

Believe it or not, it is time once more for your old favorite,

* CENTURION *

Issue #3

Tarzana, California

26 April 1975

It's that time again. You get to see what horrible things are in store for you this week on Page #1.

NEW YORK MAKES ANOTHER CONTRIBUTION TO OUR HOBBY!

1975G

1975?? (C5A)

HAWAII ALONE ON BATTLEFIELD!

Winter 1900

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- ITALY: Richard Kovalcik, Jr., 947 56th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11219
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- GAMEMASTER: Russell Fox, 5160 Donna Avenue, Tarzana, CA 91356
(GM's phone # is (213) 342-1404 between 7-10 PM (BDT) weekdays, 3-10 PM Saturdays, 8:30-10:00 PM on Sundays)

Spring 1901 moves ARE DUE 3 weeks from the 25th (of April). They are due Friday, May 16, at 7:15 PM, PDT. There will be a bourse run with this game. The housenumber is C5A (Centurion 1975A), please use it until we receive a boardman number. All press is always allowed.

C5E news: We have two people signed up for this game. The cost is cheap; why not play in this one? (see Letter, Page 2)

GAME OPENINGS in Regular Diplomacy ONLY (no YV) at the price of a sub, 8/\$2. You must maintain your sub. Also openings in Electoral college, FOR FREE as long as you get this, this, this, whatever this is. The rules to ELECTORAL COLLEGE are in CENTURION #2. Just send 25¢ to me for CENTURION #2.

It's time for Robert Sacks Columna ((or known as if you don't reprint this, I will sue you for everything you got columna))

GOD SAVE THE TSAR

What is all the shouting about? Surely in a game where six of the players portray monarchs and the seventh a President only because nobody in France could agree on which royal house should reign, democracy is not a serious rallying cry. While very little can be said for the absolute monarchs who blundered into the Great War, they did have a certain noblesse oblige that is absent on a consistent basis from the voting rabbles which replaced them.

Of course democracies are needed, especially after an especially bad experience with another form of government. As the Supreme Warlord of an absolute monarchy and empire, Winston Churchill, once said, democracy is the (continued on Page #2)

((The following is reprinted by permission of FORBES Magazine from the February, 15, 1975 issue.))

ME TARZAN, ME RICH

In fact, the old tree swinger is one of the hottest properties around.

So you think comic books are funky and Tarzan is for tots. But some folks up in Tarzana, Calif.—name for Tarzan, of course—take the subject very seriously. They point out that Tarzan is a big hit in French literary circles, with cover stories in Le Monde's literary supplement and L'Actualite. A scholarly book on the work of Tarzan's creator, the late Edgar Rice Burroughs (he died in 1950), is due from Brigham Young University this year to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the author's birth. Original Tarzan illustrations by men like Hal Foster and Burne Hogarth appear regularly in serious art shows. And a pending deal would make Burroughs one of the handful of English-language authors whose works have been translated into Zulu.

The people with all that information love Tarzan for a reason; he has put caviar on their tables and sports cars in their garages. These people run Edgar Rice Burroughs, Inc. This privately held company made close to \$1 million pretax last year from selling the Tarzan comic strip and from licensing books, comic books and the rights to use the character in various ways. After 62 years, Tarzana remains remarkably popular. Throughout the world, 250 newspapers carry the strip, and the public buys 3 million Tarzan comic books in 16 languages.

The company is owned by Burroughs' two sons, Hulbert and John, and by the estate of his deceased daughter, Joan Burroughs Pierce. Hulbert works for the company, but John is not active in it. So the heirs have hired a hard-selling lawyer, Robert Hodes, as the boss.

"The greatest thing that's happened to the company in recent times," enthuses Hodes, "is the comic book revival. Comics now account for the most significant part of our revenues." Besides that, about 2 million copies of Tarzan books are sold yearly. Forty Tarzan movies still show up on late night TV, and returned to the company about \$250,000 last year. This makes Tarzan the oldest extant movie character still in the hands of his creator. And thereby hangs a tail.

In 1911, when Burroughs peddled his first story to the pulps, he was 35, broke and a failure at everything he had ever tried. He had been a policeman in Salt Lake City, a gold miner in Oregon, a cowboy and the owner of a book and stationery store in Pocatello, Idaho, where he also did photofinishing and took pictures for his customers. Then there were some more dubious episodes, like his snakeoil cure for alcoholism and a pencil-sharpening pyramid scheme. Burroughs' first story was written at 35 on the backs of letterheads of his failed businesses.

But when the check came back for that first story, Burroughs did an astute thing. He refused to sign over any but his first serial rights to the publisher (of All-Story magazine). What other rights are there? the publisher asked. Well, Burroughs replied, maybe there are motion picture scenario rights; and he soon proved it by peddling what is still his best-selling book, Tarzan of the Apes, to a movie company. The picture, produced in 1918 was among the half-dozen most successful pictures of the year, with a first-run gross of over \$1 million.

To this day the company follows the old Burroughs pattern. Narrowly

(continued on page 5)

(Me Tarzan, Me Rich:Continued from Page #4)

defined rights (for hardcover books, paperbacks, children's books, etc.) are not sold but licensed for a specified period so that the same work can be licensed over and over again.

Stemming The Tide

Hodes came to ERB Inc. as general manager in 1967. Then a lawyer specializing in entertainment practice for the Los Angeles firm of O'Melveny & Meyers, he had been called in earlier to save the company after management had become so lax that unauthorized works of Burroughs' works were meeting the rising public demand for pop culture material. By 1972 the books were back in print, revenues from comic book sales had risen sixfold in a single year and Hodes was ready for Phase Two.

In large part, that consisted of taking active control of areas previously licensed. He decided to scrap the middleman, "taking his profits and avoiding his sales resistance."

This year will bring the first harvest of that change. Around Easter will come ((came)) the first film ever made of a Burroughs science-fiction story, The Land That Time Forgot, which was financed and supervised by ERB Inc. A deal is cooking at Warner's for a brand-new multimillion-dollar version of Tarzan of the Apes, with Robert (Chinatown) Towne writing the script. There are also plans for an animated children's TV show, and a TV documentary of Burroughs, produced by David Wolper.

After the big media exposure starts, the company dreams of selling zillions of Tarzan and Jane dolls, ape slippers, and jungle print bathing suits, plus tons of Tarzan dog and cat foods. Frank Earl, former national sales training manager from Texaco, has joined the company to head marketing operations. ERB Inc. has had acquisition feelers, and there is even talk of the company going public.

As Tarzan would say, "AAAA-BEYAA-BEYAA-BE000!!!"
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Entradas en Juego de Diplomacie Regular
(Spanish for: Opening in games of regular Diplomacy)
(or) PLUGS

RURITANIA (Tony Watson, 201 Minnesota, Las Vegas, Nevada 89107) has openings in regular Diplomacy, Space Diplomacy I and II, Electoral College, and Nuclear Destruction. Gamefee is maintenance of a sub (\$1/4) Extra Games are \$1.50 flat save EC which is free as long as you get this xerox zine. There is a \$1 refundable deposit for Dip., and there is a \$1 gamefee for ND. He has SIX PEOPLE signed up for his second game of reg. Dip.

LIBERTEPREAN (Jim Bumpas, 948 Lorraine Ave, Los Altos, CA 94022) has openings in a game of reg. Diplomacy at the maintenance of a subscription (24/\$6) and a \$1 refundable deposit, to be guest GMed by John M. Baker (General Delivery, Gradyville, KY 42742). Send all fees to Jim, but notify John that you are playing in the game.

THE EXPONENT (Richard Kovalcik, Jr., 947 56th St., Brooklyn, NY 11219) has openings in reg. Dip at the price of a sub, which is 10/\$1.50. The EXPONENT is the official magazine of the John Dewey High School Strategic Games Club. This is a fine zine.

IMPASSABLE (John Boyer, 117 Garland Drive, Carlisle, PA 17013) is a fine zine done by John Boyer. Even though they have no game openings at the present time, I urge you all to sub at the price of 12/\$2.

next week:

- will see the return of Mike's "As The Roots Grow,"
- will see Spring 1901 for C5A,
- will see the opening of C5B?
- will see the opening of Our first game of Electoral College (CECA),
- will see an article(s) on the building of F StP (nc),
- will be at least 10 pages,
- will have an article by me entitled "Why Austria is such a headache,"
- and much, much, more!

THIS IS A RUSSELL FOX LINEN PARSTRATOR CAUCERUSSEKLEFOXI STYFENCITONKISHASCOMELIAND...

This is Mike typing. It has been reported that there have been a number of "FAKE" zines mailed on April 1. Who would do a thing like that deserves to be put in Santa Barbara Harbor during an oil slick. . .

C5B will be GWed by either me or Max, not Russ. Now all of you poor people get to feel hardships.

Don't forget that issue #5 is our big variant issue. We have a lot of variants, so #4 will be over 12 pages. That means it will be mailed third class to all except important people, like me.

There will be a bourse run with C5A. The rules will be printed in issue #4. All are welcome to play.

We were going to print a blacklist this issue, but we gave 2 people a 3 week delay. If I should receive your zine, by then, you will be plugged. Otherwise, you will be blacklisted. The 2 fine publications involved are receiving this issue. If this line is checked, _____, you are in trouble. That's all for this week. See you 3 weeks from today for the next issue of CENTURION.

C5A_C5B as of Apr 5/26/75 at 7.15 pm. Don't forget.

CENTURION #3
c/o Russell Fox
5160 Donna Avenue
Tarzana, CA 91356



Your sub expires with CENTURION # _____

Doug, give me a boardman number for game C5A on page #1, immediatly.

Your game is on Page #1 _____

WE TRADE

PLUG ME _____

You are in game #2 _____

Scott, I already apologized _____

This is a ~~sample~~ sample, please sub or trade with me _____

See Page #3 for notice _____

YOUR COMPLEMENTARY SUE runs out with issue # _____

PLEASE DELIVER THIS TO:

TO: Doug Beyerlein
 TO: 240 Hawthorne Apt. F
 TO: Palo Alto, CA 94301
 TO: _____

Eric Just and Paul Bond want to try out some inperson rules they have developed. The land minatures will probably be Neapolinique and Frappe, two sets of rules for the Nepolionic period developed by Ray Johnson. More information for these two games can be obtained from Jeff Key(7918 Alpha Rd Apt 1153 Dallas,Tx 75240). If you wish to do land minatures for another period get in touch with me and I'll let you know what needs to be done.

Advance registration fees are \$1 for WARS members and \$1.50 for everyone else. At the door registration fees will be \$3 with a \$1 discount for WARS members. Advance registration will be accepted through July 5th. Below is the registration form.

Name:

Address:

Check those events you wish to participate in. Please, indicate the day(s) you prefer.

Land Minatures--Morning	Sat _____	Sun _____
Afternoon	_____	_____
Naval Minatures--Morning	_____	_____
Aternoon	_____	_____
AH, S&T, 3M, etc	Morning _____	_____
	Afternoon _____	_____
	Evening _____	_____
Diplomacy	Morning _____	_____
	Afternoon _____	_____
	Evening _____	_____
Verrat	_____	_____
Strategy I	_____	_____
Galaxy	_____	_____
Origins WWII	_____	_____
Other(please be specific)	_____	

Will you need a ride from the airport? yes ___ no ___

Please make your check or money order payable to Gromets. No cash please. Send your registration form and fee to Michael R Childers POBox 1201 College Station, Tx 77840. See you in July.