaka-
(9) EAST CHINA SEA; F South China Sea-Canton; F KOREA-Yellow Sea;
F TOKYO-North Pacific Ocean; F KYOTO-Hirosaki; F JAPAN SEA S F Kyoto-Hirosaki; F Morocco-MIDATLANTIC OCEAN; F WESTERN MED S F Morocco-MidAtlantic Ocean.

India (Shuetz): F MALAYAN SEA-Johore; F CELEBES SEA-Borneo;
(6) F CALCUTTA H; A DELHI & A DECCAN S F Calcutta;
A AFGHANISTAN H.

France (Dancause): A MARSEILLES-Piedmont; A Gascony-SPAIN;
(4) F SIAN GULE-Johore; F BORNED H.

Turkey (Purev): A Armenia-BAGHDAD; F IRAN S A Armenia-Baghdad;
(4) A SMYRNA S A Armenia-Baghdad((imp)); F CON S A Smy.

RETREATS:

Italian F Baghdad -Persian Gulf, Nejd(ec) or DTB.

Austrian A Ven goes to the box.

Japanese F South China Sea -Formosa, Tonkin Gulf, Annam, Brunei or DTB.

PRESS:

China-Japan: I really would like to be friends.

Berlin-Vienna: The unprovoked attack on German troops occupying Warsaw by Austrian irregulars operating out of Galacian highlands

has caused the German High Command to become very suspicious of the future intentions of the Austrian & Hungarian Twin Kingdoms. In light of this attack and the buildup of Austrian land forces, the High Command has dispatched troops to the German Border in a state of readiness, and the Warsaw Occupation Force has been ordered to punish the irregulars.

China-England: Our interests may seem to be very similar.

Austria-Italy: Where is Hai! Jakai!?

Austria-Germany: Non aggression pact, of course.

China-France: Maybe we could work something out?

Austria-England: Please write! You've never written! How about EGA!?

Berlin-London: E/G! E/G! E/G!

Austria-Germany: E/G/A! E/G/A! E/G/A!

Berlin-Rome: E/G/I?!

GM-Vienna, Rome, Berlin & London: There's seems to be a mixup here as to who is allied with who. Please straighten it out!

Berlin-World & GM: Merry Christmas! And to all those who do not celebrate that Christian holiday, happy winter season in whatever form you prefer.

GM-World: No NMRs and some press to boot? Keep up the good work!

+++++
1982Qhp01 "Fall, 1889"

Summer, 1889: Sweden retreats A Lev-Arm & A Per-Sib. Austria retreats A Vie-Cro.

GERMANS AND AUSTRIANS "SWAB" PROVINCES!

England (Chisholm): F Sao-CAD; F POR S F SAO-Cad; F Ast-BIS; F Eng-MID; F Mid-SAO; A Nav-AST; A Cat-NAV; A Bre-GAS.

Spain (Belliveau?): NMR!!! A MAD, A MAR, F ALBS & F MOR U, H.

Sweden (Charneley): F BAL H; A Cour-WAR; A MOS S A Cour-War; A_ARM-Per; A SIB S A Arm-Per; A_UKR-Rum.

Germany (Wrobel): A Ruh-SWA; A BUR S A Ruh-Swa; A SWI & A MUN S A TYR; A_TYR S A Vie; A_VIE S A Sil-Gal((inso)); A BOH S A Vie; A War-GAL; A SIL S A War-Gal; F KIE H.

Italy (Shuetz): F_WES-Albs; F VAL S ENGLISH F Sao-Cad; F LYD S F Val; A VEN S AUSTRIAN A Swa-Tyr; F SMY S A Lev; A LEV S AUSTRIAN A Per.

Austria (Anderson): F Con-SIN; A_PER S A Sev; A SEV S A Per; F BLA & A_RUM S A Sev; A_BUD-Gal; A_SPL-Bud; A SER S A Spl-Bud; A_Swa-Tyr; A CRO S A Swa-Tyr.

The Austrian A Swa is annihilated. Here is the 1889 supply center chart:

England: Home(3), Ire, Ice, Bre, Par, Por, CAD (9). Build 1.

Spain: Mad, Cad, Val, Mor, Mar (3). Remove 1 (1 anni).

Sweden: Home(3), Arch, Mos, St.p, Per, WAR (7). Build 1 (was 1 short).

Germany: Home(4), Hol, Bel, Den, War, Swi, Bud, VIE (9). Rem 1.

Italy: Home(3), Tun, Egy, Smy, VAL (7). Build 1.

Austria: Vie, BUD, Spl, Clu, Gre, Bul, Mac, Con, Sin, Rum, Sev, PER (11). Build 1.

No press this time. Will Jim Makuc (address on page 37) please submit standby orders for Spain? Need rules, Jim?

Courtenay Cheats Hangman! Nobles Head For Midlands!

Jim Makuc's GREY'S GROUCHY GHOULS; Michael Quirk's GOLEK HUNGRY; Dave Anderson's WONDERLAND FACTION; Mark Murray's TRICK! IN THEROSE.

Event Responses: Mowbray to Denbigh.

Between Turns: Bouchier & Stafford order Courtenay's execution BUT he plays a King's Pardon card & escapes! At Cardigan, Berkeley executes the Duke of Clarence--no pardon here! Neville into play @ Richmond; Le Trinity & Le George launched @ Rye.

Movement:

HOLDING: Neville @ Richmond, Stanley @ Douglas, Le Christopher @ Milford Haven.
Berkeley @ Cardigan-W26-W35-Milford Haven.
Bouchier & Stafford @ H21-Kenilworth.
Courtenay @ H21-Northampton-H50-L6-Grantham-Lincoln(c).
Cromwell @ Tattershall-Lincoln-M35-Towton-York(c).
Grey @ Rockingham-Grantham-Newark-Belvoir-Grantham-Newark(c).
Hastings @ Harlech-W8-W9-W10-Chirk-Shrewsbury(c).
Mowbray @ Denbigh-W2-Chester-M36.
Plantagenet/L @ H21-Tewkesbury-h4-Eccleshall-Newcastle-M36.
Pole @ Wingfield-via road to Shrewsbury(c).
Le George & Le Trinity @ Rye-S24-S26-S27-S28-S29.
Le Margaret @ S18-S17-S15-S13-S11-S9.
Le Rose @ Douglas-S2-S3-Preston.

Combat: Bouchier & Stafford besiege Kenilworth. The card is: Embassy from King of France/2-1, Bouchier, Herbert. The siege is successful BUT Bouchier is killed (1 card to Chancery, 4 to the Crown deck). Stafford enters Kenilworth over the corpse of his fallen comrade and seizes Edward. Because of the Embassy card, the event deck is shuffled once again.

Crown Cards: Makuc 76T; Quirk 57S; Anderson 15C; Murray 50V.

Event Cards: 1) Storms @ Sea/3-1, Audley, Holland. (Le Margaret into Milford Haven, Le George & Le Trinity into Whitby, Ravenser, Kingston, Boston, Lynn or Caister); 2) Storms @ Sea/2-1 Grey, Clifford; 3) Card 8V to Wonderland; 4) Plague-Plymouth, Exeter.

Where the Heirs Are: Margaret w/Mowbray; Wales w/Stafford; March w/Hastings; York is in York; Rutland is in Ireland. The rest are dead.

Press:

Cromwell to World: Hi ho, hi ho, it's off to work we go. On to York to sell some pork, hi ho hi ho...

Grey: You can't escape me, you bumbling fool. After him, Franky. I'll chase you to the ends of the earth, you stupid zombie you.

Grey to Hicksville: he's escaped already. But I'll make stew out of him when I catch him.

Courtenay to King: Oh, sire, you must pardon me. I promise to be good, to eat all my veggies, wash behind my ears and go to bed on time! Please.

Somewhere near Shrewsbury: Lord Hastings is looking for 100 brave souls to join him in an assault on Richard of York. Write "The Thorn in the Rose" c/o Mark Murray for details of a mutually agreeable arrangement. Meet in York on turn 5.

The Thorn to Hicksville: May I recommend you think up a system that allows each faction to earn and spend intelligence gathering points. The system should allow each noble to request one tidbit of info from the GM each turn or so. The faction would have to make a specific request for a specific piece of info which the GM would provide an answer to. So, for example, my "spies" or "scouts" could pick up the size of Cromwell's force one turn and what offices (if any) Cromwell holds the next. Things like titles and offices should be a matter of public information anyway. In actuality, they would appear on a public register and be announced in the Times of London. The only intelligence I can get now is from diplomacy (which this game is lacking) and from the event responses (which have been few).

Hicksville to All Players: Mark's points are well taken. I've played in games with hidden crown cards myself and have enjoyed it very much because of the added diplomatic possibilities the system affords. Deciding whether to lie or tell the truth about what you control and simultaneously figuring out whether your opponents are doing the same adds a dimension not possible over-the-board. The system detracts from realism but adds to the game.

HOWEVER, in view of the small number of players in this game (& the attendant lack of diplomacy), I make the following proposal for a new rule: "Each turn each player may make one statement to the GM about a noble or nobles on the board. The statement may be about anything the player would normally know about that noble(s) in a face-to-face game. The GM will respond with the ensuing orders by telling the player whether his statement was correct or not. Examples of acceptable statements: 'Herbert has an office.' 'Beaufort belongs to faction X.' 'Scrope & Roos combined have less than 100 strength points.'" Please vote on this rule with your next orders. If approved (by unanimous vote only, abstentions counting as "no"), it will go into effect immediately.

Hicksville: It was announced here today that it was actually Jesse Jackson and not the King who obtained Courtenay's pardon. A spokesman here added, however, that the motivation for Rev. Jackson's action was unclear saying: "Courtenay isn't Black and he's not gay & Jackson's running for President, not Parliament, so we can't figure the angle. It must be a mistake."

The deadline for Turn 4 is February 8, 1984.
Scott Cameron, 4 Meadow Lane, Hicksville, NY, 11801.

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