

The BRUTUS BULLETIN

ET TU, BRUTE

7-81

★ *** SPECIAL GENCON-EAST ISSUE ! *** ★

Well, maybe not, but what else can I call a late July issue when I've already put out an early July, mid July, and late July issue? "Even later July 1981"?

The BRUTUS BULLETIN is a newsletter of postal DIPLOMACY™ brought to you every few days or weeks by John Michalski, ("mih-HOLL-skee"), Rt 10, Box 526-Q, Moore, OK 73165. No openings. Subs are discouraged, so keep your 55¢. DIPLOMACY is a game invented by Alan Calhamer and copyrighted by the Avalon Hill Game Company, Baltimore 21214.

THIS ISSUE was supposed to be many things, but what it winds up as is another all-letters issue. There's just too much on hand. I was even tempted to carry over the feature, but I said last time it would be here, so it is. Carried over will be enough to fill 2/3 to 3/4 of NEXT issue (sound familiar?). I do have game results, but I have no room for them. Also, late-arriving letters from Berch, Coughlan, Langley, Lew, 2 nonsense pieces I've found, and another Palter editorial. Whatever comes in during the last nine days of July will be added to that, if there's room in 97. At least if another issue comes out before the end of the month, I can call it "early August". (Shudder). Is there life after publishing?

LEW's "subzine" feature is as close to game stuff as you'll find, although I will try to include a short endgame statement too. Oh, I forgot to mention a long endgame statement from Kerry Blant responding to what Eric Kirchner said earlier, but at 1 2/3s pages, it wasn't readily possible to fit it into this. Next issue for sure. Watch for it early next week...

No postal strike here after all; I was hoping the Administration would fire the lot and only selectively rehire, or better still, start fresh and bar the rejected old gang from ANY further federal employment. That would clear the air a little. It would be even better than Johnnie Carson's suggestion that we use the baseball players to deliver the mail and the postmen to play ball. "Might improve both". Indeed. The Canadian strike is cute--they're not even negotiating. Now there's a sign of a real disagreement. Dave Carter (SLEEPLESS KNIGHTS) explained the strike there in his latest issue, mailed to Americans from his brother's house in Columbus, Ohio. That's the kind of dedication, or stupidity, that takes you over when you've been at this a while.

Bruce Linsey is in the news ("What else is new", right?) with a letter inside that among other things, calls for the replacement of Ditter as BNC if he sticks with LE FRAUD. Give this some thought please, rather than just dismiss it; it is something to consider as an issue, albeit an unpleasant one. ALSO, the latest VD has come out with many pages of updated houserules, including one that says that a date such as "7-22-81" will be interpreted as 7-22-1981. Yes, when you have houserules that, uh, complete, you may get your players saying you should have used their other orders of the same date because 1981 was 1900 years after the date of the first orders. So much for that.

The title of Crud Martin's zine referred to inside is for humor only, as are all of my references to him. In England, I understand that there really IS a zeen called DON'T SHOOT ME, I'M JUST THE DIPLOMACY PLAYER; so you prospective pubbers shouldn't use it on your own upcoming one.

GOOD NEWS last week was that some singer or songwriter or some such died on a NY freeway. It's not good that he croaked, of course, but it is good news that something like that, about somebody who had 1 hit in his life 10 years ago, made the morning radio news here for three straight days. Good there was nothing better to report on.

ENDGAME STATEMENT, 1980D

Bill Becker, Turkey, out Fl7

After having so much success in 79CK as Turkey, I proposed the same plan to Austria here. An A-T where I promised nothing but good things and no treachery. At the same time I accepted Russia's R-T plans by lieingly agreeing to everything he wrote. Austria turned on me and was in turn devoured quickly by R-I. I made a deal with Italy finally, and he could not tolerate my stretching the truth to include my use of Tunis for a year. Negotiating with Dave Grabar was tough anywas as his responses usually came in on deadline day. Both E&G had been writing, encouraging me with promises of an E-G-T sweep. So I hung on. A new Russia (who was our original Russia?) almost brought relief, but I allowed myself to be suckered by retreating from Bulg in a show of good faith to Russia only to watch Italy move in unopposed! For years I roamed around the southeast, living in Smy, Con, Bul and Gre. For some reason I always lucked into a haven and thus just barely outlasted Grabar's Italy. Though I still received an occasional missive, I was incommunicative during my solitary unit years. I did manage to think of some different press twists. Overall I played poorly--I probably NMRed 4 separate times!

The loss of Nathan Mitchell was unfortunate, as he may have stabbed Germany down the road. Mark & Kerry showed that true blue duos have good showings. I shouldn't complain here, I've never won a PBM game, but give me time. I've only been playing since '78. I hate to say it but my time priorities will force this to be my last short deadline game at least through the rest of 1981). And with this one ending, I'm down to a paltry 5! About \$5 a month in postage. Hmm, \$60 a year plus zine subs now.

To Mark and Kerry, nice going and good luck with your reps and ratings. You've given me something to shoot at, at least. I want a better rating than you Turkeys. Thanks John for GMing ever so promptly.

NEWS FROM THE FRONT

A feature excerpted from PINK DRAGON II-12, D.S.Palter, ed. Box 72 Cedarhurst, NY 11516 Openings in Dip, Deadman Dip, or Mac; free

SOMALIA

Air raids by "Ethiopian" planes on border cities. Funny how many Ethiopians speak Russian, Spanish or German these days.

ANGOLA

Yet another hushed up army mutiny. Amazing, isn't it, how the dead UNITA movement keeps on controlling 60% of the country? But the source of this has been explained by the leftist press--the evil Nazi South Africans. Indeed. At least 50 of them. Maybe 100. And these Nazi, Vietnam, Rhodesia vet Aryan supermen are currently tying down 28-30,000 Cubans; 3,000 East Germans; 2500 Russians; 800-1000 Algerians; 500 Bulgars; a couple hundred each of Poles, Czechs, and Hungarians; several thousand Nigerians; an International Brigade of roughly 1500; 18-20,000 Katangans plus the stray Viet or Palestinian. There are times when I begin to wonder if the Marxist press is largely staffed by folks who used to do SS recruiting posters.

NICARAGUA

The not yet officially red government has managed to provoke an Indian-Black uprising along the Atlantic Coast. If it were the fascists slaughtering Amerinds or Coloreds, we'd hear the lib-rad press and TV up in arms, but as these are good people's-democracy types, not a sound is heard. Current reality is T54s vs. blowguns. Let's all hear it for objective history.

Latest Fluff Shaffer jokes just in:

Q: What do they call the first black test tube baby? A: Janitor in a Drum.

Q: Know what the black name for armadillo is? A: Possum on the half shell.

Liberals are invited to submit honky jokes in reprisal if you wish.....

BOGEY

#1 July 10 198
(by Mark Lew):

The latest in below-par subzenes

"You may well wonder what we're doing here," said Andrew the elder of the two. Well I'll tell you. Really there's other reasons (like whim..), but first and foremost has been my increasing awareness of the decline in quality of BB subzenes. So I took it upon myself to do something and wrote to my good friend Davey D. Perlmutter and he agreed to join one game "for my sake". He also convinced Jack Frost to play. I don't even know Jack but apparently he's some extraordinaire from the old days. From that, I had little trouble digging up 5 decent chaps to fill in the rest of the spots. I tried for Bruxus, but he refused of course, too bad. Originally, this was to all be in Benzene, but I just couldn't imagine dear ol' Bz running games and all, hence Bogey. (Besides, Benzene would feel out of place among all those below-par subzenes)

Without further ado, here is the long-awaited (3 minutes!) game:

HONEST AL'S USED SPONGE SHOP; TAKE ONE, BUY ONE FREE

AUSTRIA: David D. Perlmutter the Great; Latchees Lane Apt # 608; Merion, PA 19066

ENGLAND: Jack Frost; RR4 Box 138B; Lockport, IL 60441

FRANCE: Wietze De Vries; 5436 Montgomery Sq. Dr.; Kettering, OH 45440

GERMANY: Dave Carter; 118 Horsham; willowdale, Ontario M2N 1Z9

ITALY: Bob Osuch; 3417 S. Paulina; Chicago, IL 60608

RUSSIA: Bill Becker; 810 Turwill; Kalamazoo, MI 49007

TURKEY: Black Jack Masters; 25711 North Vista Fairways Drive; Valencia, CA 91355

Will Michael Mills; 1585 Quaker Road; Macedon, NY 14502; please standby for France. Hardy har har. No seriously, Mike is the real French player.

Deadline would normally be somewhere in early August but there's that vacation bit and especially Davey C. is a Canadian and the posties (that's what they call the postal employees over there, (or up there for the rest of you)(see the Novice Packet, page 17)(where was I? "I thought you'd finished" "oh had I? right.") ...are striking. Soooooo, we'll just enact a cute little rule Benzene picked up from the late (in more ways than one) BTD, that is, spring 1901 doesn't happen until everyone gets orders in or by the deadline, whichever is last. And DIAS too by the way. and I almost forgot that I even have a press from guess who?.

Merion: Okay Frostie ((that's me)) I'll do it just this once, but don't all you get ideas about me joining the hobby again. I've got better things to do than waste my time with you clowns.

A few game notes: Contrary to popular belief, I am not on bad terms with any of the players, so la di da.

Press is GODLY WHITE (of course)

The usps isn't quick so this game won't be either, that is, none of these two week deadline things you find in the other below-par subzenes, so that means if you maintain a BB sub, your game fee is waived. All deadlines will be precisely 3 weeks from when I get my BB (all except this one anyway) so if JM doesn't get around to printing it, you don't NMR. In fact, I'm going to waive everyone's game fee, and if you don't maintain your BB sub that's your tough shit. And I'm not offering refunds so if you paid me that's your tough shit too, but nobody did so it doesn't matter. No NMR fee either. We'll use standbys though. No list or anything just any name that pops into my feeble head.

There's a little bit of room left so I'll dribble out extraneous stuff for the rest of the page. um. how 'bout a grand trivia question? like, how many landlocked spaces are there on the board? No fair looking at a map; you have five minutes. Tick, tick, tick, tick...tick, DING time's up. the ANSWER is: Well I didn't waste my time counting them, but I bet you forgot the Black Sea. Hahaha on you dummy.

Still more room: LONG JOKES MADE SHORT#1: This guy gets captured by the Germans and they make him imitate a clock but instead of saying tick tock he just says tick and they say We have ways to make you tock, but you always tell it so it makes sense. Ho ho very funny indeed.

LONG JOKES MADE SHORT#2: There's this family heirloom which is a goblet and the old man is dying and tells his son to always drink from this side of the cup. Why? says junior and pa says because when you drink from that side the wine dribbles down your shirt. oh ho funnier still. I see the page is gone because the line is squishing up good riddance

Send all inquiries to BENZENE 320 W 79th Ave, NYC, NY 10024

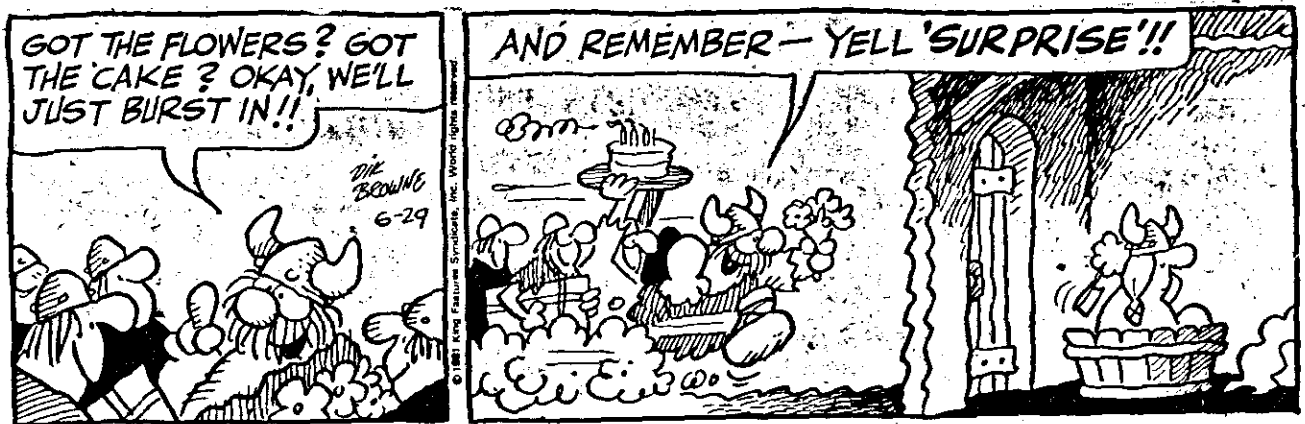
I need to comment on my own letter in BB 92 where I badmouthed Jack Masters and his BLACK FROG. Though it's no secret that BF isn't my favorite zine, I went a bit overboard and exaggerated a few things. So now I hereby retract all my statements and apologize to Jack. And I mean this, Blackjack didn't bribe or threaten me to do this.

To all you feud-lovers out there, ha ha we sure shafted you. Unless I'm mistaken, the Masters-Lew feud will die young. Sigh. I'll never make a good feuder, I can dish out all sorts of criticisms (and take it too, mind you) but when it comes right down to it, I wasn't cut out to hate people, and I can't bring myself to continually heap abuse on some poor soul. That's all.

STEVE ARNAWOODIAN

602 Hemlock Cr, Lansdale, PA 19446

The enclosed cartoon sums up Byrne-Con 4. It seems Caruso wanted to give Kathy a surprise 54th birthday party and combine it with a day of FTF dip. As you can see, Kathy never suspected a thing.



Yes, I've heard of Horlacher Perfection beer, but I never had any. So I asked a friend of mine, Thad Sorg. Thad is from the north central part of PA where they only buy beer in kegs. In fact, every year in Thad's backyard they hold a beer contest where you have a partner and the two of you try to be the first to finish an eighth of a keg! No, I never entered the contest, nor will I. Anyway, Thad claims Horlacher runs a poor second to his favorite beer--Straubs. His words for Horlacher Perfection "you really never had a hangover until you drank Horlacher!"

JIM MEINEL

22440 SE Bensen Rd G13, Kent, WA 98031

I received BB 92 one day after #93. I don't know how you put out so many issues so quickly and still keep up the quality. Looks like my sub's gonna run out pretty soon--another sub check! Hope things work out for you and your job--I'm an accounting major at the U of W and work full-time at Safeco Insurance as an accounting cler-. It's a long way to graduation by night school, so I suspect I'll be a clerk for a while. I'd like to put out my own zine but I want to make sure I have the time to do it right--subbing to publishers like you, Gary C., Bruce, and Randolph S. gives one a high standard to shoot for. Keep up the good work, and take it easy.

((Thanks, I wish I could. Trouble is, I sit here typing and knowing I only have three open pages yet to fill for NEXT issue. Maybe I should just take August off like some say, and come back to it all in September. Put out a quadruple issue and mail it at book rate?

Push for that degree. The life of a clerk is the life of a dog, and it's a real dead-end. You've got to get that step up to be able to have even a chance at going somewhere. You're right not to publish if you have any doubts. You won't be able to start with a EUROPA EXPRESS, but you could try for a smaller product, like perhaps LONE STAR DIPLOMAT someday. Put school behind you first, though. You can't do much as a clerk, but as an accountant, you may get easier access to a free duplicator somewhere. As a "mid-management" type, you'll be left alone more, whereas a clerk would get a bunch of shit from anyone whose hemorrhoids were acting up that day. Or drive a truck and the hell with it all...))

J.M.

DAVE MARSHALL (Down 'N' Dirty, Dobson St. Con.)

1547 Maplegrove Road
South Euclid, OH 44121
July 16, 1981

(excerpt)

On other matters, I was interested to note your comment about Peery and Dan Brannon. Peery apparently was a great one in his infrequent reappearances a few years back for not producing goods for cash received (he still owes me about \$4-5 from my early novice days in '77); Brannon, though, may be much closer to home than you think. Of course if you've paid attention to Berch's DD lately, you'll have noticed (last issue) his comment on Page 8 that "Dan Brannon was heard from in 1980 in letters and a few games as Steve Cartier...". One of those games is 1981 CH (my DnD-2), and I've taken the precaution of writing Steve to inquire about the matter. Frankly I don't intend to call the matter to anyone else's attention even if he is Brannon (nothing in my HRs against use of pseudonyms if they don't compromise play), but I figured you'd better be aware that I'm covering my ass against future embarrassments. To satisfy my own curiosity, I wouldn't mind seeing what Boardman had to say about these two. Since you didn't just summarily dismiss JB this time as usual, it sounds like you may suspect he has a case.

Let's see--what might I comment on in the last BB? Oh yeah, "Raiders of the Lost Ark": frankly, I'm a little surprised you didn't like it more than you seemed to. Don't you think the "corny ending", as you put it, might have been just a bit intentional? After all, most of the elements in the movie were suggestive of the matinee-serial formula Lucas used as his framework. I'm just glad he stopped short of an out-and-out parody. As it stands, the film has a fine-tuned integrity of its own; it's possible to "get into it" and be immensely entertained by it without feeling patronizing toward the genre it reflects. Kinda like "Star Wars" in that, wouldn't you say? Unfortunately I can't attempt a detailed analysis of what I liked so much about the movie without seeing it again; my wife was drooling too loudly over Harrison Ford throughout for me to concentrate on the finer points.

One thing I'll check out more closely next time are the equipment anachronisms. Dan Palter has already pointed out (correctly) in an early '80LP press submittal that the German twin-engine flying wing was a Lucas creation. He also noted the use of Schmeisser machine-pistols which of course weren't around yet (unless they were Bergmanns, and Dan's wrong?...). Lots of the other machinery looked a bit out of place, too, but I'll have to see it again to be sure. Hell, it was probably intentional on Lucas's part anyway, like the license plate number (THX-138) on John Milner's coupe in "American Graffiti." Sneaky bastard, our George.

Sit on my face, Karen Allen.

Re the continuing BB handgun debate: I have no illusions that the most reasoned arguments or impassioned lamentations on John Lennon (good music, bad politics) are going to change a single mind out there in Dippyland. But speaking as one who has some familiarity with the field (former infantryman and small-town cop, until I came to my senses), I have no doubt in my mind that your pro-gun position is ~~unsubstantiated~~ full of shit. Like I said though, all the discussions to date have accomplished nothing except to fill zine pages, so why bother arguing? While the NRA is, so are handguns. Them's political realities.

But enough, John. It's very late and there's work tomorrow.

((I'm sorry to hear of your strong disagreement with my gun stand. The two cops I know are more pro-gun than I, as are the cop friend(s) of Pilant's I've met on occasion (gun occasions)

Who's Karen Allen? Will she accept?

On "Brannon", I'm a little embarrassed. I didn't associate "Father Dan" with Steve Cartier, who has played in at least one of my games, and who shared with me and John Kelley the abuse and threats of court action dished out by John Boardman. But now that you mention it, Boardman has often used Cartier as synonymous with a Brannon or something like that. If

Response to Marshall, continued

the only thing that Cartier has done is play under an assumed name, the heck with it (unless the same game had a California Brannon in it too). If he is the crook on the lamb that John Beshara was asked about, they and the FBI can take care of that. I really hadn't associated that Father-Dan bit with the earlier Cartier charges John made though. I should have. Oh, well. On the other hand, they may be different, or innocent, or both. Thanks for your other remarks deleted here.)) J.M.

STEPHEN DUKE (The Schemer)

Rt.3 Fairfield Pike
Shelbyville, TN 37160

I received BB# 94 yesterday and since everyone seems to be writing, I thought it'd be appropriate for me to let some of my feelings be known.

First and foremost, Steve Shaddix. Dispite what you, Linsey, and Lew may think, Steve didn't simply "tire of the hobby." As I said in my now famous #2 Schemer, he isn't that type of person. I won't go into personal reasons that Steve may not want to go into himself. Suffice is to say that he was and is suffering from serious family problems. It should be known that the game that The White Duke was carrying was never delayed--he did find time to take care of his most immediate responsibility. I cannot defend his lack of writing, but we all do make mistakes. I just wanted to get the message to you that Shaddix isn't and wasn't the lazy sonofabitch that many might or may think. If his zine folds tomorrow, you can be sure that he will take care of what needs to be taken care of.

Moving on to other things, I read with great interest the letters from OZOG to Masters. I don't know the full story of course, but his crimes are serious in my book. I also don't know if the hobby should ban together and drive him out. Even being a new hobby member, I feel a terrible loss when any zine folds. I've not had the pleasure yet of communicating with Jack Masters, but perhaps Ozog should be given another chance. If Masters is the kind of guy that is only satisfied when he drives a zine under (because of the pubber saying something against him) (which I doubt) then maybe Ozog was right, What do you think? Whoops. Better watch myself. There I go babbling and meandering again. Sorry, Allen.

I also find it hard to believe the whole Bernie Oaklyn story. Damn! I must have just gotten off the potato truck, because I've never even imagined that so many atrocities could be committed. This is one case that I would support killing the zine. Yet if he is indeed driven out again, he'll probably just wait and reserxface somewhere else with a new name. What I can't get over is why he hasn't stopped all this shit. When he was thrown out the first time, that should have told him that something was wrong. To keep on pulling the same garbage again and again is beyond me. Hey, "Bernie." Why don't you drop me a line or two with your side of the story (if it's any different.). I'd REALLY love to hear it!

And one final note. My brother passed through OK several years ago and told me that people from OK don't smile. He wasn't kidding me, so I have to ask you--is this true???

Well, I've reached burnout. I'll keep in touch. Feel free to print this (as I'm sure you do!). Bye...

((We keep our mouths shut to keep the dust out here. I'm sending you an "Oaklyn packet" of assorted reprints that will give you a little overview of some of what's gone on; it should help. Anyone else want one?

Ozog, like Shaddix, has all the chances he wants. If he publishes reliably and, in Eric's case, straightens up his act, he will work his way back to respectability. All they need to do now is find an audience willing to take the chance and go with them.)) J.M.

PATRICK CONLON
07 July 1981
Pirmasens, Germany

AP0 NY 09189

The label, which is adorned with my name, on the front of the envelopes which bring BB to me every other ~~day~~ week also has the number 96 in one of its corners. Guessing this might be when my sub expired, I did a little detective work. There's an entry in my checkbook that says I sent you ten dollars. At 55¢ per, that comes to roughly 18 and 1/5 issues. Armed with this information I delved into my collection of past Bulletins. The oldest ish I discovered was number 78. From this I deduced that my sub would indeed be up at number 96; thus the significance of the number on the mailing label on the envelope was revealed. Another case solved by the Columbo of the US Army.

Brux introduced me to the postal Dip hobby last fall. Since then I have gotten into a few games, gradually increased the number of zeens I receive, and watched the resident crazies of this "sub-cu'ture", trying to get my bearings. Sorry Brux, but you were wrong about BB in one respect. The game players shit for press, but the letters and topics discussed are intelligent and consistently interesting. So I'll go take my shit in the latrine and then try to add some sound opinions to the forum herein.

I ran across an idea which appealed to me that I hadn't heard of before. It's called a Value Added Tax, and is added to the price of all items bought by the consumer. It differs from a sales tax in that, rather than have one across-the-board rate for all items, the rate at which an item is taxed is dependent on the relative necessity of the item. In other words those items which are deemed to be of great necessity have the lowest rate of taxation and the most extravagant luxuries are taxed the most. The VAT could result in a gov't budget in the black, or better still, reduce our current level of taxation, providing additional purchasing and/or saving power to the consumer. More importantly, the VAT would result in a reduction in purchases of luxuries. The consumer would be more needs-oriented. Producers would mirror that trend. The end result: our resources would last that much longer and the consumer at the lower end of the economic spectrum would benefit at the expense of those in the higher income brackets.

I am no "bleeding heart liberal" who wants only to give away money to those who do not want to work for it. Rather, I am tired of struggling just to make ends come near each other, being taxed because I want to keep from starving, and watching someone else drive his Cadillac to his country club where caviar and French Burgundy are served, knowing that this extravagance and waste doesn't bother him. Why shouldn't we have gun registration, so long as a citizen isn't denied the right to bear arms? Registration only makes it harder (though not impossible) to get a gun. So what if it takes a week to get an application completed? Americans are too lazy; too used to getting everything they want on a silver platter. In comparison to the American attitude of providing anything the customer thinks he wants instantly, consider a young German who wants a driver's license. The applicant must go to driver's school for a year and lay out a total of approximately fifteen hundred dollars before they can get a license. Of course, now that our would-be "strip cruiser" has his license, he must get a car before he

can begin to reap the benefits of all that time and money. The equivalent of a VW Rabbit here in Germany costs half again as much as it does in the U.S. It's no wonder the rest of the world begrudges us our fabled standard of living. Furthermore, it is highly unreasonable to believe that as the world's problems grow greater, the people of the world will continue to allow us to live in comparative grandeur. This threat can be held off by military might today, but what about tomorrow? There are many examples in history of societies, who were totally outgunned, attacking and defeating the stronger group by force of numbers and the desire for food to survive.

So much for the serious stuff. Since you love lists so much, here's a list of 20 types of people you might meet in the men's room:

1. EXCITABLE - shorts half twisted around, cannot find hole, rips shorts.
2. SOCIABLE - joins friends in piss whether he has to or not.
3. CROSSEYED - looks into next urinal to see how the other guy is fixed.
4. TIMID - cannot piss if someone is watching, flushes urinal, comes back later.
5. INDIFFERENT - all urinals being used, pisses in sink.
6. CLEVER - no hands, fixes tie, looks around and usually pisses on floor.
7. WORRIED - not sure of where he has been lately, makes quick inspection.
8. FRIVOLOUS - plays stream up, down, and across urinals, tries to hit fly or bug.
9. ABSENT-MINDED - opens vest, pulls tie out, and pisses in pants.
10. CHILDISH - pisses directly in bottom of urinal, likes to see it bubble.
11. SNEAK - farts silently while pissing, acts very innocent, knows man in next stall will get blamed.
12. PATIENT - stands very close for a long while waiting, reads with free hand.
13. DESPERATE - waits in long line, teeth floating, pisses in pants.
14. TOUGH - bangs dick on side of urinal to dry it.
15. EFFICIENT - waits until he has to crap, then does both.
16. FAT - backs up and takes a blind shot at urinal, pisses in shoe.
17. LITTLE - stands on box, falls in, drowns.
18. DRUNK - holds left thumb in right hand, pisses in pants.
19. DISGRUNTLED - stands for a while, gives up, walks away.
20. CONCEITED - holds two inch dick like baseball bat.

Auf Wiedersehen !

((Thanks for the contribution. I must disagree with your conclusions about the world begrudging us our standard of living, especially when you characterize prompt and efficient service as something of a luxury. True, in practice, the rest of the world may well lag behind, but that's their own inefficiency and stupidity. That the Germans should put up with such incredible amounts of bullshit for the simplest things shows stupidity on their part, not any inherent error or extravagance on ours. We live in comparative grandeur as you say, true, but that is more luck and work than suppressing or exploiting others. Just because most are assholes doesn't mean that theirs is the standard to which we must all measure down.))

JW

An interesting assorted letter from:

RON MAZURKIEWICZ (Mazzer - KAY - wits')

7 July 1981

Perhaps I'll take a photo and send it to you . I finally made a mapboard for the Battle of the Bulge the way it should be made, and the way I've been talking for the last few years. After doing so I just can't see how anyone, and all the others too, even tries to play a game without Antwerp on the map. Those AH games are just ridiculous. Do you think you could find anyone interested in playing a game with a 4 foot by 4½ foot map? If so, I could possibly arrange to make a copy of the gameboard for you. Right now we are in the process of playing the first game on it. The Fifth Panzer Army broke out the first day and is across the ~~Meuse~~ ^{on the second} Meus , surrounded Hodges at Spa, And is on its way to Antwerp.

What will really make this game interesting is the Allied response after the Germans get to Antwerp. Once the US 9th Army and 21st Army Group ^{are} turned around, they will be able to deliver quite a punch. My researches have, however, turned up a few things which make the ~~XXXX~~ German plan not quite so ridiculous. and 21st Army group too First, all of the 1st Army's and the 12th Army Group's supply depots are on the path to Antwerp. If the Germans would break out of the Ardennes, they would be closer to the American and British depots than the Allies would be. From Liege to Brussels to Antwerp, there are enough supplies for two army groups to last 12 days. (Each army in addition has enough for 6 days.) There were supply, transport, repair, etc. units totalling nearly 500,000 men in that area. Can you imagine the chaos and road jams if the Germans sliced into such a concentration of rear area swine - completely unready for anything? Also, even if the weather did clear up, most of the Allied airfields are in this area. It is not possible to just displace to anywhere one wishes because of the wet and cold winter weather. Only hard surfaced airfields were in operation at the time. The British, for example, have only 13 airfields on the continent at this time. Quite a small number, eh?

Mezurkiewicz cont'd

If the Germans would get possession of the Allied depots we would then have a situation rather similar to what happened at Stalingrad. The Russians did the same, and notice how long it took for the Germans to turn around and redirect their offensive operations. Nevertheless, I am sure the Allies could supply their surrounded forces with air supply. Five thousand bombers alone should do some good. Of course that will be the end of the strategic campaign against the German homeland. When you come down to it, Hitler had a pretty good plan. As far as I can see the only thing that sunk him was poor tactical intelligence. The Germans didn't realize the 2nd Infantry Division was reinforcing the 99th Infantry Division, ^{PLUS} ~~all~~ all of the Corp and Army artillery - right in the way of their main thrust.

On another plane of existence, have you heard about Dick Gregory's speech on the killings in Atlanta? He's finally gotten it all figured out. The White Capitalists are doing it, of course. They are killing those black boys and cutting off their penises. Its a well known fact that penises from people with sickle cell anti-bodies makes the best interferon. Hey, everyone knows that, right? So guess what happens to me? One of ^{my} patients is a black male who has developed a swollen testicle. We are sending him to the hospital for exploratory surgery, and of course the family proves to be some goofs that believe this nonsense. I, as an organ of the state, end up with death threats being made against me. As far as Gregory is concerned the same people that are doing the Atlanta killings also wiped out Jim Jones and his Guyana followers,

Then, on the other end of the spectrum, I recently went to a John Birchers meeting. I am sure you have seen the pictures of the characters in Italy who took over the Italian government? The Birchers still think the Illuminati are running the world, and this case in Italy is final proof as far as they are concerned.

Mazurkiewicz, conclusion

It's getting a little hard to dispute with one of them when you have to explain away pictures in Newsweek of Italian ministers in black Ku-Klux Klan outfits, and their talk of establishing a secret shadow government outside the democratic system. The Birchers lecturer came right out in the end and said that they feel Satan has purchased the souls of the Communist and other leaders who are responsible for the things we see going on in the world today. Unless they have changed their line to agree with the Moral Majority, and I heard this type of talk from people like Jeff Martin years ago, the Birchers are a lot more religiously oriented than I ever believed.

The enclosed photocopy comes from a journal of swearing that a former UWM professor publishes. I thought you might be amused to see that the black phrase, "Your Mama!" has cultural antecedents in Africa. A freind of mine, Larry Koralewski, also has told me he saw an anthropology program on public TV showing West African blacks bopping down the jungle trail, walking their cool jive walk barefooted in the bush. I always wondered about that whole routine, why no other lower class types exhibit such behavior anywhere else in the world. The explanation proves to be a cultural tradition imported to this continent from a specific culture, not something the poor or whatever tend to do everywhere.

3
P.S. 3rd day of the offensive was played last night. Germans just stormed Liege, have a recon unit heading for Antwerp, but the main forces are just establishing bridgeheads over the Meuse. Hodges is holding out surrounded at Spa, Simpson and 9th Army HQ kicked out of Maastricht. 9th Army is starting to turn around for an assault to the West. As the German player, I think they'll be able to smash through. The only thing I can do to help is send the 15th Army in .

had a dick inside your pussy": Nymphomaniac! — F; Adult. — This indicates that the woman is a nymphomaniac, one with "bedroom-eyes"; her eyes look as if she were enjoying sex even when not in the act.

wo kpte bptp "Your uncircumcised dick": You hick! — M; Y.O. — It is considered unclean and unmodern to remain uncircumcised.

wo na twę "Your mother's pussy": Your mama's cunt! — M,F;Y,O. — This insult is similar to another abuse (third entry below), except that this one includes the entire female genitalia. One's mother's vagina is as private as his/her own sexual organ; even more private. It is less offensive to insult someone referring to his/her sex organs than to those of the target's mother. Since the Bono are a matrilineal society, all blood ties (and hence inheritance and succession) pass through the mother; it is thus very crude and irritating to mention one's mother's genitals. Frequently one may hear the abuse shortened—in form and force—to *wo na* (sometimes pronounced *wo ni*), "Your mother!" meaning "Your mother's cunt!"

wo na twę ase "Under your mother's pussy." — F; Adult. — A common Bono abuse; it indicates that the abuser has seen his victim's mother's vagina from top to bottom.

wo na twęba "Your mother's baby-pussy (clitoris)" — M,F; Y,O. — The clitoris is regarded as a small vagina residing at the top of the main genitalia. This abuse has the same outrageous effect as the following one, as it implies that the abuser has seen the clitoris of the victim's mother.

wo na twęba mu "Inside your mother's baby-pussy." — M,F;Y,O. — The user imagines looking inside the victim's mother's vagina. This secret path should not be exposed to anybody (including the victim) except the father. Siblings in a fight occasionally use this insult inadvertently; in such a case the abused may respond by saying, *wo nso, wo firi hp* "You came from it too."

wo sisi sę wadi kpte wuię "Your waist appears as if you had slept with a dead (impotent) dick." — F; Adult. — This indicates that the victim is unfortunate, does not enjoy, or

cannot obtain, a strong and stiff penis, and is limited to sexual intercourse with impotent men.

wo to a akyea sę wo pę kpte "Your ass is bent as if you want a dick": Dick-lover! — F; Y,O. — This indicates that the target is fond of sex. Her arse is bent as if she were about to shake it for a penis. She loves penes and always walks as if she were having sex. This insult shows that the abuser is aware of how she walks and that her walking portrays her character.

wo twę a amoamoa sę aberewa twę "Your pussy has wrinkled up like an old woman's twat." — F; Y. — Although it is not bad for an older person to have a wrinkly body, it is unusual for a young woman to be wrinkled. Some young women use cosmetics to bleach their skin, resulting in skin wrinkling. This insult can be used to indicate one's dissatisfaction with cosmetics used to bleach the skin.

b. Animal

qbaafo! Wo ho nkasę nkasę sę adwene; qbaa kpnkpnani. Di wo fie asęm ansa na wadi obi deę "Nasty woman! Your body looks like a fish; treacherous woman; settle your family troubles before talking about those of others." — F; Adult. — Being nasty or treacherous is a social deviancy. To be skinny and bony like a fish indicates ugliness, since a big and fleshy body is preferred in Bono society. Finally, it is better for one to solve one's own problems before trying to solve those of others.

5. Abstract Provenance

qbaafo te sę wo; wo pę kpte nti, wo kyima a na wo de da wo kunu akyi "Nasty woman like you; because you love dick, when you menstruate you sleep with your husband." — F; Adult. — Traditionally, Bono women are not to sleep with men during menstruation. The victim breaks a social norm by having sex with her husband during her menses.

wo ta kankan sę osudanna "Your farts smell like those of the river tortoise": You fart-ass! — M,F; Y,O. — The *osudanna*, a species of river tortoise, can give off a terrible gas that stinks more than excrement. The Bono do not like people who fart in public. Kids make songs to ridicule those who fart in public.

Enjoyed bullshitting with you last night. I've been meaning to get off a reply to #94 for some time. Your "all-letters" issue was terrific for good reading -- about the best I've yet seen. Hence, this quick note. In fact, I deem it necessary to respond to the blonde coed started moaning with ecstasy as her tongue drew nearer to Mommy's vagina almost everything in #94. Aren't you glad I'm still subbing and writing for your letter column? Aren't your readers just thrilled?

So, allow me to start with page 1 and work through to the end.

Interesting that John Boardman writes letters which are not for quoting. Presumably, it is OK to print these, since he himself quotes people despite their requests for confidence. I don't know much about Peery or Brannon, but if JB denounces them it is a safe bet that they're OK.

Tro Sherwood the Walrus? I think not. Just because certain fakes come out of Los Alamos High School doesn't mean that Tro does them...

I agree with Kirchner's comments in his endgame statement for the most part. Vary your strategy; it makes the game more fun. In fact, who was that guy who printed that press release about how he was always going to stick with his ally for a two-way draw and thereby improve his ratings? Was it Cunningham? Whoever it was is dumb. I can name several different reasons why it might not work. 1) His ally could stab him. If I were allied to a ratings freak like him, I'd probably stab too. I hate it when people play just to improve their ratings, rather than for fun. 2) Another alliance could defeat their alliance. That's right; even a solid two-way alliance might crumble to one more powerful. 3) A two-way draw doesn't produce as many points as a win anyway, on any rating system I know of. 4) He assumes that he will be able to find a game-long ally to begin with. My conclusion: play the game just to improve your rating, and you're likely to be disappointed. Play for fun, and you can succeed whether or not you get wiped out. This is not to say that I never stick to a game-long alliance; I did in '79CF. But it's so much better when you can mix this type of play in with a little stabbing now and then, too.

J.C. Robinson is right about classical music. My three favorite pieces are the "On the Trail" movement of the Grand Canyon Suite, the first movement of Mozart's 40th symphony (superb melody, all it needs is to be listened to once or twice) and Beethoven's Bowel Movement. However, this is not to say that pop music is bad either; in fact the best pop melodies are better than the best classical ones, even if the overall music is better in the latter. Look at the Beatle's "Here, There, and Everywhere". The most stunningly beautiful tunes are in some of their songs, not to mention various other soft rock singers like John Denver, the Moody Blues, Simon and Garfunkel (I've never heard anybody say they dislike S&G), Gordon Lightfoot, and Jim Croce. On the other hand, HARD rock sucks. Absolutely.

Robby also hits the mark when he talks about the destruction of the Iraqi reaqui-tor. Hell, if somebody had a gun pointed at my head, I'd take the first opportunity to blow the gun (or the guy) to pieces. World opinion be damned! Israel doesn't have to sit there and get blown away because other countries are squeamish. I applaud their effort. Frankly, they'd be justified nuking Iraq entirely, but I hope they'll wait till I'm dead and gone.

The Ozog/Masters debate is interesting. Assuming that Eric is telling the truth in his latest letter, then they are both guilty of a couple of indiscretions. Eric, as he states himself, was way out of line interfering in '79IW, and even a GM who has lost interest has no business doing something like that. If Jack violated Mike Hartman's confidence, then he was not entirely innocent either -- but I suppose we should let Jack give his side of that story before criticizing.

Ozog, does have a point, however, when he says that the hobby ought to forgive and forget. The key here is that he has now come clean, and has faced the hobby honestly with his past. This is precisely the opposite of the way Buddy/Bernie has behaved. If Eric wants another chance, then he should have it. Nobody's perfect, but those who can admit their own errors deserve some consideration.

Stafford is wrong about Oaklyn -- thanks for setting him straight. I got a letter from a subber recently who asked what was Bernie's "crime" -- a GMing error? Just

Linseed, continued

goes to show you that there are new people coming into the hobby all the time, so it's necessary to occasionally print warnings.

Speaking of Buddy/Bernie, though; let me ask you this: is it the man himself that we hate, or is it his actions? The reason I ask is that one of the things we condemn "Bernie" for, we tolerate in some other people -- like Bob Arnett. Specifically, Arnett does the same sort of stuff that pisses some folks off about Bernie, like attributing phony quotes to others and slandering people. Hell, if Oaklyn made up quotes and attributed them to me like Arnett did on the cover of Volker a while back, the hobby would lash out in fury -- and rightfully so. But why not a peep from anybody when Arnett does these things? Is it just that he hasn't done it to enough people or for a long enough time -- or is there a double standard in the hobby? Those "rules for feuding" I sent you once were not meant in jest. Publishers who choose not to observe them generally lose the respect of the hobby -- I refer not only to Oaklyn, but also Gibson and Boardman. I happen to feel that it is a dangerous situation when Bob Arnett can make up stories about me and not be condemned for it. If he can do it, who is to say somebody else shouldn't?

You, John, said that the guidelines I set forth a while back were the way people are expected to behave, even in the heat of a feud. But what gets done when somebody decides he doesn't have to conform to these ethical standards? In the case of Tretick, the hobby shuns him. In the case of Boardman, people realize he's a nut and either ignore him or egg him on just for entertainment. In the case of Bob Arnett, nobody (except for me and Mark Berch) has uttered a peep. OK, I admit it. The situation disturbs me. The hobby can stay healthy (in terms of publishing ethics) only if we apply our standards to everyone, not just those who want to abide by them. See VD #45 for more details.

On Berch's letter, Gregory Dick of Potsdam, New York lets Oaklyn play too. He runs an obscure ditto zine (I forget the name already, but nobody has ever heard of it) and Oaklyn is in several games there.

Not printing sub lists is not a solution, though. Why should we let "Bernie" interfere with our freedom of the press? The situation with Don Ditter GGMing in Le Front is, in my opinion, extremely serious. You and Berch sounded critical, but you both skimmed over it too lightly. Now, I don't know Don, and for all I know he'll be a fine BNC. BUT, I do not feel that it is tolerable to allow a person who is GGMing for Le Fraud assume that high niche in the hobby. For one thing, it gives Oaklyn a great argument to newcomers: "If I'm such a bad boy in the hobby, why is the BNC running a game in my zine?" Again, I stress, nothing against Ditter personally. But he should be persuaded to sever his connection with LFD, and if that fails, we should find a new BNC. I know, those are harsh words. But I believe they are said with the good of the hobby at heart. What do you think, John? I'll be writing Don too; I don't want to start a war.

As for a secondary boycott, this might be a good idea, at least to some extent. Keep some things in mind, though. There are some innocent people playing there who just a) want to finish their games before scrapping Le Front entirely; or b) really don't care one way or the other about Bernie's frauds. People in group "a" can even be helpful to our side of the argument. I know of one guy playing there now who wants to finish up his games, and then plans to tell the hobby about all of Bernie's abuses. For obvious reasons, I won't name the guy -- not yet, anyhow. But you get my drift... On the other hand, John Boardman (anti-Tretick though he may be) helps Bernie's cause immensely, because he says such ludicrous things. I mean, when he says something as dumb as "Ozog is a pseudonym for Tretick" or "Buddy Tretick has left postal Diplomacy", he makes himself look stupid. In the interest of warning people about Tretick, then, I sincerely wish that JB would shut up and let rational people like you and me do the attacking.

I think Berch is right about gun control, but as usual he doesn't go far enough. Let me tell you what I think (as all your readers' ears perk up...): I do not feel

Linseed, more, more, more

that any civilian has any need to own a gun -- period. You tell me one good reason why there should be guns in this country at all, outside of policemen and the military. And don't give me the crap about some people like to collect them or shoot target practice for a hobby. By that logic, some people might like to shoot or collect H-bombs for a hobby; should we allow that as well? Hunting? So who needs to maim and kill innocent little animals "for sport"? Some sport. Maybe I like to shoot little children "for sport" too; if you can condone hunting I see no reason not to allow that. Nobody who's a civilian needs a gun. And if they were not available to civilians in general, then it would be a rare crook who could even get his hands on one. Oh, sure, there would be a black market for them. But it'd be a darn sight more inconvenient to get one that way than to just walk into a store and buy one. The solution to the gun problem, then, is simplicity itself. Ban guns.

On to Sick Martin's letter. Although I personally do not care for the "draws include all survivors" rule, I view this as the GM's prerogative. If enough people dislike it, then he won't be able to open any games. Speaking more generally, this is a good example of why potential players should carefully read the house rules before entering a game. I have always held that a GM has the right to run games any way he so desires, and that the players, as shoppers, should use the house rules as a guide to the game that best suits their taste. Did Dick have that house rule back when those who are complaining signed up? If so, then they really have no business griping about it now. So, despite the fact that I personally disagree with Dick's decision on that point, I feel he is right to stick to his guns, because that's the way he chooses to run his games. Players who don't like it should play somewhere else. Give 'em hell, Krud!

Always print Mark Lew's letters!

Three cheers for Allen Wells. Since Vaughan is a Massachusetts man and Wells a Vermontarian; I feel that my opinion on the matter should carry more weight. Being from New York, I'm a neutral party, but an informed neutral party. And this informed neutral party says that Vermont is better than Massachusetts. I've traveled both extensively, except that I never did get out to Cape God. From what I've seen, Vermont is a terrific state. There is delightful mountain scenery, virgin forests, beautiful lakes; hell, Vermont is pure paradise. Cross over the border into Mass, and what do you find? Unlike Vermont, there are people there, and it is always raining or snowing or both. Bald tires line the road. You can smell the Kennedys clear out to Pittsfield. MIT may be a great school, but then again every hell has an oasis or two.

Wells is also right about the Dept. of Motor Vehicles in New York State (which, I might add, is damn close to Massachusetts in its horrors). Just try going in some day to, say, pick up a form. You are treated like an intruder. The people there are notoriously rude; I always get the impression that the Big Boss is standing in the back somewhere observing and if he catches any of the employees being polite, he'll fire them on the spot. And, heck, that's just Albany. Go down to the Big Apple and people assume that you want to be mugged, unless you state otherwise. Nobody down there has any manners whatsoever. Frankly, I think we should sentence anybody who is caught owning a gun to live in NYC or Massachusetts.

Woody and I are looking forward to our rendezvous at Gencon.

On Manuel's letter: I didn't review The Chamber for the same reason I didn't review a number of other zines -- there was only room for ten. Although I don't think that TC is a top ten zine, I do think that it has potential. Hang in there, Dave. Some more aging and a bit more hobby experience, and TC could realize its potential. I don't know of too many folks who could publish at all at his age, and I hope he keeps 'em coming.

Steve Duke has decided to go with Boardman Numbers? Darn! In my opinion, this institution is one of the most overrated in the hobby. Yes, it is easier to compile statistics with them, and maybe a bit easier for players to keep track of their games. But that's all. I think their main purpose is to help rate players, and I dislike any rating systems -- I think they encourage people to play with the wrong goals. I mean, if nobody was rated, then the only reason to play would be for fun, right? And that's how I think it ought to be. Therefore, I hope somebody will take the courageous step

of saying to hell with the Numbers; I'm just running the games. Heck, maybe I'll even do that next time around...

I do not agree with Sacks' comment on Rod Walker, not at all. While he sits there fretting that somebody is usurping his power, Rod is going about the business of trying to get the Miller Numbers straightened out. This, after all, is what needs to be done, and Rod is the only one doing it. If Sacks doesn't like it, then let him do it better. Oops -- I just noticed -- the Sacks letter had nothing to do with the Miller Numbers, but rather the orphan games. Same difference, though. I do not like his technique of sitting with his thumb up his rear and then bitching when somebody else tries to get the job done.

Come to think of it, I honestly cannot figure out what connection Sacks has with Diplomacy. He seems rather more like a high-off-the-hog politician who just happens to be in the hobby for lack of anywhere else to be. Again, I don't really mean any personal offense, but Sacks seems to be every bit as involved with Dippy as is Ronald Reagan. What the heck, though, Ronnie's name comes up an awful lot in BB too.

On the last page, it is surprising that you did not label Bushwacker as established along with the others. B has over 100 issues out, and in my opinion, Fred Davis is to be lauded for his outstanding service to postal Dip. Envoy, too, is established.

Hm. I seem to be running out of people to attack; let me think a minute. Oh yeah, how about you? I generally like conservatives, especially when it comes to matters of foreign policy, but you go way the hell overboard. I'm referring now to your statement recently that some people should be in concentration camps, or words to that effect. Just who do you propose be so incarcerated? Agnostics? Homosexuals? Negroes?? Who?

The point is this: everybody has their own pet prejudices. I have mine; you have yours. (Look at your blanket condemnations of gays, for instance, when you obviously are pitifully uninformed on the subject). (That, after all, is the root of all prejudice: ignorance.) So what do you do? You condemn anybody whose lifestyle is foreign to you. No, I cannot identify with hippies who lay about all day trying to "find themselves", and I agree they're freaky and fragile. But that does not make them candidates for concentration camps, in my book, nor does it even make them bad people, necessarily. I just tell myself that other people have a right to be whatever they want to be (up to the point of infringing on others' rights, that is), just as I have the right to be what I want to be. You would be happy to label a guy a pervert and send him off to Massachusetts as punishment -- yet I'll bet that you cannot give an honest, decent definition of "pervert". Someone who doesn't get his erotic kicks the way you do? Someone who enjoys eating raw eggs? This, John, is the U.S.A. One of the bases on which this country was founded was that everyone is free to live the way he chooses. If we stray too far from that principle, then what separates us from Nazi Germany or the USSR? Just the name. As things stand now, this country is great because of what we stand for, not (as Boardman thinks) just because we are the US of A. I don't happen to think that putting people who are different in concentration camps is consistent with American ideals.

On the other hand, I agree with you on the three-strikes mandatory death penalty. The difference between the average three-time felon and the average three-time hippie or homo is that the former is hurting other people, and therefore must be put away for the good of society. Therefore, if the guy cannot be reformed, why the heck should my tax dollars go toward keeping him alive in prison? I think that convicted felons should be used instead of innocent animals in laboratory tests for disease-causing drugs, etc. Hell, why torture a mouse when there is a rapist available? Those are the type of people I could get into maiming and deforming. Guess I'll wrap this up now; I'm running out of wind. I wish you'd put out a few more all-letter issues!

((OK)) J.M.

I'm sending you a sub check for BB even though you don't want it. Actually I believe you keep saying no more subs to increase your sub list--reverse psychology--right?

Seriously, Kathy did plead w/ me to vote on Serbia. I
((No, I really would like to cut back, but I'm too cheap to refuse checks, and folks like you just keep right on sending them, so what am I supposed to do?)) *J.M.*

((Did you all think I was going to let Linsey's long ~~diff~~ letter go with an "OK"? It was just too much of a temptation to let pass, but anyway, here's the real response.

I am struck by the contrast between your last few paragraphs: "why torture a mouse when there's a rapist available?" vs. "You condemn anybody whose lifestyle is foreign to you" and "Someone who doesn't get his erotic kicks the way you do?" stuff. Sounds like one is addressed to Berch and the other to me. I agree, I too would prefer to spare the mouse, but why do you act so pious when you substitute "someone who gets his erotic kicks" differently for the mouse? We each use a slightly different standard perhaps in selecting those we would prefer to dispose of, but why am I so un-American for doing so when you instead are a defender of our ideals? Is it that you have a sharper "definition" to go by? If there was a snowball's chance in hell of putting the program into effect, that would be the time to sharpen the legalistic (yech!) definitions. For now, though, I simply would use "human garbage" as a definition of who should go to the camps/prisons/dogfood plants/whathaveyou. Define human garbage any way you want. I am more concerned with getting State action against these things established as policy, not in doing Leftist hairsplitting and wordgames over "definitions".

Civilians need guns for the same reason nations need atomic weapons. Sure, it's "simplicity itself" to imagine how nice it would be if no one could get a gun except a soldier in battle or a cop on the beat (at least as long as it is a distant idea only), just as it is nice to think of a world without mass weapons--until you give that something more than superficial thought. Without mass-destruction weapons, those countries with mass armies would be way ahead of those that lacked them. These big weapons are dangerous in the hands of a Quadaffi and such of course, just as a shotgun is dangerous in the hands of a 7 year old; but aside from watching your kids, a shotgun can be a good friend too. Four dudes carrying your TV out to their truck would hardly be impressed with you in their way; that shotgun could change that in a hurry. The Red Army could do as it wished all over Eurasia, but US nukes change that too. And as for only the police and army being armed,, which seems so simply true, remember that you speak of a society in which government power has been constrained as it developed in a heavily armed society. Would such a no-guns "logic" sound as good in, say, East Germany? Over there, your situation exists; damn few homes have weapons, hey? But that's different, because it's not here. Right....

On "Bernie", you ask is it he or his actions we hate? I would personally answer, both. I recall Arnett attacking you a few times, but like Sacks-Walker, etc., I didn't pay a whole lot of attention, and even if serious charges were bandied about, it seems to have been just that, just wild charges, for no players have complained of mistreatment aside from perhaps BLACK HOLE which has been hashed out already, and no one has picked up on nor launched any supporting commentary--perhaps because Bob's charges haven't appeared anywhere aside from his own winding-down zine. "Bernie" is a continuing and fraudulent problem to the hobby, whereas this other stuff is just name-calling. Or did I miss something?

Ditter is another matter. With me, it is mostly a matter of war-weariness. Yes, if it were put to a vote, and Don wanted to stick with LE FRAUD, I'd vote for a different BNC, but until the vote comes along, I'd rather not tangle with a good person who has made a bad decision. I've personally contacted him in regard to this, and stated my views; he's done the same, and that's his choice. I think he's wrong to stay there, and have and will say so, but that's about it. In my old age, I'm leaning more to Konrad Baumeister's way of thinking, "let 'em get burned and learn, if they ignore all the warnings out there" (paraphrasing).

Crud can and does run DON'T SHOOT ME, I'M JUST THE DIPLOMACY PLAYER as he sees fit. My bitch is that he makes the GCMs and their subz follow suit, which is why I'm not in the upcoming MASS MURDERS of Osuch. I not only think DIAS is intrinsically a stupid policy, but so is tying your GCM's hands. But I'm out of space, so he gets off lightly.)) *J.M.*

(excerpts)

To John Robinson, glad to see you trashed your "golden oldies". Bravo. I mean, nostalgia has its place, but you were carrying it a bit too far, so just replace your scrap vinyl with "Mama Hated Diesels" by Commander Cody & his Lost Planet Airmen, and for that classical touch, "Leftoverture" by Kansas, or perhaps "A New World's Record" by the Electric Light Orchestra, or Spirit's "Twelve Dreams of Dr. Sardonicus" if you're into theme music. Classics of the future, each and every one. True, you won't hear them in the dentist's office, but maybe that's why so many people associate Mozart with pain.

I talked with Don Ditter about his decision to guest GM for Oaklyn, and though it may not be a popular one, I respect him for it. Don is one of the best GMs I've played for, and his reputation is certainly beyond reproach. Can he be accused of "Guilt by association"? Not in my eyes.

On the other hand, Eric Ozog has placed himself in a world of shit. I know Eric pretty well, but feel he will be lucky to fill any new games he might open. Well, Eric is young and impressionable, perhaps the hobby will realize this and forgive him. Hell, in ten years we'll likely have all moved on anyway. Hang in there, Eric.

I wrote Crud asking him if I could revoke his DIAS policy for my new game, tentatively titled MASS MURDERS. Too bad I didn't see his letter in BB #94; I wouldn't have bothered. So Dick encourages the free drug trade, eh? Maybe I should open that can of Hawaiian "cocoanut flakes" he sent recently.

Is Mark Lew trying to replace Brad Wilson as the hobby, er, uh, no never mind. I suppose he does speak his mind. Hey Mark, want to join a dip game? I've got just the game for you, you're my kinda guy.

Why do Manuel and Duke want you to submit something for their zines? Hell, if you ever let loose you'd gross out all their subbers and they'd have to fold.

Shit, the Canadian postal strike is a reality. Now my game in EE will be delayed thanks to Randolph Smyth. Only kidding, Randy old man. He won't get this anyway tho.

Kathy objects to you publishing bits of personal conversations? That's curious, I talked with her recently and then had Linsey repeat every word of our conversation in a letter. She must have one of those phone recorders. ANYway, it's not hard to pick out her conversation, but I wish you'd print it in its entirety. For instance, in your last few issues you've only printed one line, the most recent being... Give us more!

Enough short notes for now. I recently subbed to BF. I was going to ask if Jack had openings, but I've heard he has a computer as a perpetual standby. Is that true? What if you get 7 standbys in one game? Hmm, somehow I can't see it. It can't be true.

What are you doing for #100? The Best of BB? Whatever, it should be good.

((Maybe I'll just run two long sheets with features on one side of each and leave it at that just to break tradition. Sigwalt gets 60¢ for it, why can't I?

I think the computer story is right, but I'm not sure anymore. It can't be much different than Bumpas' phantom player to fill in for NMRs. I'd like to see 7 computer standbys play. Would make a nice demo game, the blind playing the blind as it were.

I had a(nother) slow day here last week and DID write an article. However, I see my VD sub is getting low, so I sent it to Linsey. It might get me 3 free issues. Like I told him, I may be a tad of a soft touch, but I'm much more a cheapskate, so off to VD it went. I'll rerun it here anyway, afterwards.

The latest issue of DRAWS INCLUDE ALL SUBBERS said he might relent for MASS MURDERS. If so, put me in. Fluff too.

Don does have a good reputation, which is all the more reason for disassociating himself from LE FRAUD. To those who know him, there is no guilt by association, but there should be some questioning of his judgement, hmm? If you heard of a minister that preached at the local whorehouse, wouldn't you wonder about him?

Do all those records really exist, or did you just make all that shit up? "Lost Planet Airmen"? Give me dentist office music anytime, sight unseen. Or is it, sound unheard?)

**The world's
best
DIPLOMACY
SPECIAL**

Introducing

DEBAUCHERY

Written by

SPECIAL DELIVERY

HOT STUFF

**WILD MAN OF
THE WORLD**

man at the bottom of

SHAME & SCANDAL

THE VOICE OF DOOM

BRUCE LINSEY

Admits:

Farting

is one of my
favorite spectator sports.

BETRAYED BY

Down-Home Talkin'

Black

Scoundrel.

any fantasie, but I don't have
black men."

GARY

Don't be fooled by

COUGHLAN

ball!

a TENNESSEE

What have I got against

HE WANTED ME TO DO KINKY TRICKS

ON MY FIRST BLIND DATE

EXCLUSIVE:

A lonely single girl says yes to...
**RAPED AND
ABANDONED**

SKIN-TO-TOUCH MICHALSKI

**WAS ON
DRUGS**

"I tend to gravitate toward long-lasting relationships—but there have been a few exceptions."

John

"Hurry, Mark...!
Hurry...!" she pleaded.
"Make it good for me!"

"You mean to tell me that
you can't make love to **me**"

she managed in a weak voice.

Son of a Gun

For your information

**"Being active can drain
a man's body**

says: Mark Berch:

Heaving himself to his feet.

anxiety blocks the normal flow of sexual energy.

SEX

Who needs it?

DIGEST

IS

ENOUGH

Independent laboratory tests prove

Kathy

DOES IT FOR MONEY.

Guilty Guilty Guilty Guilty Guilty

**It's Tough Being an
Unwed Mom at 45**

**I'm an A-cup
woman
and I'm A-OK.™**

Give Her What
She Really Wants

Dick Martin

**THROBS
PULSATES
THRUSTS
PROBES**

**&
GETS
HOT
TOO!**

**HE PLEASES ME LIKE
NO MAN CAN**

Have you lied, cheated,
broken a promise, or
hurt somebody? Are
you hiding a secret

WELLS

Of course,

to fuck and to be fucked.

the only thing worth living for

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Left Black Frog

ORAL LOVE and

JACK