

"Thank the Maker! This oil bath is going to feel SO good, especially after handling

ISSUE NINETYTWO of

# The BRUTUS BULLETIN

ET TU, BRUTE

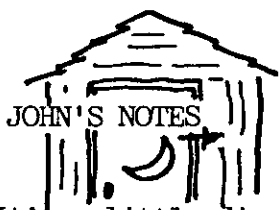
LATE JUNE 81

The BRUTUS BULLETIN is a newsletter of postal DIPLOMACY<sup>tm</sup> brought to you every few weeks by John Michalski, Rt 10, Box 526 Q, Moore, OK 73165. Subs are available, but cost more than you're willing to pay. Resubs are two for a buck. For game openings, see Dave Marshall, subzine DOWN'N'DIRTY within. DIPLOMACY is a game invented by -vealing, and sure enough, she again "accidentally" brushed against my breast. I stop-Allen Calhamer and copyrighted by the Avalon Hill Game Company, Baltimore, MD 21214.

\*\*\*The Fake\*\*\*

No sooner had I come home the evening of the very day I had put #91 into the mail than I find the fake of BB 90 in the box. For those of you who were not included on the mailing list, let me know (and send two stamps) and I'll run you a copy. It was an excellent job, with a lot more work put into it than meets the eye. Note that even the subzines were current and right; someone got a player copy and ran it so it would appear on time and correct, game-wise. There was a lot of stuff that only a reader would know, and it would have to be a reader that was paying attention, which limits the field quite a bit, as you know. It was postmarked OKC, so I suspect Brux wrote and got Pilant to agree to mail the thing. Yes, I at least think there is little doubt that old Bruxus has done it again. There is just too much of his stuff, plus Caruso swipes and the like, for me to think of anyone else. That's just my impression, but Linsey is the donkey I'm choosing to pin the tail on. It is 22 pages, tho it claimed to be 24 (am I missing a sheet?). The cover notes were especially well done, sounding like me in format (I thought) yet being a little wise-assy too. I had some good laughs over the WHITESTONIA note and the #100 item that followed, both of which are really remarkably close to the mark. I liked that stating that #100 was "only 10 issues away, or about 4 months", but really, there I've been thinking of just filling the thing with some of the best nonsense stuff from ALL the back issues. Nothing's decided yet. There is a fake letter attributed to John Robinson that is pretty silly, all of which leads me to suspect Linsey, but there are some long-winded parts too, which would indicate help from Berch and/or Masters. I thought it odd that the JOHN'S NOTES were on the last sheet, but then, that's a good parody of the almost total lack of organization that goes into this operation. All in all, I was very flattered by it, especially in view of the bulk, cost, and attention to detail involved. Again, if you missed it, send me two stamps, or ask Linsey to send you an original from Albany.

THIS ISSUE is something I'd like to talk about, but can't. This cover page is being typed right after #91 left, and all that I have that I know will go with this is Ronald Brown's ( ) letter. Hopefully, this cover will at least be on colored paper again. Time forced me to put out 3 in a row white, and 4 with the fake in there, when I'd only wanted to have white covers every OTHER issue. For once, there is NOTHING carried over at all; 91 cleared the boat. On the other hand, that means that if there is to be any nonsense stuff inside, it will have to come from you folks voluntarily. So if there's not much (or anything) in this issh, please consider that as our personal invitation/prod to find something and send it in. Hopefully you'll be luckier than Steve Langley who sent in something, only to find with the very next issue that I had a copy of the same thing, larger, from right here in THIS office. Thanks anyway, Steve. (Or whoever sent the duplicate French Fry item!)



It's a little disappointing on this new job anymore, really. I mean, the donuts are as good as ever, and it's nice to not even have to wear a tie in this heat, but on the other hand, the only important stuff I have to do in this fourth month here is to get to one of these correcting typewriters whenever I can and whip off something for my next issue. I really CAN do some useful things, but when do I get the chance when I'm basically nothing but a Kelly girl for Arthur Andersen & Co.? (For those of you not in business or working, AA is one of the "big 8" accounting/auditing firms). If I were 25 years older than I am, I'd be in hog heaven (which is a southwestern way of saying "you really stepped in it", Kathy), but as it is, I'm getting little more than experience at being a civil servant while my expertise (such as it be) stales and fades away.

With that in mind, I went to a preliminary interview with an outfit last weekend. It was a wasted trip as far as job went, but like playing in APALLING GREED, it gives you experience with things you may have heard about, but have never come across before. This interview was a long one, but had little to do with the job; in fact, I had to ask what the job even was. Instead, they spent (wasted) a lot of time on what my "life goals" were, when would I be trying for CPA, who were people I admired most, was I an optimist or pessimist, and other useless shit. I was nice and sat it out, but I wouldn't go to a place like that for \$50,000 a year. I have no interests and care less about setting courageous goals, or carving out new frontiers in accounting. I think all such stuff is shit, and people who value such BSing games are all assholes. My only "goal" is to earn a paycheck; pay my bills, and I'll do whatever my own personal 'goals' decide on. If that's just buying a pizza, subscribing to JUST AMONG FRIENDS, paying the rent for some willing concubine, or buying weapons for the IRA, I will decide that, and will do so on my own, wholly apart from work. The job to me is just a source of money; I get no thrills about putting little numbers in little boxes. If someone would pay me \$20,000 or more a year to run an elevator, I'd do it and be satisfied. My "goals" haven't anything to do with the job, and if they're looking for someone whose life revolves around taking care of their damn books, I think they should move to Japan. People there are stupid; there's not many such here. *At least not that KIND of stupid.*

Last night I finally got the small lawnmower going again. I am anything but a mechanic, but I took it apart and did what I could, which was mostly just let the built up dirt fall out. I think that perhaps one of the biggest helps was draining the old oil once it was all apart. What came out was all black and gummy, while the new oil was light tan and fluid. So here's a tip from the great pool of mechanical experience I'm acquiring: when your engine oil resembles road tar, change it. Does anyone know where or if there's an oil filter on those things?

OOPS! The parentheses after Ronald Brown's name was supposed to have a little maple leaf in it to denote the Canadian Ron Brown. Missed that *on the cover*.

The APALLING GREED mention above refers to my having found two players, for the first time in some 4-5 years of play now, that actually go with these written treaties, war declarations, and the like. Pretty childish, I think. I'd always heard such things existed, but had never run across that nonsense before.

This issue had run up 10 sheets before I knew it, so when John Lee's VOICE arrived last night with some good articles in them, I decided to use them and publish 92. I promise to try and not have a Late-late June issue if I possibly can. 4 a month would be excessive, don't you think? Mr. Lee's zine comes on 12" paper, so I had a hell of a time using 98% reduction in order to get it onto 11" paper, but what is a publisher's time for, right? You're seeing about the 4th and 5th reduction there. ALSO, note that I am out of nonsense filler now. Keep your eyes open, folks! All such contributions will be much appreciated!

PS Aren't game-light issues like this nice?

Well, Rodriguez, now you know why they call me Dirty ~~Har~~ Dave; it's because I always end up with the dirty jobs -- like having to type up the putrid press in this

Issue 8 of

## DOWN 'N' DIRTY

June 7, 1981

another old-shoe subzine of John Michalski's Sedentary Evening Post. Dave Marshall of 1547 Maplegrove Road, South Euclid, Ohio 44121 -- (216)382-6623 pleads guilty on all counts. Moving right along, let's get the more tasteless stuff out of the way 1st:

1980 LP (DnD-1: The Toadies' Game)

AUTUMN 1902: ITALY--F ion R TUN

WINTER 1902: ENGLAND--Builds F Edi, F Lon; GERMANY--Builds A Mun; ITALY--Builds F Nap

SPRING 1903: ENGLISH & GERMAN ARMIES INVADE RUSSIA AS EAST-WEST FRONT DEVELOPS

AUSTRIA(Dave Gariepy,2): A SER S Turkish A alb-tri(nsu), A bud-vie/d/R(Gal,OTB).

ENGLAND(Dan Stafford,6): F bre-GAS, F mid-SPA(sc), F NWY-stp(nc), A swe-FIN, F lon-ENG, F edi-NTH.

FRANCE(Andy McMahon,4): F spa(nc)-POR, A gas-MAR, A pic-BRE, A apu-ROM.

GERMANY(Keith Sherwood,7): F BAL C A den-LVN, A hol-KIE, F bel-PIC, A PAR S & A BUR S English F bre-gas, A MUN-sil.

ITALY(Dan Palter,5): F TUN S F nap-ION, A ALB-gre, A VIE S A tri-BUD.

RUSSIA(Olsen,6): F nth-NWG, F STP(nc)-nw, A WAR-sil, A gal-BOH, F SEV S A bul-RUM.

TURKEY(Mike Mazzer,4): F ion-TYN, F AEG-ion, A GRE-alb, A con-BUL.

I notice I didn't do Uncle Bob the courtesy of typing his first name in the above; unintentional, that. Summer and Fall 1903 are due here on Monday, June 29. That's a family birthday, so nobody may be here if you wait until that evening to call.

TEMPORARY COA: 1LT Andy McMahon, Bravo Squadron, PSC Box 5863, APO NY 09127. Andy advises that he'll be there (England) until sometime in August. You can reach him using regular 1st class mail (B stamps okay) but do allow about 7 days one way. And before anyone gets funny ideas, I already have his conditional orders for S/F on file.

Ye Gods The Press.....

TRO to PUDDGE: It's Tro, Buffalo Breath.

NEW LOW: What do you get when you cross a rooster and an M&M? A cock that melts in your mouth, not in your hand.

ANKARA to BERLIN: According to my dictionary, "contend" is beneath "contempt".

FOR UNCLE DAN P: I know the light isn't too good, but if you look closely you'll find that that green unit in Apulia is not one of yours. So what are you going to do about that, huh?

RUMOR MILL: Eric Ozog has expressed his personal admiration for Keith Sherwood's personality and play. Just think about that for a moment.

VEN to MAR: So at least take a center with it.

TRI to SWITZERLAND: Fuck off. You want a letter? Go screw yourself. I answer quickly, pretty's beyond me. I don't doodle answers - I respond to the point.

BULGARIA: Look at this place, it's a mess! Vodka bottles and caviar tins all over the place! I go away for one season and the place falls apart! And look! Someone has killed all of the parakeets in Sofia! ((Ah, but at least the sheep had a season to recuperate))

TRO to GM: Don't worry; I can tell the difference between the Good Guys and the Pricks (Brucks). I sure like your houserules, and I voted accordingly. ((Thanks!))

DIRTY DAVE: What's black and white and getting whiter all the time? Atlanta. ((It's sure as hell not my reputation, after two issues of this stuff...))

THE VOICE OF EASTERN RUMELIA: Do you know what has fuzzy yellow balls and eats pussy? Billy Jean King. ((Yes, and did you hear she's got a new sponsor? Snap-On Tools))

BER to RUS: Now you've gone too far. I can take all of Stafford's verbal abuse, but when you call me "Teacher's Pet" that's too much. Now I'm gonna take you apart.

FUTURE NEWS FROM 1905: The big news this year has been the infamous "Sleazimony" trial of Keitherwood, as he has come to be called. It all began many years ago when, as Keith has confessed, he "fell into an incredibly perverse and demeaning relationship" with the hobby's most notorious you-know-what, one Dan Stafford. Everything was fine during the early years, but now Decorous Dan is suing Keither for all his supply centers and has sent about a million fleets into Germany to collect the debt. Sherwood, now down to one totally surrounded unit, has been heard to exclaim, "If only I had listened to the late Tsar, who only had my best interests at heart! But I was too stupid, too perverted, too imbecilic, and now he's gone, and I feel like a first-class jackass for ever allying with Stafford in the first place."

OLSEN to GM: Did you know our Keither was only 18? Where'd he get such a dirty mouth at such an early age? Golly, he must have been reading the Brutus Bulletin for years!

GM to OLSEN: No, as I understand it, it results from his running away from home at age 14 and meeting "Bernie Oaklyn" in the DC bus station....

SEV to BUL: Thanks for the loan. I'll make sure to repay it at the earliest opportunity. Feel free to borrow London for a year any time.

MOS to BER: Congratulations on your graduation! How many years did it take you to attain mediocrity, anyway?

CONTEST WINNER ANNOUNCED: None of the above--the "D.S." stands for Dumb Shit.

1979AR FRANCE to ENGLAND: Thanks for the draw. Not only are you a fine GM, but you're a good ally too. ((You know, this kid's gonna go far...))

BER to MOS: I'll be Kind and Good only when it benefits me. Right now, I'm gonna put you on a crash diet of supply centers.

ANKARA to LONDON: Don't worry about Olsen, Dan. He's setting you up for the kill.

SHERWOOD: How many of you are accepting positions in Ozog's invitational game? I'm out, unfortunately. It just might be Bernie O.'s last game.

JOKES THE GM LOVES TO TELL: The Army has finally explained why so many more black troops died in Vietnam than whites did. It seems that whenever the shelling started, and the company commander yelled, "Hey everybody! Get down!", all the brothers would jump out of their foxholes and start to dance....

GERMANY to DAVE: Maybe Bernie Oaklyn is Jewish. That way Michalski would be doubly right...er, right?

DAVE to GERMANY: Even if Bernie Oaklyn were Jewish, would you expect them to admit it? They're still trying to live down Perlmutter and Linsey.

GERMANY: Now these are exciting moves. Notice how I open a two-front war. Isn't that how Hitler won WW II?

LOS ALAMOS: Go to Hell, World; I'm ~~a senior~~ graduated. As my graduation present from all of you, I expect you all to give me every one of your supply centers. Thank you.

ANKARA to MAR: And wasn't it fun?

ROM to BER: As long as I can is 2-3 years. After that you can deal with the R-T monolith.

THE TSAR: I strongly feel that there is not enough hate being generated in this game. If we're not careful, John will throw us out. Oh, sure, we've already learned to hate Keith Sherwood, one of the most obnoxious little twerps ever hatched from the decaying bill of a diseased pelican. And Dan Stafford is, well, more contemptible than hate-worthy. Mazzerman has made a strong bid for the blacklist with his brilliantly-conceived lend-lease program of last year, which was so far, far above the limited ken of this group of crudheads. Meanwhile, Palter is...well, Palter. What can I say? However, there are actually two other people in this game, hard though it may be to remember this sometimes, and regrettably neither of them has proved himself despicable so far. Therefore I am calling on all nations to begin showing the utmost contempt and hatred for this pair of sorry cases as soon as possible. McMahon--sounds like a drunken announcer! And "Dave" Gariepy--why did this sorry slob name himself after the GM? God, I can't stand these people!

RUSSIA to GM: I note with interest that "Tro" is a legal abbreviation here. Not to be a smart guy or anything, but what's it a legal abbreviation for? ((Tyrolia))

ANKARA to GM: But for what is "Tro" a legal abbreviation? ((Tyrolia))

GM to ANKARA & RUSSIA: I know there's been extensive debate over this in the hobby, but logically "Tro" can only mean Tyrolia because that sequence of letters occurs nowhere else on the board. If you don't see the logic in that, try this analogous abbreviation as another example: "Kid" for Keith Sherwood. And nobody would deny the logic of that, would they?

IONIAN: The Sultan's Imperial Fleet continued his overwhelming assault on southern Italy with the aid of a motley but gallant multi-national band of Austrian and French freedom-fighters. The Sultan announced that he had received a response from The Paltry One to his terms of surrender. Actually, however, all he received was his own letter back with something illegible scrawled on it. Ah well, on to Tunis.

CON to BERLIN: "Staffordize": v.t. obliterate, destroy function of, defoliate, waste, incinerate. (After wiping out France, I quickly --- Germany"...from Stafford's endgame statement to 1980LP).

MOS to BER: Stupid cluck! I told you that ancient "mis-labeled unit" ploy wouldn't work, but you had to try it. Now don't you feel like a fool? Do you think Stafford is stupid enough to fall for that? Oh, well, sure, him, but what about Mazzerman?

CON to BERLIN: Sorry for not having written you, Keith. I've been a bit busy propping up Olsen (that can be quite a load) and have gotten behind in my correspondence.

June 7, 1981

And now what you've all been waiting for: a game with no press to, from, or about Sherwood, namely:

DnD-2....1981 CH (thanks Lee)

FALL 1901: FOUR NEUTRALS SURVIVE THE FIRST YEAR; ENGLAND, FRANCE MIX IT UP

AUSTRIA(Steve Cartier): A tro-VIE, A SER-bud, F alb-ION. Centers: vie,bud,~~xxx~~,SER (3) Even.

ENGLAND(Steve Langley): F nwg-NWY, F NTH-bel, A YOR-lon. Centers: home,nwy(4) Build 1.

FRANCE(Dave Garlepy): A mar-SPA, A PIC-bel, F ENG-lon. Centers: home,spa(4) Build 1.

GERMANY(Mark Cummings): F DEN-swe, A kie-HOL, A MUN H. Centers: home, hol,den(5) Build 2.

ITALY(Stu Lancaster): F tyn-TUN, A ven-TRI, A pie-VEN. Centers: home,tun,tri(5) Build 2.

RUSSIA(Bob Forman): F FIN-swe, F SEV S A ukr-RUM, A GAL-bud. Centers: home,rum(5) Build 1.

TURKEY(Peter Robson): A BUL-ser, F CON-bul(ec), A ARM H. Centers: home,bul(4) Build 1.

Unless two or more players request a W/S separation, Winter 1901 and Spring 1902 are due here on Monday, June 29. One player has asked whether he may appoint a substitute to submit orders for him during a 1-or-2 season absence. While I don't encourage this especially, it will be permitted as long as the player-of-record notifies me in advance of the affected deadline(s). No more than once per player, please. Incidentally, I think everyone here realizes that Spring 1902 orders may be made conditional upon other players' Winter builds...? PRESS FOLLOWS:

TURKISH EMPIRE to THE LORD PASHA ENGLISHMAN: What is an Englishman, if not flesh or blood?

ROME to WORLD: The Pope, in a gesture of peace and tranquility, would like to invite everyone to an old-fashioned Kansas donkey roast. Next Saturday night, all diplomats welcome. Price \$4.50. Everyone gets a piece of ASS. ((Are WHITESTONIA sex coupons redeemable toward the admission price? Hey Sherwood...))

GM to WORLD: But we weren't gonna mention him, were we? Oh well....

CLYDE to RUHR: You say Italy plays baseball? Kill him? Neither of those are cricket.

ENGLAND to NO DATELINE: Russia denies being "NO DATELINE", and since he was the only player to receive as few as two letters from me (he never wrote), I can only conclude that you are sending press to the wrong game.

TURKEY to GERMANY: Are you there? If you are short on pens I could mail you one.

LONDON: Prince Edward announced that the recent illness of the Queen Mother was nothing for the Empire to worry itself over. It will be "business as usual" on all fronts. He personally expects the Queen to experience an early and full recovery from her dyspepsia, brought on, no doubt, by a bad bottle of Burgundy.

TURKISH EMPIRE to AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: Allah 'al Akbar - my dogs will feast on your rotting corpse.

ENGLISHMAN to PARIS: Wouldn't it be simpler to establish some alliances, determine how best to develop your position, and then move to take Portugal and Spain, rather than establishing no alliances and attacking the only neighbor who hasn't moved against you?

MALTA: Know why they always boil water when a pregnant woman goes into labor?  
So if the baby dies, they can use it to make soup.

TURKISH EMPIRE to MOSCOW: Can you waltz? See you in Vienna. ((They fella...))

WALES: Lord Hume, in a speech to the Home Guard, denied any and all French sympathies which might have been erroneously credited to him. He is quoted as saying, "Who could trust a nation who roots in the dirt for fungus and snails for their provender?"

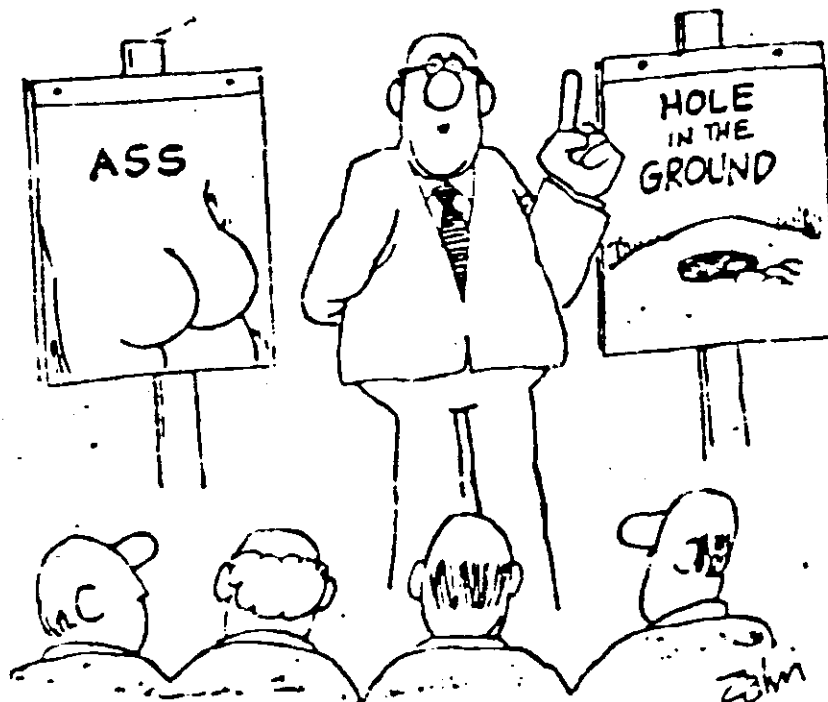
ENGLAND to NO DATELINE: Nine out and only two in this time. How did you do?

SWITZERLAND: Private communiqué from Zeidler and Stein, Bankers, Ltd. (quoted in part) "The pound is holding steady, rubles and marks are increasing in value as is the lira (both Turkish and Italian), sell the franc, and burn any Austrian paper."

TURKISH EMPIRE to THE GAMEMASTER: Why do you print this drivel? ((Hell if I know. Why do you guys write it?))

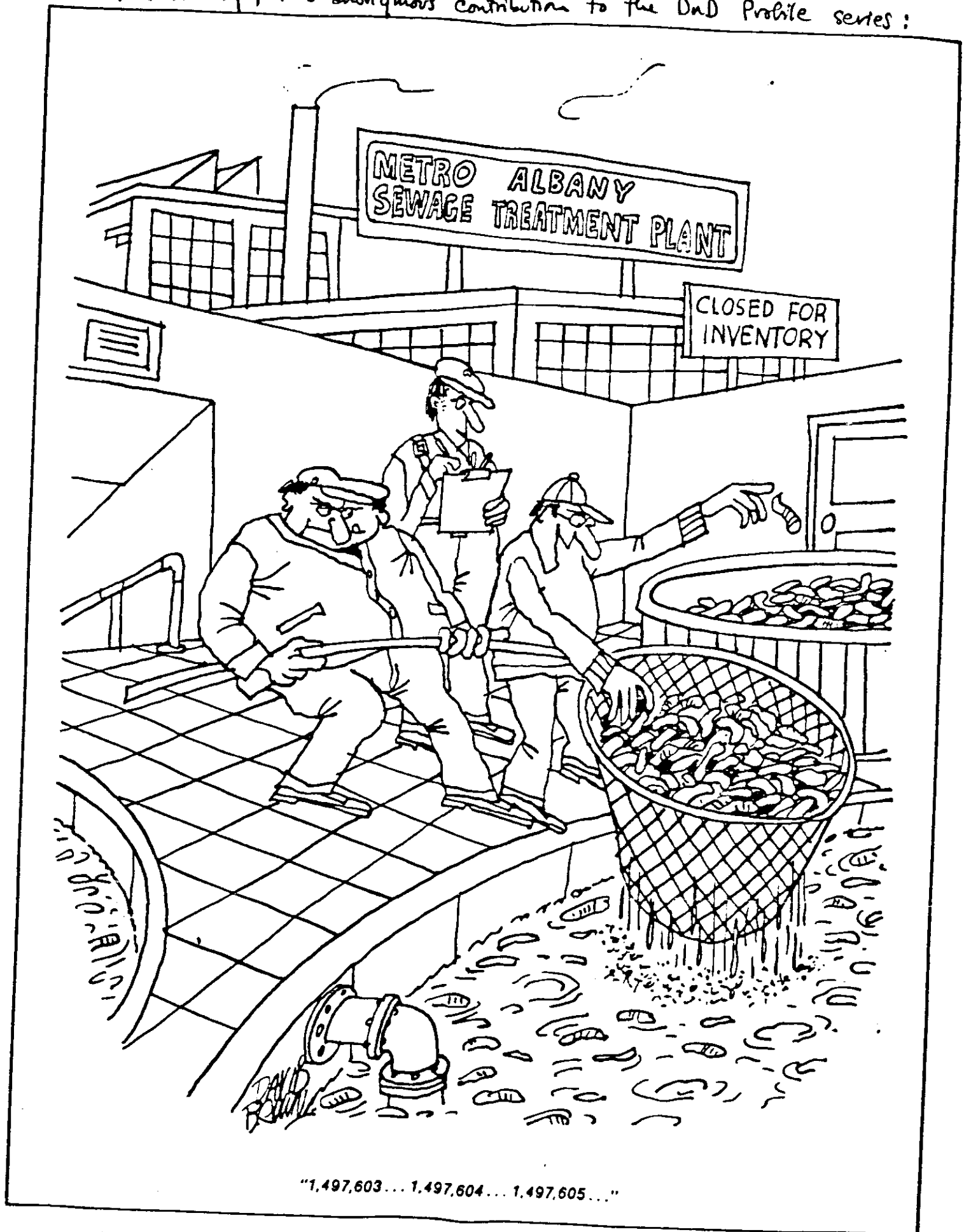
LIECHTENSTEIN: Our Prince was overheard, in conversation with a diplomatic visitor from Belgium, "Well. maybe next century." It is not totally clear to this reporter to what our Prince may have made reference, and so, back to news of the wars...

DIRTY DAVE: The game warden finally caught the Atlanta killer. He was five coons over his limit. ((Arrgh))



Welcome, gentlemen, to advanced management training;

And finally, this anonymous contribution to the DnD Profile series:



"1,497,603... 1,497,604... 1,497,605..."

"BRUX's Professional Math Skills Net Him Gainful Summer Employment"  
(BRUX on right, presumably)



A fellow led a dog to a stake, tied him up and proceeded to shoot him. This he had filmed and exhibited as a movie by having the scene played over and over again. He called himself an artist and this was funded by the National Endowment for the Arts. No thanks to the New York Times or Washington Post for this information. I hope and trust that Mr. Steve Langley wouldn't shrug this off with the comment; "The really creative people in today's world are finding new areas of expression, that's all." (Underlining mine.)

On the issue of gun ownership, Ron Paul in his February, 1981 Freedom Report sums up the pro case very well - much better than I could - so will enclose a copy. Maybe your readers would like to see this reprinted in BB? The case is made, overwhelmingly, that guns save lives. Incidentally, the latest British Ripper didn't need a gun to do his dirty work - perhaps if one of his intended victims had been carrying one, the tables would have been turned.

Mr. Keith Sherwood remarks; "Hasn't he heard of differences of opinions?" What's the point of this comment? Is he trying to say that all opinions are equal? I guess we know the answer to that one. I'll take Einstein's opinion on Relativity over Joe Blow's any day in the week. A letter to the editor asks; "Isn't this supposed to be a Democracy?" The answer, Mr. Berch, is a resounding NO - this isn't supposed to be a democracy - it is supposed to be a Republic. Chalk up another one who is brainwashed; either by our public educational system or the media.

I see where Francois Mitterrand was installed as president of France. Comment: Another step backward for Western Civilization!

A Jew was in Japan at the time of the Feast of Purim and looked for a synagogue. It wasn't easy. In time, he found a small one in downtown Tokyo. All the worshippers were Japanese. The services had started, so the tourist joined in. When it was over, he walked up to the Japanese rabbi and said; "Thank you, rabbi, that was a great service." The rabbi said; "Is honor. But excuse. You Jewish?" The American said; "Certainly." The rabbi said; "That funny. You don't rook Jewish."

((I had the same thought when I read that "democracy" line, so I'm glad someone thought to comment on it (unlike me...)). The FREEDOM REPORT you enclosed has, among the usual pro-gun stuff that people either already agree with or always close their minds to, the best argument I've seen for the "Saturday night special" end of the gun spectrum. It points out that while many people can afford \$350 for a quality pistol, many such as the elderly on Social Security and others at the poverty-end of things who really NEED a gun for protection, cannot in any way afford such a weapon. For them, its a \$35 SNSpecial or barricading themselves in their apartments. Also emphasized (for sake of the audience) was the extent to which the convenient handgun is used in DEFENSE of people overall, rather than just the cases in which some freak on parole blasts your favorite personality. If I didn't have so many letters, I'd be tempted to reduce and run it, but I don't think a lot of people would read it one way or the other.

Thanks again for a good letter.)) *fm*

DAVE CARTER (Sleepless Knights)

118 Horsham, Willowdale, Ontario

Just a little line to let you know that the silly things that you put in your zine are quite popular where I work. Your new incentive plan went over well, but the one that really caught on was the cat with the "would you mind...". I started off with about a dozen photocopies but I've seen a lot more than that in my travels. Mostly on people's doors.

((I posted the Mgt. one from D'n'D this issue here, and it too is popular. I'm now out, though, folks! Help!)) *fm*

ROBERT SACKS

Please see enclosures ((at right)).  
The article against NADF was written when Walker conducted his rigged, railroaded ratification vote. He received both, the Covenant in person. They prove him a liar.

The Covenant provides for removal procedures. Leeder as Vice MNC would have to advise me for me to convene a removal hearing. If both defaulted, Walker would have to advise me for me to conduct the election under the Covenant. (I have further standing as the principal source of funding for the Miller Number Custodian—the Dip Tournament I conduct for the NY Game Board (last year at Origins, this year at GenCon East) divides its proceeds equally among the BNC, MNC, and the Orphan Games Project.)

Walker has attempted to breach the Covenant protecting an independent hobby project from scoundrels like himself. Anyone who has any project, zine, or group he feels worthwhile would be well advised to keep them free of Rod Walker. The projects I am involved with, including the Miller Numbers, will remain free of Rod Walker. As for the NADF, I will take them seriously when they act against Rod Walker.

((First, pardon my squeezing this in so, but I'd overlooked your supporting stuff until too late, and didn't feel it right to run the letter without it, so you and I share a wide margin.

I'd thought the MNC thing was settled, but apparently not. As for the NADF, I am not as much in opposition as I initially was, since it has adopted the policy of staying out of sight and not doing anything, which I think is the best course for hobby organizations to officially take. They only run into trouble when they deviate from this course, or make themselves otherwise heard.))

#### WHY THE N.A.D.F. CHARTER CANNOT BE RATIFIED AT THIS TIME

1. We have had no group discussion, nor any chance for the group to decide what it wants and what it wants changed. Rod Walker has done a solid job in making a proposal, but at this point it should be subject to discussion and amendment by the group, not a rushed ratification vote. Even when he was asking for comments, we never got to see each other's comments.
2. There is so much not decided or left for later writing that we have no idea what are committing ourselves to. In particular, I have been promised that eventually the constitutional guidelines governing the removal of custodians (which are an explicit part of the MNC transfer agreement, and which are presently in use in OGP) will be a part of the charter; without these guidelines I cannot ever ratify - I do not accept that any political vote can remove a custodian. We must have standards of due process and a bill of rights.
3. The composition of the custodians needs looking at again. We have excluded projects associated with some organizations and included projects belonging to others without their consent. Of the present 14 "custodians", only 5 are custodians - 2 chair organizations, 3 seem to be zine publishers only, 3 are properly "helpers", and 1 can't be classified (and probably shouldn't be on the list). At least 1 is so new he wasn't among us when we started this, and several IDA performed functions are listed as vacant, which suggests that something strange is going on with the composition of this group.

Frankly, we need to discuss this proposal. If Rod Walker will conduct the discussions, fine. If not I will volunteer. I would appreciate hearing from each of you whether (a) you are in agreement with the proposed Charter (b) you are in agreement with the idea, but disagree with the Charter (c) you disagree with the idea.

*Robert E Sacks*  
ROBERT E SACKS  
Chairman, AdComm, DVC ((not IVC))  
President, IDA/NA  
custodian, Known Variants Openings List

4861 Broadway 5-V, NY NY 10034  
home telephone: (212) 942-3572

Memorandum of Agreement and Covenant concluded 14 June 1979

1. Transfer of Office of Miller Number Custodian  
Effective immediately, Gregory Costikyan succeeds Robert Sacks as Miller Number Custodian. At a date to be set by the acting Miller Number Custodian, Michael Smolin, at his convenience, not earlier than 30 June 1979 nor later than 31 August 1979, he will transfer all Miller Number operations to the new Custodian.
2. Initial Staff for the new Custodian  
Control of the staff of the Miller Number Custodian rests fully with the new Custodian. Initially the Vice Custodian shall be John Leeder. Robert Sacks shall continue to serve as Associate Custodian for Projects with such responsibilities as may be agreed upon from time to time, initially the Miller Number Designator Recategorization project and the regular provision of a Known Variant Openings list for the Miller Number 'zine. Raymond Heuer and his successors as Director of Orphan Games, for as long as they are mindful of their duties to variant orphans and recognize the authority of the Miller Number Custodian, shall serve as Associate Custodian for Orphans, until and unless some alternate arrangement is agreed to by the Custodian and the Director, or the office of Director of Orphan Games is directly included in the Constitution for Variants. At the earliest opportunity (on conclusion of the Irish postal strike) Robert Sacks will tender to Dermot Garvey the posts of Associate Custodian for Europe and Orphans in Europe, provided he recognizes the authority of the Miller Number Custodian.
3. Constitutional Provisions  
The Miller Number Custodian is an independent hobby officer responsible for the assignment of numbers for postal games of diplomacy variants. The Diplomacy Variant Commission (when it is reconstituted) has the right to advise the Custodian; no other group has any control over the Custodian. Should the office of Custodian fall vacant without any designated successor or Vice Custodian, the Commission shall elect the next Custodian. The Custodian may only be removed by an impeachment for cause by the Vice Custodian, or the previous Custodian if there is no Vice Custodian, adopted by the Commission after a juridical hearing. Cause for removal shall be refusal or inability to assign or have an Associate Custodian assign a valid Miller Number on presentation of information commonly required for such assignment, either in a consistent manner or as a deliberate act against any person or group. These Constitutional provisions shall be included in the Constitution for Variants.
4. Miscellaneous  
The Miller Number Custodian has full rights to have published as the Miller Number 'zine the 'zine founded by Robert Sacks for that purpose, "Lord of Hosts", except for the personal coat-of-arms he used, but if the Miller Number Custodian should ever renounce "Lord of Hosts", all rights to publication as a private 'zine revert to Robert Sacks.  
No Miller Number Custodian, nor any Associate authorized to assign Miller Numbers, will ever require payment or trade or other value as a prerequisite for the assignment of a Miller Number.  
It is specifically understood under the Constitutional provisions that no radical change will be made in the Miller Numbers or Designators except on the considered and reasoned advice of the Diplomacy Variant Commission and the Miller Number Custodian Staff to which the Custodian concurs.

*Robert E Sacks*  
Robert Sacks, MNC 15 June 1979

*Gregory Costikyan*  
Gregory Costikyan, MNC 15 June 1979

Witness:



Several months ago a player in a postal game got a phone call from the gamemaster. The deadline in his game had passed by several weeks and he had forgotten to submit orders. The gamemaster asked him if he would like to submit orders. There is nothing highly unusual as yet as I am sure there are more than this one gamemaster in the hobby who is lax about deadlines; but then the gamemaster went on. He explained to the player how he was quitting the hobby, how his father was sick and how he had a lot of other problems at home, how he would like to finish this game up but that he was not going to be able to continue publishing. Then the gamemaster, who was cognizant of all the other players orders in the game, made this suggestion: "If you give me the following orders, the game will end this season in an 18-supply center victory for England....." The player gave the orders as requested and the game did end in a victory for England that season.

Well the above is not a piece of fiction, but is a true story. The game was 79IW, the 'zine Diplomacy by Moonlight and the gamemaster Eric Ozog. The player involved was not the English winner but another player in the game who does not want his identity revealed. I can prove these charges.

Ozog is a graduate of the Bernie Oaklyn school of gamemastering and I am sure that he feels justified in what he did. He undoubtedly thinks that England would have won the game eventually and that he only saved time and money for himself as well as the players by expediting the end result. I, for one, do not happen to share Ozog's opinion that the end justifies the mean in this case.

Ozog did drop out of the hobby, for about four months, but now he is back promoting his 'zine and game openings. His track record, which includes a close association with Bernie Oaklyn, is very bad and my advice to one and all is .... STAY AWAY FROM HIM.

In a recent issue of his 'zine (which I was not sent a copy) and in a letter to Brutus Bulletin, Ozog has attempted to slander me for the alledged wrong doing of not returning a sub fee to Black Frog to him. Yes Ozog did write me in January (a form letter no less) in which he stated that he no longer wished to receive my 'zine and that he wished a refund. Well Black Frog does not have a policy of refunding subs and Ozog actually didn't sub anyway, but he gave a donation towards the publication of the 'zine. Prior to December 1980 to receive Black Frog you made a donation of 'what you felt the zine was worth' and were entitled to play in one game and to receive the 'zine for as long as the game lasted--as well as being eligible for a trophy. Ozog did not sign up for a game and essentially his sub ended when he told me he no longer wanted to receive the 'zine. His request for a refund came exactly two weeks after I made this offer to all Black Frog subbers: "If you don't think you are getting a fair deal from your donation for Black Frog, let me know before January 1st, 1981 and I will give you double your money back--after January 1st forget it." This offer was not taken up by any subber. Finally from a pure monetary point of view, the cost (my actual cost of printing and mailing the 'zine) for the issues Ozog received exceeded what he paid. (Black Frog does not have free xeroxing service available and has been a rather expensive 'zine to publish. Several issues that Ozog received contained colored reprints that were exceedingly expensive.)

In a moment of great stupidity last fall, I actually sent Bernie Oaklyn a sub check for Le Front du Fraud. I received four issues after paying, but the last received was in January. After not seeing a 'zine that I had paid for a sub to for three months, I reported it dead in Black Frog. I was wrong, Le Front is not dead, Oaklyn after taking my money simply cut my sub. Unrelated to the Ozog situation? I don't think so. It now seems very likely that my sub to Le Front was cut after Oaklyn decided that I had done his friend Ozog wrong. Well Oaklyn owes me money and, if he feels that I have mistreated Ozog--he is certainly welcome to pay it to him.

Oaklyn is running out of 'zines to play in. To my knowledge Tetracuspid (Richard Kovalcik, Jr.) Diplomacy by Moonlight (Eric Ozog) and Liberterrean (Jim Bumpas) are the

Masters, conclusion

only ones still available to him. Oaklyn is still very active however. Is it not likely that he has already taken another assumed name (in addition to Tretick and Oaklyn) and is playing under it in the hobby? I think so. But have no proof or evidence other than intuition. I will not mention a name at present because I could be wrong and I would do irreparable harm to an innocent individual if I was. Oaklyn is, however, using Kevin Kozlowski and, to a lesser extent, Ozog to achieve certain ends in the hobby. These two sub to zines otherwise unavailable to Oaklyn and the copies, especially Kozlowski's end up in Oaklyn's hands. (Don't take my word for this, merely look at the December 1980 or January 1981 issues of Le Front..) This benefits Oaklyn in two ways: (1.) he is informed about what is happening elsewhere in the hobby and (2.) he gains names and addresses of newcomers to the hobby (from game start announcements and the all too frequent "mailing list" zine fillers) to send sample copies of his zine.

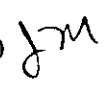
Two years ago I was convinced beyond any doubt at all that Oaklyn was indeed Buddy Tretick. But I somewhat admired the fact that he stuck to it (with all the heat he was getting two years ago) when nearly anybody else would have stuck their tail between their legs and snuck away quickly and quietly. I thought that anybody this courageous deserved a chance to straighten up his act and regain some degree of grace in the hobby. Well what I first saw as courage is probably considerably closer to stupidity and Oaklyn has indeed not straightened up his act. In addition he seems to have the quality of being able to poison those who have contact with him in the hobby. Bob Olsen is possibly the only person to have extended contact with him in the hobby and to not be so affected. He is certainly the only one known to me.

If we truly want to drive Oaklyn out of the hobby, it can be done, but more stringent methods than have been tried in the past will have to be resorted to. A uniform front by the leading pubbers to do the following might work: (1.) Refuse to sub or trade with any 'zines (e.g. Tetracuspid, Liberterrean, Diplomacy by Moonlight, etc.) that allow Oaklyn to play in them. (2.) Quit publically publishing subber lists. (3.) Refuse Oaklyn's lackeys (Ozog and Kozlowski) subs or games in your 'zines--and certainly don't put them into games as standby players. (4.) Refuse games in your 'zine to anybody known to be playing games in Le Front (but in order to do this there would have to be a tacit agreement with the ratingsmasters that persons dropping games in Le Front would not have a penalty in their ratings from dropping such a game).

Harsh measures? Certainly! And a few innocent people such as Olsen and Bumpas would be affected. Unlike Ozog's game (1979IW) this is one situation where I might go on record as saying the end would very much justify the means.

((Based on experience, there is little that most of the hobby is willing to do except sit on its hands and hope that "Bernie" fades away. Then there are some like Leeder who just stick their head in the sand. It's disgusting.


I've sent on courtesy copies of this to some folks who take an interest in B.O.s further adventures, and his lackeys and hangers-on.

RUNESTONE (Leeder) also let's "Bernie" play. See also the letter below)) 

DANIEL P STAFFORD (Diplomacy by Fluorescence, subz of LE FRONT) 2013 Gloucester, Columbus 43229

Wrong again! LE FRONT has not missed an issue or even been late in a long time. Bernie is losing subbers and seems to be losing interest, but the zine is still running. Olsen, Mazzer, and I are all still Toadies.

Guess what! The new BNC, Don Ditter, is a guest GM in LE FRONT!! Yes, it's true! Hard to believe, I know, but Ditter is GMing a regDip game in LE FRONT.

((I'll say it's hard to believe. If Lee Kendter gave Don the Numbers, he had a lot of faith in his abilities, yet we all know that no one except complete fuckheads demean themselves to the extent that working in LE FRONT entails. I'll have to check this out with Don. I suspect more that "Bernie" Tretick just invented the column to slur the new BNC. That's more his scum-sucking style, as I'm sure you know, what with your years of experience associating with that thing.)) 

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

Distribution: Diplomacy World, Boardman Number Custodian,  
Miller Number Custodian, Zine Directory, Pandemonium,  
Brutus Bulletin, Mike's Mag, Whitestonia, anyone sending a SASE

### INDEX

A MIGHTY FORTRESS	Crane
ANCIENT CONQUEST	Crane
CONQUISTADOR	Scott
CRUSADES	Scott
DIPLOMACY	Boardman, Brown, Carter, Caruso, Fleming, Hail, Hanson, Henricks, Kovalcik, Leeder, Marshall, Sigwalt
Variants	Brown, Henricks, Leeder
Parlement	Sacks
DIVINE RIGHT	Crane
DUNE	Crane
GODSFIRE	Crane
GUNSLINGER	Henricks
IMPERIALISM	Crane
KINGMAKER	Henricks, Scott
MACHIAVELLI	Henricks, Scott
ROBIN HOOD	Crane
RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR	Scott
SOURCE OF THE NILE	Crane, Henricks
WARLORD	Crane
WOODEN SHIPS & IRON MEN	Caruso, Henricks, Scott

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

Ronald J Brown, RR #2, Maniwaki PQ J9E 3A9 CANADA  
SNAFU!, \$5 + 12/\$6 Can (( Apr ))  
Conquest of the New World, DIPLOMACY (\$4 Game fee), Scotice Scripti III

Dave Carter, 118 Horsham Ave, Willowdale Ontario M2N 1Z9 CANADA  
SLEEPLESS KNIGHTS, 3w/5w, \$2 + 10/\$3 Can (( Apr ))  
DIPLOMACY

John Caruso, 160-02 43 Ave 2nd floor, Flushing NY 11358 USA  
WHITESTONIA, 4w, \$2 + \$5/10 (( May ))  
DIPLOMACY, WOODEN SHIPS & IRON MEN

Michael Crane Jr, 219 Ridgewood Dr, Northfield NJ 08225 USA  
CRUXCIBLE, \$2 + 10/\$6 (( Apr ))  
A MIGHTY FORTRESS, ANCIENT CONQUEST, DIVINE RIGHT, DUNE, GODSFIRE,  
IMPERIALISM, ROBIN HOOD, SOURCE OF THE NILE, Viking, WARLORD

Jack Fleming, 5000 22nd NE #211, Seattle Wa 98105 USA  
PARANOICS' MONTHLY, m, \$5 deposit + SASE or 25¢/issue (( May ))  
DIPLOMACY (for red heads, women, or novices only)

Guy & Elizabeth Hail, 1103-B Lorain, Austin Tx 78703 USA  
THE GREAT WAR IN MODERN MEMORY, 2w, \$6 (( May ))  
DIPLOMACY

~~Scott Hanson, 701 15th Ave SE, Minneapolis Mn 55414 USA~~  
~~IRKSOME, 2w, \$3 + \$1 or 12/\$5 (( May ))~~ (Now going)  
~~DIPLOMACY~~

Roy Henricks, 128 Deerfield Dr, Pittsburgh Pa 15235 USA  
ENVOY, 5w, \$4 + \$5 @ 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub>¢/pg + postage (( May ))  
Deadman (\$3 Game fee), GUNSLINGER, KINGMAKER, MACHIAVELLI (Area game),  
DIPLOMACY (\$23 prize game, Area game), SOURCE OF THE NILE (\$2.50 +  
SASE/turn), WOODEN SHIPS & IRON MEN: Corsair (\$2 Game fee)

Richard Kovalcik Jr, 9 Ladd Pl, Watertown Ma 02172 USA  
THE TETRACUSPID, 4w, \$2 + \$3 deposit + 1¢/pg + postage (( May ))  
DIPLOMACY

John Leeder, 121 19th Ave NE, Calgary Alberta T2E 1N9 CANADA  
RUNESTONE, \$5 Can (( Apr ))  
DIPLOMACY (aussi en français), Gesta Danorum

Dave Marshall, 1547 Maplegrove Rd, S Euclid Oh 44121 USA  
DOWN'N'DIRTY, 3w, \$3.50 (( May ))  
DIPLOMACY

Robert Sacks, 4861 Broadway 5-V, NY NY 10034 USA  
HANSARD, \$3 + sub (( Jun ))  
Parlement (w rules amendment rule).

Mike Scott, 1726 Cypress Circle, LaVerne Ca 91750 USA  
MIKE'S MAG, 5w, \$5 (( Apr ))  
CONQUISTADOR (\$2 Game fee), CRUSADES, KINGMAKER, MACHIAVELLI  
(\$3 Game fee), RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, WOODEN SHIPS & IRON MEN (\$7 Game fee)

Donald Sigwalt, 125 Hebard St, Rochester NY 14605 USA  
HOOF & MOUTH, 4w, \$2.50 + 60¢/issue (( May ))  
DIPLOMACY

# LETTERS

RONALD BROWN (Snafu!)

RR1 Brennan's Hill, Low, Quebec JOX 2C0

Thanks for the issues of BB. They seem to be coming a day apart. I like reading zines that generate lots of controversy, though it shouldn't be done for its own sake, of course. Though the games are the reason of a zine, it gets awfully boring reading: A Lon-Bre, F Eng C A Lon-Bre, etc. And I do read game reports, especially those with players in that I know (and you've quite a few of them).

OK re trade. I hadn't realized you published so often. So, let's trade 12 for 12, then I'll send you \$6 (in US funds yet) to round things out for the remainder of the year. Just let me know when I'm getting close to the 12th issue. Sound fair enough?

By the way, is Moore anywhere near Tulsa, the only place in Oklahoma I've been. I drove through that way during the summer of '78 when you were in the middle of a spell of warm weather. I was so knocked out by the heat I checked into a motel in Tulsa with air conditioning and watched TV for two days, leaving only to get fresh beer. But the countryside is beautiful.

I intend to write an article for you on the difference in American and Canadian attitudes towards gun control, but it will have to wait till July or August when my wife goes to work and I get to sit home all day.

By the way, please stop knocking ALL Canadian postal service. I get mail from anywhere in the US in 3-5 days at the outside. The problems seem to be in the West where RUNESTONE and FOL SI FIE come from. Jest thought I'd mention it.

((Maybe its because western mail passes through Ontario, and the east is mad at the west for not sharing more of the oil money more readily, so they screw them up? No US monopoly on pettiness.

Moore is just south of Oklahoma City, and actually our home is in Okla City proper. Tulsa is up in the nice part of the state. (The SE is prettier, but has nothing but rednecks infesting it). Tulsa is more cosmopolitan than OKC, though the latter is half again as big. There are more cowboys and Baptists and other crud around here than in Tulsa. The "warm spell" was summer. It gets to 100 F about June 1 and stays there for three to 3½ months. If you got a break to escape in, it must have been in the wake of a tornado, or maybe after two days on beer alone, you couldn't tell the difference?

On the sub, I hope you set me up a set number of issues. Were our trade discontinued for whatever reason between the time that my 12 were running out while your 12 had amny to go, you might easily just "drop the trade" innocently enough at that point, where I had sent 2 for each 1 received. If you set me up with a set number, we will each be due a set "credit" whose balance will better reflect where we stand. Please set it up as a 12-issue sub for now. I will show you as set through 101.

THIS issue will not be a day apart; I've damn near burned out, chugging out all that bulk in so short a space of time. Still, its rewarding to have accomplished that, time, postage, and effort aside. Ever spend the better part of a day beside a slow and clunky xerox machine? I was doing so to get over to the cool side of the building, and "as long as I'm here", ran off 80% of #91 right then and there. Took much of the day, lots of noise, etc., but fortunately, it was a very dull day here, so no one really gave a damn. Went to Moore after work, lost as the Germans again to Pilant even, tho I had a good opening in RUSSIAN CAMPAIGN, then went home and whipped out #91 so as to get it into the mails today before Claudine got back.

How did British troops stand the NAF desert if Tulsa knocks you out? And you are used to better weather than "eine Englander" at that...

Re SNAFU! #11: 100 miles of commuting each day? I thought I was bad at 60 miles a day, and frankly, I'm looking slowly to change that. Did you maybe mean 100 kilometers? If you're looking at "an hour a day on a deserted highway", surely km is correct. You can't very well do 100 mph there the way you could in, say, Montana, could you? And if you plan to sit home while your wife works, I gather you're a teacher like Gary Howe, or a student. How's YOUR RC defense look?

I like the travels sections, with the description of life in thrilling Omaha this issue. What was the name of the waitress, in case I'm ever passing through there and am more interested than you were in finding someone who "if you talk nice to her, she'll take you home with her"? The response you got in the Bittersweet Lounge might have

--- Response to Brown, conclusion

been different had you been an older white man, rather than a longhaired young Leftist. I'm glad it worked out for you that time.

After living with "foreign" type neighbors, don't you think a separate French Quebec would be a good idea for both sides? I can't imagine this polylingual situation as being acceptable to either side, really. )) *J.M.*

BOB OSUCH (Perils of Paulina)

3417 S Paulina, Chicago, IL 60608

(two letters)

Thanks for assuming that horrendous position--I will agree to stand by for one game should you ever need one. I also agree with Crud on the standby issue--standbys are necessary. The postal dip tournament has suffered greatly by not allowing them. Some games bordered on farce!

I've noticed a large turnover in your subbers--sort of surprising. What do you attribute it to? Maybe its me--I tend to find the zines I enjoy and stick with them. I still feel yours is one of the best, though I wish you'd skip the political shit. I'm sure you won't.

What ever happened to the good old happy-go-lucky hobby? Lately its been nothing but bickering and backstabbing. Remember when there were some truly funny people around? Lately I can count them on one hand. And I was the one who told Perlmutter to stick around. Shit, I used to enjoy receiving my assorted zines. Now all I get is a headache. And don't give me the line about "conflicting personalities clashing". Hell, they've been clashing for so long now that I could write a book that would put "War and Peace" to shame. Give it up, you fucking assholes. Dont you see, you'll never get in the last word, so be brave little boys and shut the fuck up. Hey, who is this crude SOB anyway? My sister reads this.

Ahh, I feel much better. No place better than here to take a literary shit (will you ever forgive Linsey?) I've been toying with the idea of starting a Hobby Personality Poll, run much like the Leeder Poll with scoring on a 0-10 scale (0 being a total shithead and 10 for God himself). What do you think? Actually, Brux came up with the idea. He figures that if a person doesn't get at least a 3.3333...average, we should include him on a blacklist and banish him from the hobby. I felt this was going a bit too far, but you know old Linsey, once he latches onto something, he milks it for all it's worth. Hell, I think I'll just let him do it, it's more up his alley than mine.

I disagree that a pubber should print everything he receives in order to be successful. I sub to a zine mostly because I enjoy what the pubber has to say, not the readers. Sure, it helps if he's blessed with interesting subbers, but I surely don't expect everything I send in to see print. Much of it is just BSing with you, and is intended as such. I may expect a reply, but a personal one is just fine.

I agree with Sherwood on Robinson. A person who speaks in absolutes is saying, in effect, "That is the way it is and there can be no other way". Plus, classical music sucks. Absolutely.

I enjoyed your exchange with Berch in #89. I'm afraid you got the better of him this time. I usually find Mark's argument to be logical and correct, but he goofed badly with his comparison of Japan's homicide rate in relation to the US. More enjoyable, however, is all the new slurs I pick up from you guys. I particularly enjoyed your reference to DC's "satellite world". Very polite, yet dripping with sarcasm. "Vague sloganeering" wasn't too bad either. Allow me, though, to break the gun control issue down to the more basic of terms. I live in Chicago, which has the second or third highest homicide rate in the US. My argument in favor of gun control is this: why should I have to worry wheter or not that guy approaching me is going to blow me away? Sure, I could carry a gun, but chances are he'd get off the first shot due to the element of surprise. And with guns, the first shot is usually all that's needed to do the job. The city has many crazies who would sooner blow my brains out than smile at me. Then there are the drunks and addicts, the down and outers, the desparate ones. They have nothing to lose. Put a gun in their hands, John, but please give them a plane ticket to OKC. Thanks.

((Your example shows the usual man-in-the-street position: you deal with the theory of total gun control rather than the fact. Lack of gun control does not "put a gun" in the hand of the crazy; Bob, it's already THERE. The only thing we can control is whether or



not the non-criminal and non-crazy can also have one if he wants. You cannot get the weapons out of the hands of those people without a police state far worse than the criminal-license state we have now is. All that gun control does is to disarm the victims who might have preferred to be armed. A letter in #91 (which wasn't in your hands before your letter was written) gave the case on that pretty well, as I recall. NOTHING will stop the crazies, or disarm them, other than killing them through the state, a process I heartily endorse. Next, strict and MANDATORY punishment for anyone committing a crime of any kind with a gun is desperately needed. That too will do some good. ~~LABOR CAMPS FOR ALL LIBERTALS WOULD BE THE BEST THOUGH.~~ You'll hear more from Robinson this issue.

On printing everything that comes in, I must disagree. True, a lot of what comes in may not be real interesting to me; that doesn't mean it's not of interest to someone. After all, much of what comes in IS of interest to me, but how interesting is it to you? The way to have something that everyone likes is to have as broad a range as possible, which translates as, 'everything'.

I think it's as happy-go-lucky a hobby as ever. There's just more zines, more people, and less interest in seeing just a joke and a few "F Nap-Ion"s. We have zines that provide damn near anything you want (including raw sex now), and if that means that the many new pubbers (and old) argue and snipe, I take it as a matter of course. Personally too, of course, I enjoy watching these feuds...

Turnover is largely artificial. When I dropped my trades, a number did not come back as subbers (Mills, McLendon, e.g.). The new rates tended to lump the resub time for people into short "packages" of time--one is now, in this 88-92 "window", when probably 35-40% need to resub. Some do promptly, others will drag in late and ask for a back issue plus. That's why I have 15 copies of last issue at home as of this writing, but I expect to remain short overall, as the tardies check in. (I'd be happy to be able to drop to 50 though, if they don't). I'm still running 60 now, and it is tight.

Standbys or their lack didn't kill the tournament's fun; it was built in. With prizes, how could you have standbys? What would you do about the guy who fought to a near-win and then saw a drop give a win to someone else "off the street" who maybe replaces his good ally for the instant stab-win? If it is up to him to deal with his ally/neighbor, why then should a CD be a problem? How in the HELL could a new player, prizes and standing aside, be less upsetting to the game than a CD? I just don't think it makes sense. Next, of course, the tournament requires three games, I believe. Hell, how often have a majority of the players in a SINGLE game failed to make it through one game? If you have three, aturally there will be many drops. With the hobby filled to the extent it is with people who have as little interest as so many do, what alternative would there be? I avoided it, but if anyone wants to call me as a standby for the top/finals prize game, I'll take it...)) *Jm*

\*\*\*Bob's second letter follows\*\*\*

An interesting discussion on the philosophy of play in #90. As you well know, I don't agree with your "avoid endgame" strategy. I like seeing all my games through to the end, as I like seeing one winner. I have found that the best philosophy of play is to mix your styles, therein not developing a reputation as a stabber, a "true blue", or whatever. Keep 'em guessing, as it were.

On the endgame, you avoid them, I relish them. Sure, two powers may be sweeping the board to a 17-17 end. Fine. It is their responsibility to assure that each power reaches that desired end. Much of the suspense comes in the endgame because of this factor. One can also learn much about how to protect against that final stab. I try always to stay in the better stabbing position than my ally, just in case the opportunity presents itself. If it doesn't, fine, a two way draw. If it does, an outright win wouldn't bother me either.

Though I've only been in two games with you, I have seen you in others. I wouldn't hesitate to ally with you (You probably feel differently towards me, heh, heh)((you bet!)) but I would hesitate to leave one of my SCs unguarded against a possible attack. So, are you a stabber? Did I say that?

On the Draws-Include-All-Survivors issue, I must agree that it is generally a foolish

Osuch, conclusion

(I wouldn't go so far as to label it stupid) concept, in that it tends to drag out games that have no future. As I stated earlier, though, I'd just as soon carry out the game to its conclusion anyway, be it an outright win, a stalemated draw, or what have you. Thus, I feel your example of a 3-way alliance dissembling the board and settling for a 3-way raw is incomplete. Many times, in a 3-way alliance, the three partners wipe out the board, and two of the members then proceed to pick the third apart. So, since I'd rather play the game to its conclusion, DIAS doesn't bother me. If you're playing for a draw, however, I can see where it is just plain silly. As a GM, I would never impose such a rule on my players unless I was using a third party's house rules, as in MANIACAL. In that case, Crud left me no choice.

You seem to put much stock in Calhamer points. I don't. I'd just as soon take a shot at an outright win and lose 18-16 than settle for a 3-2ay draw. What's so stupid about that?

Keep up the good work--you're still a pillar, even if it does consist of salt.

((Uh, thanks, I guess... The CPs aren't so important, but I'd prefer to get something sure out of a long game than to just have been an also-ran. I'd prefer to be wiped out early than to linger on to lose in 1914, or 1923 as in your recent win. The 1/3 victory is something, so I'll usually prefer to take it and start another than to hash it out with the survivors.))

STEVE LANGLEY

2154 Fairfield Rd, Sacramento, CA 95815

I can't understand why you think BB is overpriced. It's one of the most interesting things that comes in my mail. It's my only 10 on the Leeder Poll. I decided to rank my zines (those that I've seen more than 3 copies of) and give the top a 10. You are the only top; I've got a 9, two 8s, a 7 and a 5 in my scoring.

You missed part of my computer mail development. Local delivery is only a small part of what we have now, and it's about the only part that is responsible. We now have mail deposit/pickup, followed by a source sort, shipping to a central transship point, transshipping, second local shipping, local sort, then local delivery. In my computer mail scenario, 90% of the system is handled through home terminals. The mail is input directly into a terminal sort--etc, etc--just in, transmit via computer net, and out. The other 10% (packages are a separate problem) is read into the system via a VCR, transmit to elivery, and either read by a terminal or printed as hard copy into pre-sorted batches for local delivery. Most of the present system will be superceded by computer mail--I so predict. Computer information networks are currently in use, and are being developed for wider use, within the commercial world. Extending that to include subscription use is a major step which the current government may never allow, but it is a natural outgrowth of the current technology.

The point Mark Berch makes is the best I've run across for government regulation. Waste disposal is a major problem. We are teetering on global ecological destruction, and all the assurances in the world that life will go on, perhaps changed, but still go on, do not reassure me in the least. I want more than 'life' to go on--I want MY LIFE to continue (selfish of me).

My second point, private inflation via 'bankruptcy' was too lightly dismissed. According to a recent Sacramento newspaper story, there are people filing second and third bankruptcies. (a seven year wait between poor souls). It is estimated that one out of every 8 economic units (families count as one, as do singles) will file for bankruptcy in CA over the next 7 years. Granted, California is probably 'ahead' of the rest of the nation, (I have heard that CA is 10 years ahead of the midwest in 'trends') but the bankruptcy trend has increased many hundred fold in the last 10 years, and until the system collapses, the cop-out of not paying by filing a form is going to be abused, badly abused.

Speaking of Mark Berch, I'm sweating my way through the second week of a heatwave. When I get home at night, I'm too debilitated to do anything but sit and sip something cold until it's cool enough to sleep. Needless to say, my diplomacy is suffering. So tonight, I'm catching up on it (it says here in fine print) on all the zines I've left sit for a week.

On the question of play for a win or a draw, it depends on the game. Some games I'll

Langley, conclusion

play for a draw, some for the win; depends on my estimation of my current chances. If I have a decent shot at it, it's the win, but if it's a draw or a loss, I'm not going to play for the impossible win over the possible draw. I never have settled for a strong second. There are no second place wins in this game.

(( I readily agree with that. I only regretted it when I later offered Gary Howe a strong second to me, and he said "I agree with you, second place means nothing".

Maybe with the bigger problem, California can lead the way to a bankruptcy solution? Unfortunely, from stories I heard from Nathan Mitchell when he still talked to me, the situation is better toward solutions here today than there. For instance, here you cannot sell a car with the lien still on it from your first loan, as some Californian found out when he tried that shit after borrowing money at Nathan's Pacific Finance office. Your state allows more such shenanigans than we do, and is paying the price. Or rather, is letting YOU pay the price.

The case "for regulation" re wastes is only in theory. Again, with government in command, you have agencies to keep files on all trash. For what? Lots of cushy GS 16 slots? "I'm a trash manager"--a bureaucrats goal in life. Hell, why not just make corps responsible for verifying that all their own crap is properly disposed of, irregardless of these gypsy-type coverups, and set high enough penalties for the failures? No need to burden industry PLUS more government to manage garbage. Better to just dictate policy, and sit back to crack down hard when violations occur. Why force ALL industries, the responsables and the nots, with perpetual filings of garbage records? (What will future generations think when they unearth these files? "No wonder they fell"?)

The in-house mail sort can (and often is) accomplished by troops or other impressed people; no big deal to sort mail. The trouble comes in the last step: sorting to specific carrier (properly), and the carrier handling his own route efficiently. The computer acts then more like a phone, in getting it to the right part of town, or just town, but that last critical step of individual distribution, and sorting to it, is the clincher. That is also the source of our coming extra 4 ZIP digits, for clerks are just too stupid to learn that key part of the job right.

Thanks for the vote.)) *jm*

SCOTT HANSON (Irkosome)  
(excerpt)

701 SE 15 Ave, Mpls, MN 55414

I have a question for you: I have an Econ prof with the biggest ego I've ever seen. I guess he was pretty important 15-20 years ago, but I'm curious to see if people REALLY remember who he is. So the \$64,000 question is: whe the hell is Walter Heller?

((I thought Walter Heller wrote CATCH 22 myself. Am I wrong? Maybe J C Robinson can answer that one better than I can.)) *jm*

MARK LEW (Dipshit, Benzene)

3120 W 79 St Anchorage, AK 99502

Your letter column is running DRY. So I'll do my best to remedy that, though I'm not too terribly wet. I haven't been nasty in a while.

BLACK FROG is a piece of shit. Ever since EAST OF EDEN, ROMA, etc started, each FROG has been just one long, boring story which was usually copied from Woody Allen or Thurber or someone anyhow. Hey Jack! What about the "Best of BB" and AH interview you promised? That's the only reason I resubbed.

There are too goddam many zines in the hobby. Anyone who hasn't been around at least a year has no business pubbing. So let's boycott them and run them dry. As a rule, don't sub to anything unless the pubber has been around and you already have heard of him. (And this goes for those I regularly agree with too, like Martin's zeen deserved all that torture while it struggled through the massive neglect of its first year, but he survived and now look what we have. And Sherwood had a zeen too, I think. Glad it died; try again in 6 months, Keith.)

God bless David Norman Grabar.

Digest format sucks! This is self explanatory. Look at all the great zeens: BB,

Lew, continued

RETAL, VOD, etc. (and LSD!)(and MM everyone seems to like though it seemed rather plain to me).

The fake MM/JoJ was cute, but I'm quite fed up with massive postal pornography. Maybe everyone else is a pervert, but leave me off your list, Janie.

Jack Masters likes to take someone's idea and jump on it and beat it to death. Brux calls his dog mascot, so Jack has to describe a bigger and better dog and five more fake candidates, but that's not enough because Mike Connor ran the poll, so Jack has to run his own Queen poll.

If IRKSOME is new and improved, what WAS it? Old and rotten?

What kind of idiot would subzine in THE CHAMBER? No, don't tell me--Kevin Buckalew?

What does Robert Sacks have to do with Diplomacy anyhow? Or Walker for that matter, I suppose.

"Workweek" is stupid. Anyone who mopes through 50% of his week is an idiot (as if Monday and Friday are different anyhow). Anyone who walks around like a zombie in early morning has no business being out of bed. Anyone who likes to eat has no business dieting. Anyone who wants to commit suicide oughtn't be persuaded otherwise. And if you think your life is fucked up, that's no one's fault but your own. So don't complain to me because goddammit, I'm FINE, thank you.

(Who would beleive I'm a left-winger?)

Time out for attitudes of play: Funny I'm a little stabber and my((illegible)) is on Dan Stafford too. I never worry about ((illegible)) big (though sometimes it comes naturally) aggressive tactics (diplomatic tactics, that is) (esp 1901) bore me. My favorite strategy is organizing stop the leader alliances so the game goes on forever (unless I get out of hand). That's why I like to standby. On the other hand, I'm starting to lean toward zany deviants where I just go wild. DIAS seems unnecessary to me. Why would anyone in his right mind vote for a draw he's not in?


Ad: I like money, please send any you happen to have to me.

What was that about getting labels? I want them if they're free.

((I provide masters, you fill them out, and I'll send you labels for the cost of postage rounded up to the next dollar. Sub credit OK for regular publishers. Fewer take me up on this deal than you'd expect.

Draśw-Including-All-Survivors: they couldn't vote themselves out even if they DID want to. Note the term: they are included in the draw whether they want to be or not. A player will normally vote for a draw not including him if he can see the winning team sweeping the board, and it's not worth further postage to resist, and he is decent enough not to quit/drop the spot to a hapless standby.

Fridays ARE different, at least in the afternoon. Seldom do you find any place that gets anything done then.

The rest of your letter doesn't register, so I won't comment further.)) 

ANDY McMAHON  
(excerpts)

Amarillo/APO NY

Once again the AF has sent me to Europe for the summer. Can you believe they went around looking for people because no one wanted to go? It's not like we're living in tents-- closer to a Holiday Inn, maid service and color TV. On top of that, high interest rates have really helped the dollar. Last August one pound cost \$2.40; now the going rate is \$1.95 and dropping. If you're considering coming to England, this is the summer to do it. Anyway, it's a pretty good deal--6 weeks here in England, 2 weeks in Athens, Greece, and 2 weeks in Turkey. I can understand the married guys not wanting to go, but the rest are crazy.

Since BB is famous for feuds, I'd like to get in on one. I owe Rick Kirchner a few letters, so for making me feel guilty, he's the target. Rick taught me to play Dip a few years back. Now take a look at 80LP in DND. Have you ever seen anyone play France so badly? That's the kind of instruction Kirchner game me!!! It's disgusting. If I were him, I'd be ashamed.

((I have to sympathize with Rick. I taught Pilant, or at least introduced him, and look at HIS record!!))

**FIVE**

I suppose we should take the films in order of seniority - and with £79,000,000 being spent on 'Superman II' - the largest amount ever to be spent on a single movie - there's no doubt about what that implies. However, in a lax moment I went and wrote down the titles the wrong way around..... So, proving once again that two wrongs do make a right (er...), here goes nothing.

The plot of the film itself was a little predictable - but as it was supposed to depict the original 'Flash Gordon' saga, that's not really surprising. Even so, some of the characterisations were given rather a dramatic flavour. Flash, himself, was made out to be a first rate fool! He was given a strong sense of the right, yes, but he was also very naive and headstrong. Of course, this was to fit in with Ming's stating that only races that lack the intelligence to challenge him would survive, but it was also an observation on comic-book heroes in general. Indeed, it wasn't only the comics that came under the hammer. The "bad guys", Ming's right-hand henchmen, bore no little resemblance to Darth Vader and Zod's henchwoman (in 'Superman II': trust me to forget her name). How deliberate this resemblance was I don't know, but once you accepted that the film was a satire of non-existent characters, it certainly added to it's appeal.

The strength of 'Flash Gordon' lies in the "comic" characters (particularly Melody Anderson's portrayal of Flash's all-American gal) and it's use of Rodger Deann-like landscape shots. It's plot is fairly predictable, as is 'Superman II's', but at least the latter pretends to have a moral undertone (the old Anthony & Cleopatra one that you can't choose both power and love; hence the removal of Kent's true identity from Lois' memory at the end of 'Superman'). Neither can really claim to be a film classic, but both have their moments. Neither pretends to present a strong story-line like, say, 'The Jazz Singer' (the other film I've seen this month) but then, that's another story altogether, isn't it?

Well, I've threatened you with a game review before now and as I'm not actually working this Saturday, I thought I might as well keep you in suspense no longer. You do like Avalon Hill games, don't you?

'Circus Maximus' used to be produced by Battleline Games, but has fairly recently been acquired by A-H (who have somewhat improved the rules). The game itself is all about chariot racing; the aim of all the participants being to complete three laps of the circuit before anyone else has. It's set up is rather like 'Speed Circuit', with each player being able to allocate Preparation Points to his team. The four characteristics are:-

1. Team Speed: This allows the players to choose between a slow, average or fast team. Once he has decided on this, a dice is rolled to determine his actual movement allowance and the strength of his four horses. There are six different combinations for each type of team, so there is little likelihood of two players having exactly the same type of speed/strength; all this adds to the game.
2. Team Endurances: Points are allocated for team endurance by deciding on one of three levels (0, 1 or 2) and then rolling a dice, to determine the number of points. Endurance points, of which you will have between 21 and 74, are used up when chariots have to break, drivers whip their own (or someone else's) horses and when teams go around corners at above the safe level of speed.
3. Car Type: There are three different types of car available. Heavy cars have scythes on their wheels and are very destructive if they make contact with another players' chariot or outside horses (!). Medium cars do normal damage and light ones less than normal damage.
4. Driver Modifier: This affects a team's overall speed, ability to take corners fast (without too much risk of disaster....), ability to attack and defend, and the likelihood of the driver having a high number of hit points (necessary as drivers can be injured by other drivers' whips). As you've probably guessed, this is the most important category.

Once the preparation points have been allocated, the teams are placed on the starting grid. There can be up to 10 teams at the start, so the first straight is usually packed with action! The usual strategy is for the fast teams (who usually have light horses) to avoid the "trouble-makers" in the heavy chariots (or at least, try to!) as they are both very dangerous and usually attack everything on sight. Heavy chariots have to damage other players' teams, before they can move out of range. All in all, it's quite a sight to see. Movement is decided by placing a coloured counter (one for each team) in a container and then drawing them out randomly. This means that teams that are behind still have a chance of catching up with the leaders and inflicting some damage on them.

Although for a team to win, it's not feasible for every attack possible to be made (every attack costs one movement point), attacks can change the whole course of a race - if used at the right moment. The players can attack each other, either by ramming chariots or by using their whips (against both horses and drivers). Any damage taken by the horses will affect that team's speed and if enough damage is taken by a horse to kill it, that chariot must stop and the driver must put the dead horse free. If you ram another players' chariot may lead to wheel damage for either, or both teams. This may cause 'chariot flips' and can seriously affect a team's chances of winning. Whipping an opposing driver may lead to several different results: the driver may be wounded; the defender forced to break; the defender forced to swerve away from the attacker (if this happens to a team in lanes 1 or 8 - there are only 8 lanes - the defender is forced into the wall, his chariot crashes, and he is left being dragged around the track by his horses!); the defender may even grab the attacker's whip. Whipping an opponent's horse means that the 'defender' has to add some extra movement factors to his present speed. This can make all sorts of things happen if a team is approaching a corner.....

There are 8 lanes normally on the course, but, as in 'Speed Circuit', when you take a corner this width decreases (as does the safe speed). The cost of taking curves at a higher speed is an increased chance of damage. Another important fact is that it's far harder to move towards an inside lane at speed than it is an outside one. Whipping an opponent can thus have more than one advantage.

To me, this game has all the advantages of 'Speed Circuit', without any of its disadvantages, with the added feature of combat. At around £7.00, I rate it one of the best games you can buy. I hope this review inspires you to try it too.