

THAT'S OKAY, OMAR,
MY BROTHER IS
 PEDDLING BEER!



#10
 already

THE

BRUTUS BULLETIN

Et tu, Brute

THE BRUTUS BULLETIN is a newsletter of postal DIPLOMACY brought to you as often as my players will permit, by John Michalaki, 913 NE Sixth Street, Moore, Okla., 73160. No calls with moves. It is available from me for \$2 for now, for all issues to December 1, 1978, when I will likely go over to a 12/\$3 rate, or about half of what it costs to publish this, counting all variable costs other than my time. Trades aren't encouraged, but may be considered. I have about two more subscription slots to fill before I close it up. The BRUTUS BULLETIN is dedicated to running (3) games of postal Diplomacy fast and cheap. For your money, you are promised only fast adjudications, nothing more. However, since I also like filler, there's some of that too. Often lots. Players, readers, and anyone finding this in your returned Business Reply envelope you expected something else in, are invited and encouraged to send in stuff similar to the nonsense enclosed. Those of you writing me should keep in mind that I am a pipeline publisher, so your letters may, at my discretion, find their way into print, censored of game-related items, unless you indicate otherwise. Comments of all kinds are solicited, just to let me know you're alive and awake out there. Some comments make me wonder, but that's another story.

Another unique feature of BB is that I will occasionally run ads for people, generally without any compensation. It might be suggested that a further purpose of BB is to see how many things I can do wrong to mess up Lee Kendter, Jr., but that is not true. It only SEEMS that way to some! Advertisements are run as filler/public service/gratis plugs, and, on rare occasions, for reasons that probably defy rational analysis. Almost anything sent in has a good chance of being selected, since there is very little competition for that honor most of the time.

DIPLOMACY is a game invented by Alan Calhamer and copyrighted by the Avalon Hill Game Co., Baltimore, MD 21214. Excerpts from CONSERVATIVE DIGEST are reprinted with permission of that organization, 7777 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22043. Normally this will be for their BUREAUCRATIC BLUNDERS feature, but this time I've adopted their latest cover for my own above. Blunders will appear next issue when I return to normal-sized paper.

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JOHN'S NOTES

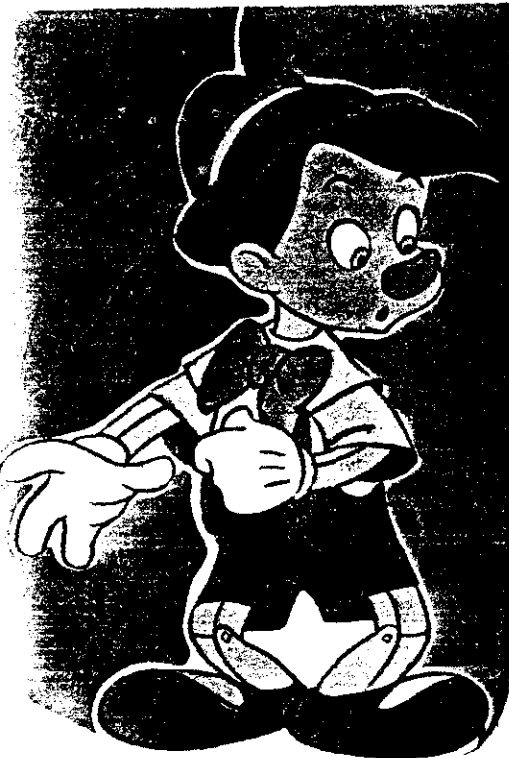
Well, here we are with the grand Summary Issue, unless, of course, we get down to the wire and all your press, contributions, letters, and articles force me to leave it out. Or, if I forget to add that page. Those of you receiving free file copies (do you read these, Walt?) won't find one attached; pardon my bluntness, but it's the paying customers I want to hear from.

Three topics that traditionally see last last alone are "politics, religion, and the Civil War". Another tradition is that TRUTHS BULLETIN usually ignores tradition. Anyone got any religion- or Civil War- stuff to spout off about? I don't do too badly on the politics myself, but you're free to comment on that too if you're so inclined. One of these days I'll do an article on local party politics which you may find informative; there are a lot of surprises, if you expect to find what I did compared to the reality. Or, like a lot of people, maybe you're seldom interested in anything after the deadline announcement other than an occasional perusal of the press. So that as it may, I think such things create interest. I doubt that few people felt good listening to Vanessa Redgrave last night, whether pro-Zionist or not, but you must admit she will be remembered. Some other time, perhaps LIBERTERREAN or WARMONGER or one I received as a sample, I don't recall now, was running a series whose subpr had a running attack on religions; Don Lowry used to do some technical articles on the Civil War, but what would open some eyes might be a good, biased article, one way or the other. That would create almost as much interest as Terry Watson's suggested series on "Sleeping with Spanish TA's". Anyhow, before I forget, let me say I'm glad that STAR WARS swept all the technical awards, which was certainly it's strong point. It is also about as good a showing as anything resembling SF can expect to do. I thought it a bit odd that the Academy would go to Woody Allen and a comedy instead of SF. But, STAR WARS could go away empty-handed and still be a winner: it has it where it counts, the bank.

Anyone pay attention to stamps? The Post Office is running a series on freedoms such as the one-cent one on this envelope, variations of which I now see on 2s, 3s, and 11s. Probably a lot others.

Last issue was a good thing, too, checking out what I had on hand after all, barring the TSR flyers (2 sets) and a two-page letter-article. If I can cram all currently-arriving stuff into this one, maybe with issue 12 I can get it down to where I have only current stuff to process each issue, which in turn would give me an outside chance of someday doing a normal-sized issue. This being my own baby, I haven't really ever thought of it in true comparative terms with other Dippines; but, sorting, checking, stapling, and folding-mailing over 30 copies of that 10-sheet project last night makes me think that maybe, just maybe, I'm putting too much into these. If I'd stop and try to see BB as something I got in the mail instead of something I PUT in the mail, maybe I could get it down to size. A theoretical issue "should" be 5 sheets: 1, cover/John's Notes; 2, KN/press; 3, KS/press; 4&5, filler. Also, one-sided copies would be a lot faster to make, in that I wouldn't have to count and check for blanks, reprint where necessary, etc.; just set it on "36" and let rip. That would give Cover/KN/KS/press/press-John's notes. Single spacing would allow the game AND associated press on one page, which would leave two full pages after moving Notes to the cover. It SOUNDS just like what most do; but while I have the chance now, both time and facilities, I'll chug out what I can under the current 14¢ limit. But there's a portent of things to come. Game pages may have a blank reverse this issue, depending on how much press comes in. Last issue had about the smallest amount I can recall, although I could have filled the page if I hadn't missed a deadline-day submission. I guess all of you were out enjoying the good weather.

Also, I'd like to thank all those people who took the time and effort to write in about my STAR WARS questions/observations. In view of some of what I hear, it's nice to see that someone is both a) reading this, and b) interested enough to respond. Even if it's with mixed views, as in Galen Workman's letter this issue. My one big advantage over most zines right now is xeroxing; I can type about my weekend in Dallas and correct it in less time than lots of folks have to spend splattering themselves with purple ink. Also, my current job has offered lots of slack time of late—such as right now. Someday they may give me something useful to do, but in the meantime, I can sit here and think up articles of sorts. Maybe one on working in the real world...? Might do good in view of the large % of Dip players still in college. Well, we'll see. On to better things, like, GAMES:



77 KN

WINTER, 1904, 8
SPRING, 1905

STOSSTRUPPEN ABANDON LIEGE FOR ALSATION VINEYARDS.
NORTH SEA CHANGES HANDS AGAIN AS OELO AND COPENHAGEN
RIVAL FONTANA UNDER A FOG OF DRIFTING CORDITE SMOKE.
ARMENIANS TASTE SCIMITARS AS CZAR PULLS ALL PLUGS
TO HANG ON TO WALLACHIA!

Winter, 1904 Austria: builds A VIE, A BUD
England: removes F Cly
France: even
Germany: builds F KIE
Italy: even
Russia: builds A WAR
Turkey: even

Spring, 1905:

AUSTRIA (KASSEL): A VIE-Gal; A Tri-VEN; A BUD & A SER S TURK
A Bul-Rum; A Gre-ALB

ENGLAND (SCOTT): F LON-Eng

FRANCE:(DITTER): A YOR-Lon; F Lvp-WAL; F Eng-BEL; A PIC
S A Bur; A Bur S RUSSIAN A Sil-Mun/d/
NSU as Russian A Sil/r Par, Gas, Mar, Otb; F Wes-TUN

GERMANY (WORKMAN): F Kie-BAL; F DEN-Swe; F Nth-Eng/d/r Hel,Nwg, Otb;A Bel-BUR;
A RUH & A MUN S A Bel-Bur;

ITALY (KELLY): A Pie-TUS; A Rom-NAP;F Alb-Ion/d/r Adr, Tri, Otb; F Adr-APU

RUSSIA (McELVANEY): F Edi-NTH; F SKA S F Edi-Nth; F NWY-Swe; A WAR-Gal; A RUM H;
A UKR & A SEV S A Rum; F Arm-Bla/ann.

TURKEY (HUESTON): A BUL-Rum; F Ank-ARM; F BLA S F Ank-Arm; F ION S AUST A Gre-Alb

DEADLINE for both games will be Monday, May first, 1978. May should be the first month ever in which THREE deadlines fall!(1,15,30). Something to look forward to. Fall orders may be made conditional on summer retreats, and always remember to list one set of orders as "all other cases" as well. Press follows.

77KN PRESS

PARIS-MOSCOW: Just practicing

PARIS-WARSAW: Later

PARIS-BERLIN: Now

(No dateline) The French publicly apologize to the German people for their occupation of Belgium. "We had to protect our English ally before we stabbed him" was quoted from Emperor Dirty Dave the Dagger.

(No dateline) French military sources blame their attack on Munich as absurd. "How can we function with Polish cmopasses and this damn smog?" "Man, I can hardly see in this gas mask".

HOBBY NEWS FROM ALL OVER.....

✓ The MIXUMAXU GAZETTE, which recently replaced its 0-gamefee with a \$3 one as I recall, has now announced a drop from its three-week schedule to a four-week schedule. It's a shame, but, so it goes. MMG was always one of the reliable ones arriving here every few weeks... Pub: Robert Bryan Lipton, 556 Green Place, Woodmere, NY 11598.

✓ CENTURION, Russell Fox' Dipzine of some history and hobby stature, is winding itself down. They're dropping like flies, it seems. At least he's doing so gracefully. Unlike, say,

✓ MAGAZINE, DIPLOMACY, POSTAL, alias PI DELTA TAU, formerly produced by 2Lt Fred C Winter, HHC, DLI, Presidio of Monterrey, CA. I was called as a standby for his game 77FB, played it out, and then received the anonymous card below:

Game 1977FB has ended and Russia is the victor.

A copy of the final issue of Pi Delta Tau, containing the final moves, the statistics, and a victory statement plus several other player statements and the gamemasters fairwell to publishing

can be had by sending \$1.00 (in cash) to: ((BNC))

I leave out Cal's address as irrelevant. The point is, this is how some publishers view their responsibility as a GM. I believe I was the second-strongest power at game's end, but it will cost me a dollar to find out. Naturally, I'm not spending a cent on it. It is his responsibility to get me a copy, to say nothing of having never been given a chance to submit MY game comments, if any, etc. The only good part of this is that he is apparently giving up publishing. Thank God for that. Publishers of that caliber, however witty, are needed in this hobby like Washington needs another Watergate.

✓ JOHN LEEDER is once again giving a try at a NORTH AMERICAN ZINE AND GAMEMASTER POLL. "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 gamemasters 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..."

The above is quoted straight from John's RUNESTONE #200 dated March 28, an issue that also provided the Game Openings list included in this issue. I'd like to encourage all of you to send in something. If you'd prefer, send your votes to me and I'll mail them to John myself with mine. I won't change your vote on EB either, although for the free mailing, I probably WILL look at it in the course of figuring out what it was you sent me. John's address is 1211 Fifth Street NW, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2M 3B6. Also, in case you, like me, weren't really sure what "relationship to the hobby" means, I presumed last year that "player" or "publisher of XXX" or some such is appropriate and adequate.

✓ BROTHERHOOD OF THIEVES is folding, according to the just received WHY ME? #1 plugged elsewhere in this issue. Games are being transferred to other zines, and players can expect to hear from the new publishers/GMs shortly.

✓ WINTER 78 issue of DIPLOMACY WORLD has finally arrived. Canrad von Metzke says that it really isn't late. This issue contains a couple of interesting things, the usual variety of stuff, and all sorts of ideas and suggestions and plans for the hobby strewn through his and Doug Beyerlein's article/comments. I'll be glad just to see the new IDA hang together and function for now... but dreamers do have their place.

77 K S

WINTER, 1903, &
SPRING, 1904

WINTER, 1903

Austria removes A Apu, F Ion
Italy builds A Ven, F Nap
Russia builds A War

FIRST NON-ITALIAN NMR STRIKES THESE PAGES AS ENGLAND
AND AUSTRIA START TO HURT. FRANCE DUCKING VICIOUS PRESS?

AUSTRIA (PRICE): A Ser-TRI; A BUD-Gal; F ADR S GERMAN
A Tyr-Ven; A Gre-ALB
(NSO)

ENGLAND (HUNT): A Swe-Yor/d/r Den, Otb; F SKA & F Nth
C A Swe-Yor/F Nth d, r Nwg, Edi, Yor, Lon, Otb
A LVP-Wal; F Eng-BRE;

FRANCE (GRABAR): NMR! F MAO, F IRI, A WAL, A MAR, A SPA H

GERMANY (REGES): F Den-NTH; F HEL S F Den-Nth; A BEL S
A Hol; A HOL S A Bel; A Tyo S FRENCH A
Mar-Pie/NSO/d, r Boh, Mun, Otb; F BAL
S RUSSIAN F Fin-Swe

ITALY (SHAFFER): F Wes-GLY; F Nap-ION; A Tri-VIE; A Ven-TYO;
A PIE S A Ven-Tyo

RUSSIA (KASSEL): F StPnc-NWY; F Fin-SWE; A WAR-Gal;
A SEV S TURK A Ukr-Rum

TURKEY (KENDTER, Jr): F Rum-BLA; F AEG S A Bul-Gre;
A Bul-GRE; A Smy-CON; A Ukr-RUM

"The Pope has just appointed
ME as his Chief of Staff,
hyuck, hyuck."

DEADLINE for both games will be Monday, May first, 1978. May should be the first month ever in which THREE deadlines fall!(1,15,30). Something to look forward to. Fall orders may be made conditional on summer retreats, and always remember to list one set of orders as "all other cases" as well. Press follows on reverse.

It seems a crime to let all this space go to waste,
but that's all there is for now. Reverse of last
page will be blank. - J.M.

Alleged Humour Dept.: Mark Berch sent in this one, but not to me. Here it is anyhow:

Seems that a lawyer, a minister and an engineer found themselves on a life raft becalmed a mile from shore in shark-infested waters. The minister suggested prayer. The engineer wanted to rig a primitive sail. The lawyer saw no point to this, and suggested that lots be drawn for a volunteer to swim to shore. This was done, and the lawyer lost. He calmly dived into the water, and began his swim, his friends expecting the worst. But the sharks, rather than attacking, neatly lined up in two rows, and he swam safely between them to shore. "I've seen a miracle!" exclaimed the minister. "That was no miracle," said the engineer. "That was professional courtesy."

from RUNESTONE.

HOLLAND: Alas, poor Peter is once again despondent. There is now a new complication in his quest. He now has a rival! The evidence is not irrevocable, for Peter did not hear all of the conversation as he hid in the closet. The tightness of his corset and his baited breath had induced a swoon at a crucial moment. But when he awoke, he knew the truth in his heart. Running through the now vacant room, he almost held back his tears.

Peter sits alone at the bar in his favorite yellow apparel. The rest of the help know better than to talk to this silent, lonely woman. But the new guest, the Frenchman, will not keep his distance. He resembles a Breugel peasant. He reeks of cheap wine. He perspires constantly, and hair protrudes from his nostrils in a most ludicrous fashion. Peter reddens perceptibly at the man's proposal and stalks from the room. The Frenchman chuckles lewdly, whereupon the bartender ejects this menace to public decency.

Later, in his room, Peter muses. "Is the beast insatiable? How can Craigy have anything to do with such an insensitive lout?...And yet there is something appealing about the way he grunts and drools...and I've always been a sucker for a French accent, even spoken in monosyllables." In his dreams he hears his own voice say "I'm coming, Gracie Baby, you sweet savage!"

Turkey-Austria: What did you hope to accomplish by your erratic style of play? It is quite obvious that you have just signed your death warrant.

MOSCOW-CONSTANTINOPLE: No reply, so I think the worst. Die, slob!!!

Switzerland: Analysts here have noted the severe depression in Austrian stock prices. It is hoped that Austrian government officials will not allow Italian and Turkish investors to acquire large blocks of stock in Austrian territory. It was also reported that substantial financial aid was forthcoming from the state of Germany and the great nation of France.

Italle: We will attack Franz now. (Sic(K))

BERLIN TO TURKEY: You speak with forked tongue, don't you, Lee? You request aid and stab behind my back. You'll be sorry for it.

Ankara Press Herald: Glorious Italian allies goof again!

SWEDEN: A small band of determined Swedish meatballs continue to roll southward, pausing briefly to ravage the cheesy British underbelly. Lord Blythe is suffering no end of intestinal discomfort. He has vowed to skewer and fondue the culprits. The difficulty is expected to lessen as the guerilla meatballs roll to Denmark to meet their German Brethren for the annual "Meatballs on Parade" celebration. There they will dance the Fascist stomp and sing "Jackboots of Spring".

Turkey: What is Grabar talking about? Has the French leader gone berserk once again, and is looking for an excuse for his PARANOID style of play?

(No dateline) Austria is strange

GERMANY: We will continue to work with our French ally, but still can't figure out his letters, completely, well some, well, honestly what does "Any attempt to enter French territory will be assumed to mean that England is on your side." mean?

England: We have figured out that only one thing is wrong with France's leader: PARANOIA!

KIEL: It appears that English ink wells have run dry just this once.

Turkish Press (UPI)- The sultan has officially announced that he is going back with the CZAR, after seeing how trustworthy the Austrians are.

ANKARA: Russia, you must know that friendship is not possible between us.

Paranoiaville- As feared, our mayor, Mr. Grabar has left. Why he left is not known, but he did mention something about "dippy". We do hope our honored mayor is okay.

Ankara: We can't understand why Italy refuses to write. After convincing the strange Austrians to stab Turkey, he doesn't search for help. Why?

Turkey-Italy: Ain't black press fun!

Syria: Our glorious nation will rise once again. We must once again save Europe. Egypt will join us in this glorious mission. Rumor has it that our allies in Transylvania will also help. Our message from them said: We will "suck the blood" out of Europe. What does that mean?

France- Lee, why did you lie to me again? What are you trying to prove?

((A one-line entry of black press was censored/deleted this issue, as it fell under the description of a personal attack. Players are free to run each other down as they wish, but must stand behind it. If you use the medium of black press, I think it should be in the format of, e.g., "King of Corsica-to-Emperor of Sardinia" rather than an 'Eat-it-raw, Joe Blow' type of thing. *Jm*))

Yep, it's still just BRUTUS #3. (Cal must have his hands full with something)

FALL, 1901

CHAIN OF ARMIES MOVES FROM VENICE TO BELGIUM VIA MUNICH AND BURGUNDY; MUST BE NATIONAL SCREW-YOUR-NEIGHBOR WEEK OR SOMETHING. NEUTRALS DROP LIKE FLIES. HOW LONG CAN PORTUGAL HOLD OUT?

AUSTRIA (LUKOW): A VIE-Gal; A SER S F Alb-Gre; F Alb-GRE

ENGLAND (HUESTON): F Eng-MAO; F NTH C A Yor-Nwy; A Yor-NWY

FRANCE (HUNT): F PIC S A Bur-Bel; A Bur-BEL; A Mar-SPA

GERMANY (CHRISTOPHER): A Mun-BUR; A Kie-HOL; F DEN H

ITALY (KIRCHNER): A Tyo-MUN; A Ven-TYO; F Ion-TUN

RUSSIA (KASSEL): F GoB-SWE; F Rum-SEV; A Ukr-RUM; A WAR-Gal

TURKEY (WORKMAN): A BUL-Gre; F Con-AEG; A Smy-CON

Austria: Home, SER, GRE	5	Build 2
England: Home, NWY	4	Build 1
France: Home, BEL, SPA	5	Build 2
Germany: Ber, Kie, MA , HOL, DEN	4	Build 1
Italy: Home, TUN, MUN	5	Build 2
Russia: Home, SWE, RUM	6	Build 2
Turkey: Home, BUL	4	Build 1
Neutral: Por	<u>1</u>	
	34	

BUILDS will appear in next Monday's BRUTUS BULLETIN IF, and only IF, everyone has them here then. Otherwise, they will be due here with Spring 02 orders which may be made conditional on them. SPRING, 1902, is due with my mail received here Maunday, April 24, 1978. My thanks to all for the press which follows, and for another interesting game. I'm lucky to hit three in a row. Somehow I suspect this one won't be an almost even 7-way split at the end of 1903 the way KS is.... Also, I apologize for this being a day "late"; there was no one to check Monday's mail, so this won't get mailed until 9:30 Tuesday morning.

Brutus #3 PRESS

(No dateline) Found on bathroom wall in G.R. "Will Italy move against Austria—
Is the Pope Catholic?"

UPI Wireservice headline: "Austria declares War on Russia—Turkey vows to join in!"

ROVING REPORTER: "With Fall coming it seems appropriate to be here in Austria. This beautiful country seems to be the place to spend the winter this year. The Austrian people are more than happy to extend their hospitality to all peoples of Europe. Unfortunately the main route from Warsaw has been temporarily blocked, but this situation is being corrected. A happy note—Italians are flocking into the Austrian Alps in great numbers this Fall and are expected to stay throughout the Winter season.

LONDON: Row, row, row your boat, gently out to sea....

TYROLIA: Count Lotsa d'Pasta halted his weary men. What should he do, he wondered, with his orders lost? He searched his pack one more time, but all he found was a map of Munich.

VENICE TO TYROLIA: We're right behind you...are you sure you know what you're doing?

MUNICH (UPS) It is reported that a strange odor is coming from the Munich/Burgundy border. The Germans believe that there is some "foul play" transpiring there.

Yes, it's time again to get to the first of our regular features, another interesting letter from

MARK BERCH

Mark Berch
492 Naylor Place
Alexandria, VA 22304

I was astonished to read your description of how fast you get out the adjudications, complete with your wife reading you the mail over the phone, so the mailing would go out on the deadline day. This means that the players actually have about as much negotiating time as a player in a typical three-week deadline zine. Calling your third game "second class" was clearly the wrong word. Sorry. I mean "phantom". It looks like it will be a phantom game. Thus, you tell us that the game is "now under way", but we get only a hint as to who is in the game. Even Don Horton gives the names of the players. I can see how you can't get the moves in to the same issue. But will we ever see this game, or its press? If players know that only the other players in the game will see the press, they are less likely to write it. I believe that you should reprint the moves and press, because some of us like to follow at least the game starts. If you lack the space, kick out some of your non-dippy material. But if all that the rest of us see of the game is an occasional cryptic reference in your "John's Notes", I'm not sure I can see how you can say the game is being carried in the zine.

As for Tony Watson's "all this was decided nearly a year ago": totally untrue. The second and third disputes that I had with him took place in August 1977. Tony's final action against me -- expulsion from 1975IJ -- took place in the zine postmarked Oct 10. My article appeared in late Feb, 1978, hardly a year later. It's also sad to see that he interpreted your suggestion that he "respond" as an invitation to "resort to attacking" me, rather than an invitation to explain how his own GMing philosophy can justify his various actions.

How to judge what your readers think of your "filler" is a virtually impossible task, because those who don't care for it are much less likely to write. Don't forget that to your non-players, things tend to be reversed: it's the games that are the filler. As for myself, I rank the John's notes (zine reviews) and the letter column tops, the games intermediate, and the non-Dippy material reprinted, bottom.

Question: Do you allow persons who are not in a given game to insert press? Most GMs do not, I suspect, but at least one (John Leeder) does.

As for your quiz, the next numbers are presumably 7, 6, 3, 2 -- putting the numbers in alphabetical order when the English names are used. Unfortunately, you blew it when you said "whole integers" (which is redundant, incidentally); you meant digits. Because with all integers available, what about seventeen, seventy one, etc?! All those infinity of integers would have to be slipped in.

((In regard to your question, yes, press is wide open at present, and that would permit ANYone from submitting some. Few people care enough outside a game to "interfere" much, so I don't think it's any big danger, but I'd outlaw it if the players chose, and would more heavily censor "outside" press than I would otherwise. I've never censored anything yet, but, the possibility is there.))

((In regard to the puzzle, you're right, I did word it wrong. Digits would be correct. Also, "zero" should be at the end))

Mark's DIPLOMACY DIGEST # 9 arrived yesterday, so I can pass on the word from it. It is now center-stapled, $5\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{1}{2}$, and is said to be bigger. That means material, I'm sure, for the type size is photo-reduced and made my eyes water. Or, I should say, water more, because the hay-fever season is here, and my eyes itch a little and water a lot off and on for three weeks each spring and fall. Also, in Mark's defense, I need to point out that it was late and, as is my habit with DD, I pretty much sit down and read it straight through whenever I get it. BUT, the biggest news should be that the sub rate is cut to 10 for \$2.50, down from whatever it was, I can't recall now. Issue nine seemed to be a potpourri issue, which is nice in that you can't tell what to expect next. To those of you who get DD and read on page 11 that "John Michalski, after reversing himself several times", etc., in regard to the Unwanted Convoy puzzle response, might be wondering what kind of a wishy-washy dolt you have as a GM-editor, let me explain. My first choice was based on what I perceived as the "justice" situation, namely, that the move succeed. Then, in view of the card from Cal White, whom I accepted as an authority in the hobby, I reluctantly accepted the "rules" decision, namely, that the move fail due to the convoy. All my players who responded decided as I originally did, and thus the HR addition. Technically, Mark is right in saying that I reversed myself several times then, if 'several' means more than once--twice in this case. Rather than bouncing around in indecision as it would appear, the above is the actual case as it stands, however.

△ ABOUT THE COVER For those of you who often ignore the news, as I'm doing more and more, the cover cartoon shows Carter with Omar Torrijos, dictator of Panama. The remark is poking fun at the recent disclosure of Torrijos' brother being big in the drug smuggling business. COVER BEFORE LAST referred to Cal White, but the 'Cal White cover' referred to the title (Did you notice it said BULLUS BRUTETIN instead of BRUTUS BULLETIN?), poking fun at an intentional error he put in a card I'd printed earlier. The cartoon character with his finger up his nose was labeled as the AF Chief of Staff, and wasn't meant to be Cal White, as some people took it to be. I hope Cal didn't make that mistake, or, if he did, that it is not the reason I haven't received a B# for BRUTUS 3 yet!

LETTERS

GALEN WORKMAN ((3531 E Wilton, #C, Long Beach, CA 90804))

Along with my orders for 77KN and Brutus #3 I thought I should send along a note of appreciation for the job you are doing. The care given to the games and the pace at which they are run add a good deal to the enjoyment of Diplomacy. BB itself is amusing and reflects the high standards seen in your GMing.

(Of course, being a confirmed liberal, I often find the logic and biases of the reactionary articles pathetic. Until I read a few of the BB's slanted clippings I thought that conservatives were merely misguided and not necessarily dull-witted grippers. But, I digress.)

While I am sitting down here let me answer your repeated requests for opinions on telephone calls and black press.

Phone calls seem so widely accepted in postal Diplomacy that I admire your attempt at prohibition. I think that NO CALLS TO THE GAMEMASTER makes the best rule. If someone has a problem with Aunt Minnie dying, I admit that the policy sounds cold. Nevertheless, I believe such an absolute rule is the fairest in the long run. I hope that you finally decide on a rigid, no phoning policy. And doesn't mail his games at TIME,

On the other hand, I believe the freedom to engage in black press needs a small amount of restraint. Although in real life all sorts of rumors fly through a country, the government can label some messages as official while the others are reports of varying accuracy. I think a similar difference could be established in postal Diplomacy. How about a rule which allows press from anywhere as long as it is not from the home supply province of another active player? I would favor such a revision. Thanks again for putting so much work into BB and the games!

((I just sent off the whole slew of #9, having stayed late last night to get it done after the Xerox man and others were done with it, so I'll run your letter as a pat on the back to myself. Your suggestion on Black Press would, I think, just about destroy the real potential fun of Black Press, which is in making it look like the words of another. A government can label messages as official, but only to those it can reach; those that the enemy can reach can be told the enemies' tales under a copied "official" notice. Only in cases of a diverse national press can such propaganda's effects be minimal, and that is very rare. So I'll stick to either a wide open policy as is now the case, or outlaw it altogether if the players prefer. Thanks for your views.))

BOB SERGEANT

((3242 Lupine Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46224))

Thanks for the plug. I hope it does some good in filling my remaining positions. I have enclosed \$1.75 for a sub to your zine. Unfortunately in my period of disillusion with the hobby I failed to keep up with developments within the ~~the~~ hobby, consequently I have few zines to get a plug from.

Also, I have been regrettably lax in answering letters. However, I have my games (my own games) down to a reasonable level so I plan to be taking a more veritable stance than I have recently.

I can answer your question about Star Wars, Han Solo is the pilot's name. My biggest problem was finding out the name of the blue alien Han Solo shot in the Cabaret. (Greedo) I at first thought his name was Guido, but he didn't look Italian.

I assume you are not a member of the Science Fiction Book Club, since the novelized version (with photographs) of Star Wars was an offering a few months back.

Also, I don't know whether you need standbys, but I am volunteering in case you have a real stinker of a position you don't want to saddle anyone with. I don't have enough time to get involved in a lot of games, but sometimes you have a position which you don't want to let go in CD, but the position is hopeless. If so, I'll be happy to move the pieces for you.

((I'd have no qualms about CDing anything, but I appreciate your volunteering for the standby list. You may get called someday, but watch out, because it might be a good position! Also, I have since bought the SW book, but, like four others around here, I really don't know when/if I'll really get around to reading it. We'll see.))

AND MORE LETTERS

JOHN MIRASSOU

This letter should have been written a long time ago, so I hope no problems have been caused by my delay. I'm afraid I'm going to have to resign from KN, that is, if I haven't already been dropped. Remember that I talked about being in a band when I did my autobiography in Sya-Dasti-Sya-Hinky-Dinky-Parlee-Vous? Well, the band suddenly became popular, and between practices and school, I haven't got time for much else, which means I dropped almost all my other activities, and Diplomacy is gonna have to be among the things dropped. Sya-Dasti- will probably go on, but in the form of a warehouse zine until summer. More on that in the next issue.

I'd appreciate it if you'd print an apology for me in the next issue of BB, and, like I said before, I hope I didn't cause any problems (Hmm! I get the dubious honor of being the first person to drop out of a BB game)..

I hope this drop doesn't mean my subscription is cancelled, because I do enjoy reading BB, though I admit I haven't had time to read issue #7 yet (I think that's the one).

Once again I apologize. ((Box 96, UCSC, Santa Clara, CA 95953))

((Your sub is safe until 12/1/78 as a charter member of KN. Sorry to see you go, but, so it goes. No, the "honor" of being the first to resign is still out there up for grabs, though.))

ERIC KIRCHNER

Why all the John Michalski labels? Do you want us to write to you a lot or something??

((From what I've seen in other games I'm in, the GM is about the only one a lot of folks DO write to))

TONY WATSON

I see my letter explaining STAR WARS and yours saying you already knew crossed in the mail. That's the way things are I guess, no?

Rick Kassel is correct in assuming (a) I suppose (just about everyone who saw SW believes) that ole Darth will be back, at least in the novel sequel. This book, SPLINTER OF THE MIND'S EYE by Alan Dean Foster (\$1.95, Ballantine, with a Ralph McQuarrie cover) is out now. I ordered a hard cover copy from the SF Book Club, that has not yet arrived (4th class moves by crippled pack mule) so I haven't read it yet. There's some interesting info circulating about the film sequel. Two sources say the film will be a prequel (Luke's dad & Ben Kenobi in the Clone Wars?) It seems suicidal, as logically the droids, Luke, Han, and Chewie would not be in it. I read in the paper that just about the entire old crew will go for filming this summer. Interesting, as apparently Han & Chewbacca are NOT included in the A.D. Foster book mentioned above, this would discount that book as a source (unless intensely modified) for the film sequel. Also, Leigh Brackett is reported to be working on that script. In any case, we'll know for sure the summer of '79, the projected release date for the film sequel.

In related material, ABC is laying out \$7 million for GALACTICA a 7 hour space film for TV. Airing date is sometime in May. Dykstra is the same fellow who did the space sequences for STAR WARS and is working on the special effects and the look just as impressive as those.

Well, I see Dykstra and company were rewarded with an oscar. Well deserved, don't you think? Competition from CLOSE ENCOUNTERS was strong. I feel sorry for George Lucas in a way. STAR WARS won multiple Oscars (costuming, editing, special effects, etc.) but none of the categories Lucas was up for on a more personal level. (Direction, screenplay, and best film). Ah, well, he made a pretty penny and that is always a consolation, eh?

Weather report next time. ((201 Minesota St, Las Vegas, NV 89107))

((I'd originally thought of the sequel dealing with the earlier times, but hadn't realized the implications you point out above. On the other hand, such a story would have three advantages 1. a ready-made audience 2. a shot at creating a NEW hit with a new potential, while 3. leaving still to be tapped the great pool of \$\$ and business latent in the possibilities of the struggle of the Rebellion vs. the Empire for a later date. The problems are that the interlude, if allowed, would cut down on the "pull" of a 'real' STAR WARS II, and additionally, we face the difficult problem of both knowing that in any 'prequel', the good guys LOSE, all but Ben die (& he exiled), and the Empire is triumphant!

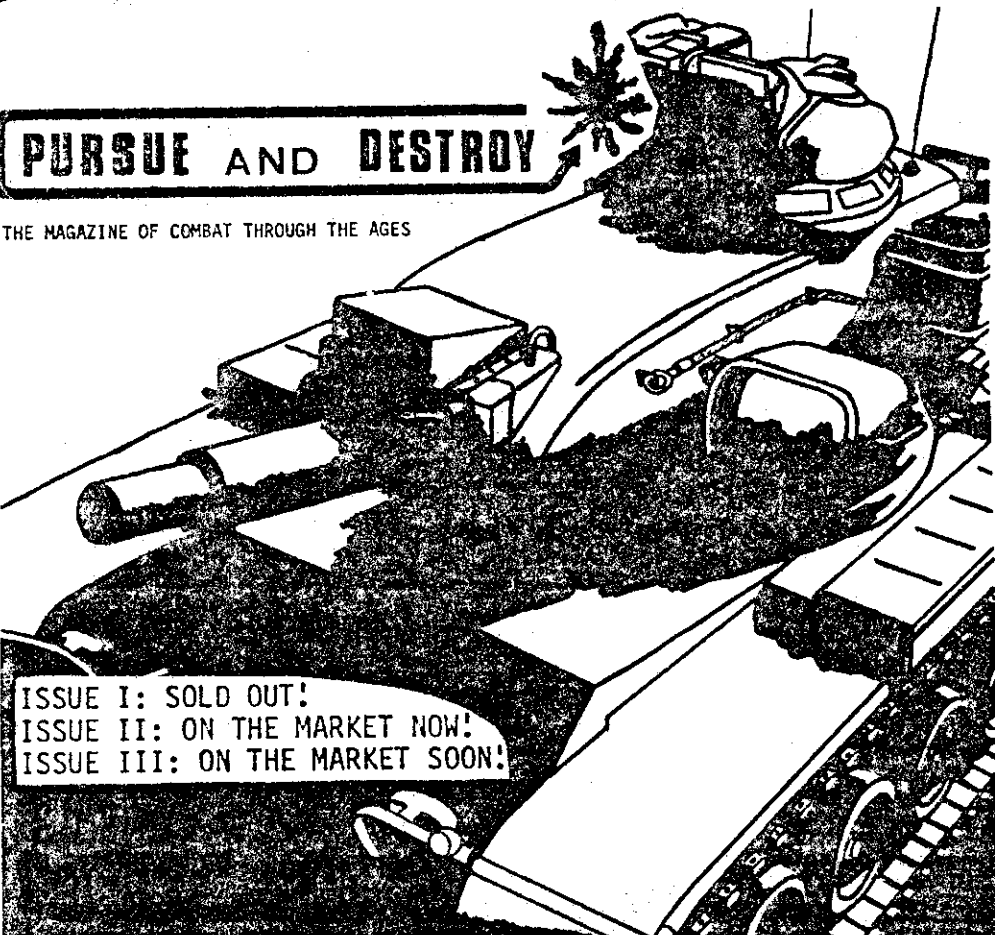
On the awards, it went about as I expected; Lucas really couldn't expect to get anything for any SF work, and the academy probably wanted to do the unexpected anyhow; THAT they accomplished. STAR WARS, and maybe SMOKY & THE BANDIT have been the only pictures I've felt like seeing at all this year, and the latter may have been LAST year, I don't recall now. But I believed I've already commented on the Awards elsewhere, so I won't elaborate here. I might add, though, that for special effects, the shot alone of where Luke gets his second kill on the Century ships pursuing them after their escape from the Death Star earned an Oscar itself: the flash of the blast, then fade-out, and then the PIECES of rubble coming out in turn...just fantastic.))

Late Note: I spotted "Splinter" last night in paperback & bought it. It was the last copy on the rack.

PLUG PAGE

Various notices and requests for ads recently received.

((Please note: the addition on the bottom of the reverse of this page that got cut off said "...Hobby News from all over, 'JOHN LEEDER' dateline))



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You have just been stabbed by the one player that you were sure you could trust. As you tear the zine to shreds, you utter those very famous words....

WHY ME?

Issue # 1

April 1978

Publisher: Lee Kendter, 4347 Benner St., Phila., PA. 19135

Featuring: Postal Diplomacy*, perhaps variants, and whatever.

After giving it much thought, I have decided to take the plunge into publishing. I hope to be a reliable source for you to play in. Having been frustrated many times by zines that folded, or came out very irregular, I figured that there were many others out there that felt the same as me. Therefore, my decision to start my own zine was made. I won't promise you great editorials, I won't promise you any great articles, but I do promise you this; I will run games for you on a REGULAR basis. If this is what you are looking for, why not give me a try?

Subscription rate: 10 issues for \$3.50

Gamefee: \$2.00 plus a 1.00 refundable deposit if you don't drop.

Gamemasters: Lee Kendter & Lee Kendter JR. I may also use some guest GMs if I feel the need to.

Game Openings: Regular Diplomacy 4 games open

Deadlines: Every 4 weeks

Now, what will I run besides games? I really don't know. I will run articles if someone out there submits something decent, and I'll run anything that I think interesting.

The page below is foisted off of John Leeder's RUNESTONE #200, March 28, 1978, and gives some openings as he states. Like he said elsewhere in that issue, the list might prove useful in view of the dearth of current DIPLOMACY WORLDS of late. Also, I need some quick filler so I can get back to trying to read SPLINTER OF THE MIND'S EYE in addition to getting out Brutus 3 tomorrow. If I read as fast as Robert Lipton, I could review SPLINTER here and now, but I've barely reached chapter three. All I can say is that Luke and the Princess survived the crash onto Circarpous IV, in case you thought the whole series would perish in the swamps...

Game Openings in Zines Other Than RUNESTONE: (listed in no special order)

- BROUHANA: Regular Diplomacy; also "Diplblitz" (regDip on 2-week deadlines) and Blue & Gray Quad. Gamefees: regDip \$2 plus sub; Diplblitz \$7.50 inc. sub, B&G \$4 inc. sub (latter two run separately from BROUHANA). Sub rate 10/\$2.50. Bob Beardsley, 17 Moryan Rd., Edison, NJ 08817, USA.
- POL SI FIE: RegDip, gamefee \$3 plus sub; subs 25¢/issue. Randolph Sayth, 249 First Ave., Ottawa, Ont./K1S 2G5.
- BUMI: English-language worldwide regDip, also German-language regDip; varying gamefee depending on number of games played; write for info. Walter Luc Hess, Postfach, CH-4024 Basel 24, Switzerland.
- VORTIGERW: French-language worldwide regDip; 20 francs refundable deposit; sub rate 10/12¢ or \$3. Roland Prévot, 16 rue Descombes, 75017 Paris, France.
- ELEGTRA GLIDE BLUE: Fog of War variant; gamefee \$2 + \$3 deposit + sub; sub rate 8/\$2 NA, 10/\$3.50 overseas. Cal White, 1 Turnberry Ave., Toronto, Ont. M6N 1P6.
- THE PODUNK NEWS: regDip (to start in May); no gamefee to subbers; sub rate 30¢/issue. Bob Hartwig, 304 Slater Hall, Univ. of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa 52242, USA.
- ZEPPELIN: Variants War in the Air, Holocaust Dip, World War I, also A-H Arab-Israeli War; gamefees?; sub rate 10/\$2. Laurence J.P. Gillespie, 23 Robert Allen Dr., Halifax, N.S. B3M 3G9.
- TAU CERI: Variants Geophysical Dip, Intimate Dip, Grand Tournament Dip, Dungeons & Dip, Age of the Young Kingdoms, 1835, Diadochi V, Scheisskopf IV, Caravans; gamefee \$2; sub rate 10/\$3, \$3.75 overseas, \$7.50 overseas airmail (Australian \$). Larry A. Dunning, 46, Holmesdale Rd., West Midland B056, Perth, Western Australia.
- LIES, DECEIT & NEARLIOUS SHIMES: regDip; gamefee \$2 + \$2 deposit + sub; sub rate 10/\$3.50. Jerry Jones, 1854 Wagner St., Pasadena, CA 91107, USA.
- ENIGMA: regDip, variants Stab, Abstraction; also "Zip Dip" (2-week prophetic regDip open to U.K. only); gamefees? sub rate? Neil McDowd, Durveston House Blendford Forum, Dorset DT11 0QA, U.K.
- THE TITANICU: regDip, Mercator variant, Railway Rivals; gamefee? sub rate? Bob Brown, 53 Broadwood Dr., Fulwood, Preston PR2 4SS, U.K.
- RURITANIA: regDip, Diadochi, Triumphvirate, Starlord; gamefee \$ deposit + sub; sub rate 4/\$1. Tony Watson, 201 Minnesota St., Las Vegas, NV 89107, USA.
- PI DELTA TAU: Third Age (Folkiein variant); write for info on subs & gamefee; 214 Fred C. Winter, Box 1062 HHC DLI, Presido of Monterey, CA 93940, USA.
- THE MIXUMAKU GAZETTE: regDip; gamefee \$3 + sub; sub rate 9/\$2 (9/\$4.50 overseas airmail); Robert Bryan Lipton, 556 Green Pl., Woodmere, NY 11398, USA.
- CUM GRANO SALIS: regDip; gamefee \$1.50 + sub; sub rate 25¢/issue + 1¢/page over 12; George Parkanyi, 158B MacArthur Rd., #1603, Vanier, Ont. K1L 8C9.
- PLAY & FANG: regDip, including "Winners Game" (only players who have won or drawn in CUF) and press release game. Guest GMs. gamefee \$3 + sub; sub rate 6/\$2; Don Horton, 16 Jordan Ct., Sacramento, CA 95826, USA.
- ARRAKIS: regDip; gamefee \$2 + sub; also Mastermind (no gamefee); sub rate 1¢/page + postage. David Head, Box 1251, Huntsville, Ont. POA 1H0.
- ILLAR: regDip, Conquistador, Trader variant, also Kn Garde; no gamefee; sub rate 8/\$2 or 25¢/issue (there's a difference?); Tom Gould, 40 West 77th St., New York, NY 10024, USA.
- SEECULUM: worldwide regDip (gamefee \$3), Soccomacy variant (no gamefee), Sword & Sorcery Dip (gamefee \$1.50); also \$1 deposit + sub; sub rates 8/\$2 or 17/\$4 NA, 10/\$2 overseas surface, 10/\$4 overseas airmail two at a time, 10/\$6.50 overseas airmail singly; Dave Kadlecik, 833 Loring Ave., Crockett, CA 94525, USA.
- AIDE DE CAMP: worldwide regDip (English and French-language games); Treachery variant, Extremely Anonymous Dip; no gamefee; sub rate 12/300 Belgian francs or 5 pounds (includes membership in International Co-Sim Group); Douglas P. Mills, 210, Bramhall Lane South, Bramhall, Stockport, Cheshire, U.K.

The above list is not intended to be a complete listing of game openings in zines I get (although it's pretty close); but rather a culling from a pile of everything I've received in the last few weeks, prior to filing. It is also a listing of information rather than a recommendation. Most of the zines I get these days are received for their reading material; I'm not playing in any games at present, and haven't for over a year, and cannot vouch for the reliability of any given individual gamesmaster.

((Runestone a weekly Dipem: available from John Leeder, address under

This page isn't blank after all!

Hopefully, these things are the ONLY ones I've forgotten this time.

Really rushed, but should be able to get issues mailed Tuesday AM early.

77 KS

Would W.C. Newell, Jr, please submit standby orders for France?
12734 Eleventh Ave, NW, Seattle WA
98177

Brutus 3

The call for "early" build notices fell short of 100% returns, so all is due next Monday, April 24th. (Winter 01 and Spring 02)
My thanks to the four of you that got them in fast.

VARIOUS NOTES (AGAIN)

✓ HELP! Everyone who read my request for a copy of BB #7 to make a copy of for my records and who MEANT to send me theirs, forgot about it. NO one has. SO, if you still have a copy of BB7 (Hazardous to your health issue), please send your good ol' editor a copy. I'll return it promptly with whatever postage you used, and many thanks.

✓ Dandelions here really are going to seed, only about a week after I predicted. I guess it was the wet winter & spring. We're coming up on summer here, maybe a week or two to go. These are the good tiems of the year: too warm for the furnace, too cool for the air conditioner. We really need it, too, after paying \$280 for electricity for a two-month period. (All-electric)

✓ ONE MORE RESPONSE is all I need to the Klondike puzzle-solution David Scott sent in for last issue, in order to be able to tell him that someone sent in a solution. Hell, pick a number from one to ten....

Another Scott puzzle coming next issue.

✓ NO ONE heard of that Divinity-School-by-Mail I asked about last issue? All you Californians should keep up more on the local nut scene! (V) Not much like that here: I remember once some terrorists called city hall and demanded \$1 million or they'd set off three bombs in strategic locations in Oklahoma City, but nothing came of the threat. Seems they couldn't find three strategic locations...

✓ PLEASE VOTE in John Leeder's magazine poll announced elsewhere in this issue. It's kind of a chore to sit down and list all your zines received and GMs, but the results could be valuable. And, maybe like me, you'll surprise yourself at how many Dipzines you sub to, compared to how seldom most show up in your mailbox. I listed 20 and forgot RUNESTONE itself--that SHOULD mean that I get one in the mail every working day of the month, but half that or less is more likely the case. Shows how a lot of 'em are running (or rather, not running) these days. Anyhow, last year John's poll had a total of 18 votes submitted. That's a sad total. I'd like to see at least half that number come from BB subbers alone this year, not so much for the votes I hope BB to get, but at least for the figure showing how many votes received. Also, IF YOU PUBLISH YOUR OWN ZINE, PLEASE ADVERTISE this thing! The recognition could well be worth it even if you don't need filler. Four votes would put you in the running last year.

✓ SPLINTER OF THE MIND'S EYE would present quite a special effects' challenge if it were the basis of the STAR WARS sequel. How would they portray Luke & Leia being pursued by the Wandrella? I'm sure they could rise to the challenge, but the big problem would be explaining or showing how R2D2 can negotiate the surface of Wamman the way our heroes, Halla, C3PO, and the two Yuzzem do. If, when(ever) I finish the book, would it spoil the sequel for you if I reviewed the whole story? Speak now or...

✓ WALT BUCHANAN wrote a nice 3x5 note to say that yes, he really would appreciate getting two copies of each BB for the archives. Lately I'd only been sending one, and that is in some danger of being squeezed out by paying or trading customers. I'll keep sending them while available, and/or possibly increase my run two issues each; we'll see. Newest additions are Bob Sergeant, subscriber, and trades to Wlaler Luc Haas' BUMM, a European Dipzine and letters zine. I was surprised to receive the latter, as Walter and I had a rather marked difference of opinion over what I among others took as a foolish and anti-Americanish swipe at Game Designer's Workshop's earlier work. However, if he is willing to forget the whole thing, I certainly will also. Already just about had. Also, if he accepts, I'll trade with Thomas Gould for his LILAF as he had previously offered. I'll give him the trade I'd had with Greg Costikyan (URF DURFAL) which has not been seen here in a very long time. One issue total, as I recall. No loss there.

✓ COMING DOWN TO THE WIRE, it looks like KS press will take the back of it's gamepage sheet while KN can fit on the front, leaving me the back of KN for filler--probably this page. At this point, I have 4 sheets already printed for issue 11, with three days to go for 10's deadline. No short issues for a while, then. Darn. I'd hoped to use up another TSR flyer this time, but it will depend on the weight. Also, the RAPHIA game I'd advertised is still available for \$3, plus lots of assorted-color blank troop counters for anyone interested.

✓ STAR WARS TRADING CARDS are needed to fill in the blanks in the kid's (really MY) collection thereof. Will trade for duplicates or consider buying yours. Write for details.

✓ AND REMEMBER, you can advertise here too. Games, zines; used furniture, wives....

JM.