

"Oh, he'll be alright. They're putting him into carbonfreeze, which will protect him from

ISSUE NINETYFOUR of

The

BRUTUS BULLETIN

ET TU, BRUTE

Mid July 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 just aren't worth the money, and I'm too lazy to want anymore, so why don't all you guys keep your \$6 instead of putting up with 11 issues of this? True, resubs are only 2/\$1, but even then, you older perfunctory kiss, but rather, she felt she had to somehow respond to what his hand was doing subbers should know better anyhow. So stop signing up for this or I'll have to raise my print run.

NOTICE!

It has come to my attention that some mail addressed to me is being returned marked NO SUCH ADDRESS/RETURN TO SENDER. If this happens to you, just mark on the returned piece, "Yes there is. DELIVER AS ADDRESSED" without further postage. This address has been here six years, so they should be able to find it. You paid your 18¢, they are responsible for getting it through. Cross out the "Return..." part also. Publishers, please use this notice as a bottom-of-page filler item.

OPENINGS: None here, but my GGM Dave Marshall has 3 week, grey press openings I want to recommend. Write Dave at 1547Maplegrove Rd, South Euclid, OH 44121. No sub fee, just a \$3.50 or \$4 gamefee. Also, BOB OSUCH is opening another 2-week black press game in Martin's zine DEEP DARK WOODS for \$4, subfee optional. This is fun, but is subject to Martin's DIAS policy, which is the only reason I'm not in this one. Bob ("Pops") gets the real sickies to play, so if you want some fun, sign up and ask that Martin be left out...

OTHER OPENINGS: at the writing, I expect to be including the July 1 NEED-A-GAME list from Sacks, so I'll defer to that. Otherwise, check last issue's cover.

EMHAIN MACHA is opening a PRIZE GAME, \$23 gamefee of which \$20 will go to the prize fund. EM is a reliable place to play. Write Mike Mills, ardent Democrat, at 1545 Quaker Rd., Macedon, NY 14502.

KATHY BYRNE wrote to object to my letting slip some bits of our personal conversations into the zine, but I can't find her letter. Also, I don't know what she could be talking about...

JOHN BOARDMAN wrote a not-for-quote letter recently in which he mentioned a warning again about Peery and one "Dan Brannon" in California. Apparently neither one has a very savory or reliable past in this hobby. Let the buyer beware; John's been around a LONG time, and despite his, uh, "different" political views, he's seen all the sharpies come and go. Take it for what it's worth.

DAVE DITTER, my first subscriber, just sent in \$20 to continue his sub. I thought a nice gesture of support like that warranted a front-page Thanks.

TRO SHERWOOD, almost everyone agrees, is the real Walrus that has been sending out fake zines left and right. The only bad thing is that the fakes are a hell of a lot more interesting than the normal zines run. To combat that in regard to the excellent fake BB 90, this issue has only one small game portion, which is the bottom of the reverse of this page. The rest is the usual letters and filler, and such features as I can scrounge up. Long time readers know that while BB is good at many things, organization or planning have never been contenders for Most Noteworthy Feature. Continuing that fine tradition, I see that I am coming up on a full issue with 3 sheets left, all of which have one side printed with letters that are continued from completed sheets, plus a cover. SO, I am forced to either cut 2 sheets, (3 pages of letters) or skip JOHN'S NOTES and tuck in one "leftover" page behind this. So that is why the reverse of this starts out with a reply to Mark Berch's 2d or 3d letter that begins somewhere ELSE in this issue. (I'd never cut 3 pages of letters.) Games galore nexttime

Reply to Berch, conclusion

--make that "modern ships overall". This Administration is looking at the strategic one as more important, though the other problem will have to be handled too. We need a draft, and it's just a matter of time before that is forced on the Administration and the populace. People complain about the cost of a larger army and such, but this is artificial. There's no reason that we need to pay a staff sergeant \$14,000 a year, or a "boot" \$9000. The draftees can do just fine with \$60 taxfree a month, and a bunk in the barracks. Of course they can't make their car insurance payment with that, let alone buy that TransAm and run it, but then, there is no reason they need one for serving either. The \$60 will get them busfare to town for an occasional movie or pizza or a few beers, altho you can get all that cheaper onbase. If they'd prefer a big housing allowance to live in an apartment offbase, that's fine, but it's also too bad. They're not in the service to dabble at soldiering while leading the good life, they're there to serve. With promotions and seniority, they can move up to the point that, on their second enlistment perhaps, they could afford to maybe get married. That's just as well for them as well as the country. Marriages or college at 18 is all too often a waste; 30 months of soldiering will pull their heads out their asses first, and more marriages will last, more college students will not be spending their time (and our school support) while they try and "find themselves". I think the social gains would really outweigh the military gains of running everybody through a universal male military draft at 18; the manning and the trained reserve (of the 90% that got right straight out after their 1st term), while great boons in and of themselves, would be a great boost to the social fabric as well.

I only saw 1½ of the CBS shows, I don't recall which. I do recall shutting off the last one in disgust, as Cronkite in Russia explores "what Russian people really think" by talking to other Western reporters as isolated as himself, and to Red government mouthpieces. That's all we can expect from CBS though.

DD didn't make the big Zines Received column because none were received during the period. Two issues with one stamp saves you money, but takes its toll in scheduling. The result is that any DIPLOMACY DIGEST seems rare.)) J.M.

GAME SECTION for this issue consists of:

ENDGAME STATEMENT, 1980 D

Eric Kirchner, Russia, out F'17

Regretful congratulations to Kerry and Mark for their draw. Rather than the usual blow-by-blow critique, I have some comments which ought to fit in nicely with John's "philosophy of the game" series.

Almost everyone will agree that the safest way to play Dip is to find a loyal ally, and the two of you stick together through thick and thin, never once considering stab. By doing this you reduce the diplomatic factor in the game to near zero; that is, YOUR major choice is made. All that remains is tactics as you roll over other squabbling powers. I realize that this is a bit simplistic, but it is basically correct.

Ask yourself: is this what I want out of Diplomacy? The excitement of Dip is NOT knowing who's on who's side, not knowing who one's enemies are, NOT being sure which way to jump. With a permanent alliance, you have changed Diplomacy into a straight wargame. You might as well play Battle of the Bulge.

Admit it, Kerry & Mark, for the last 7 years of this game all you did was plan tactics: E/G versus the "little three". The result was obvious, barring NMRs or stabs, and you two were so solidly allied you weren't going to stab. Was it fun? Was it what you paid your gamefee for? Or was it boring for you, as it was for me? Who cares about rankings and reputations? This isn't chess, it's Diplomacy. It's wheeling and dealing, lying, cheating, stealing, backstabbing, deceit, and evil schemes. Not tactics alone. Not 1914 all over again. Think about it.

J. C. ROBINSON

June 22, 1981
804 Tulip St
Liverpool NY 13088

Robert Schumann's Symphony No. 1, Richard Wagner's The Ride of the Valkyries, Ludwig van Beethoven's Eroica Symphony, Giacomo Puccini's Madama Butterfly, Johann Strauss' The Blue Danube, Johannes Brahms' Symphony No. 3, and Georges Bizet's Carmen - all of the aforementioned, I think we can agree, would fall under the broad classification of classical music. I had previously been under the delusion (until I read BB #92) that this music was well-worth listening to and was music that had stood the test of time. But Mr. Osuch's eloquently stated argument ("classical music sucks. Absolutely.") has led me to see the error in my thinking. Since the above records will now go into my trash, I would ask Mr. Osuch to list some suitable replacements for me to purchase.

Mr. Langley seems to believe that more government regulation will save us from "global ecological destruction". This I cannot agree with. London is a much cleaner place now than it was at the turn of the century, when coal was the major energy source. I have a theory that the liberals will return us to the horse and buggy days. Witness what is happening to our automobiles. Witness Russia - did Mother Russia ever leave the horse and buggy days? I doubt it. The event that has caused more pollution in this century than any other was the Mt. St. Helen eruptions. Let's get the EPA on the job here - how come they have not issued a reg forbidding this volcano to erupt? Here I'll quote an interesting paragraph from National Review, April 17, 1981; "Give big dirty greedy polluting business a break. You've heard all about Love Canal, where Hooker Chemicals & Plastics wantonly poisoned Niagara Falls? According to a new study published in the libertarian magazine Reason, it wasn't the company's fault - it was the city's. Reporter Eric Zuesse found that Niagara Falls, the city, a) punched a sewer line through the Canal walls, letting chemicals seep into the neighborhood sewer system, b) ignored the company's many warnings about the hazards involved, c) refused the company's pleas that the land be used only as a park, and d) used the threat of eminent domain to force the company to sell the land to the Board of Education. All the same, the Justice Department and the EPA have filed a \$124.5-million suit against Hooker, which Zuesse says 'may well have been the only party to the affair to behave responsibly.'" Thinking that the government will solve our problems is whistling in the dark.

Just a comment on the Israel raid on the Iraqi reactor. You can bet that the Iraqis were working on the bomb. Israel does not fool around - just like the Entebbe raid. If we would have acted as decisively on the Iranian Embassy episode, we wouldn't have been made fools of.

Walter Heller, I believe, is a Keynesian economist, somewhat in the mold of Galbraith. He is not a straight thinker, certainly nowhere near in the class of Ludwig von Mises, for one. And I think Heller was probably a member of the President's Council of Economic Advisors in the early '60s.

Robinson, cont'd

I wanted to get this on one page, but failed! Your remarks on job situation were most interesting, but I will save comments on that for this weekend.

Know the difference between a teacup and a peacut? A peacup is what a Mexican rides to work in.

Do you know what is six inches long, drives women nuts, and has a bald head on it? A hundred dollar bill.

Here's a couple of blurbs - might be good for filler.

Sonia's Reader and Advisor

Advice on all problems of life — such as business, love, marriage, etc. One visit will convince you she is superior to all other readers. Come see her today. She helps you out of sorrow and worries. Tells you your lucky days. Bring your problems to her, she will help you. Sonia can be seen daily from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday by appointment only.

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golf courses watering the greens, but if you look at the charts, four fifths of usage (and therefore depletion) goes to agriculture. Why the hell do we need Arizona cotton? Of course the people who bought the desert cheap, got the government to dig canals over the mountains to them and "loan" some 2% money for wells and such, don't want those pints raised. Could it be they're making too much money under agriculture support apyments to want to have to quit?))

((Indeed, not only good filler, but perhaps a real help to needy hobbyists who would appreciate knowing his lucky days, seasons, and Boardman Numbers. Perhaps the Oliver Crusade could help "cast out devils" from Munich?

I once had a similar piece in BB that concerned a black, voodoo -man that practised by mail out of Brooklyn. It came at a perfect time for me, for Boardman was writing then about how the federal government was the cause of NYC unemployment (by using "their" money to spend on Sunbelt military bases and the like). I sent him Dr. Dodo's ad with the note that "not all free enterprise is gone from Brooklyn" or some such. I don't know if he appreciated it or not.

The Love Canal item is news to me. Somehow I never seem to catch any such peices defending business on the news. Currently everyone's special feature is water, especially the wasting away of ground water. It seems there's lots of shots of Tucson

((The other contributed piece from Mr Robinson is on the next page))

J.M.

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ERIC M. OZOG

1526 N. Lawler Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60651

Monday June 22nd 1981

Jack Masters
25711 N. Vista Fwys Drive
Valencia, CA 91355

Dear Jack,

Received Brutus Bulletin today. Touche, you got me. I've learned a valuable lesson, one should not cast stones when one's slate is dirty. However, I think you went too far with all the link-ups with Bernie and me. That part is untrue.

I did influence 1979 IW's end. I did call up Mike Hartman and tell him what to order. So you did some detective work and found out from Hartman, directly or indirectly. Hartman promised not to tell.....

I'll say one thing, you sure play dirty. If one crosses Jack Masters, his soul had better be immaculate, or else.

You will be happy to learn that my zine, Diplomacy By Moonlight will be closing down after 1979 IX is finished. After all, people shouldn't take a chance on me, right?

Sincerely Yours,

ERIC OZOG

cc: John Michalski

PLEASE PRINT THIS JOHN.
In its entirety

((Glad to. I appreciate an honest statement about how LE FRONT games are run. I need to send a copy of this to John Leeder and see if he will go on backing "Bernie's" product, e.g. Based on previous policy of his though, you can assure your Maryland friend that he will continue in the good graces of RUNESTONE. Some people never learn...))

J.M.

((EDITOR'S NOTE: This letter also contained a note asking that the last paragraph of the earlier Ozog letter be deleted. Unfortunately it was already run when this request was received. J.M.))



ERIC M. OZOG

1526 N. Lawler Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60651

Tuesday June 23rd 1981

To Jack Masters

Dear Jack,

I'm still not through with getting things off my chest. That letter of yours in Brutus Bulletin was terribly unkind to me, and I doubt that I'll ever recover from it. No doubt the hobby will be talking about this one for a while, as I grimly laughed. Then again, the hobby easily forgets. Now, after a day, I can think a little bit more rationally and look at the options that are left open to me.

First though, I want you to know that I called Mike Hartman and talked to him about it. He said that you two see each other in person once in a while, and that he casually mentioned the incident in 1979 IW. He said he told you that it was only between you and himself. He said that you agreed not to tell anyone, but you go ahead and do it anyway. That says a lot about your track record, doesn't it?

About the refund business from Black Frog, I was unaware that you had no refund policy, even though you had it written in your H.R.'s. For Crist's sake, don't you know that since I didn't enter a game in BF, I didn't bother to read the house rules? And after I sent out the form letter announcing my drop from the hobby I did write you once again. It went unanswered. You could have at least replied to me saying, Eric, you get no money because the zine costs too much to publish. You just didn't give a damn.

I was unaware that the \$5.00 I later sent you was really a "donation". If it wasn't applied to my sub credit, then it should have been. And come on, I paid \$10.00 for 9 issues. I cannot believe that BF costs you on the average of over a dollar an issue! If it does, I want proof. I want statistics!

I concede and apologize about my first letter to BB telling people to Beware of Master. But you must understand how damned aggravated I was about getting rooked by LaFosse, not hearing from you, nor Cuerrier! I know that because of what I said about you, it provoked you to hit back. But you admit, you hit back much harder than was necessary. You know that all that talk about Bernie Oaklyn was needless bullshit. You don't know how goddam mad I am at you because of that! I have nothing to do with what Oaklyn does, know and you have no right condemning me because I happen to like Oaklyn.

Now I'll talk about my crimes. I am guilty of bringing 1979 IW to a quick end by telling the German player, Mike Hartman, where to move his units. Yes, a GM should never do such a thing. However, at the time I was ready to give up Diplomacy and didn't care one way or the other. I must make clear that I decided to call it quits before my father's grave condition (he's now dead, thank you) and I had zero problems at home. I merely thought that there was more to life than Diplomacy. And Diplomacy was my life for a while.

What are my choices now? I can either try for months and months to save my ruined reputation or to forget postal Diplomacy GMing and pubbing for good. I will have to ask the hobby those questions. Will they take me in and accept me as the good GM that I once was? If rejected, I'll finish up 1979 IX (with no interference by me mind you) and close down Diplomacy By Moonlight. I promise all future players who might consider a game with me that I will put no more stunts like the one in 1979 IW. If my interest in Diplomacy ever falls off again to the point where the games will suffer, I will immediately transfer them to a more willing GM. Unlike LaFosse, everyone will get back whatever money is owed. I can't guarantee any more than that.

Sincerely Yours,

ERIC OZOG



PRAYER FOR DIETERS

LORD, GRANT ME THE STRENGTH THAT I MAY NOT FALL
INTO THE CLUTCHES OF CHOLESTEROL.

AT POLYUNSATURATED I'LL NEVER MUTTER.
FOR THE ROAD TO HELL IS PAVED WITH BUTTER.

AND CAKE IS CUSSED AND CREAM IS AWFUL.
AND SATAN IS HIDING IN EVERY WAFFLE.

BEELZEBUB IS A CHOCOLATE DROP
AND LUCIFER IS A LOLLIPOP.

TEACH ME THE EVILS OF HOLLANDAISE.
OF PASTA AND GOBS OF MAYONNAISE.

AND CRISP FRIED CHICKEN FROM THE SOUTH.
LORD, IF YOU LOVE ME, SHUT MY MOUTH!

... AUTHER UNKNOWN

June 26, 1981

DAN STAFFORD

2013 Gloucester, Columbus, OH 43229

Nothing seems to stir the blood of the Gerital set like the mention of the name Oaklyn. It almost sounds like certain members of our beloved hobby have taken lessons in hatred (and logic!) from such a distinguished asswipes as Jerry Falwell. (I just had to work that in there somehow.)

I can just imagine what it must have been like for you, John, while you were typing up Jack Master's letter for #92. By the time you had finished, you'd probably worked up quite a froth. But you were cool, you held back your dribble until after you typed my letter just below. Then you let us have it. Yes, Oaklyn, and his obviously mindless followers Ozog, myself, and even BNC Don Ditter.

This letter is not intended to defend the exploits of Bernie/Buddy Oaklyn (or "Uncle Bernie" as he is known to us Toadies). It is merely intended to point out that you, in your zeal to 'commit' "revolutionary justice", are guilty of many of the same things that you condemn poor Uncle Bernie for doing.

I realize, of course, that you don't know what I'm talking about simply because I doubt if half of Bernie's detractors even remember what his crimes were supposed to be. So, let me remind you:

The first, and least serious, of his many crimes is playing and publishing under the pseudonym "Bernie Oaklyn". Everybody, including Ozog knows that this is true. I even have a letter from Bernie (dated Jan. 23rd, 1978) in which he admits that he is Tretick. But, so what! You admire Masters and Linsey for their skillful frauds, er, fakes! So, why condemn Uncle B. because he chose to start his Dippy life over with a new name? Of the two, I believe the fakes are more disruptive. Don't get me wrong, I love fakes, but I receive many zines and therefore stay 'current' enough to be able to spot them. (Even so, I was fooled by two of the many fakes I've seen, the Life of Monty and Pearl) But what of the novice, or the guy who only gets one or two zines? He is likely to be fooled, fucked, and frustrated by a fake.

More serious is Bernie's GMing, which I will admit is pretty bad. But there are worse GM's around who aren't getting the same treatment. Bruce Schneier of Invasion is the worst GM in the hobby today! In my game in his zine, 1980 IY, there are numerous GM errors every turn, twice causing the game to be delayed. And it's only 1903! This clown even uses NOR as the abbreviation for Norway! (That should make hair stand on end for all us BRUX fans.) My point being that I have discovered there are many good GM's in the hobby (your own Dave Marshal, one of the best) since branching out from Le Front, but I've also hit a few that are worse and continue to be plugged. If any thing, Bernie's GMing has improved of late due mainly to pressure from within the zine, by players like Olsen and myself who want to finish the games we started without them being ruined by bad GMing or outside pressure.

And although he hasn't been doing it lately. Bernie caught a lot of fire for his half-crazed attacks on respected hobby leaders. But after reading the latest tirades from Boardman, Masters, and you, it is difficult for me to see that he is wrong and you chaps are not. I see only that you guys outnumber him, but then the hobby is neither "a democracy" nor "a republic", now is it!

Neurotic conspiracy theories forwarded by Black Jack Masters? That there is any connection between Oaklyn cutting his sub to Le Front and Ozog's claim against Black Frog is highly unlikely. Hell, not even Ozog much likes Uncle Bernie anymore (some of us are just more tolerant than others, why, I even like dykes). Far more likely Oaklyn lost Jack's address or records of his sub. That would be far more typical of Bernie. But for Jack to assume that Uncle Bernie

Apologies for Tretick, continued

and all (or any!) of the players in LF are in close personal contact, in the wee hours of the night, plotting to defraud him of his \$4 (and take over the world) is just plain silly. I, personally, have not talked or written to Bernie (except to submit moves) in many months. I doubt if Ozog has either.

Now I've gone and done it! I've dared to attack the great Masters! I still remember what happened to the last guy to publicly disagree with Jack, and neither Brad Wilson nor his zine Born to be an Asshole have been heard from since. I hope the same fate does not await me.

I guess what I'm trying to say is that you are right to advise your readers to stay away from bad GM's like Oaklyn, Ozog, Kovalcik, Wilson, and Schneier, but beyond that, your obsession with drumming anyone out of the hobby is just that, an obsession. If you really want to cripple the bad GM's, open up your zine to new subers and keep on plugging what you know to be good and exposing what you know to be bad.

One last note on me: Le Front is but one of about 20 zines that I receive and it's not one of my favorites or even close. And yet a Toady I will always be labelled because it was "Bernie Oaklyn" who introduced me to postal Diplomacy. Sad.

((No, only sad if you really believe that lie. You are not the object of abuse for having started in LE FRAUD; you are abused for your own decision to STICK with that fuckhead after you yourself acknowledge he's a loser at best. Where you start out is a matter of luck; where you choose to stick, and to offer your name, reputation, and GGM/subzine services is a matter of conscious choice. You sit yourself and your work right in there next to his ravings, and then express dismay when people like myself point out the fact. Also, of course, you pointedly ignore that 'Bernie' is not just an incompetent like the many others you name, but rather, 'Bernie' is a FRAUDULENT GM. The incompetents make mistakes; when 'Bernie' puts his son in games, enters under more than one name, changes orders to what he thinks would be "better" or "more interesting" orders, creates non-existent people ("Becky Coffman" et.al.) to stand-in for orders he does not want to process, that is NOT incompetence, Dan. That is fraud. 'Bernie' is not just a bungler; he is an asshole, and damn proud of it. No one cares if he wants to "start his Dippy life over with a new name"; but a lot of people care when he uses that new name to hide the same old shit that drove him out of the hobby on a much-deserved rail to begin with. For Jack to assume Bernie did what he charged is totally in keeping with the atrocious record 'Bernie' has accumulated for himself; it is your innocent assumption of error that lacks a reasonable basis. I don't know if you have simply closed your eyes to what 'Bernie' has done and is doing, or if you figure it's just another way of running games like any other, or if you simply voice the best-sounding package of bullshit you can to cover the sorriest record any bastard in this hobby has ever managed to accumulate; whichever it is, sit back and tell yourself that shit until you believe it. I'll go with the word of his victims, not 'Bernie' itself. And as long as you choose to sit in 'Bernie's' bowl, you have no legitimate complaint about being labelled a turd along with those others. You picked your spot, you sit there and enjoy it.))

J.M.

Thank for the advance pages for #92.

1. Jim Benes, of Western Star Dippy, also permits Bernie to play and indeed Bernie is in nearly all his games. I have corresponded extensively with Jim without success. He feels that it would set a bad precedent, and that, like Leeder, he is not being burned at the particular moment. He also does not feel that what Bernie has done to other GMs should affect whether Bernie should play in his zine. He has, tho, issued a good warning to his players to avoid FLD. Also, Drew McGee lets him play in Rebus Sic Stanibus.

2. As you know, I've been in the what-should-we-do-about-Bernie business for a long time, so I've seen several suggestions for a secondary boycott, tho perhaps none as extensive as Masters'. I don't think they have any chance of working, and I think will do more harm than good. Not pubbing the subbers list will cause hardships to the subbers, for whom it is supposed to be an advantage. He can always pick up on COAs. A zine-boycott is unlikely to work unless the target is a new zine which aspires to run a lot of games. Liber-tarran, Runestone and Dippy are all much too established for something like this to work. And their pubbers will resent the fact that you resort to force when persuasion fails. As for Oaklyn's lackey's, who is to say who is and who isn't. Somehow Masters draws a line between Olsen and Kozlowski, but suppose someone else doesn't? Also, don't underestimate Bernie here. He'll just pull names at random from the hobby, and thank them profusely for their help, and perhaps forge a letter or two from them to Bernie. A huge mechanism will have to be set up to separate the real from the phoney, and in the meantime they must endure both Bernie's slanders and the hobby's suspicions.

3. Yes, Don Ditter has been a GGM for Le Front for some time. I wrote him about this a while ago but got no response.

4. As for 1979IW, Kendter said some time back that the game would be called irregualr because of problems occuring when the game was still young.

5. Zines do not come with money-back-if-not-satisfied guarentees. If a pubber wants to give this as a favor, fine, but provided that the zine is still being published the player is not "entitled" --- this is just my opinion.

6. Sorry, but I had enuf "Republic" vs "Democracy" debates when I was an undergraduate to want to restart them again. The only reason I tossed that in was that I figured that with John so suspicious of government (a term embracing the court system) that my appeal to "Democracy" might appeal to him.

7. This stuff about elderly people needing Saturday Nite Specials to defend themselves is pure fantasy. They've got about as much chance of getting the gun for \$35 as they do getting heroin. They might succeed, but the odds are the seller will take their \$35 and whatever else they have on them. Further, the value of a gun as a defensive weapon in a urban setting and in the hands of the elderly is greatly overrated. As a defensive weapon it is best used to keep the attacker out of range. You know --- the old codger fires from kitchen window across the corral to keep the baddies from closing in. But if someone comes up from behind and puts a knife to your throat, or walks up to you and pulls a gun, the fact that you've got one in your pocket isn't going to do a damn bit of good. Likewise the purse snatcher. Sure, after any of these the vitim can try to shoot it out. But the robber's gun is probably a better gun, he's probably a better shot (better reflexes) and most important, he's probably much less concerned with spectators getting shot than our decent sen&or citizen.

One of the values of gun control is that it reduces the number of innocent victims. Children killed playing with daddies gun, or passersby nicked in the gun-battle. That is one of the things that so infuriates me about the NRA --- they are opposed to the notion that you can't get a gun until you've shown proficiancy. We require a license to fly a plane, because if you screw up you might accidently kill someone. But this is even more true with guns (by accidently I mean other than the intended victim). Few people harm others

Berch, continued

accidentally with knives, but its common with guns.

I'm not blind, or with a "closed" mind to the pro-gun arguments. I just don't find them persuasive. I think the solution to our gun problem is fewer guns, not even more guns. I don't think that those who have been convicted of a felony involving the use of a gun should be able to own a gun for at least 5-10 years after prison release, and that possession should itself be a crime. And ultimately, I do not favor permitting private ownership of concealed handguns unless you are prepared to prove that you need a gun. A more highly armed citizenry is just going to produce a shoot-first, rob second procedure by the baddies.

((Instead of the kindness and respect they now show? Well, at least you favor mandatory punishment for felons with guns, so if I can squeeze that out of you, I consider myself successful.

Planes require a license because you can kill a LOT of people via misuse, even with just a single-seater. Guns don't threaten whole buildings, so the restrictions are less. The more lethal weapons do require more licensing; machine guns, while a lot of fun, are VERY difficult to own (legally), for instance. The elderly can get a \$35 Sat.Nite Special; I bought one in San Antonio some years back for \$20 across the counter. Distant targets are no threat, so I see little point in consider "keeping them at a distance". On the contrary, the threat is very close up, which is why there even exist things like snub-nose pistols (which are completely useless beyond six feet). The 45 is about the best anti-personnel weapon in the handgun category for stopping power, and precisely because of this close range effectiveness. (A larger gun, such as a 44 magnum, will just punch a hole through the victim and expend its energy in knocking out the wall behind him. The 45 takes it out on the first target). Little guns aren't that good as weapons, but at close range, a derringer is just as good as a hand grenade. LOOKING the wrong way at a weapon is not something to inspire people to calculate the likely effectiveness of the weapon. A wooden gun would often do the trick.

Don Ditter has written, but also asks that I not print his reply or quote him. I'll leave it at that. I think he falls into the Leeder school of, uh, 'thought'.)) J.M.

DICK MARTIN (No Tickee, No Washee)

26 Orchard Way North, Rockville, MD

OK, enough garbage has run through the last few BONZO BALONEYS, it's time I wrote again and laid the truth on you.

First off--draws include all survivors. For me, this is the only way to play. My objective is either to win, lose, or draw. There is NO such thing as a place or show in Diplomacy. I have never, and never will, vote for a draw that doesn't include all survivors or a concession, when I'm a starting player. I just like to play WHOLE games, the end often being the most exciting.

Obviously, this will require more than your average amount of nerve to stand the pressure, as you got for the 17-17. Where's the excitement in a 13-12 draw? Bah! None of this wimpy nonsense for me.

DIAS does a couple interesting things to the game too. You tend to have fewer draws, and the games are more competitive. Take MANIACAL for instance(ugh). Kathy would NOT have won that game but for DIAS. Even Hanson and Del Grande would have caught on to what she was up to. It was the perfect excuse for her to set up for the win, and she took it. For what it's worth, DIAS has served GRAUSTARK just fine for the past 16-17 years. I like it, it stays. Nyah.

Second, I don't think Linsey did the second fake BB. My \$\$ (what's left of it) is on Tro Sherwood. I slept through it. Sorry, but fakes are soooo boring nowadays.

What are you complaining about work for? You're finally getting well paid for producing BB. Wasn't that your goal anyway? I'm expecting your sub fee to drop soon, then I'll renew.

About gun control: enclosed is an article for you. It says something, but I don't know what. I still have my same stance on it: some form of competency test for any potential owners. I'm not afraid of the nut on the street(should I be?), it's the number of accidents that bothers me. Why, a month ago a kid no more than 10 years old shot himself accidentally (in one side, out the other...). Fortunately, it wasn't serious (as in fatal). People are just so irrational when it comes to guns...

PS.What? You don't LIKE the treaties in AG?

((No way Hosea. Smacks too much of someone dressing up like Napoleon to play France...

The article was about a guy who shot a robber and was wounded himself. Shows some that weapons are bad-bad because they hurt people. Just like some people become pacifistic. because war seems harmful to children and flowers. Other people see other things. Had the man had a shotgun or an automatic weapon, he could have been more effective. What good are competency tests? Accidents will occur as a result of the mere existence of the weapons, irregardless of the skill of the registered owner. Competency tests are required of drivers, but how many drunks has that taken off the roads? There are more drug accidents than gun accidents, but you have stated your endorsement of the free drug trade. What are the tests to show competency at freaking out?

Better extend now. Rates will never go down, unless the government nationalizes the industry. Then, once I make Career status, I'll charge my costs, which ought to be -0-. But postage may soon hit 40¢ an issue.

Thanks for all that Truth...))

J.M.

MARK LEW (subz Benzene, maybe others)
(excerpts)

3120 W 79 St, Anchorage, AK 99502

Hooray! I've money at last. ...enclosed is a subczech...

What's SSAM?

Tell IRK I'll do Fade Away if he wants. Always wanted a Bozo Wilson game. Am I on your standby list? Just curious.

Allen Wells, 'sorry, Hoth was Norway, not Alaska, but otherwise you know what you're talking about. J. Williams is the best composer alive today and movie soundtracks today are what operas used to be.

What an incredibly boring letter. I wouldn't bother to print it if I were, or maybe I would if I were You.

((Sure, why not? If I print Martin, I'll print anyone. Lately both Boardman and Ditter (Don, i.e.) wrote, but specifically asked not to be quoted. That's about the only way to avoid being quoted, unless you send game correspondence, and some of that is dumb enough to warrant publishing (tho I won't). In one game, my Austria has finally made an offensive set-up move vs an Italy that fucked me twice, but the French player is upset that I did so when "I told you Italy was going to move away from you now". I guess I was supposed to believe the French line and ignore the Italian presence and actions? I get some wierd stuff. Another card from Steve Shaddix about a game he too has done a number on me in, but at least it shows he's starting back into the hobby. At least until he again loses interest. So why not?

No, you were dropped from the S/B list at your request. SSAM stands for Soldier, Sailor, Airman, Marine, a sort of combined-services zine to cut down on overhead. Now that Claudine has told the Reserve to go stuff it, I don't know if I'll be able to get anymore.))

J.M.

STEVE LANGLEY

2154 Fairfield Rd, Sacramento, CA 95815

Once more into the computer mail bag, then I'll shut my mouth. Allen Wells opts for central pickup—could be—but my bet is that the service will not be a monopoly as the government has it, but competitive services, vying for our business, will offer delivery, or not. Those that do, in my opinion, will get the majority of the business. As to the actual sort and delivery: computers are really good at sorting. The delivery mail will be presorted (before printing) into delivery groups, and within those groups, by street address. Each deliverer will not only get his mail in full sort sequence, but he will be given a map and schedule of addresses to deliver to and the order to make the deliveries.

Did I say I thought the fake schlock of the Warhol school was art? I take exception to having my name linked with the sort of sick mind who would film the killing of a dog and call it art. I find it amusing to speculate on leading the 'artist' to a stake, tying him up, placing a gun to his head, and then filming his experience as he witnesses the pull of the trigger and hears and feels the explosion of the 'blank' cartridge. But then, I find myself having to doctor his burns and, perhaps, giving him CPR to re-start his heart, neither of which appeals to me. Besides, the only people my film

Langley, continued

would actually appeal to are the same weirdos who like his film.

More on guns—and I think I'll let this be my last, too. I have fired a small number of long and short arms. Between my father's collection, the Army, and Dean Grennell, I have been exposed to at least twenty or so pieces. I have the distinct impression, from my own experience, that a point blank bullet will miss as often as hit, despite Hollywood's one-bullet, six-Indians mythos. A hand weapon can, may, and sometimes will kill. More often, it will injure, perhaps even maim. A really heavy piece will knock you over. A 'Saturday Night Special' will kill if the hit is in a very tight area that proves vital, but will more often than not wound.

I had a friend. She had a 22 short 3" revolver. I told her to threaten with it, and aim for the face, for if she really needed it and shot at any part of the body, she would end up making her assailant angry. Three nights later, I stopped in to see her quite late. She got off three shots before she believed it was me. Two missed, one glanced off my leather jacket. I was bruised for over a week. I'm glad she wasn't aiming for my face. Guns have to be used correctly to save lives. I'd much rather we were commonly armed. I know I can put my shot where I want it, and I'm pretty sure that the only people with enough discipline to learn how to do so will join me in that skill. I have yet to see a crazy with any discipline at all. Just my luck to meet one.

((I emptied a snub-nose at a target 6 feet away and missed the whole target with every one—and my Sat Nite Special will double in range if you start out by holding it behind you and swing your arm forward just before you fire. Still, I'd rather have it than to try and bluff with a karate stance. That's why my one rifle takes care of all my weaknesses: high rate of fire, range, power, low recoil. Definitely not the weapon for your friend though. She would have killed you right through the door.

You should have already received a copy of the fake #90. Thanks for writing again.)) J.M.

MARK LEW again

Still in Anchorage

To John C Robinson: So where else would the dog go? It'd get sent to the pound and after a while get "put to sleep". We're killing dogs all over the place, at least this one got to go out with a little class. It's the same principle as bullfights being "cruel". Sure, but the bull would just get it in the slaughterhouse anyway.

I've seen a few LE FRONTS and Ditter is indeed a gGM. Too bad I didn't think of it earlier and beat Stafford to the punch.

Of course classical music sucks. So does baroque. I just like late romantic, impressionism, weirdos like Stravinsky and even some modern, like John (Star Wars) Williams.

All these big city folk talk about all the crime they get. I heard there are more rapes here in Anchorage than in New York. That could be wrong, of course.

Your letter column isn't dry anymore, though it was at the time I wrote that. By the time this prints, it might be again.

I never take draws of less than two unless I'm going to be eliminated otherwise (as happened in 7900). I like 2 way draws as much as wine, because if I was in a position to win, I could say I could have won (which is as much an accomplishment as doing so) but was merciful to my ally; it gives a more all-powerful impression. Another really cute trick is when you have 17 and two other players have 12 and 5 and the 5 is a "win-only" player. You just sit at your stalemate line while 12 beats on 5 and 5 gets REALLY pissed. Lots of fun.

JOSEPH Heller wrote CATCH 22 and Stephen Heller was some composer who wrote a lot of "Tarantelles". I hain't never heard of no Walter Heller though.

I don't understand the labels bit. I want to see your mailing list.

((That set of labels you got was it. If the 12 beats the 5 down to two, why not get 2 to give you one?

I like Nazi war songs, especially at wargame meets where you can often gross out people. I'll never forget one day in USAF in the top secret Crypto School in San Antonio, when I was in class during a test and whistling "Heil Hitler Dir" to myself, when an instructor came up behind me and asked "Do you know what song that IS?" Turns out he was a fan too... "Märkische Heide" is nice too. For general use, though, any 'beautiful music' station is OK. All that annoys me is when they do

Response to Lew 2, or 3 or so

songs that Captain and Tennille made big, by someone else. Very poor taste. If I were President of the US, I'd have Toni over for a White House performance each week. She could even sing in the evenings if she wanted to. Those long legs make her a distant challenger to Kathy Byrne...))

Since we're into second and third letters from people, let's pay another visit with MARK BERCH (still just Dip Digest) Still Alexandria too

Both England and Japan make good cases for gun-control (handgun control), albeit in different ways. Yes, it is true that Japan is quite homogenous, one culture, one race. But what you "blatantly overlook" is the fact that that culture has been a very violent one. Civil wars have raged in Japan over hundreds of years and have been quite bloody. In addition, you overlook the mechanism whereby this came into being: At the close of WWII, the U.S. occupation forces forceably disarmed the population, and put in place rather stiff laws, which have been enforced. Sure, the common culture/race makes things a lot easier than it would be here. But it shows that the mechanism can work even in a modern, comopolitan society.

As for England, yes, it has racial clashes the "coloreds problem" But if you compare those clashes with comparable areas of racial strife, you see a rather large difference between here and there: Racial conflict here is MUCH more lethal than there. The reason is simple: England has had several decades of stringent handgun control. That has not broken down. The result is that racial clashes express themselves as looting and vandalism, beatings and stabbings. Here, gunfire is common. There is a big difference between opening up on the police with rocks and with guns. And there is the innocent bystander problem. A lot of people are injured or killed by stray bullets. Its a lot harder to be hit by a stray knife.

As for Northern Ireland, there you have organized civil war. That's hardly what we are talking about here. And handguns aren't really the problem there. The combatants there go at each other with tanks, molotov cocktails, and machine guns. That is civil war, gone way beyond handguns. Its a special case

As for NYC and its Sullivan law, yes, there are a lot of shootings in NYC. I'm unfamiliar with what Caruso and Palter have said, but let not exaggerate here. I have spent many weekends in NYC, walking all over with either fear or a pistol. Of course, there are neighborhoods that I would avoid. The problem there is that 1) Police are severely outnumbered and 2) While NYC has this ban, surrounding areas do not, and there is no way they can search all cars coming in. Wash DC has the same problem. In DC you must register any handgun, and you can neither buy a new one nor bring a new one into DC. But local area can't do it alone --- Only a national approach can work, because of the ease of crossing stateline with a concealed handgun.

Yes, victims are unarmed in NYC. But lets not exaggerate the defensive value of a concealed handgun. If someone pulls a gun on you and points it at your head, you are hardly in a position to pull out your gun. The best you can hope for is to shoot it out with him one he departs with his loot --- something that provides great danger to others. If he pulls a knife, you can in many cases back away and then escalate by pulling your gun, but that will then force all muggers to carry guns. I would MUCH rather be mugged with a knife. With the knife I have the option of fleeing; with a gun, I must either attack him immediately or submit.

Further, these laws have considerable value to the police in dealing with thugs. If they can't prove criminal intent, at least they can get a conviction for a concealed handgun. Thus, it is somewhat analogous to possession of burglary tools. When you find the guy in the lobby or hallway of the building you don't know who he was going to rob, and he hasn't actually done anything yet

Berch, conclusion

So you nail him on possession of bulgary tools. Another analogy is the incometax evasion technique used on gangsters in the 30s and 40s. Even if you caould never figure out where he got the money, you could get him for possession of the unreported monies. So this type of law is very handy to the police.

As for the rest, Jeex, John, is this the best you can do? Your "Maybe if you understood what is going on in the working parts of America... ..outside the never-never land of the District of Columbia and its sattelite world" is every bit as arrogant --- and devoid of truth --- than the other side of the coin, viz, that only the beaurocrats know whats best for you. Its all the same reasoning --- "We know best" and if you think that's true, then you are one of those "dem hicks" you refer to. But lets get specific. You refer to "such intrusions and outright fuckups" and give as example "federal intrusion has destroyed schools". OK, John, I'll bite. Your schools are in Okla, mine are in Va. How is it that federal intrusion has done one thing to Okla schools and something different to Va schools?

As for the main point, lets see if I have this right: Federal intrusions has destroyed schools, therefore people should have no handgun registration. Wonderful, just wonderful.

Not to end on too heavy a note, here's one to remind us of the type of stuff that would go into Toronto Telegram if only it were here:

The doctor was busy trying to sign papers when his nurse burst into the room and exclaimed: "Doctor, you're signing your paper with a rectal thermometer."

"Damn," said the Doctor. "That means some asshole has my pen!"

((I thought the latest from TER-RAN was more TT's style. "O: Where do they celebrate Mass Confusion? A: In the ghetto on Father's Day".

You got the main point right. If federal control does for guns what its done for education, the postal system, medicine, welfare, etc., etc., then gov't control of guns is not too good an idea.

The schools' reference is to forced bussing, for the record. That speaks for itself, and applies across the US. I might also make reference to its effect on destroying our cities via greatly increasing "White Flight". Were it simply racism, then White Flight should provide a great opportunity for liberals to cash in at the expense of all these "racists" by buying their abandoned homes cheap. But we know that won't happen. After all, it is into the liberal's own hideaways that these people are fleeing. Had they not started in isolated suburbs themselves, they wouldn't be liberal. Your own schools and vicinity do make an excellent example. Compare your satellite areas to the major hub system in DC. We know what THAT'S like even out here.))

--And another Berch letter included--

((excerpts)) I had no part in the BB fake. The subzines looked real--my guess is that a couple of yoursubzine editors got together and did it. I don't know what the tablet sez.

I seem to recall a LONG "Zines Received" column--maybe that was #90 with no DD in it--BOO!!

I'm still working on Leeder. Remember, he did quite a blast on Bernie a while back!

Have you been watching the CBS Special on defense? Very impressive. Particularly Wednesday night, with the long segment on the Navy. It was quite an indictment of not only military decisions of the past 10 years (I include Nixon, Ford, and Carter in that) but Reagan as well. There is a desperate need for more spare parts and more officers and Reagan wants to put MORE ships at sea, when there's not enough people and spares for what we've got. The military brass are so mesmerized with technology--the newest and fanciest, that they ignore the more nuts-and-bolts stuff.

((They're faced with the problem of looking at two fires to be put out: a "tactical" level matter of manning and maintenance, and a "strategic" one of having enough modern ships.

Well, the letter from Jim Vaughan definitely needs some answering, so here goes.

First, I hardly left Vermont due to naivety. Before I came to school I lived in Vermont, Maine, New York, Texas, and West Germany. I chose my school when I was in Germany. I chose MIT based solely on educational quality which, in my field, surpasses anything in Vermont (or almost anywhere else for that matter). Forgive me for not being a Vermont hick.

Second, it did not take me 4 years to learn what the "real world" in Massachusetts was like; I realized something was very wrong the moment I got here. Even Texas is nowhere near as tolerant of fraud as Massachusetts.

You ask why I don't "dare" to send a letter to a Boston area newspaper or "the MIT paper" (in actuality there are 5 MIT papers). Such insufferable arrogance on your part, Jim! What makes you think I do not? In actuality I used to often send letters to both until I realized the futility of it. First, half the time the letter doesn't get printed. Second, there tends to be little in the way of direct replies to letters (as there is in BB), so you can't really have discussions of topics. But neither of these is why I stopped writing. I stopped writing when I wrote a long letter comparing the relative merits of nuclear and coal power and it got totally massacred. 90% of my substantiating evidence was deleted to compress it. Nothing was left but a bunch of random claims. Call it owardice if you like, but I have better ways to waste my time.

However, I do occasionally do look at local papers (nothing but sensationalist trash in Boston, I'm afraid) and my lack is not much noticed. Lots of people do write in about fraud (mostly in favor). For instance, it was amusing looking at the letter column after that school officer got caught for fraud. "The money wouldn't have been there to take if there was no forced bussing!", etc., etc., etc.

As to what "prompted Mr. Wells' letter", I was directly asked by John M. about it in print. I saw no reason not to reply.

I must admit one interesting first about your letter, though. No one has ever called me "typical of the college students" before. People can't seem to make up their mind whether I'm radically right or left, but I've never been called typical.

But back to your claims. You claim that Massachusetts is no different than any other state. How incredibly naive YOU are. You should spend some time travelling, live in some other state for a while, talk to people from other states, broaden your horizons as you open your mind. I must admit that I suffered from a similar naivety when I was younger, but some recent examples have set me straight. For instance: everyone knows that the Department of Motor Vehicles in all states are out to be a pain, right? Well, read on...

When I went to register my last car (a Pinto) in Vermont, I asked how much courtesy plates cost. They told me it was only a \$5 one shot charge (as opposed to over \$20 in Mass., and I think you pay per year.) That seemed quite reasonable, so I asked if "Tank" was taken. It was not. So, I filled out a request form as the lady pulled some plates out.

"No, no", I said, "I'm getting courtesy plates, give me temporary paper plates"

"You don't want to have them. If it rains, they will get wet and kids might rip them off. Take these and mail them back when you get the courtesy plates." I almost fell over. The DMV in Mass would never do that, nor would the DMV in NY or or CA (I have had dealings with all these).

Another example: When I was last working in California, the Pinto died. I had the money, so I decided to get a new Honda Civic. When I got it, California made me get California plates and pay California tax, despite being a Vermont resident. Unfortunately, if I got the registration switched to Vermont, then Vermont requires THEIR tax, and I wanted the registration in Vermont so I would have no question of residence (and I also have to if I want to drive it in Vermont). Now, growing up in the military, I have known MANY examples of people buying a car in one state while their residence is in another, and the way it is SUPPOSED to work is: Vermont gets Vermont tax; California gets excess if California taxes are higher (they are!). So, I check with people at the California DMV, and their supervisor, and their supervisor's supervisor, and the best I can get is "Well, maybe if the state of Vermont writes us on official stationery, then we might be able to do something." Well, I delayed talking much to the Vermont DMV till I got back east this Feb. and went in to have a talk. I explained all the above and asked if they could help me get my money back from California. The woman (a state policeman) asked me if the real

Wells, continued

reason I was registering in Vermont was to keep my residence. I said yes (the truth). She then asked for proof I had paid the California taxes (I supplied it). Then she totally blew my mind. She pulled out a pen and wrote VOID in the section of my registration about taxes. That money BELONGED to VERMONT. I hadn't even contested that. Can you honestly tell me Jim, that a DMV in Boston would break its rules like this and lose money to make sure a Bostonian didn't get screwed??

OK, so you might say that this has little to do with how the government itself is run. Well, bear through another example.

The biggest political scandal of last year in Vermont was a \$10,000 study commissioned on tourism in Vermont. How many other states would notice a \$10,000 study, or even a \$100,000 study? \$10,000 can't even pay the salary of a professor for a year! Anyway, the basic result of the study was "Yes, tourism is good for Vermont because it generates money and ...". The reaction of Vermonters was "You spent \$10,000 of MY money to tell me something I already KNEW?!" There was total outrage! Political careers were in deep trouble because of it. If a politician was found guilty of a crime, he would be out on his ear in no time flat. Politicians even are given speeding tickets (and pay them) in Vermont! Does that sound like Massachusetts to you, Jim??

But perhaps I am missing a subtle point in your letter. You seem to use the phrase "real world" as if Vermont wasn't part of it. If so, you should open yourself to the ENTIRE world. There are a lot of choices available today, narrowing things by claiming they aren't "real" makes little sense.

To finish with your letter, I would like to write in defense of John. Take a close look at the Zine Directory some time. There are LOTS of zines in NA. If you don't like the style of a particular zine, then DON'T SUB! There is NO REASON why all zines should be stamped out of the same mold and there is no reason a publisher shouldn't be able to put out whatever he wants as long as he can find subscribers willing to pay for what he puts out. John has demonstrated that he can. While I would NOT want a letters column in DOT HAPPY, and while I will never play in a game in BB because I don't like black press (I write lots of press, and I want people to know that it's MINE), I find the letter column here interesting enough to sub to BB. I can find entertaining reading containing the thoughts of many people on both the hobby and miscellaneous subjects, and I am often even motivated to write in return and I find my views put into the zine in their ENTIRETY (like this letter) without having to worry about my words being twisted around by a space-conscious editor.

In any event, I apologize for the length of this letter, and I hope you don't take this personally as you seemed to have taken my first letter. I have tried (in both this letter and the other) to back up what I say with examples and I am trying to answer your letter in good faith. If you think I am off base, I would appreciate your reply, either in print or in private, and the more examples or evidence you can give, the better.

I have nothing personal against Massachusetts (though I don't much like it, ESPECIALLY Boston). In fact, it seems I will live here for a while longer yet. A Massachusetts based company (Charles River Data Corp) wasn't interested in taking no for an answer. After a renegotiation of their offer, I switched to them. While I would much prefer working in Vermont, the job with CRDS is much better than my offer in VT with IBM, and one has to work 8 hours a day (though I still have my regrets). It certainly isn't pay (a Calif. co. tops that scale), but a position in a small company doing fun, neat things is something I can't pass up. Anyway, enough to Jim's letter already, to other things before my pen runs out!

First, your talk about business mail. It turns out that the relative expensiveness of house-to-house delivery is caused by the lack of volume. If you typically got and sent hundreds or thousands of letters per day (as an office easily can) and lived in a housing development where everyone went through mail like this, then this would not be true. As to the specific breaks you mention: 2¢ pre-sorting: the PO does this because sorting mail is one of the most expensive operations it does. On large quantities it actually saves the PO more than 2¢/letter. Pre-sorting small quantities doesn't help them much. Bulk rate: you wouldn't want it. Bulk rate is ONLY shipped when NOTHING else needs to be shipped, often taking over a month. The decrease in price is due to a decrease in quality of service together with quantity. Non-profit rate. Businesses can't use

Wells, conclusion

this either. Typically its use is by churches and charities.

As for the typewriter, well, you see it's like this. I use the word processor I type DOT HAPPY on for school papers, so I assumed I wouldn't need a typewriter this year. My brother started college this year, so I gave him mine. THEN I got into postal Dip. I will get another typewriter at some point, I type MUCH faster than I write.

By the way, since you are big on discussing movies, let me mention a new one before everyone else does. You may just have to eat your words! Lucasfilm has collaborated with Speilburg (Jaws, Close Encounters) to produce "Raiders of the Lost Ark". While it has a terrible preview, it is a movie that I would rate right up there with STAR WARS. I've already seen it twice and plan to see it more. It is GOOD!! And I am damn pleased! People said STAR WARS was a fluke, now we have proof that excellent movies can be made about many things on a regular basis. LONG LIVE LUCAS!!!!

Well, it's 4am, so I better close.

((Phew. Good thing I like to type. (Don't I?) Yes, I saw RAIDERS about a week ago. Definitely above average, but the ending was a little too corny for me. The rest was good, being based on a good Errol Flynn swashbuckler-type film the way STAR WARS was based on your basic fairy tale. Tense, a fast plot, lots of action, one man on horse-back overtaking and destroying a Nazi convoy while wounded, etc., but not in any way a challenger to STAR WARS in my book. No way. It is good that it sets a higher standard for the usual trash being produced, altho again, over half the movies are your ready-for-TV-before-release sitcom or romance slop. NOTHING can ever help them.

The post office isn't so much burdened by the idea of sorting as it is by things like space and money. Both are THERE, but are absorbed by fancy machinery that does NOT do the job right, or doesn't do anything at ALL (like at the OKC PO), and the money is sopped up by lots of high-grade PS-12 types who make me seem like a workaholic here doing BB. Fire EVERYONE above carrier and PS6, and start all over with ONE person replacing 8 from before, and we'll be better off. JUNK the machinery and put in more plywood pidgeon holes with some PS4 sorters, and you'll move the mail a lot faster as well as better and cheaper. Computers go the other way: replace it all with an even fancier layout, replacing letters with printouts. I'd sooner see more people in the postal system sorting and handling than NO people, while I get no mail due to "computer's down again". Xerox can't keep 2 machines in 5 running, but computers will fix the PO. I have my doubts.

Fluff Shaffer had a few comments on Massachusetts himself. He said it's the only place in the country you can walk in and see a sign in McDonalds saying "price includes 11% sales tax" 11%? Shit, I thought only NYC had that kind of official ripoff. (Here some folks complain about these big cities like OKC ripping 'em off with a 2% city sales tax on top of the 2% state tax...) Then there's the blue laws. Can't buy milk on Sunday unless it's poured into a glass; some magazines are for sale, others not; and a confirmation about the corruption. (Your saying MA makes Texas look good is a pretty strong statement!). Yet people apparently accept it as a matter of course, and as in Vaughan's case, seem to get defensive and protective whenever attacks are made on such a system that so clearly insults decent people by its mere existence. When his only response to the corruption examples you gave was that "it's like that everywhere else too", he throws in the towel; I just wonders if he realizes it. That's no different than the people in Communist countries saying, 'well, yes, but there are shortages in Western countries too', as though a shortage of gas to drive to the lake is comparable to having two shoes for every three feet. The people there should be LEADING the fight to flat-out overthrow such a corrupt system, but in fact, as you pointed out, the fellow in prison gets re-elected, and the bastards like O'Neill and the Kennedy mob go right on about their business of fucking over the nation the way their own back yard has been fouled by them. That's why I am so down on this system of government. Give me one that has the balls to go in on something like that, round these assholes up lock, stock, and yacht, and shoot them down like dogs. I would support it. Kennedy will be re-elected though, not me in his place.))

J.M.

KATNY BYRNE (Kathy's Korner)

160-02 43 Ave, Flushing, NY 11358

Hi doll! You're being suckered and you're being suckered good. Woody is taking Serbia

((Oops! I'm not supposed to print those letters here, am I?))
((Just a joke, folks. Arnawoodian would never stab me, would he?)) J.M.

DAVID MANUEL (The Chamber)

10318 Oakgate, Bellflower, CA 90706

I would personally like to thank you for subbing to THE CHAMBER. It's a real boost in my morale to have someone like you subbing.

Enough of this dribble, I'm siding with Jack (Masters) against Mark Lew. After those comments in BB92, who would run a sub-zine in THE CHAMBER? No, don't tell me Kevin Buckalew. Lew, your full of it! And you're going to ask why I didn't reply back for 80HS and not saying anything through me! Shape up Lew! BF not worth it? Ha!!! Ha!!! Ha!!!... My boy, you don't have taste for a good zine. It's your opinion, but still...

I'm sorry, John, but I had to get that off my chest.

Steve Duke, Steve Shaddix and I are all trying to work on "Peace with me not apologizing". Shaddix didn't write for three months, what was I to think?

How do you fill BB? I have a hard time filling TC!

Tell Linsey "thank you" for not mentioning THE CHAMBER in the VOD with the zine reviews. I would have settled for a crummy review than not being mentioned at all. And I know who faked VOD for sure! Linsey's going to pay!!!!

At least Masters ranked me a 2 in the Leeder poll. I bet Linsey forgot to vote for me...

I know the people in the hobby are kind to people to their faces. But what they really think is another story.

I think Duke is right about the Boardman number issue. Unless the players want it, then get it. But why worry about it IF the PLAYERS don't want them? You never know, THE SCHEMER might be a zine for people who are fed up with the HOBBY.

Thanks for hearing me out.

((One way to fill TC would be to elaborate on those ideas. You will be sure and get some denouncements, er, replies.

Players are not opposed to B-Numbers; they are indifferent at most. The only player who was ever pissed about the title a GM gave a game was me, when LSD didn't name a game WETBACK like I suggested. Come to think of it, I wasn't a player there anyway. Why not use the free service right from the start? It seems to me like asking that your name not be placed on your tombstone... See Steve's note below.

I wrote how to fill a zine in response to a letter of someone's a couple of issues back. Trouble is, you fill an issue like this, and no one reads it except the person whose name is at the head of the letter...

Tell you what: If you sat down right now, I'll bet that by elaborating on two sentences of yours about "what people think" FTF vs. "really", you'd have a two- or three- page feature article for the next TC. Putting YOURSELF into the zine is the best there is for reaction. Martin and I do the next best thing, filling pages with copies of what others think/say/do/submit. Try the suggestion though.)) J.M.

STEVEN DUKE (The Schemer)
(excerpts)

Rt 3 Fairfield Pike, Shelbyville, TN 37160

I've relinquished my stand against the Boardman numbers. I thought they WERE a triviality rating service, but I personally WOULD like to look at game results, so they're back in. Thanks for pointing the way.

Can you come up with a short article? I'd appreciate it, and I know that you're busy. Your name above would add something to The Schemer.

Any more suggestions? I'm trying to control my problem, babbling and meandering.

((Hell, that's no problem. That's what fills zines. For whatever reason, some people tell me that JOHN'S NOTES are the best part of BB. I know, go ahead and gag, but it IS said. I think the reason is to butter me up like you above, but also for the sometime feeling of community or fraternity it provides. --I meant to elaborate, but I'm out of room

J.M.

((Courtesy of:))

KNOWN GAME OPENINGS

1 July 1981

Robert Sacks

This listing includes multi-player diplomatic play-by-mail games (e.g., Diplomacy and its variants, SPI Power Political Games) with information not more than 2 months old.

A typical listing consists of the following:

Publisher Name, Address

ZINE NAME, frequency, costs ((month))

GAME, 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, BNC, MNC, Zine Directory,
Pandemonium, Brutus Bulletin, Mike's Mag, Snafu!,
Whitestonia anyone sending a SASE

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DIPLOMACY

Barno, Brown, Carter, Caruso, Duke,
Fleming, Hail, Henricks, Kovalcik,
Manuel, Marshall, Mills, Pearson,
Sigwalt, Wells

Variants

Barno, Brown, Davis, Henricks, Mills, Wells

Parlement

Sacks

GUNSLINGER

Henricks

IMPERIALISM

Barno

KINGMAKER

Barno, Henricks

MACHIAVELLI

Barno, Henricks

ORIGINS OF WORLD WAR II

Duke

OUTREACH

Barno

SAMURAI

Barno

WOODEN SHIPS & IRON MEN

Caruso

An Announcement about Orphan Games

With the resignation of Raymond Heuer as Director of Orphan Games, I have opened negotiations with John Daly on the possible merger of his project with the Orphan Games Project. (Rod Walker has protested, naturally, and threatened to withdraw support from Daly, which is causing Daly to hesitate.) While we wait to see what happens, Kathy Byrne has been merrily placing orphans, and she has apparently brow-beaten both Daly and me to concede that she is an agent of both projects. You can write to Kathy Byrne about all orphans (regular, variants, or other diplomatic games) at 160-02 43 Ave 2nd floor, Flushing NY 11358 USA.

((She's good at brow-beating...)) J.M.

((Note for next page - I recommend you avoid playing in Canadian zines. I believe there is currently ANOTHER Canadian postal strike on))

Arnold
7

Marginal notation:
mine - J. M.

M P Barbo, 2811 Robins St, Endwell NY 13760 USA
THE SHOGUN'S SWORD, m, \$2 + \$5/12 ((Jul))
DIPLOMACY (\$1.50 Game fee), GRAND IMPERIALISM, Grand Tournament
(no Game fee), Hyperbourse (\$3 Game fee), KINGMAKER, MACHIAVELLI,
OUTREACH, SAMURAI, Vacation

Ronald J Brown, RR#1, Brennan's Hill, Low Quebec JOX 2C0 CANADA
SNAFU!, 4w, \$5 + 12/\$6 Can ((Jun))
Conquest of the New World II, 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 ((Jun))
DIPLOMACY

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

✓ Established

Fred C Davis Jr, 1427 Clairidge Rd, Baltimore Md 21207 USA
BUSHWACKER, \$7 ((Jun))
East Indies II 7-player

DelGrade

Steven Duke, Rt 3, Fairfield Pike, Shelbyville Tn 37160 USA
THE SCHEMER, 12/\$3.50 ((Jun))
DIPLOMACY, ORIGINS OF WORLD WAR II

✓ New

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)

✓ New

Guy & Elizabeth Hail, 1103-B Lorain, Austin Tx 78703 USA
THE GREAT WAR IN MODERN MEMORY, 2w 4w, \$6 ((Jun))
DIPLOMACY

✓ New

Roy Henricks, 128 Deerfield Dr, Pittsburgh Pa 15235 USA
ENVOY, 5w, \$4 + \$5 @ 3 1/3¢/pg + postage ((Jun))
Anonymous (\$8 Game fee), Deadman (\$3 Game fee), DIPLOMACY (\$23 Prize
game, Area game), GUNSLINGER, KINGMAKER, MACHIAVELLI (Area game)

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

((Very irregularly published. NOT recommended)) J. M.

David Manuel, 10318 Oakgate, Bellflower Ca 90706 USA
THE CHAMBER, \$5/10 ((Jun))
DIPLOMACY

✓ New

Dave Marshall, 1547 Maplegrove Rd, S Euclid Oh 44121 USA
DOWN'N'DIRTY, 3w, \$3.50 ((May)) No sub fee. Grey press.
DIPLOMACY

✓ Established & recommended

Michael Mills, 1585 Quaker Rd, Macedon NY 14502 USA
EMHAIN MACHA, m, 50¢/issue ((Jul))
DIPLOMACY (\$3 Game fee), Patterson, Youngstown (\$2 Game fee)

✓ Established & recommended.

Allan Pearson, Rt 1, Box 177B5, Kearneysville WV 25430 USA
JUST AMONG FRIENDS, \$2 + \$6/yr ((Jun))
DIPLOMACY

✓ Kind of new. Getting established.

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

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

✓ New

Allen Wells, 550 Memorial Dr 2E3, Cambridge Ma 02139 USA
DOT HAPPY, m, \$5 + \$5 deposit + 50¢/issue ((Jul))
DIPLOMACY, Flexible Build

Orad

? 1997