

# Last weekend at the IRSM I learned a lot about Urban Guerrilla Warfare, and a lot about myself

"I lead two lives.

During the day I am a self-employed Bingo caller, but some evenings and weekends I make a complete change and become a revolutionary urban guerrilla within the *International Revolutionary Solidarity Movement*.

Now, just because it's part time, that doesn't mean half-hearted; it demands all your energy and determination.

Our affinity group, *Land and Liberty!*, specialises in bridge and embassy demolition, industrial sabotage, destruction of hire purchase company records, offing police torturers and so on; it's rather like dismantling giant Meccano sets for the most part.

We operate day or night, fog or frost, rain or shine.

Which brings me to the story of last weekend. "If voting

We were taking part in a "pan-mobilisation" exercise. People of all types turned up. Individualists to Syndicalists, sociologists, farm-hands, coal miners and all sorts of ordinary folk like you and me.

We met in the back room of a 24 hour Bierkeller, in the wee sma' hours of Saturday and decided to have a crack at the Crown Jewels.

Our big job of the day was to make a giant bomb for diversionary action. Since that only took a couple of hours, we knocked off to the nearest pub and waited until the show started.

could change the system it would be illegal"

Then, in the afternoon, we were told that some thieving bastard had nicked it, our bomb!

Making a ballista from 40 gallon marmalade drums, 3 inch thick timbers, rope, a shovel from a JCB and a stick of chewing gum isn't easy, but we did it.

Then we tested it. A Special Branch sergeant, using the shovel as a vantage point to spy on us, regretted his rashness when he and the shovel were catapulted several miles across London. But enough of the lighter moments; somebody had to go and retrieve the shovel.

We were wading through our third canal when I thought, "What the bleeding hell am I doing in the drink, when I could be getting a drink in me?" when some wag says "I often come here at this time of year", all posh like. I felt like throttling the fool.

When we eventually got back, the baubels had been snatched successfully (so the ballista hadn't been needed after all!) and they turned out to be brass and paste!

Talk about cock up! Mind you I felt a bit better after I lobbed a couple of grenades through the window of a passing Special Patrol Group Land Rover.

Now I'm not pretending that every action is such a balls-up, most routine bank expropriations and the like go pretty smoothly, but you ought to realise what you could be letting yourself in for.

Of course, there are easier ways of spending your spare time (organising riots, strikes, picket lines, selling papers, etc.) but you can't beat the satisfaction of doing something really useful.

Well, it does me at any rate.

How about you?"

\*\*\*\*\*

## WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE IRSM?

To provide a fully trained back up for the people armed. Specific tasks include:

- (a) providing support for the revolutionary people when they rise against their masters.
- (b) preventing new ones taking over.

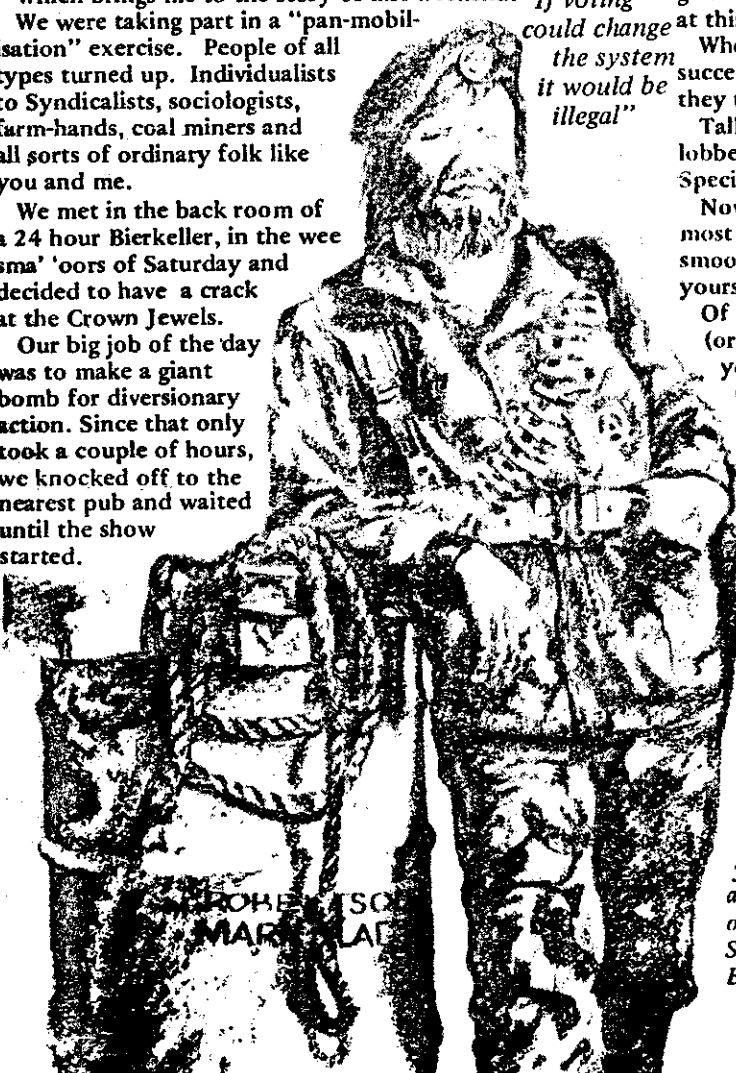
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For further insight as to why you should become an urban guerrilla today just look at the increasing repression at home and abroad, the increasing technology of political and sociological control, the sterility of consumer capitalism and authoritarian socialism and the unutterable boredom of the production line, the total lack of control over your own life, a legal system designed to protect the interests and property of a select ruling class, etc., the list goes on and on. REMEMBER: IF VOTING COULD CHANGE THE SYSTEM IT WOULD BE ILLEGAL! IT'S PART TIME. BUT IT'S A REAL REVOLUTIONARY'S JOB!

**IRSM**

THE  
AMATEURS

LES PRINCE



The

# BRUTUS BULLETIN

ET TU, BRUTE

FEB 5 1979

The BRUTUS BULLETIN is a newsletter of postal DIPLOMACY published every two weeks by John Michalki, Rt 10, Box 526Q, Moore, Oklahoma 73165. Subs are available at the rate of 16/\$4. NO OPENINGS. Contributions of all kinds are solicited, especially humor. All letters are considered for publication and are unedited except for game material. All points of view are welcomed, and will be presented intact. A scathing response may FOLLOW, but....we're glad to see them anyhow!

## JOHN'S NOTES

As we come down to the end of the week, things are looking up: lots of letters (at least) coming in. The big thing is a master from Jim Bumpas (LIBERTERREAN) of an incredible ad that he ran last issue (#111): Terrific! I may just run it as a cover. It seems to be from a British magazine, but it's hilarious anyhow, ESPECIALLY in a reactionary 'zine like mine. (Jim B. also has some OPENINGS in his "2twice a month" deadline games, 11.\$4, 948 Loraine Ave, Los Altos, CA 94022). My only problem is time to type and run all this...

← Late Not  
I did

FLASH: Alan Rowland (WARMONGER) is the winner in the BCSGC tournament of HUNGRY, HUNGRY HIPPOS. Congrats, Alan. I always knew you had it in you.

I'm HOPING to have this issue put together a little better than last one, which was too edgy for my tastes; however, I have LOTS to do and only a couple of days to do it in, so, I'll just shove out what I've got. Maybe I'll get a break and a game will end instead of always more starts... Speaking of starts, I'd like to thank Dennis and Bernie AGOSTA for their prompt response in assigning a B# to my 10-day Special Game, which is now 79E. The fifth game of the year to start, probably the first to conclude... S'Ol, and maybe F'Ol, will be in NEXT issue. (S'ol isn't due until Tuesday). Other news: this winter has again set new records, but this year for cold instead of snowfall like last year. Normal here should be 49° for a high, but we're running 30° below that. Electric bill was \$1.73 last month....



← If YOU get 2 BBs sometime by mistake, return one and I'll refund your postage. There is some demand for these things, believe it or not...

J.M.

✓ 1977 KN "The First Game"  
SPRING, 1914

THE GUNS OF AUGUST DON'T ACCOMPLISH MUCH  
CONCESSIONS FAIL

AUSTRIA (Kassel): A Pie-VEN; A Ven-TRI; A TYO & A GAL S A Boh:  
A BOH, VIE, & UKR S A Gal  
FRANCE (Ditter): A Mar-PIE; F GLYO S A Tus: A TUS S F Tyn-Rom; F TYN-Rom:  
F WES-Tyn; F TUN S F Wes-Tyn: F NAF-Wes; A SIL-Gal; A MUN-Tyo:  
A BUR-Mun; A RUH S A Bur-Mun: F NTH H  
RUSSIA (McElvaney): F BAL, DEN, KIE ~~WET~~ H: A MOS-Ukr; A WAR S A Mos-Ukr: A STP-Mos:  
A LVN S A StP-Mos: A PRU S A War  
TUKREY (Hueston): A SEV S AUSTRIAN A Ukr; F AEG-Ion; F ION-Tyn; F ADR S F Aeg-Ion;  
F NAP S A Rom; F ROM S F Ion-Tyn: F APU S AUSTRIAN A Pie-Ven

Good to see you all at least trying, folks. Fall, 1914, will be due with my mail received here Monday, February 5, 1979. There has been a call for an ATR draw. NVR will count as a "No". We do have some press:

Constantinople: There they are, Dave. If you can come by sea you deserve a medal.

✓ 1977 KS "The Press Game" TWO MINUTE WARNING: CAN THOSE MOSCOW STEELERS HOLD THAT LEAD?  
SPRING, 1912 Winter, 1911: French A Pic r OTB; Turkey builds  
F ANK, A SMY; Russia builds A SEV

FRANCE (Ditter): F LVP, A BUR H. F ENG S RUSSIAN A Yor-Lon/NSO  
GERMANY (Hues): F Lon-WAL  
RUSSIA (Kassel): F BLA-Bulec; A SEV-Arm; A Rum-SER; A BUD S A Rum-Ser;  
A BUR-RUM; A SIL-BOH; A MUN-Tyo; A RUH-Bur; A BEL S A Ruh-Bur;  
A BEL S A Bel; F NAT S F Edi-CLY; F Edi-CLY; F Nth-LON;  
A YOR S F Nth-Lon: F Hel-NTH: A VIE-Tri  
TURKEY (Kendter, Jr.): F ANK S F Aeg-Con; F Aeg-CON; A SMY-Arm; A BUL H; A TYO S A Tri:  
A Ser S A Tri/d/r Alb, Gre, Otb; A TRI H: F Tyn-ION; F MID-Nat:  
F POR-Spanc\* F SPAsc-Por\* F NAF-Mid; A GAS & A MAR S FRENCH  
A Bur

NOTE> \*This is what's called "Constat Creep" and is barred by the rule that forbids units to exchange places, Spa & Por in this case.

Deadline for Fall, 1912, will be my mail received here Monday, Feb 5, 1979, and may be made conditional on the Turkish retreat. Press follows.

MOSCOW-PARIS: Thanks for the offer of help Konrad, but I prefer to eliminate the child myself.

MOSCOW-LONDON: Goodbye, Craig. Better stick to playing against those similar in maturity to yourself. You can find them in any kindergarten class.

✓ 1978 IH "The New Game" COLLISIONS TIE UP EAST; FRANCE GIVES WEST A FREE TURN  
SPRING, 1902

Winter, 01: Austria builds . . . A BUD, A TRI  
England builds F LON, F LVP  
France: NBR! Plays 1 short.  
Germany builds A BER, A MUN  
Italy builds F NAP  
Turkey builds F CON

Austria (RAU): A BUD-Gal; A VIE S A Bud-Gal; A SER-Rum; A TRI-Ser; F GRE-Aeg  
England (KATZ): F Lon-ENG; F Lvp-IRI; F Nwy-SKA; F NTH S A Den; A DEN H  
France (FROST?): NMR: F SPAsc H; A MAR H; A Bur H/d/r Pic, Par, Gas, Otb  
Germany (SHAPPER): A Kie-RUH; A Ber-KIE; A Mun-BUR; F HOL S A Ber-Kie; A BEL S A Mun-  
Italy (KASSEL): F Nap-ION; F Tyn-GLYO; A TUN H; A PIE-Mar  
Russia (HAYNER): F SWE H; F StPsc-GOB; A MOS S F Rum-Sev; F RUM-Sev; A WAR-Gal;  
A UKR S A War-Gal  
Turkey (PILANT): F BLA S A Arm-Sev; A ARM-Sev; A BUL-Rum; F CON-Aeg

Would Arturo Guajardo please submit standby orders for France if he chooses? (Address with press on next page). Deadline for Fall, 1902, will be my mail received here Monday Feb 5, 1979, and may be made conditional on the Fr retreat. See important notes followi  
press.

Galicia Gazette: The townspeople peered out from within their abodes hesitantly, with incredulity. The fully expected bombardment of their humble homes had not come. Curiously, the standoff had come without the firing of a single shot. Instead, the White & Red armies merely kept an eye on each other, while their other eye was attracted to the brilliant defense of Sevastopol and Rumania by beleaguered Russian detachments.

Amidst congratulations for his military tactics, the Czar snickered inwardly. Only a handful even suspected he was tipped off.

Berlin (UPI): The German General Staff has opened a course on what wines and French food go together. After all, we do not want to seem a hoard of the HUNS to the sweet French ladies.

Announcement: When will the rest of Europe hear about pizza--1910?

Moscow: First, I follow my scorched earth policy.

(No Dateline) Frenchmen prefer escargots et vin.

UNKNOWN PRESS: Go Turk GO.

Germany to Italy: Race you to Paris.

Berlin to Paris: Get your ass in gear for a real war. Only a very poor player would miss the opportunity to build 2 and try to build 1 instead. You must believe everything you read in the Brutus Invitational game to think I would let you walk into Munich. Lets see you keep me from helping you leave the game first! When I write my support for a treaty I expect it to be kept; obviously you do not.

Notes:

✓ Someone asked about ordering support: A unit can support another in 1 of 2 ways: 1) Holding; or 2) Attacking (moving). Say Germany has A Ruhr and A Munich. To have Ruhr support Munich in place, just write "A Ruhr S A Munich". Army Munich could not move to receive this support, but would have to hold, or sit and support a different unit. ("Mun S Ruh", or "Mun S Italian A Ven-Tyo", or "A Mun H"). Now, if your A Ruh wanted to support A Mun to Burgundy, you must order "A Ruhr S A Mun-Bur" and "A Mun-Bur". If you order "A Ruh S A Mun," "A Mun-Bur", that is NOT support of an attack, only support in holding in Munich. Results would appear in the zine as "A RUH S A Mun/OTM" (ordered to move), and "A Mun-Bur" would go in unsupported. So to support an attack, write in the attack: "A RUH S A Mun-Bur".

J.M.

✓ **IMPORTANT NOTE TO HOUSE RULES:**

→ Someone in BB once had an NMR due to orders being conditional on the player of another country, which I threw out as illegal. In his defense, he pointed out that many other publishers would allow such a maneuver, which I now find is correct. So, I need to specify that such a practice is NOT allowed in BRUTUS BULLETIN. As I see it, the original player has the country even after an NMR; he does not lose it until after he NMRs a SECOND consecutive time, and until the deadline itself, no one is allowed to know if Country X has orders in or not. Other publishers may fudge a little on the theory that a delay would be called for, and allowing orders conditional on the identity of the players, original or standby, is simply a timesaving device. However, here in my fast games, you're stuck. You can only make orders conditional on what you're allowed to know before the deadline, not after. And again, always include a set with ANY conditionals labelled "all other cases" (which would still have covered the player in this example, e.g.).

John M.

# RUSSIA WINS!

Summer, 1912: Turkish A Ser r GRE

FALL, 1912

77KS

FRANCE (Baumeister): F Lvp S F Eng-Wal/ann.; F Eng-Wal/d/; A BUR-Par  
 GERMANY (Reges): F WAL S RUSSIAN F Cly-Lvp  
 RUSSIA (Kassel): A Rum-BUL: F BLA S A Rum-Bul: A Ser S A Rum-Bul/d/;  
A Boh-TYO: A MUN S A Boh-Tyo: A VIE S A Bud-Tri: A END-Tri:  
A RUH-Par: A Del-DEC: A Hol-BUL: F Nth-ENG: F LON S F Nth-  
Eng: F Cly-LVP: F NAT & A YER S F Cly-Lvp  
 TURKEY (Kendter, Jr): A SEX-Arm: F Ion-ADR: F ANK-Bla: F CON-Bla:  
A Bul-SER: A GRE S A Bul-Ser: A TRI-Bud: A Tyo-Vie/d/;  
A MAR S FRENCH A Bur/OTM: A GAS-Par: F Mid-IRI: F Por-MID;  
F Naf-TUN: A Syr "Zombies" stare into space/(NSU)

1912: France: Bre Par <del>xxx</del>	2	1 ann., even
Germany: <del>xxx</del>	0	out
Russia: Home Nry Swe Bud Vie		
Rum Ber Mun Kie Den Bel Hol		
Edi LON LVP BUL	19	+3, wins
Turkey: Home <del>xxx</del> Gre Ser Tri		
Ven Rom Nap Tun Mar Spa Por	13	-1
	34	

Congratulations to Rick Kassel on an amazing comeback. Player comments, of which I'm sure there will be many and spicy, will be printed as they arrive in the next two issues. Past players are invited to do so, as one already has: Fluff, you'd better get in a defense statement now, or never! (✓) Final press follows.

London (Last stand press) Gee, Rick, I'm sorry if I do not have the maturity to play with you fellows. It seems, if memory serves me right, that it was not beneath you to deal with me when you were down to three centers and I helped to build you up. It's been fun, guys!

Turkey In Zombieland, a small city in Syria, the Imperial leader admitted defeat. When asked what he felt was the cause, he said "Bill Shaffer and trusting Rick Kassel, knowing that he would (and got) revenge."

Germany We were fools for trusting Russia,. Only an asshole would trust Kassel. I guess that is why Lee trusted him so long.

## 1977KS in Review

	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12
Austria	5	6	4	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
England	5	5	5	3	2	1	2	2	1	0	0	0
France	5	5	5	4	3	4	5	4	5	5	3	2
Germany	5	6	6	7	8	9	7	7	4	1	1	0
Italy	3	4	5	4	5	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Russia	4	3	4	6	8	9	9	10	12	15	16	1
Turkey	5	5	5	6	7	7	11	11	12	13	14	1
Neutral	2	0										
	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	3

Zine: The BRUTUS BULLETIN GM, for better or worse: John E. Michalski  
 Players: Austria, Rick Price, out F'06. England, David Hunt, dro F'08,CD,out F10.  
 France: David Grabar, res S05; Willaim Newell, Jr., dro W08: Konrad Baumeister.  
 Germany: Craig A Reges, out F12. Italy, Chip Charnley, dro F01; Willaim Shaffer,  
 out F07. Russia, Richard L Kassel, Jr (Rick Kassel), wins, F'1912. Turkey, Lee  
 Kendter, Jr.

## ERA Urges Utilities, Industry to Use More Natural Gas ((!!!))

Electric utilities and other big energy consumers that have converted from natural gas to oil are now being encouraged by the Economic Regulatory Administration to reconvert to natural gas. Many companies have moved away from gas in response to government pressure and predictions that the nation's gas supplies would be depleted within the next decade or two.

This fuel-switching, when combined with the recently enacted natural gas policy law, has created a surplus of gas while aggravating the oil import problem, ERA said. As a short-term solution, ERA is asking firms with gas capabilities that are now burning middle distillates to change back to gas.

Anticipating the May 8 effective date of the coal-use law, which will place tough restrictions on gas-burning by utilities and industry, ERA has proposed a special rule that would allow facilities to use gas for up to five years under a temporary public interest exemption. The rule would permit exemptions to be granted without regard to the complex "fuel decision reports" and the \$85,000 filing fee that will otherwise be required for an exemption. Although the proposal would apply only to purchasers of middle distillate fuels, ERA is considering the advisability of expanding the rule to include imported residual fuel.

## DOE's Winter Fuel Plans Inadequate: GAO

Despite the fact that there have been three major fuel shortages in the past five years—coal last year, natural gas the year before, and petroleum during the Arab oil embargo—the federal government has yet to develop a workable plan to mitigate the potential effects of a new winter energy crunch, according to J. Dexter Peach, Director of the General Accounting Office's Energy Division.

Last year, the Department of Energy revealed an energy emergency planning guide that was prepared by personnel with a "lack of technical expertise" in the energy field, Peach said. Although the guide was purported to be a contingency plan with specific programs that would be implemented at given stages of an emergency, GAO noted that DOE fixed no responsibilities for monitoring the program, that much of the plan called for actions dependent upon congressional approval, and that some of the measures—such as increasing natural gas imports, securing authority of mandatory programs, and setting up energy information systems—take too much time to develop to be short-term solutions to immediate problems.

### *Utilities, States Handled Last Year's Problem*

The people responsible for easing the potential burdens involved with respect to the 1977-1978 coal strike were those associated with the electric utility industry and in state governments, Peach said. Utility stockpiling of coal and sales of excess power combined with state emergency measures to avert a major crisis last winter.

DOE, perhaps wisely, adopted a "hands-off" posture that kept the federal government out of the actual coal-electricity supply manipulations being handled by the industry, the GAO spokesman said. What DOE did do was set up a task force that disseminated information to the people involved in crisis management.

Some of this data was helpful, according to Peach, while some of it was not. By using statistics without regard to industry definitions, the agency's supply figures did not always agree with state or utility data, raising questions as to the validity of the government's information. Likewise, DOE's reliance on "worst case" projections led it to continue to predict unemployment levels of 3.5 million if the strike persisted. Actual layoffs resulting from the coal strike ranged from 9,500 to 25,500 workers—numbers that were known by DOE through weekly surveys taken at the time.

Peach noted that such a discrepancy between predicted and actual unemployment "could make it difficult to obtain public cooperation in future energy emergencies which may be more severe." He also said that, except for a few minor improvements, most federal and state agencies will face this coming winter in about the same state of preparedness as last year.

The doctor arrived home to discover that his plumbing was clogged. He called a plumber and he arrived shortly. After working for about ten minutes, he proudly announced that the problem was solved and presented his bill of \$100.

"That's an outrage!" the doc complained. "Your fee works out to about \$600 an hour. I'm a heart surgeon and I don't get that kind of money."

"You probably don't," answered the plumber. "I didn't either, when I was a heart surgeon."

## TVA to Test Hot Water Cut-off Switch

The Tennessee Valley Authority has launched an experiment that is designed to reduce demand for electricity during peak hours by cutting off the power to customers' water heaters. To test the concept, TVA will equip 400 homes with remote control devices that will allow the utility to shut off their water heaters during periods of high electrical demand.

"If we can cut the use of power during peak hours, it may help reduce the amount of future generating capacity needed on the TVA power system," according to Howard Fox, acting chief of the utility's load management division. While this would translate into a cost savings, TVA is not entirely sure "how well consumers will accept this method of conservation."

5 ((See last line))

Fall, 1914

77KN

Austria (Kassel): A Boh-SIL; A GAL S A Boh-Sil; A VIE-Boh; A TYO S A Ven-Pie; A Ven-PIE; A Tri-VEN; A UKR S A Gal  
France (Ditter): A Pie-Tyo/d/r Mar, Otb; A MUN-Boh; A Sil S A Mun-Boh/d/r Ber, Otb; F Lyo S A Tus; A TUS S F Tyn-Rom; F Tyn-ROM; F WES-Tyn; F TUN S F Wes-Tyn; F NAP-Wes; F NTH H; ~~ABYR-Mun~~; ~~AR4H S A Bur-M~~  
Russia (McElvaney): NMR! Fs BAL,KIE, DEN H; As MOS WAR STP, LVN, PRU H  
Turkey (Hueston): A SEV S AUSTRIAN A Ukr; F ADR S AUSTRIAN A Tri-Ven; F ION-Tyn; F Rom S F Ion-Tyn/ann.; F NAP S F Ion-Tyn; F APU S F Aeg-Ion; F AEG-Ion

Would John Beamer, 1044 Lake Street, San Francisco, CA 94118, please submit standby orders for Russia if he chooses to accept the position? Winter, 1914, and Spring, 1915, will be due with my mail received here TUESDAY, February 20, 1979, UNLESS there is mail delivery Monday (Washington's birthday), in which case it will be Monday, the 19th. Orders may be made conditional on the retreats and builds, but NOT on players! A separation requires 2 votes to pass. Remember to make any conditional orders include one set labelled ALL OTHER CASES just in case. Press follows. There is another call for an ATR draw. NVR=No.

Paris-Constantinople: A chain is only as strong as its weakest link. Your strength is by sea...so we strike by land at something you can't control. If we don't bust through Austria in 3 game years, then a 4-way draw is acceptable.

1914: Austria: Home Ser Gre Rum Ven	7	even
France: Home Spa Por Lvp Bel Lon Tun Mun		
Hol Ber ROM	13	build one
Russia: StP Mos War Nwy Swe Edi Den Kie	8	even
Turkey: Home Bul Sev Nap <del>Pop</del>	6	1 ann., even
	34	

1979H

The LAST GAME Begins!

formerly BRUTUS #5

Austria: Jeff Hamill, 1535 E Vassar, Denver, CO 80210  
 England: John Beamer, 1044 Lake Street, San Francisco, CA 94118  
 France: Ron Brown, 1528 El Sereno Place, Bakersfield, CA 93304  
 Germany: Galen Workman, 3531 E Wilton St, Apt C, Long Beach, CA 90804  
 Italy: Arturo Guajardo, 3201 E Greenlee Road, Lot 13, Tucson, AZ 85716  
 Russia: Joseph Rau, 420 N Marion, Oak Park, IL 60302  
 Turkey: Rick Kassel, 984 Erie St Rd, Macedon, NY 14502

Orders are due Valentine's Day, Feb 14, 1979 to "John Michalski, Harper Oil Company, 904 Hightower Building, Oklahoma City, OK 73102". This is the last regular 2-week game I'm running for a LONG time! My thanks to the Agosta's for their very prompt action on my B# requests. Nice to get one 1½ weeks before the game starts... Good luck to all! J.M.

78Kiv: Note: the Allied order F ENG-Bel was inadvertently deleted from the master for the sheet included in this issue, in case anyone's watching.

[10-Day Special, '501 due 2/6/79, is now 1979E.]

Doing a good job here is like wetting your pants in a dark suit-----  
 it gives you a warm feeling  
 but nobody notices!!!!!!!!!!!!

78 Kiv

## 2-Man Love Match

## ALLIED GAMBLE ON UNSUPPORTED ATTACKS FAILS: RUSSIA SINKS.

Allied Powers (Shaffer) England: F Nwy-STP; F NTH-Den; A Bel-Ruh/ann.; A EDI H  
 France: A BUR-Mun; A Par-PIC; F GLyo-TYN; F Spasc-WES; A Mar-PIE  
 Russia: A BER-Kie; F SWE S ENGLISH F Nwy-Den/NSO/imp.; A War-UKR;  
A Mos S A War-Ukr/d/r Lvn, Otb  
 Central Powers (Reges) Austria: A BOH-Mun; A Gal-WAR; A Ukr-MOS; A Rum-SER; F Ion-TUN  
 Germany: A MUN-Kie; F DEN-Nth; A Ruh-BEL; A HOL S A Ruh-Bel  
 Turkey: A SEV S AUSTRIAN A Ukr-Mos; A BUL H; F Aeg-GRE;  
 F Eas-ION; F Con-AEG  
 Italy (CD) A ROM, A VEN, F NAP H (for now)...

1902:	England: Home Nwy <del>STP</del>	5	1 ann., build 1
	France: Home Por Spa	5	even
	Russia: <del>STP</del> <del>STP</del> <del>STP</del> Ber SWE	2	remove 2
		12	
	Austria: Home Rum Gre WAR MOS SER TUN	8	build 3
	Germany: Mun Kie Den Hol BEL	5	build 1
	Turkey: Home Sev Bul GRE	6	build 1
		19	
	Italy: Home	3	
		3	
		34	

W'02 & S'03 due HMT Mon, Feb 19, 1979. Press follows.

Von Schlieffen HQ: For the record, my zine has been out and the games in it are proceeding quite nicely. And no, I was not wondering what had happened to EGGNOG. Sorry about that. As to Ultra, see this season's press in WHY ME?. Up your ass, Konrad.

Vienna (National Front HQ): A center for Russia equals no builds. Certainly, Bill, I think Sweden would have been better off in English, not Russian hands. Really, I have a lot more respect for somebody like Fluff who at least can claim ignorance and the lack of knowledge in the game 1977KS. Unfortunately, Baumeister's attacks, both personal and in the game, make very little sense to me. The babblings of a child.

## PRESS:

Another year passes and still the allied powers are staying with the Central Fuckups. God only knows how they do it. If their leader was half as good as he says I should be down to 5 units now. True, Russia has lost units, but so far the total number of units have stayed basically the same. Only time will tell. But, for all of you following the press game so to speak, a little side line. Two turns ago I offered my opponet a challenge to place a small outcome on this game at a set time. As could be predicted, the Gutless Bastard did not take me up on it. One can only wonder, was it my generalship which scared him, or was it his total incompetency himself? As I said early on in this game, I have nothing to lose, as my reputation was never in the game of Diplomacy; Hell I am just a novice at the game. I only apply my basic principals for other board games to this one. Sometimes they work, sometimes not. I will say this, Now that the challenge has not been picked up; it only goes to prove that Craig is a worried guy. After all, if I was nearly as good as him, I would have made that bet.

Now to the game. This move is a gamble on my part, as you can see. Not much of a gamble but, everything counts as this is a fall turn. Hopefully he was counting of me convoying my unit from english soil so my Fleet can enter. If he did not watch himself he will lose another unit due to attrition at the winter builds. I surly hope that asshole can get by this winter without a seperation of seasons. In a two-man game there should be no such thing. But, last winter it was he who asked for it. You can bet your ass I was dumbfounded when I found it out. I was under the impression it took a majority vote. As I found out, it takes only one, so I have a 49% vote so to speak. All in all it took the Genius a little over 1 month for last seasons move. What in the hell will it take this time.

((GM Note: Fluff was caught by historical precedent. In earlier games, if HALF the players in even-numbered ones voted for a separation, I granted it. So here, 1 vote equals YES))



# 78IH

RUSSIA BOUNCES BACK: OKIE HEADS OF STATE FARE POORLY.  
CAN'T TELL THE ALLIANCES WITHOUT A BRAND NEW SCORECARD...

Summer, 02: French A Bur r PAR

FALL, 1902

AUSTRIA (Rau): A Vie-GAL: A BUD S A Vie-Gal; A Tri-SER: A Ser-BUL;  
F GRE S A Ser-Bul  
ENGLAND (Katz): F SKA-Nth: F ENG-Bre: F NTH-Eng: F Iri-MAO; A DEN H  
FRANCE (Frost): F Spasc-PCR: A Mar-SPA: A PAR-Bre  
GERMANY (Shaffer): F HOL-Nth: A Bel-PIC: A RUH-Bur; A BUR-Par; A KIE-Den  
ITALY (Kassel): F LYO S A Pie-Mar; A Pie-MAR; A TUN H; F ION-Aeg  
RUSSIA (Hayner): F SWE H: F GoB-BAB; A War-SIL: A UKR S A Mos-Sev;  
A MOS-Sev: F RUM S AUSTRIAN A Ser-Bul  
TURKEY (Pilant): F BLA S A Arm-Sev: A ARM-Sev: A Bul S AUSTRIAN A Ser-Bul/  
NSO/ann.; F CON-Aeg

Spring, 1903, will be due with my mail received here Monday or Tuesday, Feb 19 or 20, depending on whether they deliver on Monday (Washington's Birthday) or not. Press below.

1902: Austria:	Home Ser Gre BUL	6	Build 1
England:	Home Den Nwy	5	even
France:	Bre Par <del>Y/Y</del> Spa BOR	4	even
Germany:	Home Hol Bel	5	even
Italy:	Home Tan MAR	5	Build 1
Russia:	Home Rum Swe	6	even
Turkey:	Home <del>Y/Y</del>	3	1.ann., even
Neutral:	<del>Y/Y</del>	0	
		34	

NOTE:

Ger A BUR-Par  
was missed on  
your preliminary  
sheets!  
J.M.

- ✓ ROMANIAN READER: Despite the fact that the Czar has practically given us away, the Turks won't take us. Therefore all countrymen are ordered to take the Certs breath test.
- ✓ GASCONY The French people welcome the German liberators, but would like to mention that frogs taste better cooked.
- ✓ Moscow: Do you two turkeys really know what you're doing?
- ✓ Istanbul: The Sultan, studying travel guides to Vienna, asks "One more time, Joe?"
- ✓ Rome: Pope Chianti the Stoned: In these suspicious times, it is gratifying to see such simple, child-like trust exhibited by Germany and its soon to be violated eastern flank.
- ✓ Guest Headlines: 1. GERMANY FUCKS FRANCE AND ENGLAND: Only time will tell who gets the shaft next. Russia stabs the Turk back and declares open warfare in the Balkans against Austria. Italy and Germany roll on in France. England left holding the bag. What's in the bag? Afterbirth, ~~afterbirth~~ what else?
- ✓ 2. Huns Paw French Brest As Russians Take Berlin From The Rear.

((Don't you guys think I'm giving out good enough headlines myself? Agyhow, below and on reverse is the press submitted by Arturo Guajardo with his unneeded standby orders. It was too good to let go. And, it showed me that Guajardo is NOT an Italian name....)) J.M.

PARIS (IPU) -- Frenchmen took new hope here today as the Frostier government fell from power at the hands of a popular coup, following a general strike that has crippled ~~French~~ industry since the winter of 1901. France, plagued by internal strife, an incompetent administration and a disasterous foreign policy, faces the military might of three major European powers, and has suffered a series of military reverses that have caused many observers to suspect treason.

((Continued on reverse))

The new government, headed by an obscure Left Bank taco vendor, commonly, if somewhat dubiously, known as the 'Cisco Kid', acted immediately and with energy (if not altogether skilfully) to preserve order and prepare France for the ensuing conflict with its European neighbors. The first order of business was to conclude a treaty of mutual military and economic assistance with the Republic of Mexico. In a joint communique issued by the two powers, Mexico and France vowed to uphold the ideals of republicanism, revolution and refried beans.

When asked if France would seek an armistice with its adversaries the 'Kid' replied heatedly, "Never! France has its honor to uphold. We will not lie down like dogs to lick our wounds. The Republic shall not perish. As long as a single Frenchman is imbued with the spirit of the Revolution our foes are fools to risk the wrath of France! France will not prostrate herself before this unholy alliance of greed and avarice. They shall not pass (Our scorched earth policy has destroyed all the ex-lax). I personally exort every Frenchman to make vain sacrifices for France's liberty. We must turn our eyes, ears, nose and throat to the heroes that have made this nation great -- Charlemagne, Joan of Arc, Napoleon, Maurice Chevalier..."

Moving swiftly to restore the effectiveness of the military, the new government dismissed General de Gaulle Bladder and named the famed Mexican cavalry leader, Speedy Gonzales to head the Army of the Rhone. The government also promised to step up the necessary industrial production to aid the military's beleaguered logistical situation. Boldly the government promised the people pot in every chicken, though officials expressed concern that such a policy might tend to promote incidences of French cowardice.

On the diplomatic front the new government issued the following communiques to Europe's heads of state:

PARIS to London: The monarchy and parliament of Great Britain are composed of opportunists of the lowest order. Your nation of shopkeepers will feel the wrath of France.

Paris to Berlin: Unless you immediately remove all German military units from the soil of France, you must be prepared to face the consequences.

PARIS to Rome: All roads lead to Rome. You have taken a wrong turn. It can only result in disaster.

PARIS to St. Petersburg: What's with the flotillas in the Baltic region? Are they fishing fleets?

PARIS to Vienna: Recognize your real enemy; it is France. Are you too cowardly to claw your way through the Italian milksop to get at me?

PARIS to Constantinople: Are you a Turkey or a chicken? Come and get me. The more the merrier.

The CISCO KID to Mexico City: Well, that ought to avenge Mexico's honor against the French interference of Napoleon III. Don't you think?

PARIS to Vienna: Maximillian couldn't hold his tequila (especially after he faced the firing squad).

((I'm too lazy to retype all this, so I'll just leave lots of white space and run it as is. Not much coming in of late for BB anyhow, so what the heck.)) J.M.

20 Hilltop Rd, Silver Spring, MD 20910  
January 26, 1979

JOHN KADOR

I'm looking forward to the 10-Day Special. It'll be interesting to see if it works.

I've never written to BB before. I've not found the dialogue to be very appealing. (My wife--who often peruses the dippy material I receive--considers BB a good case for repealing the First Amendment.)

In any event, an intelligent letter by John Beamer and your rather sloppy reply prompts this letter.

Beamer's argument makes sense. It's nonsensical to withhold recognition from one of the most powerful nations in the world: China. There is only one China. By shifting recognition from Taiwan to Peking, the United States acknowledges one China. As for the entity on Taiwan? Our treaty with them gives a provision for one-year notice. We gave that notice. (Taiwan had the same authority to give notice.) Where's the dishonor?

Your argument that by "embracing" Peking, we embrace their values is nonsense. Every American loathes the political orthodoxy and obliteration of individuality that characterize Communist China. But would you withdraw recognition of the Soviets because their system is as foul? Would the nature of Taiwan's government make any difference? I say it's irrelevant.

In the real world, the U.S. must accept that, in peacetime, we can more readily influence our allies than our adversaries. We are attempting to compel "one-man-one vote" in South Africa. We have found it's counter-productive to do that with the Soviets. On the other hand, with economic pressures generated by detente, we have slowly made slight inroads with the Soviets. It's likely that as our relationship with Peking grows, we'll be in a better position to instill values more in line with our thinking.

JOHN KADOR  
20 HILLTOP ROAD  
SILVER SPRING, MD 20910

2

Finally, an analogy. It's 1860 and the United States is in civil war. The Confederacy secedes. Foreign powers recognize it as the true and only United (or Confederate) States of America. By 1865, it's all over and Confederate leaders retreat to an island in Charleston Bay. For whatever reasons, the victors "let sleeping dogs lie." Turn the clock a few years.

Times have changed. The small island (still considered the United States of America by some powers) survives by gaming revenues and prostitution. There's also a mighty power also calling itself the United States but it is denied membership in the organization of world powers.

Finally, the most powerful power on earth deems fit to recognize and establish diplomatic relations with the government in Washington, D.C. But hold on. The power will still honor commitments with the United States in Charleston Bay. The mutual defense treaty is still on. Arms deals will continue. The power is pledged to go to war with one United States if it "threatens" another United States within its territorial borders.

What a dangerous and intolerable situation. Can any argument by the foreign power about "rights" and "values" make a particle of difference? It can't, it shouldn't, and it doesn't. Only military force, or the threat of it, maintains the situation. The United States should have learned that using force to impose our values overseas is disastrous. I think Carter did learn. I think with time, his critics will come to agree.

Best,

*John*

P.S. a notice pasted to our photocopier is enclosed.

Reply to Kador

((Well, I don't agree with your examples or points, but I do appreciate your use of some type of logic instead of cliches, pure name-calling, or patent absurdities a la Boardman.

You seem to put great stock in recognition being acknowledgement of the existence of a government; this is a serious error. Whether in 1949 or 1979, no one questions the existence of a Communist regime in Peking, any more than the Arabs question the existence of a Jewish regime in Tel Aviv. The latter are not, however, about to send ambassadors there, even if only to hand occasional declarations of war to. The Palestinians are about as powerful as the island in Charleston Bay you create, yet the Arabs deal with them as the recognized rulers of Palestine, not the actual rulers since 1947. Likewise we should recognize Taiwan and not Peking, even though we must deal with Peking, the same as we recognized the Free French and not the Vichy puppet regime in France, or the Nazi occupiers. "Would you withdraw recognition of the Soviets..."; perhaps. It would be tempting as a gesture. We have nothing to say to them except to what extent we are currently willing to surrender while they go on and do as they please, so I hardly think we'd be losing much. Even at that, we do not recognize Moscow as the ruler of the Baltic States, and instead accept their exiled ambassadors even though few would hold out hope for a liberated Estonia, Latvia, or Lithuania. Would Russia love us for changing that status? Why chuck even such token regimes? Taiwan is a functioning capitalist entity, and a model state in Asia. Why throw them to the wolves? Why recognize the Seoul regime and not Pyongyang, even though we deal with the latter? You phrase your arguments well, but like John Beamer's, they are still wrong. Your final paragraph is nice, but dangerous. What happens if you apply that same wording to Israel's position in the Middle East? "Only military force, or the threat of it, maintains the situation. The US should have learned that using force to impose our values overseas is disastrous." So should we sit back and let eventual Arab force overrun Israel the way you would let Taiwan (perhaps more quietly) fall? Think about it)

((Kador contribution below))

J.M.

## HANDSOFFEN, DUMMKOPFEN

"Das lens und shutter klicken is nicht for gerfinger poken und mittengrabben. Ist easy to schnappen der springen-work, blowenfusen und poppencorken mit spitzensparks. Ist nicht fur gerwerken by das dummkopfens. If das ist yust rubbernecken und sightseeren keepen hands in das pockets. Relaxen und watch das blinkenlights."

VARIANT AWARDS Nomination Ballot

The DVC's Variant Awards Panel for 1978 is required to publicly solicit nominations in all categories of award. In addition, the Panel is authorized to fill vacancies in its own membership whenever it has less than six members.

Nominations will be considered at any time prior to a decision in the particular category, so it is recommended that nominations be filed as early as possible. Documentation for nominations is not required, but would be helpful.

Please address all correspondence on the Variant Awards to

Raymond E. Heuer  
Secretary, Variant Awards Panel  
162-10 87th Road  
Jamaica NY 11432  
USA

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OUTSTANDING PUBLICATION (exclusively or in major part) FOR VARIANTS

1 -

2 -

OUTSTANDING VARIANT GAMEMASTER

1 -

2 -

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OUTSTANDING VARIANT DESIGN

1 -

2 -

OUTSTANDING ARTICLE ON VARIANTS

1 -

2 -

GENERAL CONTRIBUTION TO VARIANTS (may be for events prior to 1978)

1 -

2 -

SPECIAL AWARD (may be for events prior to 1978)

1 (only) -

\_\_\_\_\_  
signature

[ ] I wish to be appointed to fill any vacant seat on the  
Variant Awards Panel (check in brackets).

\*\*\*\*\*  
page 11 from: THE WARMONGER #35 15 January, 1979

((I hope Ray does better with the DVC than with the DNYMPA. Doug  
Reif folded 9 months ago and DNYMPA has done nothing since on it.)) J.7

# Pragmatic China Business

By Milton Moskowitz

IT'S REMARKABLE how corporations whose leaders have been ferocious defenders of the free enterprise system are now scrambling to sign contracts with the Communist government of the People's Republic of China.

Senator Barry Goldwater may have enjoyed the support of many top corporate executives when he ran for president in 1964, but they are not going to rally to his side now that he accuses the Carter administration of deserting Taiwan. The contracts are in Peking, not Taipei.

So United States Steel, the arch-conservative industrial giant of Pittsburgh, is delighted to get a \$1 billion order to develop an iron-ore mine for the Chinese. Bethlehem Steel, our No. 2 steel producer, whose political orientation is far to the right of center, is happy about receiving a \$100 million order.

Boeing sells jet planes to everyone, so why not to the Chinese? Pan American's hotel subsidiary, Intercontinental, is champing at the bit to put up a string of units in China.

Coca-Cola, once a symbol of American imperialism, is the first U.S. consumer product to gain access to the enormous Chinese market. J. Paul Austin, chairman of Coca-Cola, called it a "momentous occasion." And Ian R. Wilson, head of the company's Pacific operations, said:

"The Chinese recognized the need to make available in the People's Republic the best known trademark and the most widely consumed soft drink in the world."

What's more likely is that the wily Chinese saw an opportunity to stick it to the Russians, for whom they have little affection these days. Pepsi-Cola has an exclusive franchise in the Soviet market. For that privilege Pepsi had to agree to peddle Stolichnaya vodka in the U.S. market. Coke has the exclusive cola franchise for the Chinese market but it doesn't have to return the favor by importing Chinese fireworks.

Coke's deal with the Chinese actually preceded President Carter's move to resume diplomatic relations with China. Murray Kempton, astute columnist of the New York Post, observed that this is as it should be: "Under the American system of international relations, the treaty follows the award of the soft-drink monopoly."

★ ★ ★

**B**ANKS ARE NATURALLY climbing all over one another to get into China. Ahead of the pack is the First National Bank of Chicago, which last year became the first American bank to establish a direct correspondent relationship with the Bank of China.

First Chicago managed that feat by severing its Taiwanese banking ties. The People's Republic rewards its friends.

S.F. Sunday Examiner & Chronicle

The Bank of America, our largest bank, looks forward to a sharp upsurge in U.S.-Chinese trade. Last month it brought home for consultation its Hong Kong-based vice president, Louis E. Saubolle, who has impeccable Asiatic credentials: he was born in China, he worked for a French bank in China after World War II and he has worked for the Bank of America in Singapore and Taiwan.

Saubolle is ebullient about the prospects for business in China. He attributes the change in Chinese policy to the 74-year-old vice premier, Teng Hsiao-ping, who told a conference last year: "The essence of Marxism is pragmatism."

Saubolle commented: "A remarkable, but very welcome assertion. To Teng, nothing is sacred. If a particular policy works, then it should be adopted. If not, then it should be changed."

There's a philosophy U.S. corporate leaders can live with.

Well, John, I thought this article which appeared on January 27, would serve as a rebuttal to your assertion about what a "sensible (real) businessman would rather deal" with, ie Taiwan as opposed to Peking. Certainly First Chicago, of whom you will undoubtedly call a notorious gang of 'Leftists', has made its beliefs clear in this matter. You state that Taiwan "is a showcase of recovery and prosperity in Asia". Of course it is prosperous, the tiny island of Formosa has received billions from the US in the form of aid and loans (none of which have been repaid) in order to make it appear so. Any prosperity and strength of Taiwan is no more than that which the US Gov't has given it. In addition, my understanding of the current situation of Taiwan is that we can continue to trade with them if we desire. The cessation of US aid will undoubtedly put a real crimp on the 'prosperity' of the island, so trade will certainly also fall. I've not yet heard of Peking sending troops into Formosa, so I can hardly believe that we have thrown them "into the pit of a Communist slave state" as you have claimed. I think you might want to check the facts of a situation before you make such positive statements.

After a great deal of consideration, I've decided to respond to your comment about "Not one peep about how the Peking regime makes an infinitely greater 'farce of the ideals we are supposed to be upholding'." (than Taiwan). The long consideration was required to determine whether or not this statement merited a response. How can you possibly state that the Peking gov't makes a farce of our ideals when that government makes no pretension of following our ideals? Unlike Taiwan, there is no government subsidized opposition party which may be allowed to amass two or three per cent of the vote in the, so called, free elections. My criticism of the Chiang Government was merely to point out that both of governments concerned are totalitarian, and there was

Late response  
from John  
BEAMER

little to choose from between the two if the form of government was to be the grounds for choosing. Undoubtedly it was naive of me to assume that no self-respecting American would even consider the Chinese form of government as appealing to any American, and that it was understood that criticism of a Communist government did not have to be stated (thereby saving me some typing, and you some reading). This leads me to wonder, John, just how much of a 'Leftist' you might be. Only a Communist would think of destroying my credibility by accusing me of holding beliefs which are only a shade better than the Peking regime.

Equally perfidious was your statement that I was talking about 'human rights' in my letter. At no time did I ever mention such a phrase, yet you ascribe it to me in a blatant attempt to associate me with the present administration. I call this character assassination. You claim that I "condemn the Taiwan regime...and then turn right around and propose that we embrace the Communist regime instead!" Had you read the letter you published, you would have seen that I said "it simply makes no sense to say that the government which has been ruling some 400 million (sic, more like 900 million) people is not a 'legitimate' government." Later I said, "It is equally absurd to state that Peking is the legitimate government of Taiwan." I also speculated on the possibility of recognizing the Taiwan government under some other name, but you naturally paid no attention to my statements. You claimed your dissertation was a "Reply to Beamer", but you did not reply to my letter, you only replied to that which you wanted to reply - whether I said anything like it or not.

I was surprised to see no commentary from you about the serious constitutional question which has been raised so justly by Sen. Goldwater. Am I to believe from your silence that you do not support the good senator in his efforts, or are you so much of a Leftist that you are willing to see the delicate balance of power in the federal government be replaced by a rule by decree on the part of the President? I can only assume that you wish to see Carter become another Breznov and be able to conduct all governmental matters by his own say. You would replace our form of government, which has defended the rights of the individual for so long, by a born again, Bible belt, psalm-singing despot. Your silence in this matter has condemned you, John, surely you would know that a true American would not hesitate to support the noble Senator from Arizona in his efforts to stop this usurpation of power by the Executive. But then again, your "Reply to Beamer" has already shown that you are no true American. If the shoe fits, wear it.

((I must have hit home with my arguments, or else you are just not used to hearing things laid out on the line; judging from your petulant response, I was effective in making even you see the absurdity of your stance.

I won't waste going onto another page responding to every asinine charge you throw out. I will point out only that a) I agree with Goldwater's case, but I feel the damage is already done b) the very article you sent in shows I was right in recognition not being necessary for business to occur c) while it is not necessary for most people to have to say Communist regimes are bad, it IS necessary when you use imperfections in Taiwan to justify chucking support for them and throwing it to Peking's regime INSTEAD d) Formosa went off aid years ago, as did Europe into which we also poured billions of \$, there too in our own best interests. Your second paragraph, though, is a classic of leftist side-stepping. So Peking is OK because they don't CLAIM to have a decent regime, while Taipei does. Beautiful. I'm glad it came from you. That's why I print letters in toto: let 'em cut their own throats. I appreciate your example for the audience.))



ROD WALKER

"alcala"  
1273 crest dr.  
encinitas ca 92024  
26 january 1978

BBs 30 & 31 arrived here, one hard on the heels of the other. They provoke all sorts of comments.

DIPLOMACY WORLD. I must confess that at no point in the last days of DW under Conrad, and its transfer to a new Editor, was I consulted. I did occasionally call Conrad to find out what was going on, and get some facts about the problem and very evasive answers about what he intended to do.

I join in your misgivings about officially connecting DW with the IDA. I consider it bad policy to connect DW with any hobby group. I have, however, offered Jerry any assistance I could provide. I feel the connection with IDA is not as bad as it could be because: (1) Jerry is a good person and potentially a fine editor, (2) the IDA is the only hobby organization in existence, so there is no danger of the old feuding cropping up again, and (3) under Bob Hartwig the IDA has become/is becoming a positive and creative group which can be a positive asset to the hobby. I hope, however, that Jerry will keep personal control of DW, and disassociate it from IDA if problems develop. Once the Council gets started, I plan to introduce a resolution which will insure that DW's association with IDA is in the character of an alliance between two independent entities.

Jerry believes in the IDA, and you can hardly blame him for trying to have each (DW & IDA) help the other. May be the hobby needs more selfless cooperation of that sort. It is in the Walt Buchanan tradition, and God knows we need more of that and less of the selfishness of the Beshara/Boardman/Tretick tradition.

China. I must confess the recognition move floored me because I didn't expect the Carter people to face the issue that honestly. Whether we "abandoned" Taiwan depends on how you look at it. The Taipei government insisted that we continue to recognize their ridiculous claims to the mainland. Any "break" with them is thus their responsibility, not ours.

Neither Taiwan nor China has a democratic government, so arguments based on the alleged "democratic" status of one or the other are foolish. Indeed, our fears for precious little Taiwan seem to be unfounded. Peking has offered an unbelievable deal... in return for a "reunification" on paper only, Taiwan can keep its own government, its own armed forces, its own economy. The refusal of such magnanimity will, I fear, lead to serious consequences later.

If, as you claim, the USSR is our enemy, then the China move was an astoundingly powerful stroke against her. If, on the other hand, it's realpolitik that makes the world go 'round, then the move was still very powerful.

I see no sense in emotional harangues about "abandoning our ally". Virtually all of our other allies have long since recognized the Peking government. I know of nothing in international law, nor in our Constitution, which obliges us to keep and nurture an alliance which no longer provides a reasonable quid pro quo.

You may be right in suggesting that the "China market" is a chimera. However, if the Chinese had guaranteed, in advance, to buy nothing from us, I would still favor recognition as correct under the principles of power politics in a multipolar world such as ours.

Ultimately, the Chinese intend to attack Russia. I have long predicted that their timetable is looking at the mid-1980s. I fear that in order to avoid getting involved in that war, we must prevent its breaking out. Our diplomatic moves may give us some leverage for doing so.

Cambodia. The collapse of the Pol Pot regime is not only a great victory for humanity in general, it is an enormous victory for the USSR against China. Russia needs a solid and unchallenged base against China's soft underbelly. Now she has

achieved the basis of such a thing. Her supply lines through the Indian Ocean are still not completely secure. From our point of view, a strong Russia in Southeast Asia is a great deterrent to the next world war.

I might add, anent this and the China question: When the day comes when we refuse allies because we are "too good" for them, we may as well hang it up.

Boardman's dreary rehearsal of his notions of Asian politics was, as usual, silly. The major sides are the Russia-Vietnam axis and the China-Japan axis. We are the neutrals.

Jokes. I saw this in Psychology Today. However, in advance, you should know that scrod is fillets of young cod, cut in strips for broiling.

Two middle-aged matrons were seated together on the afternoon train out of Boston. One turned to the other. "What were you in Boston for, dear?"

"Oh, why I went to get scrod."

"Why, so did I! But I didn't know that was the past tense...."

Solzhenitsyn. Anyone who listens to his urgings that we should interfere in the internal affairs of another Great Power is minus some of his marbles. The notion that the USSR intends to provoke a military confrontation with anybody is a mere supposition which has little to commend it.

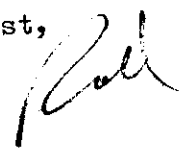
The insistent comparisons of the USSR to Germany of c.1938 are tiring...and wrong. Of course Hitler would have backed down if confronted in 1938. Hitler was incredibly weak. He could not even have beaten Czechoslovakia, much less France. The USSR, on the other hand, is very much a major power and has no reason to back down if pushed too far. Further, 1938 Germany had a leadership of fanatic, manic loonies. No such leadership exists in the USSR today. The Fascist revolution in Germany was only a few years old and still in its expansive stage. The expansive stage of the Russian Revolution has long since passed.

I do not believe we need Solzhenitsyn to tell us that the USSR has an unlovely record in the area of human rights. Neither does Turkey, our staunch, true-blue ally. Neither do several other nations. So? I am not aware that the actions of the current Russian government differ in any way from those of the Tsarist regime. Russia is a traditionally totalitarian (or at least authoritarian) and oppressive culture; if that is to be changed, they will have to work it out for themselves. It seems to me that we should mind our own business. If we really want the Russians to change, then perhaps we will have to offer some positive inducements instead of scorn and condemnation. Nobody reacts favorably to that sort of negativism. At all events, religion is the last tool we should try. The Russians already have their own. The human rights record of Christianity is far from admirable...and our religious establishment is still full of Torquemadas, Billy Sundays, and Anita Bryants, who would be only too glad to show us exactly what totalitarianism is all about.

Venus. The latest reports are excellent. At last we have something definite with which to shut up the Velikovsky nuts.

As to the greenhouse effect: On Earth, at least, it is probably only alarmism. In fact, it may be a good thing to increase the CO<sup>2</sup> content of the atmosphere. There are signs we are beginning to go out of the current interglacial into a new glacial period. A general warming trend caused by increasing our greenhouse effect might delay that. But in the last analysis, there may be glaciers in New York within 5000-10,000 years.

Einstein. The discovery of gravity waves has very real down-to-earth application. Antigravity and FTL travel may both become possible. Best,



Reply to Walker

((How would gravity waves make FTL travel possible? I know I've been away from SF for a long time, but I fail to see the connection...

Solzhenitsyn, et. al.: I can be called many things, but religious is not one of them. However, if religion were an effective weapon against Communism, I'd use it in a minute! Russian national expansion may be a stage passed, but not that of international Communism. Communism itself is only 62 years old as a national force in the world; our own national expansion took longer than that! Reaching the Pacific more or less sated us; what will stop the move of Communism toward its stated goal of world domination? The fierce determination of the American people?

"The notion that the USSR intends to provoke a military confrontation with anybody is mere supposition which has little to commend it". Where have you BEEN, Rod? The Soviets have a huge, modern, and ready war machine, and are busting their butts to make it bigger and better year after year. Our side improves its pay and pension plans while the B52s prepare to disintegrate and out tanks get patched, repainted, reworked, & rehashed to death instead of getting a new one (M60A1X5R2D2...?). Perhaps you mean that instead of "provoking a confrontation", they'll just take what they want and blow away anything that gets in their way, like us, maybe? In that case, I could agree. If Russia were as weak as 1938 Germany, I'd agree to dive headfirst into the sand with you. Regretably, such is not the case. (And 5 years after 1938, under the same "manic loonies", Fascist Germany stood guard over an empire from the Sahara to the North Cape.)

Jokes: Your 'Solzhenitsyn' stuff should have been there too.

Cambodia: I can only agree, although I doubt the value of Japan in a war. At least to its allies, that is; might be handy to its conquerors. China: I've covered this in answering letters elsewhere in this and last issue. Anyone else (or their wives or girlfriends?) have opinions? ))

J.M.

Reply to Rowland, continued from reverse

if you yourself publish, let alone just to keep up on the exchange of hobby information

Alan's first objection is that postal Diplomacy being a hobby, any worry about giving ten issues of yours for one of the other guy's is misplaced. This is a hobby, but if you intend to only give it whatever spare 'hobbying' time you can find, for heaven's (and the hobby's) sake, DON'T PUBLISH! A publisher, hobby or not, has promised to run games on some sort of at least quasi-regular schedule. If you have too many other callings upon your time, don't even try. Trades do provide revenue, in that you get issues for free; however, if you're sending out yours every three weeks while waiting for everyone else's if-and-when-ever, you're not even holding your own. Alan is right when he says "I believe I make money", of course, for during the five months in which he never quite got around to publishing himself, every issue he got was pure profit. That's why I have junked trades, for Alan is not at all unique. I can sub to WARMONGER at any price per issue in the hobby, and eventually (presumably) get the 10 copies I sub for. But if I 'trade', I send out 2 dozen or so issues in exchange for whatever I'm lucky enough to get, which in my experience is damn little. As Mark Berch said, this pays the unreliable publisher and taxes the good ones. In an exceptional case such as mine, where you're getting 6 to 12 sheets every two weeks for little more than the cost to mail it, most trades are absurd. I could go to 50 or 75 issues, close up, and fade into the background of the hobby, and in all that time, be lucky to get a dozen of someone else's 2-sheet listing of excuses for lateness. DIPLOMACY WORLD itself is a case in point. Jerry Jones is giving publishers a break in rates by accepting/continuing trades for subbing to DW at half price, \$2 per year. Say I 'trade' so with DW. If I put out only 24 instead of 26 issues in a year, that's \$6, which in my case DOES approximate actual costs other than time. Add to that the \$2 I mail to Jerry and presto, I get DW for a year (4 issues) for only \$8. Naturally, my response is thanks, but no thanks. I'll send Jerry \$4 and get a half-price deal at that.

The hobby being what it is today, a trade is a loss unless you're a poor publisher.

4.) Cutting all trades and reverting back to the system of mutual subscriptions seems to be the rage nowadays. An excellent-case-in-point is John Michalski, publisher of the excellent Brutus Bulletin. Arguments for mutual subs are that this prevents publishers from being burned on trades with irregular publishers (e.g. THE WARMONGER's lengthy interval between issues #30 and #32). Other prominent examples of publishers who follow this policy are John Leeder of Runestone and Mark Berch of Diplomacy Digest. I am against the mutual sub for several reasons, one of which includes the apparently trivial dislike I have for writing checks.

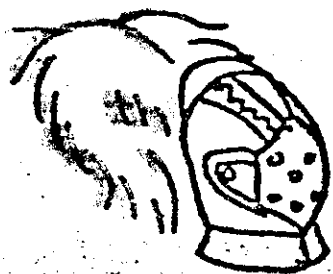
However, my arguments against reciprocal subs stem from two schools of thought. The first is that postal Diplomacy is a hobby, and not a job or a chore. I publish for fun, the same reason why I play postal. I don't care whether I lose or make money (though I believe I make money since trades are not only an expense, but revenue as well); I set a price that I think is reasonable and tends to approximate my expenses. If a publisher is losing money on a trade he should cut it, or in the case of those who lose hefty sums per annum such as \$50.00 (a commonly mentioned figure), stop publishing. I have no respect for people who are foolishness to trade with quarterly publishers, and then complain, or those publishers who start publishing with full knowledge that substantial losses (percentage wise) are common, and then bitch about how much money they lose. Perhaps the most eloquent and well-known member of the "mutual subs are unfunish" group is Robert Lipton, publisher of the soon-to-be-defunct The Mixumaxu Gazette.

My other main objection is that by limiting trades, the flow of both ideas and news is hampered. While sending out a zine every month to a trader and receiving his every month amounts to reciprocal subs in monetary terms, psychologically they are different. A publisher will sub less than he will trade.

As I dislike the reciprocal sub system so much I have no intention of renewing my sub to Diplomacy Digest (though the fact that I have found the past three issues too dull to read from cover-to-cover, and that the issues are now sent two at a time to save 2¢ postage), nor will I continue to receive Brutus Bulletin. Perhaps I might change my mind in the future, but I intend to eliminate the deadwood among my traders by either resigning from or transferring my games, and then cutting trade.

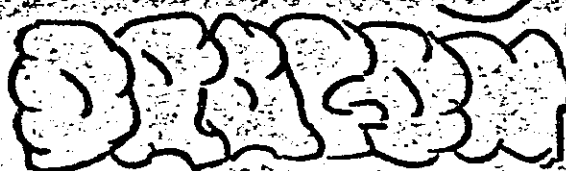
Things look different from this side of the fence. I really can't see the "information" angle as it would apply to the half of the publishers who publish when and if they have the inclination; how much news are you going to gain from them? The only thing I can see that they would have is news peculiar to their own zine, such as openings, and in view of my own strong prejudices toward games that roll along regularly and fast, I wouldn't even want to pass on news of such openings. Hobby news is available from about 3 sources, for any publisher who is interested: John Leeder's weekly RUNESTONE, Jerry Jones' LD&NS (monthly, but Jerry has his finger in every pie, so if there's news, he's probably got some part of it); established hobby standards such as Don Horton's CLAW & FANG; and on some occasions, the IDANA's DIPLOMACY REVIEW. I watch those, and pass on whatever I can here. Any number of other zines--WHY ME?, DRAGON & THE LAMB, EGGNOG, whatever--will do the same. Sub to one or two of these, and you can skip trades even

((I'm getting so lazy that instead of bringing you news and crediting it, I think I'll just filch someone's front cover and let it speak for itself! Bob's SG&TD has always been one of my favorites; the printing is excellent, but this issue came out on amber paper that didn't xerox well. What you're seeing is a third copy)).



# Saint George

AND THE



Vol. IV., No. 6

January 14, 1979

## A Vast Wasteland Publication

Diplomacy is the ability to take something and act as if you are giving it away. - The Farmer's Almanac

First a note about openings of regular Diplomacy. I have none. I will not be opening any new games at least until two of the present ones have ended. BUT I do need standbys. I have exhausted my present list. If you are willing to again standby, or are willing to standby now, please let me know and I will put you on my list. You will earn my undying gratitude. It might even cause me to ally with you when I am Austria and you are Turkey! So don't miss this offer!

✓ Second, I do have variant openings. My 19-player variant map is ready. If you wish to play, a map can be had for asking. Dave Bunke is going to GM this so deadlines will be a week before regular ones so he can adjudicate it and get it back to me. So far Steve McLendon, Dave Rohde, Jack Brawner, Konrad Baumeister, David Hooton and I are going to play in it. There is no game fee and you get a free set of maps. All you have to do is maintain a sub. If you are unsure whether you want to try a variant, take one of the regular board positions. There is a basic set-up with just enough variation to make it different in strategy. Do not request maps unless you intend to play.

✓ Third, I am opening one section of Holocaust, Steve McLendon's world Variant. Maps may be obtained from Steve for 1.50. I am charging no game fee, just maintain a sub. The maps are large enough for PTF play so this is a real bargain. Steve and Fred Hyatt have expressed interest in playing in this. Write Steve McLendon, Box 57066, Webster, TX 77598 for the map, enclosing 1.50. Then write me and tell me you intend to play.

And although there was a blizzard in Chicago last night, we got 1" of snow, making a total of 6", or thereabouts we've had so far this winter. SUPER!

\*\*\*\*\*  
Saint George and the Dragon is a monthly journal of postal Diplomacy\* available from: Robert Sergeant, 3242 Lupine Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46224 Phone: (317) 293-4394. Subs 10 issues/\$2.50. VARIANT OPENINGS ONLY.  
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\*Diplomacy is a registered trademark for a game invented by Alan B. Calhame and copyrighted by Avalon Hill.

# Probes Find Surprises in Atmosphere of Venus

By Thomas O'Toole

Washington Post Staff Writer

**MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif., Dec. 10**—The temperature of the upper atmosphere of Venus is warmer over the north and south poles than it is over the planet's equator.

This surprising fact was returned to Earth today by the Pioneer space craft orbiting Venus and was one of at least three surprises revealed about the planet at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Ames Research Center, where the Pioneer mission to Venus is being directed.

The four probes that descended through the planet's atmosphere to the surface Saturday found the thick Venusian clouds rich in the rare gas argon, meaning Venus may still be as hot on the inside as it is on the outside.

Why is that? Because argon is a product of the decay of radioactive potassium in a planet's crust and radioactive potassium is one of the minerals that produces a planet's interior heat.

More important, the probes found high concentrations of an isotope of the element known as argon 36, which

is not a decay product of potassium but is one of the gases found in a planet's primordial atmosphere as it would have existed more than 4 billion years ago.

"What we see on Venus is what we see in some meteorites but not on Earth or on Mars," said Dr. Michael McClellay of Harvard University. "The atmosphere of Venus contains as much argon-36 as you would expect from a planet's original atmosphere. Either Venus never lost its primordial atmosphere or it contained a lot more rare argon than Earth or Mars did, and we don't know why."

Still circling the planet, where it will make measurements for a year, the Pioneer orbiter discovered the upper atmosphere over the planet's polar regions to be 40 degrees warmer than the same parts of the atmosphere over the equator.

"This is the first time we've been able to look at the poles of Venus, since you can't see them head-on from Earth, and it was a surprise," said Dr. Fredric Taylor of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, where the infrared radiometer was built that measured the temperatures above the

clouds of Venus. "In fact, the highest temperatures we found anywhere in the planet's upper atmosphere were at the poles themselves."

The temperature of the atmosphere 50 miles above the planet's poles was found to be 40 degrees below zero Fahrenheit, which compared to an average of 80 degrees below zero above the Venusian equator at the same altitude.

Why the atmosphere is warmer at the poles was a subject of intense speculation among the scientists working on the Pioneer mission. The most accepted speculation is that the lower atmosphere is so warm at the equator that it rises to greater heights than it does elsewhere on the planet and then cools abruptly on reaching those heights.

"The upper level of the air at the poles is about 2 kilometers (1.2 miles) below the upper level of the air at the equator," Taylor said. "We see this on our instruments, so it suggests there is rising and cooling air at the equator and warming, descending air at the poles."

Supporting that speculation is the fact that the sun's heat generates

higher winds in the upper atmosphere at the planet's equator. The winds produce their own cooling effect at a height of 50 miles.

"It could be that energy is transported into heat at the poles and transformed into motion at the equator," Taylor said, "but it's all speculation. We don't know the reasons for this yet."

Far more intriguing to the scientists here was the finding that the Venusian atmosphere has 100 times more rare argon-36 than Earth and 10,000 times more than Mars. Like many discoveries about planets, it raises as many questions as it answers.

Scientists have long assumed that Earth, Venus and Mars were all created equally and that they're still similar in many respects. But if that were true, the three planets should still have more or less the same amounts of primitive gases like argon-36 in their atmospheres.

They do not. That certainly means that the primeval Venusian atmosphere was different than Earth's and it probably means that Earth, Venus and Mars had different beginnings.

"It sends us back to the drawing

board," Dr. Thomas Donahue of the University of Michigan said today. "We can only speculate about what the reasons for the argon-36 are."

Of less importance but just as much interest, the probes found that the clouds of Venus end at an altitude of 30 miles. From there down to the surface, the planet's atmosphere is essentially clear.

The one probe that survived for more than an hour on the surface Saturday also raised a cloud of dust when it hit the surface, a finding confirmed today by a tiny optical instrument on the probe called a nephelometer. The dust cloud lasted for four minutes, which tells scientists that winds on the surface of Venus are almost nonexistent.

R. Kelly

MISC FILLER

## Venus Data Surprises Scientists

**MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif. (AP)**—Unexpected results from the Venus probe are defying scientists' efforts to place them into existing theories about how the solar system was created.

Because the pieces don't fit, the puzzle may have to be changed, say scientists for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

The surprise information from the Earth's most ambitious encounter with Venus was disclosed yesterday as scores of scientists at the Ames Research Center here reported on initial data transmitted from five probes that descended Saturday through the planet's hostile atmosphere.

Four of the instrument-laden vehicles reached the torrid Venusian surface, while the fifth burned up in the atmosphere.

"IT CERTAINLY means we have to rethink the whole formation theories of the planets of the inner solar system," said Dr. John Hoffman, a physicist at the University of Texas-Dallas.

The scientists found that the proportion of argon-36 — an inert gas — in the Venusian atmosphere appears to be 100 times greater than that on Earth or Mars.

The findings are important because that form of argon cannot be created after a planet's formation, and if Venus was formed the way Earth and Mars were, it probably would have about the same amount.

This means, the scientists say, either that Venus was formed from different substances than the rest of the solar system or that the formation process itself was different.

"It's a totally unexpected result that we've come up with," Dr. Michael McClellay, a Harvard University physicist who was among experts reporting the findings, said at a NASA briefing. "It appears that Venus formed of different stuff than Earth."

THE ARGON readings are not the only evidence, that the formation of Venus billions of years ago may have been different from other planets. Measurements of ultraviolet radiation from more than 100 miles above the planet's surface bolster the theory that Venus, unlike Earth, may have lost water it once had through some sort of cataclysmic reaction, said another scientist.

The measurements mean "either that there was never any water on Venus," said University of Colorado physicist Charles Barth, "or it was lost by something dramatically different from anything observed on other planets."

The five probes and a sixth spacecraft orbiting the planet for the next seven months are part of NASA's \$225 million Pioneer Venus mission, which is this nation's first comprehensive attempt to chart the topography and atmospheric conditions of Earth's nearest planetary neighbor.

Four probes made the hour-long descent within minutes of each other, while a fifth, the cylindrical "bus" that carried the probes from Earth, plunged into the Venusian atmosphere an hour later. It burned up within two minutes after sending back its share of data.

Scientists said they were surprised that one probe continued to send back data for 67 minutes after hitting Venus' surface, where temperatures are around 900 degrees Fahrenheit. A Soviet Venus probe that landed July 8, 1972, transmitted data for 108 minutes.

Later this month, two Soviet landing crafts are expected to reach Venus a few days apart.

R. Kelly

J. Boardman

MTimes  
RSday, November 23, 1978

### Letters

## Wage and Price Controls: The Roman Lesson

To the Editor:

Some people are now calling for mandatory wage and price controls, since it is becoming apparent that, because of the opposition of certain special-interest groups, voluntary controls to beat inflation are not going to work. History, however, has shown that mandatory controls do not work either.

A.D. 300 the Roman Empire was in a situation parallel to ours. The total cost of government — local, provincial and imperial — had grown tremendously, especially during the last half of the third century, by expenditures for defense and foreign wars, by the cost of the imperial past and a vast bureaucracy, by the construction of numerous public works, by the increasing cost of public welfare, largess and public entertainments plus expenditures for education, farm relief, public health, etc.

Because of this, emperors had debased the currency. Silver-coated copper coins had been issued (we have the same with our dimes, quarters, half-dollars and dollars since 1965), and the denarius was worth no more than 1/30,000 of a pound of gold, or no more than four-fifths of a cent at the value of gold in 1944, though originally the denarius had been worth four-fifths of our 1964 silver quarter.



By E. Abraham

Prices had therefore risen sharply throughout the empire, while galloping inflation had virtually obliterated the lower middle classes. The Emperor Diocletian, therefore, in 301 issued his famous Edictum de Pretiis Rerum Venerabilium, which fixed the maximum prices for various items of food, clothing and manufactured

goods as well as the maximum wages for each type of work.

Despite the death penalty for violators, this edict did not work. Many merchants were ruined, profiteers sold their commodities on the black market, scarcity increased and bloody riots ensued. The law was therefore allowed to fall into disuse, and it was revoked not long afterward by the Emperor Constantine.

Since neither mandatory nor voluntary controls work, it is obvious that we must attack the causes of inflation. We must cut government spending, balance the budget and decrease the staggering national debt. We must stop the debasing of the currency and stop printing money not backed by silver or gold. We must return to a solid silver and/or gold standard, as was done by Constantine in 324.

Constantine made the gold solidus, pegged at 72 to the pound of gold (and later called the bezant), the standard coin and also issued a new silver coin, the miliarenus (1/100 part of the gold pound). The solidus persisted both in the Byzantine Empire and in the medieval West for more than a millennium; we need a similar standard.

ARTHUR KAPLAN  
Raleigh, N.C., Nov. 14, 1978

AFTER SLAUGHTERING ANYONE WHO OBJECTED

# American decadence

The feisty magazine *New Times*, which directed much of its effort at exposing some unsatisfactory aspect or other of our contemporary polity or culture, has just folded. In a parting shot, it turned its attention to a general decadence it sees in American society today. This is a part of its commentary.

Welcome to America. Our Miss Shields will show you to your table. Such a pretty baby.

What'll it be? Have a drink, have a puff, have a snort, have some smack. Legalized gambling in the front room, skin flicks in the back, mirrors, mirrors everywhere in glorious profusion.

C'mon in. Something for every palate. Reproductions by Rockefeller, senators by David Garth, exploding Pintos by Ford. Hey, and that's not all. Carcinogens in 31 flavors. Opium from Saint Laurent. Secondals from Graceland. polyvinyl vaginas from Larry Flynt. . . . Funky, punky, junky — you want it, we got it.

See the mayor of San Francisco shot dead in his office, see the homosexual supervisor dying down the hall, see 900 bodies bloating in the jungle sun. Parental guidance suggested. Get your top hat and your

spike heels, grab a whip, grab a cane and get on for The Rocky Horror Picture Show. Sorry, Norman Rockwell doesn't live here anymore.

Join the looters in New York, a police strike in Memphis, an orgy in L.A. Say hello to Harry Reems, get a rattlesnake by mail (Who invited Sozhenitsyn?) Catch some herpes, get a facelift, rent-a-boy. Watch Linda Blair being raped with a plumber's helper, Linda Blair masturbating to a priest, Linda Blair masturbating with a crucifix. Check it out.

There's something in the air — a sense of slippage, the perfume of decay. Life is slick and bright and noisy, but there's a softness here, a crumbling behind the gloss. Chuck Barris is the man of the hour. Tacky? Sure he's tacky, but he's having a sweet time. Chuck Barris is perfect.

Disco, with its redraw beat and endless climaxes, is the anthem of the '70s. High voltage, quick hits, that's what we want, nuance and texture can wait. It doesn't have to be good — we're talking bottom line here. We have raised image over substance, reduced sensuality to its crudest, most efficient forms. Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, my rod and my vibrator comfort me.

Come July it will be ten years since Neil Armstrong stepped on the moon — and ten years since Teddy Kennedy and Mary Jo Kopechne rode

off Duke Bridge. Of the two events, Chappaquiddick far better presaged the decade ahead. It was so callous, so sloppy.

We shrug off almost everything now, moving on — with a lot of help from the omnivorous media — to the next fleeting titillation. Fur ads in Vogue feature women being attacked by Dobermans. Shrug. Bianca Jagger, Billy Carter, Gary Gilmore — all hype, show, diversion. There's a new rock group called the Dead Kennedys. Shrug.

It's as if we're beyond making distinctions, beyond caring. Do Teddy's celebrated indiscretions continue? No problem — his Gallup ratings have never been higher. Third-graders are selling dope. White House aides are buying it. Our appetite for violence is insatiable. Sid Vicious is just a mixed-up kid.

Exhausted from our exertions of the '60s, all we ask for now is relief. Six hours of TV helps to get us through the day — life once removed is close enough, thanks. The impetus to rethink-reform-transform has long since slid into the annals. After two centuries, we have reached a consensus of indifference.

"We do it all for you" — that's the spirit of '79. Proposition 13, with its shimmering promise of something for nothing, is a metaphor for the times. The beauty of Werner Erhard's PR project to end world hun-

ger is that you don't have to do a thing. Small wonder Jerry Brown is our quintessential politician. Liberal, conservative, Jesuit, Buddhist, Jerry will give us what we want. No sweat.

Don't think about it. Don't think about anything. Turn up the volume, have another toké, honk if you're horny. Say, heeere's the Johnny-Dolly-Reggie-Woody-Angie-Amy-Betty-Donny-Chevy-Henry-Goldie-Liz and O.J. Immerse yourself in their glossy, empty lives, all the better to forget your own. Jackie oh Jackie oh Jackie ohhh. . . . There are almost no famous people anymore, only celebrities — "personalities." Fame is passe — it is much too solid, too suggestive of steady achievement. There still are ripples of grace and distinction, commitment and courage, but all seem in shorter supply now. It's no time for heroes. Bob Dylan at Caesar's Palace, coming soon.

And when you can't get it up for all the stars Steve Rubell ever dreamed of, when the lovers of a thousand Saturday nights and all the massage parlors in Wichita still aren't enough, there remains surrender body and soul to an Emperor Jones. Like the man said, choose your poison.

Aw, the hell with it, forget it, we'll just ease on down the road. And, hey, welcome to America, drinks are on the house. Bottoms up.

R. Kelly