

THE BRUTUS BULLETIN

ET TU, BRUTE

The BRUTUS BULLETIN is a newsletter of postal Diplomacy (TM) published every two weeks by John Michalski, 913 NE Sixth St., Moore, Oklahoma 73160. BB is the cheapest zine in the hobby at the rate of \$2 for all issues from now until December 1, 1978, at which time a better (for me and the Company) rate will apply. By then, some games will be open too, but NONE are at the moment. Conrad Von Metzke inadvertently put me in the NEED A GAME column, though, so if I'm deluged with new blood, may have to add a fourth as an outrider like 78AX currently is, just to keep all those people from leaving the hobby in disgust...

SKIP THIS PARAGRAPH

DIPLOMACY is a game invented by Alan Calhamer and copyrighted by the Avalon Hill Game Company, Baltimore, Maryland, 21214. Excerpts from CONSERVATIVE DIGEST are with permission of that organization, 7777 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA. Other excerpts are usually without permission. If you want to copy something from here, fine, but please mention BRUTUS BULLETIN. Unless it is something printed without permission, in which you should NOT mention BB. Say you got it from the READER'S DIGEST or The WARMONGER.

Speaking of the WARMONGER, its publisher, Alan Rowland, is named above because he was the most vehement in opposition to the other colored paper I used to be stuck with for covers. Thus, I dedicate the tacky experiment you now see to him. Comments should be sent to me, while requests for his WARMONGER should be sent to him at 52 Eighth Avenue, Westwood, NJ 07675.

SINCE this issue may be going as an initial sample to a lot of people after Conrad's plug in DW, (Thanks, Conrad), let me reiterate the philosophy of BRUTUS BULLETIN. The purpose of BB is to run just a few games, FAST and CHEAP, the way the editor wishes all the games HE'S in were run. I promise nothing more than fast adjudications and to complete the games I open. However, I also like filler. Therefore, I do my best to fill BB right up to the two ounce limit with all sorts of things. PRESS is wide open and encouraged, except in 77KN where Black Press/outside press has been outlawed by the players. Cartoons, jokes, nonsenses flyers, letters, and other contributions of all kinds are solicited from the readership. If you see something at school or work or wherever that makes you chuckle or think, don't just move on; send a copy in to me so we can ALL enjoy it. Or condemn it. BB also will run ads free to subbers, and occasionally for other organizations just as filler/general interest. Let us all know what you think.

JOHN'S NOTES

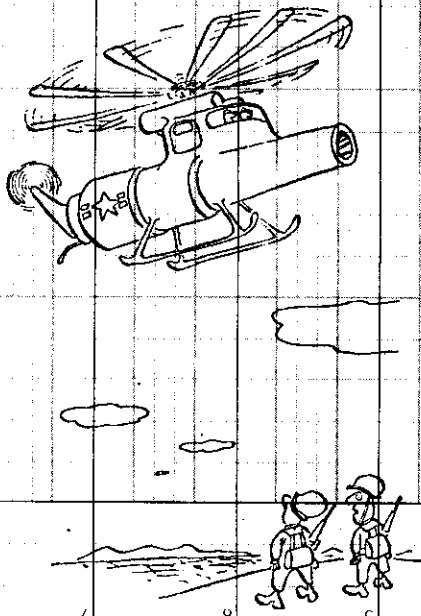
OK, here we go to see if this paper works out to be an improvement in the colors used, or if it comes out tackier than normal. Opinions are welcome. If you can read this, that is.

LAST ISSUE was a might dull in some respects, in that there was little beyond my own comments, games, press, and the letters/responses. So, this issue will contain less in the way of letters even if a bunch come in; I'll either just type a synopsis, skip them, or carry most over to #16. I've scrounged up some cartoons and general filler; if you care one way or the other, please let me know, or be prepared to take whatever comes your way.

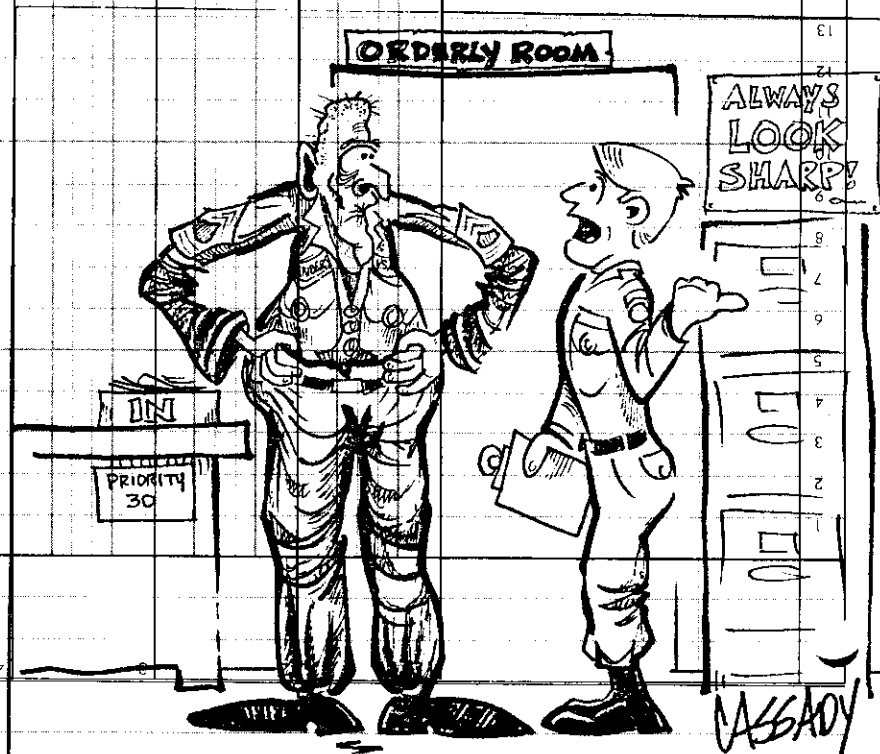
ADS How about some from you folks? Don't you have anything to sell, or buy, or whatever? I'll run any ad you care to send in for you, free. Opponents Wanted, or... This issue may or may not contain a copy of the Youngstown Variant rules that Lee Kendter Sr or WHY ME? is offering, depending on what I hear. I would reproduce the sheets as filler to generate interest/ satisfy curiosity, etc., but, I don't know who made UP the YV, what kind of objections there might be by the author(s), or by folks who are selling the sets for a fee, and so on. So it might be better to skip it. I'm typing this up right after sending out #14, so, look inside and see what there is to see. I hope the cover doesn't come out TOO badly, as I'm sending extras to various names I can find in other zines in an effort to increase my paying subscriber ranks. I'd started to use those prettier timesheet pages, but they're so light and thin that the form format almost shows through the front. The colors ARE bright, though...if I get no feedback to the contrary, you may get to see them yet sometime when I have no NOTES to run.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO EVERYONE WHO READ LAST ISSUE'S 'NOTES':

My wife has indignantly informed me that she was not a 'marksman', but rather, shot "Expert" with her 75% score. I'd used the first term loosely, but it seems that that is an actual classification, and one not as high as Expert, which is top. So, I and now you too, stand corrected. My remarks concerning 75% in VOLAR vs 96% in the old regular USAF stands, though.



"It's a new gunship they're experimenting with, but I don't believe they've tried firing it yet."



"The commander appreciates your weight loss, sarge, but..."

1977

KN

WINTER, 1906 KN Adjustments
 Austria: Builds A VIE, A BUD
 Germany: F Den r Helg, removes A Mun.
 TWO GERMAN REMOVALS WERE REQUIRED. PER RULES,
 GM REMOVES F Helgoland Bight.
 Italy: Removes F Ven
 France: Builds F MAR
 Russia: Builds A STP. (Russia was even, but
 had a spring annihilation to replace
 FRANCE RUMBLES ACROSS MED IN BIG WAY.
 GERMANY-ITALY HURTING. SEPARATION VOTE
 CLOSE, BUT FAILS. ACTION CONTINUES.

AUSTRIA (KASSEL): A Bud-GAL; A BOH & A VIE S A Bud-Gal; A RUM S TURKISH A Sev-Ukr;
 A Tyo-MUN; A VEN-Rom; A Tri-TYO
 FRANCE (DITTER): F Wes-TYN; F TUN S F Wes-Tyn; F Mid-NAF; F Mar-GLY; A Par-BUR;
 A BEL S A Par-Bur; F NTH S RUSSIAN F Hol; A LON H; A Pie-TUS
 GERMANY (WORKMAN): F KIE-Hol; A RUH S F Kie-Hol; A BER-Kie
 ITALY (KELLY): A ROM S F Nap; F Nap S A Rom/d/r Apu, Otb
 RUSSIA (McELVANEY): F Ska-SWE; F DEN H; F HOL H; A StP-LVN; A WAR H; A MOS-Sev;
A UKR S A Gal-Rum; A Gal-Rum/d/r Sil, Otb
 TURKEY (HUESTON): F Tyn-NAP; F ION S F Tyn-Nap; F Con-AEG; A SEV-Ukr; F Arm-BLA

Deadline for FALL for BOTH games will be my mail received here Monday, July 10, 1978,
 and may be conditional on retreats.

77KN Press Winter - Spring

BERLIN-- Hamlet's long standing philosophical question has been answered:
 Tis nobler to take arms against a sea of troubles, and by opposing end them.
 MUNCHEN: Ein deutsches Volk! Österreich Über alles!

RUHR: Suicide is painless. It brings on many changes.

AUSTRIA: On vacation and will not have time to answer letters before next deadline.
 Will NOT miss turn however.

Estimates of when the world is going to run out of oil vary considerably,
 with the most pessimistic, to date, having been compiled by the Central
 Intelligence Agency and cited by President Carter when he unveiled his
 energy package in April 1977. The CIA projection was that the Organization
 of Petroleum Exporting Countries could produce some 45 million barrels of oil
 per day at best, which Schlesinger said has now been reduced by the Admin-
 istration to the order of 37-38 million barrels per day. Barring political
 eruptions, he said that the world's energy situation could be "in considerable
 trouble" by 1982, and would almost certainly be—if present trends continue
 —by 1984.

Whether or not an energy disaster is looming over the next horizon,
 Schlesinger said that his much-heralded Phase 2 plan to stimulate domestic
 energy production was decimated because the "economic climate has changed
 somewhat in recent months" to give higher priorities to holding the line
 on federal expenditures than had previously been the case.

Filled from:

Energy Management

June 13, 1978

And did you hear about the Aggie prostitute that was half way to San Diego
 before she learned that a 17" Admiral was a television set?

LIBERTERREAN, Jim Bumpas, 948 Loraine Ave,
QUOTES from the LIBERTERREAN: Los Altos CA 94022

"God forbid we should ever be twenty years without such a rebellion.... What country can preserve its liberties if its rulers are not warned from time to time that this people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms. What signify a few lives lost in a century or two? The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time by the blood of patriots and tyrants. It is its natural manure." --from a letter by Thomas Jefferson, excusing the rebellion of Massachusetts against the United States.

"Every time the reformers succeed in putting over something, a new crop of reformers has been raised to get rid of it."
--John W. Raper

"It is not in the nature of politics that the best men should be elected. The best men do not want to govern their fellow men, and, anyhow, there are not enough of them to fill the offices."
--George E. MacDonald

"Under the plausible pretext of protecting person and property, governments have spread wholesale destruction, famine, and misery all over the earth where peace and security might otherwise have prevailed... They have shed more blood, committed more murders, tortures and crimes in struggles against each other for the privilege of governing than society would or could have suffered in the absence of all governments whatever."
--Josiah Warren

A Few Words About Detente

RESERVE, March-April, 1978

Since becoming the new Soviet Defense Minister in April 1976, Marshall Dmitri Ustinov has had little to say that would add to an outsider's understanding of Soviet defense policy; after all, following party line is what's expected in any government, but some of his remarks, made for the 60th Anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution, might prove interesting.

After spelling out various factors which are "holding back the imperialist aggressors from military adventures," he went on something like this:

The Threat Exists Despite Detente. "Nonetheless, the threat of war, although it has been pushed back, has not been eliminated. The class and aggressive essence of imperialism has not changed. It has

been and remains a source of military peril. Despite detente, the world is not safeguarded against imperialist military adventures, especially since military preparations are being carried out actively and militarization is gripping all aspects of capitalist reality in the United States and NATO countries. The political, economic, scientific and spiritual life of society is increasingly being subordinated to the insatiable military machine of imperialism. Military budgets are swelling, and the arms race is being built up."

If the uniforms were changed, the words coming from Marshal Ustinov could have been said by any modern warrior: "The might of modern weapons and combat equipment is growing continuously. It is essential to learn how to get the maximum combat potential out of them, to be able to destroy the enemy at great distances and, with the first shot, launch or run."

In line with the theme of preparedness for any contingency, Ustinov also repeated a warning he made last February that the USSR can

Progress in the war on
Junk Mail! (Contribution by
Ron Mazurkiewicz)

...list for duplication.

...errors, the dead and the disinterested. It contained 750,000 names and it had not been updated for a decade.

Returns came back by the truckload. At one point a 10 by 12 foot room was stacked ceiling high. Many of the replies from junk mail foes were profane or pornographic. One mailer sent the return envelope loaded with steel weights on which *Astronomy* had

((to pay postage)).

A pack of wolves in the Soviet Azerbaijan mountains saved the life of a three year old girl lost on a cold winter night. The girl told her mother that she curled up with the dogs which licked her face.

The International Defense Digest reports the US will use the German 120mm gun in the Abrams MBT. Its barrel life is rated at 650-800 kinetic rounds, compared to 213 rounds for the US 105mm gun. The US 105mm performed 3rd after the FRG 120mm and the UK 120mm (rifled).

The US Army has 2 companies of mech T62/BMP, with a 3rd company to follow.

match any Western weapons development. "The economy, science and technology of the Soviet Union are now at such a high level," said the Marshal, "that we can create, very rapidly, any kind of armament on which the enemies of peace and socialism would like to put their money."

With Respectful Salutes To.

After admonishing field commanders to become more involved in tactical innovations, Ustinov, as is customary these days, paid tribute to "General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and Chairman of the USSR Defense Council" Leonid Brezhnev.

Soviet watchers were quick to notice that the censors who cleared Ustinov's piece were a little behind the times; by the time the Marshal's words appeared in print, Mr. Brezhnev was already being referred to as the "Supreme Commander-in-Chief." It may seem like a little thing to someone in the West, but only two other men have ever held that title in post-Revolutionary Russia, Stalin and Khrushchev.

1977

KS

PAPAL ARMIES TRADE VIENNA FOR BERCHTESGARDEN.
ENGLAND PUT ON ENDANGERED SPECIES LIST!

AUSTRIA (PRICE): A TRI H.
ENGLAND (HUNT): F Bre S FRENCH F Eng/OTM/d/r Eng, Pic,Otb; A YOR-Lon
FRANCE (NEWELL, Jr): F Eng-MAO; A Gas-BRE; A MAR-Pie
GERMANY (REGES): F LON-Yor; F Den-SWE; F NTH-Nwy; A Tyo S FRENCH A Man-Pie/ann.;
A Mun-SIL; A Bur-MUN; A Pic-BUR; A PAR S FRENCH A Gas-Bre
ITALY (SHAFFER): F NAP-Ion; F Tun-WES; A Vie-TYO; A PIE & A VEN S A Vie-Tyo
RUSSIA (KASSEL): F EDI H; F Swe-BAL; F NWG S A StP-Nwy; A StP-NWY; A Gal-VIE;
A BUD & A BOH S A Gal-Vie; A SEV H
TURKEY (KENDTER, Jr.): F Con-BULsc; F AEG S F Eas-Ion; F Eas-ION; F Ion-ADR;
A RUM H; A SER S AUSTRIAN A Tri; A Gre-ALB

<< Deadline for FALL for BOTH games will be my mail received here Monday, July 10, 1978, >>>
and may be conditional on retreats.

MOORE Where were we?

BERLIN We were trying to decide whether or not the Russian government is being run
by fags.

LONDON I have the solution. Since everyone knows that gays don't like orange juice,
we will have a contest to see who can drink the most OJ. The loser is a queer and will
be eliminated from the game. Does everyone agree?

PARIS I'm all for it.

MOSCOW I can outdrink all you guys together with both hands behind my back.

PARIS (They're probably picking anal hairs.)

MOSCOW I HEARD THAT! I'M GONNA SEND YOUR SPLEEN INTO ORBIT AROUND SATURN!

PARIS Php, Php. Kissie, kissie.

MOSCOW I've just sent my number one henchman out to desecrate your sister.

LONDON Gentlemen, GENTLEMEN! PLEEEASE!!! Let's try to conduct ourselves with some order
until this matter is settled diplomatically. Where is the juice?

(No dateline) Sure is nice here in France.

TO RUSSIA You were told not to do that! Das ist verboten, du spinnst ja mensch!!!

Madrid (HICCUPS) --Awright, you guys, this black press thing has gone far enough. I
didn't mind it when everything was strictly for laughs, but when someone starts
disclosing game-related information using my dateline then I'm gonna get ticked off.
Like I am right now. So I'm making a threat: keep the black press out of the
negotiations or I will resurrect the press series from 1969 0 (three guesses
what it was about)! You have been warned!!

Austrian Underground HQ: Without orders from the Royal Family, our uncoordinated
units have been lost one by one. We at the newly formed Provisional Underground
Government will fight to the last man until our beloved Emperor returns once
more to Austrian soil.

KS PRESS missed last issue (Players did receive this)

ROME There seems to be some difficulty. The author has a lot of reading to do tonight, and a long-promised article for Tom Gould to write, so the story line will have to carry over to the next issue. It shouldn't matter as the seasons are supposed to separate anyway.

ANKARA But I told you to vote no on the season separation!

PARIS No you didn't. You said yes this year, and that the Russian stab would be in 1907.

SEATTLE (HICCUPS)--Well, you can't shoot 33% from the field and expect to be NBA champions. What a choke job. Luckily I'm not a big basketball fan or the Sonics would never have made it this far. I went to 28 Mariners games last year (baseball, for the uninitiated) and they lost the last 15 in a row. Prediction: Jim Rice will hit 4 home runs in the Kingdome this weekend. Check the papers to see if I was right.

((This should have been squeezed into last issue too. DID he hit four Wildcat?))

RUSSIA: On vacation and will not have time to answer letters before next deadline.
Will NOT miss turn however.

(No dateline) Italy abandons Vienna in the face of Russian hordes. Although Russia promised to leave the garrison alone, Italy chose to abandon in the face of the alliance between Turkey & Russia.

Our sources have news that puts doubt on the alliance between Turkey and Russia. As Italy has been approached to see if we were receptive to lending support to the Turk to take Budapest. Of course we refused. Also Germany put forward a non-aggression pact. Also refused.

Italy to Turkey: Shove it

Italy to Germany: 1 unit down, 2 to go. Attack Italy and DIE.

Frankenstein, Germany: At first, it only had 4 limbs. After a year it still had only 4. By the next year, it had only 3. But then it began to divide, 5,6,even 8 limbs! In the meantime, it began to sit on a fence. It sat there and would not make a move until there was no choice for the guys not on the fence to try to get on the fence. Then they could tear down the fence. And if the fence be torn down, can the castle be far behind?

SAN FRANCISCO A shiny new Ford careened through the airport parking lot and screeched to a halt in front of the Hertz desk. The driver did not know that the vehicle could have been left outside, thus avoiding the dented fenders and the broken front window. A young woman stuck her head up from underneath the counter. The man, tall, black, and strikingly handsome, tossed her an envelope and a set of keys Before cutting to his left in the direction of the loading gates. On his way he hurdled a bass fiddle, two midget nuns and Karl Malden's nose before arriving at his destination, which was Gate C. Unfortunately, the plane had left during the last commercial. The man checked with the airline employee seated at the desk, who picked up a phone and consulted with whomever was on the other end. After a while he informed the man that Hertz did not sponsor any more telecasts that day and that the next flight would not leave until Thursday night during Hawaii Five-0. When the man suggested, in a rather irritated tone of voice, that he wanted to go to London instead of Hawaii, the desk attendant smiled and picked up the phone again. The second consultation revealed the disappointing news that Hertz did not advertise in London as most stations were owned and operated by the BBC. The man turned and ran back in the direction he had come, as passersby chanted in unison "Go, juice, go!"

From RURITANIA #45 5/78 Tony Watson, 201 Minnesota St, Las Vegas, NV 89107
(and in a break with BB tradition, with PERMISSION!!)

Book review: SPLINTER OF THE MIND'S EYE Alan Dean Foster, Ballantine, 199 pgs, \$1.95

Over a year after Ballantine's first paperback edition of George Lucas' STAR WARS and nearly ten months after the movie of the same name that took America by storm last summer, we are given a sequel. STAR WARS begged for a sequel: certain important conflicts were left unresolved and the sheer magic of the film left us breathless for more adventure in 'a galaxy far, far away'. Sequels being sequels, however, somewhat imperfect offshoots of the parent, one should not expect too much.

Good then; because if such is your outlook, SME will not be a disappointment to you. Damned fool idealist that I am, it was to me.

I've never read any of Alan Foster's other works, tho I see he wrote a good chunk of the "Star Trek" books, so one might expect he would have some skill at writing from other than a non-original source (to him). I think it is sad that Lucas, a movie maker by trade, wrote a better novel than Foster did, a writer by trade. The result tends to smack of exploitation, of striking while the fire is hot. Ah well, Foster was probably rushed.

This novel takes up directly after the action of the film. Han and Chewy have gone to do their pirate/trader things while Luke, the Princess, and the two 'droids remain behind. The Empire still exists, is unbeaten, and threatens. The Rebel Alliance must still struggle, and the gaining of a potential ally is the reason why Luke, Leia, and the droids are headed toward Circapous. They land, however, via accident, on Mimban. Mimban is an Imperial mining planet, and while at one of its settlements, they meet Halla, an old woman who, coincidentally enough, is attuned to the Force, much like Obi-Wan of the previous story. After a rather stupid incident (Luke and Leia reveal themselves to be rather weak characters when they are out of the influence of someone older and wiser), they are captured by the evil local magistrate and escape only with the help of Halla, the Force, and two big hairy guys remarkably similar to Wookies, called Yuzzem. Halla enlists their aid in the search for the Kaiburr crystal, a special focal point for the Force. Thence follows a few chapters of adventures, including a couple of giant critters and an underground civilization of Coways. The group is captured (droids included: C-3PO and R2-D2 are sadly relegated to superfluous roles) and freed only after the now obligatory scene where the hero of one side battles the other to decide his party's fate. The impression made is favorable enough to convince the Coway to aid them when a detachment of Imperial troops, led by none other than good old Darth Vader himself appears. That battle won, they rush on to a hidden temple to fetch the crystal and are in the process of doing so when Vader appears again. The long awaited Skywalker-Vader lightsaber battle occurs, leaving much to be desired, especially when one considers that the whole book is not much more than an excuse for this scene. The result is, predictably, inconclusive.

A lot of things bothered me in this book. The Force is now more a kind of magic than a quasi-religious power. Luke uses his lightsaber, not as Excalibur, but like a Boy Scout knife: it functions as flashlight or knife as often as the weapon of a knight. The dialog is poor in many spots; as mentioned, Luke and the Princess are too weak of character to up a novel by themselves, and Halla doesn't really provide the direction that Ben Kenobi did.

There are good points. The Ralph McQuarrie cover is a real beauty. Quite impressive. Also, it is more "Star Wars" if not of as high a quality as the first. So then, SPLINTER OF THE MIND'S EYE should be taken with a grain of salt, and its purpose and limitations (being a sequel) should be remembered.

((Tony did a good review, altho I wish my copy of RURI 49 had been stronger so I could copy this without retyping it! But, on to the issues. I heartily agree on the poor droids being reduced to window dressing, as I mentioned earlier. R2D2 has his moment of glory early when, after Luke crashes and is trying to get out, R2 helps him out. Luke is surprised, for he'd forgotten about R2's presence in the course of the crash. So is the reader, for we'd forgotten them too. From there on they only tag along for the rest of

the book, a major blunder. They could be used with the Coways easily, for instance.

The book follows true to the original in many critical areas. For one thing, altho it puts Luke and Leia together alone in the jungle at night, etc., Luke naturally comes through as a person of good intentions, opportunity aside. He Does want her, though, which is good. Another thing is the open-ended nature of the story. Altho their discoveries on Circapous IV ('Mimban' locally) make it all the more important that they get to Circapous III for their meeting with potential Rebels there, the story ends with them still completely lacking an escape means. You could write a novel on that alone, and another on their adventures upon reaching III. In regard to the ending, I think it was mostly well-done, considering what SHOULD happen in a battle between Luke and Vader, even if there is a little Obi-help putting in an appearance (poorly done at that). Leia does her part and comes out about as expected; I was very impressed with the scene where Vader's right arm with saber is severed: he leans over with his left and pries the sword out of the grip of the now-independent 'limb'. Grisly, but very well handled. While Leia's wounds are restored by the Force via the Crystal, Luke DIES and is quickly brought back by IT! THAT is what I thought was appropriate: Vader ought to be able to win even if tired after toying with the Princess. The thing I disliked most about the ending was what happened to remove Vader: better had Halla used the crystal to OPEN a chasm for him to fall into, than for he to just literally 'drop out of sight'. If the crystal brings back Luke, Vader has the splinter: it will regenerate HIM when he returns. And, if the presence of the crystal can do what it did, Luke, leaving with it, ought to be a Superman or almost a minor god. Instead, its tucked in his knapsack like the saber, and off they go into the sunset. I was amused in the latter part of the escape scene, where Luke rolls a captured handgrenade/bomb down the hall, and, after the huge explosions described, very typically utters an innocent "Gee, they've improved these things since I learned about them...". So, it has its failings, but like Tony says, it IS "Star Wars" stuff for an audience (like he & I) starved for more. If you want to read it but don't think its worth \$2 to you, send me some postage and I'll lend you my copy. (Do return it...) J.M.)

((I'd meant to run the above sooner, but it got misplaced.)) Now, how about some:

LETTERS

GALEN WORKMAN

3531 E Wilton #C, Long Beach, CA 90804

Thanks for the advance copy of your comments. Most of what you wrote was reasonable and also leaves little room for disagreement. Perhaps we both approach the middle ground, but from different sides: you from the right and I from the left. I appreciate your more detailed thoughts on conservatism vs liberalism. When I am not so backed up in my games and in my other letters I will see if I can find a specific issue to try out on you. Of course, I may never get caught up at the rate I'm going.

((We'll look forward to it))

CAMPAIGN, published by Don Lowry, Box 896, Fallbrook, CA 92028, has just printed the winners of their annual subscribers awards. Avalon Hill pretty well swept it, with Best Game of the Year for 1977 (SQUAD LEADER), Best Game of All Time (THIRD REICH), and runner-up in each. SPI, not as popular among C subbers as among wargamers in general, tied for fourth place in each category.

LETTERS

((Last issue was a little heavy on the letters, so this one will be lighter. I include Ron's letter below for its entertainment value.)) J.M.

✓ RON MAZURKIEWICZ ((edited))

When are you moving into your new home? I've been finding enough things around my place to work on to keep me busy for the next year or two. Fences, awnings, insulate the attic, new windows, etc., etc. The joys of owning an estate. At least you'll have some nice open land. Will you be able to kick the rear screen door open whenever you want and let loose a burst from your M-16?

I already had my first police raid on my house. Unfortunately it was while I was gone. About 10:30pm ((his roommate)) opened the front door and was confronted by two 6'6" beefy cops in plain clothes. He said when he answered the door one of them was holding back, had a walky-talky in his hand, and was saying "We're going in now"! Apparently the trucking firm tried to deliver my case of 2000 rounds of 45 pistol ammo next door and the people freaked out. 'My God, terrorists or something must be living next door!' Luckily I had my FFL ((Federal Firearms License, for dealers)) up on the wall in my room devoted to business, right above a nice business style 4 drawer filing cabinet. After copying the license number and doing a little talking, they left telling him "It's nice to see you're on the right side."

Also, 22 June we might begin another BARBAROSSA game. This time using day turns. ((Ron refers to Barbarossa not as SPI's turkey by the same name, but rather, as a huge Eastfront variant on about battallion-brigade level or so.)) J.M.

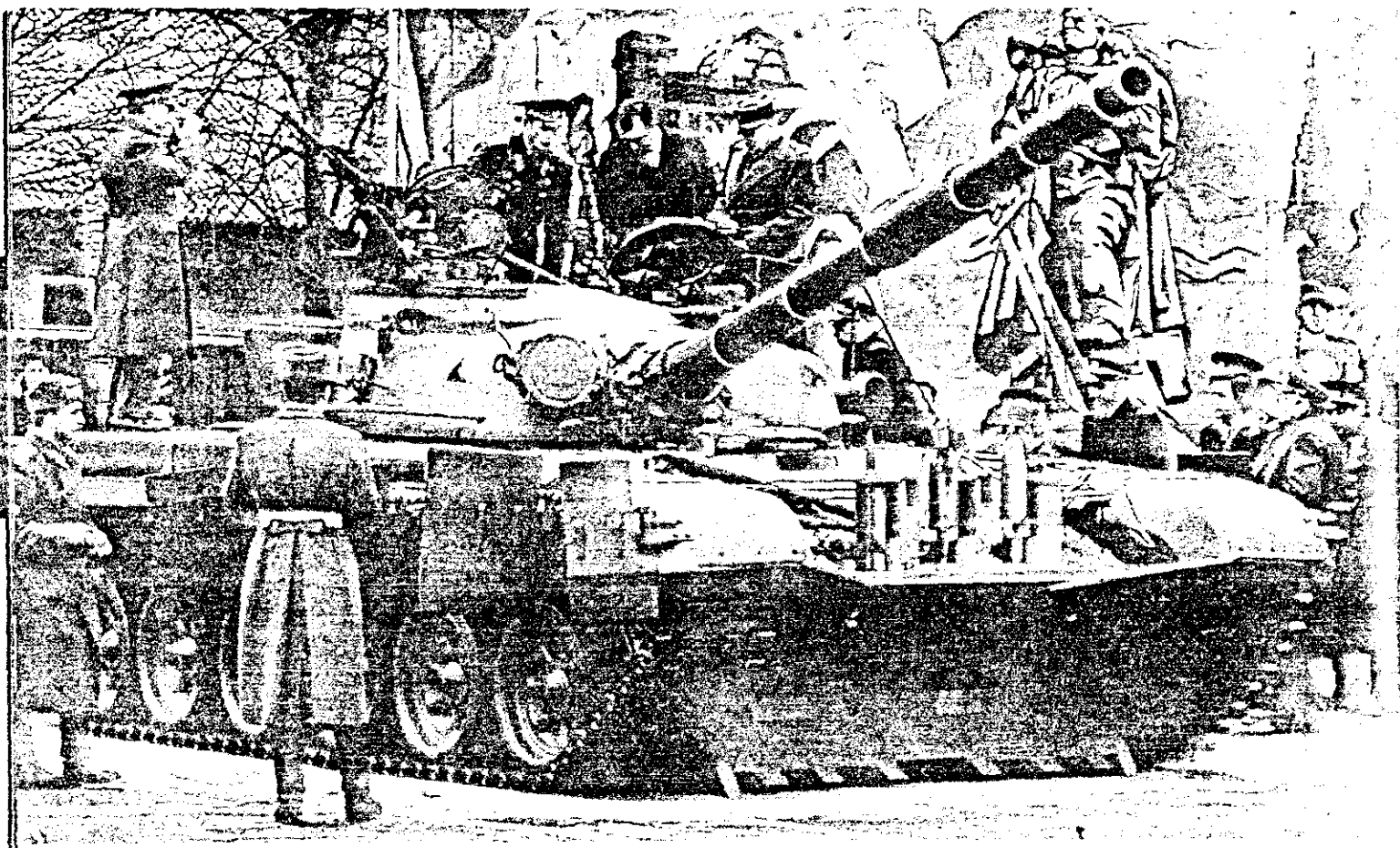
✓ MARK BERCH ((Responding to a letter of mine regarding the recently circulated FTF Dipzine FACE TO FACE. The latter struck me as too idiotic to mention, but others have picked up on it, being more desperate for filler than me, so now it is something of a minor 'issue'. Here you are...))

Thanx for the WARMONGER reprint. I appreciate your comments on FACE to FACE, and I may quote them, OK? In my next issue of DD, I will try to smoke out the writer. Its interesting how different people have read different things into it. You, for example, read it as a call for an FTF organization, and explained in some detail why it can't work, why such a thing cannot form. Yet, as I look over my copy, one thing it doesn't call for is a new dippy organization. Even his proposed setup for how FTF could be published (which strikes me as impractical) is extremely anarchical. What organization are you referring to? Seems to me it was a call for recognition and support, but then, I could be reading it thru the filter of my own prejudices.

((Recognition and support of what? That there are FTF players out there? Should we hold a party for them or something? The 'organization' I referred to was the implied one necessary to receive/use the 'compensating' donations from Avalon Hill that were asked in parts of it. Without an organization, what are we supposed to deal with? If Avalon Hill knew who all the players were, sending a postcard to each would exceed the cost of the contributions to Postal Dipdom. Knock 3¢ of the shelf price? We wouldn't see it even if they did so, as the retailers would ignore it. Even if the faceless mass of FTF players got together for 'their share', how would they organize? By turning out local newsletters, exchanging them with others, writing and calling each other now and then? Presto, they'd become Postal hobbyists! That, in a nutshell, is why I felt the whole business behind FACE TO FACE was idiotic.)) J.M.

✓ *****
PLUG: To those of you that get few Dipzines, or even a lot of em, make sure you're getting Mark's DIPLOMACY DIGEST. It carries no games, just reprinted Diplomacy articles on all kinds of things. Great reading, and a MUCH-needed project in this hobby. Ten for just \$2.50, 492 Naylor Place, Alexandria, VA 22304.

Recommended!
J.M.



Brief Uproar Interrupts Drone of Traffic

Norman, Okla. —UPI—
The roundup took 10 hours.
but most of the 10 million
escapees from a semitrailer
truck were captured, accord-
ing to the Oklahoma High-
way Patrol.

Authorities said 300 hives
of honey bees burst open
when the truck's trailer came
loose and ran onto the center
median of a highway about 9
a.m.

A local beekeeper helped
round up the bees and credit-
ed overcast skies, cool tem-
perature and high humidity
with keeping them near the
hives.

"There were no incidents,"
a highway patrol dispatcher
said. "All that potential for a
big story. But there were no
incidents."

The New Soviet T-72 Tank

Thanks to some French visitors and a Gamma photographer, the new Soviet T-72 tank can be examined in detail. The model shown here, belonging to the Taman Guards Division, differs from those seen earlier in East Germany.

The production version of the tank measures approximately 23 feet long, 10.5 feet wide and only 4.7 feet high. The crew of three is, necessarily, short.

Tank commander and gunner ride in the turret, which is equipped with a 125-mm smooth bore, auto-loading gun, capable of firing three kinds of ammunition, while the driver is located in the center of long, steep front glacis.

The vehicle is reported to be 41 tons, have a new 700 hp engine, a maximum speed of 100 kph (60 mph), an unrefueled range of 500 km (300 miles), and carry 40 rounds of main gun ammunition. A 7.62-mm machine gun is mounted coaxially with the main gun and a 12.7-mm machine gun is mounted atop the turret.

Both tank commander and gunner have two forward looking periscopes and separate infrared lights and sights. The commander also has two rear looking vision blocks, while the gunner has what may be either a laser rangefinder, a stereoscopic rangefinder or both.

Observant tank watchers will also note the T-72 has only one antenna, meaning the battalion operates on only one frequency; there is a built-in bulldozer below the front glacis, so the already low tank can dig itself in even lower; and the T-72 has forward hinged side skirts over the road wheels to detonate antitank rounds before they can do any real damage. All in all, this is a formidable and innovative machine.

12734 - 11th Ave NW
Seattle, WA 98177

19 June 1978

Hi John --

The USPS is truly awe-inspiring. The zines you sent have already arrived!!! It must be the way you bound up the box so securely. Let me know what you have left.

I'll start off this letter with the big surprise announcement I promised you over the phone. Are you ready? Here goes... (fan fare)

I am taking the big step and becoming a dip pubber. In case you didn't get it the first time, here it is on instant replay: I am taking the big step and becoming a dip pubber. That is, if they don't commit me first. Before you start to talk me out of it, I will add that this has been carefully planned out for some time. I know what I'm doing. (Killing myself.)

The name of my new zine is BLACK EMERALD. It will be triweekly, offset printed, digest-sized, center stapled, with a colored-paper cover (Impassable reborn). Subs will be 10/\$4.50. There are at present no openings. I have three orphans so far, and may pick up a variant or two. My main purposes are to 1) show the rest of the hobby (read Robert Bryan Lipton) how to run a zine properly, 2) create a forum open to the nucleus of the hobby, and 3) keep up a current list of North American game openings for those who care. If I'm lucky I will also be able to provide articles for novices, not of the S&T type but more of a general introduction to the hobby. Of course, all my other interests (women, board wargaming, women, soap operas, women, music, women, sports, especially women) will be hashed to death. Then eaten with french fries.

You will receive copies of the first few issues with my compliments. BB will be one of the few zines I will solicit a trade from, something which you may decide upon after seeing the zine.

Thanks for running the Steve McLendon editorial! I say right on.

I have more names of pubbers who have not responded to sample requests from yours truly: Kadlecik, Heinowski, Markham, Cook and Parkanyi. These people were given six weeks; not as long as the first batch, but long enough to prevent any excuses, in my opinion. These five are all relatively new pubbers, too, so I assume none of them have folded already.

Mark Berch has missed the whole point of the exercise. Sure, some of the people I named a while back have folded or suspended publication. I knew that when I first started to name names. Are these people dead? Heck, even that's no excuse; Lipton is dead and he's still publishing. The pubber I wrote are all people who still advertise in Diplomacy World. I maintain that that any publisher who fails to respond to solicited inquiries, for whatever reason, has no business continuing such solicitations in the hobby's genzine. Mark says "some did not reply because of difficulty with their own zines." For those who are having such trouble, can it be said that such trouble is so overwhelming that five minutes cannot be taken to write a short note explaining the difficulty? Keep in mind that I've sent each person stamps or \$\$\$. Is a one or two sentence reply too much to ask? And what about those who aren't having difficulties, but through laziness, disenchantment or whatever have chosen to fade into the woodwork? Should we continue to ignore this?

Regardless of the various publishers' intents, I believe antipathy is generated by this non-responsiveness. There are other questions. Why can't the game-openings list carried in DW be more current? Why don't publishers who no longer have openings write von Metzke and ask to be taken off the list, thereby saving themselves and a lot of other people wasted energy and needless hassle?

Why has there been no IDA Novice Project Chairman for more than a year??

I have been, and will continue to be, busy writing IDA Council people and other hobby bigwigs trying to uncover any interest in helping the US Novice. I am actively seeking the position of Novice Project Chairman. I intend to use my zine to ~~make a lot of examples~~ help solve some of these problems. An up-to-date game openings list, published every three weeks, will be a big step in the right direction. Do you realize, John, that you are on the DW game-openings list as of issue 19?? Have you written Conrad yet to get yourself removed from the list? Or are you ready to open more games??

On the subject of "cloaked errors", I will say that, in my limited playing experience, these errors are reported whenever significant. Any error which is favorable to one person in a multi-player game must, by definition, be unfavorable to someone else. In a hobby where people love to bitch for no reason at all, you can be sure a person will scream bloody murder when given good reason, i.e. being shafted by the GM. If those who benefit from an error are keeping silent through self-interest, as Mark claims, then it will be the self-interest of those who did not benefit that brings these errors to light! And from what I've seen, this is exactly the way it has been working. If there are other reasons for errors to go unreported, they are not obvious to me.

Poor Mark. He is getting it not once, but three times! I am also going to disagree with his remarks about black press. I do not think it is a fair statement to conclude that all press is of unknown origin in a black press game. I can always write press for any game, even black press, and make it clearly identifiable as mine. No one has even tried to forge/mimic my press, let alone succeeded at it. If some clever person should try, I'd be more clever and outforge the forger, adding some new wrinkle to my releases that could not be duplicated. (I think I've achieved that point already, don't you, John?) Besides, I never use press for negotiations. I have a general philosophy about press which says that any I write should be of some interest to non-players. Otherwise why bother to print it? If, for any reason, I wish to write press containing game-related material, I xerox it and mail it to the players directly. This way there can be no doubt of its origin.

If anyone wishes to challenge me on the above, please feel free to do so. I welcome any ~~foolish~~ writer's attempt to match my press style. Black press is allowed in 77 KS, and I submit something every season. Any takers?

You mentioned your wife's old Reserve unit: at least they found out who the freak(s) were before being thrown into the front line somewhere!!!

Which brings me to my final comment. Why do you keep referring to your wife as "the wife"? Doesn't she have a name? Or perhaps did you name your zine after her??

Diplomatically,

"Bobcat" Bill Newell

((Bobcat Bill Newell))

LETTERS

Response to Bill Newell, Jr.

((Ooo-oo-o-o--- . Talk about a letter that demands an answer...

No, it was not named after Claudine. I follow custom in that matter, is all. Thus Don Horton uses 'Helpmate' rather than a name, e.g. When I call and a woman's voice answers there, I ask "Is this Helpmate?" and I get a laugh. A man's voice, I ask if that's Fangmaster, and get a laugh. I don't know if they're just good natured, or if they're amused to think "It must be Michalski calling again to find out how to give an aspirin to his dog"...

No, no more games here unless Conrad's error listing of BB fetches in a potload of new blood. I have written, yes. I thought Craig Reges or Andy Cook were involved with IDA novice work, but, who can tell? At least they'll all hail your entry into publishing, just to get you off their backs...

A new zine without game openings? Not a slave to tradition, are you? I would recommend it sight unseen, based just on what's appeared from you here in BB, but without games, you wipe out the major source. Without the least bit of modesty, I'm offering one of the fastest, largest, AND cheapest zines in the hobby, yet since the folks now in 78AX signed on, paying growth has been slight. It IS growing, but not bay by that much. This issue will have an all-time 49 issues run, in anticipation of the response Craig Reges talked about, but if each of you gets two in the mail, you'll know the response didn't materialize. So far I've had two nibbles, from plugs in WARMONGER and ELECTRA GLIDE BLUE, each. What I'd like is about 10 more PAYING customers. But, good luck to you anyhow. I'm sure it will live up to its price.))

VARIOUS NOTES

IMPRESS YOUR FRIENDS with your very own pocket NUCLEAR BOMB EFFECTS COMPUTER! This has got to be the cutest thing I've seen in a long time. I ordered and received the book "The Effects of Nuclear Weapons", \$7 hardcover, from the Public Documents Distribution Center, Pueblo, CO, and found in the back a pocket with an instruction sheet and this little circular-slide-rule-looking item. By sliding things around, it tells blast parameters, reflected overpressures, translational velocities, thermal radiation levels, initial nuclear radiation levels, early fallout dose rates, crater dimensions, and maximum fireball radius. Just what every schoolchild should carry in his or her lunchbucket. Leave it casually on your desk or shirt pocket.

THE 1980 OLYMPICS (Winter) will be held at Lake Placid, NY, in case you hadn't heard. The Olympics are one of those things I like to plug now and then, so I wrote and asked for some filler-flyers. Unfortunately, like Avalon Hill, they sent heavy booklets. My issues are invariably too full to allow for that much addition, so, since the booklets are already printed with a postage item, I'll just run them as is with my own BB labels. So, if and when you see some Olympics junk mail in your box with my kind of label, that will be why. And, if you're in a good mood, send them a dollar. It's deductible, they need it, and it's non-partisan. How much in BB can THAT be said about?

LEE KENDTER Sr got back to me fast enough to allow for the inclusion of the Youngstown Variant in this issue, unless it gets squeezed out at the last minute by a ton of press. Right now, before the arrival of Friday's mail, there's only enough for each game to fill out its own one page. We'll see how that changes by Monday.

THREE SURPRISING LETTERS have come in so far, two of which are printed in this issue: Bill Newell's and Alan Rowland's. The third was from Bill Shaffer, with his orders. How many of YOU can say you ever got a letter from him? (ANYone?)

LETTERS

((I don't know about you, but I was really surprised by the latter parts of the letter below. I guess I'm badly guilty of pidgeon-holing people or something, but I never expected to hear some of these things--and goals-- from:))

ALAN ROWLAND

52 8th Ave, Westwood, NJ 07675

We are going to Penncon. My goals are 1. to finish on top board in the Dippy tourney 2. Be drunk 3. Beat the shit out of Ron Kelly 4. Tell everyone in the Conspiracy how fat and disgusting they are. (~~Robert Sacks~~ Bobby Socks should be there with the other muties.) 5. Leave Roy Smith behind.

The weather here is nice. It is dark at night and the sun comes out during the day. It is wet when it rains and dry when it doesn't. It is also cold in the winter. Do you get my point now?

I will write later (next week) on the neutron bomb issue. I have a vested interest as I will be a Cobra pilot (I hope) in 3 yrs after I graduate and get my MBA at U Chicago.

The Soviet Union is either guilty of wasting huge sums of money on its military establishment, or else is intending to use it. I will not go into their tremendous forces and compare them. I will comment briefly on doctrine. They are preparing for a nuclear war and to win it. They are preparing for a conventional war in Europe that would see only the Pyrenees unbreeched and the Channel uncrossed in two weeks by using ABC warfare and simply massing their forces, overwhelming superior Western armor, air cav, ADA, tac air, etc., units. True, they'll suffer heavy losses. God knows I'd like nothing better than to wreak death and destruction amongst the ranks of Godless atheistic Communist hordes, but the idea of being shipped home in a pine box after some smart-ass Russian lieutenant locks onto my chopper with radar and fires his AA battery, is less than appealing. Most of my friends in Europe suffer from noillusions either.

The neutron bomb isn't much, but it might give the West some time to mobilize. With Ben Grossman and others of his ilk, it is obviously very easy to ignore the damning trend of Soviet expansionsim & military build-up. But I'd like to venture that when our units are annihilated to the man in cases, and when escalation leads to mushroom clouds dotting the landscape, who'll be the first to whine and whimper. Any suggestions?

But at least those bastards will be glowing in the dark while I'll be quaffing a brew at "Fiddler's Green". Not much consolation, but its all I'll get.

((It's hard to tell if some of that is put-on or not, but, I'll accept it for now at face value. I think the main reason that the Soviets haven't marched to date is the fact that time is so obviously on their side: why win today when you can win even more easily tomorrow? With slow NATO conversions and upgrading projected, though, you'll have a few years on line before the Day comes along. ABC--Atomic, Biological, Chemical, to the uninitiated--has been changed to CBR "Chemical, Biological, Radiological" in recent years, maybe in the bureaucratic belief that name changes indicate progress. My only disagreement with your projection is that the smart-ass Russian lieutenant might really be East German or Polish, and the AA battery may really turn out to be a lowly hand-held weapon. The Grossmans won't whine: they'll scream. Scream "why didn't you do something to keep this from happening", when in fact it is because of mindless asshole responses like their own that the situation is as bad as it is. Maybe we'll luck out and last long enough to see the City blown away in the first volley. The worst part is that if there are many survivors, it won't be among those who were willing to fight. But there is in the end a sort of justice, in that people who let themselves be led down the path this country is going, come to the fate they have chosen and earned. Too bad; for it could have been a lot better.))

J.M.

Bureaucratic Blunders

The federal government recalled a total of eight retread tires between 1971 and 1976—at a cost of \$3 million in record-keeping. The federal government requires distributors to keep the names and addresses of all tire purchasers—63 million retread tires were sold from 1971-1976—to permit such recalls.

James C. Coomer

Masquerading as a New Hampshire state representative at a recent White House dinner was one Robert Sowa, a felon convicted of defrauding an insurance company and filing a false report on a crime. When dispensing dinner invitations, Carter's political advisers were apparently less aware of Sowa's criminal record than his enthusiastic support for Carter during the New Hampshire 1976 primary.

Marvin Alisky

Pennsylvania has just returned driving privileges to a man with more than 60 convictions for traffic violations, one a hit-and-run manslaughter of a 71-year-old woman. State traffic safety bureau director Seymour Heyison, explaining his leniency towards 41-year-old Albert Dönal, whose license plate reads "Mad-One," said, "I had a long discussion with him and when I said he could have his learner's permit, he cried. We're not out to crucify him. I hope I made a good, law-abiding driver out of this person."

Harold C. Thorpe

Miami landlord Jeff Rudolph has been convicted of a misdemeanor for spraying the garbage cans behind his apartment complex in an effort to get rid of flies and roaches. His crime: depositing "poison . . . in any common street, alley, lane or thoroughfare of any kind."

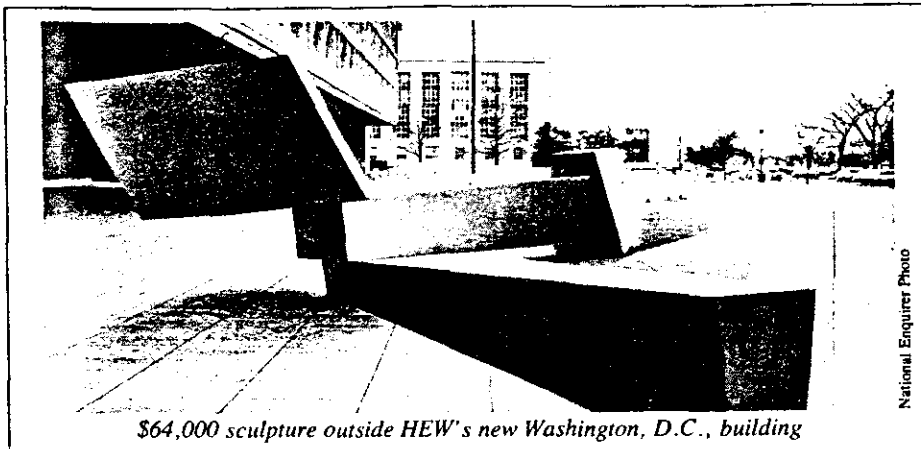
Richard D. Turley

The two-to-five-year prison sentence of Ronald Valerin, found guilty of stealing art works worth \$14,500 and suspected of stealing an additional \$100,000 in paintings, was suspended by Ohio judge Russell Yeazel because "We don't have the prison facilities to handle a genius . . . The system is set up for people with more normal intelligence. I don't understand the dummies, and I don't understand the brighties."

Patricia Matzke

HEW has proposed that anyone 55 years of age or older who cannot speak English

Conservative Digest July 1978



National Enquirer Photo

or do basic arithmetic should be eligible for disability aid. The department explains. "The inability to perform simple calculations in addition and subtraction would represent vocational restrictions. An individual's inability to communicate in English may be a decisive factor resulting in a finding that he is disabled."

The Labor Department has just given Cesar Chavez \$500,000, ostensibly to teach English to members of his militant United Farm Workers. Labor Secretary Ray Marshall, who insisted on the grant against recommendations of the Washington office of CETA (Comprehensive Employment and Training Act Program), from whose funds the grant will come, and without consulting the relevant regional office of CETA in Kern County, Calif., declines comment on the matter.

HEW also gave a \$487,000 grant to research "The Relationship of Hoaxes and the Roots of Urban Violence." Among the study's findings: Rural Southerners excel in practical jokes—because of their "aggravated boredom or repressed hostility toward the environment."

The Justice Department decided earlier this year that Utah's Brigham Young University has caused landlords to violate the Fair Housing Act by requiring students living off campus to rent from landlords who agree to house men and women in separate buildings.

Japanese dentists can now fill cavities without drilling or pain by a chemical (GK-101) that washes away decay without harming the healthy tooth or bone tissue. The process was originally developed at Tufts University, but it will not

be available to Americans for at least another two years because the Food and Drug Administration has not completed testing it.

In 1976 federal agencies threw away or sold as scrap over \$15 million worth of salvageable gold and silver. The gold and silver come from such used items as batteries, electronic components, uniform buttons and insignia, and photographic and x-ray films.

Roger Cook

Boulder, Colo., is building a public restroom with federal money at a cost of \$408 per square foot, nearly ten times what Denver would pay for restrooms in a park. The facility, containing one stall for men and one for women, will cost \$67,000.

Ed Witt

There are five federal agencies in which at least one-quarter of all employees earn more than \$30,000: Nuclear Regulatory Commission, National Science Foundation, NASA, USIA and State Department.

Responding to the Postal Service's level of performance, *Reader's Digest*, the largest magazine in the nation, has decided to use exclusively private delivery services.

Dan M. Jacobson

Since ERISA (Employee Retirement Income Security Act) took effect in 1974, 18,610 private pension plans have been closed down, with 35 percent of the employers blaming the huge paperwork burden imposed by ERISA. In other words, Congress' effort to improve pension coverage has cut employees of 6,500 firms out of any pension plan.

Well, here I sit at home alone on a Sunday afternoon with the wife's office Selectric: what to do now that I've won a solo game of AFRICAN CAMPAIGN? Well, with the summer convention season about to begin and many of you preparing for long drives across country, how about an article on

D R I V I N G I N O K L A H O M A

Why 'Driving in Oklahoma'? Well, beleive it or not, (and probably not), Oklahoma is really something of a crossroads for crosscountry driving. I35 going N-S through the middle of the state is the last N-S road connecting anything or anyplace of consequence to anything else between here and the west coast. I40, going E-W through the middle of the state, is one of three real through-routes from the west coast to the east; and just above their intersection is the southern terminal of I44, connecting the NE with the best route to California. Anything from what I called "civilization"--i.e., the area N of the Ohio and east of the Mississippi--wanting to go to California has two real choices: the 'high' road, I70, along the axis Kansas City-Denver, or I40 along the axis MemphisOKla City- Amarillo-Albuquerque-San Bernadino (LA). I 40 has the advantage over I70 of not crossing the heaviest part of the Rockies, and the best way to go is via I44 (St Louis-OKC). (The eastern I40 terminus is south of DC in North Caroliana somewhere.).

So, maybe you'll be passing through here. Since you won't think much about stopping if you don't have to, why worry? Well, there are some locally distinct problems you need to watch out for. They're out there on the Interstate with you, so it does matter. First among these is:

- ✓ PICKUP TRUCKS These are driven exclusively by people who imagine themselves to be the heroes of the Marlboro Country ads, but are really a cross between the 'drugstore cowboy' and an outright fairy. (You'll notice lots of pretty lace curtains in the back windows, often with little white tassles..). ALL are mentally retarded. Most are barefoot. All are empty-headed. If they weren't, they wouldn't be in a pickup truck. Whenever you see a pickup truck, tell yourself that its driver is out to kill you, and act accordingly. You'll generally be right. And beware of dry chips (or not so dry chips) of cow dung known to often flake off of the truck. Or possibly the occupants.
- ✓ ON RAMPS Getting onto an Interstate in Okalhoma presents two distinct dangers. The first is that there generally is no acceleration or merge zone; rather, the ramp's approach is really just an angled intersection, often with a CURB between the road and shoulder so you can't cheat and use the shoulder as an extension. Oklahoma ramps are designed to force you to 'blast' directly into 60mph traffic from a dead stop. And when YOU'RE on the highway, remember that that's what the oncoming traffic will do. Now, why from a dead stop? Well, that's the other danger. You see, locals don't know how to enter an Interstate. There's a little animal fear of the high speed traffic out there, added to the cowboy mentality that says "Y'all watch out cuz here ah cum!" Plus, ignorance as to what a YIELD sign means. To an Okie, YIELD means GIVE UP, and thats what they do at the end of the ramp. They give up at trying to figure it out, so they either close their eyes and blast (esp women), or, stop. After stopping for a while, they realize they're supposed to be moving on the highway, not sitting on the ramp, so they then blast from a dead stop into the oncoming traffic, just like they do in their pastures. So, if you're getting back on the road, ignore what's out there: the only real danger is from the car ahead of you. It WILL stop.
- ✓ TURN SIGNALS In Okalhoma, turn signals are generally synonymous with brake lights. When you see brake lights come on, watch for a turn. (While you're here, always signal, ESPECIALLY for a lane change, which is unheard of here. It will tell everyone else that you're from out of state. I've been here almost seven years and I'm still quick to point out that I'm from out of state. It's like people from New York State: they'll always be quick to say "...State" sometimes even adding a redundant ",NOT the City." They sure don't want to be mistaken for one of those. Ditto here, RBLipton.
- ✓ BACKUP LIGHTS mean nothing here. One car in seven has them on all the time, except perhaps when actually backing up. I don't know how or why they do it, but, that's the way it is. Maybe it's wet hay or something in the wiring.

Since I'm about to lose this sheet, I'll have to leave you with only those. Good luck!

((What's new in the IDA? Well, to avoid having to retype a whole bunch of odds and ends, here's a duplicate of the IDA President's COUNCIL COURIER, run as an insert in his PODUNK NEWS #46. Bob Hartwig's address is on the reverse, at bottom.))

COUNCIL COURIER

Issue 78.05 - June 1, 1978.

	<u>Bob</u>	<u>Dave</u>	<u>Jerry</u>	<u>Craig</u>	<u>Andy</u>	<u>Cal</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>Total</u>	
78.09	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	/	3-3	Tied.
78.19	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	/	6-0	Passed.
20	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	/	6-0	Passed.
21	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	/	5-0-1(A)	Passed.
22	Y*	N*	Y*	Y*	Y*	A	/	4-1-1(A)	Held Over
78.23	V	V	V	V	-	V	/		Debated.
24	V	V	V	V	-	V	/		"
25	V	V	V	V	-	V	/		"

78.22 is heldover because Cal has informed me that 30¢/ number is less than the BNC received before. I would be willing to raise the amount and revote on the bill if Cal will tell me how many numbers he'll be issuing. In case no one knows it, the IDA is starting to use up money, and there is no way we can possibly subsidize the BNC \$200 + per year. Any info on numbers, Cal? Also, I thought that the AH subsidy and \$1 fee was supposed to be enough to pay for the BN's. What was your proposed budget sent to Doug Beyerlein when you applied for BNC? Did it include an increased IDA subsidy, or any IDA subsidy at all?

The finalized form of 78.21 (with no objection) will be:

78.21 - People who have not received copies of handbooks paid for will be reimbursed upon request with cash, copies of future IDANA publications, or extended memberships. Request must be made prior to August, 1978.

(Dave Bunke thought there should be another option. If anyone objects, just say so and we'll revote. - RAH).

Council Changes:

Bill Young has decided to run for Treasurer after all. After I catch up with the backlog, I'll send the books to him. We'll have a bill on his candidacy this issue.

Previous Requests:

1. No word from Andy on the Novice Project. Andy?
2. The Calhaver Awards are officially dead.
3. No word from Fred Davis on organizing a Variants Project. Fred?
4. Thanks to both Fred and Cal for sending a copy of the "Official" IDANA Constitution.
5. How is the History Handbook coming Ron?
6. It's too late now to matter if trophies are going to be presented at DipCon or not. I hope so.
7. Jerry, please solicit for someone to run the Novice and Variant PROJECTS, not write articles for the Novice Handbook. (It's OK to solicit for that, too, but we also need the others.)
8. As for DipCon discussion topics, see elsewhere this issue.

New Requests:

1/ Jerry, please print the Constitution enclosed in the next issue of DR.

Debate:

Jerry doesn't have enough time to pull off his DipCon awards, and wants to know if we can demand a BN financial statement (I think yes). Cal wants the BN subsidy raised. If he'll send me some financial and statistical data, I'll see what I can do.

Regarding DipCon

If we have 4 Council members (hope, hope), then any unanimous council decision will result in a passed bill. Topics to be discussed include:

1. DipCon Site Selection, Regional Rotation, and Regional Boundaries
We will decide whether or not to form a selection committee at all, and if so whether to include non-IDA people, how to rotate between regions, what regional boundaries should be established, etc.
2. Separating PBM's from locals in the 1st round of DipCon. Many PBM's feel that they're ganged up on in the first round. We will decide whether to separate things in the future.
3. Rod Walker's IDA GUIDE supplement. We have a contract proposal from Rod giving him 10% royalties and rights to take back possession of the GUIDE if sales drop or the IDA stops supporting its sale. We will decide whether or not to accept this contract.
4. Admitting and encouraging non-PBM players to join IDA. This should be self-explanatory. Many feel that its time we recognize FTF players.

If you have any opinions and/or proxy votes on these issues, please send them to me before June 28. I'll take them to DipCon and we'll work with them. Your not voting due to non-attendance at DipCon won't count against you, proxy or not.

New Bills:

78.26 - Bill Young is appointed to complete the current term of the Treasurer, vacated by Doug Beyerlein.
(Bill, you can vote starting immediately. If you're not elected, we just throw out any votes you cast previously. - RAH).

VOTES ARE DUE ON: JULY 1, 1978.

Votes Due Next Issue:

- 78.09 - Any changes in your present votes, plus a vote from Bill Young.
- 78.22 - Any changes, plus information from Cal White.
- 78.23 - 78.25 - Yes, No, or Abstain votes ONLY. MUST VOTE.
- 78.26 - OPTIONAL VOTE. 7 votes needed to pass next issue. Votes due in Issue 7.

Bob Hartwig
5030 North 109th Street
Longmont, Colorado 80501.
Ph: (303) 665-4852.

Did I Get an A on My Report On the Army and Why Not?

By Bob Williams

During the 21 years that I've taught elementary school youngsters, I've found that they can come up with some unusual ideas and their imaginations are never more fruitful than during the period when we study occupations.

Through the years, a surprising number of students have chosen to read about and report on career opportunities in the Army. Some of their comments have been hilarious; all have been expressed in the delightfully original style of children. Here's what I mean:

"I think career opportunities in the Army are wide open. But the harder a person works the more successful he will be. Sometimes he will need to work around the clock, 12 days a week."

"The Army includes the infantry, the ordnance and the artillery. Maybe they include the Air Force, too. I do not know. It takes all my knowing to know the Army includes the infantry, the ordnance and the artillery."

"Ideas about how to make tanks have advanced to the point where they are no longer understandable."

"Will we ever get to the point where we don't need an Army? The chances are 999 out of a hundred."

Judging from the size of the handwriting, one tyke was under the influence of John Hancock when he took time out to report: "Another name for weapons is ordnance. But I think I will just stick with the first name and learn it good."

Obviously, one of the fringe benefits of being an elementary school teacher is the possibility that the next paper I read will contain a "wrong" answer that is twice as captivating or thought-provoking as the expected one. Here are some thoughts from youngsters who had their own opinions (and were not hesitant about expressing them):

"A mess hall could just as well be called something else if we could only think of a better name for it."

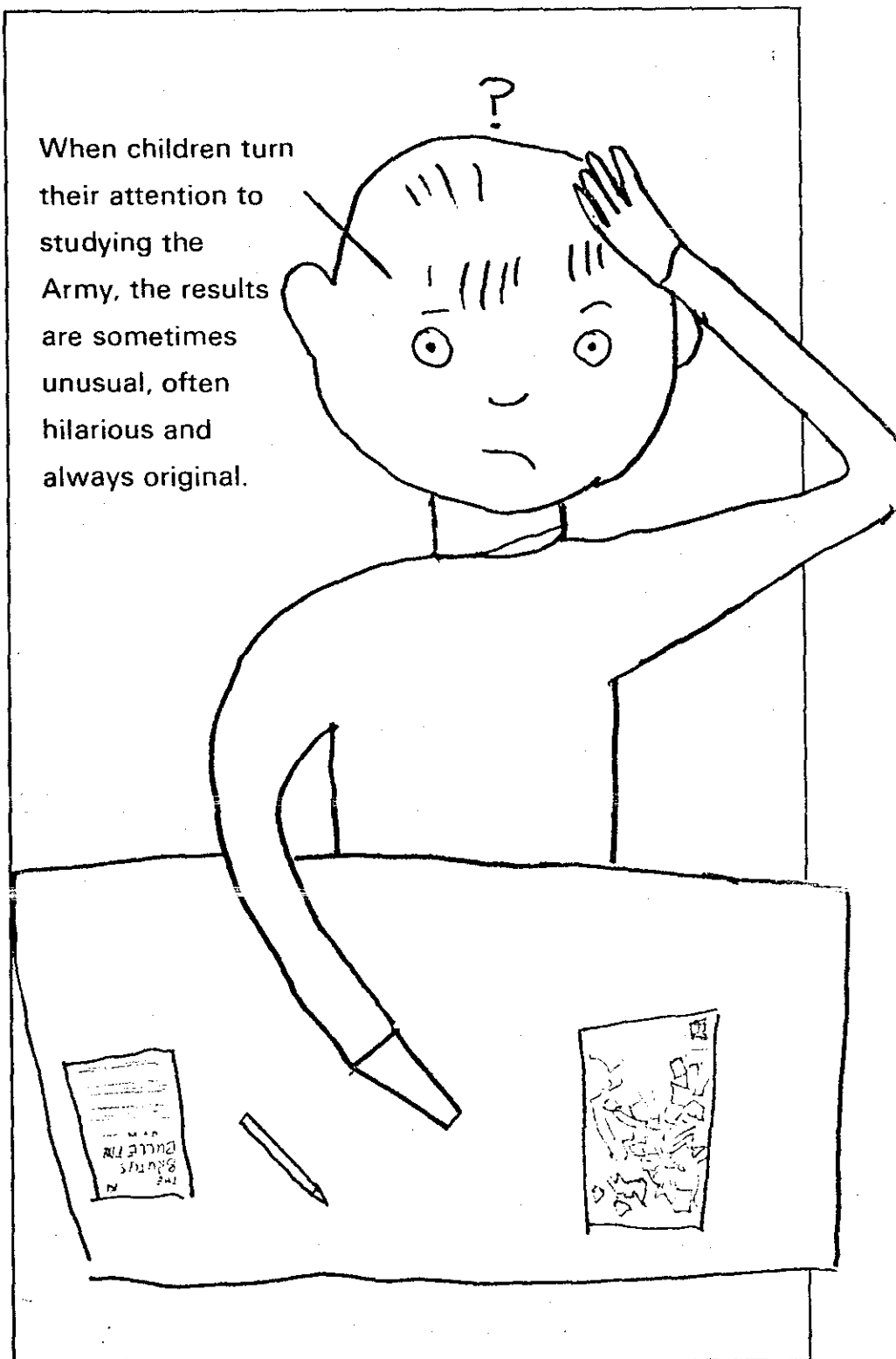
"The Army is the same as the Navy except just the opposite."

"Drill sergeants are very interesting people. All their ways are hurry ways and loud ways."

"Where I used to live, there was an Army camp in one of our city's outer skirts."

Then I don't suppose I'll ever forget

When children turn
their attention to
studying the
Army, the results
are sometimes
unusual, often
hilarious and
always original.



the girl who remarked: "My dad used to be in the Army. If anyone ever said people who are in the Army don't usually



have to work hard, boy would that ever boil my temper."

The elementary school youngster's mind is evidently a vast storehouse of miscellaneous misinformation—half true, half false and wholly whimsical. I'm sure this next statement is perfectly true (if I could only figure it out):

"The Army will not be like it should be until it gets like it was when we did not have an Army and appreciated all the things it was necessary for."

Even when I think the kids understand something perfectly and there aren't any questions, I sometimes discover that something is lurking underneath—something called total confusion. Four examples:

"What my salary would be when I first join the Army has a very short memory in my mind."

"I am not sure what captains are supposed to do, but trying to find out is one of my constant doings."

"The difference between a colonel and a major is one of them makes more money when I can ever think which it is."

"The way the Army knows who is working at what job all the time is just to wonder at, not to understand."

Last year a boy wrote of this frustrating experience: "I looked up what they do in Boot Camp twice, but I forgot it three times."

And here's a remark as charming as childhood itself: "I was thinking the Air Force was part of the Army. When I learned different, all the thoughts I was going to say went in a swallow down my throat."

Each year the kids write letters to a member of the occupation, profession or organization he is interested in as a career. Here are some excerpts from letters that I've saved through the years:

"I want to get in the Army so I am writing this letter to you. I want to make it without any mistakes so I am stopping now."

"One of my idiot-friends (that I will remain nameless) thinks that a captain in

the Army is the same as a captain in the Navy. Please write back to me and tell me if any of this is true or false."

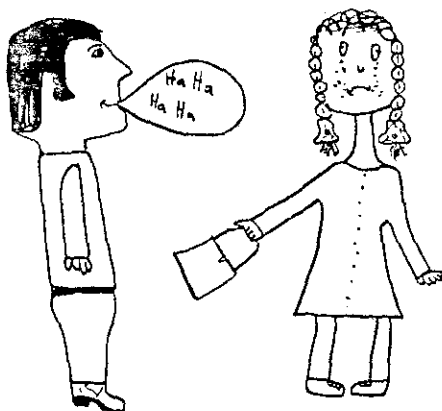
"I want to be in the Army like you are. I have decided you are my ninth favorite person in the universe."

"Can you tell me if there are more people in the Army than in the Navy and the Marines together? I said yes and Donald C. . . . said no and I said yes and he said no and I said yes and so on. So can you tell us for sure? Oh well, thanks anyway."

More and more, I'm convinced that the funniest comedians in the country are all in grade school. Here's a "report" I received a couple of years ago: "The name of this report is How Old the U.S. Army Is. Please tell me how old. I hope you answer this report fast. Hurry up. I am still waiting."

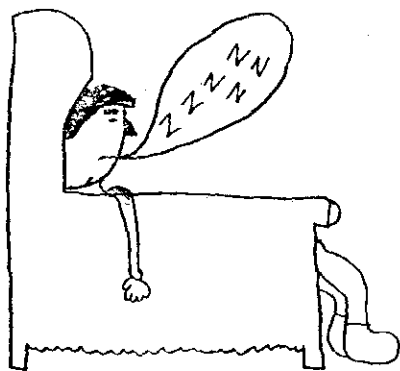
Truth-telling, complete candor and awful sincerity are to be found in both the talk and the scribbles of children. This seems to be especially true when they comment on their own personal experiences:

"My brother teased me that I was in-



terested to read about Florence Nightingale and other things that causes nurses to happen."

"Zzzzz. You would be sleepy too if you stayed up and read as much as I did

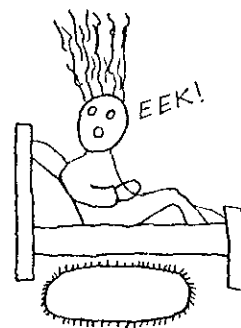


about the history of the Army last night."

"Did I get an A on my report on the Army and why not?"

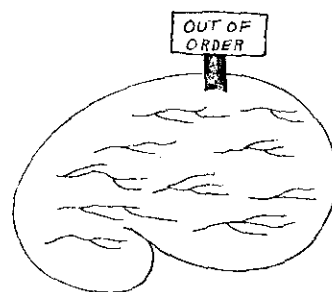
This next one is from a girl who is obviously a born writer of mystery stories:

"Tell everyone to get quiet and I will tell you a mystery about the Army. After I had turned in my report on how to go



about being an Army nurse, I was asleep that night. Eek what was that! I heard an Army nurse talking but could not see her anywhere. I finally solved the mystery by forgetting to turn off my radio."

Looking at facts as kids sometimes see them is like looking through the wrong end of a telescope—but it's fun to try! Here's a quote from a lass who seems to be giving it all she has: "Correct my be-



ing wrong but tell me true or false. Has there ever been a Lady General in the Army? I wrecked my brain trying to think if there had ever been."

Another moppet summed up her feelings like this: "Now that I have studied about all the things the Army does, the



next time I hear about all the different kinds of jobs there are in the Army I will just twinkle an eye and know why."

Perhaps that's an important part of an education, anyway—to be able to "twinkle an eye" occasionally.

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