

# WARNING!

THE SURGEON GENERAL HAS DETERMINED  
THAT READING

## THE BRUTUS BULLETIN

CAN BE HAZARDOUS TO YOUR HEALTH!



VII

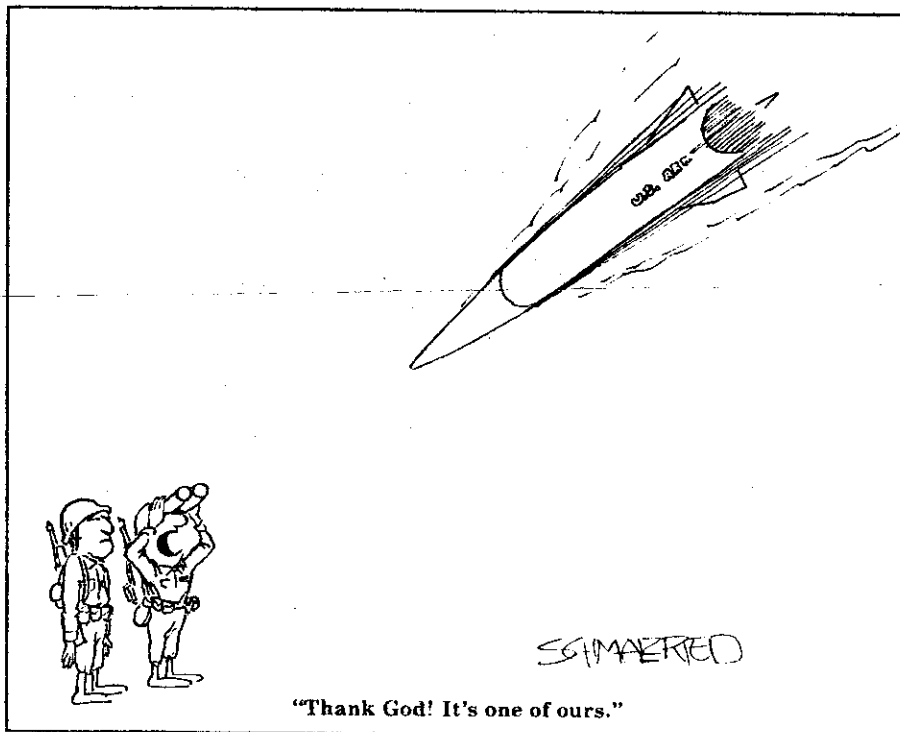
ET TU, BRUTE

MASTHEAD, POLICY NOTES, AND THE LIKE:

THE BRUTUS BULLETIN is a newsletter of postal DIPLOMACY, which in turn is a game invented by Alan Calhamer and marketed/copyrighted by the Avalon Hill Co., Baltimore, MD 21214. Heed that note, because it's probably the last credit for copyrighted material you'll find in this issue. BB is dedicated to running two or three games of postal DIP, fast and cheap. I promise nothing more than adjudications. However, I do my best to stuff each issue with as much filler as I can. PRESS is strongly encouraged; letters, cartoons, nonsense off your school bulletin board or office in-basket is welcomed. Items contained in here are reprinted for their humor or curiosity value, and to indirectly show you what odds and ends I find to be of interest. Their use is really a plug to the authors, and if they don't see it that way, my subscriber list is less than three dozen, so you're hardly hurt. Subscriptions to this thing are \$1.75 for all issues from now until December first, 1978, when a new rate will apply to everybody except the survivors of 77KN, if still in progress. As a recent sample issue of DER FLIEGENDE HOLLANDER put it, "payment is accepted in any pound/dollar decimal currency, or, for a chocolate anteater stuffed with Krugerrands". (Notice that I also copy mastheads). Fee includes sub/gamefee(1)/NMR deposit (nonrefundable), meaning your money is gone and ain't never comin' back. Readers are warned that I don't run more than 3 dozen copies, so there are spaces now for only four more additions. That will be it. There are a couple of copies of back issues left, but when they're gone, that will be it, unless you send \$. Current supplies are gratis to subbers. On calls, I received one response, so at least I know it doesn't matter much. I will accede to that suggestion (and Mark Berch's), and simply state "No calls". That should be simple enough. I, however, may make (and have made) calls to cover what might have been oversights on my part: for instance, if I remember getting your orders, but can't find them as publication draws near, I would call you. Players are requested to send in phone numbers for such emergencies. // John Michalski, 913 NE Sixth St, Moore, Oklahoma 73160  
\*\*\*\*\*  
I'm too lazy to finish this page out, so here's some filler:



"You wouldn't let me have a dog. You wouldn't let me have a cat!"



"Thank God! It's one of ours."

ARMY

January 1978

# 77 KN

POPE MEDITATES AS SUN SETS ON BRITISH EMPIRE

FALL & WINTER, 1903

AUSTRIA (KASSEL): F ADR-Ion; A ALB S A Ser-Gre: A SER-Gre; A TRI-Ser  
 ENGLAND (SCOTT): F Bar-Nwy/ann/; F NWG S F Nth: F NTH S F Bar-Nwy  
 FRANCE (DITTER): F Mid-NAO; F ENG C A Pic-Lon: A Pic-LON; A BEL-Hol: A BUR-Mun  
 GERMANY (WORKMAN): F DEN-Nth; F HEL S A Hol; A HOL H; A Kie-RUH; A TYO-Mun  
 ITALY (MIRASSOU): NMR! F APU, F ION, A ROM, A VEN, A GRE all H  
 RUSSIA (McELVANEY): F StPnc-BAR; F NRY S F StPnc-Bar; F SWE S F Nry;  
F ARM-Blä; A RUM-Bul; A UKR-Rum; A SEV S A Ukr-Rum  
 TURKEY (HUESTON): A BUL S F Bla-Rum; F BLA-Rum; F AEG S ITALIAN A Gre

Austria: Owns Home, Ser	4	No change	Has F ADR, As ALB, SER, TRI
England: Owns <del>Lvp</del> Lvp Edi	2	1 ann., even	Has Fs NWG NTH
France: Owns Home Spa Por BEL LON	7	+F BRE A PAR	Has Fs BRE NAO ENG As PAR BEL LON BUR
Germany: Owns Home <del>Hel</del> Hol Den	5	1 ann., even	Has Fs DEN HEL As HOL RUH TYO
Italy: Owns Home Tun Gre	5	No change	Has Fs APU ION As ROM VEN GRE
Russia: Home Swe <del>Nry</del> Nry RUM	7	No change	Has Fs BAR NRY SWE ARM As RUM UKR SEV
Turkey: Owns Home BUL	4	Builds F ANK	Has Fs ANK BLA AEG A BUL

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Deadline for both games will be my mail received here Monday, MARCH 20, 1978.  
 Will RON KELLY, Room 119, 225 Virginia Ave SE, Washington, DC 20061, please  
 submit standby orders for Italy? Press is on reverse and next page also. Thanks!

# 77 KS

SUMMER, FALL, & WINTER 1902

Summer: English F Bel r ENG

TRIESTE OPEN IN EYE OF HURRICANE AS BALKAN ALIGNMENTS RESHUFFLED

AUSTRIA (PRICE): F ADR-Ion; F GRE-Aeg; A TYO-Ven; A Gal-RUM; A SER-Bul  
 ENGLAND (HUNT): F ENG S F Nwg-Nth; F Nwg-NTH; F NRY S A Fin-Swe; A Fin-SWE; A EDI H  
 FRANCE (GRABAR): F Mid-IRI; F Spasc-MAO; A PAR H; A Bur-MAR; A Gas-BRE  
 GERMANY (REGES): F HEL-Nth; F DEN-Swe; A Kie-MUN; A HOL S A Bel; A BEL S FR A Bur-Pic(N  
 ITALY (SHAFFER): F Ion-TUN; A ALB-Ser; A VEN-Tyo  
 RUSSIA (KASSEL): F GOB S A StP; A StP H; A War-MOS  
 TURKEY (KENDTER Jr): F SEV H; F AEG- Ion; A Rum-UKR; A Ank-ARM; A BUL S AUS F Gre(+OTM)

Austria: Owns Home Ser Gre RUM	6	Builds A VIE	Has Fs ADR GRE As VIE TYO RUM SER
England: Owns Home Nry <del>SWE</del> SWE	5	No change	Has Fs ENG NTH NRY As SWE EDI
France: Owns Home Spa Por	5	No change	Has Fs IRI MAO As PAR MAR BRE
Germany: Owns Home Hol Den BEL	6	Builds F KIE	Has Fs KIE HEL DEN As MUN HOL BEL
Italy: Owns Home TUN	4	Builds A ROM	Has F TUN As ROM ALB VEN
Russia: Owns StP Mos War <del>SEV</del> SEV	3	1 ann., even	Has F GOB As STP MOS
Turkey: Owns Home Bul <del>SEV</del> SEV	5	No change	Has Fs SEV AEG As UKR ARM BUL

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# PRESS

77KN PRESS

Fall 1281

Merciful Allah, from whom all blessings rain, a victory has been won. The dogs of Russians didn't even wait for our victorious troops to turn around before they began their flight. It is hoped that the race shall continue all the way to the Russian frontier.

It was with horror that I discovered that the godless Russians had destroyed my summer palace to make room for a stable. It was certainly the act of a barbaric people. Now the province is hardly worth the holding, such is the extent of the rapaciousness of the Russians. Hardly a horse or dog, in the entire province, was safe from the affections of the Russian soldiers. It shall indeed make medical history if the horses foal, though everyone expects the dogs to pup.

ISTANBUL translated: Help! There has been an accident!

ANKARA: Gelecek resmi tatil ne zaman?

LATE PRESS will appear  
on next page, if any.

77KS PRESS

- ✓ (Fr.) Thought I would try for the throat; I'm sure I missed.
- ✓ KIEL: Will Kanzler Craig get mad at French promises of support to English clowns? No, because he is convinced that no such thing will happen.
- ✓ SCHLEISWIG-HOLSTEIN: Observers noted that the aid of Russia was vital in preventing the spread of parliamentary (read that Dictatorship) Democracy to the Scandinavians. Germany hopes that her other friends will understand.
- ✓ GERMANY to All Other Leaders: Observe the effects of the NMR. The entire course of German foreign policy changed in the course of a single season. All because of an NMR and the US Post Awful. Pity.
- ✓ LONDON: Recent unprovoked German attacks on unarmed British fishing vessels have prompted outraged reactions among our citizens. All over London one sees stiff upper lips, bristling with thin clipped mustaches. In a prepared statement for the press, Hunt defined the British position. "Regent Reges has accused us of abandonment. We do not understand the twisted logic which could produce such a statement. All of our actions have been in accord with agreements made with Germany. At no point in time did the Regent ask us to send an army to Belgium. Are we to read minds? Particularly minds as wild and undisciplined as the German variety?"
- ✓ BELGIUM: Admiral Peter Ast, having been thrown overboard by his crew just prior to its flight across the Channel, swims dejectedly toward the shoreline. "Squeaky doesn't love me. He never loved me". Once again his body is wracked with sobs and he nearly drowns. He sits on a rock on the outskirts of harbor town drying out his skirts. "I had to be wearing this old rag," he thinks; "no one will even look twice". But he is wrong. Villagers pass by and look, not twice, but thrice. Perhaps it is his two days growth of facial hair. So tacky.  
Suddenly there is a scurrying on the road. The villagers rush to the side, some of them in time to avoid being crushed by the tank leading a motorcade. Peter stares wide eyed and openmouthed. For a moment his sadness is gone. His attention is fixed on the man standing in the lead car. "Such wonderful, cruel eyes! What regal bearing! A Patrician nose! (And a snazzy uniform)." Peter knows now why fate has brought him here. His heart is filled with joy and his stomach with butterflies. "Who was that sweet guy?" he asks of a passing peasant. "Why sir, that was Regent Reges what who come what for to take all our money". The sky is blue, the sun is bright, the grass is green...Belgium isn't such a bad place after all...
- ✓ PARIS: The French speaking peoples of Belgium and Munich demand liberation.
- ✓ ROME-VIENNA: Please prepare beds and Turkish blankets.

This issue apparently contained my first mistake, that of calling for builds with the fall orders. I got three mentions or complaints about that. I hadn't realized from here just how much stuff some people considered possible to affect their actions. In any case, I'll readily yield to one person's "demand" and not combine them in the foreseeable future. Fortunately it had little impact, although I suspect two countries that did NOT complain might have ~~never~~ built differently if winter had been combined with spring. Also, I'd like to thank the one person who defended the call! Next, if you think someone stole a label off your mailing list, relax: one is missing off each one. It has no effect. Next, the start of Brutus 3 is wiping out virtually all the standbys; if you wish to standby for the other games, let me know (exc R Price). I'm throwing out the old list and starting clean.

For some reason, most Dipzines occasionally run a mailing list. I can't imagine why, unless as filler. But, to conform to the hobby, I'm including one this issue. To be different, though, I'm making it a useable one for you: it's on adhesive labels so you can use them yourself right off the sheet. There are an awful lot of letters as it turns out, despite what I answered Mark Berch's with; I'll cut down next time. There were ten volunteers for Brutus 3, so the slots left for players currently in one went by lot. Sorry for those of you who missed out.

Someone was kind enough to flatter me by sending in a colored-in Peanuts cartoon run last issue. I'm glad to see someone got some good use out of it! I'd meant to write individually, but the note said only DAVE, and that is only 30% of KN-KS players....

FOR SALE: Anyone want a RAPHIA game, new-but looks-used, \$3? From GDW new, \$5.

If you have anything of your own, I, like Jerry Jones, will run it here free. *JM*

### LATE PRESS

KS ✓ VIENNA- Fools! Don't you think that I read your press reports?! I know of your foul treachery, and though it probably is too late to save the dual-monarchy, Austria will not go down without a fight! Alas, I should have listened to my good cousin the Czar of Russia: he warned me of your deceitful ways. But my eyes were blinded by greed and opportunity, and I fear that it was a fatal error.

The Fall of Eagles is at hand. Yet there is still one who stands and multiplies his fold. I herald all the great cousins of Austria to rally round the banner of the Eagle who is still strong, ere he too falls and the end of a long line of mighty royal blood comes before its time.

KN ✓ BERLIN(IIP) --Kaiser Peter Angst I announced that the recent campaign against the pollution of accordion music in Tyrolia was so successful that the troops have been ordered to return home. They are expected to celebrate the army's victories throughout the Munich area.

The Kaiser also suggested at the news conference that a renewal of the fight against air pollution is being discussed at the meetings of his ministers. The pious phrases of the French have only added to the contamination, the German leader said. "We want action and not more talk".

KN ✓ MOSCOW: Some smart ass has nothing better to do than try to confuse Russia's friends by sending false notes to them. One ally quickly alerted the Czar, however. YOU HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED!

The Russian Intelligence Squad has taken counter measures against the fakes. Foremost among those actions was the purchase of this ugly, red, 5"x7" paper. (A sickening color, no?) Anyway, the government doubts that supplies of this shade are available across the country. Therefore, the color of this paper will be used as an authenticator for the time being. Accept no substitutes!

If further security measures prove to be needed, they will be announced!

KS ✓ ?--VIVA LA ROME! Ankara Public Herald Headlines: In the spring campaign our glorious Italian allies tried to take Trieste but slid back to Venice.

## IDA UPDATE

I guess either my old fee ran out, or the IDA decided it didn't really want or need my vote, for Jerry Jones has just published the election results below. If it were the OLD IDA, one might wonder whether the election took place at all, but the new faces below show no reason to be as suspicious of them as one might well have been of some of the hazier things that occurred under the old regime.

President: Bob Hartwig, Jr.  
Treasurer: Doug Beyerlein  
Ombudsman: David Bunke  
Periodicals Editor: Jerry Jones himself  
Special Projects: Konrad Baumeister  
US Representative: Andy Cook  
Canadian Representative: Cal White

Well, at least with Jones as editor, DR is likely to appear more often than has been the case historically. And Bob Hartwig is sure to at least try to do something, the way he has talked IDA up. I'll send him \$2 and see what this new crew can do.

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## MAGAZINES RECEIVED

LILAF Thomas Gould, 40 West 77 Street, NYC 10024. L is a science-fiction personalzine. It runs Diplomacy games for the sake of torturing the editor. There are openings in Conquistador, the Trader Variant, regular Diplomacy, and now En Garde. There is no game fee; players must maintain a sub or trade. Subs are eight for \$2. Sub credit is awarded at the rate of four issues per page, including press. CONTRIBUTIONS ARE GREATLY ENCOURAGED. L is six full sheets of assorted insanity typical of the eastern zines I've noticed. I kind of hated to turn down his trade offer, but don't have much room left for paying customers who ARE still trickling in. Issue six contained a feature story two pages long on "GRILLED CHEESE", where to buy it, where NOT to buy it, how to make it, etc. Zany, but typical of what we publishers are forced to run to fill these issues! (✓). A clever product.

Der FLIEGENDE HOLLANDER Don Wileman et. al.; various addresses in Canada and the US. DFH arrived unheralded, but was impressive by its size and bulk of material. I read through it a few days ago as best I could, and really couldn't make much out of it. It struck me as an extreme example of the BS-zine-that-uses-Dip-for-an-excuse/audience. If any reader understands it and cares to send in a rebuttal, fine, but it just didn't make any sense to me.

KOLWYNIA Tony Watson, 201 Minesota, Las Vegas NV. K is a subzine of Tony's RURITANIA and is used to send out adjudication adjustments. K has come out regularly the last 3 months, but Tony has promised it will hopefully expire soon, as RURI adopts a guest GM or two. The good part about K is that it's free to players, even if they have mixed emotions about getting it; that beats even the 7 or 8¢/copy you pay for BB.

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LARRY BOST, of PURSUE & DESTROY has informed me that the article I copied from his last issue--the Dip article in BB5--was really from Walt Buchanan's DW, not an original for P&D. So, here's credit to Walt and a note to all who'd seen it earlier: it was a surprise to ME. I wouldn't have run it if I'd known it had already appeared in a large circulation Dipzine like DW.

giving quite an  
them both)))

"TRUCKIN' USA": Two to four players. Game covered all of the aspects of big rig trucking; finding a load, speeding, drinking beer, beating up Hippies at truck stops and in general all of the fun things that truckers do while traveling cross-country. Player with the most money after paying all fines and repairs to his truck is the winner. Rules are fairly simple and the Smokie CRT was easy to understand. Game was dropped due to the high cost, \$532.00. Game included board of the United States, four semi and one Highway Patrol markers, die, rules, and four CB radios (antenna and battery packs not included).

"THE ALAMO": Box advertising read; "See if you as General Santa Anna can take a handful of Mexican volunteers and over-run three thousand crack trained American troops held up in a fort." There was much controversy over the apparent discrepancy of facts. We, here at LD&NS, tried to contact the game designer but he, Jose Morales, was not available for comment.

"ARMS RACE": A real fun game to play. The main problem was the small size of the board. The board was 4" by 4". There were over six thousand cardboard pieces representing ICBM's and anti-ICBM's. Each player would start by picking up as many pieces as he can with one hand and then set up behind a divider that separated the two players. Then they would offer to get rid of x number of ICBM's if the other player would get rid of x number of ICBM's. At the end of each game year each country would increase his stockpile by 150%. One player could attack the board at any time he wished and then the other player has the opportunity to retaliate and send up available anti-ICBM's. The game was dropped because no one could up with any winning requirements.

"IN THE RING": A true to life boxing game with dives, tax law evasions, closed circuit TV rights. Game used the same style CRT as in Avalon Hills WS&IM. Dropped due to the amount of violence that seemed to stem from the game.

" THE CIA": A good game for those with imagination. Each player has a different objective (Political overthrow, spying on subversive groups, cover-ups, etc.) The game didn't play too well because of its major drawback. The major drawback being that there were no rules.

"ZINE MAKER": Each player starts the game by selecting scard that indicate how he will have to run his zine. Possible cards are; mimeo offset printing, or ditto machines; 2,3,4 week deadlines; amount of free time available; and number of contributing editors. The game incorporates certain problems for the publishers such as; "Player NMR's and all stand-bys are stricken by the plague", Mimeo machine breaks down", and "GM goes bankrupt and subscribers storm his house." Game playtested well but was dropped because of the real frustration and mental problems that it was causing the players.

Condensed from  
"THE DRAGONS OF EDEN"

# A Cosmic Calendar

CARL SAGAN, professor of astronomy  
and space sciences at Cornell University

THE WORLD is very old, and human beings are very young. Significant events in our personal lives are measured in years or less; our lifetimes in decades; our family genealogies in centuries; and all of recorded history in millennia. But we have been preceded by an awesome vista of time, extending for prodigious periods into the past, about which we know little—both because there are no written records and because we have real difficulty in grasping the immensity of the intervals involved.

Yet we are able to date events in the remote past. Geological stratification and radioactive dating provide

JANUARY-NOVEMBER	
January 1	Big Bang
May 1	Origin of the Milky Way galaxy
September 9	Origin of the solar system
September 14	Formation of Earth
September 25	Origin of life on Earth
October 9	Date of oldest fossils
November 1	Invention of sex (by micro-organisms)
November 12	Oldest fossil photosynthetic plants
November 15	First cells with nuclei

information on archeological, paleontological and geological events; and astrophysical theory provides data on the ages of planetary surfaces, stars, and the Milky Way galaxy, as well as an estimate of the time that has elapsed since the earliest event about which we have any record—the Big Bang explosion, which may have been the beginning of the universe.

The most instructive way I know to express this cosmic chronology is to imagine the 15-billion-year lifetime of the universe (or at least its present incarnation since the Big Bang) compressed into the span of a single year. Thus foreshortened, every *billion years* of Earth history corresponds to about *24 days* of our "cosmic year." I present this cosmic calendar in three forms: major dates in the January-to-November period; a daily calendar for December; and a close-up look at the late hours of New Year's Eve.

The construction of such tables and calendars is inevitably humbling. For example, it is disconcerting to find that in such a cosmic year

DECEMBER	
Monday 1	Significant oxygen atmosphere begins to develop on Earth
Friday 5	Extensive vulcanism and channel formation on Mars
Tuesday 16	First worms
Wednesday 17	Precambrian Period ends; Paleozoic Era and Cambrian Period begin; invertebrates flourish
Thursday 18	First oceanic plankton
Friday 19	Ordovician Period; first fish, first vertebrates
Saturday 20	Silurian Period; first vascular plants; plants begin colonization of land
Sunday 21	Devonian Period begins; first insects; animals begin colonization of land
Monday 22	First amphibians; first winged insects
Tuesday 23	Carboniferous Period; first trees; first reptiles
Wednesday 24	Permian Period begins; first dinosaurs
Friday 26	Triassic Period; first mammals
Saturday 27	Jurassic Period; first birds
Sunday 28	Cretaceous Period; first flowers; dinosaurs become extinct
Monday 29	Mesozoic Era ends; Cenozoic Era and Tertiary Period begin; first primates
Tuesday 30	Early evolution of frontal lobes in the brains of primates; first hominids; giant mammals flourish
Wednesday 31	End of the Pliocene Period

Earth does not condense out of interstellar matter until mid-September; dinosaurs emerge on Christmas Eve; men and women originate at 10:30 p.m. on New Year's Eve; all of recorded history occupies the last ten seconds of December 31; and the

DECEMBER 31	
10:30 p.m.	First humans
11:00 p.m.	Widespread use of stone tools
11:46 p.m.	Domestication of fire by Peking man
11:56 p.m.	Beginning of most recent glacial period
11:59 p.m.	Extensive cave painting in Europe
11:59:20 p.m.	Invention of agriculture
11:59:51 p.m.	Invention of the alphabet
11:59:53 p.m.	Bronze metallurgy; Mycenaean culture; Trojan War; invention of the compass
11:59:55 p.m.	Periclean Athens; birth of Buddha
11:59:56 p.m.	Euclidean geometry; Archimedean physics; Roman Empire; birth of Christ
11:59:58 p.m.	Mayan civilization; Sung Dynasty China; Byzantine empire; Mongol invasion; Crusades
11:59:59 p.m.	Renaissance in Europe; voyages of discovery from Europe and from Ming Dynasty China; emergence of the experimental method in science
Now: The first second of New Year's Day	Widespread development of science and technology; emergence of a global culture; acquisition of the means for self-destruction of the human species; first steps in spacecraft planetary exploration and the search for extraterrestrial intelligence

time from the waning of the Middle Ages to the present occupies little more than one second.

Yet, despite the insignificance of the instant we humans have so far occupied in cosmic time, it is clear that what happens on and near Earth at the beginning of the second cosmic year will depend very much on the scientific wisdom and the distinctly human sensitivity of mankind.



Yes, Alan, this is really an original article.

### JUNK MAIL

NO, this is NOT an article about the BRUTUS BULLETIN. Rather, it is an article to both inform you of a bad situation and an appeal for your assistance in combating it. The topic is the proverbial 'junk mail'. I define the latter as all that undesired stuff that appears in your mailbox trying to screw you on some deal you neither need nor want. And, it gets delivered there by hand, right to your door, for one and seven-tenths cents. At least that's what the stamp shows, if not a bulk rate permit number. Actually, it costs just as much as your own letters do to deliver, of course, only theirs are usually heavier. YOU pay the difference. You do so every time you mail a letter. Your 13¢ stamp is about 8¢ to carry itself and 5¢ to carry all that crud to your mailbox, since it's First Class mail that carries the burden of all the magazines, bulk mailings, and 3d/4th class freight moving at a loss. It doesn't quite make it ALL up, of course, for postal salaries are so high that all the First Class mail the mailboxes could hold couldn't cover them; but, your first class letter is the \$ workhorse of the system.

"So what" you say? Well, here's what. You might think you're getting back at these folks by saying "I throw all that stuff out unopened anyhow". No, you're making a big mistake. Remember, you've ALREADY PAID the subsidy to deliver that crud to your home; why do them the favor of tossing it out for your garbageman (whom you also pay) to haul it away? Yes, I said "favor". I do NOT do them that favor. I do the following: 1) Open the stuff 2) throw away the envelope or face sheet or whatever has your name on it 3) take out the Business Reply Cards/Envelopes, if any 4) tear the advertisements up 5) stuff them back into the Business Reply envelope, and 6) MAIL ALL OF IT! The reason for doing so is simple. 'Business Reply' mail is first class mail. Who, if anyone, SHOULD be paying first class rates, and LOTS of it? The people who are stealing a nickel from us every time we mail a letter, that's who. That Good Housekeeping your wife or mother gets cost you a lot more than \$7 a year; at least do yourself and the rest of us a favor by mailing (blank, of course) all those reply cards inside. They contribute 9¢ each, plus a few cents surcharge. In this way, the outfits bending your ear with their come-on ads fork over at least a token to the first class kitty. Two cards will CONTRIBUTE about as much gross as Good Housekeeping paid to deliver that one-pound zine to your door. And, you can use your imagination and be creative. Why not, for instance, open all the junk mail, and decide who should get what? Would Gulf Special Offer Headquarters be interested in learning how they could get \$30/day each day they were in the hospital? Would Barney Bigmouth care to take time away from his congressional campaigning to learn how he could become a locksmith in his spare time? Would the First Holy Roller Church of Hialeah really be interested in that brassiere sale at Sears next week? SURE they would!! So, TELL 'em about it! Stuff all that junk in the envelope of whoever you think would most enjoy it. Hell, maybe somebody there at Beneficial Pickpocket Insurance Co. DOES want an Encyclopedia Britannica. They feel good seeing their cards and envelopes come back; it shows their advertising \$ was well-spent. The Post Office feels good seeing more first class mail. And you can feel good, emptying your pencil sharpener into that envelope to Boondoggle Book Club. Don't leave the subsidizing to the man in the street. If you want to DO something to right, in some small way, the massive wrong of our postal rate structure, don't EVER let a Business Reply card or letter be thrown away. Mail it. You've already paid to have your mailman deliver it to your trashcan. Why not let them pay to have your postman carry some contents of your trashcan back to their own door, where it belongs?

-John Michalski

## HOW TO ENCODE OFFICER EFFICIENCY REPORTS

One of those documents which periodically flows, wholly without official sponsorship or sanction, from the Pentagon's duplicating machines.

<u>TERM</u>	<u>DEFINITION</u>
Average Officer/Warrant Officer-----	Not too bright
Exceptionally well qualified-----	Has committed no major blunders to date
Active socially-----	Drinks heavily
Wife is active socially-----	She drinks too
Character and integrity above reproach-----	Still one step ahead of the law
Zealous attitude-----	Opinionated
Unlimited potential-----	Will retire as a Major/Gunnery Sgt
Quick thinking-----	Offers plausible excuses for errors
Loyal to his/her commander-----	Should be guest of honor at next crucifixion
Exceptional flying ability-----	Has equal number of takeoffs and landings
Takes pride in his work-----	Conceited
Takes advantage of every opportunity-----	Buys drinks for the C.O.
Forceful and aggressive-----	Argumentative
Outstanding-----	Frequently in the rain
Indifferent to instruction-----	Knows more than his seniors
Stern disciplinarian-----	A bastard
Tactful when dealing with superiors-----	Knows when to keep his mouth shut
Approaches difficult problems with enthusiasm-----	Finds someone else to do the job
A keen analyst-----	Thoroughly confused
Definitely not the "Desk Type"-----	Did not go to college
Expresses himself well-----	Speaks English fluently
Often spends extra hours on the job-----	Miserable home life
A true Southern Gentleman-----	A hillbilly
Conscientious and careful-----	Scared
Meticulous in attention to detail-----	A nit picker
Demonstrates quality in leadership-----	Has a loud voice
Judgement is usually sound-----	Lucky
Maintains professional attitude-----	A snob
Keen sense of humor-----	Has a vast repertoire of dirty jokes
Strong adherence to principles-----	Stubborn
Career minded-----	Hates reserves
Gets along well with superiors and subordinates alike-----	A coward
Slightly below average-----	Stupid
Fantastic memory and interpretation of innuendo-----	Plays liar's dice well
A very fine Officer of great value to the service-----	Gets to work on time

## LETTERS

✓ MARK BERCH Ah, you sly old dog, seducing me with your fatso issue #5. Enclosed is my \$2. Long as I'm at the typewriter, I thought I'd toss in a few comments.

As for giving Walt a fit with a different size paper, he'll probably do the same as me---fold the thing in half and mutter....as for publishing from Greece, seems to me that sounds easy compared with attacking Bulgaria.....I too would like a copy of the much ballyhood #4, with one issue subtracted off the end of my sub if at all possible. How's about a second printing? You should always print a goodly # of extra copies if you have the cash, because many Dip players like to have complete runs when they start to sub to a new zine.. you can skip the advertising leaflets from my issues....while I can certainly understand that your "I'll wait and see, but I'm not optimistic" attitude toward the IDA/NA is understandable, if everyone took that attitude, no organization would ever get off the ground....thanx greatly for your plug for my DIPLOMACY DIGEST but I do want to correct one thing: I do in fact also publish original articles as well. Articles on the play of France, Italy, and Austria appeared originally in #1, #2, and #6 respectively. The upcoming "Villifacations and Tirades" theme issue will include one of my own, and either in that issue or the next one, I'll have an article on the rules paradox concerning an unwanted convoy, with comments by various GMs including yourself....your letter column is very strong in #5 and should be important if, as you say, you "claim no originality". One small touch is to include the writer's address after his name when they are writing at some length, to make it easier for someone to write direct---note how it's done in the MIXUMAXU GAZETTE....finally, as to your "Important Notice", you might be interested in a legal update. The difficulty of how to distinguish sleepers from those who have died on the job but neglected to fall over cannot be solved by shaking the employee, as this may arouse the shakee from his slumbers. After a \$50,000 study at the University of Podunk at Iowa, it was determined that extending a paycheck to the employee would do the trick, as the grasping reflex exists even in sleep. In a few rare cases, the reflex has existed even after death, leading to a lawsuit in which the estate of the deceased sued for possession of the test paycheck. If anyone has heard of the outcome of this suit, please bring it to our attention by, for example, publishing it as press in 77KN or 77KS.  
(492 Naylor Place, Alexandria, VA 22304)

((I used to print 41 copies, but when the darn issues run 10 pages, 10x41x2 equals too many for one issue. Even 10x36x2 is too many, but...I do keep trying to cut down. One of these days I'll make it. On the IDANA: it's a far different story, supporting a new idea/organization, versus jumping in with one that has fallen on its face a few times already. There's something to be said for learning from experience. If the IDA has any hope, it's that the people currently pushing it---Hartwig, Reges, Jones, etc.,---are all newcomers rather than retreads from the old calamity (at least to my knowledge). I'll just vote (IF I get another DR!) and wait and watch. On letters, it CAN become a "strong" element as you say, but I won't push it. I think people would rather have a change of pace more often than not, such as a letter from Elmer Drizzlebottom rather than listening to us.))

STEVE HUESTON Your letter made my day. I really do enjoy hearing from people about something other than Army Bulgaria-Constantinople. I like Dippy, and for several years the Seattle area saw a great deal of high quality play as Doug Beyerlein and I organized frequent (over 60 one year) dippy games. Things have died down a good deal since then. Doug moved south and I lost interest. I now play an occasional FTF game, but they are

LETTERS (continued)

rare. I got back into postal to meet people. I'd like to do well in every game, but it's not overly important. Since MDP has died, at least from my position, I get CLAW & FANG, RUNESTONE, BB, BATOCHE, and AIDE DE CAMP from Belgium-England. Personally, I prefer zines that have lots of junk to read in them. Hence my enjoyment of yours. I also like quick deadlines and prompt mailing by the GM.

When I said I could tolerate D&D, it is more a matter of survival around here than anything else. My brother and more than half of my friends are D&D fiends. In particular I'm a MINIATURES freak. I work in a hobby store selling them and I run our local club. Most of our rules are of local origin, mine mostly, and cover a wide range: WWII micro-armor, Napoleonics, Civil War, and Ancients. They are all different and a lot of fun. Our Napoleonics have the brigade as the tactical unit, thus giving us entire armies on a 5x9 table.

Of course I don't particularly like the flat lifeless cardboard counters of the board games, but have been known to play strategic level games. I've always found the games to be mere games, not simulations. I also prefer the team play of miniatures. I played Dungeons once and thought it silly. With hidden movement and the ambush rule, it might be alright, but rather dull. I'm a little above the level of a six year old. In other words, I'm jaded. I need complication or I get bored.

My great ambition is to be a writer, historical and SF novels. To date nothing has been accepted, though most of my friends like my stuff. /PS/ I've also written a dippy variant that's a real beast. It's economic in nature, currently ancient in its setting (it can be any period) and it's a mess. We've just started our first attempt at playing it. I may try to run it postally some day. ((1018 S 242 ST, KENT, WA 98031))

((First, to our general readership, let me say I've already sent a reply to Steve, so I'll only make some general remarks here. It IS nice to get a "real" letter once in a while, as others have noted recently, e.g., Reges and Watson here, Kershaw in the latest MASTER MACHIAVELLIAN; however, the bad part of that is that such a letter more or less demands a similar response, which most have rarely the time or inclination for, if we presume ability. Mike Kershaw, for instance, complained of the total lack of response from his readership, while in the same issue, he explains how he barely has time in his school schedule for a couple of quarter-hour snack breaks! How many letters such as the above or Craig's below can he get off each month? The situation reminds me of a letter I got from someone starting a new wargame magazine. He'd seen some of my work in CAMPAIGN and requested a 2000-5000 word article from me to help him create his zine "filled with incisive, informative, interesting material for the general gamer", etc. While I was flattered in a way to be asked, the request was absurd: EVERYONE wants incisive, informative, interesting material for the general gamer. S&T and the GENERAL would, along with F&M, CAMPAIGN, PURSUE & DESTROY, right on down through CLAW & FANG and even BRUTUS BULLETIN. The more successful, e.g., FIRE & MOVEMENT from the above group, know damn well that you'll be hard pressed to get anything good at all, so if you want it, you've got to create it yourself: F&M via 'contributing editors', or in effect, contract contributors, or S&T/GENERAL straight out in-house. The Dipzines are the same: C&F does a pretty good job due to the large circulation base; RURITANIA's best stuff is straight in-house; most just scrape by with whatever is at hand, which is usually nothing. Thus I feel BB is exceptional in the amount of letters/press generated from only 2 active games at this point. I really cannot, and do not, expect it. Thus these fat BBs are as much a surprise to me as to you!

But, I'm getting off on a tangent. I wanted to also add that I'm just the opposite of Steve above, in that I'm almost strictly a boardgamer, and operational-strategic level only. I like RUSSIAN CAMPAIGN level stuff as opposed to the ultra-tactical, miniatures-in-cardboard the hobby has drifted into these past few years (Panzerblitz, Sniper, Tobruk, etc). Nothing smaller than a battalion per counter for me. Different strokes, etc...

I'd meant to add more, but I need to get on with these. J.M.)

LETTERS, etc.

STEVE HUESTON My sympathies go out to you for living in OK. I live in the best area in the world. Given a tolerance for water, such as having feathers, the Puget Sound is the best place to live. I think it snowed and stuck this year, but I can't remember it. It rains a lot but never gets very cold. I don't think it's gotten below 10°F in the last 20 years or more. This winter has been more like spring or fall. However, if you travel for one hour east you find mountains with lots of snow. Two hours the other way and you have an ocean. We have great tracts of forests. And strange to tell, we even have a desert-like area about three miles east. It never gets too hot in the summer and green is by far the most prevalent color. However, if you print this, I'll deny it. I'll come out with the truth. ((OK, go ahead! *jm*)) The sun never shines and it's always miserable. If you enjoy constant post-nasal drip and frequent colds, come visit us. I moved up from CA and it took about five years to adjust. In short, I love it, but haven't the slightest desire to have anyone like it. ((1018 S 242, Kent WA 98931))

Dayton

((Personally, *jm* Ohio was the best place I've ever lived. Years in Texas, Oklahoma, and a tour in Thailand have spoiled me, though, and now even Okla City is too cold for me. I'd move to Austin if there were any oil jobs there, but its just gov't and education. Houston might be nice, except for the occasional hurricanes. I saw someone wearing a T-shirt once that said IN OREGON, A DRAUGHT IS A CLEAR DAY. Apparently it's like that by you, too. *jm*))

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Now some general notes and stuff:

#### HOUSERULE CHANGES (ADDITIONS)

1. A convoyed move that could succeed by land will succeed even if the convoying Fleet is dislodged, unless the order specifically stated "via Fleet X"
2. NEUTRAL ORDERS will be used in ALL seasons of 1901 in case of a miss, not just spring. Fall ~~and winter~~ orders will only be to neutral centers. RETREATS not received, however, will still go OTB.

LAST ISSUE our first, but not last, Black Press appeared. Personally, I fully expected a torrent of Outlaw votes, but to my surprise, I only got one comment so far (Mar 1), and that was an 'I-don't-care'// Next, a couple of you--no, more like four--wrote to comment on the convoy puzzle, most at some length. All agreed that the move should succeed, convoy order or no convoy order. So, that's the way it will be. I'd normally run your letters, but I have so many already (and after I answered Mark Berch the way I did, too), that I opted to pass on that. I have a week to go and can already see that I'll have stuff to carry over to the NEXT issue, so if I were to add one more letter, I'd have to put it on the cover! — Thanks to all for your views! —

FOR SALE: Assorted current wargame ~~zines~~ zines, mostly General, Campaign, P&D, E&M, odds and ends. Will Ssell for \$1 over postage for the whole kit and kaboodle. Send any amount over a dollar and I'll mail you as much as the difference will carry, third or fourth class. Write GM. *jm*

ALSO FOR SALE: Blank troop counters. All on trees, assorted colors, from third world companies. (e.g., Zocchi, Flying Buffalo, etc.) No symbols or anything. Same rate as above. (I must have 15 big ones, maybe a few small or partial sheets too. I don't recall anymore). *jm*

GOT ANY ADS OR NOTICES OF YOUR OWN?? Jerry Jones will run them free, and at the risk of insulting him by copying his good idea, so will I. Subscribers only. *jm*

## STILL MORE LETTERS

✓ CRAIG REGES You know, I sympathize with your argument with Fred Winter. I get my xeroxing free where I work too. I more than lose any profit I might make by phone calls to prevent NMRs, xerox paper, etc., but what the hell! The deadline for AGAINST THE ODDS was longer this time for the convenience of the players in ATO #1 so they'd have a chance at negotiations and also, since my next deadline (Mar 11) would have fallen on the weekend just before finals, this seemed good to me. Now my next deadline will be just AFTER finals.

The CHICAGO SUN TIMES reported Thursday that Carter was going to push for college tuition aid for middle-class families. Just in time. I get out in June of this year, so big deal. My current "scholarship" has been my going to the bank and saying "Please take this money out of my checking account". I work and pay for my own education and wouldn't mind so much if I felt more intelligent people, or even just intelligent people at all were getting this money. I don't know what you know about this, but one of the criteria used for getting into the U of Ill-Chicago Circle is that you get an 18 on the ACT test, possible is 36. Most people I know scored around 23-33; I got a 31 which was good enough to get me into Mensa, I'm happy to say. But of the 1976 entering class, 1200 or so out of 5000 freshmen did not have that 18 score. Three even had a score of TWO! But since the University's other criteria is class rank (upper  $\frac{1}{2}$ ), these people were allowed in. Many of these people stay one or two quarters and then drop out, but naturally these people went at taxpayer expense. And Circle caters to them, so it lowers the overall quality of education for everybody else. I want to see equal opportunity, but I would like to see it equal for me too.

Well, that's the tirade of the month. Thanks for the plugs in BB5 and your letter for ATO 5. Keep up the good work. ((16 W 761 White Pines Rd, Bensenville, IL 60106))

((I think the tuition-tax business is a mistake of the first magnitude, but for that very reason, I'm sure something will come of it. People will always go for the buck-today-the-hell-with-tomorrow. Look at Medicare! First, the college diploma is overrated, but the feedback in the system is so slow and the inertia so great, that we'll probably see degrees tomorrow like we see high school diplomas today: handed out to everyone who acted close enough to human to avoid being incarcerated at graduation time. While I could care less about trying to push a few dummies through, their numbers ARE growing as you say, but even more is the pressure across the board for everyone, esp the University itself, to meet the new racial quotas. How many TAs there, for instance, are from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Iran,...??? If it's like here, the answer is A LOT. Their pseudo-English-english might as well be Swahili, but they were hired not so much to teach as to meet the racial quotas. The University needs warm bodies coming in that can/will pay high fees, and it needs to meet its quotas to satisfy Sam. No one gives a damn whether they teach you anything or not. So they usually don't. The new grads with their Masters in Black Studies enter the Civil Service to regulate more brothers into token positions, and so on and so on. It feeds on itself. Also, now that VA bennies are running out concurrently with people STARTING to realize you don't need a degree to do today's jobs in most cases, means the student base is shrinking. Therefore the schools want to see Big Uncle fill the ranks with subsidized draftees from the only pool left: the jails and gutters. I think I can guess where it will end, but I'll take your cue and cut this short. Reader's views of all kinds will certainly be welcome! )) J.M.

✓ RICK PRICE May I take this opportunity to congratulate you on an excellent job so far. Your punctuality and nicely put-together zine are admirable. Keep up the good work!

((Double thanks, Rick. First, nice to hear you like it; second, nice to have a SHORT letter to finish out the page! (v) )) J.M.

# Bureaucratic Blunders



The Ohio Division of Wildlife used as many as five agents, including two undercover agents, to investigate and prosecute an 11-year-old boy for selling fishing worms and crawfish in his parents' front yard. Jeff Gyde was selling fish bait without a permit, which neither Jeff nor his parents knew was required. Over two weeks Jeff sold \$4.50 worth of bait, \$1 of which was to two undercover state agents.

The California Energy Commission has collapsed under the weight of its own paperwork: While the five-member commission was meeting in a second-floor office, the adjoining storage room crashed onto an outdoor garden. According to one commissioner, the only thing in the room was a bookcase, plus 1,000 copies of the commission's 1,600-page biennial report.

Department of Agriculture employees have named their cafeteria in honor of Alfred Packer, a Colorado pioneer whose life, according to Agriculture Secretary Bob Bergland, "exemplifies the spirit and fare of this cafeteria." Packer was convicted of cannibalism in the late 1800s.

Meanwhile, in nearby Baltimore the federal government recently opened the new Edward Garmatz Courthouse, named for a longtime Maryland congressman who retired in 1974. One of its first uses was in the political corruption trial—of Edward Garmatz.

More than 300 employees of HEW are  
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among those who have defaulted on guaranteed student loans. The employees are making at least \$5800 per year and, in some cases, more than \$30,000.

When the grass on neighboring Corps of Engineers property became too tall and scraggly to bear, W. H. Fleming of Blakely, Georgia, did his civic duty and cut it. Little did he know that, as a Corps official promptly informed him, such grass-mowing "constitutes a private exclusive use privilege because the natural environmental condition has been modified," requiring a \$10.00 permit.

The National Endowment for the Arts granted Pittsburgh artist Leaann Wilchusky \$6025 to make a 20-minute film in which four mile-long crepe paper rolls were dropped from airplanes over El Paso, Tex. Mrs. Wilchusky explains that her work "calls attention to the higher spirit of mankind and the coming era of peace and harmony on Earth."

Meanwhile, the National Science Foundation is spending \$78,400 for two professors to study the love, sexual and working relationships of couples—two-thirds of whom will be homosexual. Says foundation official Herbert Costner, "I would say that heterosexual couples have something to learn from homosexual couples." To find participants for the study, which will involve 300 married or unmarried heterosexual couples, 300 lesbian couples, and 300

male homosexual couples, the researchers are putting up notices in bars, restaurants and other public places. If pleased with the project's progress, the NSF can fund it for a second and third year, making a total of \$217,700 spent on the project.

Another National Science Foundation project will spend \$53,000 to study the sex life of the Aplysia snail, which has both male and female reproductive organs. Says grant-recipient James Blankenship, "We're interested in what determines which role the animal is going to take—male, female or both."

A burn medicine made of simple castor and cod-liver oils that promotes healing better than conventional burn dressings has been denied distribution rights by the Food and Drug Administration. Portland, Ore., doctor Werner Zelleo says, "I think it's the best burn dressing I have seen. There is absolutely no reason why the FDA should act this way." The discoverer of the ointment, Dr. Otto George, has been battling the FDA for 10 years to get permission to sell the ointment, but the bureaucrats have done everything possible to thwart him. First, the FDA rejected the results of tests on 227 burn patients, demanding that he first use the ointment on animals. After he complied, the FDA again rejected him. Frustrated, Dr. George has given up, and concluded: "I am beginning to realize the FDA will never approve anything for an individual . . . they only want to deal with large companies with unquestioned finances."

Frances Salvage of Miami has been offered a job, but she can't have it until she uses up her unemployment benefits. The Jewish Home for the Aged wants to hire her as a part-time social worker. But they want to pay her from a new \$30,000 federal grant, under which jobs can be given only to persons who have exhausted all their employment benefits. State employment bureau James Dietrick told Mrs. Salvage, "You are eligible for that job after your unemployment benefits run out." Mrs. Salvage has fought the decision, saying "I don't want to collect unemployment, I want the job." Complained a secretary at the State Employment Office, "That lady sure made a big fuss. Some people just can't follow the rules."

## BACK FROM THE KLONDIKE

There once was a man who went to Alaska to search for gold. Every day he went into the woods to look for a stream that might have gold in it. Every day he went farther and farther into the woods. One morning he woke up and saw that he had gone so far into the woods that he was lost. Here is how you can help him find his way out of the woods.

Start at the heart in the center of the puzzle. There is a "3" in the heart. This tells you to move three steps in a straight line. There are eight ways in which you can move. You can go up or down. You can go to the right or to the left. Or you may move through a corner. When you have moved three steps in a straight line, you will find yourself in a box with a number in it. This number tells you how many steps you should take for your second move. The second move is also made in a straight line. Once again there are eight ways in which you can move.

After each move you will find yourself in a box with a number in it. The number tells you how many steps in a straight line you should take for your next move.

When you reach a box whose number takes you one step past the edge of the puzzle, the man will be out of the woods.

