

"You got to know when to hold 'em, know when to fold 'em; know when to walk away; know when to run; you never count your centers sitting at the table: There'll be time enough for counting, when you're fed up with this issue 84 of

Late February, 1981

The BRUTUS BULLETIN

ET TU, BRUTE

The BRUTUS BULLETIN is a newsletter of postal DIPLOMACYtm brought to you every few weeks by John Michalski ("mih-HOLL-skee"), Rt 10, Box 526 Q, Moore, OK 73165. Subs are available for the moment at the rate of 12/\$5, 12/\$4 for resubs, tho this will be adjusted, as will balances, when the new rates become official. (2 oz 3d class might be 33¢ by one report). ***There are GAME OPENINGS with GGMs Scott Hanson and Dave Marshall, 2 and 3 week deadlines, \$3-4 gamefees, and subs are OPTIONAL, so these are not only the quicker-paced games you'll find, but the cheapest at that! Check one or both out. Scott is at 701 SE 15 Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55414 (call 612-623-0283) and publishes subzine IRKSOME; Dave Marshall publishes DOWN 'N' DIRTY from 1547 Maplegrove Road, South Euclid, Ohio 44121. (Call 216-382-6623) Money and inquiries should go direct to them; I just work here.

I could have had a little classier title page, since I have BRUTUS BULLETIN in both Sanskrit and Egyptian hieroglyphics (!) phonetically, but except for this title page, JOHN'S NOTES, and one page I can devote to a game or more filler, I have this whole darn thing filled again, and #83 at this writing is still in the box awaiting the chance to get everything printed! SO, you will be seeing this issue very shortly behind #83, since they will be run off together whenEVER I can (grrr), hopefully within this month. I am typing this on the evening of February 19th; how close did I come to it?

I'll skip the reference to Mark Berch this time and just tell you that this Feb. confirms my statement that February means spring in Oklahoma. Today was our first 70 degree day, and while a cold snap or two is yet to come, winter has had it. Monday night, on my way in from burning the trash, I noticed the first two dandelion blooms down among the dry grass: a sure sign of spring, and the hopelessness of fighting weeds. This evening there is even a trace of green in some grass along the roadsides, but without a lot of rain fast, that will be gone in short order. A normal year sees 1½ inches of rain by now; we've had about 1/3 of an inch.

I have a little typing time just now, since I've been home sick with something or other for 2½ days. To cheer me up, two gamestarts with me as Austria and Russia come in on the SAME DAY of course, followed the next day by a PASSCHENDAELE that resurrects a dead game I was in, with me too sick to write or type a thing until today. At one time I was in 14 active games, but those were down to one, and it is now 2 months past deadline with no results back yet (in Phil Fry's FIELD OF FIRE), so I had virtually a clean slate. Or so I thought. I signed up in three zines, and now I'm in 3 games with one still pending. What a scientifically precise world we live in...

Well, PASSCHENDAELE is starting it's prize game, with \$200 to the winner, or \$90 to each in a 2-way draw, etc., which should make for some VERY interesting negotiating. THE DRAGON AND THE LAMB has just about got the computer programmed to do the regDip games there (4 minutes for a fall season, Steve says, including chart updated), and I even saw an issue of LIES, DECEIT, & NEFARIOUS SCHEMES come in that had a cute little humor piece in it I'll try and run for you in some future issue. One of my two overseas trades, John Lee's VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS, arrived here in mid month, taking only 7½ weeks at their third class rate to make it. That means he's getting BB 80 about the time I'm writing this...

Speaking of overseas trades, the new postal rates according to Fred Davis will have even higher rates for them than for N.American third class. That, and the pressure

of an ever-increasing subscription list, will likely force me to have to drop these two. I have liked paging through these two "foreign" English-language zines, but I'm afraid it is becoming a luxury that I can no longer afford. So, John and Torbjorn, I will send a few more BBs to cover the time lag, but I'll have to let your two trades go. I have enjoyed getting what I did, though!

Sitting home (well, laid up in bed, really) is certainly dismal during the nice weather we have outside these days. I knew not to touch the TV; the UHF stations are the only ones that have real shows on them, and their best afternoon fare is Bugs Bunny and Eight is Enough reruns. The first day I was too sick to even listen anyhow, but yesterday I did check to see if Toni Tennille's show was still on. It wasn't, as I'd have guessed. A few weeks back there was a Ronald Reagan week on channel 34; five of his, er, best films. Good thing he's gone into politics. All there is in the news here that the announcers get excited about is the pretty good draft that OU had for the upcoming college football year: the state may dry up and blow away, but what the heck, at least OU has another really hopeful year ahead. And, if that's the biggest thing in the news, the news must be good overall.

Two bad things about being sick so long, and not just me, is that as you recover, you're weak from a diet of two days on Gatorade and water. The other thing is that, like now, what do you have to mix in with brandy? Right; orange Gatorade. Not as hideous as it sounds, really.

Back at work, they were busy expanding the computer room to enlarge on our totally inadequate and backward-programmed computer system (Datapoint hardware, peddled with their own software via HAL systems, Dallas). Throwing good money after bad, is what it all amounts to. Other changes are in personnel. Harper is good at training people, but not too good at keeping them. All that they get to keep are ones as dumb as this publisher. The third week of vacation this year will be nice tho, and for the first time in $6\frac{1}{2}$ years (since I started, that is), they're paying ME what I think I'm worth. And only a little over a year and a half late! Actually, even my own little handful of people is having some turnover. One of the cutest little things on the tenth floor is leaving in a week due to pregnancy and won't be back. She's one of mine. The girl moving up to take her place is anxious to move to another department, and she was almost hired by a lot of other folks for her looks too. The newest girl in that room was one I just got 2 weeks ago tomorrow. When I interviewed her, the other girls said, "she's tall, blonde, big boobs; John will hire HER". Despite all that, I did. I hope she stays. Of course my section also has the only male clerk and up until a month ago, the only Black anywhere in the company, and next year may see over a third of us due that third week of vacation, but it is still disruptive to have this much fluidity. We had to hire in this latest addition at \$800 a month, which means that out there where many of you are, entry level clerks that don't type well (we don't need typists in my section; me and the other male are the best typists) are pulling in \$1000 a month gross. That's terrible, really. I wouldn't spend that much if it were my money; not for pencil pushing and filing. On the other hand, I guess I wouldn't even report for a job, let alone do anything, for any less myself. Pilant is due his MBA in a couple of months, and he is in my old spot (bottom of the barrel). I, uh, have my doubts that he will be eager to set new records at Harper, being an MBA with no place to go. Maybe he'll get in somewhere with an open Xerox, and start producing the Pilant Pile?

Instead of typing this, I suppose I could be starting on our taxes. However, I could be excercising, or learning Tahitian too... In fact, I'd choose the latter ones before the former. Maybe next month. For now, it's publish, publish, publish. Even if its just filling up a box of masters. You know, if I ever do get off my butt and go to another job, it will probably be to an open xerox machine rather than money. We publishers are crazy, you know it? (Claudine never stops telling me...)

80D

FEB 10 1981

AT 4/1, ITALY BEGINS TO CRACK AFTER LONG DEFENSE.

Winter, 1912: England builds A LON; Germany retreats A Bud-GAL, builds
F KIE; Russian A Rum r SEV

SPRING, 1913

ENGLAND (Blant): F NTH, ENG, NWG, STPnc H; F MID-Wes; F WES-Tyn; F Lyo-TUS;
F Tun-ION; F NAT-Mid; A Naf-TUN; A Mos-SEV; ALON U, H

GERMANY (Cummings): A Hol-RUH; F DEN H; F Kie-HOL; A Pie-VEN; A TYO S A Pie-Ven;
A TRI-Vie; A BOH S A Tri-Vie; A Rum-BUD; A GAL S A Rum-Bud;
A UKR S ENGLISH A Mos-Sev

ITALY (Grabar): F Ion-ALB; F AEG-Ion; A Ank-ARM; A VIE-Tri; A SER S A Vie-Tri;
A Bud-Vie/ann.; F Tus-TYN; F ROM S F Tus-Tyn; A Ven-Tyo/d/r Apu, Otb

RUSSIA (Kirchner): A Sev-RUM; F BULec S A Sev-Rum

TURKEY (Becker): F GRE S ENGLISH F Tun-Ion

PRESS: England-Italy: The alliance is strong. Vote for the draw and there will be survivorship for everyone left. Communication lines have been repaired. My envoy, Queen Keren, finally forwarded my mail to the right address.

COA: Mark Cummings, to 819 E Main, Hoopeston, IL 60942

The concessions failed. There is a call for an E-G draw. NVR will equal a YES. Thanks to Mark Lew for his standby orders that were not needed, and for the one player who bothered to vote for those last proposals. Votes and FALL, 1913 will be due with my mail received at home MONDAY, February 23, 1981.

Issue#35
1979N

THE PERILS OF PAULINA
(as featured in the
Brutus Bulletin)

Bob Osuch
3417 S. Paulina
Chgo, IL 60608
312-927-7069
Feb. 11, 1981

LITTLE MOVEMENT THIS TIME

Fall 1910:

AUSTRIA (Fuchs): A MAR H; A NAP H; A TYO-Mun; A SIL & A BOH S A Tyo-Mun; A UKR S TURKISH A War

FRANCE (Howe): F POR S A Spa; A SPA S GERMAN A Bur-Mar (NSO);
A GAS S A Spa; F MID S A Spa

GERMANY (Kirchner): A MUN H; A RUH & A BER S A Mun; A BUR S FRENCH
A Gas-Mar (NSO); F ENG S FRENCH F Mid; A PRU H; F BAL S A Pru;
A LVN H; A STP S A Lvn; A KIE H (U); F Nth-Nwg (NSU); F NWG H (U)

ITALY (CD): Has no units

TURKEY (Mooney): F WES-Mid; F NAF S F Wes-Mid; F LYO S AUSTRIAN A Mar;
A TUN H; F TYN-Wes; F Aeg-ION; A MOS S A War; A SEV S A Mos;
A WAR S AUSTRIAN A Sil; A GAL S AUSTRIAN A Sil

The draw again failed, and is again repropoed. NVR=yes. Germany will still be playing one unit short, since Eric has nowhere to build.

Winter 1910 and Spring 1911 will be due Wednesday, February 25, 1981.

1910	#	NET	COUNTRY	CENTERS
	8	+2	Austria	Home, Rum, Ven, Rom, NAP, MAR
	4	0	France	Par, Bre, Por, Nat , SPA
	12	+1	Germany	Ber, Kie, Den, Hol, Bel, Edi, Nwy, Swe, StP, Lon, Lvp, Mun
	0	0	Italy	Nat
	10	0	Turkey	Home, Tun, Sev, Bul, Gre, Ser, war, Mos, StP
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Issue#36
1980CX

THE PERILS OF PAULINA
(as featured in the
Brutus Bulletin)

Bob Osuch
3417 S. Paulina
Chgo, IL 60608
312-927-7069
Feb. 11, 1981

THERE'S BLOOD IN THE STREETS,
IT'S UP TO MY ANKLES

Summer 1907: Austria NRR. GM retreats A Silesia off the board.

Fall 1907:

AUSTRIA (Perlmutter?): NMR! A GAL H; F TUN H; A SER H; A Gre H/d/
r to Alb, Otb; A Rum H/d/r to Bud, Otb

ENGLAND (Kirchner): F SWE-Den; F NTH-Hol; F Eng-BEL; F Nwy-StP(NSU);
F BAR S F Nwy-StP(NSU); A NWY H(U)

FRANCE (Bricken): A Par H/d/r to Gas, Otb

GERMANY (Grabar): F BAL-Den; A Pic-PAR; A BUR S A Pic-Par; A KIE-Hol;
A Mun-TYO; A SIL S A Mun-Tyo

ITALY (Henry): A MAR H; A POR H; F ION H; F Mid-ENG; F BRE S F Mid-
Eng

RUSSIA (Goodrich): A WAR-Gal; A Ukr-RUM; F BLA S A Ukr-Rum; A Mos-
SEV; A STP-Nwy

TURKEY (Petrie): F EAS-Ion; A Bul-GRE; F AEG S A Bul-Gre; A Con-BUL

Now that's what I call ACTION! Still not a solid alliance out there, as we approach 1908! We have our first elimination as of Winter 1907, that of the French player, William Bricken. I must say, he showed a lot of class to stick it out to the end, and will always be welcome in any future openings I might have. Thanks much, William. On the other side of the coin, I hope that Dave Perlmutter will play it out, but suspect that he won't since he's on his way out of the hobby, soooooo, would KERRY BLANT, PO BOX 263, DECATUR, IL 62525 please submit standby orders for Austria? I suppose I should extend the next deadline so that Kerry will have a chance to "feel you guys out", as it were. Did I say that right?

Autumn retreats and Winter 1907 adjustments, along with Spring 1908 orders will be due with my mail received on Monday, March 2, 1981.

By the way, I'll be staying in Ohio somewhere for about a one month period sometime in March. I'll let you guys know where it will be so that hopefully, the game won't be delayed.

1907	#	NET	COUNTRY	CENTERS
	5	0,+1 or +2	Austria	Home, Ser, Gre , Tun
	6	+1	England	Home, Nwy, Swe, BEL
	0	0 or -1	France	Par , Por
	6	0	Germany	Home, Hol, Den, Bel , Par , PAR
	7	+2	Italy	Home, Spa, Bre, POR, MAR
	5	0	Russia	Home, Rum
	5	+1	Turkey	Home, Bul, GRE

PRESS

MOS: The Russian People's Republic calls for all nations to unite against the Red Menace now gathering at our very borders. Today, me, tomorrow the world. They will bury you.

SEV: Then again, what can you expect from a standby?

IRKSOME!

NO. 7

FEBRUARY 14, 1981

SPECIAL BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY/VALENTINE DAY ISSUE, AND THE GAME GOES ON

That's right, this whole week has been kind of special for me. First, my birthday was on Monday, making me the ripe old age of 19, which is just old enough to drink here in Minnesota. Also, this is Valentines Day, which is as good an excuse to have a party as any. And, it was about a year ago this week that I first heard of the crazy game called Diplomacy. I also met my girlfriend about a year ago, but she and Diplomacy have absolutely nothing in common, except that I love them both. Ah, yes, the game...

1980LM SPRING 1902

irksome number one!

AUSTRIA(Pilant)	A Ser-BUD A TRI S A Ser-Bud A GAL S A Ser-Bud F Gre shoots Pawlter the bone (imp, d, annihilated)
ENGLAND(Vaughan)	A Yor-LON A Edi-NWY F NTH C A Edi-Nwy F Nwy-SKA
FRANCE(Sherwood)	A PAR-Bur A BUR-Bel F Bel-ENG F Bre-MAO A Por-SPA
GERMANY(Stephens)	F DEN H F KIE S A Den A Mun-SIL A RUH-Bur A HOL-Bel
ITALY(Palter)	F Nap-APU A Tun-ALB F ION C A Tun-Alb A VEN-Tri A Bud S A Ven-Tri (d, ret Vie, OTB)
RUSSIA(Gariepy)	A SWE H A Liv-WAR A Ukr-RUM F BLA S A Ukr-Rum A SEV-Arm
TURKEY(Wilson)	F Aeg-GRE A BUL S F Aeg-Gre A ANK-Arm

Underlined moves fail, CAPS denote final resting place of a unit. Italy's retreat and everyones Fall 1902 moves are due at noon CST on February 28, 1981. All the moves were here by yesterday, so I thought I'd adjudicate the game then so all I would have to do is type it up today and get it mailed right away. But, no, three of you decide to change your minds and call me up last night and this morning. At least there is not so much...

PRESS.

TURKEY-GERMANY: So they are the same person, eh? And in front of a mirror no less! You would think that looking at something that ugly would make a guy go limp.

SHERWOOD-WILSON: I'll show you my Young Communists' League membership card if you show me your Future Fascists' Card.

PARIS: All state controlled radio stations went from transmitting to recieving. We are sure Austria will be blasting at us in the press, and we want to catch every ludicrous word of it. Go to it, Pilant.

ITALY: Fuck the world!

CON: Fuck the world!

ANK: Especially Russia!

MALTA: You better be careful when you talk about Linsey. Why don't you know that on the eighth day he created HRs.

HEY BRAD WILSON: Isn't it true you are in the process of writing a review for BB on tampons you have used?

MUNICH-PARIS/ENGLAND: Well, what's it going to be? War or what?

MUN-ROM/VIE/ANK/SEV: What the Hell is going on down there?

RUSSIA-?: I don't know who I'm attacking.

Blank space for blank minds

IrK SOME:

NO. 7
FEBRUARY 14, 1981

I HAVE Wilson.
If you DON'T Give Me
\$500 I will LET
Him Go.

IRKSOME: Too late, he already came back.

KONRAD BAUMEISTER'S FAVORITE JOKE: There was once a small town baseball team that was pretty good. Their best player was their pitcher, who often threw no-hitters. No pitcher was better than he was. But the worst player on the team was the back up pitcher, named Mel Famey. He was always drunk and couldn't pitch if his life depended on it. But no one cared since he never played—the first string pitcher never got tired, so he always pitched. The team made it to the state finals. In the bottom of the ninth with the score tied, a ground ball hit the star pitcher and knocked him out cold. They finally needed Mel Famey, and he was drunk on beer. He staggered out of the dugout onto the field and kept throwing balls until he walked in the winning run. They lost. Two members of the opposing team were walking out to the parking lot when they noticed a pile of beer cans near Mel Famey's car. One asked the other what they were, and his friend replied, "Why that's the beer that made Mel Famey walk us."

IRKSOME: Groan...

ENGLAND-GM: Hey, we've got enough fruits and fairies in this game without you letting Bob Osuchafag write guest press.

IRKSOME: Speaking of guest press...

MARIE-BOBBY: Hi! Remember me? I answered the phone for you a few weeks ago, and I live down the hall from Scott. I think your voice sounds ^{cute}. Why don't you come up and visit me for Easter? ^{Sexy}

IRKSOME: Here I live just a couple doors down from her, and she goes for some guy from Texas! Well! Anyway, now that I have some space I realize that I have never really introduced myself. I don't want to be just a name and address, sooo....

I am a freshman at the University of Minnesota majoring in International Relations. Though I was born in Northern California, six years ago my family moved to Madison, Minn., a town of about 2,000 in western Minn. Right now I live in a rooming house with 13 other people near school. That accounts for neighbors like Marie. For school, my area of interest is Latin America, especially Brazil, since I lived there for a while two years ago (as an exchange student with AFS). I plan to spend my junior year at a university in Rio de Janeiro. As for my girlfriend, her name is Frauke and she lives in a suburb of Kiel in West Germany. If I can get the money, I'd like to visit her this summer, so don't be surprised if there is a 4 week deadline sometime in June. My other interests include sex and drugs and rock and roll. I also work at our student radio station as Ass't Music Director and also DJ once a week. As for the name of this zine, it comes from my nickname in high school, IRK. I find Dip results can be quite irksome at times.

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

Ph: (612) 623-0283 before
midnight

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MY COMMENTS J.M.

KNOWN GAME OPENINGS 1 February 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

Distribution: Diplomacy World, Boardman Number Custodian,
Miller Number Custodian, Zine Directory, Pandemonium,
Brutus Bulletin, Whitestonia, anyone sending in a BASS.

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A MIGHTY FORTRESS	Overby
AFTER THE HOLOCAUST	Henricks
CONQUISTADOR	Scott
CRUSADES	DelGrande, Scott
DALLAS	DelGrande
DIPLOMACY	Bates, Boardman, Caruso, DelGrande, Reinowski, Henricks, Mills, Overby, Wilson, Winter
Variants	DelGrande, Overby, Winter
Bourse	Schneier
Deadman	Bates, Henricks, Mills
Grand Tournament	Henricks
Nuclear Holocaust	Caruso, Graber
Parlement	Sacks
DIVINE RIGHT	Schneier
EMPIRES OF THE MIDDLE AGES	DelGrande
KINGMAKER	Bates, DelGrande, Henricks, Overby, Schneier, Scott
MACHIAVELLI	Bates, DelGrande, Schneier, Scott
RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR	Scott
SAMURAI	Henricks
THIRD REICH	Bates, DelGrande
WOODEN SHIPS & IRON MEN	Reinowski, Henricks

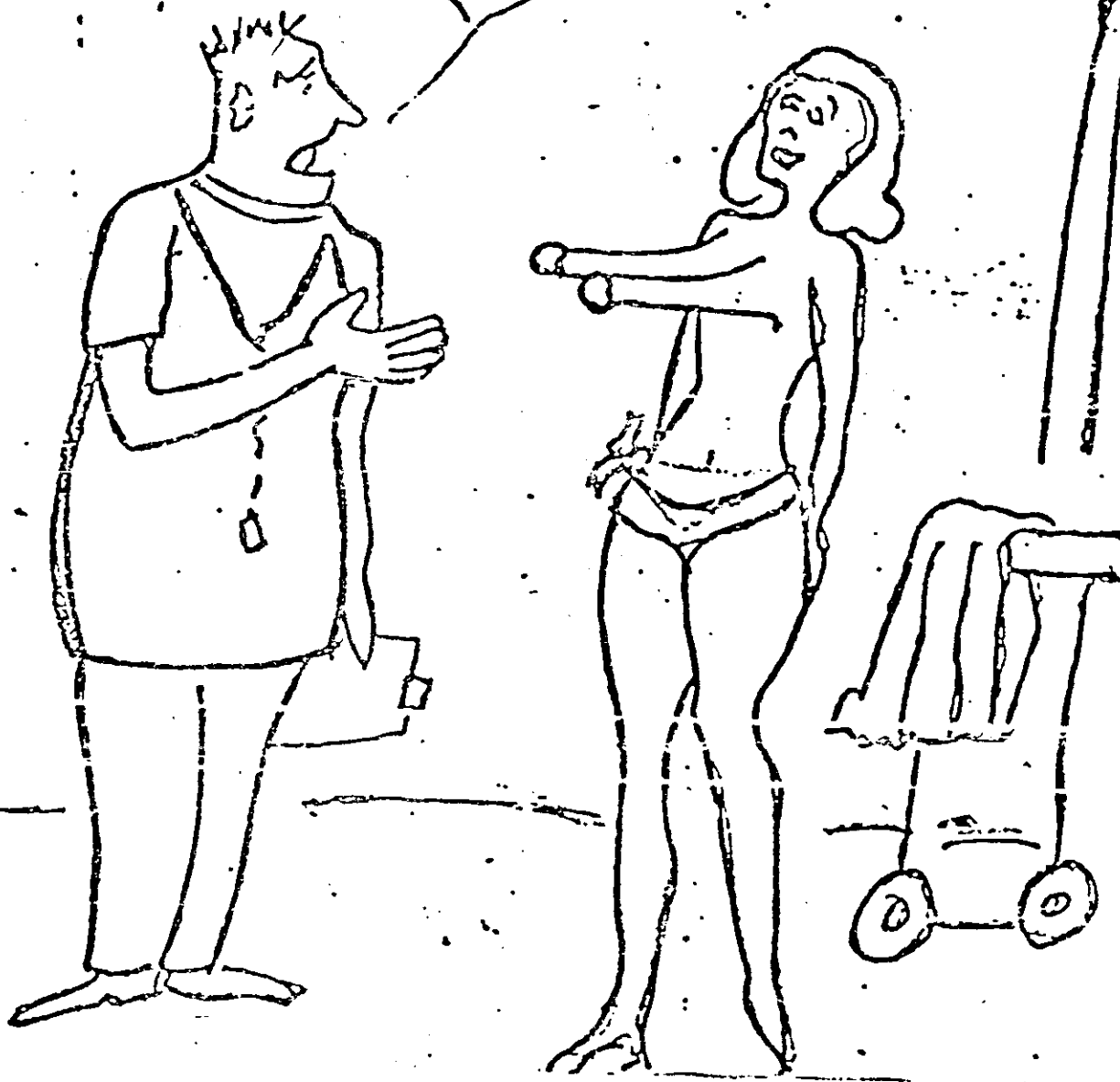
Marion Bates, PO Box 381, Kalkaska MI 46946 USA
LEAGUE TIMES, \$3 + 12/\$6 ((Dec))
Boardman, DIPLOMACY, KINGMAKER, MACHIAVELLI, THIRD REICH
John Boardman, 234 E 19th St, Brooklyn NY 11226 USA
GRAUSTARK, 3w, \$15 ((Jan))
DIPLOMACY
John Caruso, 42-34 Sauli St, Flushing NY 11355 USA
WHITESTONIA, 4w, \$2 + \$4/10 ((Dec))
DIPLOMACY, Nuclear Holocaust: World War III
Don DelGrande, 2400 Durant Av 208, Berkeley Ca 94720 USA
LIFE OF MONTY, m, 55¢/issue ((Jan))
CRUSADES, DALLAS, DIPLOMACY, EMPIRES OF THE MIDDLE AGES,
KINGMAKER, MACHIAVELLI, Pythonic, THIRD REICH
David Graber, 1583 Truman St, Chowchilla Ca 93610 USA
ITALIANO PRISE, 3w, \$6 ((Dec))
Nuclear Holocaust: World War III
Steve Heinowski, 1630 W 28th St, Lorain Oh 44052 USA
THR-RAN, 4w, 35¢/issue ((Jan))
DIPLOMACY, WOODEN SHIPS & IRON MEN
Roy Henricks, 128 Deerfield Dr, Pittsburgh Pa 15235 USA
ENVOY, m, \$2 + \$5 @ 3/8¢/pg + postage ((Dec))
AFTER THE HOLOCAUST, Deadman (\$3 Game fee), DIPLOMACY (\$4 Game fee,
no Game fee for Distaff game), Grand Tournament, KINGMAKER (\$2 to
\$3.50 Game fee), SAMURAI (\$4 Game fee), WOODEN SHIPS & IRON MEN:
Corseair
Dave Marshall, 1547 Maple Grove Rd, South Euclid OH 44121 USA
DOWN 'N' DIRTY, 3w, \$3.50 ((Jan))
DIPLOMACY
Michael Mills, 1585 Quaker Rd, Macedon NY 14502 USA
EMPIRE MACHIA, 4w, \$3 + \$2 Dep + 12/\$5.60 ((Jan))
Deadman, DIPLOMACY
Glenn Overby, 23096 Tawas, Hazel Park MI 48030 USA
JIHAD!, m, \$4 + 12/\$6 ((Jan))
A MIGHTY FORTRESS, Crypto II, DIPLOMACY, KINGMAKER, Mercator III,
North America: 2020, The Song of the Night
Robert Sacks, 4861 Broadway 5-V, NY NY 10034 USA
HANSARD, \$3 + sub ((Feb))
Parlement (w rules amendment rule)
Bruce Schneier, 455 E 17th St, Brooklyn NY 11226 USA
INVASION, \$3 + 12/\$5 ((Jan))
Bourse, DIPLOMACY, DIVINE RIGHT (replacement players, no Game fee)
KINGMAKER (Game fee \$4), MACHIAVELLI (Game fee \$4)
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 ((Dec))
DIPLOMACY
Fred Winter, 400 W Madison St 2400, Chicago IL 60606 USA
PROSPECTUS, 7w International/3w USA, \$5 + 2¢/pg + postage ((Jan))
Colonialism (Winter's), DIPLOMACY, Third Age

A new sine. I haven't seen many yet, but this one is widely plugged, for whatever that's worth.
The initial Dipsine, now about 18 YEARS old. Strange politics, but reliable games.
An established sine that has improved a lot in the last year.
New sine I just subbed to. Amusing style. I am always leery of sines that carry so many games though. Dip might take a back seat, and shouldn't. It's unique.
Your basic Dipsine. Ditto but legible, very reliable, established. Some humor filler, but not much. I like it, but don't ask why.
An oft-plugged warehouser that carries everything. I don't get this one.
Subsine. No sub required, making it one of the cheapest openings you'll get. Dave has been coming for over 1 1/2 years.
Still kind of new, but becoming "established" rapidly. I would include it as an established one, really. Recommended.
I don't get this one either, esp at 50¢
I just started with this sine. Very amusing style that has overcome most of my fears of getting hooked out of NYO. Nice reading.
A refreshingly Rightwing newcomer with the right amount of filler (lots).
I played in Fred's last dip adventure. He can be humorous and readable, but I was burned once and would not try again. He emphasises variants, which bore me.

And, don't overlook the 2-week-deadlines in my own other subrine, IRKSOME, that has a second game awaiting players.
Write Scott Hanson, 701 SE 15 Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55414. For a flat \$3-4 gamefee, get into a fast-moving game with NO SUBS REQUIRED. I especially recommend this for NOVICES, since in a fast game, you either win big or sink fast. You learn either way, and are ready and able to move on to another game a year or perhaps later, instead of spending your entire hobby time in one game (or set of concurrent games). Have fun! Join a fast game soon. Scott's, Brad Wilson's, and maybe Jim Bumpas in Oregon are the only ones I know that are now offering these things.

J.M.

THOSE PILLS WERE
FOR YOUR HUSBAND



ROD WALKER

"alcala"
1273 crest dr.
encinitas ca 92024
8 february 1981

Your reply to Steve McLendon's comments regarding evolution was, I thought, extremely well taken. However, since I've not written you any letters in the recent past, I thought I'd elaborate a little on the subject.

Steve at one point seems to be making belief in evolution somehow a polo opposite to belief in (a) afterlife or (b) God. Since there are a good many people who believe in all of these things simultaneously, the alleged dichotomy is obviously nothing but a polemic device. Of course, if you think about it, the evolution of life on this planet makes the whole notion of "original sin" rather obsolete. This cannot be borne by certain of the fundamentalist sectarians, since it takes away one of the chief pleasures they have...namely, threatening people with hellfire and all that.

Where Steve got his ideas about evolution I don't know...they sound like something out of My Weekly Reader of 1932. "Evolution is not a proven fact...". Of course not. It's a theory. A fact is a datum, and a theory is an explanation of a large collection of data. Some theories, such as those of gravitation and thermodynamics, are so precise and venerable we call them "laws".

Anyway, a good theory is one which explains the data. The notion of "creation", whatever virtues it might possess, fails miserably to explain a lot of data, including nearly the entire corpus of facts amassed by geology, paleontology, archaeology, and what have you. Furthermore, evolution rests not only on the fossil record, but on two other pillars as well: the observations of naturalists like Darwin and the role of genes in inheritance. Even if we had had no theory of evolution before, the discovery of genes would have led inevitably to that theory.

Nobody is looking for a "missing link" any more. There are two reasons for this. First, since the evolution of any species is by virtually imperceptible steps over many generations, no single specimen could ever represent the sort of decisive intermediary stage which the so-called "missing link" was presumed to be.

More importantly, to the extent that there could ever have been a "missing link", he has been found. His name is homo habilis.

And to correct the most important howler in Steve's set of antediluvian Bible Belt assertions, the theory of evolution has never asserted that man descended from apes, but rather that man and apes descended from a common ancestor (and that, ultimately, all primates had a common ancestor).

Getting back to the notion of "fact". It is a fact that living things evolve. This fact, even without further demonstration, is inherent in the genetic nature of inheritance. The fossil record is then merely proof that what we would expect from genes has in fact taken place. Or, conversely, genes were the latest verification of evolution as an accurate theory...for they proved to be the hitherto unknown mechanism whereby the whole process was allowed to take place.

Miscellany: I wasn't aware that Werner von Braun was a better authority than Dr. Leakey. If the quotation is accurate (and like you, I question it), it only serves to underline von Braun's lack of factual understanding. The notion that evolution works toward complexity (or in any predetermined direction) is nobly Victorian, but not very scientific.

Why do people believe in the crossing of the Rubicon and not in the parting of the Red Sea, although each has its witnesses? The word you're looking for is "reliable".

Maybe we have experiential witnesses to life after death, and maybe we don't. Regardless, this issue is not relevant to evolution.

((Glad to hear from you again after too long a time away)) J.M.

Best, Rod ⑨

I am always a little amused about the latter that Christians get themselves into on the question of the Biblical story of creation versus modern notions of evolution and cosmology. But Genesis is, after all, one of the Books of the Jews, and we have subjected all of the Old Testament to centuries of the most exacting analysis. Yet Jews were not particularly bothered when it was discovered that the universe is not 6000 (ONLY) years old, and when evidence for evolution accumulated. Why is this? Because, to put it simply, the mainstream of Jewish thought was that there were two kinds of time, divine and human. Human began only after humans arrived. Human time is based on the rising and setting of the sun, which wasn't in existence during the first "day". I personally do not consider the Biblical story of creation to be inconsistent with modern theories. Note that the Bible has things going in a specific sequence, rather than all at once, and further, the sequence, the order of things, is consistent with modern theories of evolution.

No, Steve is right when he says that "evolution" has not been proven. You cannot "prove" that certain rocks are 2 billion years old, or that a certain galaxy is 15000 light years away. You cannot even prove that the sun will rise tomorrow morning, and indeed, we now know that some day, it won't. But the present evidence in favor of evolution is so compelling that if evolution is not true, then an awful lot of things that we understand become inexplicable. Its more than the bones that Michal-ski refers to. We have a reptilian portion of our brain, our blood in many ways closely resembles seawater, the developing embryo has a tail at one point, etc etc.

The question of man's brain size is an interesting one, but does not go against evolution. One possibility is that we have --- or had skills that we have either lost, or don't know we have simply because they are no longer survival skills. A simpler explanation is that this is just another example of redundancy, of which there is a lot in the human body. We have 2 kidneys, yet a healthy person has capacity to spare even with one kidney. However, a person with spare kidney --- or brain --- capacity has a better chance to pass on his genes to the next generation than someone without the spare capacity. That is because he can survive damage to brain or kidney. The small brained humans do not have this ability to sustain modest damage, and thus their chances of passing on their genes were smaller.

I do not consider Evolution as inconsistent with the existence of God. Evolution after all depends on the laws of nature, in the long run. But how were these set? It is entirely possible that God said: "Well, lets have gravity fall off as the cube, no, make that the square of distance, lets see, two types of charge ought to be enough, etc. And now I'll kick things off with a explosion (which we now call the "big-bang"), and I know, in my infinite wisdom, that life will result from all this. Of course, when I tell Moses (or whoever) about all this, I may have to simplify things some."

As for after-death experiences, I do not view them as hoax or liars, and I think that they are of great importance, altho they don't give any information on the is-there-lif-after-death question. Its interesting to recall that the first published accounts of these occurred in a Alpine Climbing journal. It happened to people who thought they were falling to their death. In fact, they were not dying at all, nor were they near death in any sense of the word. These experiences are, to use a loaded word, hallucinations. I do NOT use the term pejoratively. Most healthy people see things that others say aren't there, or experience fear when objectively there is nothing to fear --- ie. they hallucinate. This happens at night and are called "dreams". Another cause is a high fever, and there we call the experience "delerium". If an intense religious experience causes them, we call it a "vision" or a "visitation". This newer stuff hasn't been around long enough to have a specialized term, but it fits into the same category as the rest. Each has a different stimulus. All can be important, but figuring them out is quite difficult. Dream analysis is quite hard, and not particularly reliable, but it often can be done, and is entirely respectable. The similarity in these near (or after) death experiences is important, but lets remember that certain drugs give the user the illusion that they are covered by insects --- a "similar story" in so many cases. But that no more means that they were experiencing the after-death than the drug user was covered by insects, or the dreamer who dreams he is running down an endless corridor (a very common dream) really is onto a corridor somewhere.

Berch, continued

It seems that people are still writing in on the Concentration camps business, so a reply is needed. Palter's account is, to say the least, confused. Take his statement that Auschwitz was just a "strict regime work camp" with few or any Jews. This is simply not true. The original camp, Called Auschwitz I had permanent building, was set up by order of Himmler in April 1940, and had primarily Polish political prisoners, and never had a significant number of Jews. In Oct 1941 a second camp with extensive wooden barracks was established called Birkenau or AusII. This originally had Russian prisoners of war, nearly all of whom died shortly after arrival or were killed. However, after March 1942 new arrivals were mostly Jews and gypsies. Early in 1941, IG-Fraben built a synthetic Rubber plant in Monowitz, and a special camp, Aus III was assigned for labor, and large numbers of Jewish slaves were worked to death there. But Aus II was in fact a true death camp. Rudolph Hoess and Eichman were ordered by Himmler to use the camp for that purpose, and Zyklon B was used for this purpose, and was used over a period of 2 years and 10 months. The gas murders began in Jan 1942 in an adapted farmhouse in Birkenau. New gas chambers (disguised as shower stalls) were in use from March 1943 plus 4 crematoria were built. However, the crematoria had a capacity of only 4400 per day and could not cope with the output of the gas chambers, and often broke down, and so corpses were buried in huge pits. Arrivals came at irregular intervals which is why barracks were needed. Prisoners labeled in special Reichssicherheitshauptamt transports were killed immediately, but others were subjected to "selektion" on arrival, with the stronger ones sent to the work camps. The others were killed, some as above, while the very sick were dispatched with phenol injections. Others were killed in supposedly "medical" experiments (Menegle worked on twins at Auswitz). There are a lot of records on who came from where from Norway on Dec 1, 1942, from Greece on March 20, 1943, and many more. On Nov 2, 1944, on Himmler's orders the "selektion" and gassing ceased, and the order to destroy the gas chambers and crematoria was given on Nov 26, 1944. The last Reich...transport actually arrived on Jan 5, 1945 with a small number of Jews from Berlin. On Jan 27, 1945 the Red army arrived and 7,650 inmates were freed. Altho the ovens and gas chamber were destroyed, there were plenty of documents found (including a delivery note for Zyklon B with a value of RM 1,050) for trials to take place in Germany, Poland and Austria.

Perhpas you wonder why all the detail above. Its this "revisionism" business. I do not mind those who say that it was 2 million, not 6 million. 6 million is only an estimate, and if someone else thinks 2 million is more accurate, I'm not going to dispute that. But if someone says that Auswitz had "few if any Jews" there I will draw the line. The best estimate is that about 1 million Jews were either exterminated at Birkenau or worked to death deliberately at the associated slave labor camps.

You asked earlier about resistance by Jews at these camps. It is very hard to get such information. If no one escaped then how will the indident ever be known.? Only one major incident is known at Auschwitz. On Oct 7, 1944 the Sonderkommando (a squad of Jews forced to assist in the extirminations) set fire to a crematorium killed several SS men and a few of them survived the escape attempt.

Someone else mentioned Treblinka, another of the major extirmination centers. If there is still interest in this matter, I can discuss that too.

((I hope you will, although I think it won't go into BB. I am taking the liberty of forwarding a copy of both your letters to Mazurkiewicz, and I hope each of you will keep me informed of the discussion, if any. Ron sent me a copy of Rassinier's book to read, but after the first chapter, the turgid style was simply too much for me. The summary presented in the Forward was interesting, but as I say, I wasn't able to plow through the regular text to be able to bring up specific points of contention, as I hope Ron will. In the general case, one of the biggest problems I see is that so much of the pro-Holocaust stuff is based on "evidence" gathered by those who put together such farcial insults as the Nuremburg "trials". The incredible lies, fabrications, torture, and the like that have been exposed there makes for serious doubt against what would normally be acceptable 'evidence' statements, etc. I hope this is persued.))

J.M. ⑪

So! I'm not even in the hobby four months and all ready I'm embroiled in a bitter controversy (well, sort of). Tell you what: let's keep blowing on this until we get a full fledged conflagration of personalities. Now that Perlmutter is exiting and Linsey-Carusio has cooled off, what is there left to entertain us? But do you think we could hold off on the feud for just a couple of months? I'm fighting Linsey in VOD and I can only handle attacking one pubber at a time. (No matter what my letter says, the zine pubber always gets the last word, so what's the point?) For no particular reason, I'm trying to turn the thing into Black Hole '81 for Bruce. And you had better watch your step yourself, John: Remember all those zines I bought from you for three bucks? Well, you left your personal messages on them, so if you cross me I'll give them all to Masters for a special issue of Black Frog. I'm sure the world would like to hear the private message Kathy Byrne wrote you on the outside of a Whitestonia.....WOW!

But to get back to the source: Lennon and guns. Since a few more people wrote in and agreed with me over you (so far), I have come to the conclusion that there is still some compassion left in the world, even if there isn't any in Oklahoma. Re your Lennon comments: it is precisely because the Beatles broke up and are no longer that Lennon was so big. Ten years after they broke up, the Beatles "myth" if you will (I won't, but you will), has grown enormously. Most of their flaws are forgotten, and they have been elevated to the rank of 60's gods. John was generally recognized as the leader and the most creative of the Beatles--he was head "god." And just before his murder he had recaptured media attention by coming out of five years of seclusion. That is part of the reason, John M, that such a "big fuss" was made over Lennon. The former Beatles are far from washed up: George's last album went top twenty and by his own admission he could never sing again and still have plenty of money; Paul's records all go top 10; and Ringo is engaged to be married to Barbara Bach, a Playboy Playmate (that's washed up?). And John had just released his first album in five years, and it was heading to No 1 even before his murder. No, they are not washed up, and the "Beatle myth" lives on.

Since others called you for your ridiculous plan to comb all the "weirdos" out of society I'll let that statement go and get on to your absurd comparison of drugs and guns. Stores are not held up at "needle point," muggers don't hold people up with heroin needles, and John wasn't shot at twenty feet with a hyperdermic. I only wish this country did have laws at least as strict for guns as drugs. (Sure, drug laws don't work completely, but they have some effect.) But you're not hurting me: I'd just assume see tougher drug laws, too. (Reagan could get the money for enforcement from all the money he'll save by starving the old, infirmed and unemployed.)

Yes, it would have been better if Chapman would have tried to burn Lennon. At least that way he would have had time to think and the assailant would have had to get closer. Not much time for anything but dying when someone pulls a trigger six times twenty feet behind you.... A gun doesn't give the victim time to even scream. And pulling the trigger takes so little thought. Something else (gasoline poured on from the roof top?) requires more thought than a twitch of a finger. Sure the trip took a little thought, but if Chapman couldn't have gotten the gun from the sporting good store in Hawaii, maybe his sick plan would have ended right there.

Moving on to Palter. He's absolutely right: if I lived in New York maybe I would feel different. But I don't.

No, I've never been to NY. But I have been to Boston, Washington D.C., and I lived in Oakland. Big cities suck. (Oh no! Another controversy!) I much prefer small towns. Palter's right again: unenforceable laws are not the answer, enforceable ones are. How can a handgun control program work if the law varies from state to state. Just add an amendment to the constitution (I'll get the pro-lifers on it right after they get their anti-abortion amendment) and then crack down. How can you state a gun control law won't ever work, like it was written in stone? Prove it! Or better yet, let someone else prove it. (I'll wait till I'm President.) You advocate vigilante bands roaming the

Sherwood, continued

streets with the biggest guns they can get/buy. So gun control will give us Moscow, eh? Well your system would give us San Salvador, Lebanon, or Bolivia. Great Choice. You are welcome to leave for San Salvador with my blessings. And you better take your guns-- you'll need them! (Last paragraph directed at Palter.)

But on to other hopeless although righteous causes. Why all this support for a busted space program? instead of wasting all that money on a silly space shuttle, why not just put the 10 billion dollars in a Mercury capsule and launce it into space? The end is still the same: 10 billion dollars of the tax payers' money burned up in space. (Thw money would have to be put in a Mercury payload and not into a space shuttle since the space shuttle may never get launched, let alone achieve orbit.)

What really amazes me is that people like you, living on stolen land, want to scatter that 10 billion dollars on the solar winds when there is so much to be done with it here on earth.. Why not absolve some of our country's sins by giving all that money to the Indians? We owe them far more than that for all we stole from them. All the Western states (indeed, the entire country!) and its agriculture, coal, gas, oil, water and everything else; it all rightfully belongs to the Native Americans.

Or, we could repent for all our Diplomatic sins since Teddy Roosevelt and give the money to the Iranians. It would be "blood money." After all the terrible things the Shah did to those people with the government's approval, we owe to them. Or yet again, if you want to keep the money in this country, the money could be set up as an Iranian student scholarship fund for all Iranians coming to the US to study.

B&D is shit? And miniaturists too? You are certainly off here. I forsee the day when miniaturists take over the hobby and our little blocks will be replaced with miny armies and ships. Sand boxes are great! I've got one in my room right now with Waterloo being fought right now! And when I get bored of fighting, I can make great sand castles. Only problem is my cat thinks my sand box is his litter box and I keep on digging up "surprises."

Why did Jane Proskin see you but not me? NM is in between CA and OK. She said she liked younger men. My acne cleared up and I've been shaving now for six months (cut myself both times), so Jane, won't you please come by and see me on your way back west? Claim you're my mother and get me out of school.

Das ist alles. I hope you all have been enlightened.

((Shades of Gibson! Actually, I appreciate your sense of humor, altho the types of wild crap you throw in--the "it-all-belongs-to-the-Indians" type shit, e.g.--make it bad for me. Such ES destroys your credibility on other matters too readily. You make it too easy for me to rebut or even dismiss your statements out of hand, and then I get rusty. Then Mark Berch writes a letter, and I'm in trouble, see?

Despite living in New Mexico, I suspect you know as little about Indians in America today as you admit to being in position to say about life (such as it be..) in NYC. A billion dollars spent on space exploration might well find nothing but some geological oddities and a few books of pictures. But a billion dollars spent on handouts to people because of their race will accomplish nothing at all, unless you want to count the negative effects of "training" said people to live on handouts instead of standing on their own two feet. The only sin committed against American Indians is that of keeping them on the dole. Your opinions of past treatment of Indians is kind of like my opinion of what Army Group South should have done in the Ukraine in the summer of 1942: good for one hard fart in the wind.

Nor have you any experience at reading about the who's or why's of robberies. Stores aren't held up at needlepoint, but the reason they are often robbed is to finance some junkies habit. Why risk your life in a store robbery for the cash register contents when you could earn as much as you'll fetch by two day's manual labor? The 'why' is usually a drug habit that doesn't have two days to wait. You'll come around to my way of thinking with experience, I think. Keep me informed.))

J.M.

Feuds: Clean and Dirty

by BRUX the Terror

Feuds can be great entertainment for the rest of the hobby. In their own way, they resemble a good boxing match between two bitter enemies. Like boxing, though, there are a few minimal standards expected of the participants. In boxing, you must stop fighting at the bell. Throw a late punch, and you've overstepped the bounds of decency and sportmanship. You may not hit below the belt. Do your best to tear the other guy apart, but it must be done "cleanly" -- that is, within a given framework of rules.

In Diplomacy, there is nobody to enforce the "rules". Only the nebulous shadow of hobby tradition is there to even inform us what the rules are. But the fighter -- or feuder if you will -- is free to play by the rules or ignore them as he chooses.

What rules am I referring to? Allow me to present what I consider to be the fundamental rules of feuding. All of these have a basis in hobby tradition.

Rule #1. Regardless of his beliefs about how right his viewpoint is, a publisher has the responsibility to allow his opponent space for a reply in the pages of his zine. If the publisher is really in the right, he will not be afraid to allow his readers to hear the other guy's view as well as his own.

Rule #2. If the attackee is not a subscriber to the attacker's zine, it is the responsibility of the publisher to mail him a "courtesy copy" of the attack. Failure to do this results in an unfair battle, with the victim often unaware that he was blasted until much later, if ever.

Rule #3. Despite whatever hatred he may feel toward his opponent, the attacker must stick to true facts. It is unacceptable to base attacks on false statements. Indeed, if a publisher feels he must do this, he probably doesn't have a good reason to attack to begin with.

Rule #4. Cheap shots have no place in a feud. Name-calling is OK in its place, but bringing in material totally irrelevant to the subject at hand is not. An example of this would be a publisher who attacks the physical appearance of another pubber.

Rule #5. The feuder should respect that which is told to him in confidence. Once a pubber gains a reputation of having loose lips, the rest of the hobby will realize that he is not the man to trust with a secret.

Rule #6: A participant in a feud should do his level best to resolve matters privately before attacking publicly.

Those are the standards which I feel should be minimal, even in the heat of a feud. I have deviated from them in but two circumstances; both exceptional. In one case, my tiff with Lee Kendter, I made the mistake of going public with a grievance before trying to resolve it privately. I regret that mistake. The other exception is that I no longer send courtesy copies to Tretick or Gibson, since neither will ever change an iota. But except for those two cases, I have always lived rigorously by the rules. In my opinion, most of the hobby would agree that the rules set forth here are valid and valuable.

Among the people I've had feuds with, I've discovered many different levels of respect for these standards. Lee Kendter Sr. is a clean fighter and does his best to observe most of the "rules". Because of his desire to stay within bounds, my little tiff with him was cleared up. So who are the "dirty" fighters?

Caruso and Byrne are sort of in the middle, usually. I've never known either to break a confidence, nor have I ever been refused space in Whitestonia (for that matter, I've never asked for any) to rebut what is said about me there. They don't score so well on some of the other points, though.

But the dirtiest, filthiest fighter I've met up with yet is Bob Arnett. He has a

thoroughly astounding disregard for any of the rules of common decency that I am appalled to remember that once upon a time, I trusted this man.

If you are attacked in Volker, don't bother asking Bob to let you reply. He'll ignore you. He doesn't permit his readers to hear the other guy's side of the story. I know this, because I tried to reply to Bob's recent attack on me. My letter was ignored.

Do not expect to receive a copy of Arnett's attacks on you. He does not mail courtesy copies. In the latest issue of RUS-Q? (Bob's secondary publication), I was slandered mercilessly. My copy came to me via a friend; Bob did not send me one.

Take Arnett's statements with a little grain of salt. He tells the truth when it suits him to do so, and only when it suits him. The best example of this is his attack on my "Jane Proskin" hoax. In order to blast me for it, he had first to deny that he was part of it. So he made up a story about how he knew nothing about it (this despite the fact that he had her on his standby list!) and said that some unspecified other person told him. The story is a total lie. Bob Arnett was in on the Proskin hoax almost from the beginning, and he knows it.

Cheap shots? They are usually not very convincing anyway, and so less worrisome. Nonetheless, Arnett's garbage about my childhood and physical appearance have no relation to the subject of the feud, and he was out of line in bringing it up. I was more or less amused by what he said in this regard.

Don't try to confide in Bob Arnett. He might respect your wishes, but only if it's convenient for him to do so. The "Proskin" business was told him to him in strict confidence. He ought to remember -- it was the same phone call in which he told me about his "Andy Harris" front in Volker. (Yeah, that's right, folks. Bob Arnett, who claims I am no better than Tretick for inventing a fake name, does the same thing himself. Who ever heard of "Andy Harris" outside of Volker? Not that I really care, but it's a mite hypocritical of him to chastise me about "Jane Proskin"...) When it fit into his strategy to break a confidence he did do apparently without any reservation.

Arnett does not believe in trying to resolve disputes privately. His attack on me came without warning; moreover, he failed to respond to my private overtures afterward, preferring to keep up his attacks rather than try to discuss them.

There it is. Arnett is without a doubt the most disgusting publisher in the hobby when it comes to fighting clean. (Heck, even Bernie O. hasn't broken all the rules!) Naturally, the hobby at large will be very hesitant to speak out against him. It took years for people to line up against Tretick, and even now there is a sizable number of people who either support or ignore him. But I've always felt that even the heat of a feud should see certain minimal standards adhered to. Arnett does not feel that this applies to him. The rest of the hobby can go on admiring Volkerwanderung. I, however, have cancelled my subscription and removed his name from my sub list. Dealing with people with his lack of regard for fairness and decency just makes me want to puke.

Those are my feelings and values when it comes to feuding. I shall always do my best to abide by them regardless of what my opponents do, although I admit it's sometimes tempting to lower myself to the level of some other people. I won't do it; probably because I have faith that in the end, the good guys usually win.

((Someone here said "Count on Linsey to come up with six rules for feuding!" Seriously, I agree with all of these, to a greater or lesser degree. As to rule #2, for instance, it turns out that even Brux's list of exceptions is the same as mine, although I add Boardman (by his request) to Gibson and Tretick as those who get no courtesy copies, and even there, Gibson did get a courtesy copy of a letter sent in once supporting the old fellow.

The first few 'rules' are the strongest, and the ones most often observed. The later rules, such as the #4 cheap-shot rule, are often disregarded. This is usually because the feuders will see the same thing as a 'fact' to one, and a 'cheap shot' to the other. As to #6, feuders are generally more interested in satisfying an emotional call than in dealing with a specific matter. Such emotional matters, which are judgemental rather than absolute, are usually handled via published statements for obvious reasons.

Anyhow, to those of you wanting to keep your own position as right-ou-lookin' as possible in hobby eyes, do keep these notes in mind. This is the way you're 'expected' to go.)) *AM*.

Now, another MARK BEPCH letter...

I imagine you were pretty pleased with Reagan's big Economic speech on Feb 3. It was a masterful presentation, much better than anything I have seen any of the last 3 Presidents do. But content wise it was back to the American tradition of jive-the-public. Take for example, his figure of regulation adding \$666 to the price of a car. This is true only at the most deceptive level. Most of the U.S. Gov't regulation burden is the fuel milage standard. But it is clear that as of 1981, these milage standards would be required for competitive reasons anyhow, and the U.S. gov't has only forced the companies to get started earlier on something the price of gas would force them to do anyhow. Look at the ads --- they tout their gas figures because they know people are interested. Of the remainder nearly all is either safety (like collasable steering wheel that won't impale you), emissions control (so we can breath the air), or the bumper question. It is only on the last one that the anti-regulators have a point. Basically, the car makers want the bumper to only have to survive a 2 mph crash. The insurance companies want a 5 mph bumper. They also claim that the 5 mph bumper is cost-effective, in terms of reducing repair bills. But I do not think the gov't should get into that type of dispute. Reagan's \$666 includes mostly things that the car companies would have to do anyhow.

Other parts of his speech were similarly deceptive. His big show about the 1960 dollar being now worth 37%. Somehow, he forgot to mention that wages went up in 1960-1980 much faster than the dollar went down. And he repeats the old lie that its just gov't deficits that cause our inflation. He forgets to mention that Japan has run up much bigger (adjusted) debts, yet their inflation rate is far smaller than ours. But worst of all, he sez that all these cuts are needed, but denies that there will be real pain. The cuts he says will stimulate the economy so fast that things will get better. Bull. These cuts are really going to hurt. He's going to lop off a chunk of our subway. Stations that were never designed to be terminuses will suddenly become the end of the line. Without the further reaches into the suburbs, the core parts of the subway won't get the traffic they were designed for, and the subway won't get the political support that it needs because it doesn't go far enough. It would be one thing if Reagan had said, "Look, were in such a mess that I've got to make cuts that frankly are going to decrease the standard of living of the average american to get a balanced budget (or whatever)" But no. I put him in the same category as LRJ. He wanted to fight a war, but didn't have the political guts to ask for a special tax package to pay for it. So he borrowed instead. He said we can fight this war without a special war tax. RR sounded like he was giving it to us straight, but its the same old jive.

Reply to Berch

((It's a shame that you find his line of thought a "jive". I find that what is important is the direction he wants to go in, and I agree with that. I only caught part of that first speech, and skipped last night's State of the Union speech altogether. I know he's trying to make non-defense cuts, which is good, even though I am leery as to the ability to get them through. He is right to try, though, which is all I'm interested in. I would cut a lot more than he even proposes.)) J.M.

DAVE CARTER

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I got some more neat stuff from work and from the newspapers. To show you what kind of an oddball I am, I voted for the Rhinoceros party in the Federal election and for the Canadian False Nose Society in the Municipal election (well, I would have voted CFNS if I had bothered to vote). Some of these fringe groups have a point in their platforms. Who is to say that free beer to the unemployed (CFNS promise) is more silly than giving \$50 million dollars to Zimbabwe(?) or pegged incomes for ((Members of Parliament))?

PS How can you tell the anglo-saxons at an orgy? They are the ones washing the grapes in the sink.

((I don't get it.

On the other stuff, thanks for sending it. Only a small part will see print here in BB, but much of the rest gets forwarded to other people unless Claudine takes it to work to leave on the boss's desk, or whatever.

The free beer proposal certainly does make more sense than sending money overseas to help prop up incompetent regimes elsewhere. You'd probably want to see that Canadian beer was bought though. The MPs probably don't deserve what they already get. Pegging it to 150% of the inflation rate, with the sign changed, would be better. I see that not only has the nationalization or socialization of the energy business there crippled investment, but that 10% of the rigs operating in Canada have already moved south, and we're about to stop accepting your heavy crude oil altogether. (\$17 at wellhead is OK, but with \$25 federal taxes added, it is cheaper to pay the US Windfall tax). Of course we lose the 55,000 bbls a day we import from Canada—but then, there are no facilities in Canada to refine the heavy crude, so your heavy wells get shut in. And now the tarsands project expansion has been shelved. Does Parliament think they can make it up by trying to raise the price of gas to us AGAIN? Even the Carter administration fought the \$4.47 price.

Too bad the US lacks a credible alternative party. With Reagan a certainty here, I was hoping to find some way-out, fascist party or something to throw away a vote on, kind of like old George Wallace used to be, but, no such luck. Had to settle for a Libertarian (pro-liquor in controlled Okla). Keep sending that poop!)) J.M.

KONRAD BAUMEISTER

Georgetown U, Washington, DC

(excerpts)

- ✓ BUD is indeed not brewed in Milwaukee. Sorry bout that--oversight is all.
- ✓ COORS is not a beer of national repute. Good stuff, though their stock sucks these days. (Adolph Coors is as conservative as they get, too). Not a big enough outfit, however—and neither, for that matter, is Detroit's Stroh's Beer.

((Coors sounds big out here: their advertising is pretty heavy, right up there with Budweiser. More on beer from Wilson, below)) J.M.

BRAD WILSON (Born To Dip)

302 Friendship Drive, Paoli, PA

(excerpts)

Great beer review. Although I am not of legal age in PA, I know almost every beer KB discusses. He's right—local beers surpass the mass produced kind. Just for the record, here are my 10 favorites:

1. Molson Golden Ale (Canada; should be able to get it anywhere in the East and Midwest)
2. Heineken (Regular) (Holland; available just about anywhere)
3. Genessee Cream Ale (NY) (available in NE England and Northeast)
4. Olde English 800 malt liquor (US) (available anywhere) ((??))
5. Michelob (A-B, St Louis) (available everywhere)
6. Yvenjling ((almost illegible)) (Pottsville, PA; available around SE PA only)
7. McSorley's Ale (Phila PA; SE PA only)
8. Miller (natural)
9. Labatt's (Canadian; available in East)
10. Tuborg (US, I think) available everywhere ((Danish, according to the commercials))

Wilson, continued

((Re BB 82)) THIRD class and it got here TODAY? (the 3d?) I m lucky. Martin sent me something 3d class once and it took 18 days! (from Baltimore yet). Thanks for the plug of sorts in 80D press. That's exactly what I need to get started. I agree with Caruso on fakes. Cute IF they don t hurt or cause troubles.

I know enough about economics to fill 5 pages of BB. If the Sleaze insists, I will describe the effects of a Reagan tax cut. Oh, well. Some people are SO ignorant.

Hey John, can I guess what happens to social handouts? They get WIPED! I like that. Seriously, people don't see that if we chop spending, we can chop taxes.

Why do you think I take the militantly rightist positions I take? I get a kick out of leftist attacks on me. I like throwing it in their face because 1. far too many years rightists have meekly opposed liberals, so let's take the offensive; and 2. it gets them PISSED! (Ever hear a liberal squeak?) It's just my style. Some love it, some loathe it, but it's the way I operate. I can be tactful and discreet. OK? Believe me? I doubt it, but it's true.

Well, I won't argue anymore over college bums except to concede great truth in most of your comments, but you made the concession I wanted: "I'm sure there are normal people in there". Just so you realize we're not ALL bums.

Would you believe you only misspelled one music singer and/or group! Warren Zevon, and you must be able to decipher my scribbling well. ((Don't count on it!))

I do worry. Is BB 82 saying you don't want me to write? If it does, fine, but I enjoy letting off steam in BB. Besides, I d like to think my letters help stimulate discussion and interest. But if you'd rather not be bothered with my ravings, just tell me and I'll send them elsewhere, like Dick Martin, John Caruso, or Marion Bates, OK?

((No problem, other than typing it all. I guess I see something of myself in a lot of it, before I learned to temper things a little to achieve greater effect. Much of your writing reminds me of early John Kelley, a pubber a year or so back who started out all enthusiasm, but folded and died with personal problems with issue 11 of his BEHOLDER. But as long as you're having fun, keep chugging it out, spread it around, and soak it up.

My mailings move faster because of the envelope. "Letter mail" moves by first class means, no matter what the rate: it's easiest for the USPS that way, which is why somebody's 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ mailing from across the country gets to you the same time as a letter from Pittsburgh. If I mailed it flat, or as a tube, the way Martin's issues come out, it moves by truck instead of plane, and 18 days would be about right.

But let me cut this short so I can get in a letter from:

KEITH SHERWOOD (Ticket to Ride)

Los Alamos, NM

Oops! Just got BB #82 with Wilson's love letter in it. Why argue with you, John, when Brad's around, who's my own age? I'm dumping you for Brad. I just want to refute some of his more obvious stupid attacks.

RE Lennon: You don't know shit if you think John L was "drug riddled." Not for at least 5 years. I'm sure God I mean Bruce Springsteen has virgin finger tips and veins. Obviously Lennon was popular: it wasn't mere publicity that attracted 100,000 people to Central Park for the vigil. Your last comment on Springsteen shows that you would sound just like me if under the right circumstances. And I could blast your mourning over him, just like you're doing (except, of course, I would be right).

RE Records: Hey Jerk! I wasn't necessarily calling John M a redneck (are you John?); remember, it was Pilant that wrote the gun review to which I was referring. Can't you read? I didn't claim to review ALL OF ROCK, just a slice of my collection. So what if our tastes differ? That's no reason for you to go into epileptic fits. Billy Joel? Karla Banoff? ELO? If you include them you might as well include the Partridge family in the history of R&R. So why don't you just crawl back into your crib before you hurt yourself, Brad?

((That's what I like to see: lots of contentious debate...))

J.M.

(18)

LETTERS

Micheal Mills, 1585 Quaker Rd, Macedon, NY, 14502. EM. FEB. 03 1981

BB-82's frightening cover sure was a shock, but I got over it, just like I'll get over Brad Wilson. I don't see why he had to take my comments on TV preachers so personally? Unless, he's got a piece of the action. Anyway, I'll let Brad pass with his derogatory comments since he's not a person I'd like to hear from in the near or far future. I'd just like to say that justifying TV evangelicals because they provide church-related material to shut-ins is like justifying Three Mile Island or Love Canal because they employ many people to clean them up.

Has Brad read that the high respected Rev. Billy Graham has said that these TV preachers have strayed from the true purpose of any ministry by being overly concerned with their perpetual membership drives. I guess not. Stay in PA, Brad.

I think Brad's a case of "It's true because I hear it all the time" thinking. After every conservative victory at the polls, the media says the mood of the country is conservative. It's like the guy who has quit smoking many, many times.

In Canada there was a great conservative ballyhoo when Clark got the PM slot. He didn't last long. And the UK's PM would be out on her duff if the Labour party could get its act together.

Though I didn't say 'conservative' once in that review it's typical that a true blue would feel paranoid.

And...I'd just like to mention that I'm not a liberal either a lower case or upper case liberal. I'm not a conservative either. Those two designations are restrictive and foster such thinking as is prevalent in bureaucracies and the militaries, where 'things' must be done 'this way'.

Well, enough of Wilson and the political nonsense.

What does Konrad Baumeister mean by 'joke beers'. Australia's FOSTERS isn't too bad, at all. Though for my all time favorite imported beer I'd have to go with CARLSBURG'S ELEPHANT BEER. What is now available in the US is a pretty good facilmile to what I found in Denmark. It's not a mild beer. To beer drinkers who get buzzed on a 6-pack, they'll be surprised to start feeling good on 2. If you can find it, buy it, or get someone else to buy it for you--it's cheaper.

I first had the EB on a ferry in Denmark and bought 3 sixes on the boat. On some train I started to get ripped and the delightful memories of the EB still come back with each glass. (Well, may as well explain....) Seems while I fell into temporary unconsciousness, the empty compartment I was in filled up. There was a UK Sgt and Pvt on leave and this Swede travelling to Italy for the sun. The Army boys had scotch, vodka, mixers and munchies. The Swede had a pipe and controlled substances. I had 2 sixes of EB left. It was a little party I'll never forget especially the ferry ride over the North Sea back to England at the end. It wasn't a good place to have a hangover and have to sleep on a deck chair. EB, you are great!

How ironic that Wilson lives on 'Friendship Dr'. I don't know him from Adam and he's ready to maximize his God-given right to bear firearms on me!

(Aside: Does anyone really believe that 'God' gives a shit about what happens to the USA? Or USSR?)

Well, looking forward to the new EB.

NAV & ARDA

The North American Variant Bank serves the continent of North America for the purpose of providing copies of Diplomacy variants to designers, publishers, gamesters, and players. Our official publication is ARDA, published by the custodian of NAVB-West and the NAVB archives, Rod Walker. In addition to the catalogue of NAVB holdings and updates to it, ARDA publishes articles on Diplomacy variants and prints or reprints complete games. Cost and issue varies according to size. A subscription to ARDA is 50¢ per year plus envelope plus postage. Games available from us may be ordered at a cost of 10¢ per unboxed sheet plus handling charges (50¢ for orders of 20 sheets and under; \$1 for orders of over 20 sheets). All orders placed through NAVB-West or NAVB-East must be paid for in U.S. funds; orders are payable to the appropriate Custodian. (Orders should normally be placed through NAVB-East. Canadian orders should be placed through the Eastern affiliate. Orders for games designed by Fred C. Davis should be placed with NAVB-East.) Inquiries regarding Diplomacy variants will be answered on a time-available basis, within 60 days; please enclose a self-addressed envelope with any inquiry.

THE NORTH AMERICAN VARIANT BANKS:

NAVB-West. Custodian: Rod Walker, "Alcoba", 1273 Crest Dr., Springfield, IL 62024.

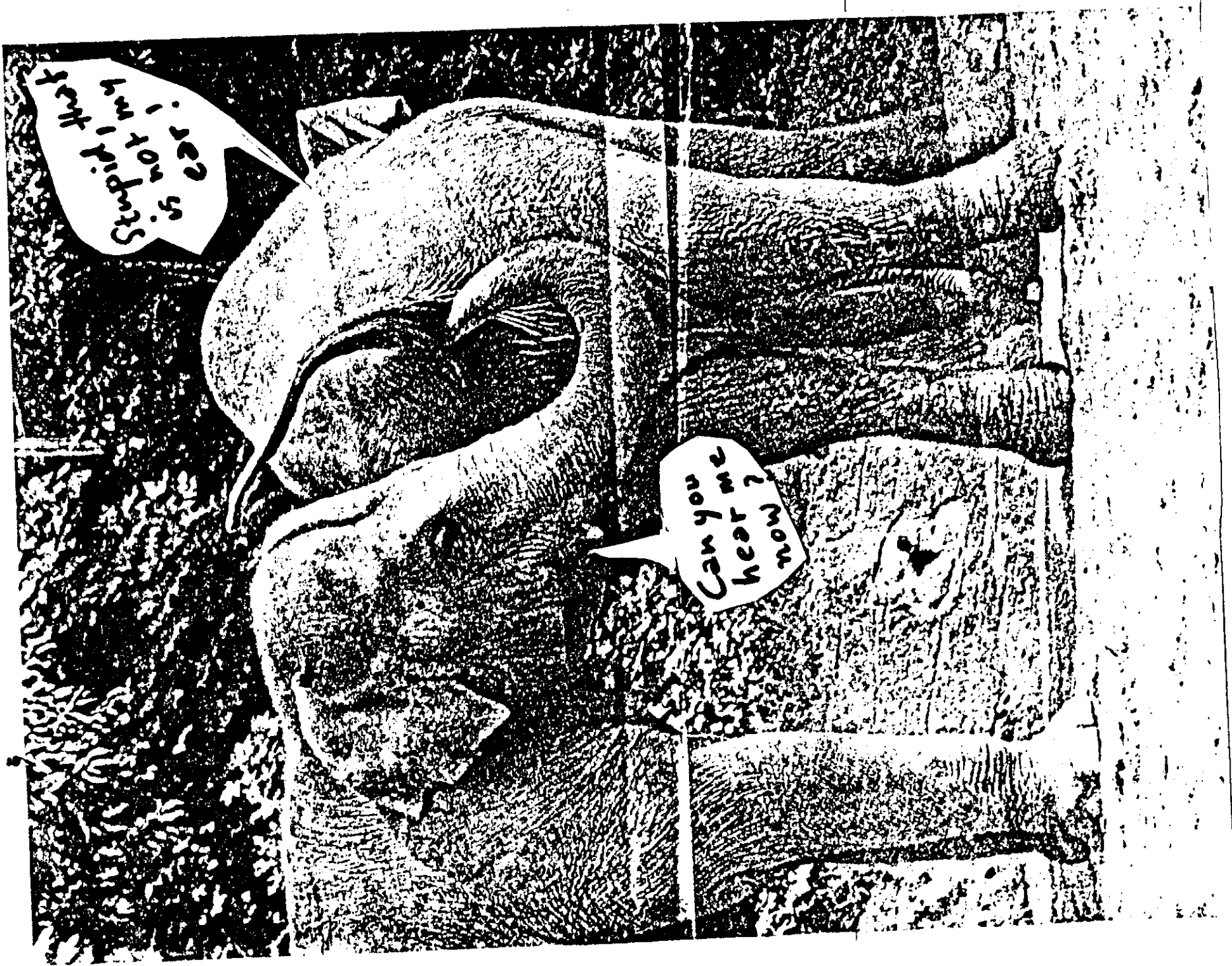
NAVB-East. Custodian: Fred C. Davis, Jr., 1427 Clairidge Rd., Baltimore MD 21207.

NAVB-North. Custodian: [none at the moment]

ISSUES OF ARDA [& contents] AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME:

- #2 (2 Jan 80), \$1.10. Complete NAVB Catalogue.
- #3 (12 May 80), 50¢. NAVB Catalogue update. Articles on the Mercator Games and the Cline 9-Man Games.
- #4 (12 Jun 80), 90¢. Article on Miller Number Recategorization with list of NAVB equivalents through designator co. Rules & map for Napoleonic Diplomacy II (Gary Gygax, 1969).
- #5 (17 Dec 80), 35¢. NAVB Catalogue update. Rules & map for Barbaric (Russell Tulp, 1969).

ARTICLES ON VARIANTS, & NEW VARIANT MAPS/RULES, ARE NEEDED FOR ARDA.



A Dave Carter contribution, as
I recall....

Memo

IN REGARDS TO YOUR
RECENT MEMO:

