

* SWEDEN has banned EMPIRE STRIKES BACK as being too violent for kids under 15. I guess that while perversions and porno are OK, Luke losing an arm is too much to handle. Wonder what they'd think of this ISSUE 81 of

The BRUTUS BULLETIN

ET TU, BRUTE

Mid January, 1981

The BRUTUS BULLETIN is a newsletter of postal DIPLOMACY brought to you every few weeks by John Michalski ("mih-HOLL-skee"), Rt 10, Box 526 Q, Moore, OK 73165. Subs are available at the rate of 12/\$5, 12/\$4 for resubs for now. There are game openings with GGMs Scott Hanson, 701 SE 15 Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55414; and Dave Marshall, 1547 Maplegrove Road, South Euclid, Ohio 44121. Deadlines are 2 and 3 weeks respectively. Rates are approx. \$2.50 with sub, or \$3.50 withOUT. The non-sub rate provides you with about the cheapest game you'll find in the hobby. Results are sent direct to the players, so BB is not necessary at all to play. You're a fool to let these go, when so many others require a 60¢-each sub plus gamefee. Sign up for one or both today.

SUBS EXPIRING: This issue, Marshall, Davis, Counselman, Fraunces; Next issue, Baumeister. Gone: Kador, Perlmutter, Letcher, Lew(?) Smyth

WELCOME to our new faces: Lee, Arnott, Gariepy, Forman

THIS ISSUE is coming to you a tad faster than I had planned due to the concurrence of two events: 1, a large amount of incoming mail, and 2, a sudden shot at getting a batch of printing done last Saturday night. So, when I got the chance, I hurriedly put together everything I had, decided what four pages I had to cut to meet the 2 oz limit, and ran it. That's why there's some white space here and there. I was able to get in every letter on hand though, which is good. I hate to carry letters over, since they lose their value over the space of weeks in many instances, but on the other hand, I hate to run straight letters issues without a break. I lucked out this time in being able to run all GGM game results on hand, all letters, and still have a bit of room left for features, filler, and nonsense. Carried over are two nonsense pages, and a season's results in each of my own three games. I feel better about this issue than most, since lately I've been losing some touch with the zine: it has sat here too often for 10 days awaiting printing, and as you know, I have the better part of another issue building up in that period of time. By the time I get issue A mailed after it does get printed, you are first seeing A while my mind is answering issue B and looking toward C. This time I am right in step with you, this #81 being current events, which is much more satisfying from the publisher's end.

THANKS and a big (XXX) to JANE PROSKIN for sending out #80 for me, as well as for her many other favors. She stopped in on her way to the East Coast from CA. Fortunately Arnetto, her bear, was left behind. Her visit did cause me to miss some time with the job and all, but ah, ~~she~~ it was all well worth it. Maybe she'll ~~plz~~ drop in again on her way back sometime...

HEY! My football guess/hopes were'nt too far off this time, were they? All the dolts were beaten and the good guys went on to the Big One a dozen days hence from this writing. San Diego gave it a good try, but had to be sacraficed so that a hot team like Oakland could move up.

NECESSARY WARNING: (?) I don't know that it should be, but I guess it is necessary to point out a few things. Like: I happen to publish a dipzine. My zeen specializes in letters, among other things. If you write to me and say anything at all aside from player-player negotiations or offers to swap wives, it is likely to see print here. If you do NOT want it to see print, please SAY SO in the letter. Otherwise, don't complain later about it being published.



MAILING LISTS seem to be wasting space in a number of zines lately. I suppose it is their way of volunteering to be faked. Also, somebody or other is supposed to be running a hobby census, so if a publisher types up his list for the guy, I guess they feel they can use the effort as a page of filler at the same time. Well, if you get off on mailing lists, my own is available on stick-on labels ready for use, for the asking. If you want to make use of this for sending samples, for instance, and are not associated with "Bernie Oaklyn", a set will be sent upon request. Otherwise, I have better uses for the space.

The reduced cover of #80 was a nice way of getting a lot of stuff into a small space, but I didn't like the way it turned out. I tend, like I know some of you do, to ignore the small print stuff, figuring that if it was worth reading, it wouldn't be so small. Well, that's not entirely true here, but it often works out that way in practice, as I can tell from the questions I get now and then. I may experiment with another machine that has 2 different reduction rates (77% and 65%), but my access to it is limited, and the width reduction always causes problems. (Masters tend to all be $8\frac{1}{2}$ " across, mainly). In the future, look for less reduction save outside games. Also, don't skip Sacks' Need-A-Game list of openings this issue just because it was reduced to half of one page. He sent me 4 or 5 sheets, and I couldn't chuck the stuff anymore than I could devote 25% of this issue to it, so the reduction was a compromise. If you send in a Variants Award ballot (included this issh), why not scratch "from BB" on it somewhere?

DAVE PERLMUTTER is dropping, as his EXTREMISM- has it's final issue in here. His reasons expressed personally to me vary slightly from those mentioned elsewhere, but while I have expressed my disagreement with his conclusions, I accept his decisions. It is unfortunate that we lose such a wacky character, especially as so many other more prominent hobby members are leaving too (Horton, Baumeister, come to mind). I guess we all have to go sometime though. All except Boardman, and Tretick I guess... *add La Fosse*

FRANCOIS CUERRIER had a strange note in a recent PASSCHENDAELE. He worries about Reagan's 'sensitivity' toward Canadian affairs compared to Democrats he names, yet the only Canadian affiliation or interest I can see in the Dems he names is in their states lying in the northern half of the US. That struck me as pretty dumb, personally. It seems to me that a Kennedy, for instance, would have more interest in Mexican relations than would a Johnson who was all too familiar with them. And while we have problems to work out with Mexico, Canada has historically been able to manage its own affairs without gringo help. What does Canada need from a US administration? I'd think that 'benign neglect' would be in her own best interest. Canada isn't looking for US hand-outs the way Latin American countries all do. Why worry then if Reagan has few cabinet officers from Minn-Montana-Maine?

JACK MASTERS has taken exception to his usually neutral, humorous stance to attack Konrad Baumeister in a recent BLACK FROG. It kind of took me by surprise, but then, a lot of hobby fights do. Feuds reported here are winding down or being swept under the rug by participants (not me), so maybe its just as well that someone else take up the banner.

DON'T FORGET that Mike Mills is offering the 1980 Zine Directory for 50¢. If you're interested, better write soon. 1585 Quaker Road, Macedon, NY 14502.

Y'ALL #1 is the name of a recent fake received here, attributed to Gary Coughlan of Memphis. Not as good an effort as some recent ones, but what the heck. Better than seeing the NH results or bourse listings in an Italiano Pribe, right? (Just kidding, Dave.) (Well, not really, but you know what I mean). (Right?)

MARK BERCH DEPT.: It's been annoyingly cold here the past few weeks, 40 degree days and nights getting down to the twenties or even teens. No trace of snow or rain though. We are 7" down for the year ('80), which may not be much elsewhere, but is a full third of a year's rainfall for desolate central/western Oklahoma. It's not noticed now in the cold, of course, but the summer will be a real bitch unless we get a lot of spring rain here. But that doesn't happen often. Still, beats the hell out of the NE, doesn't it?

This Is The Last Issue Of 1980 EDL
Not With A Whimper, but a bang...

David (Whiteshoes) Perlmutter
: Soldier Of Fortune

" Hey John, I promise the Seven Day game will be
over in just one month!"

Thus Ends...

EXTREMISM IN THE DEFENSE OF ~~ME~~ LIBERTY

(which is now defunked)

Needless to say the French-Russian draw passed. Thus 1980 IE bites the dust, ending its brief but controversial life. I want to congratulate Kerry and Mark for a well deserved victory. I suggest all players send their e dgame stuff to John so he can print it up in BB.

I might as well make my comments here. Three countries went into CD in the first three years. Sounds bad, but I think it did not make much difference. England and Austria were never really in the game. England being a ~~WILLIAMS~~ ~~for/MICHALSKI~~ not very reliable player. Austria simply bowed out because he, like me, found no more time for Diplomacy. Italy is now printing his own zine.

Well any way my point is that both Cummings and Blant were actually playing the game-IE writing people and all that. Germany was busy seducing his bride, and Pilant was, well Pilant. Seriously Dave Pilant is like the NO Saints, they gotta win someday. He will. So congratulations to all, and to all a good night.

Final Center Totals.

Austria: 1
England: 3
France: 10
Germany: 6
Italy: 3
Russia: 8
Turkey: 3

34

Final Press+ Final Comments:

God bless Jewerell Thomas for running
for 150 yards against Dallas on Monday Night

-George has asked me to point out he voted YES.
-God bless Kerry Blant for maturity.
-God bless Mark Cummings for reliability.
-God bless Dave Pilant for being a Republican.
-God bless George Leritte for his phone bill.
-God Bless John Michalski for fathering EDL

God bless me for re-funding
your NMR Deposit.

Mos: Little Father calls for world peace. In a show of ((unreadable)) he has agreed to Turkish butt-buddies to survive.

Bul: The vulgar Bulgars rejoiced " Better to have our women raped,"they cried" With Pilant gone our men will finally be safe."

Mos: Rasputin has gone to Berlin to celebrate the Krauts recent marriage. The Kaiser happy to see his degenerate friend said " Imagine the old begger even brought the 3rd army, WHAT A GUY!"

Ber-France+Russia: OK Turkeys-you win, but remember I could've held out till 1910 voting NO all the way.

Merion- I guess I should make some comments on press. I've written a lot of it in my days. This game changed my mind. Frankly I'm tired of non-humorous black press curse-words. It takes everyone involved to like it for it to be succesful but...who cares! I'm leaving the hobby any way. Bye.

Happy Holidays To All!

Dan

IRKSOME

NO. 4

JANUARY 3, 1981

POWERS JOCKEY FOR POSITION AS HOSTILITIES BEGIN. ALL MOVES SUCCEED. GM SWAMPED WITH PRESS; BUDDING WRITERS SPOUT FORTH GREAT MASTER PIECES. WILL GM LIVE THROUGH IT? GAME TO BE OFFICIALLY KNOWN AS 80LM (BUT IN MY HEART IT WILL ALWAYS BE...)

*****I*R*K*S*O*M*E*****#1*****

SPRING 1901

AUSTRIA(Pilant)	F Tri-ALB	A Bud-SER	A Vie-GAL
ENGLAND(Vaughan)	F Lon-NTH	F Edi-NWG	A Lvp-YOR
FRANCE(Sherwood)	A Mar-SPA	A Par-BUR	F Bre-ENG
GERMANY(Stephens)	F Kie-DEN	A Ber-KIE	A Mun-RUH
ITALY (Palter)	F Nap-ION	A Ven-TRI	A Rom-APU
RUSSIA(Gariespy)	F Sev-BLA	F StP-GOB	A War-UKR A Mos-STP
TURKEY(Wilson)	F Anka-CON	A Smy-ANK	A Con-BUL

Deadline for Fall 1901 is noon CST on January 17, 1981. I know the ER's say that phone orders are due the night before the deadline, but I have realized that Saturday mornings are probably the easiest time to find me home. Just don't call too early—I love to sleep late, and if I'm awake enough to catch the name of anyone who wakes me up, I hold grudges a long time. I'm typing this during the Vikes-Eagles game. I'll comment on it after the press. But I'm sure the Eagles are in for a little surprise. Notice the new typewriter—now I don't have to type all the lines over twice. Everyone say "Thank you Scott." Thank you Scott. That was good...

PRESS

GERMANY: Gawd! Dan "The Man" Pawlter, "Stab Inc." I thought they ran him out of the hobby years ago.

PARIS: A national day of mourning was declared when it was learned former-Beatle John Lennon had been murdered. Only in America could it happen. Handguns were immediately banned all over France. All flags were lowered to half mast and all state-controlled radio stations played "Michelle."

IRKSOME: A fitting tribute...

SPA-PAR: Froggy go home!

SPAIN-GM: U of Minnesota! God, they suck! Football sucks, basketball sucks, and the student body are all fags. GO WISCONSIN!

IRKSOME: I see somebody is trying to win my favor. I'd agree that our football team sucks, but ask North Carolina what they think of our basketball team. And you did not even mention Gopher hockey, you know, the team that won the Olympics? And what's a Wisconsin?

STOCKHOLM: No women in this game? Aw shit. No one to offer a fuck for a center! But I hear Sherwood and Palter like bum-fuck. Kill the fags!

VIE-ROME: Greetings, Dan. Are you still telling people those 17 Calhamer points came from 3 1/2 two-way draws?

BOLOGNA: In a pre-dawn coup the House of Savoy was this morning overthrown by a revolutionary military coup headed by Benito Moosellini(sic), famous for his protests against the Turkish War of the year before last. The key move was the defection of Marshal Pietro Baologio in Florence permitting the revolutionari Ardenti units under Togliotto to destroy the Royal Guards in Etturia before sweeping on to Roma. There the Red Guards under Granascu had already slaughtered the royal family during a late night orgy.

ENGLAND: What changes more than the guard at Buckingham Palace? The government in Rome!

MORE (UGH!) PRESS

SUPPOSED LIBERAL-ALL ~~YES/NO/~~ CONSERVATIVES IN THIS GAME: No, I am not as liberal as I appear, but if you base your alliance tactics on political views, screw a wall, 'cause I don't need you.

FRANCE-GM: I almost shit when I saw you slander my Dallas Cowboys and up that Boys-Club team, the Vikings, until I saw your "John Lennon Lives." All is forgiven.

IRKSOME-FRANCE: Boys-Club team, indeed! Right now the Vikings are doing better than your Cowboys did in Philly, at least through the first half.

IONIAN: How many Michalskis does it take to screw Byrne? 100. One to provide the prick and 99 to provide enough git to knock her up.

IRELAND: Hey Palter, this is how many games now, 275? Why not get out of a few and play only those you can handle, fuckface. Masters says you have NO class. Then you don't, as Masters is God.

BURGUNDY: All winter the fairy from Munich/Went walking in naught but a tunic/Folks said "You've a cough/You'll freeze your balls off"/Said he "That's why I'm a eunich."

RIGHT WING JOKE: One day John Mill-hol-sky was driving down the dirt road that passes for a main street in Moore, OK, engaging in his favorite psstime, hitting black pedestrians. Up ahead on the shoulder he noticed his parish priest walking along with a gas can in his hand. John stopped and offered him a ride, which the priest readily accepted. But while on route to the nearest gas station, John spied a black hitchhiker up the road. What a dilemma! John had never missed an opportunity to hit a Negro, but how could he do it with his priest sitting next to him? John decided to fake falling asleep. So he closed his eyes, steered toward the man, and heard a "Thump!" John quickly opened his eyes and said, "Oh my heavens! Did I hit that nigger, er, Negro back there, Father?" To which the priest replied, "No, but you got close enough so I could hit him with my gas can!"

BELGIUM: Caruso and Linsey are feuding to cover up their homosexual menage a trois with Phil Cooper. I hear Linsey Lip's are smooth...

ROCKVILLE: I love you, Shaffer! I love your firm thighs and thick cock and tight ass...

FINLAND: You don't know what it's like to live next to this Gariepy character. First, it's this weird moaning and howling that comes (pun intended) from his house each night. Then, all of the sudden, all the neighborhood cats disappear. One night I see this lady with hairy legs and a beard leave Dave's house. A box of 12 inch cucumbers addressed to his wife was delivered to my house by mistake. Then the wierd things like torsos that turned up in his trash. One weird dude.

PARIS: At press time, still no word from England on our propositions to demilitarize the Channal, so we are forced to protect ourselves by moving the 1st fleet into the English Channel. We hope that the English will not take offense, but if they don't write, we may be forced to convoy over an army to see what's the problem.

CHICAGO: Guest press is allowed, right? Good. This is Bob Osuchafag. I have Ozog and Olsen over every night for a meeting of the Triple O fag club. Then we get into each other's O's...

HEY JOHN MICHALSKKKKI: How many pallbearers at a black funeral? Seven. Six to carry the coffin and 1 to carry the radio.

GENEVA: A Bobby of Nottingham Junction/Whose organ had long ceased to function/Decieved his poor wife/For the rest of her life/By the use of his constables truncheon.

GERMANY-VIENNA: Si I finally get to play with John Michalski! Too bad you had to use that ridiculous false name and mail drop. Everyone knows that John is "Dave Pilant" so why don't you just give up the farce and admit it?

NORTH SEA: BUT MY SOILED PANTIES! Get your slightly used panties and other sex accessories, including ten 8½ x 11 glossies of me from: Mark Berch, Box 354, NY, NY

STILESIA: Dan Palter is not toilet trained! He shit all over the place at the orgy at Osuch's house last night.

IRKSOME

NO. 4

JANUARY 3, 1981

THREE PAGES. HMMM, NOT BAD FOR THE FIRST SEASON

HANSEN'S INC.

3000 SOUTH MARKET PLAZA
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55416

TELEPHONE (612) 281-4047

Dear Scott,

What do you think of the stationery? I saw this and knew this was what I had to write you on. What's so ironic, of course, (besides the name, which is why I thought of you in the first place) is the address. You don't own the place, do you?

IRKSOME: Just another piece of my vast multinational empire...

BARENTS SEA: I'd like to sink a 10 inch dildo up Palter's ass...

CON-GM: Hey asshole!

GM: Huh?

CON(REALLY)-GM: I didn't say that.

GM: Oh.

CON(REALLY REALLY)-GM: He's lying.

Enough of that. The press is done, and so is the big playoff game. Credit must go to the Eagles defense for shutting the Vikings down thesecond half. What gave the good guys fumbleitis, I don't know. Look for my Super Bowl prediction next time, but for now I say the two teams will be Philadelphia and Cleveland.

I have a lot of extra room, so let me add to Michalski's Book of List and add my TOP ALBUMS OF 1980. In no particular order...

RAMONES END OF THE CENTURY America's premier punk band, and my favorite music for listening. This is their first professionally produced album, by Phil Spector, and it measures up to their previous albums, well, almost.

THE POLICE ZENYATTA MONDATT These guys just keep getting better. This album even got some heavy radio airplay. If only they'd name their albums in English...

THE ROLLING STONES EMOTIONAL RESCUE Not one of their best, but at least as good as Some Girls. Could be the Stones' last album, but I hope it isn't.

JIM CARROLL CATHOLIC BOY This guy is both a published poet and novelist-he's even been nominated for the Pulitzer Prize. Straight ahead punk with great lyrics.

QUEEN THE GAME They've cut their hair and changed their style. Not as good as their first albums, but I like it, even if it did sell zillions.

RACHEL SWEET PROTECT THE INNOCENT A voice bigger than Tanya Tucker's, and she sings rock and roll. She's not even of age yet. If only she'd write her own songs...

I also liked BOB SEGER AGAINST THE WIND and REO SPEEDWAGON HIGH INFIDELITY but no room to tell why. Just enough to say this is put out (no pun intended) by:

Scott Hanson, 701 15th Ave. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414

Phone: (612) 623-0283

THE 1978-1979 VARIANT AWARDS LIST

OUTSTANDING PUBLICATION FOR VARIANTS

Lewis Pulsipher for Diplomacy Games and Variants

OUTSTANDING VARIANT GAMEMASTER

Gregory Costikyan in Urf Durlal

OUTSTANDING VARIANT DESIGN

Steve McLendon for Holocaust

OUTSTANDING ARTICLE ON VARIANTS

- no award -

GENERAL CONTRIBUTION TO VARIANTS

Fred Davis, Jr. for designing variants

SPECIAL AWARD

- no award -

Robert E. Sacks
 ROBERT E. SACKS, Secretary
 for the Variant Awards Panel (1978-79)
 of the Diplomacy Variant Commission

Gregory Costikyan
 Raymond Heuer
 Fred Hyatt
 Roger Oliver
 Robert Sacks
 Rod Walker

Cumulative Variant Awards List

OUTSTANDING PUBLICATION (exclusively or in major part) FOR VARIANTS

1976 & before	Slobinpolit Zhurnal - APA-Slobbovia
1977	Diplomacy World - Conrad von Metzke
1978 & 1979	Diplomacy Games and Variants - Lewis Pulsipher

OUTSTANDING VARIANT GAMEMASTER

1976 & before	John Leeder
1977	Fred Davis Jr
1978 & 1979	Gregory Costikyan

OUTSTANDING VARIANT DESIGN

1976 & before	Grand Tournament - Drew McGee
1977	Pseudo-Classical - Martin Janta-Polczynski
1978 & 1979	Holocaust - Steve McLendon

OUTSTANDING ARTICLE ON VARIANTS

1976 & before	- no award -
1977	Unsolicited Editorial - Ken StAndre - DW 16
1978 & 1979	- no award -

GENERAL CONTRIBUTION TO VARIANTS

1976 & before	Richard Vedder (VBs, Statistics & Ratings, design, IDAVC)
1976 & before	Rod Walker & Burt Labelle (Youngstown Variant)
1977 & before	John Leeder (GM, designer, publicist)
1979 & before	Fred Davis Jr (designing variants)

SPECIAL AWARD

1976 & before	Charles Sharp (Slobinpolit Zhurnal)
1977 & before	- no award -
1979 & before	- no award -

KNOWN GAME OPENINGS

1 January 1981

Robert Sacks

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, add, 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, Pandemonium, Brutus Bulletin,
 anyone sending in a SASE.

Marion Bates, PO Box 381, Kalkaska MI 46946 USA

PLAQUE TIMES, \$3 + 12/\$6 ((Dec))

Deadman, DIPLOMACY, KINGMAKER, MACHIAVELLI, THIRD REICH

John Boardman, 234 E 19th St, Brooklyn NY 11226 USA

GRAUSTARK, 3w, \$15 ((Nov))

DIPLOMACY

John Caruso, 42-34 Saull St, Flushing NY 11355 USA

WHITESTONIA, 4w, \$2 + \$4/10 ((Nov))

DIPLOMACY, Nuclear Holocaust

Fred C Davis Jr, 1427 Clairridge Rd, Baltimore Md 21207 USA

BUSHWACKER, m, \$7 (\$3.50 Standby) - \$2 for Mensa members ((Nov)) - 1885 II

Don DelGrande, 2400 Durant Av 208, Berkeley Ca 94720 USA

LIFE OF MONTY, m, 55¢/issue ((Nov))

DIPLOMACY, EMPIRES OF THE MIDDLE AGES, KINGMAKER, Pythonic, THIRD REICH

Roy Henricks, 128 Deerfield Dr, Pittsburgh Pa 15235 USA

ENVOY, m, \$2 + \$5 @ 3/8¢/pg + postage ((Nov))

AFTER THE HOLOCAUST, Deadman (\$3 Game fee), DIPLOMACY (\$4 Game fee, no Game fee for Distaff game), Grand Tournament, KINGMAKER, SAMURAI (\$4 Game fee)

Mark Larzellere, 522 W Grand River, Howell MI 48843 USA

APPALLING GREED, \$3 + 10/\$3 ((Nov))

DIPLOMACY

John Lipscomb, 1201 Osler St, Saskatoon SASK S7N 0T8 CANADA

ASSORTED GARBAGE, 4-5w, 20¢/issue ((Dec))

DIPLOMACY, any variant

Michael Mills, 1585 Quaker Rd, Macedon NY 14502 USA

EMHAIN MACHA, 4w, \$2 + \$1 Dep ((Nov))

Jimmu, Vain Rate

Glenn Overby, 23096 Tawas, Hazel Park MI 48030 USA

JIHAD, \$4 + 12/\$6 ((Nov))

DIPLOMACY, KINGMAKER, MACHIAVELLI, North America 2020

Robert Sacks, 4861 Broadway 5-V, NY NY 10034 USA

HANSARD, m, \$3 + sub (no sub for Pandemonium contributors) ((Jan))

Parlement (w rules amendment rule)

Bern Sampson, 123 Sixth St, Middlesex NJ 08846 USA

TORPEDO, m, \$4 + \$2 Dep + \$5/12 ((Nov))

DIPLOMACY, Victory Point

Mike Scott, 1726 Cypress Circle, LaVerne Ca 91750 USA

MIKE'S MAG, m, \$3 ((Dec))

CONQUISTADOR, CRUSADES, KINGMAKER, MACHIAVELLI, RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR

Brad Wilson, 302 Friendship Dr, Paoli Pa 19301 USA

BORN TO DIP, m, 10/\$5 ((Nov))

DIPLOMACY

NEW
ZINE

NEW
ZINE

NEW
ZINE

NEW
ZINE

VARIANT AWARDS Nomination Ballot

The DVC's Variant Awards Panel for 1980 is required to publicly solicit nominations in all categories of award. In addition, the Panel is authorized to fill vacancies in its own membership whenever it has less than 7 members.

Nominations will be considered at any time prior to a decision in the particular category, so it is recommended that nominations be filed as early as possible. Documentation for nominations is not required, but would be helpful.

Please address all correspondence on the Variant Awards to

Robert E. Sacks
Secretary, Variant Awards Panel
4861 Broadway 5-V
NY NY 10034
USA

OUTSTANDING PUBLICATION (exclusively or in major part) FOR VARIANTS

- 1 -
- 2 -

OUTSTANDING VARIANT GAMEMASTER

- 1 -
- 2 -

OUTSTANDING VARIANT DESIGN

- 1 -
- 2 -

OUTSTANDING ARTICLE ON VARIANTS

- 1 -
- 2 -

GENERAL CONTRIBUTION TO VARIANTS (may be for events prior to 1980)

- 1 -
- 2 -

SPECIAL AWARD (may be for events prior to 1980)

- 1 (only) -

signature

[] I wish to be appointed to fill any vacant seat on the
Variant Awards Panel (check in brackets).

R. Michael Conner (Lone Star Diplomat)
3214 Beverly Road
Austin, Texas 78703
(512) 452-3033

Two BBs in one week--it's like a couple of late Christmas presents! As you might've guessed, I had a couple of reactions to items in #79 (won't be long before you hit the century mark!).

I've also been watching COSMOS pretty regularly. For the content--Sagan is a pretty boring host-narrator. I hope series like COSMOS stimulate renewed interest in the space program. Although there are many problems to be tackled here at home, our culture is based on a limitless frontier. The oceans will provide one frontier, but space does that and gives us a vision for the future as well.

Have you seen the other blue-ribbon PBS series THE BODY IN QUESTION? Its host, Jonathan Miller (I think he's also the producer), has a brilliant sense of humor, lightening what could be some truly stomach-turning sequences, like the post-mortem he helped perform on the last segment.

Sorry to read about Dave Perlmutter's disillusionment and imminent dropout. If it's not a fake, that is. The hobby sorely needs people with his not-so-serious attitude. It is just a game, and just a hobby. OK, for some people it's more than that, fanatics have all sorts of causes. They are just louder than normal folks and create bigger reactions. At any rate if the Perl really does leave the hobby we'll all be a little deprived. Say it ain't so, Dave!

Mark Lew's comments on LONE STAR DIPLOMAT also need a response. First, I'd like to thank him for describing LSD as having an "ultraprofessional look". I think it falls short of that, but I appreciate the compliment. Second, I fully expect that LSD won't appeal to everyone. The great strength of this hobby is its diversity. I'm simply providing another choice to players and readers. Actually the "look" has some other drawbacks. For example, errors stand out painfully clearly. That really aggravates me, although I realize the inevitability of some errors creeping in under the pressure to publish under a deadline. Also, people who review LSD tend to focus on the appearance and ignore the content. Flash is OK, but I hope to develop solid GMing, dependability, and have a variety of material to present to the readers. If I can't do that the whole exercise is a waste. As for Mark's hating Texas, that's no novelty. Texas has been hated by champs. The reputation of Texans for braggadocio is partially a defense mechanism stimulated by "foreigners". Other groups are defined in the same way, by a sense of perceived differences that get exaggerated into a stereotype, not necessarily out of malice, but more likely out of intellectual laziness. Don't worry, Mark, I don't think you hate me. For one thing you never said you hated Texans, just Texas. Actually, there's a lot of Texas to hate, and some of it even I can't stomach.

You mention reviews on the last page of #79. I would distinguish genuine reviews, meaning critiques which may include negative and positive comments and analysis, from plugs, which simply publicize a zine without endorsement, giving the publisher the exposure needed to fill a game or whatever.

Congratulations on making the Top 20! Despite your disclaimer about less-than-top-rank performance in subsequent games, it's quite an achievement. I'm impressed!

CONNOR, cont'd

Enjoyed the Aggie jokes in BB#80, so did my wife. My father and grandfather were A&M graduates (I broke the tradition) and took great pleasure in Aggie jokes. Unlike other (ethnic) groups, they feel that such humor, though sometimes strained, is good publicity for the school. If you haven't seen the cover story on A&M from the last issue of TEXAS MONTHLY, I'll send you a copy. I'm not sure they would like that kind of publicity.

((I can understand why. No, I don't get TX MONTHLY. I was also disappointed to see that you didn't use any of the game names I submitted. Some were facetious, true, but some were good, solid candidates, I thought. Especially "wetback". Too many of you new publishers get a few laughs out of BB, yet are too damn smart to get involved in anything resembling controversy yourself. I am not typical, I know, but for what it's worth, I would sooner see some very irritating stuff once in a while myself ("wetback" might offend some, e.g.) while having a more humorous product overall in my hand, than to get something that's pretty good but not outrageous. I'd ignore Mark L.'s criticism if I was you; not only is he entitled to his own opinion, but I got the impression that it was tongue-in-cheek anyway. On the other hand, it does provide you with a way of sneaking in a 'response' that has a plug-effect, doesn't it?

To the audience, I'd also like to add that Fred Davis, a really old-time pillar of the hobby and all that, wrote in his BUSHWACKER #114 "You know that if Fred Davis, who spent 13 months in that stinking hole called Ft Hood, Texas, praises something out of Texas, it must be good!" So it is.)) *J.M.*

JOHN KADOR

20 Hilltop Road, Silver Spring, MD 20910

You don't offend me when you don't share my grief over the death of John Lennon. But you do offend my sense of right and wrong when you try to deny that this country's insane preoccupation with guns is indirectly responsible for his murder. Because purchasing a handgun is so obscenely easy in this country, Lennon's accused killer found it almost effortless to kill a fellow human being. I say society should not tolerate such effortless killing. Society should not tolerate the private ownership of handguns, which, after all, are designed for the exclusive purpose of taking human life.

I hope Lennon's death brings us closer to a rational gun control policy. Your analogy with drug overdoses inspiring drug control laws is foolish, by the way. Individuals ODing on drugs harm only themselves. Handguns hurt others. We may never eliminate violence in this world, but we can decrease the mayhem we cause. If it weren't for the easy availability of handguns, Lennon may be recovering from a knife wound now, but the chances of a hopeless gun wound would be much lower. And that's a chance that we can all profit by.

And, finally, your suggestions for dealing with the problem won't wash. The best evidence suggests that deterrence doesn't work without strict controls. Certainly, in the Lennon case, harsh penalties are completely irrelevant. As for combing mental freaks from the ranks of society, until God Himself comes down to apply for the position of judging the wackos from the rest of us, I think I'll take my chances with the wackos.

((And so you are, esp. near DC. Dan Palter has given a better response than I could, including first-hand examples, so I will defer to him. I appreciate your sharing your views—really. I want to know what others think, not just give you a form-letter 'thanks'. And your sub expiring/expired has nothing to do with it, despite what Pilant says...)) *J.M.*

Enjoyed BB 79 even though the bullshit content of some of the letters was almost absurd.

(1)RE SHERWOOD:Pity he's never been in NYC and thus doesn't know the gun control laws here-the jerk who offed Lennon bought his gun in Hawaii legally and took it by plane to NYC-he could never have bought it legally here-however,even if anyone/everyone else had strict gun control laws he would have had no trouble scoring a piece here-its against the law but openly sold on the street same as drugs,women,boys and virtually anything else a chump will part with green for. If the latest issue of TPD got to you(doubtful; as the sec I assigned it to undoubtedly hid it rather than mailing it but so it goes)you've already read the script on my Happy New Year's. The key point is this is that the asshole involved purchased both the revolver and the shotgun on the street the same as anyone can. Indeed,sitting right here typing this I could drive 15 minutes and probably score anything up to an AK-47 if I felt like paying street premium for it. The latest estimate is that there are 1,000,000 illegal handguns in this city plus 100-150,000 longguns floating around. No gun control law is going to get them off the street. Hell,heroin is supposedly illegal. Some 99% of the population disapproves of it and there is no pro lobby for it like coke or grass. And I can score it 24 hrs/day in at least six parks plus two streets you can drive down and have the vendors come right up to the car and compete for the sale. The sentence in NY is mandatory life and they do sometimes even enforce it- and the stuff is so plentiful on the street that the price as quoted/hawked to me as I walk through one of these parks after a concert has been dropping steadily for over two years. Fine-ban all guns including plastic toys. Even if the honest citizens all turn theirs in how are you going to get them off the streets? In this city the only police call sure to get a response is OFFICER IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE-for mere murder you are often on your own

Charlie. This may not be the wild west but it does get a bit weird and more unenforceable laws aren't the answer. If you want civil liberties you will get civil anarchy. To enforce a gun control law in NY or any major metro area would take a police force with the powers of the KGB and courts to match-any takers are welcome to leave for Moscow with my blessings. What we need are NO gun control laws so that honest citizens can defend themselves-the cops can't and have about given up the farce of trying.

(2)RE WILSON:His view of Polish history is perverse to say the least. Granted that the Poles were suicidal in 39, Hitler wanted war and would not have accepted a Munich-indeed he was terribly afraid of one. Further their greater fear of Moscow than Berlin was quite well founded-for Polish Jews it was another story but then the Polish govy scarcely cared about them anyway. As for Yalta, little as I like the fucking crip,what else could FDR or Conan the barbarian have done?Anyone proposing that the US and UK join with the Nazi remnants against Stalin in 45

Palter, cont'd

would have been lynched on the spot. Given that the only choice would have been to start the cold war in Feb of 45 by aiding the East European nationalist guerillas--this would have led to many more dead Poles and the same end result. The fate of Poland was decided when Hitler threw away his spare Army Group holding Tunis into 43 instead of using it to relinkup with Paulus. The only way the west

throw them the war by holding in the east and dumping in the west.

Proper strategy could have saved Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Albania, the Czech part of Czechoslovakia, and maybe Hungary and Rumania-Poland was impossible. For the west to reach Warsaw while Adolph was still holding Smolensk is a result worthy of a wargame, not history. As is, the Poles got in 57 the best deal they were going to get--the results of this winter should prove that.

((You are right about the last PD too: the one reprinted in a recent BB is the last issue I've seen in a long time.

Thanks much for answering Kador et.al. for me so well.)) J.M.

ERIC OZOG

1528 N Lawler Ave, Chicago, IL 60651

FROM THE HEART OF CHICAGO... Not only do I Guest GM for crooked Bernie, but I thought I ought to point out that I guest GM for C&F, running two games for that zine. My zine Diplomacy by Moonlight has been going strong now for nearly 16 issues, and I will forge ahead on my own, opening two games shortly.

The press that you write is absolutely awful. Keep up the bad work. Oh, yeah, I'll show Frost all the Strawberries abuse that you wrote when we meet at our next FTF this Sunday.

As JRJ used to say, "Cheers"

((Who? Anyhow, I'm sure Jack will enjoy that stuff, tho some of what was submitted was a tad on the gross side. I blame Pilant for most of it, and he blames me. I'll bet Stnager writes $\frac{1}{2}$ of it and hides behind Pilant and me.

I never saw your stuff in my C&Fs. At one point I asked Don to give me all the subs, but he wasn't offering that service anymore. I stand corrected.)) J.M.

AD:

WANTED: A copy of SPI's Blue & Grey II Quadgame; contains Hooker & Lee, Wilderness, Fredricksburg, and Chatanooga. Write to me or phone 512-775-2558. Eric Kirchner, 308 Enchanted Way, Del Rio, TX 78840

FOR SALE by publisher: Yes, another box of assorted dipzines is again full and available, \$3.50 ppd 4th class. This will be the last one that does not contain one or two of those old wargame zines that I can't unload. This is a stationery boxful. First come, first served. Write editor.

BB #69 was a FAKE, and a controversial one at that. I have two copies that are xeroxes of the original that Linsey put out. If anyone would like one who hasn't seen this thing before (or even if you have...), they are available for 1 issue's credit off your sub. Let me know.

OPENING just in: Steve Heinowski, TER-RAN, has 3 spots left in a monthly regdip game. Subs are 3/\$1. Steve is an established and reliable GM, and as you know, such openings are pretty rare right now. Write quick. 1630 W 28 St, Lorain, Ohio 44052

SCOTT HANSON (Irksume)

701 SE 15 Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55414

Well, Spring 1901 for Irksume is just about ready to go. Judging from the press I've recived so far, it looks like it will fit into BB very well. But that is not what I am writing to you about.

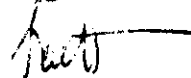
Returning to Minneapolis, I found among my shitload of mail BB #79. In Perlmutter's section, Extremism In The Defense of Whatever, he accuses me, along with Konrad Baumeister, of being a Nazi. I don't know about Konrad, but I believe that this grave accusation needs to be answered. I believe the time has come for me to become honest with the Diplomacy hobby.

I haven't been keeping it a secret, but now that the charge has been made, I may as well admit that yes, I am a Nazi. Since a stupid Jew like Davey would not be able to find this out for himself, I'm sure that he bought that information from some traitor in the party. Measures have already been taken to find this traitor and he will, I assure you, be shot. Anyone of normal intelligence could have found out from my birth certificate that my mother's name from her first marriage was Quisling, and then with a history book and elementary genetics prove how a 100% Norweigen like me is a member of the Nazi party.

Now that I have identified myself, I will use this opportunity to answer some of Mutt's charges against us. Konrad has done very well in rebutting his charges, as anyone of normal intelligence could, but of course Konrad cannot look at the issues from the true Nazi point of view. For example, for us the question is not how many Jews were killed under Hitler (bless his soul), but, since he obviously did not get all of them, how many of them are still left. Our scientists are working on new weapons, such as the Lox Bomb and the Bagel Grenade, that will finish the job that Hitler started.

Let me also use this opportunity to tell the Nazi position on some of the issues that have come up in your zine. First, we are for gun control, since we believe that Jews and blacks cannot be trusted with guns. We are also for abortion for those two groups. And we are against the economic proposals of the so-called new right, since our chances of taking power would be best during a severe recession or depression.

Sieg Heil!



PS The fact that we are superior to Jews is self evident. Just look at the way I have orchestrated Perlmutter's demise, directly in Maniacal, and indirectly in 80HR in Black Frog.

((Haven't done much to save ME though in Maniacal. Anyhow, I'm glad that with all the humorous and nutty letters I've been getting lately, I have at least this one serious one to run in this issue. I really appreciate it.))



Weren't all you readers of BB just waiting with baited breath to hear again from me?! Far be it from me to let another issue of this glorious rag go by without one of my contributions -- here you go:

I was amazed, John, by your Lennon editorial. True, not everybody liked the guy's music, but Lennon's influence went well beyond his contributions in that field. He was able to attract a lot of attention because of his musical talents -- but so what? Most of what he said and did made sense, anyway, and I feel that the world would be better off if more people adopted some of his ideals. Maybe Kennedy's death had a greater world impact, but Lennon was very widely admired and respected. I was never a Beatlemaniac, but I tend to lean more towards Keith Sherwood's viewpoint than yours.

It's quite amusing that several of BB's readers are writing in asking you to stop printing stuff on my (former?) feud with certain people. I think it's been almost two months since I spoke with Jonh and Kathy on the phone and we agreed to a ceasefire. The last stuff you printed should probably have been stopped, except to straighten out the "Jane Proskin" business, but I didn't think I could catch you in time, so it made print.

I've no desire to rekindle things, so I'll walk on eggs here: nonetheless, I must respond to two recent letters. First, the anonymous attack on Caruso. Yeah, it was funny, but I disown it. I hope you'll do me a favor and verify that I didn't write it. Secondly, Brad Wilson's letter. His contention that my credibility is lessened because I enjoy participating in a hoax is ridiculous. He sounds just like Boardman. The logic is that since a certain hobby member is a hoaxer, that means he is dishonest and would try to deceive others about a serious matter. The comparison is ludicrous to anyone who is reasonably familiar with hobby history. Sheesh. If all the pubbers in this hobby who had ever faked a zine, or made a phony confession about it, or invented a fake name as a harmless hoax were really liars, we'd be in sad shape. I'm sorry that Brad and others can't distinguish between a good hoax (even one like "Jane Proskin", which backfired!) and "real life" issues in the hobby (is there such a thing?). Har, har.

And, of course Brad can believe certain remarks about VOD and myself "despite what BRUX says". He doesn't know me, and he doesn't receive VOD. Unbiased opinion????

On to lighter matters, like world politics. I'm gaining confidence in Ronald Reagan every day. I was for Anderson as the least of three evils for quite a while, but Ronnie's recent stand on paying ransom to the Iranian barbarians has given me heart. Maybe with him in the White House, the US won't look like such a pussycat to the rest of the world anymore.

Another comment: Reagan, I believe, stands for peace. Peace can only be achieved through equality in arms, and I think Reagan wants to catch up with the USSR a hell of a lot more than Carter does. Cutting back on defense spending at this point is like David saying to Goliath, "Here, I'm putting down my slingshot -- won't you take pity on me and let me live?" That tactic works now and then in Dip games (I should know, I've mastered it) but not in world affairs. World leaders, especially in a country like the Soviet Union, did not rise to their positions by being gentle and sympathetic. If Lincoln were to run for Prez today, he would, alas, be soundly defeated. That's the sad reality of life as it is now. Put me down, then, as glad that Reagan won. I cannot agree with his ultra-conservative viewpoints on certain other issues, but numero uno is national defense, on which he and I do agree. Hell, if we get taken over by the Soviets we won't even have the freedom to choose on any other matters!

On your comments about my editorial on zine rates. We'll probably have to agree to disagree. Let me make one final pitch, though. When I made a plea to "give the novices a break", I didn't mean we should make life simpler for them than for veteran hobbyists. All I meant was that we shouldn't make it harder. Like it or not, the pricing structure BB uses (one rate for old subbers, a higher one for newcomers) does have the effect of discriminating against novices. Your characterization of a zine as a sort of newsletter among friends is correct, but it's unfortunate that you make it difficult for newcomers to "join the club" and become a member of that group of friends. Further, in my opinion, the hobby is given sort of an appearance of an elite clique if we make it hard for new

Linsey, 2 of 4

members to get in. Ah well, I doubt I've convinced you any more than you're likely to convince me... BB is certainly a bargain at the higher rates, anyhow, so you'll still continue to see your circulation rise, methinks. (I learned that word from Mark Berch, by the way.)

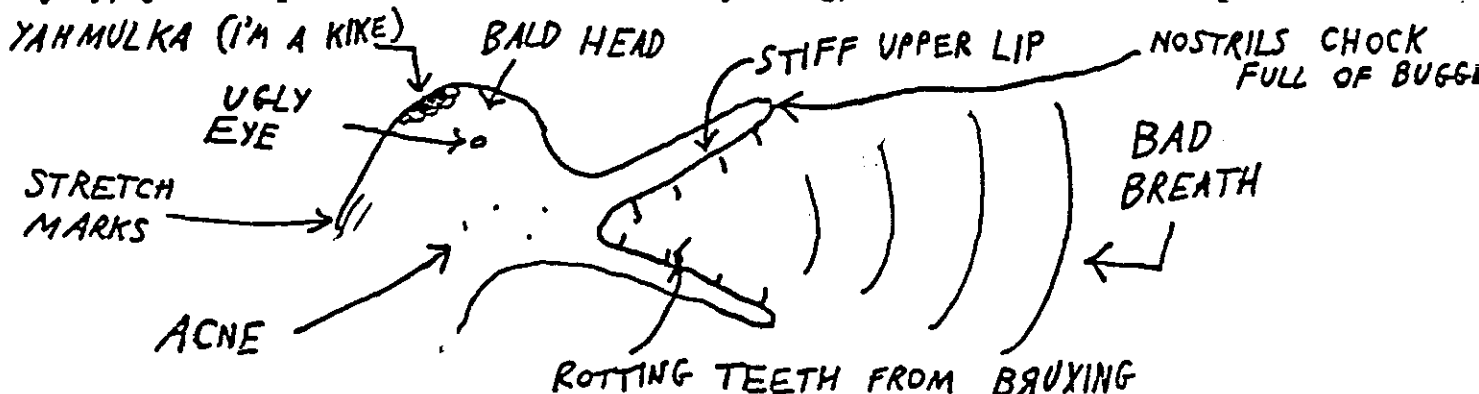
The Rulebook discussion in VOD that you commented on was not really written in a serious vein -- but nonetheless there are some serious questions raised within. How would you rule as a GM in all of those situations? It just won't do to dismiss them all as being concocted by a computer-like mind or what not. They are all possible sets of orders, and many of them aren't even unlikely to occur. Further, there are several sets of orders which border on the ambiguous, but are almost clear. It's fair of you to say that you find detailed rules discussions like VOD's to be a bore (and maybe 80 to 90 % of the hobby would agree), but there are problems with the rules and they do merit discussion. I don't try to create difficulties -- I just specialize in finding those which already exist.

Moreover, I'm NOT a computer programmer. I left that illustrious profession to hit the books and earn a masters degree several months ago. I couldn't care less if I never see another computer again. I think they byte.

You're right, of course, about my inclusion of the Oaklyn warning in the novice packet. One thing I'd like to clear up: everybody (Francios Guerrier, Fred Davis, Dick Martin, and others) seem to be under the impression that the NP is a neutral publication. It emphatically and overtly is not. There is a ton of bias in it. The article about England was written by Sergeant, so that piece is biased toward his strategy. I wrote the piece on Turkey, so that piece is biased toward my opinions. And so on and so on. There is no such thing as a neutral hobby publication, except one in which nobody speaks out at all. Practically every article in Supernova is biased; that is, non-neutral. Why then should the Packet be neutral only on the specific area of hobby personalities? I don't see why, although I suppose it could be argued that this area is by far the most touchy of all possible hobby subjects. But really, if I'm convinced that my way of playing Turkey is sound, then that's the way I'm going to write the article regardless of whether most of the hobby agrees. I didn't agree with parts of Berch's Italy article, but it was his piece and I let him ~~write~~ state his opinions (or biases). Similar logic applies to personalities, especially Oaklyn. I really don't care whether the entire hobby is convinced of his guilt. I have seen the evidence and know he is guilty of GMing abuses, and so long as I am sure of this beyond any doubt I will print a warning about him. It wouldn't matter to me even if nobody else was convinced, and certainly if unanimity was required then very few things at all could have gone into the Packet.

I see everybody blasting Bob Arnett for "attacking my childhood". Actually, though, I didn't really object to that part of his letter -- it wasn't so far from the truth. You see, I had a very hard childhood -- my father died in a spaceship crash when I was three -- and I was always the ugly duckling because of it. To this day, nobody loves me despite my glittering personality, and I still can't figure out why. I think it's the anti-BRUX syndrome which has been latent in the entire population of the world for years and is just now rising to the fore because my greatness is becoming known. So while it's true that Arnett's letter was a low blow, that portion bothered me much less than his, uh, misstatements (like denying that he gave me the idea that the GM Poll had been rigged and saying that he found out about "Jane Proskin" from a source other than me). And I say to you.... SIR! (Er, wait a minute, I think I have the wrong character...)

Anyway, just to prove that Bob isn't totally wrong, I've enclosed a self-portrait...



Yeah, still more Linsey, and he ain't finished yet.

Oh and by the way, I have a special request to make to all players in BB and its subzines.

SPECIAL*REQUEST*SPECIAL*REQUEST*SPECIAL*REQUEST*SPECIAL*REQUEST*SPECIAL*REQUEST*SPECIAL****

Would everybody in this rag please stop teasing me in the their press? BRUX can only take so much kidding but now he's beginning to get upset! Please don't make jokes about good ol' BRUX anymore, everyone! Because they are really beginning to bother me.

IMPORTANT*REQUEST*IMPORTANT*REQUEST*IMPORTANT*REQUEST*IMPORTANT*REQUEST*IMPORTANT*REQUEST*

John, maybe you could have a houserule which bans all press releases which violate this request. I think it's ONLY FAIR that everybody start busting on another target for a change.

Shit, I'm running out of words already (sensible ones, anyway) and I'm only on my third page. What else do I want to talk about? I don't know. So let's talk about nothing, because it's better than some of the stuff Perlmutter is sure to fill up this space with if I don't.

NOTHING. A ham sandwich is better than nothing, we can all agree. And nothing, it can be argued is better than complete and utter happiness in life. Therefore, it logically follows that a ham sandwich is better than complete and utter happiness in life.

Which proves, once again for posterity, that I have nothing to talk about.

((Or at least that you will never get computer logic out of your system...

On your special request, it seems to me that you are used/abused more in MAthe Maniacal dipgame in RETALIATION than here. (Tho honestly I don't follow the GQM press here much anymore, aside from how-much-space-will-it-take-up). Now, since the GM there, Bob Osuch, doesn't take outside press, let me extend this offer: if anyone wants to submit a retraction of things they've said about Bruxus, or elaborate, or whatever, and have it go into the Maniacal press, send it to me (any dateline save a home center is OK) and I will forward it to Bob as my own, irregardless of what's in it. Personally, I think Martin writes most of it himself just to make R look so impressive, although that really perverted stuff could only be Perlmutter, unless Pilant is submitting press under my name...)) J.M.

Me here again. Just reread BB and saw a couple of other things I'd like to comment on. Before I do, I wanted to mention that I met Eric Kirchner over the weekend, at a face-to-face game in Schenectady, NY. Rick's a good guy, but he snacks on liver of earthworm after every fall season. Hi, Rick!

In your reply to John Lee, you have missed a very major point. You answer him that "(Linsey) is criticized for his elaborate houserules and an inflexible or hard-nosed view to enforcing them. Some like it, some don't; it is limited to his administration of his own games, so no one not directly involved really cares much."

Aha! You have brushed up against the crucial factor which started my arguments with certain people! That last line ought to read, "no one not directly involved SHOULD care much"! What you have said, while it is true for you, is not true for everyone -- and it is because of certain folks who are extremely "concerned" about my GMing that all the arguments in BB (involving this topic) have taken place.

I will repeat for posterity what I feel to be undeniably true: a GM has the right to determine how he will run his games, within the bounds of hobby ethics. That is the focal point of this whole thing. I have said many times that anybody who doesn't like my houserules can play elsewhere, but certain people ignore the admonition and insist that I should change my ways. I won't: there are too many people happy with my GMing as it is now. So I'm sorry if it comes across as arrogant that those who dislike my methods can find other GMs, but that's life. Despite anything Arnett and others can say about me or throw at me, they cannot prevent new players from signing up and satisfied old players from coming back for more in VOD. I didn't start five new games by being a crummy GM...

As a side note, John, I don't really agree with every single one of your houserules or GMing decisions. But I don't go around labeling you unethical because of it, either.

Linsey wraps it up here.

I accept your right to GM as you see fit, and I wish certain others would adopt that not-so-demanding philosophy. I trust you'll see my point.

Your Lennon editorial needs further comment. You push for strict punishments against those who commit criminal acts with weapons, and I'm with you there. On the other point, though, you push for "a thorough combing out of these mental freaks from the ranks of free society". Huh? How the hell do you plan to do this? Run a brain-wave analysis of every man, woman, and child in the U.S. of A. in order to determine whether each has the potential to commit such a crime? Even if the scientific methods to do this accurately exist -- and they assuredly do not, and probably never will -- the whole idea is impractical. By whole idea, I refer to any "system" which weeds out potential criminals before they commit their crime. How would you like it if, heaven forbid, you tested positively as a latent murderer and had to be "weeded out". It's really scary.

Obviously, Chapman and those like him should never return to society; I believe he ought to be tortured to death if he is found guilty by due process. But your suggestion sounds as though you favor some method of weeding out criminals before they strike, which while idealistic, is quite impossible. Or perhaps I've misinterpreted you?

((You read it right. No system to do so properly does exist, anymore than "rehabilitation" exists for criminals. However, that doesn't stop people from saying that we should work towards rehabilitation. The Democratic party has failed miserably for decades, yet there are still a lot of people who think that's the way to go. They want Teddy for king, liberals think you can turn prison dregs into people, and I think a New Order would be a damn good idea.

Now, as to its legality. Even our corrupted "legal" system has remnants of the original ideas of justice left over from bygone days, before lawyers wrote their own ticket so much, and punched ours. 'Prior restraint' is a bad thing, the theory goes, but allowance for marginal factors like reality are occasionally made. Why wait for an irreversible crime, e.g., before constraining it? Applications are very limited stringent, but are there as a precedent. If an effective tool were at hand, a vote on the policy of applying it might be possible if we don't slip too much more from where we are even now.

The idea of due process is/was a good one. I think that we now have too much process though, and not enough of dishing out what is due. Were it possible to change this, I would support doing so. That's an elaboration on saying "weed out the freaks".

Before closing, one practical comment to add to the theory above. There were some steps that used to be taken in this direction before liberals shut down and destroyed all effectiveness in our laws and enforcement. One of the best was in force in that bastion of reactionary conservatism, New York state. It was the "three time loser" law. It said that when a person was convicted of his third felony offense, the sentence was a mandatory death one. If they don't learn, shitcan 'em. It was a good idea then, it would be a Godsend now, if only we had the moral fiber to take care of problems with more than cliches and platitudes offered by the Left.)) J.M.

((You rarely find white-space filler in BB. Blank space don't scare me...))

BRAD WILSON (Born to Dip)

302 Friendship Drive, Paoli, PA 19301

...a few comments on((a recent BB)) 1. A title in Armenian for you, maybe? One of my friends is Armenian. 2. 104 pages? Jeez, that exceeds Martin. I might get it. 3. Lindsey is full of shit. Ignore him and his shit. Obviously, I agree with Caruso. Seriously, his HRs are RIDICULOUS as is his behavior. 4. I thought PEARL stunk. Oh well... 5. Speaking of Perl(mutter), he is leaving the hobby. Yeah, he is. He's bored, so he tells me. A loss? 6. As for SOIE, I didn't NMR. Pearly just asked if he could put Italy in CD, and since I thought the game was going nowhere, I said yes. So, just for the record, I have NEVER NMRed out of a game. 8. As for Berch and NASA, he sounds like a Kennedy liberal. Fully agree with you on NASA budget, except we could add in the Education and Energy dept's. budgets, and get rid of these bureaucratic disasters. 9. On Palter's editorial, I think he's greatly off. I don't have the time now, but in a week or so I'll give you my view, OK? 10. That shark thing was cute, real cute. 11. As for the death camps, I must disagree with you, unfortunately. As a student of the 1920-1945 period, about 5 camps in Poland-Auschwitz and Christian Worth's group of Maidanek, Treblinka, Sobibion and Belzec—were "death" extermination camps. In Feb 1943, a prisoner/partisan riot at Treblinka forced its closure and subsequently Himmler ordered Wirth to destroy the others. Thus, by mid 1943, Auschwitz was the only "death" camp. A note: the extermination camp at "Auschwitz" was called Birkenau. The work complex and living area was called "Auschwitz". But I do agree on the theory of blackballing all those who don't go along with the "established" version of history.

Oh, another note. Not to shoot you down, but on the truck method of death, that was NEVER used at A-witz, only at Wirth's camps. Since these were gone by mid 43, and the fuel crunch didn't hit the Third Reich until July 1944, your point on the fuel waste is irrelevant. Also remember, the Germans didn't conquer all of Russia—so those 5-7 million Jews were only a fraction (albeit a large one) of Russian Jewdom. That explains the current Russian-Jew problem.

On the "tiny" incinerators, they weren't—look at any pictures from A-witz. If you you'd like a more lengthy discussion of 1. the camps themselves, or 2. the fascinating account of the Justice Ministry and SS officers investigating the camps, just let me know and I'll write it for you—even type it!! That inquiry was led by two men, Konrad Mursen and Kurt Gerstein, both SS officers in another division of the SS.

D&D is shit.

((True. Another zine suggested we leave them alone for a while though, and jump on miniaturists. I agree with that. D&D is shit, but the miniaturists can give them a good run for their money, from what I've seen of them.

I would much appreciate a discussion of the camps, tho you needn't type it. I think it has about run its course here, what with Berch, Mazurkiewicz, and you having supplied about all the solid type stuff I can expect to scare up. To go on further would just irritate our Jewish hobbyist members with no benefit, so unless someone can say something logical (such as the Berch arguments) to answer the points Maz. brought up, I won't continue to run it here. Personally, I am very interested, since my curiosity was stirred by the verification of some of the Revisionist claims.

"Tiny incinerators" referred to pictures of DACHAU sent me by a friend stationed there many years ago. (US Army, not an active-duty SS or SD man!) Are the pictures of Auschwitz you refer to, pictures of the original camp, or the one "rebuilt" by the Communists? There would likely be some difference between them.

You mention 5-7 million Russian Jews. One source of variance here might be illustrated by a statement by Perlmutter in a recent personal letter stating that there are only 250,000 Jews in the USSR today. Now, if one accepted that, then the 'loss' of 6 million Jews overall in the world would look more plausible. On the other hand, were the number of 'surviving' Jews even half that, we would see a different conclusion.

I look forward to some Armenian. Thanks for writing.)) ^{5-7 million figure,}

J.M.

The latest BRUTUS BULLETIN arrived yesterday, and I see that my sub is expiring. I began to write out a cheque almost by reflex action, then thought about it and decided not to renew after all. I dismissed the subject, then got to wondering if you would look on my non-renewal as a personal thing arising from our recent discussions and occasional hot words; so I decided to write and tell you why. In fact, my reduced interest in BB results from there being too LITTLE of "you" in the zine, not too much.

I don't recall hearing of the zine until you topped the Leeder Poll a couple of years back, and it was soon after that I thought "Gee, it must be good, I'll subscribe!" I'm sure you've heard this before, but I'll say it again: it's like no other zine in the hobby. Until fairly recently, I was fascinated by the absolute outrageousness that appeared there every two weeks (except for the "Oaklyn" period when every US zine seemed to be full of the subject; before long I was as turned off by the BB discussions as those elsewhere). There was almost a delicious element of blackmail involved—no significant hobby figure could afford to mis BB, because someone-or-another, sooner or later, would start throwing mud at him and he'd have to know about it to respond.

Nor has the zine changed much that I can see; but after two years' experience to it, I have. The problem with an "anything goes" policy is that all contributors have a tendency to descend to it. If you're making two contributions, one good and one a piece of garbage, the good one will be printed anywhere but the crap and slander is naturally sent off to poor ol' John M. It soon reaches the point where anything except character assassinations/defenses/counterattacks will go elsewhere, because BB has developed that specialized reputation. The zine performs a valuable hobby service, if you will: some people need to blow off steam now and then (some people more often than others!) and BB is their forum. It's just that, after two years, the subject matter is beginning to pall on me a bit, and I need a rest from it.

You can print this if you wish, but if you view the above as a criticism of you or the zine, perhaps it would be better not to. The last thing I want is another disagreement, public or private. (I just realized I haven't made it any easier by handwriting this—but it's really intended for your own information anyhow). If by chance you send me another BB in the expectation that my renewal is on its way, I'll just add another issue to your FSF sub, OK?

((No problem; I would have been surprised had you re-upped. I appreciate your point; I suspect that there is a degree of truth to it. However, in viewing the amount of space taken up by "character assassinations/defenses/counterattacks" in recent issues, I don't think that it is a material factor. While "good stuff" usually goes elsewhere, I should point out that 1. it always has; aside from features such as the various 'reviews', letters, and other general items, real 'articles' per se have NEVER appeared here, either before, during, or after the creation of BB's open-forum reputation/black black press, etc. 2. People can learn about how to play Turkey in any number of places, but when I come home to the mail, I'd really rather learn who has (or thinks he has) something to bitch about in this hobby than in how to defend Anatolia to the bitter end. And they won't find out about the what's-happening gossip in DW, DD, or FSF for that matter. All of those are better reading zines than this, most likely, but lack as much of the what's-new material that will turn up here. 3. The uncensored style can and does drive off more than one or two. I really have to question whether that is a bad thing though. For someone who just wants a vanilla-flavored dipzine, I recommend they turn to DOGS OF WAR or TER-RAN. Me, I prefer to get a BLACK FROG or TORONTO TELEGRAM or some such myself. I do not associate bland with good, tho the vanilla zines certainly have their place.

Thanks for the best-written put-down I've received in quite some time))

Maybe delete
DD anymore?

J.M.

Michael Mills, 1585 Quaker Rd, Macedon, NY, 14502 (Emhain Macha)

Just received BB #79. Kudos to you and yours for another zine issue that was very much entertaining.

Many things to respond to in that issue so I'll plow along.

So, David(EIDL)Perimutter is singing his swan song and bowing out because of hypocrites who can't take a joke? Well, I guess you're either open-minded and can take some ribbing, or you're narrow and paranoid. Still, I don't think Dave ought to bow out because of a few who irk Dave. He has to realize that everyone gets the occasional 'hate' letter, etc. Dave got what he gave in terms of vitrolic press and letter column mentions, but I tell you, Pearly, it couldn't have been so bad as to force you out into the cold...another Peraly rip-off?--The Dipper Who Came In From The Cold. (LeCarre).

Well, perhaps he'll resurface soon. Though he did say he needed more time for ~~sex~~ school...but for Yoga 101?

I suppose the guncontrol/freedom to bear arms was destined to come up in BB, but I didn't think you'd do it. I wonder who really thinks that a person should have the unalienable right to pack a HANDgun. I stress that rifles/shotguns are different animals. The culprit is the HANDgun. I want to get a rifle, but at this time I've no bucks for it. But handguns are only good for shooting people or targets, and most are owned not for target practice, but for shooting people.

And I'm not even condoning outlawing the HANDgun, but at least get them licensed! Why do I point out HANDguns and not rifles? 'Cause a killer in NYC can't go walking the streets with a rifle tucked into his jacket and not get people jittery for long. The pistol is concealable. Shit, not going to change the world here!

Very interesting to read John Lee's letter. He's right when he says there are things they won't print over there that we've come to expect over here. They are very correct, you know.

Re: Sherwood's review of his record and tape library. Very interesting, but he left out some good items in his collection. For the youngsters out there here are some essential recordings--if you can find them, get 'em.

PICTURES AT AN EXHIBITION--Emerson, Lake & Palmer. Mussorsky's Symphony with the ELP flair. Recorded after the 1st album and before Tarkus, as a test to see if their complex figures could be played to a live audience. Excellent.

EXILE ON MAIN STREET--Rolling Stones. Keith has this, so need I say more. Also, recommended is the BEGGER'S BANQUET album.

VOLUNTEERS--The Jefferson Airplane. Another bit of 1969-70.

Features Eskimo Blue Day, Volunteers, We Can Be Together.

ALADDIN SANE: David Bowie. Somewhere around 1972? With such prophetic songs as "Panic In Detroit" and "Time". Slick production and tight arrangements. Mike Garson's piano never better.

LIVE PEACE IN TORONTO: From The Plastic Ono Band, featuring the Lennons, Clapton, Voorman, I think, B Preston. A live album from 1971-72.

ELECTRIC LADYLAND: Jimi Hendrix. A classic.

THE DOORS: The 1st album launching Morrison et al into stardom. Features "The End", "Moon Of Alabama" " hisky Bar" "20th Cent.

Mills, conclusion

Fox" etc. Play "Light My Fire" with the treble down, since they didn't de-dolbyize the organ track when mixing, and it could overload your tweeters. Ever wonder how they got the organ to sound that way?

FINK FOXY AND THE RUMBOVAS: A very strange band from Oklahoma that never made it big, and I guess they're back there working the farm or the rig. Features great tunes like "5¢", "Candy Where are You?" and "For the Thrill of It."

Well, the list is endless.

Closing Quips. Thanks for the Bumper Sticker. I put it on someone's bumper, and I hope she noticed before she met her fiance!

Re; Your comments on PLUGS ring true! The way some plug and plug and plug makes you wonder if there isn't a little PLUGGOLA going on. In EM I only plug----rarely---like ENVOY, that plug.

And before I go, here's a fine AGADUOBONGBONG from François Passchengas.

OOPPPPPSSSSS!!!! Forgot to mention Bill LaFosse and THE TORONTO TELEGRAM. I called Bill up a few nights ago to see what was up, and he says that the future is bleak. His TT readers know he's got some job-related problems and it appears that they refuse to go away.

Anyway, he's asking Smyth--CDO Orpahn Dir--to help rehouse the TT Dip games. The games affected are: 8UCC, 79KU, 79KT, 79AB, 79CR, 79HA and 79W. If you're in one of these you should be hearing from Smyth or a GM/pubber who has picked up your game shortly.

Personally, I hate to see Bill get wasted by this altercation. Not only do we lose TT but BLaF. I think we ought to help make the transition as painless as possible for him, and urge him back into it, when this episode is over.

((I'll second that. TT to me is definitely one of my top three, and the only bad thing I could ever say about it was that I can never get enough. It is so incredibly outrageous that it was one of the few zines that really was something unique in and of itself. The best part though, was that I know that all that wild humor was really serious. He spoke my language. It will really be missed.))

DICK MARTIN (Retaliation)
(excerpt)

26 Way North on Orchard, Rockville MD 2085

BB arrived Monday, and I must say that your comments on John Lennon and guns are the most absurd things you've said in a long time. I'm proud of you.

((Could you elaborate?))

LONESOME ?



LIKE TO MEET NEW
PEOPLE ?

LIKE A CHANGE ?

LIKE EXCITEMENT ?

LIKE A NEW JOB ?

JUST SCREW UP ONE
MORE TIME !