

AGAINST THE ODDS

NUMBER NINE

Issue #9

"For the Straights"

May 27, 1978

Coming to you again from the suburbs of beautiful Chicago, Against The Odds plops into your mailbox (USPS willing) and causes you more unending joy. ATO is edited, written and published by Craig A. Reges. This most magnificent person lives at 16 W 761 White Pines Rd., Bensenville, Ill., 60106. Subscriptions are 10/\$3.50. Game openings are available with a cost of \$2.00 game fee plus a \$2.00 refundable deposit for one or less NMRs. Diplomacy is a registered trademark for a game invented by Allan B. Calhamer and copyrighted by Avalon Hill Game Co., 4517 Harford Rd., Baltimore, Md., 21214, but then, you knew all that, didn't you?

Game Openings

I have openings in a regular diplomacy game (five openings left) and in a novice game that I am offering, with no game fee, I have also got five openings. Also, if any one of you out there are interested in playing two man Diplomacy, I have openings in that at \$1.50 a shot. (See last ish for some details of how that is working out.) Also, is there enough interest in playing a variant, say U.S. Dip, or Abstraction, or something of a similar nature? Remember, one gamefee entry is free if you join the International Diplomacy Assc., (IDA), which will cost you only \$2.00. For this you will get Diplomacy Review as well as the free game so this is a good idea, don't you think, or don't you?? Send your \$2.00 to: Bob Hartwig, 5030 N. 109th St., Longmont, Co., 80501.

USPS RAises rates

By the time you receive this, you will be paying 15¢/ounce for a first class rated letter. I know the joy which greets the news of a rate increase. You pay more for less, happy, happy you.

New Zine Starts

Roy Smith has just started a new zine called Brew And Reefer. Roy will send you a sample for just a stamp (no SASEs please). Roy is printing by mimeo and didn't do too bad a job of printing his first issue. Roy is at 64 Addicks Rd., Westwood, NJ., 07675.

The News is On

Our esteemed president, Jimmy Carter, is in town trying to kiss the posterior portion of the Demacrats in Chicago. I noticed that the usual lunatic fringe is out picketing. I speak of the Iranian Students Assc., Committee to ratify the ERA (the most useless amendment since prohibition), jets for Israel, etc., etc. At school, I get swamped with leaflets advertising the Spattucus Youth League, African Liberation Committee, etc., etc. I sure can't see how Africa can be liberated since the africans already run it and do a pretty damn poor job of it. Try and find an African nation that is in the black, other than color, that is. Most of them are in the red, politically as well as finacially.

Silence is Guilt

By William Safire

WASHINGTON—NBC-TV performed an enormous public service in showing a dramatic version of "The Holocaust" to a generation that wishes that memory would go away. That service is being nitpicked by viewers distressed at the need for commercial interruption; by people who might have preferred a "pure" documentary that might have reached a fraction of the audience; and by a minority of Jews who still fly the battle flag of "don't make trouble."

The nitpicking ignores the central question driven at least into nearly half of America's homes: Where the hell was the rest of the world when a part of the world was a Hell?

The best way to find the answer about a previous generation's lack of concern is to examine the turning-away from horror prevalent in this generation.

1. *The Soviet slave labor camps.* A former high official of the C.I.A. tells me that he vividly recalls a briefing of several years ago showing the extent of the Soviet slave labor program, with a map pinpointing the scores of camps in Eastern Europe and throughout the U.S.S.R. This was not guesswork: As the Soviets know, we have high-altitude photographic surveillance detailing the barracks and work areas of each one of those camps.

Why do we tacitly condone this slave-labor practice by helping the Soviets keep it a secret? None of our intelligence-gathering sources and methods would be compromised by making public the pictures and details we know of camps and "asylums."

Not even Soviet dissidents know as much as we do about the logistics and location of all the camps. The publication of the photos and maps would hardly contribute to the spirit of

détente, but might remind the world that the Soviet system has some festering sores to hide.

2. *The slaughter in Uganda.* Taking the low side of the best estimates, Idi Amin, butcher of Central Africa, has murdered at least 150,000 tribal dissidents. As a result, other leaders of Africa are slightly embarrassed but none want to say so publicly.

Does the White House, so ready to undermine internal settlements in Rhodesia, publicly excoriate the murdering Amin and urge sanctions to help topple him?

Hardly. A United States company, Page Airways, sells Uganda its commercial jet aircraft and helps supply its pilots and crews, thereby helping build Mr. Amin's power. Who runs Page Airways? James Wilmot of Rochester, New York. Who has long been the chief fundraiser for House Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill? James Wilmot. Who has been a most significant contributor to and fundraiser for the campaigns of Daniel Inouye, Democrat of Hawaii, until recently chairman of the intelligence committee, and a leading light on the transportation committee? James Wilmot.

The Speaker of the House—from John F. Kennedy's old district, one of the most liberal in the nation—is

ESSAY

rarely even asked about his close association with the man who helps one of the bloodiest dictators in the world stay in power.

3. *The harassment of the Kurdish people.* The Communist-supplied government of Iraq has been systematically uprooting and destroying the

culture of the non-Arab Kurds, who only want a degree of autonomy so as to continue their civilization.

But the United States, which secretly joined with the Shah of Iran to guarantee help to the Kurds in return for a 1973 agreement not to revolt, has washed its hands of the affair. One of the men who acquiesced in the sellout, Harold Saunders, is our newest Assistant Secretary of State, and will not permit the dying leader of the Kurds, General Barzani, to make a personal appeal to President Carter.

4. *The bloodbath in Cambodia.* In terms of numbers of people murdered, this generation's rival to Adolph Hitler is the leader of Communist Cambodia, Pol Pot. A population of two million was death-marched out of Phnom Penh. Many of the Cambodians being killed are of "mixed blood," marked for death because they are part Vietnamese.

Where are all the people who used to march around with those "stop the killing" signs? Untelevised death does not inspire them. At the United Nations, only one ambassador—Israeli's Chaim Herzog—speaks against the genocide in Cambodia. The United States Ambassador, Andrew Young, cannot bring himself to upset third-world colleagues by demanding investigation and condemnation of the slaughter; to the shame of this nation, he sits silent as hundreds of thousands of human beings die.

Therefore, ask not how a previous generation could tolerate the murder of six million Jews; on a smaller scale, this generation is doing just dandy along those lines. The world still sees victims as pests, which should help us understand why Israelis are not about to let themselves become victims again.

Fred Davis, in Bushwacker a few months ago, stated that a personal survey he ~~conducted~~ himself said he found that there were 19 dictatorships and 21 military juntas or something to that effect. (I couldn't find the specific article.) Curt Gibson also sent me a copy of a letter he sent to the London Observer in February, which I can reprint in part:

But for a spectacle of abject cowardice and indencepc all the world has only to watch our wooing of a pack of jackals in Africa, all the vain little despots who seized power as Euro abandoned it. We deliberately throw away Rhodesia, a baby to t wolves, except that we don't even have the excuse that their wolves, being merely jackals!

If you look on our actions in this matter from a purely "human rights" viewpoint, nobody can say that now that the whites will be thrown out of power, that the blacks will tr the whites any better than the whites treat the blacks, so where have we profited?

This is a pure effort at stirring up comment since about all get from you people out there are your orders, never any comments. How about some comments???? Please!!!!

ONE LETTER OF COMMENT

((Only one, but I will take all I can get.))

Fred Davis: I, too, am interested in UFO's. I belong to the Mensa UFO SIG ((Special Interest Group)) and recommend it. I've also read some of Dr. Hynek's work. I believe there is some UF phenomenon, natural or artificial, which is real. About 5% of all UFO sightings cannot be explained by anything we know about the Universe. However, I believe that the explanation, when we learn it, will be entirely rational, and not supernatural. (300 years ago, some people worshipped the Aurora Borealis). Gibson, on the other hand, literally believes in Satan, Shiva, and the rest of the hobgoblins. I humbly suggest that his artical has been weighed in the balance and found wanting.

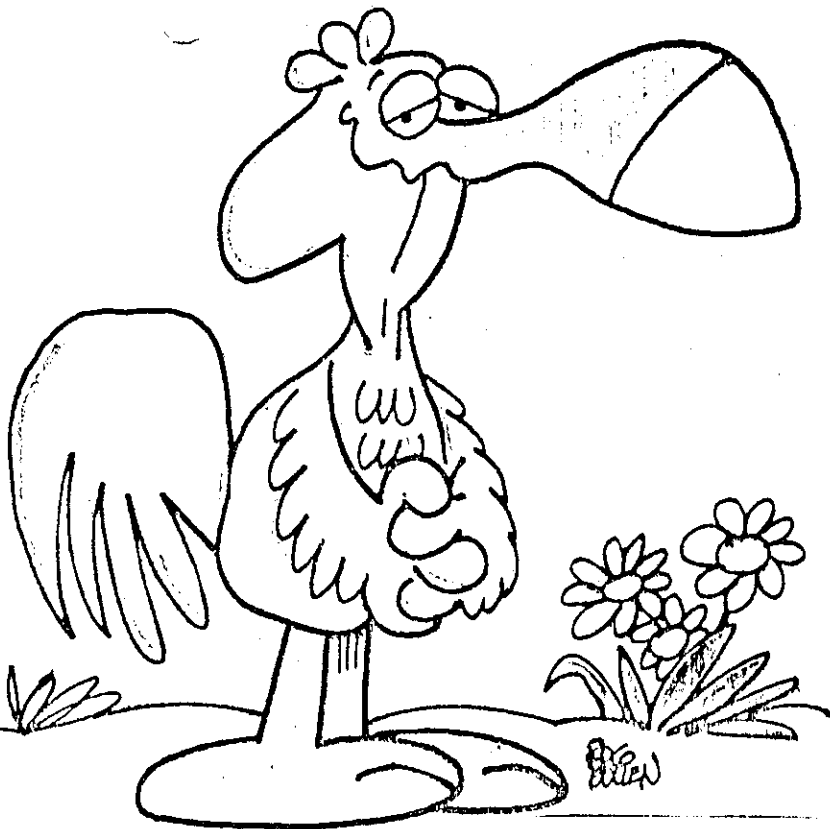
((I'm doing this page on an IBM selectric at work, and I really can't believe how much space there is between letters on this thing. If I used this all the time, I'd have 20 page ATO's every issue. I can't wait to get back to my manual

DipCon

DipCon is June 30-July 2, in LA area. Is anyone going out there or planing on forming a cat pool to go? I would like to go if I possibly can. If not, I'll try something else, if I makeit.

Phone Calls

I am usually up late so if you want to save money by calling me at late hours, this is alright with me. Even you West-Coasters ((the Dodgers suck!)) can call me after 11:00 pm Pacific time since if I am asleep before 3:00 am here is a litt unusual anyway, so I won't mind. Calling me before 10:30pm my t is asking for me not being home anyhow, as I am likely to be at work Mon-Thurs. Early Sat or Sun morn. is fine too.



"PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR VOTES, FOLKS"

North American Zine and Gamesmaster Poll: We'll have another shot at this, and hope there'll be stronger participation this time. Other publishers are requested to print this in their zines in hope of getting wide circulation.

In order to participate: 1) List all the North American zines which you currently receive, giving each one a rating on a scale of 1-10 (1 being unspeakably bad, 10 superb). 2) List all the gamesmasters of games in which you are currently playing, giving each a rating on a similar scale of 1-10.

You may use whatever criteria you wish to arrive at your rating. If we get lots of entries, we should get an accurate overview of the tastes of the North American segment of the hobby.

Publishers may rate their own zines if they wish. Anyone getting a North American zine may participate, including overseas people.

I will tally the results at the end of June. Three months will be enough for this announcement to reach players and publishers who don't get RUNESTONE and give them time to get in a list. Oh yes, please sign your ballot and indicate your most recent relation to the hobby.

Please participate! Let's try and match the British level of activity this time,...

From RUNESTONE 200, c/o

John Leeder
1211 NW 5 Street
Calgary, Alberta T2M 3B6
← C A N A D A

1976 BH Spring, 1909

Austrian-Russian rapprochement? Expansion Fever hits Russia, Czar thinks its Thanksgiving, goes for Turkey. Franco-Germanic wars continue unabated. Krauts in England.

Austria(4)	Jones	A Tri § A Ser-Alb, A Ser-Alb/d/ Annihilated, A Bud-Ser A Vie S A Tri
France/9/Mahler		A Mun-Kiel, A Bel S A Ruhr-Hol, A Ruhr-Hol, A Burg-Ruhr, F Nwg-Edin, F Lvp-NAO, F Nth § GERMAN F Ska-Norway (NSO), F Lon S F Nth, F EngC-Mid,
Germany/7, one short/ Tomcufcik		F Den S A Hol-Kiel, A Hol-Kiel, F NAO-Clyde, F Ska-Nth, A Kiel-Ber, A Eer-Sil
Italy/9/Boyer		A Alb § A Ven-Tri, A Ven-Tri, A Bul S A Gre-Ser, A Gre-Ser A Rome-Ven, F Elk S A Bul, F Apu-Adr, F Aeg Holds, F Ion Holds
Russia/5/Caruso		F St. P(nc)-Norway, F Bals S GERMAN A Hol-Kiel, A Gal-Ukr, A Sev-Arm, A Rum S AUSTRIAN A Ser-Bul (NSO)

Press: Russia: t is time to come down out of the sky and get off the fence. The vicious aggressors must be stopped and put in their place. The mighty Russians may have started too late, but better late than never.

Moscow to Vienna: The Czar wishes to send his apologies to the King for his tactical blunders in earlier years. The Czar has seen the light and will do all in his power to preserve his FRIEND.

Orders for Fall, 1909 will be due on Wednesday, June 21, 1978, noon.

1976BQ Winter, 1908. Separation of Seasons.

English go to England until middle of June. Don't expect to hear from him right away. Cold weather locks in all.

England/10/Adams	Build F Edi, F Lon	Has F Nth, Nwy, Swe, WMed, Tun, Tyrr, Edi, F Lon, A Pied, Tyrolia
Germany/6/Hance	F Den R to Kiel	has F Kiel, A Hol, Ber, Mun, Sil, Boh
Italy/4/Frank	EVEN	Has A Tri F Alb, Nap, Adr
Russia/8/Jones	Build A War.	F Den, Hel, Baltic A Gal, Vie, Lvn, War, Pru
Turkey/6/Silko	Build A Con	Has A Con, Ser F Ion, Aeg, EMed, Gre

Press: Turkey to Italy: Did you see what Germany wrote in his press. He wants to "clobber all"!!! Do you really believe that that excludes you? England has already shown his willingness to attack you. If you had taken my help perhaps Tunis would have been yours this year. But of course....you'd rather have the Ionian.....Good fishing.

Spring, 1909 due on Wednesday, June 21, 1978, noon.

1978 AH Fall, 1902

Fighting begins in earnest on all fronts. English and Italians suffer losses. Austrian becomes powerful.

Austria/4/Alan	A Gre HOLDS, A Vie-Tyr, A Tri-Ven, F Apu S A Tri-Ven
England/4/Cook	A York-Bel Convoyed by F Nth and S by F EngC, F Nwy S F Nth
France/5/Oaklyn	ABel-Burg, F Pic-Bre, F MAO-Spasc, A Spa-Gas, F Lyon-Mar
Germany/5/Tomcufcik	A Burg-Par, A Ruhr S A Hol-Bel, F Hol-Bel, F Den-Nth, A Ber-Mun
Italy/4/Rowland	F WMed S F Ion-Tyrr, F Ion-Tyrr, A Tyr-Mun, A Ven-Pied
Russia/6/Caruso	A Gal-Bud S By A Rum, A St. P-Nwy S by F Swe, F Sev-Arm, F Blk S F Sev-Arm
Turkey/4/Kelly	A Bul S F Ank-Con, F Ank-Con, A Con-Smy, F Smy-EMed

PS: Eng F Nwy is /d/
to Nwg, BarS, Ska,
OTB

Centers:	Vie, Yst , Tri
Austria:	Home , ser VEN, GRE 5, Build One
England:	Home, Yst 3, Remove one
France:	Bre, Mar, Yst , Spa, Port, 4, remove one
Germany:	Home, Den, Hol, PAR 6, Build One
Italy:	Yst , Nap, Rome, Tun 3, remove One
Russia:	Home, Swe, Rum, NWY, BUDg, Build One TWO
Turkey:	Home, Bul 4, Build One

Press: Turk to Russ: The Black Sea must remain vacant for us to have peace.
It is Not Russian waters.

Moscow: It was revealed today that the Czar caught wind of a plot to seize Sweden. In view of this action, the Czar ordered the 2nd Army and 1st Fleet to attack the treacherous English in their Norwegian bases.

Russia to Austria: Take that, you swine!

Russia to Germany: You will also feel the wrath of the "Great Bear"!

Winter, 1902 due Wednesday, June 21, 1978, Noon. If everyone submits Spring, 1903 orders, I will run those also.

ATO #2 and #3 orders will be due next time!!

Don't forget, all of you who are in new games that on Wednesday, June 21, 1978, your orders will be due. Be sure to write down the game you are in, the season, date, orders, and your signature. I have attached a set of the house rules for those who asked for them, and I hope I got everybody.

I hope all of you are writing your fellow players. Remember, the sooner you write your potential allies, the better off you will probably be. I hope you all gain a good game out of these two. Also, please let me know which of you will act as a standby for my games. All GMs really appreciate the people who volunteer for this work.

OTB=Off the board /d/=dislodged r=retreats

APDS- ARMOR PIERCING DISCARDING SABOT

IN THIS SHELL THE TUNGSTEN CORE WAS SURROUNDED BY A LIGHTWEIGHT FRAMEWORK OF ALLOY WHICH FITTED THE BORE OF THE GUN. THE WHOLE SHOT WEIGHT LESS THAN HALF AS MUCH AS THE COMPARABLE STEEL PROJECTILE. ON FIRING, THE FRAMEWORK OR "SABOT" IS UNLOCKED BY THE FORCE OF THE EXPLOSION, BUT IS HELD TOGETHER WHILE IN THE BARREL. ONCE CLEAR OF THE MUZZLE, THE SECTIONS OF THE FRAMEWORK FALL AWAY AND LEAVE THE TUNGSTEN CORE, CONTAINED IN A THIN STREAMLINED SHEATH, TO FLY TO THE TARGET.

THESE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE VARIATIONS OF SHELLS THAT HAVE BEEN OR ARE IN USE. FOLLOWING IS A BRIEF LIST OF SOME OF THE MAJOR ARTILLERY PIECES THAT HAVE BEEN USED IN THE LAST FIFTY YEARS. THIS IS BY NO MEANS TO BE CONSIDERED A COMPLETE LISTING, BUT HOPEFULLY WILL CONTAIN MOST CLASSES OF PIECES FOR THE COUNTRIES LISTED.

(NOTE: FOR THOSE WEAPONS THAT FIRE SHELLS WITH A -T AFTER THE DESIGNATION i.e. APDS-T, THE -T INDICATES THAT THE ROUND IS FIRED WITH A TRACER.) SEE NOTE AT THE END OF THE ARTICLE TO CLARIFY SOME OF THE FIGURES GIVEN.

SOME OF THE ARTILLERY PIECES OF GERMANY

ANTI-AIRCRAFT;

- 20-mm FLAK30; WEIGHT: 141 lb. R.O.F.: 200-280 RPM FED FROM 20,40,
50 ROUND MAGAZINES. MFR: RHEINMETALL MK-ST-5 (WWII)
- 20-mm FLAK38; WEIGHT: 123 lb. PROJECTILE WEIGHT: 0.3 lb. R.O.F.: 420
RPM 20 ROUND MAGAZINE. MFR: MAUSER
- 37-mm FLAK 18; WEIGHT: 595 lb. R.O.F.: 160-180 RPM 8 ROUND MAGAZINE
(WWII)
- 37-mm FLAK 43; PROJECTILE WEIGHT: 1.4 lb. VERTICAL RANGE: 5,000 ft.
R.O.F.: 250 RPM
- 50-mm FLAK 41; WEIGHT: 3.3 TONS PROJECTILE WEIGHT: 5 lb. FIXED AMMO.
CEILING: 18,400 ft. (WWII)
- 88-mm FLAK 18, 36, AND 37; WEIGHT: 5.6 TONS PROJECTILE WEIGHT: 20 lb.
CEILING: 26,250 ft. RANGE: 11,550 yds. R.O.F.: 15-20 RPM
FIXED AMMUNITION. (WWII)
- 88-mm FLAK 41; WEIGHT: 8.4 TONS PROJECTILE WEIGHT: 21 lb. FIXED AMMO
CEILING: 38,000 ft. (WWII)
- 105-mm FLAK 38; 11.2 TONS PROJECTILE WEIGHT: 33 lb. FIXED AMMO.
CEILING: 35,000 ft. (WWII)
- 128-mm FLAK 40; WEIGHT: 19 TONS PROJECTILE WEIGHT: 57 lb. FIXED AMMO
CEILING: 35,000 ft. (WWII)

BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU!

THE SAN FRANCISCO POLICE DEPARTMENT IS IN THE PROCESS OF INSTALLING 32 'TRAFFIC CONTROL' T.V. CAMERAS ON SAN FRANCISCO'S STREETS.

IT IS A SMALL STEP FROM 'TRAFFIC CONTROL' TO MIND CONTROL!

COME TO THE

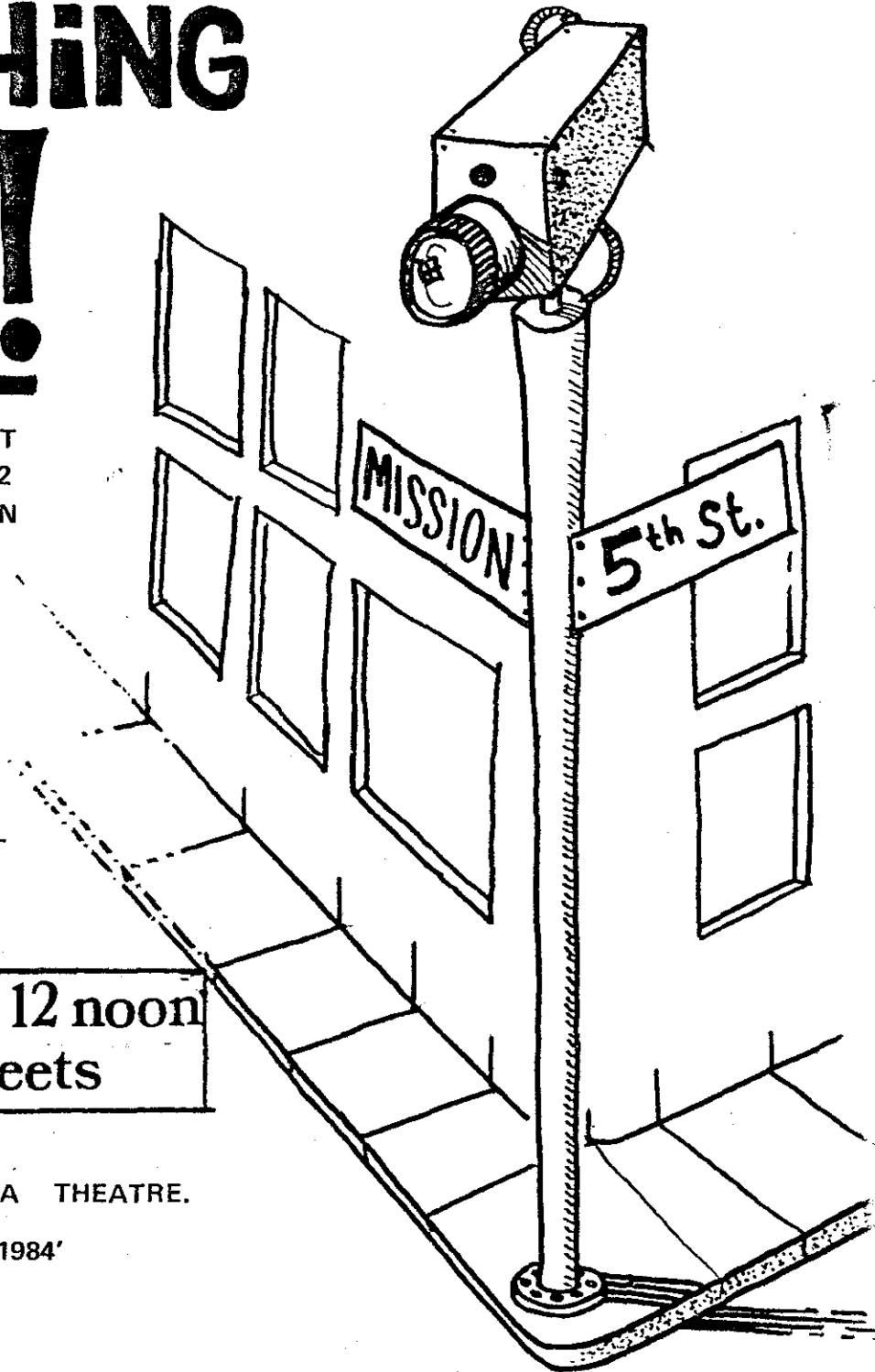
Big Brother Day

DEMONSTRATION AT THE T.V. CAMERA FOR A PEACEFUL CELEBRATION OF FREEDOM!

**Wednesday, June 13th, 12 noon
5th & Mission Streets**

● PARTICIPATE IN GUERRILLA THEATRE.

● GET FREE COPIES OF '1984'



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*THIS WAS WRAPPED AROUND SOMETHING HE SENT ME.
JIM PUBLISHER LIBERTY BELL. 948 CORAINE
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A GOOD ZINE!*

TWO-MAN DIPLOMACY

<u>RowLand</u>	<u>Gibsonia</u>
A: A Ser S F Alb-Gre, F Alb-Gre, A Gal-Gre	F: f EngC-Lon, A Bur-Bel, A Mar-Spa
G: F Den-Swe, A Ruhr-Hol, A Ber-Mun	R: A War-Gal, F Rum H, A St.P-Nwy, F GoB-Bal
E: A York-Lon, F Nwg S F Nth-Nwy F Nth-Nwy	T: A Con-Bul, A Bul-Gre, F Blk S F Russ F Rum

Centers:

A: Home, Ser, Gre Build two	F: Home, Spa, Bel Build two
E; Home, Nwy, Build one	R: Home, Rum Build one
G: Home, Hol, Swe Build Two	T: Home, Bul Build one

Neutral= Den, Port, Tunis + All Italian Centers in Civil Disorder.

Press: RowLand: If you're 65 years old, its assumed you're old enough to know how to spell and write.

Marseilles Funmonitor: The french army of the south is having lots of fun. Once a week all summer long every man was required (99% did with alacrity) to climb Mont Blanc. Now they're crossing the pyrenees via a high pass on foot packing 60 pounds apiece, 30 of it toys and games for the children of Spain.

Gentlemen, your winter orders are due June 21, 1978.

((The game here is now even. Alan has made some interesting moves, with his move to Ukraine making the most interesting tactical problems. Curt's move to Baltic Sea is unusual in that most people would not have bounced the F Den instead. I would think, though, that in conjunction with this the move A St. P.-Fin would have been advisable in this case. Then, a build of A St. P, would create more pressure against scandinavia. The winter builds will be of great consequence of the future tempo of this game. Whether we have fleets or armies will tell the tale. For the while, it appears that no one has any interest in the Italian centers. We shall see what happens.))

((Next issue, I hope to have an interesting cover to commemorate this game. I would have put it on this issue, but I really didn't have the idea put to me until after I had already printed up six pages, including the first four, so it just wouldn't fit. Next time. Curt has also rightly pointed out that the way I phrased the victory criterion last issue, he can't win. It should read, if Curt is ahead one or even, the game is a draw.))

1975 W Spring, 1910 Turks on move again as mud dries. Italy launches preemptive Strike.

England/12/Shields F Mao-Port, F Nao-Mao, A Par S A Pic-Burg, F Gas-Spasc,
F Bre-Gas, F Nth-Bel, A Hol-Ruhr, F Swe and F Nwy S Each other, A Ber and A Kiel
 S Each other

Italy/8/Silko A Mar S F Lyon-Spasc, F Tun S F Apx-Ion, A Tyr-Vie, A Tri S A Alb-S
 F Nap S F Apu-Ion, Fnap-Ion, F Lyob-Spasc

Russia/7, one short/Foster A Mun S ENGLISH A Pic-Burg, A War & A Mos S Each Other,
 A Pru-Sil, F St.P. sc Holds, A Lvn-Pru

Turkey/7/Michal A Sev H, A Ukr-Rum, A Cal-Bud, A Ser / F Gre-Alb /d/ r to Bul, Gre, OTB
 F Gre-Alb, F Aeg-Ion, F Con-Aeg

Press: Italy to Turkey: You really didn't expect me to sit and wait for you to stab me twice-did you? I'd much rather go down fighting than die a slow death. JIHAD!!!!

Italy to Everybody: Do you realize how long this stinking game has gone on? The end is in sight....at last.

Bensenville: As GM, I can only say, "Look how much fun you're having!!!"

Next deadline is Wednesday, June 21, 1978, noon. Please submit Fall, 1910.

Finally...

In this issue, the yellow paper was just an experiment. It was really a bust considering it jammed the machine about 10 times. Its also a little heavy. Next time I'll probably use just some white stuff. Thanks to everybody for getting all the orders in this time. Thanks also to the standbys who submitted backups. It is surely appreciated. Well, I must mow the lawn (bummer). So till next time, HAPPY STABBING!!!

Failure Publications

ATO Press

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You have _____ issues left

Your life subscription has just expired.

No standbys required.

Enter a game!!! X