

JAN 5 1980

# The BRUTUS BULLETIN

## ET TU, BRUTE

The BRUTUS BULLETIN is a newsletter of postal DIPLOMACY brought to you by John Michalski, Rt 10, Box 526-Q, Moore, Okla 73165. Subs are available at 12/\$4, and there are openings in a 14-day deadline game at \$2 plus sub or \$3 withOUT sub; and openings in the 4th Ten-Day-Deadline hobby special under Guest gamemaster Jack Frost, RR 4 Box 138B, Lockport, IL 60441 for \$4 flat fee. Jack accepts pref lists, and each has about 3 spots left, give or take 1 or 2 or....

I wish to apologize for being so early again, and with too big an issue to boot, but the response to #51-52 was so great that I will probably be forced to OMIT THE GAMES from this issue simply to clear the deck of all the material that has come in! My thanks to the readers for caring enough to show such interest, as it isn't every Dipzine that has to run virtual extra issues just to handle the material. On the other side of the coin, some folks might seem to be hogging the limelight, as Mark Beach fills 4 pages here and Curtis Gibson comes close as well, with Mike Mills having 3, etc. So, as a special treat, I promise you that NEXT issue, no matter what ELSE is in #54, there will be NOTHING from Berch or Gibby, fair enough? Also, I will again try to give you a rest between issues and keep BB more to size, but we've heard that before, so what the heck. Still, of my 53 issues, 3 or 4 of them HAVE been only 6 sheets or so. I can almost remember their numbers.....

From the heading, you can perhaps tell that ol' John has finally gotten around to seeing STAR TREK, the movie. (Don't want to confuse you or leave you thinking I saw STAR TREK the record, or STAR TREK the T-shirt, or...) More on the reverse.

NEWS: Mercifully, none. I think the Agostas have a new address, but I must confirm it first. I have the game openings above; but other than that, all the hobby news you'd want to see will wait until I take this issue home for collating and mailing, at which time all hell will break loose. It always does.

SUBS EXPIRING or EXPIRED! If you are on this list, your sub is going with this issue, or gone already. Please check: Kirchner, Becker, McMahon, Baumeister, Brown, Guajardo, Palter, Katz. You are reminded that subs are optional to play, so if you're in a game and don't really want to extend your sub, that's your privilege. You will still receive your results, all press, and endgame statements, if any.

SPEAKING OF WHICH, good ol' 79H endgame statements are AGAIN put off another issue, because I don't have them typed up, and can't wait, as I'm already too near the 2 oz limit.

NEWS I FORGOT: Ron Brown of MURDRIN MINISTERS, is a proud new father; Jack Brawner of FLYING DUTCHMAN has AGAIN changed his address, and I don't have the new one here, so all I can say is 1. it is in St Petersburg, FL (on purpose?) 2. I'm glad OU did flatten FSU in the ORange Bowl as I predicted, and 3. what kind of a restaurant does Jack run that he has to keep one step ahead of the botulism suits with these constant COAs? His name on my mailing master must have 3 corrected labels pasted over it already.

OOPS! Correction on that STAR TREK business! I see the back is already spoken for, so ol' ST will be carried over to #54 along with all the rest of the goodies you're missing this issh. SOMEday I'll learn how to plan this thing, probably in my LAST issue!

DIPLOMACY is a game invented by Alan Calhamer and copyrighted by the Avalon Hill Company, Baltimore, MD 21214, in case you never heard that in your hobby career before.

## Winohol?

Conversion tables showing that gasohol—a mixture of 90% gasoline and 10% alcohol—are common, but the Department of Energy's latest announcement on "interesting energy facts" states that 1 million Btu's are equal to the energy in 1,000 cubic feet of natural gas, 80 pounds of coal, eight gallons of gasoline, or 240 bottles of table wine. Strictly on the basis of energy content, therefore, one gallon of gasoline is the equivalent of 30 bottles of wine.

— from ENERGY MANAGEMENT

JOHN'S NOTES will be skipped this issue. Instead, we have a campaign statement from Bill LaFosse, lifted from his TORONTO TELEGRAM. Bill is a candidate for President of the US, and his candidacy is endorsed by the BRUTUS BULLETIN. Bill LaFosse:



↑ John, that puny pile of units on page 3 of BB#50 might be all the units you can stack in London or Rome, but here in StP, well, take a look.  
(Contribution by Bill Becker)

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A dialogue to equals,

Friends, long has this country bragged about this non-existent equality which supposedly transcends all citizens, in all levels of society.

The audacity of this statement is further enhanced by the statistics I have sitting in my hand. In this consumer serving society which preaches equality but rewards status there is a shortage of the basic item essential for national contentment, I have discovered that 98% of all American households do not own a simple tuning-fork. To make this situation worse yet is the inability of the average citizen to obtain one, once he does discover their worth. Can you imagine the looks you would get if you wandered into the local 7-11 or Grandma's corner store and requested a 56 milli-second, double pitched tuning fork, think of it, they would consider you some kind of nut, wouldn't they?

This shortage must be eliminated, upon my election as President of the United States I would expropriate certain factories to manufacture these devices. Don't get me wrong, I am not in favour of expropriation, but we are talking about a matter of national emergency. I do have a few tuning forks kicking around myself, if you sign an affidavit promising to vote for me I will have one sent to you. This is NOT bribery of any sort. I am merely providing you with a simple human necessity and you in return are offering payment in any method I chose, and that you consent to in advance, this is a merchants right, do you agree? I have pink tuning forks (all soft rubber) for the ladies, and sky blue for the men. Remember when I am elected and you start to accumulate slaves, these tuning forks will no longer be essential, they will be absolutely a must, and it would be extremely dangerous not to own one, even the simple act of dressing oneself would be filled with terror. Don't be caught short.

More next time folks, the next president

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# LETTERS

TONY WATSON (RURITANIA)  
(responding to an inquiry in #50)

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I've only seen ALIEN twice, so it's not quite as ingrained on my memory as is STAR WARS. However, I think I can make a stab at Mr ?? (No name given on your preview excerpt from #50) questions. I too was puzzled by the self destruct sequence, having the same questions about what Rippley was up to. After watching the ending more closely the Second time, I came to this conclusion: Rippley initiated the self destruct mechanism and then made her way to the NARCISSIS (lifeboat). The alien was in the corridor (the sequence with the strobelight) between her and the lifeboat. Apparently Rippley's self preservation overrides her good judgement regarding the assured death of the alien. When she returns to the corridor, the alien is gone (having retreated in the lifeboat itself). Actually, the whole ending sequence is a bit confusing, and I have the feeling the filming was behind schedule and rushed. For example, as Rippley flees down a corridor, flame jets out from a distant doorway implying that someone else is using a flamethrower as well. The first time I saw the film, I thought it was Dallas. I doubted it was the alien. My only guess is it was some sort of oxygen purging process. The film also does not explain what happened to Dallas (lost in the air duct) and Bret's body. I read where this WAS left out of the movie because of time problems. What happened in the book is the alien used the bodies as hosts for new eggs, and the two hapless crewmen were being transmuted into the pods that lived in the cargo area of the derelict spacecraft found on the planet.

As for the second question, I can be of less help. I don't recall Mother ever stating that the signal could be a danger signal. I had the impression the computer maintained that it was a distress signal, and the NOSTROMO was required by regulation (as well as possible salvage bonus for the crew) to investigate. Rippley learned that the message might have been meant as a warning only after running it through another decoding process once the NOSTROMO had landed and it was too late; the landing party was already on its way to the derelict.

Hope I've been helpful. Fifth anniversary issue of RURI to follow tomorrow.

((It was pretty good, too. You have been helpful, and of course you've since seen that it was Mark Berch that asked. That's why I didn't mention it in the preliminary excerpt. The film sounds pretty gruesome, as well as haphazard. Between the comments and the previews I saw, maybe it's just as well that I passed it up. Many thanks for your response. ))

DAVE DITTER

563 N Maple Ave, Fontana, CA 92335

I see no correlation between your 77IC game (in CLAW & FANG) and my 77T game. In your game a standby simply took over a position and stabbed you. It's happened to me and you before and will again.

My beef is that two standby players entered a game at about the same time and one tried to hand the game over to the other. There was no ulterior motive, Verheiden wanted the win and Kelly was willing to supply him with it. Then to add injury to insult, when my counterattack stopped them, they tried to simply shrug it off and declare a 3-way draw.

What the hell, a 3 way draw is better than nothing. I'm sure they hoped to just end the game and boost their ratings. They tried, they failed, now let's just forget about it and nail the next poor sucker. All I'm trying to do is expose these players as they really are! Both Eric Verheiden and Ron Kelly are considered excellent players. Why should they resort to these type tactics? Since they have, one has to wonder how many other games they've won the same way, and how good they really are? That's all I'm trying to say. I would like to propose making up some sort of a list and refusing to play with people like this. Has this ever happened to anyone else in a game? If so, speak up and let's blackball the chumps.

((I see Steve's DRAGON & LAMB #39 pretty well backs you up; I wasn't aware of any

Response to Ditter, cont'd

pattern of cooperation between these two, although Steve McLendon seems to indicate he is. I don't think there is really much to be done about people historically helping one another whenever they meet, but perhaps airing whatever there may be to this will help.)) J.M.

CURTIS GIBSON (excerpts from numerous letters) A1, 176 Lexington Ave, NYC 10016

...Re rating standbys. What Ron and Eric did is a privilege no one should begrudge those who serve us all by saving so many games from bogging down by dropouts. We true blues have to concede all the sneaky stabbers their hit & run privileges, so when we help each other we are only doing what good men had better do, or die! The Brobdingnag ratings, giving plus points to final players and any minus pts to a power's original player., can't be faulted. BUT the 'yrs x supply center count average' is also a valid rating, to avoid QMs giving big favors to standbys, and the only ADEQUATE rating system would combine each man's Brob and s.c. count ratings.

The ((Life of Brian)) show is, from what I hear and still pics seen, putrid Hollywood flavored cockney humor, a spoof of religion. Not as downright evil as "J C Superstar", which was the true Hollywood spirit distilled, and in real contempt of Christ's greatness. But just a shitty escapade, what you'd expect of Irish hoodlums rather than the English. Well, Brian is an Irish name, so maybe it WAS a joke trying to tell us both how the Irish WOULD behave if given a Jesus role and how the IRA seems to want us all to regard its insane paranoia as messianic heroism. One or both (IRA less excusable than PLO).

((The IRA and it's views might seem different if you were in Northern Ireland and under the heel of the Orangemen, just as the Palestinians, driven off their own land, are less than impressed by Jewish biblical claims to lands they have lived, worked, and died on for the last millenium.)) J.M.

Another letter:

For amusement, look at Walker vs Boardman (the classic grudge match). What got me laughing, though, was Rod Walker calling queers 'gay'. I guess that crawled into slang c. WWII, and is so ridiculous, a merry gay guffaw arises whenever we pre WWI boys hear it. As for whether such sick souls should be allowed as police, its like the question of Prohibition, or celibate clergy: a ban is an error in overidealism. NYC mayor Koch is a queer, but a good mayor and was an even better congressman. Some queers degenerate to loathesomeness, and some don't.

I hope Konrad Baumeister was right re NYC, a good place to die. Some poor dope addict was shot here, almost next door, last night. Another was shot last month. Four men were shot (2 died) at the entry of this building one night a few years ago. Two of the best police in NYC were shot dead from behind on our corner, where the negro dope gang has held sway 20 years (by regular \$ to bad police). I've been held up twice at gun point nearby, and attacked by thugs three other times. Now that LIRR strike is crippling NYC awhile, and that Great American Breakdown is starting.

(Postscript) You could say you'll try a LITTLE more selection in publishing. But how were you to know Cartier is a liar?

I agree ridiculing Gemignani is poor sport, but my remark wasn't meant as ridicule, just comment on her Tretick belief. Maybe Boardman went too far, but 25 years of coping with student's egregious nonsense excuses his putting on a tone of contempt, it being the only thing that readily dampens the young gas holes. It becomes a prof habit, in this era when moron parents earn union wage above most prof salaries and shove their semiliterate kids into college to plague profs 9 months a year.

((I used to agree, before I went to college. From what I found, I must now take the side of the pothead bums. Not that I like them, but compared to what most "prof"s are like,

they make the barefoot bums look good! Well, maybe that's a LITTLE exaggerated, but not by much. Most of the Herr Doktors one finds (when you get a real prof instead of some grad student from Bangladesh who can't speak English well enough to work at Shakey's, so was given a class to teach instead) do little more than give the same old lecture each year, each class period, semester after semester, and deserve LESS than they now get, let alone the "union wage" that the student's plumber- or truck driver-father earns. Someone delivering newspapers, or Pepsi, or sweeping the streets EARNs a wage; some boob reading his 1974 lectures over and over is lucky to be paid as a "professional", especially when they only put in half a day, 3 days a week, 9 months a year. They should have to buff the school floors and empty the wastebaskets after class, if you ask me. Don't tell me this would eat into their "research" time: that would mean they'd have to mail in their gov't grant check instead of going to the bank personally with it, and their research is mostly researching what grant to apply for next year, more \$ and no results required, just like this year's.

Palter was, obviously, 'flavoring' his article, as it is not reasonable to expect Egyptians and Israelis to fight together anymore than it is for the US to field Einsatzgruppen; as another reader wrote, it is at least as much emotion as blueprint for conquest, and only a Boardman would fail to see that. Still, to worry about "inflaming" the Islamic world by using troops seems dumb when the Islamic world is less than inflamed by the presence of a Soviet corps in neighboring Afganistan. Scared shitless, maybe, but not inflamed. //Aside: it should be pointed out that Dan and Curtis wrote well before the Soviet buildup in Afganistan. JM// ))

More Gibson

B BULL # 51 came today. Aye! Why, of course your zine is the hub of the hobby! Jn Board Boardman knows, and I know, and you'll find out some day.

Not so funny as your being unaware, is to see vet publisher Kovalcik duped by Tretick. But, as I said, FRONT is all it would take to blind the typical Calif college kid (or recent grad), and make him feel all anti-Treticks were simply squares and righties hating "Oaklyn"/Tretick for being a leftist. On both coasts the student bodies of large universities are mainly pink (except in Dixie). And it takes from 2 to 20 years after college to sober up and see life without pink glasses, if you got the pink eye infection in college. Probably Buddy Oaklyn will help Kovalcik recover a bit faster. It's being a crime victim once or twice that turns people from vapid soft-on-crime to hard law-and-order types. ((Examples deleted)) As you say, MOST people refuse to learn by other's experience. Over 20 million in the US have seen the UFO craft of alien races, and yet about 50 million still won't believe!

Bruce Linsey writes " ...please stop ...writing to my players". What a timid soul! One must have squaked "that Gibson wrote to so and so in our game! For God's sake, Bruce, you've got to outlaw such interference!" So poor Linsey, instead of recognizing he's got a punk little crybaby on his hands, reacts like many a spineless teacher or parent, automatically assuming the plaint deserves attention. Correct response would have been, "Fellow, what ails you? Didn't you know this is a free country? Even a crook like Tretick has a right to write you, and if you don't like it, put his letter in the fire!" As tho my writing to someone interferes in a game!

It would be interesting to see the howls (in print) that would rise on the night air should I publish a "Julius Bulletin" in which I (with some more experienced aides like Kelly and Verheiden) rated players, as to the degree of ally-worthiness, and included (like BB) a lot of reader's letters re their experiences as allies of so and so etc. Now, that would be doing exactly what Linsey, and Burke before him, think to bar, but would be doing it in the cloak of OFFICE and POWER and IMPORTANCE that all you pubbers enjoy, while we non-pubbers are treated like 2d class citizens with rights ONLY at PUBLISHER'S SUFFERANCE! You are about the only pubber with an honest and courageous sense of individual rights and the equality of all, laymen and clerics alike.

((Also a xerox to avoid having to set up all this material! Seriously, I think it's like anything else, in that you're free to publish yourself, and the power goes to those who can or will WORK and turn a zine out. —out of space—JM!))

SCOTT MARLEY (Utopia + Diplomacy Review)

Santa Ana, CA 92705

Does Osuch feel it necessary, after his rather feeble defense of homosexuals, to point out that he himself is quite straight? Does he really believe that we all would otherwise conclude that, since he grudgingly allows gays their right to exist, he must himself be gay? I find that sort of attitude rather childish. (It may also indicate that he is not entirely at ease with his own sexuality, but then that's his problem.)

You would do me a big favor by explaining to me just what it is about homosexuals that makes them any worse off than heterosexuals. Why, briefly, would you prefer your son to be heterosexual? Don't think I'm being facetious, because I'm not. I honestly don't see the threat in homosexuality.

The thought of a small child going to the toilet in the stall next to a homosexual couple is disturbing, true, but is it any more disturbing than if that couple were heterosexual? Sex in public is a bit disgusting in any case, but let's not single out the gays without a good reason. And I certainly don't think shotguns are either warranted, or even desirable. Even if we were to grant that homosexuality is evil, or wrong, or whatever, it is often possible through psychological treatment to convert a person to heterosexuality. Isn't it better to get rid of the problem without destroying a human life?

Just who does Gibson say should decide which of us is fit to reproduce, and on what criteria? I presume Gibson thinks he'd be a shoo-in in any case: it's particularly easy to espouse an unpopular cause when someone else will suffer the consequences.

If Gibson isn't Teutonic, he sure ought to be. His plans smack of the German tradition: it's crackpot philosophers like him who have given intellectuals a bad name.

By the by, his proposal is not only similar to Plato's in the Republic but as well to that practiced even now as we type, in Communist countries. Party members are given generous incentives to have children, and I have been told that non-party-members are even taxed on their children, though I can't vouch for the truth of the latter.

There is no other publication which so consistently manages to piss me off. Are there really that many unsavory people out there, or is this a put-on?

Unless one is prepared to call Arthur Balfour the Messiah, the Jews have no more right to be given Israel than the Indians would have on Manhattan, and I strongly doubt Gibson would give up his home without compensation just to give the land to someone whose ancestors may perhaps have owned it 2000 years ago. As to the "TRUE, fine nature" of the Jews which Gibson thinks so highly of, please note that the Jews in modern Israel are currently practicing the cruelest, most barbaric sorts of religious persecution. In some sections, for example, stonings are as common as several times a week, and are, by all accounts, vastly enjoyed by the participants. The American public has been shown over and over horrors of the holocaust, but once in the majority the Jews are quite capable of keeping up with the Nazis.

Gibson says also that he has seen "that Conquering Lion of Judah" smite "the hordes of mighty Wild Emperor Anti-Christ at Armageddon." I would very much like to see such an extraordinary sight myself, and if Gibson would be kind enough to inform me how I should go about it, I would be much obliged.

MICHAEL MILLS (EMHAIN MACHA)

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Nedrow, NY, 13120  
Dec 11, 1979

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John,

Really liked #50! It'll stay in the bathroom for weeks! Nice piece on Junk Mail. I've been doing it for years and I'm all for it, but there is something that I'm very against!

Maybe you haven't heard the Post Office's newest, greatest idea--no, not a rate increase--in about a year the USPS plans to announce our new 9 digit zip codes!! Can you believe it?

Seems the managerial staff at USPS thinks things will be speeded up, if they can improve the sorting capabilities of their machines. So instead of me being a "13120", I'll probably end up with a "131206623". No more ShadyLane or Ponytrail Dr. They'll be 2254 and 3476s!

I found out about this from a local public affairs program, where the Syracuse, NY postmaster talked about the idea. He's all gung-ho. You know how those types are all enraptured by words like efficiency. Well, before the 9 digit plan can go into effect it has to make it through the Congressional Committee handling such USPS business. The Chairman of that Committee is Rep. James Hanley (House of Representatives, Washington, DC, 20515).

Remember how the Post Office took the town names from the postmark dies some years back? Well, look at any letter and you'll see that they are back. Seems quite a few people didn't like being dehumanized for the sake of the USPS.

I figure that we'd better let Hanley know that the 9 digit idea sucks soon, or they'll let the Post Office buy some million dollar machines and then they'll say it's too late. So, if you care, write and tell 'em to shove it!

Another interesting article in #50 was Mazurkiewicz's piece on the Russian Front of WW II. If he sends you more like this, don't hold them: print them fast.

I read DS Palter's "Iran: The Military Options" and I must say that it puts him in the same league as Gen Mark "Anzio" Clark. It reads as if it came from the same guys who decided the US ought to try to invade Germany's West Wall in 1942!

Palter probably believes that in time of emergency politics/diplomacy rate zero and military expediency is supreme. Does Palter have an orthocromatic mind?

Plater talks about an "Arnheim of the century". Sounds nice, but the over simplification is unsound. The pivotal factor is that Palter bases his argument on the probable desertion of non-Shiites to American efforts (?). And what are the chances? With the stakes what they are, I question his argument.

And the diatribe about genocide is just so much crap. Then, to add insanity to stupidity Palter would have the Israelis help out. Sure, Syria, Iraq and Libya won't demand retaliation, and the PLO will remain silent. Add Palter's urging of Egyptian help, and he shows his total lack of comprehension.

Mills, cont'd

A priority in any strike on Iran will be to keep the event from turning the entire Middle-East into a bloodbath. Using Egyptian/Israeli forces is an unnecessary provocation. A serious examination of the figures given for troops/casualties is not even warranted given the total lack of a bonafide scenario.

True, the US must show a military capability worthy of a Super-Power, but it must be with a strong Western Task Force--NATO.

Palter does make a strong case for dropping the "half-measure mentality" in his Russian dimension section. For years the US has bargained for parity with the Soviets, but the Soviets negotiate for advantage. The Soviets do not want confrontation, but the Iran crisis has awoken us from our post-Vietnam "no more war" syndrome. Just today NATO approved the missiles for Europe. The faltering West has been met with a challenge, and Chamberlin's will find their tenure in office very short. If Vietnam was botched foreign policy, non-intervention in Iran on a military scale is an equal failure. The US, NATO and the USSR knows it, but Palter's ideas sound like Jerry Ford and the Mayaguez, or the Dulles Bros and Cuba.

((Nice if it were true, but once we get the hostages or their corpses back, I suspect that the no-more-war syndrome you mention will be back in full force. Hell, even now, people may be worked up, but there are a lot who say yes, we should do something, but 'something' short of military action. To really do anything frightens most people to death, it seems. We worry about how things might 'look', while the Soviets simply send in as many troops right next door to solve THEIR problems as they want, quickly and simply, and worry about looks later. I expect Chamberlain will return again and again, 'business as usual'. ))

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GUEST EDITORIAL

submitted by David Pilant

(I asked Dave to do an editorial to go with mine on the Windfall Profits Tax. He got his done, I haven't. So here's his:)

Congratulations America, on sticking it to the Big, money-grabbing Oil companies! Never mind that its the biggest tax gouge in history, that prices won't change and that there won't be a rebate on taxes to consumers. Forget that oil companies only get about 6¢ a gallon profit, they sell so much, right? Who cares that Safeway and IGA have a greater return on capital than Texaco? I mean, just because oil companies invest billions in equipment, what right does that give them to expect a 15% return on investment like everyone else?

And just think, when, Gulf, Texaco, Standard and the rest of the cartel work up next year's budget, we know they'll do the right thing, put it all in tax free bonds and say to hell with it!

But don't worry, dear friends, because we of the Arab Emirate Republic stand ready to supply 60, 70, 80% of your oil needs, as we surely shall, since you won't let your own oil companies operate. Of course the price will continue to rise and we may turn off the pipe now and then, just to remind you who's boss, but that's OK, just as long as your DOMESTIC oil companies can't make any money, right?

Sincerely,

Sheik Gotchunowe

((That's what I like, a nice, neutral, middle-of-the-road stance. Comments, anyone?))

J.M.



ROD WALKER

"alcala"  
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26 december 1979

BB 51/52 here today. I'll have to agree with your many other fans that BB, however outrageous, is always interesting reading. I have many, many comments on this one.

1. Bruce Linsey misses my point, I believe. In 1970E, John Boardman made a specific and unusual dispensation. He put in as a replacement player, for a winning position, a person who was not a regular stand-by player. Furthermore regardless of the fact that these novice players might have become a good deal more experienced, he put into that winning position a person who was not only more experienced than they, but also one of the strongest and most aggressive players in the hobby. Boardman used his power as GM to give one of his friends a virtually automatic win. That is about as dishonest an act as I can think of, and every rating system in the hobby eventually dropped 1970E from consideration. But this is only one example of my main point, that Boardman's moral stance is a scam.

2. I think you are right in suggesting that the "oppressed minority red carpet" treatment is nonproductive (or even counterproductive), whether it's applied to gays, blacks, women, or anyone else. There is no excuse for setting up such a policy for gays. On the other hand, it seems to me equally reasonable to ask that people don't go out of their way to harass gays, either. Whether being anti-gay (in that way) is equivalent to being anti-Semitic is a useless academic question. In point of fact, it is simply stupid. It attacks and dehumanizes some very talented and productive members of the community; it ties up valuable law-enforcement manpower and machinery in punishing non-crimes (I mean, would you rather clean up restrooms or the dope traffic; do you want to spend your tax money preventing robberies or a little friendly sodomy?). Frankly, it seems to me that the hard-pressed taxpayers would just as soon pay for more crime prevention and less persecution. [Side note: a few years ago, Balboa Park (the big gay hangout in San Diego) was one of the biggest dope-trading areas in the city. When the local vice people decided to clean up that mess, you'll never guess who helped them do it. Hell, we knew every nook and cranny of that place and we knew who belonged there and who didn't. We fingered every pusher in the park.]

3. I'm sure you can cite individual examples of "good" American cars and "awful" foreign ones. So could I, the other way. My '77 Mazda has 50,000 miles on it after not quite 3 years (from April '77) and is still getting a steady 30mph. I have no problems on the freeway and have had no major mechanical difficulties (other than a 5th-gear problem which the warranty handled). I know Datsuns and Hondas that are going into their second 100,000 miles and are working fine. But individual examples do not make a general case. I consider the aggregate stats in CR to be reliable. (I commute 19 miles one way, by the way, in all kinds of traffic and road conditions.) When Detroit has the brains to put out a high-mileage car that is as well engineered as the Japanese models and reasonably priced, I'll consider buying it. While they continue to cater to the ubiquitous American taste for schlock, I intend to ignore them.

4. I have written Richard Kovalick, outlining the problem, and asking him to reconsider using Tretick/"Oaklyn" as a GGM. It can only mean real misery for him in the end. I believe he is honestly unaware of the latest info on the C&F game and other evidence that he deliberately mismanages the games he runs. I repeat, however, that I feel he should be allowed to play in games. Trying to prevent editors from taking him on as a player smacks of revenge, not justice. He is actually quite a dependable person as a player and is not hurting anyone in that capacity.

(26 december 1979)

2.

5. Boardman (12 Dec), as usual, distorts facts to cover up. "When Tretick was first in Dippy fandom" (1968), the so-called "Diplomacy Association" didn't even exist. When the DA was formed, Tretick was just acquiring his notorious reputation. Edi Birsan did indeed at first serve as titular "President" of the DA, but soon quit in disgust when he learned of the secret membership lists, rigged elections, and other nice little details of that group. After Edi had left the DA, it endorsed Tretick. I repeat that Boardman never protested this endorsement. As a member of the DA's Board of Directors, he is as responsible for its actions as any other Director, and his failure to protest must be taken for approval.

As for the "Eric Blake" business. I'm sure it was a fine joke. The other players in the game must have been terribly amused. It's funny as hell to spend all that time, money, and effort on a rigged game, yuk, yuk. But then, anyone who gets GRAUSTARK knows Boardman is a flake (not to mention, obviously, a a toad). Judging by your comments, GRAUSTARK is full of the same unexampled drivel as before. It obviously survives only as a Diplomacy 'zine of great reliability and fine GMing. Nobody would want the thing otherwise.

6. Re: Custer. I suppose you know that there is now some very good evidence to suggest that most of his command died of wounds which were self-inflicted. Ain't mythology wunnerful?

7. Curt Gibson's letter on overpopulation is amusing. It throws figures around with all the authority of somebody who knows what he's talking about. But no fear of that! His point I: On what evidence is this bald assertion made? The only members of a society which has outgrown its food supply whose sexual urges are reduced are those who are (a) too young, (b) too old, and (c) dead of starvation.

His point II: Well, no doubt many members of an overpopulated society aren't too wonderful. Malnutrition will do it every time. But I thought they weren't reproducing as much (point I). Seems an awful price to pay just to avoid a nice, safe, easy program of population control.

His point III: The Javanese look pretty scrawny to me, but maybe that's just good health in disguise. Even if adequate food could be provided, who the hell wants to live in an anthill like Java or China? The fact that we could feed several billions doesn't mean we ought to want them. Having a little space to turn around in is important, too. We are not a bunch of rabbits. It is our heritage to control our environment, and that includes our numbers. Population control is the human alternative; anything else is no better than mice or lemmings can do. And, thank you, I have no desire to be a vegetarian. I am very fond of vegetables, but it is in the heritage of our species to eat meat and I have no intention of giving it up. Self-denial is for ascetics and other nuts who think an empty stomach puts one in touch with the "Infinite". The Romans knew better: "First let us eat; then we can discuss philosophy." Milkweed?? Barf.

And point IV: If you believe that somebody can survive for any length of time on a prune a day, please contact me. I'd like to interest you in my stock in some Wyoming orange groves. (And if you could live on a prune a day, who would want to? I have dined this evening on chicken mornée, and gentlemen I assure you, that is pure heaven.) Spiritual life, indeed! Can't you just see 50,000,000,000 people, half of them pregnant, gulping their daily prunes and chanting mantras from the Throbbing Lotus position? If our race were reduced to that, we might as well become extinct. And if we were, we would.

Best,

*Rod*

## LETTERS

Reply to Walker

((I'm glad to hear from you and know that you did not take particular offense at some of the recent debates here. A lot of times I thought of you being in the audience later, but stuck with honesty and hoped that references to degenerates and restroom solicitors would not be deemed synonymous with you yourself (although Boardman would disagree, wouldn't he?). )) J.M.

BRUCKS LINSEY (Voice of Doom)

71 Hudson Terr Apts, Newburgh, NY 12550

What? A BB without a toilet? Cancel my sub, please!

((Not every issue can contain everything, Brux.)) J.M.

BOB OSUCH

3417 S Paulina, Chicago, IL 606

The truth finally surfaces! You guys are abusing me in 79HE because my name resembles that of Eric Ozog. Well, that's nothing. Where I work there's a guy named Ed Michalski who recently crushed his right index finger on a press brake. He drives a gas-guzzling T-bird. Hmmm. And I thought cloning was a futuristic venture.

By the way, since you're into constructive criticism, let me comment on your improper word usage. In BB 51-2 you say "EGGNOG reported that it has been a clear winter in Wisconsin so far. Needless to say, it's the same here." If it's needless to say, then why say it? C'mon buster. Either straighten out your act or hire an editor to proofread your material. Only kidding. Down, boy.

My article on queers was written tongue in cheek--the inference of your attitudes being fascist was meant to be hyperbolic. Apparently, you didn't see it that way. The thesis was, and still is, don't persecute queers. And to hell with the bureaucratic paper-shuffling.

Now let's see. Huge, gas guzzling, extravagant tanks. I agree with you on their safety value. Let me relate an experience that happened yesterday. I was driving from my lawyer's office at 2 N LaSalle in my girlfriend's 78 Chevette via the Kennedy expressway (east). The brain who designed the access ramps made them so that they enter from both sides of the road. Well, I was tooling down the ramp, the expressway on my right, when I noticed one of our Afro-American brothers approaching rapidly in the west lane. The asshole wouldn't move over to let me in, so I had to slow down. Lo and behold, HE slowed down. I came to a complete stop. HE came to a complete stop in the middle of the interstate, smiled at me and waved, then took off. All I could do was flip him the bird, but at that moment I imagined myself in a 1978 Supercrusher mobile. I would have shifted into overdrive and squashed him like a grape!

Which brings me to black press. I love black press, the filthier, the better. It's humorous to me, and let's face it, who out there doesn't enjoy a good laugh? Those who are offended by it simply don't share my sense of humor. So let's do it the American way. Don't censor smut. If you don't like it, don't read it. In this case, don't enter games allowing black press.

One last thing. In the short time I've been in the Dip hobby, I've witnessed numerous "personality conflicts". It makes me wonder if some people aren't taking things a little bit too seriously. When one must revert to name-calling and slanderous attacks, why doesn't he chuck it all in and take up needlepoint? I must admit, though, I enjoy being a spectator. I can pick up some good digs. Like calling Ozog Tretick's "puppet stooge". I must remember that one.

# LETTERS

Reply to Osuch

((Maybe a lot of the personality conflicts are between people who were thrown out of the needlepoint hobby for interpersonal abuse? Actually, Diplomacy is no different than any other human function that people are together in. Some get along and some don't. Some do nothing, some do lots; some criticize those who act and others criticize those who do nothing. Some are tactful and others lay it on the line. I personally see no difference between someone who gets all foaming at the mouth over Tretick and someone else who gets all foaming at the mouth over anyone caring what Tretick does to the hobby, for instance. A lot of players view this hobby as strictly that, a hobby to receive attention if and whenever they have some to spare, as the many NMRs in most zines clearly indicates. (Ditto for many pubbers, for that matter!) Some of the rest of us seriously set out to play a game, and I don't think the resulting clashes can be pooh-poohed away as childish behavior or immaturity. Rather, that is simply the nature of man. As long as there are free individuals, there will be conflict between them, either via chance meetings in Dippy press, or out there on the Kennedy expressway.

Speaking of which, did you notice whether our Afro 'bro' had an Illinois license plate? From the grinning stupidity you describe, it sounds remarkably like any local pickup truck driver here. Maybe he was passing through from down here, or visiting Chicago friends before returning to Tulsa, or had escaped from Big Mac (McAlester prison) and was checking out your welfare schedule there? J.M.

## A HOBBY EXCLUSIVE!

Tretick lets a truth slip out! Remember, you saw it here first!

Bernie Oaklyn

13412 Brackley Terrace  
Silver Spring,  
Maryland 20904

((F → G + I))  
Why Me? #11

December 20, 1979

J.M.

(301) 384-0262

John Michalski

Jack Frost

EXCERPT So now, have some of my shit. I am full of it. So, I am sure I have enough to spare for the likes of you.

Bernie

Bernie



the Front de Liberation du Diplomacy  
... a medium for postal Diplomacy



((Page 1 of 4))

19 Dec '79

Your response on police spying in public bathrooms misses my point, so let me try a different approach. Lets suppose, to use your example, your kid needs to crap so you stop off at a public bathroom on the NJ Turnpike. Once you both are inside the stall you glance up and notice two holes in the ceiling. Thru one you see an eye, thru the other, the business end of a gun. As you shoot him a questioning glance, he replies that he's a cop, and that if you do anything perverted, that he will shoot you "right there on the spot" (He's read Brutus Bulletin #50, and your advice therein). Now I ask you John, you're standing in the stall, your privacy invaded by a stranger, your son wailing "Daddy, some man is watching me", and you're wondering just how to help your son remove his trousers without the cop thinking suspicious thoughts, ----- is this any way to take a crap? Even aside from the fact that the cop could be detailed to deal with real crime, aren't we paying an awfully high price to catch a few homosexuals? Maybe you don't mind Big Brother peering down on you when you take a shit, but I sure do. I mean, isn't that what we criticize Russia for doing? And don't tell me it wouldn't happen that way, because it would. The cop is there to spy on situations where two males are in the stall together, right? Sure, you know the kid is your son, but he doesn't. What are you going to do, flash your kid's ID?

With regard to your position that no homosexual should be allowed to be a policeman or policewoman, I see that you still don't state your reason why that should be a job qualification. Please consider the following:

1. With Graustark #147, John Boardman polled his readers' preferences for presidential candidates, promising confidentiality. When he ran the results, he made an exception, and gave the names of the Wallace voters. Fair play --- except for the Wallace voters. That's where he made his exception.

2. There's a guy here at work with pretty ordinary beliefs, except that he thinks that Zionists and practicing Roman Catholics should not be allowed to hold office or vote. Basically, he felt that their first allegiance was not really to the US but elsewhere (Israel and the Pope respectively). So his exception was Zionists and Roman Catholics.

3. My family generally believes in the right of peaceable assembly and the right to petition the government for redress of grievances. Except that one of them doesn't think that the Nazis should have the right to assemble in Skokie, Ill; and a second one doesn't think they should have the right to march anywhere. So that's their exceptions.

4. And you have yours too, John. You don't want an otherwise qualified homosexual to be able to be a policeman

The problem is, if we cater to everyone's own personal exceptions, then no one is safe. It's the principle that is at stake, not the details. If you can make an exception on the basis on one person's political, sexual, religious, etc beliefs, if you can say that those beliefs disqualify them from the usual rules, then you have made a tear in the cloth that risks tearing it asunder. And expansion will be what happens. Zionists and practicing Roman Catholics will easily become all Roman Catholics and all Jews. I say to you that a rule saying that no green-eyed Eskimos can be a policeman is wrong even if there are no green-eyed eskimos, unless of course that you can show that ~~not having~~ having green eyes and being an eskimo prevents you from being a good cop.

You don't want perverts as cops, that's where you make the exception, but who gets to define perverts, and how do you keep the government out of the bedroom? I will give you an example. Earlier in the 70s, the ACLU defended a married couple accused of performing an act of perversion. It seemed

that while a man was sodomizing his wife, their child wandered into their bedroom and was terrified by what it obviously did not understand. The child fled to a neighbor, who came by immediately to find out what was going on. To reassure the neighbor that no one was assaulting anyone, the couple told the truth to the neighbor, who then went to the police to report an act of perversion. The couple was tried and convicted of sodomy. The fact that it was consensual and in private was irrelevant, because in that state, sodomy was an illegal act of perversion, and of course, the state had an admissible confession. The couple, indidently, refused to appeal because they did not want additional publicity, and were each sentenced to one year in (separate) prisons. So I ask you again, John, how are you going to feel if perchance your state defines one of your favorite sex acts as perversion?

At one time, in the city where I live you could not become a policeman if you were black. Very slowly society is learning that just not liking somebody's "type" isn't good enuf reason to deny him access to a public job. If the reason is not directly related to a job qualification, then denying access is unfair, inefficient and stupid. While race has been the major factor in these discriminations (just as in an earlier age, it was religion or ethnic origin), the battlefield is increasingly that of sexual mores. In 1979 the Virginia Supreme Court decided one on just that issue. The Virginia Bar Association refused to let a woman law school graduate take the bar exam because their investigation disclosed that she was living with an unrelated male (cohabitation). She had to battle the VBA all the way to the Virginia S.C., which ruled that unless the Bar could show why her living arrangement would prevent her from being a good lawyer (which the VBA had already conceded they could ~~not demonstrate~~ not demonstrate) she must prevail.

I suggest to you John that you rethink your position on why homosexuals should be treated differently from others, because you are going to hear more and more about it in the newspapers, etc. Homosexuals are challenging this special treatment. In the 50's, black student groups had to take Universities to court to force them to allow them campus space just like other groups. The gay groups are doing the same thing. The 8th Circuit of Appeals ruled recently that the U of Missouri was wrong in denying the campus Gay organization permission to use campus facilities for "dialogues". Unfortunately, the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear the case, so that rule applies only in the 8th Circuit. L James M. Gaylord taught in a Tacoma, Washington high School for 13 years, had an excellent professional record, and was considered one of the best teachers in the social studies department. When it was suddenly learned that he was a homosexual, he was fired. He was never ~~charged~~ charged with any homosexual act or behavior, or with in any way mentioning his homosexuality in School. The school board was explicit that he was fired for being a homosexual. He lost at the Washington Supreme Court. There will be many more such cases. These are serious matters. In Virginia, "crimes against nature" are felonies, even if done by husband and wife in their own home. And people are prosecuted. I personally am not a homosexual, but I have yet to hear any cogent argument as to why being a homosexual should disqualify one from being considered as a police officer.

You asked for some responses to the question of your "uncritical printing policy", ~~xx~~ and asked what value there would be in having Carlier give more details, pointing out that "I think xxx is a stabber...isn't the name call g obvious and no more?" Good point: I should have been more specific.

Berch, 3 of 4

Simple name calling isn't very interesting or educational, unless of course it is done with particular class. But when more details are provided, the letter can rise above that, and thus provide more interesting reading. Second, with more info, it is easier for the readers to evaluate the charges, and to check on them if they so desire. Third, if it is bullshit, your lets-talk-specifics-fella letter may cause the writer to back off, and either withdraw his stupid comments, or cut back to what he can stand behind.

What can be done about it? I don't have any magic solutions. One is to be less reticent about disagreeing with something that you are pretty sure is untrue, using the double parens after the article. For example, in #50, Dave Ditter's letter states "Lipton later dropped out of the hobby." As we both know, this is absolutely false, and thus unfair to Lipton. Bob still publishes TMG every bit as punctually as he always did. True the zine is usually no more than his 7-odd games, plus a front page editorial, but he has certainly not dropped out. You could have tacked on at the end: ((Actually so far as I know Bob is still publishing)), or, if you wanted to be more cautious: ((The last I heard from Mark Berch, Bob is still publishing))

Another procedure is to send a copy of the questionable letter to the person being attacked, or to anyone else you think might have a cogent comment. I realize that this is more work, and expense, and delays things, so you must use judgement as to when to bother. If you get a response, there are several options. You may decide that the response has killed the original item, and there's no value in printing it, which is what I assumed happened recently with an item you sent to me for response. Second, you can then print the pair. Seeing both makes much more interesting reading, and avoid the several weeks delay that occurs between the charge and the defense thereto. I have been able to do this occasionally in DIPLOMACY DIGEST, reprinting in a single issue a debate that may have in reality gone on for several months and even in different zines. And third, you may send the response back to the original letter writer, to see if he will bolster, modify, withdraw or whatever his position.

Of course, all that's a lot of bother. Given the choice, I'd prefer that you err on the side of printing too much than too little, my comments previously notwithstanding!

Getting back to Dave Ditter's letter, he proposes a three way draw, he is turned down, the game continues to a two way draw. I should be so fortunate when my draws are turned down! If Kelly and Verheiden always ally then this is very unfair to the other players, as it limits their range of action, and would of course justify a countercartel. However, just two games do NOT prove, or even set out a case, especially when you are dealing with people who are in so many games. These two don't even necessarily play in the same zines all the time. In TMG, Verheiden is in 6 of the 7 games. Kelly is in none of them.

Boardman's history of 1963B was quite interesting. It's always a bit of a surprise to see how standards change over the years. Now-a-days the idea of one person playing two different countries at different times in the game, as McCallum did, would not be acceptable --- but there were fewer players then. (On the other hand I recall seeing an issue of one of Von Metzke's zines which was 14 pages long. He apologized for its shortness and said he wouldn't charge for it!)

Would you beleive that in Washington, tix to Star Trek are being sold via Ticketron? I find very odd Konrad statement that the Eric Blakehoax took place "long before anybody cared about winning" --- who is he to say that the players in that game didn't care about winning? But it was a perfectly executed hoax --- Boardman even had phoney Blake political letters in Garustark. I liked your "zines received" column. The phrase "digest sized", however is a bit ambiguous, as it covers several different meanings. In a zine like Volk, its literally only half a page, as no reduction is used. In DIPLOMACY DIGEST, the pages are regular sized pages. In Dragon and the Lamb, I think they are slightly larger than normal. In DIPLOMACY WORLD they are significantly larger than normal, since a larger paper size is used. Then again, even "pages" means different things in different zines, because of differeneing margins and number of lines per page, and even size of type (10 to the inch vs. 12 to the inch). It seemed a little out of date, tho. By the time I got it most zines were one or even two issues later. I notice in the 79CK press that you are no longer censoring "cocksucker".

With regard to Palter's essay, the idea of using Israelis in military action against Iran is sheer lunacy, and betrays a lack of undersvanding about how Israel views its military. I have no doubt that such an action would immediately bring down the Israeli government. The idea that we could take and hold the oilfields intact is ~~xxxxx~~ complete fantasy. Palter almost completely ignores the impact of these events on our allys. His mass-killing schemes would surely alienate us from our European allies. I do not propose to give the IMAM the satisfaction of inducing in us actions which would harm our relationships with our allies. He's already alienated practically all of Iran's traditional friends, why should we let him cuase us to alienate our allies? It is incumbant upon a superpower to consider the well being of its allies if its wishes to retain them. We can shrug off the loss of Iranian oil, and the Iranian export market, but our allies in some cases are not so fortunate. Japan for one is far more dependent on such oil than are we. On the other side of the coin, the long-term loss of the Iranian market would be a devastating blow to the Australian economy, which relies heavily on agricultural exports to Iran to gain foreign currency. And finally, you are wrong, John, when you say "we will meekly accept the eventual return of the charred bodies". All the hostiges will be released before the end of the winter. There will be no executions.

((I'm glad to hear that, altho I seem to recall you said Kennedy would never run this time around either.

Since this is page 4 of 4, I am NOT going to elaborate as you have in my response to your positions. (Are those cheers I hear?) However, your statements regarding the defense of queers does warrant at least a mention. You force a set position to be stated, rather than just policy or attitude as I have earlier, which may be for the good. In any case, it strikes me that our positions could be summarized thusly: you seem to feel that standards are discriminatory, and therefore must be thrown out. I feel that the dangers of standards being misapplied is much smaller than are the dangers of not having standards at all. I will readily accept 'limiting the universe' from which police candidates are drawn if I can in turn have the faith and confidence of knowing that the fairies have been weeded out as best they can. I will readily risk censure under any "blue law" (of which I'm sure there are a lot more in Okla than in the case you cited) if it leaves laws on the bbooks that the cops can use to suppress perverts. I believe that standards, whatever imperfections they may have, are far better than a 'free market' for wierdos and freaks to try and see what positions they can worm their way into. My beliefs toward freedom do not blind me to reality, a stark reality that requires higher standards rather than lower or no standards. People are being led into your society more than into one as I would have it, thanks to the liberals, lawyers, media, and jerks, but you're still wrong.))) J.M.



Curtis Gibson

Al 176 Lexington NYC 10016

12/13/79

Have read a lot more of #50 to AM I'd bet add these comments.

Funny that Berch thinks the IDA directory didn't come out. I ordered + received my copy last summer, compiled by F. Davis, but from whom ordered I can't recall. Young<sup>or Davis</sup> can tell you, if you don't have it yet.

Enclosed xerox of letter to press re Shah + Iran. Note they edited one passage heavily (others moderately), and then I guess they thought, stupidly, it was improvement, actually cut off the fine edge of its rationale. News World (NYC) is our rightist daily (financed by Moon of S. Korea), + I'm surprised they did not pub it, as they think Shah just a fine fellow! Sent to 45 other cities, incl. London + Jerusalem.

If you thought Patter's 3 whole p. of analysis worth pub. you'd bet put in my letter, as I wrote it, enclosed. Patter does use my term, 'inflammatory + Salomonic world'. But he is not sensitive to the whole world picture, + the carefully built image of restraint + reasonableness US wd throw away by attack.

The fact is that altho Khomeini is supposed to be independent of Moscow, he's just like Castro was in the 1st yr. of takeover, too pressed by needs for consolidation of his gains to be able to resist the Red bid to make him their man. He won't sell out as willingly as Castro did, but his control is more precarious, + the effect will be similar. In fact thousands of Soviet agents who had entered Iran since he chased the Shah out are now leading a <sup>native</sup> faction numbering in the millions, and it was they, not Khomeini's men, who took the US embassy. I could write on + on about this, but in summary, the real problem is that Pahlavi was a cruel tyrant and we have 100 million Americans like me who are fully aware, as is most of the world, + wd not stand for another V-Nam pro fascist blunder!

Enclosed is a clipping of column re Rhodesia, by Robin Moore, with a true enough view of the foolish compromise Thatcher has pushed Lim-Rhod into. All this appeasement of the wretched pack of jackals + hyenas, Smith's black face in + out of Rhod, by Brit + US, suggested we should raid Com + grab Khomeini, in a column c. Nov. 20, spurred by my letter. His idea had more merit than anything Patter wrote, but still was underestimate the mood of Islam, and the ability of R to capitalize on it.

Kirchner's USAF recruits + promotes an absolutely distinct class of officers from the army. The navy is in between. My argument was re the Army, mainly. I have close relations there, 2 first cousins Lt. Colonels, father + son, sr. retired, son a W.P.A. grad. We know the army problems intimately. Also have a 1st cousin's son AF Acad. grad, on my mother's side of the family. Visited with him last year.

You're so right re the cost of arresting drunks, + the goes for all handle criminals. Now it takes 10 to 15,000 a yr. to keep a prisoner. I'd gladly contract to keep 100 for that price. They'd only put in 48 hrs. a wk. work, too. And their bread + cabbage diet wd keep them vigorous, not 'rotting' like our pampered felons. They'd all emerge tee-totalers, not a bit of drug or tobacco desire left, and <sup>spuds</sup> respect for human rights, too! Curt

Editors of the Free Press —

NYC - 11/21/1979

This embassy capture in Iran is causing dangerous ideas + moods, arising equally in U.S. + in Islam. Carter has wisely been slow + cautious in reaction, but some are urging drastic actions that may lead eventually to WWII.

Because of course the Kremlin is keenly watching, + will make hay of any false step by U.S., either of over-reaction or its opposite, weakness + indecisive non action.

One right wing columnist has advised paratroop seizure of Qom, to hold Khomeini hostage, citing MacArthur's effective Inchon raid behind N. Korean lines, which cut off + captured Seoul. Here we would be in such escalation of the Shah + embassy stand-off it could inflame all Islam, + enable Russia to swing it into their growing worldwide camp of anti-Christian mob mood.

When one considers the list of atrocious crimes the Shah's regime was guilty of, and Carter's human rights campaign that our condoning his crimes has now made look ridiculous, I can't see that those students can be blamed for their somewhat terrorist hostage play. The distinction between a Hitler and a Pahlavi, as international criminals, is dubious. Dictators who ascend with millions of ill-gotten funds may even be classed as common criminals, with no political refugee claim on our hospitality.

Of course we owe to ex-Shah some sort of gratitude for holding Iran in the anti-Soviet defense camp, + supplying Israel with oil despite Arab wrath. But all that was pretty well paid for by our vast aid + favors, including the CIA aid that put him back on the throne 25 yrs ago, despite for him his rival Mozaffar. So here is my suggestion, a compromise too bitter for our Pentagon dominated govt. to swallow perhaps: announce to the world that we exchange the Shah for the embassy staff but not for return of either side's hostages, take a trial before the world court at the Hague, decide on the Shah's guilt and on the hostages' charged guilt as spies, with his + their sentences to be determined by the court, and executed by it for the cause of world peace.

Yours for right + justice, Curtis L. Gibson

Salahadin Enayat

(Add: c/o A-1, 176 Lexington Ave., NYC, 10016)

Michael Mills (EMHAIN MACHA)

3457 Makyes Rd  
Nedrow, NY, 13120  
Dec 28, 1979

Dear John,

Why is it that after reading BB, I sit down to write letters?

Well this time, instead of spending a whole lot of time on one topic, I'm just gonna skim through my shit lists. (are words like shit allowed in BB?)

Well...well...well...the one thing that I think galls most sane people, which I feel I am (I think) is those pseudominds who shoot from the hip! Sure everyone runs at the mouth once or twice and, if you've got a point every now and then, people will listen, but there is that true blue jerk who reads the sports, skims the news and feels he's got some God-given right to bore me! H.L. Menkin may have been right, and America's "great experiment" in democracy/universal suffrage is a failure.

Witness Gibson's convoluted argument defending a certain measure of anti-Semitism. I, myself, have no exceptional love of Jewry, nor care who hates them. But, remember someday the tables may turn on the WASPs, especially those on Lexington Ave in the Big Apple. I wonder if Gibson believes in The Protocols of Prague?

And if you want to know who is responsible for the problems of the world: it's not the Jews, homos, PRs, Blacks or Iranians. It's the white anglo-saxon protestants running around the corporate boardrooms and Washington corridors, trying to figure a way to suck a little more blood-money from the hordes in the great Yankee melting-pot.....(I guess I got off track).....

But let me cite Galbreath (sp), writing in The Book Digest, who raised serious questions about the ability of the upper-WASP classes in the US to adequately serve as keepers of the till and leaders. Seems after all the great liberal-Fed money spent on social studies of the American people, no academic can write a conclusive study on the WASP, as no studies have been done.

(By the way...BB's Bureaucratic Blunders is a great piece, but could you hold off for about 2 or 3 issues. I already too sick!)

Shooting from the hip...yes, that was it...and that brings me to John Conally! If the Kennedy craze is part of the "anyone but Jimmy" mania, if that Texan runs I'll vote for anybody but him...Tretick included! Talk about your shoot from the hip, no class, psychosclerosis big-wig! Like all Republicans John has all the answers for last years problems, and it boils down to building a time machine and setting it for the mediocre-Ike years, when Dulles saw the world as black vs white, and convinced us it was so. The Republicans are reactionaries, seemingly bored with common sense.

If John C gets elected, I'm gonna have to call my new voodoo root man, Rev DePrince, and have him remove my hard jinked condition.

Well, maybe I'll make some enemies...or some friends. I liked John Lipscomb's assorted excerpts in #51. He makes his points so quickly. Likewise for Dick Martin (who may actually be a front for Tretick: he does answer to "Buddy")

DS "pinkie" Palter sent me a copy of his Fink Dragon, which has another long diatribe on "Tehran-The Domestic Political Options and Effects". He sent no note...not even "This is sample". So, I suppose he's gonna try to recruit me into his "cell". It's not that I disagree with DSP on his "kick-ass" stand. It's his attitude! He's approaching it like someone smacked his baby brother. All emotion. He's ready to die for America, and those Iranians are only too willing to assist him. An American invasion of Iran won't be an event of pomp and circumstance, but another dirty job. I think the hesitation is due to that last dirty job that we botched up...Yes, Dean Rusk and Melvin Laird are on my shit list...but back to "pinkie"...Martin's right cracked geniuses make things interesting, and DSP should always have his place on the left side of the tennis court (anyone know the connection with tennis?) or we'll be getting smaller versions of BB and no PDs.

Shooting from the hip you say...why so much of it these days...well, let's talk about one-way, impersonal, mass communication. Seems long ago and far away all these people sat around in a laboratory and said, "This invention will keep people informed, educate them, make them aware, and the country with all these well informed right thinking people will be better off." Well TV is at its best when it's "off". TV did not do anything mentioned above. Instead it homogenized the country, made mass marketing an art and made people more xenophobic. You turn on the tube and someone shows you something you didn't know existed before, but now cannot live without and then TV lulls you to mental-sleep with some sit-com or "World Premier (TV) Movie," that makes the Marx Brothers (not Karl) look like philosophers refuting Hegel and good ole Immanuel Kant. Do we understand the US better after nearly 30 years of national news? Not on your life. Instead, the lauded 5th Estate of the air-waves never ceases to confuse rather than clarify. Every day we hear CPI/GNP/Dow Index, etc--all meaningless unless you sit down and get a book or someone to take that info and construct the scenario. But misinformation is more common.

And with 60% of the American public saying that their primary source of news and information is network TV news, it's no wonder we sit on our hands waiting for some reincarnated 7th Cavalry to appear, when our wagons are in a shrinking circle.

Shooting from the hip...when your confused and down-and-out say the first thing that comes to mind and hope it works! Teddy tried it-it didn't work. John Connally does it and no one has called his bluff. The guy hawking macho after shave and piss-poor beer does it and it works. And we're about to be bamboozled again with this election. Where "image" gets votes and sense is impossible to communicate.

Shoot from the hip?...Wanna buy a Chrysler?

Michael Mills