

"Luke! Join with me, and together we can rule the galaxy as father and son!"

"No thanks, pops. I got a better offer to do a guest column in ISSUE 102 of

The

Early September, 1981

# BRUTUS BULLETIN

*ET TU, BRUTE*

The BRUTUS BULLETIN is a newsletter of postal DIPLOMACY<sup>tm</sup> that ranks a modest (sic) #3 in popularity in all of North America, and is brought to you whenever he has enough material by John Michalski, Rt 10, Box 526Q, Moore, OK 73165. Subs are discouraged anymore, so don't sub; we've got more than enough now. Shoo. Begone. No openings.

DIPLOMACY is a game invented by Allen Calhamer and copyrighted by the Avalon Hill Game Company, Baltimore, a city that will be the site of next year's GenCon or Origins or Dipcon or something. (I've been reading too many con reports lately). That's about a two-day drive from here I think. I seem to recall we once spent all day driving across Tennessee... Well, if I have any vacation next year, I might consider it. But probably not.

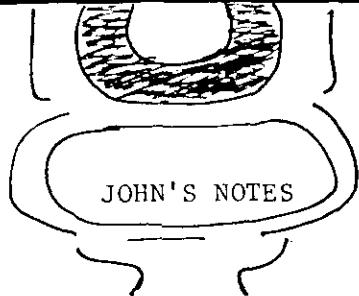
THIS ISSUE should hopefully not make the mails until September. I detect a certain slowing down now that schools are reopening, and perhaps that will allow me to slow the recent pace a little.

The latest BLACK FROG, #1 zeen, had an update of Jack's modified Calhamer point rating system that basically only considers games of the past few years. The top ten looked like this: Kendter, Caruso, Crockett, McLendon, Sergeant, Hart, Verheiden, Harmon, Michalski, and Kassel. The weighting for recently-reported conclusions gets rid of a lot of old inactive players, but the fact that I'm in there makes me leary; I haven't done well in two years. I guess the trick is to bask in the glow of victories won from games fought out in 78-79 now, in 1981. Hell, I'll take what I can get. Jack's system is about as current as one can have in a hobby around a game that takes 1½-2 years to play in most cases. Also, a low number of games in which you did well helps. I see Gary Howe is in a tie for 21st, yet I doubt he's been in more than 3 or 4 games, and is now inactive. He did well in those few tho, usually drawing. Of these top ten, I think Crockett is now inactive, at least under his own name; and Kassel is another I don't think is playing much anymore.

JUNK MAIL: About one third of you may have received, or may YET receive, some sort of data-industry newspaper in your mailbox. These are free gifts courtesy of the ~~fat~~ great Bill Shaffer who had a box full of them at his office last weekend. Since they were postpaid, I offered to send them out as free advertising, since I have labels for a mob of people who enjoy junk mail (you enjoy getting BB, right?). It turned out there were only 18, so I took 18 names off the list and put them on the issues. I was tempted to follow his suggestion and put another label on it saying "this is BB 102 & 103. Thanks for the buck, guys", but that would be in poor taste. Funny, but perhaps poor taste, so I just sent them as-is. Something different, instead of the usual dipzines, and free. This way Tro Sherwood won't get the blame; your cat or bird can thank me instead.

All the Canadian zines have been rumbling in of late. First, Smyth's FSF, then Carter's SLEEPLESS KNIGHTS and Brown's SNAFU!, and last night, a set of RUNESTONES from Leeder. I thought I'd see the hardcopy poll results, but instead they proved to be just the old ones that had built up before the strike. Maybe one of these days... I think that these four are about the only active Canpubbers anymore, since I've heard that Guerrier has folded and left.

Speaking of RON BROWN, our own US Ron has put out another big double issue of his MURD'RING MINISTERS with lots of material in it. This was his #38-39, postmarked Aug 22 and received here August 24. Pretty decent, esp. after some recent problems he's reported.



## JOHN'S NOTES

THIS WEEKEND (Aug 22-23) was pretty exceptional, in that I managed to get in a bunch of wargaming. Poor old Pilant was Friday night's victim, as we went at RUSSIAN VICTORY of AH's, and "surprisingly," my Russians won. Actually, the surprise was that I won so quickly. Dave's opening attacks bogged down and killed him in one, then a double whammy knocked out the Ukraine from him in the very next. That second game started well enough, he putting a good force across the central Prut and Dnester rivers, but, that's ALL he had in the south. The Odessa garrison, a cavalry unit, moved 7 west on my turn, adjacent to Bucharest, and Rumania surrendered. His southern HQ was stacked with two units, both of which were unfortunately Rumanian. I hit the bare HQ at 4-1 and zapped it, then the next turn, he had his forces in three stacks awaiting a breakthrough from Lvov (which worked). So I in turn hit each stack at 1/1-surrounded, by way of stripping everything west of the Dnieper and throwing it in, and instead of scaring him and killing 2 infantry corps, I rolled two EX and one DR. His losses, total, were 3 Panzer corps and four infantry. No German unit survived. Then we exchanged sides, and between good weather and high Russian losses, the end of 1941 saw Dave taking 3 points of replacements in Nov-Dec, drawn on the Moscow "3" worker unit. I'd killed the rest, and that 3 had just repelled a 1/1 frontal. We gave it up and went to see the cheapie midnight show of EMPIRE for \$2.

Saturday was wasted at home, but Sunday saw a meet with The Fluff at his office (for peace and escape from wives). That was fun. We went through about 4 AFRICAN CAMPAIGN games, and a Russian Campaign. He was glad to give me the Russians, for he feels he has a German win system down pat. He came close, as he often does, but a 3/1 I got one impulse against all three of his HQs came up 6, DE, and he naturally gave up. A key of his offensive is to concentrate all three Stukas and go; the trouble is that when all three are in one spot, and you can slip past the front to hit them, you risk disaster. He always drives strong straight on Moscow, so I consider it a compliment to my defense that I turned him south twice (as Guderian went). The only trouble is, he went south and TOOK Kiev and Kharkov, and damn near got Stalino! My winter counterattacks racked him up, and the result was that I wound up winning every game I played the whole two days. Had that luck held, maybe I'd have had a good new job Monday, but no, here I am.

One fun part of the weekend there is in looting the place. He gave me a soldering kit out of surplus, metered off a couple of mailing labels, gave me assorted other junk, and really grossed me out by preparing for the two black cleaning ladies that came out to do the building. When he saw them, he ran and took a shit in the john and left it for 'em, plus scattered even more packing material on the floors than there already was. It seems that his company and the building managers don't get on real well, and it is a constant war of them trying to steal all they can while Fluff does his part to get back at them. It was funny to watch. Attitude, that's the key.

My smallest one started school yesterday, the 25th. His first day at kindergarten was boring, he said. Seems they wouldn't let them use their supplies, and they couldn't do very much compared to nursery. He does enjoy the bus though, which is good since they ride 11 miles each way each day. I hope that bus scheduling works out OK. The good thing about getting kids started like that is that it gives you perspective as to what's important. Who cares about the shit stuff at work when there are important things going on in the world? And starting out on a new adventure like school is important. Claudine and I get a brief break here as Brian starts out on his own a little more, but Valerie is still a few years away from dating. About the time she is out and on her own, Brian will be ready to start driving, so after this short interlude, we'll be in it deep for a decade again.

Last night I opened a can of Libby's peas to go with the Tuna Helper I'd just whipped up for the kids, and as I warmed it in the microwave, I noticed a bad smell in the kitchen. That's not unheard of, so I ignored it and went on. But when I put it on the table, I found that the smell, like warm glue, was definitely coming from these darn peas I was eating. Much as I hate to write off the 40¢, I chucked that load down the

disposal pretty quick. OOPS, I see that was Del Monte stuff, not Libby. Anyhow, I've since mailed the lid and label back to them. Maybe they'll find the field hand that way who peed into the mix water...

AUS 31. Just got in Leeder's complete set of results, so I will (ugh) force myself into the fun task of retyping a good part of that issue so you can read the full Poll results here. I had planned to wait for the ~~August~~ September 1 Known Game Opening list to finish out this issue, but now I find I have two more full sheets, plus letters from Dave Manuel, Bob Osuch, Don Ditter, Steve Langley, Pat Conlon...I may have to cut the Walker advertisements for his other publications again to make 11 sheets. Fortunately the boss is sick today, a nice rainy day here in central Oklahoma, which is about as common as sunlight in Oregon. Since it's quiet and I don't have to keep up appearances of having something to do, I can instead keep real busy finishing off this thing. That way I'll have more time later this week to do up half of #103 that came in last night's mail...did I say that?

Hobby news: Brux, the Hobby Mascot, has croaked according to a recent Black Frog. Mike Connor says that now Caruso the Cat is the new Mascot. Send me a report on your celebration parties, folks.

Also, LEE KENDTER once again has openings. Lee is one of the steadiest and most experienced hands at GMing you'll find. His WHY ME? is a monthly warehouse now, but if it's just a good game you want, write Lee for details at 4347 Benner St, Philadelphia PA 19135

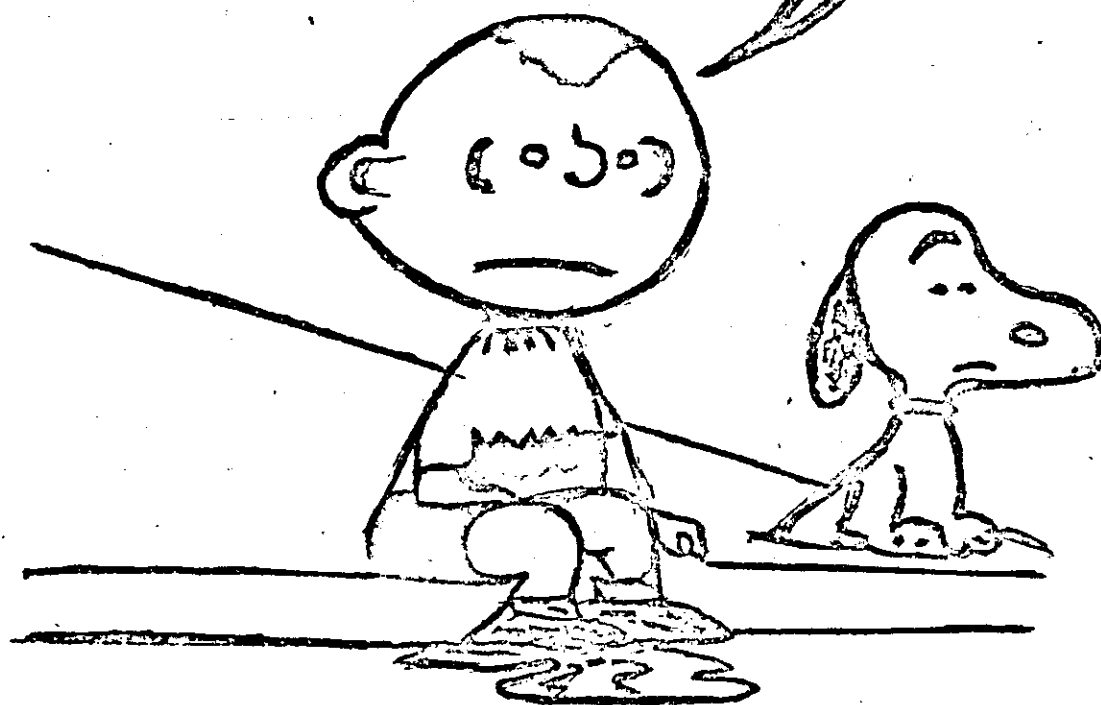
Speaking of games, how about a wild-assed nut game? MARK LEW (who else!?!?) is filling up a two-week deadline, black press non-DIAS game for \$4 flat fee, no sub, tho it may be carried in IRKSOME THE ZEEN. Bill "Fluff" Shaffer is already signed up, so I will too if only to read the press. Not only does Fluff put out good gross stuff, but if YOU like to write really gross, sick, perverted press, here's a chance to do so while using HIS dateline. Why not? He'll be using YOURS. If you don't want to play, but DO want to write press, just send it to me and I'll turn it in myself. Mark Lew is at 3120 W 79 St, Anchorage, AK 99502. Anyone want to be a godfather for this game in this format? Mark might get grossed out or buried by the amount of ~~filler~~ press coming in that he falters, and it would be nice to have someone behind him to shovel up the pieces in case his parents read what he's publishing, etc. Even if you're overloaded in games now, it doesn't matter. This will be like gunboat anyhow! Fluff once explained Diplomacy to his wife this way: "It's just like musical chairs. In the spring turn, you get up and wander around. In the fall turn, you jump on those dots." Think you could handle dealing with that philosophy? Even if not, hell, sign up. Have some fun for a change and stop taking this game so seriously. The other players won't, I can tell you that! (At least until Fluff is a 10, or out.)

BRUX printed my article at long last, barely extending my sub in time. NOW I have another piece of filler to use here sometime.

Oklahoma is making the record books with the probe now wrapping up that stung a lot of county commissioners. These are the guys that arrange county contracts here. There are 3 per county, 77 counties, and the FBI says they expect 200 arrests and convictions. Not like Massachusetts where this qualifies you to run for governor. 40 so far have pleaded guilty or been found guilty; the cases are being handled pretty rapidly. The radio carries strange stories like last week when all three commissioners in Texas County (in the panhandle) resigned on the same day. They gave no reason, the story said, but they did pay the county \$8400 on their last day. The county had to get new people in quick so there'd be 2 commissioners necessary to sign the next week's paychecks... 200 would be virtually a clean sweep of EVERY commissioner in every county. That's about right. How many of those guys is NOT guilty of taking kickbacks at some time or other?

Canadian posties have now won 17 weeks maternity leave paid at 93% of regular pay, according to Dave Carter. He rightly points out that if this example spreads, who in their right mind would hire a woman of childbearing age for anything? But who worries, right? That's why the Canadian dollar that used to be worth \$1.05 US is now about 80¢, even tho the dollar continues to shrink. Good thing we have Reagan, or I wouldn't be able to wave a finger at the gutless and weakwilled leftist regime in Ottawa.

DOING A GOOD JOB  
AROUND HERE IS LIKE  
WETTING YOUR PANTS IN  
A DARK SUIT.....  
IT GIVES YOU A WARM  
FEELING, BUT NOBODY  
NOTICES



# COMPLETE RESULTS OF THE FIFTH ANNUAL NORTH AMERICAN ZEEN POLL

Well, try as I might, I couldn't get John Leeder's results to xerox legibly, so, here goes a total rehash. (Good thing I don't have anything else to do with my time than to retype a few pages of RUNESTONE...)

What the numbers mean: placing-average vote received-NAME OF ZINE-number of mentions-placement last year. An \* means it is either new or didn't receive enough votes last year to make the main list.

1. 8.15	BLACK FROG	65 *	29. 6.60	ENVOY	42 17
2. 8.04	DOT HAPPY	24 *	30. 6.54	PASSCHENDAELE	24 23
3. 7.95	BRUTUS BULLETIN	60 8	30. 6.54	RUNESTONE	24 16
4. 7.87	MURD'RING MINISTERS	62 14	32. 6.36	DRAGON & THE LAMB	28 9
5. 7.81	RETALIATION	42 21	33. 6.26	TER-RAN	27 24
6. 7.77	EUROPA EXPRESS	47 *	34. 6.15	SNAFU!	13 *
7. 7.72	LONE STAR DIPLOMAT	58 *	35. 6.12	PEEK	26 *
8. 7.61	JUST AMONG FRIENDS	36 *	36. 5.96	EVERYTHING	25 11
9. 7.56	JIHAD!	36 *	37. 5.92	APPALLING GREED	25 *
10.7.53	CHEESECAKE	30 12	38. 5.86	LIBERTERREAN	21 39
11.7.43	EAST OF EDEN	30 *	39. 5.69	GRAUSTARK	26 31
12.7.36	WHITESTONIA	50 43	40. 5.66	SHOGUN'S SWORD	32 25
13.7.13	BUSHWACKER	16 29	41. 5.60	KLEPTO MANIA	10 *
14.7.11	FOL SI FIE	28 1	42. 5.56	RURITANIA	16 27
15.7.10	ST GEORGE	40 15	43. 5.41	CLAW & FANG	22 19
16.7.07	DIPLOMACY DIGEST	60 13	44. 5.27	INFIDEL	15 22
17.6.97	PLAGUE TIMES	29 *	45. 5.25	INVASION	32 *
18.6.93	WHY ME?	27 7	46. 5.14	Y'ALL	14 *
18.6.93	TORPEDO	27 *	47. 5.05	EGGNOG	20 17
20.6.90	EMHAIN MACHA	40 5	48. 4.81	CHAMBER	21 *
21.6.89	DIPLOMACY WORLD	55 4	49. 4.60	LDNS	10 36
22.6.88	DOGS OF WAR	40 19	50. 4.54	ITALIANO PRIBE	13 48
22.6.88	VOLKERWANDERUNG	57 2	51. 4.06	TORONTO TELEGRAM	16 26
24.6.85	BERSAGLIERI	13 *	52. 3.92	BOAST	12 29
25.6.78	SLEEPLESS KNIGHTS	18 *	53. 3.48	BORN TO DIP	29 *
26.6.71	VOICE OF DOOM	77 10	54. 2.89	TETRACUSPID	26 45
27.6.67	SNAKE PIT	12 *	55. 2.10	LE FRONT DE LIB.	21 47
28.6.65	LIFE OF MONTY	34 *			

OK, there it is. Nothing is more fun than typing charts... Anyhow, my comments, top to bottom:

First, what but congratulations to Blackjack for the win. He has put out a prodigious amount of material, altho slacking off lately, and between his own stuff and his many fakes, well deserves the spot. His main game subzine came in 11th, highest of any subzine making the main list, so he is pretty popular with his players as well. One thing too easy to overlook is that he also did so well with a total of 65 votes cast, one of the highest single turnouts registered and over half of the total received (126). An impressive win.

DOT HAPPY surprises me. It is good, very professionally printed, individual game maps, digest sized with reduced print and hardcover stock. However, it is more of a player's zine than a reading zine to me, so I didn't think it would place this high. Apparently it has enough non-game stuff to more than overcome the warehouse image. Two dozen votes, but apparently all good ones. A nice reward to a good looking newcomer.

On my own third place spot, I'll just say "thanks". I'm also glad so many of you voted, altho that "60" is interesting. My print run is only 60, including file copy, and John didn't count pubber's own votes for their zines this year, so that means that at least a few non-subbers voted. My estimate is a dozen myself. Apparently many of them were satisfied former subbers, for the few sour-grapes votes were apparently absorbed by a lot of you voting me 8 or higher, which gave me a VERY respectable showing overall. I really appreciate the score, and the great interest shown by so many of you voting. In a hobby like this where ANY response is a big response, and two letters a month

is above average, this tally, like your tremendous input reflected on these pages, is a real compliment, and I am very grateful.

Ron Brown's MM has broken into the top 10 in good style this year, as I believe I predicted it would last year. Despite increasing workload, Ron has managed to continue putting out an impressive and interesting zine, with lots of reading material. THAT is something that all of the top half-dozen have: something more than average for the non-playing subber to look at. There are other zines that have this too of course and did NOT make the top 10: Whitestonia, DD, FSF at times, EM, DW, Volker, VD, D&L, e.g., but it is a common thread here at the top. Crud's RETALIATION is a classic at bulk of material, altho most of it is press. EE is another impressive newcomer, and is much more learned sounding than all this hicky shit about Gary Coughlan might lead you to believe. JAF is likewise a nice zine to get, but not as much non-game material. In this next group, from Mike Connor's professional looking LSD thru the rest of the top 10, we have a group of zines that all seem to me to be nice friendly zines to PLAY in. No controversy, no shabby repro, no atrocious English, but, not a LOT of material, and a heavier emphasis on the GAMES. I should add that I do not get JIHAD! in the #9 spot, so that might shoot the example's flow.

The next group I see, 12-21, is largely a group of zines that offers a decent amount of material for non-players, but didn't make the top 10 for various other reasons: irregular schedule, controversy, weak repro, something like that; and a second batch of good-playing zines that are disappointingly short on material outside the game. The first bunch would be W, FSF, DD, EM, DW; the latter batch, 13, 15, 17, 18. Of this second group (12-21), I do not get Torpedo and no longer get Bushwacker, tho I have seen samples or former sub issues.

John Daly's DOGS OF WAR in 22 is another of those real nice, regular playing zines short on non-game stuff (tho not devoid of it). VOLKER, once impressive, has been winding down this past year, and got involved in personalities fights directly, which doesn't do anyone much good in standings. It's about done, I understand. BERSAG and SNAKE PIT are both subzs in EMHAIN MACHA, a zine I would have expected to (again) do better in the poll; I guess everyone thought the whole lot of them--zeen & subz--were all about the same. Either that, or everyone voted a point lower because of his being such a strong Democrat.

SLEEPLESS KNIGHTS at 25 is new and should be in the top dozen next year. The fact that in the middle of the Canadian postal strike, he put out an issue to US players from Ohio shows a degree of commitment that will carry him farther than most of the pack. SK is small now, but I look for it to jump at least 10 spots by next year's poll. Ol' Bruxus weighs in at 26 this year, a disappointing spot for one of my own top 3 or 4. The turnout, 77 votes received, is illustrative of the problem though. This is more than his latest circulation figures have been running, and is the highest in the poll. Clearly a LOT of these votes are anti-Brux votes from either former subbers or non-subbers to VD. I'd like to see how the votes spread on this one. Also, watch for a better showing in Larzelere's Marco Poll that eliminates negative votes and which should be out shortly. VD is one of those zines that you either love or hate, but few are neutral. LOM at 28th is a new, cute product, but uses very reduced type, and between that and the xerox, it is often hard to read in places. I suspect that if LOM were in more of a BB type format, it would have done better. I don't get ENVOY at 29; the tie at thirty is between two Canadian ditto zines that are mediocre for different reasons. Leeder's own RUNESTONE is supposed to be a weekly ditto zine, but is more often just a flyer, and often delayed, with little besides game notes, and heavy on variants instead of Dip at that. It used to rank high as the poll host zine, but has slipped a lot in the standings while its intrinsic quality has only slipped somewhat. I guess with this being the fifth poll, people are more inclined to give RUNE an honest vote. 6½ is at least a point higher than I would have put it. PASSCH on the other hand, has put out impressive issues at time, including the hobby record, 104 pages last year in one issue once. However, I have heard he has now folded after many months silence even aside from the strike, and regularity was never a strong point of it. Kind of like a lot of old NYC zines: often spectacular, but very erratic. Canadian zines also have a poor track record in a hobby made up of poor track records: RUNE and FSF chug on forever, it seems, but the rest are like comets, giving one bright pass and dying out. I hope the

new Canadians change this record. I think Dave Carter will.

Zines in the thirties are of two types: those with some definite weakness that keeps them low, and a smaller group that I think should have done 10 to 15 spots higher. Do they have some flaw I haven't seen? These include D&L at 32, T-R at 33, and AG At 37. Two of the three are ditto zines, and Leeder speculates that ditto zines may seem less impressive to people for that format. I don't think so, but perhaps he could be right. Of the top dozen, unless Jihad! is ditto, NONE others are; of zines in the 30s, 4 are. D&L seems pretty decent to me; Ter-ran is very established and has a fair amount of non-dip stuff; and AG is a nice looking newcomer. Of the others, Snafu! is a new Canadian zine getting started, and I expect it will move up next year; Peek is an interesting Masters fake-or humor-zine, and the hobby's first porno-dipzine. EVERYTHING is a dry stat sheet getting an honorary-type pat on the back; Libber is a 2-week zine that majors in a non-dip miniatures -type pbm game, minoring in Dippy, and uses a "phantom" player to cover NMRs, a sometimes strange situation. GRAUS is the hobby veteran filled with some pretty strange editorials; only its reliability and long track record kept it this high. Twice, on small votes, it actually won the poll, but while it has changed little in the last 5 years, 39th is a more honest placing of it.

The forties get us into odd ground. I don't get either TSS or Klepto, but with only a 5½ rating, they must have some weakness; I'm not about to start subbing now. RURI, C&F, and EGGNOG have folded, and folds always drop your score; Infidel and Invasion don't ring a bell at all. Inf I think was a Canadian zine, but I wouldn't be surprised to find they're both folds. Just a guess. The Chamber is the only surprise; a newcomer, it has looked pretty good lately for a new product. Perhaps the vote is based on the weaker early copies. LDNS has a terrible record for regularity, and is nothing but warehouse anymore even when you do see one. It was once an early favorite of mine, but I think it is overrated at 4½ now.

Of the 50s, well, here is the bottom of the barrel folks, no doubt about that. IP is a ditto zine that I don't think carries much dip, if any, anymore. Dave Grabar puts it out to carry his Nuclear Holocaust games and other strange variants. TT and BTD have folded, and in less than salutary style; Boast I understand is a classic case of mis-Gming, poor repro, and irregularity. Tetra barely makes quarterly status in practice, and would do the hobby a favor by folding. It is put out by the incompetent Kovalcik. And nailing down the pits firmly is the hobby fraud zine, LE FRONT, puked out by the widely-known Tretick. It, like Hitler, epitomizes the worst there can be. Unlike Hitler, it is still around.

IN SUMMATION, a quick overview. Zines voted in the 8s: Great zines! Don't miss them. 7s: Real good zines. Try to get a lot of them. 6s: Pretty good: most are worth getting, but be selective. 5s, passable products, but lacking something. Could use more work. 4s: Have definite problems. Wait until they improve. 3s: Piss poor efforts. Avoid 'em. 2s: Raw shit. Denounce them.

#### RESULTS OF THE FOURTH ANNUAL NORTH AMERICAN GAMEMASTERS POLL

1. 9.15 John Daly	20 4	18. 7.94 Bob Arnett	16 14
2. 8.90 Ron Brown of Calif.	29 19	19. 7.88 Jim Bumpas	8 26
3. 8.86 Gary Coughlan	7 *	20. 7.80 Drew McGee	5 27
4. 8.61 Bob Sergeant	23 6	21. 7.67 Mike Connor	18 *
5. 8.60 Don Ditter	5 1	21. 7.67 John Leeder	6 9
6. 8.55 Andy Lischett	20 15	23. 7.62 Steve Heinowski	13 4
6. 8.55 John Michalski	11 11	24. 7.55 Bern Sampson	11 *
8. 8.50 Randolph Smyth	8 21	25. 7.40 Gerald Austen	5 *
9. 8.40 Fred Davis	5 13	26. 7.29 Don Del Grande	7 *
10. 8.38 John Caruso	21 39	26. 7.29 Allen Wells	7 *
11. 8.33 John Boardman	9 *	28. 7.18 Michael Mills	17 22
12. 8.20 Lee Kendter Sr	15 8	29. 7.17 Mike Barno	6 *
13. 8.17 Dave Marshall	6 *	30. 7.15 Roy Henricks	26 10
14. 8.14 Glenn Overby	14 *	31. 7.08 Steve McLendon	12 17
15. 8.13 Al Pearson	15 *	32. 7.00 Marion Bates	5 *
16. 8.11 Bob Osuch	9 7	33. 6.83 Francois Guerrier	6 30
17. 8.00 Jack Masters	31 *	34. 6.80 Dick Martin	25 16

35. 6.60 Keith Mercer	5 *
36. 6.57 Don Sigwalt	7 34
37. 6.50 Don Horton	6 18
37. 6.50 Tony Watson	6 46
39. 6.40 Al Rodriguez	5 34
40. 6.00 Tom Swider	9 *
41. 5.67 Jerry Jones	6 41
41. 5.67 Bruce Linsey	30 48
43. 5.33 Jack Frost	6 37
44. 5.17 Scott Hanson	6 *
45. 4.60 Bruce Schneier	5 *
46. 2.25 Richard Kovalcik Jr	8 50
47. 2.22 Brad Wilson	9 *

The GM poll uses a minimum of five votes this year. Top spots are pretty much in the hands of veterans; congratulations to Dave Marshall who GGMs here, for placing highest of any subzine editor/GM on the main list. Bob Osuch drew a respectable 8.11; Scott Hanson has had a few oversights that put him at 5.17. He'll be paying more attention now that he's publishing I think.

I won't give a play-by-play on these guys, if only because I'm playing in only a handful of games anymore. Let me just group them by score: 8s are the fellows that will do a proper job handling your game; 7s do OK but nothing really that spectacular; 6s have some problem,

don't sign with them. Lower than that, avoid.

For those who did not make the main list, let me just make a quick pass so that you will know what other names deserve more of a doubt than a benefit, if you happen into one: Bob Albrecht, Herb Barents, Vic Carpenter, Greg Costikyan, Wade Dudley, Phil Fry, Tom Gould, Dave Grabar, John Kelley, Bill LaFosse, John Lipscomb, Dave Lowenstern, Mike Matuschak, "Bernie Oaklyn", Eric Ozog, Dan Palter, Nick Russon, Rick Shatto, Clive Tongue, Jack Tyler. All losers.

If anyone would like John Leeder's own full issue, send him an IRC or a quarter and ask for a copy of RUNESTONE #327. Write A. John R. Leeder, 121 19 Ave NE, Calgary, Alberta T2E 1N9 Canada

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Let me finish out this page with a "counter-article" sent in by Steve Langley to Berch's submission last time. Steve will elaborate next issue.

## Her Husband Shot, Woman Kills 2 Store Robbers

MOUNT CLEMENS, Mich. (AP) — Mary Markham said she never thought she'd have to use the guns she stashed under the counter at her liquor store. But when two masked bandits walked in, put a gun to her son's head and shot her husband, she killed them both in a hail of gunfire.

Several Mount Clemens police officers described it as "something out of the Wild West."

"Quick justice," said Lt. Max Patrick.

"I'm really sorry about what happened," Markham said. "I saw a gun at my son's head. What more can I say?"

Markham, 44, had been training in the use of firearms since a January robbery when her family was out of the state.

At 10 p.m. Wednesday, she was in Bob Davey's Wine Shop with her 13-year-old son, Chad, when two men walked in wearing ski masks and carrying pistols.

One put a gun to the teenager's head and demanded money. The other put a gun to Markham's head.

"I said, 'I'll give you all the money, but

leave my son alone,'" she recalled Friday.

She started to empty the cash register and had managed to set off the store's silent alarm when her husband, Richard, 41, came out of his office and demanded to know what was going on.

The bandits shot him, but it was a small-caliber bullet and he was able to grapple with one of the gunmen.

In desperation, Mary Markham reached under the counter for her .357-caliber Magnum handgun and .32-caliber pistol and started blasting away, one gun in each hand, as bystanders hit the floor.

Police rushed to the scene within minutes, but by then both gunmen were dead.

"One man was hit five times, the other three," said police Lt. Nick Rouns. "That's pretty good shooting from two hands — for anyone."

Macomb County Prosecutor George N. Parris said the incident was under investigation and he had not decided whether charges would be filed.

Hours after the shooting, Mary Mar-

ham was back at work with an armed security guard who is to remain until her husband returns to work. He was in stable condition in the intensive care unit of Mount Clemens General Hospital with a wound in his left side.

The Markhams' son wasn't wounded, but he will not be permitted to work in the

store again, his mother said.

The two dead men were identified by Rouns as Jerome Kelly, also known as George Jones, 37, of Mount Clemens, and Demarze Strong, 31, of Detroit. Markham said that, when she saw photographs of the two men on television, she realized one had been in the store previously.



Thank God for the Canadian postal strike. It gives me a chance to answer all the questions you asked.

Re. trade: I had already put you down for twelve issues, which would expire with #22. Don't worry about me getting mad and cutting off a trade. I don't get mad easily and my response would be in the form of an angry letter. Otherwise, I keep my agreements and commitments.

I have no idea how the British survived the Naf desert. I am British only up to the 1750's when my ancestors settled in New England for a short stay before moving on to God's country. When I was in Oklahoma I was told the temperature hadn't dropped below 110°F for several weeks. Give me a good honest minus forty any day over that! At least when it's cold you've only got to put another log on the fire and put on more clothes. When it's hot, there's only so many clothes you take off.

Re. <sup>can</sup> commuting: it's about 100 miles total, I was thinking only of the morning when I mentioned an hour, as getting to work is usually the hassle. Getting home again is no problem, as you don't have to be there by a certain time. I don't function very well in the morning as it is.

Yes, I'm a teacher. I teach high school English literature to a handful of Algonquin Indians and Irish Catholics in a large comprehensive French school. It's not a bad job, as you can see by my description in this issue.

Re. Omaha: I don't remember the name of the waitress. I thought the point was that I didn't want my mother pimping for me. Anyhow, there must be friendly waitresses in Oklahoma, n'est-ce pas? Or do they all carry those white-covered Bibles I saw so many of when I passed through?

Re. Bittersweet. I've always found people respond according to the way you treat them. If you want to come on to people in a heavy machismo way, you're probably going to run into more violent reactions than if you're polite and calm. And no, I'm not naive. I've run into lunatics during my time and had guns pulled on me a few times. I'm still here to tell about it.

Re. Québec. I don't see how separation would solve the language problem. Somewhere between 10 and 20% of the population is "English." There are lots of countries which survive quite well with more than one official language. The problem is that the French have felt threatened with assimilation so they're fighting to protect their culture. It gets funny some times. Eg. Stop signs in Québec were always "bilingual," reading "Arret/Stop." The English word used to upset young Québécois so they'd go around with spray-paint at night and paint out the offending word. As soon as the Parti Québécois was elected in '75 the bilingual signs started being replaced with signs that read "Arret" only. Part way through this change, someone discovered that in France "Arret" means to actually stop your car and shut off the engine and the word "Stop" was used on stop signs. In fact, "stop" is the acceptable French (France) word for pausing before continuing. So, a red-faced Parti Québécois left the signs as they were, hoping the problem would disappear, I guess. Fun and games.

Brown continues

Now re. gun control. First off, anyone who carries or keeps a handgun is insane. A handgun will not prevent a robbery or assault. All it can do is make a bad situation worse. I'm pretty sure that's how most Canadians would see it. It's almost impossible to get a handgun in Canada and no one feels the loss. Our murder rate, for example, is far below that of the USA. Toronto, for example, is about the same size as Detroit. Right now there's a big fuss about the high murder rate in Toronto and special squads are being set up to deal with this crisis. Oh yeah, the rate for Toronto is about 50 per year (Detroit's is about 500!). I heard on a newscast the other day that there are an estimated 50,000 handguns in the USA; that's about one for every five people! What on earth are all those guns for, if not for shooting other people? Roughly half of American murders are domestic disputes. Man and woman have fight, one of them runs to get gun, boom, game over! (In Canada, the scenario would be: Man and woman have fight, one of them slugs the other and goes to jail.) Guns are just too damn easy to use.

One thing I can't understand is the National Rifle Association's stand against controls. Do they really go hunting for deer with 32 caliber pistols? Do you have to have a bazooka to shoot a rabbit? I don't know what your hunting licenses are like, but ours describe the kinds of weapons suitable for different types of game. Handguns are useful only for people hunting.

One argument that makes sense is that your criminal groups are armed. But who made all those weapons available to them in the first place? It'll take generations for handguns to disappear now, even if they were banned outright. But one has to start somewhere. Making even more guns available certainly isn't going to get rid of them. Canadian law (and I assume American as well) makes quite a distinction between crimes committed with or without guns. If you use a gun in a robbery you're going to the slammer for sure, while if you pulled a robbery without using a gun, you're more likely to get a slap on the wrist. I don't know if crooks ever think of that, but that's part of reality.

It's hard to believe that Americans need guns for defense. Try standing off an atomic missile with a Saturday Night Special! That whole argument is nonsense.

I think the real reason Americans need their guns so much is because guns make them feel tough. Blowing people away is a hell of a price to pay to sooth fragile egos! The Canadian West was a relatively peaceful place at the same time that gangs of thugs were taking over American Western towns, mainly because the police set up posts before settlers arrived in areas. The settlement of the Yukon and Alaska is instructive. You'd get two towns, a few miles apart, on either side of the border. The American town would be "wide open", which means people were free to shoot each other, while the Canadian town would be a quiet place where people went about their business. Anyhow, I was shocked when travelling through the American West to see all the monuments and shrines to thugs, bank robbers, and murderers that dot the landscape. It's bad enough that criminals like Wyatt Earp (spelling?) Billy the Kid, Kit Carsen, et al. were made into movie heroes, but teaching American kids that manhood is acquired when one draws a gun is criminal.

Well, there'll sure be quite a pile of BRUTUS BULLETIN's in my mail box once this strike is settled.

-Another Brown letter

BB(#93) was the first zine to arrive after the long hiatus imposed by the Canadian postal non-workers. I must admit I'm getting rather fond of BB. It grows on one.

Nice to see we agree on something (what a mellow mood I must be in!): both Oaklyn and Gibson are banned from even receiving SNAFU! Gibson earned that distinction by threatening to consign me to the fires of Hell if I didn't publish his end-of-world crap. And I've read enough and Oaklyn and his little games. No thanks. Who needs it? I don't think we should blacklist his (three? four?) subbers though. People have a right to sub to whatever they want.

Okay, now the disagreements.

Whaddya mean Canada has messed up medicine? Eight years ago I had a disagreement with a steering wheel that stopped moving while I was doing about 45 mph. I spent three weeks in a semi-conscious state in intensive care and another three weeks in hospital, followed by a follow-up operation. Cost to me? Nothing, except a few scars. If that had happened in the US of A, I'd still be forking over a chunk of my paycheque, and would be for the rest of my life. Sure there are problems with "socialized" medicine, mainly caused by the throngs in the emergency rooms of hospitals with hangnails, headaches, and tummy aches. But the principle of medicare is sound; one just needs to tinker with the regulations to free doctors to work on people who need help.

So, what's wrong with Canada's "national energy policy"? Lots of things, but it was brought about because Canada is trying to regain control of its resources. Yankees learned they couldn't conquer Canada on the battle field back in 1812-14, so they set about to buy the country out from under us. Yeah it's going to cause problems buying them out, but that's part of the price of letting them in in the first place. It's not "nationalization" either; if it were the government would simply take over the industry and tell the owners tough titties. Shell, Texaco, et al. are getting a fair price for their holdings and aren't hurting at all. No, I'm not saying, "Just get rid of the dasterdly Yankees and all will be well." But I'd rather have a Canadian company screw up in Canada than an American company. At least that way I'd be able to picket head office.

Re. Dave Catter's Newfy jokes. Please re-run them, except this time head them off with, "Did you hear the one about the guy from Toronto..." Only Torontonians tell Newfy jokes. Everyone else in this country tell "Tranna" jokes. And now that baseball's back, Blue Jay jokes are back in. Eg. Did you hear about the Blue Jay who stole home plate? He saw the "take" sign, so he took it and ran. (I know it's bad, but it's the best I can come up with before noon.)

Oh, another agreement (sort of)! I agree with the idea of a draft. But why only males? There are lots of teenage girls who spend all their time trying on new lipstick and getting stoned. And why the army? Why not draft them for community work for a year or so. That way they could spend their time cleaning up polluted rivers, building old folks' homes, etc., maybe learning something about life

Brown concludes

and a skill to put to later use along the way. See it as a way for them to pay for all the services they've received and will receive from their country. Also, it would give them something worth while to do and maybe they'd feel better about themselves. If I were a teenager today, I'd probably be depressed and into drugs too. But I think most of them just want something useful to do and, 1) don't know how to go about doing it, 2) get no backing or encouragement from their parents, 3) run into too many problems in the unemployment lines.

Re. Reagan's neutron bomb. It just goes to show the military's priorities, doesn't it? Why can't they come up with a bomb that destroys buildings and not people? Or better yet, one that kills only generals and politicians. Why should the poor slob who's aim in life is to marry the girl next door and buy a Chevy have to suffer because of the idiocies of the people in power?

Nuff said. Thanks for the maple leaf.

((A bomb that would destroy only buildings and not people wouldn't accomplish much. You can put a factory in a tent if you have to (Russia evacuated industry to Kazakhstan by doing little more than setting the equipment on the open steppe, yet such places were back in operation within a month); get rid of the populace and you only need to replace them with your own. Better this way.

I'm glad you see the usefulness of a draft. Women would only disrupt things though. Let them wait in the NCO clubs, we'll give them all the attention they can handle.

The biggest problem with Canada's national energy policy is that it sacrifices Canada's energy for the egoboo of saying "we own most all the stock now". You get a bigger percentage of the pie at the cost of a much smaller pie. Things being as they are--energy not being an irrelevant area today--you are cutting off your nose to spite your face. It may sound cute to use slogans like having Canadian companies screw up instead of Yank ones and such, which always makes leftists feel comfy, but the reality is that it means there will be NO companies doing the job ("screwing up"), Canadian or other. Ireland decided a decade or two back that it should become self-sufficient, and the result was economic disaster. They are only now beginning to recover. But people never learn. So go as you are, trying to develop the resources there with the small Canadian economic base. The Yankees only made a half-assed effort in '12-'14, and only bungled Quebec badly in battle; a serious effort would have had better results. But you'll see the effect of half-efforts as you watch the National Energy Policy in action.

The disaster of national medicine programs is too well known to waste time on. Your extensive injuries constitute about the only way to GET any medical attention without bureaucracy. Even here, anyone who works has some kind of insurance to cover the catastrophes; those who don't aren't working and probably on welfare anyway. "One just needs to tinker with the regulations to free doctors to work on people who need help". One just needs to get regulations to motivate people to put in the effort to become doctors and then do the doctoring work for government pay or rates, when an equal amount of effort for that extended period of time in any unregulated profession or country would make them very well off indeed. Communism would be an economic wonder-system if regulations could get people to work.

I'm glad BB arrived first. Or was it a leftover that sat in Toronto during the strike? Canadian back issues are coming third class in large envelopes, and still cost me \$1.14 each. They may take a while to arrive, I'm afraid.

The NRA's opposition to controls is based on the give-em-an-inch idea. There has been a tremendous amount of evidence to support that too, more than I would have expected. Open handguns are the weak link, but government's record has been so dismal that the NRA is probably doing the right thing. Keeping a weapon will not always prevent a crime, but

it will affect your status as a victim. It gives you the chance to perhaps do something back, something a woman, child, sleepy or wounded man might not be able to do in open confrontation with one or more thugs. Any of the top three of the four weapons in our house will make up the difference, and the largest weapon can be handled by the smallest member, who is not much longer than the weapon is. Point it right, he could stop a carload of bastards with it, with them in the car yet! I'll accept the social costs to have that standby capacity.

If only 10-20% of Quebecers speak English, why do the Frenchies feel threatened with assimilation? Is the influence of Alberta and Manitoba that strong in Quebec? I thought it was the other way around, with the Quebec/Eastern masses keeping Alberta and Manitoba selling their oil cheaply instead of what it was worth. If they do feel this "threat", then wouldn't the sovereignty of independence be a better protection than street-sign swaps?

The heat isn't a lot of fun, but on the other hand, it doesn't make the roads impassable, or eat up cars in two years with rocksalt, or destroy the plumbing or cut off power for days. It does put a strain on the airconditioning, and forces you to pay attention to which direction you park the car in vs. what time you'll be back out. But the body shops or morgues rarely fill up with cars and people done in by hot roads. The only good thing I can see about the cold is that it surpresses the bugs.

Thanks for writing.)) J.M.

ALLEN WELLS (Dot Happy, #2 in the Poll) 1450 Worcester Rd #8109, Framingham, MA 01701

I just got some preliminary Leeder Poll results from Brux who says you got #3. Fantastic! A well-deserved result!! Actually, I was quite pleased at the placement of my favorite zines, BF, BB, MM,EE,LSD. I do think that VOD & Brux got less than they deserved, but you can't have everything, I guess.

Also, please note my COA.

((Done. Yes, Brux would have been among my top choices too, but that's the price you pay for choosing some of the options in running a zine that he has. I too am pleased to be in what I consider very good company all around this time, esp over last years, which was kind of goofed up. Only US zines in the top 10 this time I note, reflecting the serious troubles Canadian zines have had of late. Maybe next year SNAFU! and/or SLEEPLESS KNIGHTS will break up there. Both are looking good. But they're about the only hope I can see.)) J.M.  
for Canada

Another letter from Allen:

All right, this time I am writing in a very serious mood. My honor is being attacked right and left in your pages, and it is time to retaliate!! First I get called a 'typical student' by Jim Vaughan. Then Rod Walker claims that all conservatives are hypocrites. Now John Caruso refers to me as 'some liberal'. THIS IS TOO MUCH!! It's a conspiracy, John, and unless we hurry up and confront it squarely, they will have me convinced that I am a liberal by the next presidential election!! Hell, I might even vote for Kennedy!! SAVE ME FROM THIS AWFUL FATE!!!

And not even a peep out of you, John! I flame enough that I must be considered one of the more prominent conservatives in BB, and you don't even stick up for me? Do you want to be all alone against these people that would have the US nationalize the bubble-gum industry (just think, we never would have gotten Bubblicious if bubble gum had been nationalized).

Well, I'm not cowed yet, and even if you won't help me, I will stick up for me. Since I have already gone after Walker and Vaughan in gory detail, I will now turn my focus to ...

John Caruso. The Jack Masters of the East (or is Jack the John Caruso of the West?). Let me tell you a little more about the incident that John only alludes to in his last letter. But first, I must tell you a little more about me.

Wells concludes

I have very severe allergies. I have since I was very young. I was on allergy shots for about 5 years before they gave up on me as a hopeless case (not an uncommon occurrence, allergy shots are not very effective on a lot of people). When I had a thorough allergy test at one time, the doctor was amazed. He had never seen allergies so severe. He was pulling people out of the hall saying "Look at this, I've never seen anything like this before in my life!" Had I been in a better mood, I might have appreciated the humor in this, but I was in incredible pain. I had over 60 tests on my back, all of which were forming large hives. On a scale of 0-4+, over 3/4 of them were 4 or 4+.

Now let me tell you about tobacco smoke and allergies. Tobacco smoke is one of the worst allergens known. Allergists don't even test you for it these days, if you test positive to almost anything, they assume you are allergic to tobacco smoke. It is estimated that over 1/3 of the American population is allergic to tobacco smoke to some degree, including many smokers. Only a few things (like poison ivy) are worse. However, for most of them it is very mild. For me it is not.

I react to tobacco smoke from cigarettes before I can smell them. That is why I prefer pipes and cigars. I can smell them first and get out before the pain begins. Now granted, I can tolerate some smoke as long as it doesn't get thick enough to give me a severe asthma attack (as the smoke in most bars would), but then again I could tolerate someone kidney punching me every two minutes, but I wouldn't like that either. Sinus headaches and shortness of breath do not let you have much fun.

At the Pacificon tournament last year I had quite a bit of trouble with this. People were not smoking much, but it was enough that it was with great relief that I would leave the room to negotiate. I had a similar problem with the ByrnCon I was at recently, though I avoided most of it by staying in a corner most of the time. So, when I saw Robert Sacks before the tournament I asked him if we could have a non-smoking tournament, and explained my health problem. He saw no reason that anyone would object to that, so he said it was fine.

That was the last I heard until the night of the Dip meeting. When I got there, Brux (who I like despite his being a liberal) let me know that the reason that no-one was there was that Kathy Byrne had walked out in a tiff when she found out that the tournament was non-smoking, and all the Whitestonia/Retaliation crowd had followed her off. Now, I seriously don't know whether it was because of the non-smoking, or if it was because they thought Brux was behind it, but they weren't even interested in talking it over. What can I say? Lee Kendter finally got them calmed down with his 'compromise', actually it wasn't a compromise at all, but merely pointing out the obvious fact that they could still smoke in the hall. Even then, some people smoked in the room, but it wasn't as bad as Pacificon was.

Usually I have quite a bit of sympathy for smokers. I have yet to meet a smoker over 20 and under 50 who doesn't want to quit, and most smokers I know are quite willing to try to not smoke around people who are bothered by it. Unfortunately, some of the more militant smokers were out at GenCon.

Well, that is the story of how I was labelled a liberal for not liking pain. That's OK, though. I have my come-back planned. Next Dip tournament I will bring a gun to! A squirt gun loaded with lemon juice! Any son-of-a-bitch who smokes in a non-smoking area get it!

((Hell, give it to any SOB smoking anywhere. All smokers are assholes. Just be sure there's a lightning bolt on the back of your shirt, and as you walk away from them after squirting out their weed/face/etc., and cussing them out good, toss them a back issue of VOICE OF DOOM and say "Oh yeah, and here's a free sample for you" to soothe their feelings.

You seem able to defend yourself well enough. Besides, you type now. If you didn't write in your own defenses, I'd have to use the space to type up more letters like this next one from

MARK LEW

3120 W 79 St, Anchorage, AK 99502

I'll be damned, a double BB.

I saw EMPIRE for the 6th (is that all?) time and I know why they made it an "R" in Sweden. It's so us normal people don't have to put up with all the toddlers and their "Is he dead?" "Look mom, it's R2D2" and the one who screamed when 3PO was blasted. I had one wierdo sitting next to me who kept trying to converse about the movie.

I got a Down 'N' Dirty and was asked to standby, but now Olsen says it's a fake. I can't tell the difference. Oh, I see it was, oh darn.

Constantine Xanthos?

Remember when you said earlier we ought to weed people out of society psychologically and dispose of potential criminals? It might be okay if you could while they're still

Lew continues

babies. No one cares if a baby dies, least of all the baby. No?

Your Luscious has me convinced: Robert Sacks is good for the hobby. Still, it seems funny.

I like Caruso's "Liberals are to keep things from betting boring". I feel the same way about conservatives. Liberals are to make sure nothing ever gets done, which is as it should be.

Instead of writing ((Marginal note said " ")), why not type it up in the margin?

I'd stick it out in your anti-DIAS "the obvious result" game because it's hard to pull off a 17-17 so they might stab or they might get paranoid and accept a 3-way. What it amounts to is you don't care about the game anymore when it gets that far. Remember, I said "Why would anyone interested in the game vote..."

Nasty controversy? Not me. I make it short and quick. When was the last time you heard from Masters? (I probably shouldn't say that). And thanks to you old JM for helping me overrule the great Bruxus in 19800jk. The truth is, Brux knew he was wrong and couldn't stand up to me so he sent it to an ombudsman so he could say "I disagree but I'll go along" and still look noble.

The reason Tro didn't deny the fake BB is because he did it.

Before I read it, I planned to say something about BB passed Martin's CLONE WARS as favorite zeen. But it turns out this one was boring (not enough Berch?). It's been about a month since Dick's last one, so we'll see.

((Both Martin and Masters products came in last night's mail, Martin's being 17¢ postage due.

On the DIAS, if you are the three in a 15-16-3, you've put in a lot of time and postage that might have helped a 1901 Austria. You could be on your way, but instead you can try and choose perhaps which of the two will win. If you know YOU won't win and won't draw, why spend the time on it?

I've seen EMPIRE about that much now myself this round. I still don't understand the cave scene, and probably won't until the next movie. I think I like EMP less now than I did at first. I may see it twice more, but I could leave in the middle and not miss it. The first third is the one good part.))

STEVE LANGLEY

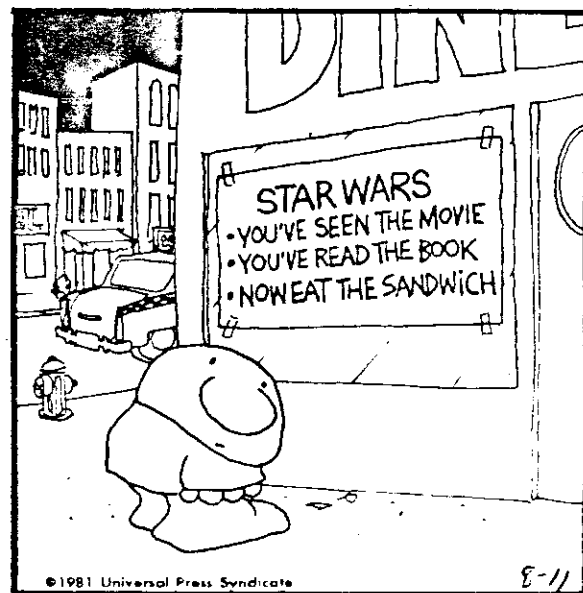
2154 Fairfield Rd Sacramento 95815

Back around BB 97-98 I started thinking about a resub. As soon as #99 comes, I told myself, I will take care of that little task. So I took #99, a day or so later, to work with me and got too busy to write, so left it over the weekend, and naturally, #100 arrived before the weekend had passed. So I better rush this resub to you fast, since my sub expires with #102. A lot can happen if I wait until #102: I'll likely miss #s 103 & 104 while my check is in the mail. Five large empty deposit bottles will only get me two additional BBs, and getting 50 of those in the envelope is more than I can manage. Since around here a large deposit bottle is worth 20¢, I'm going to attempt a conversion.

I saw this recently and thought you might like it:

Rags make paper; paper makes money; money makes banks; banks make loans; loans make beggars; beggars make rags.

((Thanks for the endorsement of BB via the sub check. The kids and I will now be able to see EMPIRE again this weekend I see... ))



Lew Contribution

J.M.

MARION BATES (Plague Times)

P. O. BOX 381  
KALKASKA, MI 49646

First, I don't understand why the hell you would limit the draft to males. The only way to avoid the inequities that arose under the old selective service system is to make the system completely non-selective. When I say a universal system, I mean everybody who reaches a certain age (say 19 for the sake of argument) should be subject to mandatory service in the military or support services. I mean this without regard to gender, race, education, or health. Yes, I'd certainly advocate drafting the handicapped as well. Why not? There is plenty they can do and should do. A truly universal draft would be true affirmative action.

In your reply to Scott Hanson you remark, "Communism is the #1 problem in the world, unless maybe you consider Western lack of will." How can you fail to consider western lack of will? I think what might have been a more appropriate remark is, "Communism is the #1 problem in the world thanks to Western lack of will." I think there is the meat of the biscuit. The Communist world would have entered a period of steep decline several years ago had it not been for the lack of resolve in the "free" world as to whether Communism was even evil. That's like wondering if Bruce Linsey has brain damage. Communism is a bankrupt ideology that has lasted as long as it has due primarily to a lack of opposition. God damned right we need a neutron bomb.

I was very disturbed to hear that news of my death made it as far as Germany (West, I hope). This whole business has been very upsetting to me and my family. It was particularly bad for the Overbys with whom I am rather close and for Al Pearson who had circulated that cartoon supposedly of me with a meat cleaver in my scalp. Of course it wasn't easy on any of the people who care about me and the little fuck who perpetrated the hoax deserves a more extreme punishment than any of us are legally empowered to execute. Hmmm, "execute" is a good word.

Ben Schilling's report on MotorCon (that's what I'm calling it in my mind--what's left of it--these days) was accurate as far as it went but sketchy. The only thing I'd want to add is how the whole thing ended. It went quite a few turns after Ben left and in the end only John, Jeri, and I remained at 14, 10, and 9 centers respectively. John was adamant about not accepting a three-way draw so I supported a two-way between him and Jeri since they had been staunch allies throughout and if I'd fucked around much longer (like one more turn), John would have had 18 centers and the whole business of two and three-way draws would have been pretty academic. Really, John played a hell of a game and I don't think I could have stopped him even if I'd been sober.

I wish people would stop putting question marks after my name. Note Dave Manuel's letter in #100. I am still very much in the hobby and I am still a publisher despite my health problems. In fact, the next issue of PLAGUE TIMES should be out before the next BRUTUS BULLETIN or certainly not too long after. Give up the hobby? What would I do on the toilet if I didn't play postal Diplomacy and GM games. Geez. And I do intend to maintain a regular publishing schedule!

Congratulations on your first century, John.

((Thanks. Good to hear from you.))





JOHN CARUSO (Whitestonia)

160-02 43 Ave 2d floor Flushing, NY 11358

BRUTUS BULLETIN is like a drug, the more you take, the more habit forming it becomes.

I read Walker's comment in BB#100 about his so-called feud with Sacks. If that is the case and they only disagree politically, then a mediator should be able to put an end to this. For Walker to say that Sacks launches "personal attacks on me", and says he only responds is bunk. Rod, why call Sacks a name and associate him with Oaklyn when you know that Sacks is as far from Oaklyn as you are? Maybe the two of you should conduct yourselves in a more rational, gentlemanly way. Two wrongs don't make one right.

In all fairness to you Rod, I owe you an apology for not getting your side of the story on how you got DW. Robert Sacks was informed 2-3 weeks before GenCon East by Jerry Jones, that he was getting DW. At GenCon, we were informed that you received it because of things Sacks said in BB #94, which were in response to what you had said about him in an earlier BB issue. For the record, how did you get DW after Jones informed Sacks that he was transferring it to him? You said Sacks' version was distorted, but never said that wasn't how it transpired. I'm sure everyone would be interested in knowing, and it wouldn't take more than a  $\frac{1}{2}$  typed page in BB, less than you usually spend on commenting about Robert Sacks.

Oh, by the way, I wish you all the luck in the world with DW. I'm glad you're in agreement with everyone else, with the exception of 1 or 2 people, about Ditter's association as BNC and a GM with Tretick/Oaklyn. Hope you can make DipCon XV. I'm really looking forward to meeting you.

Back to BB, I have a better way for you guys with guns to practice. Hold a hand gun at arm's length away from yourself, pointed towards your mouth. Open your mouth, then pull the trigger once and try to catch the bullet in your teeth. If you fail the first time, try again.

One last thing before I go. I understand we are going to launch Voyager II towards Saturn. Isn't that nice, our very own, long range, rapid deployment space center circling Saturn. Never know when the Saturnites may try to conquer us. Or is Voyager II the \$2 billion space camera? Maybe NASA should invest in Polaroid stock and put "one step" in Voyager III.

((It would be a better investment than in bailing out NYC, wouldn't it?)) *J.M.*

SCOTT HANSON (Irksume)  
(excerpts)

701 SE 15 Ave Mnpls MN 55414

Did you see that Brux plugged the fake DIPSO as real? THAT'S funny. At least he subbed to the real zine, tho. He may drop, after he sees the article Byrne and Martin are sending me for #2, though...

You wouldn't be looking for any parttime clerks at your company, would you? Seriously, I've been looking for a job that's better than McDonalds for this school year...flipping burgers was OK for saving up for Germany, but not for paying the rent. Maybe as a big shot accountant you could write me a recommendation, or even that resume that you were going to do for Shaffer... I'm taking a Beg. Accounting class independently at the U this summer...the book is the same as I had in my second year course in high school, so I'm breezing through it. I knew I should have tried to test out. (In defense of the U's Business School, it is not a high school book. My HS teacher just thought he'd give us a challenge, that's all.)

#100 was pretty good--especially your comments about cats! I mean, I LIKE cats and was laughing out loud.

Did you see in the Wall Street Journal a couple of weeks ago the front page article on the small town sheriff in SoDak? That county is right next to Madison, MN. I even got stopped by that guy once, for suspected DWI. I was stone sober at the time...I just drive crazy.

((I hope you continue to publish the same way. Too damn many sober and sane publishers coming along anymore. Spoils things for the rest of us.

No, I missed the article. I used to read the Journal when I was killing time in the

former programmers office, but he's been canned too when the new Controller brought in his own crew, and I don't even go to that building much anymore now. Well, I do when we're out of donuts and want more, but very little official stuff.

Good-paying parttime work is like Army Intelligence, Italian soldier, or honest politician: just ain't no such animal. I'd say to stick with McDonald's. I wish I'd put in more time with them and less on that dame in PA I was chasing for a year, myself. Other than that, sign up with the post office, maybe when you're called you'll get second or third shift. (Most postal work is done at night). Good money for three months, then let it drop. Aside from that, you're stuck. The only parttime people here are the kids of the highranking ones who come in and dawdle each summer, doing a little filing and flirting with the ~~single~~ girls. That's about it, unless you want to join the Reserves and put in some weekend warrior duty. That's not too bad, but you'd probably have to go through basic first, which would take up a summer and spoil your hair. Good luck anyhow.)) J.M.

KEITH SHERWOOD (assorted fakes)

9/15: Box 6457, La Jolla, CA 92037

Re BB #100: \*yawn\*. Not yawn as in boring by anymeans, but \*yawn\* as in the "usual" BB stuff. Since we all expected you to break tradition and put out a regular issue, why didn't you fool us all and put out something special, even if it were traditional?

The New Bill of Rights was funny in a sick sort of way. Sounds like Redneck Heaven to me. I bet you would just love it. The right to redress grievances with firearms is a real goody. Can I shoot you without fear of prosecution if I have a grievance over BB? the stuff on the same page about the driver is much funnier and I enjoy retelling that one.

Hmmm. Lady Di has nice tits. (Personal note to Bob Forman: Please keep this issue out of your parents hands. I don't want them to see me talk like this. Only Bob Olsen must know what a truly foul mouth I have.)

Consumering warning: Don't be fooled by imitations! The fake Dipsomania is NOT a True Walrus fake. I did not do it, though as usual I know who did. I thought it was my co-conspirator on the DnD fake, but I found out it's actually someone else. He also tells me that it was meant to frame me. Grrr. I wouldn't put something so short. Or for that matter anything I couldn't later claim. (so that rules both the Dipso and VD fakes.)

FTF Diplomacy is far superior to PbM Dip. It's just you poor deprived people don't get to play enough FTF so you rationalize that PBM is better. And I've played FTF for four years against many people.

Reagan's hardline on the airtraffic controllers did accomplish one thing: he scared the Postal Union into signing. Here in NM all PO workers were against the contract. But after the air controllers episode, they changed their minds, didn't they?

Which Sleaze was that in #100? I understand there are several....

Elevator muzak is not the same as classical music. There are some (albeit few) redeeming things about classical music, but muzak is hideous. I run out of stores, doctors' and dentists' offices when Beatle muzak comes on. Ech.

When I visited the great "alcala" publishing facilities in June, I thought to myself, "Too bad Rod Walker doesn't publish DW." Although I've only spent 3 hours with him, I was very impressed with Rod's....mmmm whatever. He publishes a lot of things, most non-Dip. If any one can make DW work, it will be Walker. All politics aside, I'm sure he'll do a fantastic job.

Is Dave Pilant so good looking that all the "creeps" want to rape him? Good thing he carries all those guns. Does he take them all with him or pick one out every morning that matches his socks?

That "double issue" 88-89 was a rip-off! Counting the pages, we only got one and a half issues, but were charged for two. Same way counting the postage. Come on, if you're determined to put out a double, make it a double.

Hope to see another indepth annalysis of the Leeder Poll as you did last year. Issue 72 was my sample, and your excellent Leeder Poll annalysis was a major reason you're stuck with me now I subbed.

Tro's new typewriter continues

My brand new typerwriter is giving me trouble. Grrr...  
Does the conference map background show up on a xerox?  
please note my new address as of Sept 15 as I'm off to college.  
Enclosed is my monthly sub check for 12 issues. Geezzz.....

((Shucks, I thought you'd overlook it and I could let your sub lapse..

So, the big faker is off to the big house, er, college. Why California though? Too many wierd people out there. Lot of dipsters and such; must be a terrible place. Why not next door in Texas? Pretty girls, lots of familiar things like heat, dust, Mexicans...

Yes, the map did show through, at least on the one test copy I ran. Then I found I'd have to split your letter, but I did get the map intact there on the other page; only the words CONFERENCE MAP carried over into the part above. Maybe that won't show through?

I do hope to comment on the poll, but for now I'm struggling to get the results copied dark without retyping all that damn stuff. As to the double being a ripoff, wait until I close down some day. I'll follow Hanson's suggestion and put out a quadruple issue two pages long. Or maybe do like Shaffer says: Offer a one-time special of 3 or 4 issues for a dollar, then fold after I get all the money and just sign off saying "Haha, suckers, I've really been a pseudonym of Tretick's for all these years! Fuck you!" and vanish! (Quite a sense of humor he has, isn't it?)

I haven't seen Pilant carrying any guns, or at least not any that were noticeable. As to good-looking, well, I'd have to say no. Shaffer might add that we haven't seen as much of him as "SOME of his friends", but then, that's Shaffer for you, always quick with the compliments...

Right on the music business; however, most of those cynical to classical music, or real music as I'd call it, would not make the distinction you do. It was from such a person that I got the term 'elevator music' to begin with, back in the Air Guard. You can pick up a lot in the Guard, unless you expect military experiences.

I think this was the real original Sleaze, but can't be sure. It came just as you saw it. The postmark was from the right state, but that's all it had.

If Bob's parents shouldn't see you say "tits", he'd better keep EVERY issue out of his parents hands. Some of the press alone would curl their toes, if "tits" is supposed to be 'foul-mouthed'.

I'm sorry the New Bill of Rights repro came out so poor; I did like that "shoot first and make inquiries later" type stuff, and the rights to having a courtroom artist present, and "unless a policeman should say so" type thing. Had it come out better, I'd send a copy to every ACLU office address I could find. Maybe Mark B could come through with the list for me?

Speaking of Mark, I see another pair of DD's have arrived on one stamp. And Tro here calls ME cheap!)) J.M.

DAVID MANUEL (The Chamber)

10318 Oakgate, Bellflower, CA 90706

Why does Bob ((Osuch)) get so upset just because a stupid 14 year old ~~idiot~~ person don't understand something that he says? But Bob, I've never talked to you over the phone. So why tell me your problems there? It's not that I'm not interested or care. But like you said, I don't know you. You seem to be a nice guy. But I DO NOT KNOW YOU! So any I say about you is either a lie or through what I've heard. Or what you say in a letter, I just don't understand.

You didn't answer me when I asked you what you thought of me. I DID NOT say you were a good Dip player, just a good publisher.

I had a fantastic time in Springfield Mo. I went frog-hunting, creek swimming, helped my grandfather around the house (he has cancer) and I got to know my cousins

Manuel, continued

better. I'll tell you one thing though, partying in Springfield MO is different than partying in Bellflower. Bellflower is in southern California. About 25-30 miles from LA. Oh ya....

PHYLLIS BYRNE FOR HOBBY QUEEN!

or it could be....

MARK LEW FOR HOBBY QUEEN!!!

No, I don't hate Mark, even though he probably hates me. We just disagree with each other constantly. Right Mark?!??

Congrats on getting third in the Leeder Poll (!@ç#%\$&%(\*ç&\$%#@#%#@)

Answer me this time. THE SOUTH SHALL RISE AGAIN!

((And like an Air Force instructor once added to that "And the North will stomp their ass again too".

Springfield was probably a lot better; not as many colors as you'd see at a Calif party, but at least what you see in MO is real things, not the drug-induced delusions and "visions" that Californians live on.

Yes you did say I was a very good dip player; you weren't thinking of the right piece. What do I think of David Manuel? He is a human being. What else am I to think? No comprende, in LA talk.

What do you hunt frogs with? I suspect a 30-30 would be too big...))

J.M.

SCOTT HANSON (Irksome)

701 15th Ave SE Mpls MN 55414

Note the correct abbreviation is MPLS. None of this Mpls or the Minn that Sherwood tries to pull. I'll get this hobby straightened out yet. Now if I could get Kathy to spell my last name right....

My letters to you have been too serious, well the ones you print at least. People might think I'm like that all the time. Hell no! Just look at my fake DIPSO. I've even had a few requests to keep up the "Dipsomaniac of the Month" column, and I might do it, too. Lord knows there's enough material; Coughlan, Osuch, Baumeister, you...there's enough for the rest of the year already. Too bad I didn't know about the new Alcoholism stamp when I mailed it...it would have been a nice touch.

Coughlan's letter in #101 touched a subject near and dear to my heart: beer! But none of this heavily advertised mass produced American stuff. Bud, Miller, Schlitz, Pabst, etc. is just colored water, but OK in mass quantities (like last night after work we made it to the bar 8 minutes before closing, but the 3 of us downed 2 pitchers and a liter of wine before they locked the doors.) My personal brand is Special Export (let's hear it for G. Heileman-they advertise BIG BUX at our student radio station!) Also Mpls has a bar downtown with 102 brands of imported beer; some wierd but some good. You can guess that I was in 7th heaven in Germany. Funny thing, both Frauke and I preferred the Danish beer, Tuborg and Carlsberg. But I'll tell you about our trip to Copenhagen later (or ask Kathy about the letter we sent her!)

Glad you liked the East Berlin card. Stamp was almost bigger than the card. But I had to get rid of that tin money they made me buy at the border somehow.

What's this about me recruiting for the Bund while I was gone. I think you're getting me confused with Konrad-HE's the Nazi. Or maybe I am, too. Shit, I don't know, I'm in so many of these damn para-military organizations I can't keep track anymore!

By the way, the two-week Black Press game is open now. Write to Iggy Lew. Gawd, if we get you, me, Shaffer, Osuch into it...damn, this is going to be fun!

((I hope so!)) J.M.

— From Rod Walker —

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## ISSUES OF ARDA (& contents) AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME:

- #3 (12 May 1980), 50c. Articles on the Mercator games and the Cline 9-Man variants.
- #4 (12 June 1980), 90c. Article on Miller Number Recategorization with list of NAVB equivalents through designator co. Rules & map for Napoleonic Diplomacy II (Gary Gygax, 1969).
- #5 (17 December 1980), 35c. Rules & map for Barbaria (Russell Tulp, 1969).
- #6 (21 June 1981), 45c. Temporary Miller Number Custodianship transfer, and partial clearing of the MN backlog.
- #7 (22 June 1981), \$1.25. NAVB 1981 Catalogue. Lists all games with NAVB Number. Two lists: one by Number and one alphabetical. Former indicates # of sheets involved. Additions and updates will appear in future issue.
- #8 (10 August 1981), 50c. Update & transfer of Miller Numbers. Update of NAVB Catalogue (about 30 items). Rules & map for Napoleon (Steve Agar, 1980).

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# High Halleluck

# 1 5

#2:

#3:

Gor, Orsinia, Witchworld, the Dying Earth, Novaria, Paphlagonia, Darkover, Boranga, and other places where property values would plummet if normal people moved into the neighborhood.

