

OCT 20 1978

THE BRUTUS BULLETIN

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NORTH AMERICA'S NUMBER ONE DIPZINE

('78 Leeder Poll)

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The BRUTUS BULLETIN is a newsletter of postal Diplomacy produced by John Michalski, Route 10, Box 526 Q, Moore, Oklahoma 73165. Bi-weekly issues are available for 25¢ each, 12/\$3, 20/\$5 and the like. Contributions of all kinds are very welcome.

GAME OPENINGS-GAME OPENINGS-GAME OPENINGS

SPECIAL: A TEN-DAY deadline game (or two?) has three takers as of Wednesday. Fees are \$3 without sub, \$2 with, \$1 if you already sub but have not yet been a starter in a BB game. Calls will be accepted, and black press will be up to a vote. Countries are by lot, except that Austria and Italy can be volunteered for. Separations other than W'ol will be by majority vote ONLY.

REGULAR: These were supposed to wait until November, but I'm getting some 'sooners' already asking in, so heck, I might as well open them up. Two 'regular' BB two-week-deadline games are open. NO CALLS with orders are accepted unless I specifically say (such as in case of errors found). Game fee is \$2 plus sub, but gamefee is waived (if you sign up before Dec 1) AND have not previously started in a BB game. ALL separations will be by majority vote only. BLACK PRESS WILL BE ALLOWED!. Be forewarned! (Countries by lot except It & Aust. as stated above).

STEVE McLENDON didn't print his article about the female astronauts (what they're really like) in this latest DRAGON & the LAMB, so I guess it's still coming up. Try a copy from him at Box 57066, Webster, Texas 77598. HAS OPENINGS!

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO NEWER SUBBERS: If you asked for a game opening when you signed up and there were none, do not expect me to remember to list you now for the new ones! ANYONE wanting in must specifically ask now. (Sorry some of you didn't get that.) I hope this will be clearer than my first statements.

FOR SALE (still): Over four pounds of assorted Dipzines, RUNESTONES, MIXUMAXU GAZETTES, some DIPLOMACY DIGESTS, LIBERTERREANSs, others. Here's a good way to gain a lot to read, cheaply, for some newcomer (older hands usually already subscribe to these). \$2.20, postpaid. Please buy these, as I've got them already sealed, stamped, and ready to mail now!

SEND IN YOUR OWN AD. BB will run it free.

To bring you the news in full without too much work for me, here, as a hobby service, is virtually the full text of DIPLOMACY REVIEW # 7-9, J. Jones, ed. To join & vote, send \$2 to

This year is quickly coming to a close and I for one had better get on the stick if I'm going to get everything done (I'd settle for near completion at this point) that I had intended to do along ago last January.

It is comforting to find out that Craig Reges has done his part and that the Novice package is ready to be put in the mails. You may receive this package for 28 cents in postage. I have not seen it myself but with my talks with Craig it seems to be a comprehensive collection and Craig says that there will be a continuing update and additions to the package. Publisher's with a game opening should contact Craig too, so that he can add your name to the Game Openings portion of the package. Craigs address is 1501 Higgins Hall Western University Macomb, IL 61455.

Only one person's membership expires with this issue and that is: J. Scott Jones. Should he wish to renew or should you wish to extend your membership send your two bucks to Bill Young PO Box 907 Clearfield, PA 16830.

With the elections coming up I have been asked to print the Constitution for the IDA/NA. So here goes:

PREAMBLE

The IDA is a diplomacy hobby service organization whose purpose is to make the diplomacy hobby more fun and more interesting for all North American kiplomacy players. We hope to cooperate with other organizations worldwide. The members elect officers who will administer the organization and make all decisions in accordance with the constitution.

MEMBERSHIP

Any person who plays has played diplomatic games is a member when he/she pays dues set by the Council.

THE COUNCIL

The Council is composed of seven officers; President, Treasurer, Ombudsman, Periodicals Editor, Special Projects Editor, Canadian Projects Chairman, and United States Projects Chairman. Each office is held by a different individual who shall be elected to a 1 year term beginning on January 1.

I. President

The President is responsible for the day-to-day functioning of the organization and coordination of Council proceedings. The President must be of legal age in his state or providence of residence.

II. Treasurer

The Treasurer is responsible for the day-to-day fiscal operation of the organization and maintenance of the membership list. The Treasurer must be of legal age in his state or providence of residence. Semiannually the Treasurer will submit a budget. The dates which budgets shall be submitted shall be February 1 for the fiscal period beginning April 1, and an August 1 for the period beginning on October 1. Each item of the budget must be approved by a 5/7th vote of the Council.

III. Ombudsman

The Ombudsman will mediate disputes, receive complaints and investigate irregularities. He may make recommendations to the parties involved to assist them. He may consult the Council on the recommendations.

IV. Periodicals Editor

The Periodicals Editor is responsible for the regular production of a magazine or new, Council doings, etc, titled DIPLOMACY REVIEW and issued six times each year at intervals of between 7 and 9 weeks.

V. Special Projects Editor

The Special Projects Editor is responsible for production of at least one special publication per year.

VI. Project Chairmen

The projects Chairman shall be elected regionally to be responsible for those projects assigned by the Council to be accomplished on a regional basis.

Any Council member may call for vote on any issue but no sooner than 21 days after the mailing of the question. Council members shall debate this item by means of multicopied letters/magazine within this 21 day period. The President shall collect the votes and print the results.

The Council may create or abolish any project. The Council may designate a coordinator or similar officer to chair any project it creates.

ELECTIONS

Elections must be held at the end of every calendar year. The Periodical Editor informs each nominee. Those who accept may submit a brief campaign statement which will appear in the same periodical issue as the ballot. For each office there will be the option to write-in the name of a candidate not on the ballot or oppose all those running for an office(s).

A 4/7th vote of the Council may call a special election of all Council members.

VACANCIES

If the office of President becomes vacant, the Ombudsman will be Acting President until a new President is elected.

If any other Council seat falls vacant, the Council may unanimously appoint a new eligible member. Otherwise a special election will be held for any term which will remain vacant for more than four months duration.

IMPEACHMENT

A 5/7th vote of the Council members may remove any Council member from office. An election to replace the removed member for the remainder of his term, if over four months duration, must be held forthwith. A removed member who is re-elected in such a special election may not be removed again during that term.

CONSTITUTIONALITY

Questions on the constitutionality of any Council act must be decided by a 5/7th vote of the Council.

The Council or any 5 members of the organization may propose amendments to this constitution. For an amendment to pass, a majority of the IDA members voting must cast an affirmative vote.

Note that in the above, we have substituted IDA for IDA-NA, as no apparent source of the NA subdivision was evident. If the Council were to restrict membership to North America and were to further approve the constitutionality of such a measure, then the appellation IDA-NA would be operative.

So that's the Constitution. Now here are those who have been nominated to run for one of these offices:

President: Bob Hartwig Jr.; Elmer Hinton;

Ombudsman: Dave Bunke; Fred Davis

Treasurer: Robert Sacks; Bill Young

Periodicals Editor: John Michalski; Elmer Hinton

Special Projects Editor: Mark Berch; Andy Cook; Bill Newell.

U.S. Representative: Robert Bryan Lipton; Rod Walker.

Canadian Representative: John Leeder; Cal White.

Campaign statements (approx. 500 words max) must be at my house (Jerry Jones 1854 Wagner St. Pasadena, CA 91107) no later than November 5th. As a last note; Cal White just phoned as he stated that he has mailed the Boardman Numbers; lock, stock and barrel to Dennis Agoata. So it appears that as you read this Dennis is the BNC. Good luck.

Jerry's address →

I respectfully decline at this time. J.M.

77KN

SOME SHIFTING IN GARGANTUAN RF-AT DUEL; AFT DRAW FAILS

S'11

Winter: Austrian A Pie r VEN, builds A VIE; French F Tyn r WES,
builds F MAR

AUSTRIA (KASSEL): A Tus-Pie; A VEN S A Tus-Pie; A Tyo S A Tus-Pie/d/r Tri, Otb;
A Gal-SIL; A WAR & A BOH S A Gal-Sil; A Ukr-GAL; A VIE S A Boh

FRANCE (DITTER): F Hol-NTH; F MAR-Pie; F LYO S I' Mar-Pie; F Wes-TYN; F TUN S F
Wes-Tyn; F NAF S F Tun; A BUR S A Mun; A MUN S A Pie-Tyo

RUSSIA (McELVANEY): Fs HEL, DEN, BER H; A STP S A Mos; A LVN-War; A Sil S A Lvn-War/
d/r Pru, Otb; A MOS (unordered) H;

TURKEY (HUESTON): F ROM S AUSTRIAN A Tus /OTM; F ION & F NAP S F Tyn; F TYN & F BLA H;
F ADR S F Ion; A SEV-Mos

Press: Istanbul: After Moscow comes Paris.

There is a call for a Russian win. NVR=No in this case. Fall, 1911, is due with my
mail received here Friday, November 3, 1978, and may be conditional on the retreats.

77KS

OH, NO! OH, YES! CONCESSION FAILS! BLACK PRESS
VOTED BACK IN! ONE LAST HURRAH?

S'09

Winter 08: Ger A Mun r RUH; Russ F Swe r GOB, builds A WAR;
Turk builds F CON

ENGLAND (~~W/AT~~): NMR! CD! F WAL, A YOR H

FRANCE(~~W/AT~~)(BAUMEISTER): Technical NMR! (Orders received, but conditional;
Conditions not met); Fs MAO, SPasc, A PIC H; A Mar H/d/r Bur, Gas, Otb

GERMANY (REGES): F SWE H; F DEN & F SKA S F Swe; F KIE S F Den; A RUH S F Kie;
A Bel-HOL

RUSSIA (KASSEL): F Nwy-NWG; F GOB-Swe; F Pru-BAL; A Stp-NWY; A Boh-SIL; A MUN S A Ber-
Kie; A BER-Kie; A War-GAL

TURKEY (KENDTER, Jr): A Bul-SER; A Gre-ALB; F Con-AEG; A "Tiredrolia" (TYO) falls
asleep from boredom (H); A PIE S A Tus-Mar; A Tus-MAR; F LYO C
A Tus-Mar; F NAF S F Tun-Wes; F Tun-WES; F Ion-TUN; F Nap-TYN

Press: Turkey-Germany: It is now 21-13, how much longer?

There is a call for a concession to Turkey. NVR=No in this case. Fall, 1909, will
be due with my mail received here Friday, November 3, 1978, and may be made
conditional on the retreats, etc. REMEMBER TO ALWAYS LIST ONE SET OF ORDERS AS
"ALL OTHER CASES" TO AVOID TROUBLE! (Wouldn't you know that as often as I say
that, sure enough, a standby comes in and... It's not Konrad's fault, really,
just Murphy's Law at work.) I'll leave an extra page or two for press next time.

*** NOTICE! **** ORDERS are to be sent to this address: "John Michalski

Konrad, I'll send you some labels, but
there it is just for the record.

Harper Oil Company
904 Hightower Bldg
Oklahoma City, OK 73102"

78AX

windup appears in this issue with player statements from three
of the participants, as I recall. I'd hoped for more, but it is
still a good showing compared to most games I've seen. I really appreciate your
having taken the time to write in, those of you that did. It reflects the higher
level of interest and commitment required and maintained in my fast-paced games.

J.M.

1978AX Player Wrap-up
FRANCE : DAVID HUNT.

I generally enjoy playing France or England. In my face to face games, I've always found it profitable to play a French/English alliance. In my experience, even if such an alliance is not in the offing, my friends and I usually take it for granted that there will be no aggression at the start. We've found that a French-English fight tends to be unproductive.

Before Spring 1901 I wrote a brief note to Steve (England) expressing an interest in an alliance and proposing a mutual avoidance of the English Channel. About the same time I received a brief noncommittal note from him, obviously written before his receipt of my note. But, I thought, "What the hell, I've seen him in 77KN and he's looked like a decent player--no good English player would attack France right off the bat". Based on that and fruitful negotiations with Eric (Italy), I moved aggressively against Germany. Of course, Steve moved F Lon-Eng. The die was cast and we were committed to war. It would have been better if we had patched things up at that point, but I had the feeling that Steve wasn't interested. At any rate there were no communications between us for the rest of the game.

A fight with England was not what I had in mind, but I had good reason to believe that I could win such a fight early if I could enlist Russian aid on the other front. Of course, I gave up my German campaign and told Randy as much. He ought to have realized, given my situation, that I was sincere. But he did not, and with Italy and Russia both on his ass--he moved to Burgundy.

In Spring 1902, I made a tactical error which allowed England to break even in the fall. But for that error, Steve could not have continued fighting till 1905. I was just getting the upper hand in 1905 when Eric stabbed me. I can't really blame him. I left myself wide open. Italy had been stymied in the German campaign and was threatened in home waters by Turkey--what else to do but pull up stakes? It's the difference between tying for 3d and 5th. I know you're thrilled, Eric.

All during the game I was constantly appealing to Rick (Russia) to attack Steve. Watching him pass up beautiful opportunities turn after turn was infuriating. But, to give him credit, it was the wise thing to do. He could afford to wait. England was his for the taking at any time. Had he given me the indirect aid I needed, I might have grown too powerful. This game is similar to 77KS. There again, I desired peace between England (myself) and France (Idiot Grabar)--once again I had war foisted upon me and once again Russia (Kassel again) benefitted. These games confirm my opinion regarding a French-English war early on. It is non-productive for both parties.

Thanks to Steve for an interesting, well fought battle (tactically). Congrats to Rick and Galen. And thanks to you, John, for a well-run game.

((Thanks. And a big thank-you to all of you who took the time to write in.)) J.M.

VARIOUS NOTES

JOHN LEEDER puts out his RUNESTONE every week just like I have now for the last 3 weeks; I'm glad this is the last such week for me! I don't know how he does it.

LAST ISSUE and part of some future issue will be helped by someone's foul-up. If some of you noticed ink smears and/or printing errors on the envelope face, that was the break. Those envelopes were messed up by the printer, and of course no corporation wants to use things like that. Me, I'm not proud. Most of the errors got buried under my label anyway. Guess what those rejects cost me? That's part of how you get all this so cheap.

THIS ISSUE and future issues could use a tad (or ton) more humor. Seen any good cartoons or something lately? Remember, folks, it's up to you to send in enough good stuff to squeeze out what you don't like.

ARTURO GUAJARDO, returning from Germany, sent me some nice new title masters I was preparing to try when I noticed something. No 'R'. 'Butus Bulletin'? Maybe I can use the subheading, though. Thanks for the try, Art.

Player Wrap-up, 78AX
ERIC KIRCHNER, Italy

This is a once in a lifetime occurrence--me typing a letter. But I thought I'd help you out on the player's statements by typing mien. Let's see . . .

ITALY: Before I launch myself into the usual blow-by-blow account I'd like to make my feelings on the R/T draw clear: it was well-executed, well-diplomacised (whatever), well-played, really great, etc. It was also the most boring thing I have ever seen.

A two-country game-long alliance is the safest way to survive a game of Diplomacy, for most players who at least have some regard for the sanctity of alliances. Making one is fine, but keeping it, actually keeping it all game is a sin pardonable by only two excuses:

#1) your ally is one hell of a guy and you can't bring yourself to even think about stabbing him. Being "one hell of a guy" should include walking on water, calling you long distance just to talk, sending you money, or something of the sort.

#2) your ally plays so well that you have no real chance to get the better of him via stab, attack, or diplomacy.

In all other cases, you should be always be trying to better your outlook, and that will eventually bring you up against your "ally".

After all, what else makes a game interesting but the struggle against all the other players to better yourself at their expense? Alliances are one means of bettering yourself, but eventually you can strike out on your own, barring either of the above conditions. If you ally with someone and settle back in your chair, with no thought of ever breaking that alliance, the game becomes (for the two of you at least) only a tactical exercise. Diplomacy has come to an early halt.

In 78AX, I spent 01 leaping into Munich and Tunis to make my only good move of the game. R/T were obviously allied from the beginning, and for a little while Austria and I withstood them successfully. Then Austria began to crumble and NMRed. Bob Sergeant took over and my hat is off to him for his play and for providing me with the most cooperation I had from anyone all game. But he soon perished--the position was hopeless anyway.

I spent the rest of the game trying not to be devoured by R/T. Efforts to unite the rest of the world against them failed due to apathy. Efforts to split Galen and Rick also failed; they were perfectly content to stay allied and roll over everyone. I became rather frustrated . . .

Actually I had a pretty good time. Everyone wrote me at least once, most wrote more. Congrats to Rick Kassel and Galen Workman, you won it fair and square. But Rick, you could have taken first so easily . . . and Galen you could have at least tried . . . I guess I just have to conclude that you were really good friends, as in #1 above.

This game was easy to plan and execute simply because both Galen and I agreed from day one to play for a tie. With such an arrangement between Russia and Turkey moves were more or less automatic for each partner. The division of Austrian, Italian and Balkan centers was decided upon before 1901 was completed. From there each partner drove due West, each in his own sphere of interest.

In my opinion the game was really decided by the end of 1902. The only way of stopping R/T would have been for Germany to ally with both Austria and Italy while leaving France and England alone. However Austria and Italy took care of that by attacking Germany from the South. My main diplomacy was aimed at keeping Germany active in the East to prevent any A/I/G alliance from forming, even if Italy backed off. Since Randy was prone to missing turns he really wasn't much of a threat to us or any help to an ally if he had any.

Likewise Austria was never a threat. Although my diplomacy never succeeded in winning him over he was no worry after Germany was pacified. I don't think August had any real allies either except that strange alliance with Italy to move North.

By moving North Italy secured his ~~own~~^{own} defeat as well as Austria's. Now Germany welcomed my movement Eastward which otherwise would have made him suspect and perhaps turned him against me. Italy placed himself between two angry players -- not a very good spot to be in. This, I believe, was the worst strategic error made by anyone in the game. It's tactical merits as well were questionable since Italy managed to outlast his Austrian ally by only one year.

England was content with a kind of non-alliance with me although we did have some words over my taking of Norway. However he was more interested in France than in starting a war with me over one center. This was the second major strategic error on our enemies part. England should have realized at this point (the loss of Norway) that he must throw everything into the battle against me or the game was lost. I feel he should have tried to make friends with France at any cost to this end. By the time Germany was divided it was too late for England to stop the White onslaught.

France never really was of much interest to me since he was obviously tied up with England. This was to my benefit and there was little need for me to feed the fire here.

My thanks to Galen for a fine game. He is a good player and never once did I even think I need fear a stab. I'm sure he felt the same.

Rich Kassel

STREAK GORDON - LXI

(STREAK GORDON, PRINCESS AROMA, and the smugglers JUAN ALON and SNORTCOKE the Woolie have just emerged from the Debtstar's washing machine and are making their way down a dusty catwalk, passing from time to time a dusty cat. Each of the males is carrying a laser pistol and the Princess has two.)

GORDON: Now that we've rescued the Princess, where do we go now?

AROMA: Leaving aside the question of whether the subject and object of your remark ought to be interchanged, I think we ought to go to the Master Control Room and pick up that robot with all the information about the secret passage into the Imperial Palace.

ALON: Not me, Your Impetu- er - Imperial Highness. I'm for getting back to our ship and getting out of here. More trouble with the authorities I don't need.

AROMA: How would you like a hundred thousand credits, an amnesty, and a Free Trade License?

SNORTCOKE (eagerly): Bow-wow-wow-wow-wow!

ALON: You've got a deal, Princess.

AROMA: Done! You two see if you can sneak into the Instant Turkey and warm it up, while we look for Okie-wan Fenoki and the robots. You - whatever your name is - see if you can raise them on the intercom.

GORDON: Okie-wan Fenoki! This is Streak Gordon! Can you hear me?

FENOKI (from radio): We've had to abandon the Control Room, Streak. I cut a hole in the floor of the head with my laser pistol, and we got out through the yeowomen's shower room.

HR-PO: Frinkle-frinkle-frinkle-bleep!

FENOKI: Of course I had to stop and question her, HR-PO. She might have been hiding a concealed weapon on her person.

GORDON: Where are you now?

FENOKI: Hiding in an airlock just outside Tractor Beam Port 5.

ALON: That's where the Instant Turkey is. Let's go, Snortie.

(The smugglers leave cautiously through a service doorway and shake down an Information Robot for directions to their ship. STREAK GORDON and PRINCESS AROMA continue through the corridor.)

AROMA: They insist on giving members of the Imperial Family technical educations. It's boring as hell, but at least I know where to find the Port airlocks. (She leads them through another doorway. They instantly spot four Imperial Guards.) Let 'em have it! (The Guards and the fugitives both open fire. They gun down the four Guards without receiving so much as a scratch.)

GORDON (as they rush through the corridors): Golly-gosh, Princess! How come we were able to kill four professional soldiers so easily?

AROMA: They're used to firing air-to-air missiles and dropping bombs. How often are the men on a ship like this going to need to use hand weapons? Bang's Fourth Law: As military technology advances, standards of accuracy of hand weapons drop.

(They go through another door, and find themselves on a narrow ledge overlooking a precipitous drop. Six Imperial Guards appear in the corridor behind them.)

GORDON: How do you close the door?

AROMA: Tao's Tin-plated Testicles! I'll bet they still have knobs and hinges on your planet. Watch. (She presses a button, and the door slides shut on their side.)

GORDON: Won't they be able to open it from the other side?

AROMA: Not this one. It's an airlock with a fail-safe.

GORDON: What do we do now? Find a rope and swing safely across the shaftway?

AROMA: Rope? On the Debtstar? What do you think this is, a squarerigger from the last Interregnum? Or maybe it's a tum-tum tree festooned with republixerial vines in the jungle on Continent Two? No - watch.

(Noises come of the Imperial Guards beating on the other side of the door. When the hammering reaches a crescendo, PRINCESS AROMA presses the button again and the door flies open. The Imperial Guards fall through it and down the shaftway to their doom.)

AROMA: Fall for it every time - who needs an Imperial Guard with brains? Now let's get back to the Instant Turkey.

Filler

✓ IF you believe in capital punishment, do yourself a BIG favor and DO NOT read this page!!
✓ OTHERS, this is for you. After reading it, write in a defense of your position and make a fool of yourself before the reading audience.

J.M.

Child Tells Torture Tale

By Lisa John

LAWTON — In an account that left some courtroom observers in tears, an 11-year-old girl told a jury Wednesday her young playmate was tortured with chemicals, beaten repeatedly and his teeth yanked out until the child finally died on the floor of his home.

The girl, Cynthia Gough, was testifying as a prosecution witness.

The defendant is the dead boy's mother, Mrs. Brenda Carr, 26, who is charged with second-degree murder in the death of 6-year-old Melvin Kurk Ward.

Cynthia's father, Larry Paul Gough, 36, was allegedly living with Mrs. Carr and her son when the boy died in a south Lawton mobile home. He also faces murder charges.

The child's body was discovered in early July buried beneath a refrigerator in a burned-out house about 15 miles south of Decatur, Texas.

Cynthia, who now lives in a children's home in Texas, told the court Mrs. Carr and her father battered and abused the boy in an effort to make him learn his numbers and arithmetic.

Once, she said, Mrs. Carr smeared Melvin's

hands with battery acid, leaving them with "big old bubbles all over them. They were real red . . . and crinkled."

On another occasion when he was unable to recite his numbers, "They put him in a clothes dryer and turned it on," the girl said.

The boy was forced to live in small closets in the trailer home, she said, often allowed to come out only to recite his numbers and to use the bathroom.

"He'd mess up on the number 20, and Brenda would spank him until he could repeat the number," Cynthia said.

The girl testified Mrs. Carr kept spanking the boy and sending her "out to get more and more boards" during one beating while the family lived in Odessa, Texas.

The family left Odessa and went to Wichita Falls before moving into a south Lawton trailer park, where, she said, the mistreatment of Melvin Ward "got worse."

She said the boy was struck on the head "more than once" as he writhed around crying while being spanked.

"They were trying to get him to start count-

ing to 100, and by fives and tens," she said.

During his final days, she said, the boy was given only sparse amounts of leftovers to eat, such as cold oatmeal and beans.

By this time, "he was staying all night and all day" in the closet, and allowed to come out only to use the bathroom.

"And he'd have to count for his supper."

He began wasting away, she said. "He was real skinny. His shoulder blades would stick out. He couldn't stand up straight. His stomach was fat, but his ribs showed," she said.

He would drink water in the bathroom "until his stomach got real big," and then would be spanked by "whoever got the board first," she testified.

"Then, he'd get sent back to the closet and called out only to add and count," she said.

He continued to make arithmetic mistakes, she said, "so they started pulling his teeth" over two days' time by tying a string from the tooth to a door knob.

"They would make me hold him real tight, and they would slam

the door."

She said her father pulled two teeth on the first day, and Ms. Carr pulled three teeth the following day.

The six-year-old's teeth were not loose, and sometimes "they'd have to slam the door three or four times. His mouth would bleed a lot and he would still have to count or spell his name."

The day he died, he was supposed to scrub the trailer's floors, the witness said.

"He went to the back of the trailer carrying a pail of water," she said.

The girl said she saw Melvin drinking from the baby's bottle, so she told her father and Gough then twisted the boy's arm "and he started screaming."

Gough "had him by his arm, and he dropped him" onto the living room floor...he was out," the witness said.

Mrs. Carr gave the boy mouth-to-mouth resuscitation but he didn't respond, she said.

"I went to the back bedroom and got a green sheet to put over him."

GREG COSTIKYAN

PO Box 865 Brown U, Providence, RI 02912

10 October, 33 Atomic Era

Yahoo;

Listen, Okie, the cracks about New York---the center of the universe---are not taken well.

I took a bus to Phoenix before Labor Day weekend, in order to attend the World SF Convention there. En route, we had a 90 minute rest stop in Tulsa. An amazing place. Crisply clean and spanking new, the place is the obvious beneficiary of the federal city-aid laws which provide massive aid (per capita) to small "American" cities, and little to no aid (per capita) to those great cities located along the fringe of "America" whose population consists primarily of such un-American people as Latins, blacks, and Jews. (In the common parlance, spics, coons, and yids).

Apparently, everyone in Tulsa had seen and liked "Saturday Night Fever", because the entire male population (at least, the entire male white population) seemed to be attired in polyester leisure suits, of various pastel colors. Yeech. The entire female population was attired in conservative dresses and skirts, cum pantyhose. Double yeech; there were not even any pantsuits. I even saw one woman wearing---mirabile dictu---a miniskirt, something which has been out of style for ten years. Of course, she was probably a hooker.

I spent a good deal of time wandering around the town, as I had nothing better to do, and picked up the local newspaper. In New York, we don't have any newspapers---but this is certainly preferable to the sort of shoddy journalism evident in Tulsa. The better restaurants were labelled "Middle Eastern Deli" and "New York-Style Steaks", which shows that even in Tulsa there is some appreciation of the importance of the only civilized area in America.

I arrived back in New York at the Port Authority Bus Terminal, on 8th Avenue and 40th Street, and walked from there to Grand Central, in order to catch the subway home. Grand Central is on 42nd and Lexington, and thus I walked down west 42nd street along the way. It was about 10 PM, and the place was jumping. I walked down the filthy streets, past the movie theatres---pornographic and non-pornographic---and listened to the people talk around me---Spanish, Chinese, Italian, even English. Even in that miserable section of town, the streets were crowded. Fast food joints held crowds of people moving in and out of the doorways, people congregated in lines in front of the theatres, hookers attempted to pick people up, dope sellers offered "Columbian, Thai sticks, THC". I found myself striding along the streets at a rapid pace, one bag slung over my shoulder, the other under my arm; I had to walk rapidly to keep up with the rhythm of the city. The faces of the people around me held a frantic gleam, as of men possessed.

America, you can keep your polyester suits, your clean streets, and your boredom. New York is Babylon; it is Rome; it is Shanghai; New York is CITY, and it is infinitely more exciting and more wonderful than Oklahoma, God help us, with its red earth and flies, will ever be.

Life,



Greg Costikyan

Reply to Costikyan

((I was tempted to just let this thing speak for itself, but Greg makes one serious error that is not readily apparent to the general reader (unlike most of the errors in this letter), so I MUST comment on it at least a bit.

The serious error is that the editor is a resident of Oklahoma, but NOT an 'Okie'. An Okie is a person who wears pointy-toed fairy boots ("cowboy boots"); drives a pickup truck 6 years old, driver's door customized by collision, dried cow dung splattered about, license plate wired on (one corner only). KEBC radio ("Keep EveryBody Country") bumper sticker on back and front, gun rack in window holding broken fishing rod, and pretty, tassled curtains in the back window. Subject has straw between his teeth, toes, and ears. All of them are on Interstate 35 each morning and night, watching the clouds change shape. I, on the other hand, wear shoes almost all the time. I drive an automobile. I know who both my parents are. And when I sign my name, no one follows behind to verify "his mark". I am a human; "Okie"s are a disease.

Re your trip thru Tulsa: "Middle Eastern Deli" was more likely a convenience store for Arab students attending OSU (alias Cow University). I think they specialize in barbequed cat and other delicacies that appeal to their specialized clientele. "New York Style Steaks" mean cuts of beef that have had the decent parts cut out; cheap, though, because they are federally subsidized. The terminal was clean because it does not look to New York City as a model, anymore than the people outside do for fashion. You describe New York's filthy streets, the porno joints, the 'frantic gleam' in the eye of spaced out addicts, the hookers and pachers, and condemn the Tulsans for not dressing like such true New Yorkers do. Can this be the same Costikyan who only last issue decried the decadence of America, who now glories in the squalor of his own self styled 'Babylon'? A voice from the drain idolizing the excitement of the sewer? Only the sewer is the center of YOUR universe, Greg, not THE universe. An important distinction.)) J.M.

JACK FROST

647 Fenton, Romeoville, IL 60441

I cannot understand how anyone can call himself a patriot and not support the furthering of the American Empire. The underlying basis for every government is the necessity to secure the safety of the governed. No population is truly safe while any other population exists. Therefore, the only logical course for a government to follow is the one that secures its own perpetuation; namely, total domination of the world.

((Aha, more GRAUSTARK logic (sic). I wondered if there was any overlap between Boardman's subbers and mine...)) J.M.

Heard at work:

Old fishermen never die; they just smell that way.

7 October 1978

Dear John,

I quite understand your reluctance to take up increasingly large stretches of BB in comments about the letter column. Besides, there is really no point in discussing among ourselves the questions of war and peace, or whether the US should build a nuclear carrier or a fleet of light attack ships. When the time comes, the people who have power to make such decisions will tell us what we are to do and whom we are to dislike, and then we will do as we are told. Or else. For information on how this has worked in the past, I refer you to Harry Elmer Barnes' book Perpetual War for Perpetual Peace.

Speaking of books, Dropshot is not a novel. As it happens, I have just reviewed it for my science-fiction fanzine Dagon, and will hold this letter until I finish printing it. Get the book and see for yourself. Don't take my word for it.

(I have the impression that you don't regard my word as awfully reliable any way.)

As usual, Konrad Gauleiter has got everything wrong-end-around. I do not dislike Rod Walker because he is gay; our feud has been a matter of record since long before Odd Rod came out of the closet. He has touted some gamemasters who collected game fees and vanished; Scott Hanken and Gary Jones are two of the most notorious cases. And he was part of this clique that tried to drive John Beshara out of Diplomacy fandom. John was a useful and hard-working member of New York Diplomacy fandom until Walker, Peery, and the Buchanans started flooding fandom with groundless complaints about his alleged financial malfeasance. (If John wanted to undertake financial malfeasance in a big way he wouldn't nickel and dime around with us; he's a securities analyst on Wall Street.)

I do not propose to dissociate myself from New York City. I am a resident, employee, and property owner of this city, and would not choose to live anywhere else in the country. Our financial situation results from the fact that, for decades, Washington and Albany have been pumping out more money than the city gets back. Now they will reverse this process. Or else we will go into default - and we will take the economy of the western world with us. Combine this with the interest money that the federal government has already made off loans to this city, and you can see that, whatever the consequences of helping us may be, the consequences of not helping us will be much worse. They may be a little slow on the uptake in Washington, but they are not utter idiots, and as soon as these facts of economic life were spelled out to them, they came around.

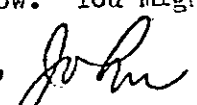
And, to light another of your fires, I am in favor of forced speed limits, forced building inspections, and forced bussing. I was living in the South when black kids were being bussed past several white schools to a black one. I recall no agitation about 'forced bussing' at that time. I put my life on the line against public bus segregation in Tallahassee at a time when present opponents of "forced bussing" had not yet retreated from a hard-line opposition to any form of integration.

I am cutting all trades with Cal White, effective with the next issue of Graustark. And before I cooperate with another of the increasingly transitory and inefficient "Boardman Number Custodians", he or she had damn well better show an ability to run the operation. They are, after all, not genuine without this Boardman.

Konrad Baumeister had several letters in Empire which indicate that he is still not reconciled to the fact that his favorite country lost World War II. I would keep a decent distance from him if I were you. In Empire #76 he delivered himself of some opinions that you can check out for yourself, as I will soon send you that and some other recent issues of Empire and Graustark by 3rd-class mail. In one of the other issues I placed his letter between one from a Jew and one from a Czech. I hope he was comfortable.

In the same mail as your last letter I got a notice from Odd Rod that he has formally assigned the Boardman Numbers "at 6:45 PM PDST, 2 October 1978" to Dennis Agosta. Copies of this letter went to Agosta, Beyerlein, von Metzke, Wells, White and myself. Surprisingly, none was sent to you as far as I know. You might write to Rod and find out what is going on.

Stay well,



ROD WALKER replying to Roy Smith's letter previously printed.

"alcala"
1273 crest dr.
encinitas ca 92024
11 october 1978

Dear Roy:

Thanks for your letter of the 3rd. This will probably be brief since I'd rather be working on my literary career than Buddy Tretick.

As I have already said...in John's 'zine, I believe...I have not allowed "Oaklyn" to play in my games precisely because I also have a HK against deceiving the GM. Further, I define this in part as playing under a pseudonym. However, in TELRACUSPID Tretick is apparently willing to play under his own name and I have (at this point) no reason not to accept his application to play.

To your specific questions.

1. Does it make any difference? My answer is a qualified yes. Buddy Tretick has certain past obligations to former players which he ought to set to rights. You might some time ask Arn Vagts how he feels on this subject. Further, Tretick's past performance is such that players joining his games now should know of this. When I began publishing again in 1974 (after dropping in 1972), I issued specific warnings that, having dropped before, I might be unreliable in the future. Were I to resume amateur publishing again, I would issue the same caveat. Because of the circumstances (his, not mine), I feel that Tretick has an absolute and unqualified obligation to be honest with the hobby. However, this does not mean that Tretick will repeat his performance of the early 1970s. I believe he should be given an opportunity to prove himself. Hence the qualifier on my "yes". However, I do not believe that opportunity should come about as the result of a deliberate deception.

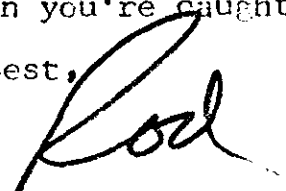
2. Is "Oaklyn" Tretick? Absolutely. The person referred to in BB as "Guess Who" has provided further proof, and I only wish more could be said on that matter. John and I have seen the evidence, and agree with "GW" that his is right in refusing to publish abroad what he knows. In the matter of "Oaklyn's" identity generally, I consider myself a rational person who does not reach conclusions without fulsome evidence. However, it might be argued that I'm biased because in the past I've called Tretick out for an asshole...which he certainly was. However, why should I be biased against "Oaklyn" if he were another individual? In any event, John Michalski was not in the hobby when Tretick was, and knows neither him nor "Oaklyn" from Adam.

In any event, the key points of evidence: "Oaklyn's" voice is the same as Tretick's (per Walt Buchanan); his handwriting and literary style are the same as Tretick's (per me); his telephone number is listed under Tretick's name (per several people); his story about how he met Tretick (through Don Miller) is patently a lie (per Don Miller).

However, once the identity is established, I'm not all that concerned. If Tretick has not changed over the years (as I suspect is true), then the truth of the kind of person he is will out. If he has changed, then that will be good. I certainly do not intend to hassle "Oaklyn", although I will continue to state my conviction that he is Tretick when asked. There nothing inherently wrong in pseudonyms, but when you're caught, why not accept detection gracefully?

Best,

inevitable cc: John Michalski.



KONRAD BAUMEISTER

11416 Parkview Lane, Hales Corners, WI 53031
October 11, 1978

Brutus arrived yesterday; congrats on finishing your first GMing job therein. Playing in 77AX, which you mentioned, forces me to defend the circumstances surrounding that game. It would be into Fall 1904 by now had not the GM for one turn screwed up the job, and had not the various and sundry postal strikes in the Toronto area killed another month, during which Cal asked for orders once more, since he'd only collected one or two sets. (I wouldn't re-adjust a deadline just because of late orders, but I would if I had proof-positive that the strikes were responsible.)

Who do you think is fool enough to go for a 19-day deadline game?! Fourteen is rough enough as it is, but if given only 10 days the deadline would be on me faster than I'd have time to write letters in! Others are still lazier than I am. If I can remember to, though, I'll make note of your openings in my zine next time, I guess. (What if the USP"S" intervened in a 10-day game? Just the other day (the 8th) I got a letter postmarked September 14th!! Shit, the writer ought to have walked here from Frisco to deliver it himself!)

Back up here in Milwaukee, the weather is in the 40s during the sunlit hours. Fie on your disgusting 98° weather. Surely you can remember digging yourself out of 10' snowdrifts in April. I can.

Boardman will undoubtedly send along some "incriminating evidence" of some letters a friend of mine ^{brother} printed in his war gaming zine Empire. They generated a lot of laughter here, but I don't think that they had the same effect on Boardman's largely Pacifist following. Sob... Your point on Ward 6 of Hell is well-taken. Look at what happened at one puny blackout; what could happen during a national emergency? Perhaps the gov't should send in the National Guard.

Saw the comics of the Moscow Olympics, to which I intend to go. Having never been in Russia before (and probably not wanting to go back again after I return), I can only expect a strange experience. I've travelled in Commie countries before, but all of them so far are dedicated anti-Russian countries, such as Yugoslavia. Ah, well... I missed them in Munich in 72; I was there about two weeks before they were scheduled to start, and left when things got touchy with the "situation" concerning the Israeli athletes, missing most of the events.

I haven't seen FLD is quite some time; Bernie/Buddy keeps sending me copies of issue 3, and that's that. I have a pile of them, which I'm just hoping someone wants... However, as Jack Frost points out after Rod's letter (that's what I mean about making himself look bad; Rod accuses without having heard the final word on the matter), all is not yet lost. We have yet to see what has happened there.

As for 1977KS, I'm always happy to send in standby orders from any position, regardless of strength. So far, there hasn't been a position that I haven't been able to do something with, even if it meant dying!

PS: Glad you liked EGGNOG. The next one may put off a few readers, since I don't know how they'll react to the Demo Game. I'll look forward to your comments, pro or anti. Thanks...

((You probably will get some; thanks for the standby orders. On the ten-day game, I have one signed up and two inquiring at this writing. (Oct 14). The game is predicated on the situation in most Dipgames I've noticed: you really need do little more than get the issue, see what happened, write preliminary orders, and send your ally a note saying "I'm doing this and expect you will be doing that, unless I hear otherwise". The regular diplomacy takes place at start and 'between' moves; often little coordination

Reply to Baumeister, cont'd

is needed at all beyond that. Also, fast games make for more excitement both in the pace and in the fact that stabs, for instance, don't linger there for two months during which only builds/removals inevitably appear. A fast page encourages the win-big-or-sink-fast mentality, which also adds some wild quirks to the flow of things. (It is now Oct 17 and two are signed up).

Yes, as a matter of fact, Boardman sent me quite a heap of sample issues of assorted publications. I haven't yet had a chance to really do more than scan them, what with one week to get this all done and out, but what I've seen was hilarious. Personally, I dislike the practice of an editor intersplicing his own commentary into a letter--Hartwig makes Lipton almost incoherent in this latest PDN, for instance--but in Boardman's case, I must admit it really provides for some laughs. The contrast between your Pan-Germanism and Boardman's (what would one call it? Nicely, that is?) "positions" is really cute. Also, despite the other indicators, I must admit he is quite intelligent in seeing and using various ironies and contrasts with great effectiveness: witness one remark he wrote me "I sandwiched

(Baumeister's) letter between one from a Slovak and a Jew. I hope he feels comfortable there". It doesn't affect your position, but tells about his, and the presumptions, etc, make it really entertaining. One real surprise for me: you two mention Butz' HOAX OF THE 20TH CENTURY, a book I've scanned but not really read. I didn't think anyone had heard of it. From what I did see, I was shocked, for frankly, I'd expected nothing but NATIONAL ENQUIRER type bullshit to tell you the truth, but Butz (that was his name, right?) came up with some real eye-openers. When even the US gov't no longer claims that Dachau was an extermination camp, but only a 'regular' concentration camp, we're not talking about UFO-type theories anymore. One of the things I'm concerned about is that so much has become so uncertain anymore about something that should be open history now, yet is not: a surprising amount of WWII stuff is still buried (see Mazurkiewicz letter earlier) or, even worse, so much blatant MISinformation is being pushed, that it's scary. There is a book called "The Man Called Intrepid", for instance, which Ron (Maz.) showed me on my visit up there: pure, unadulterated James Bond bull, plain and simple, yet the British are trying to pass it off as some kind of 'official history' of an intelligence operation! On the other hand, Richard Landwehr reports that another book, WENN ALLE BRUDER SCHWEIGEN, a pictorial history of the Waffen SS, is denounced and has trouble getting printed outside the Bundesrepublik at all; or Irving's having to go to court to force publishers to print his own book as he wrote it-- it's scary. Apparently, only Leftists that want to publish CIA employee lists are free to print as they see fit. The part that is scary is the possible sense of credence these things cast on the theories thrown out by the real right-wing nuts (as opposed to your editor here, so labeled by a former NY publisher). If you're familiar with Butz or something similar, I'd appreciate a synopsis of other proofs aside from the demographic and the Dachau story. I wasn't able to read all of it, but only scan the story.

On your trip to Russia, be sure to take only bluejeans (lots) and permanent press shirts; you can exchange them for almost anything you want. Come to think of it, though, what might you want there? Maybe an atlas or something? They do produce good maps, if little else. Ask some Russian lass if she'd like them enough to... oh, well, forget I asked.

On Rod, it's just that he responds quickly. As he once wrote, 'I approach all problems with an open mouth'. Also, I trust Frost changed his views due to evidence rather than as a response to threats, which would appear to be more Tretick's style from what I've seen.))

J.M.