

For the Nineteenth time, with only six or so more issues to go to my first anniversary already, here comes yet another copy of

THE BRUTUS BULLETIN

NORTH AMERICA'S NUMBER ONE DIPZINE!

(-'78 Leeder Poll)

The BRUTUS BULLETIN is a newsletter of postal Diplomacy put out by John Michalski, Route 10, Box 526-Q, Moore, Oklahoma 73165. Orders should be sent to John Michalski, Harper Oil Company, 904 Hightower Building, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73102. No calls with orders unless specifically stated, but do call if you detect any real error. Subs are 12/\$3, which is cheap. AND, there are now

G A M E

O P E N I N G S

Yes, there are finally some game

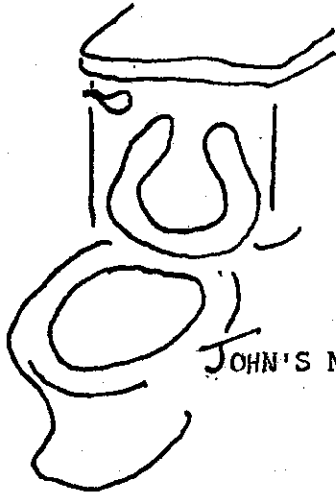
openings with a Guest Gamemaster, Galen Workman. Priority will be given to currently subbing non-players, whose subscription includes one gamefee (policy will change after Dec 1); current players/former players would need a \$2 gamefee for this one. Send no money until after you have received notice of selection. Countries will be drawn by lot, although volunteers for Austria and Italy are accepted if available. This game will be run on tight two-week deadlines outside of BB proper, but will be reported here after the fact, as with 78AX of mine. If Galen drops out on you, I will take it up myself. Write direct to Galen at 3531 E Wilton Street, #C, Long Beach, CA 90804. He will be handling this himself, and only later reporting to me.

OTHER PUBLISHERS, ATTENTION: Please do NOT announce my openings! I appreciate the plug, but, the demand for fast games is such that I could fill two just from new current subbers and players already in the other three. Save outsiders the disappointment, and do NOT announce BB game openings. Thanks.

LAST ISSUE I mentioned in answering someone's letter, the lack of press in John Leeder's RUNESTONE. Just to make a liar out of me, the latest two issues received had a lot of press, even tho much was in regard to the many variants he seemed to carry. Also, the latest LIES, DECEIT, & NEFARIOUS SCHEMES had a bunch. (Jerry Jones, 1854 Wagner, Pasadena).

ENCLOSED WITH THIS ISSUE will likely be a pamphlet from Ashland Oil Company. The energy part is up to you, but it caught my eye because of the notes on how and why to write your Congressman. I recommend that part to you. If you write something like the 'sample' letter shown in part, expect a box back from your Congressman!

GENCON is coming up shortly after this writing. I will be back just a hair before the KN-KS deadline, so this issue is being done mostly about the time you receive #18. Therefore, current-type letters and such may not make this issue as they normally would. All will appear in the next issue, though.



JOHN'S NOTES

Life In The Country, Part II, will appear next issue. Thanks to GenCon, etc., I haven't time for anything more than some quick notes.

First, weight permitting, I will be enclosing a pamphlet from Ashland Oil Company with this issue, or next issue if there's too much stuff this time. The energy part of it is really neither here nor there--if you write your Congressman a note such as is penned in there, expect a box full of Congressional Record reprints! Instead, the main point is to emphasize as they do, how important "real" constituent letters are to them, and to show how to address them. They do count, even if you only receive a form letter response.

Next, last issue had to be squeezed hard due to courtesy copies needed for Boardman, Walker, and Tretick/Oaklyn, etc. The result is that Walt Buchanan only got one for the archives. If any of you would volunteer your back copy, I'll reimburse your postage. Send it to me and I'll forward it. (Walt, if you haven't received even the ONE yet, it's because Conrad von Metzke has it. I told him to forward HIS complimentary copy to you when he was done).

Lots of goodies have come in at the last minute, naturally. More important, lots of that is GAME stuff!! Folks, those letters you mail Monday do NOT arrive Wednesday!

On the continuing saga of Bernie Oaklyn-Buddy Tretick: I was hoping to let this die on the conciliatory note of Rod Walker's latter letters, but Buddy has jumped in with a new attack, crying "discrimination" in being refused into a Dip game! For those of you needing proof, I submit that just such wild responses were attributed to Tretick by Walker, and now we see 'Bernie' at it. On top of the shaky story Bernie offered as to why Buddy might be found answering Bernie's phone, the stories of phone charges and checks to one being deposited/charged to accounts of the other, and the similarity of the writing of the publications, we now have this wild threat-flinging by 'Bernie' a la Buddy. ("Discrimination" on age-race-sex-etc hardly means you have to accept people you believe to be frauds and cheats, thus my calling it a wild response). Recently I see Steve McLendon has joined the ranks of the defenders, who asks why Buddy's side hasn't been printed. In the case of this zine, it is because 1) Oaklyn-Tretick has not responded to my own letter or to courtesy issues sent him so far, and 2) because nothing has been offered except his item on FBONT #2 which WAS mentioned here. I will run Rod's last letter and Buddy/Bernie's threat sheet next issue if space permits. I apologize to those of you who are getting bored with this as Craig Reges mentioned, quite understandably. I too hope it all goes away. No such luck so far, though.

GenCon was well-handled and a good meeting, except for the steep \$5/day entrance fee. I won the African Campaign tournament, but they couldn't find the trophy! TSR had better mail it to me....

77KN

Winter, 1908: France builds F BRE, A PAR
Russia builds A STP
Turkey r F Bla OTB

SPRING, 1909: AUSTRIA (KASSEL): A PIE-Ven; A Tri-Tyo/NSU; A TUS-Rom; A VEN Unordered, H;
A GAL & A BOH S A Sil; A SIL S A Boh; A UKR S TURKISH A
Sev-Mos

FRANCE (DITTER): F Mar-GLY; F Bre-MAO; F Naf-WES; F Nap-TYN;
F Tun S F Nap-Tyn/d/rNaf,Otb; F NTH H; A Par-GAS;
A Mun-TYO; A Ruh-MUN; A BUR SA Ruh-Mun

ITALY (KELLY): A ROM S FRENCH F Nap/OTM

RUSSIA (McELVANEY): Fs DEN, BER, KIE H; A MOS, PRU, & LVN S A War;
A STP S A Mos; A WAR S A Sil ((Note that A Sil is AUSTRIAN))

TURKEY (HUESTON): F Apu-NAP; F Tyn-TUN; F ION S F Tyn-Tun F AEG
S F Ion; A SEV-Mos

Deadline for Fall, 1909, is my mail received here at work Wednesday, Sept 6. Mail sent Monday will not likely arrive in time! Sunday's should. Remember Dave Ditter is now back at 563 Maple Ave. now. Russian orders succeed (for A WAR) since the house rule covering oversights allows for same, altho in this instance, I really doubt he realized A SIL was Austrian. But, maybe he WANTED to and just forgot to write "S Austrian A". No harm done, but an important precedent. See 'Notice' below also.

77KS

Winter, 1907: England builds F LVP
France builds F BRE
Germany has F Den R HELG
" A War r LVN
" A Hol r OTB
" F StPsc r OTB

Turkey builds F SMY, A CON, A ANK

SEPARATION PASSES!!

Deadline for Spring, 1908, is due here at my work address Wednesday, Sept 6. Mail sent Monday will not likely arrive in time! ORDERS are on file and adjudicated for ALL powers, so you need only send in something if you want to make any changes. Minor powers are requested to state whether they favor allowing Black Press, as a few changes have occurred. Unless at least one more specific pro-vote comes in, BP will continue for now to be OUT. Read 'Notice' in addenda below.

77KS Press:

BERLIN: 20 vs 14 is rather a bummer. Let's see who guesses better.

KIEL: Well, Lee, are you gutless or not?

HOLLAND: Seems that the wop miscalculated his chances of getting Marseilles. You sure fouled THIS game up.

DRAW PROPOSALS: 1) Russia-Turkey 2) A concession to England 3) A Concession to Turkey 4) An "R-T-A-I-G-R-F-R-A-G-I-R-E-F-P-R-P-S-Af-JM" draw. Author of #4 explains that P=Poland, Af="Afreaka", and JM="John Mik-hal-sky". Votes not received on 1-3 will count as a "No" in this case. Votes on 4 won't count, but may be printed as press.

NOTICE!! Way back in issue 16, Russia had an army in Sweden. In 17 it became a fleet. In 18, it was correctly ordered, but per house rule on "obvious oversights" and prior cases, I "corrected" it erroneously to an "F", based on #17. This time I correct it to the "A" it should have been all along. No adjudications are affected. Turkish request to similarly convert F Apu to A Apu is denied.

Check for errors!!

John Michalski
Harper Oil Company
904 Hightower Building
Oklahoma City, OK. 73102

A little flyer going through the oil patch.



THE LAST GREAT ACT OF DEFIANCE

OIL INDUSTRY ©

If you combined the budgets of all 50 states . . . the sum would still fall \$50 billion shy of matching HEW's budget. For HEW has the third largest budget in the world, surpassed only by the budgets of the U.S. government and the Soviet Union.

HEW Secretary *Joseph Califano*

* *

Five years ago, the United States could have provided continuous air cover for a convoy of Persian Gulf supertankers from the Horn of Africa to Rotterdam, using friendly air bases, over half of them in then Portuguese colonies. Today, virtually every base relied on then, except in South Africa, is in the hands of an unfriendly African power within the Cuban-Russian orbit.

Columnist *Col. Robert D. Heintz Jr.*

* *

The Cubans have killed more Africans by fighting in Africa during the past three years than the colonial powers killed in all their years of imperialism.

Somalian Foreign Minister
Abdul-salem Sheikh Hussein

* *

In the 1976 campaign, I saw firsthand the ability of these groups [the New Right PACs] to concentrate and orchestrate their resources to defeat those whom they regard as "enemies."

My opponent [Orrin Hatch] was the hand-picked candidate of the national New Right. He had no record of political service in Utah. Yet with massive assistance from Richard Viguerie and the right-wing political action committees he was able to win the Republican nomination over better-known candidates and to defeat a three-term incumbent in the general election.

Former Utah senator *Frank E. Moss*

* *

The Peking government does not love us for our beautiful eyes, nor would it respect us for cravenly yielding to its wishes: It is interested in conducting limited diplomatic business for one reason only—that we are an enemy of its enemy, the Soviet Union.

So it is fatuous to argue, as some China specialists do, that because we are mak-

ing the leaders in Peking "impatient" by frustrating their designs on Taiwan, they will run frantically into the embrace of Moscow. In fact, they will maintain whatever relations with us best serve their interests, and it matters little whether those relations are technically defined as de facto or de jure.

Former Under Secretary of State
George W. Ball

* *

Excerpts from the *ACORN Community Organizing Model* pamphlet recently distributed by VISTA:

—[Who to organize] Get a feeling of percentages, and where whites and blacks live . . . the first drives are going to be all white or predominantly white . . . Only go black first if you never want a white membership in the area, or if the area is all black.

—[A warning about secrecy] As a general rule of thumb in all phases of organizing, give on your agenda only when it doesn't matter, never give easily, and never give when it matters.

—You need to know what the competi-

tion is—to avoid them, freeze them out, and not tread on 'their' issues until after you have built your base.

—Our goal is building power . . . we are not interested in just making people like each other. People coalesce around power, anything else is social work acclimating people to what exists.

—Always be wary and careful with people who are seen as community leaders in the neighborhoods . . . some are good and some are bad, but they are always potential problems in terms of their agenda versus your potential organizations.

—Stress power . . . what organizations have done and what they can force people to do.

—Numbers are important because this is a mass organization directed at political power where might makes right.

—Opening the meeting with prayer produces order in the meeting, sets up certain expectations and gives legitimacy to your purpose.

SOURCES: *Califano*: June 2, 1978, *National Review Bulletin*. *Heintz*: June 1, 1978, *NANA* press release. *Hussein*: Made in Mogadishu and quoted in June 23, 1978, *National Review*. *Moss*: ADA fund-raising booklet, *A Citizen's Guide to the Right Wing*. *Ball*: Article in Aug. 24, 1977, *New York Times*. *ACORN*: Pamphlet available through Republican Study Committee, Room 433, Cannon Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20515.





Bill would freeze individuals' 15-cent rate

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Sen. John Glenn, D-Ohio, announced Tuesday he will introduce legislation to freeze first-class postage for individuals at 15 cents for four years.

The bill would extend the federal subsidy of nearly \$1 billion for the same period of time but require stricter accounting by the Postal Service.

The legislation was co-sponsored by Sens. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, and Jacob Javits, R-N.Y., and Glenn announced that

hearings will be held next week.

"In many ways, I consider this an interim bill," Glenn said. "It's now clear that the 1970 goal of Postal Service self-sufficiency probably will never be realized with required labor costs up and particularly with general support for keeping rural post offices and maintaining six-day-a-week deliveries."

Glenn said at a news conference that freezing the first-class postage rate for individuals at 15 cents — recently raised

from 13 cents — "would benefit the consumers — most notably those on fixed income — and help maintain a higher volume of mail which is needed to sustain the huge system for six-day-a-week delivery."

First-class postage for individuals would be established through a separate classification in the event of a general postage increase before September 1, Congress, however, would have to appropriate the loss of revenue to the Postal Service.

Colonel starts 'educate Ali' fund

FORT WORTH, Texas (UPI) — A former Vietnam POW Monday sent a \$1 check to the Louisville (Ky.) Courier Journal to establish what he called an "education fund" for Muhammad Ali.

Air Force Col. Robert B. Purcell, a former Louisville resident who spent 7½ years in a North Vietnam POW camp, said the fund was in response to Ali's 35-minute meeting Monday with Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev.

During the meeting Brezhnev made the former world heavyweight boxing

champion his "unofficial ambassador for peace with the United States."

Later, Ali said that on being presented to Brezhnev, "I gave him a hug and a kiss on both cheeks and he returned it."

Purcell, now stationed at Carswell Air Force Base, said Ali's conduct "makes a mockery of the yet-to-be-erected headstone for the 2 million Cambodians reportedly eliminated by the newest Communist government there."

The former POW said he hoped the fund "could be used to purchase the May 29 edi-

tion of U.S. News and World Report. The story documented Yuri Orlov's fate at the hands of Ali's new friend, Leonid Brezhnev."

According to the article, the Soviet dissident was sentenced May 17 to several years of hard labor and five years of internal exile.

Purcell said he did not have a "personal vendetta" against Ali. However, he said Ali was "a visible citizen and people pay attention to what he says, so he should be careful about what he says."

#213

July 19, 1978

CDO, IDA-NA

((This page and next excerpted
From:
John Leeder, 1211 NW 5 Street,
Calgary, Alberta T2M 3E6
CANADA. Recommended.))

Runestone

Results of the Second Annual North American Zine Poll:

Results were tabulated July 10 (I'd planned to close receptions at the end of June, but could not get to the tabulations, so accepted entries up to the 10th.) 56 ballots were tabulated; not a large number compared to the number of postal players, but an improvement on last year's 19. One unsigned ballot was not counted; neither are any arriving after tabulation (one, so far).

On the main listing, I'm including only zines with 5 or more mentions. The format is as follows: placing-average-NAME(no. of votes)-placing last year. "nz" means "new zine" (not listed last year)

- 1-9.07-BRUTUS BULLETIN (15)-nz
- 2-8.95-LIES, DECEIT & NEFARIOUS
SCHEMES (22)-nz
- 3-8.81-DIPLOMACY DIGEST (18)-nz
- 4-3.56-FOL SI FIE (8)-13
- 5-8.52-RUNESTONE (24)-1
- 6-8.43-CLAW & FANG (28)-5
- 7-8.17-THE MIXUMAXU GAZETTE (18)-12
- 8-7.90-ELECTRA GLIDE BLUE (10)-7
- 9-7.64-BUSHWACKER (11)-19
- 10-7.54-DIPLOMACY WORLD (24)-14
- 11-7.44-THE NINTH CIRCLE (8)-nz
- 12-7.43-CUM GRANO SALIS (7)-nz
- 12-7.43-TERRAN (7)-nz
- 14-7.25-LIBERTERREAN (10)-nz
- 15-7.17-LILAF (9)-nz
- 16-6.79-EVERYTHING... (14)-18
- 17-6.71-BEAUCOUILLON (7)-nz
- 18-6.69-BROUHAHA (13)-2
- 19-6.64-DIMAN (11)-3
- 19-6.64-RURITANIA (11)-34
- 21-6.60-THE MASTER MACHIAVELLIAN (5)-27
- 22-6.55-COMMAND (16)-17
- 23-6.38-GRAUSTARK (8)-4
- 24-6.36-AGAINST THE ODDS (14)-nz
- 25-6.35-St. GEORGE & THE DRAGON (10)-16
- 26-6.22-URF DURFAL (9)-22
- 27-6.13-ARRAKIS (8)-38
- 27-6.13-SUICIDE (19)-nz
- 29-6.07-THE WARMONGER (15)-45
- 30-6.06-THE DRAGON & THE LAMB (8)-28
- 31-5.75-THE POUCH (8)-23
- 32-5.71-BOAST (7)-nr (not rated, but
definitely not a new zine!)

- 33-5.64-THE PODUNK NEWS (14)-20
- 34-5.60-BREW & REEFER (8)-nz
- 34-5.60-REBUS SIO STANTIBUS (5)-37
- 36-5.19-ZEPPELIN (8)-40
- 37-5.00-A.D.A.G. (7)-36
- 37-5.00-SPECULUM (8)-42
- 39-4.83-THE DIPLOMATIC JOURNAL (6)-nz
- 40-4.70-ZIRKAST, THE PREDAWN LEFT-
IST (10)-31
- 41-4.43-BLACK HOLE (7)-6
- 42-4.25-CENTURION (8)-39
- 43-3.91-THE TETRACUSPID (11)-26
- 44-3.67-THE WATERGATE (9)-11
- 45-3.33-CARRLEON (6)-nz

The following zines received fewer than 5 votes: DOLCHSTOSS (non-N.A.) 10, NEW STATSMAN (non-N.A.) 10, SLOBINPOLIT ZHURNAL 10, STORMBRINGER 9, ETHIL THE FROG (non-N.A.) 9, BATHOCHE 7.5, NON SEQUITUR 7.5, TOP OF THE STRETCH (non-Dip) 7, BUFFALO DIPLOMACY 6, HOOSIER ARCHIVES 6, THE SWAMP 6, YGGDRASIL CHRONICLE 6, TRICERATOPS 6, 1901 & ALL THAT (non-N.A.) 6, DAS GROPESWILL 6, DIPLOMACY REVIEW 5.5, PACIFIC DIPLOMACY/ORIGINS WEST 5.5, FRONT DE LIBERATION DU DIPLOMACY 5.5, WHY ME? 5.3, COSTAGUANA 5, FALLOVIA 5, FACE TO FACE 5, ITALIANO PHOBE 4.7, ATLANTIS 4.5, EFGIART 4.5, MORAVIAN GAZETTE 4.5, BALTIC SEA 4, KAISSA 4, BURM (non-N.A.) 4, DECK OF MANY THINGS 4, WARGAMER'S INFORMATION 4, NARSIL 4, (continued overleaf)

(cont'd)

WESTERN STAR DIPLOMACY (SUNDAY WESTERN STAR FREE PRESS) 3.7, SYA-DASTI-SYA-NASTI-SYA-DAVAK-TAY-YASKA 3.7, PINK DRAGON 3, DER FLIEGENDE HOLLANDER 3, NORTH COUNTRY GAMERS 3, THE IMPERIUM 3, MAGAZINE, DIPLOMACY, POSTAL 2.8, BURN & PILLAGE 2.8, NEW WORLD FINSTER 2, DIPPY 2, EMPIRE 1, BUZZARD'S BREATH 1, BLACK EMERALD (not published yet) 11.

Results of the First Annual North American Gamesmasters Poll:

Because there are many more GMs than zines, and many one-game GMs, each individual GM tended to get fewer mentions than the zines received in the zine poll. I therefore listed on the main list all GMs receiving two or more mentions.

Since there was no earlier GM poll, there's no comparison with last year's ranking, so I haven't bothered to list this year's placing either. Count, if you care. The format is: average-name-(number of mentions)

10.0 - Steve McLendon (2)
9.50 - Fred Davis (3)
9.33 - John Michalski (6)
9.33 - Don Horton (9)
9.25 - Robert Sergeant (4)
9.03 - John Leeder (12)
8.65 - Jerry Jones (10)
8.60 - Steve Heinowski (5)
8.50 - Herb Barents (4)
8.25 - Robert Bryan Lipton (4)
8.11 - Dennis Agosta (9)
8.00 - George Parkanyi (2)
8.00 - Michael Boggs (3)
8.00 - David Bunke (2)
8.00 - Hal Naus (3)
7.75 - Drew McGee (2)
7.70 - Lee Kendter, Sr. (5)
7.67 - Cal White (3)
7.50 - Randolph Smyth (2)
7.50 - Doug Reif (2)
7.50 - Konrad Baumeister (2)
7.50 - Alan Rowland (6)
7.42 - Craig Reges (6)
7.43 - Jim Bumpas (6)
7.14 - Bob Beardsley (7)
7.00 - Doug Hayward (2)
7.00 - Dave Forte (2)
7.00 - Bob Hartwig (4)
6.89 - Andy Cook (9)
6.67 - Alan Moon (3)
6.33 - Dave Reynolds (3)
6.20 - Russell Fox (5)
6.00 - Brad Hessel (4)
5.67 - Dick Trtek (3)
5.50 - Robert Sacks (2)
5.00 - David Truman (2)
5.00 - Gil Heiger (2)
5.00 - Bernie Oaklyn (2)
4.75 - Cliff Mann (5)
4.67 - Wayne Callahan (3)
4.50 - Tad Lawrence (2)

4.25 - Roger Oliver (5)
2.50 - Fred Brenner (2)
2.00 - Ben Grossman (2)
2.00 - Roy Smith (3)
1.67 - Richard Kovalcik, Jr. (3)

Singles (one mention apiece): 9: Dave Head, John Weswig, Doug Beyerlein, Bob Throckmorton; 8: Conrad F. von Lietzke, David Grabar; 7: Brian Johnston, Paul Novak, Dave Kadlecak, Ray Heuer, Tony Watson, Tom Gould, Ira Rosen; 6: Tom Mirti, Paul Stevens, Scott Hightower, Ken St. Andre; 5: Chris Schleicher, Greg Costikyan; 4: Rick Loomis, John Mirassou, Dave Schwartz; 3: Fred Winter, Mark Matuschak, Len Lakofka, Ken Mei.

Musings to Fill Up the Page:

-The fact that the top three zines, and 9 of the top 20, are new zines, bodes well for the future of the N.A. hobby. I hope that the high placing of these zines will encourage people to subscribe to them.

-I think that the separation of the zine and GM categories was a success. Many top-notch GMs publish warehouse zines with not much to offer the reader who's not playing. These people are able to receive recognition for their excellence in the GMing department; I believe this has occurred.

-Please, no commiserations over RUNESTONE's fall from the #1 spot. I fully expected it, and am surprised it did not slip further.

-Congratulations to Randolph Smyth on pubbing NA's top established zine!

Traditional Letter to the Editor Dept.:

Dear Editor:

I have been playing postal diplomacy for a number of years and have frequently come up against one particularly miserable player named Ron Kelly. Some of my equally unruly postal "friends" have recently been hinting that Ron Kelly doesn't really exist and is only an assumed name used by a group of organized diplomacy nasties to victimize innocent players. This blatant unfairness upsets me. It's often said that, "If you see it in Arrakis it is so, so please tell me; am I being victimized?, is Ron Kelly for real?

Signed, Peggy

Dear Peggy:

Peggy, your postal "friends" are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical world outside of the gaming community. They do not accept anything for what it is but want to create a far greater illusion about it. They think that there's a crooked scheme behind everything, ready for them to expose with their twisted probing minds. But all minds, Peggy, whether they be GM's or player's are basically pure of intent. In this great hobby of ours some limited internal conniving exists but pales beside the boundless honesty and fairness which typifies the diplomat and is capable of overcoming the coercion of the few twisted elements.

Yes, Peggy there is a Ron Kelly. He exists as certainly as the game-long alliances, unsolicited supports, and devoted puppetry you know and implement to give your playing its highest level of excellence and enjoyment. Alas! However dreary would be the hobby if there were no Ron Kelly. It would be as dreary as if there were no Peggy. There would be no innocent faith then, no honest intentions, no basic gullibility to make playing this game tolerable. There would be no enjoyment except in basic movement tactics. The everlasting thrill of playing up the innocent "ally" to his predetermined doom would be extinguished.

Not believe in the existence of Ron Kelly! You might as well not believe in the obvious honesty of all diplomacy players! You might get together your own secret multi-player alliance and try to expose the rival organization by stabbing this "Ron Kelly" but if "he" retaliated what would that prove? That is no sure sign of an organized gang-reflex. The best players in this hobby are those who neither player nor GM can anticipate. Have you ever tried to stab an ally? Of course not! But that's no proof they're not there. Anybody can dream up some farfetched theory of the existence of a multi-player cross-game alliance so long as there's no effective way of proving or disproving the possibility.

You could stab randomly and note the various reactions, but there's that unpredictability of the cruel world of diplomacy, which not the trickiest player nor the efforts of a multi-player cross-game alliance can resolve. Only straightforward honesty, simple and plain, such as you practise (and practise) can penetrate that unpredictability and reach the ultimate conclusion. Is it true? Ah, Peggy in all this hobby there is nothing else truer and more certain! Everyone else out there you come across welcomes your approach with knife in hand.

No Ron Kelly! Certainly he exists! This game or the next or one three years from now you can be sure that he'll still be thriving and will continue to singularly delight in victimizing you.

DAHDADATADADADAHDADATADADADAHDADATADAADAADAAAAABUUUUUUWHUUUUUP

The greatest loss should Quebec decide to separate would have to be the Stanley Cup.

LETTERS

CRAIG REGES

(writing on 2 xeroxed 8½x14 maps of the immediate Washington, DC area in response to Rod Walker's letter printed here last issue.)

Well, you see if you can find Oaklyn. I can't. I have definite proof that there is a Bernie Oaklyn. I have no proof that Oaklyn did not use the pseudonym "Tretick" at some time. I have suggested a simple way for Bernie to clear himself. I don't know what will become of it. By the way, I asked Bernie and the "Changing of the guard" is the same as the coastal crawl. I outlawed that in my house rules when I started GMing but I never heard of the other term for it.

PS Bernie is getting back all letters he sends to Walt Buchanan. PPS Do I have permission to copy, distribute, etc., the Rod W. letter?

((Craig received a personal reply upon receipt to the effect that I'd understood the term 'changing of the guard' in a player-context, and giving permission to reprint Rod's letter; I'm sure Rod won't mind, as his point is to warn the hobby as far as possible. Craig has been a consistent defender of Oaklyn based on the latter's contentiousness in Craig's games and Oaklyn being admitted as a guest GM in Don Horton's CLAW & FANG. The latter point is correct, but of the three C&F games I've been in, all but the newest one just started have fallen to Don when the initial guest GM dropped from sight. Thus I don't value that particular endorsement as much as I once would have.))

GALEN WORKMAN

Congratulations on your finish in Leeder's poll! Your place was deserved, I think. I hope that the psychological compensation makes up for the typing and writing and stapling!

((Yes. And, it is vindication of my early idea that it wouldn't be that hard to put out a fast zine WITH lots of filler to boot. With my new subtitle the rest of this year being "North America's Number One DipZine", I'm sure I'll motivate other publishers to plug the Leeder Poll a lot next year to unseat me.))

JOHN BOARDMAN

234 E 19 St., Brooklyn, NY 11226

Dear John,

5 August 1978

BB #17 arrived today. I think you misunderstand my position. I know what happens to people who think that peace is better than war, and therefore I most firmly believe that war is better than peace. To judge from your views on weapons and militancy, I know that this is also your view. Why, then, should you act as if there were a major difference of opinion between us?

Pacifists themselves know how thoroughly they were defeated in the recent national dialog over the war against Vietnam. I commend to your attention the essay of the Pacifist leader Sam Brown, in The Legacy of Vietnam. Brown said: "There is little reason to believe that mass dissent could be readily organized if we did enter a comparable situation."

I do not consider support of war to be "a lot of bull", or arguments in favor of it to be "patent absurdity". Remember, total support of America's war effort is required of every American, and some Americans who felt otherwise paid for it very dearly.

Sincerely,



((Not as dearly as those who fought, although I'll grant that there may be some sacrifice involved in giving up a few hours of campus revelries to go protest something.

The Brown quote shows the real absurdity of your stance. The reason that the US wouldn't/couldn't even send small arms ammunition to Angola despite Ford's brave talk is the fact that there is SO MUCH anti-war feeling that any President doing ANYTHING today remotely involving military action would in fact be thrown out of office faster than Agnew.))

LETTERS

3531 E. Wilton #C
Long Beach CA 90804
August 9, 1978

GALEN WORKMAN

I have been staring at the typewriter for five minutes while trying to think of a literate structure for this letter. Since anything I put down and mail to you tends to appear in BB, I find myself paralyzed. It is too late to be logical, and I am afraid that if I let my mind go I might admit that I am a closet conservative or worse. Well, I am feeding the editor with the enclosed items, so perhaps this note is safe afterall.

The cartoon and letter on the baby are two of the better comments I've seen. Since both items are in local papers, perhaps most of the BB subscribers have not read them.

As far as I am concerned a test-tube baby has always meant an artificially concocted child made from adding chemicals together. Therefore I cannot understand what the present fuss is about. No genetic engineering or other God-playing was involved with the operation in England. The procedure sounds like a simple plumbing adjustment to me, but I guess my off-beat sensibilities make ~~me~~ a police dispatcher instead of the editor of People magazine.

My offered message on Proposition 13 assumes that the nation really cares about that bill. We are told in California that politicians all over the country are readying similar proposals, but I have no idea if that is true. While I offer my article as liberal whining over the passage of 13, many conservatives opposed the initiative on the grounds that it would centralize more power in Sacramento. They were right of course. For example, under the state revenue-sharing, bail-out (read: "MONEY") law the local agencies cannot even raise the wages for their employees without state approval. Politics bores many people, though, so hold off on my article if you think that BB needs a rest from the liberal vs. conservative jabs.

Both you and Mark Berch report that you have been branded as "such a right-wing nut that I wouldn't sit down at a table with" by Bob Lipton. My immediate reaction was that I would even sit down to dinner with you. However, knowing your old-fashioned methods and outlook, I might hire a food taster just to be safe.

Incidentally, I remain willing to run an outrider to BB, but I think we had a failure to communicate. I was under the impression that you were expecting without eagerness requests from new players to start a new game. I was offering my services to keep your work load down. If there is no need for another game to begin, fine.

My access to a xerox machine is limited, I admit. However, at 3¢ a copy at the local stationery store, xerox won't be a major expense. Postage actually would be the most costly item. I am ready to pay the 15¢ x 7.

Enough of my babbling. It's time to curl up with the latest issue of Diplomacy Digest.

Best -
Galen

((A good choice.

On the games, I wasn't looking forward to the wave of game requests for just that reason: too much additional work. Anything further would slow down my overall performance, which is my one real claim to fame. I won't sacrifice that. Fortunately, unlike the result Craig Reges had with AGAINST THE ODDS, the wave failed to materialize. As long as you're willing to do the work to push out a game every two weeks, I'll be glad to let you do so under my auspices, as a service to those of my readers "waiting in the wings" for openings. All three of my own games should end before Thanksgiving, but why make them wait? Just don't drop out on them!

On Bob Lipton, it is hard to say whether he was in a bad mood, or looking for hobby feuds (a point he made in a nearby paragraph), or resented my comparison of Begin to Arrafat (I see from Urf Durfal's puns that Lipton is Jewish), or is simply a hard-core NYC fan resentful of my uninhibited anti-NYC biases: maybe all of that, maybe none. He and I represent different constituents and outlooks, that's all there really is to it. Personally, I see people well to the right of ME, so judge that I am only somewhat right of center--just more honest and outspoken about things. Imagine yourself growing up in NYC, however: from such a viewpoint as that, I really DO appear somewhere between Ronald Reagan and Darth Vader....

On Proposition 13, I too will presume someone/anyone(?) cares. I care. As I said earlier, it is likely that the wrong cuts will be made at first. However, that doesn't mean that no cuts should be made, but rather, that after this first very necessary step of shrinking the tax pie has been made, it now becomes a matter of cutting the right things, rather than whether to cut or not. Thus in your PD example, administration cuts are made at the bottom, when in fact it is not the stenographer that should be cut, but rather, among the overly paid senior "administrators" that cuts need be made.

I fully agree on the test-tube-baby business. It must be just the press' natural inclination for sensationalism. Every now and then they take a cue from NATIONAL ENQUIRER and jump into such extravaganzas over nonsensical things. But maybe we should be glad for slow news days? The cartoon was cute, though, so I'll include it somewhere.

Your letters tend to get printed because they are literate, relevant to something or other, and have little enough competition. I print almost everything I get, since that way I can both answer the letters and get some filler out of the effort to type them. Most Dipzines being what they are, one letter and one postcard-worth of stuff per issue would pretty well make up an entire letters section, and a fairly hefty one at that. I try to do better. Really, xeroxing is this big break. I can put out as hefty an issue as the PO will allow (Last issh was a sheet TOO big, really, but passed) with a bit less effort than the poor folks who have to splatter themselves with purple ink all night to put out two sheets without illustrations. I admire their commitment...)) J.M.

SEEN ON BUMPER STICKERS: Air Traffic Controllers Get You Down Easier.
Cowboys Stay On Longer.
Geologists Find It Harder.

SEEN ON T SHIRT: I'M A VIRGIN (This is a very old shirt)

AN AGGIE MOTHER WRITING TO HER SON

Dear son:

Just a few lines to let you know I'm still alive. I am writing this letter slowly as I know you can't read fast. You won't know the house when you come home....we've moved.

It was alot of trouble moving. The most difficult thing was the bed. You see, the men wouldn't let me take it in the taxi. It wouldn't have been so bad if your father hadn't been in it at the time. About your father....he's cutting grass at the cemetery.

Your sister got herself engaged to that fellow she's been going with. He gave her a beautiful ring with three stones missing.

Our neighbor started raising pigs. We got the wind of it this morning. I got my appendix out, and a dishwasher put in. There was a washer machine in the new house when we moved in but it isn't working too well. Last week I put four shirts in it, pulled the chain and I haven't seen the shirts since.

Your little brother came home from school yesterday morning. All the boys at his school have got new suits. We can't afford to buy him a new suit but we're going to buy him a hat and let him stand at the window.

Your sister Mary had a baby this morning. I haven't heard yet if it was a boy or girl so I don't know if you're an aunt or uncle.

Uncle Dick was drowned last week in a vat of whiskey in the Dublin Brewery. Four of his workmates dived in to save him but he fought them off bravely. We cremated his body and it took three days to put out the fire.

Kate is now working in a factory in Birmingham. She's been there for six weeks. I'm sending her some clean underwear as she says she's been in the same shift since she got there.

Your father didn't have too much to drink at Xmas. I put a bottle of castor oil in his pint of scotch and it kept him going until New Years Day. I went to the doctor on Thursday, your father came with me. The doctor put a small glass tube in my mouth and told me to keep it shut for ten minutes. Your father offered to buy it from him.

It only rained twice last week, first four days, and then for three. On Monday it was so windy that one of our chickens laid the same eggs four times.

We had a letter from the undertaker. He said if the last instalment wasn't paid on your grandmother within seven days....up she comes.

Your loving Mother

P.S. I was going to send you \$10.00 but I already sealed the envelope.

An editorial contributed by Galea Wickham
on "Proposition 13"

3921 E. 1st Ave. Suite 100
Long Beach, Calif. 90804

Those Californians who voted for Proposition 13 are still vigorously pummeling themselves on the back. Although the effects of that amendment are damaging the societal body, the self-satisfied moans of the psychotic voters still overwhelm the cautious voices. Hatchet jobs on governments' budgets are being ordered by fanatic officials who claim to act "in the spirit of Jarvis."

Unfortunately the members of this jihad are not limited to one cuckoo's nest. Professional politicians and professional nonpoliticians happily march side by side throughout the state. Normally responsible leaders have given up seeking intelligent answers to high taxes and have instead voluntarily succumbed to the delirium.

A few weeks ago Howard Jarvis appeared on the Tonight Show, the invaluable litmus paper test of public opinion. Johnny Carson was graciously complimentary during the interview, and "people's hero" or similar phrase was Jarvis's billing. About then our realities separated.

Jarvis explained how his initiative legislation was designed to cut the fat from government. Not one policeman or fireman had been laid off due to Proposition 13's passage, he said. Not a library was closed, either. In fact, Jarvis said it just was not true that one government service would suffer. The wise voters had passed a genuine miracle bill.

Yet the front page of the Southwest Section in the next day's L.A. Times told of police layoffs in the City of Compton and library cutbacks in another city. At least it did in my world, I do not know what Jarvis's paper contained.

In my reality the Long Beach Police Department, the employer for which I still work, laid off stenographers and fingerprint men. The policemen must now take the time to print their reports instead of dictating them, and only a murder or other spectacular crime will have a laboratory technician respond after 5:00 p.m.

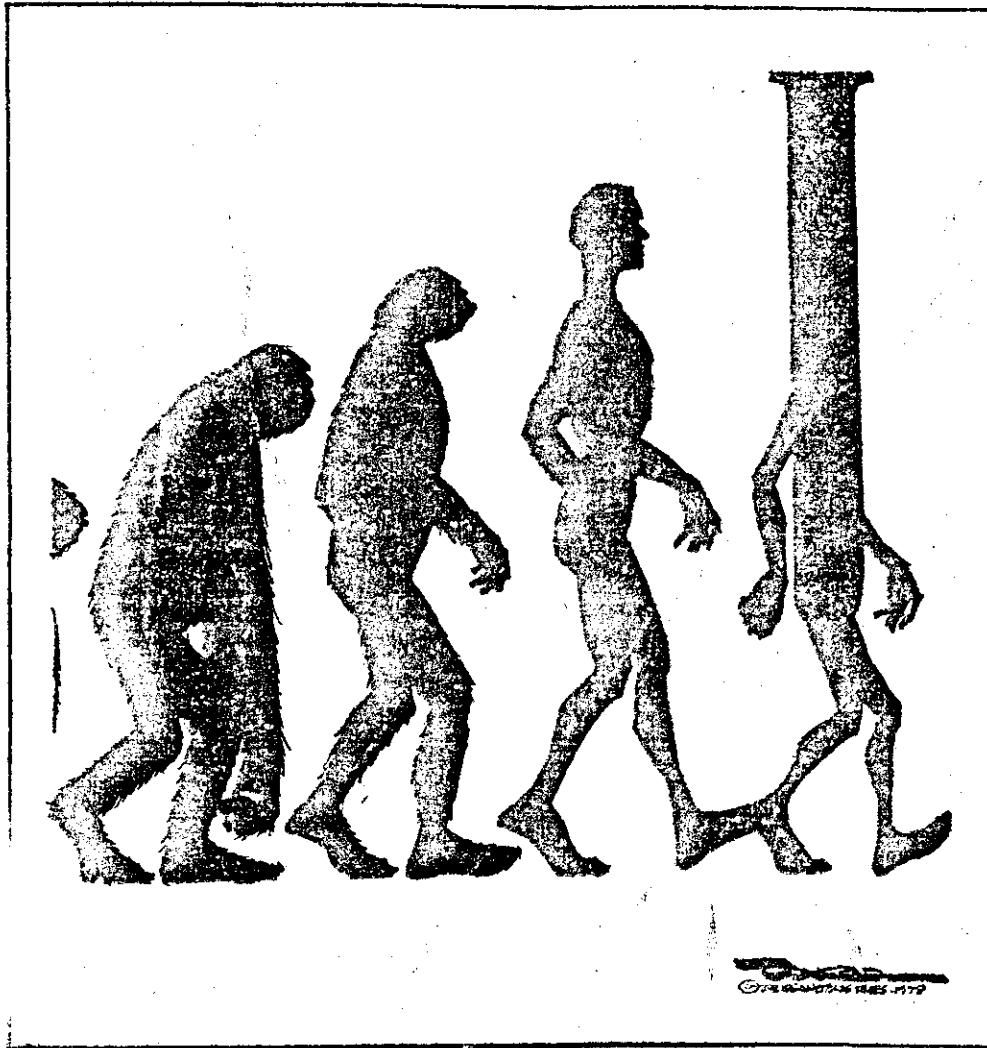
I thought I perceived that the beaches are raked less often in July than they were in June. I read that my city no longer has a detoxification program even though it handled drunks more cheaply than the police can jail them. My world is full of these cutbacks.

Instead of the sobbing narrative of a widow forced by taxes to see her \$150,000 house which was bought for \$10,000 in 1945, my newspapers now carry different human interest fare. They report on the \$3.50-an-hour teaching aides who are fired from their only job in five years because funds have been cut. The sob sisters seem indifferent to the section of town they visit. So long as misfortune caused by the evil government is existent, they will have their daily teary copy. Yet even in my illusion no one has investigated the ultimate costs of paying that ex-aide welfare or the other indirect expenses.

Clearly the People's Hero or I am having trouble separating reality from dreams. Either there are tremendous pits into which local governments have been dumping the taxes or else the budgets cannot be cut without the loss of services following.

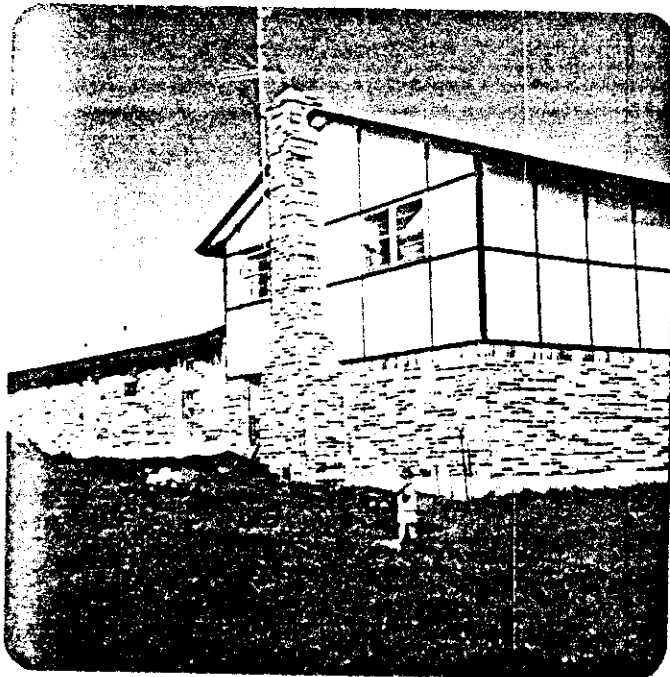
In case my universe ultimately turns out to be the real one, however, the apostles of Jarvis need not worry that they will be locked up for their madness. Vital services in my world have been curtailed. The nice men in the pretty white coats were laid off last week.

((For the record, the editor supports the principle of Proposition 13, for reasons outlined earlier. However, I don't mind running dissent on this, since I feel people who would rather pay higher taxes for extra police stenographers and welfare jobs are entitled to say so. Send in your views.))

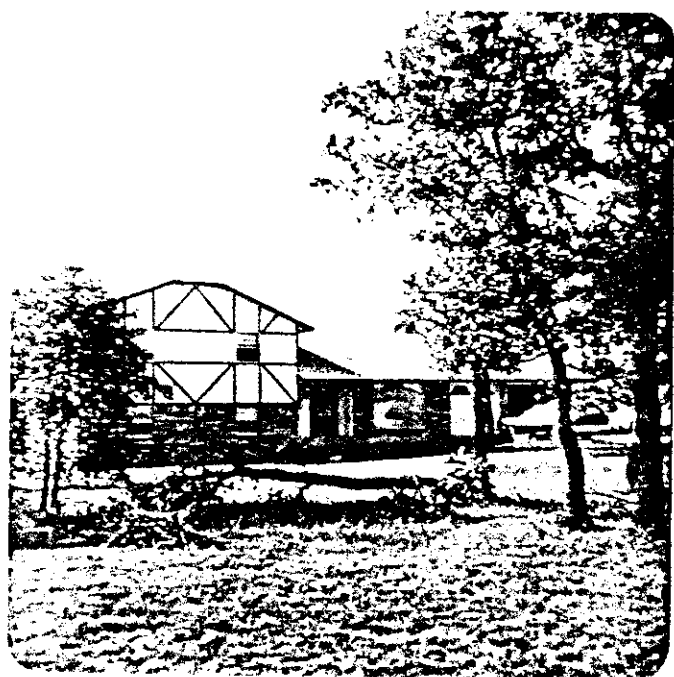


Here it is, folks: Oleo Acres, the cheaper spread...
2285 ft², 2½-2¾ acres, >2 yrs old, \$63000 in Okla.

BACK



"If you've got it, flaunt it" -- Braniff Airlines
FRONT



Child of the future

In the future, autobiographies could start off with "My ovulation day was a bright and sunny Jan. 12, 2019. However, it occurred in a dark test tube on the third shelf of the El Reproduction Plaza in Los Angeles South. Meanwhile, back in Los Angeles North, my father was pacing the floor and my mother was working the calculator. She finally looked up and smiled when she learned the birthday of her first born would be at 7:09 on Sept. 12, 2019, a Virgo boy with blue eyes and reddish hair. Now she could go ahead and plan the blue color scheme for my layette.

Already, my father knew his son would be a glutton for detail, a pernickety eater, an A-1 student and extremely critical. Of course, they could have arranged for an Aquarius politician or even a Taurus dictator. It was the first spat he and my mother had, so finally I was decided by the toss of a peso. Mother had wanted the Virgo because she knew they were also witty and heaven only knew the world needed some laughs. Besides that it wouldn't interfere with St. Jarvis Day or Soledad's day off.

Mother has told me many times of the horrible day I was nearly aborted when the nurse slipped and cracked my test tube. For days they waited in agony. When the day of days arrived my father didn't rush her to the El Reproduction Plaza, and she didn't have to pack her bag like her great grandmother did.

The story I like best was that she never regretted going to the El Reproduction Plaza instead of the Cloning Center that turned out the little monster next door. The only question that arose was whether to put the candles on the cake on my ovulation day or my birthday.

ELLIS ANDREWS
Long Beach

(Courtesy of Dave Grabar. I hope this issue gets through to him better than my earlier tri

WARGAMES WEST '78 a review of the Fresno California Wargaming Convention by
David Grabar Aug 6, 23, 1978

First off, let's state that the Glass III in Los Angeles, Calif (200 miles away) destroyed this convention. It was set up to hold 2,000-3,000 people and I estimate there were about 500 people. For those who attended, it was fantastic. There were helpers to handle 2,000. Thus, the amount of

organization and control was beyond belief. I have attended 9 conventions across the United States since 1974 and have found this one to be the best.

The convention offered players tournaments in D&D, Kingmaker, Diplomacy, Realm of Yomi and various boardgames. Also available was a computer tank game (free of charge), 8 miniature games for every time era, movies (Jaws, Zulu, Battle of the Bulge, etc...), and a free play area. Each area had ample judging and organization.

And now, for the Diplomacy Results: We had 20 players--Each player had to play a minimum of 4 games and could never play the same country twice. He received 1 point for each center he owned and 1-7 points on how he placed when the game was over (for center control). The number of games played was divided by the total points and a percentage was obtained. The highest percentage won the tournament.

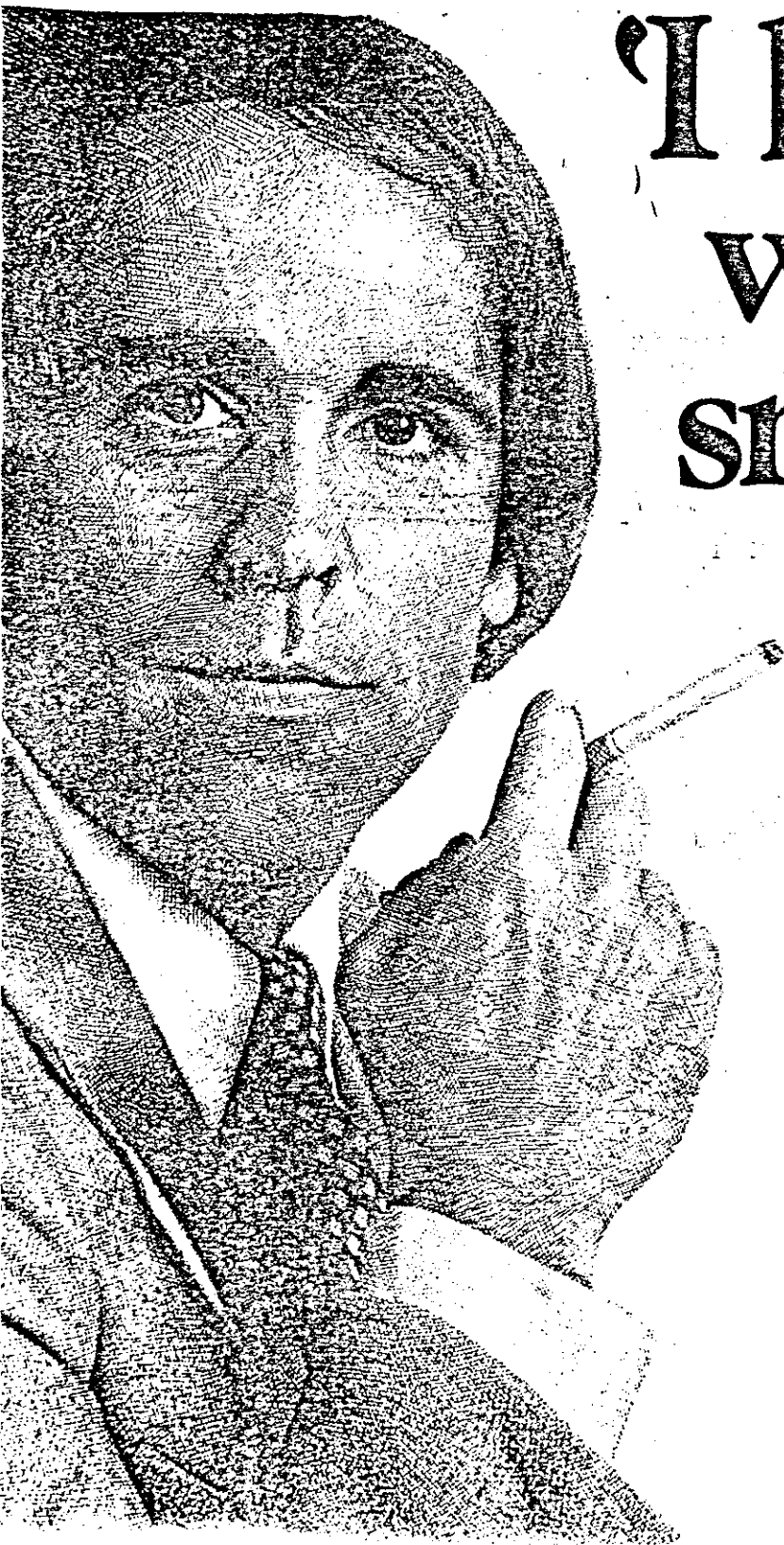
STANDINGS:

1st-14.25 Jake Biever	11th-9.33 W.R. Rives
2nd-12.70 Ron Brown	12th-9.00 Bob Muckells
3rd-11.30 Jerry St. Germain	13th-8.25 Bill Mazon
4th-11.12 David Grabar	14th-8.00 Greg Lyle
5th-10.50 John Mills	15th-7.00 Chuck Holland
--10.50 Pierre Barral	16th-6.50 Bill Bryg
7th-10.25 Dave Bryg	17th-6.37 Charles Bourbeau
8th-10.00 Tim Carroll	18th-4.66 Dave Marconi
--10.00 Steve Hartman	19th-1.00 Bill Armstrong
10th- 9.62 Char Ransom (the only female)	

The tournament was decided in a game where Jerry St. Germain (Italy), Jake Biever (Austria) and Dave Grabar (France) were playing. At that point, Jake Biever had 1st, Jerry St. Germain 2nd and Dave Grabar 4th. The plan was to give Jake a little room and then pounce on him. But, Jerry sent a fleet into the WMed which upset Dave. He sent a fleet to the TYR. Thus, a war broke out between Italy and France and Austria went on to hold a strong position and win the tournament.

***A side note--Jake Biever had only played in 5 Diplomacy Games prior to the tournament. Oh for shame. But, it goes to show that a new player has as much a chance to win as an experienced player. In fact more so. For, the experienced players know who each other are and play cutthroat. Jake found himself advised by the best. And, in the end, no one could ever get a chance to stab Jake. Congratulations Jake on a job well done. My eyes are opened!

The Wargaming Society in Fresno is something for you to go and see. The miniature collection has over 30,000 figures from every possible era. They have over 50 members. I only wish I lived in Fresno to join the group. Other Wargaming societies were represented, but, I never had a chance to meet them. One I know of, from Berkeley, I will mention. I don't really know their name, but, their reputation is widespread. When they meet, they all dress up like knights of old. The women can dress as fair maidens or warriors. The traditional garb is worn by all members of the family. To be KING, you have to fight each challenger and win. (This is the real thing--they take out wooden clubs and swords and go to it.) If you make a killing blow, you win the bout. They also told me they challenge other clubs to a fight. At one time there have been over 80 men in a field fighting each other with clubs and swords (and blunt pointed arrows). One side had a castle (bale of hay) and the other side attacked it. It sounds like fun. But I'm not doing it.



**'I know
why I
smoke.**

**I'm an
asshole!**

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Photos are from last year's convention. A rousing game of D&D (*above*); The Society for Creative Anachronism giving a realistic demonstration (*upper right*); and mulling over DIPLOMACY (*lower right*).

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