The

Mid October, 1981

BRUTUS BULLETIN

ET TU, BRUTE

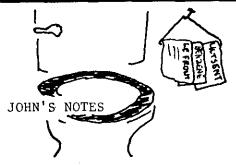
The BRUTUS BULLETIN is an almost extinct newsletter of postal DIPLOMACY brought to you every few weeks by John Michalski ("mih-HOLL-skee"), Rt 10, Box 526-Q, Moore, OK 73165. Subs: hahahahaha. Game openings: write to Scott Hanson, Dave Marshall, John Daly, or Lee Kendter, among others. Even Mark Lew. But none here. DIPLOMACY is a game invented by Alan Calhamer and can be bought for you in decent form by any Canadian buddy from House of Games in Bramlea, which is somewhere north of the border. Not only will you get the real wooden pieces, but you will also get rules in English & French! Try it anyway.

This issue's lead-in is courtesy of Jimmie Johnson, a subscriber in Arkansas, not to be confused with an OSU coach or former coach of the same name. I think. Last issue's was kind of off the cuff, as I was doing 4 sheets in one day (8 pages) to get it done, and I just headed up the cover with whatever I could come up with, which as you saw, was not much. Don't expect anything special for next issue, which should be the last unless something after I type this forces me to close with this. (You'll be able to tell by the presence of a refund check or note at the end if it is). As I type this October 8, about the time the last batch of 106 is being picked up by the postman, it appears I will easily be able to fill this issue, and 108 will be whatever I can manage to put out. I always think, "maybe I can make it a small one and send it on one stamp", but I only recall one issue in BB history that that happened with (tho there were 5 or 6 altogether that were 1 oz or darn close). Have you noticed that these later ones are a sheet or two smaller? That is so I don't have to put out double issues under one cover and be accused of reneging on my publishing obligations by John Robinson. (\cup) I split 'em and add an extra cover. Fluff suggests that I type every single page of the last copy on BB letterhead and call every damn single page an issue. Well, it would reduce my debt to about \$3 (to Gary Coughlan), but what the heck. Maybe I could do that and just extend your subs free to the end point? That would put me ahead of Don Horton by an issue, hey? No?

THANKS are due (anonymously) to the three others who have written in and said "keep the change". I appreciate the gesture more than the money. (Not/teally) That's quite a vote of appreciation, especially when it is more than an isolated case or two. Maybe I can help you guys into Munich sometime or something. Share Luscious with you at GenCon 82? What? You already have an arrangement made? Well, just a thought.

THIS ISSUE should have the <code>ffap</code> nonsense stuff I cut from 106 at the last minute. The cassette ad is legitimate, by the way, and is reprinted here for those of you who have sick senses of humor and Jewish friends. Or enemies. The flip side is a contribution from a Fluff whose name I won't even mention, and it is a joke. Well, you might not think so, but that's what it was supposed to be. There was an article in the paper here a few months ago about a black fellow in Lawton, a dusty Army camptown in SW Oklahoma, who found one on his desk at his government office and raised a big stink about it. Lot of Equal Opportunity panels met and wrung their hands and all that shit, that's about all. Helped a slow news week. Somehow I doubt Mike Conner would want to run it in LSD, so here it is in BB. If you object, complain fast, or you won't get heard here!

SECOND ANNUAL PLAYER'S POLL is something John Caruso is running in his WHITESTONIA. You get to vote for your top three choices this year in each of three categories: Best RegDip player, Best Variant player, and Best Article writer. Don't vote for Blackjack in the latter just to piss of Brux; list him only if you really think he is one of your top 3 without that. The maybe John will list him as winner in Brux's W copy only, just for fun. Hell, I would! But back to the poll. You cannot vote for yourself, and your votes should be sent to John at 160-02 43 Ave, Second floor, Flushing NY 11358 before November 22.



In case that date got cut off on the cover, it's November 22, 1981.

You know, this year seems to be slipping fast, at least to me. Probably because at the end of 1980 I meant to be sure and finish the housepainting in early 1981, and also that I've been working on 1980 business on this windfall tax software package alone for the last 8 months here at work. When I typed "Mid October" on this cover, it occured to me that I may have typed "early September" instead of October on 106; oh, well.

I've got some game stuff for you this issue, and as a filler item, you're getting a complete copy of the five-page WOODPECKER, a new zine that appears to be a fake attributed to Stephen Arnawoodian. I know some publishers got one, but not a lot of others, so as a favor to you, I include all five pages of it following IRKSOME the Subzine. Strange how so much of it is so close to the mark, hey Woody?

WELCOME NEW SUBSCRIBERS: (Seriously!): Larry McCloud, moving to San Francisco. Larry has the distinction of being the last person to subscribe to the Bulletin. How's that for putting out an impressive product? When people sign up for 4 issues of a dying-out zine.... Hope you enjoy it, Larry!

FEUDS AND SUCH continue here as always. This issue you might want to take a look at the letter from Nanook and my reply, and at the Walker letter (vs Sacks of course) and my reply to it. Keep 'em smiling right to the end.

CALLS have come through here and there, but not many folks seem to be in when I;m able to try. I did manage to catch Dave Manuel in, who was glad to find my pronouncing his name as we normally do "manual", not any Spanishistic man-you-EL. Got his sub straightened out too, even though I should have also paid more attention to the AFRICAN CAMPAIGN game that was going on at the time, which I lost to Fluff Shaffer. Ol' Fluff turned up at Pilant's house late Friday night (even though Nanook says he's a figment of my imagination) and grossed us out with his, uh, well, let's call it humor. I couldn't read the placement notes on the RUSSIANS WIN counters, I was laughing so hard. It is difficult to sort troops while he is sitting there telling us with vivid sound effects how he would be imitating some humping sounds in the back of a Baptist church if he were there, "ungh-a, ungh-a, ungha". You've really got to see him to appreciate him. Dave got a call from somebody while we were there, but he cut off Fluff in his offer to answer it for him. And for good reason...

Hmmm, rereading the cover to see what I'd forgotten to mention, if anything, I see I ought to retract the suggestion of playing under Mark Lew. I'm not really sure what his problem is, but I no longer care to, and I no longer care to recommend him. Maybe he was grossed out by all the Winter 1900 press Fluff claims to have submitted. Hard to tell, since Fluff is such a bullshitter.



IRKSOME

MIO8

WINTER 1907 & SPRING 1908

ANYONE FOR A GERMAN SANDWICH?

WINTER 1907 FRA bld A BRE; GER NER! GM ret A ber-OTE, will be one short; ITA A bud r VIE, rem A ser, A tyo, A vie; TUR bld A SMY.

SPRING 1908

ENGLAND (Martin)

F EDI puppets to france(H).

FRANCE(Sherwood) A bre-PIC; A MAR S A bur; F ENG S A bre-pic; A LON-bel;

A BUR S russian A sil-mun; F tun-ION; A cly-LVP; A VEN-rom;

F TYS S F tun-ion.

GERMANY(Stephens?)

NMR: F NWY, F NTH, A DEN, & A BEL HOLD; A mm d, r kie, ruh, otb.

F ion-NAP; F APU S F ion-nap; F GRE-ion; A TRI-ven.

ITALY(Palter) RUSSIA(Gareipy)

A STP-nwy; A sev-ARM; F ank h(d, r bla,otb); A bud-SER; A RU A RUM S A bud-ser; A BER S A sil-mun; A sil-MUN; F bot-SWE;

F BAL S F bot-SWE.

TURKEY(Blant)

A smy-ANK; F ROM-nap; A BUL s italian A ser-rum(nso);

A CON S A smy-ank; F EAS U, H.

OK, Fall 1908 is due on OCTOBER 10, 1981. Would GARY HOWE, 2012 SANDRA DR, MIDWEST CITY, OK 73110 please submit standby orders for Germany. A concession to T has been proposed, please vote on this with your next orders. MVR equals "yes." Signed up for MMR insurance: Gareipy, Sherwood. To add your name just let me know. My "expert" analysis: Germany's NMR really hurt. A F/R alliance would be unstappable. But Turkey is recovering nicely from the stab. Italy isn't gone yet and will probably survive. And then there's England. Now watch y'all prove me wrong next season...

PRESS

PARIS-MUNICH: Sorry about not writing more, but I've just started college. Besides, you haven't written in several seasons.

CON-RUSSIA: Stabs are part of the game but stipid stabs seal your doom. You're doomed. I was 95% committed to Tro, now I'm 100%. You lose sucker.

WASHINGTON D.C.: Intelligence sources familiar with Russian activities and personalities indicate that the recent attacks by Russia upon German territories, particulary the recent takeover of Sweden, were promoted and planned by one man-The Grand Duke Nicholas Nicolaievich. The Grand Duke had constantly been arguing against what he referred to the "stagnating, second class position of Russia" visa-vis its near-neighbor, Germany. He was quite outspoken of his opinion that the last three years of alliance with Germany had been unprofitable, showing no growth at all, and no prospects for gowth in the coming year. Worldwide intelligence networks are closely monitoring the tense situation.

CON-FRA: You're right Russia is a dope.

FRANCE: Now according to my calculations, that extremely well-timed stab should net me the game with no one even close to me in power, right?

CON-MUNICH: Let's suicide against Russia.

CON-ITALY: Let's suicide against Russia.

KEITH-BOBBY THE SUCKER: Due to a little behind the scenes negociations, I have aquired sole rights to Beth's affections-so bug off!

BETH-BOBBY: I don't remember seeing anything about sole rights to my affections in your letter....

CON-FRA: French language books appreciated.

Eric Kirchner sent his apologies for not submitting standby orders last time. As it was, they were not needed anyway.

"Be careful, Father, it's a jungle out there!".
"Not to worry, Maudie. If anyone bothers me I'll just club them to death with this issue number one of



Welcome to the world of WOODPECKER, a gamezine dedicated to the art of crossgaming and Deb Osborne, in that order. Not really. Actually, it will be a Diplomacy zeen featuring games, letters, short stories, art and me(!), Steve Arnawoodian, 602 Hemlock Circle, Lansdale, PA 19446. Subscriptions are available at the rate of 10/\$4. I will be opening up three games of regular Dip for starters, \$3 gamefee, and you must maintain a sub. So far I have no subbers, but I expect that to change once enough of you people see this product.

Diplomacy is the trademark for a game copyrighted by Avalon Hill and invented by Allan Calhamer. If I don't say this, they might sue me, and I'm worth far too much money for that.

ABOUT THE EDITOR

I suppose some of you may be shocked when you see this. After all, I was supposed to be copubling a zeen called Coat Of Arms with Tom Mainardi. Well, I'm still doing that, but "Coat Of Arms" is such a mediocre name that I decided to name my half of the zeen "Woodpecker". So, if you subscribe to Coat Of Arms, you'll receive Woodpecker, and vice versa. But that's not what I came here to talk about. You wanted to know about me.

People tell me I'm a great guy, and I have no reason to doubt their word.

I own a dry cleaning business, which I will tell you more about later.

I got into the postal Dip hobby out of boredom, quickly became known as one of the game's outstanding players, and eventually became secretary of the American Crossgame Society. My distinguishing physical characteristic is a large beauty mark on my right cheek. Byrne constantly calls it a mole and likes to kid me about it, but jealousy will get her nowhere. I could go on forever, but you'll get to know me by subbing, so why should.

I ruin the experience for you?

*

Each month I will write an article so that you too can become a great Diplomacy player. This month I proudly present:

CROSSGAMING: WAVE OF THE FUTURE

by Steve Arnawoodian

If you're like most people entering the postal Diplomacy hobby, your enthusiasm was so great that you probably signed up for five or six games right off. Chances are you have met up with some people two or more of these games. You are probably wondering how you can assure success in this instance. It's easy, and fun. The solution: Crossgame.

Crossgaming is the act of allowing the events in one game to affect actions in another. For example, suppose Joe Schmoe is in three games with you and is in position to attack you in game #1. How do you dissuade him? Easy. Just explain that if he attacks you in game #1, you'll throw yourself at him, suicide out as it were, in games #2 and 3. Sure, you might not survive yourself, but on the whole you'll be ruining two of the three games for Joe, and two out of three ain't bad! Besides, when given such an alternative, most players will decide to try to make something of all three games, so they'll back off in game #1. In effect, you have made Joe Schmoe your ally! Believe me, this system works, I use it all the time!

I must warn you, crossgaming is frowned upon by some hobby members, but don't let that stop you. Berch, Linsey, Sargeant, Caruso and the rest of those self-righteous turkeys might say crossgaming is unethical for the record, but they all do it, whether they admit it or not.

The second part of this article will be devoted to the most important aspect of crossgaming: Crossgaming to win! After all, that's what the game's all about, right? So let's go back to Joe Schmoe. After he realizes he can't attack you, you can make an offer to do you both some good. Ally with him in all three games. It's fairly easy to expand to nine centers, especially with the help of a good ally. You should be able to do it in all three games, or at least two of the three. The rest is easy. Tell Joe you'll give him all of your centers in one game if he'll return the favor in another. Then do it. The result: You win one out of every three games at the worst. Remember, you only threw away one position, you won with another, and the final one you still have a shot at a win. Devise some method of figuring out who wins the last game, such as flipping a coin. If you win the toss, you'll win two out of three games! Not bad, considering the pregame odds of winning are about one in ten. Not bad at all!

Remember, crossgaming is not an accepted hobby practice, so try to conceal it whenever possible. But if you get caught, just say "Eric Verheiden does it", and you'll be all right. So, you really have no reason not to crossgame. Crossgaming: Do it today!

BARGAIN BASEMENT

Fish tanks....

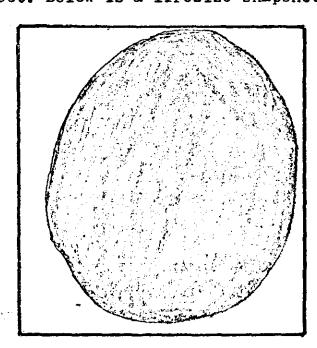
a real steal!

BARGAIN BASEMENT will be a regular feature here in <u>Woodpecker</u>. I am not one to pass up a real bargain. Basically, BB involves you, the subber, sending me, the pubber, some of those useless items that you were meaning to throw out anyway. Why trash them, when I will give you cash money for them? I've been looking for a few of those "hard to find" items in the local resale stores recently, but have been unable to locate them. Here are some examples of what your wares will bring:

Fish	
Inflatable women (one hole)	
Inflatable women (one hole with fur)	each
Inflatable women (two or more holes)	
Inflatable men \$100	
Kitty litter (used) \$1/1	
Kitty litter (unused) \$.50	
Deb Osborne \$100	10
Bird cage \$20	
Oldgnewspapers \$.05	/1b.
Old Whitestonias \$.00	
Prophylactics (used) \$10/	
Prophylactics (unused)\$1/d	
Mole removers \$50	
Contact lenses \$0. I cheat my insurance company and get t	hem free
Eyeglasses (horn rimmed)\$75	
Eyeglasses (wire rimmed)\$5	
Dick Martin's head \$100	!O
488	
All purchases should be sent to me COD. Give it a try, I can't	resist

"BEAUTY" FOR NEW HOBBY MASCOT!

With the death of Brux, Jack Masters' dog and ex-mascot of the hobby, I hereby submit my mole, affectionately called Beauty, for nomination as the new hobby mascot. Below is a lifesize snapshot of Beauty.



EAT MY SHORTS!

by Steve Arnawoodian

This is just to give you a taste (pun intended) of what I do when I'm not crossgaming. I run a dry cleaning store here in Lansdale, and actually do quite well for myself. The only problem is that people tend to send me only one item: Their dirty shorts! Now, this in itself isn't so bad, but the only ones they send are the crusty ones with what we in the business call "skid marks" on them. You know, brown streaks in the back that come from not wiping your ass good enough. Well, let me tell you, skid marks are hard to get out. I try rubbing them out, scrubbing them out, even soaking them out, but I still end up with skid marks on the under shorts. I finally have to bleach them, but people complain that the bleach irritates their naughty bits. It's a living, but sometimes I feel like telling them all to "Eat my shorts!".

MARRIAGE PLANS

Before you read the next issue of <u>Woodpecker</u>, your humble editor will be a married man. That's right, Kathy Byrne and I will tie the knot on October 17, 1981. After that, we might even get married! HAHAHA. Seriously, either Kathy or Deb Osborne and I will be getting married, I haven't decided who will be the lucky girl yet. It may depend on whether or not I get my mole removed. Kathy says she won't marry me unless I do so, but heck, I think it's kind of cute! And Kathy's kids love to play with it! One time Phyllis almost killed it! Phew, that was a close one! Anyway, my best man will be Brad "Born to Fold" Wilson, with Crud Martin also standing up. Dick will also be providing the entertainment at the reception. Of course, Crud has absolutely no talent, but I figured he could just stand there and we could all laugh at him. Should be a good time. I hope he wears his baseball cap.

One of the features of <u>Woodpecker</u> will be a lively letter column. I will not edit or otherwise distort anything sent here, so feel free to speak your piece! So, without further adieu, let me introduce:

KNOCK ON WOOD

From Bob "The Jerk" Osuch:

Dear asshole.

Yeah, Caruso sent me the Whitestonia with your article, "Why Bob Osuch is a Jerk". What prompted such a slanderous attack on me, I'll never know, but I just wanted you to know that you have shown the hobby what a fuckhead you are. I've contacted my lawyer, who advises me to sue you for libel, but if it means I have to stare at your ugly face in court, I'll pass. You make me sick!

Drop dead, Bob

((Blush! It's letters like this that make publishing worth while. Thanks for the kind words, Bob!))

From Bruce Linsey:

Dear, dear Stevie.

First, I need your assurance that you'll keep this totally confidential. That done, I was wondering if you would accept my dinner invitation for the night of October 3. I thought we could enjoy dinner and perhaps a show, then head back to my place and pick up where we left off at GENCON. One request: Could I please be the man this time?

((Darling! You've made me the happiest guy on earth! Could you make it. oh. around sevenish?))

From Scott Hanson:

Dear Steve.

You're going to have to type your orders for "Fade Away" from now on. I can't read the sorry excuse for chickenscratch you call handwriting. Please get your typewriter back from Wilson, he has no use for it now.

From Kathy Byrne:

Dear Steve.

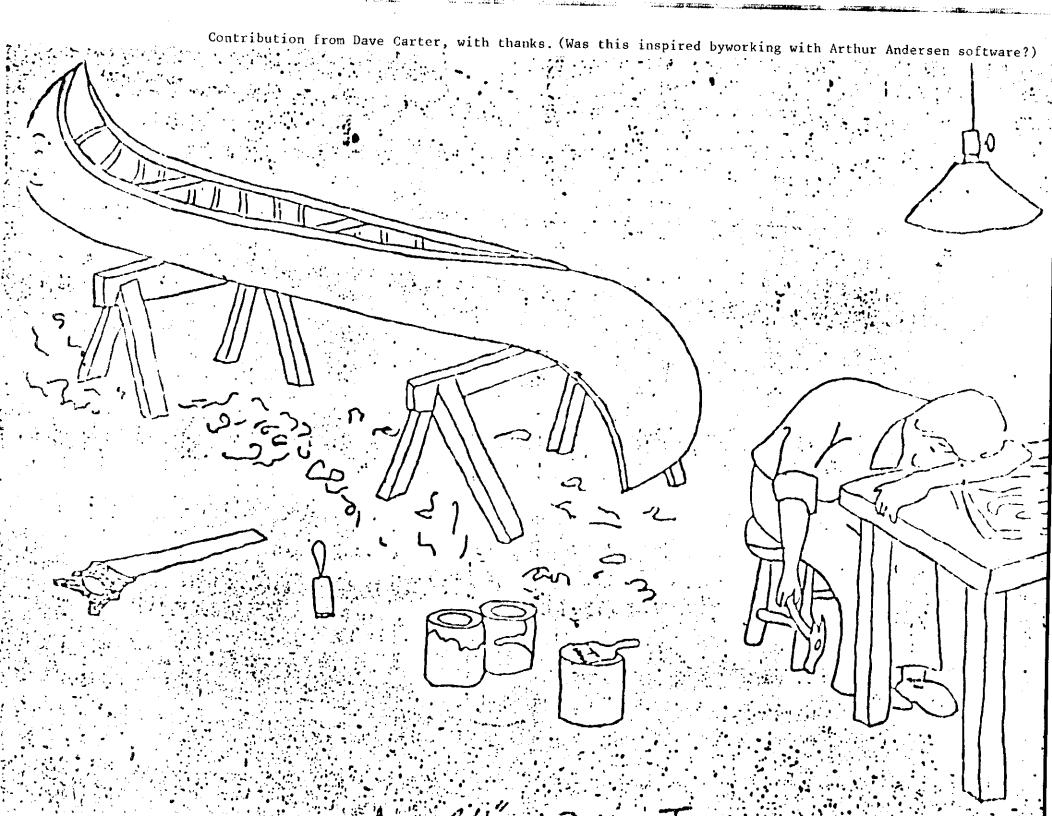
Thanks for the 20 pounds of potatoes, 5 pounds of tomatos, the peppers, the pop tarts, the candy, the "passion pink" paper, the new car, the wall-to-wall carpeting, the grandfather clock and the kitty litter. There is one small problem though; John doesn't like the color of the carpeting. Do you think you could have the man come and tear it all out and put in a different color? Thank you so much, you're a dear. Also, if John answers next time you call, please don't hang up. You're making him suspicious.

((The carpeting people will be there next Saturday. If you don't like the color they put in this time, let me know and I'll have them come back and tear it all out again and put in a new color. By the way, I picked up 12 tons of cow manure on sale yesterday, could you take some off my hands? It was only \$100 a ton, a real steal! If you could take a ton or two, I'd appreciate it, the neighbors are starting to complain.))

From John Lennon:

Dear Steve,

I've read with interest about the commotion the world made over my death, about the impact I made on the world, about the unfavorable influence I might have had on the youth. Let me just say that I was me, people have their own minds, and therefore can make their own decisions. While it is true that my music sometimes contained referals to drug use and political statements. I reject the contention that it is my fault that the youth of America and the world are a mass of drug-crazed idiots. It is not my responsibility to protect young people from undesirable environmental influences. Now let me rest in peace.



The article below originally appeared in BRUTUS BULLETIN #7 in early 1978, and was later reprinted in BB #50 in late 1979. The rates have changed a few times since then, but the point of the story is at least as true now as it was then. I'm saving all my junk mail at the moment so I can mail it all a few days after the new rates go into effect, just as a gesture of goodwill...

JUIN MAIL

NO, this is NOT an article about the BRUTUS BULLETIN. Rather, it is an article to both inform you of a bad situation and an appeal for your assistance in combating it. The topic is the proverbial 'junk mail'. I define the latter as all that undesired stuff that appears not your mailbox trying to screw you on some deal you neither need nor want. And, it gets that's what the stamp shows, if not a bulk rate permit number. Actually, it costs just as much as your own letters do to deliver, of course, only theirs are usually heavier. YOU pay the difference. Tou do so every time you mail a letter. Your 13¢ stamp is about 8¢ to carry itself and 5¢ to carry all that crud to your mailbox, since it's First Class mail that carries the burden of all the magazines, bulk mailings, and 3d/4th class freight moving at a loss. It doesn't quite make it ALL up, of course, for postal salaries are so high that all the First Class mail the mailboxes could hold couldn't cover them; but, your first class letter is the \$ workhorse of the system.

"So what" you say? Well, here's what. You imight think you're getting back at these folks by saying "I throw all that stuff out unopened anyhow". No, you're making a big mistake. Remember, you've AIREADY PAID the subsidy to deliver that crud to your home; why do them the favor of tossing it out for your garbageman (when youalso pay) to haul it away? Yes, I said "favor". I do NOT do them that favor. I do the following: 1) Open the stuff 2) throw away the envelope or face sheet or whatever has your name on it 3) take out the Eusiness Reply Cards/Envelopes, if any 4)tear the advertisements up 5) stuff them back into the Business Reply envelope, and 6) MAIL ALL OF IT! The reason for doing so is simple. 'Business Reply' mail is first class mail. Who, if anyone, SHOULD be paying first class rates, and LOTS of it? The people who are stealing a nickel from us every time we mail a letter, that's who. That Good Housekeeping your wife or mother gets cost you a lot more than \$7 a year; at least do yourself and the rest of us a favor by mailing (blank, of course) all those reply cards inside. They contribute9d each, plus a few cents surcharge. In this way, the outfits bending your ear with their come-on ads fork over at least a token to the first class kitty. Two cards will CONTRIBUTE about as much gross as Good Housekeepi paid to deliver that one-pound sine to your door. And, you can use your imagination and be Why not, for instance, open all the junk mail, and decide who should get what Would Gulf Special Offer Headquarters be interested in learning how they could get \$30/day each day they were in the hospital? Would Barney Bigmouth care to take time away from his congressional campaigning to learn how he could become a locksmith in his spare time? Would the First Holy Roller Church of Hialeah really be interested in that brassiere sale at Sears next week? SURE they would!! So, TELL 'em about it! Stuff all that junk in the envelope of whoever you think would most enjoy it. Hell, maybe somebody there at Beneficial Pickpocket Insurance Co. DOES want an Encyclopedia Britannica. They feel good seeing their • cards and envelopes come back; it shows their advertising \$ was well-spent. The Post Offic feels good seeing more first class mail. And you can feel good, emptying your pencil charpener into that envelope to Boondoggle Book Club. Don't leave the subsidizing to the m in the street. If you want to DO something to right, in some small way, the massive wrong of our postal rate structure, don't EVER let a Fusiness Reply card or letter be thrown awa Mail it. You've already paid to have your mailman deliver it to your trashcan. Why not let them pay to have your postman carry some contents of your trachean back to their own door, where it belongs?

John Michalski

Your lack of knowledge about how the U.S. civilian workforce operates is really amazing. Are you speaking from personal experience of your self or your fiends, or are you relying on the Conservative Rigest or some such nonsense? You say, "Not being able to get fired offsets not being able to strike." Utterly wrong. Its hard to get fired, harder than it should be but people can and do get fired. They get fired because they are incompetant or because their boss is incompetant --- the same reason's people get fired in private business. And people get fired because they are "RIFed". This happens when an agency changes its purpose, reduces its duties, gets eliminated etc. And don't tell me this doesn't happen because it does. Approximately 6000 people will be riffed in July-Sept 1984 alone, and more will follow. There is NO absolute bar on getting fired but there is an absolute bar on going on strike.

Plus, there are other ways of forcing people to leave other than firing them. It is a fact that the air traffic control job is one of the most stressful hobs in the ecomony. This is as judged by traditional indices of job-stress, such as hypertension, and ulcers. It turns out that air traffic controlers have an amazingly low "retirement rate" (a reasure of what of the employees stay till a retirement age) as compared to others holding similar types of technical jobs in the government. This is all the more surprising cince 1) air-traffic controllers are actually quite well paid and 2) There is no comparable work for them to do in private industry. Unlike an ordinary engineer, who can switch to a similar job working for a private company, leaving the government will also entail a change of occupation. The Gov't has admitted that in a number of ways the FAA is a very poor employer to work for. Many of the strike issues were directly related to the problem of job stress, a major one being the reduction of the work week (US controllers have one of the highest work weeks in the work, if not the highest, for air traffic controllers in general).

You act as if they had some sort of choice here, but it is a very restricted one. If you want to be an air traffic controller, you have to work for the government --- the gov't will not allow any competition. So its not as if they decided . "Gee, I think I'll opt for the job security in return for not being able to strike."

Turning to the Caruso letter, he is correct in his description of Robert Sacks's initial stance on the smoking question: RS said that either there would be a total ban on smoking, or there would in effect be two separate tournaments, one with, and one without smoking. Both ideas are of course totally impractical.

With regard to Caruso saving that the "Westway" highway is "almost obsolete", I don't think he goes far cruf. It is obsolete. If the same 550 were to be spint on capital improvement in the suomway system, NTC would be much better off.

I agree with your comments about texing the dope trade, John. Actually, the largest amounts of moncy lost in this regard are in California, where Harijaana is probably the biggest cash crop, and cetainly is in come of the counties, and in Florida, where the largest commercial transactions take place. However, the federal government will not permit the states to tax this.

I am not superstitious about chain letters. If you'd like to end one and are too squeamich, just send it to me and I'll ignore it for you, so that you won't have to verry or.....thud.....gasp....crosk....

((Was that from a chain letter jinx, or you're dying from finally having sent just ONE Dip Digest with one stamp? (\smile)

I don't think the government can permit the states to tax illegal activities, since this is an official "winking" at it, and to pay the tax would be a form of self-incrimination. (On the other hand, the same can be said for the income tax...) It seems legalization might have to come first, and that shouldn't come at all.

I think when you say it is "not as if they decided 'Gee, I think I'll opt for the job security in return for not being able to strike'", you are "utterly wrong". Sure they did. "You have to work for the government" -- so what? You want to be a soldier or a senator or an air controller, you work for the government. If you don't like government work, don't plan on being a soldier or a senator or an air controller. Nothing wrong with that. "The FAA is a poor employer" -- shit, Mark, ANY government jobentails having a poor boss! Whenever you have a system where anyone once in can ride to retirement no matter what you do or do NOT do, you drive out the good and encourage the mediocre and the slobs. It is to the credit of the controllers that, being disciplined enough to learn a demanding trade, most realize before retirement that equal effort elsewhere will earn them a more satisfying position. I'm surprised that you, living in a high government-employment area, fail to acknowledge this readily. Perhaps the area has TOO much government -- nothing for you to measure it against? Here, governmetn work has always been a major block of employment, much sought after: high pay for little skill and no work. Tinker AFB, FAA, and the state government provide the spots. There is also a lot of turnover--competents get sick of it and leave; jerkoffs, drunkards, retards, cowboys who can't tell a horse's head from a horse's ass, farmer's wives, farm hands who can't tell a mule from a plow, all of them stay on for 30. RIFs of a few thousand a year, even were it tens of thousands a year, are laughable out of the millions on the lists. And for every one RIFed, you're not going to tell me there isn't another 12 hired somewhere else. Or do you want to claim that government employment outside the uniformed services has been going down?

Firing a federal employee is almost impossible, and you don't get that from Conservative Digest. Anyone familiar with ANY government agency can tell you that, ignoring the occasional news stories or 60 Minutes expose's and the like. More often the really hard core assholes get written up as the top, outstanding employee, in the hope they can be promoted out of the building. Nothing ELSE will move them out! Or are you going to tell me that in your office, your supervisor can come in and say "Mark, I've had it with you. Pack up and clear out today"? I've fired people in an hour; I was kicked out at Harper in 8 minutes. How many government employees in the entire building you work in got ifred in the last two years? I'm afraid if you want to defend the government work environment, even you with your skills are doomed to dismal failure: the task of putting over THAT much snow is too great even for Mark Berch!))

TRO SHERWOOD

P O BOX 6457, La Jolly, CA 97637

Both BB 105 and MASS MURDERS came today, so I figured it was time to write you again. Plus I've been saving this wrapper for two weeks to write to you on. It's sort of the classy thing you would write on if you could, hyork, hyork. I don't know where the funny stains came from——the chocolate tasted good.

On to BB 105. Thanks for putting my COA right on the cover. I would have liked to fake 105, but I simply don't have the ideas for another fake. Not to mention time, money, or free xeroxing, sorry. Tell you what, when you shut down, I'll take my sub balance in xeroxes of old BBs, starting with 71 and going backwards for however many issues you owe me, excluding #69 since you already sent me it. Is that okay? I'd like that very much.

Tho many imitate, none can compare. That's why no one can take over BBs place in the hobby. Linsey may print everything he gets, and it may be nearly as good as the stuff you get, but he doesn't have the Michalski flair in reply. Your replies

were what kept the letters rolling in; your last volleys against Tretick have been hilarious!

Didn't I complain last letter about people who would look at VODs rating and say "Awe, poor Bruce"? Larzelere's a perfect example, and I'm writing him myself on the subject.

Stafford tells me I got a letter printed in the latest LE FRONT. I wrote it 8 months ago, geez. Do you think I'll get a complimentary copy?

Get a column in IRKSOME. It won't be the same, but it will be something.

((We'll see, I wouldn't count on a complimentary copy of LE FART. If you saw "your" letter, you might recall the differences between what you wrote and what he prints.

Back issue copies will take a while in coming, but yes, I'll be glad to go any such non-cash route. I think you'll have 7 issues coming. It would be nice if I could get them out before rates go up... Anyone else want to go that route?

If anyone wants to fake BB 108 or 109 (last issue +1), send them to me for dropping in the box. I'll add my farewell statement sheet and hit the subs for one extra issue!))\m.

DAVE CARTER (Sleepless Knights)

118 Horsham Avenue, Willowdale, Ontario M2N 1Z9

Alright, you asked for people not to ask you to continue BB - So I won't. What the hell, I figure the only way to move up a notch in the LEEDER POLL is for zines like BB and EM to fold. Bribes don't seem to work since John Leeder won't tell me who voted high for me (or low).

So who takes over as the scandal sheet editor. Not BRUX, he's too involved with every controversy that comes up (wether he should be or not). Mark LEW? How about Dave Manuel? That aspect of BB will be missed most sorely. On the other hand, maybe the subs to SK, SNAFU, FOL SI FIE and Runestone will perk up now that you are not around to downgrade the Canadian Post Office. I mean. Whats wrong with 30 cent postage to get a letter to the other side of the country in under 2 weeks (If at all). If It wasn't for the CPO you wouldn't have zines with 5 week deadlines or midsummer breaks every year. Shhheeesh. I get no respect (adjusting tie with left hand).

BEN SCHILLING

(excerpts)

24730 Roosevelt Ct #315, Farmington Pills, MI 68013

The reason only 40% of the first term military women get knocked up is that about 10 to 15% of them are dykes. Believe me, I know. I got out in '78.

((I always heard such rumors, but never saw any evidence of it. One humorous incident one time (it seems humorous now, anyhow) was when my wife took me over to visit a couple she knew from her service time. (Both the gals were/are Army veterans). This other girl had a picture of their old WAC unit, and they were going on about how "Ohdid-you-know-she-married-X" and "so-and-so married Y" and what not, while he and I could hardly care less. Finally there was a pause between stories, and he interjected a line about how a quarter of the girls were married to each other. The subject changed after that...))

STEVE LANGLEY

2154 Fairfield Road, Sacramento, CA 95815

(excerpt)

Maybe someday we can meet across the postal gameboard and I can join the ranks of those who have taken a piece of your ass.

((The line of decent allies and cooperative fellow players is a heck of a lot shorter. Why not save yourself months of waiting and get into that line instead?))

MARK LEW 3120 W 79TH ANCHORAGE AK 99502 (BENZENE)

Just as I sat down to type this, what do I find in my pile of paper? My orders for R2. Damn Damn Damn Damn. Mills will be harpy anyways.

The Emp line should be"I hate to lose you" then? I think the "Put the deathmark" is wrong tool You screw them up a little too. Your one this time is only varuely familiar. First movie I suppose.

I see nothing wrong with "negative votes possibly cast by people who don't even receive the zeen". If someone doesn't like a zeen, that should be part of a poll too. Only subters voting is absurd 'ecasse that makes all zeens turn out highly rated, because whold sub to a zeen he doesn't like? I vote for each and every zeen I see. Too bad you're forlding; there are some out there who'll disagree and I'm anxious to cut down their rebuttals. (So everybody write to me c/o BENZENE at the address above. I'll edge Scott out yet, after all 30% on my first try isn't too bad. I just hope he doese't go and fold like Pozo did)

What? It's not lar-ZELLery?! Glad to hear I make Duke shit. Maybe I ought to go into the laxative business. I'm not too good at these serious political discussions but since I've been attacked, I suppose I better at least try. Mr. Duke has the right idea when he says "the whole concept of nuclear wet and battlefield nukes starting a big nuke war is sad and unthinkable" Then nukes are made, the justification given is to enforce peace, but no one says we build them to attack. It seems to me then that the neutron bomb is a step in the wrong direction. By eliminating all the wreckage, destruction, etc the bomb is made to seem LESS awasone, etc and is therefor all the easter tho use .

The other objection is that (to the best of my knowledge) traditionally, the defensive stance in a nuke war is to hit the enemy's missile bases whereas to hit the cities is considered offensive. The neutron bomb being aimed against PECPLE just shows what sort of rili tary tactics Raygun has in mind.

(Is that "s ricus" enough to merit response?)

Barch & Mills are invited to back me up

To Becker: If you want to build a new BB, I still surgest Irksome. He's young and fro

and malleable (He meaning the zeen, that is) Donate for a xerox machine for him.

To Hanson: Funny your clone Sherwood told me I talk weirder than I write. (Peo-le hera in AK say I talk just like i write)(and you are so clones: Not only do you look and sound alike but you've both got exchange student girlfriends) If I ever get any money. I'll dona it to your xerox fund. Just hike the price a little bit and start saving up.

Mark Berch Dept: 2nd show this year came 2 days ago and should still be here by the

time you read this.

What was that I said about slowing down on my letters? Ha! Still, you asked for filler and I type now. Funny, I think BRUX is the height of the zeen.

Agreedly, what goes on in Ditter's FRONT game isn't the subject of debate, but it car-

tainly has SOMETHING to do with the matter. Even if just as a curiosity.

Our difference in opinion in draft, etc stems from your belief of "doing it for my cour-I don't do anything "for my country" but rather "in exchange for what my country gives Like I toldBrux a while back, living in a country is like a contract. (Looke, Rousseau. remember them?) If they change the terms, I'm sure as hell going to reconsider. Be is patrictic, logical, or not, I don't like to Mill and/or te killed and I don't consider it worthwhile price for the obvious renefits of the USA (USPS forche) The only logic here is how my own values/whims/quirks assess the advantages and disadvantages of USA citizenship.

(Besides, you paraphrased me wrong, I said I was willing to do the evil paperwork, and of course I'd take the salary for watching Sgt Freston, absurd as it may be, I won't complain at it.) (Maybe I'd like it in jail (back to the womb) Bo they let you send mailithe :

And speaking of not worth responding to, what in the hell are you trying to push over on me? Any semi-moron who got a D in 7th grade political science can see that your bit o "Opmmies and Soviets are all the same" is pure horseshit. Kuff said.

Po your best to get Walker in the SCB game. I've hired Sherwood to assessinate him i he doesn't. I guess Paumeister is a Martin Clone, but I'd let him in anyway. By the wat maybe I ought to make it clear the with 38 folding, SCP won't be printed anywhere (that I know of) which doesn't bother me in the slightest, but I suppose some others won't like ? So just say so and I'll send your hux hack.

(And no I don't want in IRKSOVE and I don't thirk Soctt does either.)

Plike saying, as Thikey, all blocks that aren't yellow are in the raw Entry.

You have to remain antiwsmoke, because BRUX is and you agree with him, right?

Back to the SOB game, you didn't really think I'd believe that letter you sent me from "Shaffer" did you. I've got the proof I need now that he's just your pseudonym, so you've got your choice, I'll sign up either Shaffer or Michalski, but not both.

On theis Siegronen think (Nazi Wer Songs) I suppose you have the record so rather than waste my ten bux (Impossible, I don't HAVE ten bux) how about if I sned you a cassette tape and you just record it for me.

I guess that's about it. You should respond to me move often. Seee how much filler it. gets you? Now you've got a full 3/4 page to go on. PS Mayor election tomorrow and the liberal is an Okie. Can you Imagine?!!!)

((Well, I must say that for all the people who write and express their sadness at the closing of this thing, you are the first who has written and make me glad that the old BB is closing down. You remind me of Boardman, although you lack the quality he has of going his own way and not wasting my time. Maybe Brux thinks that you and your playground philosophies are amusing in some Gibsonese sort of way, but you strike me as serious under your surface of absurdity. I think you are absurd all the way down. It will be nice not getting your barf in the mail anymore. All I want back is the \$8 I paid you for Fluff's gamefee and mine. If you think that his mailing stuff with my office postage is "Proof", it is just as well that you speak up now, while I can still claim (though I am leary of receiving) my gamefees paid in for us. With Fluff's attitude toward Diplomacy what it is, you see, it would be necessary more often than not that I send him postpaid cards just to prod him into continuing. However, in view of the great/sick press he is so good at, I felt the cost would be worth it. It was supposed to be a fun game for me for just that reason: lots of good hairy press, irregardless of whatever happened on the board. In view of your inexperience, illogic, and low commitment to doing the job and doing it right, it is better that if you do go through the learning expereince of GMing games right, that you do so with others instead of me. I've seen enough incompetents of the Phil Fry/ Brad Wilson mold who have no real business GMing at all, without getting into another such fiasco. Your claims that Fluff is just a pseudonym are ludicrous on their face; he has played in a number of games with a lot of people before, including the "demo" game in the Novice packet. Any of the list of Linsey, Frost, Uli Baumeister who have played and had contact with him can confirm that readily, and any of them would be insulted to be called his "friend". To say nothing of anyone wanting to call him at (405) 341-1599. He is not an "Anna Moraitis" straw man for someone else to use as a front; he is a real person who is aware of how the game of Dip is played, and can do so. Were you capable, let alone inclined, to do the slightest trace of checking before accusing someone of creating a character, you could have readily found this out. However, it is clearly way too much to ask of someone like you, as you have made abundantly clear. Go hide out in the Yukon and do the hobby and this country both a favor. After you send me back my "bux"))

ROD WALKER (Diplomacy World)
(excerpt from cc of ZIMIAVIA #4)

"alcala" 1273 Crest Dr, Encinitas, CA 92024

Effective immediately, DIPLOMACY WORLD will no longer use the services of Robert Sacks in compiling and distributing the Known Game Openings list. This function will be resumed by the Editor of D.W. until such time as I can find a person willing to do the job and who meets my standards for accuracy, completeness, and fairness.

BACKGROUND:

Since its inception, DIPLOMACY WORLD has provided its readers with a "Need-a-Game?" list. Copies of this listing were also provided to hobby new-comers inquiring through DW's ad in THE GENERAL or through the flyer inserted in the boxed game.

Eventually the "Need-á-Game?" list came to be divided into two parts, one for regular games (maintained by Lee Kendter, the BNC) and one for variants (maintained by Robert Sacks). When Lee felt he could no longer keep up with the job, Robert Sacks arranged with Jerry Jones, then editor of DW, to perform both functions.

Robert renamed the combined listing "Known Game Openings", and institu-

Walker, continued

ted several valuable changes. Information was to be updated by the respective GMs frequently, the listing itself was updated monthly, and it was also published separately and distributed to various publishers and custodians.

But the KGO list remained as it had always been, a function of DIPLOMACY

WORLD maintained by a persona appointed by the Editor.

RECENT EVENTS:

When the September KGO list arrived, I wrote Robert to inquire why severanames (of GMs whom I knew to have openings) were omitted. One of these was Don Del Grande of LIFE OF MONTY. Robert replied that he had no current information and that, besides, Del Grande "changes the moves players send him". This was a serious charge, of course, and I asked for substantiation. Robert also requested that I omit Del Grande's name from DIPLOMACY WORLD.

The facts are these: In Spring 1901 in postal game 1981CP, Don reported an order for Turkey (Kathy Byrne) of "F Rum-Bla" and disallowed the order as miswritten. Don had earlier written to Kathy to say as much, that she had miswritten the order, but she assumed he was ribbing her. Kathy claims the order was correctly written, "F Sev-Bla", and that Don mistranscribed it from her original. The original in question was tossed out by Don after adjudicating the season. Kathy has produced a carbon copy of orders written "F Sev-Bla".

The incident was referred to Randolph Smyth (NADF Ombudsman) and to Don Ditter (Boardman Number Custodian). Both of these individuals considered the matter and found essentially the same thing: that Don had possibly been careless in transcribing Kathy's orders, but had certainly been careless in tossing the original copy...and that he should not, even in the way of joshing, have made any attempt to apprise Kathy of the error prior to publishing the orders. Both determined that the best solution would be some sort of readjustment in the game, such as replaying Fall 1901 based on the correct Russian position (allowing "F Sev-Bla" as the actual Russian order). Neither the NADF Ombudsman nor the Boardman Number Custodian found that Don was guilty of any deliberate malfeasance. In private correspondence, the Custodian of USOS, John Daly, has indicated to me that his findings in the matter are similar.

What we have here, therefore, is a GM mistake... a very bad one, to be sure, but only an error, notwithstanding. Let he who is without sin....

Yet despite these unanimous findings, Robert Sacks indicates (in private correspondence) that Eric Ozog's information-feeding to a player "pales by comparison", and in the latest (October) KGO accuses Del Grande (without naming him) as one who "belongs to the Buddy Tretick school of mistreating players." These accusations are in no way justified by the facts as I understand them, nor as they are understood by the NADF Ombudsman, the Boardman Number Custodian, nor the Custodian of the U.S. Orphan Service.

All during the month of September, I repeatedly asked Robert for facts and specifics regarding his refusal to list Del Grande. My requests were ignored, or I was referred to one or more of the individuals named above...

none of whom corroborate Sacks' extremist statements on the matter.

I have repeatedly indicated to Robert that failure to list Del Grande without due cause is a violation of Don's rights and a betrayal of the trust placed in him by the Editor of DIPLOMACY WORLD. To insure he had current information, I had Del Grande send an updated listing of his openings, with a

carbon copy to me.

The October KGO list nonetheless omits Del Grande's name. No justification for this action has been produced. I have clearly spelled out to Sacks what I would do if he acted in such an arbitrary manner. His only response is to accuse me of being a "friend" of Del Grande, whom I barely know. He further alleges that I have said Del Grande is being omitted because he is a political enemy of Sacks. Again, Don barely knows Robert and I have mad

no statement of the kind.

The Editor of DIPLOMACY WORLD has a right to expect that a project under his jurisdiction will be managed with complete (as possible) accuracy, thoroughness, and fairness. Because the KGO list is a major input for GMs looking to fill games, and for new players looking for openings, the Editor of D.W. must insure it meets and maintains the highest standards of accuracy, completeness, and fairness...especially fairness...and he must have the utmost confidence in the individual managing the project.

Owing to these events, I can no longer have any confidence in the capacit of Robert Sacks to be just and even-handed in his maintenance of the game openings list. If he omits Don Del Grande without cause this month, he may equally capriciously omit someone else next month.

Accordingly, Robert Sacks is herewith removed as compiler of the KGO list.

No other changes, other than minor editorial rearrangement, are contemplated at this time. The list will still be published monthly. We will still require updating at least every other month. Copies will be sent to anyone sending SASE (self-addressed, stamped envelope) and to various hobby workers. Copies of KGO information will still be sent to hobby newcomers inquiring through our ad in THE GENERAL or the Avalon Hill game-box flyer. will still be reprinted in DIPLOMACY WORLD.

Enclosed are some copies of our update form. Please send one of these to us at least once every 2 months...listings older than that will be dropped. This listing will allow you to advertize your game openings to the largest possible audience, including numerous hobby newcomers.

((Normally when there are charges of this kind brought up, I would simply print them up and let them stand without comment. However, in this particular case, I was a player in that game of Don Del Grande's, and so I feel a little better about being able to comment directly.

Normally in a problem such as arose there, it would be the GM's word against the player's, and while throwing out orders before at least a season and preferable a game year have passed, Don's word would normally have to stand. However, he cut his own throat here by writing Kathy, and according to her, virtually taunting her that she had messed up and that there was nothing she could do about it this time, then making further reference to another game where Kathy had just wiped him out earlier. (This per letters from Kathy at the time). That is why both ombudsmen said to do it over, and Don decided to go back to base #1 and start all over (S01). Then Kathy quit over an insulting letter from Mark Lew, -a situation more understandable to me now after getting Lew's letter elsewhere this issue--and Don is now trying to reorganize the game, which really amounts to trying to fill a #ew one. (Martin also resigned, I just did unless it is already underway, and perhaps Arnawoodian is out). Anyhow, while I think that Sacks may have overstated Don Del Grande's actions, it wasn't by much, tho compared to Ozog, I'd say they were about par. I think for Robert to drop Del Grande is his perogative, since he's running the KGO, and really made it what it is after it faded in Lee Kendter's hands. I think it is presumptuous of Rod to "take away" from Robert that which \underline{DW} had NO control over, other than having been willing to run old KGO lists provided by whoever, if anybody, was doing the job. The whole thing reeks more of personality feuding than the surface principles that each side espouses. DW can certainly run its own list, as can anyone, but I think it will suffer in the process. Kendter found out that asking for announcements didn't work, and Sacks has been doing a good job digging out the openings. I hope he continues to do so, for the DW crew will have its hands full with enough other things without chasing down openings too.))

Reverse is blank

FIEGRUNEN.

YOU ASKED FOR IT—HERE IT IS!



Bold, thundering marches and stirring patriotic 'war songs' of both the Waffen-SS and the Allgemeine-SS...all from ultra-rare, original 78rpm recordings made during the 1930s and early WW II years!! No LP recording like this has ever been attempted before. As an extra bonus, ALL the songs are translated, with the German words and a free English translation, contained in a printed brochure packed in each album! Here's what this unique LP contains:

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NOTE: All songs translated! Brochure packed inside each album!

Bonus! A special SS art print and poem, printed on heavy art paper
(suitable for framing) included in each album!

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TEXAS FISH AND GAME COMMISSION AUSTIN, TEXAS

Due to severe summer drought, the 1980-81 Texas Big Game Season will be canceled. However, for Texas hunters to enjoy some sort of shooting sport, there will be open season on "Porch Monkeys" (known in some regions as Negro, nigger, jigaboo, gizzard lip, saucer lip, rug head or jungle bunny).

The porch Monkey season will be open from 11-30-80 to 4-1-81. Following regulations will apply:

It will be unlawful to:

(1) Hunt in a party of over 150

(2) Use more than 35 bloodthirsty hounds

- (3) Shoot in public bars (a bullet could ricochet off and injure a white
- (4) Hunt over baited gound, as a collard green or watermelon patch

Trapping Regulation:

(1) Traps may not be set within 15 feet of melon or collard patch

(2) Traps may not be baited with pork ribs, fried chicken, flashy clothers

(3) Traps may not be set in ghetto areas

(4) All traps must have at least 400 lbs.spring and 4 inch jaw spread

Other Regulations:

- (1) It is unlawful to retrieve or possess a road killed Porch Monkey. If one is seen on or near the highway you may hit him, just don't pick him up.
- (2) It is unlawful to use any recorded or electronic device except a recording of Al Jolsons "Swanney River" or "Dixie". A special permit may be obtained to use "Mammys Little Baby Loves Shortnen Bread".

Tips to know when Porch Monkeys are in the Area:

(1) Watermelon seeds on ground

- (2) Smell of pickled pigs feet and/ or collard greens in the air
- (3) Cadillacs (especially those with wide white sidewalls and/or coon tails on antennas)

(4) Nigger wool on bushes or tree branches

(5) Pile of carp bones next to your favorite bass hole

Other Tips;

- (1) If a Porch Monkey is gut shot are otherwise wounded and it runs off, no effort need be made to capture it, since it will no count against your bag limit
- (2) If a wounded Porch Monkey indicated it needs medical attention it should be considered, the only requirement being, the Porch Monkey be field dressed before a physician is called

Bag Limit:

None