

"Once I was but the pupil, but now I am the master..."
"Only a master of Evil! Why, you couldn't even produce Issue 33 of North America's Number One Dipzine,

THE BRUTUS BULLETIN

FEB 17 1979

ET TU, BRUTE

The BRUTUS BULLETIN is a newsletter of postal DIPLOMACY brought to you every two weeks by John Michalski, Rt 10, Box 526Q, Moore, OK 73165 @ 16/\$4. No openings. BB is, I believe, the only Dipzine produced in Okla (ever?), and gives free exposure to all views while following its own rightwing path. No trades, but subs are still available. Contributions of almost any sort are welcome, and earn you credit at more or less 2 free issues per page, less for dull stuff, more for humor. STANDBYs get credit for answering calls as well as assuming positions, altho they do not have to accept calls nor be listed as player of record for that.

Just as an aside, does anyone care to venture a guess as to why there are no Dipzines published in Deep South or even most border states? There are publishers in NY & CA, NJ, PA, MD, DC...Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa...Okla and Texas...AZ, NV, etc...but to my knowledge, no one at all below the line of the Miss-Ohio-Potomac. Is it one of those dead areas, like Kansas is for football? (Surrounded by good to outstanding football states, Kansas is a Black Hole in comparison..why?). And why would anyone be led to suspect that there isn't much exciting stuff in this issue?

RAY HEUER, mentioned last issue in a comment of mine on the variant ballot, wrote to correct me regarding his (non-)position in the DNYMPA. See his letter within.

KONRAD BAUMEISTER was kind enough to invite me into his forthcoming Demo game, and I'd like to thank him for that while having to regrettably decline. I'm in too many already, and if I have to pass up 15-day openings in Jim Bumpas' LIBERTERREAN, I really can't jump into anything else. Also, I too would like to see ZINES RECEIVED here more often. Frankly, I'd like to run it every issue. However, the only way I could do that would be if it, and guest-GMing 1 game, were all I contributed to BB. Sadly, it takes an awful lot more than that...

HOBBY NEWS: Not much, until & unless DW and/or IDA do something. Let's see... Steve McLendon is working on a new hobby rating system, as the last few issues of his DRAGON & LAMB have been filled with, along with a recent DIPLOMACY DIGEST (Mark Berch); that's something. Then I see Greg Costikyan has come out with another URF DURFAL, in which he announces the collapse of his weekly publishing project and a return to 4 week deadlines...Cal White has officially given up on his ELECTRA GLIDE BLUE, taking some of my sub money with it--perhaps to better marshal his time to serve as Canadian rep on the IDA Council? LEE KENDTER Sr of WHY ME? is running a game-opening service that will be reprinted here, and asks publishers with openings to write to him at 4347 Benner St, Philly 19135... Hmmm...I guess once I get into it, maybe there IS some hobby news out there.

COVER ARTWORK: nice, but wasteful of space I could use for other stuff, so don't look for it here. If YOU will send some in (anything that will xerox), fine, I'll make room, but I need my time for typing. Check RURITANIA #50 or URF DURFAL #38 or some such for it.

Did I hint there was nothing exciting inside? Check out my 10-day game!

JOHN'S NOTES

No sooner did I write last issue about the light snowfall this year here compared to last, than the very next day we're hit with a record fall! Somebody up there reads BRUTUS BULLETIN--and doesn't like it! I've been in Okla for some 8 years now and this was the first real "northern" snow I can recall: good, wet snowman-snow instead of the usual powder we get. This was big flakes and all, just like Michigan or some such place, and the stuff actually came down the usual way as well (most snow in Okla comes down parallel to the ground, not vertically settling...). Yesterday, the 11th, we hit 60°, so there is hope of a crack in the dike of cold weather, but so far, ONLY a hope. It messes everything up, including, unfortunately, my getting BB done up as quickly as I would like. It appears I will be mailing this about the time I had originally hoped to be getting it into your hands. Also, the 77KS endgame statements will have to wait one more issue due to my being unable to come in Saturday and type all them up in some semblance of order. Oh, well. Maybe March will bring some relief.

IRAN: Someone here in the office commented how Iran is preparing "to leap into the Ninth Century"; aptly put. My only fear is that all these camel jockeys over here that did their best to depose the mean old Shah and now face the Islamic Inquisition of a turbaned Hitler speaking for Allah himself, will in turn say "Hey, baby, don't send us back to THAT place now." It was fun to come to a rich land, drive our cars, chase our girls, parade in our streets, but now, lo, the terrible Shah that permitted their parents to get rich enough to send them here is gone like they wanted, and their new Messiah will behead them for their too-Western ways--like being literate, or treating women with MORE respect than cattle, or such other heresies from the Koran's True Path. Personally, I'd pack them in boxes and trade them for Bell Helicopter's equipment over there, but I'm afraid that our Cubans and boat-people will now be joined on the public dole by our present-day Persian playboys. And while the former have a hard time getting started in work here, the latter are simply too good for it. Well, cheer up, they'll no doubt find a friend somewhere high in our current administration...

PRINTING has been a little touchy here lately, with about half the copies getting a 'smeared' look along the left edge. Unfortunately, that is the USUAL way our biggest machine churns them out. I'd go to the little one, but A. it is too slow for 50 copies, B. it really won't print 2-sided, and C. it jams almost as easily as the biggie, without the speed. So, all I can do is say 'sorry' and hope for a break someday.

TONY WATSON wrote a long letter just too late for last issue. I'd have run it here, but it simply rehashed a lot of what was covered in letters and answers in 32. So, to save Tony from sounding redundant (and me from trying to type four handwritten pages!), I'll let it pass with just a mention to Beamer/Kador/Walker that they're not alone even in BB's audience. Thanks to Tony and these others for taking the time and effort to write and share their thoughts with us, even though I certainly can't agree with some/most/all of it.

J.M.

1979E

Ten Day Special

SPRING, 1901

February 6, 1979

IF YOU DIDN'T PUT IT TO RUSSIA, HE'S PUTTING IT TO YOU...

AUSTRIA (Frost): F Tri-ALB; A Bud-SER; A Vie-BUD
 ENGLAND (Shaffer): A Lvp-YOR; F Lon-NTH; F Edi-NWG
 FRANCE (Christopher): F Bre-MAO; A Par-BUR; A MAR S A Par-Bur
 GERMANY (Kador): F Kie-DEN; A Mun-RUH; A Ber-SIL
 ITALY (Pilant): F Nap-TYN; A Ven-PIE; A ROM Asleep (H)
 RUSSIA (Grabar): F StPsc-BOT; A Mos-STP; A War-GAL; F SEV-Bla
 TURKEY (Baumeister): F ANK-Bla; A Smy-ARM; A Con-BUL

Ho, ho, ho. Lots of trust and love out there, I can see that already. Now if only Brutus 5, 79H, starts with equal sparks and surprises, I will have maintained a perfect record in BRUTUS BULLETIN for interesting openings. *(Late Note — it did!)*

Let's see--FALL, 1901, will be due here with my mail received next FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1979 at the office address. At least one person sent in the next season as well to cover himself, a good idea, but I won't acknowledge it in print, as that would tell who won't NMR for sure; just use the appearance of your orders above as proof of receipt of your orders. I suggest sending in provisional builds, etc., too. W'Ol will NOT be separate unless 4 of you request it. BLACK PRESS received 2 no, 2 yes, 2 abstain, so it is permitted for now. First press below:

↑ / - "who cares"

- ✓ Berlin: His Imperial Highness, Kaiser Wilhelm, was outraged at the intended violation of Swedish neutrality by the Mongoloid hordes seeping from the cesspool of Russia. If this situation is not immediately corrected, the Kaiser, assisted by his allies to the south, will take punitive action.
- ✓ Constantinople-Moscow: Drop dead.
- ✓ Rome: President Enzo Carter sends regards to all nations, promising to treat everyone just as he has all allies in the past.
- ✓ Moscow: I'm looking forward to this game. I can't imagine a game moving this fast.
- ✓ Istanbul: Gazing north, the Sultan has called for a Jihad to scourge the earth of infidels, unbelievers, and left wing Democrats...
- ✓ Moscow: The Russian Empire seeks only a path of peace. All moves are defensive in nature.

((All kinds of press so far.. oh, well. Plan on Spring, 1902 being due Monday the 26th too))

1979E Fall, 1901 RUSSIA SCHNOOKERED OUT OF SOUTH: REI ON SHORT END OF STICK. *J. 2M*

AUSTRIA (Frost): A Bud-RUM; A SER S A Bud-Rum; F Alb-GRE
 ENGLAND (Shaffer): F NTH C A Yor-Nwy; A Yor-NWY; F NWG S A Yor-Nwy (Neutral orders used per player's earlier request).
 FRANCE (Christopher): F Mid-POR; A BUR-Mar; A Mar-SPA
 GERMANY (Kador): F DEN H; A Sil-MUN; A Ruh-HOL
 ITALY (Pilant): F TYN C A Rom-Tun; A Rom-TUN; A PIE-Mar
 RUSSIA (Grabar): F Gob-BAL; A StP-FIN; A Gal-WAR; F Sev-BLA

TURKEY (Baumeister): F Ank-CON; A BUL-Rum; A Arm-SEV

1979E, 1901:	A	Home	SER RUM GRE	6	+3
	E	"	NWY	4	+1
	F	"	SPA POR	5	+2
	G	"	DEN HOL	5	+2
	I	"	TUN	4	+1
	R	Mos STP War	8X	3	(-1)
	T	"	BUL SEV	5	+2
				2	
				34	
		Neutral:	Bel Swe		

*Fall
 (Press follows
 Continuation
 article)*

79H

ALL MOVES SUCCEED! Is everybody happy?
(Could it be that some of you fibbed to your neighbor?)

formerly Brutus #5

SPRING, 1901

AUSTRIA (Hamill): A Bud-SER; A Vie-BUD; F Tri-ALB
ENGLAND (Beamer): F Lon-ENG; F Edi-NTH; A Lvp-YOR
FRANCE (Brown): A Par-PIC; A Mar-SPA; F Bre-MAO
GERMANY (Workman): F Kie-HOL; A Man-RUH; A Ber-KIE
ITALY (Guajardo): A Rom-VEN; A Ven-TRI; F Nap-ION
RUSSIA (Rau): F StPsc-GOB; A Mos-UKR; A War-GAL; F Sev-RUM
TURKEY (Kassel): A Con-BUL; F Ank-CON; A SMY H

DEADLINE for Fall, 1901, will be my mail received at the office address WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1979. I wish to extend my thanks to all players for maintaining the tradition of wild and hairy gamestarts. Press follows:

79H Press:

Moscow Foreign Bureau: Due to the imminent celebration of the Czar's birthday (who has been properly preparing for it in the wine cellars and vodka vats of his glorious country), we exhort the nations of Europe to continue sending gifts.

Marseilles--The movement of our army was made with the full support and knowledge of the Italian government. The south is united. Let the world beware!

Rostov Reader: "We will bury you", he cried, slamming the table with his head.

Paris: The Third Republic wants only peace with its Western Brothers Germany and England.

London: Any nation wishing to discuss urgent world affairs with the government of England may call the Foreign Office at (415) 557-3755. The staff is most likely to respond to questions before 10pm.

Munich: The Libertarian Bavarian government today repealed all laws dealing with victimless crimes. Immediately the Kaiser responded by pulling all Imperial troops out of the area. "I will not have my men infected by the diseases carried by the pimps, gamblers, prostitutes, and other scum of the earth that are sure to flock to that region" the leader said. "Just look toward the borders of that state and see the type of people attracted by such radically conservative policies" he added.

此のバタークーキーは輸出用に特別に製造されたものです。厳選されたバターと最上の材料のみを使用し出荷致しております。併しながら厳寒時に於ては表面上に時として白い斑点が出る場合があります。斑点は暖い処に保存して頂くとなくなります。これはバターが凝固したもので味及び品質には関係ございません。

「奇新」蜜罐牛油曲奇，是專為外銷而特別製造及包裝，以最純正上等之材料製煉而成，罐罐新鮮，嚴選可口。

罐內牛油曲奇，若偶有白點，是因運送時遇冷之故，如將之存於正常溫度之室內，白點便於片刻內消失；此等含有牛油成份之白點，絕不影響「奇新」曲奇之一流品質及香味。

1978 Kiv

HOME BEFORE THE LEAVES BUD.....

CONCESSION PASSES!

Central Powers victorious, Winter, 1902

2-Man Historical Love Match

Central Victors: Craig A Reges

Zine: The BRUTUS BULLETIN

GM: John Michalski

	1900	1901	1902
Austria	3	5	8
Germany	3	4	5
Turkey	3	5	6
	<u>9</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>19</u>

Allies, vanquished: William L Shaffer

England	3	5	5
France	3	5	5
Russia	4	4	2
	<u>10</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>12</u>
Italy (CD)	3	3	3
Neutrals	12	3	0
	<u>34</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>34</u>

((Endgame statements
next issue, if any.))

GM COMMENTS:

This began as a tongue-in-check joke of an idea, but surprisingly was accepted by both players. At first I felt a historical alignment like this would be fairly even, but I now question that. Russia is in worse straits than is Germany for the other side. Next, the Central Powers can pick up neutrals on their way TO the front, while England and France particularly must move AWAY for theirs (Spa, Por, Nwy). Playing Italy as a madman (i.e., orders submitted by both players each season, with one set selected at random) might be a little bit of a h. p, but not much.

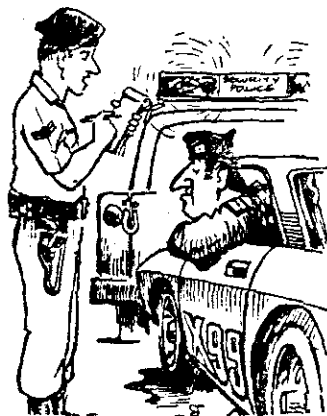
At first, I was afraid that Fluff would fall on his face in the openings, when in fact he didn't do too badly. I DIDN'T expect it in F'02 when he did. Part of this was typing error of his: he intended to order SWE S F Nth-DEN, but instead of NTH, typed out "Norway", so that's what I printed. This gave Germany a new fleet and crushed Allied chances of even holding out. The Flanders front was a calamity in '02, leaving the Central Powers on the offensive everywhere. A W'02 victory seems something of a farce, but realistically, to carry on from here would be a bigger one.

Congratulations to Craig, and better luck in 78IH and 79E to Fluff.

Anonymous Ad: The NRA is having a membership drive, so do it to a liberal friend and send in a check in their name. It'll help our boys across the water--the Potomac, that is.

WANTED: STAR WARS trading cards 43,101,113,325,331 on.
Write editor.

The BRUTUS BULLETIN will run anyone's ad free of charge, for any subber, for whatever legitimate purpose you might have, even if I can't quite figure it out as I type it..... J.M.



"No sir, it's not exactly a speeding ticket. It's more like failing to maintain a safe minimum altitude over an inhabited area."

Box 57066

Webster, Texas 77598

Dear Fellow Publisher;

As you may have heard through the hobby grapevine, we are trying to establish a "Need A Game?" column of current game openings as a service to help Diplomacy players find game openings.

As you are aware, Diplomacy World does publish a "Need A Game?" column. But since DW is published only quarterly, much of the information in its column is outdated when it gets into the hands of potential players.

By banding together a group of publishers who, combined, have a circulation close to that of Diplomacy World we hope to be able to get the word on game openings to a large number of game players. But, more important, the "Need A Game?" column will be published on a monthly basis and will indeed, therefore, be current.

Lee Kendter, publisher of Why Me? (4347 Benner St, Philadelphia, PA 19135), will act as the central collector of all inputs to the "Need A Game?" column. Lee will then distribute the list to other selected publishers for publication in their zines.

Currently, those publishers are:

Bob Sergeant (St. George & the Dragon), 3242 Lupine Dr, Indianapolis, Ind. 46224

John Michalski (The Brutus Bulletin), Rt.10, Box 526Q, Moore, OK 73165

Steve McLendon (the Dragon and the Lamb), Box 57066, Webster, Texas 77598

Other publishers may also receive the "Need A Game?" column if they so request. Also, once every 3 months, Lee will send his most current "Need A Game?" column to Jerry Jones for publication in Diplomacy World.

There is no charge for this service, but we do need your help. If you have game openings and would like to get word to the rest of the hobby, drop a note to Lee specifying type of openings you have (reg Dip or variants), game fees, deposits, subs, etc. Please give complete information about monies required by the players.

If Lee already receives your zine, please write your information on a separate note so he will be sure to see it. Don't depend on him to read the small print in your zine to see if you have game openings.

To help other segments of the hobby become aware of what we are trying to do, we would appreciate your participation by announcing our service in your own zine. Please help us spread the word to as many publishers as possible.

((This notice arrived recently from Steve, whose D&L has been much-plugged here. Unfortunately, he has also announced that his D&L is going monthly (hiss, boo) for all the usual reasons. Darn. Anyhow, as the above states, I will work to keep everyone as up to date on happenings as possible.))

J.M.

Sincerely,

Steve McLendon

Steve McLendon, Publisher
The Dragon and the Lamb

Quotes from the LIBERTERREAN:

"Buenos Aires, Dec. 13, 1978 (AFP): The design of the new 500-cruzeiro bill issued by the Central Bank of Brazil includes, on the reverse side, the Argentine province of Misiones as a part of Brazilian territory, the magazine *Vea* denounced."

According to Joaquin Rivery, Brazilian banks grant loans based on more favorable terms than those of Argentine banks to landholders residing in Argentine territory bordering on Brazil, with the only collateral being the land itself. If the landowner is unable to meet the debt, the land goes to the Brazilian bank which...will not sell it to an Argentine. Here we have another example of 'border expansion'."

LOSE A POLITICAL CAMPAIGN! According to federal election law, a campaign surplus may be used "for any lawful purpose". Winning candidates are restrained by laws on ethics from using campaign funds for anything other than for office staff & preparing the next campaign. For losers, it's "loser takes all".

Approximately 10% of the US population elected the congressional representatives sent to Washington in the 1978 election. Over 25% of the seats in the House of Representatives were not contested, or only nominally contested (115 seats). [I base the 10% figure on the fact that only about 20% of the eligible (not registered, but eligible) voters actually voted. Of the 20-some millions who actually voted, only a majority voted for winning candidates. Somehow, it doesn't look like a "government of the people", nor "by the people" to me.]

RON KELLY

"This should be good news to Diplomacy players, since most of them seem to be so fond of screwing each other."

RECIPE

SPLIT PRIEST SOUP:

A fine, hearty soup which sacrifices nothing in this modern rendition of a much older recipe. Perfect for school-time lunches or for winter meals. Some even say the partakers achieve a rather spiritual feeling from its rich goodness.

Have your butcher prepare a priest's carcass by splitting it lengthwise. Cut into pieces and dredge with flour.:

1/2 Priest (a minister will do in a pinch, but it's not the same)

Brown it in 1/2 cup bacon grease and simmer, uncovered; until the meat falls from the bones. Drain the stock and chop the meat. Place in a soup kettle and simmer until vegetables are tender (celery, green pepper, onion, okra, rice).

Note: Do not boil the soup or it will become stringy.

"There are still people who are very well aware of the complete idiocy of the world."

NOTICE: MICHICON VIII will be June 1-3, 1979 at Oakland University just north of Detroit. For more information: Metro Detroit Gamers, 2616 Kenwyck, Troy, MI 48098.

((LIBERTERREAN is available from Jim Bumpas, 948 Loraine Ave, Los Altos, CA 94022. Reprinting of the above recipe is for humorous purposes, and does not imply any endorsement as to its taste. (Pun intended).)) J.M.

Pill Found to Cure Gonorrhea

ATLANTA, Jan. 20 (UPI)—A pill, rather than painful needle injections, can now be used to treat the millions of people who annually contract gonorrhea, federal health officials said today.

Officials hope the painless treatment will induce more people infected with gonorrhea, the most widespread of the venereal diseases, to seek treatment at public health clinics or their doctors' offices.

Dr. Paul J. Weisner, head of the venereal disease control division of the national Center for Disease Control, said that between 80,000 and 100,000 women now are made sterile each year by gonorrhea infections. Most of the women are under age 24.

For years the treatment for gonorrhea has been two shots of penicillin given on a single visit to a doctor or clinic. Physicians and state public health departments are being advised that another antibiotic, tetracycline, administered in pill form is just as effective as penicillin.

Two other antibiotics given in pill form, ampicillin and amoxicillin, are only slightly less effective, Weisner said.

The tetracycline treatment recommends taking four pills a day for five days. Ampicillin or amoxicillin calls for seven pills in a single half-hour visit to a clinic or physician.

STAR WARS RECONSIDERED

Over the last two decades, science fiction has acquired increasing acceptance as a literature. Such excellent writers as Harlan Ellison, Fritz Leiber, and Theodore Sturgeon are now able to sell their stories to magazines such as PLAYBOY and THE NEW YORKER; science fiction writers are no longer required to write at 1¢ a word; and no longer need write pornography and westerns in order to make ends meet. In academia, as well, science fiction and fantasy have acquired a cachet of respectability that was previously denied; many colleges now have science fiction or fantasy courses, some quite excellent. In the mass book market, too, science fiction is no longer ignored; no fewer than five science fiction or fantasy works have made the New York Times bestseller list in the last year, and Jerry Pournelle and Larry Niven received \$100,000 (according to rumor) for the last sf novel, LUCIFER'S HAMMER---the first 6-figure sale price for an sf/f work.

Given the mass appeal of science fiction for the American public, it is to be expected that filmmakers have once again turned to the production of science fiction film. STAR WARS is still the world's all-time largest grosser; Bakshi's LORD OF THE RINGS is currently third on the VARIETY list; CLOSE ENCOUNTERS and MAN WHO FELL TO EARTH both were highly successful; and BATTLESTAR GALACTICA is currently one of the most successful tv series.

However, the incredible success of STAR WARS and CLOSE ENCOUNTERS has effectively abrogated any possibility of the production of decent, well-written meaningful science fiction film in the near future. Both are adolescent myths; STAR WARS the myth of adolescent triumph, CLOSE ENCOUNTERS the myth of adolescent idealism---peace and freedom from the stars. Both emphasize flashy special effects at the cost of plot, characterization, and story; both are, ultimately, mediocre and out-dated science fiction.

STAR WARS is a model example of what is known to fans of science fiction as "space opera". The best written example of the genre is E.E. "Doc" Smith's LENSMAN series. Space opera deals with intergalactic battles, stellar empires, pirates, the struggle between justice and evil---in other words, Wagnerian mindless tripe, the sort of thing no self-respecting writer would be caught dead writing. Mind you, I LIKED STAR WAR; it is excellent space opera. But to assume that STAR WARS is representative of the genre of science fiction is to make a terrible mistake---heart-rending for the writers who have spent years building sf from pulp to literature.

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS, while science fiction in the strict sense, seems to have been made more with the exploitation of flying saucer mania than the production of a legitimate science fiction film in mind. Aside from numerous logical errors (how come the aliens use the western tonal scale? Why do they go through this musical rigamarole---why don't they land on the White House lawn and say "here we are"? Why don't we paly some Bach back at them, instead of letting the aliens set the tune---are we barbarians, should we not consider ourselves the equals of those who are superior to us only in technology, not intelligence? Why are humans taken away in the alien spacecraft, why are no aliens left behind?), CLOSE ENCOUNTERS has damn little plot and practically no characterization. Further, its sickly-sweet assumption that everyone in the world (and off it) is kind, nice, and lovable sticks in my craw. CEJK is not space opera; rather, it is science fiction trash of another type. The theme of "aliens come to save us" is so familiar, so common in science fiction that every sf editor rejects dozens of such stories every year, along with stories in which "there's a war, and there are only two people left, and their names are Adam and..." and

(cont'd)

"dehumanized technology results in a regimented, overpopulated world." In other words, SE3K is old hat; the theme has been dozens of times before, and done BETTER.

Possibly the worst result of the success of these two films has been the advent of BATTLESTAR GALACTICA. BATTLESTAR has all of the bad qualities of STAR WARS, and none of the good. STAR WARS is good space opera; BATTLESTAR is atrocious space opera. Characterisation is wooden in STAR WARS, nonexistent in BATTLESTAR. Plotting is at least tight in STAR WARS; plots in BATTLESTAR are usually incomprehensible and stupid. The laws of science are ignored in STAR WARS to some degree (sound in space?); but totally rejected in BATTLESTAR (I recall one episode in which the Battlestar hangar bay caught on fire--when the bay was open to space! Where's the oxygen coming from?). STAR WARS has fascist overtones (the medal-awarding scene in particular, in which the inferior alien doesn't get his medal), but BATTLESTAR is almost openly fascist (everyone owes absolute obedience to a supreme leader; "democrats" are considered traitors...) I advise anyone who must watch BATTLESTAR to do so with the sound turned off---that way you'll catch the special effects and not be subjected to the dialogue.

But the most dangerous trend that seems to be resulting from STAR WARS and SE3K is that filmmakers seem unwilling to treat science fiction except as high camp. At the World Science Fiction Convention of 1978, held over Labor Day Weekend, Harlan Ellison, the winner of a half-dozen Hugo and Nebula Awards (the science fiction equivalents of the Emmy and Pulitzer) as well as several awards from the Screen Writer's Guild, read a portion of the first draft of a screenplay of Isaac Asimov's I ROBOT series. While the I ROBOT stories are not the finest example of good sf writing, they are solid thought-stories, well-executed and tightly plotted. Ellison, however, is universally recognized as a brilliant writer; and, from what I heard of the I ROBOT script, the script is an order of magnitude better than Asimov's original stories.

The primary motivation for the I ROBOT stories are Asimov's unique, completely logical robots. Robots are machines; they do not have emotions, they follow orders explicitly. Each Asimovian robot has as its primary and most important motivation the famous Three Laws of Robotics, which can be summarized as follows:

- I. A robot may not, through action or inaction, allow a human being to come to harm.
- II. A robot must follow any order issued by a human being, except where such would conflict with the First Law.
- III. A robot must preserve its own existence, except where this would conflict with the First or Second Laws.

Asimovian robots, then, are not cute, puppet-like mechanical men; they are alien beings with alien motivations, soulless and fascinating. Further, the most important character in the I ROBOT stories, and in the script itself, is that of Susan Calvin, a robopsychologist. An unattractive and self-contained woman, she never (well, hardly ever) displays emotion; she is almost one of the robots she studies. When emotion appears in her, the result is devastating. Susan Calvin, a fascinating figure in Asimov's stories, becomes in Ellison's script an almost archetypal figure, one of awesome complexity.

If I ROBOT were to be made as Ellison has written the screenplay, it will be a superb example of all that is best in science fiction; more, it will probably be a screen classic.

Now, the legacy of STAR WARS. C3PO and R2D2 were popular because of their humanity; like Falstaff, their lesser stature (opposed to the superhuman figures of Kenobi, Skywalker, or Prince Hal) provides comic relief. The characters of STAR WARS are not complex; they are almost monochromatic in their simplicity. They represent adolescent archetypes, the embodiment of childish daydreams.

According to Ellison, he is under some pressure to make Asimov's robots cute.

(cont'd)

Costikyan, conclusion

He has asked to make Susan Calvin---more "human".

The question then, it: will STAR WARS, BATTLECRAP and similar putrescence reduce science fiction in the mind of filmmakers and public to the status of "that Buck Rogers/Luke Skywalker stuff"? Film is, after all, and immensely powerful medium; quite possibly, space opera and adolescent fantasy can undo the hard, bitter struggle fought by science fiction writers since the days of the pulps to legitimise their genre. I had a lot of fun seeing STAR WARS; I have no compunction about admitting that I've seen it five times. But don't mistake mindless, thrilling effects for good film; apply the same standards of excellence to science fiction that you would to any other form of fiction.

And if you're interested in seeing that I ROBOT be done right, you can write the following address, and tell them so.

Mr. Robert Shapiro
Warner Brothers, Inc.
4000 Warner Boulevard
Burbank, CA, 91505

((I wanted to comment on the above, as I have a better opinion of SW than Greg, but time forces me to pass for now.)) J.M.

79E (10 Day Special) Fall 1901 Press:

~~Reverse~~
Reverse of
79E is blank

PRESS:

SILESIA: What am I doing here? I must have taken a wrong turn. Let's try it again. KUT -AL-AMARA to CONSTANTINOPLE, MOSCOW, AND ISTANBUL: Four spies were taken into custody Thursday morning when it was found that they printed blatant lies in the Ottoman National Newspaper, "The Daily Liar". After a long and detailed interrogation Kemal Attaboy came to this conclusion after he found a secret codebook and Top Secret orders from the foreigner's country in his back trouser pocket. After being mildly tortured (all four are vegetables for life), they were herded to a leper colony in the Dead Sea.

ROME: Watch it, Christie, you're making me awfully mad. I heard what your plans are. The shit's in the fan. I'm committed.

PICARDY PRESS-LONDON. Hey, Fluff. Now I know why they call you that. Of all the absolute jerks, why did I have to pick you?? You and that Pilcentipede guy ought to get together and start a business. I can just see the sign: "Bumm Brothers Sanitation Workers".

MOSCOW: Yuck! The Czar was seen sitting on the "throne", head bowed between his legs and uttering "Uli, Uli, Uli." At which, he stood, pulled himself together and spoke aloud "Revenge is mine!" He then turned, flushed the toilet and marched proudly out from the bathroom.

DON'T FORGET HE'S JUST A BOY!

Get to understand the lad -
He's not eager to be bad.
If the right he always knew
He would be as old as you.
Were he now exceeding wise,
He'd be just about your size.
When he does things that annoy
Don't forget he's just a boy.
Could he know and understand,
He would not need a guiding hand.
But he's not you and hasn't learned
How life's corners must be turned.
Doesn't know from day to day
There is more to life than play.
More to face than selfish joy.
Don't forget - he's just a boy.

Being just a boy, he'll do
Much you will not want him to.
He'll be careless of his ways,
Have his disobedient days.
Willful, wild and headstrong too,
Things of value, he'll destroy,
But reflect, he's just a boy.
Just a boy who needs a friend -
Patient, kindly, to the end.
Needs a leader who will show
Him the things he wants to know.
Take him with you when you walk
Listen when he wants to talk.
His companionship enjoy.
Don't forget he's just a boy.

- Author Unknown

LETTERS

RON BROWN (Murdin' Ministers)

1528 El Sereno Place, Bakersfield, CA

Many, many thanks for all the goodies you've been sending my way. It IS greatly appreciated. I think you've got one of the best Diplomacy zines available. Also thanks for the comments re: deadlines. I think you've got a very valid point about novice players enjoying short deadlines. . . . Indeed, some do. However, some like the 4-week deadline. I think more experienced players especially like the 4-week deadline if they're involved in many games. Certainly, it is a great pleasure to play in SOME fast-moving games--those with 2 week deadlines like yours and Bumpas'. I know I like playing in 2 or 3 rapid games. But if all the games I played in moved that fast I'd lose my mind! So, despite your very good arguments for it, I'm going to stick with the 4-week deadline; at least for now. In addition, when I decided to commit myself to this project, I dedicated myself to getting issues out ON TIME. I'm sure you're aware of the number of zines which continually come out late. I'm a realist. I know I can get them out ON TIME every 4 weeks. I don't think I could make that promise on a 2 week or even 3 week deadline. Hope you understand and approve. Believe me, you have my respect and admiration for churning out the huge amount of work you do. Congrats!

Guess that's it. I'm going to ORCCON tomorrow afternoon. I'll tell you about it later if you'd like a report for BB. Let me know.

((Yes, I'd like to hear about it. Especially if you type it! (v)). I appreciate your frankness on the deadlines issue. Yes, I can readily understand and appreciate your interest in regular publishing, and I hope it remains even after you are no longer what Tony Watson recently called the 'novice publisher'. On the games, however, I would wonder if it wouldn't be possible to run them every 2½-3 weeks on a single sheet to players, and the alternate turns in the zine itself (ie, publish every 5-6 weeks regularly with a . . . full issue, but run prompt games. Each issue could then carry a year of each if you wished as well, current or 1&2 seasons back). So far only Jim Bumpas has quick games open anymore, unless one wants to trust in Oaklyn-Tretick. Oh, well...)) j.m.

RAYMOND E HEUER

162-10 87th Road, Jamaica, NY 11432

Just to clear up any misunderstanding you may have, I resigned from DNYMPA about a year and a half ago (Late 77). Brad Hessel tells me that he will arrange for Reif's games "at the earliest opportunity" and two other people have told me (as OGP Director) that they are handling Reif games. Who am I supposed to believe?

((I can speak as a player in two of the games Reif handled: no one ever wrote me about any action on them, and judging from Alan Rowland's remarks in his WARMONGER, he hasn't received anything either (being another player there). My address has changed, but mail is still forwarded, and Alan has been at the same addresses for as long as I've been in Reif's zine. ONE of us would have been informed, and told the other. This is even if one assumes that, perhaps correctly, none of that DNYMPA crowd ever heard or read of my BB outside of Boardman's occasional swipes, and of course no one pays a hell of a lot of attention to JB's stuff in any case...))

I do wish to apologize for associating your name with DNYMPA, in error as it turns out. Such a thing could well be taken as a smear, so the apology is necessary and given.)) j.m.

My copy of BB 32 arrived today. I thought the choice for the cover was great, and very well suited to your 'zine. I think the statement of Kador's, "... your rather sloppy reply..." (to my first letter) gives an understated excuse for the regrettable tone of my second letter. You must confess, John, that the reply you made was sloppy, indeed. The reason is that you did not reply to the points of the letter at all. In your reply to my second letter (which you had advertised as 'calmer') you pulled the same stunt. You simply 'replied' to a fraction of a statement, dragging it entirely out of context. Your statement that I said "Peking is OK because they don't CLAIM to have a decent regime, while Taipei does." Had you bothered to turn to the second page, you would have seen that I did not say the Peking gov't was OK, but only that there was little to choose from if the form of gov't was to be the criteria. No, I do not believe that second paragraph was 'side-stepping'. You made the statement that Peking makes a greater farce of the ideals we are supposed to be supporting than Taiwan. I was merely pointing out the lack of logic in such a statement. In rereading that paragraph, I see nothing which would lead a reader to believe that I thought the Peking Gov't was "OK". I suppose it is useless to continue to try to perform some logical persuasion on you, I also realize that satire is completely lost on you, and that even were I to continue, you would only read what you want to read - not what I have written. As one more example, you have twice accused me of advocating support for the Peking Regime. I don't believe I've ever made such a statement either to you or anyone else. Once again, you've read what you wanted to read and not what I've written.

((Actually I don't WANT to read any of what I see as plain foolishness at best: I reply to those parts that need a reply, or warrant one in my view. I decide what needs refutation by me, what is inconsequential filler, and what is so foolish as to refute itself in print. I do you (and all writers) the courtesy of publishing your letters in full, unedited, for the very reasons you cite: if there is anything taken out of context in fact, it will be obvious to all readers at the time of their reading. Therefore, I feel such nitpicking complaints after the fact serve no purpose, and I am not about waste my time & space or the reader's by specifically responding to whatever points you feel you made or intended, one after another. The only error in my responses was that I said your views on this matter (recognizing China, in case that got lost in the shuffle) was that I called your views only a shade different than those of the Communists themselves, after having identified your views as markedly leftist despite your own label as a 'moderate', for the reasons given then. I should have said TWO shades different, as the old-line Socialists are sandwiched in between there. You see nothing in your remarks that would lead one to believe that you thought the Peking government was 'OK'? Maybe you missed the forest for the trees. You wrote to defend the chucking of Taiwan and the full recognition of Peking in its place, but after having just blithely written off the 17 million or so free Chinese, you say that you don't think the Peking regime is 'OK'. Then why change? Ah, you say that the two regimes aren't any different, and that my premise that the Peking slave state makes a greater farce of our ideals 'lacked logic to support it'. What planet do you live on, John? People fight and die to escape to these free states such as Taiwan; they've seen both sides, and have 'voted with their feet' by always fleeing TO such regimes as Taiwan, not the other way. But to you, Taiwan is no different than Peking. If you want to put your name to such drivel, that's your prerogative here. I'll xerox whatever you send. But don't be surprised to find my response lacking in positive tone.))

J.M.

THE SOVIETS ARE INVESTING HEAVILY IN MILITARY R&D, the Air Force Chief of Staff, Gen. Lew Allen, Jr., said in a talk to a Montana State University student group in Missoula on 25 October:

"...The Soviets have outspent the United States by as much as 40% on military programs every year for well over a decade. They have systematically outproduced us in virtually every weapons category. The quality of their equipment has improved significantly in the 1970's, and the heavy investment they are making in military research and development tells us that it will continue to improve.

"To put the overall spending and production differential -- and its consequences -- in more concrete terms, the Soviets are now deploying three new intercontinental ballistic missile systems -- ICBMs -- replacing their older models at a rate of approximately 125 per year. All three can carry either single or multiple warheads. They have still another generation of ICBMs under development. In addition to the world's largest ICBM force, they have the world's largest ballistic missile submarine fleet -- currently being expanded and modernized. Their sophisticated Backfire bomber aircraft, capable of nuclear delivery at intercontinental ranges, are entering the inventory at a rate of approximately 25 per year....

"The Warsaw Pact nations have more than twice the number of tanks in Europe than NATO has. The Soviets have deployed a relatively new mobile intermediate range ballistic missile, the SS-20, which can reach the cities and military targets in western Europe. They are out-producing the U.S. in fighter aircraft by a factor of about two to one. By current estimates, more than 1,000 such aircraft rolled off the assembly lines in 1977. At this rate, their 1977 through 1979 production, alone, would be equivalent in numbers to all the U.S. tactical fighters in place in Europe plus all the fighter reinforcements we could deploy from the United States plus all the fighters in the inventories of NATO allies in the central region."

"QUICK MOBILIZATION AND DEPLOYMENT TO OFFSET SOVIET CONCENTRATION. Deputy Secretary of Defense Charles W. Duncan, Jr., said in a talk to the National Defense Transportation Association in Washington earlier this month: "... We are becoming increasingly aware not only that the Soviets emphasize surprise and short, intense campaigns in their non-nuclear doctrine, but also that their capabilities are catching up with their concepts. This emphasis is particularly troublesome for NATO because so much of the Soviet first-line conventional capability is concentrated in Eastern Europe. For the sake of deterrence and stability, it is essential that we and our Allies provide a counterweight to this concentration and to its increasing readiness.

"NATO has more conventional capability now than many realize. Give the Alliance adequate warning, and it will give a good account of itself in combat. That isn't our biggest problem. Our biggest problem is that the Warsaw Pact is getting the readiness to initiate a large attack with very little advance preparation, which means there is a possibility we would have only a very short warning time.

"Right now, the United States contributes five and two-thirds divisions and 28 tactical air squadrons to the defense of Europe. With ten days of warning, we could add one more division and 40 tactical air squadrons. That isn't good enough. We need to be able to add at least five divisions and 60 tactical air squadrons in that ten-day period. That, in fact, is our goal. But to get such a capability, and support it, we would need to go to full mobilization.

((Continued on reverse))

"It's a big job. Just to give you an idea of its size, here are some of the things we would have to do in order to mobilize:

- In the first 30 days, we would have to ship more than two-and-a-half million short tons of supplies and unit equipment from U.S. airports and seaports.
- Almost all Army and Air Force units in the active component would be leaving the continental United States during that same time.
- In the first month, more than 5,000 Reserve Component units would be moving with equipment from their home communities to their mobilization stations, and many of them would move again to airports and seaports for embarkation to Europe.
- Within 60 days, we would have to enlist at least 100,000 new soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen, and move them to basic training installations.
- Over one million Reservists would be called up and would be reporting for duty.
- Equipment left behind by the Army units with equipment prepositioned in Europe would have to be redistributed to other units in the United States or shipped quickly to Europe as critically needed war replacement items.

"As you can see, that's quite an order. It could not be accomplished without substantial cooperation between Defense and industry -- not only to manage our transportation resources during a major crisis, but also to develop adequate transportation capabilities in peacetime.

- One of our highest priority programs is the C-5 wing modification. The C-5 force represents about one-half of our strategic airlift capability. The C-5 itself is the only aircraft that can airlift tanks and self-propelled howitzers. And outsized equipment of this kind makes up at least half the weight of the combat elements in a heavy Army division. By 1987, we hope to have the last of our 77 C-5's modified.

- Another major program involves stretching our C-141 aircraft. This will increase their capability by as much as 30 percent because the aircraft is limited in floor space rather than weight capacity for the type of cargo most often carried in a military deployment. The modification also includes an aerial refueling capability which considerably increases the range and flexibility of the aircraft. By 1982, when we expect to complete the program, we will have added the equivalent of 90 C-141's to our fleet without increasing our manning or operating costs.

- If our FY 1979 budget request is approved, we can also begin acquisition of the advanced tanker/cargo aircraft. This aircraft, a modified version of the DC-10, will be quite versatile. It will be able to refuel airlift or fighter aircraft, carry bulk or oversize cargo, or do some combination of both. We expect to buy about 20 of these planes in all."

* * * * *

((An interesting aspect is that per item 7 above, 77 C5 aircraft themselves represent fully half our airlift capacity. That means that each single plane lost removes 2/3 of 1% of our capacity...Also, in view of the critical need to get this stuff moved fast, see the article of Kelly's titled "War Game Reveals Flaws in Pentagon Preparedness" in this issue.))

Postmortem on Newly Found Creature

By Thomas O'Toole
Washington Post Staff Writer

What promises to be one of science's strangest postmortem examinations is under way at the Smithsonian Institution on a creature so rare it was seen by man for the first time less than a year ago.

The creature is a tube worm, 18 inches or longer, recovered by scientists from Pacific waters a mile-and-a-half deep near the Galapagos Islands off the coast of Ecuador. The worm has no mouth, no gut and no anus. It appears to have no means of breathing, feeding and digesting. Just as strange, the worm was found flourishing in water saturated with hydrogen sulfide, which is poisonous to almost all living things.

"I don't pretend to understand how this creature gets along," said Dr. Meredith Jones of the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History, where the first microscopic analysis of the tube worm has begun. "All I

know is that it is a very bizarre creature."

"There are no openings anywhere that we can see over the body length of the tube worm," said Jones, who now has seven of the dead creatures in his laboratory for analysis. "And some of these worms are quite large, having grown to a length of three feet."

The worms are called "tube worms" because they secrete a tube-like shell in which they live. They were first seen by scientists from Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Oregon State University and the U.S. Geological Survey who traveled in a research submarine to the Pacific floor looking for vents discharging hot water from the bowels of the earth.

The scientists found the vents, which were pumping water as hot as 63 degrees Fahrenheit into a surrounding ocean whose temperature was just above freezing. Projecting up from

crevices all along, the vents were hundreds of the blue-colored tube worms.

There was almost no oxygen around the vents. The water nearby was charged with hydrogen sulfide converted from sulfates precipitated from minerals in the water by the heat of the vents and the pressure at that depth.

Saying he can only theorize on how the worms live, Jones speculates that bacteria in the water are metabolizing hydrogen sulfide and nourishing larger life forms like the worms. Some sea and earth worms do feed on bacteria, so his speculation is not unlikely.

Jones has cut up the first of the seven specimens into 20 tissue samples for microscope analysis. The first sample he'll look at is what appears to be the worm's head. At least, it's the end of the worm that sticks out of the tube and appears to have tiny spines or feathers that could serve for breathing and feeding.

- Kelly

War Game Reveals Flaws In Pentagon Preparedness

By John J. Fialka
Washington Star Staff Writer

On Oct. 10 the Pentagon secretly began to stage the largest mobilization of wartime resources since World War II only to discover that critical parts of the U.S. war machine were not ready.

According to several of the thousands of people involved in this secret exercise, which was code named "Nifty Nugget" and "Rex-78," its results were profoundly disturbing to military planners. It showed:

- Underneath all of the verbiage about strategic missiles, "smart bombs" and other high-technology weapons, the Pentagon may not be able to quickly assemble enough of the simpler, commoner tools of war — bombs, grenades and bullets — to sustain a major conventional war that dragged on for a while.

- The current manpower situation in the All-Volunteer Army, especially the reserves, according to a knowledgeable source is a "nightmare" and there is a critical need for the resumption of a draft-type registration and classification of skills among the civilian population to fill gaping holes in what the Pentagon calls its "force structure."

DEFENSE SECRETARY Harold Brown and Air Force Gen. David C. Jones, the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, presented the first glimmer of the problems emerging from Nifty Nugget, the simulation of an all-out conventional war whose script began with a sudden enemy attack on NATO forces in Europe, in two documents they brought to a hearing yesterday before the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Meanwhile, a panel of the House Armed Services Committee heard a more detailed classified version of the travails of the exercise, the results of which, according to Brown, have already triggered a number of budget changes and will lead to other policy changes once the final analyses of the exercise are finished and studied.

Overall, the two exercises included 24 military commands, 30 civilian federal agencies and at least a hundred private, defense-related companies.

The civilian side of the exercise was called Rex-78, and it was designed to show how the civilian agencies of government — such as the departments of Transportation, Commerce and Energy — and private companies would react to long-standing war mobilization plans.

ACCORDING TO several sources familiar with this operation, it showed among other

things that the nation may no longer have the capacity to produce large quantities of such critical war materials as the powder used in bullets and bombs because because industry patterns are changing and the relatively few companies who are still interested in such items use outmoded technology.

There were also a number of transportation snarls as the Pentagon struggled to mesh its transportation system with private airlines and other private transporters who would be called to help in a major mobilization.

It was, according to the Pentagon, a "paper exercise" in the sense that there was no major call-up of troops, but isolated units were called up, along with some members of other units who would serve as a symbol of their unit.

The results, according to Pentagon sources, showed that many reserve units would arrive late, half-filled and confused about what they were supposed to do, in the event of a real war.

IT WAS THE failures of the exercise that prompted the Joint Chiefs to request at least a partial resumption of the draft, sources said.

Brown, who did not allude to the exercise in his testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee, said yesterday that while he is not ready to support a resumption of the draft he might support some combination of registration and classification so the military would have a reachable pool to draw from. The exact formula for such a plan, he said, has not been determined yet.

Several members of the Senate Armed Services Committee and its chairman, John Stennis, indicated that they also will press for some type of selective service process this year. Stennis added that any system would have to be improved over the much-criticized, exemption-riddled system that operated during the Vietnam War.

According to the Pentagon, Nifty Nugget also was a "no-fault exercise" in the sense that there was no open criticism as it unfolded, simply observation by staff members of the Joint Chiefs and others who had organized it.

"We learned many valuable lessons by exercising the system in a no-fault climate," Jones, the Joint Chiefs chairman, said in a speech given shortly after the last phase of exercise ended Nov. 8.

Brown said the point of the operation was to explore such items as "sustainability," "crisis management" and "capabilities vs. requirements."

Kelly

The husband returned home unexpectedly to discover a strange hat hanging in the closet.

"You cheating rat!" he stormed, "Where is your lover?"

"It's all a mistake," she insisted. "It probably was left here by one of your poker playing cronies."

Not convinced, the skeptical husband searched the apartment. He then apologized to his wife and went into the bathroom to wash up for dinner. Just as he started to run water in the basin, he noticed that the shower curtain was closed. He ripped the curtain open, and standing there was a guy, naked.

Before the stunned husband could utter a word, the man jerked the curtain closed, saying, "Please, I haven't finished voting yet."

- Humor!

GE Develops Chemical-Heat-Pipeline Transport Concept

A four-year study of a new concept in energy delivery systems—chemical pipelines that could deliver heat to consumers hundreds of miles from generating facilities—has been completed by researchers at General Electric Company. Funded in part under a \$330,000 contract with the Department of Energy, GE developed an idea that could permit centrally located nuclear, coal, or solar plants to supply heat to industrial users and cities 200 miles away.

At the producing end, heat would be soaked up by a mixture of gases or liquids that would be treated with a catalyst to lock in the heat. The high-energy mixture would then be pumped to the other end of the pipeline, where another catalyst would release the heat for power generation, space heating, or industrial processes. A reverse pipeline would return the gases or liquids to the producing plant for reprocessing.

In one concept studied, heat is used to react methane and water to produce a mixture of carbon monoxide and hydrogen. When the reaction is reversed, the absorbed heat is released with no shrinkage of the carrier materials. GE noted that the chemical heat pipeline systems could also be used to store heat for use by electric utilities during peak demand hours, which would reduce the need for peak-load generating facilities.

Energy Management

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

OUTSTANDING PUBLICATION (exclusively or in major part) FOR VARIANTS

- 1 -
- 2 -

OUTSTANDING VARIANT GAMEMASTER

- 1 -
- 2 -

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).