

THE

# BRUTUS BULLETIN

Jerry Jones, here I  
come! This All I  
should pass Steve  
McLendon too, just pa  
out his #19... John  
Leader, I'm falling behin  
to. Like everyone else,

## ET TU, BRUTE

The BRUTUS BULLETIN is a newsletter of postal Diplomacy brought to you bi-weekly (or sooner, if there's a rate increase due by USPS) by John Michalaki, 913 NE 6 St, Moore, Oklahoma 73160. BB is still the cheapest in the hobby at \$2 for all issues from now until Dec 1, 1978, at which time a more realistic rate will apply. Suggest your friends send a check today: even losing at \$2/head, it will help offset current expenses.

### SPECIAL REACTIONARY ISSUE

Not really, but there are some Rightwingish things, plus, letters from both Mark Berch and Galen Workman, both writing more or less for the "other side". Also, I'm welcoming a trade with Steve McLendon's DRAGON & the LAMB by plagiarizing an editorial from him, and responding thereto. Lots of filler, a year's worth of KN and KS, quite probably a season of 78AX, lots of press, nonsense, editor commentary (are the last two redundant?), and anything that turns up between now and Monday night or Tuesday. All three games are now down to, or virtually down to, six players...well, look inside. But first:

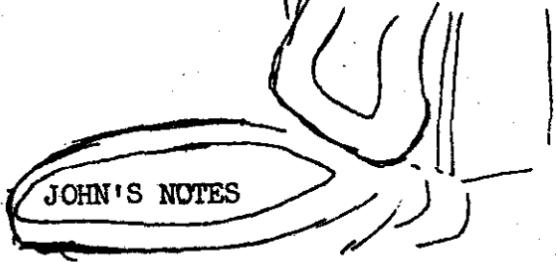
### LABELS!!

In Issue 12, I made an offer to print up labels cheap, and I may have sent the wrong set(s) to some(one). IF you got the wrong set, keep 'em or chuck 'em, but RETURN THE MASTER OR ONE COPY to me posthaste, please. I'll then try to get a set to the RIGHT person. ALSO, if you ordered some and have NOT RECEIVED them, write right away. All sets were sent out some time ago, so yours probably went to someone else. Write and I'll get you fixed up.

NEXT ISSUE or so should contain a stinging rebuttal to the cover of #13 by Eric Kirchner's brand new wife. Something for us all to look forward to. Or at least something for YOU to look forward to...

WHY is the cover being used for what should be in VARIOUS NOTES? Because I already have a full page of VARIOUS NOTES inside. Plus John's Notes. If many more odds and ends come up, I'll have to add still another page to this thing, already a monster.

FOL SI FIE is a Canadian Dipzine that is really chock full of non-Dip stuff. The Editor-GM has declined to trade, but, he has a good product anyhow. Write Randolph Smyth, 249 First Ave, Ottawa, Ontario K1S 2G5. Especially if you're into RUSSIAN CAMPAIGN. Even if you won't like FSF, it comes with pretty Canadian stamps. Mine had a very detailed one of traders and landscape labeled "Nootka Sound," 14¢, plus 4 2¢ers of someone named Laurier who looks like a Canadian Einstein... Maybe he's French, to offset the fact that "Nootka Sound" is printed only in English, not Eng-Fr, like "postage/postes". Bi-lingualism is a big issue up there, even if you think it's just boring drivel to fill out the rest of #14's cover here....



JOHN'S NOTES

It's about time I hit you folks with one of these columns again so you'll better appreciate those issues that lack them. Not a hell of a lot to cover, but, who am I to let that stop me?

The Memorial Day weekend is mercifully behind us now; I trust all of you made it through? I was here at work Saturday morning, getting 13 put together along with other executive chores such as defrost the refrigerator we keep lunches & cokes in here in the office. (Why do you think accountants need degrees? It's a big decision, hitting that DEFROST button...) Saturday the wife came back from her vacation with the 95 (Training) Div she is employed by, which was off piddling around the dust, heat, and rain of Ft Leonard Wood, Missouri. She gets to do all kinds of exciting things like learn how to take apart and put together (properly, the first time) my ARL5, plus camp out amidst the bugs, carry real weapons, etc. Lots of fun (and horror) stories... When I was in the Air Natl Guard, the most exciting thing we ever did at camp was play cards and drink. We really had it rough, living in the base Transient Quarters, often having to share a TV with a roommate (all male, I'm afraid), and even pay your own fare when you got on the bus outside Nellis AFB to ride into downtown Las Vegas for the evening. These Army types get to ride the Army bus from OKC to beautiful central Missouri for free, both ways. I hope they appreciate it. This year she made Marksman with the M16 with about a 75% score. (Before I went to SEA, we had to get 49 or 50 out of 50 for that top class, but those weren't the days of VOLAR....) In a way, it's good that Reservists get to do a little something (unlike the ANG, that does nothing), but the number of timeservers, chairwarmers, drunkards, and the like gives me serious doubts about the effectiveness of them as units in combat. The one bright spot is that, when I used to go active once in a while, Guard units always ran rings around the Regulars. Regulars seemed to differ in two respects from Reservists: first, they wore uniforms all the time; second, their worthless drunkards were generally far higher ranking than OURS were. I might also add that their morale was far worse than visiting Weekend Warriors, although my years on active duty seemed to give the opposite view. Maybe active morale has just plummeted over these past few years... Maybe when Eric Kirchner gets a duty assignment, we'll get some other views. One of the best and most illustrative stories I ever heard was that of a fellow in a unit the wife used to work with. This guy would invariably wrangle himself some assignment or other on the days the unit went to weapons practice. The reason? He was some kind of religious freak who didn't believe in weapons! (He was a regular, full-time Reserve employee, not a Weekend Warrior). There's the combat ability of your Ready Reserve: led by some folks who don't believe in weapons! Wow. If we have to go to Europe, the Peninsular War may give more relevant reading than that of D-Day: I really doubt you'll be able to come ashore north of the Pyrennes.

Monday was nice: right after my son went to sleep, I saw I had just enough time to drive across into Oklahoma County and get in to see STAR WARS one more time before it moves on after a 38 week run at the 1 local theater that's had it for ever and a day. Maybe it will come to the neighborhood theaters next... This time, my seventh, the splicing was fixed so that the dialogue was understandable when the Millenium Falcon came out into the debris of Alderaan. The one bad thing was that I'm such a bump-on-a-log that anytime I'm gone over an hour and a half, I come home to "Don't tell me you went to see that dopey movie AGAIN?" Where else would I have been?

One piece of good news for you: those sick pink covers may be a thing of the past. There is now some assorted lightweight paper in various nicer colors I may be able to use here. The only problem is that the reverse is printed up with timesheet format...

J.M.

# 77 K N

SPRING 1906

## SPRING AT LAST!

ROME-BERLIN AXIS UNDER SIEGE. BLACK SEA BECOMES TURKISH LAKE AS DYING ROMANOFF ARMY KEEPS AUSTRIANS IN SERBIA. OTTOMANS SKIP VIEW OF ATHENS IN FAVOR OF A SEASIDE VIEW OF ROME.

AUSTRIA (KASSEL): A PIE-Ven; A Tri-TYO; A Bud-TRI;  
A SER-Rum; A GAL-Ukr

FRANCE (DITTER): F Mar-LYO; F BEL-Nth; F Tun-ION; F Wal-ENG;  
A Bur-MAR; A Bre-PAR; A PIC-Bur; A LON H

GERMANY (WORKMAN): F KIE-Hol; F DEN-Nth; A Par-BUR; A Sil-MUN; A RUH S A Par-Bur

ITALY (KELLY): F NAP S FRENCH F Tun-Ion; A ROM S F Ven; F VEN H

RUSSIA (McELVANEY): F Nwy-SWE; F SKA S F Nwy-Swe; F HOL H; A StP-LVN; A WAR S A Ukr;  
A UKR S A War; A MOS S A War; A Sev-Rum/annihilated

TURKEY (HUESTON): F ARM & F BLA S A Rum-Sev; A Rum-SEV; F Smy-AEG; F Ion-Nap/d/r TYN

★ COA: DAVE DITTER, to 563 Maple Avenue, Fontana, CA 92335

DEADLINE for Fall, 1906, will be my mail received here Monday, June 12, 1973. Turkey sent in retreats to be used, so the retreat may be considered final. Press follows.

SPAIN The Kaiser claims it isn't fair. "HOW CAN WE WIN?" and breathe smog air!

SOMEWHERE IN PARIS: "Hey, Horst, VAR DA HELL ARE VE!" (Cough, cough)

LONDON: Cheers were overheard throughout French occupied London, when they heard that the French Emperor, Dirty David the Dagger, had sucked the unsuspecting German Army into Paris. "By golly men, our smog will tear em apart." "They deserve Paris more than we do."

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Since I have a little space left, let me run some plugs. JERRY JONES, of LIES, DECEIT, & NEFARIOUS SCHEMES has only a few openings left before he closes up. Jerry runs very prompt 3-week deadlines, and after BB and Liberterean, is about as quick as you'll find. Write him at 1854 Wagner St., Pasadena, CA 91107. Come to think of it, I believe our own CRAIG REGES, of AGAINST THE ODDS, also has just a few openings left, and also tries to stick to a basically tri-weekly schedule. He's the fellow at the ungodly address of 16 W 761 White Pines Rd, Bensenville, IL 60106. Finally, BOB SERGEANT of ST GEORGE & THE DRAGON fame has openings in his monthly zine. He's at 3242 Lupine Drive, Indianapolis IN 46224

# 77KN

FALL, 1906

RUSSIA UNIFIES ALL OF SCANDANAVIA.

AUSTRIA (KASSEL): A Pie-VEN; A TYO & A TRI S A Pie-Ven; A Ser-RUM;  
A Gal S A Ser-Rum/d/r Sil Boh Vie Bud Otb

FRANCE (DITTER): F Eng-MAO; F Bel-NTH; F Lyo-WES; F Ion-TUN; A LON & A PAR H;  
 A Pic-BEL; A Mar-PIE

GERMANY (WORKMAN): F Den S RUSSIAN F Hol-Nth/NSO/d/r Bal Helg Otb; F KIE S F Den;  
A RUH-Hol; A Mun-BER; A Bur-MUN

ITALY (KELLY): F NAP-Tyn; F Ven S GERMAN A Tyo-Tri/NSU as Ger A Tyo/d/r Adr Apu Otb;  
A ROM S F Ven

RUSSIA (McELVANEY): F Swe-DEN; S SKA S F Swe-Den; F HOL-Kie; A War-GAL;  
A UKR S A War-Gal; A MOS-Sev; A Liv-WAR

TURKEY (HUESTON): F ARM S A Sev; F Bla-CON; F Aeg-ION; F TYN- Rom;  
A SEV S AUSTRIAN A Gal-Rum/NSO

COA: Dave Ditter will be at his OLD address of 17215 Marygold Ave, #42, Fontana, CA 92335 until July 15 after all. The wife talked him into remodeling... your GM may move then, too. We'll see.

DEADLINE for Winter, 1906, adjustments and Spring, 1907 moves will be my mail received here Monday, June 26, 1978. Spring orders may be made conditional on the builds, removals, and retreats. Please list one set as "all other cases" whenever using conditional orders.

1906: Asutria: Home, Ser Gre RUM VEN	7	build two
France: Bre Mar Spa Por Lvp Bel Lon		
Tun PAR	9	build one
Germany: Home <del>Pst Pst</del>	3	remove two
Italy: Nap Rom <del>Ven</del>	2	remove one
Russia: StP Mos War <del>Pst</del> Nwy Swe Edi		
Hol DEN	8	even
Turkey: Home Bul <del>Pst</del> SEV	5	even
	34	

\*\*\*\*\*NOTICE\*\*\*\*\* Your preliminary sheets didn't show the exchange of Paris. This is correct -

Press:

PARIS to CONSTANTINOPLE To allow the Turks Italy would be giving up our interests in pizzas and Italian jokes. No way!

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 IDA NEWS

All the news events heard recently about IDA happenings follows here:

# 77KS

BREUGAL PEASANT ABANDONS PETER. SEASONS SEPARATE AS  
POPE PULLS WOOL OVER GMS EYES, SCREWING US ALL.....

SUMMER, 1905: Austria, NRR. F Ven r OTB

Fall, 1905:

AUSTRIA (PRICE): NMR! A TRI H, A Ser H/d/NRR, r OTB  
ENGLAND (HUNT): F Gas-MAO; F BRE S F Gas-MAO; A YOR-Lvp  
FRANCE (NEWELL): F Mid-Bre/d/ r ENG; A MAR S A Spa-Gas; A Spa-GAS; F IRI-Lvp  
GERMANY (REGES): F NTH S RUSSIAN F Nwg-Edi; F DEN S F Nth; F Wal-LON; A Bur-PAR;  
A Ruh-BUR; A PIC S A Ruh-Bur; A Mun-TYO  
ITALY (SHAFFER): F Ion-Aeg/d/r TUN; A Tyo-Tri/NSU; A VEN & A VIE S A Tyo-Tri;  
A PIE Unordered, H  
RUSSIA (KASSEL): F Nwg-EDI; F Nwy-NWG; F SWE H; A War-GAL; A Gal-BOH; A BUD S  
TURKISH A Bul-Ser  
TURKEY (KENDLER, Jr): F EAS S F Aeg-Ion; F Aeg-ION; F Con-AEG; A RUM S A Bul-Ser;  
A Bul-SER; A GRE S A Rum-Ser/NSO

1905:	Austria: <del>Has</del> <del>Tri</del> <del>Has</del> Tri	1	3 ann., even
	England: Lvp <del>Has</del> Bre	2	remove one
	France: <del>Has</del> Mar Spa Por	3	remove one
	Germany: Home Bel Hol Den Lon PAR	8	build one
	Italy: Rom Nap Tun Vie VEN	5	build one
	Russia: Home Nwy Swe EDI BUD	8	build two
	Turkey: Home Bul Rum Gre SER	7	build one
		<u>34</u>	

Winter:

Austria	No change	1	Has A Tri
England	Removes F Mid	2	Has F Bre, A Yor
France	Removes F Iri	3	Has F Eng, A Mar, A Gas
Germany	Builds A MUN	8	Has Fs Nth Den, Lon
			As Par Bur Pic Tyo Mun
Italy	Builds F NAP	5	Has Fs Tun Nap As Ven Vie Pie
Russia	Builds As StP, SEV8		Has Fs Edi Nwg Swe
			As War Sev Gal Boh Bud
Turkey	Builds F CON	7	Has Fs Eas Ion Aeg Con
			As Rum Ser Gre

COA: Bill Shaffer, Data General Corp, F E Training/MS6-56, Southboro, MA 01772. In late July or early August, back to the Edmond address, if he's still in the game then.

Deadline for Spring, 1906, will be my mail received here Monday, June 26, 1978. Those of you who sent in spring orders with your builds can leave it at that unless you wish to change them. Lots of press already on file for spring; some, relevant to the winter, follows.

Oops. I left the attachment at home. I'll run it next issue for the general audience. Players have it on their preview sheets. Some more press on reverse. See next page(s) for FOS press also.

J.M.

ILES D'HYERES (HICCUPS) -- For all you weather aficionados, the temp here has been around 90 F the past three days running. The rest of this week will contain field events, with a forecast of mid-80s or better. To hell with work! To damnation with school! Let's go skinny-dipping!!

I wish to answer charges levied in these pages previously, to wit that I am sexually repressed and a pervert. My response: so what? Just because I can make it with a tree and you can't -- is that any reason to resort to slurs and innuendos? I'm not jealous of your women; why should you be jealous of my Douglas firs? Have you ever gotten to know a tree? I mean really know a tree?? Many have fascinating personalities. And Euell Gibbons wasn't kidding when he said many parts are edible. Can you say that about your wife/girlfriend?

Hell, I read Playboy, Penthouse and Oui just the same as all you guys. I do not drool on the pictures. I do not cut out the nasty bits and paste them on my body. I do not paste them on my dog, either. I do not read the jokes to women over the phone. Gad, we told those jokes in grade school. The teachers ate 'em up. Especially after class, when no one else was in the building. (Sigh.) Those were the days.

Now about the telescope in my bedroom. The window faces directly the house next door, more specifically their upstairs bedroom. Their house is the same basic design as ours, you see, although a mirror image. What goes on in that house is their business, right? I certainly have no control over it. If their daughter likes to be an exhibitionist, should I be the one to march over there and tell her to stop? What would her father say? Why, he'd call me a pervert, that's what he'd do. And since I'm no pervert, I'm keeping my mouth shut.

I hope this puts to a stop the totally unjustified criticism of my literary talents based on the assertion that I cannot discuss issues of relevance due to my preoccupation with sex. Had it been suggested that I cannot write worth a pig's fart or that my grandmother plays for the Dallas Cowboys I would have just smiled and turned the other cheek. As it is, I am quite upset, although it does help to consider the source. When there are those among you who can match my output in quantity and quality, then and only then will I accept outside evaluation. Enough said!

ANN ARBOR (HICCUPS) -- A recent study performed by the University of Michigan's Department of Social Theory reveals that certain boardgames published within the United States have dramatic side-effects on the minds of those who play them repeatedly. It is believed that, in many cases, these effects were intended by the games' designers, and that it is possible to create a boardgame with pre-programmed effects on the brain.

Most incredible of the assertions is the claim that one game was/is intended by its designer to establish complete mind-control between himself and those who play his game frequently. Worldwide distribution of this game is seen as the potential downfall of the human race as we know it, if Mr Calhamer succeeds in his plan to make all Diplomacy players walking, talking robots respondent to his sole command. The study encourages the resurgence of an old role-playing game known to free the mind of all outside influences. The game has been newly revised and is being published by Adam and Eve Enterprises under the copyrighted name Sex.

Calhamer was unavailable for comment.

ANKARA I hope the new French player knows how to write decent press.

BREST Two dogs fight over a piece of liver. Pools of blood dot the scene. Peter Ast watches for a while, then moves on. In the supermarket he hears a familiar voice, "Classy duds, there, babe". "Squeaky! What are you doing in Brest?" "Good question. It was easy, just walked in". "Be here long?" "I don't think so, that's why I've come to get you". "Oh...but I'm not leaving. I have an...arrangement here." "We know all about your fella. It's no good. Pet, he's dead." "But I just left him" "And after you walked out the door, two of our boys blew him away. Buy those seasick pills, you'll need them." "Oh, my God" "Yeah, right. Look, you're coming with us, your place is at sea --over the bounding main, all of that" "You threw me overboard!" "Just kiddin' around doll, don't take it hard. C'mon, the boys have missed you. Hey, I gotta tell you about this time in Denmark. This brothel fulla German broads. They charge an arm and a leg, I'll tell ya..." Once again there is a stirring in Peter's chest.

MOSCOW I hope the new French player knows how to keep his mouth shut.

ROME Isn't he the pervert who tried to desecrate STAR WARS a couple of issues back?

MOSCOW He's sick!

ANKARA He's not sick, just sexually repressed.

PARIS Like a few other people we know.

MOSCOW Are you trying to suggest something?

PARIS Only that the Turkish harem is all-male, and that the Russian ambassador is a flaming faggot.

MOSCOW Take that back or I'll ram this fleet up your

PARIS Why don't you lick me?

LONDON No, lick me!

BERLIN Lick MEEEE!!!

BERLIN Its throat-going-for-time again!!

ANKARA C'mon, honeybuns, its time we came out of the closet. Its time the world was told the truth. Rick and Peter are one and the same.

MOORE Which Rick?

BERLIN How come I never get any press like this in my zine??

LUCERNE Lick ME!

PARIS No, me! Please! My wife has left me and I've no place to go.

To PARIS We are glad you know nothing or else you might still be a viable country.

TRIESTE Self-pity will get you nowhere.

KIEL Well, I sure hope that the weinerschnitzel I ordered a few years ago is still fresh.

MOSCOW I'm fed up to here with you pansy-faced liberals. Why don't you get the hell out of this zine?

MOORE I'll be the one to decide who gets tossed out of here.

PARIS You're just sore because we've got a better figure than you.

MUNICH All are forewarned! Allying with the German Reich is found to be a cause of NME

WARSAW I'm taking the shortest path I can find to your home centers where I will proceed to rip your blocks apart.

PARIS A he-man! Oh goody!

BERLIN I think we should undertake to wipe France off the face of the map.

ROME He can't make it with either a man or a woman. What good is he?

LUCERNE A lick, a lick, a licka licka licka. A lick, a lick, a licka licka licka.

((Reading this fall press makes me dread the Spring! No, just kidding. You write it, I'll print it. I jsut thought this was a family zine.....)))

((GM comments will always be in double parentheses. I send all my own press to zines I'm playing in. Take it from there)).

*J.M.*

ILES D'HYÈRES (HICCOUPS) -- I like writing French press. I am taking French 101 this quarter, and in the back of our text there is a provincial map of France showing all the city, county and territorial names in French. Learning foreign languages is fun for me (I've had a year of college German), but it requires unlearning a lot of English, very difficult indeed for one who writes a lot of Dippy letters. Anyhow, while I do not yet consider myself to be fluent, I found myself having sufficient mastery to translate the following conversation I overheard on the beach this afternoon. I think you'll find the French point-of-view to be distinctly captivating.

"Jean and Suzanne asked me if we'd be interested in some group sex. What do you think?"

"Isn't Suzanne that bisexual you met during the acting workshop last winter?"

"That's the one."

(Giggle.) "I've always had a crush on her."

"You've never made it with another woman in your life!"

"Oh, yeah? How do you know?"

"I spoke with your mother."

"You leave my mother out of this!"

"I hadn't thought of asking her, but now that you mention it, she might like to come. Jean does well with older women."

She pokes him in the shoulder. "My mother is a virtuous woman! Besides, she's been spending a lot of time with Hermann, that German bartender I was telling you about."

"Aahhh, I know it... OK, your mother can't make it. Do you want to go? It should be fun."

"What will you and Jean do if Suzanne and I decide to, well, you know."

"I'll probably get Jean to show me his photo album. He's always been bragging about it, and I've always wanted to see it. He claims to have a picture of this little frog staring out of Suzanne's..."

(Giggle!)

"...hahaha. Apparently Suzanne has been soft on frogs since she was a child. And when they were skinny-dipping at some mountain stream. So they're going back there next year when the little buggers are in season again. They there's supposed to be this shot of two of his models kissing while on a bicycle."

"Let's go big about that?"

"They're both making it with the handlebars."

"How gross!"

"Anyway, I told him we'd let him know right away. He may ask another couple, and won't have enough time to stock up on food and drinks and all. I'm going to call him as soon as we get back to the house."

They got up and strolled along the beach away from where I was. I never heard her decision. It left me wondering: why do other men always get the bitchy women? How come I've never done any of this stuff? Hell, tomorrow is my 23rd birthday and I've never as much as kissed a woman before! Am I so strense?? Just because I want love and not just cheap sex? Is there more to love than sex? Am I missing something?? Am I afraid of women?? What is the cure???

I sigh, and my eyes return to the Diplomacy board spread out on the sand beside me. I must return to the core critical issues of the day: how should I set up Germany and England?

78 AX

CENTRAL POWERS GET SQUISHED. RUSSO-TURKS GEARING UP?

SUMMER, 1903: Austrian A Ser r TRI

FALL, 1903:

AUSTRIA (LUKOW): A Gre-Ser/ann ; A BUD S A Gre-Ser; A TRI & A VIE S A Bud; F ALB-Gre

ENGLAND (HUESTON): F DEN-Kie; F POR-Mid; F NTH S F Eng-Bel; F Eng-BEL

FRANCE (HUNT): F PIC & F MID S F Bre-Eng; F Bre-ENG; A Gas-SPA; A Bel-HOL

GERMANY (CHRISTOPHER): NMR! F KIE, A RUH, A BUR H; A Ber H/ann.

ITALY (KIRCHNER): F TYN S F Ion; F ION S AUBTRIAN F Alb-Gre; A MUN-Kie; A Tyo-Mun/NSU  
A SIL S A Tyo-Mun; A BOH-Mun

RUSSIA (KASSEL): F BLA-Rum; F SWE H; A GAL S A Rum-Bud; A RUM-Bud; A WAR-Sil;  
F BAL S A Pru-Ber; A Pru-BER;

TURKEY (WORKMAN): F EAS-Ion; F Aeg-GRE; A BUL S F Aeg-Gre; A SER-Alb

COA: ERIC KIRCHNER, as of June 19: 3807 Halfturn Road #314, Colorado Springs, CO 80917  
(Remember that June 10th he'll pick up mail & this sheet at 894 Birchwood Lane,  
Schenectady, NY 12309)

NOTICE: In addition to rate increases, the minimum size of cards/letters has gone up from 3x5 to 3½x5, so, those of you using 3x5 ersatz postcards should go to the next larger card size.

1903: Austria: Home <del>Set</del> <del>Gre</del>	3	1 ann., remove one
England: Home Por DEN BEL	6	build two
France: Home <del>Set</del> Spa HOL	5	even
Germany: <del>Set</del> Kie <del>HOL</del> <del>Den</del>	1	1 ann., remove two
Italy: Home Tun Mun	5	even
Russia: Home Swe Rum Nwy BER	8	build one
Turkey: Home Bul SER GRE	6	build two
	<u>34</u>	

Press:

AUSTRIA-WORLD: "It's not long now!"

VIENNA: In a press conference today, the current state of the boundary talks was explained. "Turkey will be given control of all our Balkan interests. We feel this should help placate the Sultan and at the same time give him the power he needs to crawl out from under Russia's control".

MOSCOW: This is why I hate black press! I didn't even write this! But you will believe I did. I'm left with no choice but to write some press to save my own neck! Here goes!

VIENNA: Austria declares War on Russia. Turkey and anyone else who wants more supply centers. (Hope I did that right!)

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THERE ALMOST WAS A JOKE HERE, but it didn't quite make it. Bill Shaffer started to tell me a Pollock joke, when I pointed out it has to be an AGGIE joke to get printed in THIS zine. Then he said, "Well, see, there were these two Aggies in Poland...". That's as far as it got. Send your own in instead!!

## VARIOUS NOTES

GADZOOKS!!! DID YOU KNOW that in addition to raising the postal rate on letters to 15¢, the differential on printed matter leaped way up there to 20¢!! It used to be easy to put out big BBs cheap, since all I had to pay was the 1¢ differential out of pocket, plus a contribution into the company kitty each month or so. Now, I'll have to pick up 7¢ on each one mailed! THANK GOODNESS I took the trouble to get #13 out under the wire: I saved myself about \$2.50. An issue like #12 would cost 40¢ each to mail today, postage only. They're going to kill this hobby yet.... I have about a dozen issues to go under the old rate, meaning that these almost-two-ounce mailings will cost me about the equivalent of what I've taken in in sub fees just for the differential costs. I'll need to find some corners to cut here somehow. Some new subscribers would be a welcome help, hint, hint.....

BRUCE HOBDEY, if you're out there, write. A second issue has been returned as undeliverable, and no more will be sent until I hear from you. Anyone else in a game with him, or???

PINK DRAGON is the name of a new Dipzine from Dan Palter. New to me, at least. It's also unique in that it's the first one I've seen that is partly typed but mostly HANDWRITTEN then wet copied. Request a sample from him at Box 72, Cedarhurst, NY 11516.

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BERNIE OAKLYN/BUDDY TRETICK. Earlier, this zine ran a letter from Rod Walker to Cal White warning about Bernie Oaklyn-Buddy Tretick being one and the same ripoff artist preparing to fleece hobbyists via LA GUERRE. Last issue a defense of Oaklyn was run, from Craig Reges. Since then I have received a long letter from a known hobby personality who insists on anonymity who lists numerous other proofs of various types to the effect that Rod Walker was correct in his charges, if indeed not understating them. Since a plug for LA GUERRE appeared in these pages some time back, I want you to take these warnings into account in your possible dealings with the Oaklyn-Tretick front.

BOSTON has 15 TV stations, according to Bill Shaffer who's up there going to some computer school his employer sent him to. Last weekend was John-Wayne-war-movies from Fri PM to early Monday AM, straight. "They started with the Civil War Friday, and he went on to win every war in order..." "Green Berets ended about 4am Monday", per a phone call yesterday. This weekend was a flop: "Robert Mitchum & Marilyn Monroe". Next weekend will be John-Wayne-western weekend. If any of you in KS are writing Bill, he'll be there until about late July. I doubt he's writing anybody... Italy doesn't seem to have a friend in the world. So it goes.

✓ DON HORTON's dog always has a headache....

LILAF #29 just out has a nice plug in it telling how good BB is at making him sleepy. Well, I guess it does spread the name around. Tom Gould also notes that he sent all of you a copy via a mailing list sticker sheet I sent him, and he reports he got 3 responses, all traders. I know what THAT's like. (40 W 77St, NYC, NY 10024)

✓ The GEMIGNANI AWARDS are now called the SACKS AWARDS. Nominations for the categories listed below can be sent to Tom Gould, address just above. This year's categories are: Silliest Magazine, Silliest Player, Silliest Player in a Variant, Silliest Writer, Silliest Press Release/Series, Silliest Gamemaster, Least Trustworthy Ally, and The Seven Silliest People in the Diplomacy Hobby. Something from KS press ought to win #4 or 5 at least.

TSR has acknowledged my letter pointing out a serious problem on their AFRICAN CAMPAIGN boards. Theirs are cut off a half-hex too far north, closing the road exit off the frontier escarpment edge. "Next reprint" will fix it, Mike Can says. "However, time-wise the reprint is still a ways off".

✓ NOTICE: Minimum mailing size is now  $3\frac{1}{2} \times 5$ , up from  $3 \times 5$ . If you use ersatz postcards, you'll need to go to the next larger size.  
-Courtesy of Lee Kendler Sr, "WHY ME?"

## A LIBERAL RESPONSE

GALEN WORKMAN

Fortunately Johnny Carson has Bart Reynolds on tonight. The thought of watching Reynolds mug for fifteen minutes has roused me from my catatonic television-viewing state and brought me to the typewriter. It's time to deal with a number of backlogged issues.

(( \* \* \* \* ))

Now that the games have been given their due, let's move on to the side issues raised in BB. Before I launch myself into ideological orbit over the virtues of being a liberal, however, I want to pat your ego once again. (Bending over, he ruffled the gamemaster's ears. "Atta boy, John. Good boy!") BB continues to offer fast games and interesting issues. Your effort in adjudicating the moves is obvious, and I cannot suggest any improvements in your methods. The non-game pages of BB continue to be worth reading. The sincerity and diversity of your subscribers make the diatribes and dissertations valuable.

You generally treat people writing in well, even though you may not agree with them. That is, you publish their opinions seemingly without censorship and without interrupting their ideas with hostile comments. This style makes for the best reading, I think.

Now, as for arguing with you about the merits of conservatives versus those of liberals, I had best retreat a bit. Rereading a number of BB's I feel that you use "liberal" as a synonym for "perverted," "illogical," "un-American," or worse. It is your catchall pejorative expression. Therefore, I doubt that it would be wise to argue for something you seem to define as evil. I have no mystical attraction for the word "liberal," either, and I will gladly abandon the defense against a general assault. Although I consider myself a liberal I have no desire to protect all actions taken in the name of liberalism, nor do I have an inbred hatred for all conservative positions. Accordingly I will fall back to new lines and entrench myself to defend only specific issues. On this lower level of abstraction perhaps our disagreements will be fewer and more easily defined.

My 78AX press was not intended to be a serious ideological statement, no more than I take GD's "Bureaucratic Blunders" as an exposition of conservative views. I wrote my paragraphs with retaliatory humor after suffering through nine issues of barbs aimed at the present American government.

When I wrote the press item I was in the midst of a fun~~x~~induced by the annual income-tax-deadline-show-distain-for-the-government comments. Hardly a newscast, paper, or Dip 'zine passes up the occasion. Rather than suggesting that "the huge HEW nonstrosity is to be blindly supported ..." (BB XIII, p.33) as you inferred, I ment only to object to the straw men set up and so viciously knocked down by the media and disgruntled citizens. My objection was not designed as a blanket under which all bureaucratic action could hide; I was just attempting a broad spoof.

In general the most annoying lines to me in BB are the quick snipes at "liberals" and the government. I do not think you are serious always when you snap off an opinion, and I am frustrated that you do not express yourself or the conservative viewpoint with more linear logic. Since I already have page 33 in front of me I'll use this example: "In fact, if the (HEW(?)) bureaucracy did ANY of that (keep the poor from starving, help the lame, etc.) EVERYONE would support it; but the right wing looks at it and doesn't see any starving masses being sheltered from harm, etc., but rather, a nonworking mass of bureaucrats growing fat on their GS16 salaries 'administering' over programs that do more harm than good, if in fact they do any good at all." Now, since I do not think that you want to defend the proposition that absolutely no nonemployees benefit from HEW programs,

Galen Workman (cont'd)

I am forced to consider your comments as a hyperbole against inefficient organization. This is similar to what all too many of your notes and the "Bureaucratic Blunders" wind up saying. Pitting yourself, or conservatives in the whole, against waste is a cheap shot, I believe. A gluttonous official gorging himself on tax money is hardly the liberals' or anyone's, poster child.

~~Before I lapse further into categorical terms and start humming "We Shall Overcome,"~~ I will return to the phillipic on mindless griping which I occasionally see in your off-hand comments in BB.

My greatest peeves are those comments which imply that somebody, somewhere is trying to maximize the stupidity and insensitivity in life. The style in conversation and in the media nowadays is to find a bad person behind every problem. Yet, not every bureaucratic idiocy or general misfortune is the result of someone's evil intention to screw up the system. In fact, along with a lot of other shortages, I believe that there is a malice shortage in public affairs. Thus, as you pointed out in BB XIII, P.37, no energy cartel engineered the natural gas crisis in 1977. It is equally true in my mind, and counter to your tone in the caption of the reprinted article, that no conspiracy existed to suppress the results of the National Research Council study clearing the gas companies. Unfairness occurs without any help from greed, stupidity, or incompetence. Moreover, I fail to see the value in searching for scape goats.

Further in regard to those who gripe against the establishment, I see very little understanding by the complainers of the nature of the American government. Right now in California, for instance, we have an initiative ballot measure designed to slash property taxes and to limit the ability of the state and local governments to make up the revenue lost from those cuts. The proponents of the proposition argue that ~~taxes~~ are too high and that there is too much waste in government. They claim that no necessary programs will be cut by the about 30% reduction in income to the various levels of government. Only the superfluous jobs in the unneeded departments that we all know exist will stop if the measure passes, they say. Only the greedy government will suffer. The proponents are intelligent enough not to pin down exactly where cuts will be made, and I guess the proposition will pass. Of course, every time a mayor or police chief or school board member talks about the results of the revenue cuts the proponents of the ballot question claim that the government is using "scare tactics."

Unfortunately there is no tangible beast called "government." It does not exist, devouring tax monies to soothe its biological craving for waste. Would that such an evil animal did exist so that it could be mercilessly put to death.

People demanding services determine the form and extent of that organization we call the government. Most departments or programs in government have a constituency in the public which jealously watches out for the well being of its special division of the government. No mad scientist has created monster agencies; rather, people looking out for their own interests have demanded the government respond to their requests.

If CD or you want to poke fun at individual decisions of some man in government I will laugh along with you. Some examples of muddled thinking cited in "Bureaucratic Blunders" are outrageous and humorous. I become annoyed only when the BB or CD articles imply that a malicious disregard of responsibility is the basic impetus for a governmental (or "liberal") decision.

(cont'd)

## Galen Workman (conclusion)

This invective has begun to try even my patience, John. Time now to land my soaring plane which has been towing my ideological banner for these pages. I hope that I have partially explained some basis for my eclectic responses to your questionnaire, anyway. Next time Burt Reynolds, or John Davidson, or Pat Boone is on the Tonight Show maybe I will write a shorter, less wandering, and more printable note.

Also, I wrote this letter for you and not with the intention that it become enshrined in BB; please do not feel compelled or pressured into reprinting any of this. If the time comes when I feel something has to be printed in order to reply to some statement, I will let you know with an ..... grace and subtlty.

(( 3531 E Wilton St #C Long Beach, CA 90804 ))

((As indeed you have. It's nice to get well-thought-out, or at least, well-expressed letters, and surprising to get them from an avowed advocate of the 'other side'. It took an extra reading to find some specific places where we disagree, since your positions were generally couched in such terms as to make disagreement or response difficult if not impossible. Right down to "Atta boy, John. Good boy."

First, references to your AX press and the like are due to the fact that you and Mark Berch are the only ones in my audience who have expressed a liberal stance. (I think there were two conservative too, the rest wisely passing.) Thus, I am not singling you out, but merely have a lack of choices when concrete examples familiar to other readers are needed. Now, as to "liberal" being a catchall perjorative, you're right. I use it synonymously with "wrong", along with other things such as you mentioned. This ties in to your disdain for "quick snipes", whose existence I also admit to. This, however, is due to two factors, best perhaps illustrated by the use of an example. Take the word 'racist'. We all know what racist used to mean, and to many people it still means the same. However, on the left wing, the word racist today has a de facto definition of "anyone who disagrees with a liberal". Its development into that is similar to the use of profanity, or terms such as 'fascist'. It began as a gesture to reflect the deep-down hatred and disgust with whatever was under discussion or consideration: opponents to the crusade for integration, heavy-handed police tactics, and the like. Over time, however, the terms became so all inclusive that now 'racist' is as I said above, and 'fascist's wide uses have been quoted before. To what extent this reflects changing usage vs. a real spread of the original hatred and disgust is really irrelevant: only the end result is of interest here. I use liberal the same way, rightly or wrongly. Far more rightly than wrongly in MY view, but that's neither here nor there. I could ask how many HEW agencies were added under Johnson vs Ford, for instance, but that counts for little. The Congress does as it sees fit no matter who's in there, and the last Republican congress is so far back as to be irrelevant. I agree that there is no 'secret conspiracy' or Policy Board of Evil, as real hard-core right wing mythology purports. You're right that stupidity is spontaneous, as is waste in any large organization, government being the biggest and far and away the pacesetter as the worst, all at the insistence of the various segments of the populace below. However, we disagree after that. You describe potshots at waste, blamed on liberals directly or indirectly, as a cheap shot. I cannot agree. The very heartbeat of your own side's standardbearers, the McGovern and Kennedy types of this country, have GOVERNMENTAL ACTION as the universal answer to all the multitudinous ills of mankind. Whether the trouble is rats in Chicago, hungry Indians in Montana, seaside debris off Delaware, or a dry summer in Arizona, their instant and unanimous cry is for a Federal program to deal with it. Not that Conservatives don't often do the same; rather, that they don't ALWAYS do so. Further, I agree that something like the spending ceilings you quoted

(Response to Workman, cont'd)

would be a short-term disaster: just as in the NYC Police Dept, cuts won't be made among the purely leach-like areas of administration, but rather, the street cops will be laid off first. Still, the propositions reflect one critical issue. There is at present NO CONTROL at all over spending. The ONLY considerations govt at ALL levels now faces is, is a proposed program popular enough to pass? There is NO control such as "Can we afford it?" The latter question is meaningless to government. These proposals, despite their immediate calamitous effects, would serve to put SOME outside limit on what the govt could do, and thereby force a priority to be put on items under consideration. It would turn the budgets into something like 1902- Diplomacy: a zero-sum system where all gains for one program are made only at the cost of a loss elsewhere. The best interests of the people would then, like now, count for nothing. But there would be some control. I would support them across the board. If your side can ram something as calamitous as federal control of every neighborhood school in the land down the throats of the people, I would not flinch from the disruptions, such as they might or might not be, caused by a ceiling on governmental power to tax. So, while you say liberals are not to blame for waste, I disagree. We're living under their policy of everything-for-everybody-for-nothing, planned or unplanned. Your motives are of the highest order, I will acknowledge. But the result of pursuing them is the current mess, a mess for which your side in turn must take full responsibility. Like it or not. A similar case, more extreme, but therefore well illustrative, is the other alternative on the world 'coin': the other side ALSO has the best interests of "the people" at heart. Marxism, like everything else being preached, damn near, is all for the good of all mankind. The only problem with it is that it doesn't work. It's failings, though, are pooh-poohed away as onerous distorting costs of the struggle vs Capitalism. And they're growing because of the inherent gospel of utter ruthlessness woven into their creed that makes them utterly pragmatic in their push for the idealistic utopia of a World Commune. The result of their pursuit of a noble ideal is the creation of an utterly inhuman slave system; but, its power is all too real. So, like some ancient Inquisitors, they wreak the most horrible tortures they can imagine on their enemies, all in the name of a god of love and brotherhood. An extreme example, yes; but can you see what is to me at least, a clear parallel to the HEW monstrosity, shuffling and sorting people like so many cards in the pursuit of bringing the end-of-the-rainbow to every hapless citizen under their control?)) J.W.

((Readers are encouraged to contribute your 2¢ either way, but, PLEASE type. (u)  
These long letters are just too much to have to re-do. Especially if I disagree....)) J.2  
(Galen's was typed)

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RESPONSE TO MARK BERCH, whose letter follows. See next page(s).

((First, on the house rule. Future copies will say "Neutral orders will be used in Spring and Fall of 1901 as necessary". That should do it. On the Blunders paragraph one, you MIGHT be right if in fact the item focuses on an obscure point instead of what may well be one of a very few major points raised. You assume they're nitpicking; I assume they are reporting that the project produced nothing. There it sits.

On the second item, you are dead wrong. I'm afraid this time you just tried to make a case where there simply isn't one. The Michigan law is idiotic, period. There are no multiple meanings to "Polish sausage." No one expects Polish sausage to be "sausage imported from Poland" any more than they or even you would expect that Venetian blinds were blinds imported from Venice. Their point is well made and correct. Some Blunders are less than optimum cases: I personally remember one on the 'unfairness' of giving CBers 'only' 40 channels while many higher channels are reserved for far fewer hams. That was a blatant distortion--typically, it was from a Jack Anderson column, whose livelihood is built on such nonsense. But in this one, you're just wrong.)) J.W.

MARK BERCH

492 Naylor Place Alexandria VA 22304

I enjoy both reading and writing all kinds of press, the more variety the better. It is for this reason that I am categorically opposed to Black press. In a regular game, there are two kinds of press: Writer identified ("Dateline Moscow") and writer unknown ("Dateline Volgograd"). In a Black Press Game (BPG) there is only one type: Writer unknown. Specifically, game-related press is curtailed or eliminated. Altho absolute statements in dippy are risky, I'll venture one: No experienced, prudent player will ever put substantial reliance in game-related press in a BPG. So long as there is the possibility of a clever forgery, the reader must engage in a pointless guessing game. Take for example your resourceful use of press in 77CW. I don't know if that game is a BPG, but if so, your ploy is easily foiled. Austria need only claim that your complaints (after he takes Sev) are after-the-fact grousing, that there never was such a deal and that you never wrote press. Indeed, he could even claim that he wrote it himself, to forestall pressure from a third party who was pressuring him to take Sev. You'd perhaps protest but no one would care, as the matter could never be resolved. You as a pubber have a slight edge in this matter, as you have your own zine to print the press in to establish authenticity (I assume that you mention this in BB partly to increase the pressure on Eric not to take the center, you sneak you!), but most don't. I myself would not submit any press in a BPG and would inform other players of this. If I cannot control the use of my own name, then I will deny creditability to others seeking to use it. In the real world, there is no such thing as not being able to release a statement officially i.e. without doubt of ownership.

With regard to your change in HRs #2, while I don't want to get into a huge discussion, you have completely missed the point I was making, and I strongly urge that you reread what you have written in BB #7, p 13. You say in #12 "...problems will be avoided because I will probably be the one to determine what a neutral, non-hostile move is... I would likely go for Ukr S Sev..." If you did that, you'd be vulnerable to the criticism not that it wasn't neutral, of course its neutral--but because your HR change requires that you go for the neutral: "orders will only be to neutral centers" In my various readings of old postal Diplomacy Zines to find material for my zine, I've occasionally come across disputes that arose when the HRs said A but the GM meant B. This can be a terrible dilemma for a conscientious GM, because if he rules A then he lands up running his own games not then way he intended. If he rules B, then he is saying to his players that they cannot rely on the HRs. Again I urge that your second sentence be amended to read "Fall moves will not be directed toward a neighbor's home center".

As for the swastika, Craig Reges, (why is it we're not writing each other direct?) I didn't say I was insulted, I said it was a "loathsome reminder" and "unpleasant". I am aware that the symbol predates the Nazis and indeed even appears in Amerindian art. However, its the context that counts. It did not appear in BB along with some 1910 poetry, Craig, or in the context of labels or designs for game-pieces, John, but along with "Mein Kampf" and in a zine which features a lot of right wing propaganda and recently featured a photo of a high Nazi official. I know that you didn't put it there because you are a Nazi, or because you wanted an unpleasant cover, but I'm just responding that that's how I reacted to it. And you're probably right in that if I were into WWII games I'd be desensitized by now.

With respect to Craig's letter on Oaklyn, he is off-base in suggesting that you should have done "some concrete investigation" before publishing Walker's letter. If you had to investigate every critical letter, half this stuff couldn't be printed. All I can add is that a friend tells me that in 1977IK Oaklyn has been a reliable player, and that Horton has game openings in a game to open shortly with Oaklyn as GM, so he must continue to have confidence in him.

As for your crack about provoking me with your right wing propaganda, I suppose I'll take the bait. I hope you won't be offended, but I read little of it. Solicitations for causes that I don't believe in are of course ignored, but much of the "article" material appears to be written by people with little in the way of talent or principles. For exam-

ple, the "Bureaucratic Blunders" column which you seem to be so fond of, is to me a collection of mostly cheap shots and trivia. Let me take two example fro BB #12

The Law Enforcement Assistance Administration awarded \$75,805 for a study of gambling. The resulting 934-page report concludes, among other things, that people who gamble in state lotteries face tremendous odds against winning.

Harold B. Johnson

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A new Michigan law bans the labeling of sausage made in the United States as "Polish sausage" and says instead it must be termed "Polish-style sausage." Which of the following phrases will Michigan outlaw next: Danish pastry,

French fries, Dutch apple pie, Cornish hens, Swiss cheese, Italian dressing, Chinese checkers, Hawaiian punch, baked Alaska, Canadian bacon, Swedish meat balls, English muffins, Brussels sprouts, Copenhagen snuff, German potato salad, Grecian Formula Nine, Labrador retrievers, Singapore slings, Spanish peanuts, Irish stew, Hungarian goulash, Bermuda onions, Norway spruce, Roman Catholics, Russian dressing, Panama hats, Scotch plaids or Venetian blinds?

Norman E. Duane

The first item is a formula job, which can be done by almost any hack on almost any report, governmental or otherwise. You start off with some indicia of importance for the report, such as cost, size, or prestige of the issuing agency, select a minor conclusion, and report it but nothing else. This can be done almost regardless of the quality of the report by someone with neither talent nor scruples. It would be like saying, "John Michalski, in his 36 page Brutus Bulletin #12 states, among pther things, that DIPLOMACY is copyrighted by Avalon Hill". This is what I mean by a cheap shot.

The second item is more complex. In a simpler era, "Polish Sausage" would have only one ~~XXXXXX~~ meaning. But as time moves on, it acquires a second meaning, not requiring that it was actually made in Poland. Language does not change so rapidly, so there remains only one term, with two meanings, giving the possibility for either confusion or deception. An easy solution is just to coin another word, which is what the Michigan law does. This is a meaningful distinction. Tho I'm not familiar with that product, I assure you that to some people, there's all the difference in the world between, say, a kosher hot dog and a kosher-style hot dog. I imagine that for some people, reasons of authenticity or gustatory preference would dictate that they'd only want the made-in-Poland product, just as others might for ideological reasons not want to buy anything made in (communist) Poland. The law would cater to these people's legitimate interests. Such distinctions are common, for example, in the wine industry. One might question whether this should be handled on the state, local or national level. Perhaps a better approach would be just to require prominent labeling of the country-of-origin. Or maybe a voluntary approach would be more sensible. But the writer wasn't interested in such ramifications, so instead he prattles on about such trivia as Grecian Formula Nine. I don't think that either of these qualify as "Bureaucratic Blunders", nor do most of the others. For my own aesthetics, its not entertainment either

Next, I think I'll grouse about motherhood and apple pie....As for Newell's list of non-responsive pubbers, one should not infer an antipathy to new players. Some did not reply because of difficulty with their own zines. Thus Kovalcik and Mann have virtually stopped publishing, and Wileman recently folded...Your policy of requiring several people to request a season-delay, not just one, is, Kendter's impression notwithstanding, fairly common in the hobby...I hear that Mr. Reges is in charge of putting out an IDA handbook (this from his predecessor). Is he soliciting articles or will he write it all himself?...Le Guin fans should be pleased to hear that "The Lathe of Heaven" will be on TV, on PBS...As for Newell's comments on failure to spot errors, not all dippy players believe they are under any obligation to report an error favorable to themselves. Newell's statement that "cloaked errors" are "quite rare" is simply not true. But they do have a lower reporting rate, for obvious reasons

Mark L. Buck

## The Death of a Nation

In his April 9 issue of St. George & the Dragon, publisher Bob Sergeant wrote an article titled "SF & The Mass Media". One particular paragraph struck a responsive chord in this publisher. To quote (if I may, Bob):

"There is, in the United States, a strong anti-intellectual bias. This in spite of the fact that most parents claim to want a good education for their children. I think that mostly what the average parent wants is for his child to be able to read street signs, make change, and be taught a job skill. Anything other than that is a frill and can be dispensed with. And they're right in that regard. Although the vast majority of the population of the United States is literate (that is, they can read and write), there is no reason for them to be".

In this paragraph is revealed the major problem confronting the United States today. No, it is not inflation, nor unemployment, nor the "energy crisis". These, after all, are transient matters and are cyclically normal for any country. Rather, I submit that the primary enemy Americans face today is complacency, and the chains that accompany it--apathy, laziness, and ignorance. And it is all the more deadly because it is unseen, unrecognized.

It is the Destroyer. So it has been throughout the history of man, so it is today. By the year 2000, maybe even sooner, the United States as we know it will cease to exist.

Consider yourself and even your friends and relatives. Do you or they know even the basics of electricity and how it works? Or how about that idiot box you watch every night called a television. Do you have even the least idea of its operating principles?

Do you know why a little slip of paper called a "dollar" has value? Why do Egypt, France, England, Japan, Iraq and other foreign countries recognize its value? Why does one dollar=2.2 British pounds?

How about your own government. Do you know how it works? Do you know what powers the President has, and his limitations? The Congress? The Supreme Court?

Do you know how the SALT talks are going? Do you even know what they are? Do you know what the Soviets are doing in central Europe? What NATO is doing in central Europe?

Do you know how much money the United States spends on defense? On welfare? How about the latest weapon introduced by the Soviet Union?

Mr. and Mrs. Average American would be completely baffled by most of these questions, could not begin to give even the most basic responses. But ask him how the Dodgers are doing, how the NFL draft went, or what show comes on at 9:00 on Channel 2 on Thursday and he can answer with precision.

Collapse and defeat come quickly for a nation or society that pays the person who entertains far more than the person who teaches. A good baseball player makes over \$100,000 for 7 months work; a recognized Hollywood star can make \$500,000 for one picture; but about \$20,000 is all a good college professor can expect.

Why? Because Americans would rather be entertained than taught. We sit each night and are fascinated by such idiocies as "Laverne and Shirley", "Three's Company", etc., complete with laugh tracks. Business recognized this long ago.

the Dragon and the Lamb  
#####

This is why they are now more concerned with coming up with a "catchy" or "cute" commercial than with a better product.

And if Americans were alone on this planet there would be nothing wrong with all this. But the people of Russia and the people of China are not so leisurely. For them, graduation from high school or college is only the beginning of their learning process, not the end. They have no time to daydream and grow soft, the State sees to that. The Soviet Union is today the most powerful nation in the world. You do not believe? You indignantly retort that the United States is the most powerful? Again, dear Mr. Average American, your ignorance asserts itself.

The Soviet Union has more than 4000 tanks in central Europe alone; we and the combined forces of NATO have less than half that number. The Soviet Union has an air defense system (fighter interceptors, surface-to-air missiles, etc.) that is second to none; the United States indeed has none. The Soviet Union outnumbers us in ICBMs, warships, fighters, tanks, field pieces, and military manpower. Only in the number of submarines and long range bombers does the United States have an edge, and even that will evaporate in five years. For the past six years the Soviet government has been drilling its populace in civil defense. It's been ten years since Mr. Average American even heard of it.

The United States has fallen from the lofty perch it attained after World War II. Twenty-five years ago, would we have let a country like Saudi Arabia dare to try to set our foreign policy by holding an energy hammer over our heads? No! Then we had the creativeness and the ingenuity to discover for ourselves more reliable and more abundant sources of energy. Our overwhelmingly hedonistic way of life is the trigger for a long line of fatal dominoes. But our dear Mr. Average American cares for none of these. Just so long as he can fill up his Mark V, buy his case of beer, and turn on his television.

In years past the people listened to the intellectuals and well informed, even though they were in the smallest minority. Because of that, America has progressed and become a paradise compared to other countries. But now, in this highly technological age, they are heard no longer because Mr. Average American will not listen to those who call upon him to sacrifice or give up in any way his life of leisure and softness.

A final note is taken from Biblical prophesy. Read the book of Daniel and the book of Revelation where events leading up to the final battle of Armageddon are discussed. It describes how the nations will be lined up against each other. The United States is not mentioned in these final days but Russia, the countries of central and western Europe, Israel, and the Arab States are. Even the Bible tells us that the United States will not be a player, either because it no longer exists or because it is too weak to take part.

So carry on, dear Mr. Average American, in your lethargy and your ignorance. Sit back and dream your daydreams, for your children will inherit the nightmare  
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William Jennings Bryan, when serving as U.S. secretary of state, invited Switzerland to send its navy to the opening of the Panama Canal.

((My commentary on next page))  
J.M

# Breckinridge: Soviets Have

Air Force Times MAY 8, 1978

By a Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — A delegation of the House Armed Services Committee spent 10 days in the Soviet Union and "came away with the feeling that it's much later than we thought," Rep. John Breckinridge (D-Ky.) has told reporters.

Breckinridge, who joined the committee only recently, said the world's balance of power is not shifting in favor of the Soviet Union. "It has shifted," he said.

Speaking to reporters at a luncheon sponsored by the American Security Council, Breckinridge said the balance shift is not irrevocable, but the United States must take "immediate and dramatic steps to reverse the trend."

Earlier this year, Breckinridge offered an amendment to add \$15 billion to the FY 1979 defense budget, but the amendment was rejected by the House Armed Services Committee. Now, he said, he is considering a similar amendment before the full House. He noted that attempts will be made to reduce the defense budget by that much also.

America needs to stop arguing over which types of weapons systems are best and to spend more money on defense, he said. The American people are ahead of the politicians, he said, and would spend more for national defense.

While the 20-member delegation to Russia held a wide variety of views, he said, the Russians spoke clearly with one voice. "There was no variation among those with whom I spoke," he said. "There was no evidence of 'hard liners' or 'soft liners.' All statements about military affairs were expressed as though they came out of the *Book of Common Prayer*."

He said the Soviet Union competes with the United States only in the area of military power. Their economy is on a wartime footing, he said, with a pair of shoes costing \$60 and a simple hat \$50.

"The Soviets said the United States alone was responsible for the arms race," Breckinridge said, "and they insisted that they were spending only enough for the maintenance of a defensive security of the 'motherland.' In every instance, American military forces were viewed as an offensive threat to the survival of the Soviet Union while their own forces were seen as defensive in nature."

Breckinridge said it is time America concerned itself less with Soviet intentions and more with Soviet capabilities. He said First Deputy Minister of Defense N.V. Ogarkov told him:

## the Edge

"The United States always has been in a position where it could not be threatened by foreign powers. That is no longer true. Today the Soviet Union has military superiority over the United States and henceforth the United States will be threatened. You had better get used to it."

Breckinridge said the Soviets will use their military superiority to support foreign policy goals which could result in war.

"The United States has moved into an era where it will be unable to conduct an independent foreign policy," he said. "No longer can we set our own pace to do whatever is necessary to protect our vital interests. Instead, we have adopted a policy of allowing another nation — the Soviet Union — to dictate the level and urgency of our military effort."

"In the process, we have inevitably relinquished the ability to protect our interests abroad and, ultimately, to remain free at home."

"Let there be no mistake: The policies of the past have mortgaged the future. The only question which remains is whether or not we can pay the debt in time."

In a separate but related congressional development, Sen. Robert Dole (R-Kan.) has said the Senate will not approve a treaty on strategic arms limitations with the Soviet Union unless the Soviets and Cubans stop "aggressive military adventurism" in Africa and their military presence is withdrawn.

"So long as Moscow shows no sign of restraint in Africa or in its posture towards Europe, we should reflect carefully upon any new commitments that would limit our ability to respond to future Soviet provocations," Dole said.

((Contribution from Miles Kehrler, with thanks.))

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COMMENTARY ON EDITORIAL BY STEVE McLENDON, PREVIOUS PAGE.

First, let me say that I agree with Steve. I am not one to use Biblical prophecy or such, but we agree in general principle. I do want to comment on aspects of his article, though. First, the complacency is real enough. I cannot make such a direct connection as Steve does, though. While his examples may be good for illustration to the casual observer, a hard look leaves them wanting. For instance, one need not know anything much at all about a TV to enjoy it. My 2 yr old son knows that electricity makes it go, which is good enough. Would an electronics engineer be any less complacent for his knowledge? Complacency does not lead to national weakness. It leads to poor government, which leads to national weakness. Knowing all about our government won't help you much; a majority wouldn't have given away the Canal, vote any foreign aid, permit forced bussing, or increase Congressional salaries. Yet all these things pass. Knowing all about the SALT talks won't affect a bungler like Carter, from whom I expected better, from giving away the cruise missile after junking the B-1; the more you know, the more you may come to fear the future and hate the assholes the majority has put into power, but what good will that do you? Promise people goodies for nothing and you get into office; tell the truth and you haven't got a prayer. In view of so many being so stupid, you can at best work to fight the current administration. When you realize how many people will bitch every day, yet on election day pull that jackasses tail for a straight-ticket vote, you may well decide that the best you can do is enjoy speculating on the NFL draft and hope your kids can live most of their lives free before the system collapses or is blown away. And, see that the football coach at your alma mater is well-paid: HE is doing his job. That economics prof doesn't even earn half the \$20,00 that Steve grants him. I can't stand 'Laverne & Shirley' though, myself.

J.M.

Roy Smith has just started a new zine called Brew And Reefer. Roy will send you a sample for just a stamp (no SASEs please). Roy is printing by mimeo and didn't do too bad a job of printing his first issue. Roy is at 64 Addicks Rd., Westwood, NJ., 07675.

### The News is On

Our esteemed president, Jimmy Carter, is in town trying to kiss the posterior portion of the Demacrats in Chicago. I noticed that the usual lunatic fringe is out picketing. I speak of the Iranian Students Assc., Committee to ratify the ERA (the most useless amendment since prohibition), jets for Israel, etc., etc. At school, I get swamped with leaflets advertising the Spattucus Youth League, African Liberation Committee, etc., etc. I sure can't see how Africa can be liberated since the africans already run it and do a pretty damn poor job of it. Try and find an African nation that is in the black, other than color, that is. Most of them are in the red, politically as well as finacially.

## Silence is Guilt

By William Safire

WASHINGTON—NBC-TV performed an enormous public service in showing a dramatic version of "The Holocaust" to a generation that wishes that memory would go away. That service is being nitpicked by viewers distressed at the need for commercial interruption; by people who might have preferred a "pure" documentary that might have reached a fraction of the audience; and by a minority of Jews who still fly the battle flag of "don't make trouble."

The nitpicking ignores the central question driven at least into nearly half of America's homes: Where the hell was the rest of the world when a part of the world was a Hell?

The best way to find the answer about a previous generation's lack of concern is to examine the turning-away from horror prevalent in this generation.

1. *The Soviet slave labor camps.* A former high official of the C.I.A. tells me that he vividly recalls a briefing of several years ago showing the extent of the Soviet slave labor program, with a map pinpointing the scores of camps in Eastern Europe and throughout the U.S.S.R. This was not guesswork: As the Soviets know, we have high-altitude photographic surveillance detailing the barracks and work areas of each one of those camps.

Why do we tacitly condone this slave-labor practice by helping the Soviets keep it a secret? None of our intelligence-gathering sources and methods would be compromised by making public the pictures and details we know of camps and "asylums."

Not even Soviet dissidents know as much as we do about the logistics and location of all the camps. The publication of the photos and maps would hardly contribute to the spirit of

détente, but might remind the world that the Soviet system has some festering sores to hide.

2. *The slaughter in Uganda.* Taking the low side of the best estimates, Idi Amin, butcher of Central Africa, has murdered at least 150,000 tribal dissidents. As a result, other leaders of Africa are slightly embarrassed but none want to say so publicly.

Does the White House, so ready to undermine internal settlements in Rhodesia, publicly excoriate the murdering Amin and urge sanctions to help topple him?

Hardly. A United States company, Page Airways, sells Uganda its commercial jet aircraft and helps supply its pilots and crews, thereby helping build Mr. Amin's power. Who runs Page Airways? James Wilmot of Rochester, New York. Who has long been the chief fundraiser for House Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill? James Wilmot. Who has been a most significant contributor to and fundraiser for the campaigns of Daniel Inouye, Democrat of Hawaii, until recently chairman of the intelligence committee, and a leading light on the transportation committee? James Wilmot.

The Speaker of the House—from John F. Kennedy's old district, one of the most liberal in the nation—is

### ESSAY

rarely even asked about his close association with the man who helps one of the bloodiest dictators in the world stay in power.

3. *The harassment of the Kurdish people.* The Communist-supplied government of Iraq has been systematically uprooting and destroying the

culture of the non-Arab Kurds, who only want a degree of autonomy so as to continue their civilization.

But the United States, which secretly joined with the Shah of Iran to guarantee help to the Kurds in return for a 1973 agreement not to revolt, has washed its hands of the affair. One of the men who acquiesced in the sellout, Harold Saunders, is our newest Assistant Secretary of State, and will not permit the dying leader of the Kurds, General Barzani, to make a personal appeal to President Carter.

4. *The bloodbath in Cambodia.* In terms of numbers of people murdered, this generation's rival to Adolph Hitler is the leader of Communist Cambodia, Pol Pot. A population of two million was death-marched out of Phnom Penh. Many of the Cambodians being killed are of "mixed blood," marked for death because they are part Vietnamese.

Where are all the people who used to march around with those "stop the killing" signs? Untelevised death does not inspire them. At the United Nations, only one ambassador—Israeli's Chaim Herzog—speaks against the genocide in Cambodia. The United States Ambassador, Andrew Young, cannot bring himself to upset third-world colleagues by demanding investigation and condemnation of the slaughter; to the shame of this nation, he sits silent as hundreds of thousands of human beings die.

Therefore, ask not how a previous generation could tolerate the murder of six million Jews; on a smaller scale, this generation is doing just dandy along those lines: The world still sees victims as pests, which should help us understand why Israelis are not about to let themselves become victims again.

STAR WARS CARDS are going into their 4th series here (199-265, approx.). Tony Watson and I need some in the previous 3 series, and, a sample Trekkie zine or organization address to advertise for trades in. If you know of any collectors or Trekker outfits, please write.

Anyone going to DipCon or Origins 78 that will be passing thru Okla City (135/40/44) please write if you have room for 1 more. I will be going to GenCon this year, if you're along the way (OKC-Wichita-Racine, Wis). Lots of room in the Thunderbird.

Want into a YOUNGSTOWN(variant) game? Write Lee Kendter Sr, of WHY ME?, 4347 Benner St., Philadelphia, PA 19135. \$2.50 plus sub, as I recall...

WANT ADS, or any other kind of ads, will be run here free to all subscribers/traders. Send 'em in, folks! The price is right. (Idea from Jerry Jones' LD&NS).

78AX :

RANDY CHRISTOPHER did get orders in in 78AX last season, just a tad late. I meant to mention that this issue on the 78AX page, but forgot.

The 5¢ stamp may make quite a comeback. Four will carry a 2oz 3d class letter (printed matter, like BB); three will carry a regular letter; two will carry a postcard; and one will get your bill payments to any company at a convenient 10¢ postage-due. Nice, huh?

Good homesite land is getting darn hard to find around here. We're about ready to buy 5 acres near SE 149th, to give you an idea of how far out it is, at \$17,500. (\$3500/acre). You can get some a mile away for \$12500 if you can find fill for the swamp-like area in the center...disgusting. Six years ago we paid \$18000+ for this 3 bedroom house, 2 car attached garage, on a 70' lot... Don't save your \$, folks. Borrow more and invest it all. (If you can borrow any, that is). No one wants to LEND, even CUs at the short-term 12% rate...

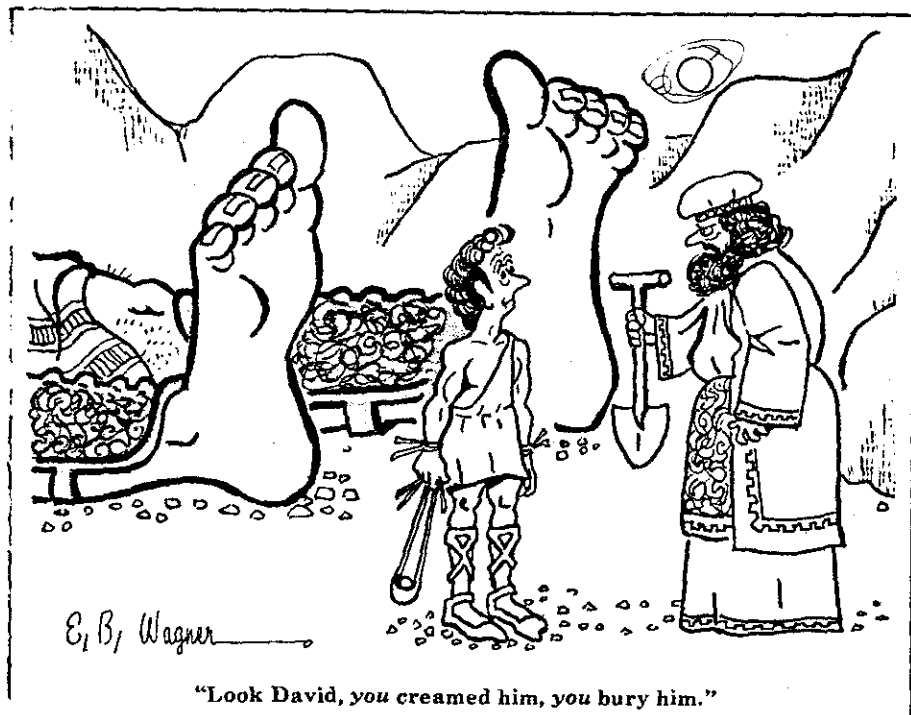
GAS PRICES here were overstated in the Survey Results I printed up. I listed 57.9¢, which is the lead-free rate I use. The question listed regular. Cheapest regular here is 52.9.

At the local 7-11 store, or Circle K, or whatever, they carry trading cards for CLOSE ENCOUNTERS, CHARLIES ANGELS, KISS, Baseball, and STAR WARS. What next? Mafia? Politicians? Nudies? Send in your guesses.

Filler:

NUCLEAR ATTACK	
ALWAYS STAY PROTECTED (in underground shelters, basements, foxholes, tanks) when not required to be in the open.	
<b>TAKE COVER</b>	If you see a brilliant flash of light, DIVE FOR COVER or FALL FLAT on the ground, face down. Protect head, eyes, and exposed skin. Stay down until objects stop falling.
<b>STAY CALM</b>	Check weapons and equipment for damage. Contact your leader.
<b>CONTINUE MISSION</b>	Be ready for further enemy attack. If fallout is expected, improve your position as situation permits. When fallout arrives, cover up and stay covered but alert until fallout stops.

FOLLOW ABOVE PROCEDURES AND UNIT SOP.



"Look David, you creamed him, you bury him."

CONGRATULATIONS to Craig Reges, editor of AGAINST THE ODDS, for graduating recently. I can still remember how good it was to escape myself...I didn't even bother to go to the ceremonies, just had them mail me the diploma. It was like getting out of the Service.

ALAN ROWLAND, editor of WARMONGER, is advertising for a guest GM. Anyone interested in trying their hand can write him at 52 Eighth Avenue, Westwood, NJ 07675.

HELP STOP A CRIME!

John Leeder wrote in a just-received batch of RUNESTONES that he has 23 responses to his North American Zine Poll. That's a crime! There have to be 50 PUBLISHERS active, even if there are no players. Even if we all just voted for ourselves and no one else, there should be twice the turnout. Just terrible... So, even though I said I wouldn't plug it again after the third time, here's one last chance. If you haven't sent him your views, PLEASE list the zines you get below, and rate them one to ten. (1=terrible, 10=terrific). (Also list the ones you DON'T get, but SHOULD be getting.) If you're a player, send them to me if you wish and I'll forward them. Others are requested to mail them direct to John Leeder at 1211 NW 5 St, Calgary, Alberta T2M 3D6, Canada. A regular 15¢ stamp will get it there. John's deadline is the end of this month. Please help the hobby look like something more than a pack of apathetic clucks and vote. If I got 23 responses to my OWN poll (albeit postpaid), John ought to be able to do better between the entire US and Canada. Tear off this page and send it today.

(If you have space, he's also soliciting votes on the GMs you play under. Name them and rate them likewise if you would.)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

### RATING

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_