

"You put him in there, it could kill him."

"We wouldn't want any harm to come to the Emperor's prize possession. First we will test it on this Special Dick "Crud" Martin issue #101 of

881

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The BRUTUS BULLETIN is a newsletter of postal DIPLOMACYtm brought to you not quite so often anymore by John Michalski ("mih-HOLL-skee"), Rt 10 Box 526-Q, Moore, OK 73165. Resubs are accepted at 2/\$1, new subs are discouraged even at 11/\$6. DIP is a game invented by Alan had said about saving herself for marriage, but she couldn't get her mind off that lump in his Calhamer and copyrighted by the Avalon Hill Game Company of Baltimore. They are presently sending out big envelopes with announcements about their new "games", mostly a bunch of fantasy crap that will never get them anywhere, all for \$17 or more at a crack, plus some computer games in case you want to duel with a dragon on your home CRT. (This hobby is definitely getting sick). The good thing is that they enclose two business reply envelopes. Put a note in each protesting the stupidity of plastic anchors and stars and send it back. Or put a handful of washers in a flattened can and enclose it too to add emphasis to your protest. Sign it Betale Oaklyn

WELCOME NEW SUBSCRIBERS: Yes, despite everything I try, a few people still send me money for this thing. Latest additions are P Rauterberg and B Ver Ploeg joining our ~~sick~~ happy crew. Welcome aboard, fellas.

2+ Nikita Frobish!

THIS ISSUE'S TITLE comes courtesy of Rod Walker, who transliterated BB into Sinaitic for the above, which I presume is or was a/the language of the Sinai desert region. A big Et-tu-Moses to Rod for his contribution.

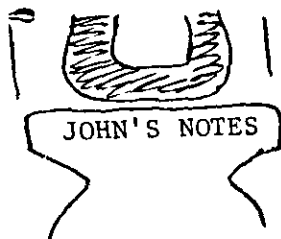
Speaking of Rod, someone on the phone asked me why I didn't respond to Rod's letter in #100. That was because I felt it adequate to let Rod get his side stated by itself, and the parts about Ditter were better left alone. I've stated my position on that before, and don't intend to belabor it further. Other parts, such as Rod's characterizing Don's publishing as "something he does as a private person" speak for themselves.

WHY DICK MARTIN? Well, Dick wrote that he "knew" I would fold with #100, and besides that, I am starting on this on August 18th. Since I have already put out an Early August, Mid August, and Late August issue, including one double issue, I had better not call this Early September when I still have almost two weeks of August left to go. I do have to call it SOMETHING though, don't I? So for an offbeat title, what can you use? Mark Lew got his name into the fake #90's title, and the next most offbeat hobbyist I can think of is Crud.

Speaking of wierd titles, DIPSOMANIA did sound kind of dumb. SO, our own Scott Hanson has named his new real zine IRKSOME, just like the subzine carried here. IRK is now a full fledged zine (unlike Dipso and Bogey, which were each fakes put out by the person who it was claimed did them), and will have 2 week black press openings when either GOPHER HOLE or FADE AWAY end. Those two games that ran here have moved on to there. Except for what-ever may be in this issue, only Irksome the Game will appear here anymore; Irksome the Zeen will appear from Scott Hanson, 701 SE 15 Ave, Mpls, MN 55414 at the price of 10/\$3.50. Sign up for 20 before he realizes what he's gotten himself into! Seriously, Scott has a proven record and a nice-looking product. Try it out. You will probably find me in the next 2-weeker. Gamefee for now is a big -0-. Bite in on this sucker!

MARK BERCH DEPT.: It has been beautiful the last week here. First, three days of cloud and mist and light drizzle; then 3 days of sunny weather, light northerly winds (that's the key), and highs of only the mid 80s. That may sound hot to northerners, but headlines here say "October in August?" Why do you think they call this the Sun Belt? Not a normal summer, but, thank goodness for it!

SUBS: Gone are Palter, Huddle, Myers, Schneier, Guajardo, Arnett, Pritt, Rodriguez. The rest of you look to be in fairly decent shape. With Frobish just added, taking over Bates' old sub, I'm right at the current limit, so don't recommend me to your friends. On the other hand, if you're getting tired of this, remember refunds are always available. Four dozen would be a heck of a lot easier to do up, but people keep subbing...ho, hum. What's a publisher to do? So here comes another issue for you.



The 1981 Leeder Poll results are in! Or at least, I've received two phone calls with the results. Here are the top ten, in order:

1. BLACK FROG (Jack Masters)
2. DOT HAPPY (Allen Wells)
3. BRUTUS BULLETIN
4. MURDRIN' MINISTERS (Ron Brown)
5. RETALIATION (Dick Martin)
6. EUROPA EXPRESS (Gary Coughlan)
7. LONE STAR DIPLOMAT (Mike Conner)
8. JUST AMONG FRIENDS (Al Pearson)
9. JIHAD (Glenn Overby I think)
10. CHEESECAKE (Andy Lischett)

An excellent showing! Last year was kind of a disappointment, what with the top 10 kind of messed up by the presence of what were really non-Dip zines like DW, The National, Everything and stuff like that skewing the standings. This time we have all dipzines, and most of them are NEW (or new-ish) zines. Of the lot, I think CHEESECAKE is the oldest, then me; all the others are less than 3 years old I believe (MM & Grab Dots may be a tad over, but not by real much if they are). Really, first and second place are "new" zines for all intents and purposes, along with 6, 7, 8, & 9. A very good showing for these fellows. I'm really glad to see it. Of course I'm very pleased with my own third place; I think I'm in excellent company. Third is the best I've done since I won top spot my first year back in the second poll. I think after that BB went 5th, 13th, 8th last year, and now third. For an old warhorse like this relatively is, that's pretty damn good, especially when there are at least a handful of automatic very-low votes out there by assorted disgruntled types. Hearty congratulations to Blackjack, who has put in one hell of a lot of effort, and not always received a lot in return. I spent a year calling myself the top North American zine, so I know it can be nice. Then Allen, like Mike and Al and company, get a good (and well-deserved) pat on the back for the excellent products they've put out. (Oops! Gary too). Jihad is the only one of the lot I don't get; maybe I should. Ron Brown and Crud have often been praised here, so no need to elaborate on them. I think that this is the first time CHEESECAKE has made the top 10; it can, and at times has been, the cleverest zine around. Often it is just straight warehouse though. Last year he put out the record issue for cutest zine ever, a "warehouse" that was a real, fold-out warehouse, with drawings and foldout doors, press written on the "latrine walls", etc. That won't be surpassed for a long time. Of my favorites, only VOICE OF DOOM isn't there (counting PEEK as Blackjack's); I don't know what the later standings were. I'll give you a full report when I get a hardcopy from Leeder. The top ten GMs were:

1. John Daly (The Dogs of War)
2. Ron Brown (Murdrin Ministers)
3. Gary Coughlan (Europa Express, Y/ALL)
4. Robert Sergeant (St George and the Dragon)
5. Don Ditter (subz in FRONT)
6. (TIE) Mike Mills (Emhain Macha) & Andy Lischett (Cheesecake)
8. Randolph Smyth (Fol Si Fie)
9. (TIE) Fred Davis (Bushwacker) & John Caruso (Whitestonia)

Congratulations to John Daly on getting the reward for running DOGS and its many games so well. Notice too the overlap between many of the folks/zines on the two lists; these are your best playing bets, folks! Of this group, only John and Gary Coughlan are fairly new; the others are generally pretty established types, which is what you'd expect

AN IMPORTANT WARNING: I think the above is correct. However, either the reporter or I in reading my notes, may have erred. I apologize in advance to anyone I've misstated.

—No word on subzines yet—

IRKSOME THE ZINE

Howdy-do and welcome to another episode of "The Dukes of Irksome." If you're a BB reader and are wondering where Phyllis and her bloodsucking mother are this issue, you're out of luck. "Gopher Hole" and "Fade Away" are being printed in IRKSOME THE ZINE (as opposed to Irksome the game). If I missed sending you a sample of issue 1, drop me a line and we'll fix that straight off.

1980LM FALL 1906 AND TRO PULLS AHEAD....

ENGLAND(Vaughan)	F EDI H.
FRANCE(Sherwood)	A CLY S ENGLISH F EDI: A LON-Ven(imp); F LYO C A Lon-Ven; A BUR-Bel;
	F MID S A Lon-Ven; F TYR-Tun; A Tus-ROM.
GERMANY(Stephens)	F NWG-Edi; F NTH S F Nwg-Edi; A BEL H; A RUH-MUN; A KIE H; A Mun-BOH;
	A SIL S A Mun-Boh.
ITALY(Palter)	F TUN-Tyr; F Adr-APU; F Alb-ION; F GRE S F Alb-Ion; A SER S F Gre;
	A BUD S A Ser; A VIE S A Bud; A Boh-TYO.
RUSSIA(Gareipy)	A WAR S A Gal; A Lvn-PRU; A GAL S A Rum; A RUM S A Gal; F Nwy-SWE;
	F BLA S A Rum.
TURKEY(Blant)	F Ion-NAP; F EAS-Ion; A CON S A Bul; A BUL S A Con.

1906 SUPPLY CENTERS	#	NET
ENG Edi	1	even
FRA Home Por Spa Lvp Lon ROM	8	bld 1
GER Home Hol Den Bel Spa	6	rem 1
ITA Ven Tun Bud Vie Tri Ser Gre Nap Rom	7	rem 1
RUS Home Rum Nwy SWE	7	bld 1
TUR Home Bul NAP	5	bld 1
	<u>34</u>	

Winter '06 and Spring '07 are due here at noon CDT AUGUST 29, 1981. I won't be home on the 29th, so don't call unless you want to take a chance on one of my bezo housemates. Bobby Stephens has moved again, all the way from Ft. Worth to Dallas. COA will be printed next issue; he'll pick his mail at Ft. Worth until then. That's all the poop, here's...

THE PRESS...

FRANCE-GERMANY: I sure hope you didn't stab me, but I guess I'm ready just the same.
 FRANCE-ENGLAND: Who says I ain't your friend?
 PAR-TURK: Seems we're the only ones interested enough to send in press, let alone orders.
 PAR-GOPHER HOLE ITALY: There are very few people in this hobby younger than I, but you're one of them. Don't talk back to your elders, kiddo.
 KEITH-PHYLLIS B: Let's drop all our silly fighting and admit the truth: we really have the hots for each other. So let's stop bickering and MAKE OUT....plans on how to meet and elope.
 PAR-FRAUKE'S FRIEND: I find it very interesting that you printed two different versions of your trip to Germany. In Irksome/Gopher Hole you gave a G-rated version since all the kiddies play here. But your account in Fade Away was much racier.
 ???-PAR Don't you know a sideways stamp is my trademark, too????

Until next time, this is Uncle Scott saying never ever shoot a skunk without a license.

Scott Hanson, 701 15th Ave SE, mpls, MN 55414 Phone (612) 623-0283

F A D E 81R A W A Y

Q. WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ROOSEVELT AND JEFFERSON? A. ABOUT TWO WEEKS.

As some of you may have noticed, Bob Osuch was given the wrong address for Rodney Jones, the new English player. Someone complained that they did not have enough time to negotiate with him because of this and asked for postponement of the deadline. I would have printed only builds and removals, but two players told me not to separate seasons. Very well then, the whole thing gets to wait. The new deadline for Winter 1903 and Spring 1904 is noon CDT on AUGUST 15, 1981. I know this doesn't deserve a two week delay, but this way I keep this thing in sync with my other games and don't forget about deadlines (like some other GMe among us...I won't mention any names...) Meanwhile I have Rodney's correct address and a COA for Dickie-Poo Martin.

Rodney Jones, 8001 Jefferson Hwy Apt 121, Baton Rouge, LA 70809

Dick Martin, 6103 Breezewood Ct Apt 202, Greenbelt, MD 20770

NOTE TO JOHN MICHALSKI::: DO NOT PRINT THIS IN EB DO NOT PRINT THIS IN EB

THAT MEANS THE WHOLE PAGE, JOHN...use the space for a J C Robinson letter instead.

Too bad you guys don't get to read any of the press yet. I'd let you, but ethics are rules, and I don't want to tip off who Kathy is stabbing next. Did I say she is going to stab someone? Sorry Kath, but you did steal the win in Maniacal. By the way, if I hadn't gone to Germany, I would have gone for the win too.

Speaking of Germany, you guys want to hear about my trip?? Too bad, you will anyway. Due to lack of funds and an abundance of better things to do, I only saw three Dip spaces; Kie, Ber, and Den (oh yeah, Nth and Bal too). Sorry Dick, but Kiel is not big enough for two units. As for the main purpose of the trip, Franke (pronounced FRAU-keh) still get along well...real well. (For those of you who don't know, Franke and I are in love with each other. This should make the rest of the story easier to understand.) Her folks liked me, but didn't exactly trust the two of us together. Alone that is. That's O K, I don't trust the two of us by ourselves anyway, but I've done a lot of things with people I don't trust. Anyway, she's coming here next June, and we'll see what happens then.

↳ right Kathy?

In case your wondering why this page is as organized as an issue of Kathy's Korner, it's jet lag. I just got back Friday night, and this is Sunday night. Does anybody know what century this is??? Does anybody care?

I've a couple people tell me that the name of my proposed zine, DIPSOMANIA, quite frankly, really sucks. Thinking about, I agree. Does anybody have any better ideas? Whatever the name will be, ishue number one should arrive with your next copy of this thing.

Well, folks, that does it for this time. Muchos thanks to Bob Osuch for his great job last season. As for me, I'm going to bed...alone, alas! (or is it alas, alone?)

Scott Hanson, 701 15th Ave SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414 Phone (612) 623-0283

JOHN C ROBINSON

804 Tulip St, Liverpool, NY 13088

My statement in letter of June 22, 1961 was: "The event that has caused more pollution in this century than any other was the Mt. St. Helen eruptions." This statement was not based on a 'feeling' as Mr. Langley tries to make out. This information was relayed to me by a neighbor, retired Professor of Geomorphology Arthur N. Strahler, Columbia University. The human race is an 'event'? Mr. Langley is comparing apples to oranges as it were. One should read with comprehension of the meanings of words, terms, etc. If one doesn't know what a word means - there is the dictionary.

On the Japanese being put into U S concentration camps in WWII: These people were U S citizens, by and large, and this action was a disgrace. Inexcusable. But then, what could one expect from FDR? Everything he ever did was a disgrace. A traitor, if there ever was one.

Some blabbing lately about organization and so forth regarding Diplomacy in BB. To my way of thinking Diplomacy just isn't a worthwhile enough game to hold one's interest over a period of time. Diplomacy has no organization that I can see. Someone, I forget who, wondered why play for ratings, that that isn't 'fun'. Sure it's fun! I've been playing chess for years, for ratings, in organized USCF tournaments - ratings are a big thing and they are all coordinated at USCF (United States Chess Federation) headquarters. One can see how one compares to Fischer or anybody else. Chess is the game that has a lifetime appeal. I'm just afraid Diplomacy isn't in that class. All I know about the Tretick business is what I read in your pages. However, if a chess player entered a tournament under false pretenses, false name, not being who he says he is, he is expelled from the USCF permanently - a heavy penalty considering the lifetime prize money a strong player would lose out on. No sandbagging allowed.

Funny how come the Schmeisser SMG bore that name. Hugo Schmeisser had no hand in it. It was designed at the Erma Werke in Erfurt. Schmeisser worked at Haenel.

Although the Walther P38 was the standard German army pistol, my favorite is the Luger. I got one of those babies sitting in the bureau drawer - and a beauty it is! Wunderbar!

My votes re: Larzelere letter are: 1. No 2. What does this mean? If it means having my tax dollars pay for the results of someone else's fucking, then it is NO. If someone wants an abortion, let them pay for it themselves. 3. No. 4. No. 5. Yes 6. Yes. Let's see now - you were a No, Yes, No, No, Yes, Yes. Another guy writes in to say that he favors women being drafted. I am against drafting of either men or women. If the country is worth saving, then people will step forward to accomplish this end. I can't see any point in using the enemy's methods - government compulsion.

Someone mentioned the swearing in BB. My personal opinion is that there is precious little ARTISTIC cussing in said pages.

Reagan is handling the controller strike just beautifully. Couldn't be better. These birds signed/took an oath; knew the conditions of employment when they accepted the job. Can you even imagine the ineptitude and waffling that would have accompanied a Carter 'handling' of this?

Robinson, continued

Here's check for 5¢ to extend subscription. I am a bit wondering about one thing, though. When I signed up last time, I think it was for 12 issues/81. Now along comes this latest issue numbered '98-99'. To me, (98-99) is one issue, even though a couple of extra pages may have been added. When we sign up at such and such a price, then we should get the number of issues we contracted for. See what I mean? Wouldn't you be raising hell if a magazine you took pulled a stunt like that? If you're not making a profit or breaking even, then there is probably no alternative but to raise the price. Just don't sneak issues past us like that! However, I do know that chances are very slim that you are even breaking even. A labor of love is what BB is. Even so - get my point?

Well, now is the time ~~for all good men to come to the aid of~~ to see how sharp-witted your readers are. I am enclosing two pages from a book. Can anyone identify the author? The name 'Mona' is a great clue - this should link to him relatively easily in their minds. Also this scene took place in the '20s. This guy has more adventures like this than most. (Another clue). If no one gets the author's name in the next couple of issues, then I'll send info to you. An added plus would be if anybody could come up with the name of the book. I don't really expect that, but someone should be able to name the author.

Time to bring the cows in.

((Your contest article is reduced and reprinted on the next page.

On the double issue, yes, I can see your point. From here though, I stand on what I will call hobby tradition regarding double issues, and then fall back on the fact that each and every BB in the last 100 except for 5 or 6 has been a double issue by hobby standards. When I give a double for a single, I don't feel many qualms about calling a triple a double. Of course you are being shorted in that two typical BBs would run 40 or so pages, and my double was only in the low thirties somewhere, but since this is cutting into the amount of bonus-pages received, I don't feel guilty for it. My motivation was more to get the bulk of material out while fresh, rather than lessen losses, altho the latter is true too. If a person received only a few zines and was unaware of the relative products put out; or if someone were spoiled by all these months and years of fat BBs pushed right up to the mailing weight limits, they would certainly have a point. I'm glad you mentioned this, for if you say it, there are probably 5 others who thought it but didn't write. I believe that every recent RETALIATION has been a double even for his usual bulk, those being mailed also at the 52¢ limit; until lately, a lot of DDs also were doubles as I recall. But all this is background. To deal directly, as you and any other subber is entitled to, let me say that this may well come up again at the rate that material has been coming in (altho I hope not); if so, I will feel no compunction in running a triple-sized issue and charging for a double for it. If this is unacceptable for any reason, please let me know by return mail, and I will credit you back to the 98-99 splitting point, and issue a full refund from 99 on inclusive, no hard feelings. Let me know, and I do appreciate your bringing it up.

On paying for abortions, I would say you are correct in philosophy, but to call for responsible action in dealing with the welfare types is whistling in the wind. As a purely practical matter, I think it is better to pay for the abortion than it is to pay to raise still another unwanted child in atrocious settings for two decades, and then pay for the legal and criminal incarceration systems to take care of them after they get off ADC. (And this ignores the new crop they bring ON to ADC before they themselves often get off of it.)

Here's another hint to the audience: it is definitely NOT Nero Wolfe, which is about the only regular series in that line that I'm familiar with at all.))

P.S. I should have run at half price and called every issue a double. No cost change to you, but I'd be closing 200

J.M.

((This is Robinson's puzzle story mentioned in the preceding letter)) J.M.

2/A

1/A

At Times Square I got off and walked instinctively towards the French-Italian restaurant over near Third Avenue. It was cool and dark in the back of the grocery store where they served the food. At lunch time there never were many customers. Soon there was only myself and a big, sprawling Irish girl who had already made herself quite drunk. We fell into a strange conversation about the Catholic Church during the course of which she repeated like a refrain: "The Pope's all right, but I refuse to kiss his ass."

Finally she pushed her chair back, struggled to her feet, and tried to walk towards the lavatory. (The lavatory was used by men and women alike and was in the hall.) I saw that she would never make it alone. I got up and held her by the arm. She was thoroughly potted and lurching like a storm-tossed ship.

As we got to the door of the lavatory she begged me to help her onto the seat. I stood her by the seat so that all she had to do was sit down. She hitched up her skirt and tried to pull her panties down, but the effort was too much. "Pull 'em down for me, will you," she begged with a sleepy grin. I did as she asked, patted her cunt affectionately, and sat her down on the seat. Then I turned to go.

"Don't go!" she whined, clutching my hand, and with that she began emptying her tank. I held on while she finished the job. Nos. 1 and 2, with stink bombs and everything. Throughout the operation she repeated over and over: "No, I won't kiss the Pope's ass!" She looked so absolutely helpless that I thought perhaps I'd have to wipe her ass for her. However, from long years of training she managed to do this much for herself, though it took an incredibly long time. I was about ready to throw up when finally she asked me to lift her up. As I was pulling her bloomers up I couldn't help rubbing my hand over her rose bush. It was tempting, but the stench was too powerful to dally with that idea.

As I assisted her out of the toilet the patronne espied us and nodded her head sadly. I wondered if she realized what chivalry it took for me to perform this act. Anyway, we went back to the table, ordered some black coffee, and sat talking a little while longer. As she sobered up she became almost disgustingly grateful. She said if I would take her home I could have her - she wanted to make it up to me. "I'll take a bath and change my things," she said. "I feel filthy. It was filthy too, God help me."

I told her I would see her home in a taxi, but that I wouldn't be able to stay with her.

"Now you're getting delicate," she said. "What's the matter, ain't I good enough for you? It ain't my fault, is it, if I had to go to the toilet? You go to the toilet too, don't you? Wait till I take a bath - you'll see what I look like. Listen, give me your hand!" I gave her my hand and she put it under her skirt, right on her bushy cunt. "Take a good feel of it," she urged. "You like it? Well it's all yours. I'll scrub it and perfume it for you. You can take all you like of it. I'm not a bad lay. And I'm not a tart either, see! I got cockeyed, that's all. A guy walked out on me, and I was crazy enough to take it to heart. He'll come crawling back before long, don't you worry. But Jesus, I did have my heart set on him. I told him I wouldn't kiss the Pope's ass - and that got him sore. I'm a good Catholic, same as he, but I can't see the Pope as Christ Almighty, can you?"

She went on with her monologue, jumping from one thing to another like a goat. I gathered that she was a switchboard operator in a big hotel. She wasn't such a bad sort, either, down under her Irish skin. I could see that she might be very attractive, once the fumes of the alcohol cleared away. She had very blue eyes and jet black hair, and a smile that was sly and puckish. Maybe I would run up and help her with her batch. I could always run out on her if anything went amiss. The thing that bothered me was that I was to meet Mona for dinner. I was to wait for her in the Rose Room of the McAlpin Hotel.

We got in a taxi and drove uptown. In the cab she rested her head on my shoulder. "You're awfully good to me," she said in a sleepy voice. "I don't know who you are, but you're O.K. with me. Jesus, I wish I could take a nap first. Would you wait for me?"

"Sure," I said. "Maybe I'll take a nap too."

The apartment was cozy and attractive, better than I had expected it to be. She had no sooner opened the door than she kicked off her shoes. I helped her undress.

As she stood before the mirror, nude except for her panties, I had to admit that she possessed a beautiful figure. Her breasts were white and full, round and taut, with bright strawberry-colored nipples.

"Why don't you take those off too?" I said, pointing to the panties.

"No, not now," she said, suddenly becoming coy, her cheeks coloring slightly.

"I took them off before," I said. "What's the difference now?" I put my hand on her waist as if to pull them down. "Don't, please!" she begged. "Wait till I have my bath." she paused a moment, then added: "I'm just getting over my period."

That settled it for me. I saw the ringworms flowering again. I got panicky.

"All right," I said, "take your bath! I'll stretch out in here while you're at it."

"Won't you scrub my back for me?" she said, her lips curling in that puckish smile of hers.

"Why sure I will...certainly," I said. I led her to the bathroom, half pushing her along in my haste to get rid of her.

As she slipped out of the panties I noticed a dark bloodstain. Not on your life, I thought to myself. No sir, not in my sound senses I don't. Kiss the Pope's ass - never!

But as she lay there soaping herself I felt myself weakening. I took the soap from her hand and scrubbed her bush for her. She squirmed with pleasure as my soapy fingers entwined themselves in her hair.

"I think it's finished," she said, arching her pelvis and spreading her cunt open with her two hands. "You look...do you see anything?"

I put my soapy middle finger of my right hand up her cunt and massaged it gently. She lay back with her hands clasped behind her head and slowly gyrated her pelvis. "Jesus, that feels good," she said. "Go on do it some more. Maybe I won't need a nap."

As she got worked up she began to move more violently. Suddenly she unclasped her hands and with wet fingers she unbuttoned my fly, took my prick out and made a dive for it with her mouth. She went at it like a professional, teasing it, worrying it, fluting her lips, then choking on it. I came off in her mouth; she swallowed it as if it were nectar and ambrosia.

Then she sank back into the tub, sighed heavily and closed her eyes.

Now is the time to beat it, I said to myself, and pretending that I was going to look for a cigarette I grabbed my hat and bolted. As I ran down the stairs I put my finger to my nostrils and smelled it. It wasn't a bad odor. It smelled of soap more than anything else.

Hope this makes it in time for your anti-spectacular run-of-the-mill everyday (just about) issue 100. If not, let me honestly say it's the best issue 100 I've ever seen. So you've been out of the stream of wargaming, eh? It's time to let you in on some facts....

I see by my MIDWAY WARGAMER'S GUIDE that you had an article on the first day of Midway in one of the original GENERALS (by the looks of some I saw at the ORIGINS auction, they had newspaper-like columns and headlines on the cover, I think). Here's what's happened from Vol. 13, No. 5 to Vol. 18, No. 1 of THE GENERAL....

September 1977....Avalon Hill starts charging 25¢ for each OPPONENTS WANTED ad. Three years later, it was raised to 50¢. Inflation marches on. In terms of prices, DIPLOMACY has gone up from \$11 to \$18, while the other bookcase games (except TOBRUK) have gone from \$10 to \$16-18. Flat games have gone from \$8 (\$5 for TACTICS II and WAR AT SEA) to \$14-16 or so. The AREA TOP 10 went to 20, then 25, 30, 40, and now 50. The original 10 were Chiang, Oleson (an IIO in AREA), Todoroff, Wood, Heinowski (sounds familiar....), Kilbride, Packwood, Barker, Small, and Le Jeune (scores ranged from 2060 to 1579). Nowadays, it's Combs, Dobson, Chiang, Garbutt, Burdick, Oleson (a TTZ), Kemp, Sinigaglio, Kreuz, and Siragausa. The scores go from 2525 to 1999 (1579 wouldn't make the top 50 - 25th now ranked SECOND back then. Say, where's Heinowski? He dropped to 14th by 3/78, 24th by 5/79, and was off the Top 50 within two months. I know he's still in the AREA pool because he's an AREA multi-player coordinator (i.e. he can rate multi-player AREA games). **(Note TACTICS II & WAR AT SEA now go for \$9)**

In 1980, THE GENERAL changed from "slick" paper to "paper" paper, almost doubling in size. (By the way, the magazine switched to four-color format at the same time as multi-player AREA games were allowed - in August 1977.) Series Replays are few and far between, with the new trend being showing half of a Series Replay in one issue and the rest in the following issue. Avalon Hill originally claimed to give away over \$140 in their contests, but my win in late 1979 netted me all of \$5 worth of AH merchandise. And if you ever go back to writing, AH pays \$6 cash per column, with a 50% bonus if you ask for an AH credit instead. (MOVES pays \$9 cash or 100% bonus for credit.)

Enough about AH. At UC-Berkeley, I met a man who sold me back issues of S&T (going back to 1972) for 10¢ each. In issue 34, it mentions, in an ad for S&Ts #7-12, something about a "humorous game of the Sinai campaign". Just how many John Michalskis can there be? Back then, subs were \$15/year; when I first subbed (in 1977), subs were \$14/year. Now, it's \$18 per year. Believe it or not, it's SPI's policy to only print 24 games per year - that includes 6 for S&T and 6 for ARES, their sf/f magazine known for John Boardman's column, "Science for Science Fiction". There are 71 games on the "reduced" SPI price list now.

Real exciting stuff, huh? Well, so much for the "good old days". There are some people who'll buy ANYTHING - I even bought CAMPAIGN FOR NORTH AFRICA, SPI's North Africa game complete with 5 maps, 1800 counters, a stack of rules, and sheets that, when copied enough times to be able to play the game, probably (I never found out) equal the total number of pages of every separate S&T sent out in a certain month. (For those of you who stick to DIPLOMACY, CNA deals with the entire North African front from late 1940 to late 1942 and new year's week 1943, complete with records to show every infantry BATALLION, every SEPARATE TANK, every SEPARATE ARTILLERY PIECE, every SEPARATE PLANE,

Del Grande, conclusion

details for INDIVIDUALLY RATED FIGHTER PILOTS, EVERY TRUCK, EVERY BIT OF FOOD AND WATER TO FIT ONTO THE TRUCKS, and even rules for Italian water usage to cook their spaghetti! Now THAT'S a GAME!) I didn't buy WAR IN EUROPE, though - for the main reason that I can't fit 9 maps anywhere! (For you AH types, an SPI map is equal to a THIRD REICH or GUNS OF AUGUST map, or 1 1/3 DIPLOMACY boards.)

I don't see anything wrong with Ditter - after all, who do you think gave me 1981CP? I was surprised that he reacted a bit to my \$1 donation as if he didn't expect one. (I must admit that I sent a \$2 donation to Kendter after his plea for \$\$ and my needing a number - 1981AS;)

As to the Linsey-Arnett thing in VOD #45, let me say three things: 1) I must admit that I believed that most of the things on the cover of VOLKERWANDERUNG #15 were Bruce's lines, although Bruce says that he only said one in actuality; (2) Bruce is trying to twist the line "I CAN USE SMEAR TACTICS...." into a direct Arnett statement, when it was originally used (as it appears to me) by Bob to point to a Linsey action; (3) this is the big one - KATHY, the word is "THEIR" for third person plural possessive. "THERE" is a place! (Next thing we know, she'll use "THEY'RE".) Phyllis, why don't you teach your mom another lesson. You did a good job teaching her about "YOUR" and "YOU'RE".

About Stars & Anchors: I still have an early 1980 parts list. Among the DIPLOMACY parts, replacing all of the pieces cost \$14. The game itself sold for \$15 back then. Now, the entire set goes for \$4. Oh, be glad for wargamers. Had I not been a wargamer, I wouldn't have seen enough AH price lists to notice the "Plastic Pieces" in the DIPLOMACY parts list.

((Thanks for the gaming update. I still get occasional advertising packets from Avalon Hill--how many of you out there have been veterans of BB so long that you can remember when I used to include advertising sheets from some of these outfits as filler? That was a LONG time ago, but then, so was a lot of that stuff: the articles for S&T, the General, etc. (I wrote a few for CAMPAIGN too; WARGAMER'S DIGEST pays \$25 CASH, not credit, per piece, but they are mostly miniatures, which is all shit). Campaign for North Africa was by one of the Third World companies, I thought; the description fits what I recall. It comes closest to bringing real war to all these armchair generals and lieutenants and latrine orderlies, by forcing the Real Thing on them: PAPERWORK. There's damn little playing involved, but the paperwork is everything. The ultimate in realism! (When I was new to the service, an old sgt at Wright-Paterson told us that every time a plane took off, it generated an amount of paper equal to the weight of the plane. Later I realized it was a conservative estimate, and whether a real plane took off or not, or existed or not, was irrelevant.) I saw WAR IN EUROPE set up in a room at the last GenCon in Wisconsin I attended 2 or 3 years ago. A couple of hexes changed hands all day. Like miniatures, it makes an impressive show, but that's all it is, show. The big event that everyone was watching was the advance of German engineers across Turkey to improve RR lines to the Caucasus.... So much for SPI. Thanks for the report though.)) J.M.

GARY COUGHLAN (Europa Express)

4614 Martha Cole Lane, Memphis, TN 38118

It's barely Sunday (about 1am) and I'm barely into my fifth beer (Miller High Light--The Champagne of Beers) but I want to answer your 2 letters which came today!

You will notice I am ((illegible)) so if you want to publish this, you will have to work at it and type it up yourself.

How does beer affect you, John? One beer gives me a buzz. Two, I'm definitely drunk--five, I'm happy, ha ha! I think I have the advantage here. It only takes 2 beers to put me into a very happy state. How much must you spend?!

Let me answer your letters to me in detail:

You ask "why does everyone use you as such a characterization of hickey-ness?" What do YOU think? There are hardly any of us Southerners in the hobby. A SOUTHERNER is a HICK. Only two of us Southerners are pubbers: me and Gerry Austen. Pubbers are the

Crocked Coughlan continues

most visible and I think I am more well known than Austen: Ergo, I am the HICK.

Personally- I don't think they could have picked a better target! I greatly enjoy Yankee barbs and I genuinely like them (Yankees), but, let's face it, they are very prejudiced! Of course, they would be the last to admit it.

Accents you ask? I don't think I have that much of an accent. But isn't it the majority that determines who has the accent? To THEM I do have an accent but, I have been told, it is not as much, in person, as over the telephone. It is so humorous to hear Mark Berch imitate a Southern accent as he did at GenCon!

Six beers now, John---ohhhhh!!!! I feel soooooo (that's 6 o's!) good! What music does John M. like? Shall I destroy all illusions about me? Yes!

I love Aretha Franklin! Black music sends me. But I like Foghat, Bad Company, ((marginal note appears to say "ZZTob" at this point)) Simon and Garfunkel, the Inmates, Fleetwood Mac. A conglomeration. I am comfortable with most anyone--isn't that an advantage? If you can like, or not like, any situation you are placed in, there is always an advantage for you. It all depends on your mind set.

Ohhh! I like "Don't Stop Thinking About Tomorrow" by Fleetwood Mac. I'm really feeling spaced out now. I will send you this letter anyway. I always proof read my letters before they go out. I never attempt to censor! Well ((illegible)) I'll probably write again later.

Hi John. Now it is Sunday @ 7:30 pm and I am on break at work. I figured that this is an easy way for me to answer correspondence and so far it's worked.

I hope you can tell the difference in this part of the letter ((You bet!)) I am sober now, ha ha.

I think I am the Southerner like you are THE Pole (and Okie), Konrad is THE German, and Mills is THE Irishman. And like Kathy is THE woman. There are others of us but we are usually the targets for the reason I mentioned earlier.

I appreciate you writing me a letter for use in EE, which I will certainly use. I hope other comments on US-European relationships come in too.

Be warned: Mark Lew wrote me and said since I continue to excerpt his letters, he's going to give all his business to VOD and BB. Lucky y'all!

Have you noticed a new newscaster on one of Oklahoma City's TV stations named Roger Cooper? He is from Memphis and just left here for the higher paying Okie job.

The East coast and Californians have all these cons. I'm thinking of going to one in Chicago where several Midwesterners live. What about a DallasCon or an Oklahoma City Con? Would that be feasible? It could be you, me, Olsen, Conner, Stephens, Giddings, Ragsdale, and maybe even Jean Marie Corfeld! That's 8. I'm thinking of sometime next year, nothing right away. Let me know your thoughts.

Well, I guess this is all for now so I'll close. Til later.

((I'm afraid the local scene is far too fragmented for a con team or organization. We have trouble getting together for FTF wargames, let alone multi-player stuff. Nathan Mitchell used to organize mini-cons of AHIKS people, but turned sour on that when he found he had to do ALL the work. His idea of a "con" varied a lot from mine; I tried to help generate area interest, writing to everyone in old GENERALS within contiguous states, etc., and met with RESENTMENT for my efforts. "When a bunch of 12-yr-olds show up, YOU play with them". So I said what he later did, fuck that. He wanted a few Kansas AHIKSers to join his local cronies and dabble with miniatures; the only real getting together came from a Dip game I put together. The rest was a few pickup games, and the like. He wouldn't have anything more to do with me and Shaffer than we would with he and those freaks there. Pilant and Howe have widely varying schedules due to CPA study and coaching respectively. Mitchell got really pissed as a last straw at a FAKE PBM GAME that I ran here in BB. There was an announcement of a game opening that appeared only in HIS copy of the zine; when it started, there were 6 other real people, all of whom I told the story to, and we began. He drew Austria. The idea would be, everyone would stab him and then there'd be a 6-way draw. I made up all the orders except his, but the other real people (Perlmutter, Linsey, Byrne, LaFosse, Shaffer I think, someone else) could write press (and did) and negotiate if they wanted. Byrne and Perlmutter sent him really nutty stuff, LaFosse (in Canada playing Italy so Nathan couldn't call) ignored

← Cerithe

Response to a sobered up Coughlan

him completely, Linsey wrote and said "sub to VOD--10 issues and you have a game-long alliance, 20 issues and I'll puppet to your WIN!", and on and on. We all had an INCREDIBLE amount of fun, but Nathan caught on just as the announcement came out, and hasn't spoken to me since. (No big loss). He did cash the check ^{final} refunding his fee, plus \$3 towards his letters though.

Anyhow, you see some of the trouble of organizing anything here. If something else comes up, real wargames and dip, we could probably organize a carfull of folks to go to St Louis, Dallas, or KC. St Louis would be a great spot, able to draw on the Chicago gang yet still only a 9 hour drive from here, 12 from Dallas, but who/what is there in St Louis? (A couple of years ago I commented on the total dearth of dippers between DC and Dallas too; then up popped Daly; plus that guy who did FLYING DUTCHMAN, what was his name?; you; and now Duke; so maybe 2 zines will start there this winter too.) But nothing from our organizing. No way.

By the way, did you know the FIRST DipCon was supposed to have occurred in Okla City? I read that a couple of times, but have no idea who or what was behind it. Maybe the eastern and western folks just picked a town halfway between? *Back in the 60s.*

Yes, there is a new crew on the news on one station here, but I don't watch that one anymore. They swept all the familiar faces out (fired) and started over. No one likes them. But if OKC was a higher-paying job than Memphis, he must have worked on a charity station or something.

Re your explanation as to your being THE southerner, I The Pole/Okie (gawd!), etc. The folks you gave as an example are justifiably symbols though, e.g., Mills; Why else put Irish history into your zine, etc? But neither you nor I go out of our way to be hickey or dumb. Just a case of pile-on, I guess.

I don't like beer. Weak drinks of light Canadians are best, or Hiram Walker's new AMARETTO & COGNAC which is good enough to sip raw even. But not beer. Half a glass or so is all I can take. Dark Bock at Pilant's, I can force a full can down, but that's about it. Music? Classics, Toni Tennille, Nazi war tunes; that's about it. Just background for me, except Toni, and I go for her body more than her voice, altho I can stand her singing. This rock stuff is all shit to me. Can't stand it. Now, how else can I win awe and praise from the masses, and a niche of honor in the new IRKSOME??

Do write again, next time you're drunk. But write more slowly.)) *J.M.*

SCOTT HANSON (Irksome)

701 SE 15 Ave, Mnpls, MN 55414

(picture postcard from East Berlin)

This is just to let you know I've decided to defect. The Soviet Embassy did a good job of describing the USSR so I've decided to stay a while. You can take over the games. Having a good time, wish you were here. Auf Wiedersehen!

((Thanks. The card arrived after you returned, and after some US correspondence. Maybe the EastCommies really believed the card?)) *J.M.*

DAVID ARNOTT

7686 Hillandale Road, N Charleston, South Carolina
29405

I have decided to renew my sub and keep you working. PS Have you ever considered recaps?

((My car weighs 4210 pounds, and so I only buy top of the line steel belted radials. I don't trust recaps. Too many of them along the highways.

Keep me working, hey? So THAT'S why I can't get rid of any of you subbers: you're all in on a plot to bury me under letters that I'm too dumb to trash unpublished! Who put you up to it, Boardman? Gibson? "Becky Coffman"?

Thanks for the \$12, which is my pocket money for next week, but that extends your sub to #124. Yuck. Why not \$2? After all I've published, do you know what it's like to look at the mailing label master and see people I'm committed to serving on up to BB 124, 131, 135? Sheesh. If you think I'm an extremeist now, can you imagine what my politics would be like in editorials then? Hell, I'd be talking about Imperial Amerika, or The Four and A Half Kingdoms or something....

Welcome back anyhow.)) *J.M.*

Michael Mills, 47 Mayer Drive, Suffern, NY, 10901. (Emhain Macha)

Now that I've finally sorted out my sub to ~~Conservative/Digest~~ Brutus Bulletin and read over the last few issues I've got a thing or two to say.

"All you postal people in the US AND Canada had better keep your eyes glued to those home CRT/VDTs flooding into the market. Your job of moving paper may not be as indispensable in the future as it is now." Basically, I've getting fed up again with these postal people getting more money for the same service. The USA will have a 20¢ 1st class 1oz rate in October and who knows what the Canadians will get! And for what? Pensions, dental and eye care. I still think we should have sent the lot of them to Latin America when Dutch was hot on filling those Reds with lead. Now you see, we hesitated and got shafted again!

Let's have an international system where we can place our phones into a cradle (the VDT type) and get all our mail on floppy disks. Then we can say bye-bye to torn up, late and postage due mail.

I'd also like to second Mark Lews' nomination of me for President of this great land. It seems that my brand of common sense makes sense to those with the pioneering spirit, as has Nanook!

Mark should know that I wholeheartedly supported the candidacy of Bill LaFosse in 1980, as did John Michalski. And from that we can deduce that my politics and John's are enjoying the support of the strong centrist group that is the true heart of America. (long may it wave!)

It's only 1981, but it's none too early to start down the campaign trail. So, I won't bullshit you like Reagan: I'll tell you where I stand.

1) Handguns will be illegal. Possession of such will demand a mandatory penalty of 2 years service in the American Expeditionary Force, which will be discussed later.

2) All current Federal tax law will be scrapped in favor of a base tax plan of 10%; that is everyone pays 10% to the US Govt regardless of income. There are going to be no deductions and no loopholes. Mobil and AT&T and IBM as well as Woody's Laundry are going to pay their fair share for once. Private individuals now pay 65% of all US tax collected: corporations only put up 10%! It's time to redress the imbalance.

3) In the foreign affairs sphere the US will sign ~~XX~~ a defense treaty with the USSR. We will cut the world in two and each will be in charge of keeping the locals in place. Then we won't have to worry about England or Germany not paying their fair share in NATO and no one would dare speak against the "White Star/Red Star Alliance". We will return the world to a Pax Romanum. No power voids to invite trouble, and we won't have to spend megabucks building bombs we can't/won't/ shouldn't use.

4) The AEF will not be under the control of the military, but a separate command under a new office HQed in the Oval Office. These Americans will be sent into Africa, Asia and South America to teach those untermensch a few lessons. We will reserve our traditional forces to deal with European nations, who generally are better armed than the others.

5) There'll be no such thing as North-South diplomacy. What the US wants it'll take from the banana republics wherever they are, even if it means dropping a few little missiles.

6) Doctors, lawyers and other professional workers who generally don't tell you how much it'll cost will have to post their prices in the office reception area and provide a current rate card to all prospective patients. No gouging. Doctors and lawyers went to school to help mankind: and if they can't find reward in that and continue to charge exceedingly high prices to support 3 Mercedes and 2 houses then they're going out of business.

7) The entire insurance industry in this country will be nationalized. We no longer will have to pay exorbitant rates for maddated insurance.

That's just a sample.

But last but not least. The US will send to Ireland 3 Armoured Divisions and 18 infantry regiments for the invasion of Northern Ireland. We will give the London regime 2 weeks to evacuate all radical Protestant elements, or we will authorize the joint Irish-American command to use whatever measures are necessary to finally end the NI trouble. And even if it means bombing London, Coventry, Manchester, Glasgow and Leeds it'll be done. No more Mister Nice Guy.

Well, there'll be more later. Any questions sports fans?!!!

On other more important topics: My new address should be a temporary one, though how temporary remains to be seen. After moving down to the NYC area and getting a new job, I've got to start thinking about a place to live. But you wouldn't believe the robber-baron rents around here!

First of all for anything clean, quiet and well-insulated you've got to start thinking of \$300-\$600/mth without utilities! That's insulting! And I've seen 1 bedrooms going for \$400+ that if moved anywhere else would be worth MAYBE \$250. But when someone's holding your balls, what can you do except pay through the nose. Still it's a shit situation.

I guess I should think about buying a house. It's about that time of life.

Oh, I read somewhere---JAF---that Kathy Byrne is a NY Giants fan! I knew she couldn't be all bad. I've been a fan of the Jints for decades, literally. I can well remember YA Tittle's roll-out passes back in the early-mid '60s. I also remember all too well that the team has languished in the NFL sewers for too long, but it's the dedication and tradition of the Giants that is unmatched anywhere. Consider that the team has had lousey records for nearly 20 years and try to reconcile that with a string of stadium sell-outs a mile long. You can't even get season tickets for 1984-5! Beacuse they're spoken for already.

But I had a dream! Last night I saw the opening day game of the Giants vs the Eagles at NY. There were the Cinderella Birds in NY expecting to go home 1-0, but they were trounced and mauled and lost 21-9. Watch the opening week's results and see if I'm right.

Moving on and into Dip, I'm relieved to see that John Leeder is the new Miller Number Custodian. For the uninitiated the MNCs are the BNCs of variants. The former custodian was, how you say, merde. John, I know, cares and he should give it the stature it deserves.

re: Ozog and 79IW. I guess he expects everyone to say, "Gee, Eric we forgive you. Afterall, it was only once you violated the confidence of all GMs... so welcome back and best of luck." Who's kidding who? Regardless of his rationalizations, Ozog fucked it up royally and sentence has been passed. So, dear Ozog move in with Bernie.

I guess we're all trying to figure out Dip World's recently announced series of appointments. I guess Sacks-Walker will never resolve itself. Shame though. And then when you bring in Daly/Byrne joining Sacks' orphan service, one has to wonder what the hell is really going on. I guess Walkers NADF will either offer membership to Sacks or make its own service. The thing I don't like about it is that those of us in the uncommitted middle are being prodded to joining one camp or the other, and that sucks. This sure is screwing up what may have been a good idea. And I guess until Bob and Rod make up, they'll continue to spread the hobby enthusiasm a bit too thin and continue to squander their energies with bureaucratic politics. C'mon fellas, there are enough toys for all the boys to play with.

Well, this looks like the end. I hope it is.

..((Me lol. What makes you think it would take 18 divisions? I'd say 3½, and most of

that would be for garrison duty: 2 divisions in Belfast, 1 in 'Derry, the half in the hinterland. Maybe our forces could simply defend the Republic while its forces took over and quelled the North?

Actually, your proposals as president are radical enough that I could probably live with them. #3, the partition of the world with the Soviets, would be harder to swallow than #1, handgun control. Could AEF vets keep their guns? Why partition the world so finally? A short-term one might be OK, but remember, we ought to be causing more trouble for THEM in central Europe (and central Asia) than they are for us in the banana republics. Also, don't begrudge that warhead spending when you're so ready to toss "a few missiles" into Latin America to quiet them down. The neutron bomb is the salvation weapon there. What do we want from Panama, after all? Just the Canal. So the neutron bomb disposes of the pestersome local populace, but leaves the facilities and terrain intact. Just what we want! Sweep the Carribean with them!

Taxes at 10% won't do even with the repeal of ripoffs like Medicaid. Better to go 25%. That's still a cut from the 30% deducted from our checks. It would also put Social Security into the honest position of a straight govt handout, which is exactly what it is. Also, nationalizing the insurance industry is probably a good idea, so long as the current industry is dissolved instead of simply shifting all those scumbags onto the federal payroll. Use the process as a testing ground for learning how to go on to nationalizing the banking industry too. In ten years, retail or independent banks and insurance companies could start out again perhaps, but for now, the two of them, hand-in-glove, are so corrupt that their seizure and dissolution would be welcomed even by me.

You're right about Ozog too.))

MARK BERCH (Diplomacy Digest)

492 Naylor Place, Alexandria, VA 22304

... This is the kind of thing I have referred to

THE WASHINGTON POST

Thursday, July 23, 1981

... R B3

Wild Shot Critically Hurts Woman

By Peter Eng and Alfred E. Lewis
Washington Post Staff Writers

A 27-year-old Northeast Washington woman was critically wounded late Monday afternoon when she was mistakenly shot by a fish market customer who fired two shots at two would-be robbers fleeing the store, D.C. police reported yesterday.

Police said Charlene Lyons, of 3919 Ninth St. NE, was walking by the Brookland Seafood store when she was hit in the lower back by one of the two shots fired by the customer. She was listed in critical but stable condition yesterday at the Washington Hospital Center.

D.C. robbery squad detectives said the two would-be robbers, a man and a woman, walked into the store at 3736 10th St. NE about 5:15 p.m., displayed a gun and demanded money. The manager of the store, Mike Krieger, 23, said that as soon as the couple walked into the store, he recognized the man from a previous holdup and dashed out the door to a corner gas station to call police.

Meanwhile, the would-be robbers told John Blum, 23, a friend of store employees who was standing behind the counter at the time, to open the cash register, police said. When Blum could not open the register, and the robbers realized that Krieger had gone to call police, they fled empty-handed, police reported.

At that point, one of the two customers in the market chased the pair with one of two guns Krieger kept in his

store, police said. He fired two shots, hitting Lyons with one of them. She was on her way to one of the stores in the small shopping plaza when she was hit.

"That was an irresponsible act and it is one of the dangers of people firing guns who have not been trained," said Alfonso Gibson, a deputy police chief.

A 32-year-old man surrendered at police headquarters last night, and told police that he was the man who had mistakenly shot Lyons while attempting to capture the bandits. He said he learned that he had wounded the victim about an hour after the shooting when he called the market from his home.

He gave a statement to robbery squad Detective Robert Groat, who said the case would be reviewed today by the U. S. Attorney's office.

Some neighborhood residents theorized that Lyons, a customer service representative at Xerox's mid-Atlantic headquarters in Arlington, was shot at because she was walking with her boyfriend and thus mistaken for one of the robbers.

The neighbors expressed shock at the incident, with some blaming the ineffectiveness of police patrols for prompting store owners to keep guns.

Krieger said that in a robbery a month ago, the man involved in Tuesday's aborted holdup put a gun to Krieger's head and forced him into a store cooler.

Berch, continued

Two robbers, one bystander, and one "good guy" with a gun. Bystander is critically wounded. There is nothing unique about this. I saw on the TV the other day a case of a policewoman (somebody Allen) fired. She engaged in a shoot out in a store, killing a bystander or two. The dynamics of these situations places bystanders at greater risk than robbers, quite often. The robber has his adrenalin pumping, is probably young and in good condition (statistically speaking) and he knows the situation is dangerous, so he's ducking and weaving. Bystander probably doesn't realize anything is going on and thus takes no evasive action. And if there is a commotion, he or she is likely to move toward the commotion (just human nature) whereas the robber is hightailing it out. Add to that people acting in a great rush, not being ~~xx~~ trained in the use of guns, and there sometimes being more bystanders than targets (thus more wrong targets than right ones) and you get common tragedy. This is what you ignored about Caruso's story. I can understand your feeling that the gun collector deserved to die because he "raised such a bastard". Somehow you feel that a father should be responsible for what his 22 year old son did, or rather, to be more precise, society is better off ridding itself of people who have raised such sons --- this I understand because I know from the past that you have odd notions of responsibility, and that you are an ultra liberal user of the death penalty. What I don't understand is your not realizing that the other victims ("Shot up half a dozen people, crippling 3 for life") represent the other side, the price that we pay for this supposed (and to me non-existent) advantage of guns-everywhere. You didn't even mention them in your response, and I suspect they don't weigh into your thinking.

Ah, now I see ~~xx~~ why you don't see the need to pay the basic soldier: "no amount of pay is worth risking your life for" --- so why bother trying, eh? Tell that to a coal miner, which is, in peacetime, the most dangerous occupation. You pay people enuf and it is worth risking your life to do. Tell that to one of those pilots who test new planes. Pay enuf and the risk is worth it.

The essential difference is that you view the military as some grand opportunity to allow males their opportunity to discharge their "duty" obligations. That being the case, all they need is room and board. I view the military as having the SOLE duty of defending the US and its allies, keeping them out of Jersey. That being the case, I want the maximum defense (a broadly defined "defense", obviously must include some retaliatory threat) for the X billions of dollars spent. That is, it should be cunningly allocated between men and machines and incidentals (land, fuel) so as to get the best military, in a functional sense. All these other goals like turning boys into men, and duty and all that is so much crap. // And I know that the best performer is a well-motivated performer, whether he's flying a bomber or a passenger jet. And in this society, we motivate by CASH. China and USSR may try other forms like "building true socialism" and all that, but here it's \$\$\$ that's the trick. And I also know that in any integrated system, it's the weakest link that determines the overall strength. And when I pay \$3 billion for an aircraft carrier, several billion for associated planes, I'll be damned if I am going to ~~skimp~~ skimp on the ~~skimp~~ pay of the men involved. You are perfectly willing to allow the "vast majority" to leave after their hitch is done. To me that is a dreadful waste of training money, and means the average experience level of those there will be dreadfully low.

I understand that you are more a reactionary than a conservative, the often conservative is broad enuf to cover you. I'd call you far right, heavy on the military, but hold the religious agenda. Heavy on the military because, unlike some on the far right, you don't seem to exhibit that suspicion toward the military-industrial complex that many ultra-rightists do, feeling that a lot of equipment purchases are hopelessly overinflated just to

Berch concludes

squeeze tax-dollars out of people, and because you reject the Libertarian notion of no-draft. I say hold the religious, since that agenda you don't go with --- the school prayer, anti-abortion, and "creationist" business. Curiously, the one exception to that is your anti-homosexual views (or more precisely, your willingness to use the power to government to suppress homosexual acts) ~~and~~ which is by and large an religious agenda item. All in all, your views are not that easy to quickly categorize, because unlike most people, who either don't give it any thought or hew to a fairly standard line, your views branch out a bit, probably because your analytical skills are well above average, you've been exposed to a wider range of ideas, and probably varied life experiences have helped too. You don't seem to have (i.e. judging by what he reads in BB, Mark Berch is unable to discern) a comprehensive ideology that you generall go by. This forces you to think about things a bit more and you take each item on its own merits. It also makes your views somewhat more unpredictable (which makes for better reading in BB) and often apparently inconsistent. Often however, inconsistent or wildly illogical positions (to me, I rush to add) simply turn out to be artifacts of your premises that I was unable to predict (e.g. your premise that soldiering is not a job --- it never even occurred to me that that's where your analysis started from). Your economic views are a little more difficult for me to sort out, in part because I have less to work from (you discuss political items more than economic ones) and in part because they are not so consistnetly "right" as your political views and indeed I've seen things that are more consistnet with Marxism than traditional capitalism. By contrast, for better or worse, I do have a central ideology, as a bedrock Civil Libertarian, albeit I use a slightly broader definition of civil liberties than a strictly Bill-of-Rights approach. This gives me a framework/straightjacket (take yer pick) for viewing things. Unfortunately for others, it makes categorization of my views on the left-right axis somewhat complicated, since CL doesn't always come down left. It also gives me a very divided view of government, since government has the potential to be both the best guardian of civil liberties and the worst enemy of it. It also isn't much help at all in the economic area, since its a non-economic ideology.

Er, how did I get onto this topic?

((Probably that bedrock Civil Libbertarian straightjacket of yours acting up again.

On wages for death, I think you have again missed the boat entirely. It may be true that money will lure in some people who might not otherwise choose a given occupation, but even there, many who say its for the money (such as a WVa miner) may really mean, it is the ONLY way he can make any money. A lot of folks have the "choice" of working the mines, joining the Army, or going on welfare. Period. So they become miners "for the money". Offer the guy less money to sort parts in an auto supply store though, and I'll bet he leaves pretty quick! Police, firemen, test pilots, soldiers--you will get more than you think from simply a willingness to serve, the same as you get thousands of schoolteachers for very LOW pay. A teacher here could put in shorter hours (altho 12 months instead of 9) and make more money as a clerk than as a teacher, but they want to be teachers, irregardless of pay (as long as they can get by). NO one I know has ever even HEARD of anyone becoming a cop to make MONEY. Once you are a cop, I can see asking for more, but you don't join for it. Are people in the Marine Corps for the economic opportunity there? If you say yes, you haven't known many Marines. I would never want anything to do with them, but as a military unit/force, they probably ARE the best we have. CBS was right about that part of their series on defense: the Rapid Deployment Force IS a farce when the Marine Corps is by definition, our 200(+) year old Rapid Deployment Force. But it's not for money.

I oppose homosexuality, or more properly, support its suppression in public instances, because it is disgusting. If disgust is a religious-agenda-item, then I guess I'm on it. Also, I support the idea of religion, just like I support the idea of the Marine Corps. They definitely have their place. It's just that I want to be on the OUTside of each.

Thanks for the article about the need for gun training for the populace.))

J.M.

BRU Linseed (Diplomacy Weakly)

24A Quarry Drive, Albany, NY 12205

Number 98/99 was the type of issue I can really sink my teeth into: I am mentioned, or my zine is, at least 61 times, judging from a casual count! And people wonder why I call it the Bruxus Bulletin! Adding to the excitement, at least 45 of those 61 mentions were in a critical vein. And Bob Olsen recently accused me of being less controversial than Masters! I took that as an insult, of course, and feel that I have now reestablished my coveted position as the hobby's most controversial member (though I confess Black Jack has been trying hard to overtake me...).

In addition to my comments on 98/99, I'm also going to respond to your answer to my letter in #96, OK?

Let me first address the matter of Don Ditter. What I initially said seems to have been blown way out of proportion by various people. I'd like to preface my remarks by commenting that I spoke with Don briefly at GENCON EAST, and found him an extremely likable and open individual. I also get the impression that he is 1) hard-working, 2) very reasonable, and 3) has the best interests of the hobby at heart.

My criticism was merely that, by guest-GWing for Buddy Tretick, he is giving respectability to a publisher who deserves total condemnation. I happen to view Ditter's action as one which is undermining all the effort certain of us (you, me, Berch, etc.) have put in to discredit Bernie and perhaps get him to change. Now, with the BMC running a game in his zine, Bernie can (and possibly will) tell novices that all the stories about him are false -- "If I'm such a bad boy in the hobby, why is the BMC running a game in my zine", or some such. I have written to Don to explain the seriousness of the situation, and offered to help him rehouse his game in a reputable zine. I'm sorry that he hasn't taken me up on the offer, so my charge of "poor judgement" still stands -- correctly.

However, I did not and do not recommend, as Sacks erroneously states, "a referendum to remove the BMC...". Leave it to Sacks to rephrase my statement and cloak it in such bureaucratic bullshit! I am, and shall remain, bothered by the fact that our BMC guest GAs in Lo Fraud. But that aside, I have written to Ditter and will support him in his new position.

That brings me to the Sacks matter, which was also overstated by certain people. My comment that I couldn't see what he has to do with Diplomacy was meant in a facetious vein. The reason I said it was because of all the bureaucratic, government-type of stuff he sends out, which it seems to me has little if anything to do with the hobby or the game. However, since this remark was taken seriously by at least three people, I should point out that over the years, Robert has contributed quite a bit to the Tippy hobby, and I am aware of this. His "legal documents" seem a waste of time and space, though; who gives a shit about them? (Then again, look at my letters...)

I'm glad to see that Paul Rautenberg has subbed to PR. Despite his far-out political views, Paul has been an asset to VD ever since it started, and I look forward to his contributions to your zine.

I'd also like to go on record as thanking Robert Sacks, as well as John Taly and Kathy Byrne, for their role in seeing to it that I was reimbursed for most of my expenses with the novice packet. I've already thanked Robert in VD.

On Larzelere's letter, I don't see anything wrong with giving guns to soldiers and cops while denying that same privilege to private citizens. Soldiers and cops need them for obvious reasons; private citizens do not.

I agree, looking back, that it was a cheap shot on my part to call Cunningham "lame". As Kerry Blant says, I owe an apology -- so I apologize. However, his action is lame; publicizing the fact that he will always play for a two-way draw in order to increase his rating. My reasoning in the letter I sent previously still holds.

Also, Kerry wanted me to comment on his end-game statement and his open letter to Kirchner. I agree with his comments up to a point. But it is obvious that, and I base this on his press release a while back, Cunningham is playing simply to increase or improve his rating. I personally despise this style of play. I play for fun, and to me a game can be fun whether I win or get wiped out. I do not view playing to improve your rating as mutually exclusive with having fun, but I think placing too much emphasis

Kerry Blant turns into a puffed-up, angry baby when I don't like him.

on ratings takes away from some of the fun. It has to, because there isn't a player alive who can win every time. Nor is there one who can pull off a two-way draw every time.

Speaking of ratings and my views on them, Masters keeps putting out issues of East of Eden and Black Frog in which he says or implies that I am concerned about my ratings. Since I have corrected him on this more than once, it is childish of him to harp on the matter. He says that it is his opinion that I am concerned about my rating, and that he is entitled to his opinion. Maybe so, but his opinion happens to be factually incorrect -- just as it would be if he said "It is my opinion that Linsey is Christian, and I am entitled to my opinion!" I mean, I'm the one who ought to know how I feel about ratings; Black Jack is obviously not a very good mind reader.

Why am I writing this to you instead of him? Because he is about the most frustrating person to write to; every time I write to correct one of his errors, he makes a fresh misstatement about me, while at the same time stubbornly refusing to back off from his previous errors. So I've given up writing to him directly.

I, however, have a retraction to make concerning one of my statements about Black Jack. In the past, I have often referred to him as the second-best writer in the hobby. (In my opinion, Randolph Smyth has no peers.) I hereby retract that statement. Masters is not the second-best writer in the hobby. James Thurber might be, but Black Jack is not. Why do I say this?

Remember his BRUX versus Trouble mascot issue? It was a plagiarism. The story it is copied from is James Thurber's "The Dog that Bit People". Not just the central idea; there are quite a few paragraphs that were lifted almost verbatim from that story.

That's not all. After he came out with "The Greatest Diplomacy Player in the World", I lauded his efforts, because I thought he had written it. Not so, I find. James Thurber wrote that one too, and the story was called, "The Greatest Man in the World". Again, quite a bit of it is verbatim -- Masters just changes the title a little and alters the characters' names, and calls the story his. I have in my possession (borrowed from my local library, more accurately) copies of both of those stories. I've also heard, but as yet haven't proven, that some of his other stuff is plagiarized.

According to a publisher who doesn't want to be mentioned by name, the "Hitler's Barber" episode in Pearl is straight from Woody Allen. Somebody else told me, when I asked, that part of the Rodriguez-McKibbin-BRUX issue was lifted. Still another person has mentioned to me that "TheChimp that Played Diplomacy" isn't Jack's. As far as I am concerned, any story he puts out is suspect.

Mind you, I don't really care whether he publishes that stuff or not, because it does make good reading. But to vote him the hobby's best writer for altering other people's stories is absurd. And he just sits back and takes the acclaim for it! I am forced to wonder what his motives are for this. Bothering me still more is the fact that I once printed a series of articles from him, which were among the best ever to appear in VD. I now wonder whether Jack should have gotten all those free issues, or if they should have gone to Thurber or Woody Allen, or whoever. How 'bout letting us know, Black Jack? I told my readers in good faith that you wrote them. Was I correct?

In any event, I apologize for recommending Jack's writing to anyone. The stuff he copies is good, but that's the best I can say about it.

By the way, I just realized that I got Cummings' name wrong (I referred to him as "Cunningham"). I apologize for that one, too.

Tro is right. I am Bernie Oaklyn. It should be obvious to anyone who looks.

Now, I'd like to turn to Kathy's letter. She is worried that, as she puts it, "this letter will get me in... trouble". No, it won't. I feel that, even though she disagreed with much of what I said, she has a right to her opinions, and she did a good job of expressing them clearly and rationally.

I have already clarified my view on the Ditter stuff and my remark about Sacks, as well as the reimbursement for which she and Sacks were largely responsible. Although I don't quite see eye-to-eye with Luscious on either situation, I respect her views on them.

Woody has a mole on his left hip! Patrick Conlon drinks melted rhinoceros horns!

That leaves the matter of Bob Arnett. She sez, "Bob happens to be one of the best GMs in this hobby". I never said anything bad about his GMing, nor will I ever unless I have a good reason to -- so she is debating a moot point.

On the other hand, she is just agreeing with me when she says that "he never quoted anyone on that cover of Volker...". This is entirely correct -- those were not quotes, because Bob himself made them up. The problem is that Bob, writing on page 3 of the same issue, says, "The cover expresses many quotes that I have heard in the past year." Since, as Kathy points out, the statements on the cover are not quotes; I feel justified in labeling them phony quotes; Arnett made them up and then implied they were quotes by me.

Nor was I comparing Bob to Bernie Oaklyn on all counts -- just on certain of his actions. As you put it when you responded to my letter initially, Bernie is an ongoing fraud, etc. Yes, he is, but when we compare specific instances, Arnett has done some of the same exact things Bernie has, albeit for a shorter time and on a smaller scale. Forget for a minute about those phony quotes, because I can cite other examples too. For instance -- and I know I've repeated this incident many times -- he told me after Origins '80 that Kathy was trying to get people to vote me a zero in the GM poll. I stress that I don't know what Kathy did or did not do, and I'm not accusing anybody of anything, nor have I ever. But I do know what Bob told me, and so I cited him as a source in VD #26.

Then, in Volker #15, Arnett turns around and denies having said anything at all on the matter. He's lying, because (as he admitted to me in private conversation at GENCON EAST) he said exactly what I quoted him as saying. While I doubt if he'll ever admit publicly that he lied, that still doesn't make the act less serious -- it just means that nobody but him and me will ever know for sure that I am telling the truth and not him. The same thing holds true about Jane Proskin, a harmless hoax if ever there was one. I told him about Jane, and he knew the hoax was perfectly innocuous. Yet in BB and Rus-Q, he rakes me over the coals on that one too, claiming that he found out about Jane "from some other people". Again, a lie.

The reason I feel this is serious is because the hobby at large has a right to expect the truth on such matters. Yes, I have faked zines, and yes, I have "confessed" to doing fakes which I actually didn't do. That's fundamentally different from the type of lies Bob has been telling about me, and I think most readers will see why. My phony confessions were in fun and didn't hurt anybody. Arnett's misstatements have had a more sinister purpose -- discrediting me. I think that, since he is not able to discredit me by sticking to the truth, his attacks ought to be given the weight they deserve -- none.

And that brings me back to the comparison to Oaklyn. If Oaklyn did the exact same thing and made up stories about or quotes by another hobby member, he would be blasted by you, and several other people. In fact, this has happened many times over, and each time, Bernie is condemned for it. I agree with those condemnations. But if it is wrong for Bernie to do it, then it is also wrong for Bob Arnett to do it -- unless there is a double standard in the hobby. Do you now see the point I'm trying to make?

I appeal to Kathy to put herself in my shoes for just a few minutes and assume that I'm telling the truth and Bob is not. Wouldn't you be a little upset too, Luscious, if the same sort of tactics were used on you?

Also, Kathy says she agrees with Boardman. Since JB's attacks on me have been purely due to my participation in the production of several fakes, I assume she too condemns me for that. But several other respected hobby members are equally guilty -- Coughlan, Berch, Jim Williams, and Rod Walker, to name just a few. Does Kathy condemn them too, or not? I doubt it, so I feel she is just falling back on Boardman's name as another (supposedly) respected hobby member who dislikes BRUX. Actually, I feel that the smear tactics Boardman uses against people like Williams and Coughlan are despicable, and have said so often. An expose of these tactics appeared in VD #47.

However, I will concede one point. He claims I am a "mendacious excrescence", and I wholeheartedly agree. I'm sure the rest of the hobby does, too.

One the matter of me playing in just one game at a time: this is a personal preference and I don't see why anybody should condemn me for it. I negotiate, uh, a bit more than the average player; so I feel that I can only handle one game.

"Coughlan" is a hoax launched by Jim Williams!

I got goosed by Dave Carter in the dark!

Brux concludes

On DIAS and Retaliation, I shall again state that I personally dislike the rule. My reasoning is that, since it is the players' game, why not let them decide who is in the draw? However, to repeat my earlier opinion, I think Krud has the right to run his games the way he sees fit. Further, I think he has the right to impose his house-rules on his GGMS if he so desires -- it is his zine, after all. I may not like his action in doing so, but it is unquestioningly his right. So rather than bitch about it, GGMS who don't want to conform should house their games elsewhere.

On John Caruso's letter, he asks why I don't let the dying embers go out concerning Arnett. What "dying embers"? Bob has attacked me repeatedly and recently, so I don't view the feud as dying down.

His statement that at least one out of every hundred New York State Motor Vehicle Dept. employees is polite may be correct. Since I've only dealt with them about twenty or thirty times, I don't know for sure. All I know is that I haven't had the good fortune to deal with any of the polite ones, so my image of them is extremely negative.

I wouldn't want to live in NYC, though. I do like visiting there, but the general pace of life and style of living just isn't for me.

By the way, did you want to see the films John C. took of Woody and me at the CON? I understand he's selling them for \$4 per minute...

I agree with John's comments on guns, entirely.

I said before that I wanted to comment on your response to my earlier letter. You say in reply to me, "I am struck by the contrast between your last few paragraphs: 'why torture a mouse when there is a rapist available?' vs. 'You condemn anybody whose lifestyle is foreign to you' and 'Someone who doesn't get his erotic kicks the way you do?'"

You missed a basic point, though. I have no qualms about using other people for lab experiments as necessary, etc. BUT -- I would only do it to people who ruin the lives of other, innocent people. Thus, I could condone testing the effects of radiation on a mass murderer. However, that's where it ends. I will not and could not condone doing the same sort of thing to a black, a liberal, a Jew, or a homosexual. The fundamental difference lies in the answer to the question, "Does this person go around hurting those who are innocent?" If not, why condemn him? So what if he's a gay/hippie/Moslem/weirdo who everyone else thinks is freaky? Let him be what he wants to be. Let him be freaky; why should it bother you or me?

On the other hand, if he's a danger to society, put him away. If he isn't useful as a test subject, exterminate him. My quarrel with you is that you want to, or at least you seem to want to, put away people who are harmless. The best and only example I can think of at the moment is gays, which is why I keep bringing it up. Hell, John, there are 10 to 20 million of them out there, depending on how strictly you define the term. Or maybe even more. You've undoubtedly worked with them, picnicked with them, and dealt with them every day. A few of the more far-out ones (those who cannot accept the right of little boys to go unmolested) should be put away under the criterion above. The others? So "they don't get their erotic kicks the way you do." Big deal. Are they necessarily bad and you good because of that? I fail to see the logic of it all...

There. I have given a rather clear-cut criterion of who I feel ought to be put away, and why. I challenge you to do the same, without resorting to sneering name-calling: "queers, perverts", etc.

Enclosed is a copy of a letter sent from Bernie to Dan Stafford, which you are welcome to publicize. Unfortunately, it is unsigned. In it, Bernie admits that he is indeed Tretick. As you have pointed out, this alone is not serious, but that fraud that goes along with it is. Besides, maybe it will take evidence like this to convince Leeder, Sacks, et al, of Bernie's true identity.

Enough.

P.S. Congratulations on placing third in the zine poll!

((Thanks. I believe that you are referring to John CARUSO on the half-line entry re guns above. That may not be clear to everyone.))

J.M.

Paul Rauterberg is an 87-year-old preacher from Alabama! Mark Lew is a pseudonym for Santa Claus!

The corporation strikes again. As of Friday, August 14, I am now unemployed. Things had been very slow at work, and they had to cut corners somewhere, so this "corner" was cut. Sure, I wasn't the only one, but God, it sure doesn't help the old pride. Funny how it works. The guys they laid off included salesmen, estimators, the comptroller and accounting head; in other words, people that were making big money. The replacements in most cases were "assistants" to the big shots, who make considerably less money. As it was put to me, "We could have laid off your assistant, but he only makes \$7.50, while you make \$11.50, so..." At first I tried to explain what foolish logic this was, but the longer we talked, the clearer it became that the decision was made, and there was nothing I could say that would change their minds. The discussion ended with a 20 minute disertation by me on just exactly why the place was going down the tubes (try talking to top management about their faults some time, well, I know that you have experienced much the same. The basic problem here was that my boss didn't know what the hell was going on because he was trying to run a shop from an office, without ever taking the time to step foot in the shop). The discussion ended with bitter words all around, at which time I just got up, told them to mail me what I had coming, and walked out. It's funny, because in June I had just received a \$300/month raise. About three weeks later, my boss was on my ass for something and I asked him, "What the hell is your problem? Don't you know that I'm busting my ass for this place?" He replied that he didn't know whether I was doing my job or not because he was in meetings all day. A classic example of the way BFI was run, and I suppose not unlike many other places. Oh well, life goes on. Who knows where I'll go next. I've been thinking of getting out of Chicago in favor of a nicer climate, say, Arizona. Sigh.

Now that I've got that off my chest...

I see where Manuel, like most other ~~idiot~~ people who don't know me, infers something into a comment of mine that isn't there. What I meant, Dave, is that Michalski is a gross old man who'd more likely than not cause your readers to cancel their subs. Clear enough? Yeah, I do drink occasionally, but it is only a coincidence that I always sound like I'm hung over. The first question most people ask when I answer the phone is "I'm sorry, did I wake you up?"

I still say Lew would be great for MASS MURDERS, even though he is sort of tight with his money. Imagine, screwing Masters and then asking for money back! Incidentally, I'd love to play in BOGEY, it'd be the perfect spot for my press and I love the cast. Get it together, Mark.

I'll be signing up for one of Hanson's games once he starts his new zine. I'm sure you'd love to try it one more time too. Are you serious about not writing in your games? Come to think of it, you didn't write much in 80S. You must realize that it's very difficult to do well without some form of diplomacy.

I don't believe #100 will be "just another issue". Your subbers will undoubtedly take care of that.

((Ha! They fooled you! One of the troubles with BB can be seen by the fact that I'm typing this letter the day after receipt, yet you haven't yet seen #100 while I'm here working on page 19 or so of issue 101. Ugh.

One trouble with BOGEY, unless I'm thinking of something else, was that two players had the same address, which would make it irregular. Didn't he have Kathy and Phyllis, or John and Kathy, or Brux and Woody, or something like that?

I'm sorry to hear about your job loss. It is a more serious matter there than it would be here, jobs being what they are. Back in Milwaukee, I understand that Schlitz, "the beer that made Milwaukee famous", is closing down their operation there. Those high-tax, strong-union towns are really being socked bad. So much for farsighted social planning. I wouldn't suggest Arizona though. The desert is no fun. For semi-desert, try here or Southern California; how about Texas? Dallas and Houston are doing real well. Atlanta is probably a good job-opportunity town, but being from the north like me, you probably have the same aversion to the deep south that I used to. Atlanta would probably have the best climate of the lot. I wonder what the race situation is there though? Can't be much different from anywhere else really. Oh well.))

J.M.

NIKITA FROBISH

P O Box 1154, Traverse City, MI 49684

I do not subscribe to any Diplomacy zines but thanks to my friendship with Marion Bates of PLAGUE TIMES I do get the opportunity to read quite a few of them. Frankly I can't imagine why anyone would want to receive most of them even if they were playing postal Diplomacy at any price and my interest in postal Diplomacy is marginal at best.

However I always looked forward to receiving the new Brutus Bulletin from Marion and told myself that if I could ever really get myself to give half a fuck for postal Diplomacy I would publish a zine modelled on yours. With only slightly less than half a fuck the most I could manage is a subzine, Stab is a Four Letter Word and a really silly deviant game that manages somehow to keep my interest from deadline to deadline.

However I was slightly disturbed when I learned that Marion's sub to BB had expired. Slightly turned to mightily when she informed me that a renewal in the near future was not in the cards. He complained about pressing financial problems which is understandable in light of recent health problems Marion has suffered.

I thought alot about life without Brutus Bulletin and decided I was not prepared to face it. Enclosed is \$4.50 in stamps (I understand you accept them as payment) for the next 11 issues of BB. Now Marion and I will not have to do without. I probably won't ever play in a game (so sorry) but I really like reading the zine. Now Marion can wait until I'm done. My address is P O Box 1154, Traverse City, Mi, 49684.

By the way, while I consider the expression "intellectual conservatism" a contradiction in terms I do find your political views surprisingly sane at times. It's just that sometimes you're so fucking silly. I guess it can't be helped.

((Is that a smokescreen to throw me, or did you really think you sent 25 stamps instead of 20? 20 18s is \$3.60, or just a tad over 7 issues. BB hasn't been 11/\$4.50 for quite some time; ask Marion if she'll let you see some more current copies. I'll spot you though and let you go at the resub rate after the first two, so we're even.

There are a couple of oil companies in Traverse City. Are you with any of them? When I was at Harper, we were in the St Cleon and Marilla State leases up there, and even our small interests brought in quite a few bucks. Hard as hell to figure out the check stubs, but as long as they cleared the bank, no one really gave a damn. I set up a process to plug the plant revenue part that I doubt anyone at Harper has figured out YET. They still follow the Golden Rule of Corporate Living, "Do it like it was done last month". See why I need to publish? Got to do SOMETHING useful with your worktime....

Welcome aboard.)) *nm.*

KATHY BYRNE (Kathy's Korner)

160-02 43 Ave Second Floor, Flushing NY 11358

(excerpt)

Thanks for not attacking my letter in BB--I can always count on you to bypass attacking my statements and try and pass them off as nonsense!

((Not at all, Luscious! I disagree, but since I'd already stated my views, why do so again? Therefore, I just let you expound your own with minimum response from me. I hope that my letting you have an unedited hearing is not taken as passing it off as unworthy of comment. (I guess I do that sometimes though...) Not in your case this time though. I wouldn't trounce on you for your differing opinions--for your body, perhaps, but not for opinions. Now, if you added Tretick to your list of Boardman-Arnett-Crud-Gibson--whoever all it was, well, then perhaps yes, but not for now. After all, look how fair I always am: who has ever heard me complain about you staying with other men at times, for example? Why, I haven't even advertised the claims that you're jealous of Mary Beck...))

*your
toots*