

"I want to learn about the Force and become a Jedi like my father. There's nothing for me here, now that there is no more of

The

#109, early Nov 1981

BRUTUS BULLETIN

ET TU, BRUTE

The BRUTUS BULLETIN is a defunct newsletter of postal DIPLOMACYtm that closes up with this final clear-the-deck issue. It is an opportune time, what with all the feuds breaking out. Get them started, and then duck... It was late November of 1977 when issue #1 came out; 109 issues in 48 or 49 months isn't too bad. The Brutus Bulletin was dedicated to running things like I thought they ought to be done: fast games, black press, and unedited and uncensored letters, plus all the nonsense and junk filler that could be found and stuffed into the 2 ounce mail limit. I have run well over half a dozen games to conclusion, the slowest of which were on 14 day deadlines, with a few on 10 and even 7 day deadlines. The below-average NMRs and high interest level this required and showed, shows me I was right in my belief that the pressure makes for more interesting games. My only regret is in not having gone to a no-standbys policy sooner. I also ran a half dozen assorted variants, primarily two-man games and two Blind Madman games.

THIS ISSUE contains everything that came in in time to make my final cutoff. Anything after this point will either receive a personal reply or be trashed, possibly but not probably, getting a mention in some future column somewhere. I'll do those up whenever I'm in the mood, and give 'em to whoever is desperate enough to print them. Maybe Hanson or Marshall first, potluck after that. With REAL luck, everyone will reject them...

LAST CALL on my set of file copies of BB; all or any part. I have a good offer for the first 3 dozen or so, and am making copies for someone else, with others to get portions here and there of other issues. Anyone want to bid on the bundle? Would Walt Buchanan want the leftovers? I don't even know if he still collects zines. Also for sale will be stationery boxes full of current zines, as the box fills. This contains a few dozen or so of darn near everything there is, since I sub to a lot of zines. However, since I don't save them for posterity, I'll let you have them at 4th class book rate postpaid for \$4. Another box will be full in about a month. Any newcomer out there want a handful of most all the regular hobby zines for the cost of a sub to just one of them? Let me know.

Those of you who get your mailing labels from me can continue to do so, until and unless something drastic like a change of jobs occurs or something. Other stuff in the news includes a recent gift issue of Liesnard's CHANTECLER, a Belgian leftist who publishes a mixed French-English zine there that had some cute cartoons in it. It is wierd to see Hagar the Horrible speaking in French--ridiculous, really. Everyone knows Vikings all speak English like me. Other than that, I'm not sure why I got the copy. Maybe I was insulted in it somewhere in the French part? Gary Coughlan showed me part of another issue in St Louis Saturday that showed Bob Olsen referred to as "le rhinoceros du Kansas" in the French text, so maybe that's it. If you buy my box of back dipzines, you'll get this one too, so try it.

Probably the big news is the trip this last weekend. Let me get my licks in before all those ~~fraks~~ fellows slander me. Actually, the time there wasn't so bad, it's just the cost. I'm out between \$150 and \$200 for gas, food, room, time, booze no one drank except me, and what-not, and I couldn't find a camera to take. Hell, I even forgot the "I believe in Bernie" T-shirt Ozog brought down for me! (I hope

JOHN'S NOTES

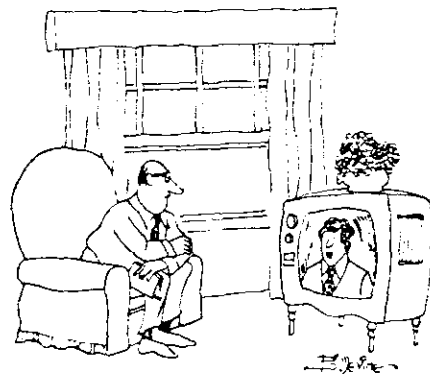


I can get it sent down anyhow). You've heard often enough that people never look like you imagine them; well, Gary Coughlan spoiled this by running his picture in EE just before I left, so that spoiled that surprise. I got in late Friday night, but no one was there yet, so I ate a pizza alone and went to bed, and did some exploring in the morning. Andy Lischett called when I got back; he arrived with Paul Rauterberg (Milwaukee) and some local fellow he knew whose name I've already forgotten. I believe it was Paul's car that blew up 40 mi north of St Louis which they abandoned; two of them returned on the train. Fun, fun, fun. Well, anyway, Andy's group and I went to Scott Hanson's room, and when he/they (+Jim Williams) opened the door, we told them to guess who we were. "Which of us is Elizabeth Hail?" I threw in. I don't think they got much. They were putting IRK together, so we just barged in. Scott, like Gary C., looks ten years younger than he is, the only problem being that Gary is 31 while Scott is about 20. One of them was wearing a shirt that said "PARTY till you PUKE", typically classy of the whole dipster gang. Guy and Elizabeth ("Libby") Hail came up from AUSTIN via Gary's. Guy is tall, thin, total hippie, long scraggly red hair, while his wife, who battled me most of the second game is very short and dark haired. Andy was tall and medium, Rauterberg is medium, better dressed than most, with that European professor type beard that would be called distinguished on anyone outside the hobby. Gary looks like his picture, and acts more outrageous than you'd think. From their zines, I'd think he did CHEESECAKE and Andy EE. Two toadies were there, Eric Ozog and Dwayne Shreve. Eric is medium to tall, thin, thin light blond hair but with dark eyebrows that makes him less bland than he'd otherwise be. The Chicago group came into Scott's room later and I introduced myself to Eric as Curtis Gibson. I never noticed Shreve until later at a game when he accosted me about sending a letter of his to Boardman, which caught me offguard, since Boardman barely talks to me at all and hasn't for some time. Then I remembered the incident, maybe two years ago. Shreve is an older looking fellow, thin and weak blond hair, big nose. I sat with them at supper and Dwayne S. continued as he would for most of the night with his "I can't believe you're Michalski. You WRITE like SUCH a CREEP!!" which was a compliment I guess. Eric wasn't as bad as I thought, really. He's much better in person than the flake you'd expect from reading MOONING FOR DIPLOMACY or whatever it is. On the other hand, I'd thought Shreve was better than he turned out too, so I guess it all evens out. Oh, Bob Osuch and some others came in later to Scott's room too. Now get this: here's one of my CGMs whom I'd never met; only Gary recognized me, due to a picture I'd once sent John Kelley, who sent it to Linsey, who is showing it all over the damn place I gather; and he walks straight in, glances around, and says straight at me, "Oh, hi John" in his gruff falling-asleep voice. Bob looks like a dock worker, medium height, heavy build, dark hair. Despite his letter here, we never had a chance to even be on the same board. (Or he was out so fast as England on the second that I never noticed). We had about 15 people there including two locals no one knew, but whenever there was a game, we only had 13, so one person played two countries each time. The first time it was Coughlan, who drew Italy to my France and opened with the Grabar "+3" opening. Real nice guy. He tried for Mar in the fall too. Laughing all the time, he is such a liar that by S03, he couldn't even talk any more, choking up on the absurdity of what he was trying to spit out.

THE 2nd ANNUAL DIPLOMACY PLAYERS POLL

Well, its that time of year again for the player voting poll. This is your chance, you the player, to vote for your fellow hobbyists in the 3 categories. This is not a 7 only poll, this is a hobby wide poll. It is requested that all of you publishers plug this poll. Thank you.

The poll is broken down into 3 categories: Regular Diplomacy Player; Variant Player; Article Writer. Unlike last year when I only accepted 1 vote per person, per category, this year will be different. You are asked to vote for your own favorites- the best 3 so-to-speak, in each category. You may not split your votes, nor may you vote for yourself in any category. Place your votes in order of 1,2,3- with the 1st being your favorite, 2nd being #2 and 3rd being your 3rd choice. All votes are due to me, here at 160-02 43 Ave Flushing, NY 11358 by November 22, 1981.



'Unfortunately, the program usually shown at

The text of that cartoon says "Unfortunately, the program usually shown at this time will be shown".

Where was I? Oh, yes, liar Gary. How could anyone so jovial manage to NEVER tell a single truth? As it turned out, his Russia was out quickly on the other board, so he came in and puppeted for the western powers. We, or at least I, never saw the three-way eastern alliance form up. Ozog was Austria, I forget who the other two were. Peter Ashley was England, and a new fellow was Germany, who of course goes +3 in 1901. Only the strength of the east kept the west together, and it boiled down to RAT vs ECFI. No one was less than a three at the end until Gary lost one to me to become a 2. I stayed at 5 the whole game until the last year, when I was commanding only one unit; the southern ones were commanded by Gary for me, the northern one by Ashley. The east decided to call it quits, but Ashley pushed for either an EFGI draw or an EFT draw; the east refused, saying they had to see how they could lose their stalemate line. We showed them, but then they said it would take us a long time to get a fleet to Venice, etc, etc, so we gave up and called it a 7 way draw. Whooppee. The highlight of the whole game was Gary coming in early, looking down, and saying "Ah can't be-LEEV it! OH-zog and m'HOLLSkee allying against me?" Eric didn't support me into Tunis anyway, but, what the heck. Oh, for all of you easterners who weren't there, I'd like to say that I hope that at YOUR minicons all the time, you don't talk about ME the way everyone talked about Linsey here. Kathy B was the second most popular, and was treated much more kindly. I suggested that we find a conference phone and all call her at once, but with all the trouble we had finding somewhere to eat, finding a specialized phone would be too much. Gary was showing off some pictures of the SCUZZIEST things imaginable, and saying "this is Bob Sergeant, that is Kathy Byrne, this one here is Steve Arnawoodian"(I believed that one),"these two are Barno and Swider," and on and on. Shame on you, Gary, taking pictures of all those winos and then claiming they were hobbyists! I should have brought my Gibson picture, the one he wrote on the back of: "Save this, it will be worth \$10,000 in 1990!" Right. I just regret Fluff Shaffer couldn't/wouldn't come: I wanted to introduce him by saying "Bob Olsen made it after all!"

It was cold and kind of damp, and when most of the playing was after sundown Saturday night, negotiating outside was a chore. I think people took little Libby out there just to get her too cold to think; what saved my bacon in the second game was the misorders she and Shreve (Aus & Italy to my Turkey) racked up. I'm afraid that she didn't think my verbal "press" about how she was a puppet of Shreve's 3 center Italy went over too well; she glared at me a lot, just for holding out my arm and wiggling 5 fingers (her 5 units to Shreve's 3. He miswrote taking Tunis in F01). Later he turned on her for taking Venice, despite his having just attacked her Trieste the same turn; he spent the rest of the game muttering "Austria must DIE" and seemed to be in a daze, either weariness, beer, the joint he shared with Rauterburg, or what, I don't know. (To those of you outside the drug scene like me, the stuff smells like smoldering treebark might.) That game ended in a 3 way TRF draw, with Ashley in Russia as my ally" (he's a slippery one, no one trusted him if they didn't have to. Once he got over 9, you could hear him laughing from outside, right through the window...) I think Hanson or Williams was the drawing Frenchman, I don't recall. I never paid a lick of attention to the west the whole time, really. Perhaps the reason I did so well ("well"=being in the 7way draw first game, 3 way in my second. 4 total games were played, 2 simultaneously each time. Records were kept of the 7 way, and the ones I wasn't in...) was that no one negotiated with me much, and here I was drinking Amaretto & Cognac to be sure it wasn't my breath...

Oh, well, I'm almost out of space and I don't want to ramble on about it forever, as I probably could. Check out EE or DbM or something. I'll cut off by mentioning the supper incident, when Ozog, sitting across from me, mentioned ~~by~~ someone's press release kidding his DbM with the quote "charging out of your mailbox, into your jock..." Yeah, it was pretty much fun all told. Next time I'll sleep in the car though, and keep the \$60.

Filler from AG: "Neither rain, no sleet, nor gloom, just money"

" " IRK: "186000 miles per second: it's the law."

+3 to 8
the last year

Maybe I'm just a softie, but your response to my letter literally had me all choked up. I hope you do put out an issue 108 just to be sure this can be included. I'd hate to have the letter in #107 be my last

I can't think of any time in my 30 to 40 issues of subscribership that you've taken one of my letters seriously, and I can't see why you'd take exception to that practice at such an inopportune time. I found such statements as "Hard to tell, since Fluff is such a bull-shitter" and "I think you are absurd all the ~~xxx~~ way down" ironic while you took my "he's just your pseudonym" seriously. You come very close to the mark with "your claims that Fluff's just a pseudonym are ludicrous on their face" but why couldn't you just realize they were supposed to be? I didn't ~~need~~ need to do "the slightest trace of checking" because I already had ample evidence of Fluff's existence, notably his letter(s) to me, and Brux's comments on phoning him in his Blind Madman Game midgame statement (there's no one in the hobby I trust more than Brux) ('cept maybe Berch). Looking back at my letter, I don't find my sarcasm disguised while in context with this and other letters ("this" back there refers to #107 letter, not this). Why else would I relegate it to the nineteenth paragraph? It was obviously an afterthought.

Since you have used this opportunity to attack me on everything else, a bit of defense is in order; point by point from your response.

I recall a statement in about #104 to the effect of "my decision is final and I don't want to discuss the matter" (about folding) and another "I intend to keep BB lively right through the end" Therefore I feel justified in having spared the sentimental stuff and ~~stx~~ ~~xxx~~ staying in character. I'm sorry if I've disappointed you.

If you ask Brux, I doubt he'll say he likes me in a "Gibsones~~x~~" sort of way"; my friendship with Bruce is based mostly on the fact that we think similarly and hold many common views, particularly in the real(s) of axiology/aesthetics (which explains why we like each other's stuff)

As for my absurdity, now you're speaking philosophical. To be serious under my "absurdity" (to use the term loosely) requires that I actually ~~deny~~ deny said absurdity to fall back on a more "secure" level of truth, which I refuse to do (i.e. I don't append a "just kidding" or some such when I joke about something) because it defeats the purpose of sarcasm. Instead I stick with my "absurdity" as my thought now and it therefore is truth; hence "serious" (All of which probably sounds Gibsonese to you but somebody out there might follow it) - but I digress (to quote Berch-clones)

All of your comments and corresponding innuendo about my lack of "proof" fall apart in light of my only joking about Fluff, so that doesn't leave much.

I am saddened to see your comment that "it will be nice not getting your barf in the mail anymore", I was under the impression that you and your readers to a certain extent enjoyed my letters. None of them were ever meant to displease you so if they did you can blame it on a fault in communication. If you'd like to stop receiving mail from me, just let me know (know) and I'll reluctantly oblige.

A few final words~~xx~~: Please excuse any use of ~~big~~ big words herein; i'm not trying to be snobbish, but when I feel a need to express myself I become articulate and when in that character, sophisticated words like to slip out (like the "herein" above) (Typing this I see I really didn't do that near as much as I thought when I wrote that). Your 8 bux+one for BBs 107&108 are enclosed. I didn't send them before in hopes of clearing the matter up, but now I don't want to run the game anyway; the idea has gotten stale. Csuch & Bcker your bux are forthcoming and Csuch the prel900 press is coming for MM. Please do get this printed; I'll feel much ~~maligned~~ maligned if I can't get a respose in after this.

And finally, John, I want to again apologize for any wrong I've done you. I deeply and sincerely regret whatever cause the schism in our relationship (?) and I hope that you will reciprocate my sentiments.

TVIST'S(IG)AFTERWORD: (If it fits) Some of this sounds corny rereading it now, but as you said on the phone "hell, that's how I felt then" Thus, with the wise words of Nanook, endeth the Lew-Michalski feud, and too, lively as ever, endeth the last BRUTUS BULLETIN. Amen.

NA

((check for \$2 was encbsd))
J.M.

ROD WALKER (Diplomacy World)

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

Dear John:

You probably already have enough stuff from me, but this is a quick response to your card of the 11th.

Re: Del Grande. I don't think there's any question that Don used bad judgement. The NADF Ombudsman and the BNC found essentially the same; that on a scale of gross error from 1 to 10, this was probably an 8 or a 9. But bad judgement differs radically, in my view, from outright deliberate dishonesty, which is what we have in Ozog's case.

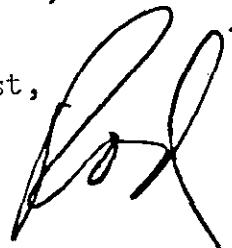
My opinion is that since the CGP is a major pipeline into the hobby for new people, omission from the list is a serious decision. It's not one I want to make on my own behalf except in some gross case like Tretick. I have therefore undertaken this pledge: that I will omit no name from the list unless I have the concurrence of 2 of these 3: BNC, NADF Ombs., USOS Custodian. If one of the three is personally involved with the individual or situation being considered, I will substitute Mark Berch. I currently have in a request that they concur in omitting Ozog's name.

But insofar as Del Grande is concerned, I don't feel that we have here any deliberate wrongdoing. I may be wrong, of course. If more data surface, we'll have another look at it. I understand there may be a second person with a similar complaint, but my source is Sacks, so you know how much weight I give that. I have asked him (the other party) about it. No response yet. There seems to be a reluctance on the part of Kathy and the other person to make a public issue of this, which also indicates that they attach no motive of deliberate malice or dishonesty to it. But of course, even at that, if DDG develops a pattern of consistently awful GMing, I would feel that new people should not be referred to him. The problem may resolve itself anyway, since he seems to be closing down most game openings.

As to Mark Lew: Any dispute between the two of you is strictly between the two of you. However, if you have withdrawn from a game before it has started, you are certainly entitled to a refund. If you do not have the money back by now, please address a specific request to him for a refund and pointedly indicate that a carbon copy is being sent to me. If he fails to send the money within a reasonable length of time, I will most certainly want to exclude his name from HGO and I'm sure I can get the necessary concurrences. However, Mark's name may drop off anyway since he must get a form to me this month to keep it on. In that event, I would immediately contact Randolph Smyth and force the issue through him. Any renig of this sort should be given wide publicity and people should be warned about sending money to Lew.

But, on the other hand, I can't see why he wouldn't send the money back. Mark doesn't impress me as the sort who would do anything dishonest. But then, when I first had contact with John Boardman, he didn't impress me as a loony, either. Surprise!

Best,



((I know what you mean. In regard to Lew, that is why I brought it up to begin with. I expect that if he can gather together the money he owes me for the two gamespots I paid for, he will send it, but in view of his immaturity in other areas, he might be tempted to 'take revenge', and to nip that in the bud, I'm going on record now as asking out and asking for a refund. Then, even if he were to predate the gamestart, I would have the

10/14/81

Dear John,

John Caruso's comments in #106 are confused, with regard to me. What I said was, if A sends to Michalski a letter attacking B, and JM is fairly sure that B will provide a prompt and vigorous defense, then JM should hold the letter, send a copy to B, and then run A's letter and B's defense in the same issue. This provides a fairer airing of the issue for the readers. They can see both sides at the same time. As Michalski can attest, I have raised this point at least twice in the past, so it's nothing personal with regard to Caruso. So when Caruso sez, "But when I don't send the cc, I'm doing it in bad taste." Not so, I was talking about what Michalski does, as editor, not you. As for letter from Walker to me, this is irrelevant. I actually don't recall one with "numerous mentions of Kathy". But those are not letters for publication, which is what I refer to.

With regard to Bates' comments, Barbarossa and John Foster Dulles were chosen deliberately to refute his point. He said that communism had never faced any serious opposition, and implied that this would be a different world if they had. I don't have the issue here. I gave two good examples of stiff opposition --- military and diplomatic. Dulles was no "symbol". So far as he was concerned, anti-communism was the unique cornerstone of American foreign policy. All other values were secondary. Short of a military attack on the USSR or its allies, he did everything he could to contain them. Some things were so extreme that he reneged on deals just because of this relentless opposition. We were all set to help finance the Aswan Dam, a project that utterly transformed Egypt. But no, he felt that Nasser would be too friendly to Russia, so he pulled the USA out. Nasser had put his entire career on the line for that dam, and so turned the the Russians to pay for it, which they did.

The comments made by Sacks are variously pathetic and disgraceful. In this regard, DelGrande wonders how Sacks made the request to Walker that Don DelGrande's name not be included on the DW list of game openings. He did it like he does so much else: With an air of total mystery. He asked, but gave no specifics to Rod. Rod asked repeatedly what the facts were, so that Rod could decide whether or not to include the DDG name in what is, after all, a zine that Rod has responsibility for. Sacks just as repeatedly refused. And still does. Look at his comment at the end of the October KGO, in which he says that Rod is "screaming ... that I have to justify my actions". In Sacks' mind, he doesn't have to justify his actions. His Royal Sackness just decrees that the name is to be deleted from DW and that is the end of it. Interestingly enough, Sacks printed the nasty comments about DDG in the Oct KGO, and delisted him, before he actually wrote DDG at all! And he wonders why Rod thinks he is "acting arbitrarily". Really, in his initial letter to DDG, he sez he's only writing to DDG because Rod has pressured him to do that. Nor is this the only area where he acts so mysteriously. Look at his letter in #106, where he sez, "I was the hobby custodian on whom the pruge broke --- it succeeded against a number of other custodians and groups at that time." Does anyone have any idea of what he's talking about? Or notice his, "in NYC we tend to stamp on people when they step off the straight and narrow." Who? Who? Ray Heuer, who went for years without placing games? Or do we refer to DNYMPA, which if anything made transferring games more difficult? Or his crack that "Ripoffs congregate around DW?" Huh? Who was ripped off? It's all very mysterious. Bah.

I was astonished --- and delighted --- about some of your comments about cutting the defense budget. There were entire sentences that I agreed with! You suggest that we "let our triad slip to a biad for a while". In terms of what they are supposed to do --- deter the Russians from attacking --- I suspect that it's already a biad. The Russians probably figure that they can be confident, reasonably confident, of holding the losses from our manned nuclear bombers to an acceptable level. Not so for MinuteMan and the subs.

Shooting someone dead for stealing a paperclip is "no crime". Well, at least I know what value you place on human life. Less than the value of a paperclip. Sad.

Excerpted from Ben Schilling: "The reason only 40% of the first term military women get knocked up is about 10 to 15% of them are dykes".

Such ignorance & foolishness as this is almost beyond reply. What happened to the other 45% to 50% Ben? Why did you get out? Did you expect an easy lay in the military...and fail?

1. An individual's sexual preference is part and parcel of their freedom of choice.
2. Yes, dykes, as you choose to call them, exist. But then so do male homosexuals.
3. There are a lot of damned good female workers in the military, as well as some bad ones. But then, the same can be said for their male counterparts. And girls, even if their sexual preferences seem odd, do add something to a close-knit community that I'd rather not do without.
4. Finally, you got out. Good. Don't need nuts like you around. I want people around me who have some intelligence and can be counted on.

And Ben, I may be getting out too, but not because I couldn't find female companionship. That's your problem, don't blame it on someone else.

((Ah, it is letters like this that really make it a shame to have to close down the BB now. Ben, there was a note to forward this to VD if it didn't make the last BB, so if you want to reply, we might best see it in VD if you sub to it.)) *gm*

ROBERT SACKS

4861 Broadway 5-V, New York 10034

I never gave details to previous DW editors. Walker only required them to create an excuse for a split. Given Walker's tendency to attack people, I justifiably refused to give him additional targets--I referred him to some of the hobby officers who were hearing the matter, whose opinions he ignored. I never named either Walker or Del Grande in the editorial in the October KGO.

I covered the purge of the head of the UKVA in DW--DW participated in that purge. Other officers and groups were also purged: I see they're still picking on Ray Heuer when he headed the Orphan Games Project--we couldn't find any substantive grounds to remove him. Since then he was most cooperative in transferring the project to John Daly & Kathy Byrne, a transfer still not recognized by DW, Walker, Berch, or Davis apparently want only the project they formented against Heuer to survive. For years they did their best to make sure nobody knew about the OGP, and they're still trying.

All regional groups make orphan placement more difficult because they are more willing to give the publisher who claims he hasn't really folded an extra year or two to prove it, and to fight anybody who tries placing those games. Right now we have a problem with a noted publisher who hasn't published in 5 months; I asked Rod Walker to help and he refused.

As for ripoffs and DW, does the name Larry Peery sound familiar? Not only did Walker make him co-editor, he added him to my KGO without telling me, plugged him and accepted an ad from him. Another ripoff? When was the last time Mark Berch sought permission to reprint anything in DIPLOMACY DIGEST? When was the last time he paid a royalty? When was the last time the NAVB or the CEVB paid a royalty?

((A further statement from Mr Sacks about the smoking dispute was included, and will appear somewhere else this issue.

On royalties, I'm afraid that doesn't have much weight. Youngstown is the most widely known and used variant, and that has been freely circulated for many years. I recall it appearing in (or from) Kendter's WHY ME? once, and I kept a copy in case any others wanted one sometime. Lee answered my inquiry about ownership with a note to the effect that it was open and up for grabs. It seems that anyone with a variant, in the banks or not, would be glad to see ANYone use it, let alone expect royalties. Many of Mark's reprints are from zines long since dead and gone, and again, who cares?

Since none of these folks will have a chance to reply here, I'm trying again to anticipate some response or rebuttal. On Peery, all I know is that there have been warnings against him as long as I've been in the hobby (5 years), and not much pro-

Response to ~~John~~ Sacks, cont'd

duced by him. For his own reasons, Rod thinks that has changed, it seems, and I've heard he is now publishing some very costly zine. I've never seen one, and don't really want to, but I have heard that others have at least seen one.

To those of you who have entered the hobby in the last couple of years, the name Ray Heuer probably means nothing. Well, in my five years in the hobby, that is exactly what he's done that I can recall; he may have published in the mid-70s or something. Anyhow, at some point, some defunct hobby organization or group named him in charge of "the Orphan Games Project". In the last five years, despite my subbing to what I think is the bulk of the hobby publications, I have never seen any game placed by him, or anything at all done. However, since he was never formally "removed" and all that shit, some NY types complained when John Daly started up his orphan placement. John began his because the need was there; John has done the job and continues to do so. However, the complainers didn't like the fact that no one asked them if it was OK, and pals of this Heuer continue to mention this every year. Hmm, that reminds me, I think I did once get a card from Heuer years ago, when my first zine, BLACK HOLE by Doug Reif, folded without a word. It was a DNYMPA zine, a clique of NY pubbers who mutually guaranteed the others. I wrote Heuer as head of DNYMPA, and he said he'd been out of it for over a year, and referred me to someone else. Aside from that, "Ray Heuer" is somewhat like Jane Proskin: a personality to be used in other conflicts, but doing little herself. (In fact, I've seen a lot more of Jane ..) The "transfer" to John that is mentioned in the letter above consists only in the transfer of recognition of what John Daly has been doing for over a year, by this NY area gang. No real transfer took place because there was no crown to transfer. As to what the UKVA is or was, your guess is as good as mine. A lot of this stuff is old and of little current effect, except perhaps Peery, who is both an old and a current matter. CEVB also is an unknown to me. Might be old, might be new, who knows.

I think that's about all I need answer for, for now. Let me see how I can squeeze in the smoking thing below.))

Jm.

Any volunteers for offering a forum for similar such arguments?

On the smoking dispute

Robt Sacks

1. Wells raised with me a health problem. He may have requested action by the meeting, but I never considered taking the question to the meeting. I agreed that for reasons of health, the tournament would be no smoking. It is also New Jersey law that the non-smokers could require this. None of the non-smokers objected; they urged me to stand pat if challenged.
2. The meeting could have done nothing anyhow. Diplomacy hobbyists have to learn that they are not above the law; their meetings cannot decide to ignore laws or suppress rights. The only effect in delaying announcing the request and decision until the meeting would have been to prevent the discovery of the final resolution and disrupt the tournament in addition to the meeting.
3. In either case, the smokers were entitled to significant advance notice of the decision. Their decision to boycott if prohibited from smoking required me to propose a two-room tournament. Neither side was pleased with splitting the tournament, but neither side was willing to concede to the other side, until Lee Kendter Sr proposed the use of the corridor outside the tournament room as a smoking lounge. The smokers agreed to Kendter's solution; I don't remember if I consulted the non-smokers or if they said anything.
4. The actual walk-out from the meeting was caused by the convention's decision that the meeting room was no smoking. Wells can claim all he wants that he didn't cause anything, but nobody will believe him, especially since he is now threatening some of the smokers with having smoking banned from the tournament and adjacent corridors at Dipcon. I am beginning to believe the allegations by the smokers that there was no health problem, and that the question was raised to disrupt the meeting and tournament and to harass the smokers or prevent them from playing.

((Anonymous mail "contribution")):

WE hAve

CLAUdINE.

KEEp

pUBLishing

OR ELSE!

((Thanks gang...))

ROD WALKER

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

Dear John:

It seems to me that you've missed the point of ZIMIAMVIA 4. I am not arguing that Don Del Grande should or should not be omitted from KGO, but only that he should not be omitted without sufficient cause. Sufficient cause has not been established here. Every version of the sequence of events differs... yours, for instance, places Kathy's resignation after Don's decision to start the game over from scratch, whereas others I've heard reverse that. Sacks' action was improper in that he did not have sufficient cause. It is unfair, to say the least, to take this sort of action against somebody before you know whether there is good reason to do it.

KGO, whatever else it is, is not Robert's independent project. It is a DW project, a point on which Jerry agrees with me; that whole point was addressed in ZIM. Robert of course can run his own game list if he wishes. People would then be well advised to list with both of us...although I doubt his list will go very many places KGO will not go, and KGO will reach a lot of people his won't. But at least you know that DW's KGO will be honest...that is, I'm not going to omit somebody because someone I'm trying to kiss up to has got some bad karma toward the guy.

Nor is this really a personality thing. I would be glad to reinstate Sacks in the KGO, if he will agree to accept certain minimum constraints against this sort of thing happening again. I suggested these earlier to him and was simply ignored. As things stand now, I will not accept any direct communication from him, so he will have to deal through a third party. And I will not reinstate him until and unless he agrees in writing to the necessary conditions. (I should add here that Sacks also tried to get me to omit Don's name from DIPLOMACY WORLD and refused to tell me why it should be removed. The reason for his refusal is now crystal clear...he had no good reason except his own desire to do Kathy Byrne a favor, a favor which (it would appear) she had neither asked for nor wanted. One thing KGO does not need is Robert Sacks playing his usual political games with it.

The stuff you sent on the "gay rights" bill in congress was amusing. I have seldom seen such monumental ignorance and bigotry. Fortunately, both sides are really wasting their time. People whose brains are in their heads instead of in their asses have long since discovered that discriminating against gays isn't worth the trouble.


In fact, the discrimination often as not works the other way. There are a good many landlords (the older, more experienced ones) who will rent to single gays much in preference to single straights. Gay men are far more apt to be quiet, neat, dependable, and stable. You would be surprised at how many landlords in San Diego who don't have any vacancies can suddenly find something if they know you're gay.

A good many employers would rather hire gay men, as well...they don't have to worry about sexual harrassment of their female employees, and gay men tend to be extremely dependable and industrious.

But even with these things aside, discrimination is really no issue. Unlike blacks, women, and other groups who are discriminated against, a gay individual is not physically distinguishable from the rest of the population. The idiots who get off on discriminating against others (such nice, Christian people, they!) really don't get much of a chance with gays. It's estimated that more than 20% of the adult male population are gay or actively bisexual, and I don't believe I have to point to the implications of that figure.

I wonder how Jerry Falwell is dealing with the fact that several love letters by Abraham Lincoln have surfaced, and have been published...and they are not addressed to a woman.

Best,



Response to Walker

((Yeah, poor ol' Lincoln, like Napoleon and Washington and such, sure gets himself into the strangest corners. The KKK once ran an ad in the Milwaukee Journal some years ago after the klan threatened them with a court battle if they wouldn't sell the space, and part of their ad was assorted quotes from Lincoln that seemed anti-black. I'll bet Goebbels too advertised letters from Lincoln endorsing totalitarianism over republicanism, and what-not. But then, who knows? Maybe if I were married to a bitchy thing like the dog he picked up, some dude offering a blowjob might not sound so bad after a while?))

Card from
ROBERT SACKS

4861 Broadway, 5V, NYC 10034

Thank you for your analysis. I am continuing KGO ((Known Game Openings)) no matter what Walker does. "Need-A-Game" is DW's column; KGO is my project.

You will notice that not only did he plagiarize my October list, he added Del Grande and Peery without any warnings, and he added Daly who has no openings.

If Del Grande had only done what he had done to Byrne, a case could be made for a listing with a warning. There is a similar problem alleged in a different game, but it is getting difficult to get the actual details, especially when nobody wants to be attacked by Walker. Given the cover-ups and stonewalling, I was preparing to list Del Grande in the Nov listing with a strong warning, and then answer Walker's Nov 15 ultimatum, but Walker apparently decided that he didn't want me to answer his ultimatum, so he set a new one; the letter setting the new one arrived after it had passed.

BRUX Linseed, 24A Quarry Drive, Albany, NY 12205

Voice of Doom

I was puzzled by your recent blast at Mark Lew. Maybe he did something that you didn't like, but from your readers' point of view it sure isn't obvious what your complaint is. Just how did he renege on his agreement to GM a game with you and Shaffer in it? On what basis do you suspect that you won't get your \$8 back? And why the crack about his letter in the Life of Monty game? I have seen a copy of that letter, and although I am not going public with my views on the whole affair, there was nothing nasty or irrational about it. If you're gonna blast Mark Lew, fine, but I'd like to know specifically why you're doing so.

I'd also be interested to hear you expound on your remark about Anna Moraitis. I've seen her name in quite a few places. Is she really a front for someone, and if so who? How did you find out?

It's true -- Caruso and I have pretty much cleared things up. I thought his remarks a while back were somewhere between satire and personal attacks, but closer to the former.

As for Masters, it's not the plagiarism per se that I really object to. It's the fact that he doesn't credit the stories as he should. Case in point: in BF #25, he says that he is the author of the "Pug Bocarsley" story. That's pure BS. He is not the author -- James Thurber is. True, he credits Thurber with "inspiring" the story, but Thurber did a hell of a lot more than inspire it -- he wrote it. See VD #54 for more details.

My other objections to Black Jack are his repeated interference in others' games and his quoting (misquoting, actually) of a letter I recently sent him which was clearly labelled "NOT FOR PUBLICATION".

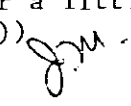
As far as I'm concerned, it's perfectly OK for Jack to keep adapting other people's work for BF. But he should credit it properly, and he has a hell of a nerve villifying me just for pointing out that fact.

((And according to this latest BLACK FROG, he intends to do a lot more villifying. One

Response to Linsey, cont'd

prominent publisher mentioned on the phone that he was kind of looking forward to two "heavyweights" like you and Jack going at it; maybe that will give some outside perspective anyhow.

Anna Moraitis stuff is based on my personal experience, although it is now a year or two old. Maybe two or three. We were in a new game once and she called me. After a sentence to her or so about the game, she cut me off and explained that she really did not know a thing about Dip; she was playing for her boyfriend, Dave Crockett, who she then put on. Crockett is the fellow with the 9-wins-in-9-games-ever-played record. Apparently he plays non-sure-things under Anna's name. Of course by now she may have picked it up, or maybe they're not admitting it anymore, I don't know. That was the first and last I heard of it. Nothing wrong with that really--not in the Tretick class anyhow--but Anna M. was not at that time the "player", just the name. Fluff may not play much better than she does, but he can play, and does make his own moves, even when that move is to accept what someone else suggests. (See Osuch's letter that follows.) Mostly he's in it for the press, although he will seize the chance to fuck somebody if he can. You saw 79E, why should I tell you that?

Nanook: he called last night to confirm that he meant his charges to be a joke. When I mentioned that it was not phrased or presented as any humor item, he said it ruins the joke value to add a parenthetical ha-ha at the end. Unfortunately, neither his statement nor its format gave any hint of humor to me. The charge was serious enough, not at all what I would consider a joking matter. My remarks then (and since) re the money is due to his constant shortage about "bux" that he always is heavy on. I have to wonder if his retraction of the charge is due more to sincerity than to the ~~need to avoid the~~ need to repay the money I (and a couple of others, if the game is cancelled like he says) am owed. As in the response to Walker, I'm just being cautious there. From his style (Lew's), I do not have the certainty of proper closing the way I would have with a Kendter or a Baumeister or someone of that sort. "Just how did he renege"? Reread his charge please. The "crack about the ...LOM game" refers to the way he threw out some comments there too that pissed people off and caused the scrapping of the game, the same way that this one of his appears to be headed. Perhaps from some reader's point of view, it is not obvious that to charge someone of setting up a phoney "player" to be manipulated in a game that they are also a player in themselves, is indeed a serious charge to make, but I for one take it as serious. It is the same as if I said that Crockett was using Anna in games where Dave was also playing under his own name himself; it makes for a little different situation then, you see. I hope all this is "specific" enough for you)) 

BOB OSUCH (Nothing noteworthy)

3417 S. Paulina, Chicago, IL 60608

This is my last letter to BB. I know you don't want to hear it, but you have made many people very sad. Still don't know how you did it. I have thought many times of pubbing. I know I could handle it if I were single, but if I did start pubbing, chances are I would be single very quickly anyway. They say marriages are comprised of people that love each other. True, but without compromise few are successful. Why did I bother to bring up the question? I dunno, I feel that I should be pubbing, yet my domestic situation will not allow it. There's a psychological issue there somewhere, possibly involving priorities and motivation. Don't ask me.

I may have said something to prompt Lew's latest gibberish. He told me Fluff was in the game, and I replied that it was fine with me, but that I didn't want to be placed adjacent to him because I know from experience that he takes little interest in the game tactically or diplomatically. His main function is his press. I also requested that Fluff and you not be placed adjacently. You may question this. My reasoning

Osuch, conclusion

was that you have personal contacts with him, while I would be reduced to sending him postcards with orders on them and hoping he would use them. I feel that you have much greater influence over him than I. For Mark to come out with this "Michalski mail drop" nonsense is certainly ridiculous. I just hope that he didn't gather from my letters that this was the case. In any case, it would appear that Mark has few friends left, or at least a growing number of enemies. Your reply to his letter was justified in lieu of his accusations. Such lambastations(?) is one of the things I will dearly miss. I know you were serious, but I had to laugh at your indignation. Not so much that you were pissed, more so your choice of words. As for the game, I'm not sure what you meant about Mark's track record as a GM, unless you were referring to his recent accusations.

I agree with you regarding Sacks' KGO. Walker has been looking for a reason to denounce Sacks as a viable contributing hobby member for some time now, or at least I got that impression. If the information provided in BB#107 is accurate, then Rod is allowing his personal intercourse with Sacks to cloud the issue. The proof is that Walker investigated the issue only as far as he could to incriminate Sacks. If he had bothered to look further, he would have seen that the game was absolutely ruined by Del Grande's GMing error, notwithstanding whether or not the mistake was intentional. Would you recommend a GM that ruined a game? I sure as hell wouldn't. This is not a personal affront on Don. I suspect it was an honest mistake, but that doesn't change the facts of the matter.

I passed through Moore at 3:30AM on October 11. Wanted to stop, too, but I was just along for the ride and had no say-so as to where we went or what we did. Anyway, I'm not too sure you would have been thrilled getting a call at 4AM. Oklahoma was sort of desolate, especially the stretch on I-44 between Oklahoma City and Joplin. Not that I could see too much at 4AM. Especially when I got to Tulsa; so much fog I felt like I was driving through the Twilight Zone. Is that what all those red signs on the median that said "Do not drive through smoke" meant? Or were they referring to forest fires? I've never seen them before.

So you ARE coming to St. Louis next weekend. Coughlan called today and talked me into going. He's paying for my motel, gas, food, and best of all, bar tab! Fuck the Diplomacy, let's go pick up a couple of broads and get shitfaced courtesy of Gary! You should run BB until the end of the month so that you could print all the reviews. Ah, somebody else can do it I suppose.

Hope this makes it before you close up shop. See you in St. Louis, Louie.

((Yes, I did at least make it there. Nice to meet everyone, even Shreve I suppose, but if I had it to do again, I'd skip buying booze no one drank and try to split a room, if not the gas, with someone. I figure I'm out over \$150, ignoring 18 hours on the road and 1000 miles off the life of the car. More on the con elsewhere.

The smoke signs were in regard to grassfires, which are common here half the year or more. Billows of smoke will cloud the road, and a lot of folks will dive straight in at full speed, thinking they'll come out in just a second. Then, after two or four with no visibility, they hit the brakes and drop to 15 mph. Maybe the NEXT dude then slows down even sooner, but if not, the 65mph second car meets the 15mph first, and...

On Lew's track record, I was referring to the trouble he was having in things like typing and repro. If someone is using the red ribbon because he can't afford to replace the black, and is (apparently) just starting on typing, there might be some question as to how adept that GM might be at quickly turning around a season to 7 people and the four or more possible sheets of assorted press. YOU know how that can be!)))

ANDY LISCHETT (Cheesecake)

3025 N Davlin Ct, Chicago, IL 60618

COULD YOU PLEASE SEND ME A XEROX OF JACK MASTER'S DEFENSE FROM BLACK FROG #48? IF SO, PLEASE SUBTRACT ANY COSTS FROM MY SUB.

I DON'T KNOW JACK'S MOTIVE FOR STEALING SOMEONE ELSE'S WORK, BUT I DON'T THINK HE JUST FORGOT TO GIVE CREDIT TO THE AUTHORS, AND I DON'T THINK IT'S TRIVIAL. JACK HAS HAD MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO CONFESS HIS 'BORROWING'. IN ISSUE #31 OF BLACK FROG JACK LISTED THE RESULTS OF A VOTE FOR THE HOBBY'S BEST WRITERS IN WHICH HE FINISHED FIRST. HIS COMMENTS WERE, 'I FEEL VERY HONORED TO BE VOTED THE NUMBER 1 ARTICLE WRITER IN THE HOBBY AND I WANT TO THANK EVERYONE WHO VOTED FOR ME.' DOES THAT SOUND LIKE SOMEONE WHO SIMPLY FORGOT TO MENTION THAT HE DIDN'T WRITE ANY OF THE STUFF HE WAS BEING PRAISED FOR?

DID YOU GO BACK AND LOOK UP THE NOTE IN #35 WHICH SUPPOSEDLY GAVE CREDIT TO THE AUTHORS? IT SAYS (AMONG 33 'MISCELLANEOUS CITATIONS' IN HIS 'GOLDEN FROG AWARDS') '(23.) TO WOODY ALLEN, MAX SHULMAN, JAMES THURBER, LEONARDO DA VINCI AND MEL RAMOS FOR HELPING TO MAKE BLACK FROG SUCCESSFUL.' AT THE TIME I FIRST READ THAT, I KNEW HE WAS SWIPING ARTICLES, AND I REMEMBER THINKING THAT IF I HADN'T KNOWN, I WOULD HAVE JUST IGNORED IT AS A SILLY REMARK WHICH MADE NO SENSE AND WASN'T WORTH WORRYING ABOUT. I ALSO REMEMBER THINKING THAT JACK (WHO IS A SELF-PROFESSED MASTER OF FRAUD) WAS PROBABLY PROVIDING HIMSELF WITH INSURANCE IN CASE HE GOT CAUGHT; IF ANYONE ACCUSED HIM OF PLAGIARISM (AS HAS BEEN DONE) HE COULD POINT TO THIS CRYPTIC MESSAGE (AS HE HAS DONE) AS PROOF OF HIS INTEGRITY. HOWEVER, THE NOTE ONLY MAKES SENSE AFTER YOU ALREADY KNOW WHAT IT MEANS (JACK ALSO GAVE SILLY CITATIONS (AS CAMOUFLAGE?) TO GEORGE BRETT, MARY TYLER MOORE, WINSTON CHURCHILL, AND OTHERS).

ANYWAY, I'M CURIOUS AS TO HOW HE DEFENDS HIMSELF.

((No, I didn't look at the old one. I sell off the old ones as they accumulate, and one that far back at the rate Jack publishes was likely gone two boxes of zines back. Perhaps there is something to what you say, or at least it would appear so, unless maybe Mary Tyler Moore did write something he used, plus Churchill, etc. Maybe Mary's show was on and was so crumby that it inspired Jack to turn it off and go adapt a Thurber story for BLACK FROG instead? Anyhow, I did still have #48, so I'm sending you my original.))

Nice guy, ain't I?

((This is the face of Steve's last
BB mailing envelope...))

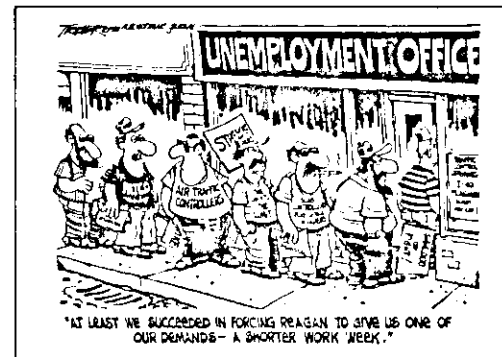
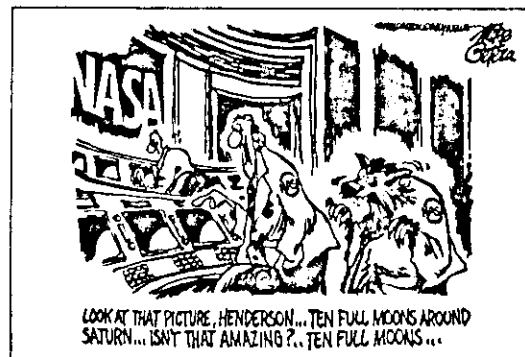
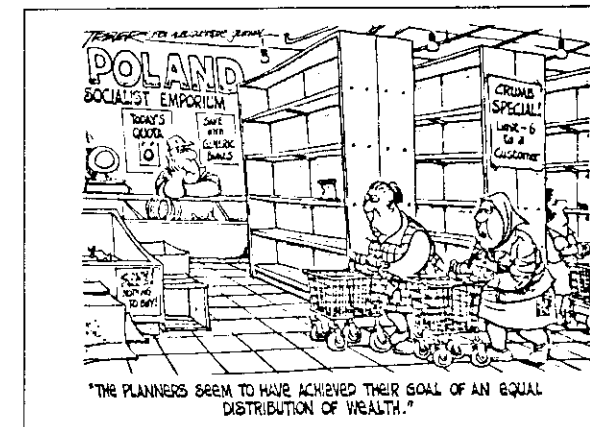
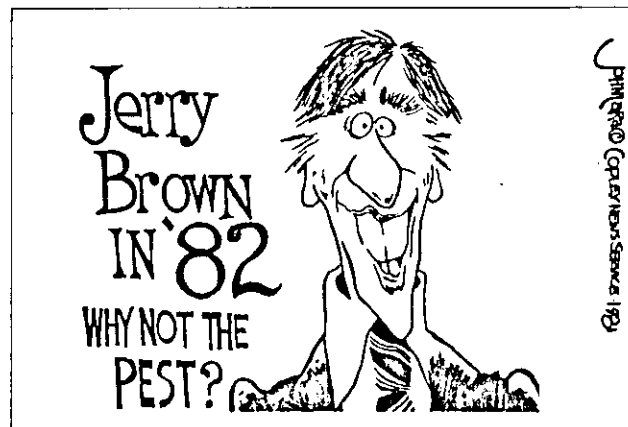
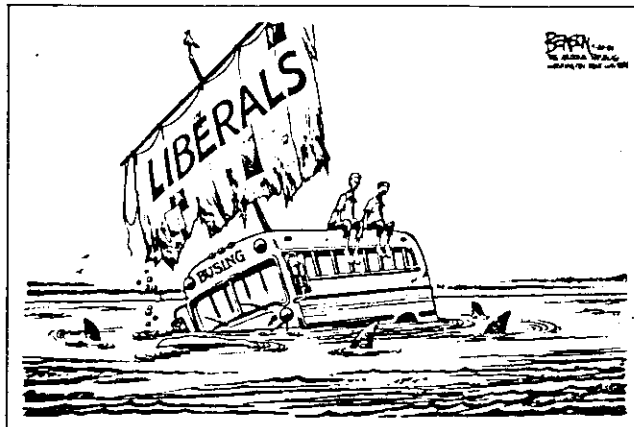
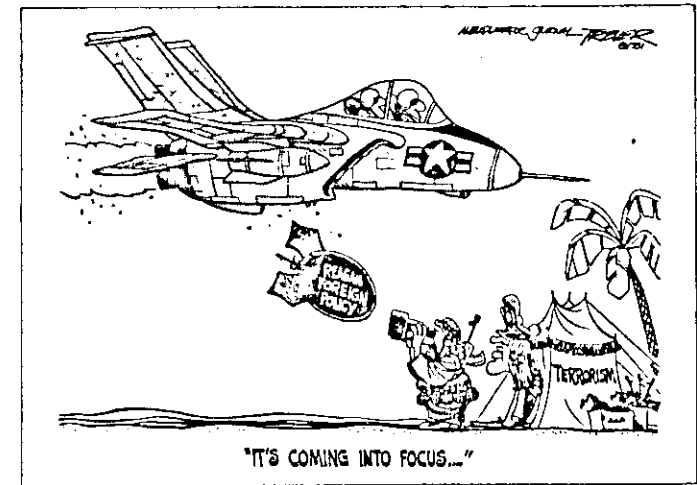
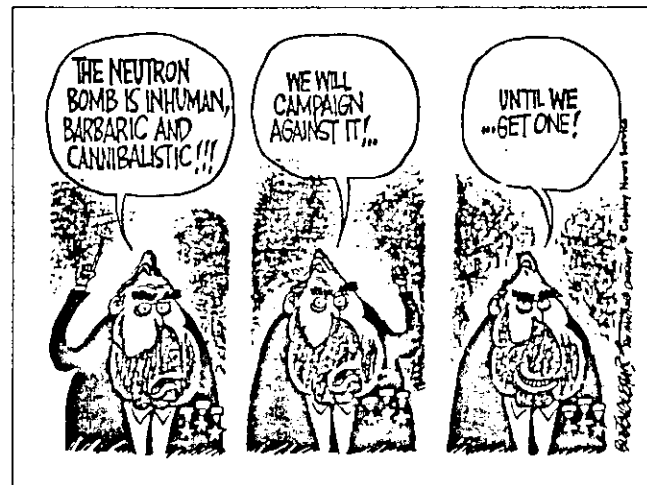
John Michalski
Rt 10 Box 526 Q
Moore, Okla 73165

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".

By -

Stephen Arnawoodian
602 Hemlock Circle
Lansdale, PA 19446

Cartoons



DIPLOMACY WORLD
"alcala"
1273 crest dr.
encinitas, ca 92024

14 september 1981

John Michalski
Rt. 10, Box 526-Q
Moore OK 73165

Dear John:

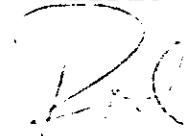
It is with deep regret that we learn of your plans to cease the publication of THE BRUTUS BULLETIN shortly after having passed the "magic" number of 100. We wish of course to congratulate and commend you on the smoothness and integrity with which you are carrying out your plans to carry out your decision; however, we can only express our wish that they (the plans, that is) could have been indefinitely postponed.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you, on behalf of all those who have known and enjoyed BB over the years, and of the hobby generally, for your unstinting contribution to the hobby during that time. THE BRUTUS BULLETIN established and maintained standards of regularity, fairness, and even-handedness which few 'zines today, if any, can be said to equal. Almost alone of today's publishers, you were courteous and generous enough to send courtesy copies of BB pages mentioning them to individuals discussed in your 'zine, even when they were not subscribers.

It is absolutely certain that postal Diplomacy owes you a very large debt of gratitude, and always will, for your conscientious performance as an editor. We sincerely hope that at some time in the future, you may find it possible to resume your editorial career.

John, we salute and thank you.

For the editors and staff
of DIPLOMACY WORLD,



Rod Walker
Editor

HAND-TYPED CERTIFICATE

This certificate entitles the bearer, John Michalski of Moore OK, to a year's free subscription to DIPLOMACY WORLD (issues 28-31). This certificate is awarded in recognition of his outstanding contribution to postal Diplomacy and his honorable behavior in departing his publishing career. This certificate is self-activating unless specifically revoked by the recipient.

FOR DIPLOMACY WORLD



Rod Walker, Editor

((I'm
honored!!))
J.M.