

"Yes, Greedo, I was just going to see your boss. Tell Jabba that I've got ISSUE 87 of

布唐士司公報
係也是布唐士司嗎?

LATE
APRIL
1981

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 at the rate of 11/\$6, resubs at 12/\$6 or so. At those rates, do you REALLY want this thing? Anyhow, I also have GAME OPENINGS with 2 GGMs, Scott Hansen and Dave Marshall. Dave's 3-week deadline, grey press game lacks only one player as of April 16, so if this is in your hands not too long after that, jump in for a fast start! Details in Sack's NEED-A-GAME feature inside. Check it out.

Like the WASHINGTON POST, "we apologize". The Mandarin Chinese title above is not from Mike Connor, but on a note from Dave Marshall I find. Oh, well. The lead-in is again STAR WARS stuff, since I've been back for my 15th and 16th viewings, and may get in one or two more before it's gone. Did you notice the addition to the title, "Episode IV, A New Hope"? That wasn't there the first time around. So, three STAR WARS films to precede the classic, and seven to follow EMPIRE. Not all things looking bad then I guess.

Let me skip to JOHN'S NOTES for the gossip stuff and start running an important notice:

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

The Fifth Annual North American Zine Poll

If you received at least one North American publication substantially devoted to DIPLOMACY, including genzines, house organs, etc., you are eligible to vote. Rate each publication you know of on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is total worthlessness, 10 is perfection. No fractions, please! Base your rating on the quality of the zine AS YOU ASSESS IT.

In order to establish eligibility, please sign your ballot and indicate one way in which you participated in the hobby during 1980. All votes will be kept confidential. Zines currently defunct should be rated if they were active during 1980. Please list zines in alphabetical order if at all possible in order to facilitate tabulation.

North American Gamemaster Poll

Rate each gamemaster with whom you are familiar BY NAME on a scale of 0 to 10, with 0 being total incompetence, 10 being perfection. No fractions, please. Please list GMs in alphabetical order by name if at all possible.

Votes should be sent to A. John R. Leeder, 121 19 Ave NE, Calgary, Alberta T2E 1N9 Canada. Regular 1st class US rates will get it there. All votes are due John by JUNE 30, 1981. Mail to Canada will take in excess of one week to travel there, so plan accordingly.

OK, folks, here we go again. This, unlike some of the other recent "voting" matters that have come up in the hobby, is important and has some meaning. This is your once-a-year chance to give your favorite (as well as despised) zines and GMs their "report card" as to how well you think they're doing. It is a very useful mechanism for giving your publishers and GMs either a much needed pat on the back, or a much needed kick in the pants. It is important that you get in a vote on this, so unless you get only a few zines, take time to be sure you include all the zines and

JERRYJONESJERRYJONESJERRYJONESJERRYJONESJERRYJONESJERRYJONESJERRYJONES OK, Jer'?

JOHN'S NOTES

GMS you should be getting, including all those who vanished into the air without a word to you during 1980. You won't be called to jury duty from these rolls, so do get your opinions registered. I will try to alphabetize a list of zines for your convenience in this or a future issue. There are a few grudge votes out there too, so help out by making the number of votes large enough to be meaningful. If you don't want to use a stamp, send your vote to me and I'll forward it with mine, if you have orders or something coming my way. And I won't even change your BB vote to a ten. (11). Vote! Vote! Vote!

MARK BERCH is apparently touring Israel and sent a postcard there. Strange looking stamps. A lot of the text got blurred by the cancellation, Okla City oddly enough; the picture is of a memorial at "y.m." made from some weapons. Nice of you to think of BB Mark.

KONRAD BAUMEISTER sent this note with a request that it be run: "Whoever put out Y'ALL #3 (I have a good idea from the handwriting, but...) told me to write to BB (wherehe'd read it) if I was "offended". Actually, I'm not offended. In fact, I thought Y#3 was a lot of fun. Hell, insult me like that any time you like, I loved it!!"

Speaking of Y'ALL #3, I was kind of glad to see it. This one was better than the others, as the note on mine said it would be, and I'd been tempted to keep the tradition of these things alive by putting out one myself, but of course I'm too lazy to have ever have gotten around to it. Nice to see someone else did put one out. My guess is Linsey. The back page contained this story:

"Why, juss the other day ((Jimmy Carter)) was flying over the Everglades admiring the view of the swamp, when he sees two white guys in a motor boat towing a black guy waterskiing. Jimmy turned to his friend, Ham Jerdon, who he had brought along for the ride, and said, "Lookie there, Ham, do you see that? And they say we made no advances in civil rights in the South during my administration. Isn't it great to see two good old boys givin' a darky a turn at waterskiing?" Ham looked sort of surprised and then said, "Jimmy, ain't you never seen anybody trollin' for alligators before?"

HERB BARENTS is announcing that his DipCon committee is now taking bids for DipCon 82. They hope you can make DipCon 81 to present your case (San Fran with Origins July 4 wkend). If not, write Herb at 1142 S 96 Ave, Zeeland, MI 49464.

GREG COSTIKYAN has put out another issue of LORD OF HOSTS, the zine of the Miller Number Custodian. He is MNC, but has been tied up the past four months and is looking for a new MNC candidate. This unnumbered issue contains the 78Tid wrapup, so that is now official history. I suggest that all GMS watch to see that your completed games get printed up in either EVERYTHING for regdip, LoH for variant games. Greg is still at P O Box 865, Brown U, Providence RI 02912, (401) 863-6992. The issue also contained a blast at the BNC, Lee Kendter Sr, for his restrictive policy on issuing numbers and on "phone" vs. strict PBM games. Copies are available for an SASE.

LOTS of fat zines have come in lately, but it is obvious that I will in no way come close to being able to review them. One I would like to make passing mention of, though. VOICE OF DOOM #32 ran 40 pages, and had an interesting comment in it. A writer suggested that Linsey, who found the famous order A Vie-Tro ambiguous, might find the Turkish S01 order of A Con-Blg ambiguous, since 'Blg' might mean Belgium. Linsey said he didn't know how he'd rule on that! (I wish I could find the page again now, but can't). Tom Mainardi also blasts Brux in his EMHAIN MACHA subzine. Then out comes another VOD with a letter presumably from "Tro" Sherwood saying that his Vie-Tro order was MEANT to fail. Even if true, it has no effect on the principle of whether you should obey or disregard the "mis-written order" rule; personally, I think these two just cooked this second letter up to have a good laugh at the hobby. Would Bruxus do a thing like that?

CANADIANS have a new zine, one that should do better than past New-zeens there have traditionally done. This one is SLEEPLESS KNIGHTS by Dave Carter, 118 Horsham Ave, Willowdale, Ontario M2N 1Z9 (416) 221-8066. Subs are \$3/10, gf \$2, no NMR fee, 3 and 5 week regDip openings. Non-Canadians would find 3 weeks impossible, and 5 may be touch and go at times. I cannot recommend play in Can. zines therefore, but I do recommend this fellow's zine. Looks good. And if you do want to try a long, slow-paced one, this is at least as good a bet as any. #1 was 6 pages, not ditto.

LOTS of letters and stuff coming in already, and this has yet to be run off! Shucks. I'm afraid #88 will be ready all too shortly. I will NOT cut the humor stuff this time, no matter what. Still some carried over, and, always room for more!! (Hint...)

IRKSOME!

NO. 10

APRIL 4, 1981

IRKSOME #1 (80LM)

ITALY GETS FATTER, ENGLAND GETS LEANER, THE PLOT GETS THICKER...

All players were notified of an error last time, that the English move F EDI-Lvp should not have succeeded. Because of this and some personal reasons, the deadline for this season was moved up one week to today.

FALL 1903

AUSTRIA(Pilant)

ENGLAND(Vaughan)

FRANCE(Sherwood)

GERMANY(Stephens)

ITALY(Palter)

RUSSIA(Gareipy)

TURKEY(Wilson)

no units.

F WAL S A Lon, A LON S F Wal, F Edi-NTH, F NWY S F Swe,
A StP H(d, r Lvn, Fin, OTB), F SWE U.

A Mar-GAS, A Pic-LVP, F NAT S A Pic-Lvp, F ENG C A Pic-Lvp,
F IRI C A Pic-Lvp, A BEL S-spit-Nth-Lon(imp).

A HOL-Bel, A Kis-DEN, A Pru-SIL, F SKA-Swe, F BAL S F Ska-Swe.

F GRE H, A Tri-SER, A ALB S A Tri-Ser, A BUD-Rum, A VIE-Bud,

F ION S F Gre, F ADR S A Alb.

A Mos-STP, F BOT S A Mos-StP, F BLA-Rum, A Ser-Gre(d, ann).

A BUL-Gre, A AEG S A Bul-Gre, A Smy-CON, A EAS S F Aeg.

1903 SUPPLY CENTERS

AUS ~~StP~~

ENG Edi Lon Nwy Swe ~~Lvp StP~~

FRA Home Por Bel Spa LVP

GER Home Hol Den

ITA Home Tun Bud Vie Tri SER GRE

RUS War Mos Sev Rum STP

TUR Home Bul ~~StP~~

TOT HAS

0 0

4 6 or 5

7 6

5 5

9 7

5 3

4 4

B/R

out

rem 2 or rem 1

bld 1

even

bld 2

bld 2(1 ann)

even(1 ann)

The English retreat, Winter '03 adjustments, and Spring '04 moves are due at noon CST on April 18, 1981. I have sent a copy of my recently written house rules; no big changes, just a few things clarified. (Note to BB readers: due to space limitations John M may not print my new HRs. If you really want to see them, send me a stamp.) All the Gophers' sports teams bit the dust: the men's basketball team in the NIT quarterfinals, women's bb in the first round of AIAW nationals, and the hockey team choked to Wisconsin of all teams in the NCAA finals. Yes, Keith, the U of M does have more than one campus; the hockey game was in Duluth at UMD. I also passed all my winter classes, and actually pulled a B in the dreaded math final. But who cares about school, you just want to read...

THE PRESS

(I nearly forgot-seasons will separated upon request of at least 3 players. Also, this will be the last issue I will send to Dave Pilant unless I hear from him) Also, John Michalski sent in some guest press, but he's been catching so much shit from you guys, you'll have to figure out which ones are his by yourselves...

BELG:UM-GM: I contest your calling my spitting at the North Sea last turn "impossible." It's quite possible, watch: ggggaaaa-tchoi (oops, sorry Scott, let me get you a handkerchief.) See? Therefore I insist you let my spit have the Nth Sea

MORE PRESS: CRIMES OF CENTURY FOR ALL TO SEE...

BELGIUM-GM(cont.): since it was vacated by England. And I insist you let me complete my spit moves as written this season.

GM-BELGIUM: Ah, go home, "Tro." Look at the HRs, only fleets can spit into the North Sea, common sense should have told you that. As for this season, not only was your spit support cut by the attack by Germany, but armies can't leap over bodies of water in a single bound, I mean, Belgium doesn't even touch London, just like Edi doesn't touch Lvp. Just for that, I'm going to censor all your silly press condemning my error of last season.

AUSTRIA-ENGLAND: You know, Fluff Shaffer is also famous for his mid-game line as England once, when he said, "I didn't even know the fuggin' Clyde was there."

BER-MOS: Let's go! Now!

JIMMY-WORLD: I nominate Marie for hobby mascot!

SOMEBODY-PILANT: Your \$500 was forfeited when you NMR'd out. The money now goes to Scott to help pay for xeroxing all this press.

SCOTT-SOMEBODY: Just make the check payable to Scott, with two t's, Hanson, with an o.

MUNICH: No more Michalski jokes, please!

MOORE MICHALSKI JOKES:

Q What is black, bubbly, and sits behind a glass door? A A nigger in a microwave.

Q How do you babysit black kids? A Wet their lips and stick them to the wall.

Q What do you call a negro in a black Cadillac? A Black Power.

Q What do you call two caucasians in a white Continental? A White Power.

Q What do you call three Mexicans in a yellow Mercedes? A Grand theft auto.

PAR: Marie, Marie, wherefore art thou, Marie?

ROMA-NISH: You have filled a great Russian aim, now hold it.

???: Bruce Linsey beats the kids he teaches with sticks.

GERMANY: WANTED TO TRADE-I have some PILANT mailing labels that I would like to trade. I will take Sherwood, Vaughan, or Gareipy. No Wilson's accepted. Only serious offers accepted.

MAR-ANK: GO Indiana! I hope they won the basketball game, Indiana's my favorite team (after Ohio State, of course).

FRANCE-COLD SPRING,MN: Want me to warm up the springs for you?

GM-KEITH: OK, I'll print all that stupid press you sent. Keith? Where are you Keith. Come out of that corner, and pull your thumb out of your mouth. I was only kidding about censoring your press, We all still like you. We are all your friends, aren't we. Aren't we? Oh, come on, IRKSOME players, be a little more enthusisatic about it, this is a child's delicate ego we are dealing with here.

SCOTT HANSON'S RATING IN THE LEADER GM POLL: 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, care to try for a three, Scott? Just screw up again.

ROBERT SACKS-SCOTT HANSON: I would like to hear about this new variant you made up. It must be a variant, because a fleet sure can't move from Edi-Lvp in regular Dip.

NTH-"GM": Whatzamatter? Too much (or little) sex? Partying too much? Spending too much time lusting after Marie when you should be doing our moves? Come on, man! Get your head in the game! I'll sue for malpractice, either that or arrest you for impersonating a GM.

NTH-ENGLAND: You're even worse, you tried the move in the first place. Either get your head in the game or get your ass out! (Like Pilant)

FRANCE-GM: Your GMing is about as good as your basketball team. Go WAC! Go BYU (even if they are athiests)!

GM-SHERWOOD: I hope you feel better now!

YOUR MESSAGE IN THIS SPACE
SIGN UP FOR IRKSOME # 2 TWO WEEK DEADLINES
\$3 GAMEFEE FOR BB SUBBERS

STILL MORE PRESS: THE PRICE YOU PAY (AS DO WE ALL FOR THIS WRETCHED ZINE)...

MRS. SHERWOOD-THAT MARIE GIRL: Listen hear, honey. I want you to stop trying to corrupt my son. Why little Keith is not even old enough to be dating the girl next door, much less some outsider. So you keep away, you hear?

SHAGGY DOGPART III: So little Scotty Hanson went home. His mother, Booby Stephens, greeted him at the door. "What are you doing home so early, son?" "Well, I was out on the playground at school when I heard a girl say a word I didn't know, so I went and asked Marie and she sent me to the principal and he sent me home." "What was the word?" "Purple violets." "What," screamed Boobie, "go to your room immediately. Just wait until your father gets home." (cont.)

ENGLAND-DOG: Please stop now, "Purple Violets" is the stupidest joke ever.

WILSON: Boy, I just love "Purple Violets", it's so funny!

ROMA-BUCHAREST: Need a liberator?

MOSCOW: Death to the treacherous murdering English dog! He lives for violence—he deserves to die violently! All peace loving people throughout the world are asked for their help and support against the warmongering Englishman!

GM: Wow! I'm a pacifist and I'll kill anyone who isn't...

BOBBY-MARIE(via Western Union): DEAREST DARLING STOP YOU ARE BREAKING MY HEART STOP I AM A PRISONER FOR SADNESS IS A PIT STOP OUR LOVE WAS TOO SHORT STOP YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND IT IS YOU THAT I ADORE STOP I WOULD BE HAPPY ANYWHERE WITH US STOP EVEN IN AN AIRPLANE OR A BUS STOP IF YOU WILL NOT LOVE ME PLEASE COME BACK STOP MY FUTURE IS HEXED STOP I AM NOT SURE JUST WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ME NEXT STOP LOVE BOBBY

MAR-MUN: I'm trying to get more sex, but Marie's not cooperating.

PARIS-LONDON: I told you Germany was on my side and against you, but did you believe me? Now listen to that bell toll for thee!

PARIS: Brad Wilson has every Bee Gee record and posters of Andy Gibb all over his room.

TURKEY-ITALY: Your ass is grass, fuck-face.

ALBANIA: Uh, I just got one of these from Bruce Linsey with a proposition and the message "Quick...I can't wait." Did anyone else get one? (Bruce, is that really you?!) I hereby nominate Bruce Linsey, here, as hobby queen, as per Black Frog rules.

ENGLAND: Reports from Liverpool indicate that there are a vast number of Frogs croaking in the Irish Sea.

FRANCE: Yes, I've done it, my life is complete. The Beatles will speak French.

FRANCE-GM(and I use that term loosely): Too bad about the Gophers losing the hockey game. I saw the whole thing on cable TV

FRANCE-GM: Whaddya mean the Big 10 is the toughest league. No way! In basketball its the ACC by a mile. Even if Indiana did win over N Carolina, out of the top 4, half were from the ACC. So there!

GM-FRANCE: Ah, even the Gophers whipped NC by 16 points. So there!!

GERMANY-TURKEY: We might as well drop it. Pilant is out, and by John's own admission he never reads his subzines' press. Hey, lets pick on Wilson and Palter, they never write anyway!

SHERWOOD-SCOTT: Oh, sure, you show off your fantastic SAT to put down us dummies. But does a 750 math help you're GMing? Noooo....

GERMANY-GM: Congratulations to the Gopher's fag team, I read all about them in "The S & M News."

GM-GERMANY: You and Sherwood should get together, he reads it too!



FOUR PAGES OF PRESS: I CAN'T MAKE IT ON TIME WITH ALL THIS TO TYPE...

KEITH-MARIE: You like Bobby's voice? I've talked to him on the phone and just wanted to throw up! His voice is worse than Scott's. Why, I'd rather be subjected to Bruce Springsteen "singing" than listen to Bobby's voice. I think he's castrated.

PARIS-GM: I would like to apply to play this game under an alias. It has come to my attention, Scott, that you work at a McDonalds. Do you know what it could do to my reputation if it got out that I played under a GM who worked at McDonalds. I hear you do it to send Kathy Byrne candies.

GM: No comment, except that I am employed part time by a multinational corporation to help further my education.

KEITH-MARIE: So Bobby claims he has experience, eh? Don't you know Texans only do it with their horses? For someone experienced he still couldn't tell the difference between an army and fleet in Denmark. No telling what else he might mistake for something else at the crucial moment. You know I was only think of you when I miswrote my order.

KEITH-MARIE: Now I admit that the last time we parted we weren't on the best of terms, but is that any reason to stop speaking to me in the press? Look, I can explain the girl in the closet.....

and now....MARIE RESPONDS TO HER FAN MAIL!!!

MARIE-KEITH: Although Bruce Springsteen, Scott, and Bebbie all have something (a few things) in common, Springsteen's vocalizing is rock bottom. You can only go up from there, About your last comment, I thought they only did that to pigs.

MARIE-BOBBIE: My passionate darling, you're so charming. I'll see what I can do about charging your sparkplugs at the pit stop. Meet you at the bus stop at 1:00 sharp. My love, Marie.

MARIE-BOBBIE: Let me guess...you have brown hair, green eyes, drive a metallic green Triumph Spitfire, and wear colored underwear...you little fox.

COLD SPRING-FRANCE: Do Frenchmen have closets???

MARIE-WORLD: Hobby mascot sounds abusive. I decline.

MARIE-GIGOLO: I've got to have you. (I guess you'll only understand if you see the movie "The Postman Always Rings Twice".)

Hmm, I'll have to check out that show. Marie is a hard act to follow, but I have some space, and I have to do something. So if you are not interested in music, you can stop reading, 'cos it's time again for

MUSIC RECOMMENDED BY IRKSOME

BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN The River: Despite the fellings of Keith and Marie, this is by far the best record to come out in recent months. Bruce can finally record songs as well as he writes them. I personally prefer the fast stuff, but it's all good.

DIRE STRAITS Making Movies: This one kind of snuck up on me, I didn't think much of "Sultans of Swing," but this album really hooked me. Side I is as good a side as you can find, and the guitars are excellent.

THE CLASH Sandinista!: Quality music for bargain shoppers, 36 songs for a mere \$10.50. Only with The Clash can you buy two albums and get 5 discs with 44 songs for less than \$20. Politics out in left field, but they make it fun. They call themselves "the only band that matters" and who knows, they may be right.

ERIC CLAPTON Another Ticket: A collection of blues by a (the) master. I think it's his best ever. A bit mellow, perhaps, and the mixing covered up all Eric's solos. Worth the price for "Floating Bridge" alone, and the title cut is great as well.

Darn, thats all there is room for. Ah, but there is room for this

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

a continuing perversion of our First Amendment freedoms, brought to you once again by Dave Marshall, 1547 Maplegrove Road, South Euclid, Ohio 44121; telephone (216) 382-6623. One more body needed for the grey press game, if someone out there decides to take pity on Robson, Lancaster, Cummings, Langley, Gariepy, and Forman, who've foolishly signed up already. But meanwhile, let's not forget...

1980LP (DnD-1, or The Toadies' Game)

SPRING 1902: Z-Z-Z-Z-Z-Z-Z-Z (okay, okay, but for this we separated seasons?)

AUSTRIA(Dave Gariepy,2): A bud-SER, A gal-BUD.

ENGLAND(Dan Stafford,4): F eng-BRE, A nwy-SWE, F lvp-IRI, F NTH-nwy.

FRANCE(Andy McMahon,4): F por-MID, A PIC-bur, A bre-par/d/R(Gas,OTB), A ven unordered/H/d/R(Apu,Tus,Pie,Tyo,OTB).

GERMANY(Keith Sherwood,6): A kie-HOL, A MUN-bur, A DEN S English A nwy-swe, A PAR S English F eng-bre, F BEL-pic, F ber-BAL.

ITALY(Dan Palter,4): A TRI S A rom-VEN, F ION C A tun-ALB.

RUSSIA(Bob Olsen,6): F swe S/d/R(Bot,Fin,OTB)F STP(nc)-nwy, A RUM S A mos-UKR, A WAR H, F SEV S A rum.

TURKEY(Mike Mazzer,4): F AEG C & A BUL S A con-GRE, F smy-EAS.

An unremarkable season, unless I missed something. Maybe FALL 1902, due here by 10 p.m. on Friday, April 24, will prove a bit racier. PRESS follows:

GERMANY: Where does John Mickalski get the nerve to presume it was Olsen who "masterminded the destruction of Andy McMahon's France"? Speak not of what you know not of, John! It was Stafford who has planned out and executed France's demise. All credit should go to Stafford, who is also doing an excellent job pulling my strings, by the way.

DAN PALTRY to DIRTY DAVE: Was that comment last issue about the "paltry sum" meant as a slap in my face? ((And if it was? Lissen fella, push me too far and I'll tell 'em all what the D.S. really stands for))

SHERWOOD AGAIN to GM: Don't give me a hard time about "who" and "whom". Don't you know that America's educational system is failing? ((Ain't it the truth))

VIENNA to WORLD: "Hi guys! Anyone for starting the game over?"

MOS to BER: It sure was easy to get a rise out of Michalski, wasn't it? You get an A+ from the Little Davey Perlmutter School of Needlepoint. Wouldn't John be mad if he found out you're the one who's writing all the insulting press about him?

MOS to LON: Mazzer lies! Sherwood never said he was building a F StP(nc). Actually, some of the things he did say were even more ridiculous, but we won't talk about that, will we?

HELP WANTED: Austrian Army now accepting applicants for military service. We will consider all applicants, ages 8 to 80, who can see straight and hold a rifle. See your Army Recruiter today! Uncle Franz-Joseph wants you!!

SHERWOOD: Well, how about it? Am I to be "kind and good" in Eric's stead? If not, I'll settle for hobby mascot. ((I understand Jane Proskin is telling people you're "kinda good"; why not settle for that? Besides, part of the Hobby Mascot's prizepackage is gonna be a free spay or neuter at Tom McMillen's vet clinic. Still interested?))

IRELAND to CON: Your mother was combat boots!

GERMANY to FRANCE: The only way I'll lay off you is if you erect temples to me and worship me as a Greek god. It's your choice: annihilation or a new religion.

RUS to ENG: On second thought, some of the words you used during our recent phone conversation -- "slut", "asshole", "idiot", "stupid", and so on -- were not entirely friendly. Unless you clarify your position I'm going to have to assume they were meant to be insulting. ((Slut?!))

WICHITA to MOORE: You're quite wrong. Even Tretick wouldn't have me for a GGM. As for Mazzer, having him GGM a Dippy game in any zine would be like having Einstein teaching first-grade finger-counting. Only Stafford enjoys the appropriate condition of mediocrity required.

SWITZERLAND to MOORE: Personally I'm willing to think you were right about Tretick, but on the other hand I'm inclined to think it was purely an accident.

KANSAS to DIRT: Don't worry, after we get through harassing Michalski we'll take care of you. This Sherwood has a lot of potential as a GM-abuser. ((Can't be any worse than what he's capable of as an ally. I've been there.))

MOS to BER: Should I go with my suspicions, or with my hopes?

BER to CON: "What do you mean, "Naw! Couldn't be!"? I think B.O. describes Olsen rather well.

BERLIN to MOSCOW: Oh, so now it's "zinny." Well, smart-guy, how do you pronounce that? Is it "zin-ē," "zīn-ē," or something else? ((It's either that or "(,)that" in my dictionary, "Tro".))

EAS MED: Latest reports filtering out of Turkey suggest that little Princess Amanda Mazzer is a chip off the old block. She has already bitten off two of her governess' fingers and has thrown food all over her lavish nursery. Daddy is said to be very pleased. Only he can't decide what to nickname her. Will it be 'Daddy's Little Rattlesnake' or 'Mazzergirl'?

((The following press item is published as received)):

Harvard St Montessori School, Santa Monica, California

I think, at last, I have unraveled the mystery about what is 'unusual' about the paragraph in the Jan 26 edition of DnD. The 'lipogram' explanation is, of course, a blatant red herring. A little deeper insight is clearly needed.

That there is a conspiracy in this game has always been suspected, but never proven. That it involves the Irksome contingent against the 'Oaklyn Gang' was also suspected. That the GM favored the Irksome group was further suspected when Gariepy was inserted in the game when Ozog 'disappeared' (was snuffed?). That Sherwood was somehow the focal point, the beneficiary of this conspiracy was evident in his performance in '01, six centers and he hadn't even taken Holland yet! Luck? Skillful play? I began to suspect that somehow this mysterious paragraph was a cryptic message to Sherwood. But what was the message?

Sherwood himself provided the key when, with the typical arrogance of the criminal mastermind, he blurted out in the Fall '01 press, "the paragraph is shaped like Mississippi", to which the GM replied, "Del City, OK". In my correspondence with Gary Coughlan, I learned that "Del City" is Southern teenage slang for "Shut up! You'll blow it! OK?" (similar to 'fat city' etc.)

So, the paragraph is indeed the outline of a state, but not Mississippi. The first ten lines are the outline of a state whose left (western) border is a straight meridian, and whose right (eastern) border tapers from west to east for a few lines (following a river?) then drops straight down along a meridian again, with one very important exception which I will discuss later.

The eleventh line is clearly separate since it contains only two words, "an hour". . A cursory glance at a map of the US shows only one state with the requisite shape, Kansas! Now we are on to something! This is a clear reference to Olsen, whose home is Wichita. I overlayed an appropriately scaled image of the paragraph onto a map of Kansas and found that Wichita exactly corresponds to the word "No" in line 8. "No" (note the capital N) is the standard abbreviation for North. The reference to Olsen implies, I believe, that an effort should be made to induce Olsen to weaken his position with respect to Sherwood by building a fleet on the North (No.) coast of Stp in '01 ("an hour"-one hour=0100, get it?) which is, in fact, exactly what happened.

Now to that crucial exception to the straight right-hand border. The 9th line's rightmost three characters, "ws?", extend beyond the "Eastern boundary" of the paragraph. This suggestion of an eastern encroachment of a boundary, combined with the identification of Olsen as the intended victim of this conspiracy, clearly suggests a stab of Russia. But what does "ws?" mean? The fact that there are exactly 11 lines in the paragraph seems significant, but what is the significance of 11? At first, I thought it might be Eric Ozog's IQ, but a more suggestive idea comes from the fact Dan Stafford's name contains 11 letters! The characters, "ws?" are clearly seen to mean, "Will Stafford?". Will Stafford what? Stab Russia, of course! Ie, can the redoubtable Mr Stafford be made an unwitting party to this heinous breach of ethics and viscerously attack his own colleagues who had played in Le Front. The mind boggles at the depths of the conspirators' cunning!

There is, of course, more now that the key provided by Sherwood has unlocked the door to his own downfall. For example, "Par is about half an hour" means "Paris('Par') you can have ('half') in '01 ('an hour')", and Sherwood did indeed take Paris in '01. Yes, Dave and Keith, the jig is up! Your conspiracy is blown! Prepare to face the consequences! Dan, do you see how they have used you? It is time to crush the arch-fiend Sherwood before it is too late. Don't let them do to you what they did to poor Ozog!

Well, Dave, do I win?

((Sure do, Mike. As BRUCKS would say, thanks, and two free issues to you. Actually, why don't you just find us a seventh for DnD-2? It's on me. Let me know who you want in the slot.))

At least somebody here has the intelligence to figure out the ridiculously simple puzzles I've printed so far. For the rest of you, maybe next month I can find something appropriate in my kid's Sesame Street Connect-The-Dots Book. Sherwood sent along a coupla puzzles that look promising, but he didn't include the answers. We'll see.

For some reason there's a real stigma attached in this hobby to leaving white space in a zine issue. It's uncreative, or something. Too bad, I say. Possibly we can solve this in future by a) revising the HRs along the line of Linsey's and thus always having 20 pages of gripe letters to print each time, b) getting the second game started, or c) seeking additional contributions from you, gentle readers. Re the latter, I've always enjoyed the Players' Profiles that run periodically in Whitestonia. Anyone interested in working up the same sort of thing for submission here? I'll print anything, I promise. So long....

PERSONAL NOTES:

((Ha! Maybe Dave had no personal message for me, but I sure have use for this extra room. SUBS EXPIRING THIS ISSUE: Linsey, Larzelere, Wilson, Baumeister, Forman. NEXT ISSUE: Arnott, Cummings, Masters, Olsen, Becker, Kirchner, J Albrecht, Palter, Robinson. Gone with #86: Heinowski, Walker. WELCOME NEW FACES: Pritt, Langley, Arnawoodian, Huddle, Myers, Carlson (phew. Are all you folks SURE you want this thing? At these prices, why does my sub list keep GROWING?))) J.M.

THE BIG CRUNCH GOES ON. ITALY FINALLY GUESSES WRONG!
DRAWS FAIL

March 23, 1981

FALL, 1914

ENGLAND (Blant): F EAS-Smy; A Tun-NAF; F Tyn-NAP; F Tus-TYN; F LYO
S F Tus-Tyn; F Wes-TUN; F Edi-NWG; F Mid-WES; F ENG,
NTH, BAR H; A Wal-YOR; A SS'-Arm

GERMANY (Cummings): F DEN, A MAR H; F Kie-HOL; A Ber-SIL; A UKR-Rum;
A GAL & A VIE S A Tri-Bud; A Tri-BUD; A TYO S A Ven-
Tri; A Ven-TRI; A Ape-VEN; A ROM S Engl F Tyn-Nap

ITALY (Grabar): F ION-Aeg; F AEG-Smy; F ALB-Tri; A SER S A Bud; A Bud
S F Alb-Tri/ann.; A ARM-Sev

RUSSIA (Kirchner): A RUM H; F BLA S A Rum

TURKEY (Becker): F Gre-GRE; F GRE S F Gre-Gre; A Gre S F Gre-Gre/NSU

Well, it looks as though we will get to sweat out a run down right to the wire. Should be interesting. More after the press. Winter, 1914 adjustments and SPRING, 1915 will be due with my mail received here MONDAY, APRIL 6, 1981. Press follows 1914

1914: E: Home Nwy Swe Bel Bre Spa Por Tun StP Mos Sev	NAP	14	+
G: Home Hol Den Par Mar War Tri Ven Vie Rom	BUD	13	+
I: Nap Bud Ser Con Smy Ank		4	1 ann., -1
R: Bul Rum		2	even
T: Gre		1	even
		34	

Press:

GER-RUS & TUR: We agree to guarantee your survival and you agree to pussyfoot around with a man who would stab you twice before breakfast. You're both nuts.

LONDON: I always wanted an Arab for my own. I'll offer a whole flock of Suffolk sheep for that advertised Saudi last issue.

ROME (in exile): There is now way Italy can vote for an E/G draw with those English fleets set for the stab. THE STAB will come, and I'll be around to see it happen. If not, I will make sure there is a single winner. You won't draw.

SIR K BLANT-to very minor powers. You stupid son of a bitches--you're making this standby position a giant pain in the ass. I admire a courageous defense, but an insane death wish is stupid. There will be a two way draw if it has to be 17-17, and that's it.

LON-GM: The adjudication of Bud & Tri seems right but it makes me glad I'm not a GM. Would you please explain and cite the rulebook pertaining to the reason's why.

Re that last press item, last season was a piece of cake: a smiple double supported attack from Bud to Tri running straight on into a double supported attack from Tri to Bud. Had either side used a different swing unit, both attacks would have succeeded. As it was, 3/3 is the same as 1/1, TRI-Bud, BUD-Tri.

Now if you want to get tricky, look at this season at Tri-Bud. Tri-BUD succeeds because the same two supports overwhelm the single support given Bud in defense by A Serbia. However, since Trieste is the porvince from which the attack is coming, and is the same province into which the support is being given, the support of A BUD would normally NOT be cut. (E.g., if A RUM S A Bud were ordered, and not cut a A Ukr). This is because of the logic of Germany ordering A MUN S A Ruh-BUR while France orders A BUR-MUN: the support of Munich is not cut, you see. SO, the problem here becomes, what happens to Trieste after A TRI moves out successfully to Bud? Does the supported move of A Ven-Tri succeed? At first it fooled me; no, I thought, it should not, since it is held off by the supported ALB-TRI. If A Bud had not been displaced, this is exactly

My thanks to the K's for not having anything better to spend their Monday evening on than in answering adjudication questions out of the blue.....

Hmm, am I falling behind? Not only do other zines announce the new postal rates first, but Steve Heinowski's latest TER-RAN even had some analysis of the latest EVERYTHING before me. Too bad I wasn't paid to do nothing but put out BB material. Anyhow, here is the breakdown of the 43 regular games appearing in EV #47:

For 43 games, each country "should" have 1/7 of 43 Calhameer points, or 6.14. Actual tallies per country were: Austria, 7.23, or 18% above the average; England, 5.12, 17% below; France, 6.15, right on the mark; Germany, 8.54, 39% above; Italy, 6.03, off 2%; Russia, 3.48, 43% below!; and Turkey, 6.45, which is 5% above the average. This shows that Germany remains remarkably well off; Austria had a good showing for a change; England fell way off from its usually above-average place; and Russia, perennial leader, just outright collapsed in this batch. Bob Sergeant must have 5 finishes in this group or something.

Other items of note: a full 2/3s of all games concluded (65%) resulted in outright wins. (Is Dave Grabar in a lot of them?) They went 6 to Austria, England 2, France 4, Germany 6, Italy 4, Russia a paltry 1, and Turkey 5. The Austrian improvement this time is best illustrated by the countries' number of wins as a % of the number of total games in which it won or drew. These are Austria, 6 wins out of 11 finishes, 54%; England, 2/11, 18%; France, 4/11, 36%; Germany 6/13, 46%; Italy, 4/10, 40%; Russia, 1/7, 14%; and Turkey, 5/10, 50%

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, variant

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

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

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

WHITESTONIA, 4w, \$2 + \$5/10 ((Feb))

DIPLOMACY, MASTERMIND, WOODEN SHIPS & IRON MEN

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

LIFE OF MONTY, m, 55¢/issue ((Feb))

CRESCENDO OF DOOM, DIPLOMACY, EMPIRES OF THE MIDDLE AGES,
KINGMAKER, SOURCE OF THE NILE, THIRD REICH

Scott Hanson, 701 15th Av SE, Minneapolis Mn 55414 USA

IRISOME, 2w, \$3 + \$1 or 12/\$5 ((Mar))

DIPLOMACY

Roy Henricks, 128 Deerfield Dr, Pittsburgh Pa 15235 USA

ENVOY, 5w, \$4 + \$5 @ 3/8¢/pr + postage ((Feb))

Deadman (\$3 Game fee), DIPLOMACY, KINGMAKER, SOURCE OF THE NILE
(\$2.50 + SASE/turn), WOODEN SHIPS & IRON MEN: Corsair (\$2 Game fee)

Mark Larzelere, 522 W Grand River, Howell Mi 48843 USA

APPALLING GREED, 3w, \$2 + 10/\$3.50 ((Mar))

DIPLOMACY

John Leeder, 121 19th Av NE, Calgary Alberta T2E 1N9 CANADA

RUNESTONE, \$5 Can ((Feb))

DIPLOMACY (aussi en français), Gesta Danorum

Dave Marshall, 1547 Maplegrove Rd, S Euclid Oh 44121 USA

DOWN 'N' DIRTY, 3w, \$4 + 12/\$5 ((Mar))

DIPLOMACY

Al Pearson, Rt 1 Box 177B5, Kearneysville WV 25430 USA

JUST AMONG FRIENDS, m, \$2 + \$5/yr ((Feb))

DIPLOMACY

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

HANSARD, \$3 + sub ((Apr))

Parlement (w rules amendment rule)

Mike Scott, 1726 Cypress Circle, LaVerne Ca 91750 USA

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

CONQUISTADOR, CRUSADES, MACHIAVELLI

Steve Shaddix, 5486 Butano Way, Rocklin Ca 95677 USA

THE WHITE DUKE, \$2 + sub ((Feb))

DIPLOMACY, ORIGINS, WOODEN SHIPS & IRON MEN (\$1.50 Game fee)

Tom Swider, 1183 Robinson Hill Rd, Endwell NY 13760 USA

THE SHOGUN'S SWORD, m, \$1 + 12/\$5 ((Feb))

DIPLOMACY, Grand Tournament, Hyperbourse (\$3 Game fee),
KINGMAKER, NUCLEAR DESTRUCTION, SAMURAI (\$1.50 Game fee)

Clive Tonge, 2402 Edenhurst Dr, Mississauga Ontario L5A 2K9 CANADA

Nick Russon, 2503-353 Hurontario St, Mississauga Ontario L5A 2G7 CANADA

INFIDEL, 5w, \$3.25 + sub 45¢-65¢/issue Can ((Feb))

Deadman, DIPLOMACY, any other variant

Brad Wilson, 302 Friendship Dr, Paoli Pa 19301 USA

BORN TO DIP, 2w or 4w, 10/\$5 or \$3 for 2w game ((Mar))

DIPLOMACY

support is cancelled out, so F ALB-Tri goes in alone, and the supported
A Ven-Tri succeeds.

I wish I could say I saw all this instantly. However, I didn't, and decided to check it out. I used to call Don Horton for a backup opinion, but since he's winding down, I instead pestered Lee Kendter, who then checked with Lee Jr, and we all decided that yes, Ven-Tri goes. And to think I only charged a \$2 gamefee for this thing.....

80 D
cont'd

ENGLAND MOVES, ITALY TRIES, THE REST JUST COAST

W14: England builds F LON; Germany NBR, will play one short. Italy removes F Ion

SPRING, 1915:

ENGLAND (Blant): A Yor-STP; F NTH, NWG, BAR C A Yor-StP; F Lon-ENG; F Eng-MID; F Tyn-ION; F NAP & F TUN S F Tyn-Ion; F GLyo-TYN; F EAS-Aeg; A SEV-Rum; F WES, ANAF await further orders (H).

GERMANY (Cummings): F DEN, HOL U, H; A MAR, SIL, UKR, GAL, VIE, BUD, TYO, NMR! TRI, VEN, ROM U, H

ITALY (Grabar): A SER-Bud; F ALB-Gre; F AEG S F Alb-Gre; A Arm-SMY

RUSSIA (Kirchner): F BLA S A Rum; A RUM H

TURKEY (Becker): NMR! F GRE U, H

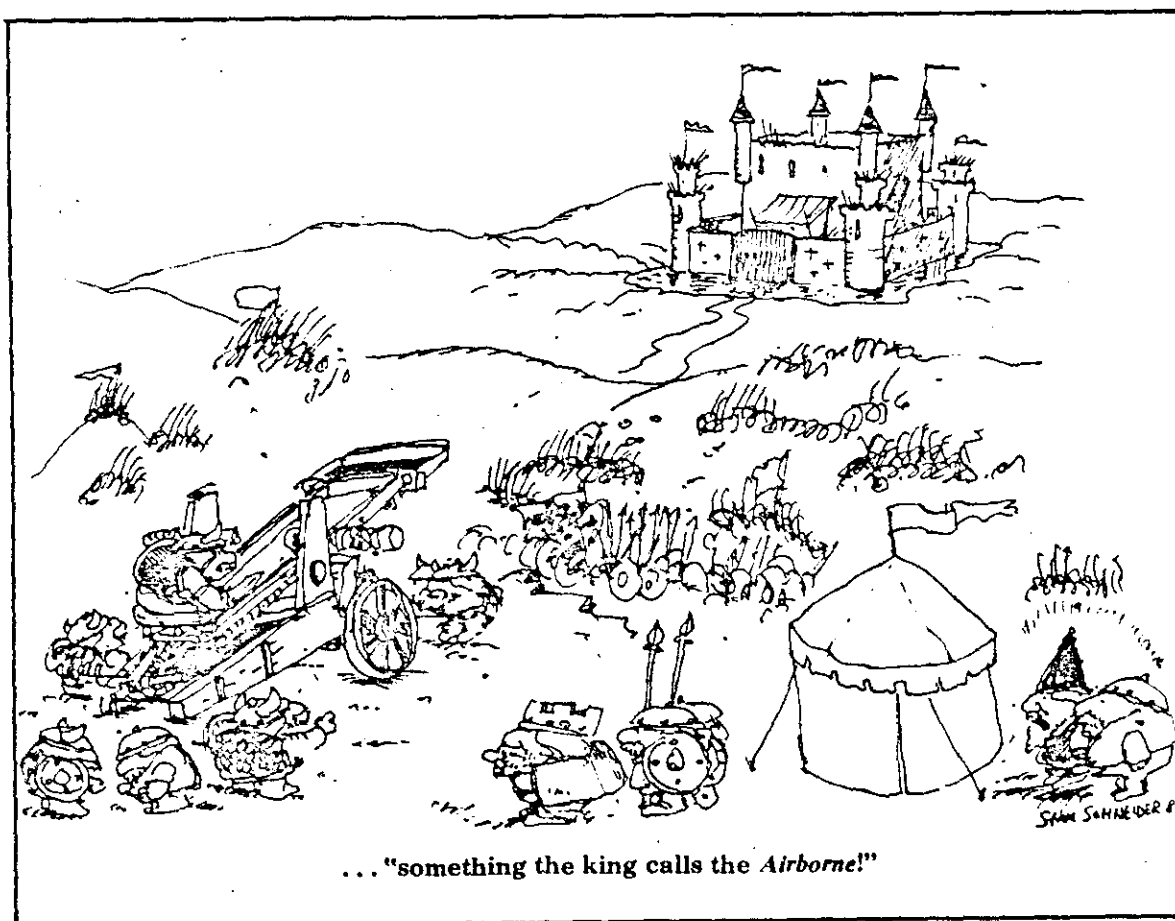
About the last person I have to call as a standby for this game, altho I don't think he'll be needed, is DAVE GARLEPY, 179 Maumee Ave, Napoleon, Ohio 43545. Dave, you do not have to submit German orders if you choose not to; you will not be player of record if it drops into CD.

Any draws and concessions failed. This time there are calls for an EG draw, an English win, and an EGT draw. NVR will equal a YES. If more than one pass, the largest victory condition will supercede.

FALL, 1915, will be due here MONDAY, April 20, 1981. Hmm, I see that if Hitler is alive in Paraguay, he will be 92 that day. Don't forget your orders amid your celebrating.

Press:

ROME (in exile): There will be only 1 winner. Watch and see. That is my goal!



... "something the king calls the Airborne!"

ROD WALKER

"alcala"
1273 crest dr.
encinitas ca 92024
6 april 1981

This is a quick note to go along with enclosures. These are being (eventually) sent to all the GMS in North America that I know of.

My main concern at this point is a comment in BB 83, to the effect that "the NADF (is) off in the nether-world." I'm not sure what you mean by that. If you mean, we don't have a high profile, that's correct. It's sort of counter-productive for a group which doesn't have an open membership in the usual sense of the word to be out with fanfares and bushbeating to seek any large-scale public interest. And, by the same token, it seems foolish to blow horns and in general sound off when there's not much going on. The purpose of the NADF is not to act as a constant public irritant (as something like IDA would have had to do), but rather to order its own affairs and to provide expanded hobby services and continuity for established ones. There are some problems which are being looked into, and if and when positive results are achieved, there will be an appropriate amount of publicity. But I hope you will not expect us to follow the late and unlamented hobby practice in other quarters of making a lot of noise, results or no results. We do of course hope that people will know we're around. That's only common courtesy and "right to know" and all that. But please don't ask us to set off a monthly set of fireworks or something.

If, on the other hand, "off in the nether-world" means "dead"...well, hardly. What would have led you to such a conclusion? Did you, by any chance, ask me (or any other member) about it? (True, things have moved a trifle slowly, while I've been getting some of my other shit together, but I'm not aware of any screaming emergency, are you?)

As for Al Pearson: I don't know Al, and I've not seen his proposal. However, snide as your comment on him is, he still sounds like a public-spirited sort to me.

I will, of course, have to agree with you that a general-membership organization is not likely to succeed and I will agree with you that past hobby experience with these is instructive to that point. That is particularly true now. Few, if any, hobby services lack of being provided; a pretty full range exists through the traditional Custodian Project method at the present time...as you will see in ZIMIAMVIA 2. Anyway, I will write Al and suggest to him that he may want to consider turning his energies into channels which might be more productive.

Although we agree in essence about the chances a group such as Al proposes might have these days, I think the main point was missed by your comments: namely, Al wants to see more general and positive contributions made to the hobby. What's wrong with that? You may contend an organization isn't needed for that...you've made a lot of contributions yourself, personally...but for some people one would be. You saw the IDA at its rag-end. For at least three years, it played an important and highly positive role, founded in strong, able, and talented leadership (Birsan and Boyer, particularly). Then everything went to pot. Well, Marcus Antonius said it, that the good someone (or something) does is usually interred with his bones. Too bad you don't remember the good years.

((It would seem more to the point to ask why there were so few good years. Hell, the hobby is over 18; I'm sure all these save-the-hobby movements have been around for at least 12 of those; I've been watching for 5, and can't recall the IDA/IDANA or anything else doing a damn thing right, nor even just "doing" much besides holding elections that were ignored, and collecting dues.

update Your NADF would seem to bear out my comments. You say that not much has been happening, and that's just what I inferred was going on with it: "not much". Since, as you say, the NADF is a closed group that's not doing much, I think my reference to it being out in the

Response to Walker, conclusion

nether world was accurate.

Per Al and the Player's Council or whatever, I stand on what I said. It might not be polite to splash cold water on someone's new baby, but there have been a lot of such "babies" before, and all were abortions. A little cold water at the start might well be a good experience for these things. I do not question his spirit: hell, Cal White had the highest motives in assuming the B# Custodianship, what's-his-name in Iowa was no doubt very dedicated when he assumed the presidency of the IDA, Sacks always meant the best with all those constitutions he'd bring up, etc. But it doesn't change the history of all these good intentions. No, what I said was correct.)) J.M.

((Rod enclosed two sheets the NADF (I guess) put out which lists what services are available in the hobby and from who: archivists, variant monitors, novice packets, orphan placement, and the like. If anyone would like a copy, send Rod a SASE, or I'll let you have mine if they're still here.)) J.M.

KERRY BLANT

(excerpts)

Congratulations on your new job. I can relate to the stupidity you had to deal with. When you see such numb nuts in high paying jobs, you realize making money in this world is one of the easiest things to do, if that's all you want to do.

I've never been a Sierra Club type, but because of ((family)) experience, ...it makes me wonder just what we are putting into our air and water. Especially after your descriptions of the mentality of the people running our corporations.

((They aren't paragons of greatness, true, unless we compare them to the typical gov't regulator. The pollution, a very real problem, is akin to the brutality problem that was brought out in the concentration camp discussions: not so much the result of any conscious act, but rather, simple indifference and apathy. If they're done with the poisons, hell, dump 'em and let someone else worry about it. The ground water gets ruined, well, move on to another state. If a corporation goes out of business, even if only via a change in name, all responsibility under our "legal" system goes out the window, so the reckless and indifferent have a field day. Even the few who give a damn are at a disadvantage by way of the added costs they incur to try and clean up their own droppings; it may gain local goodwill, but for a large firm with a regional or national market, there is a real disincentive to act responsibly, for the housewife in the next town will buy the cheapest product she can get, not the one whose manufacturer did all he should have for that last 3¢ a can.

I think you err on the money-making, though. If it were the easiest thing in the world, I'd do a bunch of that easiest-stuff for a while, and then do nothing but play wargames and publish BBs forever. (Well, maybe a little yardwork, and burn the trash). More correct would be, it is no sweat to OCCUPY any high paying job. Any klutz could do that, for so very many DO. The trick is to get yourself up into their ranks. If you know some way I've missed for just the easy-money tho, please let me know right away!)) J.M.

RALPH MORTON

173 Irving Ave, Ottawa, Ont K1Y 1Z6

(excerpts)

Sorry to hear about the employment problems, but as it turned out...things worked out for the best, even if it does mean an extra 16 miles to drive a day. Not only that, but it sounds as if you'll have a lot less hassle at work. What more could you ask for?

((Jack Masters once asked that in BLACK FROG, or maybe it was Caruso in WHITESTONIA, I forget now. My answer to whichever was, "separation from that insensitive and arrogant regime in Ottawa; and, an evening with Toni Tennille".

It is less hassle, but being staff instead of honcho is kind of dull. You get used to deciding what's to be done, rather than implementing someone else's decisions, or non-decisions. Thanks for writing.)) J.M.

When it comes to gun control, I tend to side with the police, since they take the brunt of guns more than any other (legal) occupation. The anti-gun control lobby is extremely strong in Virginia, and as a direct result, we have some of the loosest laws in the country. The police don't like it and I think that they are right. They cannot even run a computer check on someone walking into a store to buy a gun, to see if the person is a convicted felon or has any outstanding arrest warrants. They've complained to the legislature, but have gotten nowhere. I'm sure you've heard the logic. If we allow a police role, then the next thing will be mandatory handgun registration. Then ~~ban~~ on possession will automatically follow. Once this happens, when the commies land in Jersey, all we'll have is our sligshots.

Registering guns will make it easier to "trace" a weapon when used in a crime. A lot of crimes are done by people using stolen guns. If you were a thief, would you prefer to steal guns in a city where people were required to register guns (and thus there was a reasonable chance that the gun you steal might be traceable to you) or a town where they didn't have to register guns.

Some time back, you said you'd draw the line on weapon possession at crew-operated weapons. I'm glad to hear that you don't favor private ownership of nuclear attack submarines. But let's talk surface-to-air missiles, shall we? These normally do not require a crew, especially when we are not talking battlefield, we are talking about setting it up somewhere near an airport. If they are legal, someone will own one, and it will be stolen, or he will arrange for it to be stolen. With such a weapon, it is only a matter of time before an airline will be blackmailed. \$1000000 a month should do it, perhaps sent to the PLO, IRA, or just released into the air over one's favorite suburb or ghetto. All they need to do is destroy one airplane, sez the airline, and they've caused over 1 year's worth of blackmail payments damage. I can't see the airline taking that kind of risk, and the precedent of paying the \$\$ would be devastating for the industry. So what do they do --- wait out months and months with no flights while the feds mull over their almost non-existent clues. I have somewhat the same feelings (on a lower scale) for bazooka's being used against trains.

I'll withhold comments on the Nazi stuff unless/until I hear from Ron. It's an unpleasant topic, so I'm unsurprised that response is so light --- I indicated I didn't think you'd print any more, and didn't want to make it look like I thought you'd be cutting me off because you didn't want to hear it.

((No problem. On the trains, I doubt there'd be a problem, despite the fact that there already ARE a certain number of things like bazookas out there.

Some years ago, an Army reserve or Marine reserve unit was on summer camp in Kentucky or Tennessee, and a small group of men stole an entire battalion's weapons stores. This was NOT the rifles the men of the unit were carrying, either. When I was at Ft Monmouth, there were many weapons being stolen, and "word" was, you could buy some from the blacks in a certain unit who were otherwise selling them in Newark. I'm sure there are some crew-served weapons already out there. Hell, you could derail a train with a tree about as easily as a bazooka, and not risk arrest for being found with/near a tree. The airplane scenario is an excellent one though. I wonder why no one has tried it? I guess AA missiles are just too difficult to come by, as only the southern African guerillas have used them, and the media cares little whether THEY commit atrocities. Heaven help us though if the Republic SA ever retaliated! It would be like another Water-gate on TV.

There is always a good case for registering handguns, just like there is a good case for the ERA if you consider it too in a vacuum. Unfortunately, government does not work in a vacuum, but rather, it works upon the heads of you and me. Seeing how the courts have perverted the law--indeed, the Constitution itself--for its own causes, I have absolutely NO faith that it would administer a sexless society or a controlled-gun society very well at all. I'll take the free gun market, and differentiation between males and females, over trusting in government and our disgusting court system

Response to Berch, cant'd

to "protect" and "guide" me. Fuck them. I'm not too worried about the Commies landing in NJ, but the registration-to-seizure line I do think is more plausible than not. Hell, it almost came about last year in, was it Conneticut, or Massachusetts? A statewide ballot question was whether or not their registration law should be changed to seizure of the registered weapons. THAT is the kind of thing that gives the real gun nuts the clout, via the validity, they can show.))) J.M.

MARK LEW (Dipshit)

Anchorage, AK

Any particular reason why my "Mid-February" BB gets here March 13? (That's a day after Del Grande's "April" LCM.) Dipshit comes out when ever I get the inclination to make it I guess. That could be tomorrow or never or anywhere in between (probably never). I don't have copy, so I'll just send it to you and you can do it like a subzine.

Sheesh! Still talk about Lennon. He died, what?, three months ago. Sure, I really dug the Beatles music and Lennon's neo philosophical stuff, too. So now He's dead; no reason to get all hyped up. His music's still here, and all his ideas are still here, what did you lose, then? Just another human organism. So what? They're dying all the time. (And BW will care to know that I didn't cry either. But that doesn't say much; I probably wouldn't cry if my mother, girlfriend, cat, whatever died either. Like that guy in The Stranger.)

On guns & Lennon. What makes all you guys think JL would have shot his to-be-assassin even if he had a gun. After all, he did preach peace and love and all that, and I know some people who would rather be killed than kill. I don't think he would have. (But I don't know what I am talking about, some would argue)

Caruso asked me a while back why I let you get away with calling me a dipstick. When di you do that? I must have missed it. I don't mind though. Gosh, I'm so tolerant.

A bit about Iran: I think all this talk about nuking them and whatnot is stupid. Shit, the Soviets are in Afghanistan and are backing Iraq; they're just waiting to gobble up Iran and lock all that oil.

Look at it this way: If you were a 12-center France and a 12-center Russia had Germany and Turkey puppeting and beating up Austria. And then Austria took Ven from you, would you get all upset at Austria and throw everything on him? Not me, I'd negotiate and ally with him. Which is exactly what we should do to Iran.

So what if we have to anologize to Iran and pay them a bit af money (I think we owe them for supporting the Shah, but that's debatable). Would you rather have Soviets in the Persian Gulf? Khomeini's not stupid, he doesn't want Soviets in Iran any more then us, so I'm sure he's willing to work things out.

Buh, duh, I guess that's it. Hurrah for the Philistines! Vote NOBCDY! Don't pub in August!! Send \$1000 to Muammar Qaddafi to save the starving children in Libya

((The others can skip August if they like; I need it to make 100 this year. On the Caruso thing, maybe he mistook the "(Dipshit)" thing beside your name as name-calling instead of a listing of what it is you publish, if anything, which is the actual case here. That's all I can think of.

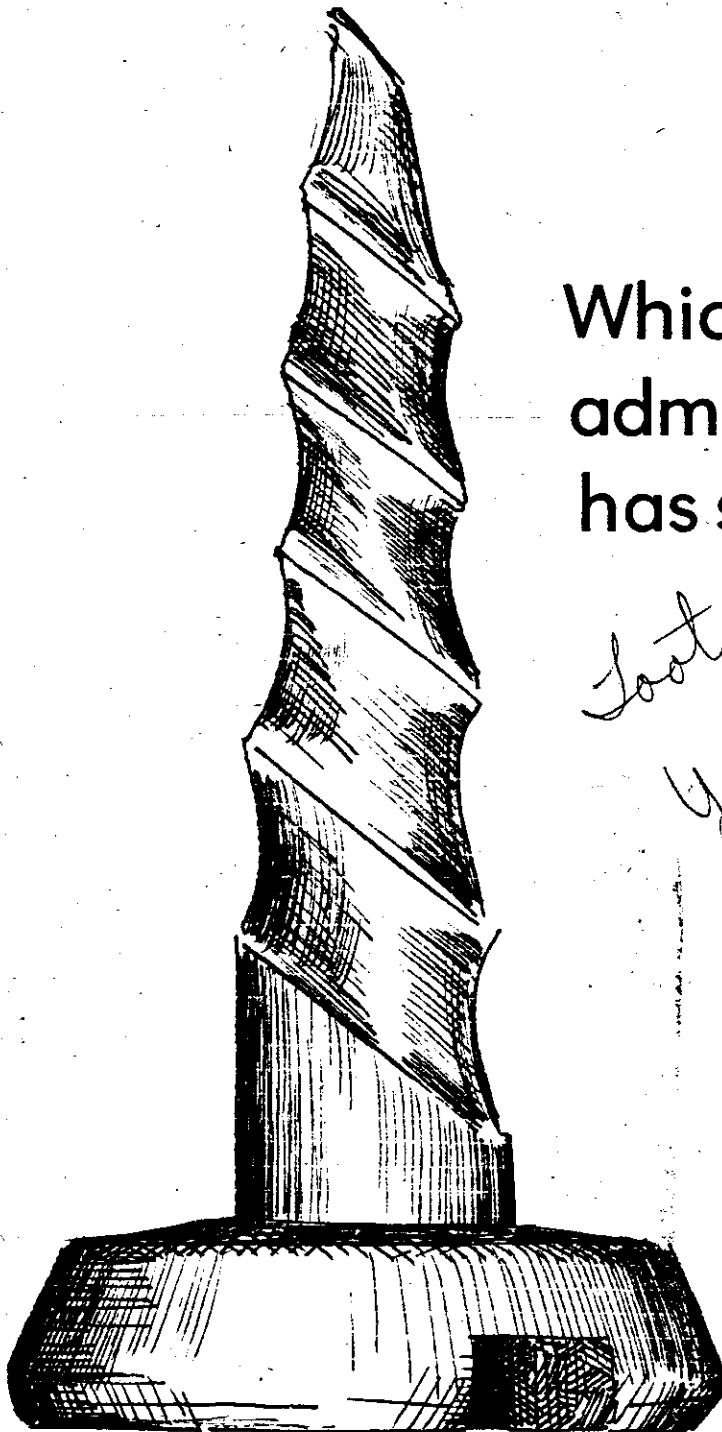
For Iran, you seem to overlook a few things. For one thing, is Iran at all interested in any US alliance? Is the Iranian regime one that anyone could, or would want, to negotiate with in any case? What's in it for us? What, for instance, would be the difference if we kissed the Ayatollahs feet, or if we told him to go eat it raw? Would that provoke or retard any Soviet move they wanted to make? C'mon, Mark.)) J.M.

PS re "Mid-Feb": your issue was slow. However, my dates reflect when I think I'll be able to get them out, and may be off by as much as 3 weeks in the extreme.

The

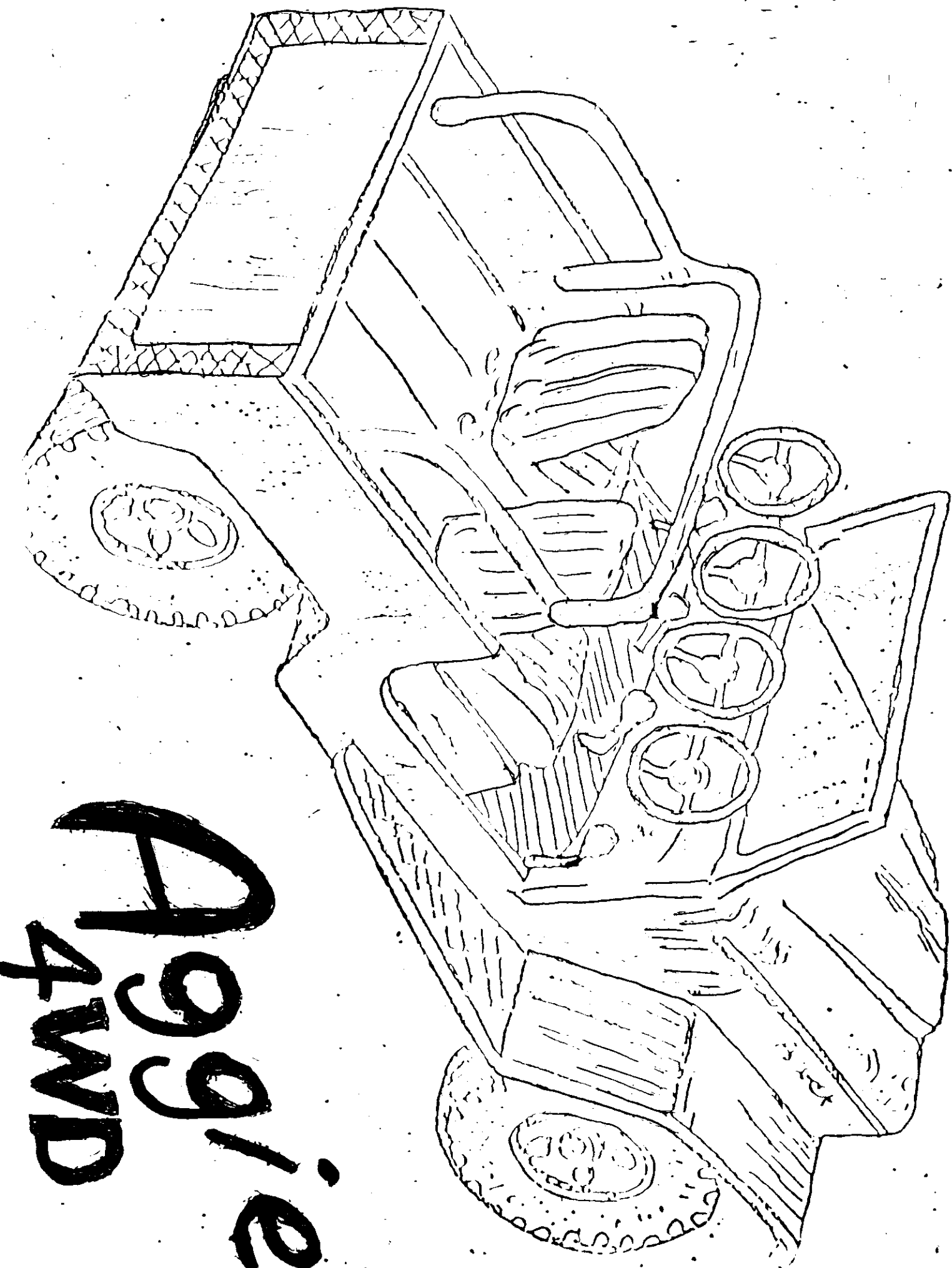
Big Screw Contest

is back!



Which faculty member,
administrator or group
has screwed you?

*Toots -
You gotta be
the best screw
I ever had
Luscious!*



1969
F4WD

I'm sitting here in Ohio, the asshole of the Mideast (oh, excuse me, I forgot, you love Ohio). I've been meaning to write since I heard of your recent change in jobs, but have been pretty busy. I've completed two weeks and finished my Gas Tungsten Arc Welding course, now I have two weeks of Gas Metal Arc Welding, and then back home. I'm turning into an alcoholic during my stay here. You see, the list of activities around here is endless, what with all the gas stations and fast food joints nearby. Why just yesterday, I spent a good two hours watching the grass grow, then headed over to the new gas station they're building and watched the paint dry, then, after that, I buzzed on down to Woolworths and watched them make keys. Can you imagine the excitement?! I usually find myself in the bar here bullshitting with the barmaids and regulars about anything and everything. One night I overdid it a little and then headed over to the restaurant for dinner. Well, I ordered and the next thing I know, the waitress is shaking me, "Sir, sir, your dinner is ready". "Oh, yes, of course", I replied. Really embarrassing, but what the hell, we just laughed it off. Ha ha.

Glad to hear you found a new job so quickly, and a better one at that. The prospects of being unemployed are frightening to me. It's taken me five long years to get to my present position of supervisor, and should I get canned, it would be very demoralizing. Sure, I could find another job easily enough--making 5 or 6 bucks an hour. Fuck that noise. That's what's so nice about management--job security. It sucks. I could just see it now. Old Johnny Boy rocks the boat, actually trying to improve the company, but hey-- that's not what they're paying you to do. Just keep your mouth shut and do your job. Kiss a little ass and maybe you'll be promoted in due time. That's life in the big city. The last thing they want is for somebody from the ranks to come up with a suggestion or good idea. The reason is simple--their boss might wonder why THEY didn't think of it. No wonder American industry is hurting--this attitude breeds contempt and causes the business to stagnate. Perhaps we could learn a little from the Japs here.

((I'm surprised how close to the mark your comments on the job story were. Personally, I think an even bigger management fear is that if they hold any of their own fellow mgt-level types up to some measure of their responsibilities and how well they fill those responsibilities, it would set a bad PRECEDENT; someone might turn around and one day hold THEM up for review, and from what I've seen, few would pass any review at all. One of the worst aspects of the incredible wealth created by the massive oil price hikes has been that no matter how big a screw-up you make, no matter how piss-poor an important company officer is, the revenue being produced is so great that all failings are washed out. The result is that there is a slippage toward the civil service situation, where nothing counts except seniority. The less you do, the less you'll do wrong. Someone who acts is dangerous, for they might act wrongly, or they might succeed embarrassingly well. The main rule of management I've seen is, "Do it like it was done last month", and screw the rest.

On Ohio, the best part for me was the people I knew there. If you have an affair with one (or more) of the barmaids, e.g., your memories of Ohio will always be clouded a different color. The other things, like the topography, low taxes for an industrial, Northern state, climate, and contrasts within the state are all things that are not so readily visible to the casual visitor. Nonetheless, the main thing you will remember will be the people you met, or failed to meet, there. Any Dipster types in the local city (whatever Troy is close to)?)) J.M.

((Bob also received a personal reply upon receipt of this, originally in late March))

Well, what with a lot of folks getting ready to graduate from school next month, how about a few notes on finding that first job? I myself haven't had to look very often, but for what it's worth, I'll give you a few pointers on what I've found out, both as seeker and interviewer.

WHAT MATTERS: That's the main thing, right? So, how about your grades? No, if you passed and graduated, that doesn't count for that much. Anything from a 2.6 to 3.88 is about the same, despite all that shit they told you in school. It's kind of like the bull they handed you in highschool about how important all those extracirricular activities were: hell, they needed hall monitors, that's all. What school ever asked what highschool clubs or service outfits you belonged to? And why would they care? Unless you're another Karim Abdul Jabbar, sports is only a topic they can use to TALK to you about. It doesn't matter what you are saying; all that matters is that you talk at all. A 4.0 will get an "ummm, very good", but won't get you the job over that 3.4 out there in the hall waiting to interview after you. Grades matter only to your chances to entering grad school or something, but mean little to a prospective employer. After all, it is largely just a matter of how well you handle going to school, and school is important only to schools themselves. No, what will matter is primarily ATTITUDE. That appears nowhere on your transcript (which isn't needed anyhow); on that application form, they look only for experience, marital status, stuff like that. Because that stuff matters. If you're married, for instance, you are a more solid prospect than if single, unless you're applying to be a traveller (salesman, auditor, hit man, etc.) So, if you graduated (which is the only school matter that counts), what do you need to do? How about, CARE. Try to seem eager. You'll go in, they piddle around about the weather for a second, then describe the job they have, and/or what they hope to find in the employee for it, and then, deep down inside, they are really waiting for someone to slap their hands together and shout "Yes, that's it! I've always dedicated my whole life to processing your accounts payable!". Maybe not quite, but close. They want someone who seems half-assed eager to do something for them, or at least willing. You really would not believe the number of people who go in and simply struggle to stay awake while you interview them; they seem to figure that by making a grudging gesture of making themselves available to you, they've done their part. These are the folks who are either just looking for some position to retire in (starting tomorrow), or who sure give that appearance. Maybe the line of applicants was too long at the Civil Service Commission, so they came over here by you instead. They give the impression of being like the porverbial token-type employee: "I was hired to be black, so man, I'm gonna sit here all day long and be black, that's all." There are a lot of such people around, and a minority of them are really black. Now sure, YOU don't care what job it is the guy described, as long as it is vaguely in the area you're interested in; you could give a shit less about the details. You want the JOB, the details you can pick up your first few days of doing it. But the interviewers don't remember that. They are looking for someone INTERESTED in doing whatever entry-level spot it is they have, and they really, inside, think you're supposed to get all excited about what was described to you. Now, no one WILL be excited about it, but here's what you need to do: SMILE, then FORCE yourself to say how, yes, that does sound like the very type of thing you had in mind (OK, you're lying, but so what? It's what they want to hear), and the company does seem to be a nice place to work (another lie; you couldn't know that, unless they^{HAD} naked secretaries walking around with WELCOME written below their naval), and you'd be pleased as punch to start tomorrow. THAT part may be the one true item, and you should mention it yourself before they even ask. It will 1., help make you seem more eager, and 2., they want the job filled right away. For entry-type jobs, a candidate with no experience available tomorrow may well be worth one with 15 months experience in two weeks. Job openings are rarely planned. They SHOULD be, but aren't. Maybe the idea of hiring another person for the widget dept. has been kicking around for a year, but when the decision is finally made, the widget supervisor wants someone NOW, not a plan for scheduling when and how the new person will be hired. If you are interviewing with the supervisor, the eagerness and availability are more important than ever, because even if the opening can wait, he HATES to interview, and if you seem OK, he'd much rather hire you than to go through another four days of interrupting his

work with these damn dumb interviews. Such an interviewer will spend more time elaborating on the specific job: DON'T YAWN! You WILL need to, but suppress it. You know, I know, and if he thought about it, he too would know that you don't give a damn about the details, but it's all he can think of to say, so he'll say it. Toward the end, don't be afraid to jump into a pause and say "Yes, that sounds..."; hell, HE doesn't know how to turn the ball over to you, so you'll be doing him a favor. SAY stuff, even just chatter ("There's a lot of traffic downtown here", "you certainly have a big parking lot" or "where do the employees park?"). The interviewer forms his opinion of whether you're alive or not (often not an easy decision to make!) based on what you say and how you say it, so don't just say "yes" and "no". The more you can say, the better, as long as you remember that the purpose is to just talk. If he asks about your hobbies, just say what they are, which you like best, etc. Don't start explaining what Diplomacy is! Keep everything very chit-chatty, unless it is a technical question about the work itself, which is unlikely. Now, what if you're being interviewed by someone in the Personnel Dept instead of the supervisor? Well, this person will hate interviewing a little less, and be more willing to drag it out and BS, unless there are people backed up through his break period out there. Don't try to bury the dolt under technical jargon to impress him (often a her) with your expertise. THEY will be bored, and you won't be remembered. You are not selling your skills, you are selling yourself. You need to get across the message that, "Hey, I'm a good guy. You'll like me". The thing they're looking for is someone worth forwarding to the supervisor, and they're looking for personality more than anything else. They assume that if you're applying, you're as likely as the next guy to be able to do the job. One trainee is the same as the next, really. Be friendly, be awake, try to seem a bit eager or excited, even if it kills you. Get bored when you're on the job.

MONEY. That's the main thing, isn't it? Well, it is the last thing that will be discussed, and should be, unless you have some definite stubbornness not to get less than 110% of the going rate or whatever. I've hired people who never did ask; they got the same as those who did. You ought to be ready to take what they offer, as long as you know roughly what the going rate for your field is, and you can find that from the want-ads. You will likely NOT find a job through them, as very few places advertise direct for degreed openings, but agencies advertise the rates. Be ready to take a few thou less than what the agency ads say, for those ads are often come-ons only, and may be quoting pay scales from a distant city, e.g. If you use an agency, you will rapidly find that MONEY is very important to them: mainly, their fee money. My fee for this job was the % of the salary that matched the salary in thousands, for instance. A \$22,000 job would then be 22% of \$22,000, and these places want their money in a week or two. FEE-PAID jobs are less available, so you will find it longer finding work that way, but maybe you have to. For the typical (here) opening at \$12,000 to \$15,000 for accountants, your fee would be about \$2000 more or less. Can you borrow that? Soon?? Don't believe the agencies when they say the employer will repay you in 6 months on the job; they tell everyone that. Be ready to pay it yourself. FREE AGENCIES, usually the state's, aren't worth going to. You wouldn't want their jobs. I tried on my own, just going to big companies for 8 weeks, then went to an agency. If you can't wait, make it one week and then go to 1 or 2 agencies, no more. The simple fact is, most degreed, office-type or pro jobs go via agencies. It shouldn't be, but is. If you hear nothing from an agency for a week, forget them and go on to another one. The good thing about an agency is that they will help you in knowing what to expect, money-wise. Don't think they necessarily want you to get the highest salary you can; that's partly true, but the guy may need a quick commission too. They're working for themselves first, you second. Now, if YOU want a quick job, don't be afraid to make your deal at whatever you can get. Allow the company a margin if it is fee-paid (i.e., by them), for you've got to remember the amount that they're going to shell out for you that first year. If you want to be a tad pestering but also look on the ball, ask these questions: 1. Is this a new position, or are you a replacement? If not new, what happened to the last fellow? Did he move up, or out? How long was he there? It might embarrass them, but then, it might be a job you'd be better off passing up.

I wanted to elaborate a little more, but I'm about out of space. Let me know if it helped anybody. (Or hurt...)

J.M.

AGGIE GAS CHAMBER

