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This issue is dedicated to Snoopy.

SPACELANES #14

by Tony Watson

"Spacelanes" is a column devoted to news and reviews of the science fiction game genre. It is a regular feature of the amateur magazines Ruritania and Claw & Fang, and the professional gaming journal, Combat. "Spacelanes" is produced by Tony Watson, 1481 S. Palm #207, Las Vegas, Nevada 89104.

I will forsake any mini-reviews this time around. It's been a long time since I've prepared a "Spacelanes" and with the continued growth of this area of the war-gaming hobby, there's just too much news to report on.

First of all, I'd like to talk about the hobby's magazines. The Journal of the Traveller's Aid Society, put out by GDW, is now in its second year. As its name might imply, the publication deals primarily with GDW's SF role-playing game, TRAVELLER, and the material contained so far has been of high quality. There have been a few non-TRAVELLER game articles, but these have all been on other GDW SF games. The Dragon, TSR's magazine is now monthly and jam-packed with articles. Most of the material is fantasy oriented, as one might expect from TSR given their product line and customer following, though some SF material and game reviews appear occasionally. The Space Gamer, once owned by Metagaming, has been sold to Steve Jackson and is now independent of any parent company. In an effort to stress this new independence, both Steve and editor Forrest Johnson are going to great pains to cover the entire genre. One new feature is a whole spate of capsule reviews, very short and not extremely detailed reviews of new games. What they lack in depth, they make up for in number. The magazine also features continuing columns on computer gaming and design. In another change, the magazine now appears monthly. Very nice.

Then there is Ares, SPI's foray into this field. Ares has met with mixed reviews. I like it. Like S&T, each issue has a game in it. Of the three issues appearing to date, none of the games have particularly excited me (The Wreck of the BMS Pandora was a particular disappointment.) While the games haven't thrilled me, I do like the magazine.

I like Ares because it is different from The Space Gamer and The Dragon. It's more of a science fiction magazine with a game in it, rather than a gaming magazine. Regular features include review columns on books, games and movies. Each issue so far has featured two SF or fantasy stories, and these have generally been of much better quality than usually appears in gamer oriented magazines. There have also been some fascinating science fact articles. Certainly worth the \$14 for six issues. Finally, we have Gryphon, put out by the same company that brings us Fire and Movement. Like F&M, Gryphon features indepth analyses of games; I found the premier issue to be of high quality and making for some very interesting reading.

As for games themselves, the various companies have been busy. GDW has come out with Bloodtree Rebellion, a game of guerilla combat on the planet Somber. The game situation and mechanics bear a remarkable resemblance to Vietnam. The game is becoming quite popular, and as usual, features GDW's excellent graphics. Most of the company's efforts have been in regards to TRAVELLER. The original three book set has been supplemented by two new rulebooks (the latest is HIGH GUARD which deals with Navy character and advanced starship rules) four supplements dealing with animal encounters, characters, and sample maps, and now, adventures. These latter are for referees only and provide the necessary data for pre-arranged adventures. The first of these is

(continued on last page)

August 5, 1980

Dear Don:

Being in the forefront of modern intellectualism, the "Tomorrow" show has obviously taken an interest in your Demonstration Game by Famous Writers, 79CT. I enclose a transcript of a recent show, for which I convened an international panel of authors and poets to get their views on the matter. It might be of interest to your readers who happened to miss the show. Actually, the ratings suggested that we didn't have a single viewer that evening, which is marginally lower than our usual figure. However, we were up against "Sands of Iwo-Jima" that night, which generally does very well.

Sincerely,

/s/ Tom Snyder

Analysis of Demonstration Game 1979CT
Chapter 12 -- Positively 1904th Street by Tom Snyder et al.

Snyder: Good evening. We have with us tonight...to discuss one of the most monumental events of this or any other age...ahhh...we have with us tonight an international panel of famous writers. To my left--James Joyce of Ireland, Sigmund Freud of Austria...to my right--Bob Dylan of the U.S., and Albert Camus of France. Gentlemen, good evening.

To set the mood...ah...perhaps Bob you could give us an appropriate song. Perhaps something in the "Young Bob Dylan" style, before you became obscure and unintelligible.

Joyce: What's so bad about being obscure and unintelligible?

(General laughter)

Dylan: (Slowly, with a pronounced drawl)

The sounds of war is always hurrurd,
I gotta get myself deferred,
The dove she's an endangered burrrrd,
I can not hear her calling (strum strum strum strum)
Well Tommy cud ya' take it pleeez--
I think I got some strange diseeez--
There's blood aflowin' round my kneeez.
I fear that I'm a fallin' (strum strum strum strum strumma strumma strumma strum)

Snyder: Very nice...very nice. Well, as we say at the disco, let's get down on it. Mr. Camus, suppose you were Germany--how would you feel about your situation?

Camus: Well, I see we lost Berlin today, or was it yesterday? Not that it really matters when. Not that losing Berlin itself matters either, really. If I'm eliminated from 79CT it wouldn't kill me. And even if it did the universe would hardly be affected. It's all so unimportant--this whole discussion rather bores me, I'm afraid.

Snyder: WHAT? But of course, it's important! Particularly everything we talk about on the "Tomorrow" show! Ohh--it's all so important--how can you say that. Unhhh... Unhhh...(bites his first knuckle until it starts to bleed)

Freud: Please, Mr. Snyder, relax. You seem to have a serious problem. Perhaps you should come around to my office during the week. In the meantime, here--take two of these little yellow pills. That is better.

If I may resume our discussion, I notice that England has a marked propensity toward building fleets. This is interesting, particularly in view of the German collapse. Perhaps England simply likes fleets, perhaps he enjoys the feeling of moving them around. Maybe it is their shape; I don't know, it's just a thought.

Snyder: Thank you. Uhh...Mr. Joyce, I see you've been...(yawns loudly) ... observing the Italian scene. What do you see as the significance there? [Continued overleaf]

Joyce: Well, we began of course with an assault on Austria. Soon there were just a few red patches amongst the green. Like holly bushes and poinsettias and its Christmas again in Killiecronkie with, "No, no, little James, don't eat the plum pudding, it hasn't been blessed yet", but I'm hungry and it's six o'clock with fat smelly men pinching my cheeks and I'm cold from the snow...

Snyder: Thank you, James. Perhaps its time for another song. (yawns again) Uhh--Bob-- that last was just a bit too "young"---could we move on to something from your existential negative romanticist phase?

Dylan: Ya mean sumthin' with a beat? (Laughter)

(With a lilting nasal twang)

Then take mah pieces off the board and fling them into space,
Toss them all around the plaace, I don' care bout savin' faace,
Let them leave without a traace,
I don't care if people really think a lottameeee;
I'm tired of Dee-ploma-cee, I'm tired of the warrrr,
I don't wanna play no morrrre,
An' mah brains beat up an' somrrre,
An' I'll never capture Warr--
saw (hell, its only folk music)
So I think I'm gonna go an' play Mah-nah-poly.
Heyy, Mr. Gamesmaster, Sir, put me in Gee Dee
'Cause I'm longin' t' be free,
An' mah boots...

Camus: (Applauds loudly, interrupting) At last, someone around here is finally talking some sense.

Snyder: Wow. (shakes head) Sorry, must have dozed off... Where are we? Dr. Freud-- how do you see the Turkish situation?

Freud: Ah yes, Turkey. Have you ever looked closely at Turkey on the map? Tell me-- what does it look like to you? Particularly in its relationship to Austria. I think the subconscious images suggested by this relationship have a very definite bearing on Austro-Turkish relations. Don't you, Mr. Snyder.

Snyder: Huh? Oh, I guess so. Whatever... Uh--And good night to all.

End of Chapter 12

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However, the Demonstration game, 1979CT, has been delayed as Blair Cusack (Russia) moved and didn't receive the last issue. Blair's new address is: 8816 46th Ave., NW; Calgary, Alta, CANADA T3B 1Y8. In the event he still fails to submit orders I am calling for standby orders from Ken Baker, 16250 Brookford Dr., Houston, Texas. (GM: Eric Verheiden, 200 S. Azusa Ave., #2, Azusa, CA 91702. Phone: (213) 334-3149.)

Current Positions

E: A Edi, F Bal, F Den, F Hel
F: F Bar, F Nth, F Mid, F Spa sc, A Ber, A Mun, A Kie, A Bur
G: A Sil, F Por
I: A Boh, A Gal, A Bud, A Tri, A Ven, F Bul sc, A Ser, F Gre, F Aeg
R: A Vie, A Rum, F Bla, A Ank, F Swe, A Fin, A Nwy, F Bar, A Smy,
A Gal in retreat to War, Ukr or oib
T: F Con

R.I.P. Claw and Fang, 1-124. (WAIT! Why should I wish Claw and Fang to rest in peace? I hope Fangs' soul torments him until he revives the 'zine!) Well, we still have
 POIGNARD #13 -- which will continue to be edit@d by
 David Loewenstern, 12002 Audubon Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19116

1979CX Fall 1906:

VIENNA POST OFFICES CLOGGED BY TIDAL WAVE OF INTERNATIONAL HATE MAIL...
 "INTERNATIONAL DAY" IN SICILY...THREE-NATION SUMMIT IN ARCHANGEL BREAKS
 UP WITH NO CHANGE IN PARTICIPANTS' STATUS...ITALIANS TRADE TWO-FOR-ONE.

A.(Jim Cassity, 9): Arum-bud, Abud-vie, Avie-boh, AtylSAven, Aapu-nap,
 Fadr-ion/b, Fion-tyl, Amun-kie/b, AvenS/ocdr(tri, apu, otb) F.Apie-tus.
 owns: A., gre, ser, bul, ~~yp~~, rum, mun, NAP =9 even or B1 if Aven-r-otb.
 E.(Scott Copeland, 4): Fspas-wme, FbarSANwy-stp/b, Feng-nth.
 owns: E., nwy =4 even.
 F.(Jerry White, 5):Fbre-pic, Apic-bur, Abur-mar, ApieS I.Atus-ven,
 Flyo-tyl/b. owns: F., por, spa =5 even.
 G.(Paul Sallabedra, 6): Abel-ruh, Akie-mun/b, Fnth-bel, FberS/c,Fbal-pru/b,
 FfinS E.Anwy-stp. owns: kie, hol, bel, swe, den, ber =6 even.
 I.(Clark Reynolds, 3): Feme-ion/b, AromSatus-ven.
 owns: rom, ~~nap~~, ~~tyl~~, VEN=2 R1.
 R.(Gary Howe, 7): FsmY-h, FtunS A.Fion-tyl, FpruS/c Asil-ber/b,
 AmosS&AlvaSastp-h. owns: R., T., TUN =8 B1.
 /=fails, b=bounces, c=cut, d=dislodged, o=no such order, r=retreats,
 B=build, R=remove.

+!+!+ANNOUNCEMENTS+!+!+

1. COA for the 3M after 9/2/80:

David Loewenstern
 179 Rhoads Hall
 Bryn Mawr College
 Bryn Mawr, PA 19010
 phone: 215-645-5984

COA for Germany after 8/10/80:until 9/17/80:

Paul Sallabedra, 1266 Puerto Natales, Placentia, CA 92670.

after 9/17/80:

Paul Sallabedra, Apt. B-10, Koshland Way, Santa Cruz, CA 95064.

+++PRESS+++

DEFINITION OF ITALIAN PIPE DREAM: French and English and Russian fleets
 wiping out the Red Scourge.

((ENGLISH PRESS)): Q.: What did Stalin do with his first 50 cent piece?

A.: He married her. ((before or after he hadther executed?))

ENGLAND-ITALY: Everything is all straightened out, I think...

((ENGLISH PRESS)): In celebration of "National Kill a Greek Week,"

((please give to us; pledge to the Jerry Lewis Kill-a-Greek Telethon))

England has signed an arms deal with Yemal Attaturk, President of the
 Turkish government-in-exile after the mysterious disappearance of
 Sultan Bernie.

ENGLAND-AUSTRIA: Our answer to your ultimatum will be sent via courier
 service. Members of this team of couriers include: James Bond,
 Force 10 from Navarone, Jack the Ripper, the Green Berets, and the
 Flying Nun. ((The Flying Nun???)

ENGLAND-FRANCE:

All we are saaaying...

Is give PEACE a chance...

MILKSOP TO ENGLAND:((Daniel Loewenstern kibbitzer press)): I'm glad
 it's not "National Kill a Geek Week).

GER-AUS: Du bist einen grossen esel, mein Herr. Der Spiel ist nicht
 zu Ende!

GER-ENG: I will not give any of my territory to anyone. They will have to take it away. If the price for survival means putting my troops under foreign domination, I find my treasury without the necessary funds. Russia at least is a valiant foe as he fights both cunningly and without asking quarter. ((He does not ask for quarter because he wants all.)) Austria has finally shown his true shape, a jackal willing to let others do the dirty work and then jump on the defenseless prey. Last time at least he has found that his target is not without some resources.

MILKSOP TO GERMANY: What will Austria find this time?

ASSOCIATED GERMAN PRESS: The whole of the German nation has been greatly saddened to learn of the imminent demise of that great diplomat and publisher, Fangmaster. We can but hope that from the ashes of a once-mighty empire of international endeavor, that a new and brighter 'zine will emerge. ((HEAR! HEAR!))

EXCERPTS FROM THE AUSTRIAN ARMED FORCES MANUAL:

Always be an example of Austrian courtesy and manners to the native. Try to understand the overpowering joy and confusion that will be exhibited by the natives when you deal with them. Be kind but firm.

Be especially considerate of old people and young children. The women may need extra special attention as they may experience an increase in libido -- under many circumstances private consultation may be necessary.

The native will undoubtedly pledge and offer money and other valuables to you. Do not be modest; you deserve them. Turn in $\frac{1}{2}$ of these offerings to your commanding officer. Please note that the natives may forget about their pledges and leave their doors locked. This is a holdover from the previous government and shooting the lock off would be considered a quick and viable long-term solution to this bad habit.

If trouble should occur, you are under strict orders to display Austrian discipline. The execution of this discipline will be left to the individual soldier. ((At last, a code of ethics we all can live with!))

MILKSOP SOAP SUDS PRESENTS: As the Coat Turns, Ch. 2

As night falls, the curtain rises (and the audience leaves), and we listen in on a tete-a-tete-a-tete (ta-tete-tete) of Gerard le Gateau, Paul Porkessenfrau, and -- Great Scott! is it really? -- Scott the Great.

"Achtung, Gerard, you must not attack me. Ve haf nasty, cruel vays to keep you from attacking me."

"Vous misunderstander moi. I don't want to attack vous. I yust want safe passage through to strike out against Johann the Austrian terror."

"Perhaps I should mediate this. My mediation plan is simple (isn't the whole show?) You two shouldn't fight each other, only Johann."

Will Girard and Paul forget their differences and unite against Johann? Will they forget Johann and take out their aggressions on Scott the Great? Why is Scott so great? For the answers to these and other questions ("Mommy, do I hafta go to bed now?") tune in next month for As the Coat Turns.

WASHINGTON (GM press): In order to increase registration, President Jimmy ("I am not a crock") Carter has announced a new program to revise the military manual along the lines of the Austrian Armed Forces Manual. PHILADELPHIA: Congratulations to Paul Sallabedra for exchanging a career (or is it "an adventure"? Of course, having the Spanish Inquisition's executioners torture you to death is an adventure, too.) in the Coast Guard for classes at U. of California. I think you got the better end of the trade.

PHIADELPHIA: Autumn and Winter 1906 and Spring 1907 are due (unless there are three votes for a seperation of seasons, in which case Autumn and Winter 1906 only) 6 September 1980 at 12 noon.

IN THE GOOD OL' WINTER TIME

1978HC Autumn 1907: Austria A Tri R Alb; England F StP R Nwy
 Winter 1907: Austria removes A Alb. England removes F Ion. Germany builds F Kiel, F Ber, A Mun. Italy even. Turkey builds A Con.

Spring 1908 due September 10. Richard Kehrner has resigned so Wietze takes over. An England/Germany draw has been proposed.

PRESS FROM ENGLAND: F StP: You blasted Huns!...

A Sev: We will coordinate attacks to ensure the safety of the Balkans.

F Ion: Blub...Blub...Blub

England: If we (row) don't coalesce against Germany, the game is over.

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 1979 AR Autumn 1905: Italy A Pie R Tyo; Austria A Mun R Tyo. Winter 1905: Austria (Goodrich) removes A Ukr. England builds A Edi. France builds A Par. Italy (Hart) even. Russia even. Turkey(McMillen) builds F Smy--will be one short.

Spring 1906 due September 10.

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 1979CV Autumn 1905: England A Mun R Ber
 Winter 1905: Austria even. England builds F Edi, will be one short. France even. Turkey builds A Ank.

Spring 1906 due September 10. English-French draw did not pass. Change of address for Bruce Linsey to Bldg 11, Apt 21, Leisureville, Watervliet, NY 12189. FET draw proposed.

PRESS

(The press last month datelined PARIS should have read ANKARA.)

CON TO VIENNA: Since you insist on not writing I find myself forced to build an army. Prepare to lose Sev.

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1980AA Autumn 1902: Russia A StP R Mos.
 Austria (NBR) will be one short. England builds A Edi. France even. Germany builds A Kie, A Mun. Italy even. Russia removes F Bal, F Sev. Turkey removes A Con. Spring 1903 due September 10. Standby orders for Austria requested from Lee Ferrier, 3821 Annadale Ln., #19, Sacramento, CA 95821.

PARIS: I do not necessarily agree with what Germany says but I will defend to his death his right to say it!

FRANCE TO ITALY: If you're half as good as I've heard this move should be a disaster for me, otherwise.....!

MOSCOW: We warn the enemies of the motherland that our doomsday weapon, a field of 80 megaton snowballs, is poised for delivery to London and Berlin! "We will bury you"

BERLIN TO MOSCOW: At this time I would like to scotch the speculation and rumors, and confirm to you that I am basically anti-Russian. Better that you should hear it from a friend, right? P.S. Watch out for England, I don't think he's on your side, either.

MUNICH TO TURKEY: I'm an Ally--at least, I guess I must be somebody's ally. Were you talking to me?

BERLIN TO VIENNA: The enemy of my enemy must be...no, wait, uh, how did that go again? This is very convusing. Never mind.

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1978HV Winter 1905: Austria builds F Alb. England builds A Edi, A Lon, F Lvp. Germany even. Italy builds A Par (Impossible) will be one short.

Russia NBR will be one short.

Spring 1906 due September 10. Change of address: Margaret Gemignani, 3200 N. E. 30th St., Ft Lauderdale, Florida 33308.

VIENNA: Italy please send me your address also why did you repeatedly refuse my offers of peace especially when England is picking up all your centers? Who is setting in Tunis and Spain?

