

Win a few, lose a few. The Klingon ship was really the late AMAR, not AGAR, "who we all know was a traitor to the Klingon race". Thanks to Andy Lischett. Or, I think it was Andy. The letter is unsigned, and, well, maybe it was John Lipscomb, or... oh, the hell with it. Let 'em write back later. Time to get on with

The 55-56 BRUTUS BULLETIN

ET TU, BRUTE

Early FEB 80

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. That's pronounced "Mih-HOLL-skee". Subs are available at the rate of 12/34. There are no openings. BB is the home of FAST games, where normal games are 14 days, deadline to deadline, and the special games are on TEN-day deadlines. Why don't some of you not so lazy GMs out there take the hint and try this yourself? Why be just another face in the crowd? Why not give ME someplace to play!

This issue is way too big again. It will go double sized and numbered because by the time I'm able to put it together, I'm sure it will push the FOUR OUNCE limit. That is too much, even if you hold the Jerry Jones view that all I do is type up-tape up-hit the PRINT button. (I think that was Jerry. I've been doing so damn much typing, I may forget my, er, uh, name.) Anyhow, in the future it will be necessary to change my ways and NOT PRINT some of the letters and such coming in, because you folks are simply burying me under material that I can never say "no" to! Enough is too much, etc. SOMEDAY I should pamper myself and make you wait a month between two warehouse issues like the lazy pubbers do...speaking of which, this issue will contain ZINES RECEIVED under a new format: I listed every issue of everything I got between Dec 31st and Jan 31st, basically in order, and then at the end, I will try to remember all the OTHER zines that for their own reasons, did not manage to put out an issue in those 32 days! Another change in policy is included in the apology to JOHN BOARDMAN in the letters section, in that some of the nuttier personal attacks will be dropped from here. Formerly, I printed anything that appeared in the mailbox, but as John has pointed out, that will have to change. Also included with this issue will be a copy of a Publisher's Statement on Tretick which is a FINAL effort by a group of some of the more conscientious publishers to deal with the criminal "Bernie Oaklyn" regarding novices and the uninformed. IF YOU PUBLISH AND WOULD LIKE TO BE ADDED TO THE SIGNATORIES for future copies, write Mark Berch, 492 Naylor Place, Alexandria, VA 22304, and I believe he will add your name as well. We would like as broad a base of support as possible. This will hopefully be the END of the Tretick matter!!

Lee Kendter Sr, as I noted on a last-second label tucked into #54, is the new BNC. About the only reward for doing the job is the awarding of the first game of the year, 1980A, to your own zine. I was kind of hoping Jack Frost would win it with his Jan 1, 1980 gamestart of the 4th 10-day-deadline game, but it had to settle for 1980C. Brutus #11 is 1980D, and is the last game starting here for a LONG time! I am eager to see Lee put out an EVERYTHING as soon as he can, since I have two 1979 series games completed, and I don't want to share the limelight with a lot of others who gave up on 1979 games in 1983 (in eight real months, or 14, or). On the other hand, if he will hold off another six or eight weeks, I may have a third, 79CK, concluded. CK, the second 10-day-deadline game, has England trying to hold off a n AT charge for victory; barring an AT war, it could end soon. Then there's... oh, look inside for yourself.

Subs expiring or espired: Albrecht, Robinson, Henthorn. Stamps or \$ is OK, and a continued sub for players is OPTIONAL, so you can drop this if you wish. I'm putting

out over 50 copies now, and I wouldn't mind a loss of ten or so, but people keep signing up for more, for some reason. I think 40 is about the right number to easily handle, but as it inches toward half again that much, I may have to start cutting some of the skimpier trades, as paying customers are the LAST folks I'd ever think of turning away. Maybe all I'd need to do is publish a lot of Tretick-Gibson-Berch stuff and frighten everyone away?

DIPLOMACY WORLD is out again! That's always hobby news when it does come rolling in. It and BEHOLDER missed the ZINES RECEIVED deadline by one day. Actually the list of zines NOT received is very small compared to most months; January must be everyone's favorite. Anyhow, DW has a lot of material as always, but a lot of it is from Berch and Walker. They put out a good product, but could sure use some help! I know that the problem is simply that the folks who can write well will invariably start publishing themselves in short order, and then produce nothing outside their own product which takes their every waking minute. I know that is true of me, and my only real publishing problems are finding enough free time at the company's big machine to run whole sets of this stuff off without interruption; I shudder to think what it must be like to have to physically go through the printing process after all is said and done. I could never run off a FOL SI FIE or BEHOLDER or EGGNOG (altho 6 brothers might help...), for instance. Too much wasted work. I'd rather use the time to type up another 5 or 6 letters. Thank goodness for Arnold Xerox, or whatever his name was. But I digress. Anyhow, if you can write a good article and have 5 weeks between zines, why not send in an article to Jerry Jones for the next DW? Even if you can't write well enough, I'm sure they'd rather touch up your article than have to write their own from scratch. Give it a try. DW goes to about 700 people I understand.

DTRS is a rating system that has come out with a list of players arrived at in some ranking somehow in this latest issue. (I should reword that, but I'm too lazy.) The surprising thing is that I placed 40th, an astounding showing in view of only 1 of my two godsend luck wins being on record so far. I'll probably go down later, as my current games all pretty much suck to high heaven, and my abysmal showing in so many will no doubt pull me down. SOME Day I hope to be able to devote some time to games, but anymore, I'm often just a puppet to avoid having to think much about them, and my morale is shot in most as well. How to suicide out gracefully is not a cheery task.

Speaking of cheery tasks, LEE KENDTER has walked into more than he bargained for already. It seems his announcement as BNC that he pretty much expected the old \$1 contribution to be matter-of-course in the future has run afoul of Greg Costikyan and John Boardman (URF DURFAL and GRAUSTARK), who say that such a policy will cause some GMs to skip numbers for that reason, and thereby destroy the very basis for the numbers (namely, as a universal hobby recording tool). To back it up, Costikyan (Miller Number Custodian, by the way) has openly stated that he will not ~~see paid for numbers for his games~~. I have always gone with the \$1 per number since a previous BNC requested it; I think it is only reasonable. However, these others have a good point too. I don't envy Lee all the "joys" I can see he'll be having with this hot potato.

Another hot potato coming along involves Curtis Gibson vs Bruce Linsey (VOICE OF DOOM) and John Kelley (BEHOLDER). Most of the principals send me courtesy copies of their correspondence, and it makes for an interesting debate. Primarily, Curtis is attacked for writing to players in games he is NOT a player in himself, concerning the goodness or evil of certain players or player. I think Linsey has refunded Curtis' sub and tossed him out for this, and Kelley is also urging Curtis not to do this. Curtis responds that it is NONE OF THE GM'S BUSINESS who writes to whom in the games, and that if players don't like to receive letters from anyone, they can handle it like any other junk mail and toss it out. It may be a nuisance, a help, a hindrance, or have no effect, but I can see an argument each way there as well. (Pardon the new type. I'm having to finish on a different machine later). More John's Notes following ZINES RECEIVED column.

79CK

The Second 10 Day Deadline Game

FALL 1907

FRENCH KING HUMS THEME FROM M*A*S*H* IN HIS SLEEP
WHILE ENGLAND MAKES A FIGHT OF IT. AUSTRIANS ENTER
BORDEAUX.

JAN 17 1980

AUSTRIA (Henthorn): A PIE-Mar; A Bur-GAS; F Ion-TUN; A PRU S TURK A Ber;
A Ven-TYO; A Mun-BUR; A Sil-MUN

ENGLAND (Hayner): A NWY S F Swe; F SWE S A Nwy; F NTH & F KIE S A Bel-Hol;
A Bel-HOL; A RUH S F Kie; F Wal-LVP

FRANCE (Kelley): NMR! A PIC, MAR H; F BRE, MID, SPAsc H; F GLyo H/ann.

GERMANY (Mitchell): F Hol-Kie/ann.

TURKEY (Becker): F WES-Spasc; F NAF-Mid; F Tyn-GLYO; F TUS S F Tyn-GLyo;
F Smy-AEG; F Eas-ION; A BER S GERMAN F Hol-Kie; A STP
S A Fin; A FIN H; A Mos-LVN; A Sev-MOS; F BLA as the
Ace of Spades (H)

The game is getting simpler on the board, isn't it? Let's see what Winter, 1907, and SPRING, 1908 look like with my mail received here MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 1980. Quick plug: remember, Jack Frost has the 5th 10-day open now. I don't know when or if there'll be a sixth... RR4 Box 138B, Lockport, IL 60441

190&:	A: Home Ser Gre Mun War Ven TUN	9	1 ann., build 2
	E: Edi Lon Nwy Swe Bel Hol Den KIE LVP	9	build 2
	F: Home Spa Por Lyp	5	1 ann., even
	G: Kie	0	1 ann., out
	T: Home Rum Bul Sev Mos StP Nap Rom Ber Tyn	<u>11</u>	Remove 1
		34	

Press:

To LONDON: Next year England will be threatened, and Tampax Bay will go 0-16.

PICARDY: Hunh? What's going on here?

COA: Monty Hayner, to 929 N Lake Ave, Georgetown Apt #217, Lakeland, FL 33801

A NOTE TO NEW BRUTUS 11 PLAYERS, AND A REMINDER TO ALL OTHERS:

The BRUTUS BULLETIN is not the home of regular games, but rather, is the home of FAST games. Delays and separations are dirty words here, thus such rules as separation by majority vote only. In many zines, you can write or call a day or two before, sometimes even AFTER a deadline, as whine that "oh, I never seem to have received my last results..." and get a delay. Too many GMS seem almost to seek out such delays to slow the workload to what they feel in the mood to do. That won't be the case here, however. I send the results out ON DEADLINE DAY exc the adopted and Madman games, and usually the NEXT day on those madman games. If you don't get your results four days after a deadline, you'd better CALL and ask. I will give them on the phone. If you WRITE, I will call you if I can and give you the result. BUT THE DEADLINE WILL NOT BE CHANGED. It is the player's responsibility to detect postal losses. If for some reason I should be unable to run the game when stated, you will receive a notice of that instead of the adjudications. So if you're "overdue", call me or a closer ally and ask. Don't sit on your can and wait, for the game will pass you by. If you WRITE, you may receive a call on the deadline with the results; be prepared to give your orders to me then! BB games are not like a convoy, geared to the slowest ship; it is a running herd, and if you can't keep up, you fall to the wolves. Be forewarned.

A zine published by Jack Frost,
Carried as a feature by The Brutus Bulletin,
In this issue: The New Years Day Game

WHAT DID HE SAY TO GET SO MANY FRIENDS ?

Spring 1901:

AUSTRIA (Parker): F Tri-ALB; A Vic-TRI; A Bud-SER
ENGLAND (Pilant): F ION-Eng; F Edi-NTH; A Liv-WAL
FRANCE (Petrie): F BRE-Eng; A Par-PIC; A Mar-EUR
GERMANY (Osuch): F Kie-HOL; A Ber-KIE; A Mun-RUH
ITALY (Howe): A Ven-PIE; A Rom-VEN; F Nap-ION
RUSSIA (Sniegowski): F Stp-BOT; A Mos-STP; A War-GAL; F Sev-RUM
TURKEY (Johnson): A Con-BUL; F Ank-CON; A SMY holds

There you have it, and a fine start it is! CAPS indicates final province or body of water. Underlined orders fail in execution. Please note: F Stp-BOT is a legal order as would be F Bot-STP. F POR-Spa would not be a legal order as the fleet could move to either coast of Spain. This represents a minor change in editorial policy and will be the policy henceforth.

Fall 1901 orders are due to me by noon Wednesday, January 30, 1980.

PRESS RELEASES

NAPLES-SMYRNA: Here I come ready or not.

? : Once more into the breach, eh Griswold?

VENICE-MARSEILLES: Trust me Herb trust me.

ABUDAPEST-CONSTANTINOPLE: You take the low road & I'll take the high one.

LONDON-BREST: I hope when I get there you'll have baked a cake.

EDINBURGH-ST PETERSBURG: When I threaten to expose you Ms. Temple, what will you do? What will you do?

PARIS-MUNICH: The President, when asked what wine he would like with his sauerkraut replied, "Burgundy."

BUDAPEST: Troops here are mobilizing rapidly in order to launch a strike against Russia. Premier Vernon has declared he will not rest while a single Russian remains alive.

LOCKPORT: For his sake, I hope they all get married real soon.

ST PETERSBURG: His excellency the Czar was approached in his newly opened "South Coast Racquetball Emporium" this spring & when asked of the impending conflicts ahead was quoted to have said "What me worry"

VIENNA: There once was a Russian, named Sno/ Who told all his neighbors "Go blow"/ Except for the German,/ And his faithful dog Hermen/Who Suchs, as we all really know (&Pronounced suck)

BERLIN-WARSAW: Don't expect me to bail you out of this game Snowball.

VENICE-VIENNA: You didn't believe all that garbage, did you?

LOCKPORT: I only type them, I don't edit them.

Remember, Jack has openings in DREGS 1, the Fifth 10-Day-Deadline Game, \$4 flat fee.
RR 4 Box 138 B, Lockport, IL 60441

A zine published by Jack Frost,
Carried as a feature by The Brutus Bulletin,
In this issue: 1979HE

SOUTHERN ALLIANCE MAKES HEADWAY

Fall 1906: RUSSIA disbands A Arm

Winter 1906: RUSSIA builds A MOS, A STP

Spring 1907:

AUSTRIA (Kador): A Pru-LVN, dislodged, destroyed; A RUE-Bur; A Tyr-BOH;
A Vic-GAL; A SER sup A Rum; A RUM sup F Con-Bul(e.c.);
F Con-BUL(e.c.); A ARM-Sev

ENGLAND (Howe): F ENG sup F Mid; F MID con A Lpl-Bre; F NAO con A Lpl-Br
A Lpl-BRE; A GAS-Bur; A BUR-Ruh; A BEL sup A Bur-Ruh;
F HOL sup Russian F Kie

ITALY (McMahon): F NAF-Mid; A Spa-PCR; F Wes-SPA; F Ien-TYN; A MAR-Gaz;
A PIE-Mar; A Ven-TYR; A MUN sup Austrian A Ruh-Bur

RUSSIA (Michalski): F KIE holds; A WAR sup F Ber-Pru; F Ber-PRU; A STP-Lvn;
A Gal-SIL; F BLA-Arm; A SEV sup A Mos-Ukr; A Mos-UKR

TURKEY (Osuch): F Aeg-CON; A ANK sup F Aeg-Con

Please note a change in editorial policy: From now on I will not be specifying which coast a fleet is in or moves to unless that coast need be specified in accordance with the rules. Hence, Austria had to state which coast he was moving to, while Italy did not need to this season.

Deadline for Fall 1907 is Tuesday, January 29, 1980.

John Michalski advises that he is still guaranteeing the continuation of this game. It's just any new games he does not insure. Speaking of which, I am holding a couple of entry fees to my next ten-day game. It's only \$4.

PRESS RELEASES

PRIME MINISTER TO RUSSO-BRITISH EXPEDITIONARY FORCES: Take no prisoners-repeat- take no prisoners.

VIENNA: A riot broke out on the tenth floor of the Ritz-Carlton Hotel here today as the Russian delegation, the sole occupants of the heavily-guarded top floor, fought for the elevators in a desperate effort to vacate the premises. The cause of the riot was reported to be confirmation of the rumor that the Czar and the Tsar were one and the same person. The confirmation was later withdrawn to be replaced by a Bar Mitzvah.

News item from Bill Shaffer: At a recent shopping trip to AMC uptown, Bill reports that the woman in front of him in the checkout line was telling the clerk that it must be below freezing outside, since it was raining. Bill, always a ~~possy~~ ~~bastard~~ helpful citizen, barged in to point out that if it were below freezing, the rain falling outside would be snow. "Oh, no, in Oklahoma it only snows when it's above freezing" she responded. You learn something new every day here.

79 Iid

The First Blind Madman Game

JAN 24 1980

SPRING, 1906

Madman Finds Continued Success In The North,
Continued Frustration In The South

Germany (Madman): FBRE S A Par-Pic; A Par-PIC;
A TYO-Ven

OK, let's see Fall, 1906 with my mail received at home WEDNESDAY, February 6, 1980.
Press follows.

LONDON-MOSCOW & ROME: You each have proposed that I use my three fleets to suicide out against the other. To be fair, I'm going to suicide out against the madman. You each may have $1\frac{1}{2}$ of my centers.

SWEDEN: Rumor has it that intensive negotiations between Shaffer and Howe over their positions fell apart. They both wanted on top.

BERLIN: Archduke Pilant the Magnificent, Conqueror of Western Europe, accepts all votes of concession to Austria.

ROME: Whoever datelined that piece from me; you're a murd. You know who you are. Austria's in Venice, but I'm actually in Syria! (As Linsey just discovered). Austria is very big. And I shall write no more press whatsoever. Anything datelined from me is BLACK PRESS, just like it was last season.

ROME: Yes. Turkey is a power, World. Look out!!

VIE-CON: You shouldn't have stabbed us all, now Shaffer is after you.

MOSCOW: What's noisy, repulsive, and covered with feathers?

LONDON: Bruce Linseed making love*. (*See earlier limerick)
(I still have Reg Dip openings in nuclear Holocaust).

79 Nid

The Second Blind Madman Game

January 16, 1980

MADMAN SHIFTS NORTH, CENTRAL FRONT STYMIED.
DISPLACED F NTH GIVES US A PEEK AT WHAT'S AROUND.

Spring, 1903: GERMANY (Madman): A VIE-Gal; A SIL-War; A PIC-Bre;
A SWE S F Nth-Nwy; F Nth-Nwy/d/r Ska,
Hlg, Bel, Yor, Otb, NWG

Displaced F Nth r NWG per call to player whose madman orders were selected.

Fall, 1903, will be due with my mail received at home WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30, 1980.
Press follows:

FRANCE-GM: If you'll tell me who retreated A Bel-PIC, I promise I won't tell the IRS about your flourishing and undeclared Diplomacy business. Looking at the madman's orders, I'll bet it was Austria!

Bob to Santa: "Screw you!"

COA: Monty Hayner, Russia, to 929 N Lake Ave #217, Lakeland, FL 33801

79CK

The Second Ten-Day-Deadline Game

JAN 28 1980

FRANCE SINKING FAST. ALL QUIET ON THE NORTHERN FRONT--SO FAR.
ENGLAND TO RESIST A-T WAVE!

Winter, 1907: Austria builds A TRI, A VIE. England builds F EDI, F LON;.
Turkey removes F Aeg

SPRING, 1908:

AUSTRIA (Henthorn): A TRI-Tyo; A Vie-BOH; A TYO-Mun; A Bur S A Mun-Rhh/d/r
Par, Bel, Otb; A MUN-Ruh; A PRU S TURKISH A Ber/OTM;
A Pie-MAR; A GAS-Bre; F Tun-WES

ENGLAND (Hayner): A NWY S A Mar/imp.; F SWE S A Nwy; F Nth-DEN; F Edi-Nth;
F Lon-ENG; F Kie-BAL; A HOL-Kie; A RUH-Kie; F Lvp-IRI

FRANCE (Kelley): A Mar-BUR; A PIC S A Mar-Bur; F BRE-Gas; F Mid S F Bre-Gas/d/
r Por, NAO, Otb; F SPAsc S AUSTRIAN F Tun-Wes

TURKEY (Becker): F NAF S F Wes-Mid; F Wes-MID; F GLYO-Spasc; F Tus-TYN; F Ion-TUN;
F BLA orders more grog (H); A BER-Kie; A MOS, A LVN, & A FIN S
A StP; A STP S A Fin

Looks as tho a few centers will change hands next season, which will be due with my mail received here THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1980. Fall orders may be conditional on the retreats. Remember to label one set of orders "all other cases" whenever using any conditional orders! Also, conditional PRESS may be submitted. Speaking of which:

BELGIUM: The British are coming! The British are coming! Quick, take away their Playboy mags!

LON-PAR: While you're giving it away, could I have a brest? (I would take it only with your permission).

ST PETE-TAMPA: Be ready to pay toll, the Turks are sailing under the Sunshine Skyway now!

ANK-VIE: Undoubtedly you've been asked to turn against me. They only do it to save themselves. We can wipe them out together. So what's with A Ser! (Just a guess!) Onward ally.

79Nid

MADMAN RUNS WESTWARD, BLOWS IT

Jan. 30, 1980

Summer, 1903: German F Nth r NWG

FALL, 1903: GERMANY (Madman): F Nwg-NAO; A Swe-Nwy/d/r Fin, Otb; A PIC-Bre;
A SIL-Mun; A VIE-Tyo

1903: ~~Bel~~ Mun ~~Wol~~ Vie ~~Swe~~ 2 Remove 3 (Per call to player whose orders were selected, all but A SIL, A VIE are removed)

Winter, 1903 adjustments and SPRING, 1904 will be due with my mail received at home THURSDAY, February 14, 1980. Press follows.

German fleet to Iceland: Surrender or die!

ANSWERS to Andy Lischett Star Trek quiz: 1. Excalibur, Lexington, Hood, Potempkin, Constellation, Yorktown (any 5 of these) 2. Gary Lockwood 3. "Shore Leave" 4. Ensign Harper 5. Nurse Chapel 6. William Campbell 7. Admiral in charge of Starfleet operations 8. Galileo 9. Romulan Star Empire 10. Harlan Ellison's "City on the edge of forever" Score: 0-2, you're just a Klingon imposter 3-4, graduated last from the academy 5-7 you should be posted for advanced training 8-9, you are promoted to Lt Cmdr 10, what, you trying for Kirk's job or something?

A zine published by Jack Frost
 Carried as a feature by The Brutus Bulletin
 In this issue: 1979HE

ALPHONSE: YOU TAKE IT !
 GASTON: NO, YOU TAKE IT !

Fall 1907:

AUSTRIA (Kador): A Ruh-BUR; A BOH sup A Gal; A GAL sup A Rum; A SER sup A Rum; A RUM sup A Arm-Sev; F BUL sup Turkish F Con-Bla; A ARM-Sev

ENGLAND (Howe): F HOL sup Russian F Kie; F ENG sup F Nao-Mid; F NAO-Mid; F MID-Spa(s.o.); A Bro-PAR; A Bel-RUH; A GAS sup A Bur-Mar; A Bur-Mar, dislodged, retreat Pic, Bel, or disband

ITALY (McMahon): F NAF-Mid; F SPA sup F Naf-Mid; A POR sup F Spa; F Tyn-WES; A PIE sup A Mar; A MAR sup Austrian A Ruh-Bur; A MUN sup Austrian A Ruh-Bur; A TYR sup A Mun

RUSSIA (Michalski): F BLA-Rum; A UKR sup F Bla-Rum; A SEV sup F Bla-Rum; A SIL sup A War-Gal; A WAR-Gal; A Stp-LVN; F Pru-EER; F KIE sup F Pru-Ber

TURKEY (Osuch): F CON sup Austrian F Bul-Bla; A ANK sup F Con

Deadline for England's retreat, Winter 1907 adjustment(s), and Spring 1908 orders is Friday, February 8, 1980, at noon.

#	NET	COUNTRY	CENTERS
7	0	AUSTRIA	Bud, Tri, Vie, Ser, Bul, Boh , Gre, Rum
8	0 or +1	ENGLAND	Edi, Lon, Lpl, Nwy, Hol, Bel, Bre, Par
8	0	ITALY	Nap, Rom, Ven, Tun, Mar, Mun, Por, Spa
8	0	RUSSIA	Mos, Stp, Sev, Swe, Den, Kie, War, Ber
3	+1	TURKEY	Smy, Ank, CON

PRESS

RUMANIA: Even they serve who stand and support.

GALICIA: Making a good support is only half of the problem; making the support good is the other half.

ST PETERSBURG: Last fall did it. Had England & I guessed perfectly, we could have picked up Portugal, Rumania, and Bulgaria. Now it is only a matter of time before my side of the line is eaten away. Even though it's 8-8-8-8-2, the AI 16 can make strategic headway, while ER cannot. WE can only hope for luck, a stab by A of I or I of A, or a resurgent Turkey. And Jack will only permit draws of all surviving players, remember? Think about it.

ANKARA: The Sultan revealed today that Austria's three year stay on Turkish soil was a pleasant one, with much comradarie & warm wishes being exchanged. Rumors were circulating throughout the palace of a possible tour of Russia, with the entourage visiting four cities spread throughout the republic.

ANKARA-MOSCOW: Touché!

79IZ

SLEEPING AUSTRIANS HOLD 9 OF 10 ENEMY UNITS AT BAY!
DID R-T MAKE UP, OR NOT? G-E LIGHTS UP THE WEST.

JAN 24 1980

FALL, 1902:

AUSTRIA (Lee): NMR! A TYO, TRI, BUD, SER H. F GRE H
ENGLAND (Osuch): F NWY S GERMAN A Den-Swe; F NTH S F Nwy; A Pic-BRE;
F ENG S A Pic-Bre
FRANCE (Fuchs): F Spasc-MID; A Mar-SPA; A PAR-Bre; A Bur-PIC
GERMANY (Howe): A Den-SWE; F BAL S A Den-Swe; F Hol-BEL; A MUN S A Ruh;
A RUH S A Mun
ITALY (Palter): A PIE S A Ven; A VEN S A Pie; F Tun-ION
RUSSIA (Hayner): A Gal-VIE; A RUM-Ser; A UKR-Rum; F SEV S A Ukr-Rum;
F Swe-Nwy/d/r Ska, Fin, GoB, Otb; A STP S F Swe-Nwy
TURKEY (McCarty): F Smy S A Bul-Gre/NSU; A BUL-Gre; A ARM-Bul; F BLA C A Arm-
Bul; F AEG (unordered) H

My thanks to Eric Kirchner for standby orders that were unneeded. His orders were the same as these anyhow, with the addition of some press and the orders "F Toyota -Chrysler, S by F Datsun". Oh, well.

Would ARTURO GUAJARDO, 3201 E Greenlee Rd #13, Tucson, AZ 85716 please consider submitting standby orders for Austria? I think Mr Lee will be back, but...

Winter, 1902 adjustments and SPRING, 1903 in this very interesting game will be due with my mail received at the work address THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1980. Press follows 1902.

1902: A: Vie Bud Tri Ser Gre	4	Remove 1
E: Home By NWY BRE	5	Build 1
F: By Par Mar Por SPA	4	Even
G: Home Hol Den BEL SWE	7	Build 2
I: Home Tun	4	was 1 short, Build 1
R: Home Rum Swe VIE	6	Even
T: Home Bul	4	Even
Neutral: Spa Nwy	0	
	<u>34</u>	

LON-JOHN: How come every time someone NMRs in BB games, I'm 1000 miles away? I ask that you misplace or overlook France's next set or orders. Thank you.

ST PETE: We don't need Harry, he's a couple years behind in his methods of conducting diplomatic relations.

CON: Tsar of plunder,
Tsar of might,
Head of Russian hordes so bright;
Help us in the Austrian fight.

((See COA on next
sheet for Hayner!))

LON: Due to lax discipline, the Prime Minister ordered all English troops out of Belgium effective May 23, 1902. The PM further ordered that all men be examined for social disease before returning to Mother England. German forces in Holland were encouraged to supplant the British position and "Exterminate the heathen scum in a manner befitting the Second Reich".

MOSCOW: I've learned a lesson in this game: S'O1 A Mos-StP is ridiculously ridiculous.
(The preceding message has been issued from the Department of Redundancy Dept).

CON: The Italian Ambassador, Dan
Couldn't play once the shit hit the fan
So instead he gave up
like a helpless pup
Tho he could have fought on like a man.

((MORE PRESS FOLLOWING!!))

AUSTRIA-WORLD: Italy is to be congratulated. He religiously sends in duplicate orders each season. To save postage, he uses the same envelope.

CON: TURKEY shall have vengeance upon the Austrian deceivers! And no harem priveledges next visit either!

BERLIN: In a carefully worded press release, the Kaiser was quoted to say that the "firing" of English Ambassador Harry Gonads was not restitution enough for the grave damage that has already been done. The Kaiser vehemently refused to answer questions about the rumor that the decision to annex Belgium versus boycotting the Olympics had been decided by a coin flip.

CODEWORD CONTROVERSY, continued

COA

Mouty Hayner, to 929 N. Lake Ave,
#217, Lakeland, FL 33801

(Peter Fuchs): I disagree that codewords make orders contingent upon concurrent events any more than a normal exchange of letters between players. Consider the case where player A tells player B to use codeword DOG if B wants to help A attack player C. Player A submits 2 sets or orders, one of which is codeworded DOG. If A&B play it straight (ie, don't attempt to deceive each other), B uses codeword DOG to attack C and there is a coordinated attack. If B lies, he submits orders codeworded DOG which don't attack C (orders which probably attack A instead!) If only A lies, A's orders codeworded DOG attack B. And finally if both A&B lie to each other, B submits orders codeworded DOG and A&B attack each other! The key to this is that codewords make orders contingent not upon concurrent events but upon promised events in mostly the same way as orders based on normal diplomacy.

If that was your only objection to codeworded orders, you lose. By the way, I vote for their use of course.

Any chance of deciding this by majority vote instead of requiring unanimity?

((I stated my objection poorly. I should emphasize that my objection to codewords is that they give the appearance of violating the concurrent events principle, in that order selection is triggered by concurrent action of another player, even if that concurrent action is possibly a lie. Anytime your orders are contingent on what someone else wrote or did not write, the legalities of it look pretty dubious.

My call for a unanimous vote is based on the belief that players sign up and begin play in my games under the reasonable presumption that the game will be run according to the same policies, rules, and standards that all my others have. To change policy in midstream would penalize those who signed up with that belief; therefore, in order to change policy in an ongoing game, I would have to insist on a unanimous vote. I believe anything less would be unfair to the player's interest.))

J.M.

BB ADS are free to subbers and traders. Send in anything you like and have it run here as a service to you (to say nothing of its filler value to me).

HAVE ANY OLD BBs laying around you'd like to get rid of? Believe it or not, there are a few people who would like some oldies. (I keep only a file copy). Let us know, and they'll contact you.

GRAUSTARK #408 had this cover note: "Nobody will worry about Mary Jo Kopechne. After all, nobody worried about Angela Mraubel..."

FAMOUS LAST WORDS IN DIPLOMACY: "Hell, I didn't even know the fuggin 'Clyde' was there!"
-Bill Shaffer, 1979

Anyone know the address of Art Lowe who plays in RUNESTONE? I need to send him an Oaklyn packet.

ZINES RECEIVED

A synopsis of zines received in the period Dec 31, 1979
through January 31, 1980

12-31-79

TER-RAN #36, Steve Heinowski, 1630 W 28 St, Lorain, OH 44052. Ditto, 25¢ each, monthly. 5 sheets, 10 pages, games, press, editorial notes, 2 page article in a series on the value of pieces (vehicles, etc.) in PANZERBLITZ. No openings anymore, I belle ve.

VOICE OF DOOM #4 (VOD, but I prefer VD), Bruce Linsey, 71 Hudson Terrace Apts, Newburgh, NY 12550. 45¢, 15 sheets, 30 pages! Great repro. Games, too much press, articles, news, chatter, humor, letters, including one from John Kelley saying VD is better than BB! (sniff). Definitely a new leader coming up, and a much-needed one. No openings now. Recommended.

FOL SI FIE #122, Randolph Smythe, 275 SE 3 St, #314, Medicine Hat, Alberta T1A 0G4 5/\$2, every 5 weeks. 13 sheets, 26 pages. This and VD #4 really weighted the mailbox down! Art, articles (including "I am Buddy Tretick"), politics, humor, openings list, some "endgame statements" that go on and on and on, letters, and all in ditto. Repro marginal in places. Recommended.

1-2-80

THE DOGS OF WAR #6, John Daly, Rt 2, Box 136-M5, Rockwell, NC 28138. No rates given, nor frequency or openings that I could find. I think it's monthly, and while a new zine, is also quite regular. (That means I remember getting the last one, something not always possible with a lot of these zines today). 4 sheets, 8 pages, games, news, lots of little humor/interest items, pleasant reading. John is trying to start up an "orphanage" for lost games, a much needed project. Anyone wanting to adopt one can contact John; I'm sure he'll have plenty soon!

THE FLYING DUTCHMAN #6, Jack Brawner, now at 2745 S 54 Ave, St Petersburg, FL 33712. 25¢ each, digest sized, 12 pages. Regdip, Rail Baron

1-3-80

RETALIATION #8, Dick Martin, 26 N Orchard Way, Rockville, MD 20854. Openings in a black press game, free. \$3/10 issues. Also running a D&D game. 9 pages, games, quite a bit of press, odds and ends, and the start of another orphans clearinghouse. (Later he and the two above got together on this). Plenty of orphan work for all! Repro light but good.

VOLKERWANDERUNG #5, K Arnett, 1500 Waterway Circle, Chesapeake, VA 23320. Digest sized, 20 pages. Games, press, puzzles, articles, news, Need-A-Game list, editorials, movie review...a lot of zine in a small package! This one announces the likely opening of a BLIND DIPLOMACY game. Sign up, folks! They're a lot of fun! (This was the REAL Volker, not the fake, which was outstanding. Someone has since come forward to admit to the fake, but asked that no one tell BOB who it was, so I won't).

1-4-80

RUNESTONE 272, 273, 274. John Leeder, 121 NE 9 Ave, Calgary, Alberta T2E 1N9. Issues vary from 1 sheet to 3, published weekly. Issues are sent in groups monthly. Rates are 1½¢ per page plus postage, as I recall (not stated in these). Send any amount and John will keep a tally for you. Ditto, no openings (is winding down). Variants, press, occasional letter column. RUNESTONE used to be a real pillar of the hobby and a newscenter, but John writes how it now can take him two weeks to get to his mail accumulated; lots of delay announcements, etc. John is to be commended for finishing up his commitments, but RUNESTONE is hardly a shadow of its former self, a shame. Skip it.

1-7-80

THE NINTH CIRCLE "Vol 3 #4" David Bunke, 5512 Julmar Drive, Cincinnati, Ohio 45238. Digest sized, 14 pages. This issue announces his fold, with games to be rehoused as best as possible. Zine lists 3 editors, 4 assistant editors, and a staff artist,

Zines Received, Continued

but is folding due to lack of time on Dave's part to do all the work. Carried Dip, Machiavelli, Stellar Conquest, WWII, Basic warehouse zine. A respectable fold.

MURDRIN' MINISTERS, "Vol 2, #15" (I hate "volume" this, # "that. What do they mean? Is it #15? I think so. But it could be # 15 of Vol 2, while Vol 1 may have been 2 issues, 24 issues, or his first 100...) Ron Brown, 1528 El Sereno Place, Bakersfield, CA 93304. 12/\$4 RegDip openings at \$10 flat fee, including sub for the remainder of that game. SUBMARINE openings at \$2 plus sub. (No pun intended) 16 pgs, ditto; notes, games, some press, a few articles and letters, news. I enjoy this one, tho I'm not doing real well in it overall. Much more readable than your average dipzine. Try one!

1-9-80

GRAUSTARK #410, John Boardman, 234 E 19 St, Brooklyn, NY 11226. 10 pages, games, press, notes, letters, and wierd editorials expounding John's strange view of an Imperial America striding successfully down the road of total world domination. It must be seen to be believed. 12/\$5 1st class, 20/\$5 3d class, \$12 gamefee includes sub, and has openings. Standby spots sold at \$5 a throw. BACK ISSUES are on sale for 5¢ each until March 31, 1980, and all issues from 291-409 are available (10 issue minimum order) with these exceptions: 300, 318, 320, 346. Strangely enough, I suggest you do send a dollar or two. You can follow some game through its history; you can shake your head in disbeleif at his political rantings; you can have some good laughs at his Tretick stuff; and it is well written! \$2 will bring 40 of them to your door. Try it.

1-10-80

TORO NTO TELEGRAM "vol 2" #10, Bill LaFosse, 126 Bay Street #24, Trenton, Ontario K8V 1H8. This is his first annish. TT is available at he rate of \$5 for the entire year. Steep for 10 issues, but the quality of the humor and quantity of amusing material make it worthwhile. 10 pages, 3½ of games and press, the rest all good stuff. A very enjoyable issue, and one of my favorite zines. Should appear 20 times a year, not 10.

1-12-80

PASSCHENDAELE 16 & 17, Francois Cuerrier, 2210-160 Chapel St, Ottawa, Oktario K1N 8P5 35¢ each, \$2.50 gamefee, has openings under a GGM. #16 was 12 pages, #17 5½, the latter being a warehouse. Games, commentary, news, demo games with outside commentary, opionion poll. Not bad at all, but seems like a long time since the last one. Ditto, but legible.

EMHAIN MACHA, #4, Michael Mills, 3457 Makyes Rd, Nedrow, NY 13120. 6/2.50, 12/\$4.80, \$2 gamefee and \$1 deposit, has Regdip openings plus openings in BHEARNA BAOGHAIL, his own variant on ancient Ireland. Digest size, 22 pages. Articles, quiz, letters and commentary, hobby news, more reviews... lot of material for a new zine! Shows promise.

1-14-80

EGGNOG #40, Konrad Baumeister, 11416 Parkview Lane, Hales Corners, WI 53130. 10/\$3.50 no openings, 12 ditto pages. News, editor's notes, music, games, subzine CAT-tastrophe, lots of press I didn't read, endgame statements, and a couple of brief letters. Decent repro this issue. Allows black press! (Yay!) A very reliable zine, and one of the best in the hobby today. (That's why there are no openings.) Konrad is always up on the news, and would produce an outstanding product if he had more time, instead of just excellent. I get the feeling that he has bitten off quite a bit...If you're looking for a zine to sub to for news & interest, EGGNOG should be it. Recommended.

THE BALTIC BATTLER #4, Torbjorn Strom, Lansmansvagen 19 S-370, 10 Brakne-Hoby, Sweden 10/\$7 English language, 24 pages chock full of material! Zine reviews, strategy, articles with stats, S/F column, D&D material, letter column, wargaming material & news (Randy Reed left AH for USMC?!), mailing list, openings, and three

ZINES RECEIVED, cont'd

pages of games and press. This was my first issue, and I'm astounded that such a massive, fluent-English, current zine is coming out of a foreign land. I'm impressed!

1-15-80

RUNESTONE 275, 276, 277. 3 pages, 4 pages, 1 page respectively. See above for address and elaboration.

1-16-80

WHY ME? Lee Kendter Sr, 4347 Benner St, Philadelphia, PA 19135. ((I can't find my issue now, so I'm at a loss for details. Anyhow, it's about 12 pages, this issue announces his assumption of the BNC post, and is one of the best zines around. Very reliable, MAY have ONE game still open. Recommended!))

1-19-80

RURITANIA #61, Tony Watson, 1481 S Palm #207, Las Vegas, NV 89104. 10/\$3 No openings. 12 pages, ditto, legible. Articles, movie reviews, games, press, notes. SF oriented. 5 yrs under his belt; definitely an established zine.

1-21-80

THE DRAGON & THE LAMB #40, Steve McLendon, Box 57066, Webster, TX 77598. RegDip openings \$12, Holocaust \$6, Colonia V \$6, Blind Diplomacy \$4. Fees include sub, but only for your stay in the game, not for the game's duration as in, say, G RAUSTARK. Was voted #2 in last Leeder Poll. The fee of \$12 then is exorbitant, as is the new 10/\$7 sub rate for non-players. 19 pages of games, endgame statements, press, some humorous filler. Digest sized, a good zine, but not worth 70¢ an issue.

CLAW & FANG #110, Don Horton, 16 Jordan Court, Sacramento, CA 95826. Seventh anniversary issue. 10 pages of games, press, 60% articles and letters. One of the best reading zines in the hobby, and certainly reliable. My game inserts show 1 game orphaned and delayed AGAIN; second GGM game? Third? I've lost count. The other game has had a 16 center Russia NMR twice in a row, but now a standby will be appointed. Strange. Regular as a clock, but I would never play in C&F again if you paid me a gamefee every damn season! Good for regular reading, but not worth a cman for play even without "Bernie Oaklyn" standing by.

CHEESECAKE #10, Andy Lischett, 3025 N Davlin Ct, Chicago, IL 60618. 4 pages, just games and notes this time. A basic warehouse zine with great wit when Andy has the time. Not much physically, but its worth the price: FREE for your standing by!

1-26-80

PASSCHENDAELE # 18, ref above. This is the third issue this month, but this isn't a typical month. 5 pages, ditto, games, commentary, joke.

ENVOY "Vol 2 #1" ; you guess what that means. Sample issue. 12/\$5, 1st annish. Openings in Dip, Kingmaker, Bismarck, Crusades, Rail Baron, Magic Realm, Machiavelli. And what's this? "The New BB to fold"! Wow! What news. Especially to me! No, I guess he read that I was dropping the "New" from the title and misread it into a fold. HMMMMMM. 19 pages, digest sized, game-heavy.

DIPLOMACY DIGEST #30, Mark Berch, 492 Naylor Place, Alexandria, VA 22304. 10/\$3 All articles, no games, digest sized with reduced print, 11 pages. This issue is a 1-topic issue, concerning a dispute over game 75CM between GM-players, with and editorial at the end.

1-29-80

URF DURFAL #43, Greg Costikyan (MNC), P O Box 865, Brown U, Providence, RI 02912. Openings in Youngstown, \$3 refundable, Junta \$1, "Fiat Lux Diplomacy" \$1. No note on rates. 6 sheets, 6 pages, a straight warehouse issue.

ZINES RECEIVED, conclusion

GRAUSTARK #411, ref above. 10 pages, games, press, political editorializing, notes, game wrapup, 2 swipes at BRUTUS BULLETIN.

1-31-80

RETALIATION #9, Dick Martin, 26 Orchard Way N, Rockville, MD 20854 12 pages, games, very heavy on press, notes, orphan project news, houserules. A full issue, but too press-heavy for me.

Late Note LIBERTERREAN #131, Jim Bumpas, 948 Corrine Ave, Los Altos (A also came in

Well, that is everything that arrived, I HOPE! I don't think I missed listing anyone who had something come in. That could be important, since there is one more thing I want to add to this list. That is, a listing of all the OTHER zines I get which, for their own reasons, did NOT arrive during the 32 day period! I hope I don't forget any of THEM either!

Probably folded { Warmonger (Alan Rowland) Assorted Garbage (John Lipscomb)
Lila (Tom Gould) Revenge (Dan Morris)
Beholder (John Kelley) Utopia Ltd / Dip Review (Scott Marley)

(CAME FEB 1st)

JOHN'S NOTES, continued

Back again. I think I kind of like this type; I've never seen it here before, but when I noticed that this machine had no typing head, I grabbed the first one I came across, and this was it. I should have saved it to put out a fake FRONT DE FRAUD or some such, hey?

Well, Pittsburgh really turned out to be something. World Series, Super Bowl... and the Steelers will probably go on for 2 or 3 more years before they collapse into a cinder team, like Kansas City and Green Bay now are. Too bad. Too bad it has to be 2 or 3 more years. I don't like the Steelers. (Baseball I ignore).

The weather changed to bitter cold (i.e., sometimes below freezing even!) for almost a week here after a mercifully mild winter at the end of January. Also, we had our first (and only?) ice storm of the year right at the end of January. Nice on the heating bills, but that means a bad summer. Last summer was beautiful here due to the astoundingly wet winter before: the state was green straight through August instead of turning brown at the end of June. This summer looks to be more typical, as we haven't had but two light showers in as many months.

SF continues to pull out the specials on TV. I saw part of Bradbury's MARTIAN CHRONICLES last week. I remember reading and pretty much liking the stuff a decade ago when I read a lot of SF, but the show seemed dated in topic and style. The models were too obviously that, and the show was "made for TV" in more ways than one. Trite junk, it seemed to me.

KENNEDY jumped into the cesspool with both feet recently. He must feel desperate. A call for iron wage-and-price controls, gasoline rationing, and a rousing "hell no, we won't go" to drag the unthinking college bums (as opposed to students) into his camp. What a joke. The odd thing is, 1. it seems so pathetic now that it is laughable to see him so cutting his throat, yet 2. the damn fool may just go all the way and win, and 3. even if he doesn't, I'll bet that Carter will inaugurate the same things even if HE survives and wins! So the final joke is on us! If I don't vote for LaFosse this year, I think I'll have to pick some minor party candidate. (I always vote, if only out of the hope of being called for jury duty so as to get off work with pay. They call jurors from the voter rolls.) Anybody know who the whigs or National Socialists are running this year?

And now, how about a little travelogue courtesy of world wanderer,

RON MAZURKIEWICZ

2431 N 41, Milwaukee, WI 53210

As usual there always seems to be time for everything else except writting letters. I returned in time for Christmas and have been running about like a nut since then. I am currently looking for a job, an endeavor which always seems to take an inordinant amount of time. Yet I prefer being unemployed to working third shift as I was. That got to be a real drag. I am just lucky that I have set myself up with my duplex so I don't have to pay any rent for the indefinite future.

My trip was well worth it. I figured out my total expenses, including the ship there and one way air fare back; for three months, as \$3,100. Not bad, considering all the talk about how expensive European travel is supposed to be. I certainly enjoyed myself. I got to see much of the world I've spent my whole life reading about. A lot of things were different than I had expected. Mostly that is because even though one reads the news you just can't integrate the data into any sort of meaningful picture until you actually see the whole show. In general I was surprised to see how well they are living in Europe. The middleclass seems to be about as well off as they are here in the US, but the working class seems much better there. No rusty cars or sleazy housing. No goofs in dirty clothes. The bums one saw seemed to be professional types who don't work on principle. Compared to Southern Europe and the Balkans, Northern Europe seems to be little different from the US.

The Southern and Eastern half however surprised me the other way. I didn't think people in Europe were still living that way. Many places seemed to be a houndred years in the past. Especially Greece and Turkey, and Yugoslavia for that matter. They are all still in the horse drawn plow days. In the big cities a lot of people are still living ^{w/m} public water points, cooking with wood, all with electric lights though I guess. The twentieth century has arrived after all with the electric light bulb. You'd have loved it. Especially the attitude to cleanliness. All our lives we have heard comments of the German attitude toward the Balkan and

Italian peoples. After being there I have to admit that the Germans are right. The attitude seems to be one of purposeful slovenlyness. In Rome and the entire Italian countryside there are just heaps of garbage and junk everywhere. Three-fourths of the public lavatories I went to had shit all over the seats and piss all over the floors. I still can't figure out how one gets shit on the seat. Do they stand on the seats and then miss the bowl? All the downtown streets have piss pools and streams here and there. I even saw a nice little routine which I never have anywhere else. When you have to take a leak, you step out between two parked cars and piss on someone's radiator. That must be real cute for the car owner, eh?

In Germany I was a bit surprised, although again I shouldn't really have been, to see how much World War Two has been erased. There is absolutely nothing left. Not a thing. "Adolf Who? Doesn't sound like a German name to me," would not be an amazing response from one of today's Germans.

I had much better luck with my search for Roman antiquities. Rome and Istanbul were simply fantastic. The various ruins were much more preserved and larger than I had expected. I was simply astounded to find that the Imperial palaces are still up there on the Palantine hill in Rome. As one looks at the hill you see forests and grass covering the top. This ground cover is growing on the third floor of the old places! I was really shocked.

I was therefore well pleased with my "Grand Tour" and would recommend to everyone that they do something similar. I was surprised to find so many cliches were true, and that so much I believed is not true. All in all I suppose my greatest impression is that even today Europe is one of the most varied areas in all the earth. They pack an awful lot of diversity into a pretty small area.

And now to go from the sublime to the ridiculous, do you still want to continue with the Siegrunen subscription? I would.

LETTERS

BOB OSUCH

3417 S Paulina, Chicago

As usual, your BB #53 was outrageous. So far I'm subbing to 5 zines, of which yours is my absolute fave!! Please send an autographed 8x10 glossy with your next issh.

The letter from Oaklyn in your latest issue was comical. In fact, the whole Tretick-Oaklyn episode is depravedly humorous. Though I've only caught the tail end of the "life of Bernie", the guy's obviously a masochist. Anybody who would take the abuse he has, and then come back for more (it hurts so good) must be seriously ill. I do admire his tenacity though.

It looks like my letter on repressing queers struck a sore spot with a certain Scott Marley. Do all pseudo-intellectuals take everything they read at face value? In answer to his questions 1. No, I didn't feel it was necessary to point out that I'm straight, but believe it or not, some people are genuinely interested, and 2. my first answer covers both questions since he unwittingly asked a reciprocal question, actually, Scott's contention that I "grudgingly allow gays the right to exist" is based on his assumptions, not mine. Nowhere in my letter did I assert, or even imply it. Rather, I gave my observations of Chicago's homosexual situation & offered an exaggerated episode of their possible repression. Actually, I was trying to get your response as to how you would repress queers, which you gave in your reply.

Scott's statement that "it is often possible through psychological treatment to convert a person to heterosexuality" is pure, unadulterated bullshit. Any psychologist will tell you that you'd have about as much chance of converting a homo to hetero as you would converting a hetero to homo. A little research saves a lot of embarrassment, Scott.

I could go on, but why bother? I've made my point for the third time. Now, if anybody out there STILL doesn't like it, tough shit. Just write it off as another personality conflict.

Keep up the good work.

((Scott was pretty far offbase on that matter of 'converting' the homos to heteros, but time and space limitations caused me to run that letter just as it was without response. Thanks for your commentary.)) J.M.

MICHAEL MILLS (Emhain Macha) 3457 Makyes Rd, Nedrow, NY 13120 wrote the following in a recent BB which I would also like to comment on now: "Like all Republicans, John ((Conally)) has all the answers for last year's 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." Only the weight of material coming in let me let that also slip by without comment. Talk about mindless knee-jerk responses; here's a classic for us. If anyone were thinking instead of just voting straight Democratic every time, usually because granpappy did and pappy did so me-too, me-too, they would hardly throw such ridiculous cliché's at the Republicans. There are a number of valid criticisms to be made, that's for sure, but the drivel Mike put forth would hardly qualify. Only those who really are "bored with common sense" would put their name to something so foolish as an attack on the "mediocre Ike years" when the one thing people yearn for is someone who can show some leadership in office and handle our problems without everything being a 'crisis', and give the people peace and prosperity--all hallmarks of those "mediocre Ike years". ALL candidates talk about the answers to last year's problems, because this year's problems are the same as last year's problems and the problems of the year before that. Because ever since that criminal Lyndon Johnson ruined the economy by trying to wage war on a credit card, our problems have been the same. The massively

Democratic congress spending like there was no tomorrow, giving away money to anyone willing to come up with any half-baked reason couched in chic leftist terms, and running up deficits that exceed human comprehension is the reason we have the problems we do. Closing your eyes to the gang of Democratic thieves who have robbed the country of most of the value the dollar once had will hardly condemn the Republicans. Inspiring they are not, but indeed, so awful has been the record of every Democratic administration and congress that it makes even the less-than-charismatic Nixon look like the best man to the nation for two straight presidential elections in a row. Republicans hardly set the world on fire; they just try to get things done, and make up for past foul-ups as best they can. The Democratic party preys on the people's stupidity, pushing a picture of tinsel glamor and pie-in-the-sky promises of everything for everybody for nothing. They are more forward-looking than the Republicans only because things are going downhill at a fast clip, and the Democrats are leading the way! Fuehrer befiehlt, wir folgen they used to say in Europe... J.M.

TOM HENTHORN

First of all, I couldn't agree more strongly with your philosophy of how to produce a Diplomacy zine. It's a place for playing. Your critics who cry foul because some others don't like the way they play and your giving those others a forum to voice their criticisms, accusations, condemnations, etc., are dead wrong. They've obviously forgotten they're playing; or their egos have. To me your letters, reprints, etc., are stimulating and fun. Sure, some of it is thought-provoking. But I'm not convinced just by your format alone that you're having a ball doing this, and you wouldn't think of picking up your toys and locking yourself in your room because little Joey thinks you're hogging too many tinkertoys. Obviously, some people value their control of the tinkertoys more than staying out and playing with the other kids. I'm also sure there's enough kids around who like tinkertoys enough to suck-up to just such a spoiled kid so they can play with his toys too. Like is funny. But don't you get funny, keep up the good play.

((Thanks for the kind words. Sadly, not everyone takes all conflicting views as you do, and I myself tend to jump in with both feet(or more!) at any controversy about which I have any views at all. Still, what the heck...)) J.M.

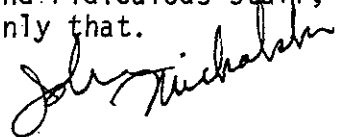
★
IMPORTANT NOTICE*****

John Boardman, publisher of GRAUSTARK, has written a letter expressing his own view of recent criticisms of him that have appeared here which, upon consideration, have some merit. Now, anyone who has ever read either GRAUSTARK or BRUTUS BULLETIN knows that John's politics and mine are quite different; there are few things, in fact, that we do agree on at all (although there are some: Tretick, for instance). But, differences aside for the moment, the recent flurry of comments on him may indeed have crossed the line distinguishing criticisms of his views from that of the MAN himself. While there has been, and possibly will be, a lot of mud-slinging and name calling where people's opinions vary as widely as do his and mine, and his vs. others, I want to make it clear that John's personal record established in this hobby is an impressive one, and one which I will readily acknowledge is an enviable one. The Cartier article particularly, could be taken as a slur on John's own honesty as a man, and thus in retrospect, my printing it was a mistake. To this, and any other attacks on him that have appeared here which anyone has taken in any way as a slur on John's personal integrity as opposed to simply our differing views on issues, I WISH TO PUBLICLY APOLOGIZE TO JOHN, AND DO SO FOR THE RECORD, RIGHT HERE AND NOW. John has been publishing for over a decade and a half in a hobby where zines putting out ten issues are "established"

★

Apology to Boardman, continued

and in all that time, no one to my knowledge has lost a dime. Again, this in a hobby where zines quietly slipping off into the void with all the player's gamefees and sub funds are so common as to hardly be worthy of note. John's expressing his strange political views have irritated an awful lot of people over the years, even the very few years I myself have been in this hobby; but while he has often drawn criticism and incredulity for these things, I cannot recall ONE SINGLE INSTANCE of anyone criticizing the manner in which he has run his games and conducted himself as a GM-publisher. Quite the opposite has been the case, in fact. Those who will readily attack the way John sees the world will invariably praise the way he has conducted his personal business affairs as GM/publisher, and in case I have not made this clear to any of you myself, this is my own view as well. The Cartier article was an exception to this, and thus my apology for printing it. To the extent that it is within my power to retract any slurs or dispersions on John's character or integrity, I do so. I have tried to follow a policy of printing virtually anything that anyone would put their name to, but this has been an error. I was wrong in thinking that a "free market" of ideas and views would be the best course, for a bit too much "smut" has come in under the guise of "freedom". I will attempt to keep BB an open forum for all, but John is right in his criticism as well: I will have to definitely put a damper on the outrageous and ridiculous stuff, and the attacks on John as a "Nazi" and a crook are certainly that.



Now, back to letters. And what would a recent BB be without a letter from
CURTIS GIBSON 176 Lexington, A1, NYC 10016

BB 53 came today, really high quality, but the missing ingredient, games, was regretted. Some of the punk opinions waste space; games don't!

And four pages by Gibson, all so pithy I read them again, just as keenly as when they first bloomed on the NYC landscape! Several times in the last decade I've seen a letter in a magazine (non-Dip) or newspaper, and after reading a ways into it, got enthusiastic over finding a man who showed such remarkable acumen and appreciation, and then looked at the signature, and was pleasantly surprised to see he had my name, Curtis L Gibson; then I vaguely recalled having written it. The life of an absent-minded professor type is quite fascinating!

So Berch and Gibson are out of ish 54; but do you realize that means #55 will have to be only Berch & Gibson & games? Bravo, Johnny!

Wasn't that cute, the way Gib got panned as an awful anti-Semitic by one guy, and for being a rabid pro-Zionist by another guy. The whole trouble is these young saps don't bother to read what I say carefully, and just pop off the top of their head. Or they are miserably ignorant, of the facts of history both in our century and current, as in the case of Marley, the anti-Zionist. He'd find out what happened in Palestine when the British mandate ended in 1948 and the first of four Palestine wars broke out. This idea that the Israelis took the Arab land! After 32 years to learn the facts! Before the partition, the land assigned Israel by the UN was practically (and not more than) what they already owned, having been buying land for 50 years, mostly bad land, and paying about thrice the price to Arabs considered it worth! The only land taken over in the 1948 war was either abandoned when the Arabs attacked the innocent, half-armed, unprepared Israelis, in order to expedite the Arab attack, or was secured behind the new Arab-Israeli borders due to defeat of the Arab aggressors.

And how ridiculous for Marley to cite almost weekly stonings in Israel as evidence of their penchant for cruel repression, leaving readers to gather

that it is Israelis persecuting Arabs, when it is only a few fanatic orthodox Jews punishing non-orthodox Jews for driving cars thru the Orthodox neighborhoods on a Sabbath, violating the religious traditions! I agree the Orthodox are obnoxious, like Catholic bigots in most predominantly Roman Catholic countries, and maybe like the worst Protestants somewhere (where?). Marley quotes my reference to "Mighty World Emperor Anti-Christ at Armageddon", and misspells it 'Wild', because it was miss-transcribed in BB. M. Mills suggests I would believe in the 'Protocols of Prague', presumably referent to "the protocols of the elders of Zion", a forgery used to promote Anti-Semitism all over Europe and America. Even as recent as 1960 I saw literature based on it, put out by a certain maverick Fundamentalist cult that has been going for about 50 years now.

If Mills claim that no studies of the WASP class have been done by our academics is anywhere near true, it is because, unlike the minority groups, it is so completely diversified in its economic strata, and its educational and cultural types, that it would be several times as big a task as the study of any other American group. Mills is just as wrong in identifying the WASPs with the controlling capitalists as the Protocols of the Elders of Zion in blaming the world's ills on the Jews. Instead of "sucking blood money from the hordes in the melting pot", as he puts it, our capitalists are in competition with each other to give their stockholders (regardless of nationality or faith) the best results. If you wonder why Ulster has so much more prosperity, for centuries past, than Catholic Ireland, it's because of this same Mills mentality, common now throughout Negro America, that applies itself to envy instead of self-betterment and thrift which got the Protestants ahead.

I happen to be one of the WASP ne'er-do-well class, living in a slum, and working at 'slave wages' (about \$2.50 an hour). But that is because I chose to be an intellectual in an anti-intellectual era. So did John Boardman, but he went with the intellectual establishment, and I was against it. So I am free, and write 'mighty' as it ought to be, for right makes might!

Now if Rod Walker really knew the Romans, he'd know they were all kinds, just like Americans. His anti-ascetic spiel ignores that Roman who was so joyed at being elected a Senator, he thought, "now I'm so happy it would be the ideal time to die", but Stoics won't commit suicide, so he got the perfect solution: he stopped eating! And sure enough, a few weeks later he passed over into the Elysian Fields, still in bliss!

Poor Rod can't see my points re population future, and I can't see anything gay about gays, so its about even. Neat!

((My views on the 'WASP capitalists' used to be similar to yours; however, the more I see of the economic world from the inside, the more cynical I have become. I must disagree with your view of the diligent capitalist working for efficiency to create profits to benefit his munificent stockholder investors. In point of fact, most stocks are owned by such interested investors as trust funds, insurance companies, and the like, all of whom use them as no more than simple bonds to earn income. Even large individual firms have the stock so spread out that whoever is the top management of the firm has automatic control: all they need do is send out a form postcard with a proxy endorsement to every name of record, and enough will come back automatically that no interest holder will be able to come close. The big holders, those pension funds and the like, have NO INTEREST AT ALL in the happenings of the firm, and take no part. Finally, through stock watering via stock gifts to top management as a 'reward' for their 'good work', they grant themselves plenty of control as insurance just in case anyhow. Thus, the managers answer to no one but themselves. All they need do is do an adequate enough job to keep the whole firm from going down the tubes, and sit back and suck in all the bennies they care to steal from the till. In fact, if they are big enough and inadequate enough,

Response to Gibson, continued

they can always 'pull a Chrysler' and follow NYC's lead in saying, "Hey, I'm too big for you to let me sink", and just let Uncle Sam pick up the difference. The only competition I can see between them is keep-up-with-the-Joneses competition.

I'm not sure why Catholics seem to be such a target; it strikes me that you use examples of tails wagging the dog. Catholic countries are poorer on the average than Protestant countries because of the accident of where the religion was spread, and by which conqueror, more than the religion being part and parcel of the cause of the poverty. The Spanish took over the central and southern part of the new world, and left their Catholic faith, yet these areas are far more poor than the more Protestant north. Is this because Roman Catholicism made them lazy, or maybe because they were conquered peoples to begin with? Had pagan South America conquered Catholic Spain, perhaps we would praise the thrift and discipline of the Sun Worshipers? Genghis Khan swept all before him; did religion, (whatever Mongolians were/are) make them strong, or was it that a strong people adopted their religion, whatever it was, to their own nature? If Catholic Warsaw was weakened by religion, what of the Catholic Bavarians who occupied it, or the atheistic hordes that later drove them out and remain there today as the new occupiers? Is atheism stronger than the Catholic Bavarians, or Protestant Prussians they drove out and conquered in turn? So we find ourselves in Ulster with a Protestant majority in the major cities (not the countryside) that is economically on top. You ascribe it to their thrift and self-betterment; I must wonder if it is not due to 300 years of exploitation and theft from the conquered local population that was more a cause of their 'self-betterment'.

(As an aside, I should perhaps mention that I was raised as a Catholic, but drifted out of it in my teens and am now usually just non-religious. "Usually", because when I get around hard-core Fundamentalists, I become quite anti-religious, just to watch them squirm).

You are right to point out that Jews bought much land in Palestine. However, wouldn't any people become resentful over "outsiders" buying up land of theirs? Look at the scare items about Arab investment in the US. Wouldn't Arabs sell the Jews only the worst land you mention because they were living on and working the best land themselves? You say the land taken over "was either abandoned when the Arabs attacked...or was secured behind the new Arab-Israeli borders due to defeat of the Arab aggressors". Well, when a war breaks out, MOST people WILL abandon the land; the winner taking it would say it was to "expedite the attack" if that sounded good, but I suspect most were ducking artillery rather than acting as an advance guard. And the fact that an ever-greater piece of Palestine has been falling "behind the new Arab-Israeli borders" is precisely the Arabs main point. ONCE, that might hold water. But Israel's policy of first moving out the border because the border settlements were being shelled, then putting up new settlements on the new border, then having another war when THOSE settlements get shelled, is getting a little thin with me. I would much more support Israel if they just said it is all theirs by right of conquest and skipped all the hypocrisy about "self-defense". When Israel takes on the whole Arab world and wins time after time after time, all this worry about "self defense" starts sounding a bit ridiculous to me))

J.M.

BILL BECKER

Iran, China, USSR, Nazis, Emperor Hirohito, Chrysler, SALT, anti-semitics...if I touch on all of these maybe you'll print this letter..

Here we are in our nice comfy USA stewing about how our hands are tied because a group of Iranians have 50 of our citizens hostage. We have thousands of Iranians in this country and are they worried about it happening to them, no, we're civilized! Well, back in 1941 we were civilized, we started out fighting for military objectives in WWII; but we were fighting Nazis. They rooted out

Becker, continued

and herded their undesirables into concentration camps for execution. Luckily, we didn't execute our undesirables, but we did send US Japanese to concentration camps for the duration of the war. We learned from the Nazis well, they bombed civilian population centers, and we outdid them! We firebombed Dresden and 100,000 died. We played military in the Pacific until Hiroshima, 80,000 civilians and Nagasaki 60,000 dead. When the war came home to Japan the people that had been ready to die to the last man for the Emperor weren't too hot about the idea anymore.

There is a parallel between these acts and what may be necessary in dealing with Iran. If any of the hostages are killed, the emotions of the people here in the US will be similar to those following Pearl Harbor. Since we were last barbarians in 1945 we have fought 'civilized' wars in Vietnam and Korea. When we took the war to the people, bombing Hanoi and the north, factions within the US rallied to protest our barbarianism. Harry Truman called MacArthur off once it became clear he would carry it home to the Chinese. There is not fear of us, we play by the rules, we are civilized. We have forgotten the lessons we learned during WWII and so have our enemies, our flag is spit upon and burned because of sense of fair play. That is why if they kill the hostages the furor in this country should be appeased by making a napalm run of Quom during noon prayer. There's nothing more the US public would like to see on mass media than burnt Iranian bodies.

Some of the other letters, of a mercenary strike team to free the hostages have merit if we're able to back it up with true military muscle, no doubt we have enough to handle Iran, but to match the USSR on their doorstep, no way, not at the present at any rate. We do have some other weapons in this diplomatic world of ours. We could put Chrysler to work making tanks for Red China. 100,000 should be impressive enough for our Russian friends, throw in about 40,000 self propelled artillery pieces for good measure. It should have been something we had already worked out but its not too late for those 1983-1984 deadlines everyone keeps throwing around in their letters for the Commie offensive on Western Europe. I believe Russia remembers tank warfare, the Nazis were impressive with theirs back in 1941-1943. Those tanks would become an effective bargaining position at SALT. We would have a hammer for driving home limitations of 500 nuke warheads with on sight inspection. We could trade a few tanks for these small concessions and we wouldn't have to fight a war to regain our respect among the barbarians.

I don't know how we could have pulled it off but we should have been able to negotiate with Japan before we nuclearly bludgeoned them in 1945. The Emperor had an anti-Communist, militaristic state running efficiently in Russia's backyard. They were actively seeking European Jews for relocation in Manchuria to create a Jewish state as a buffer between them and big bear, this while their erstwhile allies were killing the same people off. There is much to be said for Diplomacy in the real world, and I'm aware that I have but a scratch of knowledge as compared to our informed government sources. But the official US stand is to put on this show of being civilized. The uncivilized are unimpressed. We need to use our diplomatically cunning minds to re-establish our barbarian respect among nations that have yet to technologically advance to the flush toilet.

Weak leadership is run by weak minds. We need leaders with brains and guts. If we should luck into some, we stand a chance of living in the US as we know it into the 21st century; otherwise we'll be lucky to be living.

((I only disagree with your view toward US reaction to the death of the hostages. After seeing how the media slapped down all anti-Iranian feeling so fast, no one permitted to get Iranian flags to burn and the like, topped by a Fearless Leader who all but ended his latest speech with a "nanoo-nanoo", I can't see the people getting too worked up about anything. Too bad though.))

J.M.

LETTERS

David D. Perlmutter

Latches Lane Apts #608, Merion, PA 19066

Scott Marley's attack on Israel shows an astounding lack of facts. First of all he seems to think its a big point that the nation was created by force of arms. Well so what! There is not a single people or country on the face of this earth that is not where it is because of war. The native Americans were pushed off by the hordes of invading Europeans, yet when the Israelies escaping the Holocaust defeat an enemy a hundred times their size suddenly it becomes "Aggression ". What kind of Hypocrisy is this?

Well Scott let me give you some facts. One-the arab shieks started the fighting. Read 10 Jerusalem and see the truth. Even before the country was to be partitioned arab radio stations were brodcasting that they would "Drive the jews into the sea". Two-the tiny state managed to beat out invaders from the whole arab world. Three-after the fighting stopped jewish leaders offered the Palestinians a chance to stay and together to build a country, the shieks not wanting to lose their influence over the people told them to leave and they would take care of them. Wow, what a job they did, with all that oil money to spare the Palestinians still live in refugee camps, while the ones in Israel enjoy the highest real standerd of living in the middle east. By real I mean everyone is well off not just some fat princes who make a billion dollars a week. The fact is that if it was'nt for Israel most of the Arab world would be semi-democratic by now. Why? Well the princes have a handy scapegoat to blame all the problems of the nation on. Without thi the arab people would have long since realized that the princes were just bloodsuckers and should be kicked out. For a while it looked like the PLO was about to catch on to the whole scam when the early seventies war with Jordan broke out, or don't you remember that Scott? King Hussein just barely crushed the PLO forces in time. However it was just about then that the oil money started to flow in and Arafat was lured away from the truth by promises of an endless supply of guns, money and power.

Anwar Sadat was the first arab leader to see that the game of avoid-revolution-by-blaming-Israel was not eternal. Needless to say he has been ostrasized even by the so-called "moderate states" in the IslamiC world

Marley makes a big point about how there is no real claim for the jews to Israel. Well this another wrong. Judaism, Christianity and Islam all recognize the right of the jews to return to the land promised to them by God. In the new testament it states that when the jews return to there, then and only then can the second coming occur. Islam, by means of the Koran, recognizes that Christ and Moses were both talked to by the real God. Thus god's promise to Moses should by all accounts be accepted by a muslim. Yet this is all nothing, since as I said before the Israelies were and still are willing to live in peace. Only a fool could not penetrate the web of self-promoting propaganda that the oil princes have neatly set up.

((Still, I think you would have to admit that not everyone agrees on what God said to who, and to base a claim to an occupied land on a millenia-old claim that "God said this is ours" is a wee might shakey. More important would be the parallel you give to the whites vs indians here, for instance, where we have a solid claim based on right of conquest. If Israel would base her claim in statements the way she creates and expands on 'greater Israel' in practice, I would have no disagreement with her claim at all.

The standard-of-living argument is a good one in practice, but makes little dent in the world today, as irrational claims take far greater precedence. In southern Africa, for instance, blacks had it better even under the Portugese (who were probably the worst colonials, tho the Belgians tried) than they are under there "own" leftist dictators, but who listens to that? The idea seems to be that Africa is a preserve for the black man, so the destruction of white progress there is a good thing. Of course, no one dare say that Europe or N America or Australia in turn are a preserve for the WHITE man, for THAT would be racism; this applies only so long as it favors black ideas. (Not black progress, though; they would do better, and DO do better, in South Africa, for instance, but that again means nothing). So while Arab peasants would do better under Israeli rule, they will continue to fight as long as they can, and then some. Conversely, Israel seems to have more will than the rest of the West combined, and appears willing to do whatever is necessary to "keep them in their place" for as long as is necessary, so for now, they're in good shape.)) J.M.

ERIC KIRCHNER

9036A McConnell St, Laughlin AFB, TX 78840

Time for another attempted defense of the small car. This time I will be careful to answer only your EXACT comments. When I accused you last letter of insisting that everyone drive a T-bird, well, of course you didn't do that. What you DID do was thoroughly ridicule the entire small car concept by reference to a few anecdotes like John Leeder's bad Japanese car experience. You left no doubt as to how you felt about anything remotely "downsized", calling your T-bird a "real car" etc. C'mon, John, admit it—you didn't have much approval for anything other than a full-sized car—thus my accusation.

Now to answer your specific points. First, you make some assumptions about my life & driving styles which are pretty much correct. A few comments, though: a) I never use the BX gas station, because it's cheaper in town. b) you paint a pretty bad

Kirchner, cont'd

picture, by inference, of my lifestyle, because it centers around the base. What experience you draw on to make these guesses I don't know, but they are factually accurate, mostly. My travel is limited to the base and Del Rio, with an occasional trip to San Antonio, 160 miles away. I didn't choose to get stuck in this corner of America, but I did choose to fly for the AF and this is where they put me. I don't think I deserve ridicule for any aspect of the situation.

My wife commutes 18 miles to work, round trip, each day. I ride a bicycle or bum a ride when it rains. We rarely use the car on base—it's so small a bike will do.

I beleieve that the closeness in sticker prices between T-bird-types and Ford Fairmont types is due more to supply and demand than any other factor. I don't know a thing about Texas roads vs Oklahoma roads.

Personal anecdotes aside, I think it is clear from Consumer Reports' studies that malfunctions and maintenance problems in Toyotas and Datsuns are less than on American cars in general. Perhaps such was not the case a few years ago before they had adequate dealer facilities, parts shipping, etc.,. Subaru is worse, I've been told. With any brand, a lemon is a lemon.

In light of the above, and in view of the gas situation, I still think that smaller (to include midsize) cars offer great advantages that you downplay because of personal preference. You did this so vehemently that I consider your stand unreasonable. To prefer large cars is one thing, but to be so fanatical doesn't seem very logical to me in light of the facts available.

When I said "you piss me off so much I hardly even bother to reply", I was incorrect. I should have said that many viewpoints expressed in BB seem so irrational that I feel it is hopeless to respond. Your personal views are rarely in that category, but Boardman and Gibson and "Oaklyn" are heavy contributors. But these are the spice of BB, and here's my money, so send me more!

((It was not my intention to state or imply ridicule of you for your situation; rather, it was my purpose to show that your experiences and situation is NOT a normal one. If everyone were confined to activities centering around the camp they lived in, small cars would be more than adequate, or even bicycles as you point out. However, most of us are not put in camps, at least not yet; thus, tiny cars don't cut it out here the way they will there. I know what AF life can be like from 4 year's active duty, ahlf of it in south Texas, with occasional 2-week reminders during five subsequent years with the Air Natl Guard.

I must disagree on your view towards the prices being due to supply and demand. It seems to me that it is more a case of the auto companies being used to, and expecting, \$6000 per auto sold. If the government forces them to sell $\frac{1}{4}$ of a car by weight, size, performance, etc., no difference: they just charge you the same as if you were getting a full car. Just like oil, where you are being charged more for domestic oil in the 'free market' than you are by the Arabs in their gouge market. They can squeeze it out of you and you can do nothing but complain, which costs nothing, so it is put to you. Free enterprise in the tight market.

The CONSUMER REPORTS item again sidesteps my earlier point: even if fewer troubles will come up on the average, my point is that the problems with American cars will be an inconvenience, while those with foreign cars will be a calamity. The US car will be in a service garage; the foreign car will be on the back lot somewhere, awaiting parts, awaiting maintenance, and/or hoping for competent maintenance. The latter is true of ours as well, of course, but is less of a long shot.)) J.M.

#51-52 has arrived and what do I see? Michalski calls Ozog a "puppet stooge", Linsey characterizes Kemper's letter as a "bunch of shit", Curtis Gibson refers to a "slimy Jewish way", and calls Konrad Raumeister a Nazi, Michalski calls homosexuals "queers", Boardman call BB "a stupid scandal sheet" and a "ragfull of lies", John Kelly calls Gemignani "a dumb hosebag", and says that Boardman "as a person sometimes really bites the moose" etc, etc. And Bruce Linsey says no, he doesn't think BB is developpeing an increasingly negative tone.

John, you complain that people don't seem to be replying to the points you made, but I wonder if you sometimes don't do the same. You accuse me of saying that drunks should be "ignored" and now I se Mr. Osuch repeating that. I never said that. I just said they shouldn't be arrested.

You say "I have no blueprint for 'stamping out queers' ", and yet you advocate capital punishment (no trial even) for unarmed homosexuals discovered in sexual acts in a bathroom. And you want to stand between them and certain jobs --- this is a society which sets much store by whether a person has a job or not. You go on to say that you don't want homosexuals to get "the 'oppressed minority' red carpet treatment". Neither do I, but you are attacking a strawman --- the vast majority of homosexual political adjitation is toward removing laws that target them specifically, not for creating special privilidges. For example, the Justice department recently instructed immigration that it had to enforce a 1952 law barring the entry of homosexual aliens into the country under any conditions. That means that any homosexual tourist can be barred from entering. And some are and have been. Usually they are caught when a homosexual book of political tract is discovered in their baggage. A famous case arose recently when the guy was discovered to have a gay-rights button, and he admitted to being a homosexual. There are many other laws targeting homosexuals. The FBI will fire you if they discover that you are a homosexual, even if you are not in a sensitive position, don't need any special clearance, and are known to be a homosexual, and thus are not really blackmailable. While many such laws have been dispelled with (at one time in Virginia, homosexuals could not give testimony in felony cases), many remain.

Your comments about Japanese cars are grossly overgeneralized. My brother lives in rural Vermont, in somewhat mountainous area. That kind of life style requires a rugged and dependable car. He recently drove from Vt to Ft. Collin, Colo and back and is not a slow driver. He had not a speck of trouble and is eminetly pleased with his Japanese car. And driving "into town" is 30 minutes, so he has had plenty of time to evaluate its performance.

Now I see John Kelly seems to feel spyholes over bathroom stalls are OK because its a "public place". OK, if thats the way you want it:

HEY EVERYBODY, JOHN KELLEY TAKES OFF HIS PANTS AND SHITS IN PUBLIC!

Lets see, here, whom have I not offended yet?

((John Kelley. To be offensive, you'd have to say "John Kelley does NOT take off his pants when he shits in public"! I think the discriminatory laws are there for good reason, and to repeal them because the wierdos dislike being singled out as wierdos is to give them the red carpet treatment mentioned.

The referneces to Ozog, Kemper, queers, Gemignani, and Boardman are simply factual statements of realities as observed by the commentator. Old Gibby is often harsh, but provides a lot of interest. People either love his stuff or hate it, but are never neutral. Boardman does denounce BB, but a denouncement from him is like praise from anyone else.))

J.M.

More
MARK BERCH

(still in Alexandria)

I categorically reject your "summary" of my position, and I am annoyed that you would print such a thing. I neither stated, nor implied that "standards...must be thrown out" What I said was that standards must be related to the job itself. Indeed, it is your attitude which, in my opinion, will result in lower standards for police. You admit that summarily disqualifying homosexuals will limit the "universe" of choice. As a result, when it comes down to the real qualifications, such as physical condition, dependability, and the like, these hiring will have to be less choosy for the simple reason that they will have fewer to choose from. Whenever you apply irrelevant criteria, such as race, religion or sexual preference, you must perforce downgrade the real requirements for the job being used as a selection tool.

I consider your position, as set forth in BB, to be totally lacking in intellectual rigor. Your repeating ~~x~~ of the need to "suppress perverts" (BB #53) cannot hide the fact that you haven't even bothered to say just exactly what a pervert is. Defining your terms is step one, John, and you haven't even done that.

As a result, I see no value in continuing this particular discussion. Until such time as you learn from personal experience and contact (as opposed to mere words) that homosexuals are human beings, entitled to be treated with the same fairness and dignity as heterosexuals, I am afraid that you will be burdened --- and limited -- by the weight of your own intolerance

I am a little confused as to your comment to Watson on page 3: "That's why I didn't mention it in the preliminary excerpt." Are you saying that if you had mentioned my identity he would not have answered? Or am I missing something here?

And how is Ruritania these days? As you know, I blasted Watson a long time ago, but if things have changed in a big way, I'd be interested in running an update. I don't get the zine, nor does my main ~~XXXXX~~ source, Ron Kelly (it seems that Ron NMRed out of a game after he got two consecutive issues after the deadline date --- this according to Ron, that is). All I know is that report from Ron, plus John Kelley tells me his Ruri games are all full of errors and its terrible. But I notice you signed up there, and I wonder what your experience was and has been like.

Watson's perceptive comments in regard to my first question are probably fairly accurate, tho there is one inconsistency, in that her entry into the lifeboat should have been made with fear and trepidation. I do suggest, John, that you try to see it; its not all that gruesome. For my taste, the sets are the most impressive of any SF movie, with the possible exception of STARTREK. Incidentally, for those of you who liked the artwork of ALIEN, you might want to have a look at "21st Century Foss", by Chris Foss, since he did some of the artwork, and there are some drawings there not only from ALIEN, but from the never-completed DUNE, plus dozens of book covers that he did. If your taste runs more toward the machinery, rather than the "fantasy" type of art, then he's certainly your man

((Mark, if you're not a lawyer, you ought to be. Lawyers seem to excel at such legalistic bullshit as haggling over definitions, all the while fattening their purse at the expense of their client and, incidentally, the question of the innocence or guilt of the accused. If you don't know what a pervert is, consult Webster. A seven year old going to a theater knows what you mean when you talk about "funny" people; I have confidence you too can rise to the challenge. YOU may prefer to deal with queers through "personal experience and contact", but I'll pass, thank you. Bill LaFosse has submitted a letter which answers much

Response to Berch

of the matter you raise regarding "irrelevant criteria" for jobs. As to your rejection of my summary, you appear to again be splitting hairs. For when you talk about how standards "must be related to the job", all you're really saying is that standards should only be applied that YOU feel are related to the job. To you, clearly, the "sexual preferences" of a cop's partner on patrol is not job-related; Bill LaFosse, writing as a cop, disagrees, and I must go with his. I am not saying that my standards are perfect, but I am saying that they are reasonable and realistic for the world we live in, whether or not you agree on degree of "intellectual rigor" involved or not. Fuck the "intellectual rigor".

I do applaud your decision not to continue the discussion.

On drunks, you seem to be waffling. You object to my and other's interpretation of your position being to ignore drunks, yet you "just say they shouldn't be arrested". What is that then? Perhaps you mean the cops should read the gutter lush a sermon on the evils of drink, or hand him a pamphlet with map and hours of nearby Al Anon meetings? You don't want them arrested, but you don't want them ignored, so just what do you mean?

Tony Watson may or may not have answered had he known it was your inquiry, but I felt it best to leave any hint of personalities out of it when I submitted the questions to him. Why risk trouble? Maybe there would be none, but I saw no reason to take the chance. Had someone ever spent the main part of an issue of their zine lambasting my GMing, I myself would be less than neutral in answering their inquiries on some other matter. More likely, I'd just scratch a "Tell him to go screw himself", which probably would clear up few questions other than what my feelings toward that individual might be. Again, I have no reason to think that Tony himself feels that way; I act only on the risks I see inherent in human nature.

Now, as for RURITANIA itself. RURI is one of those annoying zines I get; it is interesting enough for me to want it, but so slow for my tastes that it is maddening. I am eager to get on with the game and press war, and to an extent, to read the filler which is definitely above average. However, the issue with the F'06 adjudications for my game, 78FG, was postmarked Nov 6; there were some typos in the 1906 chart, plus some bastard unwilling to think in there always asking for separations, so that now the Spring 1907 moves aren't due until early February, and the issue won't appear until almost mid-month, I'd guess. What I would like to see is a half-size RURMI every 3 weeks rather than a full one every 5 or so. Tony is in grad school now, though, and not too likely to want to INCREASE his workload in the hobby, and it is probably easier working with ditto to do one full issue every 4-6 weeks than to run small issues every 3. Still, the game and such are interesting enough so you don't forget them overnight like I do, say, my ST GEORGE or MURDRIN MINISTERS or BEHOLDER or DRAGON & LAMB games, yet the month-plus waits on top of delays is irksome. RURI should be around for a while, as a new game or two have just begun, but openings are now closed. Ask Dave Pierce who stabbed me (dumbly) to show you his issues; he's now there in Alexandria, 8331 Uxbridge Ct. He will last longer than I will in FG, most likely.))

BILL LAFOSSE (Toronto Telegram)

126 Bay St #24, Trenton, Ontario K8V 1H8

I think I am the best qualified in this hobby to comment on policemen spying in washrooms. I used to do it when I worked in Toronto. You guys can harp and whine all you want about the 'constitutuinal propriety' of this, but it's a job. After a while you get used to watching some guy blow his load, you even get used to watching some guy blow another guy. (You should see my pictures).

In regards to homosexual policemen, I see no reason why you can't employ them, everyone has their rights. I have no doubt that you could trust a homosexual to search a good looking member of their own sex. So what if they try something, the resulting publicity would only prove policemen were human, and improve their public image.

The morale of the dept, which would likely drop incredibly upon learning of the utilization of homosexuals, is totally unimportant. The rights of those homosexuals is paramount over the personal feelings of the other policemen. The fact that you hate and distrust your homosexual partner and are FORCED to work with him for 8 hours would have no bearing whatsoever on your reactions in a stressful situation. John, please consider these examples before you make blanket emotional statements:

1. There's a guy here at work with pretty ordinary beliefs, except that he thinks the decision to use heroin and any other drugs should be left to the whimsy of the

prospective user. Basically he felt their constitutional right to "freedom of happiness" was being denied.

2. My family believes in the basic human rights, but 1 member fails to understand why a 27 member clan was recently turned out of a 1 bedroom public housing unit. He feels this is an infringement of their human rights. He thinks if they choose to live together in filth, it is their right. A second member of the family thinks a 27 member clan should not be allowed to live together anywhere in the city in a 1 bedroom apt. So that's their personal exception.

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

The problem is, if we cater to everyone's personal exceptions, then no one is safe. It is the principle that is at stake, not the details. If you make an exception on the basis of one person's political, sexual, religious beliefs, etc., etc., then you have a tear in the cloth which threatens to tear all asunder (example: if a man has a sexual urge to rape your daughter and you stop him, you are curtailing this urge. His principle belief is his right to satisfaction. The detail of her rape is insignificant.)

John, did you know that at one time it was virtually impossible for a black person, or a woman, to get a good job? Now, thank God, our society has reached a maturity where homosexuals have finally attained the right to hold offices where they can influence others' behavior, particularly over children (teachers).

I truly hope that our society will shortly lift our stigma attached to axe murderers, rapists, psychos, etc., etc. Our denial of influential offices to these people is a further sign of our ignorance.

John, Bill here, I'm forced to cut in. The fellow I had writing this letter for me was miraculously whisked away to his utopia.

He had a chance to write back. He expressed his pure delight to be in a society completely without governmental or social interference, where people were free from ideological interference. He said he was unfortunately a slave of a man who didn't think too much about ideology or morals. He didn't like being whipped and tortured, but at least he was free to suffer it in an atmosphere of non-governmental or social interference.

Poor guy, but he got his wish. I knew what would happen, but I didn't want to infringe on his decision.

I think the best thing that could happen to the bleeding-heart nits is that they get all their wishes. Let them live in a state where they pay 97% tax to pay for their generosity. Let them realize they are about a 3% minority, and that a 20% minority is ready to rip them apart, but for the law and traditions which the bleeders object to.

To finalize my point, the US is the "heart" of the bleeding hearters. In no country have their ideas been so acted upon as the US—I defy you to walk alone at 2 AM in Harlem. I will and have (off duty) walked anywhere I felt in Toronto. Munich is safer, and Moscow safest. But you'd rather die in freedom.

((Well, that last line could be read two ways, but other than that, I agree. I think you touched on a very basic point just before that, about there being a minority "ready to rip them apart". This truth is revealing of the most fundamental error that these leftists make: they believe that everyone is just like they are. They think that if you gave them "freedom" to do whatever they wanted without social control or censure, they would still be very decent types, AND SO WOULD EVERYONE ELSE. They do not know that other people do NOT think like they do, nor that others will react to the same things differently than they do. "I'm a decent chap, so everyone is a decent chap". Bullshit. There are too many people who would, well, I'll use Bill's phrase: rip you apart the minute they could. There are plenty of people who would slit your throat for a nickel in your pocket, or just for kicks. Yet the liberal assholes that do flourish here so are just bubbling over with willingness to grant license to all, and let everyone "do his own thing" without reproach. Strangely enough, these clowns are strongest in the very corners of society most insulated from reality and the workaday life: government, academia, lawyers. A young captain in ROTC many years ago made a good point about them: "We both know they're wrong, but they will never know until we're all in someone's labor camp, and it's too late then to say "I told you so".)) J.M.

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FROM THE NORTH AMERICAN VARIANT BANK

2 January 1980

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FRANCOIS CUERRIER (Passchendaele)

Since a lot of anti-government opinions have been aired in your zine, I feel it may be a good idea to answer them.

At one point in your zine, you say that the ONLY alternative to Big Oil companies is Big Government. This is dysfunctional. In the oil industry alone, there are several sensible alternatives.

One of them is a mild form of government intervention known in Canada as a "Crown Corporation". Parliament (in your case, Congress) enacts a bill establishing a new gov't corporation, and establishes its objectives. (In the case of a gov't oil corporation, its general objectives would tend to center around exploration and exploitation.) The government provides cash for the establishment of that corporation. From then on, the Crown Corporation becomes TOTALLY autonomous, and behaves in every way like a private firm. (As long as it respects the objectives set by the government). Profits are redistributed to the government. Thus, such a corporation will have all the efficiency/productivity of a private company while pursuing the community's objectives.

Another sensible alternative is CONSORTIUMS. This consists of joint gov't/corporate actions. This is particularly useful in projects that companies alone could not develop. Such consortiums have been highly successful in West Germany, Sweden, and Canada. (The Athabasca tar sands project could not have been developed otherwise; yet, they may well prove to be Canada's major source of oil after 1985).

The last sensible alternative is cooperatives. These are non-profit organizations whose shareholders are the CONSUMERS (On a 1 consumer=1 share basis). As consumers want low prices and quality products, this is the end result. Plus coops have proven to be a major driving force in several Western countries (such as Switzerland, Sweden, Germany, Austria, and Canada) in several industrial and financial sectors. For instance, the Desjardins coops are now Quebec's major and most competitive financial institution. In addition, coops are widely spread in the Canadian grains sector as well as in most tertiary sectors.

Another implied overstatement is that "there is no government like no government". Government control has its advantages. Government control is vital in Canada to prevent over-excessive foreign domination over our cultural, economic, and political life. From a more general viewpoint, gov't intervention may sometimes be necessary to protect consumers. Take the following example. Early in 1979, Union Carbide developed a new, cheaper method of producing 1 liter soft drink bottles. However, these bottles soon developed a strong propensity to explode. Consumers became worried; such bottles had become a hazard. However, despite consumer pressure, Union Carbide was quite unwilling to remove the bottles from the market. And why should they have? They were the sole producers. Now, there were two alternatives: consumers could have accepted a lower standard of living (i.e., stop buying soft drinks, period; or continue consuming soft drinks at their risks and perils) OR have recourse to gov't. The gov't forced Union Carbide to remove the bottles, and now everyone is happy. And this applied/applies/ can apply to many other sectors, such as car safety, speed limits, meat quality, etc.

Of course, Big Gov't has its disadvantages, like anything else. But it has advantages as well. Would you reject your faith because your priest/reverend/rabbi does something you dislike? In addition, how can you expect the government to do nothing when they'll get blamed and overthrown for doing just that every four years?

Moving on, I somewhat disagree with your opinion on homosexuals, and the methods the police should use to catch them. I personally think that homosexuals are entitled to equal rights as long as they keep to themselves. They are human beings; they respect property, criminal, and civil laws as much as any other category of human beings. Therefore, any discrimination against them is unfair and unfounded.

I am aware that they AREN'T keeping to themselves when they blow each other off in a public latrine. But this is no excuse to drill holes and peek through them; anyone who does that (be it the cops or anyone else) is invading everyone's private life, homosexuals or no homosexuals. The only solution is to have either ordinary citizens perform citizen's arrest or report to the police when they hear such people doing that. Of course, this procedure is highly inefficient, and few homosexuals will be caught; but it's the only way to be fair to the other citizens. As for shooting them, I think you're going out of bounds. PERHAPS you might have felt at ease in the boots of a German Nazi SS Officer, 'cause that's partly what they did!

As for the Iranian Crisis, I tend to agree with you. Khomeini has been ASKING for war. But then, Carter may be more clever than many think: he is building support for the US throughout the world. In addition, don't forget that he has no interest in a quick resolution of the conflict: the dispute has been legitimating him as President, and support for Carter has grown.

But be careful before preaching violence. The use of violence by a country because it has strength may be interpreted as a policy of hegemonism.

((But if you have the strength and the will to use it when you feel necessary, who gives a damn how it may be interpreted?

On the homos, I fail to see how your "highly inefficient" policy of basically do-nothing toward them is "the only way to be fair to the other citizens". You say that they "respect the ...laws as much as any other category....(so)any discrimination against them is unfair and unfounded." That is pure bullshit. They are NOT respecting the civil laws, which is why they run afoul of the law in the first place. They are discriminated against because they ignore and discard the community standards of human conduct. They are discriminated against for violating these standards the same as people doing 80 mph down the Interstate are discriminated against by the cops for their ignoring the civil law, despite the drivers being "human beings" that "respect the...law as much as any other category of human being". Yet how terrible of us to discriminate against them just because they choose to ignore the discriminatory speed limit. No, Francois, the law applies to all, and just because the queers dislike being limited in their public practices by them is not "discrimination". It is equal enforcement of the law. Only to our fuzzy-minded liberals do the results of enforcing the law on those who break it constitute "discrimination".

Your defense of government existing is unnecessary. I am well aware that there are things the government should and must do. I favor stronger government in many areas, for instance: law enforcement and defense, for example. But from what we have seen in other areas, there would be much merit to the quote you use of "no gov't like no gov't". Whole Cabinet departments are unnecessary: the new Education Dept should be abolished, for instance, as should Energy and most of what used to be called "Health, Education, and Welfare" (HEW). The latter spent close to 140 billion dollars out of the last budget as I recall, more than the whole federal budget used to be not that long ago. (Kennedy was the first to cross the \$100 billion mark, but a dollar would buy something then too). Agriculture is another area that would do well without a department for it. Consumer protection is a government function the same as is defense: the purpose of an army is little different than that of a Consumer Protection Agency; only the enemy is different in scope and type. To defend Big Govt by defending the definitions or basis of government really accomplishes little other than showing that that's the closest one can come to defending the monolithic bureaucracies we find ourselves with. Or put another way, "A poor excuse is better than none".

On the coops and consortiums and such, I think that if there were much advantage to them for us, they would be used. I suspect that they appear more there and in Western Europe as you mention more because those areas lack the massive capital investment sources the US has for new proposed ventures, and as you say, you don't want outsiders (Americans) controlling everything, so it is necessary to employ gov't

Response to Cuerrier, cont'd

as a financial backer. I would have to disagree on the "equal efficiency" of the Crown Corporation you outline, however. Clearly, if the risk capital is gov't funds, and the profits go to the government, then who cares if the firm is efficient, just as long as it is a good and comfortable place to work? They can lose the investment, and it is the gov't that is out of luck. If they lose their shirt, the government doesn't make a profit; so what? Of course, everyone would prefer that the corp. do make some profit, just to keep everything moving easily along, but clearly there is no reason to push very hard for anything beyond a small profit over break-even. The more profits you make, the more you give away to the government, so why try to push it? Why not spend the money on a bigger office or an extra week of vacation for everybody? See what I mean? And if the government were looking over your shoulder at every decision and every penny to "push" for greatest profit, why not do away with the charade and call it the government agency in name that it is in fact? Thanks for writing in, though. I'm glad to see Canadians taking the interest that I do in stuff there, e.g.))

RON MAZURKIEWICZ

JM.
(Sept 10, 1979)

Just as one always heard about travelling by ship in the old days, mine has been delayed a week I am finally flying up to Montreal tomorrow, and sailing the next day. By this time, I imagine I'll get to see what those autumn storms on the North Atlantic are like after all. Uh-oh!

I am enclosing the magazine so you can read the article about Zig Ziegler. It sounds as if he is the one who developed the Amway indoctrination program from what you told me. I think you will find it interesting.

I assume that

I have been all enthused with the Ardennes extension project. Since I have had a little time left before leaving, I have done a little research. The results are rather surprising. I first tried to construct an Order of Battle for the Allies for December 16. It is impossible to do from any published sources at this time. I am going to have to send off to the National Archives for some OB Microfilms if I want to get a US OB. Now, how in the world can authors like Cole, the OCMH official historian, attempt to tell me the story of the Battle of the Bulge without even comparing the forces involved? Apparently that is what has been done. Not only is the assumption being made from the very start that the US will inevitably win the battle (so why try and see what Hitler's chances really were anyway?) but the official history is as sloppy as hell! And everyone has followed in Cole's footsteps. No one has done any further research beyond his. John ((Lundstrom)) pointed out to me, from his research on that medal group he has, that nothing is mentioned of the fighting that went on north of Kampfgruppe Peiper after the initial attack by the 326 Volksgrenadier is repulsed at Monschau. It turns out that the Germans attacked with the 1SS Panzer and the 3 Panzergrenadier divisions after the first half week of the offensive, when all the troops north of the Bulge had already been sucked down to Elsenborn Ridge. The 9 US division history says that if they had succeeded, there was nothing between them and the Meuse at all. Apparently, however, this main effort attack, ON THE MAIN AXIS OF THE OFFENSIVE, is not worthy of a single mention in the official history, or in any other book published since then! What kind of nonsense is this? I am sure I know what kind: the starting assumption of all research is that the Germans didn't have a chance, so why bother?

My research, even so far, has shown me that the Germans in the 15th, 6 Panzer, 5 Panzer, and 7th Armies which were facing the US 9th and 1st Armies perhaps achieved equality in troops and armor, and definitely did so in artillery, despite all the statements about how US artillery support was so much more massive than the German. What did cause the Germans trouble was the fact that most of their forces were stacked up in echelon on the roads, including the artillery. But what if the breakthrough HAD taken place? Then there would have been room to deploy and engage all of their forces. Apparently it all depends on whether the Germans could have broken through. I am

Mazurkiewizz, conclusion

beginning to think that it was not such an automatic thing that the main German push was halted at Elsenborn Ridge. As I was playing our little game I wondered, as I always do when playing Bulge games, what would have really occurred if the Germans had made an armored push at Monschau. Could they have cut the road to the rest of Elsenborn Ridge, and encircled the 2nd and 99th divisions like they did the 106th further south? I always assumed that the terrain was just too rough for armor up there. Now I find out that two armored divisions were committed there half a week later. Was it all just a matter of the Germans hitting in an unlucky spot?

And if they had broken through? John and I think that the Americans and British were rather more afraid than anyone has been letting on since the war. We don't think that Patton could have moved faster than he did even if the British were cut off. I was really amazed to see how close Antwerp really is to the Meuse. Another thing I discovered after you were gone is that the Second British Tactical Air Force had had to abandon its grass strips with the start of the autumn rains. They were all re-deployed to concrete airfields at Antwerp, Brussels, Eindhoven, and Tilburg. All cities in the battle area if the Germans break out! If Hitler does, not only does he capture all the British main rear area supply dumps and depots, cutting off the British like the Sixth Army at Stalingrad (which had its dumps within its pocket), but half the Allied air force would be knocked out of action for at least a week or two. I would imagine the planes would be able to fly off to Southern France or England, but not their ground crews and repair shops.

I am beginning to think Hitler may have had a reasonable chance of pulling it off.

When I get back from Europe, I plan to see if I can develop a Bulge Expansion Kit which would enable owners of the SPI or AH games to play the WHOLE battle of the Bulge. But that will have to wait until my return.

I think I know where they will get me if I don't return. I will, of course, have to see the spot where Constantine XI died fighting the Turks in 1453. The last Roman emperor counter-attacked into the breach made in the wall crying "The Empire is lost, and I am still alive!" Now there was a real leader! At any rate, one of my guide books, 1974 date, says of the spot, "today, as it has been for many years, the site is the home of Istanbul's notorious Gypsy camp." Wish me luck.

JOHN LIPSCOMB (Assorted Garbage)

Hopefully you're not being serious when you say "I wish to apologize for being so early again". Who needs to apologize? We subscribers wouldn't have subscribed if we didn't like the zine, and since we like it, we probably would like to get it as often as possible. Oh, of course our subs will expire sooner, but we'll still get more of what we want at a price we were obviously prepared to pay. Also I really doubt that anyone in their right minds doesn't want the largest BB they can get, especially if it's the same price regardless of size. Also, I don't care how much there is from Mark Berch or Curtis Gibson, as long as it doesn't take the PLACE of anything better. You can always skip over stuff you don't want to read.

((True, thanks. However, just before typing your letter, I realized that I will have to do a new cover and re-do my plans for this issue; I see it will have to be a double, because I could fill ten sheets with letters alone even without some like yours and Ron's above, and I'm unwilling to run another like that already, and yet I can't afford to spend 40¢ or 41¢ on face postage for 1 issue, so I guess that #55 will become #55-56. I hope the logic you spell out above, about people wanting it, etc., holds true. After all, #50 was sent when, mid or late November, and here it is maybe February 1 and I'm using their #56. That's an issue every two weeks, straight thru the holidays that many zines went into limbo over....))

J.M

RANDOLPH SMYTH
(Fol Si Fie)

275 - 3rd St. S.E., #314
Medicine Hat, Alta. T1A 0G4
Canada January 24, 1980

Sigh. No sooner do I send out a plug for Brutus Bulletin in which I recommend that no reader should take the contents seriously, than I receive BB #54 and read something that I do feel obliged to take seriously. (though I hope none of your other subbers did). I know we've gone over this argument before, but I'll have to dig it up again: I feel that you've completely misrepresented my GMing policies with the statement "Smyth is a vociferous defender of orders contingent on a same-season NMR". Most of your subscribers must be wondering how I can run regular games at all, with an opinion like that. There are areas of interpretation where GMs may differ, and I'd thought we'd simply agreed to disagree; but you've made me out as a flaky incompetent with no feeling for one of the most basic cornerstones of the game.

As you should know from our earlier debate, my rule is actually this: after the first NMR when a standby has been called for a position, orders for the subsequent season may be made conditional on whether the original player remains or the standby takes over. I suppose your statement has an element of truth insofar as the original player's second NMR initiates the replacement proceedings, but it's not only misleading but technically false for two reasons. In terms of the activities of the units involved, there never is another "no moves received" if the standby gets his orders in. Or, in the rare instance when the standby also NMRS, the original player will keep the position temporarily, whether he NMRS or not---so strictly speaking, the conditionals do not depend on the NMR per se at all.

I'm more interested in the foundation of my position than in splitting hairs over definitions, however. I can only repeat my argument (more convincingly than before, I hope) that the concept of "simultaneity" need only be valid for the move adjudications, and there is no compelling reason to lump the entire GMing process into the same vat of instantaneous resolution. You must admit, John, that when you replace one player with another, the new one enters at some point before the moves are adjudicated. You must effect the replacement and accept the standby as the player-of-record as soon as you see that the original player NMRed again, and before you get down to the nitty gritty of deciding which orders succeed, because the standby's orders are an essential input to the latter procedure!

The question is, does the "time" between these events justify allowing the other players to make their orders conditional on what happened? You say no; I see no reason why not. The only statement I recall you making is in essence something like "It's all simultaneous, and that's that". This is certainly firm and clear, but presents no basic reasoning for me to either attack or be convinced by. Hence, I'm not convinced.

In fact, I'll even supply you with the only plausible argument I can come up with for your position (the Rulebook is no help: VII.4 states "orders...are all exposed at once", XI.1 prohibits

diplomacy before retreats and makes them simultaneous, and XIV.1 recommends that "diplomacy and other conversation" be restricted at other times...the face-to-face rules never come close to this situation). However, I can see where you might consider the original player's NMR to be part of the season being adjudicated, and therefore all actions after consideration of the NMR, including the replacement process, are simultaneous with the season.

But I'm sure I can demolish this argument with ease. All GMs (that use replacements at all) deal with a second consecutive NMR in a fundamentally different way than with a single NMR. In the latter case, the NMR stands, being adjudicated simultaneously with the other moves, and no further action affecting the game is taken that season. For a second NMR, though, there is a "scanning" process taking place before the details of the moves are examined, leading directly to a change of players: the "NMR" does not stand. The scanning/replacement procedure predates the order adjudication, and it should be possible to make the events of the latter conditional on the former.

I believe the players are best served by making as many separations as possible between these events, without compromising the basic idea of simultaneous moves, of course. Like a computer algorithm, the more branch points that exist for different courses of action, the more sophisticated and wide-ranging these actions can be, though there are certain "blocks" that must indeed be treated as units. A program with only one question results in a crude spectrum of results that would waste the potential of any modern computer; a GMing procedure with no analogous opportunities only encourages crude Diplomacy which wastes or insults the intelligence of most players. In my opinion, your rules cater to the player who only wants to bash it out and doesn't mind a little chaos now and then, while mine encourage the guy who tries to master his fate as much as possible. That comparison may sound a little biased because it is. I think there's room for both approaches in the hobby, but you must excuse me for preferring my own.

Also in BB #54, you have run a few submissions on the requirements for standbys and their influence on the game, particularly just as they enter. Applying my conditional rules will destroy a major argument against the use of standbys: that they can't be properly negotiated with until they're actually in the game, and must make their first set of orders "cold". My way, the other players can correspond with both the original and standby players: more work, but some trauma is unavoidable in the course of a replacement. It gives them the leeway to make different arrangements with each, and handle the deviations however they wish with the conditional orders. This point has no bearing on the simultaneity question, but makes the game situation easier for all players if they wish to take advantage of it. I think it allows a more intelligent use of diplomacy...and what else are GMing services for?

One final comment, right off the details of the argument. I've been GMing for almost six years now, and make mistakes like

everyone else. But Mark Berch and several other "theoreticians" have raked my houserules over the coals time and again, and I assure you that the current edition has no inconsistencies or errors of methodology. My gamefee is presently \$6., over and above the cost of a Pol Si Fie subscription, not because I'm unusually greedy but because the zine was being swamped with games (22 at one point) when I was only charging \$5. You can attribute this popularity to anything you like, but I don't believe that an incompetent GM can attract players in such numbers (particularly in Canada) whatever other factors are operating.

You are of course invited to respond (again), but I don't think either of us will gain any new insights from this most recent exchange if it stops there (unless by some miracle, one of us convinces the other at last). I guess I'm really writing, not to you, but to your subscribers in an effort to clear my name. Suppose you invite comments from them? GMing procedures may not excite enough informed debate for a statistically significant sample of hobby opinion (not enough opportunity for a good clean mud-fight), but whatever you do receive would interest me greatly.

I guess this is how you end up with 28-page issues, making one outrageous offhand comment and getting a 2½ page reply... machine-ready at that! You can imagine the importance I give to it, though, since I don't normally use the typewriter at all except on my own zine. I would appreciate the earliest convenient publication in BB...but please, don't attack me again just to get another couple of pages...this is too much like work...!

((I will try hard to squeeze this into the omnibus #55-56, which I thought would be a good place for, say, the old Mazurkiewicza letters, etc., but now threatens to go the full 23 sheets of the 40g, 4 oz rate. Darn.

You're right, though, it does present you with a chance to defend yourself as best you can, and you're welcome to do that. I don't intend to go beyond this fraction of a page, so I will simply give a synopsis of MY view and leave it to the reader for whatever consideration they feel it merits.

Randolph permits (as do many other GMs) orders conditional on WHO will be the player of a given country that has NMRed the previous season; you can thus order XXX is Joe is Austria, ZZZ if Tom gets it by default of Joe again. I do NOT permit this, as I feel it violates the principle of orders being contingent on concurrent events. The original player is still the player until that second NMR, which does not occur until the deadline has passed. Randolph views the GMing process as an ongoing event, and thus the deadline is pooh-poohed as above. I view the deadline as just that, the end, and all thereafter is purely a mechanical function of moving the pieces as ordered and listing the results. My view makes it more inconvenient on the players, which is why so many GMs look the other way and permit conditional orders in such a case. However, I view it as a matter of GM ethics, and thus pass on this inconvenience to the players instead of going around that principle of play. That's all I see to it, but, this being BB, anyone is welcome to comment)).

J.M.

Michael Mills, 3457 Makyes Rd, Nedrow, New York, 13120

EMHAIN MACHA

Received BB #54. Once again, an excellent job! Though I'm sure you're aware of Brux's impressive Letter scetion--VoD. In any case, I am waiting for #55 to find out what you consider "worn-out cliches" about Republicans. By the way, what were those strange things at the beginning of #54. You know, those pieces with the numbers like 79 IZ and 79 CK? I can't remember seeing them before.

Well back to the Elephant Hunt. Of all the Republican candidates for Jimmy's job the only one that I would consider acceptable won the Iowa caucus! George Bush, a MOR Republican, shocked the hell out of Big John C and Docile Ronnie. The necessary change in their campaign strategy will be interesting, but if Bush pulls another win in NH or ties Ronnie, Big John's in it for show.

On the Democrat side, Carter fulfilled his promise and whipped Teddy's ass! The true Carter test will be NH, but the recent Kennedy media points to Big \$\$ problems and inability to steer the issues--Christ, what are they--to his traditional strongpoints.

This is probably going to be the most mercurial Presidential campaign on record. If and when the Iran/Afghanistan crisis abates, Kennedy, if he's still around, may be able to grab some wide-base support. Jerry "Vishnu" Brown is as he was in Iowa "unsupported", but we need some token candidates.

Well, I can safely predict now that if Docile Ronnie does not take the NH primary, ex-Pres Jerry Ford will be called in to fill the gap for the Conservative-Right Wing Republicans. He's made some rather charges against Pres Carter recently in Rochester, NY.

Of all the Republicans however, Bush is the only viable candidate who can take in uncommitted Dems and Independent voters. It is also noteworthy to mention that picking up these Indes early is crucial, as there are fewer and fewer uncommitted/Indes with each poll.

I would also like to mention that statements are "worn-out cliches" to those embarrassed by the veracity of them, and are seen as fact by their detractors. I'm not embarrassed by the iamge of the Republican conservatives, though I dislike the bombastic performaces that they tend to deliver.

On the serious side, I have been asked to announce the formation of the "Diplomacy Free Corp". According to it's Chief of Staff, the DFC will dispatch guerrilla squads to zines. They will then silently infiltrate the standby lists and new game starts, where-ever their enemy, The Tretick, raises its head. In those games, the DFC Squads will force the early elimination of The Tretick.

I can not divulge my source, as I claim journalistic immunity, since I publish EM. I will however, forward any mail to the DFC C/S, who will then assign you to Squads. The 1st NY Squad is already prepared for action. The 2nd New Englanders is now forming.

((If the DFC is not a joke, send two squads to TORONTO TELEGRAM Game #7 now forming, and join the CLAW & FANG and DRAGON & LAMB standby ranks.

How you can talk about bombastic performances after Kennedy's antics of the past two weeks is beyond me, but historically Demos, like all leftwingers, have a remarkable ability to see only what they want to see.))

Question: this Curtis Gibson is a joke, no? Alternately where did you dig this nut up? In one short piece he manages to run every anti Semetic argument from religious to mystical to ideological to... needless to say I gave up trying to follow his lack of logic early in the piece. All I can say is that he seems harmless although obviously deranged and I doubt that anyone other than Helena would take the rantings of suchsme seriously. NY (& Cal my prior home) are loaded with halfeducated monomaniacs of this variety. They are good for a laugh when young, after that the tendency is to ignore them.

Appologies for the Dragon being late again- there is an excuse of sorts I'm finally giving up on keeping the files in the office after they were destroyed (I'm convinced out of spite) by an employee (actually exemployee; she fired herself 16 minutes before I could get back from the airport to do the job myself)

Occasionally I do not follow my personal prejudices and hire

on ability- the above was the result of one such effort. Fortunately such is not my normal nature and even more fortunately the laws of both the US and the State of NY have not totally managed to remove employer discretion from the hiring process. Which is why I found Mr. Osuch's comments on queers and hiring so quaint. He should try greater NYC sometime. Most days I'd hire a three-toed tree sloth if I thought it could do the job. My prejudices are based on groups that I have found simply do not preform in the long haul in this type of business. But hell, personal preferences do not enter it. Given someone who can do the work, that event is so rare that I'm not inclined to care what they do privately. Hell, one of my better former assistants was (1) either bi or gay but definitely not straight, (2) so disfunctional in her private life that it was a standing joke here, (3) high as a kite most times- who cared- she actually got most of her job done mostly on time and showed up more often than not in an area that has tried defacto socialism for going on 35 years, the clerical-administrative labor pool is so bad that I wouldn't care what she did. Enough. If I get going on the longterm sociological effects of socialism in one city as practiced by the NY Demo machine I'd run on for a good 1200 pages.

One final comment on little Jap cars- yes they are city and superhighway cars but that is where the bulk of us live. No one in his right mind is trying to say that mid America can get along on Tpyotas and VW's but consider greater NY (15-20 million depending on where you draw the line)- 95% of these folks have absolutely no need for the big car except for the safety argument which only means that I need my gas hog to keep your gas hog from killing me. My kid brother regularly gets my Toyota into accidents and my ex is running up a fairly hefty rate with her Datsun, both have yet to need a handaid, much less hospitalization. The key is that they were hit at city speeds (30 and under) by jerks who had five feet of acceleration to hit them and succeeded. By all means leave the big car for the terrain it was made for - the great American heartland/ The reason we opted for a federal system way back when was in mJor part the impossibility of providing uniform solutions for an entire continent. So leave the hogs in OK but ban them here- there will be more gas to go around and we'll all live longer.

((Trouble is, it isn't Oklahoma dictating to NY-Washington, but the other way around. If they outlawed people in their own bailiwick, I wouldn't care, but the shortages of the NY-Wash gang are forced out of my pocket for the difference))

J.M.

NEED A GAME ?

This list of current game openings is published by Lee Kendter,
4347 Benner St., Phila., PA 19135

If you are interested in a sample of any of these 'zines, it is suggested that you send the publisher a 15¢ stamp.

- ✓ THE DOGS OF WAR: John Daly, 938 Fairmont Ave., Salisbury, N.C. 28144
Openings in regular Diplomacy with 24 day deadlines.
Subs: 10/\$2.50, Gamefee \$3.00 plus \$2.00 refundable deposit
- ✓ EMHAIN MACHA: Michael Mills, 3457 Makyes Rd., Nedrow, N.Y. 13120
Openings in regular Diplomacy
Subs: 12/\$4.80, Gamefee \$2.00 plus a \$1.00 NMR deposit
- ✓ ASSORTED GARBAGE: John Lipscomb, 1201 Osler St., Saskatoon, Sask.,
Canada S7N 0t8. Openings in regular Diplomacy.
Subs: 5/\$1.00, gamefee \$1.00
- ✓ THE BEHOLDER: John Kelley, Box 35, Klickitat, WA 98628
Openings in regular Diplomacy, and some other games.
Subs: 30¢ per issue, Gamefee \$3.00
- ✓ CLAW & FANG: Don Horton, 16 Jordan Ct., Sacramento, CA 95826
openings in regular Diplomacy
Subs: 12/\$5.00, Gamefee \$3.00

THE DRAGON AND THE LAMB: Steve McLendon, Box 57066, Webster, TX 77598
Openings in regular Diplomacy and variants
Fees vary according to game, write for details

Anyone wishing to have a copy of this list may have one for a 15¢ stamp. All publishers who wish to be on this list are urged to contact me. I will not keep you on this list unless you request it.

✓ ALSO, 10-DAY-DEADLINE game, \$4 flat fee; CANAL DREGS
Jack Frost
RR4 Box 138B
Lockport, IL 60441

FROM THE NORTH AMERICAN VARIANT BANK

2 January 1980

Please Publish

The 2nd issue of ARDA, NAVB's infazine, is now out. The cost is \$1.10. This issue contains a complete topical catalogue of games obtainable from us and others, an alphabetical listing of the same games, plus an alphabetical listing of all other variants known to us (16 pages; over 300 variant games in the first list).

Our 3rd issue will contain articles on the Cline 9-man game and the Mercator variants...plus corrections & additions to our catalogue. We will begin publishing playtest variants and other materials as these become available.

Subscriptions to ARDA are at the rate of 5¢ per page plus postage plus 2¢ for the envelope. We trade, but we are very irregular. Better you should subscribe.

Join the Variant Renaissance in North America; subscribe to ARDA and keep up with current developments. (Our prices are U.S. currency only; make checks payable to R. C. Walker.) Canadians may order any of our games through NAVB-North. Write: NAVB, c/o Rod Walker, 1273 Crest Dr., Encinitas CA 92024. We also answer inquiries, but require SASE with each inquiry or set of inquiries.

THE THIRD ANNUAL BROUHAHA AWARDS

by Bob Beardsley

Yes fans, this is really me. Despite your prayers I have stepped into the wonderful world of Diplomacy once again (I stepped into something, anyway) to give you the Third Annual BHH Awards.

As most of you know, the BHH Awards are given to the most deserving people I know, whether or not they like it. If anyone out there believes for a moment that I use any scientific data for any purpose to arrive at any decision to do with these awards, you're nuts. Here we go:

THE DON RICKLES AWARD FOR THE WARMEST JOKE goes to John Daly for the Hair Lipped joke he told last issue.

THE AYATOLLAH KHOMEINI AWARD FOR HOLDING AT LEAST 50 PEOPLE HOSTAGE AND TORTURING THEM MENTALLY goes to John Boardman for publishing his editorials in his game zine for at least fifteen years. (Did you ever read them and feel normal when you finished?)

THE SUZANNE SOMERS SPELLING AWARD (for spelling real gud) goes once again to Jerry Jones this year, but we luv him anyway.

THE CHARLIE'S ANGELS AWARD FOR INVESTIGATIVE DIPLOMACY REPORTING goes to Mark Berch for discovering that Buddy Tretick is really Charles De Gaulle. (Did I spell that right, Jer?)

THE SANI-FLUSH AWARD for cleaning up Diplomacy the most goes to Bill Young, who as treasurer of the IDA, refused to sponsor the only activity the IDA ever had the chance to benefit the hobby with. This veto placed the IDA back into the business it knows the best...bickering.

THE POSTAL AWARD FOR FIRST CLASS PUBLICATIONS goes to Don Horton, who loves to write "A First Class Publication Sent by First Class Mail" on every one of his zine covers. Are there any Third Class Publications sent Third Class out there?

THE JIMMY CARTER AWARD FOR THE BIGGEST PEANUTS goes to Ron Kelly who has still, after all these years, been sticking it out in countless games as a standby.

THE EX-LAX AWARD FOR THE GREATEST REGULARITY goes to John Boardman (a double winner this year!) for never missing a deadline date despite all the shit he puts in his zine.

THE RON KELLY QUALITY LETTER WRITING AWARD goes to the many Diplomacy players who join games but never write so much as a note.

THE SAN DIEGO CHARGERS AWARD FOR BEING REALLY GOOD BUT HASN'T WON THE BIG ONE goes to Stan Johnson, a fine Dip player who hasn't won a game yet. (Hang in there, Stan!)

THE BRYLCREAM AWARD FOR COMING BACK goes to Jake Walters, who despite being in Italy for a year, didn't escape the Dip hobby.

THE JOHN CARUSO AWARD FOR CREATIVE PRESS goes to Stan Johnson, who has mastered John's eloquent style. You old BHH players remember Stan's original style which went something like..."You fool!" Now Stan writes "Germany to England -- You Fool!" A definite increase in vocabulary.

THE VERBAL PANGS AND ARROWS AWARD goes to Lee Kendter, Jr. for gravely injuring John Daly by saying he has a "stupid deadline."

(Continued on next page)

THE BHH AWARDS (continued)

THE GENERAL CUSTER AWARD FOR BEING INJURED BY A-VERBAL ARROW goes to John Daly, who allowed himself to be injured. Hoo boy, there's alot of Indians out there John. GMS look like pin cushions after 36 issues. I know.

THE MILK OF HUMAN KINDNESS AWARD FOR AFFORDING PEOPLE TO MEET MANY OTHER NICE PEOPLE THROUGH THE MAIL goes to the Diplomacy Hobby!

THE RECTAL IRRITANT AWARD FOR AFFORDING PEOPLE TO MEET MANY HORSE'S PITOOTTS THROUGH THE MAIL also goes to the Dip Hobby. That's what makes it so much fun!

Well, kiddies, that's about it for now! Have a happy new year lying, cheating, and stabbing your friends through the mail, you sickos!

OBVIOUSLY I will never get around to writing on the Windfall Profits Tax that I'd wanted to do an editorial on, and since it is coming up very shortly in Congress, let me take a shortcut and just reprint for you a copy of the "form letter" that I will sign and send to every senator I can find a name for soon. It pretty well explains the ripoff that we will be hit with if Congress opts to tax away the gouge money that \$41 a bbl represents, instead of slapping down the price with NO tax instead. The Windfall Profits Tax will take the profit out of it, true, but YOU will still pay the outrageous price at the pump; your benevolent government will pocket the difference, which is just over half even before considering all other taxes...

As a citizen and as an accountant for a small to middle-sized drilling and exploration company, I am very worried about the proposed form of the coming Windfall Profits Tax.

First, let me say that I am NOT going to argue the relative merits or demerits of the tax proper, or whether or not oil companies deserve punishment or whatever. Rather, I want to address myself to the way the present proposals would impact upon me as a gasoline-buying citizen.

The latest proposals I have seen indicate a general approach such as this: any oil price received over a base of about \$13 a barrel would be taxed at 75%. Well, the free market price for domestic oil here in Oklahoma for Dec 79 was \$37 a bbl., and rumor has it that it will go to \$ 41 for Jan 80. This is not an unreasonable expectation, as the price was only 16.10 as recently as March 1979. Let us assume then that this bbl of oil sells at \$41. 75% of all over \$13 would mean a Windfall Profits Tax on that barrel of \$21. Let us ignore completely all other taxes as well. This means that the oil companies get \$20 a bbl, the federal government takes \$21 a bbl, and I as a man in the street pay for gasoline from that \$41 a bbl price. Can you tell me why in heaven's name I should pay twice the price the producer got in order to simply fatten the government's take? Please don't bother me with the lame excuses about how this "pool" of gouge tax money will 'help the poor old ladies in Cleveland' or how it will subsidize some character's "research" project; we all know that the only ones it will really help will be the thousands of new GS-11s hired by the Department of Energy and other agencies to "administer" all this new-found wealth, and like a lawyer litigating some rich man's will, the only one who will get anything in the end will be the lawyer. The net result is that I get ripped off more for domestic oil than for spot-market oil from the Arabs, and the "fat shieks" become the "fat bureaucrats" in the bad guy role; that's all.

I am no proponent of government control of the economy, but rather than this massive swindle at my expense for the benefit of the federal treasury, I would MUCH prefer the relative "benefits" of a price ceiling of, say, \$20 a bbl with no exemptions or exceptions, with no tax passed on to me, the consumer. Thus, if you want to "limit obscene profits" or just punish the oil companies or whatever, fine, but please don't do so at the expense of the consumer. Remove the profit if you will, but please spare me their passed-on tax!

Sincerely yours,

Excerpt from VOICE OF DOOM #5
Bruce Linsey, 71 Hudson Terrace Apts, Newburgh NY 12550

Help Your Hobby!

I need material for the new Novice Packet, which hopefully will be printed sometime before the end of April, 1980. If any reader would like to try writing any of the articles listed below, or make a commitment to do so, please let me hear from you by March 1, 1980 (but preferably sooner). This list includes only those articles which I need; there are going to be several topics in the Packet which I will be handling or for which I have already located sufficient material. In general, the articles should be brief and concise. If you possess some writing ability, won't you please consider helping out?

Topics for which I need brief, explanatory articles are:

- 1) An article by a newcomer to postal Diplomacy which outlines some of the problems encountered upon entering the hobby. ($\frac{1}{2}$ page).
- 2) An article on alliances, stabbing, revenge, puppeting, philosophies of what constitutes success in the game (win only, draw, strong second, fun only), and other aspects of player interaction in the game. (1 page).
- 3) An article on press and black press, and the differing attitudes of GMs concerning black press. ($\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ page).
- 4) An article by a hobby veteran of several years on hobby history. ($\frac{1}{2}$ page).
- 5) An article on some of the more subtle tactical ploys, such as unwanted support, indirect support, etc., and probably a mention of stalemate lines and their importance. ($\frac{1}{2}$ page).
- 6) An article which stresses the necessity of good negotiation. ($\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ page).
- 7) An article on variants. ($\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ page).
- 8) An article by an experienced veteran on some of the game's psychological ploys; i.e., persuasion versus threatening, lying versus misdirection, playing on reputations, playing on an ally's sense of friendship and loyalty, etc. (1 page).
- 9) Any other article that you think may be helpful to this project.

There are, as mentioned above, several topics which are going to be covered but are not listed here because I've already located or decided that I can write them. The page estimates are just that - estimates, not strict requirements. Finally, I urge all other publishers to PLEASE PUBLISH THIS ANNOUNCEMENT if possible. Thank you in advance for your cooperation. An update and progress report will appear next issue.

STAMP OUT ORPHAN GAMES! So says Dick Martin, 26 Orchard Way North, Rockville, MD 20854. Are you in a game without an active GM? Are you a rookie GM itching to run a game? Then write to Dick! He'll help you!

Dave White, 560 S. 11th St., Beaumont, TX 77701 wants to run a postal Mastermind game. Gamefee = \$0.00. Write to Dave if you are interested.

And now this issues deep political commentary by David D. Perlmutter
alias Derik Verified.....

Today our planet finds itself in a pervasive state of redundancy. We go forward with bellicose enthusiasm in our exploits but return questioning the eternal fabric of time on a higher plane. So now as Proust's contention that man is not finite but rather limited to his grasp we stretch forward alone. Yet in all the renascent doctrines of life that surround our psyche there is to be found a paramount objective. This feeling of climacteric linkage with the metaphor of survival must defeat the bold optimism of the age. Pondering the goal of the species we drown in our own pulchritude.

No longer can the Marxist dogma be given a soluable doctrine of full measure. It is, to say the most, synchronous with a myriad of variations. The reverse rather is true in which a universal sense of bright duty and dignity permeates the nations which are Geo-centric in origin. Philosophy stands along with the celibacy of modern times. As the poet said "yes" so must we do the same. The obedience of centrally worshipped leaders sweeping aside old infatuations and promulgating the inane abuses of the tumult of technology. That leaves the ramparts of jocular men to be dissipated by the teeming tides of fusion.

Thus man is god. God is man. Life is good. Here is now. God is now. Now is here. Then is god. The king is dead. So is god. Life is King. Time is now. The metaphor is tired. I is bored.....

.....
That was mr. Perlmutter's opinion on the crisis in Iran, next time he'll look into the price of gold.

great caution. Allegations about others in the hobby should be afforded little or no weight, unless firmly supported by evidence.

4. GMS should not permit "Oaklyn" to Guest GM games in their zines

5. GMS should not allow "Oaklyn" to enter new games either as an original or replacement player.

Signed, in alphabetical order:

Konrad-Baumeister
Mark Berch
John Boardman
Fred Davis

Ron Kelly
Lee Kendter, Sr
John Michalski
Rod Walker

#	NET	COUNTRY	CENTERS
3	-0	NET	
4	+1	TURKEY	Gen, Ank, Smy, Bul
6	+2	RUSSIA	Mos, Sev, Stp, War, RUM, SWE
5	+2	ITALY	Nap, Rom, Ven, MAR, TUN
5	+2	GERMANY	Ber, Kie, Maa, BEL, HOL, DEN
5	0	FRANCE	Bre, Mty, Par, MUN
3	0	ENGLAND	Lpl, Lon, Edt
5	+2	AUSTRIA	Bud, Vio, Trl, GRE, SER

Well, that's about as wild and woolly a start as you're going to find anywhere. Please note, Russia's R Rum had no effect with its support order, but I do not underline the order since the support was not cut. Deadline for winter 1901 adjustments is Saturday, February 9, 1980, at noon. The gamesmaster calls for a vote on the following question: Should winter and Spring seasons be combined? Players are asked to send their vote in with this season's orders. No vote received = Yes. Two no votes will defeat the proposal. The staff of The Canal Dregs wishes to announce that there are only two spots remaining in the next 10-Day game. Game fee is a modest \$4. Supply center chart for 1901:

AUS (Parker):	F Alb-GRE; A SER sup F Alb-GRE; A TRI-Vie
ENG (Pillant):	F Lon-ENG; A Wal-Yor; F NTH-NY
FRANCE (Petrie):	F BRE-ENG; A PIC-Bel; A Bur-MUN
GERMANY (Oauch):	A Kie-DEN; A Ruh-BEL; F HOL sup A Ruh-Bel
ITALY (Howe):	A Pic-MAR; A Ven hold; F Ion-TUN
RUSSIA (Sutegowski):	F Gob-SWE; A SFP-NWY; A GAT-Vie; F RUM sup Turkish
TURKEY (Johnson):	A Bul-Ser; A Smy-CON; F Con-LEG

Ball 1901:

WHY ARE FRANCE AND ENGLAND SO POPULAR ?
GAME RECEIVES BOARDMAN NUMBER 19800 1

zine published by Jack Frost
Carried as a feature by The Brutus Bulletin
In this issue: 19800

January 30, 1980

THE CANAL DREGS

20

In 1968, Buddy Tretick began publication of La Guerre. He dropped out of the hobby in the early 70's in complete disgrace. The charges against his GMing included pressuring players to end the game before they wanted to, repeated failure to receive orders, playing in his own games, using his son in his games, falsification of player orders, starting some games while dropping others, failure to mail issues of his zine, and others. He was the most intensely criticized GM in the history of the hobby, and had few if any defenders.

In late 1977, he resumed publication of La Guerre, under the pseudonym of "Bernie Oaklyn", later changing the zine's name to the Front de Liberation du Diplomacy. Not long afterwards, some of the same problems emerged. He has placed his son, James Alan (formerly, James Alan Tretick) in several of the games he GMed. This relationship was not revealed to the other players. In one game, either 2 or 3 players (who are quite possibly his 3 sons) actually lived at the same address --- a fact which was obscured from the other players by having them receive mail at friends' addresses. These games, plus others in which he was a coplayer with his son, will surely be labeled as irregular.

Another area of GM impropriety is his habit of not using orders which he has received. In 1977IW, a game he was guest GMing, the Russian player was NMRed, with substitute orders from James Alan being used instead. It was conclusively proved that "Oaklyn" had in fact received the Russian orders; he was replaced as GM. In a similar incident, in his "1978YY", France was NMRed in FO1, with replacement orders used. In a letter to the player, he admitted receiving the orders, and asked her to cooperate in a dishonest cover story saying that the orders were delayed in the mail. Austrian FO1 and WO1 moves in yet another game were attributed to Ron Kelly. After Ron Protested, "Oaklyn" admitted that he had not in fact received any orders from Ron Kelly. Robert Baker reports that his orders in a fourth game repeatedly were altered by "Oaklyn". These and other actions are not just GMing incompetence, but show a fundamental lack of integrity.

In addition to the above GMing improprieties, Mr. Tretick has taken a deceitful attitude toward the hobby, and many of its members. He has misrepresented himself. The most visible examples are his hiding the facts that "Oaklyn" and Tretick are the same, and that James Alan is his son. This has meant that some hobby members have had to go to a great deal of effort to expose this fraud. He has misrepresented himself in other ways. For example, he has stated that he was a President of IDA, that his variant "Air Sea Diplomacy" is the most popular variant ever played, and that, in its prime, La Guerre had a circulation greater than the next 10 largest zines combined. None of these statements are true, but they certainly have the potential to deceive newcomers and those not well informed.

Finally, Mr. Tretick has made numerous untrue allegations about various hobby personalities. Space precludes a complete detailing of these. However, he has made allegations about Mark Berch, Edi Birsan, Vic Carpenter, Lee Kendter, Sr., Ron Kelly, Don Miller, and Rod Walker which simply are not true.

Details of most of these matters have been printed in such places as DIPLOMACY DIGEST #23 and #24, Dragon and the Lamb #38, the new Brutus Bulletin #48, Diplomacy World #24 and elsewhere.

For those interested in further information, contact:

Mark L. Berch 492 Naylor Place Alexandria, Va 22304
John Michalski Route 10 Box 526Q Moore, Okla 73165
Rod Walker 1273 Crest Drive, Encinitas, Calif 92024

Accordingly, we the undersigned strongly advise the Diplomacy Hobby that:

1. Players not sign up for games run by "Oaklyn", or accept standby positions in games presently being run
2. Players already in such games should take extra care in keeping carbons of all correspondence with the GM. If problems occur, they should not hesitate to bring the details to the attention of the hobby

3. Statements made by "Oaklyn" about "Oaklyn" or Tretick should be viewed with