

"You are free to use any means necessary, but I want them alive. No sending them gift copies of ISSUE 108 of

Halloween issue, late
October, 1981

The BRUTUS BULLETIN

ET TU, BRUTE

The BRUTUS BULLETIN is a defunct newsletter of postal DIPLOMACYtm brought to you one last time by John Michalski ("mih-HOLL-skee"), Route 10, Box 526-Q, Moore, OK 73165. No openings. DIPLOMACY is a game invented by Alan Calhamer and copyrighted in the US by the Avalon Hill Game Company of Baltimore.

Well, with #107 in the bag and ready to go into the mail, what better time to sit down and start in on writing for # 108, right? As I write this, the last weekend here has seen some surprises in the area of football. Mighty OU has dropped completely dropped off the top 20 poll of UPI, and is 19 on the AP (or vice versa, I forget). Rightfully so, I'm afraid. Going into the Texas game, coach Switzer was right in saying that they could as easily have been 0-3 or 3-0 instead of 1-1-1. (Texas was pissed that they were a slight underdog despite being 3-0 themselves and ranked 3d to OU's then 10th spot after the tie with Iowa). However, in the Texas game (always a big occasion each year in this part of the country), they were actually trounced good. It wasn't bad luck, nor they beating themselves--it was Texas that beat them into the ground. OU will be top 10 again at the end of the season, let alone in two-three weeks, but at the start of the year they were saying that this was the best looking team since the national championship years in the early-mid 70s.

Then on Sunday, Dallas took on the "lucky" 49ers. Dallas came in unbeaten I believe--no, wait, they were upset last week by the Cardinals, that's right--but in high hopes. They were down 14-0 already when the TV coverage finished the first game and came over to them, and I believe the final score put it at 45-14. Quite a show. A lot of people prefer those games like where the Rams put it to the Falcons at the end (good) or the Vikes stole a win from hapless Chicago in the last seconds (boo), but me, I prefer to see one team go out there and really play some ball. When the defense scores a third of the points, you know you have some excitement. Last night too, Buffalo really put it Miami (also good), with lots of interceptions, running, passing, and on one occasion my favorite play, the strategic forward fumble. (Unless I'm thinking of one of the Sunday games). Now if I could just force myself to stay awake better through all that stuff... One cute point was on the radio going home last night: a local sports announcer who follows Cossell's taped piece said "I wish someone would count the times tonight that Howard says Don Shula is a great coach". I kept thinking of it all through the game, as they kept saying "it's surprising to see a Shula team do that" and "a Shula team"--this and "a Shula team"--that. Maybe they said that after goofy Don sang "turn out the li-i-ights, the party's o-over.."?

Does all the above bore you to tears? Then you'll know to avoid any column you may see some time in IRKSOME, or DOWN'N'DIRTY, or VD, or wherever, titled MOS EISLEY or MOS EISLEY SPACEPORT. That's the heading master Scott Hanson made up for me, and under it I will occasionally be printing BS stuff, whatever comes to mind, typical of the JOHN'S NOTES format made so notorious here these past four years. If you see it then, you'll know to ignore it. With their repro what it is (non-xerox), I think I'll find out what the circulation is, run the sheet or sheets off myself, and mail them to insert in collation. I've been tempted to help Linsey clear up his backlog of letters that way if he would prepare master copies for me to do a couple of sheets worth for him, but with my luck, I wouldn't be able to run them after he went through the extra work of setting up the masters or some

such. Also, I don't know what pace we could use, since I sure wouldn't mail 2 sheets x 64 plus heavy envelope at first class rates. Anyone else want to try and work something out, let me know and I will consider it while I still have the relatively free access here that I do. ALSO, remember that if you now use labels by me, I will also continue to provide those as long as I am able. I may be doing them for DW soon too.

THIS ISSUE will have a few blank pages here and there, because some of the stuff was printed up some time prior for inclusion in this last issue. Sometimes I can later stick something on the back, other times the sheets have sat around in the open for just too long to be fit for sliding through the machine again. I fully expect to keep this as a single 2 ounce issue, because there are a number of people who have settled up through my announced 108 close, and I'd hate to have to go to a double issue (108-109) and then face the mess of paying extra postage on top of not collecting the further loss on most of them. (Even well-intentioned folks easily overlook such things. Current run at first mailing is down by 25% due to people who expired during the "blind" period of 100-103. I suspect a lot of them want all the rest, being often longer term subbers, but many have yet to make any response.). A current tally of the debt I have left is down to about \$50 more or less, due in large part to "gift" writeoffs offered by some of you, and accepted with great thanks.

On selling my file set, I have so far only received two offers, and those for partial runs on the early issues. The best of those will get it, if nothing else comes in. No offers on the complete set so far. Those of you wanting your remaining credit in copies of back issues you never got WILL get them, but it will take me a while to get that many redone and in order, plus I will have to send them book rate, for the copies are only copied on one side in most cases, taking up twice the weight. If anyone else wants that, let me know QUICK so I can do yours at the same time I'm doing theirs. It will save us all a lot of time.

I just got another BLACK FROG in last night, and it was interesting to note that Jack did this one while watching the OU-Texas game. The three stream-of-consciousness entries made for some interesting reading I thought; I'm glad Jack didn't wait until the end to make just one commentary.

Another item coming in last night was an issue of PLAGUE TIMES that was so entertaining that it must have been a fake. Since it heaps on Dick Martin, I suspect that either Martin put it out between issues of his own POLISH NATIONAL DEBT, or else it was Steve Arnawoodian's doing, to get back at Martin for all those "Arnawoodian" articles he's been sending in to WHITESTONIA. Also arriving was an interesting (it was a good day's mail) LIFE OF MONTY, but I won't comment on it since my Dip Bowl team took the worst trouncing of ANY group that has ever appeared there. As Luscious wrote to Pops Osuch in MASS MURDERS press, "dribble on you, big nose". (I hope Del Grande isn't Jewish now...). Oh, on that fake? PT, one further hint of it being Martin was the title, which was SCOTCH BRAND TROUT. A nice touch was the inclusion of an extraneous line in the text on an interior page which I understand some readers think used to happen here on occasion. (SBTrout wasn't MY doing tho!). I thought it was cute.

Thanks to the two of you who sent courtesy copies of BNC Don Ditter's farewell letter to "Bernie Oaklyn" Tretick as he resigns his GGM spot there for personal reasons. I see too that the whole thing appears in a recent BLACK FROG as well. I have little to say on it though; I'll let Don's gushing farewell and heaps of praise on that dog speak for themselves. Dan Stafford, an old Tretick supporter, will take over.

Speaking of hobby problems, I hear that Gary Austen's KLEPTOMANIA is running tardy a lot lately. I personally have seen only a sample, and never persued it beyond that point. Someone on the phone said they were having very poor response from that when I mentioned the loser Phil Fry. Anyone else familiar with the zine? I think it's from Florida, but I can't be sure.

"Excitement, ha! Adventure, ha! An accountant craves not these things!"

--Yoda, paraphrased

I think of these lines today as I sit here on the second day of thrills, chills, and spills, stuffing copies of Department of the Treasury forms 6248 into window envelopes, hopefully with the address showing through the window. This job is rough, containing my enthusiasm as I must. How many of you have been with the BULLETIN long enough to remember that cartoon run once, showing a big squatting frog, and captioned "I'm so happy I could just SHIT!"?

BASEBALL is really good for TV. With little else available except putrid sitcoms with "highlights" like the marriage of Dork & Mindy, watching some dude scratch his nuts out on the pitcher's mound is an intellectual highpoint. I was surprised to see Milwaukee of all teams in the semi-semi-finals. The old Milwaukee Braves were pretty good at one time, WAY back in the late 50s, winning the world series once and coming close another time. One year the Braves won 3 in a row in the Series--only to lose the next 4 to the damn Yankees. The year they won, there was a big parade through town that surprisingly passed through the South Side where I lived; a friend grabbed a piece of bunting off Warren Spahn's car and gave me a piece, as I recall. Ever since then though, it has been sort of a Cincinatti or Kansas City: a perennial loser. It is surprising to see them back. At first I thought it was the semi-finals, when I heard they were playing best-of-five. A five-game run to decide who goes into the SEMI-finals is as ridiculous on its face as saying that it is exciting to watch a baseball game. One big bore and ripoff. At least it is ending, and, like I said, it fills weekday TV time. That's about all.

AWACS; or like Karnak says, 'what you polish up your A with'. Naturally I favor the sale, and at this writing, I think it will squeak through. There is some danger in losing them, though it would be less damaging than the loss Iran was and is. Mainly though, I feel that we should show Saudi Arabia some reward and support for being virtually the sole pro-US voice over there. The gesture is important. I am less influenced by the Administration's main argument, that it would ruin their ability to run foreign affairs. If the Administration promised more than it could deliver, that is the Administration's problem, not the system's. A better route would seem to be a simple treaty guaranteeing Saudi Arabia's borders, but for some unspoken reason, it appears impossible for any American government to do anything that Israel might not approve of. Maybe someday, when "greater Israel" embraces whatever it will take to satisfy the Begin's of the world, Israel will feel "safe" enough to let us make our own decisions. I'm not going to hold my breath though. I suspect there will be Israeli settlements in Texas first.

A lot of you may not be real familiar with the planes themselves; they are a common sight here. Almost any time of day or night, you can see them doing touch-and-go's at Tinker AFB here. The southern end of their loop over the runway passover puts them in easy view of the house. The planes are pretty nondescript ~~except~~ for the dumb-looking saucer on two struts on top of the body of the planes. It looks like there was not a lot of design work put into them, just some sort of field modification.

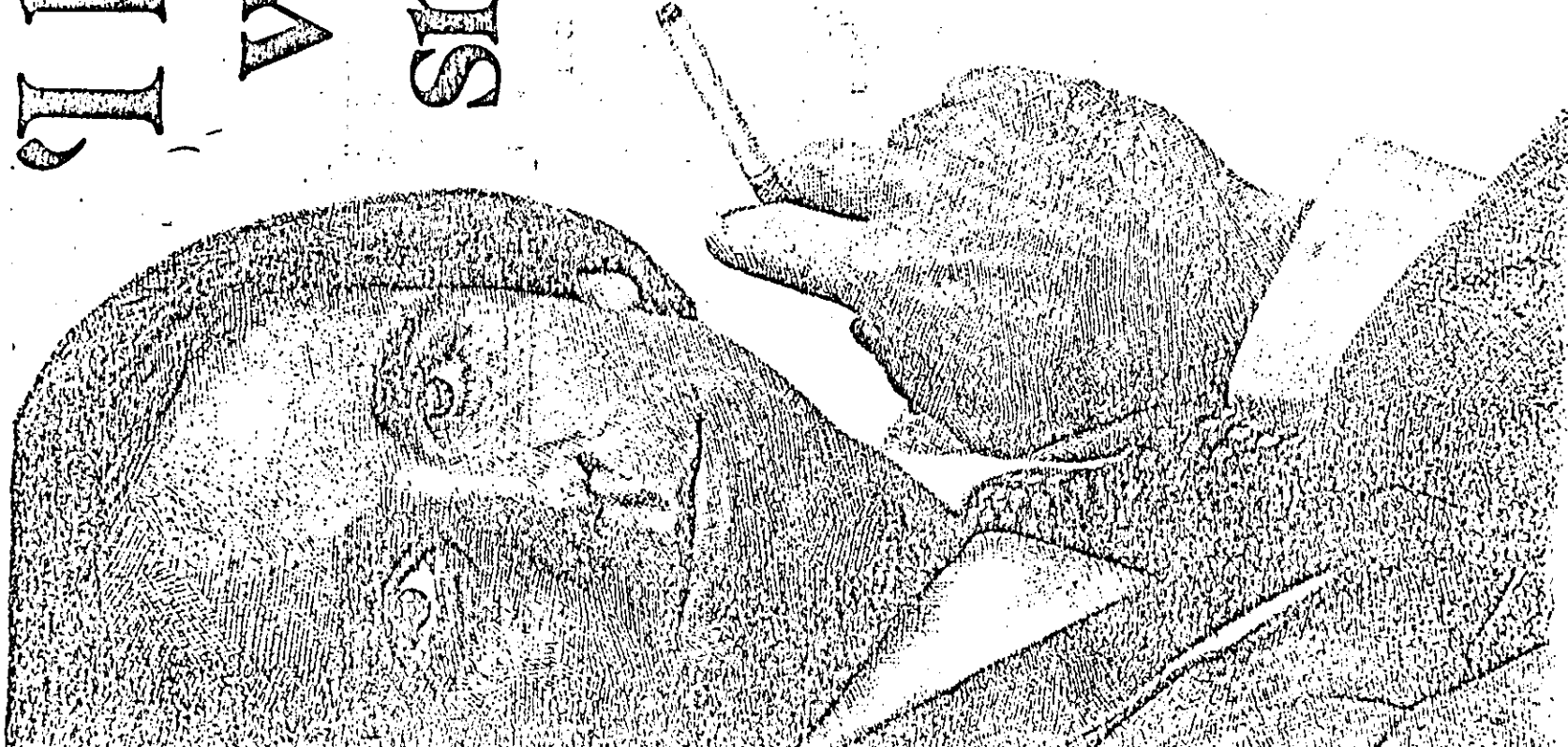
****Some quick final notes: This is the last real issue, and the refund sheet is at the back. Due to some carryover, there will be a small #109 that will go to those having sub credit left to charge it against. DO NOT SEND IN ANYTHING IF ITS NOT ALREADY ON THE WAY, for the small 109 will be it. If your sub goes out with 108 and you want the other, send two stamps./Darn Dick Martin also ran WOODPECKER I see. Damn./Don't miss the funny line in Woody's letter enclosed, about his mail'mam. It was so funny I quoted him on the face of the envelope carrying this issue to him./JACK BRAWNER is coming back, and will repay debts due from his old FLYING DUTCHMAN according to the latest SG&TD. Jack's now at 10596B 2d Way North, StPete, FL 33702, if you have a claim./DW #28 is out and looks good./I found 4 copies of old issues 48 & 49 each in an envelope while cleaning up. If you want one of them, ~~send~~, send 2 stamps for each one you want. Also, I will still sell my old accumulated dipzines, a stationery boxful for \$4 each, ppd 4th class. If interested in an assortment of reasonably recent dipzines of all types like this, let me know./Who's got my Publisher's Handbook? Please send it back now. Also, any offers on the full set of BB's? Last call!

"Stop! I've done all I can. I'd like to do more, but I've got my own problems."

--Llando Calrissian

I know
why I
smoke.

I'm an
asshole!



Made it from Chi to San Antonio (New Braunfels) in 24 hours. Hotter than blazes here (95-100). Spent a few days in Corpus--by far the most impressive city I've visited. Went to the beach and walked that $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ mile into the Gulf--just as you said. Got a hellacious sunburn. Wife got stung with a jellyfish (by a jellyfish I mean). People here have been unbelievably friendly to us "Yanks". We're at Fort Sam Houston Retreat. Got a great deal on the trailer here through the army thanx to my bro-in-law. More later.

((I'm glad to see that your card xeroxed decently the first time; I'd hate to run the letter without having the considerate picture part of your message as well. Nice to know you're thinking of the BB when you see such things. I guess...

I'm also glad you found it to be like I recall it being. I was afraid all that trouble over Mexican oil spills and such may have messed it up. I don't recall the town too well, except for some dive motels along the beach roads--we went through in the dark, and were too tired/drunk on the way back to San Antonio to pay much attention. Anything south of Austin isn't really regular Texas--it gets too hot ALL the time there. It's in another zone, like Miami or Hawaii without the moisture. Too hot and dry for me, but, San Antonio is getting to be a decent place for whites now, instead of just wetbacks the way it was when I was first there in 1967. New and pretty now.))

GARY COUGHLAN (Europa Express)

Hi! From TEXAS

REST ROOM?
HELL - I AIN'T TIRED!
WHERE'S THE CAN?



Hiya John!

It's about 4:40 AM and I had to work overtime on Columbus Day. I didn't mind that much---I mean what are you supposed to do on Columbus Day? Discover something, ha ha!

Yes, John, this is one of "those" letters---I've had one beer and sipped another. Got some 50s music on (Maybelline---why can't you be true?!) I'll type this one up too.

Ooooh! That "too" tips people off! What does it mean? Well, I did John another letter about which I called him and asked him not to publish. I decided to type it up when I'm sober, sending John this original, as a convenience. Ain't I nice!

Actually John I do this at considerable sacrifice to myself! They have really stuck ~~it~~ the overtime to us lately---4 AM when you go in at 5:30 PM is a pain. Anyway, I felt pretty chipper this morning so I decided to write you a letter.

$1\frac{1}{2}$ now (beers on the wall that is!). We're into Z.Z. Top now---spell it right this time("Have mercy! Been waiting for the bus all day....") Not "Tob". I adore Z.Z. Top!!

I almost wish you had just folded BB rather than announce it in advance. This is torture, John! It's like having BB and not having it at the same time.

Jesus done left Chicago---I hear Osuch was in Texas in some cowboy bars--how about it Bob? John, I'm doing my best to get him to St. Louis.

Tell me the truth---did I sound like a hick over the phone?

Mark Lew wrote me he was Chinese---maybe that's why his writing is so inscrutable! Arnawoodian stayed here for 5 days---but I need another beer before I can talk about it. #2 is almost gone. Soon, soon.

Since it has come up---I would like to say that, yes, I and Dick Martin have had some personal differences but now they are resolved---we are friends. Anybody wanting

Coughlan continues

to make something of it has to deal with both the "Old Slavemaster from the South still fighting the Civil War" and "Mr. Charisma" (Titles courtesy of Eric Ozog)!

Leeder Poll.

Speaking of the Leeder Poll---it's really all we have except for the Marco Poll now. And the Marco Poll tended to confirm the Leeder Poll results this year. Those who oppose the legitimate results of the Leeder and Marco Polls should quit their whining! Obviously those who were motivated to vote decided the placings. If the whiners are unsatisfied with these polls, let them start their own. I guarantee my zine will publicize any poll.

However, I must again(again!) say I am embarrassed about being #3 among GMs when I had only just started GMing. But I didn't set the criteria nor will I wear sackcloth and ashes because I got #3. I want to be voted on next time by my track record.

El three-o beero. Since I wrote Marion Bates in Plague Times, I have the correct bottle opener for these Heinekens---no more struggling.

You know Chantecler in Belgium? Well, Kathy wrote him a letter and said she played Italy to a win twice. She said she liked Italy because no one paid attention to you until it was too late. Well I got her in a game in my zine--she's Italy--and with 5 Europeans. And 3 of them (France, Germany, Turkey) read Chantecler and would have read that. I can't wait to see what happens!

Nothing can stop the Duke of Earl!--do you like 50s music, John? I grew up with it (I'm 30) and it's almost camp.

I got a sample from Anduin too. I am shocked that Boardman devotees should ^{send} me, who was expelled from Graustark by Boardman(who else?) their zine. I shall endeavor to enlighten them. It's a BIG hobby!

Yes, Woody was here for 5 days. It went by fast but still---5 days! As for his "site seeing", it took considerably more than 5 minutes---Elvis's home, grave and souvenir shops alone are worth 15 minutes. In addition he saw downtown Memphis(ooooo!) and the zoo. Also caught a few movies like "The Rocky Horror Show"--a cult film where the audience acts out the ~~show~~ show on stage and mouths the words---Woody nearly freaked out. By the time we left(I went to Philadelphia for PaesanoCon), he had a semi-tolerable Southern accent--I coached him a lot.

I will really miss "John's Notes". Your feelings about Salisbury steaks parallel my own. That's why I learned to cook! But sometimes ~~xxx~~ you are in a rush so frozen food is best.

Only when you're high can you really, fully, understand the lyrics to songs.

How dare Mark Lew call Julie Glass the hobby's "social whore"! I hope she wipes him out in that game! I'm a Julie Fan!(Now Julie please write to me!) What a great pair of legs has our mistress Julie Glass!

Well I guess that's all. I'm drunk, tired and sleepy(the DTS?) so I'll end it.

P.S.(Perfectly Sober): I hate typing a drunk's letter! Oh well at least it's out of the way. I got a fake zine "Woodpecker" supposedly by Arnawoodian. It had that tell-tale Milwaukee postmark just as the fake Eggnog did. That's my guess, John and you know who I mean! Who do you think did it?

I also see where Rod ousted Robert's doing of the "Known Game Openings". If he is going to exclude someone like Don Del Grande for such a petty reason, he deserves to be ousted. You see that Rod(another Boardman purgee) even lists Boardman's zine. The Games' Openings should be totally objective and aboveboard. And Robert was warned.

Now I would like to say something about Don Del Grande and the GM error he made and the subsequent ruckus. True, he should have kept the copies of the orders. But he didn't and he admits that. I think from now on he will keep copies of those orders. I don't think he should be eternally punished for this one unfortunate mistake when virtually all of us are in games, and remain in those games, where the GM makes mistakes of one sort or another. I think those who were hurt by this, have a legitimate right to complain and no one should deny them that right. But they should also remember that by virtue of their "fame" so to speak, it is within their power, whether they intend it or not, to severely damage Don's reputation over this. I don't think he deserves that at all. And I don't

Coughlan, conclusion

think they want this either.

Well John, I guess this is my last letter to you for Brutus Bulletin I mean. I always thought of BB as the zine all the men in the hobby went to to talk dirty because I would see these guys in other zines send in perfectly polite letters. But those same guys in BB turn raunchy! I hope another raunchy zine arises! Thanks for making my time in the hobby so enjoyable through BB and knowing you. See you in St. Louis!

((I'll sure try. I have to disagree that frozen food is best when you're rushed. It is better then to make a liversausage sandwich, fry up some boloney & onions in butter, or just warm up a can of soup. The only frozen stuff that is good are those tiny bite-sized pizzas, eggrolls, and the like, and why pay close to \$2 for a handful of snacks?

Your line about the proper opener for the Heinekens brings to mind an old entry in the EMILY POST DEPT in an old BB. Seems some sailor got into port after a VERY long cruise. He goes to the scungiest bar in town, gets a room, and tells the barkeep to send him up two beers and "the roughest, toughest gal around". A few minutes after he lays down in his upstairs room, there's a pounding at the door. "Come on in!" he yells, and in comes a dame that weighs in about 350 and looks like Bill Shaffer's skinny sister. She sets the beers down on the nightstand, drops to all fours, flips up her skirt, and gives him a raw(raw) beavershot. "No, no" says our sailor, "I want it the regular way". "OK" she grumbles back. "I just thought maybe you wanta open them beers first".

I don't know if those will get repeated in any MOS EISLEY columns... Thanks for writing.)) *ym*

ROBERT OLSEN

6818 Winterberry Cr, Wichita, KS 67226

Got your card. Okay, here's two bucks for a mini-sub to BB 105-108 or whatever it is. Why not simply go on to fill out the set up to issue 200? It's poor form to stop on an uneven number, you know.

By the way, it was me that wrote those Star Wars blurbs in DnD a while back. Yes, by the time they saw the light of day they were grossly out of date for issue 100, but you must realize that I wrote them back in the days of issue 95 or so, and sent them in; but then the adjudications were three weeks late, and during that time you made the jump to light-speed, publishing-wise, so there was no way to make it come out on time. I suppose it would have been a little smarter to simply send them to you, if I actually thought they were to be used, but really they were only press, after all.

I promised you an interesting Tretick development, so here it is; TA-DA. I resigned my last remaining game with Bernie and paid off the two issues I was into him for, but will not be subbing to his zine any more. Oddly enough, despite the provocations he's given over the last couple of years, there was no particular reason for this move, except that my sub was up and I didn't feel like sending him any ~~x~~ more money when in the back of my mind I was intending to wait for the next one of his indiscretions and then "justly chastize" and "crush him like an insect" by cancelling my sub. So what the hell, I'm not a toady anymore. It's hard out here in the real world. By the way, I see that in the new issue of Ozog's zine (I don't suppose you get it but Eric puts out the most entertaining zine of its size that there is) he has a guide to toadies, and I'm listed as a Michalski toady (no big deal, he also has me listed as everybody's toady)(true enough...). There is also some discussion of the origin of the word "toady"; you and I both know that you were the one who introduced its usage--I plan to make sure you get credit for this accomplishment. Eric is also trying his hand at patching up things between Gary and Grud; good luck...

Did I send you some Le Fronts? I thought I had some out (this was before the move) but now can't find them. And they were not the ones I sent Berch. So either I sent them, misplaced them, or threw them out. Here's one, anyway, for you--a real collector's item, since it's the last one I'll ever get. By the way, please remember that Le Front is center staple, so you should remove it before using the zine to wipe yourself with. Or you may come down with an injury known as "Tretick's Revenge"...

A number of issues back I wrote a letter about the smoking issue at GenCon. A few issues after that there was an angry rebuttal from John Caruso that surprised me greatly as it seemed to be about a totally different event. I also got letters from a few others about this. After reading through all these and corresponding with John C. and Kathy about it, I think I've figured out the problem. I think we were talking about two different events.

First I want to apologize to the smokers at Gencon. NOT for my actions there, I will still defend them, but for the inaccuracies in my last letter, but read on, I will explain. Let me try to reconstruct the scene of the cr..er, event:

I arrive early at Gencon. I ask Robert Sacks about the possibility of a non-smoking tournament, he tells me, and I will try to come as close to a quote as I can, that the way to do this is to bring it up at the general meeting. He also tells me that he will put it on the agenda, and that he thinks it is a good idea, and can't see anyone complaining since I had health problems. I ask Robert REPEATEDLY if he will delay bringing it up till I get there (I expected to be late due to a scheduling problem). I finally got him to say he would try. At this point the ONLY thing I have proposed is no smoking in the main room (the arrangement we ended up with) and to have this proposal brought up before the meeting.

The only other talk I had about it was a talk I had with Brux before the meeting where I tried to find out what he thought, and I tried to get him to support my proposal in the general meeting. He was more than happy to go along with this. This made me feel better because I like at least one person supporting me when I raise something like this. You have more of a chance of being listened to.

The next thing that happened to me was that I arrived at the general meeting ON TIME (I punted the conflicting D&D game because I thought it was important that I be there in case Robert Sacks brought it up early) and was told that all the smokers left in a huff when hearing about the non-smoking without even talking it over. After hearing this and seeing how antagonistic the smoking section was, I'm not surprised that I thought they were a bunch of assholes. However, there was much that went on behind the scenes before then that I was never told about, and it was being done in my name!! I didn't start to hear about this till a month after Gencon!

First, my proposal (and what Robert Sacks told me would happen) was to bring it up at the meeting and try to come to an arrangement everyone would agree on. From the letters I have had with Kathy Byrne, it seems that this would have been quite easy and would have resulted in the type of tournament we had with no hard feelings. Instead, Robert unilaterally decided, without my knowledge or consent, that the entire tournament area would be non-smoking. He then proceeded to tell everyone he saw about this decision well in advance of the tournament. And when people asked who was behind this bullshit, he gave them my name!

I'm not at all surprised that smokers got upset, I would have been too! And I'm not at all surprised that people got upset with me too!

And then the bullshit started flying fast and furious. People threatening to walk out. Sacks proposing two tournaments, smoking and non-smoking. It really got pretty bad. And whenever anyone asked who was responsible, it was my name that was given.

And no one bothered to tell me a damn thing!

Finally Lee Kendter calmed things down by introducing his compromise which was all I wanted in the first place. My heartfelt thanks to Lee and an apology for underestimating the value of your contribution!

I want to emphasize exactly how much of a mess this has caused. A friend of mine in postal Dip (who did not play at Gencon) got a call from a postal opponent in California and the person asked why I was fulling all sorts of asshole stunts instead of bringing it up at the general meeting. This friend knows me well enough to know I wouldn't pull a stunt like that, and thus immediately denied I had done such a thing (ah, faith still exists!), then immediately called me to find out what the fuck happened! Rod Walker writes in BB#106 "every account I've seen of this incident emphasizes Allen Wells throwing a fit,...as a non-smoker, however, I feel that the best way to handle the situation is to try for a non-smoking rule with liberal provision for smoking breaks." Goddammit, that's exactly what I wanted, and when people were throwing fits, I wasn't

Wells continues

even there!!

It seems to some extent that a lot of people and a lot of character clashes fueled the conflict, but most people's actions can be explained fairly easily. (Though I wouldn't swear by all this). I can see quite easily the smoker's side of things. When one considers the way Sacks brought this up and the reality of my health problem, I think Brux and Mark Berch supporting Sacks can be understood, but I think Robert Sacks' actions which set up this conflict was irrexpensible and showed VERY poor judgement. Out of a tournament director this was especially uncalled for, he came very close to destroying his own tournament. I have no doubt that he was doing this to be nice to me, but htis was hardly the effect. To be specific:

1. Robert Sacks, as tournament director, told me he would bring the topic of non-smoking up at the general meeting FOR DISCUSSION and that he would try to wait till I arrived. If I arrived late he might not be able to wait that longif someone else brought it up. Instead, he unilaterally decided on non-smoking and discussed this at great length with many people well before the meeting.

2. Robert Sacks created a proposal much stricter than mine and when asked about the origingave my name without my knowledge or consent, before or after the fact. From what I hear he even went so far as to check NJ and hotel regulations to back his proposals if they were opposed.

I wanted NO PART in any behind-the-scenes attempt to "pull one over" on the smokers. If Robert had let me know of the proposal he put my name to, I would have opposed it as much as the smokers. An issue like this should either be decided ahead of time or an agreement should come from a general forum. A tournament director drastically changing the house rules without notice is poor form, especially when other means exist.

Well, with that I close. GenCon smokers and company, I apologize. If I had known what was going on I would have been on YOUR side. Lee Kendter, I salute you! We need more people like you around.

((I will send an advance copy of this to Robert in case he gets an opportunity to respond before I close this down; I wouldn't feel right without giving him a chance to reply, especially in view of the serious charges--well, not charges, but let's say, the poor light you put him in. If not, let me try and at least mention a few possible items to consider for the defense.

I appreciate using BB as a forum for disagreements; they need to be aired, and they help clear the air of animosities by providing an outlet for real or imaginary problems people see that otherwise might smolder and grow worse. By printing it, it forces each side to better prepare their case too. The trouble is, this is my last issue, so I don't want to leave some charges "hanging fire". In case he doesn't get something in in time, let me mention a few things I see.

Obviously you have had considerable correspondence or calls to/with John & Kathy in NY on this, they (she) being the chief protagonist on the "other side". How about Robert himself, also in NYC? Have you written or called him? What did he say? Again, were BB continuing, or if it had a ready successor, we could let it go and await rebuttal elsewhere, but as it is, your lack of any mention of his response to this seems to imply that the first he would see of it is in BB108 here. He might have much to say on it. For example, he might well say that the source of the problem was named as you because you brought the subject up. This is true. Robert as tournament director has the job of TAKING CARE of the problems that come up as they arise, or if possible, before they arise. After you brought smoking to his attention, he tried to come up with the best solutions he could. Perhaps he did not come up with what you had in mind, perhaps he did not come up at first with the solution Lee later proposed, but he recognized your point as being a legitimate complaint and, thinking about it after you left, took steps to solve the problem. You might state that his decisions were not the best ones, but that is a far cry from portraying him as a little Caesar using your name, as I think you do here. Isn't it at least as likely that Robert is being misportrayed after the fact as you were in the case of the California correspondent of your friend? I can understand your chagrin over being made the butt of the problem here, but I am leary of helping salvage your

position by way of just substituting Robert for you. Even from what you say, it seems that if even all the implications are true, you unduly heap on him when you only devote 1½ sentences to the smoker's clique that stormed out "without even talking it over". It strikes me that even if Sacks did all sorts of nastyisms in your name, there is at least as much blame to be placed on the smokers for not challenging it and saying "What kind of bullshit is this?" and then arguing their point. Even an anti-smoking Vader fascist like myself would have given them some crumb (I hope Del Grande has the courage to print my quiz response on this, although I don't want him to credit me with it!) and would have given them an outlet similar I think to what the Kendter solution eventually did. But to just storm out in a huff accomplishes nothing positive at all. I feel Sacks was justified in trying to head off a problem, and if he failed, I can't fault him for that. It is his prerogative and his JOB as director to do what he can, and if early proposals have serious weaknesses, that's only to be expected. One should work to correct the weaknesses then, not flip the bird and leave. When Robert was asked 'who brought this up?', he might well have better said "it doesn't matter who brought it up, we have a problem to solve", but such foresight is totally unrealistic to expect even in a hobby like this where someone will criticise anything you say or do anytime you go public on anything. I think you were a victim of rumor and gossip, rather than a victim of Sacks going around "behind the scenes" saying "stone the smokers because Allen Wells says so". I will put in Sacks reply if received in time, somewhere in the zine.)) *SM*

STEVE LANGLEY

2154 Fairfield Road, Sacramento, CA 95815

Write, huh? Well, for starters, I have BB from #91, so 90 back, as far as is applicable, will be fine, thank you.

Why is everyone picking on poor Brux for being a plagiarist? 'Voice of Doom' is surely in public domain by now, and is used primarily to amuse the hobby, not to line the Linsey pocket. Granted, it has an ego payoff. Folks look with admiration on the cleverness of one who could coin 'Voice of Doom', or so I picture Brux fantasizing. But it just isn't that big a deal.

I just had a discussion with a friend who I thought fairly level headed. Live and learn. She was appalled at Reagan's cutbacks to welfare. "Starving babies" was a phrase that she kept returning to. My presentation of the 'welfare trap' ideas, how people have been born on welfare, have grown to physical maturity, and have borne children, all the while on welfare, had little impact. She was a welfare child. Her mother is still on welfare. She personally has overcome the welfare trap, and so gives it no credence despite the many thousands who have not.

Reagan is being hit from many sides just now, from those who fear doom due to his "reactionary policies" to those who wish he'd stop temporizing with halfway measures. I tend to wait and see, seeing as I can't affect more than my local sector anyhow. I do find it interesting that jars of jellybeans are becoming common desktop items throughout the place where I work. My only complaint about that is that all the really good ones are gone before I get around to taking a bean.

I just attended the "River City Diplomacy Tournament". Very small turnout, but despite that, the experiment of keeping the scoring system a secret until after the tournament proved a great success. There were three rounds, and in each round, we played Diplomacy rather than playing the tournament. There were no awkward gamelong alliances trying for matched center counts. What we saw instead was some prime wheeling and dealing, some clever stabs, and lots of bullshit and laughter. I recommend to anyone who is planning a tournament, consider the idea of keeping both scores and scoring a secret. It makes a remarkable improvement in the quality of play.

((Bill LaFosse or someone once suggested that; I saw it in an old BB from about 2 years ago (#50 or so) and I endorsed it then. No, maybe that was Rod Walker's idea: just say what the time limits were, if any, or shortened victory criteria (13 by 1911, e.g.) and then just say "the coordinators have selected a system they feel will be fair" and leave it at that. For some reason, it was too good an idea to get anywhere, and hasn't, probably

Response to Langley, concluded

for the same reason that literally millions of dollars and manhours are spent on the Windfall Profits tax and oil controls, when the whole damn thing could be scrapped and replaced by a flat 15% national excise tax on all oil across the board that would bring the government more \$ in while the companies paying it would come out ahead in administering the damn thing.

The jellybeans jars I've seen here (2) are ones that say "Thank you for not smoking. Have a piece of candy instead." I don't know if they are politically inspired or not. I should mail Kathy one, perhaps?

I'm glad your friend escaped the welfare system; it is hard to do. ("Why bother?") However, it is understandable that she not have a lot of grasp on the side of where it all comes from. There is no dealing with the folks whose lives run on cliché's of the left for a philosophical base. Just make the best of it you can: say "yeah, baby, he's a meanie" in her ear while you stick your hand under her skirt. The politics in her head may not be worth much, but maybe what's in her pants will be more fulfilling.

Oops! I almost didn't mention this in time, but Gary Howe called and interrupted me before I could type in Woody's name, which gave me a chance to remember what else I wanted to say-- As I was typing your letter, I thought 'with as much writing as this Langley fellow does, I'll bet he'll be publishing in less than a year'. And here in Arnawoodian's letter, he mentions you having your own subzine in COA. Congratulations! Also, I feel good to see myself proved right again. The last biggest such true prediction was that a fellow named Gary Coughlan would one day publish too... Hell, one of these days maybe you will be typing up letters from me!))

BUDDYFUCKER ARNAWOODIAN

602 Hemlock Circle, Lansdale, PA 19446

(Gawd, things are bad when I don't have to look up that address. Do you know how many games Woody is fucking me in?)

Thanks for the COAT OF ARMS plug. First, I am not Mainardi's sidekick. Our styles are too different to be associated in any way. That's why we each do separate parts of COA. By the way, the SNAKE PIT will now be in WHY ME?. Steve Langley will be writing IT'S MY NICKEL as COA's third subzine.

Stick to the nickname "Buddyfucker", remember it got you 3 free issues of COA. By the way nothing will gross out my mailman (actually it's a woman). She trains sumo wrestlers in her spare time. I think she answered a matchbook cover ad once, "make a million molding fat".

As for my vacation in the south, it was different. The most interesting part of Memphis is the Coughlan plantation and meeting Elsie. I was amazed at the size of Gary's home; after all it's only him and Elsie.

Once inside the 32 room mansion I realized why GARY needed the space. His home is actually a magazine library! Gary Coughlan subscribes to 96.4% of the magazines throughout the world. I picked up one Arabic magazine, naturally I assumed Gary spoke or at least read this Middle East language. When he told me he was not able to read one word I asked him why he got it. His reply was "It's so pretty". No wonder the south lost the war.

Immediately I began searching from room to room pulling out various magazines (all in English) which I thought I might enjoy reading. All of a sudden some old nasty southern lady came out of nowhere screaming "whot air y'all doin'?! Only two magazines at a tahn!"

It was Gary's librarian, Coughlan has a librarian! I knew she had experience at her job as she was nastier than any northern librarian I had ever met. She even forbade me to speak around her, she was from Mississippi and hated Yankee Talk.

I was particularly impressed by this magazine curator when she made Gary pay 10¢ for a magazine he returned 10 minutes late. This woman was no hick, a tyrant would be a more suitable name. Also she probably has the most superior filing system in the mid-south. It's a bit too complicated for Gary to understand though. Everything is filed under "O" or "N". O for Old magazine and N for New magazines.

At 5pm the battleaxe returned to Mississippi where she probably harassed her family to no end. Immediately after her departure I ran over to the library where I thought I

Buddyfucker rambles on...

would have unlimited use of Gary's magazine collection. Too bad the doors were locked. When I asked Gary to open them he said "Sorry Ms Magnolia had the locks changed when I hired her."

Now I understood why Gary was thrilled about returning to the north with me. Poor Gary was a prisoner in his own home and the thought of passing through Gettysburg didn't even bother him.

Gary's home is the first southern house that I have ever entered and I highly recommend that anyone passing within 100 miles of Memphis drop in on Gary. He is an excellent host. Just arrive after 5:30 after Ms Magnolia leaves. Next year Knoxville will be having the world's fair, sure Knoxville is 8 hours from Memphis but it's worth the trip to see Gary and Elsie. If you want to surprise Gary, write me and I'll send you directions!

One more thing, Elvis Presley Con will be held at the Coughlan homestead (Gary's parents mansion) on Thanksgiving weekend. With all the Pennsylvanians and New Yorkers planning to attend, perhaps Gary should call it CarpetbaggerCon. Anyway Gary says between his house and his parents, there will be plenty of room, no one will have to spend the weekend at a motel. Just write Gary Coughlan at 4614 Martha Cole Lane, Memphis TN 38118 and tell him you're coming. I'm sure he'll be happy to meet anyone at the airport.

((CarpetbaggerCon is a good idea, and was also plugged in last night's final EMHAIN MACHA as I recall. Sad to say, folks, it is a hoax perpetrated by Buddyf and that "pennsylvania & New York" gang he talks about. (That is one of the lesser reasons Woody has grown a new nickname). I was just talking to Gary again this afternoon and he confirms it is a joke. Also, to those of you who don't know it, mailman Gary lives in a housetrailer. The above is a nice story though. The only trouble is, I might have gone over there next month if I'd been paying less attention...))

DOUG BEYERLEIN

640 College, Menlo Park, CA 94025

I know that you are planning to end BB soon, but hope that you can find room in your next issue to mention this poll. Thanks.

THE BEYERLEIN PLAYER POLL

The Beyerlein Player Poll (BPP) is a rating of the top currently-active postal Diplomacy players by the Diplomacy community. This poll is conducted in the same manner as the AP and UPI collegiate sports polls. Votes are solicited, collected, and tabulated, and the scores of the top 14 players are published on an annual basis.

I started the BPP in the spring of 1971. Between 1971 and 1975 a total of eight BPPs were conducted. The top players in these polls were the best players in the hobby during that period. They included John Smythe, John Beshara, Brenton ver Ploeg, Edi Birsan, Michael Rocamora, and Walt Buchanan. The poll was discontinued in 1975 when my activities as BNC resulted in the lack of free time to conduct future polls.

I have decided now to restart the BPP. Rod Walker, the new editor of DIPLOMACY WORLD, suggested the idea and has secured first rights to the results. All others may obtain a copy of the results for a stamped, self-addressed envelope. The results of BPP#9 will be distributed on 31 March 1982.

To participate in the ninth BPP, make a list of the top 14 currently-active postal Diplomacy players playing in regular games. The list should be based on personal experience, games observed, reputation, ratings, etc. List the players from number one to fourteen. Sign the list and send it to Doug Beyerlein, address above. The deadline for BPP #9 is 15 February 1982.

Scoring will be as follows: first place listing, 20 points; 2d, 17; 3d, 15; 4th, 13; 5th, 11; 6th, 9; 7th, 8; 8th, 7; 14th, 1. Points will be summed to determine rankings.

All publishers are asked to publicize the poll in their respective zines. All questions, comments, suggestions should be directed to me, Doug Beyerlein.

((Those pubbers keeping at it might do well to repeat this down the line. Due to the long lead time and tedious job of voting, the hobby will need some prodding)).

ROD WALKER (Diplomacy World)

"alcala"
1273 crest dr.
encinitas ca 92024
9 october 1981

As mentioned in my last note, DW 28 is indeed on its way out...and after I get EREHWON 104 done, along with PELLENNORATHs 4 & 5, we'll be tooling up for D.W. 29. Everyone should be aware that the submission deadline for #29 is 15 November 1981, that estimated to-the-printer date is 1 December, and the estimated mailing date is 15 December. I will be interested in anyone's reaction to DW28. Although I inherited DW from Jerry, very little had been done on the 'zine by then, so that #28 is in fact the first "all-Walker issue" already.

Robert Sacks #1 (response to Don Del Grande): To be fair to Robert (even though I know he would not even try to be fair to me), it must be stated that he did not demand the omission of Don's name from DW. His exact phrase was, "I would much appreciate it if...".

Robert Sacks #2 (response to him): Anyone so foolish as to believe Sacks deserves whatever happens to him as a result. I can only spend so much energy trying to counter a liar that profligate. A good many of his tall tales are, unfortunately, vicious. Others, such as his sob stories about how he's just po'r li'l Bo Peep and the wolves are after his sheep, are merely amusing.

Anyway, there is only one sure way to find out if DIPLOMACY WORLD is, or will be, as awful as Robert pretends it is or will be. That's to see it for yourself. A copy of #28 is \$2 from me. A subscription beginning with #29 is \$6 for 4 issues in the U.S., \$8 for 4 issues in Canada, and better ask me if you live anywhere else.

Re: Jack Masters. I tend to agree with you that the "plagiarism" issue is already overworked. If Jack did in fact print an issue which gave credit for material used previously, that would be very good...although as a purely picky ethical point, I feel the credit should have been given on the spot. I've not indicated any attitude of my own on this, since the only "reuse" of material I actually saw was the use of "Descent of Man". And it was not verbatim passim, but only a couple of sections lifted from the early part of the story, as I recall. As a professional poet, and semipro writer, myself, I am perhaps unduly sensitive to the using of the work of one writer by another. I feel it's never a good idea to recycle work in this way, even in a fanzine.

Regardless, I'm not necessarily of the opinion that Jack is a bad person, as apparently some of his current detractors feel. Under the circumstances, if Jack were to submit something to DIPLOMACY WORLD (which I've asked him to do, and still would like him to do), I would want his explicit assurances the piece was original. And I would accept his word on it. Apparently it's thought in some quarters that Jack's credibility is compromised. I don't agree.

Re: smoking. I don't feel that anyone should be put in the position, as Robert Sacks apparently was, of being between two sides demanding absolutely no smoking and unlimited smoking. I agree with you that a great many smokers have no conception of common decency or consideration for others.

It's amazing, in fact, that we have come full circle, back to the attitude of James I: "Should men not bee ashamed, to sit tossing off tobacco..., and puffing of the smoke of Tobacco one to another, making the filthy smoke and stinke thereof, to exhale athwart the dishes, and infect the aire, when very often men that abhorre it are at their repast? ... It makes a kitchin also oftentimes in the inward parts of men, soiling and infecting them, with an unctuous and oily kind of Soote, as hath bene found in some great Tobacco takers, that after their death were opened.

"...Have you not reason then to bee ashamed, and to forbear this filthie noveltie, a custome loathsome to the eye, hateful to the nose, harmefull to the braine, dangerous to the Lungs, and in the black stinking fume thereof, nearest resembling the horrible Stigian smoke of the pit that is bottomless."

Response to Walker

((That's pretty apt. I wonder why it is that people never learned anything or wised up? It doesn't seem that addictive on the surface. Maybe some Kathy's Korner or some other dipzine will someday give us an editorial defense of tobacco offensiveness. I'm not waiting for issue #1 of the Pilant Pile to do it though--unless I publish it myself...))

ROBERT SACKS

4861 Broadway 5V, New York, NY 10034

For the record, I did not attack Bruce Linsey over the BNC tenure, nor did I attack Del Grande or Walker over the Del Grande-Byrne disagreement. I can't understand why everyone assumes they are the unnamed malefactors.

I did not attack anybody for taking DW from me-- it wasn't mine yet. It was Walker's and Berch's explanation of taking it away that caused the trouble. I always assumed it was an arbitrary decision of Buchanan's.

I should like to note with appreciation Mark Berch's comments defending the BNC's Tenure and my participation in the hobby, and Rod Walker's and John Michalski's understanding of the "smokers in the hallway" solution, which I believe Lee Kendter Sr suggested.

Notice of meeting: NY Game Board, 3pm Sun, Nov 15, my apartment. Topics include (but not limited to) Dip Tourneys, Dip Gaming Publication (on the order of DW), Dip Conventions, Dip Hobby Services.

((Too bad your card just missed 107, which was pretty much filled when Rod's letter came in. I got about 3 sheets worth of stuff in a very short time, and put out the issue as soon as it filled. I myself thought you were referring to the Del Grande thing, for it is the only problem area I have heard of, and while it could easily be that other problems exist that I get no wind of, the fact that Del Grande did not have any openings listed on that sheet was further circumstantial indication that that was it. Rod's letter of last issue seemed to have used that as a springboard for "ousting" you due to the position you took on Del Grande, related to the KGO directly or not. Too bad this is the last BB, for I suspect there may be further exchanges on this matter. Thanks for writing.))

JACK MASTERS



25711 N. Vista Fwys Dr., Valencia, CA 91355

Linsey is of course quite right in that about 1/3 of the material I have written in Black Frog is largely derived from other sources, including James Thurber, Woody Allen and others. When I say largely derived, that is exactly what I mean, concepts have been taken and put into a diplomacy situation--fitting entirely different circumstances. This is nothing new, in Black Frog #35 I credited Woody Allen, James Thurber, Max Shulman, Leonardo Da Vinci and Mel Ramos (people who's works I had, more or less, adapted) for helping to make Black Frog successful. Even then this was nothing new, the Thurber adaptations were widely discussed in BF before then; especially in the press for 1980HR.

But, so what! What about Al Pearson? Is this any different than what he does in Just Among Friends? Al has a practice in JAF that I like very much; "Personal Glimpses of Famous Diplomacy Players." He takes various cartoon sketches and publishes them with captions pertinent to the hobby. Al is a gifted artist and draws some of these himself, but not all of them. He simply grabs some from whatever source available, puts his caption on them and publishes them. Does he give credit to where they were derived (e.g. "adapted from a cartoon by Gahan Wilson in New Yorker on May 10, 1981")? Hell no, and why should he? The Diplomacy hobby (at least his readers) are amply rewarded by his ability to see these cartoons in a different context. I like to think that my readers are rewarded in the same manner by my adaptations.

Linsey screams plagiarism, but adaptations are not plagiarism in the strictest sense of the word. Plagiarism is making a claim that material written by others is written by yourself. If you want an example of plagiarism in the Diplomacy hobby-- I'll give you one. Bruce Linsey in Voice of Doom #5 makes an unequivocal claim that he published an issue of Volkerwanderung--an issue that he had absolutely nothing to do with. That is plagiarism!

Adaptations of early material, particularly James Thurber's are very common. Just look at any campus humor magazine, or even your TV set. There was a program on Ted Knight's Too Close for Comfort just a couple of weeks ago that was adapted directly from James Thurber. It was the program where Ted served jury duty. Years ago, when I was in graduate school, I had a connection with the Sour Owl (the campus humor publication of the University of Kansas). Everything that the Sour Owl (kinda sounds like a 'zine doesn't it?) published was adapted from somewhere else. Some of it from James Thurber but most of it from the Missouri Show-Me. In the time since I have been there, I am sure that the editorial policies of the Sour Owl have not changed one bit. They have the responsibility of publishing a humorous magazine on a monthly basis with a much too small staff (unpaid) and limited funds. Much like a Diplomacy 'Zine, huh? To it's credit, the Sour Owl copped out by devoting an entire issue to campus rules or to a stupidity like the "tro" affair. They have never devoted an entire issue to an attack on Bob Arnett or John Boardman either.

I personally think that friend Linsey is simply pissed over the poor showing that Voice of Doom made, once again, in the Leeder Poll. It is very hard for him to accept, in his own mind, the fact that many people in the hobby would rather read humorous material (albeit adapted from James Thurber) than endless discussions of house rules and "tro" affairs.

JACK MASTERS



25711 N. Vista Fwys Drive, Valencia, Ca 91355

I agree 100% with your comments about the B-1 bomber. Since I live about 40 miles from Palmdale, where the final assembly of the B-1 will take place, it will be somewhat of a boon for me. With at least 4,000 new families moving into the area in the next year, the value of my house will continue to escalate, job opportunities will abound and local pay scales increase considerably. But the fact remains, production of B-1 bombers is stupid. The price of the beasts is prohibitive in the first place and they are neither needed or wanted by the air force in the 2nd place. There are better ways in which defence monies could be spent.

As for the MX missile, I doubt if it goes through anyway. The MX missile plan seems to be designed to be sacrificed. Reagon will, no doubt, drop the MX missile in order to gain congressional approval of his B-1/Stealth program; or, if that is not necessary, will later sacrifice it as a concession to Russia in some future arms limitation agreement.

That leaves the development of the Stealth Bomber as the viable and valuable part of his proposal. But even the Stealth development was considerably impaired by the other parts of his plans. Not only were the available funds diluted by supporting three programs instead of one, but the Stealth development was further set back by political considerations. The Stealth Bomber has been under development at Lockheed for at least five years and it is generally agreed that 90% of the "stealth" technology is at Lockheed. However, Reagon awarded the Stealth development contract to Northrup who was co-bidding for it with Boeing. Why? Primarily because the competition, Lockheed, was co-bidding with Rockwell. Rockwell got quite rich off of the NASA Space-Shuttle and is now going to get the B-1 bomber. Giving Rockwell (along with Lockheed) the Stealth Bomber on top of this was simply too much.

Second Masters letter concludes

Before leaving Lockheed last month, I spent the last 18 months working in the fringes of the Stealth Bomber development. My participation was on a "need to know basis" and I did not "need to know" very much for the work I did. Thus I do not "know" very much about it, but I can surmise quite a bit:

The Stealth Bomber is an aircraft that can completely avoid detection by radar. This concept works very well and the technology developed is capable of doing this job quite well. It is quite probable that at least three stealth bombers (or stealth aircraft of some sort) have already been built and the fact that they can successfully avoid radar proven. It is also quite probable that at least two of these things have already crashed. The present design is not exceptionally flyable. Although my work at Lockheed was in the area of advanced composite development (e.g. graphite/epoxy fuselage development) I do not think that the Stealth Bomber utilizes radical new materials such as "black fiber". Much more likely is the probability that it uses a radically different design concept. The wings surfaces, and fuselage surfaces, are probably something quite different from thin sheets of aluminum or titanium stretched flat over a frame. This is apparently creating quite a problem in airworthiness due to an icing problem. But this is only speculation on my part.

An area overlooked by Reagan, where the Russians are rapidly moving ahead of us technologically, is submarine warfare. Our basic anti-submarine weapon is, and has been for some time, the P-3. The P-3 is an excellent plane, low in cost to build and to maintain, very reliable and, in the past, quite capable of anti-sub work. The free-world squadrons of P-3s, operated by nations such as Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Netherlands and Portugal in addition to the United States, keeps every sub on earth under surveillance. The P-3s fly in any weather and detect subs primarily by magnetic anomaly. But, the Russians have just perfected a technique of welding heavy titanium sheet and have used it to make their first titanium sub. This sub cannot be detected by magnetic anomaly. It is conceivable that titanium subs could be detected by thermal wake, but the technology is not perfected and the world wide fleet of P-3s are not equipped to do it--and won't be for many years.

The use of the P-3 may be of limited value in a full scale war anyway. As long as Russian submarine commanders use present strategies, the P-3s will keep track of them. But, supposing that the sub in a war situation is to change his strategy. Once a sub commander knows he has been spotted by a P-3, all he would have to do is to surface and pop the P-3 with a SAM. The P-3 would be a dead duck, having no way to combat or avoid this.

Well, if I were Reagan and in charge of things, I would have done things a little different. I would have canned the B-1 and the MX from the start. I would have initiated a program to build a new navy plane to replace the P-3. I would have announced very loudly that considerable billions were being spent to develop and deploy a dozen squadrons of Stealth Bombers, numbering at least 500 planes, as quickly as possible.

I would have funded Stealth technology and ordered a dozen or so planes built--eventually. And then, at some appropriate time before the next elections, I would announce that the "Stealth Bomber" program had been very successful. That 500 planes had been built and deployed. That at least 50 of them were in the air at all times and at any given moment there were at least 10 flying over some part of Russia. The fact that the Russians had never detected these, or even suspected them, illustrates how very successful the Stealth Bomber is at avoiding detection.

((Humm, now that's interesting. Yes, if we had some of the planes, what better way to see if they do their stuff than to test them in practice? Of course I can't see us risking another Gary Powers incident, so Russia proper is out. I'd probably test it over Cuba myself: convenient, Russian equipment, no big thing if one crashes or is brought down. Of course you could always paint 5 small red stars on it and take off over the Gobi, and claim it was a chink spying on Mongolia if it went down--but that would be kind of risky. Anyhow, I sure appreciate the thoughts.))

J.M.

CONTRIBUTION

— Thanks, Woody.



Beauty hints
from a figure
of rare looks

KATHY BYRNE IN HER PRIME
WHEN SHE RAN A SCHOOL OF
MODELLING AND WROTE A SYN-
DICATED COLUMN ON BEAUTY
HINTS. NEEDLESS TO SAY
KATHY WAS FORCED INTO
BANKRUPTCY.

MESSAGE

MESSAGE TAKEN BY (Name)	ON DAY	TIME <input type="checkbox"/> A.M. <input type="checkbox"/> P.M.
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WHILE YOU WERE SCREWING AROUND..

- ☐ I was working real hard.
- ☐ In the future, take your own @#@!+ messages.
- ☐ Nobody called.
- ☐ Out of the kindness of my heart I took the following message for you.

MESSAGE FROM (Name)	ORGANIZATION	PHONE NO.
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- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> CALLED | <input type="checkbox"/> WANTS YOUR BODY |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RETURNED YOUR CALL | <input type="checkbox"/> CALL THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RE-RETURNED YOUR RETURNED CALL | <input type="checkbox"/> YOUR ACCOUNTANT HAS RELOCATED TO BRAZIL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RETURN THE CALL | <input type="checkbox"/> CALL YOUR WIFE'S ATTORNEY |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WILL CALL AGAIN | <input type="checkbox"/> YOUR SECRETARY HAS RELOCATED TO BRAZIL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WON'T CALL AGAIN | |

☐ MESSAGE FORGOTTEN

☐ ORDER YOUR PRINTING FROM ACE PRINTING CO., INC.
 1428 N. Queen Street - P.O. Box 1272
 Martinsburg, WV 25401
 (304) 267-8425

MESSAGE

MESSAGE TAKEN BY (Name)	ON DAY	TIME <input type="checkbox"/> A.M. <input type="checkbox"/> P.M.
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| <input type="checkbox"/> RE-RETURNED YOUR RETURNED CALL | <input type="checkbox"/> YOUR ACCOUNTANT HAS RELOCATED TO BRAZIL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RETURN THE CALL | <input type="checkbox"/> CALL YOUR WIFE'S ATTORNEY |
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SO LONG!

This is the last issue of the BRUTUS BULLETIN. A check for your subscription balance, or other credit note, follows this text.

Over a year ago, I began having serious problems in regard to publishing--some via the workplace, but primarily at home. Most of you are aware of the strains that commitment to this hobby can create in regard to those not so committed. These problems almost caused me to quit twice, but the lure of #100 had pulled me forward from my issues in the teens, and from 40 on it seemed all downhill. I refused to give up, both as a matter of honor, and because of the strong support I always received from my subbers and some others in the hobby. I have never found any household chore to be more important than a single additional page of an issue, let alone any complaint or threat to have more importance than mailing an issue. Regretably though, I have human frailties, and among these are war-weariness. Thus I had decided about a year ago that BB would wrap up and close down soon after #100. I was determined to get that far at least.

So why the sudden announcement? Well, I wanted to avoid the problem of having people write in with calls to continue, etc., which would both waste space and detract from other topics of far greater interest. My decision is irrevocable and not open to discussion, so I didn't discuss it. Maintaining secrecy, we keep BB's pages filled with other stuff right up to the end. That's the way I want it.

I will not be dropping from the hobby, only from publishing. My last GMed game ended many months ago; my subzine publishers are either on their own elsewhere or already carried in other zines, and received a little advance notice. Bob is winding down PERILS and has an active column in RETALIATION; Scott is publishing a good-looking zine of his own now; and Dave Marshall also appears in DOGS OF WAR. With these games all running independently of even this zine, game impact should be nil. If there are publishers who could use DOWN'N'DIRTY as is, run independent and generating 3 to 6 pages of material per season, you might contact Dave in case he hasn't already got a new home for it. Xerox repro would almost seem mandatory, but here's an entertaining, on-going column ready for anyone with the capacity to handle it!

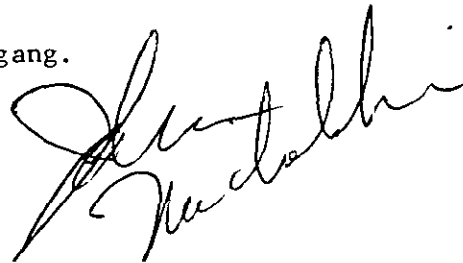
I myself will now be able to write letters instead of type responses to them, so you'll see my name here and there on occasion. I may even submit a column now and then of chitchat, letters, observations, and brickbats to assorted publishers desperate for any material--Scott Hanson has already prepared a masthead master for me. If I'm in a game with you (and still alive there), I will even correspond once in a while! So, be careful if you write to me, for you could yet be quoted in a guest column in some zine somewhere.

I'll miss publishing. It's more than a hobby, when you GM and publish. Those who start into this job--and it IS a job--and who continue to treat it as just a hobby, do more than botch up their games and their hobby: they ruin their reputation as well. Even if you charge no fee, you have a commitment to fulfill in prompt adjudicating and regular publication. You cannot GM or publish as a hobby, whenever there's nothing more important to be done. You accepted the position and it is your responsibility to adjudicate/publish correctly and on time. If you only get to it when you can, you show yourself to be an irresponsible asshole. I always took great pride in seeing the sheets mount up, then collating and mailing a grocery bagful of zines out. For while it is a chore to do, the flip side is that there's a lot of pride to be had in getting the job done, and done right and on time. If you can do better than the pack, all the more reward to you. While there's a lot of drudgery, there is also no limit on what you can do. You write your own ticket, and if others buy it, great, you're on your way. Lately here I have almost been embarrassed to be mailing ANOTHER issue every week, but there's a lot of reward in stuffing so much material out, and getting so much back in response. Doing a good job is kind of like the cliché about loving: the more you give out, the more you get back. It has snowballed recently, for I've often been doing 2,3,4 and more pages a day. Fortunately my unique (=crazy) circumstance at work of being out in left field, paid to do little more than publish more BBs, has helped me shoot past #100 months before I had thought possible. This is an addictive hobby/job

Endzine statement, continued

though; it is work, but it's fun too, and I've received one hell of a lot of satisfaction from doing it. I will miss it.

Enough. Time now to close the outhouse door. So long, gang.



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Your remaining credit was less than a dollar. Stamps enclosed.

Your sub expires with issue 109. To lessen what I have to shell out, no announcement was made to you. Technically, you are not obligated to pay these final copy charges, but if you wish to pay for them, you "owe" X. Stamps or sub credit to YOUR zine is OK too.

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✓ NOTE to mutual subbers: With my payment to you above, you still owe me as many issues as before. No adjustment is necessary.

✓ My APOLOGIES to you new subscribers who only got a few issues. Regretably, secrecy demanded that I not turn people away, and I did NOT want to tell anybody "No, keep your money, I don't want you on my list". That's why I accepted your sub anyway.

One last letter, from

DAVE MARSHALL (Down 'N' Dirty)

1547 Maplegrove Road, South Euclid, Ohio 44121

Your letter re the impending closure of BB arrived today, and I felt that I'd better honor it with an immediate reply. Frankly I'm not surprised by the news, since the winding-down of your own GMing activity and the occasional indications that you "wouldn't be doing this forever" are the kind of things that usually precede a responsible publisher's bowing out. The "home life" problems you alluded to are justification enough for this move (if you really need a justification); I can sympathize, as I've recently been under similar pressures of a most serious nature that have resulted in my decision not to enter any more games--indefinitely. My publishing hasn't really been a factor in this but I could see how your level of involvement might be. And no hobby activity, however pleasurable, is worth a serious domestic disruption. Priorities, and all that....

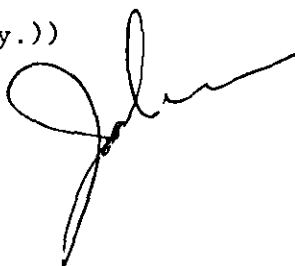
So I guess I won't be one of those calling for you to continue, but I'll be damned sorry to see The Brutus Bulletin go just the same. BB is a zine without peer in the hobby and I'm very proud and flattered to have been permitted to be a part of it. I was sorry to see C&F go as well, but it's hardly the same since for the last year or so Don Horton disassociated himself increasingly from the zine, and by #124 it wasn't the old C&F anyway. I hope though, John, that you aren't planning a complete departure from the hobby like Don made.

I appreciate the kind words re DnD. It's really difficult to judge sometimes whether one's doing a passable job at this business or whether the players are merely gritting their teeth and tolerating you because you might royally muck up their games out of spite if they don't. Don Horton and Bob Lipton both warned me very early on not to expect much stroking or feedback from players and readers, and they weren't wrong. Guess that's why I'm interested to see how I do in this Leeder Poll (ironic: I was one of its severest critics in my first letter in BB), despite its obvious shortcomings. Any word yet from up Leeder's way, incidentally?

Hope you won't be too concerned over the eventual fate of DnD. I'll hang in with BB as a subzine until the bitter end, and then continue pretty much as I have been: publishing independently. That's what your subzines do, after all, isn't it? As long as I stay with my present job (?) I'll have access to free xerox and envelopes, which keep costs down to postage, and I've concluded that 3 games at a time is about my limit, given my glacial typing speed. I'd like to expand the format and content to maybe 12 pages (not all warehouse, either), but family considerations will necessarily limit my ambitiousness. With the constant plugs you've given and 3/4 year exposure to the BB audience, I should be able to make it alright. Maybe you'd even consider doing a column now and then if things go well....?

John, I'm grateful you've taken the trouble to give me advance notice like this, and you have my word that I'll mention it to no-one. Of course, right now I'm chuckling to myself because here you're receiving a typed letter and the subject matter won't permit you to run it.

((Ha. I got the last laugh anyway.))

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'John' or 'Dave', with a stylized, flowing script.