

Have you ever wished  
you were better informed?



Ah, but if you WERE, you might never have signed up for this ISSUE 36 of

# The BRUTUS BULLETIN

*ET TU, BRUTE*

The BRUTUS BULLETIN is a newsletter of postal DIPLOMACY put out in a rush every two weeks by John Michalski, Rt 10, Box 526Q, Moore, OK 73165. Subs are 25¢ each, and no openings are available.

## REVISITING "STAR WARS REVISITED"

A couple of issues back, I ran an article by Greg Costikyan concerning his views of STAR WARS, etc. While he admitted seeing it half as many times as I did, his comments were unmercifully disparaging, broken only on occasion by milder condescension. In the main, I gather that while STAR WARS was good entertainment ('space opera'), it falls short of being True Art, and therefore must remain delegated to the comic book category.

Aside from the arrogance of this view, I must disagree with all of his conclusions. Mind you now, I disagree with none of his facts: STAR WARS is good entertainment, even the tenth time; it is not Classic artistry nor epic literature; characterization is solidly founded on raw stereotype; etc. In viewing all this, though, Greg concludes it is only amusing drivel, while my conclusion is, "Terrific". Were STAR WARS made as a classic piece of art for the Ages, I wouldn't have seen it once. I find its freedom from any and all such trappings to be its primary appeal: it is pure entertainment. For its place and time, here & now, I think Tony Watson is right in calling it "perhaps the greatest movie of all time". I think so. I've never seen any other film ten times; I would pay to see this one again. To me, True Art is pompous BS. It has less use than subway graffiti, and lacks even the latter's humor value. Its intrinsic quality is mediocre; its value is almost exclusively in tradition. It is enshrined, so no one can question its real value. The Great Epics are holy. STAR WARS, by comparison, is enshrined only in banks. Its value is not in tradition, but in entertainment. Its use is in living audiences, not dead museum walls. STAR WARS is Great precisely because it tosses all aspects of Art straight into the trashcan right off. It is made for what I want, the hell with tradition. Art is a mindless gesture for the idle rich and their pretenders. STAR WARS is for the late 20th century American. The hell with "art"; give me STAR WARS any day.

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Excerpt from a letter from JOHN KADOR:

One question that you can answer in BRUTUS: What arrangements do you have with your employer that permits you to receive hobby mail at the office, use the office photocopier, and generally impact the office routine?

((I guess I need to repeat myself on this every once in a while just to keep all the newer faces up to date, so thanks for bringing this up.

Each day I receive all the mail for my section; this is usually an armload for the girl bringing it around, sometimes two loads, sometimes less. In any case, the letter or four that I may receive on any given day isn't noticeable, and doesn't impact on office procedures at all. What it does do is to permit me to make adjudications on my lunch hour here that same day, and mail them on the way home that night. This saves all concerned a day, which counts for a lot on 10 or 14 day deadlines. Since what I do on my lunch hour is my business, not theirs, no one much cares other than listening to the incessant typing. It does beat the idle gossip which is the usual and alternative fare. On the copying, I throw a check in the till each month to cover what should be my 'excess' use of the machine and postage; some degree of each is personal (universal) use. Sometimes a big issue of BB will seem impressive in the raw, but a glance at the waste in the basket beside the machine each day shows that double issues would really not be noticed. The one thing that WOULD 'impact office routine' would be a lot of phone calls, which is a big reason why I reject their use in all but the Ten-Day Special, and even there, fortunately, it is very rarely used. (Also, I'm only at my desk  $\frac{1}{2}$  the time...). So, that's the how and why.))

79E

Ten Day Special

MAR 19 1979

CALL FOR SEPARATION FAILS.

EVERYONE LOVES THE RUSSIAN. FUN AND GAMES AT SEA.

Fall 02 Correction: The orders of Germany showing F HLG S F DEN-NTH were incorrect. It should have been (and is) F DEN S F Hlg-NTH. Affected powers were phoned.

Winter, 1902: Austria: builds F TRI, A VIE  
 England: F Nth r ENG: Builds F EDI  
 France: builds F BRE  
 Germany: builds A BER  
 Italy & Turkey: even  
 Russia: NRR! A War r OTB

S03

AUSTRIA (FROST): F Tri-ALB; F Ion-EAS; F BULsc-Con; A UKR-Sev; A RUM S A Ukr-Sev; A WAR S RUSSIAN A Mos; A VIE H; A SEB-Bul

ENGLAND (SHAFFER): A STP S F Bar-Nwy; F Bar-NWY; A Lon-PIC; F ENG C A Lon-Pic: F EDI-Nth

FRANCE (CHRISTOPHER): F Iri-LVP; F SPAsc S F Bre-Mid; F Bre-MID; F GLyo-TYN; A GAS-Mar; A BEL H

GERMANY (KADOR): A Hol-YOR; F NTH C A Hol-Yor; F DEN S F Nth; A Ruh-KIE; F SWE-Nwy; A BER (unordered) H

ITALY (PILANT): A PIE-Mar; A TUN H; F Mid-POR; F Tyn-WES

RUSSIA (GRABAR): NMR! A MOS H

TURKEY (BAUMEISTER): F CON S F Aeg; F AEG S ITALIAN F Tyn-Ion/NSO; A SEV S RUSSIAN A Mos; A ARM S A Sev

Press:

London: Reports have shown that German troops are suiciding against our great nation. As the Germans leave their homeland, the power-hungry Austrians move in... We have intelligent enemies.

SWITZERLAND-RUSSIA: What's that ace doing up your \_\_\_ Dave? If I were you, I'd start Grabing some centers before you run out of places to stick your aces.

England-Frost: F--- you.

DEADLINE for Fall, 1903, will be my mail received here Thursday next, March 29 1979. The "England" press above was partially censored.

Looks like lots of guessing and fun ahead what with F & G invading England while England invades France (Belgium?) and I/F running wild in the south....

MAR 29 1979

79E  
FALL 1903

AUSTRIANS BITE HAND THAT FEEDS THEM, FEEDING THEMSELVES  
INSTEAD. FRENCH AND ENGLISH TRADE HOME CENTERS. TURKEY  
HOLDS ON FOR NOW AS PLAYERS TEST GM's ABILITIES.

AUSTRIA (Frost): A Ukr-MOS; A WAR S A Ukr-Mos; A RUM-Sev; A Vie-GAL;  
A SER S F Bulsc; F BULsc S F Alb-Gre; F Alb-GRE; F EAS-Smy  
ENGLAND (Shaffer): F NWY S F Edi-Nth; F Edi-NTH; F Eng-BRE; A Pic-PAR;  
A STP S F Nwy  
FRANCE (Christopher): F Tyn-NAP; A Gas-MAR; F SPAsc-Por; F MAO S F Spasc-Por;  
A BEL-Lon/imp; F LVP unordered, H  
GERMANY (Kador): A Yor-LON: F Nth-Nwy/d/r Eng,Yor,Nwg,Hlg,Den,Otb;  
F SWE S F Nth-Nwy; F Den-SKA; A Kie-HOL; A Ber-PRU  
ITALY (Pilant): F POR-Spasc; F WES S F Por-Spa; A TUN,PIE H  
RUSSIA (Grabar): A Mos S AUSTRIAN A Ukr-Sev/NSO/d/r OTB  
TURKEY (Baumeister): F AEG-Smy; F CON-Smy; A ARM S A Sev; A SEV S RUSSIAN A Mos

Deadline for Winter, 1903, and Spring, 1904, will be my mail received here MONDAY, April 9, 1979. Separation will be granted only for 3 votes! My thanks to Dave Grabar for playing out the situation to the very last (His orders last time were late). Well done, Dave.

Per the last headline note, some odd situations occurred. See Italy's first. I checked with Don Horton to be sure this is right: Despite appearances, COAST is irrelevant here. Spain is one province, and we have a classic standoff of supported-attack-in colliding with supported-attack-out, resulting in a standoff. Next, we have the North Sea falling to England. Altho English F Nwy was attacked with support, the attack fails due to A StP S F Nwy. Next, Nwy is attacked ONLY FROM NTH, the province into which it is supporting an attack. Therefore its support is not cut, and German F Nth winds up displaced. Note that if the orders for Nth & Swe were reversed, no displacement would occur; or, were it not for A STP, both Nwy AND Nth would change hands! Those of you new to the game should look these over until you understand the principles involved; chance has brought us 2 oddies at once.

\*\*\*RAW, UNCENSORED PRESS FOLLOWS\*\*\*

#### Game Comments (open to print)

In this game we have a interesting arrangement. It is possible that the French or the englishman will be drastically reduced in power after the fall turn. The only winner will be the German and the Austrian. This is as I see it. Last week I was blessed by a letter from Jack Frost, the Austrian. Its contents rather was typical of most players towards me. This raised no problems as I really have no illusions of being so great in this game and frankly really do not give a rats ass anyway.

Just remember Jack that as France and England go down, Germany goes up. With both the thorns in his side gone in two years you will be next of his list. With Russia possibly going into civil disorder this fall that will leave 6 on the board. I will at least not be the first to leave the game. You may call my play irrational or whatever you want, but let me say this: you Jack, can shove it up your ass. If you need help in guessing what to shove and who is writing this, reply in the BB and I will give explicit instructions for someone who is such a asshole.

Austria-Hungary - England: Your lack of maturity is appalling. I hope you finish sixth, which is better than you deserve.

Constantinople: Jack, as you can see, I wrote conditionals.

Moscow: Golly Gee Uli. You hurt my feelings with those awful things you said. Here you lie, backstab, and lie again, and you say I started it. Also, I would like to see this "so-called" letter I sent you by mistake. I never did such a thing.

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1903 in Review

#### Central Powers Grow, All Peripheral Powers Even or Down

A: Home Ser Rum Gre Bul War MOS	9	Build 1
E: <del>Yor</del> Edi <del>Nth</del> Nwy StP BRE PAR	5	Grow
F: <del>Nth</del> <del>Por</del> Mar Spa <del>Yor</del> Bel LVP NAP	5	Remove 1
G: Home Rom Hol Swe LON	7	Build 1
I: Ven Rom <del>Nth</del> Tun POR	4	Even
R: <del>Nth</del>	0	-1, Out
T: Home Sev	4	Even
	34	

78IH

MAR 19 1979

## SEPARATION PASSES.

Winter, 1983

AUSTRIA (CHRISTOPHER): Builds A TRI. Has As Tri, Vie Gal Bud Rum Bul; F Gre  
 ENGLAND (KATZ): Builds A EDI A LON Has As Edi Lon Den Fs Hol Nth Eng Bre  
 FRANCE (FORST): F Por r OTB; Has As Gas Par Spa  
 GERMANY (SHAFFER): A Par r BUR; A Pic r OTB Has As Mun Bel Bur  
 ITALY (KASSEL): Has A Tun Mar Fs Eas Ion Wes  
 RUSSIA (HAYNER): Builds F SEV Has Fs Sev Bal Ber As Ukr War Sil  
 TURKEY (PILANT): Has F Bla Con A Smy

Thanks to Ron Kelly for S/B orders that weren't needed. Spring orders are needed from Frost & Hayner, and will be due with my mail received here Monday. April 2 1979. Press follows.

VIENNA: With the overthrow of the old regime, and the political situation in mass confusion, Austria is in desperate straits. In our hour of need, is there anyone who will heed our call for help?

## Need A Game ?

This list of current game openings is published about the first of each month by: Lee Kendter, 4347 Benner St., Phila., PA. 19135  
 If you are interested in a sample of any of these 'zines, it is suggested that you send the publisher a 15¢ stamp.

Against The Odds, Craig Reges, 1501 Higgins Hall, Western Ill U., Macomb, Ill., 61455 Openings in regular Diplomacy. Sub 10/\$3.50  
 Gamefee \$2.00 plus a \$2.00 refundable deposit.

The Dragon and the Lamb, Steve McLendon, Box 57066, Webster, Texas, 77598 Openings in regular Diplomacy and Variants. Sub 12/\$4.00  
 Gamefee \$1.50 plus a \$2.50 deposit (refundable)

The Ninth Circle, David Bunke, 5512 Julmar Dr., Cincinnati, Ohio 45238 Openings in regular Diplomacy. Sub 10/ \$5.00, Gamefee \$3.00 plus a \$2.00 refundable deposit.

Murd'ring Ministers, Ron Brown, 1528 El Sereno Pl., Bakersfield, CA., 93304 Openings in Regular Diplomacy and all novice games. Sub is 12/\$4.00, Gamefee \$3.00

Ruritania, Tony Watson, 201 Minnesota St., Las Vegas, Nev., 89107 Openings in regular Diplomacy. Sub 5/\$1.50, Gamefee \$1.00 plus a \$2.00 refundable deposit

79H

SPRING AT LAST! FRANCE & TURKEY JUGGLE UNITS.  
AUSTRIA & ITALY MAKE UP? GREAT BATTLE LOOMS IN  
SCANDANAVIA AS GERMANY MEDDLES IN EASTERN AFFAIRS.

Spring, 1902

AUSTRIA (Hamill): A VIE-Gal; A BUD-Rum; A SER S F Gre-Bulsc; F Gre-BULsc  
ENGLAND (Mitchell): F Edi-NTH; F ENG S F Edi-Nth; F Nth-SKA; A NWY H  
FRANCE (Brown): A Bre-PIC; F Por-MAO; A Spa-GAS; A Par-BRE; F Mar-SPAsc  
GERMANY (Workman): A BEL, DEN H; F HOL-Nth; F Kie-HLG; F Ber-KIE; A Mun-BOH  
ITALY (Guajardo): A Tri-ALB; A Ven-APU; F Ion-EAS; F Nap-ION  
RUSSIA (Christopher): F Rum-SEV; A UKR-Rum; A GAL S A Ukr-Rum; A Mos-WAR;  
A StP-FIN; F SWE-Nwy  
TURKEY (Kassel): F Con-SMY; F Ank-CON; A Bul-Gre/ann.; A Smy-ANK

Fall, 1902, will be due with my mail received here TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 1979. Press follows.

MOSCOW: The impotent, frightened puppet that headed the last government did not know how properly to deal with the rabid, irrational Turk.

We have none of the insecurity problems that plagued Mr. Rau. We will show that scum Turk what happens when he tangles with a real leader.

PARIS: Apparently the only way to discuss the issues in this "postal" game is by phone. Tsk, tsk. But rather than be left out: (805) 842-0460. Call at any reasonable hour.

LIVONIA: Does anybody know why "Livonia"? I mean, had you heard of Livonia before playing the game? "Livonia". It's almost as bad as "Silesia".

Botshaft an den englischen Koenig:

Ich danke Ihnen für Ihre Teilnahme für mich.

Trotzdem marschieren die freiwilligen Soldaten nach England.

Die Frau ass dis Kinder.

—Willie

Contribution from Galen Workman.

(Mark Berch submitted a similar one from the paper, but Galen's will xerox better.)

NAME THAT PHRASE

Aptitude Test --

required of all applicants

send completed form to: University of Aggie

Box Zero

Hicksville, OK 73165

(Answers elsewhere  
this issue)

1. <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">SAND</div>	2. <div style="text-align: center;">STAND  </div>	3. <div style="text-align: center;">    R   E   A   O    </div>	4. <div style="text-align: center;">WEAR ----- long</div>
13. <div style="text-align: center;">R O R A D S W A M</div>	14. <div style="text-align: center;">T Z Z Z</div>	15. <div style="text-align: center;">cycle cycle cycle</div>	16. <div style="text-align: center;">LE  VEL</div>
5. <div style="text-align: center;">Ø ----- B.S. M.A. PH.D.</div>	6. <div style="text-align: center;">KNEE LIGHTS</div>	7. <div style="text-align: center;">I I I I ----- O O O</div>	8. <div style="text-align: center;">DICE  DICE</div>
17. <div style="text-align: center;">T O S U I</div>	18. <div style="text-align: center;">GROUND ----- FEET FEET FEET FEET FEET FEET FEET</div>	19. <div style="text-align: center;">CHAIR</div>	20. <div style="text-align: center;">ECNALG</div>
9. <div style="text-align: center;">MIND/MATTER</div>	10. <div style="text-align: center;">DEATH/LIFE</div>	11. <div style="text-align: center;">HE'S/HIMSELF</div>	12. <div style="text-align: center;">BLOUSE</div>
21. <div style="text-align: center;">YOU/JUST/ME</div>	22. <div style="text-align: center;">____ PROGRAM</div>	23. <div style="text-align: center;">GI ----- G C C</div>	24. <div style="text-align: center;">MAN ----- BOARD</div>

## Weather Forbidden As War Weapon

Defense experts believe that environmental modification has no utility as a weapon of war.

Nonetheless, they feel current technology suggests a nation with enough resources and commitment could acquire significant environmental modification capabilities in the future.

Such is the basic rationale for Defense Department support for international agreements prohibiting weather modification before it could become a source of new kinds of arms races.



## ...But It Won't Stop Martians

If any of you have ever seen the movie "The War of The Worlds," you may recall that in a last-ditch effort to destroy the invading Martians, the Air Force was called upon to blast the evil creatures with an atomic bomb. The airplane used for the bombing (it failed to deter the Martians, by the way) was a very futuristic-looking thing called the Flying Wing. Believe it or not, this airplane was not just a prop, it really

did exist, and it has a rather interesting history.

By Capt. Wes Woodruff, USAF Mather AFB, Calif.

control problems, however. This made it rather difficult to handle in some situations. In 1947, Capt. Glen Edwards was killed while flying one of these Flying Wings, and Edwards AFB was later named after him.

The problem of stability and several other factors (such as the success of the rival Boeing B-47) finally caused the aircraft to be abandoned as a bomber, and the entire project was dropped in the late 1940's.

### World's Largest Mortar

# DAVID NEVER FIRED IN ANGER

## Allied Secret Project Shelved in WW II

Little David — the world's largest mortar — was never in combat. The 36-inch mortar, designed to fire 3,750-pound shells, never saw action.

Little David was fabricated during World War II. The Allies created him in a secret, high-priority project. But by the time he was ready for combat the Allied Army had penetrated the German fortifications Little David was designed to attack.

By 1944 the tide had turned in the war. The Germans were no longer masters of Europe's skies. Germany was beginning to feel the punishment of mas-

sive bombing raids like those the Third Reich had earlier inflicted on England. German submarines were receding as a threat to Allied shipping. German armies had surrendered in Africa and were in retreat in Russia. The Allies had landed in Italy and were planning a massive landing on Normandy.

Though Allied attention was focused on the vital problems of the upcoming

Normandy invasion, another problem worried them.

In the years after World War I, France, which had suffered much devastation from the many battles fought on her soil, vowed that Germany would never invade France again. In order to prevent an invasion the French built the famous Maginot Line of fortifications along the German frontier. The French be-

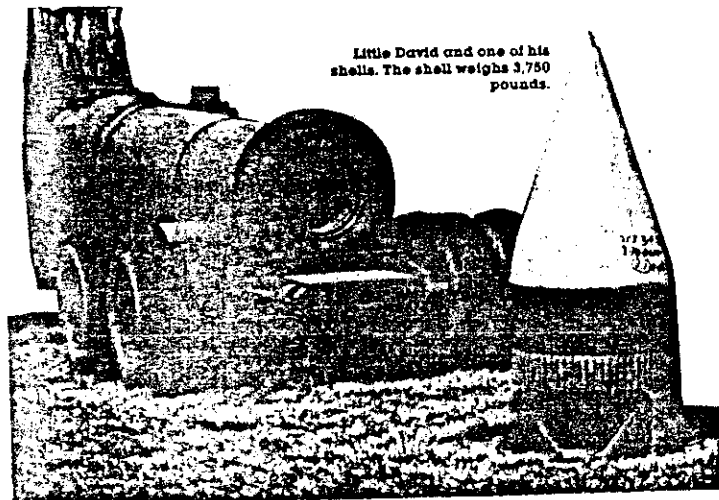
lieved that it was impregnable. The Germans, in their turn, built an equally impressive series of forts called the Siegfried Line.

The Allies decided to devise a weapon which could breach the Siegfried Line in a direct assault; Little David was the weapon they created. A weapon that could destroy a fort.

Throwing a shell weighing nearly two tons, Little David could breach the strongest of fortresses. And Little David was mobile. The 144,000-pound tube assembly could be pulled by one "Dragon Wagon" tractor. So could Little David's 160,000-pound base assembly. Because of this mobility, Little David could attack one major target after another.

While Little David was being designed, the Allied Forces launched the Normandy invasion. As assembly and testing of the mortar progressed, so did the Allied Army — well ahead of schedule. The Allies had already penetrated the Siegfried Line by the time Little David was ready to go.

Though he never fired a shot in battle, Little David has retired. He is now part of the outdoor display at the U.S. Army Ordnance Museum, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. Little David enjoys the company of thousands of people who come each year to view the world's biggest "little" mortar.



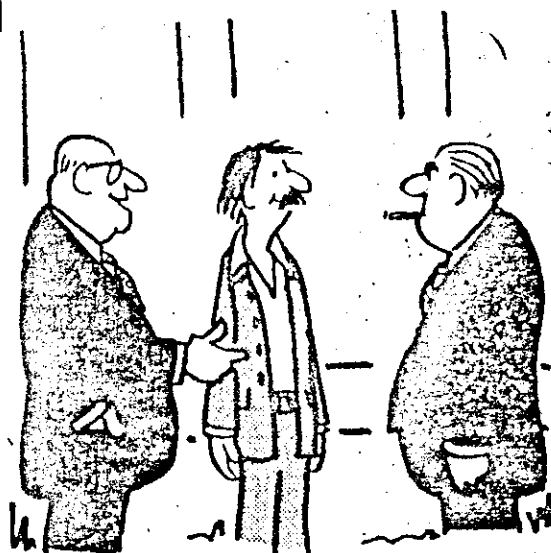
Little David and one of his shells. The shell weighs 3,750 pounds.

-SSAM

## PUZZLE ANSWERS

-Workman

1. sandbox
2. I understand
3. read between the lines
4. long underwear
5. 3 degrees below 0
6. neon lights
7. circles under the eyes
8. paradise
9. mind over matter
10. life after death
11. he's beside himself
12. see-through blouse
13. crossroads
14. downtown
15. tricycle
16. split-level
17. touchdown
18. six feet underground
19. highchair
20. a backwards glance
21. just between you and me
22. space program
23. GI overseas
24. man overboard



7/12

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John Berry

"My boy, here, personifies our national posture. He lacks direction, strength, will and is indecisive!"

-R. Kelly



77 KN

CZAR RETURNS to chuck Speedy Gonzalez AGAIN!  
WAR RAGES IN GERMANY; FRENCH SET UP SCANDANAVIA,  
TAKE WATERTOWN.  
AUSTRIAN KIEV GARRISON STANDS ALONE IN RUSSIA,  
ABANDONED & IGNORED BY FRIEND & FOE...

MAR 10 1979

Winter, 1915: France builds F BRE, A MAR  
Russian F Ber r BAL, A Mos r OTB  
SPRING, 1916 Turkey builds F ANK, A CON, A SMY

AUSTRIA (KASSEL): A Boh-VIE; A TYO S FRENCH A Pie-Ven; A GAL-Bud; A UKR  
S RUSSIAN A Mos-Sev/NSU, NSO

FRANCE (DITTER): F Bre-ENG; F Nat-NWG; F Edi-NTH; A Mun-KIE; A HOL & A RUH  
S A Mun-Kie; A Ber S A Mun-Kie/ann.; A Bur-MUN: A Pie-VEN;  
A ROM S A Pie-Ven: A Mar-TUS: F GLYO C A Mar-Tus: F TUN S  
F Tyn; F TYN S F Tun

RUSSIA (Beamer): A Lvn-BER; F BAL C A Lvn-Ber; A PRU S A Lvn-Ber; A War-SIL;  
F DEN S F Kie; F Kie S A Lvn-Ber/d/r Hlg, Otb; A NWY H

TURKEY (HUESTON): F Ank-BLA; F NAP & F GRE S F Ion; F ION S F Nap; F TRI-Ven;  
F APU S F Nap; A RUM-Bud; A Smy-ARM; A Con-BUL

Fall, 1916, will be due with my mail received here Monday, April 2, 1979, and may be made conditional on the Russian retreat. Press from the Russian standby follows. Thanks to Arturo Guajardo for again coming through, even though he again was not needed.

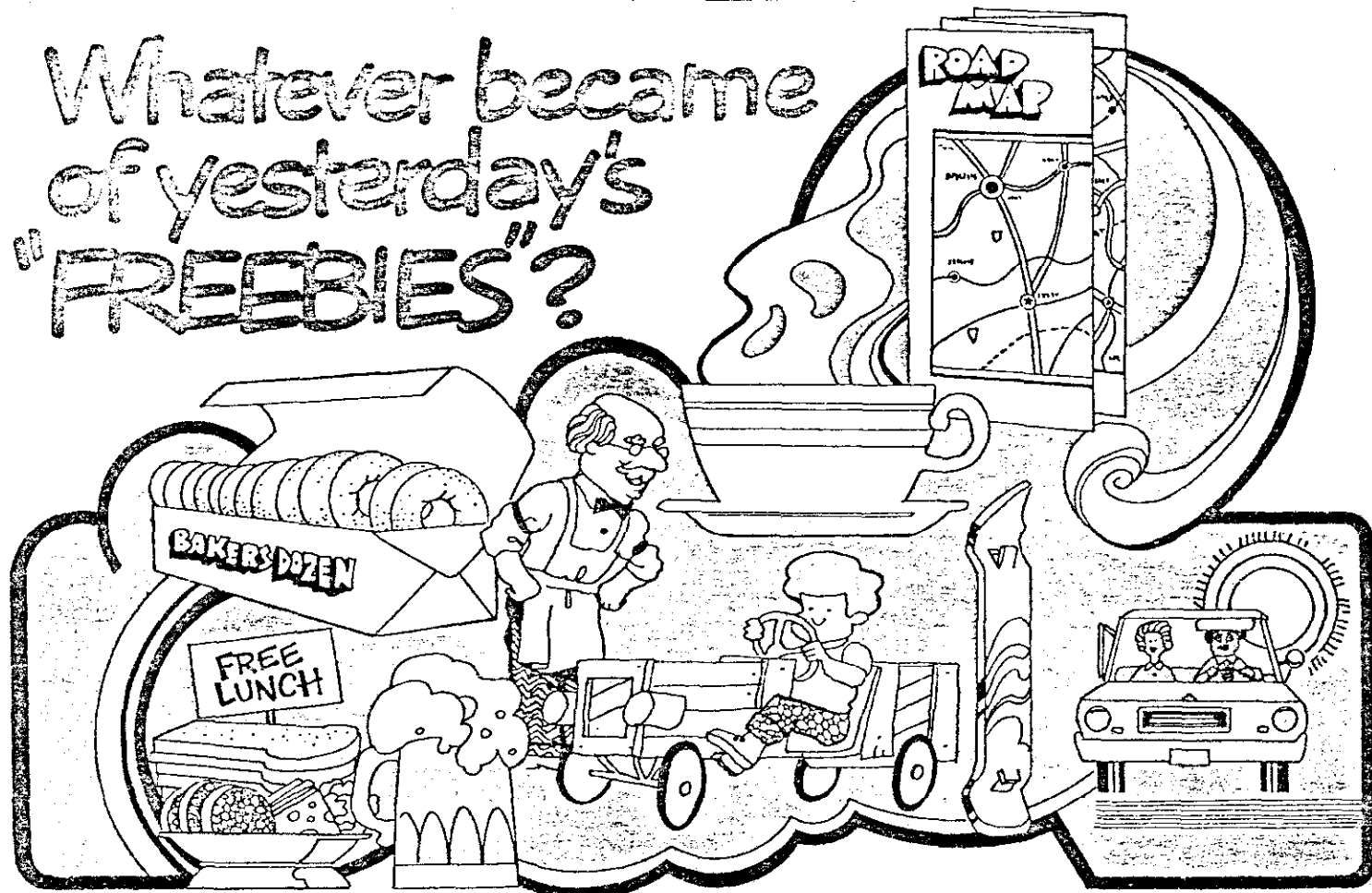
KN Standby press

ST PETERSBURG The capital, plagued by the recent collapse of authority, is alive with rumors that the mad Mexican Cossack will soon be marching out of the steppes to make another attempt at seizing the reins of power.

The Mad Mexican Cossack had made a previous attempt to take power from the Russian autocracy during the reign of Czar Elvanovich, but his supporters, escaped inmates of a Caucasus insane asylum were severely routed at the battle of Grozny, while their leader was lecturing local university students on the merits of putting worms into their vodka.

It is believed that his latest effort to gain the throne is financed by none other than the Sultan of Turkey. It has been reported by most unreliable sources that the Mad Mexican was shipped to Russia from exile south of Samarkand via a sealed hashish crate, transported by the logistics division of the Royal Ottoman Camel Corps. Officers and men transporting the crate were unaware of its contents, but reported strange sucking and scraping noises accompanied by the singing of "Cielito Lindo". It is not known at this point whether or not the Mexican Cossack will recover from this journey and be able to lead the large force of gathering dementos. If he fails to take power in this, his most recent attempt, Turkey will lose a valuable puppet and be out a case of hashish bricks. Also, should the Mad Mexican fail, the hopes of the Russian lunatic fringe will in all likelihood be quashed.

# Whatever became of yesterday's "FREEBIES"?



In years past when one wanted to rustle up components for a homemade scooter, the corner grocer would gladly oblige with a wooden orange crate. Today, however, such crates are virtually nonexistent, and even scrap lumber usually has a price tag. In fact, quite a number of useful items for which we now dig into a pocket once came gratis.

While no one wants to return to the Depression years just to get a free sandwich at a bar, the disappearance of life's little gratuities is regrettable.

Not too long ago the 13th doughnut came for nothing, but now a "baker's dozen" is becoming a meaningless phrase. And when was the last time the baker offered a cookie to a youngster? Or, for that matter, when did you last see a butcher pass out slices of baloney to "the small fry"?

Remember when the humble cup of coffee was included as part of every meal in a restaurant? You can still have a cup, of course, but now it's usually shown as a separate item on the menu. As for a second cup, be prepared to ante up again.

The once-familiar "church key," or can opener, was yours for the asking for many years. Now with the widespread use of pop tabs, one must cough up 15 cents for the relic—if you can still find one.

The free coat check service and baby sitting once available in many department stores is now but a hazy memory.

Free road maps are gradually disappearing from the racks at service stations. In many areas of the country, dealers have installed vending machines which dispense maps for 50 cents to a dollar.

In many cities the magic phrase "transfer please," is no longer enough to get you a multiple ride on public transportation. Now a request for a transfer must be accompanied by a nickel or a dime.

Parking meters, while familiar to city dwellers for years, are now gobbling up coins for the privilege of renting street space in the most remote parts of the country.

Some items have a way of just disappearing, only to resurface years later—at extra cost, of course. For example, remember the handy vent window on cars? Since so many cars have air conditioning, Detroit car-makers decided some years ago that vents were unnecessary and discontinued the feature on most models. Plenty of drivers missed it, however, and said so. So now on some of the new models the vent window is available again, though this time as an optional extra.

Also, automotive rumors have it that

sun visors may be the next to go. And why not, goes the reasoning, with tinted glass so prevalent today? But watch for some startling announcement in years to come of a new and innovative optional accessory, probably called something else, but curiously reminiscent of the sun visor.

There do remain a few holdovers that the dedicated freeloader can still ferret out. Complimentary postcards are still available in many hotels and restaurants for the thrifty traveler who doesn't mind sharing his message with some advertising. Hardware stores still give away yardsticks, and motels still have free ice cube machines. And while there breathes a politician running for office, there'll still be free shopping bags, combs, calendars, rain hats, and other useful items—albeit with the politician's name on them.

One could shed a tear for the disappearance of something for nothing, but anyone could have seen it coming. After all, haven't we been repeatedly told, "There is no such thing as a free lunch" and "You only get what you pay for"?

To be sure, many of yesterday's "freebies" would be of little use today. After all, since ball-point pens have almost completely replaced fountain pens, who needs blotters anymore?

But that's another story.