ISSUE 97 of

The BRUTUS BULLETIN

ET TU, BRUTE

Early August 1981

MY WEEKLY READER, usually known as The BRUTUS BULLETIN, is a newsletter of postal DIPLOMACY brought to you way too often by John Michalski ("mih-HOLL-skee"), Rt 20, Box 526-Q, Moore, OK 73165. No openings. DIPLOMACY is a game invented by Alan Calhamer and copyrighted by the Avalon Hill Game Company, Baltimore, MD 21214.

THIS ISSUE is about a week earlier than I'd hoped it would be, but a potload of letters came in, so the humor items (2) I've scrounged up have to be carried over and another issue sent. At least I didn't have to cut out all the games this time; there's one inside. The latest PERILS OF PAULINA arrived this evening, but no room for it, so it becomes the third page carried over for 98. Also carried over is a half-page or so of gun notes by Dave Pilant as a followup to his gun review of a dozen issues back. Included are a number of April interesting letters and notices, particularly an exchange between Sacks and Daly and all that orphans stuff. Lots from our usual columnists, Berch and Lew, and the rest of the hobby chipping in. Don't feel you need to send a long or typed letter; often even just a line or two is fine. It gives us your views, it perhaps provokes reaction, and it gives your editor the freedom to tuck it into the lineup wherever needed. Don't be intim - idated by some of these long ones; your two lines are at least as welcome!

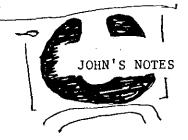
AROUND THE HOBBY: Bill Hart had a son in June; Ron Brown of California managed to luck into a win in the Dip tourney at Origins in San Mateo, according to BLACK FROG #43; Jack also introduced in that issue a modified Calhamer point system that was notable to me for the simple reason that it gave me a tie for 8th place with only 2 2/3 CPs, while I barely make the top-20 cut in Dragonsteeth system, and my almost-3 points are Haughable vs. Ron Kelley's 40+ in a straight count. But I'll take what I can get, for if you've been in a game with me in the last two years, you know that a letter from me is a rarity, and one that doesn't confuse the situation with some other game is even less common. My games seem more and more to be nutty ones, ones with Kathy Byrne and Dick Martin every time I turn around. The one game I joined especially to just play wild, I wind up with France to their A&R. Oh, well.

THE WEDDING is the big thing now; I actually caught some of it this morning, since my daughter got up for it. Surprisingly enough, it did seem interesting. I liked her dad, who seemed to be drunk as a skunk. They said it was a heart attack, altho what he'd be doing out there after a heart attack, I don't know. I'd rather think he was soused. Adds a little something to the occasion. On the radio they had an editorial that attacked it all, the expense vs. Britain's problems, etc., but I think that is idiotic. If they want to pay for it, hell, let 'em. They get to see a nice parade, have a holiday, and that is putting money to better use than giving it as a handout to some welfare bum that drifted in from Pakistan or Jamaica. Fuck them. Better to splurge it on pageantry and fireworks.

The ACLU Sez: The big high that sat in the center of the country brought some cooler weather 200 miles further south than they first predicted, giving us almost two days of relief. The highs barely touched into the 90s today, and missed altogether yesterday. We got some rain, about 2 inches, but all in an hour or three, so it all ran off with half an inch of topsoil with it. Parts of the city here got 5", and in a city like this whose main storm sewers consist of the streets themselves, that can cause some troubles, esp. when the flooded intersections are combined with the asshole cowboys who figure their ol pickup ("Nellybelle"?) ain't gonna stop for no darn city puddle. When they flood out, the street is blocked even after the water goes down... The previous week was a more typical Oklahoma summer, 103 to 109 every day. Maybe when the kids are big, I'll go back

to the heart of the country, Ill-Ind-Ohio. Even Missouri would be nice; wet, green; still

kind of hickey though.



Well, the tax cut passed, so we're a little less bad off than we would have been. I hope the other side isn't too successful later this year when they start in crying about where-is-the-strong-economy now that they passed his watered-down program? If it had been the 30%, or even just 10-10-5% instead of 5-10-10, there might have been some close-term effect; with only 5% this time, it will be 1½ years for it to help much, and the indexing, which is more important to me and to the country for the long term, doesn't come on until 1985. What bracket will we be in then, when you'll pay a dollar to send two letters and a card? I'd have preferred to fire all the striking posties and start over. It would set a nice tone, but then, when does government ever act to correct a wrong instead of commit one anymore? Maybe they're afraid that the Berch or Walker types will accuse them of "hypocrasy" for "changing their position"?

THREE GOOD PUBLISHERS have their subs expire with this issue: Larzelere (APPALLING GREED); Daly (THE DOGS OF WAR); and Bates (PLAGUE TIMES). If you guys would prefer to let it go, that's fine with me. With the Canadian posties on strike, my run is down to 60, and I'd not complain to be able to keep it there. If you insist, tho, stamps or sub credit to your own zines are also acceptable. Let me know.

ROD WALKER sent in some exotic titles in assorted Eastern scripts, but now I can't find that sheet. I don't want to use the Persian, altho they are pretty exotic, but the Cypriot would be OK. I'll use them as soon as I turn up that list. The Nepalese title would have to be vertical instead of horizontal; THAT would make for quite a cover, hey? 'Brutus Bulletin' in Nepalese...hmm.

ANDY LISCHETT wrote in his latest CHEESECAKE that he'd had some criticism for putting a game on the cover; "no one else does". Well, I instantly tried to find a game to run on MY cover, but the hoped for PERILS OF OSUCH arrived as a full page (actually, some press runs up the right margin from the page bottom) when I was hoping for a third-page or quarter-page game report to put on. I guess I'll have to let it go until another day. Brux, how about your one game on the cover of the next VD?

Another idea some NY area pubbers might want to try out is something that Greg Costikyan, ex-MNC tried once. Cut some of your postage costs for zine mailing by going to the UN building and mailing the damn things from there with UN postage. They can't be raising their rates as fast as we are—the UN doesn't move that fast. Might save you 5c per. And the stamps we got would be interesting. Some of the quaintest stamps I ever saw when I worked at the PO here were some from Libya. Not the usual birds and flowers and bald old men; a revolutionary (and lunatic) regime like Libya's has anti-aircraft missles as their feature, and soldiers straight off one of Palter's "SS recruiting posters". (Of course they're not blond Aryans; just the expression is the same). Nice change of pace. I wonder what the UN puts on its stamps? The way that organization is drifting, its stamps may rival Libya's yet...

HOWARD COSSEL will soon be back on football, good news for all but some football fans. If you hear him on the radio, you know what a fool he makes of himself. It's not like Barbara Walters, just the voice alone (altho that can be bad enough); rather, it is that he is always wrong. The good thing is, the local station that has him also has a local punk reporting on sports who sounds like he's reporting from some gutter in the Bronx, and he makes Cosell sound distinguished by comparison. The Hall of Fame game is coming up this Sunday (yesterday by the time you get this), and that will put baseball season news on its way out. The game itself is pointless, but it is a straw in the wind. Exhibition games in a few weeks will revive sports interest after the doldrums from the last Pro-Bowl, unless the footballers follow baseball's example and strike too. I wish the accountants had a union and a strike-fund; all I'd need is access to a typer like this and to the Xerox machine. I'll bet the baseball strike ends soon, when the owner's strike insurance runs out.

GARY COUGHLAN followed Dave Ditter's lead and sent \$20 for a rusub, good to <u>BB#135!</u> I appreciate these gestures—and the money, which is what I live on until payday, and sometimes even then—but being liable for that many more issues is embarrassing. Hell, it will take me until next summer to get to 135... Anyhow, thanks for paying all but a dollar of getting #96 mailed for me, Gary.

I'M GONNA TELL YOU WHAT I'M GONNA DO
I'M GONNA GUEST GM FOR YOU
WELL, KATHY LOOKS LIKE SHE'S HERE TO STAY
CUZ BYRNE IS BYRNE AND NOT FADE AWAY
-with apologies to Mick Jagger

SUMMER 1903: Germany retreats A Belgium to Ruhr (German A Belgium was reported to be annihilated, too bad for those who didn't double check)

FALL 1903:

AUSTRIA (Michalski): A Tyo-MUN; A TRI-Ven; F ALB-Adr; A Vie-BUD

ENGLAND (Stebbins): F Den-BAL; F HEL S RUSSIAN F Kie; F LON-Eng; A WAL H(and waves the British flag)

FRANCE (Martin): F ENG-Nth; F WES-Tun; A BUR-Mun; A BEL-Ruh; A PIC-Bel GERMANY (Sherwood): F HOL-Kie; A RUH S F Hol-Kie; A Mun-Ber/d/r to Boh, Otb

ITALY (Mainardi): A VEN H(on the Lido beach); A ROM S A Ven; F ADR-Alb; F TUN H(on the Tunis Metropolitan beach)

RUSSIA (Byrne): F Nth-EDI; F NWY-Nth; A Swe-DEN; F KIE S A Swe-Den;
A BER S F Kie; A SIL S AUSTRIAN A Tyo-Mun; A Gal-RUM; F Rum-BLA

TURKEY (Arnawoodian): A Smy-NAP; F AEG & F ION C A Smy-Nap; A Bul-SER; A GRE S A Bul-Ser

Somehow I get the feeling of deja vu here. Hmmm, I can't put my finger on it right now, but I'm sure it'll come to me sooner or later. As to the game, it looks to me like a hardfought contest so far, gee, I can't for the life of me pick a prospective winner. URRERRP! Excuse me, I got a little sick there. OK. OK I'll shut up.

Gregg Stebbins has resigned as England, he says he has joined the army. Not to worry though, because RODNEY JONES, 8001 ROOSEVELT HWY, APT 121, BATON ROUGE, LA 70809 (504-927-7982) is waiting in the wings to assume the English position. Good luck, Rod, I'm afraid you'll need it.

AUTUMN/WINTER 1903 and SPRING 1904 are due to Scott Hanson, 701 15th Ave SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414 on or before Saturday, August 1, 1981.

Excuse the corny poem above, but waddya want on such short notice? By the way, I'm Bob Osuch. 1903 in revue and press follows.

1903	# 4 2 6	NET 0 -2 +1	England France	CENTERS Bud. Ser, Vie, Tri, MUN Lon, Lvp, Edi, Den Home, Spa, Por, BEL
	1	-1or-2	Germany	Kie, Min, Hol, Bei
	3	-1	Italy	Ven, Rom, Nap, Tun
	11	· +3	Russia	Home, Rum, Swe, Ber, Nwy, KIE, DEN, EDI
	34	+2	Turkey	Home, Bul, Gre, SER, NAP

PRESS

ITALY-EUROPE: No one vs. Russia= Russian victory. Wake up idiots, or else Kathy's going to run away with this game! That means you, Woody and Tootsie. I'm sure Kathy appreciates you giving her Edinburgh, Greggy.

BOARD-BUD: Tell us about the whip and cucumber!
TUNIS-CHICAGO: Why don't you usurp your position and rename this game
this one season you control it? Get Scott, call it "Not Fade Away".
CHICAGO: I thought of that, but I'm much too nice a guy to harass Scott.
?: Dear Keith.

I hope you read this letter before you throw it away. You may be so mad at me, I wouldn't blame you. All I want to do is tell you the reason I did what I did. I hope you will understand. Everybody has his own way of playing Diplomacy, you have yours, and I have mine. You tried to get Kathy off your back and she said OK and then she stabbed you. You then turned to me with the same plea and I stabbed you harder than she did. I told Kathy that I was sorry that I had to con you so badly. but my alliance with her was firmly committed and I hoped you understood. When you come into a game as a standby you have to realize the pitfalls. Your only hope now probably will lay with Dick, but I doubt seriously if he will help you any more than Kathy or I did. Phil Cooper messed Germany's diplomacy up so badly that everyone just took it out on you. What can I say except that I had to keep my commitment to Kathy. Believe it or not, Germany is the only country I haven't a commitment to. I pleaged my support to you last letter, but a last minute plea by Kathy not to go over to your side finally convinced me that it would be more rotten for me to break off with her than to go with you. I'm sorry. I guess I'm a filthy, no-good backstabber. Well, that's part of the game. We'll be in other games together, I'm sure, and I'm sure you will remember the two of us, Kathy and me, and might act accordingly. On the other hand, you know that Kathy and I can keep our alliances firm once they are fully committed to one another. In view of this, it might be wise to ally with one of us first. Once committed, you can see that we stick to our original commitments.

Another thing, Keith, I hope you have no hard feelings. I know that what I say might not mean too much to you right now, but being a Diplomacy player, I'm sure you can appreciate a good stab when it occurs. And it was a good stab, wasn't it? Part of the fun of Diplomacy is appreciating a good stab when it occurs. Phil Cooper wrote both Kathy and me a nastie letter, and neither of us had attacked him, believe me. I had refused to attack Dick or Kathy and Phil told me I was Dick's flunky. Anyway, what I'm trying to say is that I hope you will not be like Phil and resign the game. Phil was a sore loser and he hadn't even been attacked. Of course you were and have every right to be teed off, but the markings of maturity are measured in the good humor and good sportsmanlike conduct that can laugh off defeat. In short, I have no hard feelings against you. I look forward to playing with you again under different circumstances. I enjoyed having diplomacy with you even though you, unfortunately, and quite frankly speaking, fell for my pack of lies. I did con you but it was not personal. If it is any consolation, I want you to know that I conned Dick too. I had wanted Dick to convoy my A Lon-NAf so that I could help the Italian against the Turk, since he knew that after the Turk was done with the Italian, he would be next. I really expected him to convoy me. In return. I promised to support his A Bur-Bel and I didn't. My move to Holland was to cut your support of Kiel, nothing else. If Dick had convoyed me you would still be in Belgium because I didn't support him from the North Sea like I said I would. You might use this bit of info to try to get Dick to side with you, but I think he wanted you dead as much as anyone else.

Again, Keith, I'm sorry I had to do what I did, but I wanted to keep my commitment to Kathy. I hope you'll take it to heart that we can still be friends in any future games that we might play in. I'm not asking for any forgiveness on your part because deep down, I kind of think that (cont)

FADE AWAY....DEAR KEITH

it was a little fun stabbing. But, if you had been in the game from the start, things might have been different. When Phil failed to move to Denmark on the opening turn and not bounce Russia like I had wanted him to do, he set the stage for my attack upon him. This is no con, I have copies of Phil's nastie letters. I'll enclose one to show how he felt about me and my relationship on being his ally. I know you're not to blame for his action, but everybody already had their commitments when you came in. I have no hard feelings against you and I really hope we can meet in another game or two. Do you think we might have a chance for me to make it up to you? I hope you'll give me the chance, I'm not totally without reason, you know.

I like your letterhead. It's unique. Hang in there, Keith. Remember it's only a game and the world isn't coming to an end just because someone stabbed you. Kathy told me that you were not mad at her. I hope you're not mad at me either. Can we still be friends if not allies.

live long and prosper,

Gregg

?: Dear Gregg.

No. I'm not mad, just frustrated. Yes, coming in as a standby is a risk, since alliances have already been drawn up. But what I do expect is a reasonable/good/decent player who realizes when somebody is about to stab him. (Do you realize someone actually wrote me and said "Woe is me. I credited England with a brain"?) Yes, I can appreciate a good stab; that's why I and the whole board are envious of Kathy as she strings you right along. You're so proud you stabbed me, BUT what did you really do? Gave Russia the rest of Germany and the North Sea. Great stab, Gregg. I suppose giving her the North Sea is another one of your commitments to Kathy? And London, Liverpool and Edinburgh too? I hope we get in another game together too, so I can do just what Kathy is doing: threaten to attack you unless you give me everything. Not only are you without reason, you're without brains.

Love, Keith

P.S. Eat shit.

PAR-LON: Wow, I guess this means you're at war with Russia. So what? You trying to drown her with your SCs or something?

PARIS: Thanks to the excessive German generosity, France was able to skip this year's tithe to the GM. Thanks. Keith!

MOS-LON: I tried, but leaving your ass open to me is like dangling a free piece of ass in front of Toots!

MOS-GM: Sorry to say I haven't changed... I still can't resist temptation. GM-MOS: For your penance, five Our Fathers, five Hail Marys and no sex for a whole day.

TUR-AUS: According to Martin, I'm Byrne's mindless drone, so blame her for my move to Serbia.

LON-PAR: Sorry, Dick, but I was firmly committed. You understand. MINDLESS DRONE-MINDLESS ASSHOLE: Next time you start namecalling, I want to hear directly from you, unless, of course, you have the backbone of an amoeba. If Russia wins you can blame yourself. Those bold and daring moves of yours have allowed Byrne to take the German centers and now she's ready for England! If you don't care for this Eastern alliance I suggest you write more often. Kathy pleads with me twice a week to keep moving west, whereas your letters can be counted on one hand.

ROME-PARIS: I'm giving you my centers because I din't want Austria or Turkey to get them, and you're the next biggest asshole in the game. TRIESTE: Just as I'm about to give Italy his just desserts, what should happen but a Woody stab? I am a good target, I guess, but do you know

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FADE AWAY....LOVE THY NEIGHBOR
how disgusting it is to fight back and hold on, only to lose your "gains"
to a "pal" behind you?
ROM-PAR: Since you refused my offer of "help". I've decided to help
myself and in the meantime to throw a few centers to the Wood man.
LON-MOS: Don't you wish you had more allies like me? I mean, where
else can you get back at someone without even having to attack them?
Now I ask you plainly, have you EVER had a better ally? Remember me in
my your will.
LON-GER: You have to admit, Keith, that I was pretty convincing, wasn't
I? Can you appreciate a good stab? The mark of maturity is being able to
laugh off defeat. But, to be truthful, Keith, deep down inside I kind
of got a thrill in stabbing you. Not many players will admit that, but it
was kind of fun. Sorry Keith, guess I'm a filthy, no good back stabber,
huh? Heh, heh.
LON-BUD: I never got the word. Too bad too, cause it might have worked.
You should have acted sooner. Do you blame me?
LON-CON: You'll never take Italy by yourself.
LON-ROM: You'll never take Austria by yourself.
LON-EVERYBODY: What fun. Ha. I love it.
CHICAGO: What a masochist. No wonder he joined the army.
GERMANY: Great game. I've only been in this game two years (and it's
likely I won't be in much longer) and already I've played under three
GMs. This game will soon have more GMs than players. I guess this makes
Osuch a guest guest GM.
GERMANY-PAULINA: I'm sorry if two letters is too much press, but I
spent $3 for this standby position to live for two years, and I want
my money's worth. Send xeroxing bill to Scott Hanson.
PAULINA-GERMANY: That's OK, no problem, just don't ever enter a game
that I'm signed up for or I'll clean your clock.
ROCKVILLE: By the way, the German A Belgium can retreat to Ruhr. Now
we get the real GM. Hello Bob.
CRUD-TRO: I don't know about the press, but the moves make me sick.
CHICAGO-CRUD: I'm afraid the worst is yet to come. I hope it won't be
a terminal illness.
ROM-CON: And you thought she was your girlfriend! Boy, did we set you up!
MOS-BUD: You will lose Serbia this turn, and I can't help you THIS turn,
but the fleet in the Black Sea and army in Rumania should be of help
next turn. If you believed me, you should stay even, if you believed
Woody, remove one. How could you ever doubt me?!
MOS-CON: Thank you for this pad, however, a guy in Irksome just offered
Phil 3 lbs. of chocolate to lay off him... I'll stick with Toots and
his loving!
LUSCIOUS-TOOTS: I really am your ally, can you say the same for Woody?
LUSCIOUS-DICKY POO: I love your allies. I hope you play just like them.
BLOODSUCKER-WOODY: So what if you crossgame, so stab me in four games!
Look at Toots, he never blackmails me and I never let him down. Threat-
ening will get you zippo from me!
MOS-MUN: Your only mistake was trusting me and Martin. Better luck
next time!
CRUD-IRK: So it was real! (By the way, orange pen xeroxes beautifully.)
CASSANDRA-SCOTTY: (You may recognize the dateline...) "Kathy didn't
stab you in Maniacal", huh? What a laugh!
RUSSIA: Ha! What a game! Idiots to the left of me! Idiots to the right
of me! Through the valley of fools charge the Russian 2000 (units)....
CHICAGO: That's it. Enjoy yourself, people, but please, lemme outta
here, I can't stand the pain! Take it away, Scotty. Wait, there's more!
GER-FRA: This better work! Don't trust England, he probably still thinks
Kathy's his friend.
TRO-GM IN EXILE: I see you're continuing on the path you blazed in <u>Irk</u>-
some of having an error every season. If a friendly France didn't point it
out, I would never have noticed I could retreat to Ruhr.
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Endgame Statement, 1980D

Kerry Blant, England, drew F17

An endgame statement should be short, concise, and limited to the game in question. However, there arose in this game major questions of philosophy. These questions have been debated at length many times. The very fact the debates go on would lend credence to the contention there are no right or wrong answers. One has to decide what is right for himself.

What were these points?

1. Factors that make for a successful diplomacy player.

2. What is a standby's position?

3. "Win only" vs. other methods of play.

Each point is separate unto itself, yet each point is so entwined as to make each

dependent on the other.

One of the most overlooked abilities that make up successful players is that abstract art called intuition. I have seen this ability become very important. In two years of Diplomacy, I've gained some. I suspect the players who've played for many years can read between the lines almost by reflex. Shortly into the game they could predict with a high degree of accuracy who will NMR, stick to agreements and for how long, make good tactitians, be a good diplomat and the myriad of other factors that are learned about in time, yet seem to know much sooner because of their intuitive know-how developed through experience.

How does this apply to 80D? If the three 'minor powers' were able to "take a reading" they would have realized Mark and I were firm in our commitment to a two-way draw. This conclusion could only be drawn from that intuitive "feel for the game".

The boredom Kirchner felt came not because of my "grind" toward the draw, but because he and the others never "saw the light". An early vote for the draw or help in achieving it would have saved Kirchner his boredom. I, however, did not experience this boredom. Why? Tactically the endgame was a bore. But the discussion, in the press and Kirchner's letters regarding "win only" vs. the "draw", I found very interesting. Talk about emotions getting fired up. Interesting because it addressed a fundamental question often discussed in the hobby.

Which method of play is the best? Is it the "win only" player? I offer my opinions not as an argument as to their righteousness, but to give the reader insight into one player's thought process. With that in mind, I believe the best end for an individual is usually a 18 center win, but there are times when a draw is best. If a player cannot achieve a win or participate in a draw, then survival is an important accomplishment.

The majority of the hobby I feel will agree with me, a few won't. I address myself to those few.

A win is best, but "win only" the only worthwhile alternative? If that was the designer's sole intention, then the board and/or the rules are deficient. The ability to draw numerous stalemate lines tends to knock a hole in the "win only" philosophy.

A draw or simply survival are viable alternatives and very worthwhile. Reach into the "real world". Certainly the country with military forces in the field will be able to strike a better bargain. The more forces, the better the bargain; the better for that country's citizens.

The standby player. I won't go into my philosophy regarding standbys. I'll save it for an article. I'll just say, in this game, I was handed a powerful country with few decisions. Who would I help to a win or draw? An easy decision to make, because Germany wrote and Italy didn't. How could the second-most powerful country be so stupid as to not write a new player who controls the most powerful is beyond me. The GM's notes indicated brilliant tactics on the part of the Italian; they had to be, because his diplomacy was brilliantly poor. Good tactics will never substitute for poor diplomacy.

I hate standby positions, I take them as a favor. My main objective is to get it over with as sensibly as possible. Mark had the good sense to write and ask for a 2-

way draw. I agreed.

If Grabar's actions were based solely on his alleged "win only" philosophy (I'm not

fully convinced of this. I feel much of it came about to save face after major diplomatic blunders) then his play both tactically and diplomatically were severely deficient.

Diplomatically, he never wrote. His press incited me and pushed me even more firmly toward a draw. Tactically his desperate F16 move, that depended on a complex situation where four factors had to click together was stupid. Not one of the four factors succeeded, proving my point as to it's stupidity.

My advice to Dave would be this: YOu should have made your move much sooner or a little later. If you had aided one of the powers sooner, you may have unbalanced the game enough to make a stab too tempting to resist. I say 'may have'; don't forget what I said earlier about intuition. It certainly would have made more sense and had a better chance. Or; if you had waited a little longer, when only one or two factors needed to click instead of four, would also have made more sense.

To the reader I thank you for your time. This is not meant to be a definitive statement as almost every point could be expounded into a major article. As I proofread I realize my journalistic abilities are very limited because I still haven't gotten across exactly what I wanted to say. Thank you.

AN OPEN LETTER TO ERIC KIRCHNER by Kerry Blant ((Eric played Russia to Kerry's England))

The name of the game is Diplomacy. Diplomacy simply defined is "negotiations between nations". NOt "wheeling and dealing, lying, cheating, etc., etc."

I feel you have missed the boat completely.

First, a two-way alliance is not a "piece of cake", assurance of success. But even if it were, what makes Diplomacy interesting is the fact your ally or you COULD stab anytime. The idea of the game is choosing the RIGHT time. I find novices tend to stab too soon.

You also forgot basic arithmetic. 16 & 17 comes before 18. You know about that 1,2,3 business, right? If I were going to stab for a win, wouldn't it be easier to stab for a 2 centers or one center win than to stab too soon and lose it all?

No Eric, Diplomacy is not as you define it. It is negotiations to achieve a goal. Sometimes deceit and backstabbing are needed to achieve that goal, but should never be used just for the sake of using them.

You're right, tactics can be a bore, but negotiations coupled with a judicious use of the qualities you spoke of achieve goals. Be it win, draw, or survival.

As to how you and Grabar could have accomplished YOUR goals, I ask you to read my endgame statement.

My goal in 80D was a two-way draw. It was not to make things "interesting" for a two-center power.

THE ORPHAN GAMES PROJECT Robert E Sacks, Chairman 4861 Broadway 5-V New York NY 10034

7 July 1981

With the retirement of Raymond Heuer as Director of Orphan Games I entered into discussions with John Daly, the Director of the USOS, on his assuming the office of Director of Orphan Games. I am pleased to announce that John Daly and Kathy Byrne have agreed to assume and share the office of Director of Orphan Games and the USOS, Associate Miller Number Custodian for Orphans and Head of the Variant Orphan Rescue Service. I will continue to serve as Chairman and Registrar, and I will not be involved in the placement of orphans unless requested by one of the co-Directors.

The co-Directors may be reached by writing: John Daly, Rt 2 Box 136-M5, Rockwell NC 28138 Kathy Byrne, 160-02 43rd Ave, Flushing NY 11358 I see that is once again time for a new sub check to keep <u>Brutus Bulletin</u> coming my way. I think I told you once before that even if you severely raised your prices that I doubted you would see a fall in your circulation. <u>BB</u> is simply a unique zine which covers a wider variety of subjects, at length, over a shorter publishing time than any other zine. Besides I want to be around when you hit #100, say late September!

On to other things. I think you once said that you did not like FTF but preferred PBM. So far I have only played PBM with others who are interested in Diplomacy. I have played FTF, before I got into the postal hobby, but it was not something these people considered a hobby; in fact they didn't like it very much. Anyway, I am going to GenCon in New Jersey in late July and I am just wondering what FTF with other hobby members will be like. I almost wish I wasn't going so I could retain my "illusions" of what people I have talked to and written to, look like. I don't expect to do well since it will be the first time, in a way, that I have played FTF, and I like having the luxury of mulling over a problem rather than having to come up with strategy and moves in a matter of minutes.

When you wrote about your family being gone and that you were the only one at home, I thought of myself. I am so used to doing what I want to do at odd hours of the night like running copies off or typing or whatever. I suppose it would be much different if someone were trying to sleep. Then again, you benefit when you don't have to wash your clothes and the dishes or cook your meals yourself. Every situation has its advantages and disadvantages I suppose.

I saw "Raiders of the Lost Ark" too but it was partially ruined for me by references to the Ark itself plus some of the plot seemed farfetched. I mean what were the Germans doing in Egypt in 1936 which was partially occupied by the British? Such an operation would have been more closely watched than just by our government (which I doubt would have been interested anyway). And art treasures of such repute could not have been so easily whished out of the country and certainly not by the Nazis.

Where was the base for the German sub in the Mediterrean? According to the map in the movie, it was heading for the islands off the coast of Turkey——these islands at that time were possessions of Fascist Italy which was not Hitler's friend since he had tried to grab Austria and Italy stopped him in 1934. In 1936, at the time of the movie, Italy was fighting to conquer Ethiopia in a war condemned by almost all nations except Germany. Granted this pulled Italy toward Germany eventually but never did they give the Germans a naval base in the Mediterrean.

The Israelites did believe that the presence of the ark guaranteed victory in their wars---yet it did not. They lost it to the Philistines who kept it for 7 months because it was such a great treasure. Thier people were hit with diseases until they finally gave it up. Handling the ark did not harm the Philistines, when they returned it or captured it, because they were ignorant of how it was to be treated, unlike the Israelites. But the Germans and the Frenchman in the movie did seem to know about it which proved their doom.

References are made to Shishak of Egypt raiding the Temple but the booty listed did not mention the Ark and in deed it is mentioned later as being in the Temple. At any rate, such a loss would have been mentioned and this spoiled this part of the story for me. It is assumed that the Babylonians captured it with Jerusalem but its ultimate fate, like Noah's Ark and the location of the Garden of Eden are not known. Tantalizing mysteries.

((I'm afraid the more I think about the story line, the less I like the picture. Too dumb. I prefer to just leave it as a swashbuckler, and wait for the new TARZAN, hoping for some good dick scenes with Bo Derek...

On the advantages-disadvantages, you presume that when Claudine comes home from work, she does the "cooking-dishes-closthes"; wrongo. She is no more inclined or obligated to do all the housework than am I. If she were one of these middless-asshole types who just wanted to sit home all day with the TV, I would expect all that housework stuff done; on the other hand, I couldn't live with such a clod. So it works out that neither one of us does very much except what/when we like, which ain't a whole hell of a lot. Actually, it looked better a week after they left than it has since they've returned--no kids then to undo more than you are able to do in any given time. When kids come along, your freedom ends for the duration.

Thanks for writing.))

MARK BERCH (Diplomacy Digest)

492 Naylor Place, Alexandria, VA 22304

BB #9h was my kind of issue --- there's so many things I disagree with that I hadly know where to start.

Weel, actually I do know where to start, and that is with Sacks. In discussing the possible merger of the OGP with John Daly's operation, he says: "Rod Walker has protested, naturally, and threatened to withdraw support from Daly..." This is crazy. First off, so long as Daly does the job, why does he need any "support" from Rod. Second, I have a copy of Rod's letter of July 3 to Daly, in which he discusses the pros and cons of such a deal, possible counteroffers, etc. His final sentence is: "Well, lets not be hesty in either I'm nn your side no matter what you decide." Does that sound like direction. a threat to you?

Saks's problem is that he tends to live in another world. He says: "With the resignation of Ray Heuer as Director of Orphan games, I have." if Ray just resigned. But Ray hadn't placed games in nearly 3 years. And so far as this hobby is concerned, if you stop doing your job, you've resigned.

As for Boardman's warnings which you passed along, no, I don't think that JB is releiable in this area, in fact I think he's a very poor judge of such things. He ran the "Ames" letter without bothering to check it out. On the other hand, it takes very little to get on his shit list, and once you are, that's it. He started calling me a "liar" because I contributed a letter (under my own name, no less) to the fake BB #69. As for Peery, he has offered to make restitituion to anyone who claims they didn't get what they ordered from him, and I've yet to hear from anyone who sez he didn't make good on that offer. I don't know what "Brannon" (Cartier) is being accused of. It was probably something having to do with Brannon's zine Wild 'n' Wolly, which ran about 120 issues before folding something like 10 years ago. Yes, JR has seen sharpies come and go. I just don't think he can tell the sharpies from the good guys.

I have some comments on Stafford's letter. I have never criticized Tretick for reentering the hobby under a new name, and had I been in his shoes I might well have done the same thing. The objection that I have was that he villified those people who pointed out that Oaklyn was Tretick, starting with Conrad von Metzke (as gentle a person as you will ever meet) and Rod Walker. He could have admitted it, ignored it, or even denied it, but villifying (er vilifying?) those who just told the truth was inexcusable.

As for Bernie's GMing, yes it was increadibly bad, but that wasn't Ax after all, others have almo been bad. But his was dishonest. Saying that Ron Kelly had submitted orders for a game which hadn't happened,

the Timmi Barnes affair and other cases. It goes beyond GMing errors.

As for Masters, yes this is possibly an error, lost records of a subetc. The problem hs, other people seem to have had the exact ssame problem. Jack is not the first person to find himself on a waiting list for a game he never signed up for. I've gotten several complaints that once someone criticized either Oaklyn or Ozog, their FLD's suddenly stopped coming.

As to whether you will always be tagged with this association, that remains to be seen, but is rather unlikely, given the passage of time. But it is partically deserved, and I do consider you partially to blame. As a famous revolutionary (Eldridge Cleaver) once put it, if you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem. You were one of his GGMs, and only his GGMs were in any position to coerce Tretick into a change of his ways. I haven't even mentioned the incredible, unreal stories that he made up about people, descibing incidents that were pure imagination, ascribing views to people that they never had taken, the doctored quotes that appeared in his zine. When they hobby failed to stop this, you-all should have. You either tried and failed, or didn't try. Either way, you stuck around. Sad.

Next there is Ozog's what-will-become-of-me letter. I have exchanged a number of letters with Ozog, and I sincerely hope that he does not leave the hobby. He does recognize that he shouldn't have done what he did at the end of 79IW and he made some dreadful errors at the start of the game as well. It is clear to me that Ozog is just not cut out for GMing, and should not GM. There is no disgrace in this. I'm not cut out for GMing either (albeit for rather different reasons). There are many ways to participate in this hobby other than by GMing.

Eric's second letter is a perfect illustration of the ancient chinese proverb: "Never write an letter in anger", as he admits that being so "aggrivated" influenced him. The heat of anger may seem like the best time to write, and perhoas for a few people it is. But for most, its best to settle down for a few hours or a few days or even a few weeks

Wells

I greatly enjoyed letter re Vermont. As someone who lived in Massachusetts for 7 years and has visited Vermont many times, I can agree that there is a fantastic difference in their government

And John, if you think I'm far out, my brother Paul is substant—
ially to the left of me. He's a Public Defender in Brattleboro, Vermont. That
is, the State of Vermont arrests people, and then pays Paul to find loopholes
to keep said people, out of jail (As he sez, "All my clients are innocent. But
some are more innocent than others"). However, you would definately not want
to meet my sister Bettina. She is the radical of the family. She makes Paul
and I look very conventional, even stody.

As for your comments on the ranges of various types of guns, you're avoding my ppoint. If someone pulls a gun on you, it doesn't matter what type of gun you have on you, you aren't going to be able to even pull it. The same thing goes for someone coming from behind and putting a knife to your throat. However, its clear that neither of us is going to get anywhere in this discussion.

One of the things that disgusts me about many conservatives such as yourself is your hypocrisy. You all are so big on denouncing big-brotherism, where its in the USS and china, or here in the USA. But when it comes to social practices that you don't approve of, then its another story, even if the pactice is a very perslanl ind intimate one. We went

thru this before in our discussion of your approval of throwing homosexuals in jail. And now you are at it again. You want to use the draft/military to keep people from getting married when you don't think they ought to get married, and to keep people out of college at ages where you, in your almighty wisdom, have decided they aren't ready foreit yet. Ever sincethis country was founded, the question of the age for marraige was set by the staes. But no, you figure to transfer it to Uncle Sam/

As for your specific proposal, this is exactly the type of thinking that is partially responsibble for the mess we are in now. You want to take someone receiving tens of thousands

of dollars a year in training, integrate him into weapons systems costing millions of dollars and pay him room, board, and \$2 a day (yes I know you said taxfree. Do you really think someone earning \$2/day would have to pay taxes?) This is crazy. It reminds me of the guy who buys the best turntable money can buy, plunks down \$800 for an amplifier, then spends \$50 for a pair of cheap speakers, and wonders why the whole syste doesn't sound great. The system is only as strong as its weakest link, and when you have an aircraft carrier costing 3billion bucks, and you pay the peons \$2/day I'll tell you what the weakest link will be. For your \$2 you will get exactly what you pay for. \$2 worth of work. You will get a surly and resent ful workforce, doing only what it takes to keep them out of the brig. And you can forget about your talk of "second enlistment" --- \$2 a day is going to make peoplee damn bitter. You seem to view 30 months of soldiering as something so useful to the soldier that he shouldn't have to be paid as well. It isn't. Its a lot of hard work, and its purpose is to defind the country. We abolished slavery more than 100 years ago, but you are only \$2 away from it. And pretty damn close to the way they do things in the USSR.

You say "We need a draft". Of course if you pay \$2/day plus room and board you'll need a draft. But we don't need a draft for policemen or firemen (both of those jobs are more hazardous than a peacetime military). Pay them a competitive wage, provide decent working conditions, and the traning that the armed forces offer, and the promise of a steady gob will provide all the bodies that a peacetime military needs, and will provide the groundwork for a better "reup" rate.

I thought the CBS "Defense" series was superb, overall. But the last show was the weakest weakest by far, and big chunks of it were a complete waste of time. Originally, they thought they'd get Carter plus a real Russia big shot, but neither materilized

((It sure showed.

Your errors in the earlier parts are so great as to almost defy starting on, especially as I am disinclined to ramble or preach on at length when we're already on a third page here. So let me just hit the high points.

- 1. Being a soldier is a duty, NOT A JOB. Only the present-day asshole attitude of looking on the military as a civil service agency that absorbs the otherwise unemployable considers the services as a "job" commensurate with any civilian one. You don't need to draft civilian workers because they have the ability to walk off any damn time they choose, so you have to pay them enough or replace them with machines or do without. Soldiers are needed, which is why, for fairness as well as resulting military ability, you need a universal male draft. All you pay them is pocket money, because that's all they need. You never have happy soldiers; it is not a happy job. Most of the time you are bored to death, and even when you have tasks, they are often pointless or makework shit. I have to question hard whether you ever served, from your description. No one likes it, for \$60/month, \$600/month, or \$2000/month. The State pays its mailmen almost \$2000/month on the average now, because a mailman is doing SOME useful task (as well as having a strong union vs weak gov't, etc.); soldiers sitting on their ass on post aren't worth half of what they're bing paid NOW. Soldiers serving for pay aren't worth a shit anyway, for no amount of pay is worth risking your life. And that is the other reason it's not a job. You don't want them there for the money. With a universal draft, they will all learn to make the best of it -- they 'll have to, just as our soldiers have always done. Additionally, you will replace the dregs of society that we have now with soldiers who are capable (albeit not eager -- they'll NEVER be eager) of learning how to handle all that "billions in training and equipment". With rank and time in service, pay can rise, and "regular" or cadre would have to receive a semi-normal wage. A secondtermer could get married, for instance, and be able to support his family. However, for the vast majority who will serve and leave, pocket money is all they need.
- 2. I am more of a reactionary than a conservative, tho they agree on many things. To characterize conservatives as "hypocrites" because they prefer government policy work in favor of their ways of thought instead of continuing to support the failures of the past as you leftwingers do strikes me as incredible. You can demonstrate all the cleverness you like in painting the shift of government off the back of the citizen and instead into the reins of the citizen as "hypocracy", but I think it shows more a lack of substance to your position than any weakness or cross-statement in mine. Like most of the liberal doctrine though, it has a certain shallow catchiness to it. Keep trying, you may hit something someday.))

I got your RUSSIAN CAMPAIGN defense notes. I must be doing something wrong: the first time I tried it out, the Germans broke through in the north and had the south nearly surrounded. I wonder how the new BATTLE OF THE BULGE is going to turn out to be. At least the graphics are an

improvement over the original.

Origins report, eh? Well, I covered most of it in LOM (right up to my fight with the hotel over a confirmed reservation and no room with the ensuing traffic accident - I STILL don't have my car back), but here's a quick run-through. I saved \$29 by driving down early in the morning on July 3 (\$30 for the hotel - \$1.25 for the bridge, Golden Gate variety). The line wasn't TOO long, at least it wasn't when I got there. The doors opened a few minutes late (about 10, I think), but there was no massive rush like the Who/Pope double-feature variety that I had expected. Avalon Hill came out with a few "family games" and BULGE, but that was it. (I have a feeling that Roy Henricks is still mad that GUNSLINGER is still in the factory somewhere, and I'm still waiting for GI: ANVIL OF VICTORY.) Say, I wonder if THE RISING SUN will ever come out. (I think THE RISING SUN is a large-scale, Pacific version of the new BISMARCK.) SPI came out with STEVE JACKSON, JOHN PRADOS STYLE - er, I mean SPIES (or is it SPIes), since it has ONE 8½xll sheet (both sides) of regular rules and 2 sheets of "long" rules. Also out are ALAMO and JACKSON AT THE CROSSROADS/CORINTH, two Civil War games in one box (SPIES sells for \$15, ALAMO is \$12, and JATC/C is \$25). Oh, I musn't forget UNIVERSE, SPI's answer to GDW's TRAVELLER, for \$20. Unlike DRAGONQUEST, UNIVERSE is halfway decent in terms of "realism". Eon has two more sets of aliens for COSMIC ENCOUNTER, and Metagaming is getting ready for another \$10,000 hunt.

The Diplomacy tournament was held at the Hyatt (no, don't worry, it wasn't a Hyatt Regency) in Burlingame, a few miles away from the Dunfey. I figured that those seminars I planned on attending weren't worth attending, so I decided to pay the \$3 to enter the tournament. I draw Germany in my first (well, only) game, which was the first DIPCON game ever played with plastic stars and anchors (it'll never be the same without blocks). I eventually fell to a Ron Brown Russian position. (That's Ron Brown of CA.) I made a tidy sum at the auction - about \$300.

(That's Ron Brown of CA.) I made a tidy sum at the auction - about \$300.

Enough ORIGINS. Now for THE MEDFLY CRISIS: SOUTH (S.F.) BAY HELD
HOSTAGE, DAY - well, DAY 1 was July 15, since the spraying was supposed
to start then. The news stations here are covering the situation from
all directions - where they're spraying, where to go, what to do, etc.
Thanks to the local quarantine, you can't take fruit in your lunch pail
from Oakland to San Francisco since Oakland is in the quarantine area and
SF isn't. Note that no flies have been anywhere near Oakland, but since
one fly has appeared in southernmost Alameda County, all of the county
up to Berkeley, which is about 30 miles away, is quarantined. If I
don't get into a dorm this year, it's going to be murder having to
go through a checkpoint every day.

Which reminds me - there's a way around the quarantine, which shows you how effective it is. Your friendly neighborhood rapid transit service (aka BART, the combination train/subway/elevated train) doesn't bother checking for fruit between Oakland and SF. That's typical.

I better not say "Mark Berch Dept." when talking about the weather. BERK MARCH DEPT.: Occasionally up in the 100s here, especially in the Medfly zone. At least it doesn't snow in the winter around here. Well, the CHALLENGE GAME is for real, if you haven't already

Del Grande, continued

noticed, and there is a deadline in August, unlike previous announcements about the holiday. And it looks like the next LEXICON will have 2 Linseed (BRUX) entries - DOOMIE and TRO. You don't see any DECENT entries in there. For that matter, "DIP BOWL" isn't there, either....

((Thanks for the Con report. With all the new games you listed, I'm glad I didn't go... On RC, try playing the Germans against a fair Russian. Six impulses will show you how hopeless the fascist cause is. Of feed by feet both feet.))

MARK LEW (assorted subzs)

3120 W 79, Anchorage, AK 99502 as I recall

All games? No way! Really, I know to deal with the below-par subzene problem. YOU open a whole bunch of games and they'll be so outclassed that they quit, no?

To Eric Kirchner: Ha ha on you! Certainly, tactics might not be all that fun, but afterward when we listen to the others whine, it makes it all worth it.

Robinson is a sickie if he likes Schumann, Wagner and Brahms. All German composers suck! and (PUNK ROCKERS NOTE: (That's you, IRK & TRO) all classical music is the same) Gasp!

That prayer for Dieters was sick. Just reading it I want to vomit. Dieters are dumb anyway: if you like to eat, then eat, and if you don't, then don't. No sense making yourself miserable just because you're fat. I wonder how many fat dippers there are anyway. Always picture us as a bunch of skinny introverts. (Ectomorph)

The real sad thing about Tro's fakes is that they had to come now when everyone is sick to death of fakes and so can't appreciate Tro's. I thought his <u>BB</u> was the best fake ever.

Hurray for Dan Stafford! I believe he does have a point this time, but even if not, he certainly wrote a good piece there.

And your reply is good too. Hear hear.

You might care to know B.O. is playing in THE SHOGUNS SWORD, or rather, Brian Edwards. I once mentioned to the pubber (Swider or Barno, I forget which) that B.E. is considered to be a B.O. pseudonym and he replied that he doesn't mind so long as there aren't more than one pseudonym per game. Whatever.

Oh? Byrne reallly did stab in MANIACAL. That's what Irk said to me, but I don't remmeber ever seeing it.

Um, OK, make me a standby again.

Question: if the situation arose where it would do you good in a game, would you print a phoney letter in BB supposedly from a player in the game, to fool the other players? ((No))

I didn't think RAIDERS was so hot. Well, no, it was fast-action and exciting and all that, but nothing I'll quote from memory everyday (like STAR WARS). The end was lousy with all those things flying around, how stupid. And when that one guy kept beating on \$\phi I\phi\$ Jones was boring. Why not just run him into the propellor right away and go on to something else? And that thing at the end where the ark hides away in the warehouse isn't novel and the most aggravating thing is that some people think it is. I like Hangar 18 ha ha. Really, I'm weird with movies. I rarely see one and I've never seen a movie I'd be willing to pay five dollars to see. But when I do see one, no matter how shitty it is, I always think it's good. Hmm.No, raiders isn't up to STAR WARS. SW wasn't just action, it was CLASS.

Damn! I was afraid that would happen. I knew if I made a nasty comment about Dave Manuel, I'd risk him taking it out on me in 80HS. He just took over Russia and my Austria's life is in his hands. Well, I had hoped he'd be reasonable, but what can you expect from a ...(no, I'd better not). But I snookered you (Manuel), the Masters-Lew feud is OVER. Where does that leave you, huh? And I see Dave says "I have trouble filling TC". I'm serious now and this applies to everyone not just Dave. But if you don't have anything to say, why the hell do you publish, huh? Answer that. That's why I hate all these new meens so much.

Really, who is subz'ing in CHAMBER?
Right, John's Notes ARE the best, where'd they go?

What's this about Canadian postal strike? The service is getting better. It seems that lately for every letter I send to Canada, I get a letter back promptly.

Who's Robert Sacks? All I see is these government-like papers from him but never a zeen or a letter or game or anything.

Great issue!

PS: Mike Mills for President!

((!))

--another letter from Ig ---

What's this about calls? My number is 907-263-6659 for anyone who wants it. I'm four or five hours away, so don't be surprised if I'm asleep. And I cost twice as much. Does your company pay for this or what?

What? Can I charge \$4 for a 2 week, black press, non-DIAS game, and get away with it? Alright, here we go. BENZENE now has the above opening. Yeah, BZ still lives and is hopping around in various zeens and will settle in IRKSOME GROWS UP when Scott gets it started. The latest should be in M.P. Barno's TSS but I think it was delayed in mails so it might not make it in which case I'll cart a copy of it to BB so it can see the light of day unlike #3 when BORN TO FOLD died.

And just because I like you John, you get a discount and can play for only \$3.50. Plug the opening, make me big bucks.

Baseball strike? When did it happen? Do the baseball players get paid or something? So that's why they're called professional, huh?

No, we're not in TSS permanently, just this once, because Barno asked .

JOHN'S NOTES is the best part of BB. Keep your "job".

That horoscope thing reminds me, have you heard that crazy theory that horoscope is genetic? Like Leos are how they are because there's something in the genes of people who like to fuck in November (i.e., their parents). Bizarre.

(Jesus was a Capricorn). (Nobody of importance, hyork, hyork)

(Jesus was a Capricorn). (Nobody of importance, hyork, hyork) So Marion Bates is a he now? He was a hermaphrodite a few months ago, I thought.

PS I have a feeling 96 is going to see a lot of me.

((Not really. I have to stop to decipher you so often that both these letters got carried to 97 here. Or maybe I'll have to make this 97-98.

Speaking of Marion, he is NOT dead as reported in INVASION and perhaps elsewhere. The reports are based on a "prank" that announced his death. I understand his family was less than impressed by the sympathy cards that resulted, for obvious reasons. Some people in this hobby have some strange views of Lumor, even outside NY...

I'd plug the game, but I can't tell what's serious in your letters and what isn't. I can barely tell what's legible and what isn't...

The calls from work are virtually free. The co. pays a flat fee for the service per time, so the variable cost per call is virtually -0-. To me, anyhow. Oil is still \$35/bbl, remember. That's down \$4 a bbl from the high point due to the glut, after rising from \$16.10 in April 1979 to \$38 by year's end...

Standbys are gone with my games, but thanks for the offer. Dieting, true, is the root of all evil. Al Pearson said all good publishers are fat and balding, so maybe its just players that look anemic. At wargame cons, there seems to be a disproportisonate share of tubbies, excepting the dressed up D+Ders, who are outright freaks, or eight-yr-olds.

Wasn't it in \underline{VD} that you said \underline{Tro} 's fake \underline{BB} was not only the best fake ever, but the best \underline{BB} ever as well?

Mike MILLS?)) \mathcal{M}.

BEN SCHILLING

(excerpt)

24730 Roosevelt Ct, Farmington Hills, MI 48018

I'm enclosing an article #t#lex clipped from yesterday's Detroit News about the actual (as opposed to claimed) size of those TV preachers' audiences. I thought you might be interested. Personally, I don't think those idiots would recognize the truth if it

Schilling, conclusion

kicked them in the ass (Right in the braincase for them).

((The article showed evidence supporting a figure of about 750,000 viewers as opposed to claims of 20 million or thereabouts.

Part and parcel of their line is, after all, "faith". Evidence and such is irrelevent to those who hold the Truth as they do. (God told them, so it must be true). Details like reality have less place in their scheme of things than in a Massachusetts congressional campaign. The one reality that counts is, keep them dimes and dollars comin', folks, and do remember us in your wills'))

R MICHAEL CONNER (Lone Star Diplomat)
No "S"

3214 Beverly Road, Austin TX 78703

Glad to see the resumption of John's Notes in the recent BB. Sicne they are my favoriate part of your zine, it was a real disappointment when you left 'em out a while ago. In fact, for my money, you could dispense with the games, even. Just be the hobby's BBulletin Board.

The chain letter you printed should be sent to everyone who sends you a chain letter. It reminded me of a friend of mine who was losing his hearing, probably from attending too many rock concerts. He complained to his doctor that it was so bad he could no longer hear himself fart. The doctor gave him a prescription for some pills that did the trick, though. His hearing is no better, but he farts louder.

Gotta run. My regards (and sympathies) to Claudine. Did I read that you have children?

((Yes, I read that somewhere myself. Seriously, I am surprised that so many people (2 or so, which is a lot of response) say they like John's Notes. Personally, I'm more of the opinion that Randolph Smythe once expressed, feeling that such personal musings and ramblings are more a ripoff for the space they take up than of anything in which the readership would take an interest, but that is apparently not the case. So, on I go. Thanks for writing.))

CRUD MARTIN (Grab Dots, etc.)

26 Orchard Way North, Rockville, MD 20854

Now, now, you have no right to get snippish about DIAS. After all, it is less "ill-thought-out" than your complaints about it. Why don't you like it, anyway? And if you were paying ANY attention at all, you'd notice that I'm letting Bobby O. run the next game without it, at his request. It IS his game after all...(Shucks, it's only buried on page 49!) Find my check for the final three BBs enclosed. Too bad it's a well known fact you're folding after #100, you could have made big \$\$.

You may know how we think, but you still have something to learn about Kathy. You <u>really</u> think she'd smack somebody who grabbed her?! If you have a WATS line and want to hear the early scoop on Gencon, give me a call Monday afternoon, I should be concious by then...

Not that inertia, Claudine & BB should be enough to keep you in the one job, but it apparently is. So look at it this way, they're paying you very well to keep you away from the opposition! Isn't capitalism wonderful? I'd just as soon work for my \$\$ too, but it's not like you can't do anything. Just get those other typers fixed! You're almost as hard on the things as Bozo!

For the first time, I don't recognize your lead-in ("My uncle!...") Where is it from? STAR WARS as usual?

The Canadian strike doesn't bother me. I don't have any Canadian players, (and only two subbers) so my games don't even slow down. It's like a vacation to get away from the 3 games I'm in with Canddians anyway. Lets me start more games!

((And lets pubbers like Linsey have a chance to clear up the non-game backlog, while giving the duller pubbers an excuse to fart off.

The lead-in was from the original <u>SW</u>, when Luke was in Ben's hut after being asked to take him to Alderaan. Ben: "That's your uncle talking" Luke "My uncle! How will I ever expain all this?" or something pretty close to that. I see on TV that EMPIRE is making a short visit again this weekend. It's not my favorite, but we'll see it a few more times just for the heck of it.. It IS Star Wars stuff after all.

-cont'd-

I would have liked to cut it off at the page-end, but I really ought to mention the typers. As I said, I'd knocked out two of the three then in this building, and THEN I ran out the correction tape on the last one, and I guess the girls, esp one old biddy, really bitched to the boss. So, this being the kind of place it is, I find a Remington correctable on my desk the next afternoon, with the boss saying "I guess this is yours..." and left. Shit. I won't turn that down. It has this nice smaller type which lets me fit more on a page, is virtually Selectric quality, has a correcting key, etc. Another reason to put up with the boredom here. And it IS boring. This is the 27th of July, and all I've been doing since last Friday is filling out form letters and stuffing them in envelopes. On the other hand, it IS work, which was usually in short supply for me in any form. So enjoy it while the machine lasts.

and now, another assault from

MARK BERCH (Diplomacy Digest)

492 Naylor Place, Alexandria 22304

of all the ill-informed and insensitive itmes you've run in BB, your comments about the injustices done to Japanese Americans really take the cake. How is it that they might have had a case, as you put it in the 50s but not now? Look, when the gov't singles people out and takes something away from them --- especially their freedom --- the government is supposed to try and make good. The gov't isn't here to oppress people. Furthermore, it was not just locking them up. Most lost their homes and businesses. Why? Once they lost their jobs and their bank accounts were frozen in some cases as well, they could no longer pay their mortagages, so be banks simply foreclosed and that was that.

And lets not try to portray this as some rash act of panic. It was TWO MONTHS after the attack at Pearl Harbor that the Prez finally ordered them rounded up. Yes, women and children were deemed to be a threat. Of course, men of fightening age were a different matter. Over 17,000 Japanese americans served in the armed forced in WWII, Marny of them highly decorated. This was an emotional reaction, people were pissed off at Japan for attacking, sothey took it out on Japanese Americans. 2/3 of those rounded up were US citizens, some of them as far as 4th generation americans.

As for your If they don't like it, they could go to someplace Friend lier. This is truly pathetic. You think they knew in advance? The Japaese military send each of them telegrams: WE ARE PLANNING TO ATTACK FEARL HARBOR STOP AMERICANS WILL RETALIATE BY PUTTING YOU IN CONCENTRATION CAMPS FOR THE DURATION OF THE WAR STOP SUGGEST THAT YOU LEAVE COUNTRY BEFORE THIS HAPPENS Oh, you mean afterwards, they could leave? Sure, all they had to do is cut thru the barbed wire, shoot down the guards, and hijack a boat out of the country. Sounds easy? Ah, you mean after we got around to releasing them. Tell you what John. Lets suppose that the Gov't took your home, saying that it needed it for a road or a target practice range. When you asked them for compensation for this loss, they said to you: If you don't like it, leave.

I might add that you are in a very poor postion to make such an argument. I have seen you go on for pages criticizing the U.S. govenrment. But when others have a beef then suffeenly they can leave if they don't like it.

As for your comments about liberals and leftists pushing this, you don't even have your fasts right. The push for this came from the Japanese-Americans who were incarcerated --- hardly leftists. Liberals spoke up for them, because Libeals traditional speak up for those minorities singled out for discrimination by the government. The Right speaks up for their own. I

read just last week that NCPAC, the big conservative fundraisers and hell-raisers have gone to bat for the taxextaxetive commodity tax-straddle, a gimmic whereby the very wealthy can save huge amounts of money intaxes by paper transactions in which they simultaneously buy and sell the same commodities.

I don't think the government has the right to detain anybody for more than a few days unless it is willing to accuse them of a crime. This business of jailing people while never bringing charges is what we criticize the USSR for. And as for damages, well, money talks. In this society, we compensate for lost time (e.g. job) or lost freedom with money.

Turning to John Boardman's letter, this is a good example of what I referred to in my previous letter about him. This is the story, at least as I heard it:

Some kid entering the hobby sent John Boardman a cheque and wanted to get into a game. His name was Daniel Gorham. JB sent him an extremely nasty letter --- I think you can imagine what that can amount to! Anyhow, he then wrote Jerry Jones (my source for allthis) asking what the hell this was all about, and why he was being treated so rudely. Jerry had to explain that, in part, Boardman is an absolute flake.

Of course, it is possible that this is in fact the same guy. Why he would assume that everybody would have completely forgotten him I do not know --- especially someone like John Boardman. It seems unlikely, but possible I suppose. But anyhow, if JB carries thru on his intention of a "warning to the hobby in the next Graustark", and if he is an innocent, then he'll have to join the long list of people maligned by Boardman (I've been repeatedly called a liar because of my contribution to the fake BB #69). I obly hope that this burst of hostility doesn't turn him off from the hobby before he's had a chance to find out what its all about.

Had he written me, I'd have written him back and asked him point blank, rather than accusing him. I'd point out to him that there is an unfortunate history associated with the name, and that some people are going to assume the worst without giving it further thought (e.g. Boardman) because Gorham was one of the top 10 scoundrels in the hobby. If he isn't the same guy, it would be helpful if perhoas he could in some way prove it --- aXerox of a birthcertificate or driving liscence might do the trick. But the hobby does not have the right to demand this of him --- I should think we have to take his word unless there is eveidence to the contrary. And if he is the same guy, I'd ask him if he had any plans to make amends, pay back hose still around what they are owed or whatever.

As for JB's warning, I've had several people tell me (and apparently several people have told Bux as well) that people don't take what JB sez in Graustark about the hobby very seriously. Back in the days when I wrote John's subbers directly to defend my name, one wrote me back that he had no Idea what I was talking about. He found JB's comments on the hobby so illogical that he didn't even read them anymore

((And here it always seemed to me that his notes on the hobby were more in the realm of reality than his political stuff was...

Since my position on the Japanese claim to our money today for some historical "wrong" was an issue or two back, let me just restate my position. If there were any justice in the claim for compensation, and if the actions taken against them were indefensible, then this should have been handled by the mid 50s at the latest. Since it was not, I feel that then, people who knew the whats and whys of what was done (and the population at large behind them) felt that, however unpleasant, it was a justifiable wartime act. Now, however, what should be a laughable claim for actions of 40 years ago is seized upon and pushed by the folks always on the hunt for "causes" and historical sins to rectify, all with my tax money. Shit on that.

Anyone who would put a dime into commodities trading must be desperate, or foolish. The biggest tax dodge of it will be the huge losses they'll take. They can offset that against their income, for whatever good that is to 'em.))

I suppose that you will like this a little better because it is now 'camera ready'. It is also in very, very small print which is formatted so you can fit a lot on a page. I'm at the office right now and I have a little free time (unusual), so I figure why don't I send a letter to old John and get him happy at me for being such a nice guy. I don't have anything better to do, so what the hell.

Actually, I didn't think that I would have anything to say so soon after my last one about Vt vs Ma, hell, I haven't even gotten any replies to that one yet! But I have been thinking about some of the things in the last BB and have a few things to kick around. But before I start, I would like to note that since you are presumably lazy enough not to type this, how will you stick in your inevitable comments?? Scrawl them in the margin?? Maybe I'll have to start making the margins smaller!

After thinking about the last BB, I think that the thing which stuck most in my mind is the comment from Rod Walker that 'conservatives are hypocrites' because they say they believe in smaller government when in fact they do not. Since people call me a strong (that's what flaming means, right?) conservative more than anything else, and since I firmly believe in small government, this perturbes me somewhat. Perhaps Rod can enlighten me on my hypocracy, but that will require me explaining my beliefs more fully, so here goes. You will have to pardon my rambling a bit I'm afraid, but if nothing else it should stir some comments up.

One of my main tenets in governmental philosophy is that the bigger and more centralized a government is, the more likely it is to mess things up, and the more widespread the effects will be. Furthermore, governments in general have a remarkable track record for always messing things up. This is why I feel that if something does not absolutely need to be done by government, it should not be, and if something can be done at a more local level of government, then there is where it should be done.

I am a firm believer in strong state governments and a relatively weak central government. Not only does this, hopefully, decrease the chance of getting screwed by a government, but the government is at a more accessable position for the people to object, and if a state government really screws up, or if you just don't like their policies, then you always have the option of getting out of the state. It is much harder to get away from the federal government. Furthermore, this gives the states more opportunity to experiment with various policies without screwing up the whole country if they don't work, and states can (hopefully) learn from other state's mistakes.

Another tenet I strongly believe in (and did before it became 'fashionable') is that the government must balance it's budget. Deficit' spending in times of severe crisis I do not object to, but I strongly object to the so-called 'Keynesians' who don't know what Keynes really said. Keynes said that you should spend beyond your means whenever there was a severe crisis, but then tax it all back IMMEDIATELY when you start to recover! Keynes did NOT believe in a lasting government deficit, he was much too smart for that! And don't believe that the government deficit does not hurt. How many of you realize that paying the interest on the national debt is the ONLY reason that we are now having deficits?? We would have had MAJOR budget SURPLUSSES in recent years if had not been for paying interest on that debt!!

Yes, folks, we have been caught by our own government in a 'pyramid scheme'. If anyone else did it, they would probably have been hauled off for fraud. And why do we have the debt?? Because we wanted to pay for the Viet-Nam war without raising taxes, that's why! Which brings up a side-point that has always fascinated me, why do people blame Viet-Nam on the Republicans?? Our involvement started under Truman, I believe, as he financed the French attempt to regain their Asian empire, our real troop involvement started under Kennedy and escalated to a full war under Johnson, and the whole time it was approved and funded by a totally Democratic Congress! In fact, much of the major opposition to the war came from Republicans. As an amusing anecdote (actually true), when Congress was beginning to finally think about our involvement in Vietnam, the Democrats were firmly opposing any measure to get out because we hadn't won yet, and we can't leave a war we haven't won, after all, right?? Well, Senator Aiken from Vermont (a Republican) said, "Then, let's just say we won the war and leave" (this is fairly typical of Vermont wit). It is interesting that this is almost identical to the way that Nixon finally got us out.

Ah, where was I, yes, about government and my views. I don't much like the way that the present government is regulating either. Some examples are in order. Let's take nuclear power. One thing that people do not realize is that there is a VERY marked difference in reactor design in the US. The notorious Rasmussen report only studied two of the most reputable, a Westinghouse and a GE reactor. Even with them, the Rasmussen report said, quite correctly, that the major cause of failure is human error. Unfortunately, people like Babcox and Wilson have been allowed to make plants. Babcox and Wilson is the sort of company that government regulation creates and favors. If you look at old advertisements for them.

whatever equipment they sell has one main feature, it 'meets government specs', and that is ALL it meets. They have never over-speced a piece of equipment in their corporate career! They have a widespread reputation of being the worst quality producer of equipment in the United States, but the utility people love them because they are the cheapest. One of the reasons that they are the cheapest is that they rely on more human intervention than any other reactor. They have virtually no automatic controls, if things begin to stray out of line, they notify the operator and have him fix it, and with human error beign the major source of accidents, this is DUMB!! Let me tell you a little story.

When Kemeny was leading the investigation of the Three Mile Island accident, he had a look at the surviving plant. At one point, a warning buzzer went off and a light started flashing. The tour guide told him that it was nothing, something was straying out of true, and the reactor was notifying the operators so they could fix it. About 10 minutes later, the buzzer went off again, but no light came on. The operators started scurrying around like mad trying to figure out what was going on. Finally someone came out of a side door with a box of lights and started replacing all the light bulbs on the board one by one. Finally he replaced a light bulb that started flashing and they knew what to do! B&W couldn't even take the expense to have duplicate bulbs or to have a master testing switch that turned all the bulbs on! I was not at all surprised when the Three Mile Island plant went, I was just surprised that it didn't melt down (the Rasmussen report said it should have with that set of problems). On the other hand, problems in a GE reactor would surprise me.

On the other hand, there are many reactor designs that CANNOT melt down, they just physically can't, and they are all illegal in the United States. The Candu reactor (stands for CANadian DUterium, I believe) uses heavy water as both a coolant and to keep the reaction going. Take the coolant away and te reaction dies almost immediately. Furthermore, one of the two reactor designs that were originally proposed for the US was a version that was much simpler than the present light water reactor and could not melt down. This was shot down by the US government too. Now granted these examples are from a fairly limited domain, but I can provide similar stories about how the govt has screwed up a lot of Yoher industries too, is it any wonder that I do not trust them?? I will grant you that some kind of control is needed on things like energy generation, but I cannot see the state governments making a bigger mess out of it than the federal government.

Hmmmm, I am getting quite sidetracked, aren't I? Well, back to the mainstream of this tirade, ie: back to my views about the role of government. In the following I will not give any real justifications because I could easily fill three or four BB's with them, and I don't want to subject you to them if you aren't interested, but if you are interested, then ask me and I will elaborate.

I do not think that ANY victimless crime should be a crime. I am pro-ERA. I hate discrimination and think it is not only viscious, but foolish. I am pro-abortion (early abortion) and birth control. On the other hand, I am against ANY kind of discrimination, even 'affirmative action'. If you don't like the fact that the poor are predominately minorities, then help the poor and this will help the minorities more than the whites, but don't try telling me that poor blacks need more help than poor whites just because they are black! If being poor is bad for blacks, it is bad for whites too!! I am VERY anti-bussing. I am pronuclear power and avidly anti-coal (between 20 and 200 thousand American deaths per year plus the extreme environmental damage is too much). I believe that exploration and development can and should be done without grave envoronmental damage. I do not believe that big companies are necesarily bad. I believe that American unions are too strong and that American labor is over-paid, especially in the 'basic' industries.

Furthermore, I am against too much government help of the poor without strings attached. One thing that I have seen is that if they receive too much, poor people can become dependant on the government, and that can kill their last chance of getting out of the rut. My dad qualified for food stamps for 18 years as I grew up. He never took them. He worked like a dog and often moonlighted at a second job to feed us, but everything that we ever had was earned by him or my mom. Now they have finally gotten out of it and are very middle class. I have had a lot of friends and relatives, though, that never did because they never tried. Taking doles from the government can be very tempting if working gives you very little more in the short run, but if you are living off the government, you will never get free.

All right Rod, I think that is enough. Show me where I am either being inconsistent or show me that I am a liberal.

Now on to something completely different. Back to Massachusetts again for a minute. There was an interesting little escapade involving our dear governor (quite appropriately named King) recently. King has been complaining avidly that after proposition 2 1/2 (a tax limitation bill) passed there was no money to maintain the basic necessities of the state. Listen to this!

The State House in Boston has 26 doormen for 3 doors. Each of the doormen is paid an average of \$18,000 and every one of them is a friend or relative of a state senator. Our dear, budget minded, governor King just asked that the appropriation for doormen be increased by 30% so they can hire more doormen. One of the present doormen predicts cost-overruns in that though, if they hire many more they will need new construction to make enough places for them to stand! In the mean time, public libraries are closing, public transit rates are increasing as quality of service decreases, ...

However, to the bright side of life, I've seen bumper stickers with a 'thumbs DOWN' symbol saying 'I Can't Make it in Massachusetts'!

And on yet another tangent, are you going to publicize my 'Avalon Hill Hate Mail' campaign?? I am basically trying to mount a campaign to get everyone in the hobby to send nasty letters to Avalon Hill concerning the new plastic pieces! God, was I disappointed when I found out about them!!

Well, I guess that's about all for now. I seem to have my finger in enough debates, and this is getting pretty long even with the small type, so I can't see stirring something else up.

((I understand now that AH had the plastic ones all along—they were just waiting to use up the old stock first. If it turned out that Switzerland really is passable, they'd keep it the old way until their old stock was used. AH is really a small-potatoes, small-minded outfit. The parent doesn't care about building relations or the hobby, only \$\$\$.

On state gov't, one weakness is that in practice, the federal gov't has been more responsive to needs than state gov'ts, esp. in regard to cities, minorities, and the like. State governments are locked up by ruling cliques more easily than the national gov't, usually by farmers, but occasionally others (teachers in NJ, e.g.). State gov'ts shouldn't really have Senates; not when the results are that the farmers are always a majority. The only break of these dead-locks comes from action or threats of action, by the central gov't & courts. State gov't SHOULD be easier for people to manage, but it seems its more a case of it being easier to corrupt and easier to be lorded offer by petty dictators. I agree with the principle, but the 'practice' has been sad.

The other point I'd debate is on pay. It is true that many laborers are overpaid, but this is peanuts compared to what "administrative" types are doing. The plumber, mechanic, and truck driver are just trying to catch up. And they at least work for their money; how many advertising executives, lawyers, and Congressmen are worth \$60,000 a year, even ignoring those fewer who can rip off over \$100,000?

I pick on these items only because I agree with the rest.))

STEVE LANGLEY

2154 Fairfield Rd, Sacramento, CA 95815

It's nice to see how to pronounce your name again. I missed that a time or two. Thanks for the fake BB--it was pretty good. Outside of using a pseudonym, what does Boardman have against "Dan Brannon"? To my knowledge, Dan Brannan pubbed WILD N WOOLY for a couple of years nearly 20 years ago, and has been in and out of the hobby as a player since then. I must admit that my knowledge is pretty limited, but since I knew him then, and am sort of aware of him now, and since my general impression of him is that he is a nice guy, I feel called to question Boardman's accusation.

Mr Robinson feels that Mt St Helens is the big polluter of our times, does he? Doesn't he realize the amount of radiation Sol hits us with every day? Or perhaps he is mismaking his point—whatever it is. The human race is the single most polluting element in our world; we sits where we shits, and some of us even seem to be proud of it, as if bad air, acid rain, burning water, poisoned soil and elthal levels of radiation were evidence of our superiority over nature.

I like your comments on the universal draft. Using much the same line of thought, I joined the army out of high school and waited to go to CalTech until after I'd "made a man out of myself". Trouble is, it doesn't work quite the way I saw it. I did learn quite a few useful skills in basic—if I'm ever in a WWII scenario—but beyond that there was not a lot of positive value in the experience. After basic I went to clerk school where I failed to learn to type (again) and then to supply school and then I was a full fledged supply clerk. From that point my real education started. I was taught how to steal by every

supply sergeant I worked for, double entry records (for the one sergeant who wanted to know what all he'd stolen as well as what the army had him credited for), how to stick it to the transients (I fell down badly there)—if a young troop came to me with a problem, I usually fixed him up out of "surplus" and forgot the paperwork, instead of making him sign for everything and shorting him in the exchange, as was the practice.

By the time I was out, I was ready for college, about as ready as I'd been when I went in, and I was rid of the romantic illusion that "the army" would mature me.

For all of that, universal service for 'young adults' is a good idea. That is a time of great confusion for most, and having someone to tell you what to do all of the time is a good way of forcing you to start figuring that sort of thing out for yourself.

((That is about it in a nutshell; the experience, under the umbrella of a controlled role, gets people more able and willing to go out and cut it on their own, instead of drifting through college for lack of anything better to do. What happens in the military itself is secondary, although there is a value in being able to say that everyone wearing pants between 20 and 60 has had at least 2 years in uniform at one time. ANYone with military service knows that it is mostly a teaching aid only via negative example, kind of like the Post Office or Massachusetts. But your last line says my point exactly.

On Boardman-Brannon, a few things have appeared since you wrote, plus more in here-Berch, e.g. That's about all I know of it. Does the Brannon you know also use the name Cartier, or is that someone else? I lose track of the players without a card.))

JOHN DALY (The Dogs of War)

Rt 2, Box 136-M5, Rockwell, NC 28138

Just a quick note on Sacks' "Announcement about orphan games" that was printed with the Known Game Openings column in BB #94. Some of what Robert said needs updating, and some of what he said was incorrect.

First of all, Rod Walker did not threaten to withdraw support from me if I merged the US Orphan Service with the Orphan Games Project. He simply advised me against taking any hasty action that would jeapordize the independence of the USOS. Rod has promised me help with placing variants (an area where I'm very weak) whether I join the OGP or not.

Secondly, Kathy Byrne and I are now running the USOS together. Robert made it sound like Kathy and I were in competition placing orphans, which was never the case. The objective of an orphan placement service is to make sure that an orphaned game is restarted quickly and smoothly, so the more people there are placing orphans, the better. But to avoid duplication of effort, anyone who places an orphan should let us know.

All this aside, Kathy and I have agreed to have the USOS join the OGP. The details of the arrangement will be published in a month or so when we send out our next newsletter.

Everyone should be aware that if they know of any US regular or variant Diplomacy orphans they should contact me at the address above, or Kathy at 160-02 43 Ave, Second Floor, Flushing, NY 11358

**Just in from:

MARK LEW

3120 W 79 Anchorage, AK 99502

On those 2-week \$4 non-DIAS games, I'm serious. Games will be run in my new subsubzene GANGRENE. Which will be a subsubzene for Irksome (read: subzene to \overline{BB}) until Scottie gets out DIPSO when it'll become a subsubzene in BENZENE. I have to keep \underline{G} & \underline{B} separate because \underline{G} will run games like a below par subzene and \underline{B} will run them normally if at all.

((Oh, that makes it all clear as.... uh....))

LOCAL BUMPER STICKER: My boss is a Jewish carpenter.