

"That's no moon" Kenobi breathed softly. "That's a Dipzine."
"It's too big to be a Dipzine."
It must be Issue 25 of

NOV 2 1978

THE BRUTUS BULLETIN

Et tu, Brute

The BRUTUS BULLETIN is a newsletter of postal Diplomacy brought to you every two weeks by John Michalski, Rt 10, Box 526Q, Moore, Oklahoma 73165. This is available at the cheap rate of 12/\$3, or 25¢ apiece. Only RURITANIA is as cheap; of those I can think of offhand. Live it up now, for the 50¢ Dipzine may be the wave of the future! BB promises fast adjudications, nothing more; however, as much filler as is available gets included. Please encourage this practice by sending in letters, humor, cartoons, puzzles, bumper stickers you've seen, whatever.

Diplomacy is a game invented by Alan Calhamer, etc., etc., etc. Since Dippy is what this is all about, how about announcing some

GAME OPENINGS *** GAME OPENINGS *** GAME OPENINGS

1. Regular openings. These are "regular" BB openings: deadlines are two weeks, issue to issue. No calls with orders; countries are drawn by lot, except that Austria and Italy can be volunteered for. Black Press will be allowed, from players only. Gamefees are: FREE if you sub and enter before Dec 1 AND have never started in a game in BB; \$2 plus sub to all others. Standbys play free. All separations of season are by MAJORITY VOTE ONLY. Three are signed up for the first of the TWO and ONLY two regular games I'll be carrying at this writing already, and I'm typing this just after a lot of you are receiving issue 24. IF YOU HAVE NOT REQUESTED TO ENTER A GAME WITHIN THE LAST 5 WEEKS, DO NOT EXPECT ME TO REMEMBER YOUR REQUEST FROM BEFORE! LET ME KNOW if you want in, even if you asked to be entered when you subbed earlier this year! These two regular games and the SPECIAL below will be it until they end about this time NEXT year.

2. Special openings. SUPER FAST GAME! I have openings in a game with TEN DAY DEADLINES, issue to issue. Calls will be accepted if/when you can get me. Countries assigned as above, standbys free. Fees are \$3 without sub, \$2 with, \$1 if you sub before Dec 1 and have not yet started in a BB game. Black Press will be voted on, separations AFTER '01 will be by majority vote only. STANDBYS for this game will have to specifically volunteer for it, due to the special nature of the game. If none, I'll CD it.

This BRUTUS BULLETIN is also North America's #1 Dipzine, per '78 Leeder Poll, don't forget!

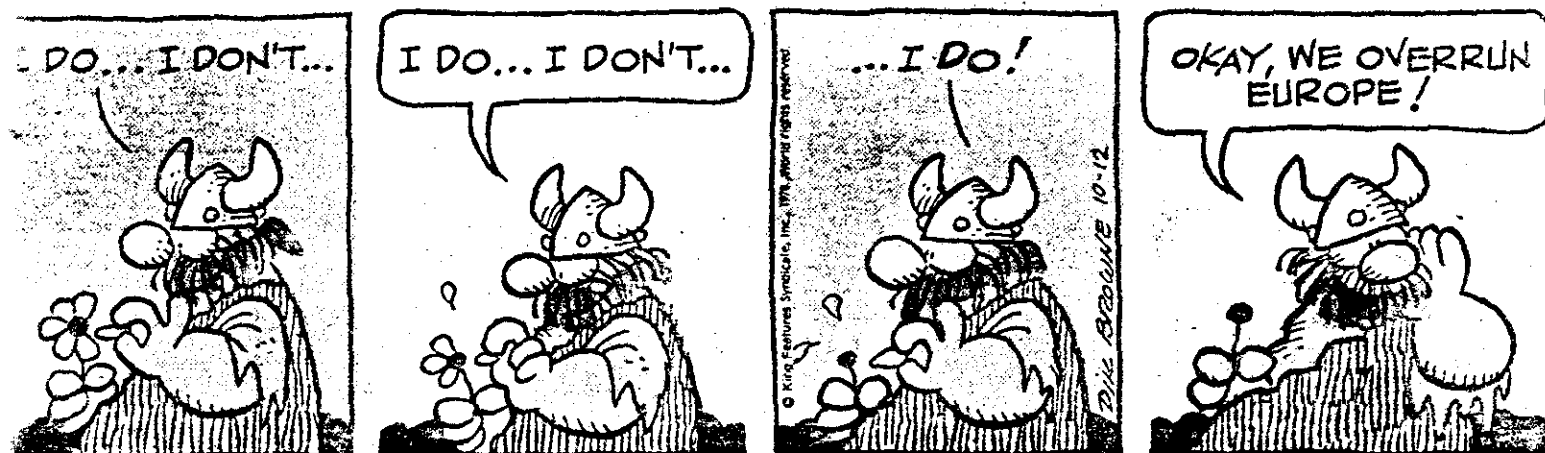
A TWO-MAN INVITATIONAL is an idea I'd started to put forward, for a game to run here free to the two proposed participants, CRAIG REGES and BILL SHAFFER. Unfortunately, just as I was about to announce it last issue, different things came up to make it appear unlikely that either would accept. But who knows? I thought it would be cute between two guys like this that I know have such deep feelings for each other....

* Speaking of Reges, his IDA NOVICE PACKET is available from him for 28¢ in stamps. Write Craig Reges at 1501 Higgins Hall, Western Illinois University, McCamb, Ill 61455. * PUBLISHERS should keep him informed of their openings, and please advertise this service. I might point out that for all the guff the IDA gets (and often deserves?), here is one thing that it HAS accomplished.

WITH DEEPEST SYMPATHIES I have to pass on word that JERRY JONES is planning to drop his schedule to 4 weeks. As an IDA auxiliary function (I think), he is adopting every orphan that comes along, increasing his burden a lot. A nice project, but the price of a rarer LIES, DECEIT, & NEFARIOUS SCHEMES seems high to pay. If any other publishers or prospective publishers wanted to adopt one or two of them from Jerry, I don't think you'd need to twist his arm very much. 1854 Wagner St, Pasadena, CA 91107.

RON KELLY has been sending in a lot of contributions; lately the packets have even been arriving with adequate postage! (U) Fortunately, he mails them with player address labels to the work address here, so I've been getting them all without overage due. They will be appearing as I get the chance to reduce them and prepare page layouts. Should be some this issue. Thanks, Ron.

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE (United Features Syndicate)



STEVE HUESTON

Comments on 1978Ax England

Being more interested in doing something different with England, than in winning, I decided to ally with Germany to attack France while maintaining neutrality with Russia. However after I critised Germany for using a pack of flagrant lies in place of diplomacy he decided to ally with France and Russia against me. And indeed for one year I was being attacked by all three. But by the next I was allied with Italy and Russia against France and Germany. It was this tangle of diplomacy that prevented any effective resistance to Russia in the north. This along with the firmness of the Russo-Turkish alliance made victory easy.

77 KN

Spring, 1911: Deletions & adjustments: France, A Pie-TYO, A Ruh-KIE, A Bel-RUH, F MAR-Pie, F WES-Tyn. The last line of French adjudications were omitted from last issue, players were informed.

Summer, 1911: Austrian A Tyo r TRI; Russian A Sil r PRU

Fall, 1911

RUSSIAN CONCESSION FAILS. SLEEPING SULTAN LOSES FORWARD FLEET.

AUSTRIA (KASSEL): A Tri-TYO; A VEN S A Tri-Tyo; A VIE S A Boh; A BOH S A Sil;
A SIL S A War-Pru; A War-Pru/d/r Ukr,Otb;A GAL-War; A TUS-Pie
FRANCE (DITTER): F NAF S F Tun; F TUN S F Wes-Tyn;F Wes-TYN; F MAR & F LYO S
A Tyo-Pie; A Tyo-PIE; F NTH H; A Kie-BER; A MUN-Sil; A RUH S
A Bur-Mun; A BUR-Mun
RUSSIA (McELVANEY): F Ber-BAL; F Hel-KIE; F DEN H; A Mos-WAR; A PRU & A LVN S A Mos-
War; A StP-MOS
TURKEY (HUESTON): NMR! Fs ROM,ION,NAP,BLA,ADR,all H. A SEV H. F Tyn H/ann.

1911: Austria	Home Ser Gre Rum Ven W	7	Remove 1
France	Home Spa Por Lvp Bel Lon Tun Mun Hol BER	12	Build 1
Russia	StP Mos Nwy Swe Edi Den Kie W WAR	8	Was 1 short, build one
Turkey	Home Bul Sev Nap Rom	<u>7</u>	1 ann., build 1
		34	

I think Steve was just late, but I will call on ERIC KIRCHNER, 3807 Halfturn Road, Apt 314, Colorado Springs, CO80917, to submit standby moves for Turkey if he wishes. Deadline for moves will be my mail received here at work Friday, November 17, 1978. (Winter 11 and Spring 1912) *****

77 KS

Spring, 1909: These Russian orders weren't typed on your page: A Mos-STP; A FIN S A Stp-Nwy. Players informed.
Summer, 1909: French A Mar r BUR

Fall, 1909:

CONCESSION TO TURKEY FAILS.DID BARCELONA SAILORS PUT SOMETHING IN MARSEILLES DRINKING WATER?

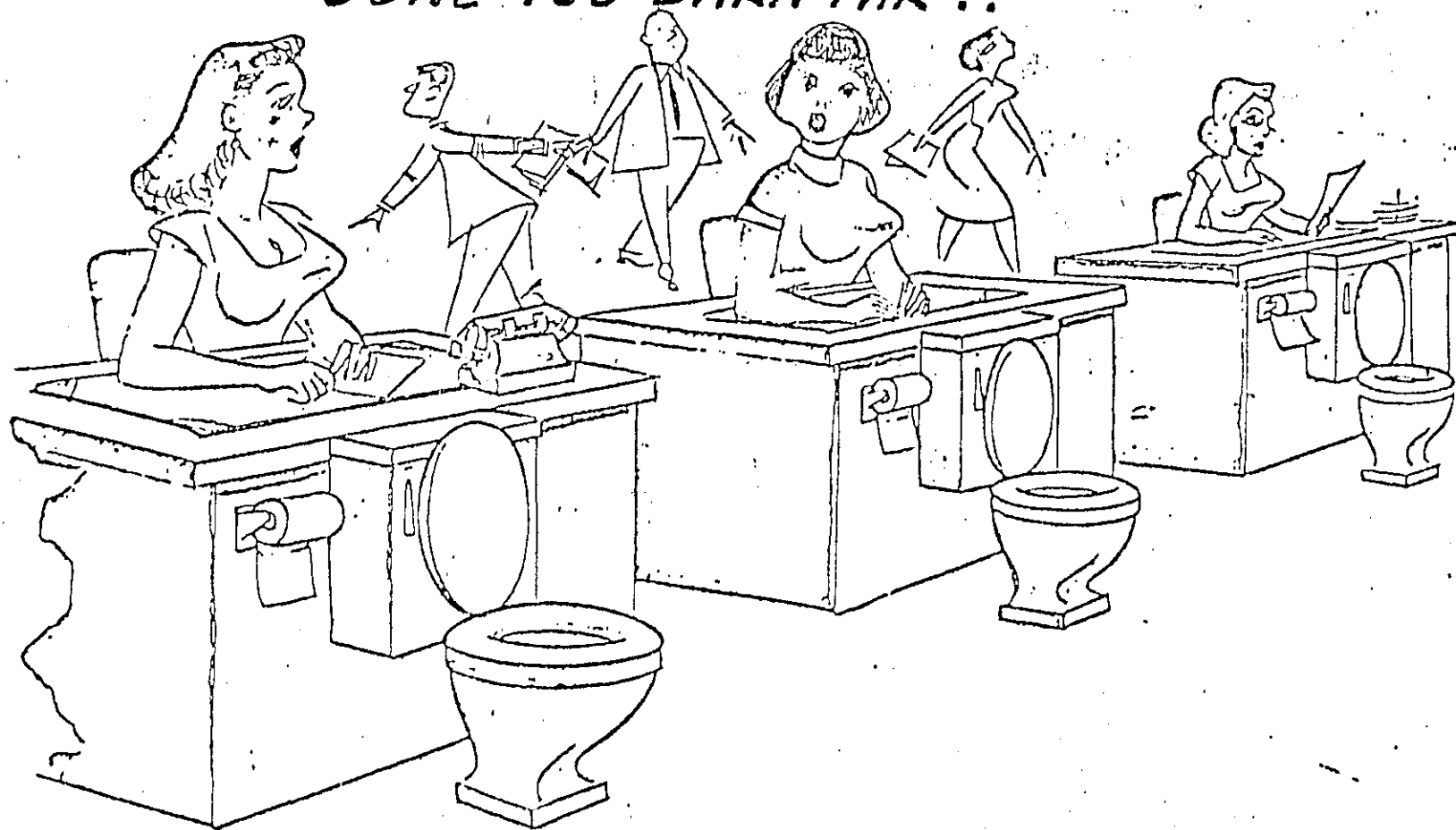
ENGLAND (CD): F WAL, A YOR H
FRANCE (BAUMEISTER): F Mid-Wes/d/r Por, Gas Bre, Eng, Iri, Nat,Otb; F SPAsc S F
Mid-Wes; A Bur-BEL; A Pic-PAR
GERMANY (REGES): F Kie-HEL; F SKA & F DEN S F Swe; F Swe curses its lot, H/ann.;
A RUH-Kie; A HOL S A Ruh-Kie
RUSSIA (KASSEL): F Nwg-EDI; A NWY & A FIN S F GoB-Swe; F GoB-SWE; F BAL-Den;
A SIL S A Man; A MUN S A Ber-Kie; A BER-Kie;A Gal-BUD; A StP-MOS
TURKEY (KENDTER, Jr): F Aeg-ION; F TUN S F Tyn-Wes; F Tyn-WES; F NAF S F Wes-Mid;
F Wes-MID; F LYO-Spasc; A MAR just sits there (H); A PIE S A
Mar sitting there; A TYO Zzzzz...(H); A SER joins A Tyo (H);
A Alb tries to make it to Tri but drops dead halfway to Tri
(A Alb-TRI).

1909:

England	Lvp W	1	F Wal r OTB
France	W Spa Por Bre PAR BEL	5	Build one
Germany	Kie Hol W Lon W W Den	4	Was 1 short, 1 ann.,remove 1
Russia	Home Nwy Bud Vie Rum Ber Mun		
		EDI SWE 12	Build 2
Turkey H	Home Bul Gre Ser Tri Ven Rom Nap		
		Tun MAR <u>12</u>	Build 1
		34	

Last season David Hunt did send in orders, but they didn't make it in time. Winter, 1909, and Spring, 1910 are due with my mail received here Friday, November 17, 1978. THERE is a CALL FOR A RT DRAW. NVR will equal a YES vote! Press follows on back page.

*THIS TIME I THINK THAT EFFICIENCY EXPERT HAS
GONE TOO DARN FAR !!*



How Does An Outnumbered And Outgunned Army Plan On Winning On Some Future Battlefield?

New Trends In the Arty Business

The Army is no longer cranking out field artillery tactics manuals written by and for artillerymen, because that kind of parochialism can lose wars.

Shortly after the Army got out of Vietnam and took a good, hard look at what was going on in Europe, it realized that unless outnumbered and outgunned US forces got their firepower act together, all the king's cannons and all the king's men couldn't stop Ivan ever again.

What evolved is a comprehensive fire support doctrine for the entire combined arms team — Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, gunners, pilots, tankers, grunts and squids — which is designed to generate more combat power than the enemy can when and where the battle is fought. That way, while US forces may not have the most combat firepower, they can at least achieve firepower superiority where it counts.

The massing of firepower to support the maneuver schemes of ground units is now possible thanks to computer and advanced weapon's technology. The Army's new fire support doctrine, however, is not based on technology alone.

To win, commanders must understand and plan their maneuver and fire support operations at the same time. The brigade commander who hands a battle plan to his artillery battalion commander and says, "Support it," will probably waste firepower, equipment and lives. The entire act has to be planned and executed concurrently, or it flops, the team loses, and the big game is over.

TACFIRE Makes It Possible.

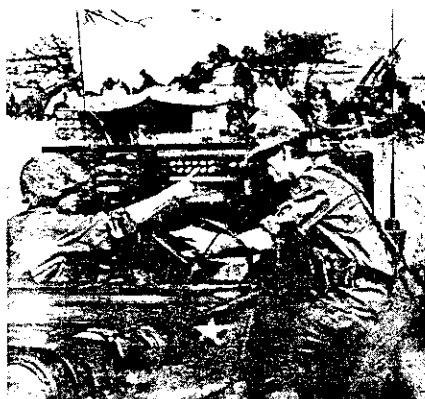
Advances in target acquisition, weapons systems and combined arms tactics have increased the combat capability of armies enormously, but improvements in target acquisition and battlefield intelligence gathering have also provided a great volume of information that is useless unless it is sorted and processed. That has, traditionally, been a slow, difficult and mistake-ridden process.

To fight effectively, combat information must be correct and quickly available. An ideal command and control system must be able to match firepower to the right targets, keep track of supplies, weapons, already developed plans and tons of other information. And it must work quickly.

TACFIRE does all that and more. It is an automatic data process-

ing system that can keep track of almost all the elements involved in a combined arms operation. Almost everything anyone would want to know about cannon, rocket, missile, air or naval gunfire assets is immediately available to help provide efficient and effective fire support.

Smart Boxes. Two basic kinds of computers provide for tactical and technical control functions. They are used to evaluate targets; to select the units to fire on them; to tell those units how much and what kind of ammunition to use; and to provide those units with the firing data they need to aim their guns or missiles.



THE BDU, BATTERY DISPLAY UNIT

Each TACFIRE computer can also avoid communications bottlenecks by immediately and automatically relaying incoming messages to other communications networks. The computers can talk to one another over standard tactical radios or, to avoid electronic jamming and detection, over simple field phone lines.

Because the messages are automatically encoded and decoded and transmitted as digital traffic, messages can be sent safely in seconds. For example, a complete forward observer's fire request can be transmitted in 2 seconds, reducing his vulnerability to detection and significantly increasing his life span.

Unlike Computer Chess. Several complete plans of attack and defense can be plugged into the TACFIRE computer in advance to be called on when needed, including intelligence and the commander's criteria for things like automatic generation of fire missions, target reports, recommendations for fire missions on enemy artillery and the consolidation of several targets into one.

With a division-artillery com-

puter capable of storing up to 1,350 separate targets, all kinds of plans can be plotted. For example, once it has been decided to attack a target, TACFIRE can automatically consider all the field artillery, naval, air and missile systems available and recommend the best weapons, munitions, and volume of fire needed to meet the commander's guidelines.

The commander is then free to choose. He can modify the recommendations the computers make, or do as they suggest. Then he can tell them to automatically send his instructions and report back — via computer — the damage done.

Large and Small. The difference between the division and battalion TACFIRE centers is mostly one of size and in the software, or computer programs used by the two centers. The division center fits in two trucks, the battalion in one.

Throughout the system there are VFMEs, two-way computer terminals featuring a cathode display tube, line printer, coding system and digital data terminal, which permit operators to talk to one another or to the central computer.

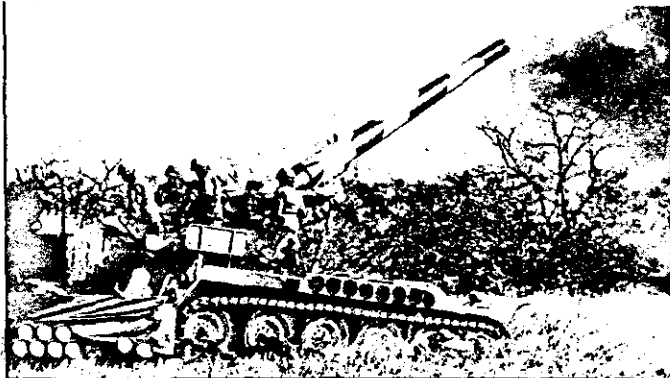
At the battery, one-way BDUs receive, decode and print messages. The smallest part of the system goes on a man's back. It's a two-way, handheld digital message device which communicates over standard Army communications equipment.

More Information Coming.

To increase TACFIRE's already remarkable capabilities, new target acquisition systems are currently under development. They include target-locating radars, sound-ranging equipment, laser guidance systems, photolocators and robot reconnaissance planes.

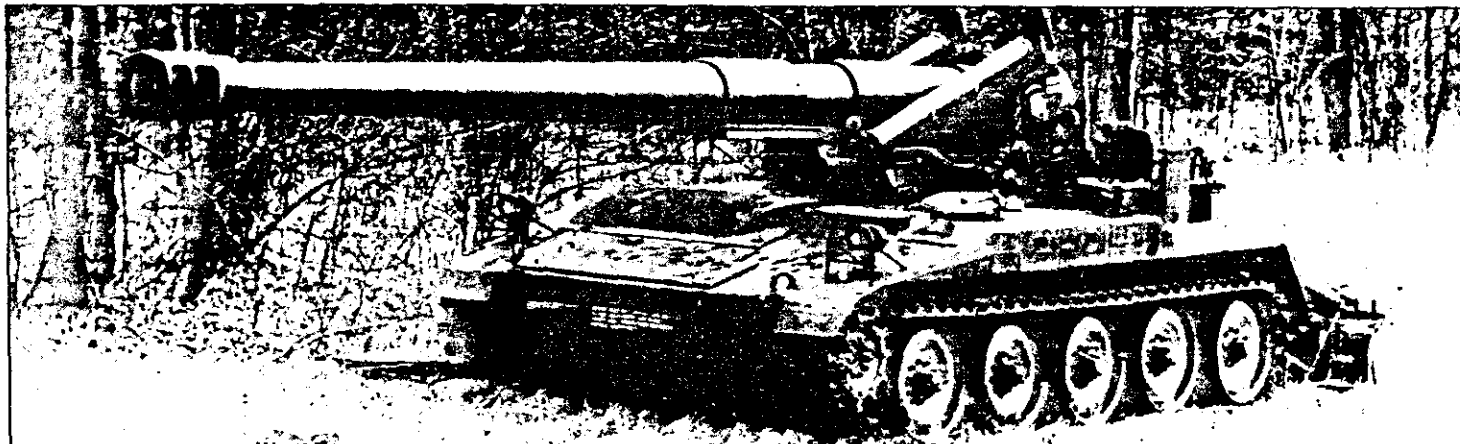
Ultimately, all of these information and intelligence gathering systems will be electronically tied into the commander's command and control system so he can mass surprise fires, reduce field artillery vulnerability and, through the use of precision-guided munitions, engage both stationary and moving targets.

With long range guns and missiles firing improved conventional rounds, scatterable antitank and anti-personnel mines and rocket-assisted rounds, laser-guided rounds, smoke rounds three times as dense as before, new cluster rounds, atomic and chemical rounds, the commander with knowledge, skill, luck and imagination will be able to fight outnumbered and win.

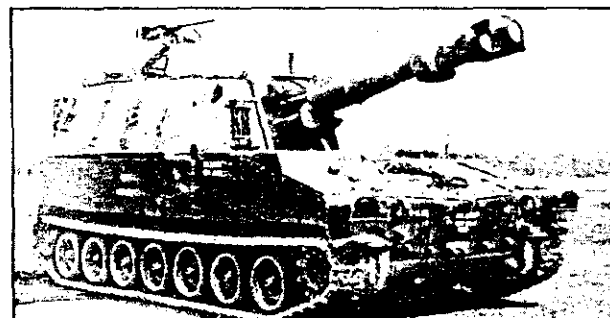


KEY: For the benefit of readers with limited artillery vocabularies: **Howitzers** fire shells at higher angles than guns with greater accuracy, longer cannon tube life and less range. **HE** is high explosive. **HEP** is high explosive plastic. **Dual Purpose Submunitions** are cargo carrying rounds containing miniature antivehicle or antipersonnel mines or small guided missiles or reconnaissance equipment. **RAP** is rocket assisted projectile. **WP** is white phosphorous. **CLGP** is cannon launched guided projectile. And **SP** means self-propelled.

M-110, 8-inch SP Howitzer Entered service early '60s and being replaced by M-110A1 now. Range: 16,800 m. or 10.5 mi., Max Rate of Fire: 4.5 rnds in 3 mins., Sustained Rate: 0.5 rnds/min., Cruising Range: 450 mi., Crew: 13, Emplacement Time: 2.5 min., Ammunition: HE, HE spotting, chemical, dual purpose submunitions and nuclear.



M-110A1, 8-inch SP Howitzer In service since '76, scheduled to replace M-110 and M-107 by the early '80s. Range: 20,100 m. or 12.9 mi., Max Rate of Fire: 4.5 rnds. in 3 mins., Sustained Rate: 0.5 rnds/min., Cruising Range: 360 mi., Weight: 62,100 lbs., Crew: 13, Emplacement Time: 2.5 min., Ammunition: HE, HE spotting, chemical, dual purpose submunitions and nuclear.



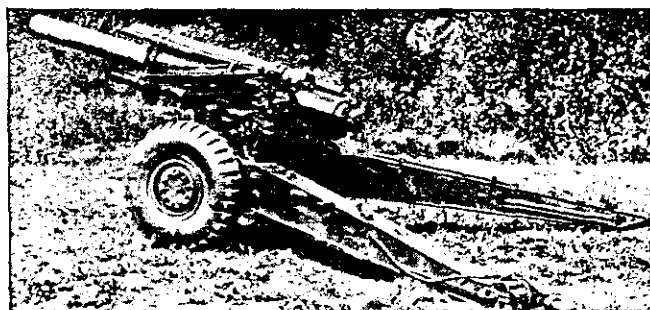
M-109, 155-mm SP Howitzer Entered service in early '60s. Being replaced by M-109A1. Range: 14,600 m. or 9 mi., Max Rate of Fire: 12 rnds. in 3 min., Sustained Rate: 1 rnd/min., Cruising Range: 120 km or 75 mi., Weight: 52,461 lbs., Crew: 10, Emplacement Time: 1 min., Ammunition: HE, illumination, chemical, RAP, GLGP, dual purpose submunitions, smoke, WP and nuclear.



M-109A1, 155-mm SP Howitzer In service since '72 and will replace M-109. Max Range: 18,100 m. or 11.2 mi., Max Rate of Fire: 12 rnds. in 3 mins., Sustained Rate: 1 rnd/min., Cruising Range: 120 km. or 75 mi., Weight: 53,940 lbs., Crew: 10, Emplacement Time: 1 min., Ammunition: HE, illumination, chemical, RAP, CLGP, dual purpose submunitions, smoke, WP and nuclear.

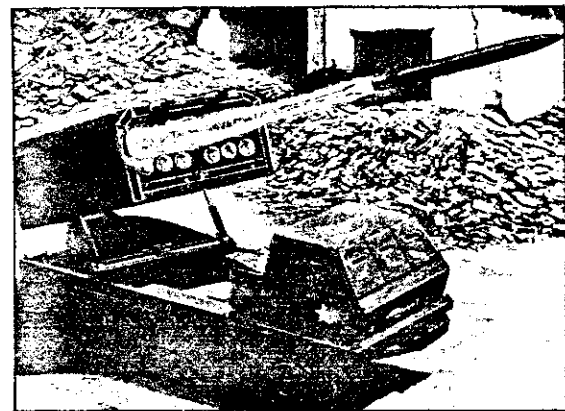
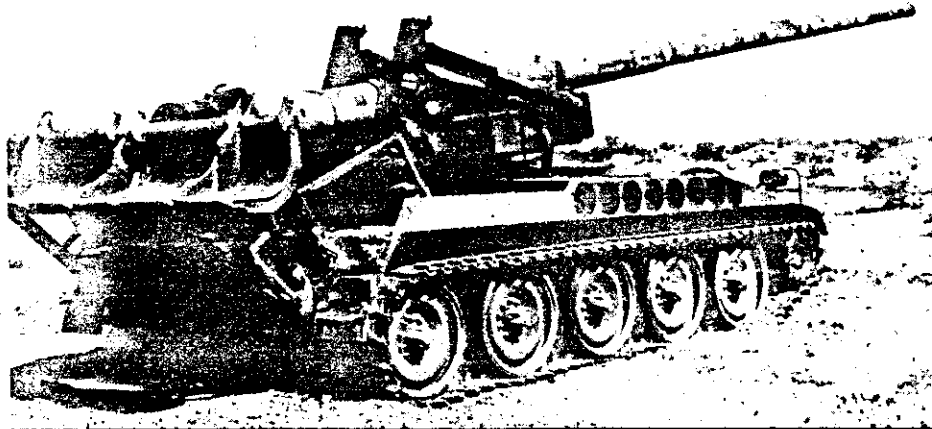


M-198 lightweight, 155-mm Towed Howitzer (Left) Enters service 1979, will replace M-114A1 by early '84. Range: 30,000 m. or 18.6 mi., Max Rate of Fire: 4 rnds. in 3 mins., Sustained Rate: 0.5 rnds/min., Weight: 15,200 lbs., Crew: 11, Emplacement Time: 4 mins., Ammunition: HE, illumination, chemical, RAP, CLGP, dual purpose submunitions and nuclear.



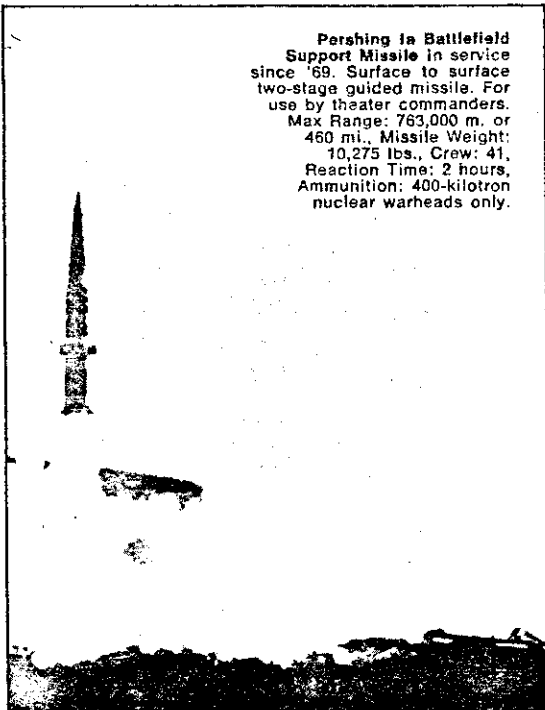
M-114A1, 155-mm Towed Howitzer (Above) In service since '42, to be replaced by M-198 by early '84. Max Range: 14,600 m. or 9 mi., Max Rate of Fire: 12 rnds. in 3 min., Sustained Rate: 1 rnd/min., Weight: 12,700 lbs., Crew: 11, Emplacement Time: 3.5 min., Ammunition: HE, illumination, chemical, RAP, smoke, WP and nuclear.

M-107, 175-mm SP Gun in service since early '60s, being replaced by M-110A1 8-in. SP Howitzer, Range: 32,700 m. or 19 mi., Max Rate of Fire: 4.5 rnds. in 3 mins., Sustained Rate: 0.5 rnds/min., Cruising Range: 451 mi., Weight: 62,100 lbs., Crew: 13, Emplacement Time: 3 min., Ammunition: HE only.



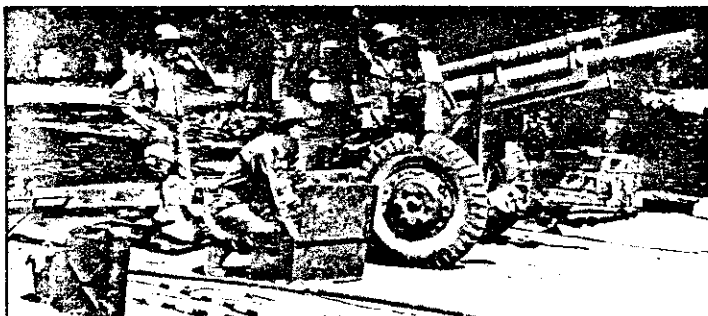
General Support Rocket System in advanced development. Projected service entry date in the early '80s. Rapid fire unguided rockets, supplements cannon fire when large numbers of targets appear. Range: More than 30,000 m. or 18.6 mi., Rocket Weight: 533 lbs., Cruising Range: 298.5 mi., Crew: 3, Emplacement Time: 1 min., Ammunition: 290 lb. warhead containing dual purpose submunitions.

Pershing Ia Battlefield Support Missile in service since '69. Surface to surface two-stage guided missile. For use by theater commanders. Max Range: 763,000 m. or 460 mi., Missile Weight: 10,275 lbs., Crew: 41, Reaction Time: 2 hours, Ammunition: 400-kiloton nuclear warheads only.

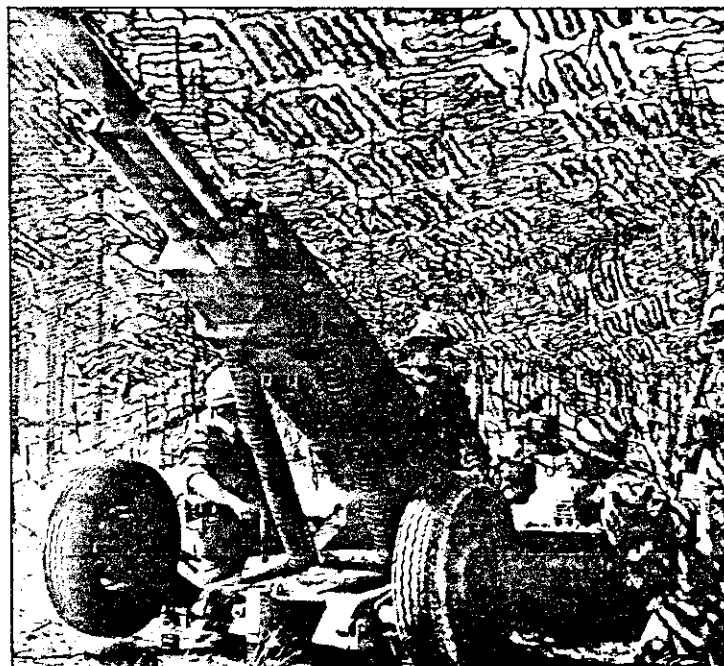


Lance Battlefield Support Missile in service since '72. Surface-to-surface, guided two-stage missile. Prepackaged liquid propellant. Max Range non-nuclear warhead: 6,450 m. or 40 mi., Max Range with nuclear warhead: 12,000 m. or 75 mi., Missile Weight: nuclear 3,000 lbs., non-nuclear 3,400, Crew: 11, Reaction Time: 15 mins., Ammunition: nuclear warheads with non-nuclear cluster bombs on order for '79.

M101A1, 105-mm light Towed Howitzer (Below) In service from late '40s, production stopped in '53. Considered obsolete but still in use by light infantry and Reserves. Range: 11,000 m. or 6.8 mi., Max Rate of Fire: 30 rnds. in 3 min., Sustained Rate: 3 rnds/min., Weight: 4,980 lbs., Crew: 8, Emplacement Time: 1 min., Ammunition: HE, HEAT, HEP, WP, smoke, illuminating, chemical and flechette.



M-102, 105-mm light Towed Howitzer (Right) Entered Service '67. Standard light howitzer for airborne and airmobile divisions. Max range: 11,500 m. or 7.15 mi., Max Rate of Fire: 30 rnds. in 3 min., Sustained Rate: 3 rnds/min., Crew: 8, Emplacement Time: 2 mins., Ammunition: HE, HEAT, HEP, WP, smoke, chemical, RAP, illuminating and flechette.



From ARMY RESERVE magazine, Jul. Aug 78.
Despite being an official organ, its free swinging style is excellent. J.M.

The Interstellar Medium Is With Us — So Just Relax and Think About It

By Cristine Russell
Washington Star Staff Writer

For those who worry about the consequences of uncontrollable hourly, daily and monthly and even yearly events on earth, it may be time to relax and take a longer look at a more cosmic concern: the influence of the interstellar medium on climate and life.

The topic is under study by Dr. Raymond J. Talbot Jr. of Rice University, who suggests that climatic changes may have occurred when our solar system passed through dense clouds in the interstellar medium — the gas and dust which fills the space between the stars.

An "explosive growth of information" from astronomy research has revealed, says Talbot, that the interstellar medium ("ISM" for short) is "lumpy," with high density clouds dotting a low density background.

Right now our solar system seems to be located in a low density pattern, but during the course of its history it should have passed through several hundred clouds 10 to 100 times as dense as the current interstellar environment, according to the Houston physicist.

AND PERHAPS 16 times during the past 4.5 billion years the sun and planets may have been enveloped by much denser dust and gas clouds — 10,000 to 100,000 times as dense — with each cloud blanket hanging overhead for more than 500,000 years.

Fortunately the dense clouds of the "ISM" may not have been around for 50 million years. These estimates were presented in a paper prepared by Talbot for a symposium today at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Although widely spaced, the presence of these clouds may have had long-lasting repercussions, perhaps even connections with the earth's ice ages.

There is speculation among astronomers, he said, that the clouds may have affected the "solar wind" — gases streaming from the sun past the earth to the outer planets — letting in more cosmic rays and even ultraviolet and X-ray emissions.

The atmosphere might have acquired more hydrogen, upsetting the

Scientist Reports Sun Temperature Dip

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — The sun's temperature and energy output are not stable as has been believed for years, says a scientist at the Kitt Peak National Observatory, who reports he has discovered a small solar temperature drop.

The findings of William Livingston were reported today in a copyrighted article in the Arizona Daily Star. Livingston says his research has determined the surface temperature of the sun has recently fallen by about 11 degrees and that the energy output may have dropped by one-half of one percent.

The sun's surface temperature is about 10,000 degrees fahrenheit.

heat balance and perhaps cooling the earth (but then, admitted Talbot, "I wouldn't swear it would end up cooling. Sometimes these things turn around and produce heat").

"THE MAGNITUDE and signifi-

cance of these processes has not yet been fully explored," but "rough estimates suggest that the interstellar medium is likely to have influenced the climatic history of earth," he concluded.

In addition, the "ISM" may have been intimately connected with life itself. Talbot says that it is a "rich array of organic compounds of wide-ranging complexity," many of which are similar to those which might have been involved in the origin of life.

As the dense clouds passed by, "they may have provided sufficient seed for an otherwise inorganic primitive earth."

"This raises the possibility that the phenomenon we know as 'life' may be a natural, common, universal advanced stage of interstellar organic chemistry" — "one supercomplex component of the interstellar medium," as he puts it.

The language of today's astronomer seems to be as filled with superlatives as the science fiction characters in "Star Wars" who constantly wish that the "Force" may "be with you."

Talbot, in a session with reporters, offered a new slogan: "We are the interstellar medium."

THIS PIECE is from the back side of a set of orders Ron Kelly sent in once. (BB does need filler, you see!) Aside from the laugh the author got out of making the 'egghead professors' look like fools, the article brings up some good points I'd originally seen in a gov't publication called Chemistry Between The Stars. It shows how very complex compounds, including such items as formaldehyde, e.g., exist in the interstellar clouds and would presumably have existed even in the pre-solar nebula. This helps explain the now-seemingly negligible time between the start of life on earth and the existence of conditions making life possible. The old theories had apparently held that the oceans became a rich 'soup' of advanced and complex compounds that then sat around a LONG time waiting for some one-in-a-trillion chance of life beginning. Now, if the advanced compounds exist in the pre-stellar nebula, the emergence of life becomes something more akin to spontaneous combustion: i.e., as soon as it is possible, it happens. I liked seeing this because that's more like what I'd thought should be the case all along.

J.M.

THINGS I DESPAIR EVER PERSUADING JOHN MICHALSKI OF

by John Boardman

1. I am not a Pacifist. I would no sooner identify myself as a Pacifist in the America of 1978, than I would have identified myself as a Protestant in the Spain of 1578.

2. John F. Kennedy was not a Pacifist. On his Inauguration Day, he said, "Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe..." In pursuit of this policy, there were eight times as many US troops in Vietnam at the time of his death as there were when he took office.

3. Robert F. Kennedy was not a Pacifist. In Saigon, on 18 February 1962, he said, "We are going to win in Vietnam. We will remain here until we do win."

4. Edward M. Kennedy is not a Pacifist. In August 1964 he voted for the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, which Attorney General Katzenbach, also a liberal Democrat, later called "The constitutional equivalent of a declaration of war."

5. James Earl Carter is not a Pacifist. In 1970, as Governor of Georgia, he thoroughly approved the measures taken against the Pacifist demonstrators at Kent State University. He also declared a day in honor of his fellow-Georgian, William L. Calley.

6. Liberals in general are as devoted as conservatives are, to America's war effort. The President and Congress who took the US into Vietnam in a big way in 1964 were strongly liberal. Hubert Humphrey, the touchstone of American liberalism, urged strong US intervention in Angola during the 1976 crisis.

7. The Chinese Peoples Republic has been, ever since the Nixon-Mao conference, America's straw-boss in the far east. (See how Russia and China are each trying to get our attention with claims about the sinister intentions of the other.)

8. Cambodia is acting as China's puppet in its war against Vietnam, and thus is the puppet of our puppet. Granted, Pol Pot is a singularly unsavory type, but so were all those Mafiosi we turned loose against Mussolini in Sicily in 1943.

9. It doesn't make a scrap of difference whether or not the Panama Canal treaties were ratified. We can still do anything we like to Panama at a moment's notice.

10. I am strongly opposed to the ecology movement. As a scientist, I regard it as an attempt to make me unemployable. As someone who enjoys the benefits of modern technology, I regard it as an attempt to go back 100 or 200 or 1000 years. (The exact time span depends on the particular ecologist you're talking to.) I have no regrets when ecologists like MOVE or the Clamshellers run afoul of the law.

11. Proposition 13 to the contrary, the problems of the world will not be solved by causing me and people like me to lose our jobs.

12. I never said Lakofka is Walker. I maintain that the opinions in Diplomacy attributed to Lakofka are Walker's, which is quite another matter.

13. Letters addressed to "New York, N. Y." do not get delivered in Brooklyn, N. Y.

14. The United States of America is the greatest military power in the world and has been for at least a third of a century. Chile is thousands of miles away and we keep her toeing the line, while the USSR can't manage China and Rumania right on their own frontiers. For further details please see the column "For Your Eyes Only". passim, in Strategy & Tactics.

((See reverse also))

J.M.

JOHN BOARDMAN

234 E 19 St, Brooklyn 11226

BB #23, having been correctly addressed for a change, arrived yesterday.

You apparently want me to reply to the arguments allegedly raised by Greg Costikyan and Rod Walker. What arguments? Greg calls me a "peckerhead" and Rod calls me a "Nazi".

This is not a level of dialog with which it is practicable to deal. It would be like entering the proverbial "pissing contest with a skunk".*

Moreover, both of them, and you also, seem to want me to defend positions which I repudiated more than five years ago. I used to be a Pacifist. Rod used to be a heterosexual. The day I defend Pacifism will be the day Rod votes for the Proposition 6 that that insane state senator in California is trying to put through for extirpating gays.

I will reply to criticisms of my actual beliefs. I will not reply to some position that someone has made up himself and chooses to attribute to me.

Stay well,



* - Yes, I know that what a skunk discharges is not urine but isobutyl mercaptan. But why let a popular metaphor be spoiled by a mere fact?

((That's a good one; I'll have to try and remember it. Sounds more like something from the backwoods than NYC, but then, NYC is full of surprises, isn't it?

In regard to some of the items on the reverse:2-5. No one, not even they themselves, would have used the insult of 'Pacifist' toward any of these folks, least of all I. There are plenty of legitimate gripes to use against any of them, without trying to ridicule them as Pacifists to boot.8.'Granted, Hitler was an unsavory type, but a lot of people here don't like Jews either.' The ease with which you people can pooh-pooh away the vilest acts on earth while getting so upset and putting on your stupid show of 'fear of repression' because your own screwy views lack popularity here, never ceases to amaze me. You can pass up a Cambodia or Uganda and not bat an eye, then denounce Ian Smith because he will turn the country over to only Black moderates, not the communist guerillas. Idi Amin is blithly ignored, but Richard Nixon is denounced for trying to cover the trail of some of his more foolish followers. What is the reason that anything-goes anywhere else in the world, while any flaw in this system is condemned in the strongest terms? I cannot see how people can turn their back on all human experience to date, and instead try to start all over with this ultra-simplistic attitude of me-all-good, other-all-bad mentality. If there was any state discipline in this country at all, John, you'd be experiencing real repression first hand instead of whining about how every rainy day is further 'proof' of how the fascist government here keeps you whipped into line.))

J.M.

((Oh, and if S&T were the only source, I wouldn't trust in Christmas following December 24th.))

By the way, I sent an old issue of BB to a fellow Dippy player from Flying Buffalo, Inc. Gave you a good plug too. Maybe you'll gain another subber/player.

Speaking of Flying Buffalo -- some time ago you asked for opinions on that organization. I strongly urge anyone accustomed to your deadlines to avoid Flying Buffalo. Their deadlines are three weeks but usually take a minimum of two or three weeks more before they run the turn (they're on a computer -- need I say more) and return it with a new deadline. ALL seasons are separated as well. They offer a variety of reasons as to why turns are continually delayed (ie. computer down, short staff, starting new games, too many customers ?? etc.) but the end result is long turn deadlines. I've finally advised FB that this is my last game with them due to their slowness. Two other players from 77IZ with me are quitting after this for the same reason. Oh, it also took FB eleven (11) MONTHS to start me in 77IZ after I requested a Diplomacy game in 1976. We are presently playing the Winter 1904 turn which is due on October 26 (today).

Regarding the Oaklyn/Tretick controversy. I sincerely hope this is finally over with and no more space is wasted in your zine debating the issue. Frankly I grew quite sick of the whole thing and the amount of coverage it was given. I'd much rather see you debate something else with John Boardman or anyone else -- say Affirmative Action.

Okay since I mentioned it I'll give you Kassel's Komment on AA and let your readers take pot shots at me too. For background I am a WASP employed as a civil servant in a County Welfare Department. When this ~~xxx~~ policy first came out we had it stuffed down our throats due to the nature of our employment (gov't). I must admit I don't like being told I MUST do this or that without having any voice in the matter. However I would be opposed to this policy regardless. So when Personnel told us we had to help promote our minority workers at the expense of everyone else I politely told them to stuff it, as did most all our other Managers as well. The law says it is illegal to discriminate against ANYONE because of race, sex, color, etc. To me that's pretty plain. Law or not I like to think I treat all people equally anyways.

Maybe someone can explain it to me. Why is it proper to discriminate against men or whites now when we decided it previously was wrong to have discriminated against women or blacks? The argument I hear advanced most is because we need to correct past practices -- correct the damage. Therefore we hurt group B now because their forefathers hurt the forefathers of group A previously. Maybe the Court Justices have guilty consciences and that's why they ruled such a practice legal. Me, I have no such problem and don't intend to develop one. I'm tired of being blamed for and held accountable for the mistakes of past generations. Why should I repeat them?

I wonder how many supporters of AA would still feel the same way if they themselves lost a job due to this practice? Maybe we're starting to reverse the trend however. At least California is with the Bakke decision.

((I believe it was Ron Kelly that sent in an editorial about how the Supreme Court ignored law and went to Sociology to find something to back up forced bussing with; the author of the piece then went on to point out how shaky an area Sociology is, and showed that the man whose work was quoted by the court in the 'inherently unequal' line

Reply to Kassel

now says that he was all wet then, and testifies on behalf of bussing opponents now in court cases! That doesn't help, of course--little short of a revolution will--but backs up the indictment of the Court. One of those articles (you wouldn't believe how many I have here) had someone asking 'Want to meet a real racist? Talk to some grade schooler being bussed.' Maybe by the time THAT generation gets into power, this crap will be washed away. They will have learned mutual animosity so early and intently that 'separate-but-equal' may seem progressive in comparison to their reaction. It seems that there is such a huge time lag between the time the national body gets its hand in a fire compared to the time the brain decides it is time to withdraw the hand that the damage done is outrageously high. Yet even Boardman has one point right: what can the individual do? I vote, I contribute to the right (or more right than the other) candidates, even have held a lowly precinct position in the party--but our senior senator votes as he sees fit irregardless of his constituents. (Okla has 2 Republicans in the Senate now; the best one is dying of cancer and will be replaced by a Demo, and the other rotten bastard Bellmon will be lucky to avoid being a laughingstock candidate as was Harris). The leadership is completely removed from contact or even much caring about the man in the street; I'd be interested in where the readership thinks it will lead (If you agree, i.e.; If not, what do you see?) Affirmative Action is another result of leadership appointed for life doing as its social conscience sees fit. These Athenians proclaim their social theory for a perfect world on the steps of a Washington Parthenon, while elsewhere in the world the new Spartans drill...

Thanks for plugging this. There have been a few more new names trickle in each issue of late. One fellow called me from Florida, saying he was a chess man looking at a Dip game in a store. A passerby saw him looking at it and recommended it, etc., and was carrying a copy of BRUTUS BULLETIN. Now there's a new hobby signee coming in... that's how the hobby grows, folks. Good work, whoever that was!

MARK BERCH to Bob Sergeant's ST GEORGE & THE DRAGON

((Mark sent me a long letter this time, but I won't have time to type it and respond this issue. Letter below ties in to Sergeant's editorial reprinted elsewhere in this issue.) (I hope!))

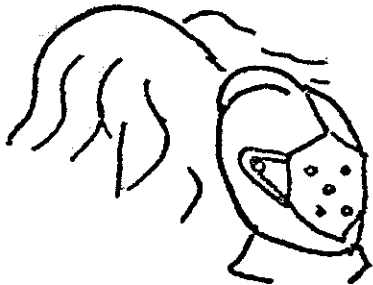
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And we get letters too(so there, John !)...

From Mark Berch(written before the Cylon gunslinger episode)

"I trust you saw the 3 hour keikoff for Galactica. I was amused by the Earthlings(sic) fear that if they lost this battle, that the race of man would be exterminated. Somehow I have the feeling that for the rest of the season they will be constantly encountering humans wherever they go. I must say that, after the first two shows, the script-writers have sowed an appalling lack of imagination. The plots have been so predictable. I just KNOW that they will head into that Magnetic Void. It certainly makes sense. They have to hide, and what better place than a magnetic void to not only hide, but trot out some special effects on the tube(as you know by now there were no special effects just a sometimes blackening out of the stars. And while the Magnetic Void ruined the operation of their instruments, it had no apparent effect on the Machine Cylons). And I must say that the Commander's decision to recall the fighters at the end of the movie was not only apallingly stupid, but certain to be ignored. I'm a sucker for this sort of stuff on the tube, but this is pretty weak stuff so far. This isn't Science Fiction, except visually. It's just an adventure story.

29 Sept 1978



SAINT GEORGE SPEAKS

Battlestar Galactica

I have some good news and some bad news. First the good news-BG is doing well in the ratings. Now the bad news-the principle I mentioned earlier, that the larger the market SF aims for, the worse the SF, is demonstrated by Battlestar.

I am not an intellectual snob about SF. I don't believe that it has to be morally uplifting, or instructive to be worthwhile. A SF story that is entertaining is worthwhile enough. I think most people who become fans of SF become so through so-called space opera. A youngster is not ready for Harlan Ellison (is anyone?) but Jack Vance is an ideal author for the purpose. The earliest SF story I remember reading was his story, Planet of the Damned, in the December, 1952 issue of Space Stories. I've been a fan of SF ever since. SF is the only form of Literature that can arouse what is called a "sense of wonder", in the somewhat trite phrase. So anything that does this for me, works. Star Wars did; Close Encounters didn't.

Battlestar almost works, at least in the early episodes. The three hour opener and the next two episodes were fun. The action scenes went on too long for my taste and the second and third episodes didn't seem to have much else. Sure there were things wrong. Our side took no casualties in the space battles with the Cylons and ours were unseasoned rookies, and you knew that Sirena wasn't going to survive much longer and everyone, even Star Wars, seems to think there is sound in space. But those things can be lived with. The characters are at least as interesting as those in Star Trek.

BUT

Then came the episode of October 8, 1978. C'mon, guys. What is this nonsense. "Captain Apollo against a lone Cylon gunslinger"? Garbage, pure and simple. With the emphasis on simple. Quite apart from the fact that they should have put the script in the paper shredder the special effects designed for the planet had NO thought given to them. It might have been an interesting touch to have a horse that growled instead of neighing, but no thought was given to the implications. If the horse growls, it is not a horse, it must be an alien environment-evolved animal. And in that case its looking like a horse is highly improbable, especially if you consider the animal, eohippus, that the horse evolved from on earth.

And the matter of the oviners(!) wearing cheap plastic hats...I'm sure someone said they thought it would be cute if they showed that the oviners were so poor they couldn't afford anything but plastic. But! In a subsistence economy, which they were certainly portraying, plastic is not cheap. Cheap plastic requires a heavily technological society. It would have been more appropriate if the one wealthy individual had a plastic hat.

Battlestar has the potential to be very good. It ought to at least be entertaining. But one more Cylon gunslinger and I may go back to Walt Disney, where the children's shows are more adult. And incidently do you wonder why no one as yet has complained about the incredible amount of violence in this show?

from: LIBERTERREAN 106 Jim Bumpas
948 Loraine Ave. Los Altos, CA 94022

Quotes from the LIBERTERREAN:

"The House International Relations Committee amended the military aid bill to bar the export of thumbscrews, leg irons and electric shock batons to countries that violate human rights."

DETROIT WINTERCON VII GAMEFEST, will be Dec 1-3, 1978 at Oakland Center, Oakland Univ., Rochester, Michigan. For more information, write Metro Detroit Gamers, Box 787, Troy, MI 48099.

Clippings courtesy of Ron Kelly
and the Washington Star.

Geologist Thinks Heat Wiped Out Dinosaurs

RICHMOND (UPI) — A fresh look at fossils from 65 million years ago has convinced Dewey M. McLean that heat, not cold, wiped out the dinosaurs.

If the Virginia Tech geology professor is right about that primal catastrophe, his findings could mean trouble for the nation's plan to rely more heavily on coal for energy.

McLean theorizes the puzzling mass extinction of dinosaurs — and other animals — that marked the end of the earth's Mesozoic era were caused by a global warming trend.

He believes that warming trend — a relatively brief one according to his conclusions based on fossil studies — was triggered by a buildup of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

Scientists have been warning recently that increased burning of coal, oil and gas by an energy-guzzling society and the felling of lush, tropical forests could create just such a "greenhouse effect."

McLean, however, offers historical precedent for such an occurrence in the fossil record from the precise time dinosaurs suddenly disappeared 65 million years ago.

"BEFORE THE middle of the next century we could be in the initial stages of what could be a major greenhouse (effect)," McLean warned. "Global warming is going to cause us great problems."

In a recent Science magazine article, he suggested that melting of the polar ice masses could raise ocean levels, inundating the earth's populous low-lying regions.

But the worst effect of global warming could be a reproductive failure among the large mammals

less adapted to tropical conditions than humans, he said.

"I came to the conclusion that the same phenomenon that triggered the late Mesozoic extinctions 65 million years ago is being duplicated by humanity today," said McLean.

McLean, who is preparing to publish another article on his research, said he became "intrigued with the late Mesozoic extinctions because they were of relatively short duration, were global and swept up large animals on land and in the oceans."

"So I felt that something universal in nature had affected the earth and I felt we could learn something from the extinctions that could serve humanity today."

MCLEAN CONCLUDED that something must have gone haywire with the earth's carbon cycle after he found that marine algae also underwent catastrophic extinction during the late Mesozoic era.

Algae take in carbon dioxide to make tissue and food and give off oxygen.

The extinction of the algae, probably for lack of nutrients in the ancient oceans, would cause the accumulation of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, creating a mild greenhouse effect, he reasoned.

As the oceans, which contain the vast bulk of the carbon dioxide, heated up, more of the gas was expelled into the atmosphere, aggravating the greenhouse effect.

"That in turn caused a chain reaction of warming, more carbon dioxide expulsion and more warming," he said.

A-12 The Washington Star Tuesday, October 3, 1978

Soviets Confident They've Mastered Breeder Reactor Technology

By John Flaska

Washington Star Staff Writer
OBNIINSK, U.S.S.R. — The goal of the nuclear scientists and engineers working here is to introduce a "plutonium economy" into the Soviet energy system by the 1990s.

The device for accomplishing this is called the liquid metal fast breeder reactor (LMFBR), a piece of technology that has caused a major controversy in the United States because it will generate or "breed" large quantities of plutonium for use as nuclear reactor fuel. Plutonium is also the main material used in the manufacture of nuclear weapons.

The feeling here is that handling plutonium along with other materials involved in breeder technology is an art that has been completely mastered.

"I don't see any basic difficulties in transferring from uranium fuel to plutonium," explained Mikhail Troyanov, deputy director of Russia's Institute of Physics and Power Engineering, to a group of visiting U.S. journalists.

The difference between the U.S.

breeder program and the Soviet Union's is obvious to a lay visitor to Obninsk, the main breeder research facility, located 80 miles southwest of Moscow.

WHILE THE CARTER administration and Congress are locked in a protracted dispute over whether to build the first U.S. breeder reactor that will produce electrical power on a commercial scale, the Soviets have already built two and are finishing plans for a third.

The third Russian breeder, to be completed in the late 1980s, is called BN-1600. It will produce 1,600 megawatts of electric power, more than five times that of the proposed Clinch River breeder reactor. Carter stopped the Clinch River project last year because it conflicted with his nuclear non-proliferation policies. The reactor, which still has strong support in Congress, was to have been built near Oak Ridge, Tenn.

Until recently, the LMFBR was the U.S. government's main energy research program. It was considered to be the next generation of nuclear

power plants, one that would begin to dominate power production in the United States by the 1990s.

One difference between the breeder and conventional reactors is that breeders operate at much higher temperatures, requiring a molten metal, sodium, as a coolant rather than the water that is used to cool and to carry the heat out of conventional nuclear reactors.

THE BREEDER reactor is also designed to operate in a way that physicists call "fast." In a breeder the flow of fast-moving subatomic particles, called neutrons, is encouraged. In the conventional reactor the flow is inhibited.

The neutrons have the capacity to change the atomic structure in the metals surrounding the reactor and so breeders are designed with a blanket of natural uranium around the reactor's core. Under bombardment by neutrons, the uranium turns into plutonium suitable for re-use as reactor fuel.

According to Troyanov, the Soviets hope to use LMFBRs "very intensively" in the 1990s. The reactors will be designed to create about 1.3 times the amount of plutonium fuel they burn up, and to eventually shift the basis of their energy economy to plutonium fuel, rather than coal, oil, uranium or natural gas.

While U.S. scientists maintain that the U.S. breeder program is still ahead of the Soviets' in terms of basic research, they admit the Soviets are now well ahead of the United States in terms of testing equipment under actual operating conditions.

Obninsk is the home of the world's first commercial nuclear power plant, which began sending small quantities of electrical power into the Moscow area electrical power grid in 1954, at a time when the United States was concerned with smaller experimental devices.

ALMOST IMMEDIATELY, according to Troyanov, the basic thrust of the Soviet research program was shifted into the breeder area because of the promise of virtually limitless supplies of plutonium fuel.

Unlike U.S. nuclear engineers, who

dress up visitors in white gowns, shoe covers and special radiation monitors, the Soviets have a much more relaxed attitude about displays of nuclear hardware.

They don't use shoe covers, which protect the reactor area against dirt, and they believe that radiation monitors are unnecessary. They like to see it up close, even touch it.

For a lecture on the main Soviet breeder research reactor, BN-S, reporters were assembled on the operating reactor's metal cover, just a few yards away from the machine's radioactive fuel.

Next year BN-S will celebrate its 20th birthday and the engineers here are looking for a way to celebrate what they say has been 20 years of trouble-free breeder operation.

"We could fill it up with cognac," joked one engineer, "but that would slow down the reaction."

THE SOVIET equivalent to the proposed Clinch River breeder is called BN-350. It began operating at Obninsk, on the shore of the Caspian Sea, in 1972.

It now produces electricity also steam for use in water, although, as Troyanov has had "certain difficulties"

Sodium is a very tricky element to handle in large quantities. It on contact with air and can explode upon contact with water.

An explosion occurred in 1974 some 100 gallons of water leaked the sodium in one of the steam generators at Obninsk. Some say the explosion was rather minor, but Troyanov dismissed these reports as "rumors," saying the plant remained in operation and the damage it sustained would have been noticeable from the side.

A somewhat larger facility, BN-600, is being completed near Lysinsk in the Uralis and is expected to begin operations sometime next year.

Recently there has been some discussion among Russian nuclear scientists that American equipment such as steam generators, shipped out in the Russian breed

Federal Reserve Sees Inflation Worsening in '79

By Leonard Curry
Washington Star Staff Writer

Wage increases and higher prices for cars and housing have raised the nation's underlying inflation rate to 8.5 percent, according to a new Federal Reserve study.

If the analysis is correct, administration targets for this year will be grossly understated and inflation will be even worse next year. President Carter's advisers have been clinging to an underlying inflation rate of about 6.5 percent and a consumer price forecast of 7.2 percent for 1978.

The underlying inflation rate is considered to be the most significant price measure because it strips away the volatile influence of food and energy prices. It is supposed to reflect the long-term price trends of more substantial consumer products such as cars, appliances and housing. Food prices can soar one month and decline the next. But costs of basic consumer commodities tend to hit plateaus.

ADMINISTRATION economists

have blamed severe winter weather and soaring food prices for the 10 percent consumer inflation for the first half of 1978. But the Federal Reserve analysis indicates that automobiles, mortgage interest and rents have contributed significantly to this acceleration of the underlying inflation rate to the highest level of the economic recovery from the 1974-75 recession.

"Recent price behavior takes on a somewhat different appearance if food and energy items are excluded — one way of indicating an underlying rate of inflation. Except for food and energy, consumer prices rose at a generally stable rate, averaging 6 to 6.5 percent, during 1976 and 1977," the Federal Reserve said.

"Although these prices have tended to rise somewhat faster in the first half of the year than in the second half, so far during 1978 they have risen at a rate of more than 8.5 percent."

The Fed also estimated annual rate increases of 10 percent or more for crude nonfood materials such as

noniron scrap, tobacco, wastepaper and raw cotton. These basic products increased less than 7 percent last year.

THE ANALYSIS was prepared by Lawrence E. DeMiller of the Federal Reserve wages, prices and productivity section. It was published in the latest issue of the Federal Reserve Bulletin.

When the volatile food and energy sectors are added, consumer prices have risen at a double-digit pace during a period when the administration had forecast continued improvement from the 6.8 percent inflation of 1977.

Setting aside the influence of weather on food production and federal government policies, the Federal Reserve said unjustified wage increases have been the primary cause of consumer price increases.

Wage increases accelerated from annual 7 percent gains in 1977 to 8 percent in 1978 despite a poorer productivity performance. Productivity slipped from 4 percent gains in

1976 and 1977 to 1 percent in 1978. Since producers had to pay higher wages without an equal rise in goods to sell, the increased costs were passed to consumers.

For example, the Fed said, wage influences even have led to some increases in food prices during periods when prices received by farmers are falling.

IN ADDITION to union gains, the federal government increased producer costs by raising both the minimum wage and social security taxes last January.

"As an illustration, in the first quarter of 1978, compensation per hour in the nonfarm business sector registered a rise of more than 13 percent at an annual rate," the Fed said. These increased labor costs are passed to consumers in higher prices.

Another factor in the worsening inflation picture has been the resistance of businesses against narrowing their profit margins. In earlier peri-

ods, a rise in labor costs has contributed to lower profits as price levels are maintained.

Wages pushing up prices will turn back on the labor sector next year when contracts covering 3.5 million workers — nearly twice the number affected this year — are negotiated. Strong unions will gain wage settlements that will send prices soaring and make inflation even worse next year, the Fed said.

"Because prices have risen at a more rapid rate recently, wage increases for the first year of new contracts are likely to be substantially higher than current wage growth," the Fed said. Further contributions to prices will come from a new round of minimum wage and social security tax hikes in January.

"The outlook for consumer food prices is also not optimistic," said the Fed, noting that the number of cattle that can be slaughtered for beef still is declining. A shorter supply of cattle means higher beef prices in 1979.

CONRAD VON METZKE

PO Box 626
 San Diego CA 92112
 10-23-78

A few comments on recent blitherings in your magazine (which, by the way, is slowly escalating itself to the top of my "like" list; I am sufficiently brilliant to be able to take the fanatic right with a grain of salt, and some of their rot is actually funny - at least until they try to ram it down someone's throat), mainly because I am given to occasionally seeing mine own name in Big Letters.

You recently passed out certain information from Rod Walker in which, ~~among~~ among other things, he states that he took the Boardman Numbers away from Cal White based on certain codicils to their transfer dating from his tenure many years ago, kept the job for fifteen minutes, then transferred it to Dennis Agosta. My reply to this idiocy is, "balderdash." Cal White has certainly given over the numbers to Dennis, and Rod may have done some prodding in this regard (I really don't know), but the idea that Rod had any actual say in the matter is absurd. Those "codicils" he mentions were supposedly put on the Custodianship at the time I succeeded to the office from Rod; he told me about them, all right, but I informed him then, and continue to inform anybody who cares to know, that I did not accept them and did not continue them when I turned the numbers over to Beyerlein. Rod's only say in the numbers at this point is precisely what every other hobbyist's say is - none save what the hobby gives him.

By the same token, John Boardman's rather silly statement that the Custodians are "not genuine without this Boardman" would give one the impression that John has some lingering control over things. He does not. He has shown no particular interest in having any since he gave them up twelve years ago, and I fail to see why the mere presence of an honorary name changes reality. I might point out that I have no control, either, nor have Messrs. Wells and White, nor do the heirs and assigns of Mr. Koning. Doug Beyerlein may have some residual rights, based on the process of transfer which he instituted, but I'll let him deal with that if and when relevant.

I'm also a little bothered by portions of Boardman's paragraph on why he dislikes Rod Walker. The bit about Beshara is one thing; I'm on the other side of the fence from both Johns, but I accept Boardman's reasoning here. But as for Rod's having "touted...gamemasters who collected game fees and vanished," hell, man, we've all done that. In this hobby there's really no way to distinguish the crooks from the rest until after the fact (unfortunately); although I have no copies of GRAUSTARK to hand, I'm willing to wager that somewhere in those multifarious issues are plugs for subsequent ripoff artists, just as in Rod's or my or anyone else's rags. It begins to sound very much as if Dr. John is saying that he dislikes anyone who has ever emerged on the "wrong" side of any fence with which Boardman is involved. That's surely proved true in the case of the Beshara miasma, and it was true (quite justifiably in this case) with the Reinsel insanity, and so on, and so on, and....

What really interests me about Boardman's whims is, why did he wait so long after the Beshara incident blew up to break off relations with Rod (and Walt)? I'm also curious as to why the good Doctor dislikes me. I was never much of an anti-Beshara activist, though I certainly made my opinions known. If there are other reasons, I'm unaware of them. Maybe John will be kind enough to elucidate via a third party?

Ah - and to save myself 15¢, yes, Baumeister, we're trading.

The biggest problem with your pro-capital punishment blurb is that, by the terms of the article itself, the case discussed is irrelevant to that issue. Second-degree murder does not appear as a capital crime even in our most barbaric jurisdictions. The other problem of note is that a plea for a general policy cannot rationally be supported by the infusion of isolated tales of horror; the fact that Joe Schmuck of Weehauken, N.J., brutally saws into bite-sized morsels the entire population of the East Weehauken School for Girls is no more an argument in favor of capital punishment than is the recent San Diego plane crash an argument in support of taking the Greyhound. I will be perfectly happy to write a defense of my opposition to legalized murder any time you print something germane.

Have I bothered you enough for this time? Something tells me I'd better get this office to get a new typer ribbon, or you'll soon be unable to Xerox the rantings I may occasional spew forth.

((No problem on printing this time; I ran one copy upstairs on the 'dark' machine, then used the copy as a master. Anything to fill these pages...

On the capital punishment 'blurb', I'll have to start by admitting that the horror-story technique WAS a departure, in that it is just a gut-story, not an argument in itself. But as Tony Watson put it a few issues back, why should I always try to offer an argument with any logic or reasoning when the liberal response consists of name-calling, generalities, cliches, and sidestepping? So for once I borrowed a page from the enemy's book and just let the story speak for itself. (Lump)

Irregardless of the degree of murder that our legal system criminals would apply to the perpetrators of this crime, I presented the story as an argument for what I would favor: take such people and drag them to the gutter, and there, shoot them down like the dogs they are. Individual horror stories, true, are no more an argument than an individual plane crash; I leave it up to the individual, however, to decide how many planes must crash how often before you decide that the Greyhound is better. How many murders must occur due to all the 'sick' people who 'need help', before you decide to give the greater society the 'help' it and the sickies both need, the elimination of the latter? The liberals wring their hands and whine about how we need to help and rehabilitate these folks. Fine. Just like having a world full of love. Also fine. Only it just ain't so, and never will be. Despite whatever might be the ideal solution, the simple reality is that the sickies are too sick and too many to be helped. The only question is, how long do we wait to get rid of them? Giving them a 10-minute quarterly counselling session with some federal social worker is the same as doing nothing; I'm talking about DOING something with them. The one effective response is to toss this human garbage down the disposal, not give em a bottle of tranquilizers and a lecture before turning them loose again. Most simply, any lesser solution is no solution. Even

Reply to von Metzke

incarceration is only a temporary palliative, mortgaging the future: you get them off the streets for a few years at the cost of having them come back knowing better how to avoid capture better next time, if not even more inclined to do a repeat performance. The old three-time-loser rule was a good one: three major convictions and you're out, even when those were less than capital crimes in the individual case. Today the lawyers have created a legal system resembling more a game of Captain-may-I than of justice, where the criminal is not judged as to whether or not he did the crime, but rather, did the police follow the proper procedures in arresting him? Did a cop call him a bad name? Did the paper print his name? Was he stopped for a good reason while hauling away the bodies? The only way they should get off is to prove a reasonable doubt that they did it, when instead, you can escape punishment by casting a doubt on the arresting procedures. Such a reversed theory might have been OK in the days of rubber-hose confessions, and was no doubt created for just that reason; but now an even greater injustice exists on the other side. If you can come up with a magic wand that will turn baddies into goodies, I'll support it. If you can ship them to Madagascar, I'll support it. But for now, the only thing that works is to destroy them. I support that.

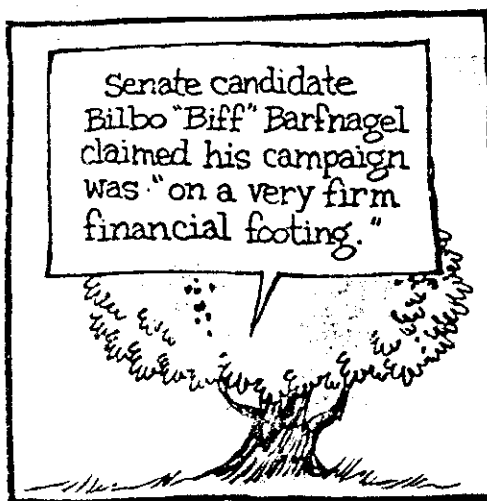
There's plenty of goody-goody theory that comes down to little more than saying Turn-the-other-cheek; that save your breath. If you have any effective alternatives, I'll be glad to hear them.

I don't know what the Reinsel insanity was, but the falling out amongst the old hats is one area I'll just stand back from. As Alan Rowland said in the summer-fall issue of WARMONGER, I don't care what they say about each other, "I just like a feud". That may be a bit overstating it in my case, but I will print anything they wish to say about each other here.

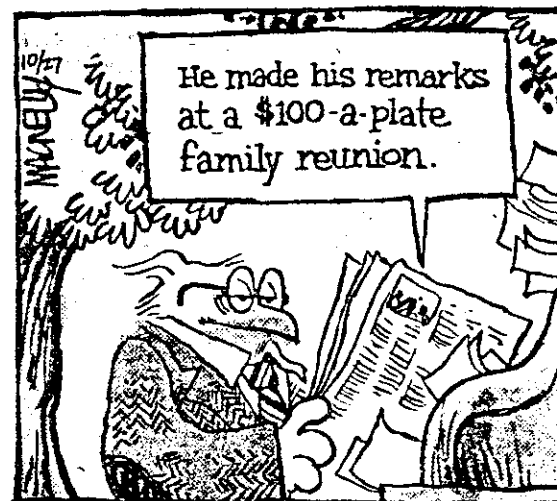
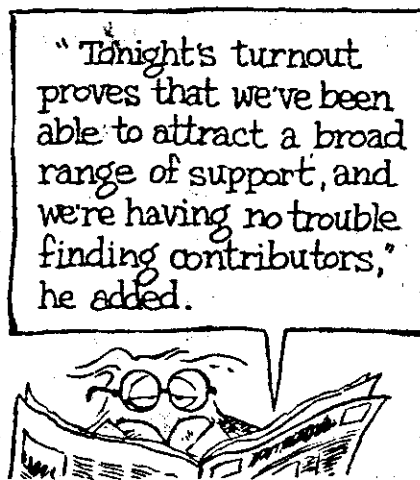
On the numbers transfer, I agree on your commentary on Boardman's position. Rod, though, I'm sure, is as aware as all the rest of us that his action was pure parliamentary puffery, but there are apparently a lot of folks around who place great stock in legalistic mumbo-jumbo aside from Robert Sacks. Rod's actions here present a good case to satisfy them, or at least get them out of the way in questioning the transfer. Now, anyone who likes can question Rod's methods, while the rest of us get on with getting Dennis on his way as BNC; they can say his crown was incorrectly assumed all they like, while his position as current BNC is accepted and recognized by default.

PUBLISHERS! In a PS, Conrad added that he only needs one copy for the archives now instead of the two Walt used to want. Save yourself a copy, or send it as a sample.))

Filler: SHOE (Daily Oklahoman, late October)



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TONY WATSON

201 Minnesota St, Las Vegas 89107

Summer is nice and it's dark at night--oops, sorry. Actually I'm afraid it's been a long time since any of my letters have appeared in BB. I used to always have some sort of crap appearing in there. Mainly, the problem is time. I'm working a 20-hour week at my regular job and another 10-15 in my dual capacity out at school as a tutor and reader for the Political Science dept. I'm taking six classes and reading for two more (the classes I tutor). I'm managing to keep my commitments with RURI though, and stay active in all my games. Still, I'd rather be busy and complain than bored and complain.

My respect for Rod Walker has been restored. His letter in #23 was not only interesting, but something more than another sheet devoted to the infamous and inane Tretick/Oaklyn situation. Watching 2 people make assholes out of themselves postally is boring (one can watch TV) and pointless. It would seem energies could better be directed elsewhere.

Greg Costikyan's letter was one of the better to come along. Unlike Boardman, he offers some substantiation (no comment on its VALIDITY intended) rather than just unsupported blusterings. I won't say Boardman is an idiot, but his rantings, especially in the foreign policy area, are idiotic. Where is he coming from (we should find out---so we can lock the gate!). Unsupported crap, and Boardman seems unwilling to offer any explanation, as any rational person might expect. Greg's letter did get a bit anarchical towards the end---"peckerhead anarchist" was a clever and astute observation. I don't claim to have much expertise in the area of domestic politics (I find international relations to be more interesting and, as may be surprising to some, simpler and better defined).

To backtrack for a minute, Greg's comment concerning realpolitik WAS good, though your defense of the conflict being ideological was important. I see it as a basic realpolitik (read: politics of power) colored and defined by ideology.

Thanks for the RURITANIA plug. Are you going to write something for my 50th issue? I will be very disappointed if you don't. As for the Mulla---these parables were apparently in being long before Okalhoma or Aggies. If you are to believe the author of the books I got the Nasrudin stories from (Indres Shah), there are meanings hidden beyond the veil of humor. This is the way (use of humor) the Sufis attempt to transmit their knowledge. You can think about them or just accept them for jokes (amazingly, they are valuable as both parables and jokes) as you will.

((They also make good Dipzine filler. I'll bet Indres Shah never thought of that!))

I will have to stick to my original position on ideology: realpolitik only determines tactics, not strategy. Thus Communist strength/~~Western~~ weakness only dictate how fast and by what means the ideological goal of world domination is to be achieved. The goal never changes, good times or bad. Likewise in the Middle East: were realpolitik even a major consideration, the Arabs should have given up the struggle long ago. Instead, even after the calamitous Six-Day War, we find the unchallenged victor suing for peace, and the hopelessly vanquished foe vowing eternal struggle! Palestine-for-the-Palestinians clashes with the idea of Greater Israel, irregardless of the realities of current strength or weakness, good fortunes or bad.

Boardman does on occasion send in what he might consider 'support'; on my desk now is a clipping of his whose headline reads "US to sell arms to Yugoslavs". The article is used to prove how Communist Yugoslavia, like Communist China and Cambodia, are mere tools of US imperial interests. Lots of such 'proof' is sent, or printed in GRAUSTARK/DAGON /whatever. I just don't feel that such reasoning as water-flows-downhill, therefore-I'm-right deserves any space here. Costikyan is wrong, but his errors are understandable. John's style is good, he types, his name is Boardman, and his political rantings are so absurd that they provide some muffled humor; were it anything less, I'd let it drop just as I did the Oaklyn fraud.

I started what I'd planned as a humor article for you (of sorts), but as you saw of it, I wasn't able to expand on it much. Since you're VERY disappointed, I sent the fragment to show you I at least meant well.)))

J.M.

EROD WALKER

"alcala"
1273 crest dr.
encinitas ca 92024
United Nations Day 1978

This will probably be short. I'm stacked. I'm a tad behind on NAVB business. I just quit the Welfare Department and am now working for Pacific Telephone. I haven't worked for a first-class outfit for so long I don't know how to act.

Further: I'm finishing up a 15,000 word story I hope to sell soon on the pro market. The first 9000 words went through 18 drafts; I hope the last 6000 won't be as hard.

Anyway: BB24 is here and I have as usual some comments. Mostly about Boardman. I note he's given up the ridiculous charge that I was using Len Lakofka as a front. As I expected, my challenge that he produce evidence drew only silence.

John is still ignoring the fact that our feud began because I had the temerity to suggest that the United States might have a legitimate foreign policy interest in Vietnam. My judgement was in many ways mistaken on that point, but that's hindsight for you. He has now fallen back on two other personalities with his characteristic lack of facts.

True, I advertized Scott Hangin's game openings in EREHWON. So did Boardman, in GRAUSTARK. I also entered one of Scott's games. He then disappeared without a trace. There is no further info on that one. How this makes me a "bad guy" I can't imagine.

Gary Jones began to start a 'zine and then also disappeared. It is true that I encouraged him to begin publishing. How or why he vanished is unknown. Gary worked with hard-core disadvantaged youth in Memphis. He was associated with a church, but I don't know which one. Rumor persisted in the hobby for a while that he was killed in the line of duty, but there is no evidence for this that I know of.

I should stress that neither of these people published a single issue of their projected 'zines. Boardman feels that I should be blamed for being one of many who did not have a crystal ball.

However...let's add here that Boardman, and his friend Beshara, not only touted but strongly encouraged Buddy Tretick. Not only that, but they did so at a time when Tretick was already abandoning games before they were finished and starting new ones. When he first began to do this, and had abandoned several, Beshara wrote Tretick a letter saying what a great GM he was, and Boardman advertized his new games.

As to Beshara, now that the subject has come up, I know of no one, certainly neither myself nor Walt Buchanan, who accused him of "financial malfeasance". We did accuse him, with good cause, of trying to establish a hobby organization with secret membership lists, rigged elections, and other practices which have since become known as "dirty tricks". Beshara even went so far as to try to stack the voting in one of the Beyerlein Player Polls so that he would come out on top. (We have copies of Beshara's memos to Gordon Anderson giving him instructions to hustle votes.) Speaking of Anderson, whose efforts to rip off the hobby were notorious in their day...would you like to guess who was promoting and encouraging him? Beshara and Boardman. Again, we have Beshara's memos.

The "financial malfeasance" Boardman is referring to is probably an incident which was nothing of the sort. Nobody accused Beshara... in fact, he was congratulated. Quite some time ago, in a telephone

conversation with Carol Buchanan, Beshara mentioned that several months earlier, GRAUSTARK had been in considerable difficulty due to a falling off of subscriptions and what not. We had known this because Boardman had been making quiet inquiries all over the hobby (to John McCallum and others) to find homes for his games if he folded. What Beshara told Carol that we did not know was that he had provided the financial assistance whereby GRAUSTARK got over the hump. Besh (as he is...um,...fondly known in New York) thus saved the oldest hobby 'zine from oblivion. We all owe him our thanks. What John Boardman owes him may, of course, be a good deal more. Certainly GRAUSTARK has never, never, never since had anything but praise for Besh. I'd hardly call that "malfeasance", just gratitude.

About New York: It is hard for those of us who live in less urban settings to appreciate what Greg Costikyan is saying, but it is nonetheless true. Psychological tests exist which show that urban crowding tends to create its own brand of excitement which is intoxicating. I've lived close to the center of San Diego...which is no New York by any means...and can attest to the fact that crowding does exactly that. I know that if I lived in New York for any length of time I would feel exactly as Greg does about it. That's one of the many reasons I won't move there. In any event, we have to face the fact that every year a larger percentage of the human race lives in a situation of urban crowding. Eventually this will be true of the overwhelming majority. We are creating a new survival situation, and God knows where it will take the evolution of our species. I could give you a few guesses....

28 oct 78

An additional note on capital punishment:

The article you printed is a good example of why the issue of capital punishment should never be left to the decision of the general public. Any reader with an ounce of sensitivity would as an immediate reaction be motivated by an urge for revenge. Revenge is never a good motive. Neither capital punishment nor any other issue of public policy should be the subject of such primitive emotional reactions. I trust you consider the issue important enough to give it your head, not your gut.

Punishment is alleged to have two purposes. One is to induce the miscreant to correct his behavior. A person subjected to judicial murder does not possess that ability.

The other alleged purpose of punishment is, be example, to frighten potential miscreants into avoiding their contemplated crimes out of fear of the said punishment. In a general sense, there may be some truth to this; however, in this instance we're talking about the efficacy of a particular mode of punishment, not punishment in general.

There is no evidence that capital punishment, alone, has any effect on the rate at which capital crimes are committed. There is in fact some evidence to the contrary (namely, that capital punishment may encourage the commission of capital crimes). For instance, when Italy made capital punishment illegal, the rate of capital crimes plummeted.

It is true that in this country some States which eliminated capital punishment experienced slight rises in the rate of capital crimes. However, it should be noted that in most cases these rises were within the limits of statistical probability and nearby states which still had capital punishment experienced similar rises in the capital crime rate.

Capital punishment is therefore a useless procedure which does nothing but satisfy the emotions of certain people. I see no reason why the state should cater to such persons by committing and legalizing the same crime which gets them all excited.

Walker, conclusion

By the way...in the article you quoted, what has capital punishment got to do with the issue? This is not a murder-1 case, since intent is obviously missing and premeditation is unlikely. The most that could be gotten would be murder-2, and even where capital punishment is in the law it would not be invoked.

[Now...if you wish to argue that those two creatures should have their children put in placement, sterilized so they could produce no more children, and not allowed to have further contact with anyone under the age of 21, I'm with you.]

Red

((That would be an acceptable alternative. However, in the face of opposition to ANY effective solutions, I will follow the rule of thumb that the 'simplest solution is best' for now and accept execution as best candidate. A utilitarian argument might be made that non-capital punishment might be better, in that these people alive might be employed in some useful pasttime in war, for instance--some suicide mission, forced labor, or medical research with poison gases, for example--but barring such an extreme emergency, I think folks of this caliber would contribute the most to society in the safest manner by serving it in the role of fertilizer in the soil.)) J.M.

((Below are some comments and heroic quotations from the latest LIB. Memorize some of these for use in case someone you know gets murdered)) J.M.

Jim Bumpas →
948 Loraine Ave
Los Altos, CA 94022

"I believe that the example of the state taking life, even when it only does so in return for a life already taken, does more to lower the value of human life in the minds of its citizens than the deterrent influence of this penalty can do to protect the lives of the citizens." --Archbishop Temple

"That men should be taught not to take life is the purpose of judicial killings. But the spectacle of the state taking life must tend to cheapen it."

--Clarence Darrow

"A deep reverence for human life is worth more than a thousand executions in the prevention of murder; and is, in fact, the great security of human life. The law of capital punishment whilst pretending to support this reverence, does in fact tend to destroy it."

--John Bright

"No one can leave the slaughter-shed without a deep sense of humiliation, horror and shame." --the Rev. S.R. Glanville Murray, an English prison chaplain

"The law should inculcate respect for life by itself respecting the sanctity of life."

--Clarence Darrow

"Of all injustice, that is the greatest which goes by the name of law."

--William Lloyd Garrison

LIBERTERREAN 107, Oct 27, 1978 11/54

Quotes from the LIBERTERREAN:

There's a lot of discussion lately about the Death Penalty. Any system of justice should have three goals above all else: Restitution, Rehabilitation, and Deterance. These 3 goals have to do with protection of society from anti-social acts. One's opinion on the Death Penalty should be founded on these criteria.

My personal view is the Death Penalty does nothing to achieve Restitution, nor does it Rehabilitate the malfessor. And it only detars to the extent that the executed person will not again commit the act for which he was executed. Kind of like cutting off the hand of a pickpocket to keep him from stealing with that hand again. I believe societies with no Death Penalty have fewer violent crimes than the US with the Death Penalty.

Belgium: (No, this is not black press!) First, Lee knows very well that I am surely not entertaining notions of winning this game. Therefore, I would advise that you ask Lee why the game is still going on. I would have expected the game to have ended by now myself. Why should I want to be wiped out?

Germany: We are assholes, are we not? Why else do we keep fighting?

Paris Press: Please try a little harder to be even a little bit more reliable than the previous two French players, won't you?

Turkey (while sitting there)--Only deadlines that are truly Turkish are the ones that have part of a joke move in them.

Kiel: End this game!!!!

Turkey--(This press would not be valid.) We pain to stab Italy next turn.

VARIOUS NOTES-----

Lots of letters received here lately; I will either be carrying them over, or make an extra mailing later. This will be the last 'free' double mailing; future ones will be numbered and count vs subs.

Speaking of SUBSCRIPTIONS:: Just about everyone's expires December 1st! Start ~~scrounging~~ scrounging now to be ready with some money at the end of this month. The following subs are NOT expiring in the next issue of two: Ditter, McElvaney, Kassel, Hueston (your subs expire with your spot in KN, whenever); nor are the subs of C. Price, Beamer, Baumeister, or Robinson.

TRADES Due to my higher costs and high rate of production, I'm losing a lot more than most regularly scheduled zines do on trades. However, the so-called 'mutual sub' system is both resented and more trouble than it may well be worth, so I'm going to follow a much simpler policy of just dropping almost all trades next month. I will then turn around and send a check to most all of them and formally subscribe. They can do the same if they want mine. Then, if someone else's zine is 40¢ and comes out three times in five (or eight) months, I won't have wasted \$2 (or \$320) on postage alone "trading" with them. This presumes that there are no costs except my postage, and that the 6 sheets I get in a month are equal to the 20 I sent out (if I get an issue of theirs that month!). Trading checks works well for Leeder and I; it should do well with the others.

SPECIAL TRADES NOT AFFECTED: Von Metzke, Agosta, Smyth

MOST ZINES abhor white space and use idiotic linear separators and the like. Not me.