

The BRUTUS BULLETIN

ET TU, BRUTE

Early Sept., 1981

The BRUTUS BULLETIN is a newsletter of postal DIPLOMACYtm brought to you every few weeks by John Michalski, Rt 10, Box 526-Q, Moore, OK 73165. Subs are closed, and there will only be one or two more issues of this thing, so don't worry about resubbing if you're getting this, unless your label says "106".

NEW ZINES IN THE NEWS: New York state is making a comeback with two new ones named, as a lot of old NYers were, after some fantasy or SciFi land. The first of these two new ones was called "EREBOR", put out by Ken Halpern and Brian Lorber. The return address is Brian's, 7 Polo Road, Great Neck, NY 11023. Subs are 10/\$5 with free game openings to the first 14 to sign up. The first issue was 6 pages, later ones are promised to be 8. The second zine is ANDUIN put out by Eric Kane, 109 Hicks Lane, Great Neck, NY 11024. This one was 10 pages, to be put out the 15th of each month instead of the first of each month like EREBOR, and costs a little more: 9/\$5. ANDUIN calls itself the sister zine of EREBOR, with the odd note that if players in a game in one zine all also sub to the other, separated seasons for a game carried in one zine might have the adjustments appear in the 2-week-later issue of the other! Quaint. Both are acquainted with and give thanks for support to Boardman and Bruce Schneir, other NYC area publishers. I don't know if that is an endorsement or not. Anyhow, if you are interested in new zines, write for a sample of their issue #2. (These issue 1s were largely HRs). If it's the free game entries that lure you, go ahead and ask for #1. New zines are always kind of risky, esp. NY ones from my experience, but perhaps your experiences will be better. ANDUIN has the same free game offer for the first 14, and both have good looking printing.

Another new zine in the mail was COAT OF ARMS, a project by Tom Mainardi and his sidekick Steve Arnawoodian. These two characters (and they are characters!) used to run some pretty decent subzines in Mike Mills' old EMHAIN MACHA, now defunct. They talk of adding another subz pubber, Keith Mercer. This original issue has slightly weak repro, and an offbeat editorial by Tom defending against my attack on an earlier Mussolini praise column of Tom's in EM that kind of goes out into left field in a Boardmanesque sort of way, but aside from this shortcoming, they look stronger than a lot of newer zines. Woody's subz, Diplomatic Immunity, starts off with a nice cover showing him with his foot typically in his mouth, and he has two and four week openings. I don't recall if he allows black press or not--probably not, or I would have signed up right away. I might have anyway if I didn't need to respond right away to the nutty stuff in Tom's side. Oh, I should mention that Tom's subz is called BERSAGLIERI. The reason for all that Italian stuff can become more apparent if you read some of what he says in this first issue. Despite the unfunny nature of his stuff, COA might be worth getting one of these days, esp. if they add another subz on top of the current two so that some of Tom's more embarrassing pieces are watered down by the bulk of that from others. Write for a sample from Woody, whose address I know, and he'll get you one from Tom whose address is Havertown but not recallable beyond that. 602 Hemlock Circle, Lansdale, PA 19446 should get you some response. Call him Arnawoodian or Woody, by the way, not "buddyfucker" like I now do after my game experiences with him. You don't want to gross out his postman.

OLD ZINES IN THE NEWS are first, BLACK FROG #48, wherein Blackjack comments on the criticisms levelled at him lately and includes a reprint of one of his earleir pieces adapted from Thurber or somebody. He also refers to a note in BF #35 which gave credit to various other authors, and responds to Linsey directly. 16 pages, digest sized, regular print, new subs currently closed, 25711 N Vista Fwys Dr, Valencia, CA 91355. Also in the news are a couple of big anniversary issues, but you'll have to go to page 3 for them, since I'm out of space.



JOHN'S NOTES

A whole lot of nothing in the news from around here folks. Oh, another condemned killer got an indefinite stay of execution just for the hell of it from the courts, and the two girls who disappeared at the state fair have yet to turn up, but other than that, we're just perking along as usual. The home typewriter has gone on the blink, printing double s's, w's, and 3's whenever you hit those keys, as a botched-up looking letter to Tom Mainardi showed, but no real important stuff. MAIL has slacked off quite a bit, as I've spent 3 days hoping to fill out a partial page that contains nothing but the tail end of an answer to a Mark Lew letter, but haven't seen anything coming in to use. I got two letters, but they are all farewell stuff. What I should have been spending time on is the trim of the house, which was started last fall, left over the winter for this year, and has never been finished. Now the cooler fall weather is starting, and it has yet to be done, which gets a little embarrassing. I guess I will have to type up a long ZINES RECEIVED column in #107 in order to fill it to a decent size, unless a few of the folks attacked in this issue choose to send stuff in. I've got quite a few here to comment on aside from the new zines and annish's on the cover (or at least the new zines and annish's I meant to get put on this cover!), but with the mail down, they will have to go as the feature piece. Another thing I can see I need to rerun is the one pager on Junk Mail that some of you old timers may recall. I don't know when it first appeared, but I believe it was reprinted in the huge #50. Talking to Allen Wells on the phone last Friday (pestering him at work just cuz I had nothing to do at work), I can see that I need to rerun it again. As an important advance point, I should mention to you that just because postage is going up to 20¢ next month, it does not, and SHOULD not, mean that you need spend any more to mail bill payments than it did before. Everyone should know by now that mail sent with NO postage will be returned to sender for postage, because the big companies complained about all the people like me who were mailing all their bills with nothing on them except room for the PO to stamp "POSTAGE DUE ____¢". However, the law also provides that mail sent with INSUFFICIENT postage will be forwarded postage-due. SO, instead of putting a 2¢ stamp along with you old 18¢er next month, try sending just the 2¢ on it. That's what I do. Now of course the recipient has the option of refusing it, in which case it will be returned, so you should always mail a couple days ahead of the deadline,, but the only mail I have had refused was by the City of Moore Water Dept when we were in Moore, and then only the third month in a row I had mailed them a postage-due bill payment. So try it. Why should you not only send the electric company \$80 and then 20¢ more to get it there? Hell, if they want your \$80 now (which they will), let them pick up the last 18¢. Try it. When I pay bills, there are usually a dozen to go out at once; that's two and a half bucks at the new rates. You can't afford that much waste. Wouldn't 24¢ be a lot better? Put a dozen 2¢ stamps on them and let 'em go. (Put them in a box for pickup, not on your mailbox for the carrier. The carrier will leave them for postage. Always put postage-due mail into a drop box).

Have you noticed how shitty TV dinners are getting anymore? Last night I made myself one for a late supper, and just ahead of it I had the leftovers on my son's plate. He wasn't eating much with a loose front tooth that came out later that evening, so he had a decent serving of a "good" meal for him: macaroni and cheese, instant potatoes, and a half eaten hotdog. Well, compared to the "salisbury steak" dinner I got that followed, I can sure tell you that there was a lot more food value in his leftovers than there was in that TV dinner. I think the most expensive part of it was the aluminum tray it came in. The "steak", which was an oval "hamburger" patty made of pork and soybean meal more than beef, I'm sure, may tide a dog over until his normal feeding, but was unfit for human consumption. And here Morton puts their name on it and charges me a buck for it. I can take a package of freeze dried survival food and get tastier stuff out of it. (I bought a sampler pack once. It's a lot better than I expected, but way too costly. They are really cashing in on the Survivalist's fear.) I could understand if it was airplane food or some such, where the only thing you can taste is the preservatives, but this stuff is no better than canned Army field rations. (Which I also have some of.) I can't see why they should charge this much for that type of product, especially when they put it out under their 'National Brand' name.

The anniversary issues: first, there's LONE STAR DIPLOMAT #13, a 16 pager with articles, poll reviews, cartoons, games, and miscellany. Definite Texas flavor, kind of like the old EMHAIN MACHA was Irish oriented. Put out by L. Michael Conner, 3214 Beverly Road, Austin, TX 78703. 10/\$6, no openings at present. A nice reading zine, unless you're some east coaster who views Texas with disdain.

The other first birthday issue comes from Ron Brown of Canada, with his double SNAFU! #13 & 14. Twentysix pages, about half devoted to games/press/endgame statements, the other half to letters/articles on travel/notes/poll results & reviews. Also, the important news that Dip sets available with the old wooden blocks are still available from the Canadian distributor, House of Games, though not for foreign sale. You'd have to get some Canadian to get one for you, and either mail it personally themselves, or cross the border and then mail it. That might be easier, since so many live very close to the border. In fact, with Canadian postal rates going to 30 or 35¢ there, it might be worth their while to take their US zine copies across the border and mail them from this side at our new rates. Even if a Canadian dollar only buys 80 US cents, a US 20¢ stamp for one ounce would cost a Canadian 24 or 25¢ in their terms. Something to think about. Anyhow, back to SNAFU! Pubber is Ronald James Brown, RR#1, Brennan's Hill, Low, Quebec JOX 2C0. Subs are 12/\$6, gf \$4, \$5 for variants. Seems to be good xerox repro (means better than this BB), with nice layout. One article this issh also laid out the names of all the European leaders--PMs, kings, whathaveyou--in the 1900-1920 period, for those of you who want to have better looking press release datelines than "Pope Joan". Everyone should sub to at least one Canadian zine just to laugh at the British spellings: -OUR for -OR, etc. The surprising thing is that these new zines look a lot better than the older Canadian survivors are looking lately: Fol Si Fie and Runestone. Both Snafu! and Dave Carter's Sleepless Knights should be in the top 15 or so next year.

Another point I should comment on while I think of it is one I forgot to mention in regard to Allen Pearson's letter inside regarding the Leeder Poll ratings. He wonders that "so many people would sub to a zine that they consider so poor" or something to that effect, in regard to the big, atrocious vote for LE FRONT. This is one reason I did not directly reprint Leeder's own notes about the balloting, for like Al, they equate voting with current subscribing directly. This is an error. If you find something that is putrid and drop it in disgust, should this mean that you cannot vote for what you know all too well about it? If you were a player under Ozog who resigned when he admitted to helping a player to a speedier win, would you be unable to vote for him as a GM now that you are no longer a player? Clearly not. That is why when I wrote up my instructions, I said to vote only for those zines you are "familiar with". I, for instance, am quite familiar with what LE FRAUD is, what TETRACUSPID is, etc. I don't think I should be expected to keep this from the hobby record reflected in the Leeder Poll voting just because I would not spend money on subbing to these disreputable excuses for dipzines. What the vote shows is that there are a lot of people aware of the hobby at large who will consistently vote these losers down until they change their sorry ways. Mr Pearson's implication that only subbers should vote would leave the balloting on these things to the inner circle of hangers-on and toadies and jerks that cling to the publications in question out of either inertia, stupidity, or perhaps the notoriety they can gain by being part and parcel of a ripoff operation. These are not the types whose opinions we want to hear in the results. We need to water down their votes by a large turnout among the human hobbyists, not restrict the voting on the pit-class publications to those dumb enough to stick with them.

DEPARTMENTS are apparently going to force me over the page, since there are a few of them to cover today. First, let's start off with the main one, the MARK BERCH DEPT. Beautiful weather here today: cold, only in the 70s this morning and overcast, high should only be in the 80s. That's what we held to yesterday too, an 89 high. It's been running in the 90s, a little warmer than usual. Traces of rain, barely enough on the south side to keep the grass alive, but the leaves are dropping from some of the trees as it is. Nice football weather. MARION BATES DEPT. Lots of news this time. We are having a lot of trouble here with both the Police Dept trying to find people (42 short) since the types they are looking for are the same as what the drilling rigs are looking for, and rigs pay a hell of a

Still more BSing

lot better than does the police dept., and the type of persons you have to deal with are perhaps marginally better. But not by much. Another area that is hurting for labor is the department stores looking for Christmas help. When you have as many people employed already as we do here, ones willing to clerk long hours for a few weeks are kind of hard to come by. Guess they will just have to do without, or pay more. If they paid enough, I'd consider working some myself, since things aren't real rosy anymore since Claudine left her regular job and just does substitute teaching now. As a matter of fact, as puddy as my current job often is, I might be more useful to society taking off a few hours DURING the day and go work a cash register somewhere and draw pay from both, hey? The thing I've noticed is all the jerkoff housewives who are being pulled into the labor force as register jockeys and who are totally unable to comprehend the advanced mathematics of making change for a dollar. Too many soap operas for too many years. No wonder all the older women you run into are a little goofy. Working is good therapy for them, but it's a pain in the ass to have to put up with them as they learn about the real world away from the vacuum cleaner at 38. If you have something exotic to do, like cash in two sizes of deposit bottles, call a manager.

LEE KENDTER DEPT. This just popped up on the news this morning. Houston has replaced Philadelphia as the nation's fourth largest city. Even internally, we see people "voting with their feet", abandoning the old and rotten welfare cities of the NE and moving to where things aren't quite so bad yet. Right. Why should things be better here than there, hey? So bring down all the folks who like to vote in unions, have lots of social programs for those who never do get around to working, and foist them off on us. Pfhl-pfl-pflt on that. How about some leadership in solving problems there in the NE, instead of just saying, well, let's tax the sunbelt to support our past massive fuckups here?

KEEP DD GUESSING DEPT.: Commentary on some recent defense decisions. It now looks like we will put our mobile missiles in the old immobile silos, build overpriced and years-old BIs, to tide us over until we can get Stealth bombers and decide how to proeprly deploy mobile missiles. Well, I can see the missile deployment decision really; those goofy underground RR systems were monostrosities, not at all worth the cost. I would hav preferred to see the mobile missiles put on flatcars and moved around the surface, even use them for advertising like they do the Thunderbirds or Blue Angels you know: set them up beside state fairs and such for a month, a few here and there, with signs on them saying "Target: Omsk". Nice advertising, hey? You could even charge a fee for having such a "display" brought in! That has always appealed to me, running defense stuff for a profit. (I think wars should be used to bring in booty to at least lessen the cost too. So far only Russia and Israel seem to follow that line of thought though.) As to the bombers, I can understand the Reagan decision, but I do not agree with it. True, the B52s are ready to fall out of the sky now, but to buy planes that are already obsolete doesn't even really seem to help us over the "window" period: we will hardly be able to make, or afford, enough planes to matter in the next 1½ years, and after that it won't matter. Spend a little more to speed up Stealth prudently, and let our triad slip to a bi-ad for a while. And keep the money in people's hands. A major cut, yes, right out of holy Defense, however big was necessary to balance the budget next year, would do us more good by way of helping our economy (building on our strength) than would massive defense spending now on questionable military programs, propping up our weaknesses. I would be more in favor of taking the chances involved on defense in order to give us a powerhouse of an economy (and more importantly, the benefits to the social order) than to make big capital expenditures on defense now at the cost of weakening our hurting economy even more. Yes, I know, first things first, and defense must come first, but that part of this defense program is less valuable I think, than the benefits of a balanced budget for a couple of years. Especially under a Republican administration!

Sorry for the extra pages of blather. I'll try and fill next issue with more of YOUR stuff. Send it in! (One, maybe two more issues, unless things suddenly change at work, which IS possible!)

ALLEN PEARSON (Just Among Friends)

Rt 1 Box 177B5, Kearneysville, WV
25430

Well, I am sorry that you have decided to cease publication in the near future, but I definitely won't try to talk you out of it. I'm sure you have considered the situation and made the decision that is right for you. When I decide to cease publication (not if, but when; I recognize my limitations over the long term), I hope people will respect my decision when I quit.

I would like to second Dick Martin's reservations with the Leeder Poll results. I think this criticism has nothing to do with John Leeder, or the way the Poll was run, but almost any vote can be rigged (I know, I rigged two in college: one paper ballot and one on a voting machine). So, not only can the Poll be rigged by block voting regardless of the value of a particular zine or GM, but a lot of people seemed to vote in the Poll based on reputation without having seen or recently been involved with a zine. I personally find it hard to believe that 21 people who didn't like Front De Lib of Dip are still receiving the zine, yet dislike it enough to give it such low marks. This isn't to say that the score was undeserved, just I can't believe people that hate the zine that much would still be subscribers.

My zine came in 8th in the poll. I had told several other publishers earlier that I expected to make the top twenty, and I would be very pleased if I made as high as number 15. I personally like my zine (but what publisher doesn't like his own zine), but realistically, I feel that JAF should come in around number 15. Even though I got off to a slow start (as Masters said, my writing must have improved, he can now read it), I felt I had improved enough to get in the top 20. Maybe as you say, I had yet to make any enemies or screwed up too badly, but still I had put out less than 10 zines in the time period. I have no real quarrel with Black Frog being #1; he has done a good job, and he has put out a respectable number of issues. But that leaves Dot Happy and Europa Express with fewer issues than me, and Lone Star Diplomat and Jihad! with just a couple more.

Well, I don't really see any easy way to correct what I perceive as problems, so I guess I just will have to let go of the issue. Mark Larzelere has started his own poll (The Marco Poll). I tend to agree with his concept a little more in allowing only votes for the top five zines, much like a football poll, but it could be rigged to favor a zine just as Leeder's can, but at least the negative vote process is eliminated. Trying to take the zine's circulation is probably a good idea, but I'm just not sure that dividing a zine's vote by its sub is really the way to do it.

Well, good luck with the gearing down of BB. Let me know if I can be of any help.

((Thanks for the thought.

I too think that weighting a vote by sub would be improper. Those zines like mine that are fortunate enough to get out a large (i.e., 2/3s or more) vote from the ranks would have a definite edge over smaller circulation zines (below 40) that didn't manage to get but 1 person in 5 to vote. BOTH cases certainly exist now. The greatest problem would again be a one-game warehouser going to 10 people. If I were running one such, I would send out ballots and have them sent back with the next season's orders, then mail them separately to Leeder myself. If I could count on a 7 or better for my work, I could reasonably count on an 80% decimal turnout. I heard at one point for this last poll that some group of pranksters was going to agree to vote a 10 for some made-up zine Leeder wouldn't recognize (NO one would, of course), but if they got the minimum votes in, El Fako or whatever would come out as this year's "winner". Of course it would go over about as funnily as the perverted Bates-death thing, and I'd like to think my comments to that effect may have influenced the dropping of that idea, but it goes to show the type of thing you WILL run into. People will play the system. That's why I think the current system, with a minimum vote of 10 needed for the main list, is best.)) J.M.

I'll be glad to help in better jokes tho!

Thought you'd like to see what sort of things go on at radical southern California colleges, so I'm enclosing this flier that everyone got several of. I find it sort of amusing (the presentation, not the dead babies) tho not enuf to go out of my way to boycott Nestle products.

Why did I choose to go to California for school you asked? Why didn't I go to Texas or NM? Well, my main goal was to get away from pickup trucks with "Rodeo: America's #1 sport" bumperstickers. ((An admirable goal!!)) A lot of smart kids from Los Alamos go to Texas for college 'cause its so cheap (Incredible subsidies from state government, apparently), but the smarter ones go to California. You see, since the University of California runs the Los Alamos scientific labratory, if your parents work there, they work for UC, so if their dependents go to a UC

school, they get to waive out-of-state tuition, or \$960 per quarter, a sizable sum. As for UCSD's particular charms, ye gods-- beach within walking distance, nude beach even closer, it is 2:30 and girls are sunbathing in bikinis on the quad below my window, all dorms are coed, and the sun setting over the ocean is beautiful from my 6th floor window. And oh yeah, its a damn good school.

Of course it doesn't have Julie Glass, but you can't have everything.

((Sounds OK I guess. I have reduced and run the flyer beside this, but I'm not sure if the small print will be legible. It started small on a sheet this size, and now is down by 60% or so.

Concentrate on getting into one of those bikinis there and not into my London in MASS MURDERS, OK?))

J.M.

STEPHEN ARNAWOODIAN

(aka "Buddyfucker") (excerpt)

I'm at Gary Coughlan's and we are going site seeing, should take 5 minutes.

((Hah! I'll bet you spent more time than that just oogling Elsie! I'm sure Memphis has more to see than a quick tour around the barnyard. There's a river to look at I think, and, uh, let's see--what else is Memphis famous for? I think they had a team that was one of the best in the old World Football League... Anyhow, while you may have gone out to see the sites of things, viewing them is a sight, and thus we usually emply the term "sightseeing" in general use. Obviously you have been corresponding too much with Luscious about speeding my demise in FADE AWAY, and it is starting to show. Write and let me know what you did see though please. I know from recent WHITESTONIAS that you are a good article writer.))(((

J.M.

How To Kill A Baby And Make A Fast Buck

1 Use all the tricks of promotion to tell a mother in a poor underdeveloped country that breast feeding is not modern. She should use formula made by Nestle.

2 Ignore the fact that she has clean water, no affordable fuel for sterilizing, no refrigeration for leftover formula and that she can't read the warnings on the label.

3 Don't tell her that the cost may be over 40% of her family income and that it is dangerous to dilute the formula.

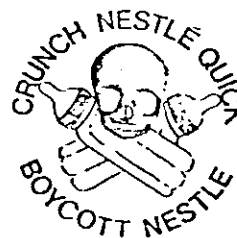
4 Ignore the fact that ten million infants in underdeveloped countries each year suffer from malnutrition and diarrhea because they are improperly bottled.

5 Ignore the fact that one million of these babies die each year.

6 Ignore the world-wide protests of doctors, nutritionists and 118 nations in the World Health Organization, and fight all codes and national laws attempting to limit promotion.

7 Pay publicists, lobbyists and scientists to discredit your critics. (This tactic is behind the Ernest Lefever case.)

8 Just tell your Swiss shareholders how much profit you made this year--and that Nestle is number one in sales of infant formula.



The only way to help end this horror is to **BOYCOTT** all Nestle products. We must keep them out of the cafeterias, vending machines and stores. The only way the University will stop purchasing Nestle products is if people like you stop using them--making these products unprofitable for both the University and Nestle.

Sponsored by: ASUCSD

PLEASE DON'T BUY THESE NESTLE PRODUCTS	
Taster's Choice	Nescafe
Nestle's QUICK	Nestle's Crunch
Nestle's Libby, McNeill & Libby products	Souptime
DeCaf	Nestle's milk flavorings
Scouffer products	Crosse & Blackwell products
Maggi products	Swiss Knight Cheese
Deer Park Mountain Spring Water	McVities
Crawford products	Provolute Locatelli
Major Grey's Chutney	Wupside
Sunrise	Beringer Wines
Los Hermanos Wines	L'Orral products
Beech Nut baby foods	

What? There's an issue 105? I'll have to put in a new ribbon (I already did that).

I'll start this letter off with a comment about Caruso's letter - mainly, the part about Sacks vs. Walker. A few days ago, I received a letter from Rod Walker. Also enclosed was a carbon of a letter Rod had written to Robert. It seems that, because of that "F Black-Rum" thing in 1981CP, Robert had asked Rod to have my name removed from the Game Openings section of DIPLOMACY WORLD because I "change the orders that the players send in". Since Robert doesn't receive LIFE OF MONTY, he didn't know about the details concerning the "missing set of orders", the numerous phone calls I made, the concessions, the etc., the etc. (It's supposed to be "etc., etc.", but I'd thought I'd let Kathy (Byrne, who made a "comment" in #104 about me) catch me in the act - besides, if somebody makes a mistake, I can't help myself - something I was ~~taught~~ brainwashed to do at Berkeley) Oh, by the way, I ran up an expensive phone bill, calling Flushing, Lansdale, College Park, Moore, Minneapolis, Chowchilla (it costs more to call Grabar, who lives 100 miles from me, than it does to call you), and Anchorage.

Back to Rod vs. Robert. Do you honestly expect Rod to let Robert get away with TELLING him what to put in DW? (If Robert asked him nicely, and Rod blew it out of proportion, then take that last sentence back - I don't have Robert's personal point of view.) Sometimes I let people get away with murder - for example, in the last turn of EMPIRES OF THE MIDDLE AGES, John Boardman (one of the players) wrote a press release about "Boozeland" (the U.S., apparently) and its controlling Shaman (Reagan) who "controls those who control the flights" and who has performed a ritual which "demands human sacrifice" (don't ask me what that's supposed to mean). I even got a letter from Larry Reagan about it, in which he said something about how this was out of place outside of GRAUSTARK (well, not exactly, but that was basically what I got from it).

Don't remind me of September 26 College Football! I had to wake up early on Saturday and drive to Berkeley for a football game (Cal vs. San Jose State, although SJS ripped Stanford to shreds) at 10:45 IN THE MORNING! (That was the kickoff time, not the time that I left.) This was because ABC wanted to show the game on TV, and, since Cal would wipe out its \$100,000 deficit footballwise and then some, everybody agreed to an early kickoff.

Speaking of Berkeley, I see signs for LSAT, MCAT, GMAT, DAT, etc.-AT. There are exams for prospective doctors, nurses, lawyers, business managers, dentists, and a bunch of other people - but no exam for Diplomacy players. Therefore, in an attempt to remedy this, the next LIFE OF MONTY will contain the 1981 North American Diplomacy Board examination for "prospective hobbyists". Just what we need. And, if this catches on, we can charge outrageous amounts of money like the SAT guys do, and divide the money amongst the hobby organizations.

Which brings us to another bit of news. I just heard from the AMERICAN WARGAMER that ORIGINS 83 is scheduled for Detroit, and there's a rumor that ORIGINS won't come out west for a long, long time. Considering what happened this year (especially with AH), I'm not surprised. DIPCON, on the other hand, is a different story.

What? More? Then you can charge for a double issue and lower that debt of yours? OK, you've asked for it. In the BERK MARCH area, it's started raining over here, but I have a feeling we're in for some more heat before the big rains start. Then, the "stinging winds" and the "unbearable heat" return. It's a good thing I'm not folding soon; my debt would run to \$126.40. I'm in enough trouble as it is, what with 20 hours/week at school plus homework (on deadline days, people

Del Grande cont'd

are in line for a computer terminal at 3 in the morning!), and I may have to cut back (e.g. 8 pages/issue, at a cost to the reader of \$35¢ an issue or so) for a while.

I've heard some complaints about subways and "els" (elevated trains) lately. Here in the Bay Area, we've got two-in-one! That's right - when going from El Cerrito (just south of Richmond, or north of Berkeley) to Berkeley, the thing goes from 40 feet in the air to underground. And only 50¢ for a 10-minute trip. PLUS, the doors don't slam in your face. Trouble is, those tickets you put into the entry and exit gates (and then put into the "addfare" machine when the exit gates won't open because you forgot how much it costs to go from the corner of Montgomery and Market (in San Francisco) to the Oakland Coliseum) are a bit big to just stuff in your pocket (about 2 x 3¼).

MARK MATUSCHAK DEPARTMENT (anyone who's gone to Dartmouth AND Georgetown deserves it): somebody just opened a "preppy" shop across the street from the University of California - rated in the "Prep Bottom 10 Schools". Oops; I have a shirt with an alligator on it.... Why aren't there any preppy archeologists? One mummy is enough. (Insert appropriate reaction to that "joke" here:)

MY DEPARTMENT (from "The Official Rules"): That's funny, I thought your latest back cover was a rule, but I can't find it. Maybe Herb Caen thought of it first....

KATHY BYRNE DEPARTMENT: There'll be no DipCon in Berkeley: it's against the law to smoke in a "public place" (exception: places where food is served - but "smoking" and "non-smoking" sections must be observed). That's one school Phyllis will never go to (although I've had professors who "just have to smoke" even though the signs clearly say NO SMOKING - and who am I to argue with a guy who gives me an A- ?).

SOMEBODY'S (Konrad Baumeister, I think) DEPARTMENT: Speaking of Berkeley, listen to this: some guy picks up 2 bottles of Tylenol in a store, pockets one, and pays \$4.79 for the other. A security guard notices this, and tells the guy to stop. He keeps on running. The guard pulls out his gun and fires. The "robber" dies on the spot. The guard, initially charged with involuntary manslaughter, has his charge raised to second-degree murder. Given parole, he'll be out in 5 years or so, if you ask me. Supposedly, California has a death penalty, but I haven't heard of anybody going to the gas chamber since 1965, and I live less than a mile from San Quentin

MY DEPARTMENT #2: Both STRATEGY & TACTICS and THE GENERAL are late this month. My guess: an after-effect of PACIFIC ORIGINS. ENVOY is also late.

Should I give Michalski a break and stop right here at about 2 pages? Why? Allow me to answer that in some detail. You see, stopping at two pages leaves more room for those other guys who write these things. You can read the latest news clipping describing somebody who was shot quite by accident, or maybe something about the latest hobby feud, or (wonder of wonders) something by John himself. Oops, it looks like three pages after all....

ANYWAY, I won't bother any of you with a "farewell to John" which would've been cut out anyway, which is OK since I can't think of anything to say about John anyway (ha, ha). In the face of Byrne vs. Lew (and probably Martin, too) and the latest round of Sacks vs. Walker, both of which were caused by the fact that I don't hold onto orders (Dave Grabar doesn't, either - was that my first mistake right there?), there ARE still a few of you who don't pack up and leave, who won't be bothered by one ~~tiny minor insignificant~~ incredibly large, major, significant, and unbelievably INEPT (I refuse to call myself "stupid" - brainless, I can agree with, but Kathy calls me that enough times,

Del Grande concludes

along with Swider) incident. Can this be a bright spot in the dim hopes that this hobby will someday amount to something? Can I honestly live up to the fact that there will be some pride in facing D&Ders and saying "I play Diplomacy" and not get laughed in my face (as well as characters with an intelligence of 3)? For that matter, can I interest you in purchasing California Memorial Stadium?

Oh, boy - win \$250,000 at BURGER KING, or 300,000 at McDONALDS. I still remember the McDONALDS "Double Choice" Quiz with questions like "Who was our first president?". Oh, sure. I got one of those things. One of the questions was something like "Who led the NFL in Rushing in 1927?" At least the BURGER KING questions were easy - trouble was, you needed to answer 7 to win what you'd get with 2 from McDonald's.

Should I put a black border around my next cover to signify "death of BB"? Or will it ever come back to life? Will the hobby ever see BB again? Remember, any 'zine can win the Leeder Poll (win?) unless there happens to be another 'zine.

FINALLY (at last), has NBC backfired? "Get High On Yourself Week" is supposed to get people off drugs. The day after their big special, three people got high - high up on the Golden Gate Bridge - only to end up in a watery grave. It's PROBABLY coincidence.

((They could do like we do in defending Reaganomics against Mark Lew: say that more people would have jumped if it hadn't been for Get High Week.

No, BB won't be back. The border might be a quaint gesture, though. As to the D&Ders, nothing will help them, so don't worry about it. Hell, just look at some of them prancing around the cons in their elf suits...

If the only convictions in California since 65 were for cases such as those you cited, then it is fitting and proper that there be no executions. I would have pardoned the guy after the case at that. Shooting a thief, whether for a bottle of Tylenol or a paperclip, is no crime. The crime is when killers are getting free tickets out, thanks to liberal judges and lunatics in the ACLU. Right now in Oklahoma there is a woman who killed an airport cop and wounded his partner and is only now going to jail when even her bigger backers found how wild she is. There was no question of her guilt, but she was an Indian, so to do anything to punish her would be discrimination. They defended her and then scraped up \$100,000 bail. (Kennedy then complains about the poor and starving and helpless Indians...) Another lunatic that raped and murdered a 9 year old girl has been granted a new trial, if it can be brought off again, because one of the jurors was found to have been in one of the search parties looking for the girl's body. This gives him the "right" to try and get out of it again. That is why I feel we would be safer putting these guys on the streets and shooting down the liberals like dogs. The killers, we can deal with on a case-by-case basis; the ACLU crowd is society's enemy in EVERY case, and are worse than any one individual criminal they hold so dear to their corrupted bosom.

Mark Matuschak Dept.: I don't get it. Maybe you west coast folks pay attention to "fashion" like the east coast does? Why?

Well, we did lose the big one, but it is just as well. If you must lose, it should be on a last-second desperation play. And despite all the whining around here, it turned out right. No team that fumbles the ball NINE times deserves to be #1. They're lucky to have gone in as #2. Fortunately, polls count for little now. Wait for two more weeks, after the Texas game (always a big event in this part of the country). Things will start firming up then.

On Sacks, I wouldn't be as harsh on him for it as I would in any other similar case. Kathy is right there in town after all, and no doubt really "persuaded" him heavily. A local call, even. Of course the thing that really killed you in this was the other stuff you sent/said, making it appear as a lot more than just a possible GM flub. You cut your own throat there.)) J.M.

ROD WALKER (Diplomacy World)

"alcala"
1273 crest dr.
encinitas ca 92024
23 september 1981

Now that DW 28 is at the printer, I can relax a little bit and write hate mail to BB. (Yes, Virginia, there really will be a DIPLOMACY WORLD, which the printer will dump in my hot little hands on 2 October and which will, we hope, be in the mail that weekend.

I guess I will say a few words about so-called "Creationism". What that means is that a bunch of people whose minds are still back in the 15th Century want the schools to teach the Judaeo-Christian creation myth. Mythology is all very well, but ought to be taught as such. And with a much broader base of data. The Egyptian, Canaanite, and Sumerian creation myths should be taught as well, and the Greek, the Scandinavian, various Amerinds, &c., &c., &c. To restrict teaching to the Judaeo-Christian myth alone violates the constitutional requirement of separation of Church and State. And on that fact alone the "Creationists" will meet their downfall in court. (I'd love to see some schoolmarm try to explain, delicately, the Egyptian myth of how the pantheon of gods and goddesses was created by Neberzer the creator. We have, for instance, Anuk pu hat(â) em khefâ(â) tataâ(nâ) em khaibit(â) kher(nâ) em re(â) zes(â) ashesh(nâ) em Shu, tefnet(nâ) em Tafnut ân âtef(â) Nu... Well, anyway, "I, even I, had union with my clenched hand, I joined myself in an embrace with my shadow, I poured seed into my own mouth, I sent forth issue in the form of Shu..." (and so on). Ain't "Creationism" grand?

Interestingly, I independently stumbled onto a Masters "source" before I knew it wasn't a one-shot deal. Mark Berch had sent me some backs of BLACK FROG because I'd never seen any and he wanted me to evaluate how good Jack was as a writer (since I had expressed no knowledge of his considerable reputation). One of them contained a short, "The Chimp that Played Diplomacy" (or some such title). Parts of it were fairly good, but they jangled a memory bell. On a hunch I did some looking through books I'd read or skimmed recently. Sure enough, that was very largely lifted verbatim from "Descent of Man", by T. Coraghessan Boyle, originally in the Spring 1977 Paris Review and reprinted in Terry Carr's first Year's Finest Fantasy (1978). Check out, e.g., the scene in the head and the bit with the janitor. I've not seen the material Brux says is taken from Thurber. I've also sent this info to Brux.

I agree with you that it would have been better for Jack simply to acknowledge his sources. I had earlier sent him a request that he write some humorous material for DW. But I did include a note saying that he had to guarantee its originality because I didn't want to get slapped with any infringement of copyright suits. At the time I knew only about the one example I cited above. Now I know why that letter got no reply.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT: In defense of Sacks (at GenCon East), let me say that the poor guy was obviously faced with a ridiculous tempest in a teapot. It's easy to find fault with his handling of it, now that we're cool and collected in our armchairs, but he was unfairly put on the spot. Every account I've seen of this incident emphasizes Allen Wells throwing a fit, Kathy Byrne throwing an equal fit, and in general behaving poorly over the "smoking" question. Of course I wasn't there, so I don't know. As a non-smoker, however, I feel that the best way to handle that situation is to try for a non-smoking rule with liberal provision for smoking breaks. One can go too far in insisting on a smoke-free environment, just as one can go too far in pretending that smokers have the right to pollute the air as much as they feel like it. Compromise is the best way. I gather that Robert was put on the spot by people who feel "compromise" is a dirty word. It was a bad situation for anyone to be caught in.

And that's all from the Land of Fruits and Nuts for now.

Response to Walker

((And don't forget Medflys.

Sometimes it is difficult to compromise. If one person wants to play a long game enclosed indoors, and another wants to emit smoke to his addiction's content, it is not an easy thing to compromise the expectations of the normal person with the unthinking demands of the lout. How do you compromise between the person showing common courtesy and common sense with the person who does not? Either you extract civil behavior from the group, or you do not. Sacks made the best deal he could, as I understand it: Civil behavior was demanded in the play area, addicts could puff away on whatever lured them out in the hall. Even that was apparently too much to ask of one group of addicts and hangers-on who left in a huff. Is that bad?

The Masters thing is commented on elsewhere also, so I won't say it all again here. I find it illustrative of how some hobby issue could get to be as big a thing as they do to some, and nothing to others.

Is Creationism grand? Sure. You overlook the one key difference between the olden day myths and the current one: People still believe in the current one. The others are passe. Old myths never matter, for they were all false beliefs. It is the current one that is always unique, because it is true. Whatever it is. The hard part is accepting the realization that some of your fellow men Literally think that way.)) J.M.

RON BROWN of Canada (Snafu!)

RR1 Brennan s Hill Low, Quebec JOX 2C0

You're going to be missed. Hardly a week goes by without another BB appearing. To me, it's become a source of conversation and constant updating re. the hobby. I got a kick out of writing you. I wasn't really serious about some of the things I said; it was more in fun to get your goat. But, I do consider your responses carefully. You're the first intelligent spokesman for the "right" I've run across. Most are knee-jerk yahoos who think they're living in the Old West when "men were men and women were in the kitchen or the whore house."

Re. whatever money you owe me: if it's more convenient to you, rather than you sending me back money, I could simply adjust your sub credit to SNAFU! That's probably the easiest way. But, I'll leave it up to you.

Darn, all week I've been plotting my responses to your latest issues. I guess I'll have to find someone else to argue with over whether cats are superior to dogs, or who won the war of 1812-14. (On that topic, it does bug me that Americans claim they won, when they invaded Canada, were driven back and had Washington burned as a bonus for their efforts. And anyone who thinks the USA could take over Canada by military means just hasn't met a French-Canadian farmer yet. Sure you'd get the cities and southern Ontario, but not much more. See, I'd like to go on with arguments.)

This has been a summer when "Queen" said it all: "There's another one gone, and another one gone, another one bites the dust."

We'll survive, but you'll leave a hole.

((Thanks for your kind words, and the others I've deleted, and to the many others who wrote similarly. However, DON'T stop sending in comments! There is still an issue or two, and no reason to slack off now.

Were it a matchup of military force, of course you would fold. We almost took Canada in our half-half-assed effort in 1812, in a war we lost. (Usually called a draw here). There should be no fighting between us tho—just an amiable anschluss. And you're right about the French farmers—let them go. They're more trouble than they are worth, like Ireland to England or Poland to Russia.)) J.M.

This will probably be one of the last letters in one of the last issues you do.

I noticed how your attitude towards Kathy has changed over the last month or so. All this since the time she apparently stabbed you in a dip game. How coincidental!

I have another answer for Mark Berch about your sending cc's of (as you call them attack, I'll call them opposing--it seems some people don't know the difference between opposing views & attacks) other people's letters on. For the record, John M doesn't send cc letters to everyone, as far as I can tell, he only sends letters to you, Rod Walker, and Bruce Linsey, at least that's how he did it in regards to my letters. On the other hand he never sent me a cc of any of your, Bruce, Rod's letters. In fact Mark, you probably have received 2 recent letters from Walker as well with numerous mentions of Kathy in them, and not 1 cc was sent here from the author. But when I don't send the cc, I'm doing it in bad taste. Tell me about it--double standards. If you're a NYer from Italian descent you must be perfect, but if ultra right from Okla or a hobby officer from Cali-ornia, you can do as you please. Is this fair Mark? John?

For the first time in 105 issues, I agree with you. What's the big deal if Jack Masters "borrows" Thurber stories and adopts them to dip? He is doing it for hobby entertainment, not for any profitable, commercial use. Maybe he could, as you say, mentioned it as an adapted story, or given the author recognition, but I'm sure Masters has no ill-will intended.

John, you missed my point. Its a person right to smoke, not a person's right to smoke where it's illegal. There was no rule for it before Wells brought it up. Obviously they researched NJ laws. Anyway, the solution was found, a solution obviously someone with your kind of narrow minded thinking would never have found. As for your assinine simile, if you're doing it deliberately, you should be made to lick it up with your tongue, and if you have to and don't have common sense to head to a "john", you should go back to your parents and get toilet trained again.

I think Linsey and I have what can be termed a condition where we can both exist together. Its other people trying to prod us into renewing the thing. For the record (again), I think he and I can even have differences and debate them without WWII starting, and I think we've proven that. Don't you Bruce?

Before I forget John, congrads on your finishes in both polls. You, Martin, and Masters in my opinion, had the 3 best zines of last year, and the poll showed it.

((Thanks. On Masters, we have more on that elsewhere this issue, including, unless I skip it when I do JOHN'S NOTES or the cover, a note from the latest BF that points out a reference to the stories' sources in a prior BF. I've heard from each side now: those who agree with Linsey that it is horrible, and those like you who think, so-what? It goes to show that there will ALWAYS be issues of debate and argument, even over what is an issue and what isn't.

You are dead wrong on the other stuff. On courtesy copies of things, the main thing you overlook is that Rod Walker was not a subber for a good interval in there; he would not get the issue he was mentioned in, so he got a copy of the master when it was done. Berch is involved in a lot of stuff on a running basis, and some things (e.g., something on Tretick, or a response to an earlier point) will need to be passed on before the zine will. Finally, what I will call your "acerbic" style is more inclined to provoke a response, or even demand it, than just a normal letter from Joe Blow saying Mr Zilch is an asshole. YOU may call the above just an "obvious" opposing view, but from the way you write, I would consider it an attack. For instance, your reference to peace with Linsey above seems to me little more than an agreement not to get too pissed on the continued bad references by each of you on the other. But that's up to you two.

No one need research New Jersey laws to come up with minimum standards of human conduct or common courtesy. Smokers in an indoor area for an extended period are a violation

-Response to Caruso, continued

of both, even to a "narrow minded" type like me. What were you saying about "opposing views" instead of attacks, by the way? Double standards, my ass.

Do stabs seem coincidental to you? Why, to a lil ol' Okla boy like me, it seems only natural that the tone of the letters you send to the person who sits on your home center will naturally be different than what you sent to your ally the month before, especially when the two are the same person. Does this seem so strange to you as you make it seem? Tell me then, John, when someone sticks the big ol' dick up your ass, do you still write "Dear Ally" like you did the turn before? I'll be here for an issue or two more. Tell us about it.))

MARION BATES (Plague Times)

P O Box 381 Kalkaska, MI 49646

First let me thank you for the want-ads you sent and your letter. I should send you a sample of the local want-ads so you could see the contrast in terms of sheer volume. Michigan, as you undoubtedly know, has one of the highest unemployment rates in the US and this area of Michigan is one of the worst pockets in the state. My spouse, who is a certified social worker, is working in a bakery and at this point I would be delighted to take something comparable. If I could find it.

Your suggestion that I just cruise down to Tulsa or someplace similar and get established whereupon I would find work within 2 weeks given a certain amount of diligent hunting is a sane one and I would do it if I was able. Primarily, my finances would never handle it. Also, I recently lost my driver's license thanks to a couple of points I picked up on my way to Detroit to meet the Flushing Mafia but that's another story. Needless to say, I don't relish spending the night or the weekend in an Oklahoma jail for driving without a license. Out-of-state license plates have a way of calling attention to themselves.

Incidentally, I'm not the big husky fellow you suggested for work on the oil rigs. If I were, I could get that kind of work up here where oil is also quite big.

In a recent issue of BB, you peaked my curiosity by championing Amaretto and Cognac. Anyway, I attempted to get some at a few local bars but was met by blank stares and hostile sneers. Anyway, I was in the hospital for a couple days last week--nothing really serious, just extraordinarily unpleasant--and the day I got out, a friend of mine, whom you and others in the hobby know as Nikita, presented me with a bottle of Hiram Walker Amaretto and Cognac that he'd picked up in Grand Rapids just for me. Well, I was delighted when I tried it in a warmed snifter and discovered that it was really very good. I can see how someone could become very attached to this stuff.

((How wonderful that someone actually tried it! Heck, the last time that happened was when I once wrote a recipe in to Don Horton's late CLAW & FANG for "Chili for People Who Hate Chili" and Eric Kirchner later tried it. (Liked it too, as I recall). Pilant and I are hoarding it here, for Hiram Walker, Seagrams, and others have pulled out of Okla in a liquor dispute.

There seem to be a lot of hobby folks in the job shuffle. Caruso got his back, but says it's shaky; Osuch is looking, and will be in Texas as you read this; Masters just switched; Wells got stuck in Massachusetts (!); someone else said they were out of work now, I forget who. Linsey got in teaching school...I wonder why we can't twist some potentate's arm to get him to take one month's revenue and "invest" it in 10% US mortgages? Or run their own mortgage outfit even? Might also help to offset the strong Jewish lobby on the US east coast, by way of the goodwill and all that. Plus it would seem to be a decent investment.

If things hit bottom, hitchhike down here. We'll give you a night's lodging and a

Response to first Bates letter, continued

place to wash up. Take some daywork job the next day and you're on your way. We'll be glad to help temporarily, ~~especially if you're cute and as easy a lay as Nikita said.))~~ 124

Another Marion letter--

Yeah, I know I just sent you a letter . . . but that was before BB#104. I'd like the opportunity to slap that growling dog down good. What a stupid metaphor.

First of all, let me tell you that you have convinced me utterly in regard to the marvelous level of employment as well as the idyllic weather you are blessed with in your neighborhood. If I was 19 years old and unattached, I would probably hop in my Mazda (or whatever I would be driving if I were 19 in 1981) and cruise down to OK to improve my life. I'm not going to tell you that I like the weather up here. When you were complaining about a 70 degree cold spell, we were having frost. I wouldn't mind living in some place where cars didn't turn to shit in twelve months. But like I said before, until I can do something about the finances and my lack of a driver's license, I guess I'll have to live with snow tires and seemingly endless winters, to say nothing of monthly heating bills competing with my rent.

Nikita likes to keep me on my toes. I really believe he sent you that last letter to get a rise out of me. I pretended not to notice. Nikita definitely has no taste as far as alcohol is concerned and I can attest to the fact that he will drink virtually everything as long as it is strong enough and cheap (or, better yet, free). I really think Nikita could achieve alkie status if he really put his mind to it. As for me being a beer snob: Oh hell, don't tell me anyone would drink Old Milwaukee if they could get Dortmunder. And I think beer and pizza go together as well as pepsi and pizza. I won't comment on 7-Up and hamburgers because I don't eat either. Finally, it is not exactly a well-kept secret that I am what could be called a "cheap date." So what? I can get drunk more economically.

John, be careful not to take everything from Nikita at face value. He likes to keep others on their toes too.

Berch's comment on my earlier remark concerning the obsolescence of the Soviet Communist system deserve some response from me as well. Let me just say that I find it significant that he had to reach so far back in history for his examples. If the examples were good ones, they wouldn't prove a damn thing. As it is, the examples are pretty crummy. The failure of Operation Barbarossa is not a tribute to the efficacy of Communism in the USSR. It certainly is a tribute to the tenaciousness of the Soviet people in their attempt to repel a foreign invader in spite of major political stupidity on the part of their leaders. As for John Foster Dulles, I don't understand why Mark even mentioned the guy. He was just another rhetoric pusher.

It's nice to know that you recognise Abbie Hoffman for the profound thinker he is.

I really don't know what to make of this business about smoking during tournaments. I don't have any objection (I'm a reformed ex-smoker myself) since they really seem to need it and I can always step out in the hall for a breath every now and then. And of course I wouldn't expect anyone to complain if I made sure to eat a lot of bean soup just before the tournament so I can make a lot of people miserable too.

Again, let me say how much I'll miss BB when it's gone. I miss it already.

((Me too. I think Berch mentioned Dulles not so much for his talk, but because he is a symbol of the "plotting Cold Warrior" to the left. All the bull and the Treaty organizations (CENTO, SEATO) all turned to sand, but to the left remember, it is the symbolism that counts. Otherwise they might see some weaknesses or flaws in their compatriots to the left of them, or even in some of the Worker's Paradises around the world.)) 12m

MARK LEW (Benzene) 31 20 West 79th Anchorage Alaska 99502 (907)243-4659

I don't believe you asking for "filler", after I send you a letter almost every issue and don't see it for about a month I naturally assumed you had a massive backlog. Do yourself a favor and dig up all my letters in storage and make one big special Mark Lew issue. My only explanation I can see is you procrastinate and never get me translated on time so this one is all typed up ala Brux, on Mike Mills paper and in Dave Carter ink (the black part of the ribbon is running out. (Usually I write as I read but since I'm typing this time I read all but the Berch ~~7/7/77~~ letter so I have to dig back.

(Keithie Sherwood was sweet enough to write to me from his new La Jolly address and told me to telephone him which I was already (oops that should be all ready) to do but the dummy forgot to tell me his number. Too bad.)(You should have got Irksome about yesterday with Benzene there wew)

It seems odd that you don't like sports or smoking. You also should be fat and balding. What kind of a republican are you?? So how was the "Marco Poll" scored? Subup? damn damn. How do I know how many to say for? If you like to reprint VD articles you can reprint one of mine in the Mark Lew special issue. You forgot to tell Nikita Frobish that DIAS=Draws Include All Survivors, a rule which nobody really cares about. Speaking of N.F., I like him (or is he a he/a also?) because of his "who gives a shit?" attitude?" which seems to have disappeared from BB. (Your equivalent of Bruxercoon's Kelley) I've been considering buying some sort of straight wargame (everything I've ever gotten is nonstandard) (It's funny reading in the rulebook about five times that "Unlike most of our wargames, units in ~~*****~~ do NOT exert Zones of Control" and still not knowing what a zoc is.) So anyway what would you suggest. I need something that isn't unstandard, unbalanced, too boring, or too difficult (but not too easy either). (None of this 12 to adult shit)

GETTING EVEN is a Woody Allen book which you should be able to locate at the local library. I don't think Pearson will be disappointed with what he finds. I agree it could be argued that everyone is making a big stink about nothing, but too bad because I don't mind the big stink. GE would be a good KB zeen name, speaking of whom that goddamn sadist actually stuck me in a game I jokingly mentioned that as I was a standby he could fill the last spot by asking for standby orders in sp01 and damned if he didn't! At that I got my least favorite country, Austria next to the hobby's social whore (That's a JOKE, JG!) in Italy. Hrm! (Conrad Von Metzke move over!!!) (Let's hope R&I don't read the lexicon, huh?)

My entire household + visitors enjoyed the smoking comparison to diarrhea. Quite apt.

Allen Wells was not the first to think up A Con-Ank.

Reliably, Berch is interesting and I agree with him not you and there's not much I can reply to. I will say a bit on the air traffic controller's side though. In ignorance of any detail whatsoever, it is my impression that the essence of a strike is a worker gambling for more money, etc on the assumption that he is worth whatever amount he asks to the public or his boss or whoever. So this time the whoever took them up on their offer and they lost. That's the risk they take (which puts me on the opposite side as usual?)

((Not really with me. They gambled that they could ignore the law and get away with it like so many others (teachers, police, e.g.) had before. They chose wrong. Unlike Democrats who are all talk and bullshit, this President is something of a leader, and as they retrain into running the meter on a taxicab, they are learning that too.

ALL wargames worth a shit are "12 to adult". They can't say just "adult" because people would think its porno. If you're only now picking up ZOC, I'd suggest AFRIKA KORPS: lots of movement, few units in play at any one time. For something better, try RUSSIAN CAMPAIGN, but not as a starter. The best wargame I've ever come across for all factors is AFRICAN CAMPAIGN, and Australian Jedko product like RC was at first, marketed here by TSR, Gygax' D&D company.

I am overweight and balding.

Your red ribbon on "Mike Mills" newsprint paper was more legible to read, but not to xerox. I needed to darken the print, but you can't use COPY DARKER on dark paper, so I had to use COPY LIGHTER to drop the background first and THEN darken it. This produces a 2% size magnification each time as well, which on top of your too-wide margins that botched up IRKSOME #2, make for difficult repro and a poorer product. I may try darkening the final run too, but that makes the cutting and tape lines appear a lot of

Response to Lew, cont'd

the time. DESPITE all of that, I appreciate the effort shown. Let me know what kind of ribbon you need and maybe I can find you a spare one.

I called Tro myself, but got no answer. Probably out on the Quad looking down bikinis. I first called his old number and said I had a question about his ADA application, and got his new one. Do NOT call and say you are a government investigator tracking down VD cases. Save that for Martin. Tro's number isn't here or I'd list it; I've seen it somewhere, buried in the seven pages of MASS MURDERS S'01 press. A foretaste of GANGRENE?))

ROBERT SACKS

4861 Broadway, Apt 5 V, New York, NY 10034

1. Neither Tretick/Oaklyn nor Peery was on my DW Staff List.
2. My position was that I was simply not going to mention in DW any of the rip-offs that are traditionally plugged there. This would thereby end all the attacks in DW. Clearly my editorial staff wasn't going to let me reject ordinary articles for mere taste. Of course, Walker & Co. are far more concerned about the ban on rip-offs than in any editorial quirks, because the rip-offs congregate around DW, Walker, & Co. There's a fundamental difference of approach between the NYC and California schools of thought: in NYC we tend to stamp on people when they step off the straight and narrow (I remember it used to happen to me until I learned); in California they tend to elevate malefactors to the level of hobby custodians.
3. I now begin to understand Walker's attitude: "Hell hath no fury..."
4. Let's be truthful about it: I was the hobby custodian on whom the purge broke-- it succeeded against a number of other custodians and groups at that time. Walker will say what he wants (probably something different to each person) and he may

even believe what he says (though anyone who thinks I'm sexy isn't playing with a full deck), but his days as tyrant in this hobby are numbered, and he has only himself to blame.

((As I type this, I understand the newest DW should be on its way, so with the next issue, the first all-Walker one, we'll be able to start seeing the results one way or the other. I will limit comment to squeeze in the start of the latest KGO list here, but I do want to say how hilarious I thought the use of that line of his about "kind of sexy" was. Considering its context, it cracked me up.))

KNOWN GAME OPENINGS

1 October 1981

Robert Sacks

KGO is an independent hobby service vaguely associated with the Diplomacy Hobby Services division of the New York Game Board, the Orphan Games Project, the Miller Number Custodian's staff, and perhaps even the Boardman Number Custodian's staff (I never did figure that one out).

This listing includes multi-player diplomatic play-by-mail games (e.g., Diplomacy and its variants, SPI Power Political Games) with information not more than 2 months old.

A typical listing consists of the following:

Publisher Name, Address

ZINE NAME, frequency, costs ((Month))

GAME (game restriction, different game fee), Variant

frequency: nw = n weeks; m = monthly

Month is the month entry was updated

To update, add or correct an entry, send information to Robert Sacks, 4861 Broadway 5-V, NY NY 10034 USA

Distribution: RNC, MNC, OGP, Zine Directory, Diplomag, Pandemonium, Brutus Bulletin, Diplomacy World, Mike's Mag, CGC, any publisher who requests it for publication, anyone sending a SASE

Konrad Baumeister, 11416 Parkview Ln, Hales Corners WI 53130 USA
 GIVE ME A WEAPON, \$8 ((Sep)) *New zine, but established publisher. Reliable.*
DIPLOMACY

John Boardman, 234 E 19th St, Brooklyn NY 11226 USA
 GRAUSTARK, 3w, \$15 ((Sep)) *Established. Wierd editorial policy*
DIPLOMACY
 EMPIRE, 3w, \$15 ((Sep))
 EMPIRES OF THE MIDDLE AGES

Ronald J Brown, RR#1, Brennan's Hill, Low Quebec JOX 2C0 CANADA
 SNAFU!, 5w, \$5 + 12/\$6 Can ((Sep))
 Conquest of the New World II, DIPLOMACY (\$4), Scotice Scripti III

David Carter, 118 Horsham Ave, Willowdale Ontario M2N 1Z9 CANADA
 SLEEPLESS KNIGHTS, 5w/6w, \$2 + 50¢/issue Can ((Sep))
 Deadman, DIPLOMACY

John Caruso, 160-02 43 Ave 2nd floor, Flushing NY 11358 USA
 MAGNIFICANT 7, 4w, Gamefee + \$5/10 ((Sep)) *Established + reliable*
DIPLOMACY (\$5), WOODEN SHIPS & IRON MEN (\$2)

Fred C Davis Jr, 1427 Clairidge Rd, Baltimore Md 21207 USA
 BUSHWACKER, \$7 ((Aug))
 1885, Atlantica III, Clue, East Indies II, Vacation, Woolworth II

Guy & Elizabeth Hall, 1103-B Lorain, Austin Tx 78703 USA *New*
 THE GREAT WAR IN MODERN MEMORY, 2w/4w, \$6 ((Aug))
DIPLOMACY

Scott Hanson, 701-15th Ave SE, Minneapolis Mn 55414 USA *Also 2-wk now open! Sign up!*
 IRKSOME!, 4w, 10/\$3.50 ((Aug))
DIPLOMACY

Ken Halpern, 11 Bellingham Rd, Great Neck NY 11023 USA *Brand new*
 EREBOR, \$2 + 9/\$5 ((Sep))
DIPLOMACY

Steve Heinowski, 1630 W 28th St, Lorain Oh 44052 USA *Established + reliable.*
 TER-RAN, 4w, Gamefee + 3/\$1 ((Aug))
DIPLOMACY (\$3), WOODEN SHIPS & IRON MEN (\$1)

Roy Henricks, 128 Deerfield Dr, Pittsburgh Pa 15235 USA
 ENVOY, 5w, Gamefee + \$5 @ 31¢/pg + postage ((Sep))
 Anonymity (\$8), BUREAUCRACY (\$5), DIPLOMACY (\$4, Distaff no fee,
 Prize \$23), KINGMAKER Shrank/Scott, MACHIAVELLI (Area game \$4)

Eric Kane, 109 Hicks Ln, Great Neck NY 11024 USA *Brand new*
 ANDUIN, m, \$2 + 9/\$5 ((Sep))
DIPLOMACY, MACHIAVELLI, Youngstown

Mark Lew, 3120 W 79 St, Anchorage Ak 99502 USA *wild + wierd Invitational game. Ask in if you are!*
 GANGRENE, 2w, \$3 + \$1 NMR fee ((Aug))
DIPLOMACY

David Manuel, 10318 Oakgate, Bellflower Ca 90706 USA *New*
 THE CHAMBER, \$2 + \$2 NMR deposit, \$1 NMR fee + 50¢/issue ((Sep))
DIPLOMACY

Steve McLendon, Box 57066, Webster Tx 77598 USA *Established + reliable*
 THE DRAGON & THE LAMB, \$3.50 + \$2.50 Deposit + \$6/10 ((Aug))
DIPLOMACY

Eric Ozog, 1526 N Lawler Ave, Chicago Il 60651 USA *Avoid this one*
 DIPLOMACY BY MOONLIGHT, m, \$5 + postage ((Sep))
 Air-Sea, Kriegspiel, Winter 1900
 Note: Publisher has confessed to committing GM irregularity in one game in helping one player to win, but is pledged not to repeat it.

Allan Pearson, Rt 1, Box 177B5, Kearneysville WV 25430 USA
JUST AMONG FRIENDS, \$4 + 50¢/issue ((Aug))
DIPLOMACY

Reliable

Robert Sacks, 4861 Broadway 5-V, NY NY 10034 USA
HANSARD, \$3 + costs ((Oct))
Parlement (w rules amendment rule)

Bruce Schneier, PO Box 5185 River Station, Rochester NY 14627 USA
INVASION, Gamefee + 11/\$5 ((Aug))
Bourse (\$1), DIPLOMACY (\$3), MACHIAVELLI (\$4)

Michael Scott, 1726 Cypress Circle, LaVerne Ca 91750 USA
MIKE'S MAG, 5w, \$5 ((Aug))
CRUSADES, KINGMAKER, MACHIAVELLI, RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR,
WOODEN SHIPS & IRON MEN (\$7 + \$5 Prize fee)

Donald Sigwalt, 125 Hebard St, Rochester NY 14605 USA
HOOF & MOUTH, 4w, \$2.50 ((Sep))
DIPLOMACY

New

Allen Wells, 1450 Worcester Rd 8109, Framingham Ma 01701 USA
DOT HAPPY, m, \$5 + \$5 deposit + 50¢/issue ((Aug))
Flexible Build

Somewhere in this hobby there is a new GM who by ignorance or design belongs to the Buddy Tretick school of mistreating players. Surprisingly, the very players he is mistreating think he's a nice person, even a friend, and so don't want to go public, so I am just not listing his openings.

It's not ideal, but it's workable: nobody is making a scandal, but I am not directing anybody to his zine.

Along comes a friend of his who has some sort of vendetta against me, and who is screaming that I am acting arbitrarily, that I have to justify my actions, that I am not listing the GM because he is a political enemy (as if Fred Davis, who gets listed every time he has an opening, isn't a political enemy of mine), and that if I don't include and exclude exactly who he demands he is going to take this project away from me.

So I thought I'd let you all know what to expect. It seems I'm to be the next victim. Isn't this fun? Isn't this exciting?

So much for my straight lines....

Again, marginal notes are mine. I only comment on Regular Diplomacy games, not variants. Opinions are based on my personal impressions & experience, nothing more or less. I do not recommend PLAY-in Canadian zines - their Postal joke is just too much a bother. New zines are often shaky - caveat emptor and all that. (Bob Lipton said the same warning about me when he reviewed BB #1...)

J.M.