

rejoice, rejoice! Reagan survived, Spring is here, it is Homecoming Week at your local theater starting April 10 as our old friends return, and now you have Issue 86 of

mid April, 1981

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in your hands!

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"Et three, Brooty"?

The BRUTUS BULLETIN is a newsletter of postal DIPLOMACY[™] brought to you every few weeks by John Michalski, Rt 10, Box 516-Q, Moore, OK 73165. Subscriptions are available at the rate of 11/\$6, 10/\$5 for resubs, effective a week or three ago. There are GAME OPENINGS with guest Gamemasters Scott Hanson (IRKSOME, 2 week deadlines), and Dave Marshall (DOWN 'N' DIRTY, 3 week deadlines). See their subzines inside for address information. A sub to BB is optional, so at \$3.50 or \$4, these are some of the cheapest openings you'll find. Make use of them!

TITLE for this issue comes courtesy of Mark Lew (as I recall) who says it really is Sanskrit, phonetically saying BRUTUS BULLETIN. The trouble with these exotic languages is that it might also say CHANDARISSA SOUP or SINGH'S ELEPHANT WASH for all we'd know, if indeed Mark didn't just make it up out of the air. Next issue should be titled in Mandarin Chinese courtesy of Mike Connor who works in the linguistics/translations field. After that, it's up to further contributions, or back to English it goes.

ENCLOSED with this issue will be a copy of a quaint little item that the local party sent to me recently. I wish they were all that cute. Moral Majority sent some anti-abortion stuff that was so gross that even they enclosed it in an internal envelope. I tore it up and mailed it back in the reply envelope along with a bunch of other heavy trash mail. Let 'em eat it after they shell out 75¢ in postage to get it back.

HAIL AND FAREWELL to Tony Watson's RURITANIA which came with a sub refund check just recently. Tony closes down after 6 years and 75 issues. R was always a good SF reading zine until the last year or 2 when work and grad school took its toll. Tony ran it with a different philosophy toward GMing than I, but when he had time to do features, they were pretty decent. "Another one bites the dust."

SPEAKING of deaths, late March brought with it the final issue, #125, of Don Horton's famous CLAW & FANG. C&F was a real pillar of the hobby, regular as clockwork each month, and ran for an astounding eight and a half years! They don't make 'em like they used to'. C&F was one of the first zines I really enjoyed when I entered the hobby: lots of material for reading, humor, and the like. I never did very well in his games, since I managed to hit every rotten GGM he ever picked up outside of "Bernie Oaklyn" and Company, but until about its last year, I always enjoyed getting the issue about the 20th of every month. It will be a poorer hobby with the likes of Don Horton's CLAW & FANG gone now.

One goodie coming along as part of the New Wave was PEEK #2. Another brilliant display of the exciting Jane Proskin's, uh, "work". This is the only zine that, despite many claiming it is a fake, you can actually write for and order. Since Jane is modest, address your stamps and request to OCCUPANT, P O Box 6824, Burbank, CA 91510. Tell her BB sent you.*

BB#69, the Brux Linsey fake of this zine, is still available here for a while. I have 2 copies that are xeroxes of the fake, available for postage (35¢). Any not taken by next issue will be chucked. (Or stuffed into the bottom of the next package of assorted dipzines sold).

STEVE McLENDON put out an impressive anniversary issue last month. Nice long articles on everything from How-to-play to what the female astronauts are like. (Steve works for NASA). Sample his new DRAGON & THE LAMB if you haven't already: Box 57066, Webster, TX 77598.

BRUX, the bad dog of Blackjack Masters household, garnered the most votes in LONE STAR DIPLOMAT's hobby Mascot Poll. Too bad. I was hoping a serious candidate would win, like the Chameleon or even the Great White Shark, but I guess the voting went on the basis of how

many votes could be pulled in by the different publisher's zines or personality than on the intrinsic merits of some of the nominees—at least those nominees that had any intrinsic merit at all (a minority). No sooner is that over with than in jumps Masters in BLACK FROG #38 to announce a poll for "a full fledged official hobby QUEEN"! And he's serious. He wants nominees to be mentioned in "any N.American zine before May 15". No sooner is this sent than Dave Pilant comes along and nominates Jack Frost for the title. John, take note! Nominees can be anyone, living or dead, in the hobby or out: Queen Victoria, Kathy Byrne, Bo Derek, Jane Proskin, Peggy Gemignani, Candy Loving, Marion Bates, Olive Oyl—it's wide open. Send nominations to a zine, even maybe Blackjack's own BLACK FROG, 25711 N Vista Fairways Drive, Valencia, CA 91355. He's back at work now, so the number of fakes in the hobby has finally slackened off. Instead, PEEK has come along!

*****NEW RATES!*****For those of you who never read your label or the introductory paragraph, be informed that the rates for your BB have jumped way up. While most dipzines face the same letter rate increase of 3¢ that you and I do, the third class rates that have brought you 2 oz BBs have been abolished for all practical purposes. Third class rates up to 5 oz or so are the same as first class, so unless you're mailing to Europe, there is no reason to use third class anymore. The trouble is that it means my mailing costs per piece are now 35¢, up a full 15¢ from what it had been. Since most of you are under the old resub rates of 33¢ an issue, you can see that I cannot afford to mail you those issues with 35¢ on the envelope. So, effective instantly, all subs have been adjusted along roughly the formula of 2 left for each 3 you originally had coming. People who are under the former New Subscriber rate lost only 1 or 2 issues off the entire 12 they were due, since they were paying 43¢ at that time. If your sub was to expire with #87 or sooner, you suffer no reduction. The number on the mailing label that brought you this issue is the revised issue number that marks the LAST ISSUE you will receive. The new entry-sub rate is 1 1/2/\$6, or about 55¢ an issue (still a tad below what a lot of the new, small zines are charging), and the resub rate will be a flat 2/\$1. Anyone dissatisfied can write a card in and get a refund of your old cash credit due.

Another casualty will be TRADES. I can no longer afford to mail you 2 of mine per month on the average, for one of yours. It is far cheaper for me to subscribe outright, and I will do so in most cases. ALL TRADES ARE CUT effective with this issue! I would appreciate your April issue as my last, since you have this. I will attach a check for most of my trades, as they are worth getting as zines. I just can't afford 70¢ a month plus 2 free BBs for them anymore.

A final casualty will be courtesy. It used to be that I never thought anything of sending a sample at 20¢ for a 15¢ stamp, or even a postcard request with nothing. Now, though, any inquiry asking for freebies will get a postcard of acknowledgement with a note that its 2 stamps for a sample. If they resent it, they can resent away. I'm not going to shell out over a buck to answer each 3 cards asking, 'hey, whatcha puttin out?' If my rolls drop by a dozen, I'd be relieved, let alone worry about newcomers who expect a typical 40 pages of material delivered to their door for a postcard.

THIS ISSUE is a game-heavy one, but some of that DOWN'N'DIRTY press and such is worth looking into. I have a lot of letters and not much space, so about 6 will be carried over. If I can get things printed quickly, #87 will follow this one in pretty short order. It is about 40% spoken for at this writing, and I have a huge pile of recent impressive zines to do a ZINES RECEIVED column on. Maybe I can catch up on my typing a bit, now that I finally got our damn tax returns finished up. (\$300 to pay) I wonder what "Bernie Oaklyn" Tretick's tax return looks like?

If you're like me, you're more than a little pissed at having to shell out almost \$2 in postage to pay less than a dozen bills each month. Don't forget that while the Post Awful will not deliver mail without postage, it WILL deliver mail with insufficient postage. Pay your bills with 2¢ers like me

April 1, 1981

1978 Tid
5 Player Madman Game

IT'S OVER!

Fall, 1910 note: France is 2 short due to the annihilation, rather than 1.
Winter, 1910: England removes F Nth, A Den OTB; Turkey builds A ANK
SPRING, 1911:

ENGLAND (Reese): A PAR S F Pic-Bre; F Pic-BRE; A GAS H; F SPAsc-Mar;
A BER, RUH, & BUR S A Kie-Mun; A KIE-Mun; F NAF &
F MID S F Wes; F WES S French F Tus-Lyo/NSO; F Bal-
GOB; F Pru-BAL; F STPsc H

FRANCE (Columbo): A Bre-Gas/ann.; A MAR S A Bre-Gas; F Tus-ROM; F TUN
S (Turkish) F Tyn-Wes/NSO

TURKEY (Guajardo): A Ank-ARM; A BOH, SIL, & TYO S A Mun; A MUN H; A Lvn-
PRU; A WAR S A Lvn-Pru; A Tri-VIE; A Ukr-MOS; F Apu-
NAP; F Adr-APU; F ION S French F Tun; F GLYO-Wes;
F TYN S F GLyo-Wes

Press:

Marseilles-London and Constantinople: Can you guys stop fooling around
and get down to some serious annihilating!

London-Con: I did not offer you second place, I just offered you a chance
to race for victory. But I certainly never said you would have to
take second. You put it out as an inducement. But -if you keep
records you will note I never made, NOR agreed to those conditions.

Well, that's it. Because of some conditional voting, the spring season
was played out. All participants will get a copy of this, and are
allowed to submit any endgame statements for publication/distribution
to all players, past and present. Congratulations to Steve Columbo, the
sole surviving S01 player, and sole Canadian to make the whole route.
Congratulations to Pete and Arturo for taking up standby spots and
turning them into major contenders for a win.

A copy of this will be submitted to the MNC who is presumably Gregg
Costikyan. Charts follow:

1978 Tid

Austria	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	0	-	-	
England	4	6	7	8	9	10	13	14	16	14	Drew S11
France	4	6	8	10	10	10	9	7	5	6	Drew S11
Germany	3	2	1	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Italy	4	3	2	1	0	-	-	-	-	-	
Russia	6	7	7	6	5	3	0	-	-	-	
Turkey	4	6	7	7	8	10	10	13	13	14	

Austria: Steve Cartier, out F08

England: Fred Weidemeyer, res F01; Peter Reese, DREW, S11

France: Steve Columbo, DREW, S11

Germany: madman, out F04

Italy: madman, out F05

Russia: Trevor Baillie, dro S06, CD; out F07

Turkey: Hugh Polley, dro S05; Arturo Guajardo, DREW S11

GM: John Leeder to F03; John Michalski

Zine: RUNESTONE to F03; BRUTUS BULLETIN

Issue #37
1979N

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

Bob Osuch
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February 25, 19

PEACE CLOSE AT HAND

Winter 1910: Austria builds A Vienna, A Trieste; Germany builds ICBM Ruhr,
Spring 1911: (imp)

AUSTRIA (Fuchs): A VIE-Boh; A Tri-TYO; A Nap-ROM; A MAR H; A Tyo-PIE;
A BOH-Mun; A SIL S A Boh-Mun; A UKR S TURKISH A War

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

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

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

The draw failed, and is again repropesed. NVR=yes. This issue will be two days late, maybe more, due to the fact that I am going out of town for the month of March, and may or may not have access to a xerox. At any rate, the game will have to be delayed until April, so you should have plenty of time to do whatever it is that you have to do.

Deadline for Fall 1911 will be Wednesday, April 15 1981.

Issue #38
1980CX

NEW MONARCH
RULES AUSTRIA

April 1, 1981

Autumn 1907: Austrian A Greece retreats to Albania, A Rumania retreats to Budapest

Winter 1907: England builds F London; Italy builds A Venice, F Naples;
Turkey builds A Constantinople

Spring 1908:

AUSTRIA (Perlmutter): A Ser-GRE; A ALB S A Ser-Gre; F TUN S ITALIAN
F Ion; A Gal-Rum/d/r to Boh, Ukr, Vie, Otb; A BUD S A Gal-Rum

ENGLAND (Kirchner): F Nth-HEL; F Lon-NTH; A Nwy-STP; F BAR S A Nwy-StP;
F SWE H

GERMANY (Grabar): A Par-PIC; A BUR S ITALIAN F Eng-Bel; A Kie-HOL;
F BAL-Swe; A Tyo-MUN; A SIL S AUSTRIAN A Gal-War(NSO)

ITALY (Henry): F NAP S F Ion; F ION S AUSTRIAN A Ser-Gre; F Eng-BEL;
F Bre-ENG; A Mar-GAS; A Por-SPA; A Ven-TYO

RUSSIA (Goodrich): A Rum-GAL; A WAR S A Rum-Gal; A StP-LVN; A SEV-Rum;
F BLA S A Sev-Rum

TURKEY (Petrie): F EAS-Ion; F AEG S F Eas-Ion; A Bul-SER; A Con-BUL;
A Gre S A Bul-Ser/d/destroyed

Hello. I'm back from Ohio. Sorry I couldn't get this out sooner, but the deadline turned out to be the day after I left, so it wasn't possible. Dave Perlmutter has resigned the Austrian position with this season, so from now on the Austrian player will be KERRY BLANT, PO BOX 50111, LIGHTHOUSE POINT, FL, 33064. Take note that this address is different from the one given last time.

Austria's retreat and Fall 1908 will be due with my mail received Wednesday, April 15, 1981.

PRESS

BER: Luckily the English knife just grazed the skin. The German knife is incapacitated for just a short while until he regains his strength.

IRKSOME!

NO. 9

MARCH 14, 1981

AUSTRIA OVERCOME BY NMR. TURKEY OVERCOME IN GREECE. GM OVERCOME BY FINAL EXAMS.

Two mistakes last time folks. First, the English move A LON-Nwy did not succeed. Also, Austria would have gotten Budapest only if he had retreated A Tri R Bud. Since he NMR'd, Bud remains an Italian center, so Italy builds 2 and Austria removes 2.

IRKSOME #1 (80LM)

RUSSIA: F Swe R BOT AUSTRIA: NMR A Tri R OTB

WINTER 1902

AUSTRIA(Pilant?)	NMR! GM removes A Gal	ITALY(Palter)	builds F NAP; A VEN
ENGLAND(Vaughan)	builds F LVP; F EDI	RUSSIA(Gareipy)	removes A Ukr
FRANCE(Sherwood)	builds F BRE	TURKEY(Wilson)	builds F CON; F SMY
GERMANY(Stephens)	no adjustments		

SPRING 1903

AUSTRIA	NMR! <u>A Ser H</u> (d, annihilated).	
ENGLAND	F Lvp-WAL; A LON S F Lvp-Wal; <u>F EDI-Lvp</u> ; F Nth-NWY; A STP H; F SWE H.	
FRANCE	F Bre-ENG; F Eng-IRI; F Iri-NAT; A Spa-MAR; A Par-PIC; <u>A BEL-epits at-Nth</u> (imp).	
GERMANY	A Sil-PRU; A Ruh-KIE; <u>A HOL-El</u> ; F Kie-BAL; F Den-SKA.	
ITALY	F Ion-GRE; A ALB S F Ion-Gre; A Tri-BUD; A VIE S A Tri-Bud; F Nap-ION; F ABR S F Nap-Ion; A Ven-TRI.	
RUSSIA	<u>F BOT-Swe</u> ; A War-MOS; A Rum-SER; F BLA H.	
TURKEY	<u>F Gre-Ion</u> (d, annihilated); F Smy-EAS; A Arm-SMY; F Con-AEG; A BUL S RUS A Rum-Ser	

Underlined moves fail, CAPS denote final resting place of a unit. Fall 1903 moves will be due at noon CST on April 4, 1981. Don't forget postage goes up on the 22nd. The Gophers managed to bite the big one and lost to both Michigan and lowly Wisconsin to finish tied for 5th in the Big 10. Then the NCAA blew it by only inviting 3 Big 10 teams, a slap in the face to the nations toughest conference in basketball. The Gophers are in the NIT and beat Drake in the first round, and now play Connecticut. The big sports event of the year, the State High School Hockey Tournament, is this weekend. The big surprise was that no team from outside the Twin Cities survived the first round. Also, top ranked Edina West got beat by a goal with 5 seconds left, but not before a West goal with 1 second left was disallowed because of offsidess. But since Stephens is the only one who cares about hockey, I better start...

THE PRESS

(new policy-the dateline "Marie" is off limits to grey press)

BER-STP: I can't heeaaaaarrrrr you!

PARIS-LONDON: Oops.....

NORTH AFRICA-SILESIA: You dummy. Don't you know Springsteen isn't particular. He'll mess up anybody's old hits.

PAR-MUN: I hope you're on my side.

PILANT: Somebody owes me \$500.

TURKEY-GERMANY: Is that the two-headed dildo that he and Pilant are so fond of?

THE PRESS: BORN TO RUN (ON)...

MUN-EDI: I thought you told me France was heading into the Mediterranean. I think he needs a new sextant, or maybe just some sex.

MOORE MICHALSKI JOKES:

Q Why are there no nigger mountain climbers? A Their lips explode at 10,000 feet.

Q Why did God make niggers so athletic? A Because he messed up so much on their hair.

Q What do you call a nigger with half a brain? A Gifted.

Q What do you get when you cross a nigger with a Mexican? A A nigger too lazy to steal.

PARIS-LONDON: Once you've committed yourself, you might as well go for it all.

GM-PARIS: Why don't you just committ yourself. Those hospitals can work wonders.

BOBBY-MARIE: I'm sorry you weren't home last weekend. Maybe you will be there Saturday when I call my orders in.

MARIE-BOBBY: Saturday it is...how do you spell "heavy breathing?" I can't wait to hear your voice again; you don't know what it does to me.

SHAGGY DOG PART II (if you've all heard this one already, tell me now and I'll stop):

So little Scotty Hanson went to the principal. "Why did Marie the Teacher send you to my office, Scott?" asked the principal, Keith Sherwood. "Well, I was out on the playground when I heard a girl say a word I didn't know, so I went and asked Marie and she told me to go to you." "What was the word?" "Purple violets." "What!" screamed Keith, "go home now, you filthy-mouthed punk, you're expelled!" (cont.)

IRKSOME: Talk about type casting!

???-IRKSOME: I know about "purple violets." Heh, heh.

GERMANY-GM: Ok! Ok! It was always F Den, but what about the English A Nwy. Fess up now.

MARIE-BOBBY: Before you can have my heart I must know Bobby--am I the only one, or are there others?

BERLIN-GM: Congratulations to the Gophers' hockey team. I read about in "The Hockey News."

KEITH-MARIE: Good thinking, telling Scott you were "home for the weekend" and not telling him you were at MY home! When can you come down next? I can't wait for more... wanna Tro?

BOBBY-MARIE: Don't listen to that Sherwood character. He's so with it he can't even write his orders without messing up. Eh, Tro? What you need is a man with experience to show you the ways of love. Easter I'll be there.

MARIE-BOBBY: I'm looking forward to Easter. I'm sure it will be an EXPERIENCE for both of us.

As walways, Marie gets in the last word. Since I have some extra room, and BB is the zine of guest reviews, I'm going to review...

MY FINAL EXAMS...

MATH 1621 ACCERERATED CALCULUS II: Oh, God, how did I get talked into this class? Even if my Math SAT was 750. Test is 3/16, 1:30-4:30. I flunked both midterms, so I'm hoping for a C. 5 credits.

POL 1025 WORLD POLITICS: My favorite class, with a great lecturer and usually good readings. The prof got a standing ovation last day of class. Test is 3/20, 1:30-3:30. Depending on which TA grades my test, I should Ace this one. 4 credits.

PORT 1002 BEGINNING PORTUGUESE: World's toughest Western language. More exceptions than rules. Class of 12 makes it good, though. No final for this class. 5 credits.

The best thing about Winter Quarter finals is that Spring Break is not far behind. Unfortunately, I'm stuck here in Mpls the whole week. Oh, well....

Scott Hanson, 701 15th Ave. SE, Minneapolis, MN, 55414 Phone (612)623-0283 before midnight.

spewed forth by Dave Marshall, 1547 Maplegrove Road, South Euclid, OH 44121; telephone (216) 382-6623 at your own risk. Game openings are still available in both grey and black press games for \$3.50 inclusive. Let us hope the price does not reflect the quality....

DnD #1 (or 1980LP -- mox nix)

FALL 1901: AUSTRIAN LEADER ABDICATES, PARIS FALLS WITHOUT RESISTANCE. IS THIS FOR REAL?

AUSTRIA(Eric Ozog): F ALB-gre, A vie-GAL, A BUD S Italian A tri-ser(nso) & RESIGNS!
Centers: vie,bud,~~xxx~~ (2) Remove 1.

ENGLAND(Dan Stafford): F ENG-bre, F NTH-C A yor-NWY. Centers: home,NWY (4) Build 1.

FRANCE(Andy McMahon): A pie-VEN, A PIC-bre, F mid-POR. Centers: bre,mar,~~xxx~~,POR,
VEN (4) Build 1.

GERMANY(Keith Sherwood): F hol-BEL, A kie-DEN, A bur-PAR. Centers: home,BEL,DEN,
PAR (6) Build 3.

ITALY(Dan Palter): A TRI-alb, F IOM C A apu-TUN. Centers: rom,nap,~~xxx~~,TUN,TRI
(4) Build 1.

RUSSIA(Bob Olsen): F bot-SWE, A lvn-MOS, F SEV S A ukr-RUM. Centers: home,SWE,
RUM (6) Build 2.

TURKEY(Mazzerman): A BUL-gre, F con-AEG, A smy-CON. Centers: home,BUL (4) Build 1.

Yes folks, Eric has resigned as Austria and is apparently moving on entirely to matters more pressing than postal Dip. I wish him all the best. As for a replacement, JM has kindly supplied a copy of the EE standby list. After culling out the Okies and giving the remaining names careful consideration, I am asking Dave Gariepy, 179 E. Maumee Ave., Napoleon, OH 43545, to take over the Austrian position. While this may seem like a lot of Ohioans (2 players and GM) to some of you, allow me to point out that Dan, Dave, and I are all about 130 miles apart and each in different telephone area codes. Satisfied? Okay - unless 2 or more players request a season separation, Winter 1901 and Spring 1902 are due here by 10 p.m. Wednesday March 11.

PRESS.....

ICELAND to WARNING WARNING WARNING: Could it be that John Michalski, a fair-minded man, does not believe in guilt by association? Could it be that he believes in fairness? Could it be that he has the intelligence to wonder just why four Le Fronters are playing in another zine?

GREENLAND: What other gags are there?

MOS-BER: I presume that Eric has answered your question of last season adequately. For your information, for this uncalled-for and traitorous atrocity, I am going to crush him like the proverbial insect. I'll scrape his sticky carcass off the windshields of the hard-charging Russian panzers! (Oh yes, thanks for the Lend-Lease.)

MOS-BER: No, no, I didn't tell him you were easily led; I told him you were easily red! Been reading the people's literature much? Don't let Michalski know.

RUSSIA-GM: Nobody but a fool would believe that feeble story about a broken typewriter. Cripes, this isn't another one of Masters' fakes, is it? ((Hardly -- not even Masters would stoop this low.))

((More Press, unfortunately))

PEOPLE OF EUROPE to ONE OF STAFFORD'S PROVINCES: Buzz off, Clyde.

UKRAINE: Death to Stafford!

TUSCANY to VIENNA: I'm supposed to ally with you???! You bungling nitwit, your Spring moves were the most incompetent melange of brainless fumbblings I've ever seen. You make me sick! You're even worse than you were last time we met; this time I take it all, moron.

RUHR: Is it too late to change my mind?

SILESIA: Sorry, that model has been discontinued.

GERMANY to FRANCE: It's later in the game. I wasn't as bad as I seemed, I'm worse!

SHERWOOD: Oh no! I just locked myself into an alliance with Stafford. I must be crazy! Arrrgggh!!!

GERMANY to GM: If I can have radio stations in Irksome, I can damn well have tanks here! ((Okay, as long as you don't try to mount windshields on yours like the Russians did.))

SHERWOOD to PALTER: You are offering to throw this game to me if I let you win in Irksome? Sounds okay to me.

ANSWERS TO DIRTY DAVE'S PERPLEXING PUZZLES: The waiter did it; and the paragraph is shaped like Mississippi. ((Actually it was s'posed to look like Del City, OK))

BERLIN to TANK COMMANDER KUHN: Change your orders. We want some class at our parties, so proceed on to Paris and loot it. You have your orders, move out!

RUHR REPORTER: Reports are still coming in, but as far as the story can be pieced together, this is what happened: At the recent Franco-German summit talks, Le President thought he would play Caesar. On Speech Day, with a crowd of 10,000 peasants trucked in to listen, Le President got carried away and put his knife to his throat and offered his life. The crowd cheered. However, Der Kaiser, standing next to him, shouted something in German and slit Le President's throat. The crowd cheered even louder. Rumors are that something similar happened at the Austro-Italian conferences.

CONSTANTINOPLE: The Sultan Mazzerman announced the birth of the Princess Amanda, born Jan. 31 to his favorite wife, Peggy, and tipping the scales at an even 5 lbs. The Sultan has announced that he is giving the new heiress Austria as a birthday present. ((Congratulations! And it's starting to look as if the new Austrian better be one hell of a diplomat...))

CON-BER: I think you've misjudged the situation in the East. I think the assigning of the three of us from '79KW (also known as the Russian Scumbags or simply the Three Stooges) has ensured the supremacy of the West in this game. Ozog's moves are dictated by the phase of the moon, Olsen holds the hobby record for fastest decline (his Austria went from 9 centers at the beginning of '04 to 4 at the end of '05) and my France will probably eclipse that record very shortly. Hell, I'm so dumb, I make Olsen look smart! I'm just a lamb among wolves, Keith.

GALICIA: A fiery horse with the speed of light, a cloud of dust, and a hearty "Hiyo Silver!" The Lone Olsen! Who, with his rubbery-faced comical sidekick, "Gabby" Mazzer, fights for law and order in the early East. Come with us now th those thrilling days of yesteryear. The Lone Olsen rides again!

DIRTY DAVE: This issue should be called "Quick 'n' Dirty": a mere 2-pager. But it's now 1:40 a.m. after bowling and my exclamation key is showing signs of fatigue(!!!!!). No answer given this time to the murder puzzle, since I've decided to run it as a prize-awarding contest. The other was a lipogram, if that helps (Keith?). Sith....

produced and sent out to all you loyal sons of Silver Spring by Dave Marshall, 1547 Maplegrove Road, South Euclid, OH 44121; telephone (216) 382-6623. A second grey press game is filling fast (honest) but may still be entered for the paltry sum of \$3.50 (NY residents add \$4.00 sales tax). Now on to....

DnD #1/1980LP

WINTER 1901: SEASONS SEPARATED BY MOB RULE

AUSTRIA(Dave Gariepy): Removes F Alb. Has A's Gal,Bud (2).

ENGLAND(Dan Stafford): Builds F Lvp. Has F's Eng,Nth,Lvp; A Nwy (4).

FRANCE(Andy McMahon): Builds A Bre. Has A's Bre,Ven,Pic; F Por (4).

GERMANY(Keith Sherwood): Builds A Kie,A Mun,F Ber. Has A's Kie,Mun,Den,Par; F's Bel,Ber (6).

ITALY(Dan Palter): Builds A Rom. Has A's Rom,Tri,Tun; F Ion (4).

RUSSIA(Bob Olsen): Builds F StP(nc),A War. Has F's StP(nc),Swe,Sev; A's War, Mos,Rum (6).

TURKEY(Mike Mazzer): Builds F Smy. Has F's Smy,Aeg; A's Bul,Con (4).

Four people apparently conspired to request the separation of seasons this time, so SPRING 1902 is due here by 10 p.m. on Wednesday, April 1. Thanks to Dave Gariepy for taking over the dubious Austrian position. Maybe the introduction of some new blood can bring some sanity to this stuff you bozos call...

PRESS

WARNING WARNING to ICELAND: John Michalski a "fairminded man"? "Does not believe in guilt by association"? "Believes in fairness"? "Has the intelligence"? Are we talking about the same John Michalski? I'm talking about the rightwinger who publishes BRUTUS BULLETIN -- which one are you talking about?

RUSSIA to FRANCE: Drat! My secret plan has been exp^osed. That Michalski (pronounced "Mih-HOLL-skee-tzo") is sure astute. Nobody else suspected a thing! Now I guess I've got no choice but to go after Switzerland...

CON to LONDON: No, Dan, I can't take credit/blame for running Ozog out of the hobby. I cannot tell a lie, it was Olsen and his maudlin press.

HEY BNC: What? Two players in the same state as the GM, and three people who are also in another game? I demand this game be declared "irregular." What--I'm doing well in it? Never mind. ((Those guys better hope they're not in the same state as the GM. My characteristic state these days is paunchy and balding.))

BER to CON: A lamb with steel jaws, long fangs and sharp claws....

SHERWOOD AGAIN: Oh no! Now there's three people here from IRKSOME. Now I've got a real choice as to who((m)) to cross-game with.

CON to LONDON: Hay, Staffordman, Olsen says you're sissy and he can lick you with one hand tied behind his back. He says he's building a fleet in StP(nc) and he'll be in Edinburgh so fast it will make your head spin. He says that now that Ozog is gone, you are the dumbest player in the hobby, and that your mother wears combat boots. What do you think of that?

CON to LONDON AGAIN: Oh yeah, Sherwood tells me the same thing!

((More Press))

ANKARA to LISBON: Your plea for relief for the refugee children orphaned by the evil Commander Kuhn has deeply moved me. The Sultan wishes to adopt a dozen Parisian refugee children, preferably female between the ages of 13 and 20. They will receive much tender loving care in the Sultan's own personal seraglio. ((Will Roman Polanski, Rue des Jeunes Filles 34, 6603 Paris, France please standby in case the Sultan misses?))

CON to BERLIN: Funny thing, Keith, Olsen was the one who led me to "Bernie Oaklyn." Hmmm..."Bernie Oaklyn", "Bob Olsen", B.O... You don't think... Nah! Couldn't be!

WARNING WARNING WARNING: John Michalski, why haven't you been keeping your guard up? Four players in this game (R,T,G,F) are all from west of the Mississippi. 4/7, that's over half! What happened to quality? Is this a sign of things to come? Will Jerry Brown soon be playing in your zine? ((Only if he brings Linda Ronstadt.))

GERMANY to GM: Oops, your plan backfired on you -- Eric left the game. Should we continue to pull a Brutus 13 on Gariepy? ((Sure-- that's what you guys paid me for, isn't it?))

SHERWOOD: With the departure of Eric Ozog from the hobby, I would like to nominate myself to take his place as the one who is kind and good. That is, if France doesn't object. I could be "Kind and Good II" or "Son of Kind and Good."

BERLIN to CONSTANTINOPLE: Congrats on the new heiress. As a gift I am sending along the head of the Austrian ambassador to Germany. As a special present for the new princess, I have pulled all his teeth and put them into a rattle.

((This next release is published as-received to save wear & tear on the GM))

THE SYNDICATE: "Okay, youse guys," growled the "Capo de Capo" of all the Diplomacy gangs, the notorious Bernard 'The Saint' Tretick. "Dis Mike Kalsky has gone too far dis time! Kalsky is gotta be hit!"

"Whaddaya wan us ta do ta him, Boss?" asked Rico 'The Boy' Ozog. "Break is legs?"

"Woise!" came the reply. "Kalsky is gotta be put inna place where he can't bodder me no more!"

"I gots it!" exclaimed Niklo 'The Calhanyx' Mazzer. "House about a sleazy suburb of Okie City?"

"Silly!" shouted 'The Saint' and lashed his lieutenant across the face with a blackjack (how'd he get in here?). "He's already dere! No, dis is gotta be a big hit!"

"Hey!" yelled Danilo 'No Nöckname' deStafford. "Lissen ta dis; we goes to da joint where he woiks, see, an' we comboy his Xerox machine. Blammie! Blammie! Machine gears all over the pantry. No more Brutal Bullshittin."

"Dat right woik," the Capo said. "But dis Kalsky is tricky. If we don't rub him out he'll show up again. He'll keep on blowin' the whistle on our organization. Ya knows he sometimes calls hisself by anodder name--Boich or sumpin like dat."

"Dat's shbokin'!" exclaimed Umberto 'Big Louie' Olsen. "Dat kinda shenanigans shouldn' oughta be allowed."

Suddenly there was a crash as a heavy foot smashed through the window of the gang's hideout. "Hold it right there!" shouted Keith 'J. Edgar' Sherwood as he covered the villains with his gun while other cops, Palter and McMahon by name, broke down the door and lined the criminals against a wall.

"Dirty flatfoot!" snarled 'The Saint' as the handcuffs went on. "If ya wants ta live in 1980-LP, let me go! I'll have my boys waste ya, fink!"

Sherwood set his square jaw and said, "I'm fighting for truth, justice and the America way! Your threats don't intimidate me. Take them away."

((Still More Press))

The Capo de Capo was later sentenced to a long term at hard labor attempting to decipher his tactical articles, one of his doppelgangers is still serving out the term. His henchmen are currently serving long sentences in an ultraconservative Diplomacy journal (pronounced "ziny"), all except for Rico, who escaped.

The intended victim, Mike Kalsky, lived a long and useful life until an unfortunate mishap, when he attempted to cowboy a broken Xerox machine with a Thompson submachine gun, tripped and broke both legs, and found himself living in a sleazy suburb of Okie City.

((And for our last item, a genuine retort from the Grand Wazoo himself:))

Michalski - Tretick's Toadies: I don't watch over Dave's shoulder; he can handle his own games. The fact that the four of you GGMs for Buddy-Bernie all signed up for the same game says something about you characters, not about me.

AND NOW SOME DIRTY WORDS FROM OUR SPONSOR

Response to the Clubroom Murder puzzle contest in DnD #2 has been positively underwhelming. While I didn't announce it here as a contest, it was so touted in my letter recently printed in BB. Keith Sherwood, who submitted the only correct (or otherwise) entry received to date, wins a free slot in DnD #2, the upcoming grey press game. (This prize is transferrable, Keith, in case you want to use it to seduce Jane Proskin or something. I'll hold the spot open for whomever you want in it, but let me know soon, okay?)

Incidentally, the correct puzzle solution was:

Seat A: Smith, doctor

Seat B: Robinson, schoolmaster

Seat C: Brown, general

Seat D: Jones, admiral

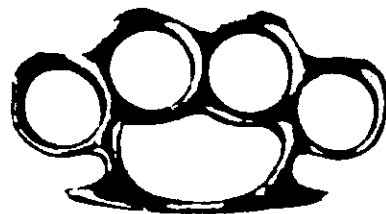
Brown is the murderer.

And that innocuous little paragraph was, as you were told last time, a "lipogram", defined as a text or passage in which one or more letters of the alphabet have been deliberately suppressed. This one omitted the letter E, which statistically (they tell me) should have appeared at least once in that many words.

Well, no prize for this next one, but maybe the puzzle on page 4 will be more yer speed.....

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(What we have here is Down 'n' Dirty's nominee for the 1981 Truth in Advertising Award. Other entries welcomed.)

Determine the Word or Message in Each Box.

1. <u>EZ</u> 	2. T O U C H	3. Moth cry cry cry	4. <u>Black</u> coat
5. Time Time	6. S A N D	7. Hurry ↑	8. Me Quit
9. LE VEL	10. <u>Knee</u> Light	11. <u>Man</u> Board	12. He's/Himself
13. Reading	14. AGES	15. R O A D A D	16. <u>O</u> M.A. B.A. PH.D.
17. <u>WEAR</u> LONG	18. DICE DICE	19. ECNALG	20. CYCLE CYCLE CYCLE
21. CHAIR	22. T O W N	23. ii ii O O	24. <u>Stand</u> I

From the typewriter of: Micheal Mills, 1585 Quaker Rd, Macedon, NY.

BR-85 just in and thankfully there's nothing outrageous to bitch about in it. Very tame... Those SSAM cartoons, however, are great replacements for the now departed Bureaucratic Blunders.

I bet 'Conservative Digest' dropped them because all their boys are now in places of power, and the editors wouldn't want the readers to know that the same old Washington waste continues undaunted.

Well...the postoffice now has their 18¢ first class rate, and before long they'll be introducing the 'C' stamp for 20¢. (what crap) I think that they believe that the public goes along with their formulation that higher rates mean better service, etc. (what crap) I don't think anyone believes that more cash for a stamp means anything else than paying increasing retirement benefits, and higher wages for over-paid, over-worked--over-time--employees.

I'm particularly pissed at those assholes this month. As of today, March 25, 11 subbers to EM have either written or called, saying that they never got EM-19. All those who told me are in games, and thus had a reason to worry when it didn't arrive. I can't imagine how many readers--not players--are still thinking, "Ummm, wonder what happened."

So, I takes me list and an a typed explanation to me locale postmaster, whose thrilling line, "We don't guarantee delivery of third class mail.", sent me up the wall. I said, "I guess it's ok then if you lose it." He said, "NO", but there isn't anything I can do about it.

Then...I decides to ask about the new third class rates. What a scam! The first ounce is 18¢--just like first class. OK. The second ounce is 17¢! It used to be 20¢ total for 2 ounces. Then the third and fourth ounce is an additional 17¢ extra each! SO, instead of 20¢ for 2 ounces third class, it's 35¢ and they don't even say that'll do the trick and get it into the addresses' box.

Solution: abandon third, and always go first. It costs the same. (I bet bulk rate Sear's catalogues still go for 7.4¢)

My third bitch is this 'B' stamp. OK you buy 'em. And say you put it on a letter going to Canada. Sorry, Charlie! These things are only good for 'domestic postage'. If it dosen't say so on the stamp, or if the USPS dosen't say so until it comes back--cancelled, of course--saying, 'postage required--not for international mail, too bad: they got their money.

Now, I know we've got many, many problems in this country. Ron's going senile sidestepping issues to tell about Hollywood's Golden Age. El Salvator didn't make it as keystone against the Reds, and the budget dosen't look good anymore. So, I have a very workable solution. We draft everyone in the USPS!

Immediately our Armed Forces are beefed-up, and these guys already have uniforms! You ask, "Who will work the mail system?" The illegal immigrants work cheap. We give them a green card, average wages and eventual citizenship, and we'll have the first class rate back down to 8¢ in two years. And we won't let those new draftees rot! Hell, no. They'll finally earn their keep in the jungles of Latin America!

Naturally, we can't arm these guys: They'd kill each other and probably pull an armed strike for more jeeps! They'll win be attrition. OK, so it'll be a ratio of something like 15:1 against us, but whose counting. Remember they still get paid in the Army. Anyhow, we could always reinforce them with the Internal Revenue Expeditionary Force, and from what I hear these guys are true mercenaries! What an Army. Davey Jones can be proud!

Well, now that I've vented this upon you I still feel cheated, but maybe a little better. Remember to tell the wiseass postalguy that YOU pay his fuckin' wages and you'll go to YOUR grave paying his retirement and health benefits!

What a mess it is...

Another thing I was thinking about recently is the idea of a Value Added Tax (VAT). Simply put it's a national tax on items other than necessities. Some guy was writing about it in The Atlantic a while back. Seems his idea is to make people pay for consumption--conspicuous consumption, especially. Everything from baseball bats, books, yachts and world cruises would have VAT added. The guy's complimentary idea is to abolish the income tax. He says, "why tax a individual's efforts to better his situation?" To me it sounds logical, but there's little chance for it to ever get mentioned in Washington. With the VAT the middle-class/lower-class gets a break since they'll not need to buy this year's Caddy or have an Olympic-sized pool put in at the La Guana Beach mansion. High ticket items would have hefty VATS. Baseball bats would only have pennies added.

It would seem that this would promote savings among the middle and lower classes since they no longer have a withholding tax, and judging from the volume of sales of non-necessities the VAT would most likely provide more income to U Sam than the IRS now stomps out of people. Thing is, the middle class loves masochism. That fellow Galbraith said, "Never have so many paid so much for so little for so long." And since they won't get up and say, "Time out! Time for a Change!", no politician will talk about it--not even the 'conservatives'.

I read somewhere that the middleclass is bearing the brunt of the load in this country and probably in Canada also. They pay for food stamps and unemployment insurance for the poor and for those gov't loan programs for the rich. The Army is concerned that the middleclass isn't joining the people who've joined...

I think somewhere someone forgot that the middleclass is the backbone of democracy, and since they were silent, they could be screwed. Back in the '30s they said, "The rich get rich, and the poor get poor/But in the meantime, in between time, ain't we got fun!" Well, hopefully people are a little better educated than those folk and know it ain't no fun getting screwed.

Thing is, will the middle class start looking out for themselves? Questionable. Sometimes they think they have too much to lose, and start off with the "You can't beat city hall" attitude. Shame, really. It's not a matter of losing anything, but keeping what you got.

In the mood I'm in I could go on for hours, but I do not want to hog up space, so I'll bid adieu.

I.R.S. Middleclass: Bend over.

((Surprisingly enough, I agree with most of what you said. Tax reform is an area in which I am something of a revolutionary, ever since I had a mandatory year of Tax and saw some of the unbelievable ins and outs. The VAT is something I've heard of, but don't really know that much about. I saw it in connection with outfits making parts, then exporting the parts to be assembled and tested, then reimporting the finished product without tariff because it was the same material they had sent out of the country. VAT was touted as a way of taxing the "value added" by assembly in Mexico or the Bahamas or wherever. More to the point would be something like repealing the Capital Gains exemption and treating all income the same, so that speculators and manipulators of the economic system don't get taxed at half the rate that the working producers do.

I don't understand why you attack the Conservatives when you can say it is a matter of keeping what you've got, unless "what you've got" is only a welfare handout. The reason Conservatives exist is to hang onto what little is left of the working parts of our more or less free society. Big Government and the Welfare State are the enemy. Conservatives do have a pro-business lean because that part of the society/system is what has worked, not government. (Also, if you don't have COPE, the businesses must do!).

The folks from Conservative Digest aren't in power. All the jobs went to moderates or system hacks. Real Conservatives were left out in the cold, just like when Bush was named as VP to run with Ronnie. NCPAC is preparing their 82 Hit List, and making no distinction between Republicans or Democrats; a mistake now, I believe. Maybe after our margin is increased we can afford to clean house, but not now. Not yet.

Don Nickles, our new Senator here, ran with this slogan: "Government big enough to give you everything you want, is big enough to take away everything you have.") J.M.

((Mike publishes EMHAIN MACHA, a zine voted very high in last year's Leader Poll. A recent special issue came out with nothing in it but some new variant rules. EM is a good reliable zine if you're looking for regular material.)) J.M.

Lee A Kendter, Boardman Number Custodian

4347 Benner St, Philadelphia PA 19135

I would like to clear up something to your readers about the "local" games designation. (BB #83, P 22).

First, your game was not called local merely because 5 players were from the state of Oklahoma. The fact is that all of you were from the metropolitan area of Oklahoma City. The same is true of the game you mention that had 4 New Yorkers. All 4 of them were from N.Y. City.

These rulings of mine continue a tradition that all former BNCs have followed. It is not something that I have started. In fact, the only reason I didn't declare your game irregular from the start is that I was not fully aware of how to rule on "local" games. (This job doesn't come with a BNC 'handbook' or anything). Many of my questions have since been cleared up by Doug Beyerlein. (a superb BNC, in my opinion).

The ruling works this way; if a majority of players in a given game is from the same general area, and have a distinct advantage in communications (the telephone), then the game can't be considered a normal game. In fact, in the old days these games were designated: "Local-telephone game".

If you entered a game that had 4 players from Philadelphia wouldn't you feel the deck was stacked against you from the start?

Also, your DC-VA-MD comparison is not valid at all because calling across state lines is a toll call. To call within the same city is not. One can argue distances all day in this matter. I live only 5 minutes from New Jersey, and the stadium where the Phillies and Eagles play is 30 minutes from my house. The difference is that I must pay for an out-of-town call to call NJ. I can call anywhere in Philly without paying any extra.

Finally, the shit that gets thrown at me because of this type of thing is unbelievable. (not that you gave me any). This job requires someone who is very thick skinned, which I'm not, and because of the amount of harassment and abuse I've had to take lately I will be giving up this job in the near future.

I hope this clears up things to you as well as your readers.

STEVE LANGLEY
(excerpts)

2154 Fairfield Rd, Sacramento, CA 95815

Since I'm not yet in a game—and hold very few strong opinions—about my strongest is that reality doesn't give a damn what people think, say, opine etc. about it. But just to put myself on record.

There are far too many people on the planet. Guns kill—when used properly—so guns are generally good for the planet. Unfortunately, guns don't kill too discriminately, hence we lose John Lennon, and not any number of jerks that we could better spare. Evolution is just a theory, sure—with such weight of evidence that we might as well admit that the theory that the little lights in the sky at night might be distant suns makes just about the same amount of sense. I've seen mutated species of plant bred true in my own lifetime. I've been given statistics to prove (figures lie—liars...) that having big horns has become anti-survival for antelope since man invented the gun, hence male adult antelopes have smaller horns this year than they did 100 years ago. In my own experience, the brave mosquito has learned to attack silently. That last may be bogus—I live in a different part of the country—the mosquito may still buzz until swatted in Spokane—but the quiet mosquitoes survive better here in Sacramento.

Bob Heinlein once wrote a society into existence where first class citizens wore guns, second class citizens didn't. Gun toters were fair game, non-gun-toters were not, to kill one was deemed murder most foul. I expect I'd wear a gun in such a society. So I'm on record— ((Second letter follows))

Congratulations on your forced career move. Sounds like Harper finally (if inadvertently) did something good for you.

Rules for feuds—and feuds about rules about feuds—why not commissions to settle disputes over the rules on feuding, and an arbiter to determine the validity of a feud (i.e., whether it conforms to the rules, which rules are in force, or whether the feud must be considered 'irregular' and so not eligible for rating). Come on people, there is a whole new world of meaningless bureaucracy waiting out there—go for it.

So Ar e Shaw and Stan Kanton are not impressed by the work of the Beatles—different eras, different tastes. I personally have a minimal interest in music—out de of whistling to drive away the demon of depression—but I recognize many Beatles pieces. They are still being played. As I hear it, much of the music of the 70s was Beatles derivative (couldn't prove it by me though), so dismissing them as writing 'children's music' sounds a bit like sour grapes rather than valid criticism—to a non-fan of music, at least.

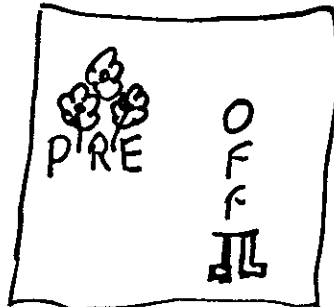
Professor Paton's dream induced him to write a book? The dream was pretty graphic, as described, but is it a great surprise that any system—even a stew pot system—that supports an ever increasing number of parasites will fail. Where was the part about the parasites in power, seeing the stew pot's level of sustenance dropping, cutting off the drawing-out pipes of those not strong enough to defend themselves? Seems to me that such would be the last act of desperation to try and maintain the 'system' before the final collapse—cut the straws of all but the 'truly needy —

I figured out Civil disorder, badly written orders, 6 SC in F'01, underhanded negotiations, convoying across the English Channel, moving out of Warsaw, but the rest of it eludes me. Now I draw a square and stare at it for inspiration:

((Here's one from Mark Lew too. Answers at bottom of page))

Jm.

FALSE NAME
ORDTURNERS



((Thanks for the attack-out-of-Munich. I hadn't gotten that one straight. There is also stab in the back, separation of seasons, 3 way draw, and moving out of Warsaw (I think). My own was Kathy Byrne, a hobbyist whose name you might not be familiar with.

I wish I had more space this issue to elaborate on your letter, or at least the gun part. Mark Berch also has some comments on that, but all such will have to be carried over to #87 I guess. Thanks for taking the time to write us.))

Jm.

Dear John,

Sorry to hear you lost your job; happy to hear you found what seems to be a better offer. I'm going to miss those Harper envelopes, though -- and so will the rest of the hobby. A bit of hobby nostalgia. With me it had gotten to the point where I was like Pavlov's dog; I'd salivate whenever I saw the words "Harper Oil Company" whether or not there was an issue of BB inside.

I must agree with Randolph Smyth and disagree with Berch's comments about BB. There is no other zine in the hobby more suitable for taking a literary shit than your rag. Randolph's problem, though, is that he views this as a liability rather than an asset. BB's letter col is undoubtedly the best around and possibly the best ever, but it is the lousy quality of the letters themselves that makes it so great. And so, Randolph, although his description of BB is accurate, is going to be missing out and it's his loss.

Can you (or anyone) tell me why Caruso seems to be spoiling for a fight again? His latest letter to you makes it sound as though I attacked him in my "feuding" article; actually I mentioned him only very briefly -- and that was mostly to praise him. Look back at the article, if you doubt this.

He does make one or two good points, though. I'm beginning to see the need to send courtesy copies to everyone or no one at all, and not be selective. I think I will change my own policy to include everyone; except (yes, Mark Berch, there still may be exceptions) for those people who don't send them to me when I'm attacked. Caruso, by the way, takes the other extreme -- my courtesy copies of Whitestonia have almost invariably come from one of John's subbers, so I assume John doesn't send them to anyone.

Also, I want to clarify something. I was not intending to make up any rules, as Caruso says, when I wrote my article. The six rules I mentioned are (as you said, John) part of hobby tradition. I stated that in the article, and further mentioned that I personally feel that they are minimal standards of decency. I am not naive enough to think that everybody is going to agree with them. For instance, Boardman doesn't agree with the one about keeping confidential stuff secret, and has said so repeatedly. Caruso apparently agrees with this one, but clearly doesn't believe in courtesy copies or in sticking to the facts. Arnett doesn't meet any of the six, and I suppose that's his privilege. But the point is, I was expressing my opinion of what clean fighting should be, and I realize there are people in the hobby who differ.

Since John said I'd make up some rules for publishing a zine, though, I certainly don't want to disappoint him. Following are the rules that (and I emphasize this) I feel should apply:

- 1) Get it out on schedule if you're running any games.
- 2) GM games promptly, accurately, and fairly.
- 3) Be meticulous and honest with all financial matters.
- 4) If you use it to attack someone, allow that person to respond in your pages. (This is identical to one of the "feuding" rules.)

And I suppose there are ~~xx~~ others. I just wanted to rattle off a few so John wouldn't be disappointed. Coming up next will be my rules for picking your nose.

Finally, Caruso's letter closes with a suggestion that I might have more fun if I put more effort into creative writing, etc., than into feuding. Huh? How does he know how much creative writing I do, since he doesn't sub to my dirt rag? I don't really consider feuding fun, and can state with confidence that I would have a lot more fun if I wasn't forced to defend against Caruso's attacks. Because a year ago, it was he who first attacked me in Whitestonia, and circulated "samples" to most of my players. Last fall, after I thought we had straightened things out, it was he who attacked me again, this time in BB, Retal, and MM. This time he is trying to make it appear as though I fired the first shot, but this is not true. So no, I don't enjoy feuding, but I will defend myself rather than ignore his attacks. Always.

Isn't it funny to note that some people took my plea to be left alone in the press as though I really meant it?

PS A suggestion to John Caruso: I will be taking August off from the hobby. Make your vilest, most filthy attack against me about August 1. That way, you'll catch me when I cannot refute you for a month. And, it's just the type of tactic you like...

SCOTT HANSON (Irksume)

March 24, 1981

Dear John,

Spring break is hear, and they couldn't have picked a better week. Sunny today, with highs in the 60's. I didn't even have to work, so I just took my bike and rode all over the city. I don't care what Masters thinks, Minneapolis is great. Mark Berch might be interested to know that we had one of the warmest winters of the century this year. The average temp was 8 degrees above normal, and five days we set record highs. We haven't had snow on the ground in well over a month. (How do I know all this? In Minnesota, the weather is interesting conversation. You never know what will happen next.)

I just have to respond to the letter from John Robinson. What does it prove that Big Band musicians didn't think much of the Beatles? Rock is only about 40 years ahead of their time. It's like asking Bach what he thinks of that new kid, Beethoven. It makes no sense. Of course they would not like it, Rock was rebelling against precisely their kind of music. Innovation in music (or anything else, for that matter) does not come from what's on top, what's established, but from underneath. Not from the Big Bands, but from the Jazz and the Blues that are the roots of today's Rock. Now that Rock is on top, it's going to come from the Reggae and Punk underneath. Now the Beatles didn't start Rock (that credit goes to names like Bill Haley, Chuck Berry, and later Buddy Holly) but they did expand on it. They also made many innovations in recording. Not all of their music is great, but I'd urge Mr. Robinson to give a listen to "Day In The Life." As for the Beatles encouraging drug addiction, I'd argue that music never causes any changes in society, but merely reflects them. Isn't that what art is? Lennon gave up on drugs long before he was killed.

I should have known that someone would try to take my "sex and drugs and rock and roll" comment seriously. It was mostly intended as a joke for Sherwood and anyone else who would catch it. If Robinson wants me to explain the joke for him, I gladly will, but it would take up too much space here. At least somebody is reading IRKSOME.

I have to agree with him on one thing--most people don't know shit about economics. I know just enough to know that I don't know anything.

Are there a lot of GM errors going on this time of ~~my~~ year? I've made a couple major ones in IRKSOME, and 4 of the otherwise flawless games I'm in have had them too. Maybe it's spring fever...

I can't say the postage increase bothers me too much. Our postage is cheaper than most of the countries I know about, and we get a even better bargain seeing as that our country is much bigger. With all the mailing I do, I'd say the service is pretty good, too. Nothing important of mine has been late, only a couple sets of Dip orders. The only thing with higher postage is that a lot of subs are going up too. I'd sub to Life of Monty, Europa Express, and Born To Dip right now if I only had the bucks.

Your account of your resignation from Harper was interesting. Your adventures sound much like those of my neighbor who works at Westinghouse, in the Marketing Dep't. (He sells parts to nuclear reactors.) The only reason he stays is he's saving money to buy some cattle (which explains why he's living in this dump) to keep at his family's farm in North Dakota. But he'll be quitting soon...

Reply to Hanson

((A lot of people, not all of whose letters will see print, have been kind enough to favorably comment on the Harper dirge of last issue. I thought it a little presumptuous later to allocate that much space to it, but it is one of those things you can rattle right off, and since one of the luxuries of publishing is your option to run off at the mouth (typewriter?) as you wish, I thought I'd indulge myself. It seems that once you start a job, you develop a lot of inertia: you tend to sit there until you really HAVE to get out, when actually, you'd be a lot better off looking around and changing after about 2-3 years. The atmosphere between this place and what I can now see as an oppressive one back at Harper is really amazing. There's a tremendous difference in just the attitude of the real management toward the workers. Are they a group of people working for you, or are they a difficult product to handle in your putting together your final product? A short way of saying that is, I never really realized how shitty that old place was until I came here.

On economics, I think the only "problem", if you can call it that, is that knowledge of economics is like knowledge of boxing that I heard explained recently. "An 8 year old kid can come in and watch a fight, and tell you who 'won'". Economics is like tha, in that anyone's opinion is about as good as the next man's. If schooling and other such "expertise" counted for a hill of beans, it seems to me that the controlled economies would be the showpieces of the world, with the rest arranged in order of how closely they followed the dictates of the economic 'experts'. This is hardly the case though.

The postage increase bothers me a lot. One season's results of 80D, now my last GMed game going, costs me between \$1 and \$1.25. I may be able to mail out 10 bill payments for 20¢, but my players should hardly receive their adjudications 16¢ postage due. I know I'm being ripped off, for a dime would do it at a profit if a postal dictator took over and cleaned house from A to Z. Just because our service is better than Canada, where 10 days service is a break from not getting delivery at all; or from Italy, where they were 7 years behind on much mail, and got caught up by the simple expedient of BURNING all the old mail, hardly justifies the 18¢ our posties get, or the 20¢ they want. Mills is right; draft them all and start over. Then we could move to the auto industry...)) J.M.

((The BRUTUS BULLETIN is famous for its lack of organization. I see I missed room to insert a response to Linsey on that last sheet. Well, not much to say except that I am not really overjoyed at Br-ides "compliment" about BB being a "good place to take a verbal shit." If that's your goal, folks, try sending it to Martin for publication in his YOUR MILEAGE MAY VARY, or to Jack Masters to run as an expose' like he just did on my Harper story. Personally, I preferred Mark Berch's views.

Speaking of whom--we've had three scattered days of mild rain here, so there will be an Oklahoma wheat crop this year. Made it by about a week, I understand. We're now into the second month of that fine time of year when neither the furnace nor airconditioner is on. I'm hoping for 2 more such months, which is not impossible here. Despite the dust and cowboys and drought, there are some good things about Oklahoma.)) J.M.

MIKE CONNOR (Lone Star Diplomat)

3214 Beverly Road, Austin, TX 78703

I wish I had more time for correspondence. Right now I'm trying to excavate the mountain of assorted zines, letters, notes to myself, and other cetera that have accumulated in the past week (week!?!). With the check I'm sending for a renewal to the BRUTE, I must take a second to add my sentiments to those I keep reading practically everywhere throughout the hobby: BB is great! The latest hobby news plus the anything-goes letters make me interrupt whatever I'm doing when the mail comes. Except for the games, I read it usually cover-to-cover as soon as possible.

I really did enjoy your recounting of your job hassles. In fact, your remarks, whether written in the John or in response to the letters, are the best part of BB. Don't let up!

((OK, but a lot of times I sure wish I could. If I weren't looking at #100 this year, I think the weight of publishing this would begin to bear down a bit too much anymore. Thanks for your nice remarks about the product.)) J.M.

STEVE ARNAWOODIAN
(excerpts)

602 Hemlock Cr Lansdale PA 19446

After reading two copies of BB I have to compliment you on its quality. I can see why you refuse to let the flu and losing your job affect it! By the way, how is your new job? If I was starting a new job, I believe my Diplomacy games would fall 2 months behind. And I don't even publish.

((Actually, the new job helps. I get paid by the employer, but I'm actually working for Arthur Andersen & Co., the auditor firm that is installing and trying like hell to make work, a new accounting program for the IBM computer we have here. AA&Co do try, but there is an awful lot of 'dead' time, waiting on this, that, the other thing; something else is running, can't update files in use, no terminals available this morning, etc. So I find a nice typewriter like this and sit down for some important business like my games or the zine, if I have anything with me to do. And more and more I'm getting into the habit of carrying such stuff with me. Right now we have 4 terminals locked up, they don't know why, and we're "awaiting maintenance". Usually I'd fill up now on donuts in the breakroom, but I ate 4½ yesterday, which is OK for Bob Olsen maybe, but is too many for me, so I'm fasting today, limiting myself to 1½, and I've already had one. So, letters it is, especially as this will probably be the last page I need do for #86 now that I have Sack's latest list here and reduced and ready to go. I'll tell you what the new job is really like when I get at the new 'real' job, which will likely be another month or two off.)) J.M.

BILL BECKER

810 Turwill Lane Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Thanks for the complimentary issue of SOLDIER OF FORTUNE. Your lead article on the AK47 was most intriguing. I should have guessed you owned one but I don't know how you knew I brought one back from Nam. The drier weather in Oklahoma is definitely a big plus in the smooth operation of this weapon. Mine tends to jam if I use it on a rainy day. (About 40% of W Mich weather). Your idea of scaling the wall at your local state mental institution in full gear in order to prepare for the real thrill of a night raid also showed up your Okie background. We keep them funny bunnies in a hotel downtown so that the real criminal element desires to congregate out in the suburbs and gives those survivalists something to shoot at besides each other. Anyways, I sure appreciate your GMing 80D. Hut-hut.

PS: Must have been that green beer, Mic.

((Whatever it was, leave it to Dick Martin and don't drink anymore yourself again!)) J.M.
((Note to new subscribers: the above should show that almost anything WILL get printed here. And especially when you realize that about one person in each dozen out there will read something like Bill's quaint peice here and actually BELIEVE it! That's a big reason for your typical dipzine running just games, press, and a joke or two. Anything else will make you controversial or something equally horrible. Marion Bates won't even tell us whether he/she is a male/female...)) J.M.

Hmm, I see I have room for another paragraph but not enough room for another letter, so how about a sneak preview of coming attractions. This issue is a little short of humor items, but there are a bunch waiting, esp. from David Ditter and SSAM. There are long letters from Bob Osuch, Mark Lew, and Mark Berch that I recall, plus probably some that I don't recall offhand. Between that and the nonsense stuff and my subzines and the two unreported seasons of my own 80D game, you can see that #87 pretty much just awaits prep, layout, and printing. That doesn't mean it will be in the mail 4 days after this, but, there is a CHANCE. Gawd, I hope not though. It is good to clear the decks like that, but then you get two issues, and in come the responses, and there is the late-late-April issue filled with commentary on the April and late-April issues...

On the other hand, it would get me to #100 sooner, wouldn't it? Well, just remember that typing, preferably with a ribbon in it, Mr Lew, --will move you up in the line of stuff awaitng action in the THIS-ISSUE box. Maybe even ahead of my son's STAR WARS people that he dumps in there...

SEND IN MAIL
ANYHOW, FOR