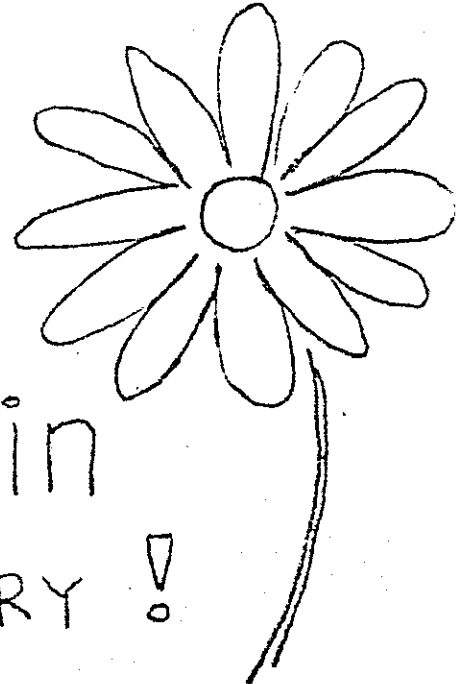
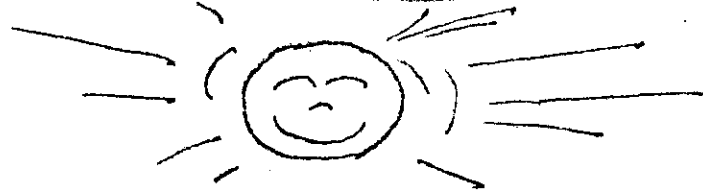


It's



SPRINGTIME in

JANUARY !



(BUT, only in this
Issue FOUR of:)

THE

BRUTUS

BULLETIN

ET TU, BRUTE

The BRUTUS BULLETIN is a magazine of postal Diplomacy and assorted sundry items brought to you as often as humanly possible by John Michalski, 913 NE Sixth Street, Moore, Okla 73160. No calls. Diplomacy is a game invented by Alan Calhamer and copyrighted by the Avalon Hill Company, Baltimore, MD 21214. BB is available for now for the pittance of \$2 per year, including sub, game fees, and NMR deposit. THERE ARE NO GAME OPENINGS! (Sorry)

JOHN'S NOTES

This issue is starting to look like another double already, and at this writing I still have a few days before finalizing Supplement One for W'Ol builds in KN. It will probably be one of the last that has a bunch of funny (?) stuff from the office here though, as this clears out everything that has accumulated to date. How about some from the readers out there?

I'm happy to announce that we've added a couple of new subscribers lately, including no less a hobby figure than John Leeder himself, publisher of Runestone, one of the hobby's elder classics.*It's flattering to get a sub from someone like that, even if he did do it just to unload an otherwise non-negotiable 2-Rand note on me! (U) I'll use it next time I vacation in the Transvaal.

Speaking of new folks, one word of caution again to all: don't get too spoiled by all these fat issues. One of these days, they may turn small. Trouble is, try as I might to stretch things out and stay within the 5-sheet, 13¢-limit, I never can seem to make it. Maybe by late February.....

You're probably starting to think "He obviously doesn't have anything good to say this issue", so let me quote others for you.

"Hobby News" Notes

(2 Commentaries)

From Bob Hartwig's Podunk News dated Dec 1:

" Guess who they talked into running for IDANA President?! No silly, it's me!

Yes, I finally broke down and decided to go for the big apple of the Diplomacy hobby. Who knows, maybe I'll lose and retire.

The treasury has yet to reach me, 29 days after Steve Brooks said he sent it. Without it we're in sorry shape. I have processed 4 memberships despite this situation, and ask all of you to let your readers know that I am doing the job. Please ask them to send their names to me, stop payment on the old check, and send a new one to me. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

Ben Grossman has now put out two issues of Diplomacy Review without monetary compensation. I hope to get it to him someday (if I ever get the Treasury). In the meantime, we owe him a great vote of thanks.

Andy Cook, who's financial position is better than mine, has agreed to put out and conduct the Census. Although originally my project, with Cal White conducting the Canadian and overseas part, funds were never received for this either. Andy is conducting it with reimbursement to come at a later date. He is another we should all thank.

Offers of help have arrived from several people. I hope that more will offer their services. The IDA has a long way to go to regain its lost credibility. If you would like to help, please write me immediately.

Finally, urge all fellow IDANA members to vote in the upcoming elections. I don't care what they vote for, as long as they vote. If all publishers would print this they would do the hobby a great favor."

(Later in the same issue): "A bit out of order, but no great loss. Late news is that I HAVE received the Treasury. Publishers should ignore my request to ask for "Stop payment" orders on Page 2 in Hot Air. I must now receive a release form to get the Treasury in my name, then we can get back on the road. Apparently

CONTINUED ON PAGE FOLLOWING NEXT

* RUNESTONE, that is, not John.

77KN

SPRING 1902

YEAR OF THE RAT??

FORMERLY BRUTUS #1

- ✓ Belgium, Rumania, Armenia, Denmark sink without a fight!
- ✓ Surprises in Greece, Norway; who says love makes the world go round???

AUSTRIA (KASSEL): A BUD S RUSSIAN A Ukr-Rum; A Vie-TYR;
A TRI-Ser; A SER-Gre; F Gre-Aeg/dislodged/ r ALB,OTB

ENGLAND (SCOTT): F Lvp-NAO; F Eng-NTH; F Nwy S F Eng-Nth/dislodged/
r to SKA,NWG, BAR, OTB; A Wal-LCN

FRANCE (DITTER): A PAR S A Bur; A BUR S ENGLISH A Wal-Bel/NSO;
F MAO C A Spa-Bre; A Spa-BRE

GERMANY (WORKMAN): F Kie-DEN; F Holl-BEL; A MUN S A Ruh-Bur;
A RUH- Bur

ITALY (MIRASSOU): A VEN H; F ION C A Tun-GRE; A Tun-GRE;
F Nap-APU

RUSSIA (McELVANEY): F SEV S A Ukr-Rum; A Ukr-RUM; A Mos-UKR;
F SWE S F StPnc-Nwy; F StPnc-NWY

TURKEY (HUESTON): A BUL S ITALIAN A Tun-Gre ; A Smy-ARM;
F BLA S A Bul; F CON-Aeg

DEADLINE for FALL moves in this happy fellowship game will be my mail received here FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 1978. Orders may be made conditional on the Eng&Aus retreats. Remember that in conditional orders, you should list one set as "or-all-other-cases" to avoid an NMR situation should some situation occur that you did not anticipate in your conditions. There will be a W'01 Supplement for KS, so the deadline for S'03 will be the week of Feb 17. I ENCOURAGE YOU TO SEND IN PROVISIONAL BUILDS WITH YOUR FALL ORDERS. PRESS for this game is on the sheet following next; see both sides. MUCHO THANKS again to all for an excellent outpouring of press for this game. The game and the zine both are the better for it. Keep up the fine work!

JOHN'S NOTES (continued)

Steve has sent Ben a check for \$50 for Diplomacy Review. The next DR will be out shortly after Dec 10 (within a few weeks after) and will contain Campaign Statements for the upcoming elections. I request that everyone please remain patient while we try to straighten this mess out. Water War, the Luana is still here!"

Now a word from the other side, from Doug Seif's BLACK HOUSE (439):

A lot of crazy stuff has been happening lately in the hobby. Len Lakotka has decided he's had enough of the Diplomacy hobby and has quit publishing. It also seems that IDA/IA is going down for the third time. Goodbye. Remember all that ruckus about a year ago about constitutions and fairness and all that? Now it seems that nobody cares at all. IDA/IA's obituary is certainly a lot shorter than it's birth notice, but then again, who among you really cares? But for all you grouches out there, Charles Dohrer has decided that the old IDA was never properly folded in the first place and invites you to mail him \$2 to join the new old IDA."

Now some comments from me. First, I want to point out that Doug's notes are about 3 weeks older than Bob Hartwig's, and Bob is a "mover and shaker" in the IDA business, at least in so far as they have any at all. In fairness to them, I'd like to point out that I have received another copy of Diplomacy Review within the last few weeks, so there is in fact some activity of some kind out there other than people pocketing treasuries or whatever. I paid somebody \$2 once to get a cheaper rate on some publications I wanted (cheaper as a 'member'), so I'm glad to at least get an occasional DR just so I know I haven't been forgotten. There's not much to it except IDA stuff—who's-been-kicked-out-for-not-doing-anything filled much of last issue's news, I believe—but it's something. Our own Craig Reges offers (or did offer) a free game to IDA and/or IDANA members, so there are a few at least who take it all seriously. I remember all too well what Doug refers to, so I'm not so gung-ho on the business myself, but I'd be glad to hear/print any comments or whatever from IDA proponents. Any out there? At this point (Dec 29-30) I'm sending sneak previews of the above section to a few people who are involved in IDA-stuff and see if I can generate some discussion in these pages. I don't know if I will be able to get it all in here at this writing, since I've got almost all of issue four spoken for, with two weeks yet to go! Also, I've just turned up Alan Rowland's commentaries on the organization (or lack thereof) of IDA, so THAT will be buried somewhere back in this issue as well. Well, have fun wading through all this stuff. I enjoy turning out a full magazine quickly, and hope most of you enjoy getting it. I must apologize for the poor reproduction of a lot of it, but that's caused by having to copy what are already weak xerox copies to begin with in many cases, and also our poor (or poorly made) xerox machine has an acute tendency to fade out after the first few tens of thousands of copies each month—sometimes after only "tens" of copies, period! I try to send the best copies to players, then subbers; and those of you lucky enough to get complimentaries take whatever is left over!

With ten days to go to deadline, I have lots and lots of stuff ready to go here, the sole exception being press for game two. Also, I am pleased to announce that BR has now made the big time: Ron Kelly has subbed and is now on the standby list. Someone in the Publishers Handbook said "Ron Kelly will eventually be in every game you run"; we'll see. So far, my players have proven to be remarkably conscientious—not one miss yet! Let's hope it stays that way!

77KS

formerly BRUTUS #2

SPRING 1901

YEAR OF THE DOVE, IT AIN'T

AUSTRIA (PRICE): F Tri-ALB; A VIE-Gal; A Bud-SER
ENGLAND (HUNT): A Lvp-EDI; F Edi-NWG; F Lon-NTE
FRANCE (GRABAR): F Bre-MAO; A Par-GAS; A PAR-Pie
GERMANY (REGES): F Kie-DEN; A Ber-KIE; A Fun-BUR
ITALY (CHARNLEY): A VEN-Pie; F Nao-ION; A Rom-APU
RUSSIA (KASSEL): F SEV H; A Mos-UKR; A WAR-Gal; F StPsc-GOB
TURKEY (KENDTER Jr): F Ank-BLA; A Smy-ARM; A Con-BUL

Well, well, well. After my first game got off to the bloodiest start I've seen in many a 1901, I was worried that my second game might be one of those where all spring moves succeed; no such problem, though, is there? I trust none of you will fall asleep with boredom over the season ahead? FALL, 1901, will be due with my mail received here FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 1978. PLEASE SEND PROVISIONAL BUILDS WITH THEM. A supplement will go out later (7-10 days) with final builds, but you can save yourself a stamp and me some worry by sending some in now. PRESS is on the back of the next sheet. THANKS to all who sent some in this time! I encourage all of you to try and turn in something--it really adds something to the zine and game interest level. Spring '02 will be due in mid-Feb.

Here's that other commentary on the IDA business mentioned in this month's
MEMO'S NOTES:

***** WAG WAGON #21, NEWS AND MISCELLANY *****

1. The IDA-NA (or rather Ben Grossman) has seen fit to come out with its fourth issue of the year only four months late. In BK we filed a variety of relevant material such as Jerry Paulsen is doing nothing in particular and Bob Burton may go to the Orient for two years. I really don't understand how the IDA-NA membership will benefit from these veritable gems.

Other news includes the fact that there is no President (Iakovka left town.), no Treasurer (Brooks was kicked out at GENCON unless he told the President of his duties but Brooks was probably never informed of the matter.), that I am no longer Novice Project Chairman (I disbanded the Project in mid-August as I couldn't get money from Brooks and submitted my resignation to Iakovka.) because I had to tell the President of my duties (and Grossman I believe as second party) by September 1 (which I was never informed about, the IDA-NA has no money as Hartwig hasn't gotten the Treasury from Brooks, that the election results will be out around Jan. 15 as Ben will be busy (parties, etc.), and the Dipcon Society was founded to handle Dipcon instead of the IDA-NA. Oh yes, my friends (and most of yours as well) complained because I called a certain Ron Kelly undesirable or some such applicable adjective. (MY friends are Ron and the literary band of traitors, e.g. Dave Ross et al.)

2. IDA-NA has done two things so far this year. It still handles the IFI. The second is a vain-glorious tribute to the superiority of the Conspiracy. It goes by the name of the 1977 Player's Handbook. From what I have heard (I ordered my copy yesterday to be sure.) the contents are great if you like TWIC zines but don't come under the concept of a Player's Handbook. Let's face it; the IDA-NA is a joke that should be buried alongside the IDA, TDA, TIDA, and those other relics of hobby organizations past.

3. Here's another late note: Fred Winter has announced that he will "probably" close down his MAGAZINE, DIPLOMACY, POIRAL due to lack of interest on the part of me and his players as well as an imminent move to Greece, courtesy of the US Army.

DEFINITIONS:

ACOUSTICS: Thing you play pool with

PARADOX: Two MDs

PAIDEMONIUM: Apartment complex for pandas

The light above Michael finally dimmed, and then took a place among the stars of the night, indistinguishable from the others despite its spectacular debut. "Talk about a flashy start", thought Michael to himself, dryly. "I haven't seen that gaudy an opening since Macy's put up its Christmas decorations last October". He looked at the sky a moment longer, then turned away, wondering what had caused the light. His knowledge of astronomy was limited, so he passed it off as some rare phenomenon, or maybe a power mad lightening bug that had charged into General Electric. He had hardly turned away, though, when a strange feeling flowed over him. He had to find out what had caused the flare. He wandered outside, not exactly sure of where he was going, or why he was going there, but he was sure that an answer awaited him in that general direction. He had been walking for several minutes when, once again, he saw a light glowing in the distance.

But this light was different. It was softer, gentler. It almost gave Michael a peaceful feeling, but there was an underlying feeling of something else. Expectation, maybe...or possibly fear. It, too, grew painfully bright, and then dimmed, taking a place in the sky directly opposite the first light. Michael again wondered what caused the light, but his train of thought was broken by a voice that seemed to come from all around him. "Michael J. Morrow, Stand Forward and Prepare Yourself!"

((For another installment next issue??)) J.M.

ROMA: "Hey-a, Folks! This is-a Honest Luigi, from Luigi's Tire Shop and Pizzeria. We've-a got a special on-a tires for you today. One hundred percent-a Italiano all-purpose tires. Da go through mud. Da go through snow. And when Day-a go flat, Da go whop, whop, whop, whop. Or use our-a pizzas instead. They're-a just as good!"

Omicron IV: Disregard this press release.

Omicron IV: Disregard all sentences concerning disregarding press releases.

David the Dagger, alias Dirty Dave, alias Sultan of Smog hereby condemns the German spikeheads to death. One more attack upon Burgundy will mean the releasing of the dreaded Fontana Flasher and his secret smog weapon. The Kaiser is asked to take a good long look at the skies over France. They're dirty for a reason. We are No. 1 in industry, warmaking, Artillery production, and files for German helmets. Besides, why the hell would any foreigner want to live here? After all, you don't see Italy rushing to get at this Polluted Place. He's smart enough to keep his distance.

PARIS- One might note that the biggest polluter in Fontana is the steel industry. Namely Kaiser Steel Industries. (That name is factual and it is #1 in pollution.) Those damn Germans are sneaky devils and find more ways to beat you. Even our sparrows walk.

SPRING, 1280 The All Powerful Allah has seen fit to test his mighty warriors by allowing our mighty arms to be thwarted by the infidels. In our Fall offensive into Rumania our glorious army was brought to a halt by the unholy attack of an Austrian Army. Vengeance has been vowed and a holy war declared against Austria.

Not withstanding the foul attack upon our armies by the Austrian infidels, the winter has passed in relative peace. I personally passed the entire winter without once seeing the light of day. I had enough trouble seeing my meals through the scented smoke coming from my hookah. Though I had little to do buy eat as women peeled my grapes for me and provided vessels for me to fill.

With the coming of spring, the war shall be upon us again and I shall once again see the light of day; what a drag. At least my girls will be allowed to come with me, with a generous supply of the necessities of life. At least my nights will still

be full. This war seems to be likely to last forever, perhaps not such a fate for one with supplies enough.

Game Two: PRESS

PARIS: I do not intend to attack Italy. I was told that Italy would be moving on me and I wanted to protect myself. If this proves to be untrue, I will return to Marseilles.

PARIS: I feel that it is important to establish the French Foreign Policy at this point. It is imperative that differential forces enter established realms of prescribed behavior when designed to exchange valuable input relative to survival of the established norms.

I feel this should set the French Foreign policy in perspective.

TURKEY-RUSSIA: Let me be "honest with you". When you told me that you were leaning toward attacking me, what did you expect?

TURKEY-ITALY Why don't you write? Are you that interested in bringing about a war?

The Reich has decided it is strategically impossible to not stand off the French attack if there. If not, all apologies, and we will immediately retreat to within our borders.

Some more last minute game one press:

BERLIN-PARIS (as yet unliberated): Please begin cleaning all your hotel rooms. The German army can be very fussy regarding its accommodations. You may expect arrival at any time. Oh, yes, also stock a good supply of tea and biscuits just in case.

This space reserved for YOUR press next time!

LOUISIANA WELFARE AT ITS' BEST

(Sentences taken from actual letters received by Welfare Dept.)

I am forwarding my marriage certificate and six children. I have seven but one died which was baptised on a half sheet of paper.

I am writing the Welfare Dept. to say that my baby was born two years old. When do I get my money.

Mrs. Jones has not had any clothes for a year and has been visited regularly by the clergy.

I cannot get sick pay. I have six children, can you tell me why?

I am glad to report that my husband who is missing is dead

This is my eighth child, what are you going to do about it?

Please find for certain if my husband is dead. The man I am now living with can't eat or do anything until he knows.

I am very much annoyed to find that you have branded my son illiterate. This is a dirty lie as I was married a week before he was born.

In answer to your letter, I have given birth to a boy weighing ten lbs. I hope this is satisfactory.

I am forwarding my marriage certificate and three children one of which is a mistake as you can see.

My husband got his project cut off two weeks ago, and I haven't had any relief since.

Unless I get my husband's money soon, I will be forced to lead an immortal life.

You have changed my little boy to a little girl. Will this make any difference?

I have no children as yet as my husband is a truck driver and works night and day.

In accordance with your instructions, I have given birth to twins in this enclosed envelope.

I want money as quick as I can get it. I have been in bed with the doctor for two weeks and he doesn't do me any good. If things don't improve I will have to send for another doctor.

- With the fall of the Saigon Government, the Democratic People's Republic of Vietnam became the number one power in Southeast Asia. The victorious forces captured 90,000 .45-cal. pistols, 791,000 M16 rifles, 857,580 other assorted rifles and carbines, 50,000 M60 machine guns, 47,000 M79 grenade launchers, 12,000 mortars, 63,000 light antitank weapons and unspecified .50-cals and recoilless



NOW THE LONG BINH FREE STORE

News reported in this section is not necessarily endorsed by the DoD unless attributed to official sources.

others. The ruling generals want more fighters, helicopters, tanks, heavy artillery and armored personnel carriers. With 200,000 men under arms, Thailand has the second largest non-Communist army in the area, after Indonesia with its 260,000-man force. The Philippines with 65,000, Malaysia with 40,000 and Singapore with 35,000 men under arms are all supported to a greater or lesser degree by paramilitary national police and reserve forces totaling another 100,000.

- According to a Vietnam News Agency broadcast, the people of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, formerly the Republic of Vietnam, are reusing "every salvaged nut and bolt" from war-damaged equipment to repair the thousands of trucks, tanks and other pieces of hardware left behind by American forces. The old Infantry Workshop south of Saigon, where repairs are taking place, has been renamed. It's now called National Defense Factory Number 1.

\$10 billion for international financial institutions, \$8.5 invested in Britain and \$4 billion for Communist countries.

- Reports by United States and European specialists issued in the last five months have stressed NATO's inability to carry out its strategy of flexible response, the "appalling state" of American war reserves and so-called pre-positioned military supplies and the failure to standardize weapons, which is wasting about \$12 billion a year. Senator Sam Nunn, Democrat of Georgia, a member of the Armed Services Committee; James Hollingsworth, a retired Army lieutenant general; Johannes Steinhoff, a German general who recently headed NATO's military committee; Robert Komer, former Ambassador to Turkey and Philip Goodhart, a member of the Military Committee of the British House of Commons have all publicly criticized the Alliance's military position. Department of Defense officials and military officers, who did not wish

INTELLIGENCE WATCH

rifles. Eighty 175-mm self-propelled cannon, 250 155-mm cannon and 1,000 105-mm cannon were left for the victors who also won 300 M41 light tanks, 250 M48 medium tanks and 1,200 armored personnel carriers. For aerial inspections of this assortment, the ruling government may rely on 430 captured Huey helicopters and 36 CH47 medium choppers. Air displays may be arranged with 73 captured F-5 jet fighter/interceptors, 36 A-1 ground attack planes, 10 C-130s, 40 C-119s, 40 C-7s and 36 C-47 cargo planes, 22 T-41 trainers or 144 T-34s. For communication: 48,000 tactical radios. For transportation: 42,000 trucks. And the navy gained 940 ships of various sizes. Finishing off the booty of war: 130,000 tons of ammunition, or four-plus pounds for every man, woman and child in both Vietnams. The total price tag: \$5 billion, plus or minus a few thousand.

- According to *International Defense Review*, nations in Southeast Asia are a prime arms market. In the wake of South Vietnam's defeat, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and the Philippines had, by December last, spent in excess of \$1,000 million on arms, excluding secret deals. With the Philippines being the only Southeast Asian recipient of US arms aid, everyone else is paying cash, and Thailand may be spending more than all the

- In mid-July President Anwar el-Sadat announced further deterioration of Soviet-Egyptian relations, strained since Cairo cancelled a friendship and cooperation treaty with Moscow in early 1976. Mr. Sadat explained that the Soviets have cancelled all contracts between the two countries "although they have not honored their commitments under some of these contracts." The Soviets have refused to provide Egypt with new weapons to replace its 1973 war losses and told the Egyptians, "Do not ask for this again." "Moreover," said Sadat, "they served us with two ultimatums which were slightly disguised." The first was that they should not be excluded from Middle East peace efforts, and the second warned Egypt that Moscow was backing Ethiopia against Sudan, which has been supported by Cairo.

- Within the past four years, oil exporting countries have amassed financial surpluses of up to \$145 billion, most of which has been invested in the United States and Europe. Before the 1973 Arab embargo imposed for US support for Israel during the '73 war, OPEC surpluses totaled \$6 billion. The majority of money has been invested this way: \$13.8 billion for US Treasury securities, \$9 billion in US bank deposits, \$8 billion in US corporate stocks and bonds, \$41 billion into the European banking market,

to be quoted by name, confessed an equally deep concern over the West's present military posture (Also see *RESERVE* Mar-Apr 77).

- During a meeting of the Arab Socialist Union it was disclosed that Saudi Arabia has undertaken the job of redeveloping the Egyptian armed forces for the next five years "without Egypt paying a penny."

- A study prepared for Congress says the Soviets have extended their influence in Angola "from the military to fishing fleets" and Russian aggressiveness there may indicate a "new, more belligerent Soviet approach" to third world nations. "Soviet involvement in Angola was openly aggressive and uncompromising," said the report. "It conflicted sharply with the past Soviet style of caution and moderation." The report also concluded that 20- to 25,000 Cubans and East Germans had taken part in the struggle as soldiers, technicians and advisors. Previous reports had put the number in the 13- to 17,000 range.

- American defense contractors will help the Egyptian Air Force rebuild its aging fleet of more than 200 Soviet-built MiG-21 fighters according to a *Boston Globe* article by former Pentagon Public Affairs boss William Beecher. The new Rolls Royce Spey engines will improve the MiGs' per-

formance but not bring them up to current first-line standards. As reported earlier, Egypt's Soviet-built tanks are currently being rebuilt and reengined by a British firm, and a French concern is manufacturing spare parts for Egypt's Soviet-built surface to-air missiles.

~~Working out rating systems for them, and so on. If you are, though, here's~~
~~a 'zine for you. If you just like basics, though, consider (the) Brutus Bulletin~~
The Brutus Bulletin John Michalski, 913 NE Sixth St., Moore, OK 73160.
John promises no frills, just quick games. However, this 'zine's first two
issues were full of frills. Especially reprints of somewhat humorous articles
from national circulation magazines, which tend to favor a conservative political
point of view. John doesn't promise such "full" size zines, though, only
quickly and cheap 'zins, which is a pity, as John's 'zine is amusing, if
only for the fact that he, while apparently believing in the three guides of
Mom, Apple Pie, and Baseball, sees fit to, shall we say, appropriate envelopes,
postage and photocopying facilities from his employer to produce it! What
would John Birch say to that? Oh well, I've long believed that as an ex-
senator from New York once put it "the only thing wrong with being on the right
is the questionable nature of your allies".

The above review appeared in Fred Winter's otherwise interesting little zine
MAGNINE, DIPLOMACY, POSTAL, 1 EACH, reviewed here last issue or two, now with
a couple of game openings. I shall comment on it here for the points it raises
or infers, and also because I have need for and time for doing some filler stuff
for issue four.

First, I'm assuming "guids" means 'guides'. As to "Mom, apple pie, and baseball",
he's wrong on all three counts. I am opposed to apron strings, and I like lemon and
cherry pie ahead of apple. NFL football pitting the dullest teams together beats the
heck out of watching baseball in this editor's eyes. Next, 'misappropriating':
among the few bennies that this company offers its underlings are such veritable
luxuries as the xerox and postage, the latter in moderation only. That's why I make
a contribution into the till now and then, to cover what might be considered the
excess amount needed by BB. As I stated in an earlier issue, the xerox of BB is
a drop in the bucket compared to the waste of other departments here.

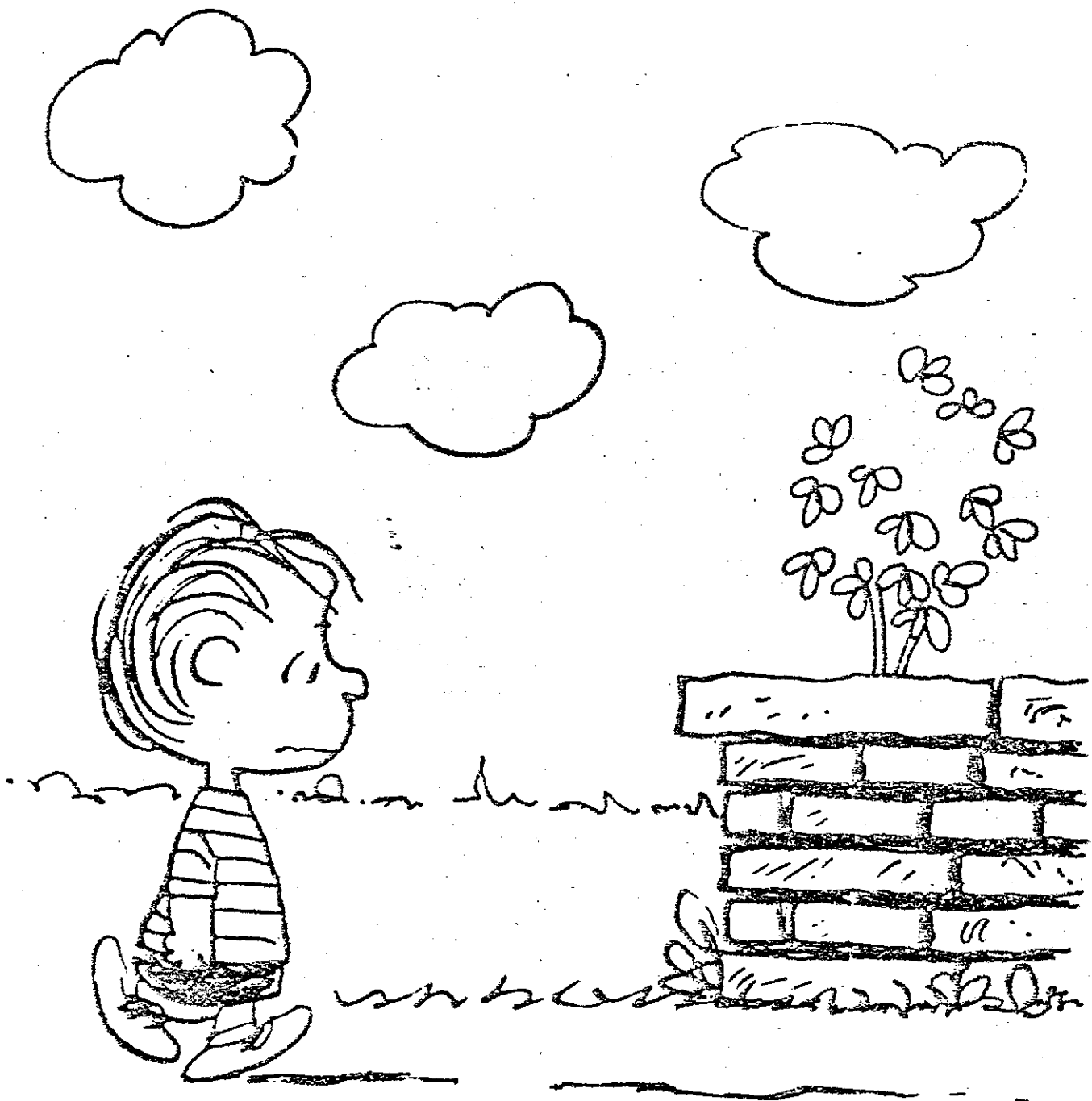
Finally, while Fred's comments on BB and, further down the page, his attack on
Sava Dasti (etc), could be written off under the dictum "different strokes for
different folks", I have to object to his latter action on two counts. First,
Fred didn't pay enough attention to the sample issue I sent him, and took the
enclosure of Sava 3rd as a sample itself, which it was not. I have to resent the
use of my BB as a quoted source for such a thing. Second, Fred's attack
on Sava... centered on its currently erratic publishing & producing system.
While this should be expected in a new zine trying to get its first game
started, it seems absurd when the very same issue of Fred's MDP attacking
Sava... contained the article at right on its own front page. What's that
old 'glass houses' line?

Lots of letters this issue. As the
humorous stuff in the office gets
used up, I'll apparently have another
good source there. Mark Berch's this
issue brings out some good points.
Keep 'em rolling in, folks.

Incase you are wondering why I said
I may have more than two signed up
for the regular game, here's the story.
I've been failing to keep track of
people's subscriptions and money sent
me for some time. The regular game
has been held up on account of this
for some time. So, anyone who remember
paying me for the regular game, sorry,
but them's the breaks. However, I'll
let you in free if you write me and say
you are rightously indignant. So far
Scott and Payne are signed up for sure,
and Melucci has already said he's
rightously indignant (he even showed
me a photocopy of his cheque!), while
Reese has been nicely reminding me that
he should be in the game too.

But, since Congress can pass no ex
post facto, all you basically indignant
people will have to be indignant again
I'm certianly not superior to Congress
after all. They made me a gentelman,
remember. While you are at it, enclos
39¢ in stamps with your indignation,
by the way. I'll keep track of it this
time. (SCOTT'S HONOR)

And in issue #fifteen, due out 18
January MCMLXXVIII, I'll announce my
new gala plans to actually set up a
regular subscription system, rather
than the hit or miss we've got now.



I MUST MAKE MORE TIME TO
PLAN MY FUTURE.

SOME MORE LETTERS (again)

MARK BERCH (responding to my comments last issue) Using very short deadlines allows you to fill an unmet need in the hobby, a niche if you will, and even if it appeals to only a small proportion of the players, you should have no trouble filling games, as you are providing a special service. Note that Hoosier Archives uses 14 day deadlines. Probably the record was 1965I, the "Game of the Wolves" run by Charles Brannan in Wild 'n' Woolly, which used 9-day deadlines. Of course, postal service was better in those days.

As for the "without recourse" matter, you must accept the fact that you WILL make mistakes. Every GM has, possibly except Buchanan, and he only runs one game. An inadvertant adjudication error or mis-transcribing a player's notes or a ruling which you realize is mistaken once you hear the player's arguments. When this this happens, the game will almost certainly have to be delayed anyhow, given your short deadlines. However, consulting the likes of Reif or Horton is an excellent idea.

However, your "The no calls rule is waived in emergencies (such as imminent NMR)" will be counterproductive. Many players, especially those in short-deadline games, send in moves immediately on zine receipt, figuring on a second set or a call to handle any changes. Your policy DISCOURAGES that, since the players realize that you'll accept a last minute call only if they've been "careful" NOT to send in orders previous (such a call would prevent an "imminent NMR", whereas an I-want-to-change-those-first-orders-I-sent-in call won't be). I suggest you either accept or not accept phone calls as you wish, but use one rule for everybody, and not discriminate against those who mail moves in early.

I hope I don't come across as brow-beating you. Do things your way. If everyone ran their games exactly the same, the hobby would be the duller for it.

--- ((I think I covered the "without recourse" point last issue, so I'll let that part drop. Mark's last paragraph raises some excellent points, however. I had originally softened the "No calls" of the colophon to cover those emergencies caused by, say, late receipt of the issue, or some family crisis preventing one from normal mail processing, etc. His point is that an unscrupulous player (are there any of those in postal Dip?) could use this as Mark indicates, altho only at considerable risk. The risk is that I am hard to reach, and if some joker calls me at midnight, I won't be taking many adjudications in any case, just handing out a few choice comments regarding his mother and his dog. Perhaps my "open" policy is too "nice" a one, though; I probably ought to follow Mark's suggestion and just have one solid cut-and-dried hard-nosed policy, one of no calls, period. Before announcing that, though, I'll give you, my readers, a chance to comment on it with views of your own. What do YOU think?))

RANDY CHRISTOPHER Congratulations on a great zine! I guess I missed all your game openings. But if you need a standby, no matter how bad the position, feel free to call on me. It looks like there are others with openings, but I'll look forward to reading BB frequently!

((Glad you like it. One of these days I'm going to have to put out a shabby issue just to keep everyone from getting too spoiled. Good to have you on board, though.))

Top Soviet Generals Order Peak Readiness

NEW YORK — The Soviet Union's top military leaders recently were summoned from their commands in Central Europe, the Far East and Russia's frontiers to the Ministry of Defense in Moscow and ordered to maintain their forces at the highest level of combat readiness.

This unusual conference was presided over by Sergei L. Sokolov, the first deputy minister of defense, according to U.S. government sources.

The emphasis throughout was on raising the readiness level for combat troops, weapons and equipment. The theme, according to American sources, was "always be ready."

The stress on combat readiness is linked, authoritative sources said, to Soviet military doctrine, which calls for massive, rapid offensive operations in the event of war in Europe or the Far East.

According to information available in Washington and at the headquarters of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the salient features of Russian military planning include

the primacy of the offensive, the decisive role given nuclear weapons, the heavy emphasis placed on the use of mass and surprise and the rapid rates of advance demanded of attacking forces.

Such planning, the sources said, cannot be implemented unless the forces involved are prepared for immediate action, including offensives launched without the customary, and detectable, preparations of mobilization and the forward movement of military supplies.

A sustained advance of no less than 70 miles a day is required in Soviet plans if the offensive is to reach its objectives. In Western Europe such a pace would put Russian forces on the Rhine River in 48 hours and in the English Channel ports within a week.

In the words of V. Y. Savkin, one of the Soviet Union's leading military theoreticians, "surprise blitzkriegs with nuclear weapons, aviation and tank groupings may be irresistible."

This item at left appeared in the paper not too long ago. It takes on added significance when, as you may or may not know, the Soviet army in Germany (E) achieved what has been dubbed "standing start" attack ability last year. That means the forces there NOW are able to launch a full offensive WITHOUT any significant buildup at all.

ANY WARGAMERS OUT THERE?? Below is a ballot you can use to submit your vote for favorite game of the year, etc. If you don't think it's worth a stamp, fill in your choices and send it to me with your moves and I'll send it in for you with mine.

OFFICIAL AWARDS NOMINATING BALLOT FOR ORIGINS '78

DEADLINE: Ballot must be postmarked no later than March 15, 1978. Copies of this ballot may be made and circulated by any means whatever. Publishers are urged to include this ballot in their magazines. (This is the ~~2nd~~ ^{3rd} ~~edition~~ ^{edition} of the ballot.) **SAUTUS BULLETIN**
Nominations are based on the calendar year of 1977, unless noted otherwise. All Time Best awards are for games or rules produced before 1978.

We request that a first, second and third choice be made in every category wherever possible, but please leave blanks if you do not feel qualified in a particular area.

The final balloting will be conducted at Origins '78 and through advance mail. The awards will be presented at Origins '78.

You must include your name and address on this ballot. When completed send your ballot to one of the following.

Origins '78
Metro Detroit Gamers
2516 Kenwyck
Troy, MI 48068
H. Patterson
7 Cambridge Rd.
Beaconsfield
Bucks, UK HP9 1HW

John Mansfield
#410-240 Brittany Dr.
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada, K1K 0R7

THE CHARLES ROBERTS AWARDS FOR BOARD WARGAMING 1977

Best Strategic Game

1st

2nd

3rd

Best Tactical/Operational Game
(3km hex or less)

1st

2nd

3rd

Best Professional Magazine

1st

2nd

3rd

Best Semi-Professional Magazine

1st

2nd

3rd

All Time Best Fantasy Game

1st

2nd

3rd

Hall of Fame Award

(Person, game or magazine, any year, vote for only one. Previous winners were Charles Roberts, Don Turnbull, James Dunnigan and Thomas Shaw.)

Metro Detroit Gamers Special Award
(Best non-wargame, including adult, family, social and sports games, in the past 5 years?)

1st

2nd

3rd

Name	Street	Apt.#	City	State

Dear Abby,

I am a sailor in the U. S. Navy, my mother and father live in Albany, New York, and I have a brother who is a bookie. My father has epilepsy and my mother has palsy, so neither can work. Both of my parents are totally dependent on my sisters who are prostitutes in Louisville, Kentucky. My brother is serving a life sentence in Sing-Sing for rape and murder.

I am in love with a colored prostitute who solicits business outside our base. She knows all about my family background, but she still loves me. We intend to get married as soon as she settles her bigamy case, which is now in court. My being white doesn't bother her at all.

When I get out of the Navy, I plan to open a house of prostitution in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and use my sisters and wife to help so that we can keep the money in the family. My problem is this: In view of the fact that I intend to make this girl my wife and bring her into the family, should I tell her about my brother-in-law, who works for an oil company?

Sincerely yours,

Dear Ann Landers

After five years of marriage
I am firmly convinced I am
married to a sex maniac.

My problem is this. He insists
on making love to me at all hours
of the day regardless of what I
am doing - the dishes - making the
bed - minding the children

What do you suggest?

Sincerely yours

Matilda Jones

P.S. Please excuse this
jerky writing.