

"Don't blame me, I'm just an interpreter. How do I know a power coupling from a computer outlet? I can't tell scrap from this ISSUE 104 of:

The BRUTUS BULLETIN

ET TU, BRUTE

Mid Sept., 1981

The BRUTUS BULLETIN is a newsletter of postal DIPLOMACYtm brought to you every few weeks by John Michalski ("mih-HOLL-skee"), Rt 10 Box 526-Q, Moore, OK 73165. Subscriptions are now closed. Resubs should only be a dollar or two at a time, 2/\$1, stamps are OK.

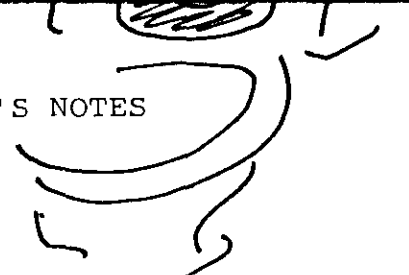
MARK BERCH DEPT.: A wave of really nice cool weather (cold weather to the locals) has rolled in this mid-September week. Lots of nice overcast days, highs only in the 70s (cool for here), 50s at night. I eat this up, and wish it would go on for four months, but the Okies figure it should be 88 through Thanksgiving. There's heavy dew on the car each morning, but the ground is VERY dry, down to a spade's depth. It would all wash or blow away if it weren't baked hard by the late summer's sun, and yet this has been a wet summer in relative terms.

MARION BATES DEPT.: The paper reports that OKC has set the national record, with the lowest unemployment rate for the entire nation for cities over (oh, 100,000 or whatever), a whopping 2.7% for July. Tulsa was second with 3%, compared to the national 7.3%. "Y'all come". Dallas and Houston are nice for work too, but if you're used to northern winters and think you would miss them, don't bother. To you, there is NO winter here, and the summers in Dallas are consistent 100 degree types--even for a decent job, the "quality of life" part might drive the family as well as you batty. Tromp through the slush and tell yourself instead, "I like it, I like it".

EMILY POST DEPT.: Ol' Fluff Shaffer was telling me about the new man in their office who was all cheery about his new bride. Seems the dame had been married three times before, and always to IBM employees. (They're in computer maintenance). On their wedding night, the guy finds out that his wife is a virgin. "How can that be, when you've had three husbands before?" he asked. "Well", she said, "the first was a field engineer. Every night all I could get out of him was, 'It will be up in four hours'. My second husband was a salesman, and all I could get out of him was promises of how good it was going to be. My last husband was a systems analyst, and all he ever said was, 'Look it up in the fucking book'".

THE MARCO POLL was a zine poll recently concluded by Mark Larzelere in his zine APALLING GREED. The way it worked was, you could vote for your top five zines in order of preference, and depending on your placement of them, they would accrue points. This system wipes out negative votes of course, and as I predicted, it brought Linsey's VOICE OF DOOM right up to second place. I am pleased to announce that BRUTUS BULLETIN came out way ahead of the pack as #1. The full results are in---hmmm, I was about to say "inside", but I guess it will be inside issue 105. This one is spoken for at this writing. Anyhow, the top finishers were, BB 1, VD 2, EE & LSD tied for 3, BF 5, GRAB DOTS 6, WHITESTONIA 7, DOT HAPPY 8, MM 9, JIHAD 10. Thanks for your votes, gang.

SPORTS are getting in the news a lot lately. I'm afraid it looks like the NCAA will negotiate with the bigger schools. Too bad; I'd prefer a split and the junking of the NCAA as a result. This weekend there will be the USC-OU game, which could be an upset--we just might win. But I don't think so. All that California free-love stuff lures some awfully big football players out there. Then there was the "big Robinson-Hearns fight". Shit. Boxing is dumb. I agree with the fellow on the radio last evening who said he agreed with the guy at the office: "I'm betting on the colored guy." Right.



The winding down of BB coincides nicely with a pickup in the stuff at work, meaning that I am now getting some normal assignments on top of the garbage for Arthur Andersen & Co. I may be out here tomorrow the 19th for some overtime even--ironic after doing tons of straight zilch for months. The agencies don't seem at all enthusiastic, which is really disappointing. Last week I thought I had a prospective spot, but no one seems enthusiastic about following it up. I can't even talk to the agent on the phone--two days of "she's away from her desk". So piss on it. I'll probably sit this one out, and chug along here, at least for now, unless someone else comes up and says "Here, take our \$26,000". I think that's \$2000 below what I could get, but like I say, they're not forming lines, so I'll just eat another donut.

The management is again shaking up the pyramid, what with a few new "managers" over the supervisors over the clerks (who are probably over me...). Even the auditor guy thought it was a farce: sections with a "manager" over two "supervisors" over one accountant and five clerks, e.g. Strange. If I get used to things, they'll either bump me up two steps, or out into the street, you just watch.

GAMES this issue might look a little strange, but I was holding open a few pages for them thinking that a D'N'D would come in after the 12th, but I guess his deadline is later, so I'm running all of what Scott sent me. Most of it is games that ought to be, and probably will be, in the next IRKSOME the ZINE, but I don't remember which is which, and I need the filler now, so you see them on the following pages. Consider it a plug for his zine. It's about time I get a little game stuff into this thing.

CARRIED OVER to #105 (yes, Marcia, there will be a 105. I don't know if I could afford to fold even then, so send filler folks, so I can pub a few more quick and cut down on the debt I have. \$143.50 after 105, sheesh!) will be a Mark Larzelere letter and the complete results of his Marco Poll. Plus a couple of items I don't know if I'll want to print in 105 or not. Anyhow, that's not too much, so don't be afraid of writing in some responses to what you find in here. I'm running down on typing time, but slower BBs can still find a place for YOUR views, or better yet, your nonsense -piece contribution.

Did you hear about the finding of kangaroo meat in some imported Australian "beef"? Imported stuff mainly goes for hamburger, because of the lower quality of foreign meats, but then, who out there is eating much besides hamburger? We sure as hell ain't, that's for sure. Anyhow, that is probably what sparked this bumper sticker: "Buy American beef, save a kangaroo".

SUBS ENDING THIS ISSUE (or prior): Duke, Lauver, Olsen, Manuel, Frobisch, Pearson, Brown of Quebec, Mills, Leritte, Forman, Ragsdale, Stephens, Arnawoodian, Masters, Lew, Mainardi, Kirchner, Heinowski, Lipscomb, Brown of Calif, Columbo, Stafford. This is off my office master, so might miss any real recent adjustments. See last issue for a lot of these priors and relevant notes. Remember, resub only a couple of dollars worth at a time. I don't intend to hit 110 at this writing.

PLUG DEPT: Nutty game opening: Mark Lew (who else!?) is filling a 2-week, black press, non-DIAS game, \$4 flat fee, one of which is an NMR fee as I recall. Anyhow, Bill Shaffer is in this one, so if you correspond with Uli Baumeister or Jack Frost or any of Bill's other "favorite" hobbyists, ask them to sign up along with you. I would expect there to be wierd press even with the W'00 announcement. 3120 W 79, Anchorage, AK 99502

DIPSOMANIA 8.1.R.

Well, it's actually Winter 1904 and Spring 1905 of FADE AWAY, but don't tell no one.

WINTER 1904

FRANCE bld F MAR ITALY NBR! GM rem F Adr RUSSIA A mun r SIL, bld A SEV TURK bld F ANK

SPRING 1905

DOORMAT(Michalski) A TRI-Bud; A Tyo-VIE; F Gre-ALB; A SER S Turkish A Bul-Rum.
 ENGLAND(Jones) A LVP H; F LON H.
 FRANCE(Martin) F Mar-SPA(sc); A BUR-Mar; A HOL H; F Nat-MID; A RUH S German A Mun;
 F BEL S A Hol; F ENG-Nth.
 GERMANY(Sherwood) A MUN H.
 ITALY(Mainardi?) NMR!! A ROM & A VEN H.
 RUSSIA(Byrne) A Sev-ARM; F Cly-NAT; A DEN S F Kie; F KIE S F Nth-Hol; A BER-Mun;
 A GAL S A Bud; F NWY-Nth; F NTH-Hol; A BUD S A Rum; A SIL S A Ber-Mun;
 F BLA S Austrian A Ser-Bul(NSO); A Rum S Austrian A Ser-Bul(d,r Ukr,Ser,OTB).
 TURKEY(Arnavoodian) F ANK-Bla; A Bul-RUM; A NAP H; F Ion-AEG; F Tun-TYS, F LYO-Mar.

And that's that. Fall 1905 is due on SEPTEMBER " (try 26th), 1981. Would my one standby, MARK LEW, 3120 W 79TH ST, ANCHORAGE, AK 99502, please submit standby orders for Italy. A few announcements: I have a new phone number, (612)623-4240 (it spells MAD-HAGzero). This phone is mine alone, so you will not get any of my goofy housemates. HR changes: 1) phone deadline is now the day before the printed deadline, 2) (this isn't really a change, some-one just asked) standbys are called after your second NMR, if it is the second NMR in a row, the original player will lose the position unless he submits orders and the standby does not, 3)NMR Insurance replaces my sporadic collect calling. Players with NMR insurance will be called collect the weekend of the deadline if I have not received orders from them. To sign, let me know with your orders and give me your phone number. Also, IRKSOME will not be published this weekend - it will be mailed on Sept 28. All draws and concessions failed, please vote this time on a concession to R and one to G. NVR equals "no."

PRESS

A HISTORY OF AUSTRIA, PART 3: The Dual Monarchy began the war with a solid alliance to gain the Balkans. This effort was stymied by the running dog Mainardi who kicked us in the ass, It took two years to drive him back, but it was done. Just as we were about to triumph over the dago jackals, our ally the Sultan kicked us in the ass. With the conclusion of 1904, Turkey got its just desserts. Naturally, this meant that our other ally, the Czarina, has to kick us in the ass in her turn. If you ever wondered why are units are red, that's why: they match our ass. The Dual Monarchy wishes to officially announce that the name Austria-Hungary has been dropped. We are now to be known as Doormat.

RUSSIA-AUSTRIA: How could you doubt me? I gain nothing in Austria. But if you go with me, we reap all the rewards.

TURKEY-GERMANY: It's better better to let a good player win a game than to help a total "smack" stop the leader. Once Martin's out then I'll worry about Kathy! By the way, thanks for your card it's more than Dick has sent me in three seasons. Another thing, Dick doesn't have the brains to lie, he's dirty and rotten but not a liar. How about a dirty, rotten sucker?!

AUSTRIA-EFG: You can be of great help to us and the world in our attempt to survive. It requires you only do two things: 1) order your units to move, and 2) don't write to us.

LONDON-MOSCOW: I would not puppet for you if you were Frank Oz.

BRUX-WOODY: I loved kissing the mole on your left hip! Did you enjoy sticking it in my ear? I loved it!

LUSCIOUS-CRUD: All I want is a piece of France-winning means nothing-Russia attacking France is GLORY!

VIE-ROM: Give Italy some respectability, Tom. Let it go into CD.

F-R: Kathy, hit Woody and end this mess. Please?

F-T: Woody, are you foolish, or just a dummy?

72730FADE AWAY PRESS...

VIENNA-MUNICH: I wish you'd taken Vienna instead. You and England are the only decent players in this game, the only ones who haven't screwed me yet. Missed your big chance,

BYRNEY-WOODY: I don't puppet and besides you'll probably attack me in all four games anyway.

TURKEY-GM: No to all draws which include Martin, whose brain was eaten by maggots when he was 3.

PENNA-?: Yeh lotsof people are leaving PA for the sun belt. They know they are sub par for a Northeasterner. They also know they would be considered brilliant next to any hick in the dust bowl. By the way if some of that dust would find its way into the mind of a certain Oklahoman it would be an improvement. Ask why Martin doesn't move south? Well the "dildo" is so stupid that even a southerener can best him.

LUSCIOUS-TOOTS: Stick with me and this Saturday night will be better than last-you really didn't think I'd ally with a homo, did you! My thinking is like yours-keep all homo's from ruining the bedroom frolics.

DOORMAT-GM: We call for a concession to Russia. Or Germany.

ME-PAISANI: Do you still trust the Armenian? I don't-what happened to "Old Fast Fingers?"

Care to talk yet-you know my number and who know who this is!

LUSCIOUS-PHYDOUX: Woof,woof, and boy can I wiggle my tail!

MAR: Apparently the Lord watches over drunks and Byrne.

CON-MOS: Glad to see that you finally see things my way. Do you?

KATHY-BOARD: Help!!! Can't you see that all these German armies are wiping me out. If someone doesn't come to my rescue soon I'll be wiped out!!

CON-VIE: Thanks for the tip. Since you know it's coming again sooner or later, why don't we go for it all? DEATH TO BYRNE.

PAR-ROM: Think about it.

???: Munich, a lone middle finger standing in ~~Germany~~ ^{tribute to} Russia, a lasting memorial to a last ~~great~~ great act of defiance.

GM-CON: Do you really think I'm gonna print an article on Tropical Fish????

MUN: Well, it looks like you will have ol Tro to kick around,for a year anyway.

LONDON: How does this "black press" thing work anyway???

BROADWAY: See the new hit from Oklahoma, "Death of a Publisher." Now available in paperback.

???: "Michalski is a colour that is redder than red/Those Sevastpol bullets want Michalski dead/ For Michalski is a colour/that will earn him a spray pf lead."

ULTSENT: Uncle Curt is watching you!

ROCKVILLE: Scotty really deserved better than a 5.71 in the Leeder Gm Poll. 5.72 is a better measurement of his GMing ability.

GM-KEITH: Is she pregnant yet?? That's why you're going to San Diego!

KIE-GM: Stop crowing, Scott, your checkbook is lucky that Germany is socialist! Here abortions/ cost \$

RUSSIA: Fuck the world! And with 12 centers, I can do it, too.((That body doesn't hurt, either!!)

CON-MOS: You know that the gutter is too good for you. That's OK, Martin's still trying to amke it that far.

ROM: At least I have the decency to NMR out of this stupid game...

VIE-ROM: You are now the Uli Bagnmeister of this game. Flush twice, the sewer goes uphill to Pennsylvania!!

And the top of the morning to you too! That's all til next time.

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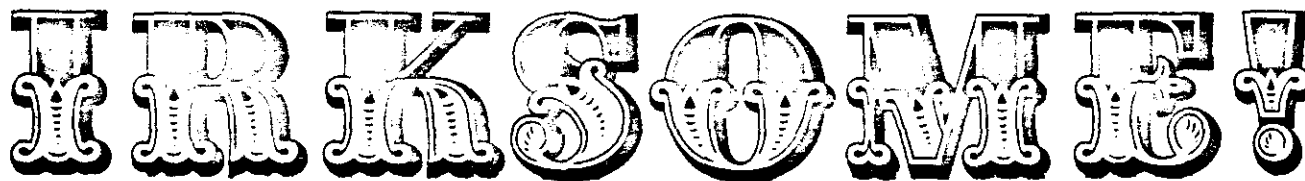
COA - Keith Sherwood

PO Box 6457

La Jolly CA 92037

PRESENTING THE ~~FORTY~~^{FOURTH} BEST GM IN NORTH AMERICA...

80LM



Sept
12
1981

PALTER RETURNS, BUT TO WHAT? MUSIC STOPS AGAIN IN GAME OF MUSICAL ALLIES. WHOSE KNIFE IS IN YOUR BACK? FRANCE AND RUSSIA ROLL ON! CRUD NOW COMMANDS UNIT IN EDI.

Fall 1907

ENGLAND(Martin) F EDI S Sherwood-Tro.
FRANCE(Sherwood) A MAR-Pie; F Mid-ENG; A LON-Kie(imp); A BUR-Mun; F Wes-TUN; A CLY-Edi
F TYS S F Wes-Tun; A VEN H.
GERMANY(Stephens) F NWY-Swe; F NTH-Nwy; A DEN S F Nwy-Swe; A MUN S A Ber; A BEL chuckles
at the Russian's folly(H); A Ber salutes the Russian forces with the
singular digit(H)(d,ret Kie, OTB).
ITALY(Palter) F Tun-ION; F APU S F Tun-Ion; A SER-Bul; F GRE S A Ser-Bul; A Vie-TRI;
A TYO-Pie; A Bud-Ser(d, ret Vie,OTB).
RUSSIA(Gareipy) F Bla-ANK; A Gal-BUD; A RUM S A Gal-Bud; A Pru-BER; A SIL S A Pru-Ber;
F BOT-Swe; F BAL-Den.
TURKEY(Blant) F Nap-ROM; F EAS-Ion; A BUL H; A CON S A Bul.

1907 SUPPLY CENTERS

ENG Edi	1 even
FRA Home Por Spa Lvp Lon Kie VEN TUN	9 bld 1
GER Kie Mun Hol Den Bel Ber NWY	6 even or bld 1
ITA Vie Tri Ser Gre Vie Tri Bld	4 rem 2 or 3
RUS Home Rum Swe Nwy BER BUD ANK	9 bld 2
TUR Con Smy Bul Nap Kie ROM	5 bld 1 (was one short)
	34

Winter 1907 and Spring 1908 are due on SEPTEMBER 26, 1981. Please note my new phone number and the house rule changes, which I'll probably put on the back of this. I'll see how much room I have after the

PRESS

CON-PARIS: I'm sorry I just couldn't resist. My pen started to write F NAP HOLDS but damn there it was. Besides isn't this what standby positions are for? Yes you can have it back.

GERMANY-RUSSIA: I should have known better than to trust some guy who works for room and board in a motel.

FRA-GER: No, the wedding is off, you've kept me waiting too long, and I'm eloping with Rus. Besides, I heard about the affair you two had.((Shouldn't have this been addressed to Beth?))

RUS-BER: Move no more, oh? Well take that! Retreat or die.

BOBBY-SCOTT: Hey, if I call up to give you my orders will Beth be there?((Hey, if Beth is here when you call, we're gonna be too busy to answer the phone!))

CON-KIRCHNER: If we keep getting into games together we might as well start a little cross-gaming.

MUNICH-CONSTANTINOPLE: Kerry, your Russian ally sure turned out to be a dope, eh?

KEITH-SCOTT: Just between you and me, how does BETH MEASURE UP to Julie Glass.((I dunno,ask Dick))

PARIS: So did I continue my campaign against Palter or did I stab Kirchner right off.

MUNICH-MOSCOW: Hey, you fucked up? Don't you realize that Trowood and I are allies? You should have stayed in the south. Look what DSP has done now. You and Kerry could have cleaned up. Instead, Tro and Kerry will clean up. Don't worry, though, I'll take over for you. Just as soon as I kick your ass back to Russia.

CON-NEW ITALY: This game is going to be even more boring than a grind to a two way draw. Tro is going to grind to a win and I'm going to get second. It's true Tro told me so.

BUR-MUN: In God's name why are you doing this to me?

SWITZ: Was that picture of Linsey last IRK cracking a smile?

CON-GM: I actually find this standby position fun. Thanks for the advice "Go thru Italy." Hell, I'm in Italy. Thanks again.((If only I could advise myself as well...))

REMNANTS OF IRKSOME PRESS

JACK MASTERS: Controversy is not sustained by porno pictures alone. I am the most controversial person in Dipdom today. Elect me as most controversial, Bon Olsen campaign manager.

LEEDER POLL: Well, look at the bright side, Scott. You did better than Brad Wilson.

But not as good as Brux! For those who haven't heard, I finished 44th (out of 47) in the Leeder GM poll with 6 votes and a average of 5.17. Six votes means either all of Myou players in Irksome (my only game at the time) voted, or more likely I had a few votes from friends. Time for

GOPHER HOLE

(OR SHOULD I CALL THIS THE ALL IN THE FAMILY GAME??)

SEASONS SEPARATED, SO THIS IS SHORT AND SWEET (FOR SOME, SOUR FOR OTHERS)

WINTER 1902

AUSTRIA(Cummings)	rem A Bud; has A GAL, A RUM, F ADR.
ENGLAND(Ellis)	bld F EDI: also has A BRE, F ENG, F IRI, F NWY.
FRANCE(Kostenick)	even; has F MID, A GAS, A PAR, A MAR.
GERMANY(Forman)	bld F KIE, A BER: Also has A PIC, A RUH, A MUN, A SWE, F HOL.
ITALY(P. Byrne)	bld A VEN: also has A TYO, A TRI, F EAS, F ION.
RUSSIA(O. Gareipy)	A Gal r WAR, F Swe r OTB; bld F SEV, F STP(nc);also has F ANK, A VIE, F BOT.
TURKEY(Iverson)	even; has A GRE, A ARM, F BLA, F BUL(ec).

Spring 1903 is due on SEPTEMBER 26, 1981. Note new phone and HR changes, which come after the... PRESS (nearly forgot, SO3 orders on file from Aus, Eng, and Fra)

ITALY-RUSSIA: Let's go, Uncle Omer, let's crush them (Aus & Tur.)

LONDON-GM: What kind of GM are you? You're actually allowing Bloodsucker Jr. to expand? DO SOMETHING!!

ITALY-AUS: Neither me or Uncle Omer are backing off so there sucker!

LONDON-ITALY: Phyllis, in last season's orders, you said you attacked Russia to "cut supprt sucker". Now i don't want you to look stupid but just what support was it cutting?((Obviously Uncle Marky saw it coming and outsmarted poor Phyl ~~Ellis~~ by not supporting from Tri at all/))

ROME-BERLIN: The reason it didn't work for Uncle Marky is he never sent the candy.

GRANDPA RANDY-ITALY: Phyl, I noticed that you were being a VERY bad girl by not obeying your Uncle Marky so I thought I'd write you and let you know that if you don't quit hurting your uncle, we (Uncle Marky, Grandpa Bob, Uncle Ken, and myself) have decided to disown you! Being the elder statesman for the family, I thought I would just let you know. Imagine it Phyl, an orphan! We all sadden at the thought of no more little Phyllis in the family anymore, but Phyl you're ruining the rep of this family. I implore you to get counseling, see a psychiatrist or psychologist, even kill yourself if you have to, but quit ruining this nice game by trying to remove your uncle from it. About Uncle Jim, I know for a fact he has bob-bons, but he'll only give them to you if you leave Uncle Marky alone. How about it? Think about it a good long time and then hit Mar!

HOUSE RULE CHANGES

standbys: Just to clarify my policy, I won't call a standby until your second NMR. If it is your second NMR in a row, you won't keep your position unless the standby fails to submit orders.

phoned orders: Since I now work Saturday mornings and have a phone of my own, I will not accept phoned in orders the morning of the deadline, orders submitted by phone must be in the day before.

NMR insurance: Starting next deadline, if you want me to call you Icollect if I have no orders from you on deadline day, you must sign up for my NMR insurance list. Just make a note on a set of orders that you want NMR insurance and GIVE ME YOUR PHONE NUMBER. This will replace my policy of calling only sporadically.

As I suspected when I typed up issue one, I won't be able to print IRKSOME (the zine) this weekend. It will be mailed on Sept. 28. That's the first day of school at the U of M. Here I am taking it easy while all you other suckers in college are already studying away!

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Issue #48
1980CX

THE PERILS OF PAULINA
(as featured in the
Brutus Bulletin)

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September 1, 198

SURPRISE, SURPRISE!

1980CX has ended in an E/I/R draw. I received two "yes" votes on the proposal, and two NVRs, which I explained last time would be counted as "yes" votes. Thus, the game officially ends as of post-Spring 1912. Congratulations to Eric, Mike, and Paul on the draw, and to Kerry for sticking around and actually surviving! Any endgame comments should be sent to me. It would be nice if they were typewritten, but not imperative. Below is the final game chart.

Game Chart:	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11
AUSTRIA	4	5	5	5	6	6	5	5	5	3	2
ENGLAND	4	4	3	3	3	5	6	7	8	10	10
FRANCE	4	4	5	2	2	2	0				
GERMANY	5	6	6	6	6	7	6	4	4	1	0
ITALY	5	5	5	7	6	5	7	9	10	11	13
RUSSIA	6	6	7	7	7	5	5	5	6	8	9
TURKEY	4	3	3	4	4	4	5	4	1	1	0

Game: 1980CX
Zine: Perils of
Paulina
GM: Bob Osuch

Cast of Players:

AUSTRIA: Dave Perlmutter (resigned S08), Kerry Blant
ENGLAND: Ken Sniegowski (dropped F03), Eric Kirchner (drew S12)
FRANCE: William Bricken (out 07)
GERMANY: Anthony Stark (dropped S05), Dave Grabar (out 11)
ITALY: Mike Henry (drew S12)
RUSSIA: Paul Goodrich (drew S12)
TURKEY: Joe Petrie (dropped S09), John Michalski (out 11)

GM comment: 1980CX was the first game I began as a GM. From the beginning, it appeared that Italy was in control of things, as the only real "alliance" surfaced early on between Italy and Austria, with Italy calling the shots. The rest of the board existed in a state of mass confusion, save Russia, who took an early defensive position and stuck with it throughout the entire game. A midgame alliance of sorts, England and Italy, worked together for a season or so, but when it became apparent that Italy had a better than average shot at winning the game, England switched camps and began his own campaign to stop the Italian, or at least divert Italy's onslaught to other areas. Still, I believe Italy would have eventually won the game had Mike not forgotten to vote "no" to the draw, but these things happen, and there's very little that I, as GM, could do about it.

The question was posed as to whether or not the GM should "infer" a players' intent into miswritten or omitted orders. I have always felt that if a player doesn't care enough about the game to label his units properly or at least separate his builds from the ensuing spring orders, I sure as hell am not going to do it for him. It is not the GM's job to infer anything concerning the mechanics of order writing, and if he does so, he can end up eating crow as well. For example, suppose I promise England support into Sweden with my F Denmark, but I am secretly allied with Russia. So I order A Denmark to support the English unit to Sweden, and the GM infers it to mean F Denmark. I would say that GM is an idiot, because he has interfered with the game, and the ploy is no longer viable. I would have to call the GM and say, "I intended to label the unit incorrectly, so make a correction and delay the game.". Sure, I could have assumed that Mike Henry would vote "no" to the draw too, but I'm not sure of it, and I had announced the previous turn that NVR would equal a "yes" vote, so I really had no other choice.

The following is an article of mine that recently appeared in Linsey's VOICE OF DOOM.

HOW TO PLAY

Just what you needed to know, right? Well, if that's what you need to know, check out the rule book.

After that, there may be a trick or two that you might want to check out that is not so obvious nor so often published. Let me fill a couple of paragraphs with that.

People who are starting in that new game with you are probably starting, or just have started, in a bunch of others. Old hands know that they can't handle too many, or too many MORE, so they'll only enter one at a time. However, most people are not old hands, so they'll enter a bunch together. This also means that they will FINISH many together. How does this help you? Well, you should consider sending a dollar and 3 or 4 stamps to the BNC and asking him for a copy of the current issue of EVERYTHING and the last copy. Add that if he expects another out within the next 10 days to two weeks, he should consider that one the "current" copy. When they arrive, look them over. Most everyone ignores the GAMES STARTING section; not you. You start there. Scan every game quickly; it won't take long. The thing you're looking for is the names of those other players that appeared on the game start announcement you just got in the mail. See if two (or more!) of these turkeys are also together in OTHER games. That's where the previous issue comes in handy too: are two of them (more?--shudder!) together in games that started some months ago already? Chances are, they know each other then through at least that medium. "Maybe they're at war there though". Uh-huh. If they are, that's the first thing THEY would have mentioned to YOU. If finding them through an issue of EVERYTHING is the first you've heard, they're already allies and not about to tell you. Plan accordingly.

Then there's game endings. If you look at other people's games and get a lot of zines as many new people do, you can spot who is an old hand, or at least an experienced player, and who is not, by the simple act of eyeballing the list of players in the games. You won't remember them per se, but some will seem unfamiliar while others will seem familiar in a vague sort of way. The oddball names, unless they're new pseudonyms of "Bernie Oaklyn" Tretick, are probably novices. Veterans, except Ron Kelly, play in relatively few games, and limit the zines in which they play. New people will enter one or two all over the place. If this doesn't help you get an idea of who is what, the game endings will. Under the charts are listed the players and the results, such as Joe Schmoe, WON, F09; Bob Sergeant, Russia, OUT F02; or 'Becky Coffman, drew, F04'. Did anyone in your new game share a draw with someone else in the game lately? Did they win or draw more than one game reported? These things will tell you about potential pre-game allegiances and who the real sharpies are, respectively. Of course it could be that a shared draw in a recently ended game was sheer coincidence, and they'll be at each other's throats in S01 here in your game; but maybe not. Whether you should bring this up with them or not is up to you. For someone who has numerous (more than one) draw or win reported, you might want to consider using this in your correspondence with OTHER players: "Hey, this guy is something, we'd better get rid of him fast, and it will take us both", etc. Or for that matter, if there's someone you don't like, hell, no one else has the patience to read EVERYTHING; just SAY the guy must be a barracuda because of all those wins in "That recent EVERYTHING". Who'll check? Just the act of looking through the game reports will help familiarize you with your fellow hobbyists. Again, you won't know them, or really remember them, but if Scott Palter is called as a standby in your game, maybe you won't have to ask if he's a novice like you. Maybe you'll spot so many "Dave Pilant, dro S03", "Dave Pilant, dro F02", "Dave Pilant, out, F01" that you will know something there too. Again, simply eyeballing the records will tell you a lot more than you would have thought.

KATHY BYRNE (Kathy's Korner)

160-02 43rd Ave., Flushing, N.Y. 11358

Hi Toots!

We are going to have to stop meeting like this, my boss doesn't really appreciate me, writing to answer you BB's on his time, and I like using his typewriter better than mine as this one has correctible ribbon, and saves me lots of time. Any way this letter is in response to issue #101, and I don't even think this letter will get me into that much trouble. It's tame compared to the last one, and besides this one will be filled with plenty of nonsense!

What has gotten into Bruxie, I mean humble and apologetic. Maybe he's sick! Either that or maybe Woody's one night stand with him, mellowed him. No he must be sick, he even said my letter was rational, and rational is not usually a word associated with me. Any way, I hope he's feeling better soon. I'd really hate to lose my sparring partner.

Now Bruxie did say one thing that annoyed me - why does he insist on bringing up that insane story that I rigged the Leeder Poll. I did no such thing - if I had Whitestonia wouldn't have finished as poorly as it did last year. So before anyone starts about this years poll, let me be the first to say that since I no longer play under Bruce, I did not vote on his GMing, and since I am not a subber to his zine I did not vote on his zine. Nor did I talk to anyone about what they should vote him, as I don't have the faintest idea who gets his zine. So Bruce, sorry to disappoint you, but this year you'll have to find another scapegoat.

Now Bruce will be mad at me again, but I really can't put myself in his shoes, as they are too big, and I really don't think that they would go to well with my bikini. As for Bob Arnett, no one will convince me that Bob is anything but a good honest person, and I don't believe he goes around making up stories. The only thing he makes is a lot of passes!

By the way, I hate the Giants, and I don't even like football - Mike Mills must have me confused with one of Al Pearson's other victims. But then again, he may have made up the whole story to make people think that I'm crazy! You see, Mike and I don't get along, because I know that he is from the wrong side of Ireland, I also know for a fact that he wears ORANGE on St. Patty's Day! He is one of the few Black Irishmen, who have escaped the lynching parties.

Before I forget, please tell Del Grande to shove it up his rear end. If he had any brains, he'd forget about correcting my grammar, and spend more time with his GMing - it certainly could use the extra time.

For a while I thought maybe I was the crazy one, I mean everyone seems to pass off Ozog's royal screwup in 79IW, as a one time mistake that won't happen again. I personally agree with Mike Mills, I really don't think this matter should be taken so lightly. I think it was Mark Berch who said there was other things he could do in the hobby, but he should forget being a GM. I think this is a pretty good idea. I met Eric at Gen Con and I liked him as a person, but I would never play in a game he was GMing. I don't think because a person is nice - all ill deeds should be forgiven so fast.

Well that is it for now as my boss will be back in an hour, and I still have to write letters to about 5 guys. Bye, honey!

Luscious

I found BB#101 interesting and provocative, as usual. But I must protest that my talk of 25 18¢ stamps was no smokescreen--I really thought I sent 25 of the little buggers. Either the guy at the PO screwed me (I admit I didn't count the stamps after leaving the window) or I still have five stamps lying around somewhere. Shit. I certainly wouldn't question your veracity. Also, I got the 11/\$4.50 price off an old copy I had from Marion. I think it was a June or July issue. Sorry I got it wrong--I appreciate the way you handled it.

I don't have anything to do with any of the local oil companies that you had dealings with. The fact is that most of the oil they get around here is from Kalkaska County where Marion lives. Of course Marion doesn't have anything to do with them either.

Mike Mills sounds like a real basket case. US troops in Ireland? What the hell for? What possible business is it of ours?

Coughlan sounds like a real drinking man's drinking man. Five beers and he gets where. Ah, to have it so easy. I reached the point a few years ago where it is physically impossible for me to get any kind of buzz on with beer at all. I can't seem to get enough of the stuff in my body to do any good. I stick mostly to the hard stuff and I don't blow any big bucks on it? I mean who really gives a shit? Most people would rather drink puke if it wasn't for the fact that booze can get you fucked up which is the only reason I drink. All the other stuff people say is crap. Booze doesn't taste good, it isn't refreshing, and doesn't quench your thirst. I'll get you drunk and if you're not lucky it'll get you sick. So I drink the cheapest whiskey I can find and I don't drink socially. By that I mean I don't just sit down and have a couple drinks with a friend or two. Why should I? Drink that piss and not even get a buzz? Forget it! As far as I'm concerned it's a total waste if I can find my way to the car.

Now you should see Marion. She's a snob drinker. Won't drink domestic beer and likes to sip Ouzo until she can't stand up straight. After two drinks Marion won't talk about anything but sex. Then I know I have to be careful. God, Marion'll be pissed if she reads this but what the hell I'll just take another drink.

I notice also that Coughlan also goes in for that winn shit on the radio. I suppose it's his business.

It's nice to read someone else who's pissed about all that fantasy crap that AH is coming out with. The backbone of their sales has been historical wargames and now we historical gamers are getting it bad. The wargame titles get put on the back burner and we sit just playing with ourselves. I mean Anvil of Victory was supposed to be done by last and now they're talking about next Origins. The Bulge revision took about two years longer than it had to and The Longest Day was just turned into a rip-off. So what do we get? Fantasy crap.

What's DIAS?

Do you always let Linseed take up space like in #101?

Okay, that's enough. I'm gonna see if I can't find an envelop. Catch you later. Take it easy.

Response to Nikita

((I hope to. Yes, I let Linseed ramble on, 'cause he knows my weak spot: he sends in camera-ready stuff, all typed, and even headed up just like it will be printed. Therefore, even before I read it, I can tell, "ah, here's two sheets of BB #xxx". And if any more come in as long as the last one, I'll skip reading it and just type an "OK" on the last pagebottom and run it as is.

Even the wargames that are made are pretty shitty. All that tactical stuff. Sure, I know, they get the government to buy them to train Marine Lieutenants not to order frontal attacks, but who wants to be a "Squad Leader"? That's shit. I don't want any unit on the board smaller than a battalion. Divisions are good, corps/army are about the top limit. Gamers should fight for a continent, or at least a country, not a hill or a building.

Gingerale and Ameretto does taste pretty good, I think. Or CC and coke. It doesn't go as well with pizza like Pepsi does, or with a hamburger like 7Up does, but can be worth drinking without aiming to be carried away. I guess social drinking requires you be in a social setting, which is hard for someone with my looks and demeanor, esp. when your interests are wargames and such. I'd like to meet Marion sometime though. At least after a couple of drinks. Beer is pretty sad though, you're right there. I suspect it is strictly cultural; it's 'always' been drunk, so its the thing for 'us' to do too. I'd leave it to the Africans myself...)) J.M.

JIMMIE JOHNSON

UCA PO Box 2615, Conway, AR 72032

(excerpts)

You like politics, eh? What about Creationism? I've only heard it mentioned one time in BB, and then nothing was said about it. Here in Arkansas it's become a law, passed by our esteemed governor, Frank White. (The man's a freak. He was elected for purely political reasons; his predecessor was very good, but was ousted even though everyone either hated or didn't think about White.) Back to Creationsim, I don't think it should be taught in school, personally. Public school. I mean, if they're going to teach creationism, why not Hinduism? Or ancient Roman, Greek, or Egyptian theories? And let's not forget the Indians, Celts, and the theory that there is no such thing as life! Aside from the theoretical objection, I see nothing wrong with it. After all, this is Arkansas! If the teachers wanted to teach creationism along with science in the past (and they usually did) then there was nothing to stop them, no one to check up on them.

I'm not saying that the law is excusable; it isn't, (besides, I'm against anything that the group named with the double misnomer 'Moral Majority' is for, anyway) but I am saying it hasn't changed anything in Arkansas. Enuf.

Symbols in the hobby, hey? Anyone need a symbolic hillbilly? THE HILLYBILLY--has a nice ring, doesn't it? Michael Mills for President? Is that legal?

((I hope not. I think Hillybilly sounds stupid, but if you're looking for a defense of teaching that the world popped up via Creation like Froggy the Gremlin or something, you've come to the wrong place. I think it's as dumb as you do, Maybe Steve Duke in the new (and looking a lot better) SCHEMER will write an editorial on it for us. The old theories aren't taught anymore even tho they were never shown to be wrong; they were just ignored and forgotten, replaced by whatever seemed better, which may have been to ignore the matter. Hopefully the Creationism will follow that path the way the other tales of how the seas got salty and similar historic fables have gone. But if you recall the Mazurkiewicz letter about the threats he received, it will clearly be a while yet!)) J.M.

MARK LEW

3120 W 79 St, Anchorage 99502

Monday morning conversation: ME (still in bed at 11 am): What's today?

SISTER: I don't know. Iran got bombed. ME: Really? Who did it? Was it us?

SISTER: I don't know. Something in the newspaper.

Turned out to be one of those little bombs, between factions. The way it was said,

Lew goes on

I thought someone nuked them.

I got a chain letter from an anonymous person postmarked Jamaica NY which will give me good luck if I send it on and bad luck if I don't. If I can get it copied off I'll send you a copy since I know you go for that sort of thing. ((!!))I figure I'll just slip one in every letter that goes out, couldn't hurt. Just think, all you need to do is slip in as "Curt Gibson Dept" on page 22 and have good luck for 3 years. But don't, because I'll have to send out 20 more, or else my girlfriend will get hit by a truck and the stock market will crash.

That's OK about being shoved over, I like the Bruxeroon's stuff as much as he likes mine. I wouldn't shove him in GANGRENE because he'd never submit orders, and I'd lose bux mailing him the results. I already signed up one freebie in exchange for a sub I shouldn't have to pay for because my enterprises are opening up a new subzene there (your guess on who).

If y'all want me into MASS MURDERS I'll play, but lack bux as usual. If someone wants me in bad enough to pay 4 bux, send it to Osuch. Or else send it to me and I'll stick him in GANGRENE.

If you know anything about music at all, write down some good Nazi war tunes for me. If you don't, a cassette (I won a school spelling bee on that word ages ago, now I'm not sure if it's right. Sigh) tape. Sounds like something would be fun to play on a harmonica.

You might care to know these groups Hanson talks about aren't ordinary pop stuff, I found out. Scott goes for the real freakos. Good for a laugh.

Alcohol? I've had TWO sips in my life. Then again, I'm only 8 years old.

The USPS does NOT give the same service for more money. The service ^{you} may end up the same,, but each time they hike the price they've got a hell of a lot more addresses to keep track of. How many houses go up in a year in your town alone? Be amazed it doesn't get worse. (Or not too much worse...)

Mills for President! I like Hanson's idea, "Brothers of the frozen North". Not much of a party, but add one and we've got a dipbowl team (Allen Wells?).

VD should have been up in the top 5. You and Dick and Jack placed as you should have.

I never knew you were antihomosexual. I guess that means me and Tro lose our subs? (This is a joke).

Quit saying "irregardless" when you mean "regardless"

You're wrong, Brux. I can win everytime, I just lose occasionally for the fun of it. I can do 2 way draws too. Yep, I'm that good!

I was allready for the Masters plagerizes bit in a "Brux Speaks" but here it is in BB, too dull for VD so you dump it in the hobby trashcan, eh Brux?

"Hobby trash can"? Is that better than "take a literary shit"?

By the way, if people doubt Bruce's authority when he says "somebody told me", I'm the "somebody" who said about the Brux-McKibbin-Rodriguez letters. It's from GETTING EVEN, as is Hitler's Barber.

If Dave Carter doesn't have a goose, I can tell you why. "Calhamer" has been staying with me in AK for about a year now. He's an advertising gimmick for some airline.

Can't Brux dig up an Arnett letter mentioning Proskin (before she went public) or is that bad tactics?

If Masters denounces Brux for his "plaging" bit, I suppose that'll say something about him, huh?

Lions hurt innocent antelopes. Why not test radiation on them? ('or cats', says Michalski)

Was there ever any question that Oaklyn=Tretick? I didn't know that was where the debate is (a "moot point" as Brux says). The toadies all know and it's no secret, I've even got my own personal evidence (a cancelled check).

So where's the response to Brux?

Osuch: You are a victim of Jack Masters "propaganda". Masters implied that I asked for my sub money back when in fact I only asked for the unused portion of it. I was under the impression that he offered such refunds. When I found out he doesn't, I retracted my statements, and donated the money in question for any harms I may have caused him.

Lew concludes

But does he tell you that? Noooooooooo! It'd make me look like I'm actually a nice person (even though I did request he print the letter).

To you, John: If you can get in a game with Brux, you can remail all the letters he sends you to players in other games. Clever, no?

I'm insulted that you thought the BOGEY line-up was another Kathy, Phyllis, John, Frank, Francine, Brux, and Bernie O. For the record, 'twas Becker, Mills, Masters, Perlmutter, um...Frost, er...(pause while I look it up) Dave Carter and duh, silly me: Osuch. (You never did submit orders, Bob; Bill Becker did)

We've now got a whopping 3 players for the 2-week game. We have our quota of Okies and Maniacal players both now so if you fit either description, save your bux. BOGEY players are wanted (Osuch, Carter, Mills, Becker)

Afternoon: SISTER (from newspaper): "60% of the women in the US are overweight" That's me (She's not; one of those anorexia folks) ME: That's right, you're 60% of the women in the US.

No? Must have had to be there. Hmm

((I understood that one, second time through.

The response to Brux followed the short Arnawoodian excerpt at the top of the next page.

Most hobbyists do know that B.O.=Tretick, excepting the MNC Leeder, who ignores the items as "circumstantial". He's waiting for a picture of it changing into "Bernie" in a phone booth, I guess. Leeder does OK with variants, but really hasn't been paying a lot of attention as to what's going on in the regDip hobby, and it shows. Too bad.

What is GETTING EVEN? Sounds like a good name for a Baumeister dipzine. And irregardless of that, "regardless" means the same thing. Just like "flammable" and "inflammable", or "Tretick" and "shit"....

The post office does have a lot of new places to deliver to, and would have even more if it weren't for high interest rates. Don't forget that the number of carriers goes up too though. They're not like Congress, with a ceiling on total members, tho that might not be that bad an idea. Moore alone has been split out into three separate ZIPcode zones, -60 for the town proper as in Pilant's address, -53 for P O boxes, and -65 for those of us way out here east of the town. 65 is not even in Moore, e.g., but is Okla City. You should see the size of that PO, especially for a town of maybe 27,000 like Moore is.

When you get those chain letters, just wipe your ass with them and send them back to the sender if you know who, via Jamaica NY. "Curt Gibson Dept" WOULD be apropos.))

ALLEN PEARSON (Just Among Friends)

Rt1 Box 177B5 Kearneysville, WVa 25430

First to the British situation. Historically they have had unarmed Bobbies and felt that the "British strength of character" would prevent the kind of civil unrest in Britain that occurred in the US. Up comes the hard economic times on the immigrants who give a flip about "British strength of character" and up go a dozen cities with slums in flames. So what do the British authorities do? They call in US specialists in riot control, the British authorities want all the information on CS and CN gas available. I guess it goes to show that you don't count on anybody's "strength of character" or "historic self-restraint", especially if they are not from your culture. Hell, rather than a squad of Bobbies, a couple of helicopter gunships with gas would calm the scene better.

Next Don Ditter. Just drop the subject. When he has done something to tarnish the B#s or committed some real sin, contact me. I will be more disposed to listening to various rantings at that time.

In BB #101 Linsey makes a rather astounding accusation—that Masters plagiarizes articles in BLACK FROG. I consider this a very serious charge, as I hope most other publishers will agree. Taking a concept and modifying it for one's own use is acceptable, but plagiarism is unforgivable. Since Linsey claims Masters used Thurber stories for several of the BF articles, I would like to have a citation of a book where these articles can be reviewed, or I would expect Linsey to make a public apology to Masters.

((No problem there. The latest VD just out (51) spells it all out on the cover. See

Response to Pearson, cont'd

also the Lew letter this issue where he too cites a source or two as I recall. Personally, I don't see this as as big an issue as you and Linsey do. What if Jack did take other stories and fit them into a Diplomacy setting for dipzine articles? Everything he has ever written has been for hobby amusement, and I for one have enjoyed it. If it came from Thurber or Boardman or the Talmud originally, so what? The only criticism I can see might be one of form. For instance, one might say, "Jack, you should have put '—adopted from Thurber's GREATEST MAN IN THE WORLD' at the end", or "Jack, when Linsey praised you for your writing, you should have mentioned that they are original adaptations rather than original pieces, for you know what a hair-splitter Linsey can be" or some such. Thurber himself might want to take a harder line, but I don't think he much gives a shit about what appears in a hobby funzine. I think there is more legitimate grounds to assail Ditter for damage done by bad judgement than Masters for what (I view as) literary oversight in this hobby. The simple fact is, Ditter would do the hobby well to get out of LE FRAUD; the hobby would be poorer for the lack of Masters' pieces, original or adaptations or xeroxes of something off his office bulletin board. All the same to me. I can see Linsey perhaps being pissed that Jack didn't tell him after the praise BruX heaped on him, just as what one should perhaps expect as a courtesy notification, but that's about it.

On the British, I would suggest the gunships too, but skip the gas. Making them sick to their stomachs is fine, but regular gunships get more to the core of solving the problem. You touch on the trouble, and its source, but I'm not sure your cynicism is properly placed. The traditional British strength of character and all that is still there, or otherwise the riots by immigrants would not be such news. It's just the stupidity of the British in thinking they can deal with aliens as if they were real citizens. That is not confined to England, however, for what is the very core problem of liberal-judicial-governmental thought in this country if not the erroneous idea that the slumdweller, welfare lifer, prison convict, etc., think and react to things just like "they" do? When British officials come here for advice and specialists, it is no different than Mark Berch calling for the Marines when the rioters come to burn down his house. I don't expect either side to learn anything from either experience though.))) J.M.

GARY COUGHLAN (Europe Express)

4614 Martha Cole Lane, Memphis TN 38118

I wanted to thank you for the response copy to Liesnard—saved me having to make a copy and take BB apart!

How come you didn't list yourself on the gamemaster poll in BB? You and Ron Brown and Andy Lischett are 3 who deserve to be in both top tens.

I have been taking EE to a printer and he has become curious about the hobby. So last time I told him I would bring him some other zines to look at. I took him DOT HAPPY, BLACK FROG, LONE STAR DIPLOMAT, and BRUTUS BULLETIN. When I got the zine this morning, he was sorry to give them up. (He thought I had intended to give them to him). He made me wait while he ran off copies from BB #100! He enjoyed it the best, he said, and liked your sense of humor. I thought you'd like to know this.

Sorry this is written, not typed, but I'm in a rush. Til later.

((That's OK. After a Mark Lew letter, all other handwriting looks like typewritten stuff. I suspect the printer liked the nonsense filler, probably for his own walls, but thanks, I'll sit here and tell myself he enjoyed my editorials. I did not list ANYbody for the GM poll, simply because my playing has dropped way off, and I'd have a hard time listing even half the GMs around. Even to cull through the many zines I get, heck, a lot of the subzs don't even list who puts them out! To list just the relatively few I know of would seem too much like stacking the deck, so I did not list GMs, or subzines either for that matter. Thanks for the note.))) J.M.

JOHN CARUSO (Whitestonia)

160-02 43 Ave 2d floor Flushing NY 11358

Seems like I find something to write about for BB every other week. Well, here I go again.

Oh Allen, Allen, Allen—how can Allen Wells be so wrong? We left the meeting before it started, despite Robert Sacks' pleas, in order to avoid an argument. Robert told us the

Caruso, continued

only possible solution was no smoking or 2 tournament rooms. Of the 12 of us that walked, only 2 smoked, but we were all prepared to boycott if Robert wouldn't arbitrate. As it turned out, Lee Kendter, a smoker, found the solution. For the record John, I don't smoke, and I could care if anyone else wants to, that's his right. I used to smoke 3 packs a day, but that's why they call me the "East Coast Jack Masters", or Jack the "West Coast John Caruso". Oh, by the way, Allen is about as allergic to smoke as you are to Claudine. That bad, eh? He spent 11 hours at Byrnecon in our 6 room, stuffy apt, with 4 cigarette smokers, with no AC (or DC).

We will be launching the second space shuttle soon. Why should the Russians be interested in a space vehicle that you say is "useless"?

Hey John, why the sinister remark about NY? We pay more taxes, why shouldn't we get some of it back? If Oklahoma built a "Westway" in Moore, you'd see some of the money too. In NY's case, it's a project that's been laying on the table (or under it) for many years. Believe it or not, from my point of view, it is almost obsolete.

Before I forget, congrats on your poll finishes. I'm satisfied with my own too. To tell the truth, there is one person I owe a lot to, and I never seem to thank here enough. KK rounds out W. It makes it what it is. So I'd like to say right here and now—thank you Kathy. I love you.

Back to the kinky stuff. Did you know Steve Arnawoodian was going to Moore Okla for his vacation? You'll know who he is, he's the one wearing a towel around his waist and holding a sign saying "Woody's Deli, the home of Bear Delights". Oh, and don't bend over in front of him. ((Too late for 81R!))

Why does a hobby mascot have to be alive? We can take Brux's carcass and stuff it, and prop him up on an altar or something. Look at examples—the Blacks look up to Lincoln, and he's dead. The commies look up to Lenin, and he's dead. The British to Churchill and baseball to Babe Ruth—why even Claudine looks up to Johns.

I think everyone likes to pick on the South, don't they? Me too, but John, if we stomp them into the ground, we aren't going to have anyone else to kick around, like a famous American once said.

I didn't know Scott Hanson was old enough to drink. I thought in Minnesota that the drinking age was 51? Or is that the driving age? Voting age? Draft age? Oh, it's the dying age.

Suffice to say, I read Rod Walker's explanation of his getting DW, and all I can say is that it sounds logical. But why couldn't he just say so in the first place? I also seem to have been in error (again—what else is new?) about all the feuding between Walker/Sacks. But, I still think the best solution is an end to it, for once and for all. If Linsey and I could end our feud, I'm sure the 2 of them can.

Think there's enough in here to fill a page of BB. Take care and see you next week. PS: You may have lost your luscious, she is a smoker.

((Yeah, she has some vices, doesn't she? Seriously though, you also err again when you say about smoking "that's their right". No, that is not their right, any more than it is my right to come into the tournament and have diarrhea on the floor. Minimum standards of human conduct and decency are not waived by some asshole saying he has a "right" to blow smoke around me, and if they want to storm out in a huff, good riddance to them. I would hope that future tournaments announce a policy in advance, to keep the unthinking louts away from the start.

If Walker and Sacks got together like you and Linsey, I'm afraid we're in for a lot more suff...

I said the Shuttle was useless as a deployment weapon, not intrinsically. It can be put to good use: one might resettle Haitian wetbacks in orbit with it, for instance, though landfill is still the best route.

NY pays more taxes because there is more money concentrated there than there is here, and it is money that is taxed. Even at that, your main business, such as mob activity and the dope trade, go untaxed to all our detriment. Roads built here have only about a 1/3 inflation factor due to kickbacks, instead of 150%, and a new road here despoils what was there, whereas in the NE, the demolitions for a new road anywhere are always an improvement. You could still look to Massachusetts though for inspiration: their roads turn back to sand after a few years, and you can start all over!))

AM.

I think I'll put my neck on the chopping block of fate and make a "foreign affairs" prediction. With the possible exception of the middle east, which is hopelessly unpredictable, Reagan's first really serious, long term foreign crisis will be in El Salvador. His only chance to avoid it is a sharp break from his present policies.

Unlike some other areas, Reagan began here with a fairly clean slate, in terms of US involvement. He could have kept all hands off, tho of course that would have been inconsistent with his campaign talk and, I assume, his personal philosophy. Right now, the U.S. military commitment is above the "token" level but below the level where it makes a major factor in the fighting. Most importantly, however, this administration has been saying very loudly that it will not tolerate a leftist victory, so long as the central government is willing to fight it out. In this way, we make ourselves the prisoner of events, our policy largely determined by a weaker government.

The problem is, the status quo is deteriorating. I do not know what kind of coverage your papers give El Salvador --- I suspect its back page stuff. But from what I hear here, things are going badly for the government. That means that Reagan can either 1) watch things gradually go from bad to worse 2) Reverse engines and pull out or 3) Escalate the U.S. involvement to compensate for the decline of the ability of the government to control the situation. But 1) is pointless, and 3) is much more likely than 2), so the only question is, what kind of pace will Reagan select for this type of escalation? The slower pace is "Obviously Safer". Indeed, I read last week that the number of U.S. Helicopters is being upped from 10 to 14 --- this is what I mean. This is more acceptable to U.S. voters and will probably not risk the huge debate which will divert attention from the economic reforms that Reagan is most interested in. The problem is, modest increases are NOT going to staunch the flow of events. It will only slow the deterioration some --- and it may have no discernable effect at all. Reagan's advisors probably hope that some modest increases will enable them to hold on till the March elections. But this election will change nothing in the country itself, it will only provide something for the government's backers to talk about. The notion that modest military aid can hold the country together until the "watershed" elections occur is a total illusion.

The sad thing is that this did not need to happen. Unlike in Nicaragua, where the ruling plutocracy (the extended Somoza family) was unwilling to make anything beyond token changes in how the country was organized, the present El Salvador government has instituted some major reforms. The banks have been nationalized, and an ambitious land reform scheme, designed to give title to those who actually worked the land, was passed into law. But their fatal flaw was their unwillingness to deal with the #1 problem: The Army. The army did not mind the bank nationalization, but tossed roadblocks in the land reform plan. Even more seriously, it refused to tackle the right-wing death squads (which of course then allowed the activities of these squads to be blamed on the government) and it refused to allow negotiations with the militant left. The government has said it will not negotiate with the insurgents, and will not permit them to run candidates in the March elections. This is the fatal error. We have backed the government firmly in this; I recall Haig saying just last week that the "insurgents should not be permitted to gain at the bargaining table what they could not earn on the battlefield" (or something very close to that). The insurgents of course have taken a fight-or-talk attitude toward the government, which has replied, in effect, fight. But with the insurgents barred from the election, the non-military left (the major opposition party) has decided that elections will be pointless, and so have said they will boycott the elections. This means that candidates will range from the far-right to the center, but no further. Reagan

can trumpet the results, but they will not change anything in the country. The light at the end of the tunnel will just be a mirror reflecting our own flashlights.

Whether the escalation there in US involvement will be sudden or gradual (during the Sept-March timeframe) is harder to predict, as reasonable arguments for both positions will presumably be presented to Reagan. Reagan is in foreign affairs more cautious than he is often given credit for. But the problem is, the gradual escalation of U.S. military presence there is, for the reasons I have said, unlikely to serve the actual stated US goal, viz, defeat of the leftist insurgency force on the battlefield, and I think Reagan will be leary of a strategy that is unlikely to achieve its stated goal. Plus, if it fails, it makes him vulnerable to the charge from his own right that he is weak-kneed. It also means that El Salvador will be a hot topic for the 82 elections, since Democrats will be looking around for non-pocketbook issues to clobber Reagan with.. So that's my prediction for that scenario's results.

On the whole, however, I think it is more likely that he will go for a more drastic escalation, rather than less drastic.. Reagan has had some success in using his personal charisma in getting people to accept bold changes, and I think he'll be tempted to give it another try in El Salvador. With a fast clobbering of the insurgents, the whole issue could be dead by the summer of 1982, in which case he gets a huge political plus from it. But will it actually clobber them? It's impossible for me to say. But I can say that it will have some very bad side effects. It will split our European allies, as a number of them will line up behind France and reject the notion that force is the way to solve this problem. It will greatly strain relations with Mexico, and other Latin countries will be worried about Reagan's willingness to use so much force. So much will depend on how the insurgents handle the escalation. If they stick to their usual tactics of small encounters Reagan will look good. But if they switch to major, infrequent raids there will be real ~~xx~~ problems. Major changes are more difficult to predict the results of, so I am more cautious about predicting this scenario. Part will depend on whether the insurgents can succeed in killing Americans. Each death of an American will be treated politically as a failure, even if it has no military significance.

I do think, tho, that Reagan underestimates the reluctance of the average American to get involved in another military venture, especially if this involves a blockade, U.S. deaths, and support for an army that isn't seen as totally under the control of its government. If this is coupled with increased talk of a draft (even if the draft is totally unrelated with the events there ---which probably would be --- it will be linked politically) that will raise the political heat too. ^{THE CASE}

So with either the fast buildup or the slow one, there is the very real likelihood of a foreign policy crisis and tragedy, tho the timing will differ. The other choices, viz, a Reagan pullout, and government military successes without US escalation, are both extremely unlikely.

BB should be around in 9 months --- Jun 1, 1982. Lets see how my prediction stacks up/!

I don't think anyone is going to stand up for the air traffic controllers in BB so I will: I think they are getting screwed, and I think that that's unfair, illogical, horribly expensive, and just plain stupid. A lot has been made of the fact that the strike is illegal, to which I say: Why and So What? In the last decade we've had loads of illegal teacher's strikes, just as an example, and almost without exception, they weren't fired. What's the big deal now? Further, if you look at the labor history in this country, there has been a long history of making strikes illegal --- and accomplishing nothing but bloodshed and suffering and economic harm in the process. There have been

many attempts to make all strikes illegal; particularly southern states trying to make coal strikes illegal. By and large all those laws are gone. I can see the justification for making a strike ~~by~~ that will cause serious harm to the public health illegal --- but air traffic controllers hardly fit into that category. That brings me to my other question: WHY? The pilots can strike, the flight attendants can strike, the people who gas the planes can strike, the people who wash the runway can strike, the people who service the planes can strike, even the people who handle the air-to-ground communications other than what the air traffic controllers do can strike --- but if the air traffic controllers strike, they lose their jobs and can --- and have been --- be jailed.

I see no logic to that. All this talk about how critical planes are to the country overlooks the fact that the pilots are just as essential (indeed, are more essential) and yet they can strike.

The reason for the firing was purely political: Reagan felt he could have gained points with the public in doing it. I would like to have heard him say something like this: "Folks, I've been reviewing the situation and I see no good reason for the air traffic controllers to be public employees at all, since no other components of the system are. This is something that private industry could do just as well. Accordingly, I am sending to congress the following legislative package....."

There's nothing crazy about that. In Switzerland all traffic controllers are in the employ of a private company, which is in turn hired by the airport to provide this service. They are supported entirely by user fees levied against the airlines. Thus, no tax monies are involved. There has never been a strike in the several decades that this operation has been in force (since the 40s, I think). Indeed, I thought Reagan was in favor of user fees --- or so he said. But when some opposition developed in congress to his user fees for yacht owners, I noticed they were quickly dropped.

So Marion Bates thinks that "Communism ... has lasted as long as it has due primarily to a lack of opposition" I guess he's too young to have heard of Operation Barbarossa, John Foster Dulles, etc.

I'm glad that the name Dipsomania wasn't used, as there was a zine by that name in the 60s, a variant zine by Don Miller.

Ah, the Canadian dollar has fallen to 80¢ because women get 17 weeks of maternity leave at 93% pay? Boy, and I thought it was due to political problems within Canada, a negative balance of trade, the recent increase in strength of the US dollar against practically everybody etc, but now I know better.

I sure did enjoy Ron (Maple Leaf) Brown's letter ---there was so much there I agreed with! As for the business about destroying people vs destroying buildings, I favor the idea of Abbie Hoffman here. He recognized that some people just want to kill, others, we might as well accept that and put them in the military. But remote killing (Bombs dropped from 20K feet) just doesn't satisfy that urge. So:

1. You gotta directly kill the other guy, and
2. Once you have, you gotta eat him, spitting out only the bones and teeth

I don't feel at all self conscious about using one stamp for two issues. Its one of the reasons I use reduction. If I couldn't do that at least occasionally, I'd not be able to keep the price so low. There are virtually no full sized (11+ pages) zines around for 35¢ (a price that should last a while because it was predicated on rates going

to 20% by the end of the year, which now looks a bit pessimistic!)

There wasn't heavy use of British material in the quiz in an objective sense. Almost ANY use will seem heavy to the norm, which is just about zero in the average U.S. dipzone. Practically no one is getting those questions right, tho, so its mostly an educational feature I guess.

Rod sent me a copy of Caruso's letter, which made it into #102, plus his response, which of course did not. ~~ALL RIGHT~~. Your advance copies are certainly appreciated. But, as I have said before, a letter like Caruso's should be held until the response is received, especially when you are fairly sure the response will be prompt. Its easier to follow things that way. And its not as if you are short of material, or there was something in Caruso's letter that just had to get printed right away.

((Ah, but there was. The fact that it was submitted gives it a degree of importance, even though I seem to be at odds with more of what John says than not anymore. It is true that to hold it would make for a nice sequence, but that has some flaws in it. For one thing, I rarely if ever have had any organization in the Bulletin; its essence is, print promptly whatever comes in. There have been times that I got a response in time, but then, I have been printing a bit more than average lately, and it didn't work out this time. Next, what about all the other people who mention, or get mentioned by, someone else? ANY limit I set will be called arbitrary, and the original author might well complain that his attack did not get the prompt publication that HE expected from submitting it to BB. Finally, to hold things for some possible later response by someone else would take time away from turning out material, and I would rather put the effort into publishing what people have to say to (and about) one another than to put it into bookkeeping time to keep track of who is saying what in response to older submissions whenever. An attackee may like to have responded in the same issue, but an attacker may want his charges run without the other side chiming in right away, too. In this instance we can take positions, but for the general case (and my publishing policy), I find it much better to do just what I am: print all that comes in as it comes in, and go to press when it fills an issue. It is true that I am not short of material, but the very reason for that is because I generate a lot of outgoing material that provokes the incoming mass. (I just hope it will continue long enough for me to maybe get in a decent 105. I don't know at this writing, but I can see this 104 will be pretty decent.)

Abbie Hoffman is pretty funny, but the humor of it only detracts from the more serious matters. His type of philosophy of saying, war is no fun, so forget it, makes sense only to the asshole types who think as "deeply" as he does. He can sit there and entertain himself with such cutsie""thoughts" while those who disagree prepare. Then

when he's in someone's labor camp someday, he might finally get some "re-education", regretablely along with a lot of decent people. Such mental masturbation by these leftist hippies might make them feel good, but doesn't get a whole lot accomplished. Just like them.

What your heroic defense of the air controllers overlooks is that the pilots and baggage handlers are airline employees who can do damn near whatever they want within the airlines ability to pay and willingness to give out. The controllers are government employees who trade off many of those civilian benefits for the free ride features of government employment. Not being able to get fired offsets not being able to strike. But when they try to fuck the taxpaying public^{more} by getting rid of ALL the offsets and just keep all the free-ride features that being a government drone entails, the President is right kick their loathesome asses straight out into the gutter where they belong. Let 'em learn how to drive cabs now and live on \$15,000 a year instead of building up a government pension at \$40,000 a year. Reagan deserves all the credit he's getting for the action.))

J. 74.

GETTING THINGS DONE AROUND HERE IS LIKE MATING ELEPHANTS!

1. It's done at a high level.
2. It's accomplished with a great deal of roaring and screaming.
3. It takes two years to produce results.