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Number 2

May 28, 1978

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BREW AND REEFER is a monthly Diplomacy 'zine published by Roy Smith, 64 Addicks Rd., Westwood, NJ, 07675. Subs are available for 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ per page plus postage. Send a lump sum of at least \$2.00 and please make all checks and money orders payable to Roy Smith. The teller at my bank gave me a strange look when I tried to deposit a check made out to BREW AND REEFER. She accepted it but I don't know if I will be so lucky next time. I have four openings in Diplomacy for people who live outside of the 617, 412, and 309 area codes. There is no gamefee, but I do require a \$2.00 refundable deposit. Free samples are available for a stamp (no SASE's, please).. If you publish a 'zine which comes out on a fairly regular basis, then trades are welcome.

In an effort to encourage reader response, I will reward all letters to the editor that I print at the rate of 10% of sub credit per printed page. All articles printed will be rewarded at the rate of \$1.00 of sub credit per printed page. I have been informed by one of my professors, who is also a professional publisher, that the only thing you have to do to copyright something is to print at the bottom of the first page a capital 'C' in a circle, the year of publication, and the name of the person who holds the copyright. This is legally binding. In view of the ease in which something may be copyrighted, I am not going to copyright any of the material herein. I would appreciate it, though, if you would ask my permission to copy something before you went ahead and printed it. The only royalties I require is that you send me a copy of whatever it is printed in.

I have gotten a request for either an all-Mensan or an all-expert game. If there is enough interest in either, or in a novice game, variant, ect., then I will be more than glad to run it. Should I run an all-expert game, I would most likely require a larger deposit and/or a gamefee to discourage players from dropping out and to discourage less-able players from entering. This would help insure that it is a more challenging game for all of the players.

I HAVE AN OLIVETTI LEXIKON 82 ELECTRIC PORTABLE TYPEWRITER AND A REX ROTARY M4 MIMEOGRAPH

Last issue I said that I would tell you why I choose BREW AND REEFER as the name of my 'zine. I wasn't going to tell you but since I need the filler, I guess I will. A few weeks ago, I was having some friends over to play bridge, and I went down to the local A&P to get soda and munchies. Outside the store were a couple of kids a few years younger than me--too young to buy beer. They asked me if I would buy beer for them, and when I didn't answer right away, one of the kids offered me a joint as an incentive--Hmm, Brew and Reefer, nice combination. And so a publishing empire is born.

IF YOU TELL ME WHAT THIS SLINAR SEPERATORS SAY BEFORE I PUBLISH THEN NEXT ISSUE I WILL PUBLISH YOUR NAME BUT SINCE I DONOT WANT TO GO BROKE I WILL NOT GIVE YOU ANY SUBCREDIT THIS IS THE FIRST

A FEW WORDS ON GM ETHICS

I had originally planned for this article to be a few pages spread out over the next several issues, but I can see that I am not going to be able to write anything for this issue. The reason is simple. As of 12:01 AM, Monday, May 29, 1978 it will cost 15¢ per ounce to mail something via first class mail. If I am to get this issue out before that time, I will have to forgo writing the first installment of that article. I will barely have enough time as it is to print and address this issue, let alone write an article. That should also explain why this issue is two weeks early.

If all goes well, I will have something written in time for the next issue, (which should be out near the end of the month.) and I will print it then.

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NEWS OF THE HOBBY, BY THE HOBBY, FOR THE HOBBY

Amongst the many awards given out by various people in the hobby, are the Cook Awards. Antly enough, they are sponsored by Andy Cook, 807 Crescent Drive, Alexandria, Va., 22302. Ponder the following and send your answers to Andy:

- What is the best article you have read in 1977?
- What is the best new 'zine for 1977?
- What is the best 'zine for 1977?
- What is the best variant of 1977?
- Who made the most outstanding contribution to the hobby in 1977?
- Who is the hobby MVP for 1977?
- Who is the rookie of the year for 1977?
- Who should be expelled from the hobby?

John Leeder of 1211 5th Street NW, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T2N 3B6 is conducting this year's "North American 'Zine and Gamesmaster Poll". All you have to do to participate is the following:

- List all the North American 'zines that you receive and rate each one on a scale of 1 (Unspeakably bad) to 10 (Superb)
- List all the gamesmasters of all the games in which you are currently playing and rate them on the same 1-10 scale.
- Sign you ballot, and give the date of your most recent relation to the hobby.

You may use any criteria you want to rate the 'zines and gamesmasters, and anyone may participate, even overseas readers. The deadline for receipt of the ballots is the end of June, so hurry.

DATES TO REMEMBER

PENN-CON (June 23rd-25th) Chester, Pa. For info and registration write to Strategy & Fantasy Worlds, Vally Forge Shopping Center, King of Prussia, Pa. 19406. John Boyer (of Impassable fame) will be running the Diplomacy Tournament.

DIPCON XI (June 30th-July 2nd) California State University, Northridge (Los Angeles) California. Held in conjunction with GLASCon III. For registration write to Russell Fox, 5160 Donna Avenue, Tarzana, Calif. 91356. The anual IDA/NA meeting will be held there, so I guess this is THE con of the year.

ORIGINS IV (July 14th-16th) University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich. For details write to Al Slisinger, 12554 Dresden, Detroit, Mich. 48205.

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THE LAST HOROSCOPEAQUARIUS, Jan. 20-Feb. 18

You have an inventive mind and are inclined to be progressive. Sometimes your ideas don't work. You lie a great deal. You are inclined to be careless and impractical causing you to make the same mistakes over and over again. People think you are stupid.

PISCES, Feb. 19-Mar. 20

You have a vivid imagination and often think you are being followed. You have minor influence over your associates and people resent you for flaunting this power. You lack confidence and are generally a coward. Pisces people do terrible things to small animals.

ARIES, Mar. 21-Apr. 19

You are the pioneer type, are quick tempered, impatient and scornful of advice. You hold most people in contempt. You are not very nice.

TAURUS, Apr. 20-May 20

You are practical and persistent. You have a dogged determination and work like hell. Most people think you are stubborn and bull headed. You are a Communist.

GEMINI, May 21-June 20

You are a quick and intelligent thinker. You could be an executive. People like you because you are bisexual. However, you are inclined to expect too much for too little (i.e., you are cheap).

CANCER, June 21-July 22

You are sympathetic and understanding of other people's problems. They think you are a sucker. You are always putting things off. That's why you'll never make anything of yourself. Most welfare recipients are Cancer people.

LEO, July 23-Aug. 22

You consider yourself a born leader. Others think you are pushy. Most Leo people are bullies. You are vain and dislike honest criticism. Your arrogance is disgusting. Leo people are known thieves.

VIRGO, Aug. 23-Sept. 22

You the logical type and hate disorder. This nit-picking is sickening to your friends. You are cold and unemotional and sometimes fall asleep while standing up. Virgo's make good physical chemists.

LIBRA, Sept. 23-Oct. 22

You are the artistic type and have a difficult time with reality. Chances for employment and monetary gains are excellent. All Libra's are boring! They make fine bus drivers.

SCORPIO, Oct. 23-Nov. 21

You are shrewd in business and cannot be trusted. You shall achieve the pinnacle of success because of your lack of ethics. Most Scorpio people are murdered. Many were purchasing agents.

SAGITTARIUS, Nov. 22-Dec. 21

You are optimistic and enthusiastic. You have a reckless tendency to rely on luck since you lack talent. The majority of Sagittarians are drunks or are on dope. People laugh at you a great deal. Your career direction is R&D management.

CAPRICORN, Dec. 22-Jan. 19

You are conservative and afraid of taking risks so you don't do much of anything (i.e., you are lazy). There has never been a Capricorn of any importance. Capricorns should avoid standing still too long as they tend to take root and become trees.

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THE LAST HOROSCOPE is 'borrowed' from CHEMTECH magazine, published by the Americal Chemical Society without their permission and, I hope, without their knowledge. CHEMTECH, in turn, reprinted it with the permission of Curry Copy Center. Since my paid circulation is less than a dozen at this point in time, I don't think that they will mind too much. I hope that they will not mind too much. I pray that they.....

THE EDITOR PLAYS GOD

As promised last issue, here are reviews of the 'zines that I get. They are not listed in order of preference, but rather in alphabetical order. I have rated the 'zines according to what I want to see in a 'zine -- this may differ from what you want to see in a 'zine, so if you are thinking of subbing don't take my word for it. Most pubbers are more than willing to give away free samples if you send them a stamp or two to cover postage. I have used the following criteria in rating the 'zines, in this approximate order of importance: Regularity of publication, Quality of the gamesmastering, Non-game material, Reproduction, and Price. As a general rule, what you pay for a 'zine does not cover the cost of publication and postage, not to mention the work put into it, hence I practically ignored price.

DIPLOMACY DIGEST, Published by Mark L. Berch, 492 Naylor Place, Alexandria, Va., 22304. Without a doubt, Diplomacy Digest is the best 'zine I get. Diplomacy Digest carries no games, and very little original material. I think that Mark has hit upon a great idea. All he does is reprint noteworthy articles from old, foreign, and 'zines of low circulation. He also reprints current articles, but only when their exceptional quality demands it. Reproduction is commercial Xerox, which means that all the articles are in the typeface that they were originally printed in. Subs are 10 for \$2.50. Samples are available for a SASE. This rates a 9 on a scale of 1 to 10.

THE DIPLOMATIC JOURNAL, Published by Roger Oliver, POB 452, Denville, NJ, 07834. This one is kind of hard to rate objectively. Last year TDJ was the pits. Even though he claimed to be a monthly, his publication time was more like that of a quarterly. I think he put out something like 4 no-frills issues last year. On the other side of the coin, though Roger now puts out a 16-20 page photo-offset 'zine. Roger runs some 20 games, including a couple of variants and other wargames. Roger has recently 'absorbed' another 'zine: I don't know what difference this will make other than to enlarge his sub list. Roger is still plagued with problems in getting his 'zine out on time. I never recieved the March issue, and the May issue is now close to three weeks late. On the good side, TDJ has a couple of pages of articles each issue, hobby news, and other non-game material. Subs are 12 for \$4.80. On that same 1-10 scale I'd give TDJ a 5.

LILAF, Published by Thomas P. Gould, 40 West 77th Street, New York, NY, 10024. Without a doubt, LILAF is the silliest 'zine I get. Tom puts out a 12 or so page 'zine on an approximately monthly basis. While its on-time performance is not so great, it's better than most, so I can't complain. Tom runs 2 regular games and one silly variant (The Trader Variant). The rest of the 'zine is filled with book reviews, movie reviews, a continuing science fiction short (?) story, and whatever other drivel Tom decides he wants to print. Reproduction is by mimeo with electronically cut stencils, which means, in essence, that it's legible. Subs are 8 for \$2.00. Since I enjoy SF, and other such silliness, I'll give it a 7.

THE TETRACUSPID, Published by Richard Kovalcik, Jr., Room 205 Bexley Hall, 50 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, Mass., 02139. I like Richard as a person, but I regret that I must give him a rather harsh review. The Tetracuspoid is typically a dozen or so pages. Richard has 6 games running, with openings in both regular Diplomacy and DND Diplomacy. If you don't know about DND Diplomacy, send Richard a SASE for a set of his house rules, and the rules for DND Diplomacy. I should mention that 4 games just ended this past issue had a couple more in the past few. Richard's problem is regularity (of publication, that is). The last issue was about five months late, and the current issue is now about

2 weeks late. This is not uncommon with The Tetracuspid. Good points are beautiful Xerox reproduction, Decent form t for his games, Good gamesmastering on Richard's part, though his guest GM's are less than perfect, and Some non-game material in the form of articles, editorials, ect. in each issue. Subs are 10 per page plus postage (send him a lumm sum of at least \$2.00). Because of the five month publishing gap, I'll give Richard a 3, but this will go up if he can improve his regularity. ((Try prunes. Oh, shut pu!)) ((Sorry, but I just couldn't resits -- RS))

THE WARMONGER, Published by Alan Rowland, 52 Eighth Avenue, Westwood, NJ, 07675. The Warmonger usually runs 6 to 8 pages, with occasional larger or smaller issues. This latest issue was Alan's anniversary issue and ran 22 pages. Games running in The Warmonger tend to be fast paced as Alan likes to set rather short deadlines, and his 'zine is rarely more than a couple of days late. While deadline lenght is a matter of personal preference, I think that on occasion Alan goes too far. Alan tends also, to be a bit arrogant, and arbitrary. Again, this is only my personal opinion. To be fair, though, I should say that Alan is not one to m ke gamesmaster errors, and usually catches errors made by his guest GM's. Reproduction is Xerox, mimeo, or a combination of both. I can only remember one time when the 'zine was downright illegible, and that was an exentional case (it was printed while drunk, using a mixture of beer and mimeo ink, with interesting results, to say the least). The Warmonger currently carries about a half dozen games, and usually at least one article each issue, and lots of letters. Subs are 10 for \$2.00. TW rates a 6, but that rating reflects rather heavily my personal opinion of the editor's policies. Objectively, I'd have to ~~give it~~ more like a 7 or 8.

DIPLOMAG, Published by Fred C. Davis, 1427 Clairidge Road, Baltimore, Md., 21207. I include this for completeness only, since it realy isn't a Diplomacy 'zine in the true sence of the word. Diplomag is the official newsletter of the MENSA diplomacy SIG (Special Interest Group). Mensan's can join and get the newsletter for \$2.00 per year. Non-Mensan's can still get the newsletter for \$2.00, but can't join as voting members of the SIG. To be honest, I realy don't see why a non-member would want to sub, since there are no games -- just SIG news. Since it's not realy a Diplomacy 'zine, per se, it doesn't get a rating.

THINGSTHATLOVENIGHT/LOVENOTSUCHNIGHTSASTHESE/SUCHSHEETSOFFIRESUCHBURSTSOFHOR

I should add that unless specifically stated, all of the above 'zines have openings in Dippy (I believe). I should also say that since the USPS has seen it fit to raise the first class postage from 13¢ to 15¢ (Yes folks, it's definate now, I just heard it on the news.) many if not most 'zines will raise their rates to cover this increase. Publishers don't m ke money, but most have a limit to how much they are willing to lose.

So far, in addition to the 'zines mentioned above, I trade with Dushwacker, Against the Odds, and Saint George and the Dragon. I would guess that I will pick up a few more trades in the next few weeks, so as soon as I can form valid opinions about these 'new' 'zines, I will run another review collumn in which I will review those 'zines not yet reviewed, and re-review those 'zines that have substantially changes for the better or the worse. This shoug be an incentive (albeit, a small one) to the good 'zines to keep up the good work, and an incentive to the notdso-good 'zines to improve.

You have probably notice that I did not mention how long the 'zines have been in publication, how long the publisher has been publishing (not nessesarily the same thing), what hobby organizations, if any, the publisher belongs to, or game fees. These are not ommisions -- I just don't think

that it's important. Sub prices were mentioned only so that you know how much to send the publisher--I did not take them into account when I rated the 'zines.

It should also be noted that even though this issue is dated June 10, today is really May 24. This should explain any discrepancies in what I said about various 'zines being late.

RID THUNDER / SUCH GROANS OF ROARING WIND AND RAIN: THE EARLY OF KENT ACT II SCENE 2 OF KING LEAR

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ACCORDING TO EINSTEIN THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS GRAVITY THEREFORE I CONCLUDE THE EARTH SUCKS

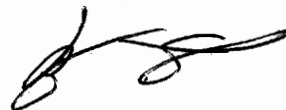
A Message from the Swedish Prime Minister:

CRAIG,

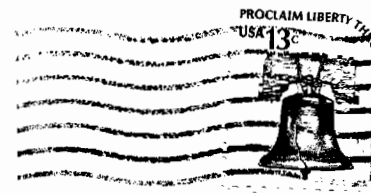
THANKS FOR THE CHECK!

IF NECESSARY I WILL FUDGE THE DIE ROLLS TO MAKE SURE
YOU DON'T GET GERMANY AGAIN

I'D BE GLAD TO PLAY IN A GAME (SPECIALY IF IT'S FREE!) IF YOU
STILL WANT A DEPOSIT I WILL ENCLOSE A CHECK WITH THE NEXT
ISSUE - YOU HAVE PERMISSION TO CALL ME COLLECT. (201)-666-2887
YES, I NEED HOUSE RULES. PREFERENCE LIST: TURKEY, RUSSIA, ENGLAND,
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