

"My uncle! How will I ever explain all of this?"  
"Hell, kid, just tell him you read it in ISSUE NINETYFIVE of

Late  
July  
1981

# The BRUTUS BULLETIN

ET TU, BRUTE

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. No openings. Subs are available at the rate of 11/\$6, which is more than you want to pay, so why not just skip it? I've got way too damn many subbers now, and more keep coming in like flies all the time...geesh. DIPLOMACY is a game invented by Alan Calhamer and copyrighted by the Avalon Hill Game Company, Baltimore, MD 21214, which also produces RUSSIANS WIN, sometimes known as Russ. Campaign. The Germans are the losers in that game, which is realistic. Germany can win if there is perfect German play, 3 good weather seasons in 1941, lots of Defender-Surrenders, high Russian counterattack losses, and the sun rises in the west. A novice Russian is the only real way to go.

GEN CON EAST, which hosts the DipCon for all you Eastcoasters this year, is coming up very shortly after you get this. Would some of you attending send me some impressions? I know not to ask for pictures, but, if you let me use the originals, I'll try copying them for the readership too. As to the Dipmeet, let me make a

## —PUBLIC NOTICE—

I will not be attending. Kathy Byrne knows I will not be attending. SO, all of you oddballs who had planned to come up behind her and grab her ass claiming to be me can expect a well-deserved slap in the chops. I know how you characters think.

CALLS. A few of you did send numbers, and I hope I've talked to most of you. I can't find all the numbers, but I'll keep at it. It has been incredibly slow at work. Regretably, the typewriters are mostly down in our building, and in view of the hellacious amounts of material that you guys keep sending in, my main function is to try and reduce the huge backlog of material. I had HOPED to make this issue half games, but in view of all of what's here, I may have to carry over all of them and run a second letters-only issue in a row. If you're getting tired of these, speak up. But don't expect your complaints to see light of day before issue 97, for I could fill half of 96 with what's waiting here right now, and I still have quite a bit to do. DESPITE all that, I appreciate the interest that this shows. (Or at least that's what I keep telling myself...).

HELP! Where have all the good, fast (like 2-wk) black press openings gone? Osuch has one for \$4, but it is carried in Martin's zine, which forces GGMs to abide by his ill-thought-out DIAS policy, so that's out. Any new zines want to have your own copy of an IRKSOME-type game?

Oh, under CALLS I should have mentioned calling Bob Osuch and the Byrne household, and wracking up pretty good bills with each. That's why I'm not calling John Leeder to try and find out what the poll results are. Their postal strike may go on quite a while, which either means that John has plenty of time to do up the results, or, he's completely set the whole damn hobby aside for the duration. One's as likely as the other.

MARK BERCH DEPT. Kathy writes "it's 100 here—boy am I H-O-T!" Mmmm, I'll be right there! Seriously, it got to that here today too, first time this year, but not the last. It's disgusting to see Wisconsin in the 70s-high belt, and we inside the 100 circles on the nightly weather maps. Just wait 4 months though folks; we'll get even.

Can you believe California? All those characters crying about the horrors of "death from the air" over some damn bugspraying. Shit. You don't hear them do anything but make poor jokes about the smog that eats the sides off stone buildings, but just let someone try to save a billion-dollar crop and protect the rest of the country too with a bug

\* = out of order, not "present,"

NOPE,  
I carried  
the pop

spray application from all of five helicopters, and it's off to the courts, the streets, and the NBC cameras. New Orleans has been regularly spraying its streets with the stuff for years, for mosquito control mainly, and the Cajuns haven't shrivelled up or gone sterile. But things are much trendier on the west coast I guess.

SUBS EXPIRING THIS ISSUE: Conners, Coughlan.

Baseball manages to make Howard Cosell's commentary column each day lately. Yesterday he flatly predicted that the strike will be settled "tonight". Not a whisper of that prediction today though. While I basically support the players, who really cares? Not me, that's for sure. It just means no World Series crap to interrupt the serious football season. I wonder--with all the teams here on strike, does that mean Montreal and Quebec teams are automatically the season winners? Or are they included in the US strike too?

Other stuff of note in the news: liberals, desperate for causes and lost minorities to heap adoration and my tax money on, now are pushing the injustices done to Japs here during WWII. In the early or mid fifties, they might have had a case. (I don't think so, but they might have). Forty years later, though, we hear the whinings of how terrible it was to be locked up just because of suspicion and fear..I think that in the type of struggle that WWII was, such extreme actions, even though later seeming to be excessive and unnecessary, are legitimate. If they don't like it, they could go to someplace friendlier. The fact that the case is coming up only now, when all the people who made the decisions and knew the reasons why are long out of power (if alive at all) just goes to show that there is less (or no) legitimate concern for "compensation" of any "victims" than there is simply the social call of the leftists to constantly be righting wrongs of bygone times and eras and pushing absurd but appealing "causes" of "justice". What a bunch of complete assholes.

The Canadian postal strike can have a bigger effect here than you might at first think. Talking to Bruce Linsey the other day (who now can no longer answer the common phone with a deep rumbling "The Voice of Doomm"), his mentioning of the possibility of a long strike takes on added meaning when you see the latest VD having all but one game delayed due to the presence of a Canadian player (or more) in each of the others. If you're running six or so as I believe Bruxus is, that leaves you with a lot of room for features and letters, right? Well, he says he has as big a backlog as I do, so Bruce, here's your chance to start clearing it out! One game alone can be tacked on the last page, leaving you a whole zine for the goodies. Just think: you could run 10 pages of Mark Lew's handwriting in the original, e.g. Now THAT would be an issue to talk about. "Did you see Linsey let his little cousins write up the last VD?"

Speaking of Lew, I understand that his subzine BENEZENE is now running in SHOGUN'S SWORD, for those of you waiting breathlessly for that. Mark has a letter retracting his attack on Jack Masters here, but I can't get it in this time. #96 for sure. I hope. Also a TYPED subz feature for BB, his new BOGEY. Or was it Boogie? Something like that. You'll see.

Another coming feature is a cute little insert (2 sheets) in #96 from an anonymous (to you) author to be known as HOT STUFF or something close to that. (Hell, I ran it off over 30 hours ago; you can't expect me to remember what I got ready for publication that long ago, can you? Do you know how much I've DONE in the last 10 days?) I got a second good laugh running it, just as I did when I first saw it. I think you'll like it.

THIS PAGE is the last being done for #95; #96 awaits only my having enough money to pay for postage again (I just paid for #94s; I owe 'em this issue's yet) and to run two sheets in proper order to merge with what's already done. As disorganized as I am about all this though, that may well prove to be a toughie. And here I sit with two whole weeks to go in July yet. What should I call it, the Late-late July issue? Hmmm. DAN STAFFORD got bit pretty hard here lately, but amid his junk was a kernel or two of truth, primarily in the note tht there are many other incompetents\* out there. Do any of you play in any FLYING BUFFALO games? Their Dippy record is pretty sad. I'd like to send a copy of the Need-A-Game list to any other FBInc players you know addresses of. Some of those poor suckers may not know that there is a regular hobby out here.

\*GMS, i.e.

Recent issues have had a strange assortment of postage on them. Last issue had some with blue metered postage, others with red metered, some with an imprinted 15¢ plus 20¢ in stamps, and a few with imprinted 13¢ and 22¢ in stamps. The different colors were due to purchases on two separate dates, the second of which I still owe the company \$23.45 for. The imprinted envelopes are recycled rejects of old company return-envelopes. I may be able to get a boxful of 15¢ers and add labels to them, just to use them up. I get the envelopes, they get cash for envelopes no one else is willing to use. Watch for some pasted-over envelopes soon. —Made it this time on most.

Putting out this thing can take on an undue importance when things slow down at work (or remain at "stop"). I was coming in the other day with some 50+ issues of #94 to mail, and took time out to drive them across the next business complex in the area simply in order to mail the issues in a 10:30am pickup box instead of leaving them for 5:30pm. I hope somebody got theirs a day sooner for the effort. Compared to my usual chair-warming activities here lately, it was time well spent. On the other hand, I should probably use that diligence to scare up a useful job, but frankly, four months here has started to melt me down: I'm getting USED to coming in and doing nothing but piddle, wait, eat, and publish BRUTUS BULLETINS every ten days. I have a great POSITION, I just lack any useful work. (Even the auditors are ignoring me a lot more. Maybe my weaker deodorant is finally bearing fruit?) I guess Martin is right then in a way--why NOT let someone pay me \$10+ an hour to publish this thing? The reason you're seeing a sixth issue in 8 weeks is that there isn't anything better to do here half the time than to type or xerox material for BB. The down typewriters here (2 out of 3) and the collating time at home are the only things holding me back from even more. I learned a long time ago that you need to "make hay while the sun shines", because things can change abruptly, so as long as I can whip out big issues fast, I'm frantically doing so. Over a year ago I had to go to my alternate printing source, and I'm now off it (it's gone now); BB again has no backup facility, and I'm currently on the third source (and fourth machine) for getting what are basically "free" copies. Harper Oil used to be paid the variable per-copy cost at the time (1.2¢) by and large, until I was kicked off theirs, but that was it. Claudine's old office had a nice deal: a flat fee for the first 100,000 copies a month, and they only used about 60,000, so paper was the only cost there. Now I'm using our noisy and clunky little one here gratis. HQ has a bigger and quieter machine, but its busy most of the time. Her old machine had the drawback of being subject to her goodwill, in that she had to let me in out there afterhours, and she does not share my enthusiasm for this hobby (which is like saying hurricanes are "movements of air"). The near-blackmail I had to sometimes tolerate almost folded this thing on at least 2 occasions. Now, really, the major factors keeping me in this "job" are: inertia; Claudine's new job being nearby, so we can share the ride; and easy BBs. Should that be so?

UNEMPLOYMENT for Oklahoma last month was 3.2%, notable for being the lowest in the nation. Since even THAT figure is puffed up by all the asshole Indians sitting in a half-dozen poverty counties, drinking up their handout money while complaining about the rotten "system", it seems that virtually ANYONE here who really wants to work can do so. Of course the jobs won't come to you, and you do have to work (usually) --otherwise those indians would be employed too--but if you can read & write, walk and chew gum at the same time, you can get work here. Wages, like the cost of living, are below the national average, but perhaps that's why there are jobs, too.

JIM VAUGHAN DEPT.: The Cashier for the Okla State Treasury got caught taking \$87,000, and the treasury chief got polygraph tests for all the other 22 employees. The OSBI (state 'FBI') balked at doing the job, so the treasury chief paid for the tests out of his own pocket "to maintain faith in the department". They were questioned as to whether any of them knew of the scam before she was caught; all passed. This isn't Boston, obviously. As a footnote, the ACLU, always looking for ways to throw monkey wrenches into our lives, got all up in arms over the action. After all, it might hurt some guilty person. I'd like to put the ACLU under the same test, and ask them what planet they're from.

# GOPHER HOLE

1981CK FALL, 1901

UNCLE MARKEY HOLDS THE FORT

JULY 11, 1981

AUSTRIA (Cummings): A TRI-Vie; F ALB-Tri; A SER S F Alb-Tri

ENGLAND (Ellis): A Wal-PIC; F ENG C A Wal-Pic; F Nth-NWY

FRANCE (Kostenick): A SPA-Mar; A Pic-BRE; F Mid-POR

GERMANY (Forman): F Hol-BEL; A Kie-DEN; A BUR-Mar

ITALY (P.Byrne): A TYO S A Ven-Tri; A VEN-Tri; F Ion-NAP

RUSSIA (O.Gariepy): F GoB-SWE; A GAL-Vie; A WAR-Gal; F Bla-RUM

TURKEY (Iverson): F CON S A Bul; A ANK H; A BUL S Austrian A Ser-Rum/NSO

1901: Austria: Home SER	4	Build 1
England: Home NWY	4	Build 1
France: Home SPA POR	5	Build 2
Germany: Home DEN BEL	5	Build 2
Italy: Home TUN	4	Build 1
Russia: Home RUM SWE	6	Build 2
Turkey: Home BUL	4	Build 1
Neutral: Hol Gre	<u>2</u>	—
	34	

\* Winter, 1901, and SPRING, 1902 will be due at Scott's address at noon CDT AUG 1, 1981. Press follows.

LON-GERMANY & TURKEY: Come on! What is the problem with you two anyway? Germany is supposed to be my ally and Turkey was the one who suggested to me that we keep in touch. In other words, why didn't you two write to me this season? I was beginning to think I said and/or did something wrong. Even the infamous Bloodsucker Jr. answered my letter—sort of—but you two! Since I'm sending this in to Michalski on 7/9, there still is a chance I could hear from you two by the 15th, so if I do, forget you even read this.

GERMANY-IRKSOME FRANCE: I think it's really Phyllis. She can't be as treacherous as her mother, can she?

LONDON-ITALY: Well, if that's the way you're going to be, I'll just have to start telling my Italian jokes! Wait till Winter so I can collect them all!

GERMANY-IRKSOME FRANCE: Choking smokers, don't you think the Joker laughs at you. See how they smile like pigs in a sty. See how they snide. I'm crying.

EDINBURGH (Home of the Queen and center where all sorts of information abounds)-WORLD:

The Queen decreed on October 24, 1901 (this is Fall, '01, isn't it?) that her country will never identify itself as anything else other than "Edinburgh", "Liverpool", or "London" in the world press. This assures her majesty's dear and trusted allies—notably Germany—that what appears to come from England really does.

AUS -GUEST GM: What can you tell me about the Byrne family (characteristics of play, hereditary weaknesses, personal habits, etc., etc.) that will enable me to survive this crisis? ((If the candy and ice cream fails, try a blood sacrifice of Brux Linsey in the temple of Whitestonia)) *g.m.*

— Press continues on next sheet —

\* GM NOTE: It may be that Scott's HRS allow for a certain separation of season in W01, but I don't know. I can't find his rules, so for now I am assuming that he runs it as I do, whereby a separation, even in 1901, requires a MAJORITY vote (4 here). If his rules call for a separated W01 as a matter of policy, only W01 will be due. I suggest that you submit a set of preliminary orders for S02 in any case, even if you submit a call for a separation.

Press

AUS-ITA: Dear Bloodsucker Jr.,

An excellent opening! And you got away with it!

I had a nice opening too. I didn't get away with it. I gave a lot of thought to moving my fleet out to sea and to moving both armies at you in a first year effort to take Ven, but hindsight is always 20-20.

I've been trying to figure out what I can say to you to get you to back off. Frankly, on a tactical level, I can't think of a single plausible lie. And I try never to tell implausible lies.

So what to do? How to keep Italy from putting me out of the game?

I have decided to offer you candy.

I understand that little girls like candy very much, and I will send you a three-pound box of assorted chocolates if you go away and leave me alone.

Now don't get the wrong idea. I'm not weird or anything like that. I'm not asking that we do anything, ah, you know—dirty. I'm asking that we do the exact opposite in fact. I am suggesting a greater physical distance between us!

Frankly, I am a little appalled at your opening, now that I think about it. You seemed like such a nice little girl in your letter to me, and now, imagine my surprise. You boldly reach out and try to climb into the same country with me!

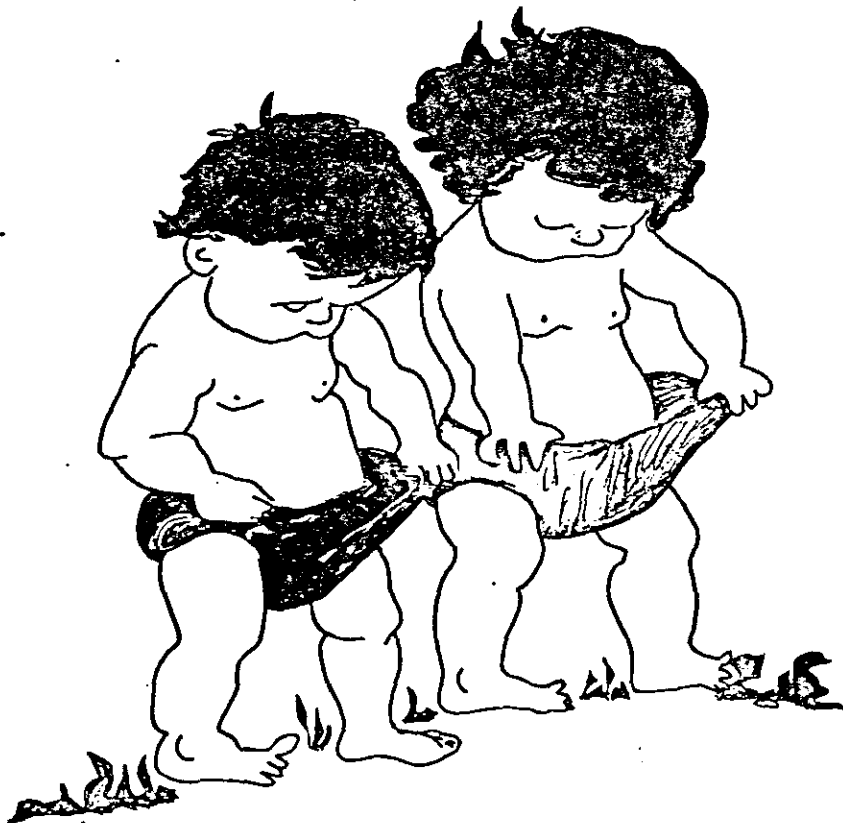
I can only conclude that someone has been a bad influence on you. Imagine a little girl being so familiar after only one letter! I wonder, did you learn this from your mother?

Rest assured, dear little girl, that as a responsible citizen I will contact the proper state authorities. You will not be left in the clutches of improper parenting much longer, if that is indeed the problem.

And while you are waiting for the authorities to come and rescue you, please don't forget about that candy. Just imagine that rich, chocolate taste! (You really should be attacking France! Has he ever made you such an offer?)

Your friend, Uncle Marky Cummings

AUS-ITA: Would you prefer ice cream?



oh, that explains the difference  
in our salaries!

CONTRIBUTION from Bob Oruch (How about you?)

**AQUARIUS**-(Jan.11-Feb.18)You have an inventive mind and are inclined to progressiveness. You lie a great deal. On the other hand, you are inclined to be careless and impractical, causing you to make the same mistakes repeatedly. Everyone thinks you are a fucking jerk.

**PISCES**-(Feb.10-March 20)You have a vivid imagination and often think that you are being followed by the FBI or the CIA. You have a minor influence over your friends and people resent you for flaunting your power. You lack confidence and are generally a coward. Pisces people screw small animals and pick their nose a lot.

**ARIES**-(March 21-April 19)You are the pioneer type and hold most people in contempt. You are quick tempered and impatient and scornful of advice. You are a prick.

**TAURUS**-(April 20-May 20)You are practical and persistent. You have a dogged determination and work like hell. Most people think you are stubborn and bull-headed. You are nothing but a goddamn Communist.

**GEMINI**-(May 21-June 20)You are a quick and intelligent thinker. People like you because you are bisexual. You are inclined to expect too much for too little. This means you are a cheap bastard. Gemini's are notorious for thriving on incest.

**CANCER**-(June 21-July 22)You are sympathetic and understanding to other peoples problems. They think you are a sucker. You are always putting things off. That is why you will always be on welfare and never be worth a shit.

**LEO**-(July 23-Aug.22)You consider yourself a born leader. Others think you are pushy. Most Leo's are bullies. You are vain and cannot tolerate honest criticism. Your arrogance is disgusting. Leo people are thieving bastards, and kiss mirrors a lot.

**VIRGO**-(Aug. 23-Sept.22)You are the logical type and hate disorder. This nit-picking is sickening to your friends. You are cold and unemotional and often fall asleep while screwing. Virgos make good bus drivers and pimps.

**LIBRA**-(Sept.23-Oct.22)You are the artistic type and have a difficult time with reality. If you are a male you are probably a queer. Chances for employment and monetary gain are excellent, because most Libra women are whores. All libras usually get venereal disease.

**SCORPIO**-(Oct. 23-Nov.21)You are shrewd in business and cannot be trusted. You shall achieve the pinnacle of success because of your total lack of ethics. You are a perfect Son of a Bitch. Most Scorpions are murdered.

**SAGITTARIUS**-(Nov.22-Dec.21)You are optimistic and enthusiastic. You have a reckless tendency to rely on luck since you have no talent. The majority of Sagittarians are drunks and pot heads. People laugh at you because you're always getting fucked.

**CAPRICORN**-(Dec.22-Jan.10)You are conservative and afraid of taking risks. You are basically a chickenshit. There has never been a Capricorn of any importance. You should kill yourself.

Issue#45  
1980CX

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

Bob Osuch  
3417 S. Paulina  
Chgo, IL 60608  
312-927-7069  
July 8, 1981

IT'S NITTY GRITTY TIME

Autumn 1910: Austria NRR, GM retreats A Trieste off the board:

Winter 1910: Austria NRR, GM removes A Greece; England builds A Edinburgh, F London, A Liverpool; Germany NRR, GM removes A Ruhr; Italy builds A Naples; Russia builds A Moscow, A Warsaw

Spring 1911:

AUSTRIA (Blant): NMR. A BUD, GAL, VIE H

ENGLAND (Kirchner): A Lvp-YOR; A Edi-NWY; F NTH C A Edi-Nwy; F Kie-HEL; F WAL H; F LON H; A Hol-KIE; F BER S A Hol-Kie; F Swe-BOT; A StP-Mos/d/r to Fin, Otb

GERMANY (Grabar): NMR. A Mun H/d/r to Boh, Ruh, Sil, Otb

ITALY (Henry): A Nap-ALB; F ION C A Nap-Alb; A TRI & F ADR S A Nap-Alb; F AEG S TURKISH F Smy-Con(NSO); A VEN S A Tri; A Mar-PIE; F BEL S F Eng; F ENG S F Bel; A Tyo-MUN; A BUR S A Tyo-Mun

RUSSIA (Goodrich): A Mos-STP; A LVN S A Mos-StP; A WAR-Gal; A Bul-GRE; A SER S A Bul-Gre; A CON-Smy; A Sev-ARM; F Rum-BUL(ec)

TURKEY (Michalski): F SMY-Aeg

Well, Kerry NMRed this time, but I've found that if I get down on my hands and knees and beg, I can usually get people to continue, so please Kerry, puh-leeze, won't you submit just one more set of orders? After that, you can NMR out and I'll just throw you into CD, if that's what you'd prefer. Thanks. I won't call for a German standby, for obvious reasons. So what will happen now? England is at the end of his rope for awhile, with only Italy and Russia left to skarf up the ducks. Way to hang in there, John, you may survive yet! Wheeeee! By the way, the E/I draw failed, and is not repropesed.

Summer and Fall 1911 will be due Thursday, July 23, 1981. No press.

*Johan,  
Check out your  
horoscope. Which one  
are you?  
Bob*

*("A goddamn Communist")!  
J.M.*

# IRKSOME!

1980LM : FALL, 1905 YOU CAN TELL IT'S VACATION TIME...

July 11, 1981

ENGLAND (Vaughan): F EDI H

FRANCE (Sherwood): A Par-BUR; A Bur-MAR; F LYO S F Mid-Wes; F Mid-WES; A Lon-YOR;  
A Wal-Yor/NSU; A LVP U, H; F ENG-Ber/imp.

GERMANY (Stephens): F Nwy-NWG; F NTH S A Bel; A HEL H; A RUH & A KIE S A Mun; A MUN  
S A Ber-Sil; A Ber-SIL

ITALY (Palter): F TUN S F Adr-Ion; F ADR-Ion; F ALB S F Gre; F GRE S A Ser-Bul/NSO;  
A SER U, H; A BUD S A Ser; A VIE S A Bud; A Sil-GAL; A BOH S A Sil-Gal

RUSSIA (D. Gariepy): A WAR S A Gal; A GAL S A Rum; A RUM S A Gal; F BLA S A Rum; F Swe-  
NWY; A StP-LVN

TURKEY (Blant): F EAS-Ion; F AEG S F Eas-Ion; A BUL-Gre; A CON-Bul

Winter, 1905, and SPRING, 1906 will be due at Scott's house at noon CDT August 1, 1981.  
Press follows.

RUSSIA-TURKEY: It's you and me against Italy, dig?

ITALY-TURKEY: It's you and me against Russia, dig?

GERMANY-TURKEY: It's you and me against France, dig?

FRANCE-TURKEY: It's you and me against Germany, dig?

ENGLAND-TURKEY: It's you and me against everybody, dig?

TURKEY-GM: Go through Italy! You've got to be kidding.

TURKEY-ITALY: Make me a deal I can't refuse.

TURKEY-RUSSIA: Make me a better deal.

TURKEY-FRANCE: If I make a deal with Italy, help me stab him.

TURKEY-FRANCE & GERMANY: Together you can sweep the board. I'LL HELP.

TURKEY-GM: What a boring standby position. I haven't received one letter from TRO.

LOS ALAMOS SENTINEL: Young Caucasian male seeks learning experiences. Interested in  
S&M, B&D, and Greek. Send photo and SASE for personal reply. Box 164, Los Alamos 87540

FRANCE-GERMANY: Is this good enough for you?

PARIS: Scott just couldn't bear to leave for Germany without giving us just one more  
mistake. Note that this is Fall 1905 and not '04 as Scott claimed in IRKSOME #16. ((True))

PARIS-GM: Speaking of mistakes, it is traditional in this game for the GM to make an  
egregious error every season. Please comply by allowing my move to Berlin to succeed.  
((How about if I just print that press item?))

KEITH TO BETH: You see, they will go to no ends to try to separate us. It is Stephens  
who's trying to keep us apart. Notice the new GM is from Oklahoma—right next door  
to Ft Worth. Don't let them do this to us.

RUHR-BURGUNDY: Here's your chance, don't blow it.

SWITZERLAND-TURKEY: You wanna know who's against whom? I'll tell you. Everyone should be  
against that gigantic Italy, but France and Germany are blowing the whole game by  
fighting. They ought to get their sit together and realize their real enemy is Italy.

??? to ITALY: Oh ya, nice attack on Munich last season. Stephens must really be on  
your "shit-list". He must be really worried about it, too.

TURKEY to GM in EXILE: What do you mean "New Turk has little luck"? I held off Italy,  
and I think that's very lucky!

PAR-ROM: I hope you didn't go to Wes or Naf.

FRANCE-GERMANY: But now I feel snubbed. Guess I'll have to crash your country without  
an invitation.

((1905 chart: all even, identical to 1904))



WARNING: The Alaskan Surgeon General has determined that reading the following may be tedious to your health.

Issue 9 of

## DOWN 'N' DIRTY

July 6, 1981

type of  
an international subzine of ideas and opinion, emphasizing literature, the classical arts, and racist jibes, edited by Dave Marshall, 1547 Maplegrove Road, S. Euclid, OH 44121; telephone (216)382-6623 before 10 p.m. only if you can tell me if that was an actual German plane or a Lucas original in Raiders of the Lost Ark; even my elderly ex-pilot friends don't know. And if you haven't seen the movie, now you've got an excuse. It's great!

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

SUMMER 1903: AUSTRIA--A bud R GAL

FALL 1903: FRENCH, ITALIAN, AUSTRIAN HOME CENTERS ALL IN ENEMY HANDS; A-E-G OFFENSIVE DEFLATES PUDGE

AUSTRIA("Dave" Gariepy,2): A gal-WAR, A ser S Turkish A gre-alb(nso)/d/R(Tri,OTB), Centers: bud,ser,WAR,Tri?(1 or 2) Remove 1 or even.

ENGLAND(Dan Stafford,6): F spa(sc) S German A bur-mar/d/R(Wes,Lyo,OTB), F gas-BRE, F eng-MID, F NWY S A fin-STP, F NTH-nwg. Centers: home,nwy,bre,swe,STP(7) Build 1.

FRANCE(Andy McMahon,4): A ROM S Turkish F tyn-nap, F POR S A mar-SPA, A bre-gas/d/ annihilated. Centers: mar,por,ven,spa,ROM(4) Build 1/none open(was and will be playing 1 short).

GERMANY(Kid Sherwood,7): F BAL C A kie-PRU, F PIC & A PAR S English F gas-bre, A bur-MAR, A LVN S Austrian A gal-war, A MUN thumbs its nose at the East(H). Centers: home,bel,den,par,hol,MAR(8) Build 1.

ITALY(Dumb Shit Palter,5): A VIE S A bud, A BUD S A vie, A ALB-ser, F ion-EAS, F tun-ION, Centers: rom,nap,tun,Tri?,vie,BUD(4 or 3) Remove 1 or 2.

RUSSIA(Pudge Olsen,6): F NWG S F stp(nc)-nwy/d(Fstp)/R(Bar,OTB), F sev-BLA, A rum-SER, A BOH-mun, A war-MOS. Centers: mos,wat,rum,sev,shp,wai,SER(4) Remove 2.

TURKEY(Mike Mazzer,4): F AEG S A gre, A GRE S Russian A rum-ser, A BUL S Russian A "bul"-ser(imp), F tyn-NAP. Centers: home,gre,BUL,NAP(6) Build 2.

Note that if Austria's dislodged A Ser retreats to Tri, Austria stays even and Italy removes 2. An OTB retreat (not likely) means both remove 1. Unless two or more players object strenuously, Autumn/Winter 1903 and Spring 1904 are due here on Monday, July 27, preferably not by Certified Letter. Since we're often not home when the mail arrives, "someone" (Jennifer) must trek over to the P.O. to pick it (the letter) up. One player sent his orders last time certified long before deadline, and my wife was half-convinced we must have won the Readers Digest Sweepstakes...until she got to the Post Office that is. Dip is still trying to get back into her good graces, and believe me, it wasn't that well-regarded before. Some of that, at least, we can blame on the PRESS:

SWITZ to ANKARA: Did you say Olsen was setting Stafford up? The depravity to which men sink....

BILLY JEAN KING: Do you know what has fuzzy yellow balls and doesn't eat pussy? The Voice of Eastern Rumelia...."But I don't like the smell, mommy"....

LONDON: I can't believe it! Young Trowood is stealing the show! Whatsa' matter Pudge, Mazzerass? You gonna sit there and let the Kid show you up in the press while I beat you up on the board?

STP: Help! I'm being attacked by a couple of fags!

SWITZERLAND to TRI: Yup. Yup. Yup. Screw off, you foulmouthed bastard.

BRUX((honest!)) to WORLD: That wasn't my picture at the sewage plant. If it was me I wouldn't be putting the shit in a vat, I'd be stuffing my face with it. ((or your HRs....))

RUSSIA to MICHALSKI: Is it true that you stabbed our own beloved Uncle Dan in a recent game? Wow! For the first time I have become your ~~biggest~~ greatest fan! Way to go! I'm voting Republican next time--you bet!

GUEST PRESS: "Dumb Shit" Palter? And here I always thought it was Dick-Suck Palter....

TUNIS to TURKEY: Take Tunis my ass. Eat shit idiot.

BUD to GER: Would recommend that you grab what you can from me before I go to my well-deserved reward.

ZINE REVIEW: In the great tradition of Le Front, and LF's subzine, Diplomacy by Fluorescence, edited by Dan Stafford, and DbF's subzine, Diplomacy for Pud-whackers, edited by Tom Swider, comes the new DfP subzine, Diplomacy for Asslickers, edited by Keith Sherwood. Keith, in his never-ending battle to make Bernie Oaklyn look good, at least in comparison to this other shit, promises that his subzine will be "everything you'd expect from a neurotic, jackoff imbecile with the intellect of a Brussels Sprout and the personality of a cowpat." Sherwood has already garnered this touching testimonial from one Dave Marshall: "Diplomacy for Asslickers makes Down 'n' Dirty look like The Atlantic Monthly!!!"

TUNIS to RUSSIA: Yes, Palter is Palter. He played a dumb game and will still survive for a while because France and Austria played a dumber one.

BERLIN to CON: Oh why didn't you write me? I was just waiting for one more letter from you, then I would have turned with Olsen and attacked Stafford. But you didn't write, so I was forced to join Stafford and attack Olsen. It's all your fault.

KEITH SHERWOOD--A PROFILE: Since all the press is either about me or by me, I've deduced you're all more interested in me than you let on in your letters. Very well then, allow me to placate you and talk about myself. I first met Bob Olsen when I answered his ad in BB for unthinking lackies. He was pimping for Bernie Oaklyn. He then introduced me to the whole gang: the foulmouthed Dan Stafford, the inscrutable Mazzerman, and the one they all held in contempt, kind and good Eric Ozog. As a warmup for this game, I took over a position of Ozog's in a game with Olsen and Mazzer. As typical of him, Mazzer lost no time in lying to me and stabbing me. Olsen promptly NMRed out rather than conceding to Mazzer. My sad life ends at this point, trapped again in a game with Olsen, Stafford, and Mazzer. I'm beginning to believe there is no God, at least no justice.

ANKARA to LONDON: What you say is true. I could have held Bud last Fall and built in Smy while Olsen removed his useless fleet in Sev. The move I made gave Olsen a chance to stab me and delayed the building of that highly valuable fleet (tho I knew Olsen wouldn't even dream of stabbing me. One thing about Bob, he's completely trustworthy.). What you suggest is perhaps better on paper, but it is also dull, plodding and utterly lacking in flair, panache, elan, and the spark of life that separates the true artist from the plodding technician...besides, I didn't think of it.

SON OF SAMBO STRIKES AGAIN: Q - How many jabonies does it take to top-seal an asphalt driveway? A - Just one, if you spread him really thin. ((Jabonies?))

POR to LONDON: What's your secret for keeping Sherwood so well trained? ((He puts him on the potty chair promptly after each meal.))

GERMANY to RUSSIA: You're no uncle of mine!

KEITHER to OLSEN: Listen here, Mr. Virgin Ears (and that's not all, according to Stafford), I'm only 17, and don't you ever fucking forget it. So what if I've got a foul mouth? That's the difference between you and me: anything comes out of mine, while anything will go into yours!!! ((Point))

RUS to GER((Counterpoint)): Okay, I'm sorry I refused to come to Los Alamos for your graduation. Dan tells me he had a great time. It was nice of you to give him a present, incidentally, or whatever it was. By the way, what did he mean when he said you gave him that...um, well, what is "head", anyway?

TRO to RUSSIA AND ANKARA: Don't try to be smart asses, you've already got the market cornered in dumbasses. In fact, Russia has the market cornered, surrounded, and gasping for air.

RUSSIA: Another possibility: Keith Sherwood: The Rod. Spare The Rod and spoil the game, I always say. So let's not, okay, Uncle Dan?

MUNICH: A secret project was launched this week to bring about the downfall of Russia. Oktoberfest was declared to be on as 100 German agents have been gorging themselves on beer and wurst in an effort to bloat to incredible size and sneak into Russia to impersonate the Tsar.

RUSSIA to DnD-2: Which one of you guys found that picture of Keith on the left side of page 5 of last issue? It's a perfect likeness.

BER to ROM: That's an awful wide Russian monolith, but I'll see what I can do.

RUS to ENG: A little finesse here, Unk, and Peanut-Brain Sherwood is dead. You could have three, four, God knows how many builds. You'll have my support of course. I want Keith's head on a plate. How about going into your cute little doll house and getting one of those miniatures you play with when you're not playing Dip? A little large for a pinhead, but it might work.

MUN to MOS: Only stabbed you because you didn't come to my graduation as you promised and I wanted to show you how disappointed I was. ((Did you graduate at the "head" of your class?))

TUNIS to PARIS: Congratulations on taking Rom. Now the next move is Ven. Properly handled, you can play Italy while I play Austria.

RUS to ITA: After reading your press last time I can see why you don't answer letters. "It is better to be silent and thought a fool, than to speak and remove all doubt."

FROM UNCLE DAN P.: I know the light isn't too good, but if you'll look closely you'll find that that green unit in Apulia is not green, it's quite blue. Light blue, in fact. True, it's still not one of mine, but then, I don't really care who I kick out of Rome, now do I!!

TURKEY to AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT(whatever it is): Sorry, but I can't tolerate incompetent allies who make stupid moves and disorder their units. You are expendable.

TURKEY to GM: You might be asking yourself, "But, what about Olsen?" I never claimed to be consistent.

TURKEY to MOS: Although my tolerance does have limits.

TURKEY to MAR: That goes for you too!

TURKEY to "ITALY": Isn't it difficult to play without owning any of your home centers?

TURKEY to "AUSTRIA": See Turkey-"Italy".

TURKEY to "FRANCE": See Turkey-"Italy" and Turkey-"Austria".

CONSCIENCE OF DnD-1 to GM: I was shocked at the disgusting press you printed for DnD-2 last season. What's the matter with these people? They'll ruin your reputation. ((Promise?))

July 6, 1981

ANKARA to LONDON: Nice play, Dan. You're really Holland...I mean haulin'. You're almost in Russia's Denmark...I mean den. Soon you'll Kiel...I mean kill... France.

ANKARA to BERLIN: Did you take Moscow this season, or are you waiting for your English master to throw you a bone?

ANKARA to BERLIN: How are your zitzes? And your heifers?

ANKARA to LONDON: Let me know when you decide to stab Keith. I won't want to watch, it will be too gruesome.

BRUX to GM: If "Tro" means Tyrolia because that sequence of letters appears nowhere else on the board, does "A Uih-Omi" mean Army Munich to Bohemia? ((Perhaps...sometimes...it depends. Ya see Bruce, that's the beauty of operating with minimal HRs: it helps ensure that the players go out of their way to humor me. Care for a game?))

RADIO FREE ANDORRA: What's more boring than BB's subzines? Mark Lew's letters bitching about how boring they are when by his own admission the asshole doesn't even read them. No wonder the USPS sends his mail back marked "deceased"!!

POR to BER: I assume England will get Mar also.

DnD-2 -- 1981 CH

WINTER 1901/Spring 1902: ANGLO-KRAUT SOLIDIFICATION STALLS FRENCH, CROWDS RUSSIANS. MEANWHILE, HAS AUSTRIA'S DEODORANT FAILED?

AUSTRIA(Steve Cartier,3): Even. A VIE-gal, A SER S F ion-GRE.

ENGLAND(Steve Langley,4): Builds F Lon. F LON-eng, F NTH C A yor-BEL, F NWY S German F den-swe.

FRANCE(Dave Gariepy,4): Builds A Par. A SPA H, A par-BUR, F ENG S A PIC-bel.

GERMANY(Mark Cummings,5): Builds A Kie, A Ber. F den-SWE, A ber-PRU, A mun-SIL, A kie-RUH, F HOL S English A yor-bel.

ITALY(Stu Lancaster,5): Builds F Nap, F Rom. A VEN S A TRI H, F TUN S F nap-ION, F rom-TYN.

RUSSIA(Bob Forman,5): Builds A War. F FIN-swe, A WAR-gal, A RUM S A gal-BUD, F SEV S A rum.

TURKEY(Peter Robson,4): Builds F Smy. A ARM H, A BUL-gre, F smy-AEG, F con-BLA.

Last time I failed to underline Russia's failed move of "A GAL-bud." FALL 1902 will be due here by 10 p.m. on Monday, July 27. Disgusting press follows:

ROME to CLYDE AND RUHR: The Pope announced he would like to see baseball become the National Sport of Italy despite what any dirty krauts may think. As for cricket, the Pope was overheard muttering, "Only sissies play cricket." ((While for the moment at least, nobody plays baseball. It's fun to watch the powers-that-be in Cleveland sports and civic promotion go out of their minds as the date of the All-Star Game creeps upon us with no end in sight to the strike. And this after an irritating six months of preliminary hype and hoop-la. Now if we could only get the asswipes in professional basketball to scrub their upcoming season as well, my year would be complete....))

STUPID JOKE: How did Hitler tie his shoes? With little knotsies.

PARIS: It was announced today that the wife of the French President has given birth to a 7 lb. 6½ oz. baby boy. The birth took place in a private hospital in Napoleon, just outside Paris. ((Congratulations! Oh course, considering that you take your wife to a motel every night, something like this was bound to happen sooner or later.))

PARIS to LONDON: London? What do you mean, London? I was told by that German fellow down the road that this was the way to Portugal!

BERLIN to WASHINGTON: The Third Reich is pleased to announce that the rocket program has now reached the point at which trans-Atlantic delivery is now possible. This, coupled with our newly-developed atomic weapon, assures our ultimate victory. The foolish decision of President Roosevelt to commit the majority of the American resources against Japan first, instead of Germany, has made these technological advances possible. The recent capitulation of Russia and England, following the nuclear destruction of Moscow and Liverpool, must serve as an example to the world. America must withdraw all its troops to the continental USA, ceding the Philippines to our Japanese allies. Hawaii and Alaska must be ceded to Germany. The annihilation of Manhattan will result if these demands are not met. - Horace Blatz, Ministry of Propaganda

CUMMINGS to BLATZ: Wrong war, Horace. ((And just when you had Michalski's hopes up, too--especially the part about Manhattan.))

BLATZ to CUMMINGS: Sorry about that.

BLATZ to GM: How does a guy get out of this chicken outfit?

GM to BLATZ: They usually have a zipper down the front.

ROME: The Italian Foreign Minister is currently touring the Eastern United States on a diplomatic mission. In his absence, the Deputy Foreign Minister (known as Mr. K.) will be in charge of Italy's defense forces.

TRIESTE: For the first time, Austrians have acquired a taste for the Italian delicacy known as spaghetti.

LONDON: Lord Hume revealed that his secret negotiations with France and Russia are culminating in a serious change of direction for the Empire. His Lordship is now awaiting an audience with King Edward VII to put the Royal Seal to a new tripartite agreement.

LONDON: Following the death of the Queen, and the formal ceremonies whereby King Edward has assumed the crown, our sovereign has withdrawn for a period of mourning. The country is now, as never before, in the hands of The Englishman.

THE CRIMEA: Tsar Robert, on a visit to his winter home in Sevastopol, was shocked by the presence of a Turkish army in Armenia. This invasion of a sovereign and peaceful country cannot be endured. Unless the marauding Turks withdraw their forces, the glorious Russian Empire will be forced to engage upon a holy war to return the control of Armenia to the Armenians. Our political advisors would help the government leaders form the People's Republic of Armenia.

NORWAY: The Englishman visited Oslo briefly on his way across enemy lines to personally lead a deputation to the Kaiser. An accord has been reached between the English and German peoples which will assure the people of Norway a peaceful neutrality in the coming times of trouble.

ENGLISHMAN to FRANCE: Nothing that idiot Hume promised you is official policy. Your opening negotiations lost you a great deal of credibility. If we were to do it all over again, no doubt we would make other mistakes as serious as the ones we have made here.

ENGLISHMAN to TURKISH EMPIRE: What indeed?

July 6, 1981

IRELAND to MALTA: Swift's recipe for baby soup can be found in his "A Modest Proposal." ((And if his estimable essay had been taken at all seriously, Northern Ireland might today be considered the culinary center of Europe instead of the belligerent shithole it's turned out to be.))

SWITZERLAND: PRIVATE COMMUNIQUE FROM ZEIDLER AND STEIN, BANKERS, LTD. (quoted in part): "The pound and the franc are still holding, despite an early rush on the latter. The mark rises steadily, as does the lira of both Italy and Turkey. The ruble is beginning to fall off, and there is no market for Austrian paper."

DIRTY DAVE to POPE: Hey, I went to your old-fashioned Kansas donkey roast. What's the idea of trying to serve everyone slices of hole in the ground?

ENGLISHMAN to RUSSIAN TSAR: What you want is not always what you get. You should write more and sooner if you want to start an alliance.

(( More tripe from the office bulletin board :))

Dear Friend,

This letter is being sent to you, for we know that you are critically interested in your lawn. The spring season is now upon us. This is a FERTILIZER CLUB and it will not cost you a cent to join. Upon receipt of this letter, go to the address at the bottom of this list and shit on the front lawn. You will not be the only one there, so don't be embarrassed. Then make five copies of this letter and send them to five of your friends who appreciate good lawns. You will not get any money or checks, but within one week, if this chain isn't broken, there will be 9,216 people shitting on your front lawn. Your reward will come next year, when you will have the greenest lawn in your neighborhood.

Mrs. Harry Butt  
235 Corn Cobb Alley  
Brownsville, KY

Mr. G. Howie Fartz  
276 Fertilizer Street  
Crack, Texas

Mrs. Opal Crap  
1422 Enema Drive  
Buttsville, OH

Mrs. Lucy Bowels  
29 Bed Pan Court  
Outhouse Junction, MO.

Mr. & Mrs. Took A. Fissik  
744 Running Loose Lane  
Whopper, NY

Mr. Smelley B. Hind  
467 Diarrhea Way  
Squatis, Nebraska

Mr. A. Bigger Movement  
89 Rectum Road  
Chamber Pot, LA.

If you are constipated, pass this along to your neighbor. Do not break the chain. One man didn't give a shit and lost his entire lawn.

A Friend

Now, we'd like to give a very special honor to the newest ESM city -  
SOUTH EUCLID, OHIO!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

South Euclid, a Cleveland suburb (that does it by itself), is the home of noted below-par subxyner Dave Marshall.

We'll let the Cleveland Press do the talking. They recently did a series on Cleveland's suburbs, and here's what they said about SE:

"It's a fine place to live, if you're not looking for excitement, style, or controversy.... Residents have few complaints but they also admit the city has few outstanding qualities to brag about.... primarily middle-aged to older with 23% of the residents senior citizens.... The city has one movie theater but lacks other cultural facilities."

The staff rates each suburb with up to three stars in each of four categories - services, taxes, institutions, and quality of life. In this piece, they gave South Euclid a mediocre 2 stars in each of the four categories. Overall, SE received 8 stars - placing it firmly in the middle of the Average category.

Judge for yourself.

(( And finally, this from  
M.P. Barna's The Shogun's  
Sword #22 (2811 Robins  
St., Endwell, NY 13760).

IF DnD is boring, maybe  
it's merely a product of  
its environment.))



"The battle has been lousey but at least the half time show is pretty good!"

from BATTLE FLAG #11

ROD WALKER

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

Enclosed is the official statement of candidacy by Her Holiness the Pope. For Hobby Queen, that is. Although I still regard this ad hoc election for a position I already hold as most illegal (and immoral, and fattening), and protest it in the strongest possible terms, and fall down and chew the carpet, nonetheless I am of course myself a candidate. I should not wish to promote the cause of a rival, but I am sure you will understand that Her Holiness has made it clear that there will be extremely unpleasant consequences of a physical nature should I refuse to insure that Her campaign literature reaches the right people. I would of course not like to suggest that anything in the nature of a threat has been made, but I would also like to say how much I enjoyed the guided tour I was given in several very interesting subterranean chambers at the New Vatican. I have never seen such large and well-equippet...um...entertainment facilities.

Well, I'm sure you'll use your own judgement as to whether to print this statement. You wouldn't want to make Her Holiness unhappy, would you? But it's entirely up to you. You do have your food tasted before you eat it, don't you?

Shortly before BB93 came out, I put out ARDA 6, announcing that at least temporarily I would assume the job of **MNC**, pending an orderly transfer to a new Custodian (which I am committed to complete not later than 31 December 1981). Greg Costikyan can of course resume his post during my extremely temporary tenure, but in the meantime I'm working on the backlog of work. ARDA 6 assigned several Miller Numbers, and there will be more in #8, along with some game finishes from last year(!!).

ARDA 7, by the way, is the 1981 edition of our complete catalogue (the North American Variant Bank, that is), about 450 games. It's \$1.25 to anyone who might be interested.

# POPE JOAN

FOR

# HOBBY QUEEN

IOAN • SEC • PAP •  
ET • MAG • MAT •  
ET • MERETRIX  
• MUNDI • REG •  
AVOCAMENTI  
PRESC • NOST •  
"PROCREANTES  
TUVE • OMNES"

Latest from the New Vatican:

Her Holiness, Joan II, Pope Hereditary and Militant of the Whole Catholic Church And Then Some, has made it official: She is in fact a candidate for Hobby Queen. Her Holiness is shown here in a sketch made from a recent daguerreotype made by the famous Catalonian artist Baplo Bigasso. She is attired in typical informal banquet dress...specifically, the gown designed for Her by Pagan Dior for the 1980 High Holy Paschal Masked Ball, Transubstantial Orgy, and Immaculate Bingo Banquet.

After announcing Her candidacy, Her Holiness allowed Herself to be interviewed by Walter Hangtight, a reporter from Playbeing who qualified for the privilege after an examination by one of Her Holiness' physicians. Walter began the talking part of the interview a little out of breath, but that was all right because Her Holiness did most of the talking.

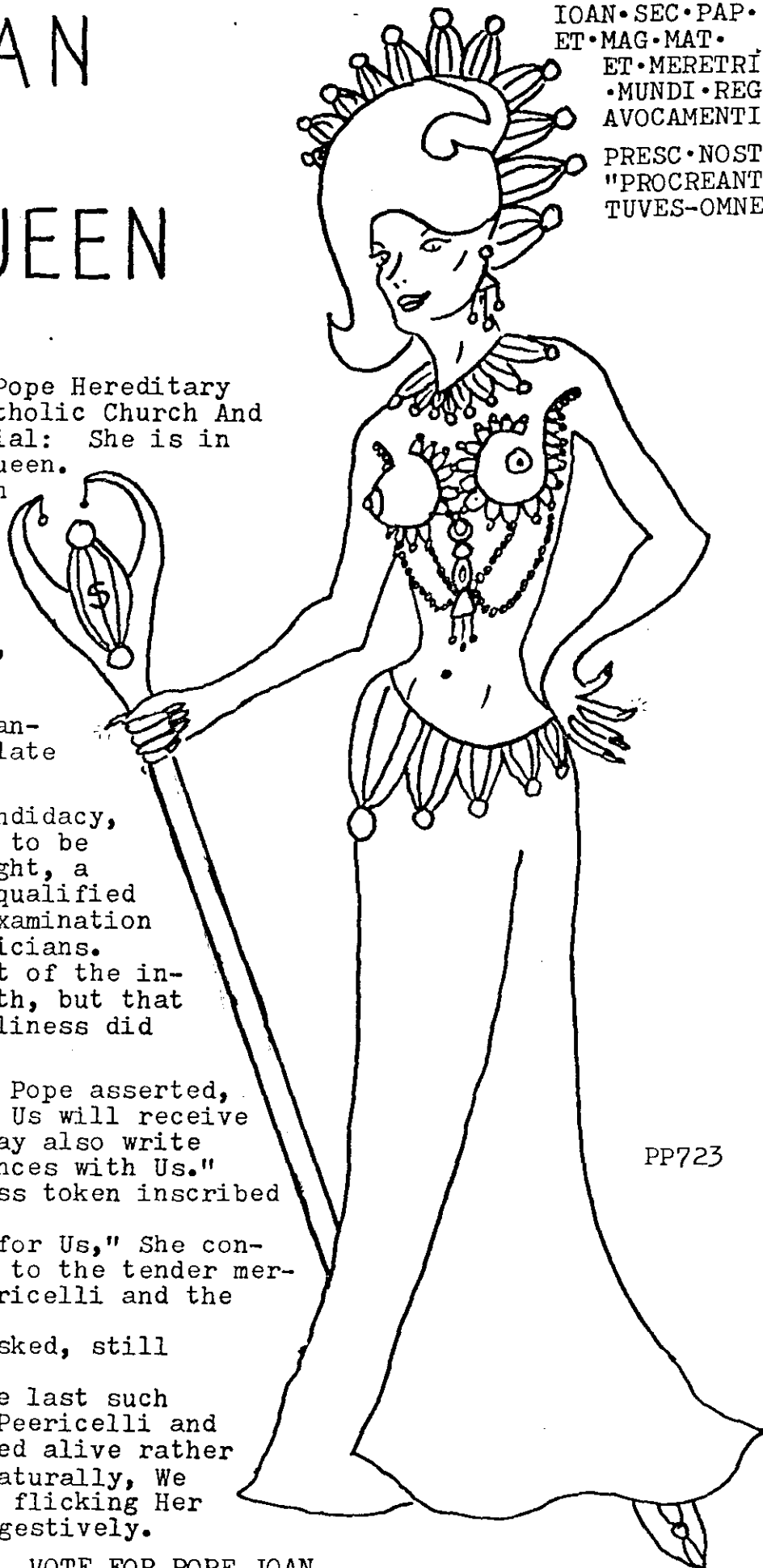
"We wish it known," the Pope asserted, "that all those who vote for Us will receive bunches of indulgences and may also write for tokens for Private Audiences with Us." Joan II held up a little brass token inscribed "Good for One".

"Those who do not vote for Us," She continued, "will be turned over to the tender mercies of Cardinal Lorenzo Peericelli and the Inquisition."

"Is that bad?" Walter asked, still breathing hard.

"Oh, We suppose so. The last such wretch spent two hours with Peericelli and afterwards begged to be flayed alive rather than go through it again. Naturally, We obliged him," she concluded, flicking Her switch-blade fingernails suggestively.

VOTE FOR POPE JOAN





JOHN BOARDMAN (Graustark)

234 E 19 St, Brooklyn, NY 11226

Your second letter arrived today; so did a photoduplicated copy of Diplomacy: By Moonlight #30, dated the 15th. On it, "Ozog" wrote: "Plug my fraudulent zine." I propose to take him at his word - not that I'll plug him, of course, but I'll accept his zine as fraudulent.

Actually, I find little to choose between Ozog-Tretick and Linsey-Masters. The latter group admits their frauds, which makes them minimally more honest, but they then go on to openly defend forgery and fraud as socially useful actions.

I have just retracted, in Graustark #435, a recommendation given to Jim Bumpas's Liberterrean. Kovalcik is a non-playing subscriber to Graustark, but I do not propose to allow him to renew his subscription as long as he allows Tretick to play in his 'zine. If Masters extended his indignation to include BruKKKs Linsey and his publications, matters would be improved considerably. I see no reasons why Linsey should be allowed to get away with behavior which is condemned in Tretick.

Speaking of frauds, I have recently received a letter from the only dishonest Gamesmaster ever to attract the professional attention of the FBI! This is Daniel Gorham, who ran The Fighter's Home in 1974 and 1975, and then defaulted, leaving the games to be reassigned by The Diplomacy Association. (Eric Verheiden wound up with most of them.) Gorham's run-in with the FBI had nothing to do with postal Diplomacy, but seem to have originated when he was recuperating from something or other at the Pecos Benedictine Monastery in Texas. Gorham, who claimed to be a Roman Catholic priest, made off with a sizable amount of cash and checks belonging to the Monastery. Since John Beshara, TDA President, was one of the contributors whose check was stolen, the FBI paid a call on him to find out what became of Gorham.

No one in postal Diplomacy had heard of Gorham since, until a couple of weeks ago when he sent me a check for \$15 and said he wanted to get into a postal Diplomacy game. Since his address was in Los Angeles, and the check was drawn on a San Francisco bank, I figured that Gorham might be up to his old pranks again. I have no idea whether the FBI ever caught up with him. It might even be that they did, and that Gorham has served his time and is now at liberty again. But I have no idea whether anything of the sort has taken place.

I am going to hold this letter until I hear from you about those tapes I asked you about. At the time I will enclose some recent issues of Dagon, which deal with the Funny Mentalist comic books available from many of the same sources as the tapes.

1 July 1981

Your card arrived today. So far, all of the inquiries I've sent out about the Todd/Collins tapes have come back negative. I may have to try in California when I go out there next month to help my parents celebrate the Big Fifty. If all else fails, I may write you again in the fall.

Early next week I'll be sending you, by 3rd-class mail, the last three issues of my science-fiction fanzine Dagon. In these issues I have been discussing, as part of a longer feature about comic art, the Funny Mentalist comic books that I mentioned in my last letter. The bundle will also include Saturday's Graustark, and maybe a few other items.

There have been no further developments in the Gorham case. There'll be a general warning to the hobby in the next Graustark.

((Perhaps John Beshara should send a note over to the local FBI and mention that some years ago he was asked about this guy, and now a friend has heard from him at such-and-such an address?))

(lightly edited at author's request)

This letter will cover a multitude of topics, so bear with me while I try to push on over them.

First is BB # 93 which I received in the mail yesterday. All in all, it was a very entertaining issue; I did have a slight problem in page one though. While you were discussing Jack Masters at the bottom of the page, your discussion was very hard to follow. When I first read the paragraph, I thought you meant that "Sigwalt, Pearson, Wells; Overby..." were giving Jack a hard time, and that was his main problem. You had discussed your problems with Boardman, Tretick, Kovalcik, Gibson, and others. You then indicate that trouble and trouble-makers seem to shrink over time. So, when you hit on the other list I was rather confused. Since your referenced an EAST OF EDEN I didn't receive, I called up some people to ask what was in it. Nothing about anyone you had listed, it seemed. So, what was I, a problem or someone to be counceled? It was hard to tell. So, I called Jack up. We had a nice chat; he said the two of us had no problems, so I guess you were just indicating I would be a possible candidate for future advice. Fine with me, only it took a while to figure out what you meant by all that. Maybe I'm just a little thick-skulled, but several other people I spoke with yesterday about #93 were a little puzzled about it too.

(Maybe you might clarify that in a future Issue).

Second, when it comes to unintentionally stepping on other peoples toes, I do a rather good job. You have seen the last 4 or 5 issues of JAF. If I have written a serious word in that time, I don't know what it is. Almost everyone I know understands everything in the zine has in it is meant as a joke. I mean..."THE GALACTIC DIPLOMACY FEDERATION"...indeed. All those fake custodians; my attacks of the month, the Diplomacy Doctor article which renamed stabs as "Byrnes". No to mention last month where Dip Doc took a good natured swipe at your ranking of Food, Games, Sex, and Politics, and then suggested That Ron Brown's new son Andy might not be his own. But Ron knew of the article before it was printed; Kathy took the "Byrne SYStem of Stabs" in a good natured way. If people want to be offended by this type of light humor, I am truly sorry. When I find out about anyone like that, I will never mention them again, but until I hear of anyone with a problem in that area, I plan to toss light barbs around.

Third, I would like to mention Marion Bates. Considering how other publishers have been treating the hobby, I'd like to point to Marion. When he knew he would have trouble meeting a publishing deadline (due to a long stay in the hospital), he sent a short note to all his subscribers indicating that there would be a delay, but his zine would be coming out in the near future. That's a hell of a lot better than some pubbers who publish randomly, letting most people think they folded, and then reappearing for some duration without any explanation. Marion let his audience know the zine would be late, and he indicated that someone would get it out (with or without his help). Also, Marion resigned all his games, not leaving other publishers hanging as to what to do about NMRs if they didn't hear of him. I think Marion left with class.

I think there are a number of publishers who could learn a lot from his example. Brad Wilson has yet to notify anyone he has folded, not even a postcard. Kovalcik never lets you know how his schedule is coming along. Steve Shaddix and I play in a game, but I traded with his zine for several months in which I didn't ever receive a WHITE DUKE nor notice that there would ever be another issue. There are better ways of handling this.

Finally, I like to take a little time to discuss the Sacks/Walker stuff I have been seeing the past few months. You might remember I got suckered

Pearson, conclusion

into being the stalking horse for the "Diplomacy Players Association" a while back.. I am basically an anarchist when it comes to hobby politics, but I am willing to "unite for the good of the hobby" on issues that are worth it... such as the Oaklyn deal. I find the Walker "NADF" a rather entertaining little group when it (read that 'he') tries to do much. <sup>only as basic custodial duties.</sup> A group like that functions best when nobody knows it is doing anything; that means the custodians are doing the jobs they took on with the least visible hassle. Exactly where Sacks comes in this argument is beyond me, but he seems to have carved out his own position, possibly based on the old IDA crowd and framework. Usually I won't stop to watch two kids fight in the street, but this one may get entertaining in a while. I wish both sides the best, and hope that they leave me and my poor little world alone until something of importance to me comes along. I guess that is the way most of our founding fathers felt in the revolutionary period also.

((Yes, but those weren't the 'Founding Fathers'. It was the radicals willing to act (fight) that were the founders. The rest, the usual mass, just sat back and watched. All that's changed is that the mass is now larger.

Sorry for the misunderstanding. What I meant was that when Jack has four years under his belt, he might be writing such advice as I was there to one of the currently-new publishers who might well find themselves in his spot down the road, NOT that any of you have a problem with Jack.))

J.M.

"alcala"  
1273 crest dr.  
encinitas ca 92024  
10 july 1981

ROD WALKER

BB94 is here, including Robert Sacks' usual bit of untruth. It appears we can always trust Robert to lie whenever he has nothing better to do (which is usually).

I had understood from John Daly that the fact that negotiations were under way to amalgamate the USOS with the long-defunct OGP was to be held in confidence until some result was obtained. Apparently that is either not the case or a confidence Sacks chose not to respect in his haste to get in another cheap shot at me.

In any event, his statement that I have "threatened to withdraw support from Daly" is a lie. Of course. First of all, the extent to which I "support" John is this: I have told him (since he has very little to do with the variant side of the hobby) that if he needed such assistance in placing an orphan variant, I would provide copies of the maps/rules for the variant without charge to replacement players and the new GM if they were needed.

In the course of the heretofore confidential negotiations, Sacks made a statement to the effect that NAVB had made a commitment to USOS. I wrote him to correct this misapprehension, pointing out that my arrangement was in no sense a commitment and was a purely private one between myself and John Daly...and that I would not regard any future similar arrangement between myself and any new Custodian for USOS as automatic. That was in no sense a "threat to withdraw support", and either Sacks is quite aware of that or he is a complete moron. Or both. In the former case, as I have said, he is deliberately lying.

I'm glad to hear from Sacks that Ray Heuer has "resigned" as Custodian of OGP...about two years or so after he allowed the project to become completely defunct. As the founder of the Orphan Game Project and its first Custodian, I was of course greatly disappointed at the miserable mess Heuer made of it. And in the totally uninterested attitude Sacks had in Heuer's

More Walker

nonperformance. Why, after his own ridiculous record of backpedalling and stonewalling, Sacks should have anything at all to say about orphan placement in this country is beyond me.

I would say more at this point, but I still respect John Daly's desire for confidence at this point, even if Sacks doesn't. I wished only to address myself to the latest attempt by Sacks to misrepresent my position. I hope that any further word on the subject of the relationship of USOS to the defunct OGP will come from John Daly, who still bears the primary responsibility for orphan placement in this country, and that the usual intrahobby furor will not erupt until after he makes an announcement.

Here are some further responses to BB94.

Bob Osuch's obtuse statement about classical music proves nothing about the art. It does prove something about Osuch.

"Classical" music is of course nothing more than the music which has survived the test of time, just as "classical" literature has. Much of it was the "pop" music of its day. The best music of every age will ultimately survive. And of course genius will gravitate toward the most significant sorts of music. Why should a transcendent genius such as Beethoven or Gershwin content himself with street ditties and show tunes? Or simple-minded rock numbers, to use a contemporary example. Music for the masses has its place, of course; there are many, many people who just can't cope with the intellectual and emotional demands made by music produced by people whose musical talent is of a high order.

As for Buddy Tretick, aka "Bernie Oaklyn". It seems to me that some people have forgotten what the problem is. The entire hallmark of Tretick's reentry into the hobby has been deception. The last time he was active, he was guilty of gross GM improprieties and had the habit of starting new games even as he was abandoning others. Tretick's essentially dishonest approach to postal Diplomacy seems to have carried over into his second incarnation as "Oaklyn"...a factor essentially heralded by the most basic fact of this whole thing, his attempt to conceal his real identity.

By the same token, I must say that I do not condone the atmosphere of a "witch hunt" which has attended some aspects of the campaign to warn the hobby public about "Oaklyn". People who defend or associate with "Oaklyn" are not themselves necessarily guilty of any wrongdoing. It seems to me that anyone foolish enough to accept "Oaklyn" as a GM is probably going to be sufficiently punished for his foolishness without attempts by otherwise wellmeaning people to make him some sort of pariah. Similarly, I still oppose the attempts to ostracize "Oaklyn" from the hobby by making it impossible for him to play in other 'zines. (It's true that I booted "Oaklyn" out of the only game I've GMed in recent times, but I have since 1970...while Tretick was still active as Tretick...had a HR forbidding players to play under pseudonyms without my prior consent. "Oaklyn" did not obey the provisions of that HR whereby he must give me his real name and ask my permission to use the pseudonym, giving cause why I should grant it. I did not refuse him permission to play because he was Tretick per se.)

I would like to think that Tretick can be reformed. That is probably a pipe-dream. I have tried to point out in the past that Buddy has severe emotional problems and that the kind of vituperation I've seen in GRAUSTARK and BRUTUS BULLETIN will not make things better. I believe it is enough that the hobby in general warn players that with "Oaklyn", caveat emptor, and say why, and let it go at that. This approach might actually get almost universal support, whereas the fire-and-brimstone approach manifestly has not. The problem is not Tretick, but how Tretick behaves. Change the behavior and you solve the problem. Not feasible, perhaps...but worth a try.

I was not aware the old "democracy vs. republic" chestnut was still alive

+ More  
Walker

It's so amusing to see people debate things they don't understand, especially where they're trying to derive something of significance out of a mere dispute over semantics. A "republic" is merely a state which has no monarch. Practically every nation on earth is a republic. Some republics are democratic and some aren't. Big deal. "Democracy", on the other hand, is simply a method of decision-making. In the classic sense of the term only very very small states could be democracies. Large ones, such as this nation, are representative democracies...meaning the power of decision making is turned over to individuals elected by popular vote for the purpose. The United States happens to be a classic case of a representative democracy. Some states which are not in fact representative democracies may even so have some of the same institutions...and you'll find that in the Soviet Union. But it is in fact a totalitarian republic, not a democratic one. And so on and on...all the simplistic stuff your dedicated right- and left-wingers never seem to have learned at school. From them all we get is dogmatic gabble-gabble, based on their puerile assumptions that the political dynamics of large states are somehow always in accord with their simplistic (and largely imaginary) notions. I can understand why Mark Berch is tired of the whole thing. It's so discouraging, having people who presumably have some sort of brains and access to really honest-to-God facts (assuming they know how to read) mouthing childish slogans at you and mistaking them for political sophistication. Pathetic.

Re: Guns. I am theoretically in favor of complete prohibition on the private ownership of guns of any sort...hand guns, rifles, the works. But theory must face fact. And the fact is that no law of the sort would ever achieve its objective. There would always be people with guns. This is just another demonstration of the fact that government attempts to regulate the private behavior of its citizens are doomed to failure. Attempts to regulate our sex lives, what we ingest, and so on do nothing but create fat idle bureaucracies and oppressive enforcement agencies. The only reasonable alternative is to make the accidental or deliberate harming of another person a crime of extreme gravity. Under certain circumstances, the person guilty of such a crime would be subject to legal (but not physical) death...becoming a "forgetty" (to use Cordwainer Smith's delightful term).

I just love the little diatribes in BB about how you would make everything better. I will remind you what I've just said about gabble-gabble applying sloganistic jargon to the operations of large modern industrial states. I suppose you want to bring back the good old days of Warren Gamaliel Harding, that paragon of virtue and the Republican way. Or that guy with the big nose who had such strange ideas about what "support and defend the Constitution of the United States" meant...uh, what's his name...uh...? The notion that any party or political group or way of thinking has all the right answers is contrary not only to common sense but to the whole of history. And having people shot because you don't agree with them (or, in your private and unsubstantiated point of view, they have done something wrong) is a notion that puts you in charming company...Hitler, Stalin, Mao, Khomeini, and other lovelies. The execution of citizens for "political" crimes is the act of an all-powerful central government, something to which you claim to be opposed. That is symptomatic, it seems to me, of the basic devious hypocrisy of all conservatives. You are not opposed to powerful government at all; you want to use it against your perceived enemies. That's why if you go far enough to the right and far enough to the left, you get two things which are just two peas in the same pod. Conservatives who preach against big government are such hypocrites I can't stand it. One of the most bloated of all federal bureaucracies was that created by the conservatives and whose purpose was to prevent decent citizens from drinking martinis. Of all the ludicrous exercises of the federal power ever perpetrated, that one was the most ludicrous. And now we can look forward to an equally bloated and useless bureaucracy whose purpose will be to prevent women from having

Walker, conclusion

abortions, and to prevent people from seeing too much skin on TV, and to make us all conform to the expectations of Jerry ~~Walt~~ Falwell and his latter-day Legion of Decency crowd. That the President of the United States should have to toady to that bunch of brownshirts is more dangerous to this republic than anything you have ever complained of in BB. If they have their way, you "ain't seen nothin' yet" in terms of Big Government.

((While I could spend a lot of space trouncing on that, I can't see that doing so would make any more sense than you trying to convert the Tretick into an honorable human. Besides, your name-calling and suppositions as to my devotion to Harding do the job pretty well for me. If you want to defend your own position (whatever it is) by portraying the opposition as absurdly as you do here, hell, go to it. Attentive readers know that my political idol is Darth Vader, not Warren Harding.)) J.M.

BEN SCHILLING

24730 Roosevelt Ct #315, Farmington Hills MI

I would have to say that the evidence seems to point at Tro Sherwood, although Linsay may have had a part in it. How about a Conspiracy? Just what the hobby needs, more CONTROversy.

I'm enclosing a check to try to pick up that box of dipzines.

((I'm glad you did. I expected it to go fast, but there wasn't a nibble. Oh, well, their loss is your gain. Another is 60% full, a regular box this time. (Of course, that smaller box was stuffed as full as a normal box anyway...) Oh, well.

Yes, I guess it was more Tro, at least to judge by the gossip and his lack of denial. A pretty good job, I thought. )) J.M.

ARTURO GUAJARDO

3201 E Greenlee Rd #13, Tucson, AZ 85716

This is a "Dear John" letter. I'm tapering down on my hobby involvement, since I hope to be out of the country this time next year (China). Summer school is also taking a big bite out of my G I Bill check, so I'm cutting corners here and there. Hate to say it, but BB is a corner. It's an excellent zine and perhaps if my finances improve and when I reenter the hobby when I return (or if I don't go) I'll resub. Hate to let it go, but expedience demands it. Best of luck...

((Thanks. Send us a postcard from China of you on your motorcycle. You, Ron Brown, Eric Kirchner, and Mark Berch are the last folks on the master who have the original typing, with no pasteovers for changes in address or person subbing. Now I'm down to three. At least you're immortalized in the BB masthead that you made up for me. Send a letter once or twice so I'll have an excuse for a complimentary for you.)) J.M.

BOB FORMAN

Los Alamos, NM

Since I am giving you the orders for Gopher Hole Germany, I finally have an excuse to write you. Just kidding. I think your magazine is one of the best around and I miss a lot if I don't subscribe. Enclosed is a check for \$6 to renew my sub. I don't want to miss #100.

((You almost did. Your sub expired with #87, and now picks up with 94! I hope you weren't counting on those others too much...

Actually, despite the huge issue #50 I put out, maybe I should continue to break tradition with #100 and just put out an average issue ?

Welcome back)) J.M.