

THE

# BRUTUS BULLETIN

(# 26)

ET TU, BRUTE

NORTH AMERICA'S NUMBER ONE DIPZINE , per 1978 Leeder Poll

WHAT'S SO SPECIAL about this issue? Nothing. That's what's special. Most normal, mortal Dipzines have fancy Specials (or try) for their anniversary. THIS, however, is no normal Dipzine; this one is unique! For MY ann-ish, you get a run-of-the-mill, ho-hum issue just like any other! No slave to tradition, I.

## GAME OPENINGS

Yes, there still are some game openings this year. As of November 10, I have one opening in a regular two-week-deadline game and six in a second. There are also two openings in a special TEN DAY DEADLINE game, falsely advertised in many other places as a phone game. Gamefees are small, separations are by majority vote, black press is permitted in the regulars and is up to a vote in the special. Write editor for details.

IMPORTANT NOTICE ON SUBSCRIPTIONS! MOST of you signed up under the old system of "\$2 for all issues from now until Dec 1". Well, December 1 is only an issue away. (I should have checked the calander or wrote November 30). That means almost everyone needs to resubscribe. Send checks or stamps to address above. (Note to John Leeder: Here's a good chance to unload all those US stamps sent to you for samples of RUNESTONE). TRADES: As stated last issue, almost all trades will end with the December 1 issue. You pay for mine if you want it, and I'll pay for yours if I want it, and everyone will be happy. Right? Exempt trades include Agosta, Von Metzke, and Smyth.

CHRISTMAS MAIL will be slowing up the Mercury-like pace of the USPS in a few weeks, so I will lengthen the deadlines over the Christmas season. I'm afraid that even with envelopes and "Return Postage Guaranteed", I'd lose too many in the rush.

A late Brutus Bulletin exclusive:

LIPTON CALLING IT QUILTS!  
(see RBL's letter within)

plus the usual goodies.

JOHN'S NOTES

ONE PLAYER recently called and asked about my calling to confirm receipt of orders; as in the houserules somewhere, calling is one service I definitely do NOT offer. I will call to inform concerned players about any error of mine that is brought to light, but that is to cover ME and my responsibilities. It is the responsibility and risk of the player to get orders through the mails to me. This is, after all, postal Diplomacy. I recommend sending 2 sets as I do as a player; if you wish, I will gladly return any postcard you enclose to verify receipt of your orders if you prefer that route. But calls are an area I wish to avoid whenever possible, thus my policy. And in fairness to all, it MUST be an across-the-board policy. Injustices result from the USPS system, I know. But this is part of the game and out of mere mortal control. A second set of orders or a card to reply is about all that can be done in a postal game. I don't run phone games. This policy will soften of necessity in the Special game, for obvious reasons, but that's all. (The caller shouldn't consider this an attack or rebuttal; your call just motivated me to spell things out.)

STEVE McLENDON (who now has rare OPENINGS in his excellent DRAGON & THE LAMB) had a reply to a Berch article that offered a good argument for having mis-stated orders of A-for-Fleet, F-for-Army fail. I don't think that the argument is any stronger than the rulebook entry Mark quotes ("A badly written order, which nevertheless can have only one meaning, must be followed"), but Steve gives as good a case as can be made. Just for the record (again), I wish to point out that I interpret MY houserule concerning "unambiguous oversights" to include the A/F situation as well, and thus an Austrian S'Ol order of "A Tri-Alb" will succeed in BRUTUS BULLETIN. Hopefully your GM here will also note to type it "F Tri-Alb". (And to avoid the situation of Bob Sergeant an issue back, let me include Steve's address after plugging his zine: Box 57066, Webster, TX 77598. 12/\$4. \$1.50 gamefee plus \$2.50 refundable deposit. One of the last tri-weeklies, I believe. Get on it.) (After you sign up for Brutus #4, that is.)

SURPRISES in recent issues have included the total lack of response to things I thought would get some comment, such as the "overflow" issue (Berch at least mentioned it in a plug), my 'smoking' ads, and definition of an Okie. I can think of 2 Okla subbers offhand, so I guess they either agree, are new arrivals, or didn't read it. Probably didn't read it.

LAST CALL on the Sale of the Century! I have a box of old Dipzines sealed and ready to go, about 5 lbs, for the last-time price of \$1.70 postpaid. Lots of RUNESTONES, MIXUMAXU GAZETTES, plus assorted others. A good buy for someone fairly new: Get a bunch and a half for the cost of 5 issues of most zines today! If no one picks this gem up by next issue, I'll send it to a friend coming into the hobby in Colorado or Wyoming as freebie samples, so write today!

BUREAUCRATIC BLUNDERS will return as soon as another CD arrives. They publish 10 months a year, and we're in an off-time now. If one arrives next week, it will be in this ish.

DENNIS AGOSTA is actually at 14 Shadyside Ave., I believe, not 14116. That's Konrad Baumeister's number, just below Dennis on my mailing labels page. Also, everyone's friend JERRY H JONES of LD&NS has moved over one Zip code to the tiny principality of ~~Novato~~ San Marino, California, 991108 instead of 91107 earlier. They moved from their home to Box #8529. He said on the phone once that housing costs there were out of sight--I guess he was right.

77 KN

SEVEN ARMIES TAKE PART IN AN UNCONTESTED  
MOVE FROM SILESIA TO CALICIA. STRETCH  
ARMSTRONG TAKES COMMAND IN ST PETERSBURG  
TO PROP UP QUESTIONABLE POLISH FRONT.

"The First Game"

Winter, 1911: Austrian A War r UKR, A Vie r OTB.  
France builds A PAR; Russia, A STP;  
Turkey, F SMY

SPRING, 1912

AUSTRIA (KASSEL): A Sil-GAL; A Gal-VIE; A UKR S A Sil-Gal; A Tus-PIE; A VEN &  
A TYO S A Tus-Pie; A BOH S A Tyo  
FRANCE (DITTER): F Mar-SPasc; F NTH H; F GLYO & F TUN S F Tyn; F TYN watches  
Turkish fleets panic (H); F Maf-WES; A Pie-Tyo/ann.; A MUN S  
A Pie-Tyo; A RUH S A Mun; A Ber-SIL; A Bur-MAR; A Par-BUR  
RUSSIA (McELVANEY): F's BAL, KIE, DEN H; A STP S A War/imp.; A LVN & A MOS S A War;  
A PRU & A WAR S FRENCH A Ber-SIL  
TURKEY (HUESTON): A SEV-Mos; F ROM & F NAP S F Ion-Tyn; F ION-Tyn; F ADR-Ion;  
F BLA-Sev; F Smy-AEG

((Deadline below))

77KS

RT CONCESSION FAILS, & PROPOSED AGAIN.  
LOT OF STOUT HEARTS, OR THICK HEADS, OUT THERE.  
BUT THEN, THERE'S THAT BALKAN BUILD-UP ....  
HUNS BOARD BATTLESTAR REGESIA TO FIND A  
PLACE OF REFUGE IN THE WEST.

"The former Press Game"

Winter, 1909: French F Mid r IRI, builds F BRE.  
German F Ska r OTB; Russia builds  
F STPnc, A WAR; Turkey, A CON

SPRING, 1910

ENGLAND (CD): A YOR H  
FRANCE (BAUMEISTER): F BRE-Eng; A Par-PIC; A Bel-Hol/d/r Bur, Otb; F Spasc-POR;  
F Iri-LVP  
GERMANY (REGES): A HOL S A Ruh-Bel; A Ruh-BEL; F Den-NTH; F HELG S F Den-Nth  
RUSSIA (KASSEL): A Nwy-FIN; F Swe-SKA; F StPnc-NWY; F EDI-Nth; A Fin-SWE;  
F Bal-DEN; A Mun-RUH; A Ber-KIE; A Sil-MUN; A War-GAL; A Mos-  
UKR; A Bud-VIE  
TURKEY (KENDTER, Jr): F GLYO S F Wes-Spasc; F Wes-SPasc; F NAF S F Tun-Wes;  
F Tun-WES; F Ion-TYN; F MAO-Eng; A MAR-Switzerland/imp;  
A PIE-Switzerland/imp.; A Con-BUL; A SER dies of boredom(H);  
A TYO & A TRI also die of boredom (H);

There is a call for a concession to England and another call for an RT draw. NVR=No  
for England, Yes for RT. Press follows below.

DEADLINE for both games will be delayed just a tad due to slowing for the holiday  
season, plus me being a whole day late in mailing adjudications out. Next deadline  
will be my mail received here WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1978.

KS Press:

Paris Press: How can I be more reliable than anybody when you don't bother  
to write to secure a treaty?

Ruhr: Oh, what a nice jerk you are, Konrad.

((One player asked me to publicly announce his draw vote. This cannot be done, as house  
rules specify that all votes are secret, with only pass/fail being revealed. The only  
sure way to show that would be for the vote to pass. Sorry.)) J.M.

COMING SOON! A two-man game between Craig Reges and  
Bill Shaffer! Ope! press, natch! Next issue.

# BRUTUS #4 BEGINS!

Once again our pages are graced with the fun of seeing 7 honorable men line up to do each other in. This latest Rogue's Gallery takes in:

Austria: Joseph Rau, 420 N Marion, Oak Park, IL 60302

England: Richard Katz, 4140 SW 13 Terrace, Apt 3, Coral Gables, FL 33134

France: Jack Frost, 647 Fenton, Romeoville, IL 60441

Germany: William Shaffer, 916 Larkspur Lane, Edmond, Oklahoma 73034

Italy: Rick Kassel, 984 Erie St Rd, Macedon, NY 14502

Russia: Manty Hayner, 1034<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> E Lexington Drive, Lakeland, FL 33801

Turkey: David Pilant, 3801 SE 23 St, Del City, Oklahoma 73115

Players were informed a few days ago, and all should have house rules and courtesy mailing labels for orders. Orders should be sent to: John Michalski

Harper Oil Company

904 Hightower Bldg

Oklahoma City, OK 73102

In this way, I can adjudicate your moves after that Friday's mail arrives, and mail the results to you on a separate flyer with that evening's mail. It should be in your hands Monday. This is a regular, 2-week-deadline game, but since 1901 is quite important, the deadline is my mail received here Friday, December 15, 1978. After fall of 1901, we will be in the regular every-other-week schedule.

I got a pretty nice spread overall; 2 people each from 3 different states. I know both of the Oklahoma players, but I also know that they do NOT know each other.

Remember, folks, press is encouraged, and black press is permitted. So, just like in the real world, take what you read in the press for whatever you think its worth. It could be important, sincere, funny, or a bald-faced lie. Whichever you prefer, send some in!

Quite a few of these folks are new hobbyists, or fairly new, so if any of you would like a copy of Craig Reges' Novice Packet or an excerpt from Avalon Hill's just-received Guide to Diplomacy for your own country, let me know and I'll send it. Also, write me about ANY questions anytime, but not strategy. For that, write your neighbors and I'm sure they will give you a hand. Maybe even with a knife in it.

I do not accept calls with orders, but you should call if you think you see an error. Send me a number I can call YOU at, if need be, to notify you of any goofs. Also, please give me your middle initial for the end-game wrap-up chart; there are so many Bob Smiths and Bill Andersons that they figure Bill K. Anderson would be much better.

I strongly suggest you buy some postcards and get in the habit of sending in some preliminary orders as soon as you get any results for a season. You can change them later, but do cover yourself with something. It costs you 20¢ a month for two extra cards; you decide if that is more or less than the cost of a possible NMR.

Good luck to all!

78??

Greg Costikyan

16 October, 1978

P O Box 865  
Brown University  
Providence, R.I. 02912

Kind Sir;

Peckerhead I may be, but anarchist I'm not. Anarchy doesn't work; people are not basically good, and anarchy would therefore result in bloodshed, slavery, brutalization, and, in general, a Dark Ages atmosphere. Government is a necessary evil.

Hmmm---yes, perhaps I am inconsistent in calling for precipitate changes in the economy, and yet decrying you for calling for precipitate changes in the economy. However: I have no illusions that what I'm calling for can be accomplished over night. A decentralization of business must occur over a period of several decades. Oligopolies cannot be smashed instantly, but must be dismantled.

On the other hand, the "New Right" is calling for an immediate and severe reduction of taxes. ~~Taxation~~ On the whole, this is a good thing; limiting government spending also strikes me as reasonable. However, the sort of precipitate action that has resulted in California strikes me as unreasonable. Any sort of reduction in government spending must occur over a period of years, to avoid severe shocks to the economy.

According to orthodox Keynesian economics, whenever the government spends a dollar, the GNP increases by two dollars, because that dollar will pass from hand to hand several times in the course of the year. (The reason the multiple isn't greater than two, is that each time a person receives a dollar, he will save a certain portion of it, and spend the rest---thus, the total fraction of the dollar that is spent each time is constantly diminishing). Conversely, if the government stops spending a dollar, the GNP will contract by two dollars. Thus, if the US Government were to announce that it was slashing its budget by, say, 60 billion dollars, the GNP would be reduced by 120 billion dollars. This kind of drastic reduction of government spending would have a devastating effect; it makes more sense to diminish spending over a period of years.

1. In every movement---Catholicism, prohibitionism and communism alike---there are fanatics. Fanatics don't usually make it to the top, because they are, after all, crazy. The current leadership of the Soviet Union is, without a doubt, communist. Whether they can quote chapter and verse of Marx is doubtful. Indeed, the Soviet Union's policies are in great variance with orthodox Marxist doctrine on any number of levels. The Soviet Union is not the great champion of communism and also a nation; rather, it is a nation that happens to believe in communism. Its actions are dominated by self-interest, not the desire to overthrow capitalism.

This is not to say, of course, that there is no need to be wary of the Soviet Union. We and it are the only two great powers, and thus there is a natural antagonism and enmity between us. Further, the Soviet Union is an expanding culture, and a nation with a long history of expansionist imperialism; therefore, it behooves us to deal carefully with it, and attempt to prevent its expansion in areas which are of vital interest to us.

But this is not to say that we are engaged in an apocalyptic world struggle, in which the only outcome can be victory by one side or another. In actual point of fact, the differences between the Soviet Union and the American states are constantly diminishing; increasingly, America is socialized; increasingly, in America, rights are denied or abrogated; increasingly, in the Soviet Union, pseudo-capitalist industrial structures are established. I venture to suggest that, in all probability, both America and the Soviets are heading for a middle ground. This strikes me as unfortunate, as this will involve an inevitable curtailment of freedom. However, I see no way to reverse the flow of events.

2. My statement was made without qualifiers, and therefore is subject to misinterpretation. "In Asia, Communist means good." In Asia at the end of the Second World War, the choice between the European colonialist nations who had conquered and ruled the Asians, and their American allies, who had vowed to protect the Dutch and French colonial empires on the one hand, and the communists, who preached the elimination of colonial empires on the other, seemed clear to many Asians. The Japanese, it should be remembered, were originally welcomed in a number of areas as their "Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere" scheme was thought to represent liberation of Asians by Asians. After the sham was exposed, of course, it was recognized that Japanese rule simply meant exchanging a European master for a Japanese one.

The communism that was evident to Asians was that of Mao---the bloodletting of 1949 and the mass killings of the Cultural Revolution were still in the future, and, if anything, Mao could be viewed as a hero against the Japanese, and against the corrupt Kuomintang regime. It is no wonder that many Asians chose to identify themselves with a movement that appeared the deliverer of China, and promised the freedom of Asia, rather than with the old imperialist nations of Europe, or their protege, America. Yes, in South Korea, Taiwan, the Phillipines, Indonesia, Malaya, Thailand, India, Pakistan communists are suppressed, and most of those nations are rather frightened of the possibility of the establishment of communist regimes. That, however, is the situation today, not during the late forties and early fifties.

When I say that Ho adopted the title of "communist" because of the positive connotations connected to it, rather than because of conviction, I say this in context of the background I've described.

Yes, of course: only the naive judge communists by what they say, rather than what they do. Only the naive judge ANYBODY by what they say, rather than what they do.

3. I don't say the government should forbid people from purchasing cars, or prevent them from watching TV, anymore than I advocate the repression of marijuana or homosexuality. If people want to buy and drive cars, so be it; I'll consider it my duty to point out why they're destroying themselves and others as they do so, but if they want to destroy irreplaceable resources and starve others to death, they may do so. HOWEVER, I do object to the fact that the government ENCOURAGES the use of the automobile, and to the fact that it aids the trivialization of what appears on TV. Over the last ten years, the federal government has poured 15 billion dollars into highways. This subsidization has built the Interstate road network, and financed state construction of numerous other roads. The Interstate road network is an extravagance of use only to truck companies and traveling salesmen; others find the roads occasionally convenient, but could usually be as well served by smaller, slower, more numerous regional roads. In financing the road network, the federal government has made the rail network uncompetitive. The bus companies scream about the unfair competition they get from trains (even though train fares are uniformly higher than bus fares), and about the fact that some portion of Amtrak is federally subsidized. What they don't mention is the huge indirect subsidizing the federal government grants them and the trucking companies through the road network, and through annual upkeep on that network. The federal government has stipulated that Amtrak must try to pay its operating expenses out of its fares, and that only track repair and construction is to come out of the federal budget; the only way this policy could be seen as even-handed would be if the federal government started charging tolls on federal highways, and forced the tolls high enough to cover expenses.

XXXXXXXXXX

You misunderstand me: if the vast cannaille wants nothing more than to sit in front of re-runs of "The Brady Bunch" and chug Billy Beer, dandy by me: at least they'll leave me alone. IF I'm given the right to do whatever I choose. I find such actions immoral, distasteful, and decadent, but I'm willing to give those who wish the right to undertake such actions. If, in turn, I'm given the right to undertake actions those who are incurable Brady Bunch fans think are immoral, distasteful, or decadent. I have no illusions that the vast majority of people will ever spend their day "writing poetry, rapping with a guru, or smoking pot", even if such were desirable. Most people are incapable of intellectual activity more strenuous than Brady Bunch-watching. Some of this, of course, is the result of our educational system; vastly more of it is the result of the fact that the vast majority of people are about as intelligent as a bright woodchuck. Still, heredity is not a crime; stupid people have as much right to their pleasures as anyone else.

You seem to imply that the vast material well-being of our society is the result of the oligopolistic pseudo-capitalist economic system under which America currently operates. Perhaps. But does this mean that, under a truly competitive free-market set-up, the amount of material goods produced would be less, and the price higher? On the contrary, the MORE competitive the set-up is, the BETTER off people would be. ~~xxxxxxx~~ If you can't see that this is so, you don't understand supply and demand.

It has been argued that a smaller, more competitive economic system would be less efficient, because economies of scale would be diminished. This may be true in some instances. However:

a) The Law of Diminishing Returns sets in even in economies of scale. In other words, once you've reached a certain point, getting larger decreases efficiency, rather than increasing it. I think this point has already been passed in the vast majority of American industries.

b) Those companies which are continuing to expand in America are doing so, on the whole, by diversification. This means that a conglomerate will acquire subsidiaries in a number of different industries. THIS DOES NOT BRING ECONOMIES OF SCALE INTO PLAY in any of those industries; how does the acquisition of a publishing company by a steel company increase the efficiency or productivity of either?

John, I am not advocating anarchism. I'm not advocating a "nation of small farmers". (I'm a city boy, and I'd go batty on a farm). I'm advocating a reduction in the size of corporations----increasing the number of oil companies from 6 to 60, the number of car companies from 4 to 40, the number of steel companies from 21 to 100. This would prevent the concentration of power into too few hands, and would increase competition in every industry. And increased competition means lower prices, higher quality, and technological innovation.

4. The New Right advocates a "Balanced Budget First", does it? It seems to me that it's advocating "Tax Cut" first. Doesn't it strike you that a cut in taxes and a balanced budget are mutually exclusive items---or at least contradictory? If you want to balance a budget, you cut expenditures and INCREASE taxes. I believe in a balanced budget as well, but reducing the national debt---or even keeping it on an even keel for a while---is going to mean drastic cuts in expenditures as well as an increased tax burden. (Both of which are going to have an anti-inflationary effect on the economy---which means unemployment, of course).

5. "Moscow's world dominance"? Who does Moscow dominate, aside from the nationalities within its borders and the buffer states it thinks it needs to feel secure? Does Moscow dominate West Germany? France? Britain or the Commonwealth? America? Africa? India? China? Debatably, Moscow dominates Cuba---although I think this isn't so much "domination" as an alliance of expedience. Possibly, Moscow dominates the Marxist

## Costikyan conclusion

states in Africa, although I think it would find differently if it pressed them too hard.

6. The other day, the "South Africa Solidarity Committee" and the "Third World Center" staged a demonstration here at Brown in favor of "Divestiture". What this means is that the aforementioned organizations want Brown's Board of Trustees to sell any stocks or bonds held by the Brown Endowment in any corporation that deals with South Africa. (Both the SASC and the TWC are on record of supporting the "freedom fighters" in South Africa, but they didn't make a point of this during the demonstrations, for fear of alienating some of their supporters). Last year, an ad-hoc group called the "Students for Rational Action" was formed to oppose this sort of nonsense, but it seems to have disappeared, for the time being.

Personally, I find the regime in South Africa distasteful. I also find the regimes in the Soviet Union, China, Rumania, Brazil, the Phillipines, and Chile distasteful; logically, therefore, Brown should sell all its holdings in any company that deals with any of these nations. I rather suspect that this would leave Brown the option of investing in American municipals or grape futures. Since this would result in a massive loss to the university, it seems not worthwhile.

Further, selling holdings in such corporations would a) have no effect on the corporations, b) have no effect on the South African government, and c) would not better the working conditions of those who are oppressed in South Africa. So silly.

7. John Boardman is great. One has to read whatever he rights with a sense of humor, is all. I don't think John has any real political beliefs, but enjoys lampooning others. It's good stuff.

At one point, John, Bob Lipton and I, as well as a number of other people, were at a restaurant in Chinatown, discussing the formation of a hypothetical New York Independence Party (as well as eating, of course). The platform of the party is, for the most part, obvious; personally, I think the majority of Americans would be just as glad to get rid of New York in any case, and thus the parting would be amicable. In any case, John volunteered to be the first candidate of the Party's for Mayor. (After independence, we intend to change the title to "Doge", as befits the dignity of a sovereign city, but that's another story). Thus, John's protestations that he must appear a loyal right-wing American are exposed; he plotted treason, the revolt of an intrinsic part of the United States!

The gnurrs come from the woodwork out!,

  
Greg Costikyan

PS- "All Hail Discordia" is the motto of an Erisian (i.e., chaotic or anti-Illuminati) party in ILLUMINATUS!, a several-year-old trilogy by Robert Shea and Robert Anton Wilson.

PPS - Sorry to take up so much space. Excerpt, if you like, but don't quote me out of context.

((No problem; this isn't GRAUSTARK. In this letter, you're sounding more like the old Costikyan. I will only make one brief comment on the spending/GNP. A drastic cut in government spending leaves the same dollar in the hands of the individual to spend. It will also be worth more. I do not expect drastic cuts--indeed, I expect to see no cuts at all.))

12M.



(Late note on Costikyan)

((One follow-up note. Your logic--and I appreciate the use of logic--in showing how big business is beyond the point of economies of scale is good. However, I wish to point out two other items. First, besides "cheaper by the dozen", large organizations can do things beyond the capacity of any small outfits. Here in the oil industry, e.g., ONLY the huge outfits can afford to drill in the outer continental shelf or build an Alaskan pipeline. No small outfits or joint ventures could do this. Even the majors had to go in jointly on that one. And second, "How does the acquisition of a publishing company by a steel company increase the productivity or efficiency of either?" Excellent, but wrong. Efficiency WILL increase, but not because of shop-level efficiencies. The greater efficiencies occur at the upper levels of the organization(s). The financial pool available to a steel-publishing conglomerate would permit either end to break into new markets that the backing of either alone would not. Thus, e.g., the steel mill could use publishing profits to afford to competewith Japanese bids for South African steel business. Or steel profits could carry the publisher through a long NYC strike. Or both.)) Jm.

((Some issues back, I included a pamphlet on the Energy Crisis that had a good example of how to write a Congressman. One was returned with these comments typed in by :))

JOHN BOARDMAN

234 E 19 St, Brooklyn, 11226

Oh, didn't I tell you? I have found the solution to the Energy Crisis. All the energy we need will be brought by the Easter Bunny. The advantage to this solution is that anyone who can believe in the existence of an Energy Crisis can also believe in the existence of the Easter Bunny.

Of course, there is an Energy Price Crisis. But that's another matter entirely.

((Toward the end of the embargo, Bob Hope quipped about the lessening problem by saying "I guess there was just a shortage of CHEAP gas". Very clever. Also literally true Jm.

JOHN BOARDMAN (Card of Nov 8)

Yes, Rod Walker is lying when he says John Beshara ever financed, or offered to finance, GRAUSTARK. So was Carol Buchanan when she said the same thing. And I have always opposed Tretick's tomfoolery. Walker, of course, says that I am one of Tretick's supporters. This is a lie. You can easily see that it is a lie, because the name signed to this accusation is "Rod Walker".

I favor capital punishment. If the state decides that someone ought to be killed, you're damn well not going to find me standing in the way.

I do not recall ever mentioning Uganda or its scabrous dictator in either GRAUSTARK or BB. I would ask for evidence of your statement to the contrary on p 10 of BB # unknown (3 Nov), except I know that you cannot be asked for evidence.

Yes, I once asked a few GM's if they could take over my games if I stopped publishing. The reasons were not financial, and my request was confidential. Of course, we know how Odd Rod feels about people who reveal statements made to them in confidence, don't we? Don't we?

((Uganda has not, to my knowledge, been mentioned by you in either GRAUSTARK or BB. That's the point. The odds and ends you do report and cite as evidence of our repressive regime, aside from their intrinsic absurdity, are noteworthy in their obscurity; while other evidence of the weakness and lack of will in our regime, such as the silence over an Uganda or Cambodia, is totally ignored. In fairness, this is not just you, but the entire left wing and the press in large part, and the current born-again excuse for an Administration we all put up with these days.

I'm glad to find at least you would not stand in the way. I wish more folks were like that.))

An important letter from  
ROBERT BRYAN LIPTON

(newest address below)

4 Nov/ 1978

Got a new address, good for at least 6 months. It is Box 232, 118 Massachusetts Ave., Boston, Mass. 02115.

I am rather pissed off at your comments that I do not care what happens to the games in my zine. I have been publishing for 5.5 years now, dammit, and that it a considerably different state of affairs from about ten months. I will accept criticism from people who know what the commitment is like, year after year: Walker, Boardman; Davis; Horton; Barents; but not from you, dammit. Wait a couple more years; and then, if you can't understand it, I will accept it. But I have always turned out my issues when promised, always on time, and have always done my best. What more do you want? And, if you want it, you had better be willing to pay extra for it.

I think someone tried tenday seasons about a dozen years ago, for one game. Now, while in my game-playing days, I found 14-day cycles for GRAUSTARK no trouble, things are not the same with everyone; and, frankly, the postal service is not as good as it was; letters to Canada regularly take a week. How are you going to handle Canucks in the game.

I did receive your comments on the game, but, due to my moving about, I fear I misfiled them. They were on yellow foolscap. Sorry.

And, you might as well know. I am closing down the GAZETTE. I am ready to try morecommercial writing in the field, including a fantasy novel I have plotted out, that I first wrote half-a-dozen years ago. #90 will be the last regular issues. After that, trades will be cut; the games will be continued until the end.

All subscribers will have the option of asking for their moneys back, figured at current sub rates. Some will show a profit. Dennis Klein, if I remember correctly, has about 30 issues, bought when subs were six for a dollar, now worth \$7.50. Barch and Elblackman will be eligible for about \$10 each. It will probably take another couple of years to finish out, but since the issues will be games-only, not the time-consuming articles they presently are, it will go quickly.

This will appear in TMG next weekend, so you may be able to comeout simultaneously. That should be quite a scoop.

((Yes, I think it is, thanks.

Canadian citizens are even more aware than we of the vagaries of the system they suffer under; none would even come near my regular 14-day games. Randolph Smyth openly stated that he thinks poorly of anything less than a month, here, there, or both. This is valid if you're the type of player who corresponds more than once with many other players each season, and still be able to adjust your of orders before deadline. The BULLETIN was set up precisely because it was my experience that very few such players are around anymore, despite the buyer's market in monthly deadline zines. I'd be hard pressed to name 3 regular tri-weekly zines. I was bored (and AM) with the interminable delays in most monthlys, and set up my own in part to show it CAN be done at more than a ho-hum pace. I think I've succeeded at that, although the way the hobby is going, I could slow to three weeks and still be running one of the fastest operations around. Canadians are no problem at all; they only read BB, whenever it arrives there.

I can understand the problem now; what I complained about was not that you shouldn't move around for three issues in a row or whatever, but that the games should be held up if you don't have an address over a deadline to which mail can be sent. I was wrong in predicting that mail would come back "Insufficient Address", for it came back marked "Unclaimed" instead. Still, had those been moves for that deadline rather than a losing player's statement, I think you'd have to agree that the criticism was completely justified. If only my mail was returned, while all player's orders were separately passed on through, I was wrong. If not, I am right. For now, I'm assuming that my rejected mail had the same chance of success as anyone else's, so I stand pat. Five and a half years publishing is admirable, but to run a deadline during a time of not having a solid address for receiving mail is an error, whether in a zine 1, 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ , or 15 years old.))

J.M.

MARK BERCH

492 Naylor Place, Alexandria, VA 22304

I have been reading with some interest comments in BB about Boardman's politics. A complete understanding is not possible without reference to his "The Better Part of Valor" editorial in GRAUSTARK #300 (Nov 73). Prior to then, Boardman had taken a staunch anti-war stance. Vigorous rebuttals were given to pro-war views in which he employed an avalanche of facts or vituperation (as seemed appropriate). By #300, he decided that such a position was too dangerous. Pointing out that "I am going to have to go on living, teaching, and raising a family", he stated that "the shape of the future is eminently clear now... Highly unpleasant things happen to people who are critical of the President, and I do not want them to happen to me". Accordingly, he totally reversed his position, apologized to his former enemies, and announced that GRAUSTARK would no longer be "a vehicle for opinions attacking the President".

Several reactions appeared. Some felt he was being sarcastic or tongue-in-cheek. Boardman's vociferous denials demolished that theory. Others accused him of cynicism, a judgement I cannot agree with. Someone who acts to protect himself and family against what he perceives as grave dangers is being practical, and the survival instinct has made life on the planet what it is.

Where I fault Boardman is his political judgement. His view of the president's power at that time as strong and still rising was UTTERLY wrong. Thus, Boardman stated "...it now appears that our government is going to make a final reckoning with those who have for so long questioned and challenged it". What's more, nobody was going to be able to do anything about it: "There is no conceivable center of opposition". Boardman dismissed impeachment talk as "foolishness".

Thus we see that Boardman had completely missed the point of what was happening to the President in 1973. Far from being able to wreak vengeance on his enemies, he was having increasing trouble holding his own administration together. The year began with escalating charges against his underlings. This culminated in the resignation in April of Haldeman and Ehrlichman, two of his top three advisors (Kissinger was third). The Attorney General Kleindienst also resigned. Remember--those were his ALLIES. If the President cannot protect his top advisors, how could he threaten John Boardman?

And this was only the beginning. In May, the Ellsberg/Russo prosecution went up in smoke. June saw the devastating details of John Dean's testimony injected live and in living color into tens of millions of households. July saw the public humiliation of the President's attorney, Herbert Kalmbach.

Nor was the Watergate affair the only area where the President was clearly losing control of events. In mid-August, he was forced by Congress to break off the bombing of Cambodia. In October, his hand-picked Vice President resigned.

I presume that the last major events that Boardman had access to before writing his editorial were the axings of Richardson, Cox, and Ruckelshaus. Of this Boardman wrote "Now the President has swept the Justice Dept clean of those foolish enough to call his acts into question. Despite some noise from what has proven in the past to be a tiny minority of Congress, I do not doubt that he can carry this housecleaning much farther." In point of fact, nothing of the sort happened. That incident seriously weakened the President, because it gave an important context for REPUBLICAN opposition to the President to coalesce--after all, Ruckelshaus and Richardson had solid Republican credentials.

The above chronology is not meant to be exhaustive, and is limited to events which had some sort of resolution by the end of October. For example, I have left out the "tapes", whose presence was made known in Sept 73. Everybody knew they'd be bad for him (otherwise he'd have been on the streets hawking them himself). But their contents weren't revealed until 1974.

Well, you say, so what. Isn't this all hindsight? No. I am not saying that Boardman should have foreseen that Nixon would resign in disgrace 9 months after his editorial. I am saying that Boardman should have seen that in 1973, the President had been steadily losing ground to his opposition, and losing it in such a manner that

Berch, conclusion

further losses were likely.

Alright then. Boardman ran for cover just when the sky was beginning to clear. Lots of people make bad political predictions. But Boardman's problem is that he was unable to admit that he was wrong. He continued to stoutly defend the President through the winter and spring of 1974. As the final acts unfolded, he grew a bit silent, and then revealed that he just couldn't deal with Nixon's destruction. He denied that there was any significance to the change. Ford's would be just the same policy with a new name at the White House. Wrong again. Then when Carter was elected, he...but order some back copies of GRAUSTARK (10/\$1, a good buy) and see for yourself.

This attitude goes back some ways. In the pre-300 era, one of the worst sins a politician could make was to change his position. It infuriated Boardman, who would then base an anti-politician diatribe on the basis of this. Boardman decided in Nov 73 that the militarists were in the saddle, that the leadership and the people wanted an "Imperial" America. He's not about to admit he was wrong or at least a bit hasty 5 years later. So he'll continue to marshall such facts as he can find. Sometimes the result is a little pathetic. Imagine, quoting a "nephew of Herman Kahn" for the "inner workings of the minds of our rulers." The lessons of the Panama Canal vote, and the Angola non-intervention seem to be lost on him. Thus when he says (BB#22) "...war is better than peace. Considering what happens to people who believe the contrary, I'd be foolish to take any other position", just remember GRAUSTARK 300 and sigh for/have pity on a man who has learned so little in the past five years.

((When I first got your letter, I wrote out a long and somewhat dissenting reply, but having to wait and hold this (Mark didn't type, and doing 4 legal pages here isn't a next-day event! v), I've decided to junk that and just accept this peek at the historical perspective of Boardman's absurdities. I really appreciate your taking the time to so elaborate for us; so much so, in fact, that I can say so right after typing all of this! (v!)).

One part I have to wonder about. Let us presume that you hit the nail right on the head and that Boardman "dived for cover just as the sky was clearing". Dive for cover from what? I was out of service and in school in 72- 74 myself, so I don't think my point of view is too far out of the way, yet I hardly saw anything that would make the activist protestors want to "duck for cover". Hell, if anything, it was the regular citizens that had to duck for all the protestors coming and going every time you turned around. Rather than fearing repression, I felt that there was an acute LACK of some much-needed "repression" in many cases: the protests closing the approaches to DC once come to mind, e.g., and the extremely mild response (mass arrests followed by an overnight stay in some gymnasium before release, and no convictions). If you are right about these origins, I still have to disagree about the current state of affairs, for if he DID once change his tune more or less sincerely, he has definitely slid back to his old one now. To say I'm-a-warmonger-because-I'm-afraid-of-repression-of-Pacifists is the same as saying I'm-with-the-Pacifists, only this way he gets in a jab at the imaginary persecution at the same time. Today, he clearly acts and speaks as he does not out of any real fear of repression, but because he thinks it is a cuter way of getting his screw-ball stand across. Just as with Communism, the ideas don't hold water, but they are effectively put forth to many. The writing in his assorted publications is of good quality, even if the ideas in them are straight out of Alice in Wonderland.))

J.24.

What would a recent issue be without a letter from  
ROD WALKER

"alcala"  
1273 crest dr.  
encinitas ca 92024  
8 november 1978

Dear John:

Several miscellaneous items in BB#25 prompt a reply. I am still swamped...I am not able to do hobby stuff at work as I was when I was working for the government. I am also blowing Pacific Telephone's mind by completing their 6-week training course in 1 day less than 3 weeks.

I believe I shall start with a history lesson. You told CvM that you didn't know what the "Reinsel insanity" was. It should be interesting for you since GRAUSTARK was (in the "good old days") very much like your own 'zine...except for political orientation, of course.

Charlie Reinsel was (and is) a right-wing nut who was (and is) as inflexible, irrational, and hagridden by hate as Boardman is. The latter was in the habit of pasting all sorts of left-wing and pacifist slogans to copies of GRAUSTARK when he mailed them. Charlie objected to this, and in a famous editorial threatened to go to New York and "purn" Boardman. Whether or not this was done we do not know, since Boardman has never admitted to having been "purned" and we don't know what symptoms to look for.

Anyway, the big Reinsel-Boardman blowup over those labels occurred in the Winter/Spring of 1966, just as I was entering the postal hobby. My attitude then was that Boardman was silly for sending the slogans to Reinsel when he knew the latter objected, and that Reinsel was silly for objecting in the first place. Those who felt strongly that Reinsel had a right to object were instantly stigmatized in GRAUSTARK as warmongers. Boardman has always used two words to mean "person who disagrees with me": warmonger or racist. He has apparently abandoned the former as a perjorative word.

John is right when he says he is not a pacifist. As I've said earlier, Boardman does not object to all wars (as a pacifist would). He objects only to wrong wars. For him, any war in which the United States participates for legitimate foreign policy purposes is "wrong". I was a "warmonger" because I defended our intervention in Indochina on geopolitical grounds (as I've said before, I since discovered that my initial premises were erroneous). Geopolitics are quite beyond John.

Boardman has long pretended to believe that "war" is an official foreign policy objective of the United States. He is part of the irrational left, and this pretended belief is the shibboleth (or one of them) of that bunch. He has now pretended to forswear that belief, so I guess he is no longer declaring his "enemies" to be "warmongers". If you find his actions lacking in logic, just remember that it goes with the territory.

Some quick comments on his letter:

8. The notion that China is anybody's puppet is laughable.

9. Yes, we have the power to do that. However, do we have the power to withstand the consequences? What we may or may not be able to do to Panama depends on whom Panama's friends are. I do not see the Canal issue at all emotionally. I find the notions expressed by all sides on the Treaty issue curiously antiquated. We should give the Panamanians the entire canal, locks, stocks, and barrels, with no strings attached, and have done with it.

10. Well, here I agree. I have long referred to the ecology nuts as "New Luddites". The notion that technology is "evil" and "the natural way" is good is centuries old and just as worthless.

11. John's reaction to the tax revolt is dictated strictly by

(8 november 1978)

2.

his selfish interest in keeping his job. Unfortunately, the tax revolt may be the only way to save this country's middle class...and I would guess that the fall of the middle class in this country would produce about the same result as the disappearance of the small freeholder in Roman Italy.

12. True enough. However, John has never maintained this position with anything which even faintly resembles evidence. I challenged him to prove his contention issues ago. He reiterates, but does not prove.

John's statement, "Rod used to be a heterosexual," is false. I think it's clever of him to use every letter as an opportunity to remind you that ~~he's not~~ I'm gay. I suppose he believes that he will arouse the same level of irrational hatred in you that he has himself...this apparently based on the premise that you're a conservative. I suppose that the false stereotype of conservatives as anti-gay will pass, just as did the stereotype that conservatives were anti-black. Hell, already I've met gay people who are members of the John Birch Society, the Mormons, and Jehovah's Witnesses. How much more conservative can you get?

What makes Boardman think I oppose Proposition 6? The proposition was a two-edged sword. Granted, it was backed by people whom I regard as less than sane. Granted, it was opposed by Jerry Brown and Ronald Reagan. However, certain provisions of the proposition appear to make it more difficult to fire a gay teacher, not less.

The whole thrust of the Proposition 6 campaign in this State was off-base. Its supporters did not want homosexuality presented as "an alternate life-style" in the schools. I could not agree more...primarily because it is not "an alternate life-style". "Alternate" implies choice. Gay people do not choose to be gay; there is not one alive who would not prefer to be straight (if he/she would be perfectly honest). However, homosexuality is a condition...congenital and heritable...which occurs in 7-14% of the population and is thus, statistically speaking, normal. I'd estimate another 10-20% percent of the population is bisexual but mostly acting as heterosexuals. I'd also guess that the trait is passed, like haemophilia, through the mother.

Prop. 6 therefore addresses itself to the non-issue of "conversion", assuming that children can somehow be reprogrammed from straight to gay by merely observing a positive role model who happens to be gay. That's highly unlikely. When a child reaches puberty, he finds out what he has known all his life...what he likes. There is no way to change that. I will grant that an aggressive gay could confuse a child's orientation, which is an evil thing. That's sexual exploitation and there are already laws about that sort of thing.

My own opinion is that Prop. 6 was primarily a nuisance law, with no real contribution to make (positive or negative), and therefore useless. I therefore voted against it.

You ask, "What is the reason that anything-goes anywhere else in the world, while any flaw in this system is condemned in the strongest terms?" In some people, I believe you can put it down to extreme willfulness. However, the Ceylonese ambassador, in a speech I heard in 1961, suggested this, also: When a known criminal commits a crime, there is little outcry because that was expected of him. When a virtuous person commits a crime, a strong reaction is provoked by that unwonted behavior. We all expect our country to be wearing the white

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(3)

hat all the time. When that turns out not to be so, some of us are so shocked we "act out"...as Boardman does, and/or has done. Others are so shocked they go into withdrawal...that is, ignore or deny or try to cover over. I don't believe either reaction is very rational. My own attitude is that when Richard Nixon commits a crime, that's our problem (even if, as in this case, we choose to be charitable). When Idi Amin kills several hundred Ugandans in a fit of pique, that's Uganda's problem. Were I President, I would have nothing to do with people like Amin in public, but beyond that denunciations and other catcalling is out of place in the international community.

Affirmative Action is also a two-edged sword. It happens that in Pacific Telephone, the favored group is...are you ready for this?...white males. Beyond that...the legal background is far too complex to get down into a couple of sentences of support or opposition. However, it should suffice to note that AA does not have to depend on "reverse discrimination", and should not use any such method. The notion of making up for past sins may strike you as bad in many ways, but it is sound equity law. You have noted that the courts are beginning to back away from the more extreme manifestations of that principle, and I believe they are showing good sense in so doing. (However, the law does not say it's illegal to discriminate on the basis of sex. That's what ERA is all about.)(Well, the Constitution doesn't yet say so. There are other laws which do.)(And about ERA: while I strongly favor the amendment, I despise the chicken parliamentary tactics taken to get it passed. Once it failed to be ratified, Congress should simply have written a new [and perhaps better] ERA and started from Square 1.)

Re: Battlestar Galactica. Without doubt the "Cylon gunslinger" episode was the pits. It was the worst excuse for science fantasy (or fiction) I've seen on TV...including "Space 1999" since "The Attack of the Giant Gila Monster". Luckily, the later episodes have been much better.

Whether Conrad accepted my codicil to the Boardman Numbers is not material. I placed it on during the transfer and it (they, actually) was part of the package. It was done verbally and at the time Conrad was anything but negative in his response. After all these years, that provision served its purpose in helping (I hope) to clear up a serious problem. I am hoping that, in the future, some system can be worked out whereby the past BNCs can act collectively when difficulties arise. However, for the nonce, my codicil is still very real and I will invoke it again if need be. I do not particularly care to be stuck with that sort of responsibility, but I am the only BNC who has had the foresight to retain any post-transfer authority. Without it, this time, there might have been problems...althoughx right after my announcement Cal White called and said that he had had all the material bundled up for mailing that weekend. So perhaps what I did was ultimately unnecessary.

Oy. Another all-night letter. I believe I'll wrap it up. The short story is now in the 20th draft, the entire plot has been changed, and 70% of the previous draft discarded.

Best,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be a stylized 'R' or 'B' followed by a flourish.

MARK BERCH

492 Naylor Pl, Alexandria, VA 22304

You asked: "Dived for cover from what?" From what he perceived to be the increasingly untenable position of the anti-government, anti-Nixon protestors. You don't think that the protestors were in that great a danger, and neither do I. That was my point about his faulty political judgement, his faulty predictions as to what was to come.

As for your comments on the Mass demonstrations in D.C. at the time, I don't really want to get into it in any detail, but the reason that there were "no" convictions (actually, there were a handful) was quite simple. The police had guidelines for handling mass arrests. They did not follow them, and as a result the charges were thrown out. With regard to your final comments on Boardman, I think that it would be best if he defended himself.

However, as long as its open season on him, his comments on skunk spray are a considerable oversimplification. The mercaptans are only one component in a complex mixture. In fact, once the mercaptans and various sulfides are removed, what remains has been used as a perfume base, as it has a musk-like smell.

With regard to your new non-trading policy, what you've done is precisely what is referred to as a mutual sub. It is no different in any respect to what I do.. If I want to get a zine, I sub to it. If they want mine, they sub to mine. If both happen, there's a mutual sub. If only one happens, there's just an ordinary sub. I have many mutual subs, and a number of simple subs, some just me subbing, some the reverse.

One final matter. I urge everyone to vote for Fred Davis for IDA ombudsman. While I have absolutely nothing against Bunke, that particular job requires, I think, that the person have many years experience in postal Diplomacy, which Fred has, but David does not.

((On subs, true, it really is a "mutual sub", unless one of us really doesn't want the other's. However, my point was this: some publishers, particularly Lipton, have given MS a bad name. "No trades" as a policy sounds different/better, even if it's the same thing. It's just a dodge.))

J.M.

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DARN THAT LIPTON!

SOMEWHERE in this issue is a letter from Mr. Lipton revealing his "exclusive". Well, he apparently got my deadline weekend off by one, for I came home the day before deadline (17th) to find MMG 89 with the notice, just like everyone else did. By Wednesday or so when you get this, it won't even be news, but now I've got the cover messed up..... oh, well.

Don't forget: free want ads to subscribers here! You send them in, I'll print 'em. Price is right.





KISANGANI

It's not the potholes or rotting facades that disconcert a person after a long absence from this city, which used to be known as Stanleyville.

Rather it's a sense of wonder that anything should have survived such studied neglect in a tropical rain forest climate where Joseph Conrad set "the inner station" in his classic study of violence, "The Heart of Darkness."

The city's outward durability is an odd tribute to Belgian thoroughness so many years—18 this month—after they relinquished their Congo colony. Doubtless it's a tribute that their builders of empire would have preferred to do without or at least not live to see.

So perhaps it's just as well the Zairians have removed the statues of Albert, king of the Belgians, whose earlier 20th century world was one of industry, precision and no-nonsense colonialism.

Gone too is the glass-enclosed color photograph of Patrice Lumumba, that symbol of early black African independence and anti-Western rage judged dangerous enough to have him removed from power, then executed with Central Intelligence Agency help in 1961.

It was in front of his memorial in 1964 that the so-called Simba rebels who established the short-lived People's Republic of the Congo evicted their fellow African victims.

IT WAS THIS CITY that gave the world a foretaste of last month's Kolwezi killings.

Belgian paratroopers transported by U.S. Air Force C-130s freed more than 500 Americans and Belgians held hostage for 112 days in 1964 by the People's Republic of the Congo.

Hundreds of Europeans of other nationalities escaped the rebels' radioed injunction proclaiming that "the white skin is our enemy—kill them all."

Thirty-nine whites were killed in the Stanleyville fighting and more than a hundred died as hostilities swept across the Texas-sized surrounding province in the following week.

But black victims outnumbered whites in a proportion of 500-to-1 in a half year of widespread violence.

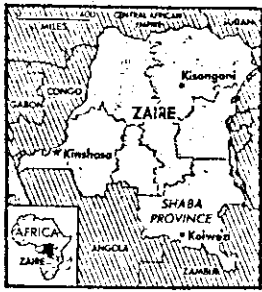
Those proportions tended to be overlooked then—as was also the case with the predominantly black death toll in Kolwezi.

For the outside world, only the white dead seemed to matter—much to the outrage of other Africans and much of the Third World.

Indeed, Stanleyville was invoked by South Africa as irrefutable proof that the white man had no place in independent black countries and by Rhodesia's Ian Smith to justify his unilateral declaration of independence from Britain in 1965.

At the time, many black African governments denounced the rescue operations—viewed in their eyes as a devilish use of Western industrial might to humiliate an Africa only recently freed from foreign masters.

With Kolwezi, South Africa once again sought to stiffen the back of its white minority with horror stories of



By Dave Cook—The Washington Post

slaughtered whites. But neither whites nor blacks here look at their own predicament in such simplistic terms.

Although both the Stanleyville and Kolwezi rescue operations ended up saving the government in power as well as threatened white lives, this time there was far less outrage voiced by black Africans.

Whites—once the initial panic passed, and hundreds of white women and children had been hastened off on European vacations ahead of time—sought reassurance in the knowledge that Zaire desperately needs them.

THE NEW ELEMENT compared to the early 1960s is a growing feeling among Zairians—both the elite, and especially the average people—that whites hold the key to a better life.

"Many Zairians feel they have reached rock bottom," a Belgian said, "because of generalized corruption and the absence of food, medicine, gasoline, security, you name it."

Even university students, whose elders a decade ago were uniformly black power radicals, now appear openly split. Many advocate a massive return of whites, who are now down to some 30,000—less than a third the number that ran what was once one of the most efficient and prosperous of

colonies. "We've come to realize after 18 years of independence that we have to start from square one to stop the mindlessness and corruption," a student leader said, "because the real exploiters turned out to be not so much the whites as our own black brothers."

For the more sensitive among the white residents, there is something chilling about such disenchantment among the young—especially their mouthing of generation-old right-wing European arguments blaming the United States for forcing independence on an ill-prepared Africa.

But it is not so much self-hate as anger with the waste and negligence that has befallen this once bustling trading city now almost without cars because of a chronic gas shortage.

Gone are the days when cotton, rice and coffee arrived by road from the rich agricultural hinterland for shipment on the Congo River to the far-away capital and to ships docked at Matadi port near the Atlantic.

Farm-to-market roads have washed away as contractors refuse to work until the government pays enormous debts.

University laboratory and medical school equipment has been sold by ill-paid employees. Soldiers extort money from hapless citizens. Portuguese and Greek traders—whose general stores sold the kerosene, matches and cloth that motivated the Zairian farmers to produce—have yet to return to the bush despite the now two-year-old government decision rescinding their expatriation.

LIKE MUCH of the rest of Zaire, the city has all but gone back to bush and subsistence living. An estimated 40 percent of the city's 400,000 residents survive, according to studies, because of nearby truck gardens.

Yet, it is not for nothing that the army guards the brewery as well as the banks and the power dam outside town.

There is an odd belief that there

will be no serious trouble while there is still beer.

Even the recent theft of arms from the main army camp did not cause the kind of concern among whites or Zairians that might have been expected.

"It was the army itself. They want the arms to shoot elephants," an old European trader said. "Smuggled ivory is the best way to get rich quick now that the bottom has dropped out of the coffee market."

—Jonathan C. Randall

## U.S. Flight Tests Show Cruise Missile Is Safe From Soviet Weapons

United Press International

Flight tests show the earth-hugging U.S. cruise missile can penetrate any air defense system the Soviet Union is likely to mount against it through the mid-1980s, according to a senior defense official.

Pentagon experts have tested the 18-foot missiles, being developed as a major strategic weapon for the next decade, against both air-based and ground-based anti-aircraft radar systems—including some actual Soviet equipment.

The test flights have made U.S. planners more optimistic than they once were about the cruise missile's chances against potential Soviet defenses.

"It is not going to fly into the nose of a surface-to-air missile site and have a high probability of survival," said the official. "But on a one-for-one basis it can defeat the systems, provided it is cautious and stays a few miles away."

In actual practice, the United States would depend on a mass attack by at least 3,000 cruise missiles. Planners would try to locate defense sites ahead of time to give the missiles a greater chance of success.

THE FIRST FEW hundred cruise missiles are expected to be operational aboard B-52 bombers in 1982.

Earlier estimates had given the Soviets a chance of reducing the penetrating ability of cruise missiles if they mounted a crash program to get as many as 10,000 of a new anti-aircraft missile, the SA-10, into the field by 1985. They are believed to be ready to deploy the first SA-10s at any time.

But the official said he is confident new types of Soviet air defenses will

be needed against the missiles, which are actually pilotless jet planes that use a computer "map" to fly 100 feet or less above the ground, carrying nuclear warheads to targets with high accuracy.

How soon the Soviets could develop new systems and get them operational is guesswork, but is "certainly beyond the mid-80s," the official said.

No Soviet equipment new enough to approach the SA-10's believed capability is available for the current U.S. tests. But Pentagon experts believe the latest-model U.S. Hawk, being used in the tests, matches the new Soviet missile.

WHILE MINIATURIZED electronic jamming systems are planned for use in later versions of the cruise missile, the official said as a result of the tests their development will not be rushed for use on the first generation of the weapon.

Although one of the "survivability" tests was opened to reporters and television cameras last June, details have been kept secret. Pentagon sources disclosed, however, that U.S. AWACS radar planes were able to spot cruise missiles as much as 100 miles away.

The AWACS, a flying radar station, was used in connection with F-14 and F-15 jet interceptors to judge how vulnerable cruise missiles might be to a "look-down, shoot-down" airborne weapons system.

U.S. intelligence sources said the Soviet Union is working on such a system, which would require 50 to 100 radar planes and thousands of interceptors. But they said the Soviet system is not expected to be operational until at least the late 1980s.

Odds & ends  
courtesy of Ron  
Kelly.

## Scientists Cross Desert In Search of Its Secrets

By Thomas W. Lippman

Washington Post Staff Writer

CAIRO—The trackless deserts of southwestern Egypt, one of the most remote regions on earth, are beginning to yield their secrets.

American and Egyptian scientists, linked by satellite to communications facilities in Greenbelt, Md., have completed a 12-day trek through the region. They found major iron ore deposits, prehistoric cave paintings of African wildlife, tools and artifacts of the people who lived there when the land was fertile, and new information about the way deserts are formed.

From Karga oasis, south of Asyut, the scientists traveled by jeep and dune buggy to Jebel Uweinat, a hill that rises near the point where Egypt, Libya and Sudan meet, a distance of almost 500 miles across sand dunes, rocks and craggy valleys created by rushing water in an earlier geologic age.

But the land is so little known and so poorly mapped that the scientists do not know exactly where they were. They will find out only when they see the charts of the signals they transmitted each day to a U.S. Nimbus 6 satellite. From these they can determine what their positions were when

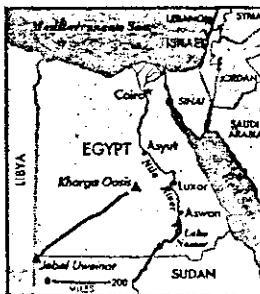
planet Mars as photographed by the U.S. Viking spacecraft, and geologists in the expedition hope that by analyzing the wind and erosion patterns they found in the Egyptian desert they can learn more about the Martian surface.

An eight-mile-long deposit of good quality iron ore, exposed by the desert winds that have worn away the covering rock, Egypt is self-sufficient in iron ore, but Baz, a geologist by training, said there was more than enough to be commercially exploitable when present supplies dwindle.

Near the Sudanese border the scientists met a camel caravan of Bedouin traders making their 40-day trek to Egyptian markets with a salty substance called trona, which is mixed with chewing tobacco. "They were shocked and so were we," Baz said of this chance meeting in the empty wasteland.

Daytime temperatures went up to about 120 degrees Fahrenheit, Baz said, and the only living things the scientists met, aside from the caravan, were one scorpion and a few foxes left tracks in the sand at their camp one night.

The 33-man expedition brought back



By Dave Cook—The Washington Post

Approximate route of desert trek.

archeologists, botanists, geologists and geographers in the expedition will be published as a book next year. The artifacts, he said, probably will be housed in a museum in Kharga.

Egypt is 96 percent desert. For centuries the Egyptians, drawing sustenance from the Nile, simply ignored the desert, but there has been a sudden interest in it recently.

Oil exploration, overcrowding of the Nile valley and the prospective recovery of the Sinai Desert from Israel have combined to stimulate academic and scientific research into the possibility of putting the empty wastelands to practical use.

In the southwest, Baz said, a few of

## New Light on Colonial History

### Lord Cornwallis' Fleet Is Believed Found in River Mud

By Ted Gup

Washington Post Staff Writer

Beneath the waters of the York River, divers have discovered at least six 18th century shipwrecks, believed to be part of the fleet that Lord Cornwallis commanded at the Battle of Yorktown, the Revolutionary War's last great battle 197 years ago.

A shell-encrusted cannon and the faint outline of a 100-foot vessel, thought to be the Charon, a 44-gun frigate that served as Cornwallis' flagship, were found recently in the muddy waters off Gloucester Point in southeast Virginia.

Discovery of the vessels was heralded yesterday as a significant historical find by archeologists and historians who said recovery of the ships could shed new light on the Battle of Yorktown, as well as ship construction and armaments in the colonial period.

It was at Yorktown in 1781 that Cornwallis

surrendered his 8,000-man force to George Washington and scuttled or lost most of his British fleet to American and French shelling. But until now, location of the scuttled fleet has remained a mystery, the researchers said.

The waters between Gloucester Point and Yorktown are believed among the richest repositories of 18th-century shipwrecks in the country, according to John Sands, a historian and assistant director of the Mariners' Museum at Newport News. Only Penobscot, Maine, is considered to have as many 18th-century vessels wrecked in its waters, he said.

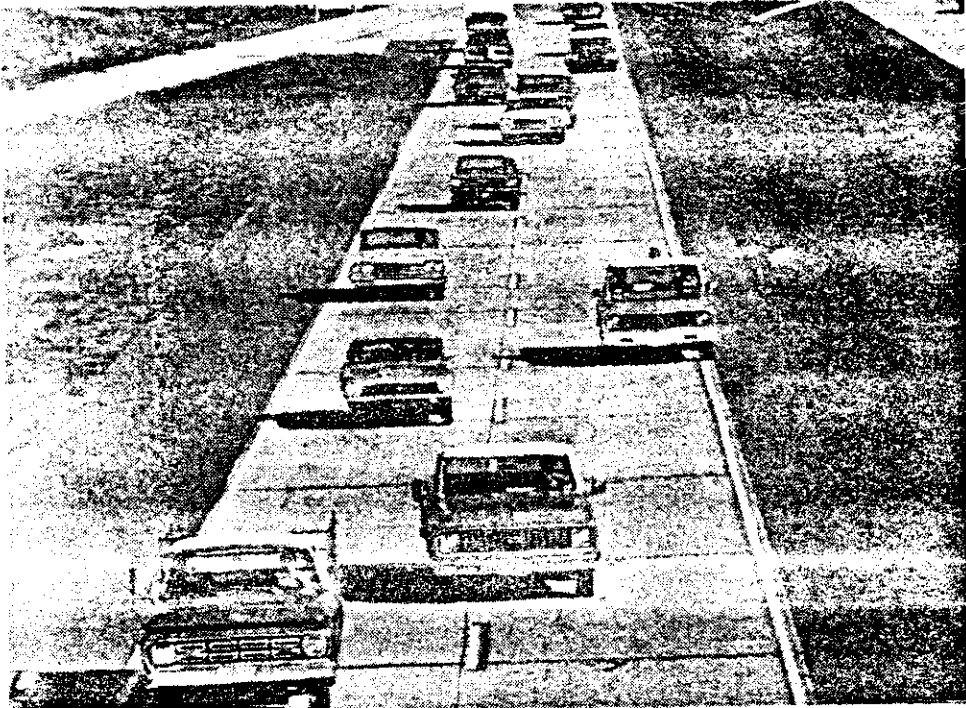
Divers from the Virginia Research Center for Archeology have been charting the location of shipwrecks in a two-mile stretch of the York River since June in a project funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

See YORKTOWN, C6, Col. 1

## Yorktown Ship Discovery Is Hailed by Va. Historians

AT RIGHT is a picture I thought I'd run as a follow-up to my earlier Driving-in-Okla article. Notice that of 13 vehicles in the picture, six are pickup trucks. Two of the three vehicles straddling the center line are pickup trucks. The only vehicle with two wheels completely off the right-of-way is a pickup truck. Anyone think I was exaggerating?

BELOW is an item from GALACTIC GAZETTE, Sept/Oct 78, published by Paul Marek, STAR OKC, 7812 NW 29th Street, Bethany, OK 73008.



### Transportation Key

The Tinker Area is served by two major highways, Interstate 40 and the newer Interstate 240 above, providing residents of the area easy access to Oklahoma City as well as to major recreation facilities in the state.

# STAR TREK:

## MOVIE UPDATE

Production is well under way by now for "Star Trek-the Motion Picture". So naturally, we have some new info concerning the movie.

First of all, a list of promotions for "our heroes": Kirk will be an admiral;; Spock will remain the same rank ( we'll explain that story a little later ); McCoy, we don't know yet; Scotty will be a commander; Uhura will be a lieutenant commander; Sulu, the same; Chekov, not known yet, but probably a lieutenant, now at the weapons station instead of navigation. Chapel will be a doctor, but her rank is unknown.

As we said, Spock will remain the same rank he had on the show. Not fair? Has there been some foul play at Star Fleet Headquarters? Well, as you all know, Spock, being half Vulcan and half human, has an identity problem. He has been on Vulcan since the five-year mission was up and Star Fleet asked him to join the Enterprise crew again.

W-whats this about the five-year mission having ended? Yep, the movie takes place four years after the original mission to explore strange new worlds . . .

During this time, the Enterprise has been overhauled and the newest technological advances built in.

Three types of uniforms will be worn on the Enterprise along with casual wear: a dress uniform, a regular uniform, and a work jumpsuit. As for the Enterprise herself, Scotty should be quite pleased with her, being in hog heaven with his four to five story engine room-a promising set.

Until next time, cross your fingers . . .



Dr. Chapel

## VARIOUS NOTES

✓  
✓  
Greetings to all my new players! I was down to the point where fewer than 1 reader in 5 was playing. A new gamestart always means excitement. Furthermore, we have the big 2-man game between Bill Shaffer and Craig Reges coming up. THAT should be a joy to read, irregardless of moves. The press alone should be something to watch. I'm glad they both decided to accept. For those of you who are not associated with game 77KS, be informed that these two guys are worlds apart in style of play, and the only thing they have in common is their opinion of the other one. No love is lost between these two! They will be playing with Shaffer as OR vs Reges' GAT, with Italy in CD. Victory will go to the first alliance with 24 (well, Shaffer would really need 25, since Russia starts with one more), or by concession, WIL, a player may RENEG a concession in order to wipe the enemy out to the last unit! Just in case. The (wide open) press in this game will be a treat! William Sherman (Sherman) made a blithe of himself in 76/77 by saying he would not only not be a candidate for office, but would refuse to run if nominated, and would refuse to serve if elected! or something close to that. Let me not "take a Sherman", but rather, "take a Pontius Pilate" and wash my hands of any and all responsibility here and now for the things that may well appear as press in this Shaffer-Reges matchup! (I will print anything that comes in). I'd meant to have a special announcement page this issue, but I won't be able to in time.

BOARDMAN NUMBERS are coming out again, I see. Congratulations to Dennis Agosta.

2nd elections are now going on. Last year's crew was all new, but this year a number of old hats are in the ring: Walker, Lipton, Davis, Sacks...next month will tell how they do. I have some guesses on how it might go with various matchups, but I'll pass on printing them. If you want in, \$2 to Bill Young would permit you to vote. See inside cover of last issue for address.

BOB HARTWIG, in his PCDUNK NEWS #50, notes that Curtis Gibson, 65 yr old mystic of NYC, is writing about his game enemies to players in other games Gibson is not in. Bob abhors the policy, as do I. It is absurd. However, anyone who has ever dealt with Gibson knows that absurdity is Gibson's stock in trade.

✓  
MOST ZINES offer payment for articles, humor, some even for letters. I may have as many letters as most other zines in any given month combined, and pay nothing except unedited publication in context. Aside from preference, this was due in part to my old sub-rate system. Now, though, I can start giving credit, and will do so in an issue or two. Rate will be about 2 issues per page if virtu ally xerox-ready when received, plus more for humor/articles, less for weather reports and gossip. I like to think most writing isn't for pay, though, so I won't set a cut-and-dried rule. STANDBYS will start getting credit for filling in too, about 4 extra issues for taking a position. Positions of less than 3 centers will go to 1st volunteer, as I don't call standbys for minor positions. More elaboration later.

✓  
MORE STANDBYS would be appreciated. Anyone wanting on or off the list, please let me know. In THIS zine, you can refuse the call as well, and NOT be listed as player-of-record, for those of you worried about your rating somewhere!

ZINES RECEIVED is a title of a column I wish I'd been able to run, but have absolutely no time to prepare. 'Someday' soon, I'll mention these receipts: DIPLOMACY DIGEST, KUMAKU GAZETTE, WHY ME?, PINK DRAGON, and believe it or not, even the summer-  
fall 78 issue of WARNONGER. Maybe next issue....

WINTER has begun to creep in here, with the first storm of the year this last Wednesday and Thursday. We had 2 straight days of overcast and cold drizzle mixed with occasional rain. I want all of you northerners to know we're suffering right along with you here in the sun belt. (Fortunately, it's going to be back in the 70s this weekend...)