

"I've been looking forward to this for a long time, Solo."
"Yes, Greedo, I'll bet you have. I know you weren't given an Issue 50 of

THE ~~NEED~~ (Berch is right, it's just like the old BB.
So plain old Brutus Bull. it is.)

BRUTUS BULLETIN

ET TU, BRUTE

#51-52

★ The BRUTUS BULLETIN is a newsletter of postal DIPLOMACYtm brought to you every few weeks by John Michalski, Rt 10, Box 526-Q, Moore, Oklahoma 73165. Subs are available at the rate of 12/\$4. There are openings in a 10-Day-Deadline game under guest GM Jack Frost for \$4 flat fee, no sub required, and MAY be openings in one extra 14-day game if enough interest is shown quickly. (3 so far). Fee for that is \$2 plus sub, OR, \$3 withOUT sub; unless your real name is Bernard Tretick, in which case it would cost you \$12.95, 4 calling birds, 3 French hens, and any 2 of the 4 innermost planets in our solar system.

The BRUTUS BULLETIN welcomes its first adoption (and probably last) in 78 Tid, a 5-player madman game adopted from John Leeder's RUNESTONE. It makes a fitting partner to my other two variants, the Blind Madman games, 79 Iid and 79Nid. Anyone who would like to STAND BY for this regular, 5-player madman game (German and Italian orders drawn by lot each season) should apply at once! John was kind enough to forward almost \$11 of the player's fees, a decent way to run things. After a refund and bank fees on the check, though, ...anyway, standbys play free, and the deadlines will be LONG, 4 or 5 weeks, due to the presence of Canadian players. Only once before did I ever have a player in Canada, Chip Charnley, a US serviceman in stationed in Newfoundland, who started in my first game, 77KN. He had to drop in F01 due to the mail service requiring 8 days each way, not too good for a 14-day deadline game. About 1/8 of the total subbers/traders are Canadian, though.

THIS ISSUE is being rushed by the weight of incoming material (again). I am forced to carry over letters from Tony Watson on ALDEN, Dave Ditter's follow-up to his earlier letter, and 1½ page rebuttal of Dan Palter by Michael Mills (EMHAIN MACHA). Plus maybe some Gibson stuff, as I'm not sure how much of that is still around here that will make print.

Speaking of Tony Watson, I have erred in saying his 50th issue was coming up. What it was turned out to be his 60th, FIFTH YEAR ANNish. It was pretty good sized even without the article I contributed despite the press on my time of recent BBs...

GOOD NEWS and BAD NEWS from IRAN": The good news is that the Ayatollah will exchange the hostages for Jane Fonda. The bad news is, Ted Kennedy will be driving her to the airport.

TRETICK's latest absurdity is to accuse Lee Kenter of using the Need A Game listing as a stunt to inflate his subscriber ranks to WHY ME?. Until this latest issue, which has come out since Tretick's charges, Lee never listed his own openings in the Need A Game list. "Oaklyn" must have been listening to some nitwit like his puppet stooge ERIC OZOG. This latest GRAUSTARK, #409, details how Ozog is acting in Bernie's stead

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in trying to louse up CLAW & FANG games he is Gming, now that his mentor, "Bernie" Tretick, has been kicked out of the same job for the same stunts his mindless junior stooge is now trying to pull off. Such is the reward of people who figure, "well, everyone says they're crooks, cheats, and bastards, but I'll let 'em into MY zine anyhow". Don Horton is learning the hard way; let's see how long it takes Kovalcik to figure it out. Some people are apparently incapable of learning from other's mistakes.

Speaking of GRAUSTARK, this same issue contains what is superficially a blast at the zine you're holding in your hands. Boardman, with typical aplomb, refers to recent criticisms of him seen in these pages as a "shitload" in an issue of GRAUSTARK that also has to carry over some letters and other material, due to it being squeezed out by a multi-page tirade by John B. that predicts how Imperial Amerika will turn Iran into a radioactive desert because they refuse to bow to our superior will. John must expound quickly, in order to get his predictions into print before all those US troops land and seize the oilfields. Talk about a "shitload". Here is a man who complains so bitterly about nasty old Rod Walker criticizing him, yet Boardman himself is almost incapable of giving the time of day without throwing in some snide remark about Walker. I am so really rotten for daring to print complaints about the "father of the postal hobby", but naturally, no mention is made of the DEFENSES of this same figure that have appeared here. I guess John's view of criticism is the same as that view he has of America in the world: totally beyond comprehension of rational men.

The funny thing about all his venom is that, to flip through that issue of GRAU., one would get the impression that the only place anything in this hobby is really happening is right here in the pages of BRUTUS BULLETIN! I am mentioned on almost every page; you'd think BE was the hub of the hobby. Such attacks from Boardman, esp. in issues expounding his fucked up world view as this latest one again does, amount to an endorsement in reality. After all, if you're denounced by the nuts...

EGGNOG reported that it has been a clear winter in Wisconsin so far. Needless to say, it's the same here. We did set a record low of 2° last week, but we almost set a record high this week. It's still dry as a bone, as it has been for 3 or 4 months now, but it is remarkably mild, unlike the last 2-3 years. Late December and 50° or more degree highs. Konrad is right, it is nice to do without the mounds of snow, slush, and slop. Which is one good reason I'd never live in Wisconsin again. (Then there's taxes...). On cars, Konrad, see the Kirchner letter within.

79H endgame statements are starting to come in, but will be carried over until a later issue. Also, Windfall Profits Tax seems to be coming on fast, and I wanted to do an article of sorts on that myself, but it sure won't make THIS issue. Of course I could cut out all the humor and filler, but that might kill most of the interesting part of BE, so we'll just wait.

Excerpts from ENERGY MANAGEMENT :

DOE Doubles Paperwork Burden

During fiscal 1977, persons required to file forms with the Department of Energy spent approximately 4.9 million man-hours completing the paperwork; during fiscal 1978, about 3.7 million man-hours; and during fiscal 1979, some 7.7 million man-hours, according to the Energy Information Administration. The doubling of the paperwork burden between 1978 and 1979 was in large part necessitated by enactment of President Carter's package of natural gas, conservation, utility, and tax legislation two years ago and by the one-time filing of the temperature control form (which alone accounted for 2.3 million man-hours). EIA said that, despite these increases, DOE "has made substantial progress in reducing the energy information reporting burden on industry, small businesses, and the public."

Most Solar Collectors Still Heat Swimming Pools

Solar power, which President Carter has targeted to account for 20% of the nation's energy use by the turn of the century, is still used more to heat swimming pools than anything else, according to the Energy Information Administration. Of the 13.8 million square feet of solar collectors projected to be manufactured this year, 8.6 million will be used for pools and 5.2 million will be used to heat homes and produce electricity.

Only once in the past six years has the manufacture of medium temperature collectors exceeded that for pools, and that was during 1977 when production soared to 5.5 million square feet from 1.9 million in 1976

OPENINGS: Steve Heinowski, TER-RAN, an established monthly zine, has openings in RegDip and Bourse. Dip is \$3 plus \$2 deposit that is refundable, subs 25¢ an issue, ditto. Sign up or ask for sample from 1630 W 28 Street, Lorain, Ohio 44052

Supplement to TnBB, featuring 1979HE
 Gamester: Jack Frost

ENGLAND SQUEEZED OUT OF BELGIUM,
 ITALY SQUEEZED INTO LIVERPOOL!

Fall 1904: RUSSIA retreats A Rum-SEV

Winter 1904: AUSTRIA builds A BUD, A VIE

ENGLAND builds A ION, A EDI

FRANCE disbands A MAR, No Such Unit, GM disbands A Spa

GERMANY disbands A Pru

Spring 1905:

AUSTRIA (Kador):

A RUH sup French A Bur-Bel; F Gre-BUL(s.c.);
 A SER sup A Rum; A BUD sup A Rum; A ROM sup A Gal-Ukr;
 A GAL-Ukr; A CON-Ank; A Vie-TIR

ENGLAND (Howe):

A Bre-GAS; A PAR sup A Bre-Gas; F ENG con A Lon-Pic;
 A Lon-PIC; F Bel sup A Lon-Pic, dislodged, must retreat
 to Nth, Hol, or disband; F Nwg-Cly; A EDI sup F Nwg-Cly;
 F NAO-Mid;

FRANCE (Sniegowski):

A Bur-BEL

ITALY (McMahon):

A Por-SPA; A MAR sup A Por-Spa; F Tun-NAF; F WES-Mid;
 A MUN-Kie; F AEG sup Austrian F Gre-Bul(s.c.);
 F Cly-Nao, dislodged, must retreat to Lpl or disband

RUSSIA (Michalski):

F Bal-KIE; F BER sup F Bal-Kie; A UKR-Gal; A SEV-Ukr;
 A ARM-Sev; A WAR sup A Ukr-Gal; A BOH sup French A
 Bur-Mun; F BLA sup Turkish A Ank-Con

TURKEY (Osuch):

A ANK-Arm; F SMY-Con

We have a call for a draw. All right then, if all players still viable after the Fall 1905 adjudications have voted for a draw, that's what we'll have. Send your vote in with your Fall orders, which are due December 15, 1979 at noon.

PRESS

LONDON DAILY NEWS: The Prime Minister has agreed to grant political asylum to the crew of the Italian vessel which ran aground near Clyde. The vessel is being towed to Liverpool for repairs prior to its return to the Italian government.

ANTARA: A fanatic is a person who won't change his mind and won't change the subject. Keep sticking.

DEC 15 1979

79CK

KRIEGSMARINE STOPS SIX ENGLISH UNITS! A-T PREPARE TO OCCUPY
REMAINDER OF GERMANY, MEDITERRANEAN.

Fall, 05: Correct Russian player name to read "Grabar".
Winter, 1905: Austria builds A TRI, A BUD; England builds
A LON, A EDI; German A's Boh, Mun, Ruh r OTB. F Kie r BER;
Italian A's Rom, Apu r OTB; Turkey builds F CON, F SMY, A ANK

SPRING, 1906

AUSTRIA (Henthorn): A Ven-PIE; F Adr-ION; A MUN S A Bur-Ruh; A Bur-RUH; A Vie-BOH; A WAR S TURKISH A Gal-Sil; A Tri-TYO; A Bud-TRI

ENGLAND (Hayner): F KIE-Bal; A HOL-Kie; F DEN S A Hol-Kie; F BEL-Hol; A LON-Bel; F ENG C A Lon-Bel; A Edi-NWY; F NTH C A Edi-Nwy

FRANCE (Kelley): A Gas-MAR; F GELYO S A Gas-Mar; A PAR regresses to a catonic state (Would you believe North Dakota?)(H); F MID-Spasc; F LVP waits & watches (H)

GERMANY (Mitchell): F BER-Bal

ITALY (Frost): A Mar-Spa/ann.; F NAF-Mid

TURKEY (Becker): F TUN S F Tyn-Wes; F Tyn-WES; F Nap-ROM; F Ion-TYN; F Smy-EAS; F Con-BLA; A Ank-ARM; A StP-FIN; A Lvn-STP; A Gal-SIL

What an exciting way to start Hannukah! (I hope I spelled that right). Let's see, 10 more days would be Christams Day itself; that won't do. Let's have **3** extra days, and call for FALL, 1906 due with my mail received here FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1979.

SWITZERLAND: People here are worried. As one observer put it, "We are no longer in the black, but rather, we are definitely in the red."

HQ of Cxxxxxxkxers United: What's this about peek-holes drilled in the ceiling?

PARIS-ROME, CONSTANTINOPLE, VIENNA, BERLIN, LONDON, and MOORE: Merry Christmas!

The First Blind Madman Game

79Iid

MADMAN FAILS VS JOHN BULL AGAIN, BUT LENDS
AUSTRIAN A HLEPING HAND. BUT DID IT HELP?

DEC 12 1979

FALL, 1904:

GERMANY (Madman): A TYO S AUSTRIAN F Adr-Tri; A BRE-Lon;
F ENG S A Bre-Lon

1904: Bel Bre Hol 3 Even

There is a call for a concession to "the A-E alliance". NVR=no. Votes, builds, removals, and SPRING, 1905, will be due with my mail received at home THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1979. One player is submitting statements as to how he sees the game, to be printed at game's end. If you too wish to volunteer for great insight, or great splotches of egg on your face, send them in. All press received follows

on next page

Press:

AUSTRIA-ITALY: Hey, , I'll bet you want to know why my army reversed
it's direction. To finish off Linseed, that's why!

Iid-Nid: What's wrong with you turkeys? Illiterate or just dumb? Where's all the
press? Where are the dirty limericks, obscene references, indecent
propositions, personal attacks? By Fall 01, 79Iid had two players ready
to resign in protest—let's get with it! BB has a reputation to live
down to!

ROME: We all know a fellow called Brux
And with ev'ryone he knows, he fux
Except for his spouse
Who found that the louse
Hates women but really loves ducks.

Still just

BRUTUS #9

DEC 12 1979

FROGS WIN RHINE FRONT, LOSE ALPS. EVERYONE
ELSE AT PEACE. RIGHT??

SPRING, 1901

AUSTRIA (Lee):	F Tri-ALB; A Bud-SER; A Vie-TRI
ENGLAND (Osuch):	A Lvp-YOR; F Lon-NTH; F Edi-NWG
FRANCE (Fuchs):	F Bre-MID; A Par-BUR; A MAR S A Par-Bur
GERMANY (Howe):	F Kie-HOL; <u>A MUN-Bur</u> ; A Ber-KIE
ITALY (Palter):	A Ven-PIE; A Rom-VEN; F Nap-ION
RUSSIA (Hayner):	F StPsc-GOB; A Mos-STP; A War-UKR; <u>F SEV-Bla</u>
TURKEY (McCarty):	<u>F ANK-Bla</u> ; A Smy-CON; A Con-BUL

COA: Kai-Fu Lee, from Dec 22 to Jan 12 only, to 124 Baltimore Drive, Oak Ridge, TN 37830.

Ah, what a deceptively quiet looking start. Pretty peaceful in the east; Italy opens
with my favorite "plus three" opening only to find everyone covering themselves; and
an army in Archangel just to spread some interest for Germany and England.

Let's see FALL, 1901 with my mail received here THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1979.

Merry Christmas, ho,ho, ho

Press:

Espana c/o Marseilles-Apulia: Que no estas chingando con me tierra espanol, cabron italianc

CON: It is perceived that Bulgarians could use a little civilizing. Likewise Greeks.
Fortunately, Turks are available to do the job. Vie/Ser & Rum OK with me.

BERLIN: It was interesting to hear Italy speak of Austrian territory and Austria
speak of Italian territory. German intelligence was quite amused and happy.

LON: Prime Minister Osuch is accepting all gifts.

79 Nid

MADMAN GOES WILD, AND SUCCEEDS! VASELINE SALES
SKYROCKET IN EUROPE!

Dec 17
1979

SPRING, 1902:

GERMANY (Madman): A Den-SWE; A Ber-SIL; A Mun-BOH; A Bur-BEL;
F HOL-Nth

Orders for Fall, 1902, for you and the madman are due with my mail received at home
MONDAY, Dec 31, 1979. PLEASE SEND IN MADMAN BUILDS AS WELL. That way, while it will
regretably allow people to technically make their builds knowing what the Madman
built, it will save us all a lot of conditionals as a practical matter. Thus, Madman
Winter builds are also due. Press follows:

ROME-LONDON: Since you're taking the lowlands, I insist on Paris, Spain, and
Portugal for myself.

TRIESTE: Why don't you write me?

MUNICH to WHOEVER I SCREWED THIS TURN: Take that, asshole!

Guest Subzine:

THE CANAL DREGS

featuring the third 10-day
deadline game, 1979 HE

Jack Frost, RR4 Box 138B Lockport
IL 60441. Still a few openings in
the FOURTH 10-day-deadline game!

DEC 17 1979

Summer, 1905: English F Bel r HOL; Italian F Cly NRR, r OTB

FALL, 1905: HOW TO GO +2? EASY, NMR!

AUSTRIA (Kador): A Bud-VIE; A CON S TURKISH A Ank; A RUH-Kie; F BULsc S A Rum/imp.;
A TYO-Boh; A Gal S A Tvo-Boh/d/r Sil, Bud, Otb; A RUM S A Gal;
A SER S A Rum

ENGLAND (Howe): A Gas-BUR; A PAR S A Gas-Bur; A Pic-BEL; F HOL S A Pic-Bel;
F Cly-LVP; A EDI S F Cly-Lvp; F Nat-MID; F ENG S F Nat-Mid

FRANCE (Sniegowski): NMR! A Bel H/ann.

ITALY (McMahon): NMR! A SPA, MAR, MUN; F NAF, WES, AEG, H

RUSSIA (Michalski): F KIE S ENGLISH F Hol; F BER S F Kie; A ARM-Ank; F BLA S A Arm-
Ank; A War-GAL; A BOH S A War-Gal; A UKR S A War-Gal; A SEV-Rum

TURKEY (Osuch): A ANK H; F Smy-EAS

The call for a draw failed. The mail (only) deadline was extended to today to compensate
for the holiday mail. The deadline for retreats, builds, and SPRING, 1906 is noon SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 29, 1979. Press follows 1905.

1905: A: Home, Ser, Bul, Con, Gre, Rum	8	even (+1 for r OTB)
E: Home, Nwy, Hol, Bel, Bre, Par	8	even
F: Spa	0	out
I: Home, Tun, Mar, Mun, Por, Spa	8	1 ann., plus 2
R: Home, Swe, Den, Kie, Ber	8	even
T: Smy, Ank	2	even

Press:

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Moscow-Belgien Armee Francais: Your blunders have affected this game more than have
your occasional moves. Good riddance to you then.

St Petersburg-London: Thanks to the blunderings of the minor powers, we ought to come
out of this with at least $\frac{1}{4}$ each.

Sevastopol-Ankara: Looks like everyone figures you've served your purpose.

Lockport-Heads of Europe: Merry Christmas, one and all!

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(212)584-5947

**FAST SURE
SUCCESS**

The Legacy of the '70s

IN A few days, we will depart the 1970s for a destination unknown, through way stations that can be seen only dimly, if at all. It's worth reflecting on the decade that is ending—the prelude to a perilous passage that must start with the resources, attitudes, and ideas that have evolved in the past ten years.

No decade in the history of this country is a close parallel to the '70s. If the decade has a theme, it must be slow retreat—in Asia, the Middle East, Africa, even the Western Hemisphere. America seemed to have lost the will to muster its vast potential for competition—much less leadership—in a contentious world.

Four forces played major roles in shaping this decade: Vietnam, Watergate, OPEC, and the rise of Soviet power. Together they spawned a range of interrelated developments that have had a profound effect not only on national security but also on how Americans see themselves, their institutions, and their place in the world. Among these developments were a foreign policy based on accommodation forced by the decline of US military power relative to that of the USSR, vague shifts in US deterrent strategy, SALT I and II, the All-Volunteer Force that has tended to isolate the military from the civilian community, cancellation or stretchout of such major weapon programs as the B-1 and MX, double-digit inflation, public cynicism regarding government, and continued sniping at the military, which makes it increasingly difficult to attract and retain qualified people in a military structure that is bound to increase in importance.

Although the scars of Vietnam and Watergate remain, time has largely healed the internal wounds they inflicted. Kent State and the May Day march on Washington seem far away, and Richard Nixon, if not gone, is very nearly forgotten. But in the field of national security—and that includes energy security—it's another story.

Numbers aren't everything in assessing a military balance, but there is a point, perhaps already passed, where Soviet quantity can more than offset US quality. And, we must reiterate, the USSR has been rapidly closing the quality gap in land, sea, and aerospace power. A few figures are indicative of the quantitative shift in the US/USSR balance.

During the decade, US military manpower decreased from 3,200,000 to 2,000,000 while Soviet troop strength expanded from 3,300,000 to 3,700,000; US ICBMs remained at 1,054 while the Soviet missile force grew from 1,080 to 1,400; US SLBMs held at 656 while Soviet counterparts went from 284 to 1,028; the US tactical aircraft inventory shrank from 6,500 to 3,400 while the comparable Soviet force moved from 4,000 to 4,300; the number of US combat vessels declined by thirty percent as the Soviet Navy grew by the same percentage into a bona fide blue-water fleet. Other Soviet advances are detailed elsewhere in this issue in *The Military Balance 1979/80*.

As the scale tilted inexorably in the direction of the USSR, successive US administrations have assured us that the strategic balance has remained acceptable. Deterrent strategies that govern force size have been adjusted to rationalize that assurance. At the start of the decade, Parity gave way to Sufficiency (minimally adequate capabilities, ranging from assured destruction to lesser responses); then to Essential Equivalence, which accepts asymmetries "provided they do not all favor one party"; then to an ill-defined Countervailing Strategy, which, it is said, may make it possible to "achieve assured destruction or more, without equivalence." Adequacy apparently is an infinitely expandable concept keyed to whatever we have.

In an attempt to counter the Soviet drive for military superiority, Washington tried with predictable lack of success to persuade the Kremlin, through SALT and MBFR, to reduce its base of military power—the very heart of its long-term strategy—to a level more nearly comparable to our own. It seems the US no longer plans to win either a nuclear or conventional war, but only to contain it and negotiate a settlement as soon as possible. But on what terms? And what political leverage will that leave us for situations short of war?

The USSR is, as it always has been and as Imperial Russia was before it, an expansionist power. Its only opposition is the US—the prime defender of Western values. Marxism-Leninism as practiced and espoused by the Soviet Union is thoroughly discredited throughout the world: The Kremlin has little remaining ideological clout in the continuing, inevitable competition between the superpowers. For the technically and industrially inferior Soviet Union, the competition now is for control of the raw materials essential to all industrial nations, and for denial of Western access to them. It is, in a very real sense, economic war the Soviets wage by maneuver, blackmail, threats—all backed by military might—or by force whenever the outcome appears clearly to favor the Kremlin.

The area of confrontation has expanded during the '70s from the Eurasian land mass to the entire globe, and Soviet military forces have been reshaped accordingly. The competition will intensify as the USSR, now self-sufficient in natural resources, becomes a net importer of oil and other strategic materials.

The US is less well prepared for this competition than it was at the start of the 1970s. That is the legacy of a decade soured by an unpopular war, political scandal, economic adversity, and leadership crippled through much of the period by self-inflicted wounds. For the military, especially, it has been a difficult and discouraging ten years.

While there is still time, we had better face up to the realities of a US position in world affairs that has been allowed to deteriorate for most of the decade. At best, the 1980s will be, as Wellington said of Waterloo, "a damned near-run thing."

—JOHN L. FRISBEE, EDITOR

BRUX LINSEY (VOICE OF DOOM)

71 Hudson Terrace Apts, Newburgh, NY 12550

Just received my copy of The New Bruxus Bulletin today, and what a terrific issue it was. I have to respond to several items which appeared, not the least of which is that this may have been the best single issue of any dipzine that I've ever seen. Congrats on your #50!

First off, I think you erred in crediting that cartoon about stacking units to me - I certainly don't remember contributing it. However, even if I didn't, I'm willing to take the honor for it if you want to give it to me, since that's exactly my sort of humor anyway.

I notice you have a practice of requesting standby orders from one person for two countries - simultaneously. I'm afraid that I quite fervently disagree with this, as it defeats part of the purpose of the game. By asking a player to submit standby orders for both Austria and Italy in the same game, how on Earth can one of the other players engineer a stab of one with possible help from the other? I guess I didn't state that very well (I'm composing as I type), but I think you'll see my point. It seems to me that when you do this, you're pretty much ignoring the fact that the players must negotiate with both A and I, and those negotiations cannot help but be hindered if one person is submitting both sets of orders.

You know, you're a bit harsh in your general criticism of 'pokey monthly' zines, as you've called 'em before. Certainly there's no reason NOT to offer two-week deadline games to those who want them, but the fast pace in 1979lid is in fact too telling on me at times - once I got my results just a couple of days before the next deadline, and I have NEVER in this game had time for a complete exchange of letters between the time I got results and the time I had to give my orders. I can understand your criticism of the 'monthlies that appear once every five to seven weeks', but you know as well as I that that just does not apply to some of them. True, I haven't been around that long, but I haven't ever seen Claw and Fang come out late, f'rinstance, or Why Me?. So I think you ought to amend your blanket criticism to cover only those to which it applies. To me, a good, reliable four-week zine is the best for playing, as two or even three weeks just is not enuf time for all the negotiating I'd like to do. Certainly, if VOD were ever going to appear late, there'd be a damn good reason, with advance notification to players if at all possible.

How many times is that article on Italy, by Dave Grabar, going to appear in the hobby literature? I believe this is the third time I've seen it. It is amusing, tho.

Your quiz of the Dip board took me maybe $1\frac{1}{2}$ or 2 minutes to do without looking at the board, and I got them all except #9. You said Warsaw; I guessed Munich. Actually, they're tied.

I loved your article on junk mail, and might even consider printing it myself if I ever find room for it. Good advice.

You asked for feedback on your policy of printing whatever garbage happens to land in your mailbox. Well, I think it's that very policy that makes your letter column (and zine) the best in the hobby. And if an occasional piece of baloney like that stuff about Boarman gets printed, well, at least you can expect some heated (and fascinating) replies. Keep it up, please.

The piece about Kelly and Verheiden was quite revealing, to say the least.

I totally disagree with Mark Berch when he says that your zine has an increasingly negative tone. I think your response to Kemper, for example, WAS quite appropriate. Constructive criticism is one thing, but that guy send you a bunch of shit, and deserved the response he got.

Here's a vote that you do type Gibson's letters before printing, as I for one find that writing so troublesome to read that this time around, I just didn't bother. I know, more work for you, but it is nice to be able to read the whole zine.

(continued next page)

Brux, conclusion

Oh, yeah, I see that Rod Walker has started comparing Boardman to Tretick, which of course is a tactic that Boardman has been using on Walker for some time now. My reaction to this is that it's counterproductive to our efforts to warn people about the REAL villian in this hobby - Tretick himself - and I hope Rod avoids stooping to that in the future just as I wish Boardman would cut it out too. I must say that I disagree with something else Walker said. He pointed out that Boardman had inserted an experienced veteran into an all-novice game after one of the original players had reached 16 centers. So what? By that time, you can bet that nobody in that game was a novice, by any stretch of the imagination. The game, I suspect, must have been going on for maybe two real years at that point. I'm currently running an all-novice game; you can bet that after said game reaches 1905 or so, I'm just not going to worry about the experience or lack thereof of any potential standbys. I view a novice game as a game in which the players have little or no experience AT THE BEGINNING; when 1905 rolls around, they're no longer novices in my book.

Something monstrously strange has happened concerning the first blind madman game; something that even you, John, aren't aware of (although I assure you that you'd, uh, go bananas if you knew!). To find out what it is, wait for my endgame statement. Or, if you're EXTREMELY perceptive, you may figure it out (but I'm giving too many hints).

Good to see in your zine review that you like VOD. I'll bet my letter column in #4 rivals yours.

Finally, please pardon the typing, as I know you're used to receiving letters from M.B. which tend to average 2.37 errors and cross-outs PER LINE.

((This issue's letters are just full of good cheer for everyone, aren't they? As for 79Iid, the only monstrously strange happening I could think of would be if Bill Shaffer wrote a letter; however, I doubt that even Iid would get THAT strange!

As for my "habit" of calling one standby for two countries, it is not a "Habit" at all. That was the only time it has ever occurred, and was a special case. 79H was all but over; the Austrian had a pattern of NMRing in the spring, as it wasn't worth a 10¢ card to him to order all his men to sit and hold while facing opponents that just sat and held; and if BOTH NMR'd, the FG alliance would win by default. So in that case, why waste the extra postage and efforts of TWO other players to standby? You're right as a rule, though.

As to the pokey monthlies, I have to stand my ground. I do not question that CLAW & FANG is as regular as clockwork, but that doesn't help the long weeks of waiting between the time one sends in orders and the time the zine comes out with results. When I enter a game, I want to play it, not sit around two months in order to find out that the WO1 Italian build was F NAP. The 10-day's are most fun; the 2-weeker's as in LIBERTERREAN are average, and those reliable and some not-so-reliable monthlies seem awfully slow to me. I can see why Shaffer asked that I run a SIX-DAY game! Were there 4 more local players, I'd do it, just for the fun of setting a hobby record. You're lucky in liking long deadlines, though; there are certainly enough such GMs willing to take you on.))

J.M.

PLUG: PINK DRAGON is the name of a zine you've seen excerpts from here in BB. It is published by Daniel Scott Palter, who will send you a sample if you write him at 123 Grove Ave #100, Cedarhurst, NY 11516. Regular Dip games plus outspoken filler, not the usual humdrum stuff at all. Mention BB and try a copy, or order one for some way out, leftwing friend.

To honor the 1979

Wild. Champion

Pittsburgh Pirates:

Powers + Pirates (a Diplomacy Variant by Curt Gibson, 1979 AD)

Most rules of standard Diplomacy apply, but these changes enter:

- ① An 8th power, the Piratic League (or Squad), has its supply centers 4: Erin, Tunis, Sicily, + Syria. It may 'build' only fleets, presumably army merchantmen it captures. The player's identity will be unannounced, but a GM will give the info to the pro-Italy if he waives his option (see ②).
- ② Italy may build a fleet Rome, W. 1900, or opt for known to Piratic identity.
- ③ Insert neut (non-s.c.) Basqia, a buffer between Spain + France, tapering to a point at its E. end (no Lyo coast), but extends to mid of So. coast of Biscay.
- ④ Turkey may move its fleets from B. to Aegean, or v.v., in one step, + may let any other power do the same, by stat. permission in a same season as the power so orders, or by imply, same in a support or convoy order (i.e., Con doesn't interrupt an extended convoy by (or such ally)).
- ⑤ Russia may build fl St. P. only on a So. coast. ⑧ N. Af. is a neut s.c.
- ⑥ Assignment of powers will be by lots drawn by a GM.
- ⑦ (Optional) With Spg. '01 orders to players vote whether to use a normal 'no time limit' or a set time limit or a flexible time limit. Their ballot will include their preferred set limit in case ⑥ wins the median length is used. If ⑥ wins, a re-vote on preferred limit occurs in a winter of even no. date. ⑩ (GM optn) Any power owning Dan or Swe may use to Kattegat as a strait like Gibr. but Ger. will need to announce both.

Notes -

The Piratic League lacks the historic realism of the other 7 powers of 1901 but only slightly. Ireland + Tunis + Sicily + Syria (w/ Liban) (+ Iraq etc.?) all had enuf rebellious urges or potential so that if a war had broken out all over Europe in 1901 they might have all striven for independence. The Bay of Tunis was theoretically independent. An Victoria died to go, we had a Fein etc., + taken out enuf ships for an Irish fleet. Only far-fetched feature Turkey's possess naval build capacity in 1901.

The P.L. does some unbalancing but does improve Austria's chances a much, and the added rules are all designed to correct the imbalances. It does leave Germany the strongest power except the Russ no. flt wld. Dip. If a Pir. h. seems too big + lucky, note that its broken up domain success. Now Italy is weakest, but know the P.L. identity can be a big asset.

John -

Conclusion of Variant, and notes.

Here's a variant ~~it~~ to be easy to introduce, because there are no radical changes in Dip. rules. All the changes were needed to balance ~~the~~ effects of ~~a~~ P.L. League.

I guess it has about ~~a~~ some degree of imbalance as standard Dip. I'd rate ~~the~~ chances of 'success' in ~~a~~ 2 games about this: (100% as)

Standard	P.L. + Pure
Fr. 100	G 100
R 90	A 90
E 80	R 90
G 75	E 75
T 75	T 70
I 70	F 65
A 50	P.L. 60
	I 55

The P.L. looks stronger than it is. I found, in play, to Sea Empire myself, in Davis' variant Small World I, ~~the~~ a scattered sea domain is pitifully weak. I've added rule #11 as a compensation, so if ~~a~~ G-M wants to be nice to his secret P.L. player he can announce, at start, ~~the~~ P.L. does have one ~~fleet~~ at sea already. I ~~thought~~ of this rule #11 too late to put into ~~a~~ original, so some copies (I've sent out 3) don't have it inserted. With ~~the~~ #11 I guess I'd raise P.L. success chance to 70, + lower those of E, F, I, + T c. 3pts-each.

Curt

LETTER

CURTIS GIBSON

(excerpt)

176 Lexington Ave #A1, NYC, NY 10016

... One thing was to comment on Tretick's ideology. When I read in a back issue the info from Berch or Kelly, that he claimed Austria had been played 1 season by Farid El Wailly, 2 things were apparent: his pro-Aus. was fictional, but instead of using just any old Arab name, he found (or invented) one that would say something cute ('the wily'); and his use of the typical Marxist (Red) action name Front du Liberation can thus be almost surely related to pro-Arab, anti-Zionist infection. I'd already decided he is Marxist, and that is a camp, or den, for all the paranoid, vinegar and pepper souled anti-social American kids. Abroad it is more a haven for really oppressed and wronged folk.

It's no sign of depravity per se when a guy loathes the Jews. Except in a few urban regions, most people see so few, they don't know any better. What they see are mostly merchants, rich and cynical money hogs. It's a way of life the Europe FORCED Jewry into, and centuries of it have warped their values. But that slimey Jewish way is only EXTERNAL filth really, and their TRUE, fine nature is now to be restored in two swift steps: 1. Put them back on the LAND, close to nature, and THE land God planned and DESIGNED FOR them ages ago, and even promised that they would be driven out of it to humble them AND eventually restored to it; 2. bring them back their Messiah, out of the celestial plane, when they seem to face annihilation at Armageddon and are realizing at last that the Christ they put to death WAS the Lamb of God, and how could they blame God for letting them now be ruined for 2000 years of rejection of him. Yes, in 2022 AD that Conquering Lion of Judah WILL come down, and smite the hordes of mighty Wild Emperor Anti-Christ at Armageddon. I've SEEN it.

((Marginal note)) Note that Zionist Sabras are as admirable as ANYONE, all the Jewish slime gone in one generation!

PS The serious lecture for the day being over, you can relax, while I eat a mid-night sandwich (was the Earl of Sandwich a night owl?), muenster on whole wheat with plenty of lettuce, and ramble on a while. It might be quotable, to keep Nazi Konrad Baumeister happy.

A famous German intellectual of the 1800s said "Every nation got the kind of Jews it deserved". This is simply a universal law of birth planning by the celestial dept

Gibson, cont'd

for incarnating spirits, but was conspicuously true with Jewry because they generally tried to assimilate to their adopted nation, and this produced a lot of instructive results that revealed the nation's characters. But, since Jewry is the Virgoan tribe (Benjamin) of Israel, in Germany, a Virgoan nation, assimilation was overdone. Whatever bad traits the Germans had, the Jews copied them too, and one of these being arrogance and contempt for other cultures, the Jews turned the Germans really sour on them! It was a monstrous joke that got out of control and caused the world's 'greatest' war.

When I read of Jews still celebrating (?) the horrors of the 'holocaust', I wish they could get a bit of historical perspective, and see that it was the best thing that could have happened to their race (I don't regard Jews as a religion) (a Jew is a Jew even if he's an atheist) (in the Western world they try to insist they're a religion, because here religious freedom is almost a fetish, and Jews see it as their safest policy). By cutting off that huge branch of the tree, whose obnoxiousity of character had given all Jewry a stench in the nostrils of the world, the Nazis did JEWRY a most historic and VITAL favor. I wonder if Jehovah and Satan will ever be able to settle the question of which one deserves the credit! ((a section on solitaire & variants follows, then)) ... I never played any solitaire until about 1961. V. Babikoff (the puzzle expert) showed me Yukon. It's my first love, and my other 6 wives all had to reform to suit me, but not Yukon dear!

If I wasn't stuck down in this slum of Puerto Ricans and dopes, etc., I'd have a nice gaming club, and simultaneous solitaire would be a main feature, and of course Dip, Goh ((?)), Bulo, etc.

((Uh, thanks for a letter that ought to provoke some East Coast responses, I'm sure. And right at Hannukah yet...))

DICK MARTIN (RETALIATION)
(excerpt)

26 N Orchard Way, Rockville, MD 20854

Curtis Gibson has an interesting writing style. Another example of the cracked genius that makes America such an experience to live in.

((It can be interesting, as long as you're not the target of attack, as Konrad Baumeister has indicated. I disagree with Curtis on a lot of stuff, though not all by far, but the main things I like are his let-it-all-hang-out style, which is in such contrast to the usual fare; and second, the sheer outrageous nature of a lot of it. It does provide interest.))

JOHN LIPSCOMB (ASSORTED GARBAGE)
(another excerpt)

1201 Osler St, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7N0T8

I find Gibson's shorthand very easy to understand and wouldn't care if everybody used it. It's good to use for copying notes, etc.

((But from comments received, not everyone has as easy a time as you or I did in adjusting to it. More elsewhere this issue))

BOB OSUCH

3417 S Paulina, Chicago, IL 60608

Read with interest the letter from Mark Berch in BB#50. From your reply, I take it you didn't vote for Carter. I thought both you and Berch made some interesting points and would like to add my two cents worth.

On the subject of public drunkenness, drunks certainly can't be ignored, as you pointed out. Inebriated people do irrational things. The cops are only practicing preventive law enforcement by yanking these guys off the street. The number of people blown away in this city because some poor slob got a drunk pissed off is staggering. We all partake, even overindulge, every so often. The important thing is the ability to maintain. Or the inability.

On homosexuality, or your suggestion on repressing queers, I can't agree with you.

Osuch, cont'd

I can't speak for Okla City, but in Chicago, homosexuality is reluctantly tolerated. How would you go about repressing them? Put a category for "sexual preferences" on job applications? Or maybe put a tattoo on their forehead with "QUEER" written in bold black letters? Even in a socially acceptable scenario (gay bar), queers rarely do more than occasionally touch hands. I've yet to witness a public display of affection by a homosexual couple. I'm quite certain that most queers don't go around advertising their perverseness. Should we set up a panel of "homo judges" whose sole function would be to decide the verdict of those who are brought before them? And what if the defendant is found guilty? It smacks of the extermination of the Jews. We could round them all up, tell them we're taking them for a shower (they'd love that!), gas them, then we could use their skin for lampshades, their bones and teeth for a soap base, their hair for human hair wigs, etc., etc....

In Chicago, the gay community keeps to themselves & maintain a relatively low profile. They don't seem to bother too many people. I've never been propositioned, and I'm not that ugly. I believe these people have innate human rights, one of them being their sexual preferences. As long as they leave me alone, they can go ahead & rub dicks all they want. I bet you'd shit if it were ever revealed the names of all the homos in America. Some very famous names, from all walks of life would be uncovered.

Well, I've said enough on that subject, and since your thinking it, no, I definitely am not queer, nor have I ever had a homosexual encounter. Really! If you don't believe me, ask Frost. I even have a girl friend.

PS What's the situation in Oklahoma City? I can only talk from my frame of reference. What did you actually have in mind in stamping out queers?

((Your postscript has more to it than the meat of the letter. It is unfortunately all too symptomatic of current-day America that anyone proposing that any action, or active policy of really acting, instead of just handwringing and paper-shuffling, strikes you as so far removed from the norm that it is comparable to using "their skin for lampshades". Apparently deciding what we want and actively working to really achieve the stated goals is so far removed from our usual practice that it smacks of overt facism. Too bad.

But as I was saying, your postscript does state a legitimate question, and deserves an answer. I have no blueprint for "stamping out queers" or creating "homo judges": more bureaucracy, or concentration camps, would not be my response. What I would do is NOT go out of our way to make sure that queers are given the 'oppressed-minority' red carpet treatment that is in vogue with the liberals for whoever is the current favorite minority, whether blacks, chicanos, women, Indians, queers, or whatever. In fact, I disagree with this policy of having favorite-oppressed-minorities at all; homos are just the current example. A specific example of this—call it "benign neglect" if you will—would be to investigate complaints against the police when they come up, rather than going around looking for cases of queers who can be provoked into complaining about the police on TV. I would, for instance, assume that the police are innocent until proven guilty, rather than applying it solely to the scum they drag into the stationhouse.

I have no idea of what the situation in the OKC gay community is, nor do I much care.)) *JM*

ERIC KIRCHNER
(excerpt)

9036A McConnell St, Laughlin AFB, TX 78840

I couldn't believe #50! Great! I enjoy BB more than any other 3 zines put together, even though you piss me off so much I hardly even bother to reply anymore.

I have to rebut your ridiculous statements on foreign cars, though. I have a Toyota Celica with 39,000 miles and not one problem worse than a blown fuse. Oops, I take it back—the driver's window jumped the track once and cost me \$15 to fix. Terrible.

Why do you insist that Americans should tote 4000 lbs of gas guzzling T-bird with them wherever they go? You hint at two reasons, power and maintenance. Well, I admit it—I'll bet that, flat-out, your T-bird could get to 55 mph a whole 1.5 seconds, maybe 2, faster than my car. And it will do 120, where I can only do 95. Awful, isn't it?

The maintenance part I've already answered—if you need more evidence, check out Consumer Reports for auto maintenance records. They update them yearly.

To each his own—my gas bills are about \$30 a month. I'll gladly give up a few

Kiechner, conclusion

superfluous horsepower and 1500 lbs of extra metal for the savings in gas.

One last thought—there is such a thing as a compromise. You could have gotten a Ford Fairmont or something similar and get 75% better mileage, but still have a decent amount of "full size comforts".

((Wow, I sure seem to be on everybody's bitch list this time! I say let the cops deal with the perverts unhindered, and am compared to Nazi concentration camp bosses. Next, I point out the absurdities in these Japanese windup cars, and Eric says "Why do you insist that Americans should tote 4,000 lbs of gas guzzling T-bird with them wherever they go?" Come off it, folks. If you don't want to answer my points raised and just want to make some point of your own, go ahead and say so, but please don't bother accusing me of forcing every American into a Thunderbird, or a Konzentrationslager.

Now, to the issue of these foreign excuses for automobiles. I'm sure that if all Americans centered their lives around going to and from the base facilities and then back to base housing after filling the tank at the BX gas station, \$30 a month and a tiny Jap car would be more than adequate for fuel/transportation. Mercifully, such is not the case for the vast majority of Americans. I travel a LOT of miles each week, not just going from base housing to the squadron area to the BX and maybe offbase to buy a pizza or something. Next, the roads I spend half my commuting time on are not service-maintained, nor are they the excellent quality that most Texas roads are. (I always enjoy travelling in Texas: there the access roads are often of better quality than the Interstates here). Entering an Interstate in Texas, even with an under-powered or non-powered Japanese product, makes little difference; here, where the ramps are simply angled intersections with a curb yet, forcing you to 'blast' into 60 mph traffic from a virtual stop in many cases, those windup cars just won't hack it. All this ignores the presence of the fairy-cowboy pickup trucks, of course. Down there, though, you might substitute 'wetback' for 'cowboy' and get the same picture. My Thunderbird is like an atomic bomb: it's first mission is defense/deterrence, but come the day that fails and one of these assholes ignores that "city-folk's stop sign", I have the advantage of knowing that I won't just dent his door, but rather, can count on at LEAST an "exchange" result. It will be the LAST stop sign that hick ignores. Such considerations may count for little on base, of course, but they do count in the world.

As for gas prices, I'm paying better than double what you quote, but conversely, I'm certain that you don't have to commute 22 miles each way to work each day, even ignoring all other travel. But for bad weather, strong winds, bad roads, and family travel to relatives or whatever, the Bird is well worth the extra gas money. I can't argue top speeds, as I rarely get a chance to do over 80; I think that's largely irrelevant. What would be relevant is whether Consumer Reports considers down time due to "awaiting parts from Yokohama", or just considers what goes wrong with the things aside from any other considerations. John Leeder was able to get his going again, and just had to do without one front seat until a replacement could be had. Would the weeks of driving as a cripple count in a Consumer's Report review? My Bird has had a couple of flat tires in its 42,000 miles, and one of the floor mats is wearing out. Other than that, it is easily the finest car I've ever had—or, unfortunately, apparently ever WILL have. Even if Fairmonts had existed in 77-78 when I got this one, there is little compromise. Even American windup cars are sticker priced at \$6000 and up. Why not go a few hundred more and get a real automobile? Brand new ones advertised today claim 18 mpg govt estimates, meaning about 16 in reality. My Bird will get 13 city, 18+ highway, even with the air conditioner going. The difference is a bargain, I know. Claudine's cousins bought a Toyota, and got stuck with 3 ring jobs the first 6000 miles. (Warranty got the first two, 5000 mile limit). Naturally, they sold it at a loss and got an American car instead. I can learn from these other folks mistakes, Consumer Reports notwithstanding. But for tooling around base, you may be right, a windup car is good enough.))

J.M.

46 pages! Well, that demands a critique/personal letter for publication. I like to do that sometimes, so help your letter column a little and to show my appreciation for your zine. I'm using my good ribbon, even. The height of luxury.

First, your cover. I like the horizontal lettering better (IE. having the whole title on one line.) You know, the other one you sometimes use.

You know, it took me about four issues before I ever realized what those things above your notes were! I just don't appreciate modern art.

Oh ghod, not Brawner too. I thought he was going to turn out pretty well, too. Ah, piss on it; if Lee Kendter lets the worm (Tretick) in WM?, anything's possible. And don't worry about Kovalcik-he averages about one issue out every four or five months, I think.

I know how you feel about cheap Jap cars. Ask me or Andy Lischett about the joys of owning a Honda CVCC, and you'll get no reply.

The Klan and Nazis suck out loud. If anyone out there is a member of the Klan he should let me know so I can tell him what a bunch of assholes the Klan is. Why HATE a man because his skin's black? I'm a WASP (to the letter; part German, part English, confirmed Lutheran, blond and blue-green eyed), and some of the 79lid press that really revulsed me flipped shit at someone named Guajardo. I know you, out there, who wrote that bit, and I think that you stooped terribly low.

After hearing about Baordman in his letters and DD#29, I'm beginning to agree with Rod. J.B. is a toad.

Mark Berch's letter sent as comments on #47 couldn't be more correct. Gemignani is a dumb hosebag

, the 79lid press is rotten, and I wasn't sure of how to pronounce your last name. I think a BP limit, such as my 12 line limit as stated in TB#9 is the right way to go.

Eric Kirchner: was I the guy you once mentioned in connection wiht scorching letters? I'm not an AF officer, but I think I will be someday (ROTC), and my uncle started out in 1970 at age 20 with no money and a knocked-up wife. He's now got a degree in engineering, and is a captain. It's a great way to go.

Grusome's article also appeared in TB#7, slightly altered. Good satire.

Answers to Quiz: 1) Lon and Tun. 2) Russia. 3) England. 4) Edi/Lpl, Par/Bre. 5) Turkey. 6) Alb and Naf. 7) Mar/Spa/Por. 8) Try about 3.5 times as many land provinces. 9) Mun, 5. It takes a GM...

I think I'll start doing that with junk mail. I might start actually looking forward to seeing my mailbox full of shit.

Perfectly good press? G-rated? Hey, I swore once in TB. And anyway, why be disgusting in TB when I can do it in other zines?! You know, Bob, you could have told ME first that you were leaving the nest this summer. Just for that, when you do leave, I'm going to submit an article on profanity, and its use in the everyday English language, highlighted by a list of good locker-room words I learned from being a lineman and also swear words in French, German, Japanese, and Spanish. John, you call one word of discarded cursing a wheelbarrow?

I support your fast-paced games. If people don't like to play in them, it's not as if there aren't any 4-week inchworms around with openings.

(Uproar of laughter) This Berch-Michalski exchange re. homos is great. I half agree iwth you both. Homosexuality should not be in any way public. I don't see Rod Walker as a 'queer bastard', but I favour the spyholes over it public places. In his own house, a faggot can hump whoever and whatever he wants. But not in a public place. If some faggot cop is frisking me and actually grabs something, I'll hit him as I would anyone else. But if it can stay out of the open, and not influence other people, who cares if the Village People all have sore assholes and fart whooshe!! It's only hurting them, not me. Time to put in a different page.

Kelley, conclusion

San Francisco? Isn't that where all the faggots and liberals come from, right there?

And now we find a letter from Rod. Mr. Boardman, do you hate me too, because I am a Lutheran? Well, I'm mighty proud of being one, and can worship whoever I please, and can tell you and anyone else who tries to tell me I can't, or that I can't pray in class if I feel like it, to shove it sideways. I'm proud of my God (which is also Rod's). So there. You can go to hell (literally) if you are bound and determined to, but I hope you don't, and I'm quite sure Rod agrees with me here, because he's not a hate-motivated person, like you. Your zine is very good to play in, I know from the lips of the best (Berch, Walker, Michalski, etc.), but you as a person sometimes really bite the moose. Did you actually villify Walt Buchanan, whose mild-manneredness and general desirability have made him known to even I, who arrived on the scene near the end of his hobby participation? I give up.

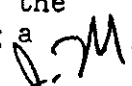
I like 'zines recieved', but how come I'm ~~nowhere~~ nowhere to be found on it? Don't you recieve your trade copies? FSF, MM, C, and DD there are all recommended.

You realize, of course, that if I was still thermofaxing my masters for TB at the school, I would have printed all that Japanese, as press. I love these free gifts. In fact, in an enclosed personal letter, I have an idea for their use...

In total, tnBB#50 was absolutely super. It put me into a good, mirthful mood, with all the hilarious things in it. And the best thing of all was your parts, where you used that natural style to make tnBB what it couldn't be without your editorial touch. Happy 50th issue, and a Merry Christmas to Claudine, you, Brian, and your little girl too.

All the Best,


John

((Thanks for a nice letter among some in this crowd. Regarding Zines Received, the column was about 6 weeks old, and represented only those zines received during a particular 2-week period. What arrived then was purely a matter of chance.)) 

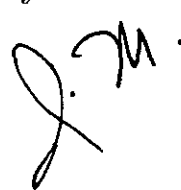
JOHN BOARDMAN (GRAUSTARK)

234 E 19 St Brooklyn, NY 11226

Dear John,

12 December 1979

First it's a batch of groundless accusations from Brannan, and then it's another branch of equally groundless ones from Walker, together with his preposterous T-shirts. John, I am finished with you and your stupid scandal sheet. If I answer one set of accusations, you seem to come up with another idiot who has a fresh set. You'll continue to get Graustark as long as 1979HI is running, but I do not want to see another copy of Brutal Bulletin or any other ragfull of lies that you choose to publish. You might note incidentally, that Walker claims I ran IDA when Tretick was first in Dippy fandom. Edl Birsan was head of ~~the~~ IDA then. As for the "Blake" business, Konrad has given a better answer to that than I could manage. And the rest of it is some Walker syllogism: "John doesn't like Rod, Rod is a gay Catholic, therefore John hates gays and Catholics." You can waste time with this if you like, but I don't want to know about it.

((I'm sorry to see you taking it that way. I think that will lend more credence to the charges, but I will respect your wishes.)) 

Finally,



ANOTHER TRETICK DUPE STEPS FORWARD

Letter from:

Richard Kovalcik, Jr. TETRACUSPID
Apt. 40
1001 Murrieta Boulevard
Livermore, CA 94550

December 8th, 1979

I just received the excerpt from Brutus Bulletin, Number 50 which you sent me along with the note you wrote on it. Even though I am very busy with work at this point, I feel that I must answer your false allegations immediately to set the record straight. I trust that you will print this letter in your zine as my rebuttal.

Yes, I have opened a Diplomacy game with Bernie Oaklyn (editor of Le Front de Liberation du Diplomacy) as guest-gamesmaster in my zine, the Tetracuspide. However, if you would have taken the trouble to look into the facts, you would have found out the following:

1) Every player has the choice of what game he signs up for in the Tetracuspide. No one will be forced to play in the game that Bernie Oaklyn will guest-gamesmaster. Please don't claim that innocent people might just happen to choose Oaklyn's game. I have discussed the Oaklyn / Tretick controversy in my zine before. Anyone who gets it knows that some people think that Bernie Oaklyn is Buddy Tretick. They also know that I do not agree.

2) I have enclosed a copy of my house rules. My house rule number two clearly states that at most one player from each of the following areas will be allowed in the same game: upper and lower New York State, northern and southern California, the remaining 48 states, the provinces of Canada, and foreign countries. After talking with Bruce Linsey on the phone last week, I decided in addition to not allow anyone from Maryland in Bernie Oaklyn's game. Now, since all of the "fake players" that Bernie Oaklyn is accused of using come from Maryland, how is he going to stuff this game with "fake players" (assuming that he ever stuffs games with "fake players")?

3) I will be appointing all standbys and closely watching Bernie Oaklyn's game, as well as all of the other guest-gamesmastered games in the Tetracuspide. If he does anything improper, I will take over as gamesmaster of his game. I have never been accused of misrunning a game before, so I see no reason why I would want to allow someone else to misrun a game right under my nose and give me a bad reputation.

In light of these facts, I find your allegations nothing more than very disturbing lies. I trust that most other people will too.

In the United States, a person is innocent until proven guilty by an impartial jury of his peers. I don't think that Bernie Oaklyn has been given a fair trial yet, much less proven guilty. Therefore, I think that most of what has been going on in this matter is in very poor taste.

As I have said before in the Tetracuspide, I have seen no concrete evidence against Bernie Oaklyn. I have tried on several occasions to confirm some of the evidence (that Buddy Tretick has an unlisted phone number at Bernie Oaklyn's address), and have found no listing for Buddy Tretick at that address. As far as I am concerned, the fact that the phone company will tell you when someone has an unlisted phone number disproves that piece of evidence and throws doubt on the integrity of the person or persons who fabricated it. As for all of the other evidence, I have neither the time nor money to check it out.

Since Bernie Oaklyn has not been found guilty in a fair trial yet and since I know that some of the evidence against him is wrong, I will give him the benefit of the doubt and give him a chance to guest-gamesmaster a game in my zine. I have also recently decided to sign up for a game in his zine as soon as time permits (probably after January) and see how he does as gamesmaster there.

I urge other people to do the same and give Bernie Oaklyn the benefit of the doubt. I am not saying that everyone should sign up for a game in his zine. I am saying that people should examine for themselves the games that Bernie Oaklyn is running now and the game he may guest-gamesmaster in the Tetracuspide and see how he does as a gamesmaster. Your total condemnation of Bernie Oaklyn and your cutting of trade with me shows that you have no desire to do this. It is clear that you have no desire to continue gathering evidence and do things according to the democratic process, because you have already pronounced Bernie Oaklyn guilty of cheating the players in his games and myself guilty as an accessory. I hope that most of the Diplomacy hobby is more open minded than you are. It would be a shame to lose my traders and subscribers because I have the guts enough to stick up for the ideals this country is founded on and give Bernie Oaklyn a chance. I hope that there are people out there who are willing to sign up in the game that Bernie Oaklyn will guest-gamesmaster in the Tetracuspide or one of his games in his own zine and give him a chance. If not, his game in the Tetracuspide will just never start and he will probably be forced to fold his own zine. That would be very sad.

Enclosed you will find a check for \$4.00 for a subscription to your zine starting with issue number 50. I feel that if you are not willing to trade with me, I must subscribe to keep track of the things you will undoubtedly say about Bernie Oaklyn, me, and others in future issues.

Yours truly,

Richard Kovalcik, Jr.
Richard Kovalcik, Jr.
Editor of the Tetracuspide

((Once again P. T. Barnum is proven correct.

Richard, "Oaklyn" was proven to be a fraud, liar, cheat, and thief way back in the late sixties; the only recent developments are that 1. He has reappeared, 2. He is using the pseudonym "Bernie Oaklyn", and 3. A lot of new people like yourself have come along and have not yet been burned.

Everyone who hears the charges for the first time does just what I did: you tend to side with the defense. But once the facts are shown, even staunch allies such as Ozog admit they were wrong. The only difference in your case is that you close your eyes to the evidence. Why believe people like Boardman or Davis, when "Bernie" has told you he's not Tretick? Why believe Berch or Kelly, when you can listen to "Bernie"? Just because "Bernie" got kicked out of Horton's CLAW & FANG for improper conduct means nothing when you have "Bernie's" own word that he doesn't do that sort of thing. Don't mind that FRONT itself is an absurdity, or that the players you find listed (other than his son James Alan) will almost to a man denounce the incompetence of his GMing; not when you have "Bernie" in there assuring you it is all one big anti-American conspiracy, formulated by a group of subversives to stamp out his God-given right to fleece and cheat to his heart's content.

I will tell you what I told one "H. D. Bassett": when you pull your head out of your asshole and realize you've picked the wrong horse, write and let me know. There is much satisfaction in getting the letters I have, from people telling me they (too) have seen the light, and know "Bernie" for the bastard he is. I will be very interested in seeing how long it takes for you to figure that out. Until then, my warning stands. Your actions have shown you to have very poor judgement, and to then 24 games and sponsor known crooks deserves at the least, the warnings I have and shall issue.))

John Michalski

Dear John,

nyc - 11/16/1979

This is on the back of a letter to -ed. It wd make do as an article, + since the subject is one of the most debated in recent yrs it wd be worthwhile to print it in Brud Bull. It shd sett the back of most who wd be tempted to sound off half-baked ideas re over-pop. It's not overpop. the theatre, but the wrong kind of popul. i.e. the mobil vulgus, + the demagogues who ride them into power, + the one vote per man system, which gives the power!

After reading of the wild oats the In Boardman sowed not many yrs. ago I can see we may need a more flexible system of ban on unethical GM's than I proposed. In B has well compensated for his early mischief, + our buddy Tretick may yet, too. So I propose the IDA have all its Puber members post, in a bold type or boxed display, each ^{issue} month, a dual list, the 1st part headed Voted Rascals the 2nd headed Voted Irresponsible, + by each GM's, or puber's, name in each list wd be given the vote count of the IDA council re blacklisting him, as 6/4, or 8/2. Tretick, e.g., myt be voted rascal 6/2, this year, but by good behavior for 1 yr. myt be into the Irrespon. list, + in another year no longer listed. But to maintain it the all gives benefit from IDA aid wd, every issue, clearly show all who had the bad marks. And of course none blacklisted wd be allowed plugs or game openings mention in any member zine, at least not those in the rascal list. And all such votes must be by secret ballot.

See in BB#49 how poor Osuch got clobbered in the Canal Dreg game, I wonder if it's a case of name associatr. Recent exposure of Ogog as a Tretick accomplice cd have put the name Osuch into suspicion from its similarity, not as suspected identical person, but because we do tend to recognize the similar words + similar names + similar faces are all cases of a real similarity, while in most such associatr the precise point of their similarity is unclear. If either of these were a common name we wd be less suspicious, but when both are very rare, as in this case, it is arresting. An even more startling coincidence occurs in the 2 names Tretick + Tretik, with the latter a player in many Granstarh games. They are presumably Ger. + Czech variants of the same name.

A word re my feind friend K. Bumsteer (I arrived 1st, so claim to be the Sioux + let K B be Custer). It does take a 'good guy' + a 'villain' to entertain the wrestling fan crowds. And figure out which is which in stump one. E.g., for 90 yrs. the sentiment had been pro-Custer, till a well researched book came out c. 15 yrs. ago showing clearly that Custer was the villain, the Sioux innocent. C Gibson

NYC - 10/28/1979

Controversy swirls around the world overpopulation threat, + even the boggy of future world famine. I have 4 points to make, + to dispel a lot of the nonsense, like the sinister socialist 'zero pop. growth' idea.

I. That world famine boggy is pure absurdity, because when any region or group begins to out-numerate its food supply it automatically reduces its sexual urges and its reproductive capacity proportionately!

II. Overpopulation tends strongly to excess of low quality, unintelligent, undisciplined, unloved + unlovable (comparatively) types. A world pop. of 1 billion such wd be a hell, constant violence + hate + cruelty everywhere, the weaker always trampled or enslaved by the strong. A world pop. of 20 billion as intelligent as the Chinese wd still be healthy + happy. Put that ^{nearly} vegetarian race in U.S. + Canada and it wd easily grow to 2 billion where we have 250 M.! So one main factor in solving world overpopulation must be genetic control, with high grade parents having 10 children, + low grade 1, not the reverse as now!

III. There is no real world food shortage. Little Java, smaller than any U.S. state west of the Miss. has 50 million, + not screaming miseries like most in India. If we went vegetarian we cd feed 5 billion here. White spuds wd some day turn the world into a paradise. Gen. Washington's army lived on them + cd outmarch the well-fed British 2 Miss. to 1. A woman in England went to all-spud diet at 80, + lived to be 120, + on her 100th b.d. climbed London Tower to show she was no 'feeble old lady'. And many U.S. farmers get 400 bu. per acre whenever they really try to! Bananas do much the same for the tropics. And for greens, why, the milkweed, figweed, + purselane goes to waste 99.9% in U.S., a million tons a yr. of better than spinach quality.

IV. Without developing our latent inedia we can feed 50 billion on this planet. But how about inedia development? Most assume its cases of inedia, like the famous Therese Neumann, are all of supernatural basis like hers. Not so. As Reason Skarin + his wife Annalee (author of 'Ye Are Gods' + other books), of Salt Lake City, fully demonstrated, ordinary people can develop inedia by concentratin on spiritual life. When they were translated onto the celestial plane (just like Enoch), c. 1950, they had bn down to 'a prune a day' diet, yet in full flesh + vigor (like Therese N. who also lost a lot of blood every Fri. via her stigmata).

Curtis L. Gibson, Galahadian Gnost.

[This deserves to be printed uncondensed, as I wasted no words, + you shd be proud to have people all over the place say "listen to this wonderful heresy - I saw in the Monitor, mind you!"]

Sent to Chri. Sci. Monitor, Boston

my add.: c/o A-1, 176 Lexington Ave
NYC 10016

HARPER OIL COMPANY

Internal Correspondence

Subject Micro-wave Oven

Date December 17, 1979

To All Personnel

From George Mitchell *gm*

Copy
to

*(SOME ACTUAL
MEMOS THAT HAVE
COME AROUND LATELY)
J.M.*

As most of you know, we have recently obtained the services of a micro-wave oven. It is located in the kitchen area of the accounting department on the 10th floor. Please use it wisely or it can disappear as quickly as it appeared. Just follow the following simple suggestions:

- (1) Read the instructions before use.
- (2) Do not operate the oven on hear-say evidence.
- (3) Do not warm your hands in it.
- (4) Do not dry your clothes in it.
- (5) Do not dry a pet, such as a cat, dog or Earl in it.
- (6) Avoid having large groups such as the OU band in for lunch as the oven is for Harper Oil personnel only.

Your kind attention to the above matters will be deeply appreciated.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

HARPER OIL COMPANY

Internal Correspondence

Subject Christmas Party

Date December 17, 1979

To All Personnel

From George Mitchell *gm*

Copy
to

Your response to the Christmas party has been great. We have an estimated 65 people and/or geologists planning to attend.

It is not too late to make your reservations with Judy; however, time is running out as we must have your reservation by Wednesday.

Bureaucratic Blunders

Jane Fonda's radical husband Tom Hayden has received \$82,000 from the Department of Energy to run a solar energy program, Western SUN. Actually, though, Hayden is using these tax dollars to build up his political machine.

Hayden, whom Gov. Jerry Brown appointed to head Western SUN, has channeled jobs and subcontracts to members of his own leftwing political action group, Campaign for Economic Democracy. Says Mark Vandervelden, a lobbyist for the environmentalist organization Friends of the Earth, "It's a solar pork barrel. He's accountable to no one. He's hiring all his friends." Another pro-solar lobbyist, Alan Mirviss of SUNRAE, comments that some of Hayden's staff people "don't have much solar expertise," and explains, "They are basically people Tom feels confident will not stab him in the back."

(submitted by Harold B. Johnson)

A New York artist wants to shake hands with every garbage man in the city and film the encounters, at a cost of \$3,000 in taxpayers' money. The National Endowment for the Arts made the grant

to housewife Mierle Ukeles for her project "Touch Sanitation." Explains Mierle, "I want people to make a separation between the product, garbage, and the human beings, sanitation workers. . . . In the tradition of contemporary art, the artist has the right to call anything art."

(submitted by Roger Cook)

A family of Vietnamese refugees is being evicted from a federally subsidized Chicago apartment because of an absurd HUD regulation requiring that every child have his own bedroom in federally supported housing.

Nghi Hoang, his wife and their eight children had been making do with a three-bedroom flat in a low-rent housing project while looking for a bigger apartment. Then HUD changed its rules to require a bedroom for the parents and one for each child in buildings that it helps subsidize through mortgage guarantees.

The building manager decided that finding a nine-bedroom apartment for the Hoangs was hopeless and ordered them out.

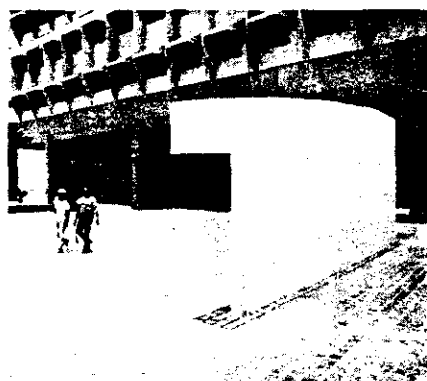
(submitted by Andrew Ervin)

CETA has awarded a grant to former prostitute Margo St. James's Victoria Hull Foundation. The foundation, named after a prostitute who ran for President in 1872, wants to legalize prostitution. CETA is paying a 16-year-old Burmese girl \$2.90 per hour as an office worker.

The Victoria Hull Foundation gets most of its revenues from its annual Hookers' Ball.

(submitted by Mrs. Gloriann Hopkins)

A \$113,000 Department of Agriculture study on children's clothes has come up with a startling finding: Mothers don't like to iron.



What's 12 feet high, 26 feet long, weighs 7,000 pounds and costs \$65,000? Another public-buildings sculpture, commissioned by the General Services Administration and paid for by the taxpayers. "Right Turn on White," made of aluminum covered with 11 coats of paint, stands in front of the Strom Thurmond federal office building in Columbia, S.C.

Explains sculptor Barbara Najna, "I was interested in creating an implied understanding of being contained in an expanded reality of interior and exterior space." Now you understand, don't you?

(submitted by Ronald C. Mahaffey)

While the government begs Americans to save gasoline, its own mammoth fleet of autos—the world's largest motor pool—keeps right on guzzling gas. Last year, government vehicles traveled 3.3 billion miles—10.7 per-

cent more than the year before—and used 320 million gallons of fuel. In the past five years, miles traveled by federal vehicles rose 21.2 percent, compared to 13.4 percent for the general public.

