

"I predict a Carter win with room to spare", John Michalski, BB #76

"A large turnout will help our cause", Robert Strauss

"Peace in our time", Neville Chamberlain

Thanksgiving Issue 1980

The

#77

BRUTUS BULLETIN

The BRUTUS BULLETIN is a newsletter of postal DIPLOMACYtm, which is a game invented by Alan Calhamer and copyrighted by the Avalon Hill Company, Baltimore. BB is produced every few weeks by John Michalski ("mih-HOLL-skee"), Rt 10, Box 526-Q, Moore, Oklahoma 73165. Subs are available at the rate of 12/\$5, 12/\$4 for resubs for now.

GAME OPENINGS!

✓ Yes, I have game openings with guest gamemasters. SCOTT HANSON, 701 SE 15 Ave, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414 is JUST ABOUT READY to start a two-week-deadline game, 1 or maybe 2 spots left. Jump in now, \$2.50 to subscribers, \$3.50 to non-BB subbers, for a fast start. I guarantee the completion of this game. DAVE MARSHALL, an experienced GGM from CLAW & FANG, has some 3-week-deadline games open, both grey press and black press. Write him at 1547 Maplegrove Road, South Euclid, Ohio 44121. All games will have adjudications sent direct to you by the GM and will only be reprinted here later, so you are assured of maximum fun with minimum delays. (Dave's games are not, but need, no guarantee.) I especially encourage you novices out there to try entering a fast game or two. You can learn quickly without spending a calendar year waiting on someone else's separations of season or holiday vacations. Learn quick via either winning big or sinking fast, which allows you to start again quickly for another try!

✓ Speaking of novices, it is about time I also include a warning against a fraudulent zine in this hobby called FRONT-DE-LIBERATION-DU-DIPLOMACY or something close to that. It is a batch of lies and irregular and fraudulent GMing produced by the notorious Buddy Tretick under the pseudonym of "Bernie Oaklyn". Avoid it.

✓ MARK BERCH DEPARTMENT: Arrgh. Winter has come a month early here, as November 17th see a few inches of wet slushy snow outside. The hottest summer of the century gets followed by an early winter. At least its not icy yet—that's due tonight. Despite all the local howling, we really NEED this snow. For an area that gets only 20-25 inches of rain in a normal year, we are over 7 inches short for this year. Can't afford much of that here. I'm supposing and hoping that we have a few weeks of warm weather still to come, as the house still needs a little painting outside, plus all the trim.

✓ THIS ISSUE should go out this third full week of November, or so I hope. I counted my pages up last night and found that I have about 14 sheets of material. Were I Dick Martin, I could bundle up such a 3-oz issue, write a note to each of you on the back, and still get it mailed to you for 20 paltry cents. As it is, I am limited to the honest 11 sheets plus envelope, so you can expect another issue as soon as I can get it all orgainzed. I have a lot of interesting letters this time, which may cause me to cut most if not all of the games except Brutus 13, so remember the amount of material this time when you get a warehouser next time.

✓ SUBS EXPIRING this issue: Becker, Smyth, J Albrecht. Next issue, Hanson. Welcome to new subscribers McMahon and Del Grande.

✓ FOR SALE: Stationery box full of assorted Dipzines, \$3.50. Nice way to get a potload of stuff for the equivalent of a single sub to one. Postpaid at 4th class rate. I sub to almost everything except FLD, so you'll see it all. Write publisher.

✓ Also for sale: 8 or 9 assorted wargame zines, no Generals or S&T, ppd 4th class, \$2.

✓ LORD OF HOSTS, the zine of the Miller Number Custodian, has come out, this latest issue containing the wrapup for the first Blind Madman game, 79Iid. So, that one passes officially into the eternal hall of variant history. LOH is put out intermittently by Greg Costikyan P O Box 865 Brown U, Providence, RI 02912.

✓ GEORGE LERITTE has written a nice long letter I'll pass on printing, offering his services to mediate the Linsey-Caruso 'discussion' in progress, if anyone's interested. Courtesy copies have been forwarded to the parties involved.

Well, the big news is the surprising (to me) and very gratifying results of the election. Even though the margin is slim and the result of a series of incredible Democratic blunders and coincidence, the fact that the Senate has changed hands along with the White House means that Reagan should be able to get something DONE instead of be a Gerald Ford, forced to simply try and hold down the excesses of a totally Democratic congress. There are a lot of die-hard Demos who whine and complain about the old cliches: Mike Mills in EM 14 is a prime example, or maybe Bob Sergeant who recently wrote that a Reagan administration would "repeal rational thought" or some such, but I think most people are aware that things have gone way down hill since even the mediocre days of the Nixon administration. The landslide repudiates the knee-jerk Demos as well as the liberals, the only difference being that the -jerk types who will support an old yellow dog as long as it is fielded by the Democratic party don't need to hang their head in shame the way a liberal should. The yellow dog Democrats only lost an election; the liberals have seen that even the great unthinking masses finally have noticed the total bankruptcy of the liberal philosophy. I hope they don't forget—we can make some House inroads in '82 and hopefully hold onto the Senate if they'll stay awake.

This election I gave NCPAC \$20; next time I ought to go \$100. They earned it.

ZEEN NOOZE--

BLACK FROG #21 contained an interesting attack on D S Palter of PINK DRAGON fame (or infamy). Scott will have an editorial here next issue on the new Senate outlook, not in this issue due to space and the need to retype the copy I got. I'd hate to run it as it came to me in PINK DRAGON. PD=Box 156, Cedarhurst NY 11516. BLACK FROG, one of the most entertaining hobby zines in a long time, comes from the irrepressible Black Jack Masters, Silver Shamrock Casino, 25711 N Vista Fairways Drive, Valencia CA 91355.

APPALLING GREED #1 has appeared, and starts off on a good note of emphasizing the need to stick to deadlines and publish regularly. It is 10 pages of ditto, but all legible, although my copy got chewed by the PO a bit. Put out by Mark Larzelere, 522 W Grand River, Howell, MI 48843. Subs 10/\$3 (cheap!), gamefee \$3 and a pref list.

You know, all these new zines seeking games are probably the reason that all open games are filling slowly. A few months back, good openings were pretty scarce. I think what this hobby needs is for Bruce Linsey to give a new game to each new zine. He has about 10 or 12 going, and believe it or not, he STARTED FOUR (4) GAMES in the last VD of his I saw. (Bldg 11 Apt 21, ~~Attica State Prison~~, "Leisureville" Watervliet, NY 12189.)

JUST AMONG FRIENDS, another new goodie, is in the process of filling his 3d and 4th games. Another witty newcomer, 7½ pages of what seems to be grey ditto. "\$4 per year". Al Pearson, Rt 1 Box 177B5, Kearneysville, West Virginia 25430. (This hobby must be widespread and maturing if we even have publishers in WVA).

Speaking of West Virginia, have any of you seen COAL MINER'S DAUGHTER? I was not eager to, but had little choice, and was pleasantly surprised. It is a nice honest-sounding story that looks very realistic if you've ever been in that type country. (I know what SW Pennsylvania is like, close to the movie scenes). None of the TV-serial bullshit or overdone sitcom crap we're deluged with in other films and mediums. Take your girlfriend or family to this one. A refreshing change of pace.

Hmm, but I'm supposed to be doing Zine News. Oh, well. Here's the news then: BB #77 plugs COAL MINER'S DAUGHTER. Fair enough?

Well, I'm coming up on the end of the page, so I'll fill it in with a plug for the oft-plugged new Novice Packet that Linsey (above) has put out, called SUPERNOVA. (The packet, not his personality). It is 35 pages, digest sized but with reduced print, so you're getting just what it shows, 35 pages. Intro, questions, how-to, country analysis, articles, and more. I still laugh rereading the 'endgame comments' section which reprints those of 1979E, the first 10-day-deadline game, that ran in these pages. The only thing lacking is Bill Shaffer's (England) comments after criticism for his +4 or +5 stab when he could only build 1: "I may not have room to build, but they have plenty of room to take units away!" A hobby classic like that should have made it, but he never wrote it down. 75¢, or 2 stamps for novices, from Bruce's address above.

79IZ

OCT 27 1980

TURKS GUESS RIGHT IN ITALY

Winter, 1911: Austrian A Gal r Ukr/ann.; German A Sev r Ukr /ann.,
builds F KIE; Turkey builds F SMY

SPRING, 1912:

AUSTRIA (Guajardo): A VEN S Turkish A Tri
ENGLAND (Osuch): F NTH S A Bel; F ENG S F Nth; A BEL S A Bur; A BUR S A Bel;
F Tus-LYO; A PIE-Tus; F TYN S A Pie-Tus; A MAR-Pie; F Wes-
MID; F TUN S F Tyn
GERMANY (Howe): A HOL H; A RUH-Bel; A MUN-Bur; A MOS-Sev; A GAL-Rum;
A BUD-Ser; A TYO-Tri; A VIE S A Tyo-Tri; F Kie-HLG; F Den-SKA;
F Nwy-NWG; A War-UKR
TURKEY (McCarty): F Smy-AEG; F ION S F Nap-Tyn; F NAP-Tyn; A ROM-Tus; A TRI S A
Rum-Ser; A CON-Rum; F BLA C A Con-Rum; F ADR S A Tri; A Rum-SER;
A BUL S A Rum-Ser; A SEV S A Con-Rum

[Fall, 1912 will be due with my mail received at home MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1980. Press follows.

CON-BER & LON: Dear Sirs: All previous offers are withdrawn. It's obvious to anyone who reads BB that you assholes always ally. It doesn't take any skill to do that and it'll certainly be a shallow victory. Got a couple of bets. One you guys won't take me out and two, you'll be at each other's throats before it's over. Screw you both.

LON-CON: You have won first prize in an ugly contest. Collect one Austrian center.

LON-CON: Ally error in your favor. Collect all of Italy.

LON-MUN: Michalski still thinks our war was phoney. Boy, he's not as smart as I thought.

SLEEPY EDINBURGH AWAKENS TO NEW OWNERS

NOV 10 1980

FALL, 1912

AUSTRIA (Guajardo): A VEN S Turkish A Tri
ENGLAND (Osuch): NMR! F NTH, ENG, LYO, TYN, MID, TUN H; A BEL, BUR, PIE, MAR H
GERMANY (Howe): A UKR S A Mos-Sev; A MOS-Sev; A Bud-RUM; A GAL S A Bud-Rum;
A VIE-Bud; A TYO-Tri; A HOL H; A RUH S A Hol; A MUN S A Ruh;
F Ska-NWY; F Nwg-EDI; F HLG-Nth
TURKEY (McCarty): A SEV S A Bul-Rum; A BUL-Rum; A SER-Bud; A TRI S A Ser-Bud;
F BLA S A Sev; F ADR S A Tri; A ROM S (Austrian) A Ven; F NAP
S F Ion; F ION & F AEG C A Con-Apu; A Con-APU

1912:

A: Ven	1	Even
E: Lon Lvp Ed Par Mar Bre Por Spa Bel Tun	9	-1
G: Home Hol Swe Den Nwy StP Mos War Vie Bud EDI RUM	14	+2
T: Home Bul Ser Ed Gre Nap RomeTri Sev	10	-1
	34	

I'm sure Bob will rejoin us, so no standby will be called. Also, virtually every standby I have is either a current or past player, so I'm not left a lot of choice.

Let's see if Gary goes for the win with my mail received here MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1980. Press follows.

LON-BER: Life insurance matures. Inherit Edinburgh.

BER-LON: Free parking in Denmark?!

LON-CON: I might agree to a draw after Venice falls.

LON-CON: Help! Help! I'm under seige again.

CON-LON: OSUCH nonsense! I don't even subscribe to BB. The only thing that sounded authentic was the part about you two being assholes. HOWE true!

" For many years Philadelphia has had to take a backseat to New York. Well New York can take this World Series and STICK IT!
'Cause we're number one; we even read...."

EXTREMISM IN THE DEFENSE OF ~~TUG McGRATH~~ LIBERTY

(which 9 out of 10 doctors will tell you
is a sub (zinette) of the Brutus Bulletin)

1980IE.....1980IE.....1980IE.....1980IE.....1980IE

Summer 1902: Russia rets F Swe-BOT
Turkey rets A Bul-CON

* PILANT HAS A COA BUT THE CURSE STILL GETS HIM *
* ET TU BRAD? ET TU GEORGE? ET TU MARK? YES! *

Fall 1902:

AUSTRIA (Fraunces?) NMR! A VIE H, A GAL H, A BUL H, F GRE H, F ADR H
ENGLAND (Shaffer) F nwy-STP, F nwg-NWY, F NTH-hol, F SKA-den, A Bel
S F Nth-Hol (dis/ rets to Ruh or OTB)
FRANCE (Cummings) A bur-BEL, A PIC S A Bur-Bel, A gas-BUR, F spas -MID
F mid-IRI.
GERMANY (Les/Kritte) A HOL S French A Bur-Bel, A SWE S F Kie-Den, F kie-DEN
F BAL S F Swe, A pru-SIL.
ITALY (Wilson) F TYR-ion, F ION-aeg, A alb-SER, A tyo-TRI.
RUSSIA (Blant) F BOT-bal, F stpsc-LVN, A mos-WAR, A UKR-gal, F RUM-bla
F SEV S F Run-Bla.
TURKEY (Pilant) A ARM-Sev, F BLA S A Arm-Sev, F AEG S A CON-Bul, A CON-bul

Center Chart:

Austria: Vie, Bud, Bul, Gre, ~~Ser~~, ~~Tyr~~=4.....Removes 2
England: Lon, Edi, Liv, Nwy, ~~Bel~~, STP=5.....Even or +1
France: Par, Mar, Bre, Spa, Por, BEL=6.....Builds 1
Germany: Ber, Kie, Mun, Den, Hol, SWE=6.....Builds 1
Russia: Mos, Sev, War, Rum, ~~Ser~~, ~~Tyr~~=4.....Removes 2
Italy: Rom, Nap, Ven, Tun, TRI, SER=6.....Builds 2
Turkey: Con, Smy, Ank, ~~Bul~~=3.....Removes 1

DEADLINE FOR WINTER 1902 AND SPRING 1903 IS NOV 5th

Notes: -The Vote failed New proposal have been put forth. Not voting
is a "YES" vote. In case two votes pass the one with smallest # of
members passes.

- (A) A Russian-English-French Draw.
- (B) A Concession to Italy
- (C) A Russian-German Draw
- (D) A Seven way draw!

While were at it how 'bout a concession to the GM? No? Fine. There is also
a proposal to change this game to Ten-day deadlines. Tell me what the rest
of you think.

COA: Dave Pilant 112 Olympic, Moore OK 73060 (405) 794-1205

Turn to next page. Go directly to next page. Do not pass GO,
do not collect 200\$.....

↑
The only!

- Did you know I went to the
Fred Winter school of 6 Ming?

Extreme jokes: A: 'Cause you can't sign a check with a spray can!

ANOTHER LETTER: Dear Dave, Hey man, what the fuck is going down around here? My women brings in the bleeping mail and here is this crazy little Diplomacy zine. Like wow, this stuff is shitting good. You know. I. like, love this press that you write down. More fun than a fucking barrel of Puerto Ricans. Just keep sending me this shit, I love it. Sincerely, William F Buckely Jr.

MERION-PLAYERS: Since you guys seem to have run out of ideas for press, I guess I'll have to take up the slack. That letter was my creation.

MERION CONT: Does anybody remember those wacky days in college. Ok how many of you out there actually read Paradise Lost? Just the Cliff's Notes huh? I thought so. Well it occurs to me that the problem with those summeries of great works of literature is that they are much too long. The solution comes from the polish superb-country of Albania. As you all know most Albanians can't read or write so...

ALBANIA'S OWN Wavdyslaw's Notes :

Hamlet: This young guy meets the ghost of his dad. He then wants to kill his uncle but is too much of a wimp to do it. So he waits 100 pages then kills him. Oh yeah, he kills his mom too.

A Streetcar Named Desire: Marlon Brando screws his wifes sister, drinks a lot, sweats a lot, drinks a lot, beats his wife to a pulp and screams.

Watership Down: These Rabbits move to a new whole. A whole lot of symbolism and allegory I don't understand.

Stud Lonigan Books I-III: This Irish guy acts tough but dies. It takes him a thousand pages to do it though.

The Sun Also Rises: This guy get's his dong shot off in a war. He goes to Spain, acts tough, and drinks a lot.

The Grapes Of Wrath: These Okies go to Hollywood. One get's pregnant, another dies. Most just crap all over the places and are pains in the ass to the decent normal people of California. Skip pages 156-678.

The Great Gatsby: This guy is rich. He dies.

NOW SOME REAL PRESS -----

GERMANY-GM: We was robbed. The Philies should have lost.

RUSSIA WORLD: The present leader of Russia, Kerry Blant, has decided to get his ass out of the midwest. He will relocate in a month. He is not sure where, Fla. or Las Vegas ((or Hell, it's nice this time of year)) . Anyway while in transit he will puppet for whoever can offer the best reason why he should be their slave. I will phone you and find out where you want me to move ((I think Vegas is best)) then phone the orders to Dave. I would be your puppet for 3-5 moves. Then when I'm settled, take back over. Sincerely, Tsar Blant.

ANK-MOS: Only an asshole would NMR after he promised me to be his ally. Why can't you be like Austria, at least he cares about this game.

Merion: Well that's about it. I guess you guys lost all interest in giving me press. Please someone write something? A cry in the wilderness. Oh well. Oh, by the way, Tug is the star pitcher of the Phillies. He said that stuff at the big victory rally here at Philly. New York sports-writers were asshole and still are. Bye.

NOTES:

Dear John,
This copy is only being sent to you.
This fake game is going very well,
indeed. I like moving units for six
players. Kill Pilant and then have
a six-way draw, right?

Doc

The Best Solution

by BRUX the Horrible

Much has been published lately about the feud between the Whitestonia crowd on the one hand, and myself on the other. The topic has become truly boring to all of us, and indeed I have received several letters from people who think we should all shut up. Superficially, this is a great idea. After all, then we could get back down to playing Diplomacy, right?

However, the idea of just clamming up, while sensible and logical, lacks zest. Moreover, the nature of the personalities involved would seem to preclude such an ending. When, for instance, was the last time anybody saw Kathy walking around with her mouth closed? I feel that the problem has a far more elegant solution -- one which should satisfy the bloodthirsty cravings of all involved. It's so simple, I don't believe it took me this long to think of it! Anyway, I hereby announce the DRIVE EACH OTHER OUT OF THE HOBBY CONTEST!!

The rules for this are clear-cut. The winner will be the first side that succeeds in attaining this noble goal. No holds are barred!

BRUX is permitted to:

- 1) Aggravate Kathy by writing 4,650,092 pages of houserules.
- 2) Enforce all those houserules, including the one against "deception of the GM".
- 3) Publish fake Whitestonias (no more than two per day, though).
- 4) Take anybody he wants off his standby list.
- 5) NMR players for sending in two different sets of undated orders.
- 6) Any other low-down, nasty, dirty, dastardly deeds he can think of.

Kathy and John are permitted to:

- 1) Write any slander they wish about BRUX to the editor of any zine they choose.
- 2) Send in 6 "zero" votes for BRUX to the Runestone Poll.
- 3) Assassinate the character of anybody who publicly disagrees with them.
- 4) Throw John Kelley out of the hobby for supporting BRUX.
- 5) Any other low-down, nasty, dirty, dastardly deeds they can think of.

Since anything is permissable, the contest is bound to be short and sweet. The contestants may attempt to line up allies among the members of the hobby, who in turn may pull any dirty tricks they can think of. And in the interest of fairness, I must throw in the EQUALIZER RULE. If either side appears to be winning by a wide margin, the other side should sue! This is because if one side is driven out of the hobby first, the other side wouldn't have anybody to feud with. We want this thing to end in a draw -- both parties must leave the hobby simultaneously! Otherwise, the winning side might be able to settle down and -- horror of horrors -- have some FUN. And who in his right mind thinks that postal Diplomacy should be fun?

Maybe by now you get my point. There is room in this hobby for all of us, regardless of our differences in GMing techniques, houserules, hoaxes, and the rest. I for one am content to let matters rest and simply drop the subject, and I hope my opponents will see it that way too. I don't know about John and Kathy, but I intend to get back to playing the game now. Immediately, if not sooner.

Feature courtesy of →

KNOWN GAME OPENINGS

1 November 1980

Robert E. Sacks
4861 Broadway, 5-V
New York, N.Y. 10034

This listing includes multi-player diplomatic play-by-mail games (e.g., Diplomacy and its variants, SPI Power Political Games) with information not more than 2 months old.

A typical listing consists of the following:

Publisher Name, Address
ZINE NAME, frequency, costs ((month))
GAME, Diplomacy Variant

frequency: nw = n weeks; m = monthly
month is the month entry was updated

To update or correct an entry, send information to
Robert E Sacks, 4861 Broadway 5-V, NY NY 10034 USA.

Distribution: Diplomacy World, Boardman Number Custodian,
Miller Number Custodian, APA-DuD, Fred Davis Jr, anyone
sending in a SASE, and this month Ron Brown, Roy Henricks,
Richard Kovalcik Jr, Glenn Overby, Al Pearson, Mike Scott,
and Paul Stevens.

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A MIGHTY FORTRESS	Henricks, Overby, Scott
AFTER THE HOLOCAUST	Henricks
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Variants Parlement Slobbovia	
DIVINE RIGHT	Schneier
DUNE	Henricks
EN GARDE!	Stevens
KINGMAKER	Henricks, Overby, Schneier
MACHIAVELLI	Brown, Overby, Schneier
NUCLEAR DESTRUCTION	Henricks
RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR	Henricks

(continued from other page) →

Paul Stevens, 67 8th Av #21, NY NY 10014 USA
to be announced, m, 30¢/issue ((Sep))
EN GARDE!

And don't forget
my openings in
regDip under G.G.M.
J.M.

John Boardman, 234 E 19th St, Brooklyn NY 11226 USA
GRAUSTARK, 3w, \$15 ((Sep))
DIPLOMACY

Ron Brown, 1528 El Sereno Pl, Bakersfield Ca 93304 USA
MURD'RING MINISTERS, m, \$5 + \$5.50/year ((Sep))
DIPLOMACY, MACHIAVELLI

John Caruso, 42-34 Saull St, Flushing NY 11355 USA
WHITESTONIA, 4w, \$2 + \$4/10 ((Oct))
DIPLOMACY

Mike Conner, 3214 Beverly Rd, Austin Tx 78703 USA
LONE STAR DIPLOMAT, m, \$3 + \$1.50 Dep ((Oct))
DIPLOMACY

Fred C Davis Jr, 1427 Clairidge Rd, Baltimore Md 21207 USA
BUSHWACKER, m, \$7 (\$3.50 Standby) - \$2 for Mensa members ((Oct))
1885 II

David Grabar, 1583 Truman St, Chowchilla Ca 93610 USA
ITALIANO PRISE ((Oct))
Nuclear Holocaust: World War III

Roy Henricks, 128 Deerfield Dr, Pittsburgh Pa 15235 USA
ENVOY, m, \$2 + \$5 @ 3/4¢/pg + postage ((Sep))
A MIGHTY FORTRESS, AFTER THE HOLOCAUST, Deadman (\$3 Game fee),
DIPLOMACY (no Game Fee for Distaff game), DUNE, KINGMAKER,
NUCLEAR DESTRUCTION, RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, Volker

Richard Kovalcik Jr, 9 Ladd Pl, Watertown Ma 02172 USA
TETRACUSPID, \$2 + \$3 Dep + 1¢/pg + postage ((Sep))
DIPLOMACY

John Leeder, 121 19th Av NE, Calgary Alberta T2E 1N9 CANADA
RUMESTONE, \$5 Can ((Sep))
DIPLOMACY, Gesta Danorum

Robert Lipton (arkhivist), 556 Green Pl, Woodmere NY 11598 USA
SLOBINPOLIT ZHURNAL, 5w, \$2 + 1¢/pg + postage ((Sep))
Slobbovia (in progress)

publishers should check special responsibilities with arkhivist

Glenn Overby, 23096 Tawas, Hazel Park Mi 48030 USA
JIHAD, 12/\$6 ((Sep))

A MIGHTY FORTRESS, Crypto, DIPLOMACY, KINGMAKER, MACHIAVELLI,
Mercator, North American

Al Pearson, Rt 1, Box 177B5, Kearneysville WV 25430 USA
JUST AMONG FRIENDS ((Sep))
DIPLOMACY

Robert Sacks, 4861 Broadway 5-V, NY NY 10034 USA
HANSARD, m, \$3 + sub (no sub for APA-DuD contributors) ((Nov))
Parlement

Bruce Schneier, 455 E 17th St, Brooklyn NY 11226 USA
CONQUEST, 4w, \$4 + 3/\$1 ((Oct))
DIVINE RIGHT

INVASION, 4w, Game Fee + 3/\$1 ((Oct))
DIPLOMACY (\$3.50 Game Fee), KINGMAKER (\$4 Game Fee),
MACHIAVELLI (\$4 Game Fee)

Mike Scott, 1726 Cypress Cr, LaVerne Ca 91791 USA
MIKE'S MAG ((Sep))
A MIGHTY FORTRESS

(continued bottom of other page) ↪

Recommended!
J.M.
Now, looks good.
J.M.

Avoid.
J.M.

New

DAVE CARTER (excerpts)

118 Horsham Ave. Willowdale Ontario M2N 1Z9

Just a few items about your zine. So far I have enjoyed both the liquor cabinet and gun reviews. I think that you have hit on a gold mine there since the supply of reviewable items is endless.

I am getting a little bored with the black press for the sake of just being profane. I found it funny the first time I saw it but after a while it's like repeating the same joke.

The wooden stove was good too. I copied that for my collection. As a matter of fact BB is now my #1 source for such items since my other sources are strangely dry. Whenever I see something like that I always start thinking about who the character was who made it up.

((On the press, you have a good point. The problem is that there are few outlets for ide-open press. The individual games are the one and only outlet for those involved, and they make full use of it. Other games here, past and present, spur them on. It is a lot of fun and an escape valve for those involved, but can as you point out, become boring after a while to those of us who read the zine regularly for a long period. Still, I think the press is up to the players, and I run whatever they'll put their, or their neighbor's, name to.)) J.M.

GARY COUGHLAN

4614 Martha Cole Lane, Memphis TN

38118

I am writing in response to certain comments by Bob Arnett on Bruce Linsey which appeared in BB #76. Bob and his zine, Volkerwanderung, have both been highly rated in our hobby----and very justly so. He has always shown himself a responsible person and a fair man. That is why I find it very hard to understand some of his comments on Bruce Linsey which hit below the belt and have nothing to do with the issues between them.

Bruce named Bob as his source in Voice of Doom. Bob says that this is a lie. Fine. Attack Bruce on that point. But don't slur the man's childhood and his looks. (When Bob said of Bruce, "He was ugly. The kids would make fun of him and not let him join them in their games." I immediately thought of Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer who went on to later fame). I fail to see how this particular type of attack by Bob had anything at all to do with the Leeder Poll issue.

I think Bob should realize that many of us were not ball of fires in high school. I wasn't and I am not alone. Ralph Keyes's book, Is There Life After High School?, which was featured in Playboy, shows how many successful people were real nerds in school and yet went on to give real contributions to the world.

Several people called Bruce down on his threat to include a "John Caruso" warning in the Novice Packet ("Supernova" which is really a class job and a combined effort of many in the hobby and not just Bruce) and he did not print it. Granted, he should never have made such a threat in the first place but he was convinced not to and nobody had to attack his looks or his childhood in doing so.

After being mistaken as a Tretick alias, I had some good friends who vouched for me that I was real so I will do the same courtesy for Jane Proskin, who Bob says is not real. Jane Proskin is real. Her address was printed in Voice of Doom #26. I called Long Distance Directory Assistance and got the phone number which is registered to a Robert Proskin of that address. If Bruce has invented her, he has gone to superhuman lengths and the phone company has joined him in this conspiracy.

I consider myself friends with both John Caruso and Bruce Linsey.....and Bob Arnett. But like them, I will tell Bob to consider long and hard what and how he prints because what he says is read by a lot of people. I just hate to see someone as talented as Bob Arnett has shown himself to be, to stoop down and use the smear tactics that he professes to loathe.

((This, like the Linsey-Caruso feud, seems to be more of a gut emotional feud than anything regarding specific issues. That's why we see these strong statements/responses. More on Jane in the next couple of letters.)) J.M.

BBs #75 and 76 both here today. Despite my earlier letter to you indicating that I would like to get back down to playing the game, I find so many misquotes, exaggerations, and lies about myself that it becomes impossible not to answer. Caruso must spend hours composing character assassinations and sending them in. It makes me wonder what's eating the guy. (No, never mind...) But doesn't he have anything better to do?

First, let me clear up a few of the misunderstandings elsewhere in the two issues. In my apology to Caruso, I did not say that I had distorted anything concerning the BLACK HOLE Affair itself. In my opinion, I was correct in my actions in that game. If I didn't want to enforce the rule against deception of the GM, I wouldn't have written it in the first place. And lest anyone feel that such a house rule is unusual, I can state with some confidence that deception is strictly banned in most US zines, most Canadian zines, and almost all British zines. The apology/retraction in VOD#17 admitted to no error in my handling of the BLACK HOLE game, because except for some minor procedural errors, there was none. More importantly, my apology to John was made for the following reasons:

- 1) I felt I had overstated my case in calling his misstatements "outright lies".
- 2) I shouldn't have pubbed the fake Whitestonia.
- 3) Justified or not, I was threatened with a lawsuit unless I made a full-page apology/retraction.

I still think I was wrong to publish the issue of W, of course, but the apology for my "outright lies" claim was, I see now, premature. But in any event, John's claim of "phony proof" had nothing to do with that apology.

Here's another one for you: Why wasn't my apology accepted? I was told that it would be. Kathy, in particular, assured me that all would be forgiven if I printed it. Well, I printed it, and I didn't attack Caruso afterwards, so I am still wondering why he's been attacking me again after all these months. He must be carrying a huge grudge, to say the least. If he wasn't so petty, the apology would have ended matters.

In MP Barno's letter, he implores us to put down our slingshots and get back to the game. Believe me, I'd like nothing better. I have not made any attacks on Caruso or Byrne except in my responses to their attacks on me. But if you ever get in the position of being under relentless fire from someone, you'll find out that it's almost impossible not to defend yourself.

The threat concerning the Novice Packet was hasty. I never published such a threat, I merely told it to Caruso in private correspondence and he circulated it. I have since withdrawn it in a letter to him. I must point out, though, that I was not entirely wrong in my intent. In my opinion, a newcomer to postal Dip should be warned about dishonest hobby members, and Caruso is indeed dishonest. As a GM, no; as a letter-writer yes. This is more than just a feud involving personal feelings. I've seen many feuds in this hobby where neither party had to stoop to lying about the other. In this respect, Caruso falls into the same category as Gibson in his attacks on Baumeister. The only difference is that Curtis is so obviously and overtly a nut that no one is likely to believe him anyway.

On to Arnett's letter. I never accused anybody of rigging the GM Poll, I merely repeated information told to me by other parties which pointed seriously to that possibility. One of those other parties was Bob Arnett. No, he didn't say that Kathy rigged the Poll -- he just mentioned to me that she had said something about trying to recruit people to vote me a low score.

I'm very disappointed to see that Arnett has spilled the beans about "Jane Proskin". Yes, it is true that she does not exist. Let me give you some history.

Before the BLACK HOLE Affair ever began, I thought it would be a nifty idea to invent a fake person. Don't gasp - I never intended to defraud anybody, of course - but I had what I considered a neat idea for a hobby hoax. Jane Proskin would write letters to various zines, and the original plan was that she would do her darndest to annoy none other than Jack Masters! In effect, we were going to make her into a hobby personality. Who is "we"? Kathy Byrne and me. Kathy and I initially discussed the idea, and she agreed to write some of the letters and possibly to serve as her voice if Jane ever needed to call anyone. (Nowadays, of course, Kathy's voice is too well-known throughout the hobby for this to work anyway....). Anyway, we also agreed to let Bob Arnett in on the

secret. To add credibility to Jane, I put her on my standby list and asked Bob to do the same. Bob agreed, with the proviso that I would send him a letter from Jane asking to be a standby - so I did. It goes without saying that she would never be asked to stand by in either zine, but her name was there for the sake of appearances. And, she wrote for samples to about four other editors (including you) without revealing her true identity. (Think back, John Michalski, Mike Mills, Dick Martin, and Ron Brown. Don't you remember sending a sample issue to Jane a few months ago?) Her mailing address is actually that of my cousins, Mr. and Mrs. Rob Proskin.

Shortly after setting the whole thing up and requesting the samples, the BLACK HOLE Affair and my subsequent feud with Kathy began. I then decided it would be wise not to pursue the "Jane Proskin" hoax until everything had died down, since I was worried that Kathy might spoil it for me. Also, at that time, I took the precaution of telling Mark Berch about the whole business, and I also told him that Jane would never be called upon to standby either in VOD or Volker. I also told him that if he ever DID see her asked to standby, he had my permission to denounce me publicly as a fraudulent, dishonest GM. I explained that I was telling him because I thought Kathy was going to spill the beans and I wanted another witness to cover my ass.

Whatever else I might criticize Kathy for, I must give her credit for keeping my secret for the duration of our feud. So far as I am aware, she never once said a word about Jane to anyone. Bob, however, broke my confidence. This really annoys me; I told Bob about Jane in a conversation STRICTLY OFF THE RECORD, and because he has spilled the beans I will never trust him again to keep a secret, nor would I advise anybody else to do so. In any event, Jane never did get around to subbing to anyone's zine.

So how can I prove that Bob knew about Jane and was playing along with the hoax from the start? Remember, his claim is that I "snuck" her onto his standby list, and he later discovered from someone else who she really was.

I call Mark Berch as my witness to verify what I said above! Neither Bob nor Kathy knew that Mark had been let in on the secret. Now, if Bob is correct in his version of the story, then I was taking an awfully big risk, because if Jane ever got a standby call in Volker, Mark would have publicly denounced me and my reputation for honesty would be shot. Even I am not dumb enough to take a risk like that, thank you! Of course, Bob can always claim that Mark and I are partners in crime and that Mark would verify this whether or not it is true. But I'd like to see him convince anyone of that!!

And here's another point. Bob will be able to produce a handwritten letter from Jane (actually, the handwriting is that of my girlfriend Linda) requesting to be placed on his standby list and used as a last resort. He will not, except by forgery, be able to produce a request for a sample or a note to accompany Jane's sub check. These were never written. Since Bob knew who Jane was, he put her on his standby list without ever receiving a sample request or a sub check. If his story were true, and he thought at first that she was a real person, how could he have put her on the standby list without her first requesting a sample and/or subbing? Now, I don't know whether Bob saves all his incoming correspondence or not. But I do know that unless he writes one up himself, he cannot produce a sample or sub request from Jane -- and therefore his story is bogus, not mine. Mark, please verify that you knew about dear ol' Jane!

Of course, nastiness can be a two-way street, right Bob? Maybe I should tell everybody about Volkerwanderung's "Andy Harris"....

As for this business about whether I (or anyone else) spends too much time and energy on the hobby: I have long been under the impression that we live in a free country. Since when is it anybody else's right to determine how much energy I should devote to my favorite pastime? I enjoy spending 3 hours/day doing this! When it ceases to be fun,

I won't keep doing it.

And that, at last, brings me to Caruso's letters themselves.

I did speak to Kathy fairly recently, and in answer to a question of hers, I told her that the Novice Packet was ready. John quotes me as saying "John lied". I think I would remember it if I had said any such thing. Nor did I ever promise to send Caruso a copy of the NP. If he wants a copy from me, he'll have to pay for it like almost everyone else. Elsewhere, it is interesting to learn that I am a "ranting, raging, illogical person". The description seems to fit Caruso much more accurately than me, & although I admit that my own grandmother wouldn't recognize the lunatic that I turn into every deadline Friday! The rest of John's "Telephone Stalker" piece is pure name-calling and innuendo, as usual.

In his answer to my letter to him, Caruso says "I DO HAVE THE PROOF, and I will

Linsey, conclusion

produce such proof upon request...". I sent John a politely-worded request to see the proof of several of his statements recently. He has not yet replied.

The evidence I printed concerning the BLACK HOLE game was quite conclusive. Caruso really twists words around to make it appear otherwise. Also, he says that a simple "if I did do it, I'm sorry" would have prevented the BLACK HOLE Affair. No, it didn't. I tried that, long before evidence convinced me that McKibbin and Barker had made up their story.

Caruso's examples of "slander" are laughable. In one case, he has confused the term with the vastly different "name-calling", and in the other he refers to my apology for the initial charges against him as proof that I "slandered" him. Baloney, I was just apologizing for the reasons I've already given. By my definition, when somebody makes statements that he knows are false in an attempt to smear another person's good name, he is an outright liar. This fits Caruso perfectly, so I stand my ground.

So I'm still printing Kathy's name in VOD - big deal! Oaklyn and Gibson pop up every now and then too, so that's not necessarily a compliment. But to directly answer the challenge posed, a quick glance through VOD#21, 22, 18, & 25 reveals no mentions of honeybunch, and in some other issues she is mentioned only in passing or in someone else's article or letter. The point, though, is that it is sort of ridiculous for John to claim that I can't put out a good issue without mentioning her name. If it can be accepted that most of my issues are OK to begin with, then what John is saying is that the reason they are good is because of the places where Kathy's name is mentioned, or at least BRUX thinks so! Like I said, let's have a little EGOTISM!

To wrap this up, I'm getting really bored with this shit. Why is John Caruso so greatly concerned about the way I run my games? If he doesn't like 'em, he can play elsewhere! In my opinion, it is the GM's right to run his games any way he sees fit, within the bounds of hobby ethics of course, and the players who dislike his techniques can shop around for another GM.

I'd like to end this discussion, Caruso permitting, and get on to more positive things. Distributing the NP, GMing my ten games in VOD, and a possible rewrite of the Rulebook. If Caruso has nothing better to do than keep up his lies and stories about me, it says a lot about his character.

MARK BERCH (Diplomacy Digest)

492 Naylor Place, Alexandria, VA 22304

So far as I am concerned, the Arnett letter in #76 just reeks with innuendo.

I refer specifically to his, "I wonder how Berch got involved in this...Has Mark gotten bored, thus joining Linsey's game to slip something over on the hobby?" Now, just what is it that I'm supposed to be "involved" in and how?? The general topic here is the Jane Proskin business. But how is it that I am involved? Its all so vague.

For the record, I challenge Arnett to state just how I am involved in the Jane Proskin business. In fact, I have had absolutely nothing whatsoever to do with the entire matter.

And as for the Proskin business, again this is innuendo. Bruce created the name. So what? Arnett says "This is the kind of stuff that Bernie Oaklyn/ Buddy Tretick was accused of"--- again, the implication here of wrongdoing. And that's strong language, that comparison. But did Jane appear in any game as a player with Bruce, or indeed in any game at all? Of course not. This is relatively harmless --- quite a contrast from the Oaklyn/Tretick business. And if Bruce had any devious purpose in mind, he certainly would not have told anyone that this was a hoax. And yet, since Arnett found this fact out "from some other people", Bruce obviously wasn't keeping it a total secret (he told me too).

I have said it before and I will say it again: Those making accusations should use specifics, not indirect intimations. I value my repu-

Berch, continued

tation VERY highly and I resent it being subjected to innuendo.

I might add that I don't intend criticism of you, John. I understand perfectly the BB ground rules. Tho I don't 100% agree with them, they are a reasonable way to run a zine, and you apply them impartially. Had I been in your shoes, I'd have asked Arnett to state how he thought I might be "involved" in the Proskin business, or to delete it if he couldn't get specific.

On another matter, the "rigging" business, I have enclosed a copy of a letter I sent to Arnett when I got V #15. Bruce did not infact cite Arnett as the source --- at least. not in VOD. Note attached.

((Another Berch letter:))

I am very sorry about my ENVOY folding comment. I was thinking of HAVOC. Also, THE NATIONAL is merely temporarily dormant and should appear again in the fall.

With regard to gun-control and the constitution, the Constitution's "right to bear arms" has never been interpreted to mean any whatsoever, and various gunOcontrol ordinances have never been successfully challenged on that basis. Gernerally, the right is not to ALL arms—just some arms. Would you want the private ownership of nuclear weapons to be legal?

As for Kevern's article, this hobby "discipline" never did exist, even in the early days, and with one exception (the aborted Zine Evaluation Commission) was never part of the intent of IDA. The hobby seemed more coherent in the late 60s and early 70s mostly because it was smaller and so there was better communication, and less diversity in backgrounds.

The idea of using Chess structures was primarily the doing of Walt Buchanan, who came to the hobby from a chess background. The principle legacies of this idea were

1. DIPLOMACY WORLD, which he founded, to be the flagship zine and principle unifying institution in the hobby
2. The Hoosier Archives, to be a complete record of the hobby
3. IDA, of which he was a co-founder. This enjoyed considerable success, but only in its early years. However, the similarities between chess and Diplomacy are simply too few. We are much more independent minded, if not outright anarchical, in the type of people we attract. Rather than borrowing structures, what we should try to get from the chess 'world' is people looking for a game with a greater psychological component and less need (almost none) for "study".

As I have written extensively on houserules, I've received several requests for help on creating a "standard" set. Such a project is impractical and undesirable. Diversity improves players choices and I'm all in favor of that. The closest we'll come to that is if a given set of HRs are so good that a few other pubbers decide not to bother and just say "I'm using X's houserules". I've seen a FEW of these using the GRAUSTARK HRs (a good choice) but I don't think there's any at present.

Oddly enough, I do not think HRs are truly essential. There are a few things a player is entitled to know from the very start (will standbys be used, how strictly is the deadline enforced) but you can get by without HRs at all. However, if you enter a no-HR game, you are pretty much at the GMs total mercy, except for tottally outrageous actions. If the GM reveals who voted how in a draw vote, there is NOTHING you can do about it. Or if the GM announces that he will use phantom orders for all NMRs, again you are poweless to complain. In re ty, the HRs are the players best protection, because in practice, they LIMIT what the GM can do. Of course the HRs give the GM lots of power, but he has those powers in the absence of HRs ANYHOW. But HRs can provide some limits, and give the player an idea of how the game will be run. Without HRs a GM might decide to combine all winter-springs, period. That would be that. But with HRs, there might be a rule permitting separation if X players request, etc. A few people have said that so-and-so has long HRs in order to screw the players, but this is baloney. GMs such as Guerrier, Smyth, Linsey, Boardman who have thorough and detailed HRs in fact give their players a very good idea of how the game will be run.

One other thing. Kevern's suggestions notwithstanding, BNC fees are set by the

Berch, conclusion

BNC and NO one else.

I must disagree with "Anonymous" on his "home grown". You are NOT necessarily "naive and a sucker" to pay for this. Altho it is less potent than imported, the price is often so much less than imported that it can be a better buy, particularly if you don't feel you have to completely wipe yourself out. As for "sparse white seeds", this is solely a function of harvesting technique. If grown in New England it may well have no seeds at all because of the shorter growing time. Or it will have full seeds if "conditions" are relaxed and the crop permitted to mature. As for foreign, most labels are put on according to what people will accept. Except in California, the great bulk of marijuana comes from Columbia, with lesser amounts from Mexico and Jamaica. Weaker, especially greener grass will be called Mexican, and more potent will be given some fancy name. The rest will be labelled for what it probably is—Columbian. Incidentally, the government now says that Marihuana importation is beginning to rival tourism as Florida's #1 industry and is Probably the single largest crop in both California and Hawaii in terms of retail value (not wholesale). Its been estimated that a tobacco-level tax on grass, plus savings from non-enforcement of the law could save about $\frac{1}{2}$ of the (old) Prop 13 tax losses right there, and that's at current levels of production.

((Thanks for your comments. On the guns, we do need to draw a line somewhere. I would suggest that the best place is between individual weapons which the individual has his "right" to, and crew-served weapons. Most people would not want fully automatic weapons in individual hands legally (whereas I do), but that is probably because most people have 1. no interest in weapons, therefore why let someone else have something really good, and 2. few people (unlike me) have ever fired a fully automatic weapon. If more had tried it, I can assure you it would be a popular pasttime...(grin). Seriously though, remember that Lee said it was illegal to 'own an air pistol', which even if exaggerated, strikes me as improper. Perhaps you could limit the SALE of such material in the city, but ownership? Does a city (or any other gov't unit) have the proper authority to make a decision like that stick, i.e., no rifles or handguns legally OWNED (taken as 'held') in the city? Right or wrong, while government might regulate or limit the extent of sales, how can they forbid total ownership? That is not right, and should be fought, one way or another. Out here, I would venture that there is probably a personally owned weapon, whether rifle, shotgun, or pistol, for every man, woman, and child, although not evenly spread. (In our house it is 1/1 for the four of us). Who in this country thinks that Poland today, for instance, would be in worse straits if gun ownership there were as heavy and diffuse as it is here? I would like to see all of Eastern Europe and Tibet and a few other places have half the percapita weapons Americans do. I do not think things here necessitate such a situation, nor is it foreseeable even as bleak as things sometimes seem; still, it is nice to have an AR15 in an upstairs closet as I do. You can pass if you wish, but if you want one, I firmly believe you ought to be able to own one, and do so without checking in pretty-please with the local bureaucrats either.

Thanks again for a long but worthwhile letter.))

J.M.

JOHN CARUSO (Whitestonia)

42-34 Saull St, Flushing, NY 11355

So Mark Berch lives. He finally got in touch with me. He crawled out from under the rock, right next to the broken egg I was hatched from. Thanks for the help.

Issue 74 was a very good issue. BB is fast becoming one of my favorite zines. In fact, it is the most informative and one of the most enjoyable zines I read.

((Thanks. I think it is the wide range of stuff people comment on, from personal feuds to gun control as in this issue, that keeps up interest. Also, it sparks the very necessary RESPONSES from different people that are needed to keep this "chain reaction" going. That is why I constantly try to encourage people to write in with their views, pro, con, or blah. It is needed even if only to incite someone ELSE to write a rebuttal!))

Preferably
TYPED!

J.M.

David D. Perlmutter (EXTREMISM IN DEFENSE OF LIBERTY)

Latches Lane Apts #608
Merion, PA 19066

But really John, your thought on Concentration camps show less rationality than a Kennedy speech. I really doubt you have done any reading on the subject at all. Rather you simply had a train of thoughts I.E "gee six million is a hell of a lot" + "there are still plenty of jews around" + "How could anyone survive" = "there must have been no exterminations". I really suggest you look through the tons of books and stuff on the subject. The krauts kept records themselves you know. Anyway I don't know a lot myself but I do know some facts. First of all the camps were not all extermination. When you got off the train they sent the weak (the children, the old men^{and} women, and the sick) right to the showers. Fake showers of course. Zycon-B wifted down through the ceiling. The strong were made to work as slaves, then when they weakened sent to the chambers. Also remember that many weird experaments were going on so some jews survived by being detailed to the hands of Dr. Mengele, some were left after the war. In some camps Blond-blue eyed prisoners were spared. Also remember that at the end of the war chaos reigned. Many of the german camp personel jumped ship rather than be caught by the allies. Thus many prisoners did escape. I think it is frankly stupid to imagine that either everyone was killed or nobody was. There is no Jewish SSR, and if you look at the facts I'm sure you'll see that the Germans did kill off a hell of a lot of people. Whether the total was 20, 000, 000 or ten I think it is both insensative and meaningless to argue figures. Read.

But of course the bigger murderers were Stalin and Mao. Not really a whole lot of attention is payed to them because nobody ever conquered Russia or China.

On patriotism. Well I really get a kick out of people ((ref. to Ger.Amer. pubber)) who brag about how patriotic they are. ((Some)) said that the Germans of WW II were fighting for Germany, not for Hitler. Sure. People like that amaze me. I mean I'm patriotic but not only to the name USA but also the idea behind the name (freedom etc.) Which explains why the most eager bootlickers and slaves of the communists are the East German. They would fight to the death for a 400pd Canary if he became "leader" of Germany. On the other hand the biggest pains in the commies rear in Russia are the intellectuals, many of them jews. They are not disloyal to Russia but rather to the gov't.

I hope your next issue will come out before the election. Here are some jokes for you. Jimmy Carter said "If Ronald Reagan is elected he will put little yellow stars on all black people and.."

JC CAMPAIGN COMMERCIAL

OPEN ON: JC SITTING ON TIOLET READING THE TEXT OF THE SALT TREATY.

VOICE OVER: Being president is no peice of cake. It's a hard demanding job. It takes a compassionate man with a good sense of moral fortitude. It does not take a man who, like Ronald Reagan, supported the use of force against Japan after Pearl Harbor, or who once said "Honey will you pass me another peice of toast."

CUT: A LARGE GODLIKE HAND IN A HALO OF LIGHT REACHES DOWN AND TOUCHES JC.

VOICE OVER: And remember-it was an actor who shot president Lincoln. Re Elect President Carter.

Response to Perlmutter

((It's after the election now, but still a cute item.

The reference to an oft-mentioned German-American publisher was painted over due to my having promised earlier that the attacks would be cut. Since YOU Dave are, uh, mentioned elsewhere, maybe I should have left it? Well, I'll print any specific rebuttal raw, but would prefer you guys let it drop, or take it elsewhere.

Back to the camps issue. There IS a lot of 'reading material', but sadly, the scholastic quality of the writers leaves much to be desired. Some of it is understandably just raw hate literature of the 'they're-all-criminals-and-perverts' variety.

The surprising thing is the extent to which the poorest quality stuff is accepted as gospel across the board. For instance, some of the "evidence" used at farces such as Nuremburg were even written and labelled as NOVELS, yet are taken as source documents because they are "based on real events". Based on the author's real experiences, or based on such real events as: there really being Nazis and Jews, they didn't get along,

the Jews usually came out the worse for the encounter, and the Nazis lost the war?? Sorry, but way too much of what is written will work against the Jewish cause by way of the absurdities and overly venomous tone of it. I suspect we will be old men before a lot of emotion is taken away from this issue and a more objective picture of what really did go on emerges. For now, the active suppression of these people who don't toe the officially touted line is a clear indication of the degree of bullshit that they are pointing out existing. I guess that whenever anyone questions the extent of what went on, we get another remake of "Diary of Anne Frank" on TV and go back to sleep. So be it.)) J.M.

KONRAD BAUMEISTER (Eggnog)
(excerpt)

Box 2231, New South Hill 122, Georgetown U, WDC 20057

...on Perlmutter and his doings in EIDL: I didn't know how bad it had gotten until I looked through his "contributions" in BB #75 (#76 came one day later). Figured it warranted at least one comment—but not much more.

It had occurred to me that Perlmutter might mismanage the games he runs, (He even admits as much) since he obviously can't prove his "points" any other way than to resort to ad hominum attacks. His racist anti-German comments in EGGNOG and to me personally (interspersed with apologies for his stupidity and more groundless accusations about how every German is an asshole good to be gassed or otherwise systematically exterminated). If you, John, doubt the death camps' existence, then perhaps you will also have trouble seeing why it is right for Jews to kill Germans, when the reverse is criminal? I do believe the death camps existed and were wrong, and still can't see how or why it's right for Jews to have the right to kill others indiscriminately. Murder is murder no matter who does it to whom! But little Davy Perlmutter thinks it's OK, or at least that's what he read somewhere.

For months now Davy has been writing all over the hobby about what an asshole all Germans, and I in particular, are, while asserting the master race (Jews, of course). The bit in the BB fake may have been written for laughs, but watch out, he is deadly serious about it. He accuses me of running a hobby wide hate campaign against him, but can't seem to come up with a single piece of evidence on it. As the facts happen to be, I printed one of his strong anti-German letters, where he succeeded in making a total fool of himself, in EGGNOG #41 with some commentary on how lonely he must be hating all those Germans and people of German descent, and hardly mentioned his name since. Many were the times I wanted to blast his letters coming in every day, but I held back, assuming that if he sees my non-response, he'd cool it. After this letter I'll probably shut up again and let little Davy play with himself again. However, I found a few things in his self-written press funny in an ignorant sort of way.

Of particular interest is his calling me a "fucking asshole pussy licking liberal" who is "undermining the country". This is pretty funny since he was calling me a fascist last week. I've been called many things, but never a liberal. I'm so far to the right I make Goldwater look pink! And I certainly wouldn't vote for Carter! Where Perlmutter got that, I don't know—probably the same place he gets the other shit he writes about and calls it fact. Anybody can call names, and most mental midgets do—the trick is to

Baumeister, continued

be, at the very least, consistent. (As for "pussy licking", he can lick cocks, I'll stick with pussy, OK?)

I do resent Davy bringing in my brother, whom he doesn't even know, but it is typical. It's also unfortunate that he feels the need to rewrite your press—as if he doesn't write enough of his own. Perhaps, once he's no longer a little child, he can act responsibly. We've still got a long wait, though.

So, thanks for deciding that you'll clip the shit about me and my family in the future. On another topic, I see you kicked out Gibby. Question: how or why is it funny when my family and I get attacked by him, but no longer so when he switches to you?

PS If little Davy again throws a few lies about me your way, take it with a grain of salt. And don't expect me to reply. I have better things to do than read Davy's shit. The other day I got a letter from him with "Read Me" written all over it. I figured if he was that anxious that I read it, it was not worth it, and threw it away unopened.

((I do the same with Gibby's stuff. On the point about your family, remember that both you and Uli are active in this hobby, and have been for a few years. I don't recall old Gibby ever mentioning your mother or children or such. That's the difference. Also, I don't doubt the "existence" of the camps; what I question is the claims of the revisionist views struggling to see print that say that instead of the old dirge of extermination factories gassing and cremating Jews around the clock across Europe, the only real evidence suggests that instead, 1. The camps, except probably Auschwitz, were brutal slave-labor camps, but were not explicitly extermination camps, nor were they so in practice 2. Jewish losses at these camps were high due to poor treatment and repression and such, possibly as high as two million overall for Europe. However, the key point is that the fact is far different from the popularized view of 'factories-of-death'. Also, they elaborate some on the 'why' of the exaggerated view being pushed and defended as it is, but I pay less attention to that. Overall then, no one questions that the camps existed, but rather, it is their intent and effect that is brought into question. Two million is still a sorry record, but is a far cry from what is claimed.)) J.M.

ANONYMOUS

Sol III

On the opposite side is the tract Gibson wrote concerning your tiff, that you mentioned in one of the last issues of your zine. I receive Ultsent, though I have never asked for it. In fact, I steadfastly refuse to acknowledge that I receive it by never answering Mr. Gibson's letters to me. I'll write to him when and if we enter another game together. Beyond that I have no interest in promoting or being identified with the lunatic fringe. Hell, I never read Ultsent beyond passing glances because I have an aversion to deciphering my mail. If you use this in your zine, I naturally request anonymity. My purpose is to play the game, not embroil myself in ridiculous feuds.

((Somehow I can understand why. I appreciate your writing, as one thing that has appeared from the old fart are all these appeals to his group of Ultramarine Sentinels and "true bluish gents" to launch writing campaigns against me and other "enemies" of Curtis. Yours is the only response to anything in ULTSENT I've seen. So much for his 'effectiveness'.)) J.M.

DON DEL GRANDE (Life of Monty) 142 Eliseo Dr, Greenbrae CA 94904

Originally, I wrote this in FLAIR pen, but I decided to be a nice guy and type it. Enclosed are LOM #2 and #3. I like sending 2 in one envelope, not in 2 different envelopes like some people I know would....Speaking of this, in response to the cover of BB #76 and 'zine costs, the cost of a single 10-page copy is 46½¢ including postage. I must admit that's some profit margin, but as soon as the games get rolling, I plan to add 2 pages, bringing the cost up to 52.8¢—that's how I can avoid game fees.)

A few things about BBs 74-76 (for those of you that remember

Del Grande, continued

my letter in BB 74 saying that I wouldn't sub, that was written 2 months or so ago, and now I've gotten over the fact that JM won't trade his 'zine for mine):

First, why does 78Tid have a Miller number instead of a Boardman number? It doesn't look like a variant.

Second, may I ask how long it took YOU to fill your first game of Dip (how about variant Dip)? I suppose everyone has the same trouble I've been having-even my variant opening has 6 spots left (even the aliens know I beg a lot-see RETALIATION #19 about this). I wonder if BLIND MADMAN started this way?

Third, my price may be a bit high (55¢ per), but I'll stick it out until the bitter end. (If I remember correctly, only 5 people ever received issue #2 of the old LOM, so I'm used to small circulation-no wonder I never filled a game.)

Fourth, this Caruso-Linsey thing. Personally, I'm just going to stand back and let the two fight it out by themselves (with whatever friends and "neutrals" they have). Why doesn't somebody get Linsey and Caruso together in an 80Lji-type game (similar to the Minnesota Fats-Willie Moscone "shootout")?

Fifth, in response to ENVOY's "folding", it WAS 13 days late (it only should have been 10 days late, but the USPS took 6 days to get the thing here-there's a lot of that going around lately) this time.

Sixth, three issues at once IS an awful lot, but I wouldn't call it a ripoff; after all, one of the reasons I sub is because the BB prints more than once a month (more "variety" that way).

Seventh, about the LSD's "awards", INVASION gives two free issues for completing a standby position, doesn't it?

Eighth, I didn't get to read the issues until three days after the election, insofar as I was at school all week. (Speaking of which, send the BBs AFTER JANUARY FIRST to me at Priestley Hall #208, 2400 Durant Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94720).

Ninth and finally (at last), that election caused quite a stir here at U.C. Berkeley (that's the "school" I attend), and Priestley Hall is all of three blocks from a place called People's Park (I'm lucky; one-third of the dorms are across the street from there). I have a feeling that there's going to be something comparing the 1960s here soon. Just my luck; I'm only a freshman. At least there's student deferrment (hopefully). Trouble is, is there student deferrment during a riot?

You asked for "reviews"-I might be talked into reviewing the 28 games I sold at last Labor Day's PACIFICON. Also, just before ORIGINS 81 (if anybody out there is going, that is, what with ATLANTICON getting the spotlights), there's a chance I may be persuaded to print my famous "Directions on getting to the Dunfey Hotel from just about anywhere in California including the three Bay Area airports just in case you can't catch a flight to San Francisco International" that Linsey left out of my PACIFICON review in VOD.

((Hell, I'll print anything except the used toilet paper that Shaffer sends in as press. Or is it meant as diplomatic correspondence? Love letters to Jack Frost? Hard to tell. But, on to your points.

1. 78Tid was a 5-player Madaman game: Italy and Germany were commanded by sets of orders drawn at random from those submitted for them by all powers. When I adopted it from John Leeder, the madmen were almost gone, which is a good idea in madman games

Response to Del Grande

that I've seen. Once they're gone, it is no different than a regDip game.

2. I didn't start publishing until I had my first game filled. It took about two months. Openings in established zines—Why Me?, Murdrin Ministers, here for me—tend to fill very rapidly. New zines can expect two to five months to fill a game. Variants may NEVER fill. The attraction in making variants is in MAKING them. Very few are played. It is not a case of saying to the hobby, 'hey, here's a new game' and having them snap it up like it is fresh from Avalon Hill. ANYone can, after all, put together provinces and seas and make a variant. But why play it? What good does it have over the real thing, even if, unlike many variants, you really work to balance it, etc.? Thus madman games or worldwide games (Youngstown, e.g.) have some audience, as people see the regular game with an added bit of variety or interest. But to create a variant about tribes fighting to control New Guinea, or Japan fighting in Korea, or ancient Poland taking over central Europe just has no point to it. Hell, even if you get into it and manage to WIN, what do you get for winning a variant? I could fill another of my type of blind madman games I think, as I have two ready to play right now, but I'm too lazy to get another one going. I'd rather put the time into trying to do a better job PUBLISHING. As I see it, there's a lot of room for improvement at this end.

3. Price is no factor. My first game, 7/KN, filled with people who paid \$2 combined gamefee and sub-for-the-duration-of-the-game (and it ran to 1918 or so, as I recall), yet what really filled it was the 'novel' 2-week-deadline. It's like a movie: you can charge 15¢ admission, yet if the film is a dog, no one will come. Show REVENGE OF THE JEDDI and you will fill every show for weeks at \$9 a head.

4. The feud has nothing to do with skill, other than skill at insulting the other.

5. See Berch letter this issh.

6. Thanks. 7. I don't sub, so I don't know. The simple fact is that I simply cannot afford to trade with all the bright new faces, altho I'd like to. I'd like to give them the encouragement, but with postage alone costing me 40-60¢ a month to send them as many pages in exchange for their (hopefully) monthly 3-sheet affair is simply more than I can afford to do. I'm not playing much anymore; what is there in them for me? Their games, houserules, mailing lists, and apologies for being late or small or poorly repro'd? Sorry, maybe in a year when they have letters, commentary, news, editorials, and a track record to go on. If this thing was free for me, fine, but right now my backup printing is COMMERCIAL RATE. No way will I add six new trades. So, until the newcomers or small warehousy types add some meat, I'll pass.

8. Better remind me in a month again.

9. Hell, just stand back and watch. What the hell is there to riot about? Or are they like Mike Mills, who figures the Republicans will repeal their handout 'loans' and repeal Social Security just before they declare war and draft all those laid-back bums? I suppose that if all I did was chase braless girls and chug brew when I wasn't doped up, news from the outside world like a competent administration coming in, or one that would provide jobs for workers instead of bureaucrats like they planned to become, WOULD seem pretty dangerous and earthshaking. (Frankly, I doubt even President Reagan will change THAT much, altho I hope...) Let 'em riot. I'd welcome it. People are bored with such shit, and the reaction to any more college riots would be seen for just what it is, a bunch of clowns refusing to assume any responsibilities of citizenship and fearful of being required to do so when they'd rather continue fucking off. The reaction would entrench an ultraconservative response, and probably bring back the draft (for instance) when little else short of invasion would. The whole story sounds like a tale my daughter brought home from gradeschool a week or two back. Some kids were scaring others by saying that all kids 10 and over would be drafted to fight now that Reagan is in. I guess a California campus is little different than an Oklahoma fifth grade classroom.

Thanks for writing.))

J.M.

NEW GAME BEGINS!

Game
Brutus 13

Yes, we seem to be underway on this latest one. I'd like to take credit for being so popular that I filled it in record time, but actually 3 1/2 of you were all but signed up before the game was announced, and Dave stepped in for spot #7 as a favor at the last minute, so I'd like to thank the 2 1/2 (?) of you that made this all possible.

Latest rogues gallery looks like this:

AUSTRIA: Nathan Mitchell, 426 E Ferrill, Norman, OK 73071

ENGLAND: Bill Shaffer, 916 Larkspur Lane, Edmond, OK 73034

FRANCE: Kathy Byrne, 42-34 Saull St, Flushing, NY 11355

GERMANY: George Leritte, 403 Myrtle Drive, Laurell, Miss 39440

ITALY: Bill LaFosse, 15 Cory Cr., Trenton, Ontario K8V 5W7

RUSSIA: Bruce Linsey, Bldg 11, Apt 21, Leisureville, Watervliet, NY 12189

TURKEY: David Perlmutter, Latches Lane Apts #608, Marion, PA 19066

Both the A-E and F-R players are in the same states, but I don't believe that either pair is any more likely to work with the other than with anyone else. ~~Yikes! I'd~~ This is a regular 2-week-deadline game, black press OK, regular house rules enclosed for those of you who do not already have them. For press and orders, write John Michalski, Rt 10, Box 526-Q, Moore, OK 73165 (USA)

SPRING, 1901 will be due with my mail received at home SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1980. We will switch to straight 14-day limits later.

WARNING! Every BB game in history has gotten off to a wild start. No dullness here. You have a reputation to live up to then. And don't forget there's a lady present, Pluff.

Winter, 1900 Brutus 13

Ha! You may have thought that Dick Martin puts out the only zine nutty enough to have Winter, 1900 press releases, hey? Think again, Diplomacy breath! Here follows your first releases!

Winter, 1900

FRANCE-CHICKEN LITTLE: And so we meet again.. Want me to kick your butt again, or would you rather kiss my ass!!

FRANCE-GEORGE: Where's my game start vs. Chicken Little and "Toots"!

FRANCE-OSUCH: I can't flirt with my GM—but I sure can flirt with a player!

FRANCE-SHAFFER & LAFOSSÉ: So we finally meet. Ask my honey (Ger) to tell you about me!

FRANCE-NATHAN: If you're cute, available, and sexy like John M., contact me for a real alliance!!

Ahem. Anyhow, let me remind players that: 1. black press is permitted. 2. You can TOO flirt with the GM. In fact, you can do a LOT with the GM. Unless you're not a girl, that is, (or a woman), which would fall under "deception of the GM". 3. I am NOT Germany, I am the GM. Please get/keep your press straight, folks, white or black. 4. Further contributions will be assumed to be S'Ol press UNLESS you designate otherwise!

BRUTUS
13

SPRING, 1901

AUSTRIA (Mitchell): A Vis-TRI; A Bud-SER; F Tri-ALB

ENGLAND (Shaffer): F Edi-NWG; F Lon-NTH; A Lvp-EDI

FRANCE (Byrne): F Bro-ENG; A Par-PIC; A Mar-PIE

GERMANY (Leritte): F Kle-DEN; A Mun-BOH; A Ber-KIE

ITALY (LaFosse): A Ven-TYO; A Rom-VEN; F Nap-ION

RUSSIA (Linsey): F StPac-COB; A War-GAL; A Mos-SER; F Sev-RUM

TURKEY (Perlmutter): A Con-BUL; F Ank-BLA; A Smy-ARM

It has been a while since I saw a game where all moves succeeded. The Pyrenees are an impervious barrier, it seems. Did France expect bounces on each flank? Did Russia expect a neutral Black Sea? Did the GM expect a dull start? Not likely here! The biggest surprise to me is the seeming sanity of the English and Turkish openings, textbook moves by the two nuttiest characters in the hobby, coupled with the typically stupid-looking opening that ol' George tries. Bohemia? Oh, well, let's see what FALL, 1901 brings with my mail received at home FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1980

Press:

VIENNA: Communications Central of the Austro-Hungarian Empire has been officially in operation for some time. (Is there anyone out there?) But, some technical difficulties have interfered with reception of high level diplomatic traffic. (What do you mean, no mail on 13121?) Hopefully these problems have been resolved, and normal message traffic can resume. (Yes, I'll pay postage due).

LONDON to RUSSIA: You & Kathy work together, that's a laugh—flies are attracted to shit, not dames!

MOS-BER: Dah, which one goes to the Black Sea—Sev or Wars? I'm so confused.

BERLIN-CONSTANTINOPLE: Who you calling chicken little, and I helped him with his moves—they'll be good.

OOM-BER: I see "Chicken Little" decided to try and play again, no sweat, he doesn't even know where his pieces start—he's a real ass.

PAR-ROM: I heard youse a revenuer—watch out, sucker, cause I'se mad as a hog out of slop.

PARIS-BUDAPEST: Howdy, Sugar—y'all wanna meet me in Rome for some smooching?

VIENNA: Thanks to the mystery writer who emptied his trash can into his recent correspondence. Which of you out there has the repressed latent homosexuality?

PS: Kathy, what did you DO to him?

Bruce Linsey
Bldg 11 Apt 21
Leisureville
Watervliet, NY 12189

Courtesy copy

9/10/80
Brutus 13
Russia to Austria
Spring 1901

Dear Nathan,

Enclosed, please find a copy of my zine The Voice of Doom. Hope that you enjoy it.

Incidentally, I notice that we are very close neighbors in our new game together, Brutus 13. I have a policy whenever I start a new game. I start out by sending my closest neighbor a sample issue of Voice of Doom, in the hope of gaining a new subscriber. Now, of course, no one is ever obligated to subscribe. But as a rule, the other player very often decides that he will. My zine is widely acclaimed as superb and I'm sure you won't be disappointed by it. Sub rates are \$4.50 for 10 issues and \$10.00 for 25 issues. Of course, once in a while my nearest neighbor doesn't subscribe, in which case I then write to my second-closest neighbor and offer him a game-long alliance (in this case, that would be Turkey). But usually the first person I write to could really use me as xp an ally and therefore subs to VOD. I should also mention that the details of this arrangement are: A 10 issue sub (\$4.50) will get you an ally for a prearranged 2-way draw, and a 25 issue sub (\$10.00) will earn you a game-long puppet to your win. That choice is yours.

Should you accept, you need merely write down the moves you would like to see Russia make when you send your sub check, and I will be most obliging. And I'm writing to you first, remember. What do you say?

Very Sincerely Yours,
Bruce Linsey

SEP 8 1980

Brutus
13

KATHY ANTOINETTE BANISHES GRAND FLEET!
THREE POWERS FACE HARD YEAR!
GEORGE, KATHY REALLY STEPPED IN IT!

FALL, 1901

AUSTRIA (Mitchell): F Alb-GRE; A SER S F Alb-Gre; A Tri-BUD
ENGLAND (Shaffer): F Nwg-NWY; A EDI-Hol; F Nth C A Edi-Hol/d/r Hlg,Ska,Nwg,Lon,Otb Yor
FRANCE (Byrne): F Eng-NTH; A Pic-BEL; A Pie-VEN
GERMANY (Leritte): F DEN S French F Eng-Nth; A Boh-GAL; A Kie-HOL
ITALY (LaFosse): A TYO S A Ven-Tri; A Ven-TRI; F ION-Gre
RUSSIA (Linsey): F GoB-BAL; A Gal-VIE; F Rum S A Ukr-Sev/ann.;
A Ukr-Sev/NSU; A SEV U, H
TURKEY (Perlmutter): A Arm-RUM; F ELA C, A BUL S A Arm-Rum

Gawd, the results are as wierd as some of the stuff I've been getting in the mail on this thing! Kathy must be quite a diplomat. Italy, Austria, and Russia look like they expected some moves or supports that failed to materialize. 1902 should be something to see!

There is a call to switch to 10-day deadlines. Also a call to switch to "6 day deadlines" which I will ignore. To change once we are underway would require a UNANIMOUS vote. Please vote Yes or No on this with your W01-S02 orders due here THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1980. I will mail out the results Friday then. Press follows 1901 in review.

1901: A: fff Bud fff SER GRE	3	Even
E: Home NWY	4	Build 1
F: Home BEL VEN	5	Build 2
G: Home HOL DEN	5	Build 2
I: fff Rom Nap TRI	3	Even
R: Home VIE	5	1 ann., build 2
T: Home BUL RUM	5	Build 2
N: Spa For Swe Tun	4	
	<u>34</u>	

Press:

ROM-SEV: You better stop sending out sick letters with my name on them. Forgery is a criminal offense!
ROME-VIENNA: I don't think I like you and I'm going to get you.
ROME-WARSAN: I like you less than Austria. When I am finished with him, I shall finish you
ROME-CONSTANTINOPLE: You are third.
PARIS-SEV: Stay the hell out of Flushing. I wrote Nathan and told him all about your wierd sense of humor--after I saw the sugar letter you sent him.
PARIS-LONDON: Get the hell out of the hobby!
OON-SEV: Thanks for the great moves, I knew you were stupid enough to trust me.
BER-VIE: I don't like hippy freaks. What's this "peace, baby, peace" shit? I bet you smoke dope & listen to hard rock. Were you a draft dodger in the 60s or did you serve in Nam like the rest of us patriots? I lost a hand in that war. What have you done for the country, faggot?
BER-OM: I have a whole repertoire of STUPID openings. I also have surprise "stupid-LOOKING" openings for each country, and like BRUX, I'm writing an article to be published one year.
ROME-PARIS: Remember what I told you: you suicide for me in this game, I'll do it for you in that other game.
ROME-LONDON: You co-operate with me and I'll let you know the other players orders in advance in your IT game.
ROME-BERLIN: I'll never forgive you for that stab in 77t. I'll get you.

BRUTUS 13
(Lee on vacation?)

WEST, OTTOMANS IN CONTROL. POPE MAKING A COMEBACK
ENGLAND BUILDS ATLANTIC WALL

Winter, 1901: England: NKR, F Nth r OTB. Builds A LON, A LVP per provisional orders. FRANCE builds F BRE, A PAR; GERMANY builds A MUN, F BER; RUSSIA builds A WAR, A MOS; TURKEY builds F OON, A ANN

SPRING, 1902:

AUSTRIA (Mitchell): F GRE-Ion; A BUD S A Ser-Tri; A Ser-Tri/ann.
ENGLAND (Shaffer): A EDI & A LON S A Lvp-Yor; A Lvp-YOR; F Nwy-BAR (prov. orders used)
FRANCE (Byrne): F Bre-MID; A Par-GAS; A VEN-Tri; A Bel-NWY; F NTH C A Bel-Nwy
GERMANY (Leritte): A HOL-Kie; F HER S F Den-Bal; F Den-BAL; A Mun-BOH; A Gal-UKR
ITALY (LaFosse): A TYO S French A Ven-Tri; A Tri-ALB; F ION S A Tri-Alb
RUSSIA (Linsey): F Bal-Kie/d/r Swe, GoB, Pru, Otb; A Mos-STP; A VIE S A War-Gal; A War-GAL; A SEV-Arm
TURKEY (Perlmutter): F ELA S A Rum; A RUM S A Bul-Ser; A Bul-SER; F Con-AEG; A ANK-Arm

Quite a bit of action going on out there... On top of all this, we have calls for:

1. A concession to England
2. A call for an A-R draw.
3. A call for an EFGIRT draw.
4. A Call for a FGT draw.

NVR will equal a NO vote for the first two, and a YES for the second two. If more than one draw passes, the draw with the largest number of players will succeed. The vote on a change to 10-day deadlines failed unanimity. Press below, unless I make enough typos more as to run me off this page.

FALL, 1902 will be due with my mail received at home WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1980.

BUD-The WORLD: I am bored with & offended by comments regarding homosexuality, nymphomania, satyromania, beastiality, scatophagia, and "cock teasing". Let's get on with the game! Hell, I'd cooperate with a one-eyed syphletic cretin, if he wrote letters and acted like he was interested in the game rather than character assassination. Any takers?

PAR-TRI: STOP sending me letters. Are you crazy—I don't ally or write to novices. When you get a name in this hobby, then contact me, not before! I have no time to help some wimp learn how to play. I subbed to VOD, so I have an alliance—too bad you didn't accept his offer. You will die! And I'm telling Bernie Oaklyn that you steal envelopes from the Sooner Simulation Gaming Club.

PAR-ROM: I thought it was my turn to win, I let you win last time.

PAR-OM: Where did you ever find the Austrian, he actually thought I'd write him. Since he isn't as sexy as my Polish Lover, tell him to forget this game. I still think you should have let De Vries play Austria ((blush))

THREE RING CIRCUS GOES ON...

Summer, 1902: Russian F GoB r SWE

FALL, 1902:

AUSTRIA (Mitchell): A Bud-Tri/ann.; F Gre-ION
ENGLAND (Shaffer): F BAR S French A SNwy-STP; A ION-Nwy; A EDI, A YOR H
FRANCE (Byrne): F Mid-POR; A Ges-SPA; F NTH C English A Con-Nwy; A Nwy-STP; A Ven-TRI
GERMANY (Leritte): A Hol-KIE; F Bal-DEN; F Ber-BAL; A Boh-VIE; A Ukr-MOS
ITALY (LaFosse): A TYO S French A Ven-Tri; A Alb-GRE; F Ion-TUN
RUSSIA (Chicken Little): F SWE-Nwy; A STP S F Swe-Nwy/d/r Lvn, Otb; A GAL S A Vie-Bud; A Vie-BUD; A Sev-ARM
TURKEY (Perlmutter): A SER S Italian A Alb-Gre; A RUM S A Ank-Sev; A Ank-SEV; F ELA C A Ank-Sev; F Aeg-BULac

1902:		
Austria: fff fff fff	0	Out
England: Home Nwy	4	even
France: Home Bel Ven POR SPA STP TRI	9	+4
Germany: Home Hol Den VIE MOS	8	+3
Italy: Rom Nap fff GRE TUN	4	+1
Russia: fff fff War fff fff SWE BUD	3	-2
Turkey: Home Bul Rum SER SEV	7	+2
Neutral: fff fff fff fff	0	
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Winter, 1902:

The game now ENDS in a six way draw. "Huh?" Yep, the great majority of you who opted not to vote put it over. One No vote was voided by the Fall 02 results, and the next closest was a "No to any draw that doesn't take in me". That's a yes. Anyone for endgame statements? Chart will follow press.

Press:

GER-FRA: We work well together. Forget the Polish Lover & hook up with the Cajun Lover. I come highly recommended.

BRUTUS 13	1901	1902
Austria	3	0
England	4	4 Draw
France	5	9 Draw
Germany	5	7 Draw
Italy	3	4 Draw
Russia	5	3 Draw
Turkey	5	7 Draw
Neutral	4	0
	<u>34</u>	<u>34</u>

ZINE: BRUTUS BULLETIN GM: John Michalski
Austria: Nathan Mitchell, out P02; England: William Shaffer, drew W02; France: Kathy Byrne, drew W02; Germany: George Leritte, drew W02; Italy: Bill LaFosse, drew W02; Russia: Bruce Linsey, drew W02; Turkey: David Perlmutter, drew W02

"Mr. Gamefixer Strikes AGAIN!"

INTRODUCTION

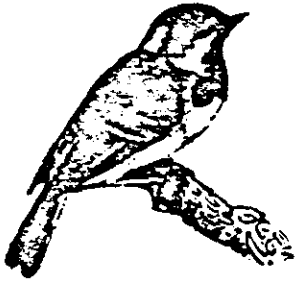
Once upon a time, a few months ago, Jack Frost ran to conclusion a 7 day game. In that game I drew Turkey, the last choice I would have made for countries. In Spring, 1901, it was obvious that the Russian was probably working with the Italian, and they both had Austria set up beautifully. Obviously I was next, so I attempted to prop up Austria, with limited success. However, an Italian NMR devastated both his own Italy and his Russian ally/puppet that made his moves in support of the idle Italy, and both were doomed. My Turkey eventually won, thanks primarily to a friendless France who was attacked without letup by his neighbors, suiciding to my assistance. The glee with which Italy began the game turned sour promptly upon his reading of his own NMR, and the sour grapes turned rancid as the game moved onwards. The Italian, Nathan Mitchell, was always wanting to enter another two week game of mine though, since he preferred the slower pace and the idea of putting OTHER people more distant from the GM rather than vice versa. So, as the complaints of how I 'fixed' all this stuff in the 7-day game went on, I decided there and then that I really WOULD fix a game. Thus, BRUTUS #13 was born!

BRUTUS #13 was announced some issues back. None of you saw it, of course. The full page announcement was only in Nathan's complimentary issue! I asked a number of hobby ~~with~~ personages to allow me to use their names as players. They would get the adjudications and such free, but wouldn't have to submit any orders; I, "Mr Gamefixer", would do all the orders for everyone except Nathan! He would be stabbed by every power on the board that could reach him, and as soon as he was out, a SIX-WAY DRAW would pass! Nice guy, hey? The "players" could (and did) submit all the press they wanted, black in most cases. I'd do the rest, and did. What precedes this is the history of that, uh, "game". This is the first notice that Nathan is getting of it too. I meant to refund his game fee, but he never paid one; for his writing efforts, I'm setting up \$3 in sub credit for him, payable as cash if he would prefer. (His and the other old complimentaries are being dropped). The other 'players' took various tacks of writing, not responding, or responding but lying, or heaping abuse on him or, in one case, sending the contents of his wastebasket to Nathan. Italy, the most important neighbor of Nathan's Austria, was given to Bill LaFosse in Canada, just to be sure that ol' Nathan was WAY out of calling range. Check out some of the stuff that was sent as press and letters reprinted here. I suppose that Linsey sent that notice you saw as a joke in this game only. Anyone out there ever get one for real?? () Kathy Byrne asked me for some details about him such as hobbies, occupation, etc, to work into her "correspondence". Here is an excerpt from a courtesy copy of a letter she sent after I told her Nathan was Asst Manager at a men's clothing store:

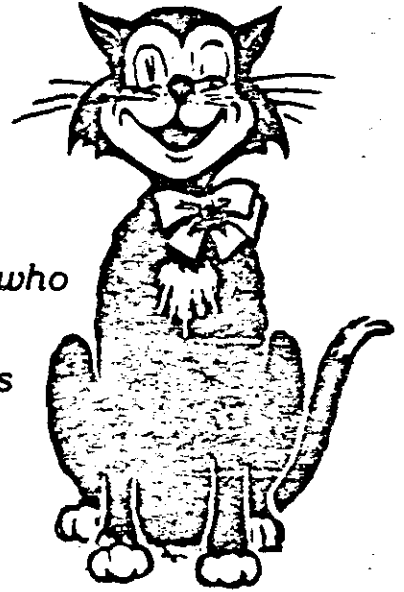
"Well, I have to go because John and I have a wedding to go to next weekend (his brother getting married) and we have to go buy him a bow tie. This means we have to go to a men's clothing store. I hate them—they are the pits—ever meet a salesman in one of those places who isn't queer? John takes me along for protection, otherwise they always make passes at him. They turn my stomach—fags, I hear Linsey hangs out in men's clothing stores just so he can get a date for Fri night. What an ass!"

Well, that's the story of what that mess ahead of this was. The players had a lot of fun, I did, and Nathan gets a free sub for the letters he wrote. Hope you don't mind, Nathan.





If You're Unhappy



Once upon a time, there was a non-conforming sparrow who decided not to fly south for the winter.

However, soon the weather turned so cold he changed his mind, and reluctantly started to fly south.

In a short time, ice began to form on his wings, and he fell to earth in a barnyard, almost frozen

A cow passed by and crapped on the little bird.

The sparrow thought it was the end, but the manure warmed him and defrosted his wings.

Warm and happy, able to breathe, he started to sing.

Just then, a large Tom cat came by and hearing the chirping, investigated the sounds.

Ol' Tom cleared away the manure, found the chirping bird and promptly ate him.

* * * * *

THERE ARE THREE MORALS TO THIS STORY

1. *Everyone who shits on you is not necessarily your enemy.*
2. *Everyone who gets you out of the shit is not necessarily your friend.*
3. *And, if you're warm and happy in a pile of shit, keep your mouth shut.*