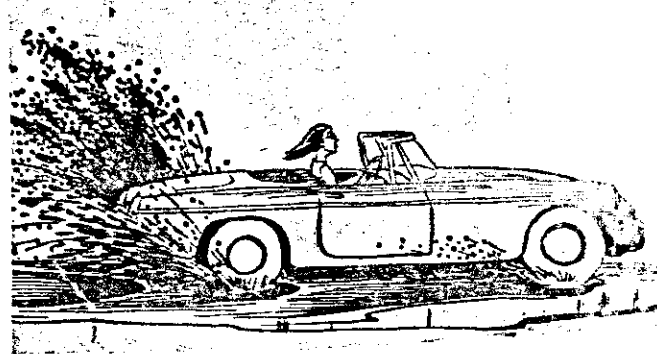




BRUCE LINSEY

THE
TOADIES
FEUDS
EXPOSES
ISSUE



KATHY BYRNE

The above cartoons appeared in DBM #14 in order to put the Linsey/Byrne feud into its proper perspective. Copies were sent to Bruce Linsey and John Michalski for publication, but apparently they were labeled "too sensitive" for they were ignored. Nothing is too sensitive for this rag, though. Note the above drawings are timeless, for the two feudees are still going at it.

Which brings us to this "theme" issue. Once a year I will devote an issue to the mudslinging and scandals in order to get it out of my system so I don't ruin the other 11 issues with this crap. Beware, some of the things I will say in this issue will be hazardous to the health of some hobby members, and it should be expected of the victims ~~not~~ to take this lightly. And if some of you don't want to read my tirades, turn to the back page where there is a pleasant short story. There's more normal stuff too, all of it is in the back.

THE TOADIES: The wrap-up of who is whose toady

Here is the letter that got me started, you can blame him: Daniel Scott Falter.

Greetings,

Got the latest issue-good work and all that...don't quite understand all the fuss about "toadies" though. Am I an Oaklyn toady? I gm'd him in two games and did not respond to suggestions that I kick him out-after all Bernie hadn't done anything wrong in my games-the strangest he ever got was expecting my musician space cadet of a kid brother [ha ha!] to get a message and expecting it to come out all right. The brother numbers are clearly listed as desperation moves + moves given to other than me are at a player's own risk. But other than that Bernie has been a decent, congenial player in two poorly run games. Similarly, am I a Boardman toady? I've done business with his company & regularly play in both of his zines. However, I rarely take John's comments as gospel & few of his other players that I know react differently. Indeed, do I have toadies-the PD [Pink Dragon] basically has a sub list of four: Seiden, Dembitz, Patejak & Rubenstein. Are they my toadies? Indeed I've had out of town players whether Helena exists-really funny as the other two (Seiden & Patejak) are less proveable than Helena [who's Helena, another toady?] (i.e. all 3 have been at West End booths at game cons but only Helena would dip as opposed to making moves) + one Dembitz, has never been seen by anyone other me. Best Regards.

P.S. Forgot you in the Leeder Poll but there's always next year.

[So you got me started, DSP. God bless you and the PD. I'll comment on Oaklyn later in the issue and please remember me in next year's poll. You could have offset that one, lousy, zero vote.]

First I thought, What the hell is a toady? I raced to my American Heritage dictionary and sure enough, it was there.

Definition of toady: One who panders to the wealthy or influential; a servile flatterer. See synonyms of sycophant.

So I went to my Roget's Thesaurus to find all the legal synonyms of sycophant:

tuffthunter, bootlicker, flatterer

Toady also has some other related words:

fawn, crouch, grovel

So that's how they arrived at toady. One must crouch, grovel and lick boots like a toad.

Who was the first hobby member to actually coin toady? I do remember Rod Walker calling John Boardman a toad; does one have to be a toad before becoming a toady? Er, I guess the individual the toady panders to would be named the toad.

Below are my conclusions about who is whose toady. It is not perfect, nor complete. I will invite the hobby-at-large to perfect this listing:

<u>Daniel Scott Palter Toadies</u>	<u>Dan Stafford Toadies</u>	<u>Bob Olsen Toady</u>	<u>Mike Mazzer Toady</u>
Seiden & Dembitz & Patejak & Rubenstein, the four Pinkos, Helena too?	Tom Swider Tom Pritt Bob Olsen	Mike Mazzer	Bob Olsen
<u>Bruce Linsey Toadies</u>	<u>John Michalski Toadies</u>	<u>Gary Coughlan Toadies</u>	<u>James Thurber Toady</u>
His dog Trouble Eric Ozog Dan Stafford Mark Lew Keith Sherwood Bob Olsen	Dave Pilant Kathy Byrne Anyone who agrees with Michalski's wretched, warped philosophy. Bob Olsen	Bob Olsen Steve Duke Jim Williams	Jack Masters
		<u>Everyone's Toady Except for D.S. Palter</u>	
		Bob Olsen	

<u>John Boardman Toadies</u>	<u>Kathy Byrne Toadies</u>	<u>Dick Martin Toadies</u>
Eric Kane, Brian Lorber & Ken Halpern Robert Sacks Bruce Schneier D.S. Palter Dick Martin The "Flushing, NY Gang" Any other NYC diplomacy player Anyone living on the East Coast And Robert Olsen Miscellaneous subbers to Graustark	Kane, Lorber & Halpern, Inc John Caruso Mike Barno Keith Sherwood Bob Olsen	Ieapo Stabo Julie Glass Sue Martin Ralph the Gnome Bob Osuch E.S.M. Kermit the Frog

<u>Bernie Oaklyn Toadies</u>	<u>Eric Ozog Toadies</u>
"Dwayne Shreve" Robert Olsen Daniel Stafford Eric Ozog Denise Tucker Neil Lehto Ken Baker	Mike Mazzer Kevin Kozlowski Don Ditter, the BNC H.D. Bassett Jim Bumpas D.S. Palter Jim Burgess
	Anyone forgiving Eric Ozog Anyone subbing to DBM Anyone playing in DBM Anyone trading with DBM Anyone plugging DBM

"My Three Sons", Brian Edward Tretick,
Steven Andrew Tretick, James Alan Tretick

Anyone who plays in a game with Oaklyn
Anyone who feels sorry for Oaklyn
Anyone who plays in Le Front
Anyone who guest GMs for Le Front
Any pubber who allows Oaklyn to play in his zine
Any pubber who plugs or recommends Le Front

Bernie Oaklyn's wife, Carol

MISC. NOTES---

Bob Olsen is one of the only ones who is a toady of both Boardman and Oaklyn. Olsen has a tranquilizing effect on both of the men who reside on opposite ends of the spectrum. Then again, Olsen has a tranquilizing effect on just about anyone.

Daniel Scott Palter also happens to be on Boardman's and Oaklyn's toady list. This seems to be somewhat of a fluke, I consider it only a matter of time before Palter is discovered and thrown out of Graustark. Also, Nobody tell Boardman about this for I don't want DSP to get in trouble, O.K? I am not sending the old man a copy of this.

THE FEUDS: Gary Coughlan vs. Dick Martin

As if the hobby didn't already have enough rifts in it, there is another feud going on (which was going on for a few months now but was never highly publicized) that is taking place between

Coughlan and Martin, complete with misunderstandings, half-cocked statements and over-inflated egos. However, it is quite colorful. We will start off with comments by Coughlan:

"I am also sending you a copy of the Graustark article I told you about. Dick's comment is first. Jim Williams is my good friend [see toady list]. You must remember that I took a week of my life to do the fake Retaliation. I was very disappointed at Dick's comment."

Below is the part of the Graustark article with Dick Martin's comments on Coughlan's fake:

"Thanks for putting Coughlan in his place. When he faked my zeen it caused no end of trouble. Players were writing and giving me nasty phone calls! I had no idea what was going on, a real mess. I doubt it will do any real good though, people like him are just incorrigible."

The Graustark article also had other rantings and ravings by Boardman, including tongue-lashings on Dwayne Shreve, Bruce Linsey, Bernie Oaklyn, Jim Williams (who defended Coughlan in a letter to Boardman), and myself.

In a telephone conversation with Gary, he outlined his grievances against Dick Martin which included Dick's comments in Graustark. The other things Coughlan was mad at Martin about will be listed later. I turned a sympathetic ear to Coughlan at first, but after hearing from Dick Martin in a letter I will print below, I must say that it is extremely valuable to hear the "other side" of the story.

Dick Martin--(This is pretty much an "open" ~~idea~~ letter, for print!)
that's what we're talking about!

Another DBM through the Mills. Pretty good, but there's one thing that caught my eye - the Boardman comments by Gary and yourself. As you may know, Gary has been throwing a tantrum at me ever since I wrote a PS- to JB [John Boardman] about Gary's faking. Those three or four sentences have caused him to hate me forever.

At least it is good to know where I stand, he won't speak to me any more (my, how mature). To imply that I don't admire the man is false, though Gary may think that I truly despise JB. I just got Graustark #441 the other day. If that is not genuinely admirable, nothing in Dip is.

My opinion of Gary has spiraled down drastically since Gen-Con. First, he would only say one sentence to me, and I had to drag that out of him. Not a good way to resolve a dispute. Second, he made several very uncalled for remarks about me to several people [such as?] at Gen-Con (I however, will never stoop to crudity). Third, he plugged my zeen as his favorite zeen in EE [Europa Express] #6. Several sources have informed me that he only did this to put himself in a good light, when I continued to attack him. I'm all for sarcasm + tongue in cheek humor, but outright hipocrisy is something which turns me off totally. Then he writes to Julie (you remember her - "subtle + shrewd), who tells me he just doesn't want to be picked on. OK by me, why didn't he say so in the first place? I would've complied. Then come his letter which you printed in DBM #33. I can't see it as any more than an unprovoked insult directed at me. This doesn't sound like a man who just doesn't want to be picked on! On the contrary, he sounds like he wants to fight. Well, I won't go for it. If I don't have anything nice to say about him, I won't say it. Unless of course, he wants to hear my side of this. Or unless he grows up a bit [hey, those words aren't very nice!]. I'd welcome either.

Personally, I have an opinion of JB + Graustark identical to yours (at least insofar as what you printed) [there's nothing beyond what I printed]. Then again, I've been getting Graustark for my entire stay in the postal dip hobby, and will most likely get it forever. I like his sense of humor.

You wouldn't want to fold when you're the exclusive home of your very own pet feud, would you? Of course not! [Damned right!] Thanks for the complimentaries, too. When you don't fold, I'll sub. I'll even join your standby list. Such a deal! (Oh, Julie likes your zeen, too.) [Thank you!] You sure have funky dreams. I wish I could remember mine. Maybe once per six months I can recall a dream for a day or so, but never more than that. Boring, huh? [All you need are some good drugs and it will no longer be boring.] Take care.

Before I compile the evidence and make a conclusion, here's one more clue from Bob Olsen:

"Gary doesn't fool me for a minute, incidentally. All that stuff about enjoying my letters! You wouldn't believe the lengths he goes to to avoid getting a letter from me! I mean, of late it seems he calls nearly every week just to make sure I have nothing to write to him! Works too. And now he has the nerve to try to be "nice" to me in your zine. Such a transparent ruse; he

knew I was preparing yet another attack on him, and he figured that if he said something nice about me in your zine, then I'd be forced to say something nice about him, and not attack him lest I look ungrateful! Gary will go to any lengths to frustrate me!"

Why Gary Hates Dick

He constantly picks on me in the pages of Retaliation.

He sent my Retaliation all mixed up (pages not in order).

He complained about my fake to Boardman and I took it as being serious. I thought he enjoyed the fake.

[It must be noted that Dick has never stated the intent of his note to Boardman, whether the intent was serious or not. At this point I assume that it was serious.]

Gary's Problems

Much too sensitive and serious when it comes to his image.

Talks to unrelated persons about his problems with another party without confronting the source of his problem directly.

Will praise someone who is criticizing him to get the advantage publicly (hey, wasn't it Christ himself who said to return evil with good?).

Diplomatic relations with Dick Martin totally broken down.

There it is folks, in black & white, as clear as crystal! Now I hope that these two children will get together now for they both have a common enemy: ME. Well? Haven't I laid serious charges and embarrassed the hell out of both of them? YES! And who cares about embarrassment? Certainly not I, I've been up to my teeth in a flood of embarrassment in this hobby, thus everyone else must suffer too! Gary & Dick, I await a united counterattack with relish!

Actually, I'd better be voted the Nobel Peace Prize for this. And you two, get on the horn and work out your differences. Both of you are talented individuals who are wasting your energy on feuding, right? Of course you'd see it my way.

THE EXPOSES; But first three letters from Dan Stafford, sponsor for "The Exposes."

Letter #1-- Eric, DBM has finally made the big time, it now resides in my zine closet. Wow. RE: IX, How did this game get so screwed up! I've never seen a fleet on the North coast of Spain before. What a bunch of puds. Thank God Oaklyn is in 47 games or he'd have won it by now. (No time for diplomacy.) P.S. I have recommended your zine to at least three people now looking for openings. [Those three will become Ozog Toadies and you have become my First Lieutenant.]

Letter #2-- The SLEAZE to the BOY WONDER. Eric. No, I don't feel sorry for you. Sure, you're a disgusting little half-wit sand creature, but you'll lead a happier, and possibly more productive, life than I will. [Gee Uncle Dan, you sound depressed!]

I'm sitting here, in well over 15 games, with not a move to do, nor a letter to write. DnD [Down 'N' Dirty] is several weeks late, Greed (Black Frog) is delayed, and all too many of my games have degenerated to gunboat (Le Front, St. George, Whitestonia). I've not started a new regdip game for at least four months now, so I've decided to start a couple of new ones, Dogs of War and Dip by Frostbite. Besides, Olsen is your standby, what better chance to stomp on him

Why Dick Hates Gary

Talks to everyone else why I'm so bad except to me.

Said he liked Retaliation only to put himself in a good position publicly.

[It must be noted that Gary has said he genuinely likes Retaliation, despite his problems with the publisher. I consider this to be perfectly reasonable.]

Dick's Problems

Makes fun of people (which is O.K. for a while) but doesn't know when to quit. Chances are that Dick will not take a given situation seriously, thus aggravating the problem (i.e. the messed up Retaliation sent to Gary).

Dick Martin can never admit when he is wrong in a given situation, nor will he back down and retreat (like a dog running away with his tail between his legs).

Diplomatic relations with Gary Coughlan totally broken down.

again. And further, it's easier to win in the little zines than it is in the big ones. [He's a sleaze, all right. He then includes a preference list.] God help me, I'm....yours. Keep those zines coming out on time.

Letter #3-- As for your National game, I am in it, despite the fact that you didn't make it to DOGS. And assuming that it is a regular Dip game.

You say that your zine won't always be eight pages. That's ok, but why not abuse the Xerox? Just get the thing out on time and all your little toadies will be happy [this rag has been on time every time except once.] --can't beat the price.

You are quite wrong about my letter in VOD! [See Voice of Doom #49] And, yes, I do care. Obviously more than you, after all, I still play and GM there. In fact, Olsen considers me "a secret hero in the struggle to keep Bernie on the track." [See toady list and look under "Stafford".] And Bernie is a bit off his rocker; how else could he justify his position. But then, aren't we all to some extent.

[Yes, Mr. Stafford, I do care too. I am one of the oldest of Oaklyn's toadies and I am his Chief Lieutenant (quoth Jack Masters). But I will tell you and everyone else, I'm all worn out from him. I've stuck up for him for a long time and now I've realized that he has hardly changed at all. Oaklyn perhaps has mellowed out somewhat and doesn't rant and rave at people quite as much as he used to. That's probably due to the fact that the issue has died down a lot.

I and others have seen the rising and decline of Le Front, Bernie's zine. I remember Le Front as the best zine I received. And it reached its peak when Olsen, you, Dwayne and I (and later Mazzerman) participated fully. All of us had a good time for a while! But in the end, lets face it, the bad GMing by Bernie, as well as Bernie's assaults on newcomers to Le Front (he will literally rip apart one's letter like a hungry wolf). I wish I could be more optimistic about the future of Le Front. Right now, it looks dismal. There is a chance though, a chance it can make a comeback. But only if:

- 1) Bernie has all games in his zine run by guest GMs.
- 2) Bernie stops the shit that's flowing out of his pen, the stuff that turns people away. Most of it has stopped anyway for there is no one left to attack.
- 3) No using James Alan Tretick, Steven Andrew Tretick or Brian Edward Tretick as his stand-bies, nor placing them into the same game, nor placing anyone else from the local Silver Spring area, violating the rules for geographic distribution.

If anyone cares about Le Front anymore (I wonder if Bernie cares), let's get into the Dungeons & Dragons Diplomacy game being guest GMed by his son. I don't recommend newcomers to get in it for it is a high-risk venture. If some of the old toadies want to try though, let's do it. OLSEN! You consider Stafford "a secret hero", why don't you stop being so meek and get in there, lay your neck on the line and become a hero too?

I like Bernie. He helped me out a lot on getting a good format for a zine and the clean way to report the results of the moves. We've talked much on the phone, and I like his fanciful philosophy. At times I value his judgement on certain subjects (now I'm talking like a true toady, don't I make you want to puke, Linsey?). Anyway, I'd hate to see Le Front go down the tubes for good, but it will take much cooperation on his part before a "great revival" of Le Front can take place.]

Jesus, things have become quite serious! Now I'm going to talk bullshit talk and finish up the "Exposes" portion of the zine. Here's the rest of Stafford's letter, and here's a fourth letter I found. But first, a word from my good friend, John Michalski. He gives his comments on Le Front placing last in the John Leeder Zine poll, Brutus Bulletin #102:

"And nailing down the pits firmly is the hobby fraud zine, LE FRONT, puked out by the widely-known Tretick. It, like Hitler, epitomizes the worst there can be. Unlike Hitler, it is still around." [Ha, ha! By the way, John is closing down BB soon and it will be missed. The best part of the zine was "John's Notes", in my opinion.]

The Rest of Stafford: "And don't be an asshole. Don't go accusing Boardman of doin' hoax zines (Anduin and Erebor) without so much as a shread of evidence. After all, that's the kind of thing he does to you and others. Print this if you like."

Dan also has a fourth letter, but after digging it out of the garbage can I discovered that it said "Do Not Print" on it. Drat! This one is highly colorful. Oh well, I can't let this one line escape from me: "Screw the Dwarves! And the Dykes!"

EXPOSE #1 The Erebor/Anduin/Graustark Connection

Yes, SLEAZE, I'll be an asshole. However, I'll have to be a half-assed asshole because I just received this super nice letter from Ken Halpern (pubber of Erebor) which just drips of toadyism:

"Dear EMO, Diplomacy By Moonlight is the best 'zine I have ever seen. You are taking serious risks on your life if you dare remove from existence this bastion [Christ, I wouldn't go that far, but if you insist] of the hobby! Sign me up for 30 issues (enclosed find a check for \$5.40). I will be expecting all of them!!!

By the way, I will be doing EREBOR alone from now on [Brian Lorber apparently was an assistant that chickened out], so please send DBM to: 11 Bellingham Lane, Great Neck, NY 11023. [This must be his mail drop.] I would also appreciate it very much if you would mention that fact in your 'zine. Thanks tons, Kenny Halpern.

P.S. Eric- How much are back issues, and what's available?"

[Thanks for your encouragement! Thirty issues is a long way from now, but if I happen to suddenly skip town, you can be confident of getting your money back. Hell, what a nice letter!! How on Earth can I accuse you of being a Boardman Hoax now? This seems to me to be shades of Coughlan. At any rate, Kenny here is a brand new pubber and I signed up for a game in his zine. This may or may not be a shot in the dark for Ken is a new GM. But heck, these guys have to start somewhere, right? Ken and his counterpart Eric Kane of Anduin remind me much of myself when I first started out, bad GMing and all. Not to say that these guys will be as lousy as me though. We will see. People interested in a sample from them should request a sample:]

ANDUIN: Eric Kane, 109 Hicks Lane, Great Neck, NY 11024

EREBOR: Kenny Halpern, 11 Bellingham Lane, Great Neck, NY 11023

I'm going to accuse them of being Boardman hoaxes anyway. These zines are a part of the Boardman Camp, whether or not "Eric Kane" exists. Unfortunately I cannot accuse Halpern of not being real for he sent me a legitimate check. However, both of them are hopeless pawns of Boardman. Observe the following excerpts of their zines:

Erebor-- "We [Halpern & Lorber] would like to proffer our most special thanks to Dr. John Boardman, publisher of Graustark, and Bruce Schneier, publisher of Invasion, for plugging our struggling little enterprise...[an enterprise of fraud]. We would also like to give special thanks to Eric Kane for his assistance in typing and collating this all-important first issue [Ah Ha!].

"Somewhat like the two cold war camps, Dr. John Boardman...and a few allies [including yourself, & of course], clashed with Bruce 'Brux' Linsey...and some of his 'associates' [at Gen Con East]. Unlike most summit meetings, however, a lot of 'ideas' were exchanged between the two sides. For example, who could hold back laughter, when Dr. Boardman sardonically awarded Sir Linsey of Doom 'Best Upper Slobovia'...in the Diplomacy Tournament. Funnier yet, was the appearance of five Eric Ozog clones, each claiming sole identity [funny? funny! I DON'T THINK IT'S FUNNY!!!], and all of whose existances were denied by said Dr. Boardman (Had your eyes checked lately, Johnny?)"

Note how Halpern is careful to call the old man "Dr. John" (must've been the right plaace, but it mussive been the wrong tiiiime). It is clear that Halpern is in Boardman's camp.

Anduin-- "This is the sister 'zine to Erebor, published by Ken Halpern...(game fees and subs are the same as those in Anduin). Such as it is [just a coincidence, huh?], we offer you a special deal. Anybody subscribing to both 'zines, will receive 1\$ off of each sub! Also, should the case arise that all seven players in any given game subscribe to both 'zines, then the winter turns may be printed in the other zine to save time [of course, wry not go all the way?]. Please remember that Ken and I have different zip codes [yes, you wouldn't want anyone thinking you both had the same zip code, huh].

"...we would like to thank everyone involved for making it the hobby that it is. When I say everyone, this even includes such characters as Brux Linsey [my, how charitable of you]. I mean, everyone has a place in the hobby. There is room for everyone. You may not approve of what they do and I personally do not. But they at least add a flavor to the hobby. However, before that taste becomes bitter or sour may I suggest that you (Linsey & Co.) ease off. I mean fun is fun but what you are doing is interfering with other people's rights and that's a no no! [Hey, you leave my buddy Brux alone! You upstart, are you trying to start another feud?] I would also like to give a very special thanks to Dr. John Boardman. After all, he was one of the founders of the

hobby and he is considerate enough to help beginning publishers like myself to get off the ground [you need all the help you can get, you pseudonym!]. Thanks John."

The above is certainly the talk of a true toady, isn't it? (consult toady list.) At the very least, that is what "Eric Kane" is. Or is it "Eric Blake"? Or "Eric Ozog", "Eric Verheiden", "Eric Kirchner", or "Eric McErlain", the newest toady of Le Front? You know what, there are too many "Eric's" in this hobby. I authorize and advocate the execution of Kane, Blake, ~~etc~~ oops!, Verheiden, Kirchner and McErlain. Why should I be burdened with others in the diplomacy hobby who have the same first name as I? I am the most popular of the Eric's anyway.

At any rate, Kane, if you want to prove your existance, write me a check to pay for this issue (\$.18). Now you see, I am much more reasonable than Dr. John.

EXPOSE #2 Andy Lischett, "Mr. Personality", A Thief in Disguise

Andy Lischett is well known for his "lackluster" approach to the Diplomacy hobby. Obviously one could not consider Lischett to be a center of controversy. Andy always seems to fade into the background, content with staying out of trouble as well as the limelight, quietly publishing his well reproduced, spic-and-span rag, Cheesecake. Well, he is now exposed!

282-4752	LICENSED & BONDED 24-HOUR SERVICE
ANDY'S SEWER SERVICE	
FLOODED BASEMENTS PREVENTED	
• BATHTUBS, SINKS, TUBS OPENED	
• ELECTRIC POWER RODDING	
• ALL SEWER LINES RODDED, REPAIRED & REBUILT	
• Catch Basins Cleaned, Rodded, Repaired & Rebuilt	
• FLOOD CONTROLS INSTALLED & REPAIRED	
REPRESENTED BY ROGER TRETICK	CITY-WIDE SERVICE 1443 N. KOSTNER, CHGO

The business card at left would pass off as typical if it weren't for two queer coincidences which cannot be ignored. Not only is Andy's Sewer Service the business that Lischett owns (a check of the business file at the Illinois Secretary of State office revealed this), but one of the representatives of the business is Roger Tretick, Diplomacy fraudster at large! Tretick is a plumber for Andy Lischett!! (I know this sounds like the "shopworn" Watergate conspiracy, but please bear with me.) And that's not all. I phoned the number on the card to get some information on Tretick and a woman answered

(instead of the usual Andy who should have answered) and claimed Lischett moved out of his apartment sometime last week. So this is a deadend street at this point.

Going to the building at 1443 N. Kostner (which is about 3/4 of a mile directly east of my house) revealed another puzzle: a boarded up store front. Where was Andy's Sewer Service? And where the hell was Andy?

Now I'd be willing to pass all of this off as some sort of elaborate misunderstanding or a ruse by Lischett to get attention if it wasn't for the fact of mail missing from my doorstep:

Keith Sherwood-- "What ho? A NBR? Surely you jest! I HAVE sent in orders; I have recorded doing such. I also have recorded that I sent you my COA, but it does not appear. Therefore I assume my letter to you never made it. It's happened again. Damn. Very well, I shall rectify the problem with new orders and another COA card. You had better get this set of orders!"

Keith is the Turkish player in the game OZOG TWO. A game where Andy Lischett is the Italian player, in a hopeless position. Also, Bernie Oaklyn/Buddy Tretick is the Russian player, relative to Roger Tretick, Lischett's "plumber".

It all adds up. Tretick is loose in the Chicago area somewhere, and is in cahoots with Lischett. Tretick is stealing my mail to screw up the Turkish player in favor of the Oaklyn/Lischett Italian/Russian conspiracy. And Keith was to be the victim. They were partially successful, Roger Tretick getting away with it twice. However, Roger apparently had a hole (or shall we say leak?) in his pocket, for I found the above business card on my doorstep with the rest of the mail. Becoming wise to what was going on, I had my mother keep an eye out for the mailman, getting the mail safely inside before Tretick or Lischett could snatch it.

What is now to be done with Oaklyn and Lischett? I have no houserule covering stolen mail, but it is clear that this is a grave misdeed that must be resolved. I will ask that a three man council be formed to decide the fate of these two players. This council will consist of Mark Berch, Rod Walker and John Boardman, surely three individuals who are very wise and can do no wrong. Unlike Mark Berch's "kangaroo Court" of a year ago that was supposed to decide the fate of 1979 IW in six months but nothing came of it (the game I screwed up and Berch's three man in-

quisition was supposed to decide whether or not to recommend the game be declared irregular, to this day I don't know what became of it), this three man court will have an entire year to decide what to do with Oaklyn and Lischett (because Berch, Walker and Boardman are highly likely to tie themselves up in their own arguing and related red tape).

I recommend that these two cheats be tossed out and be replaced by two individuals of better integrity and intelligence, Bob Olsen and Peggy Gemignani.

In the meanwhile, Roger Tretick is on the loose. And Lischett will have to answer to my charges, wherever he may be. I can understand Oaklyn arranging something like this, but you Andy! Cooperating with that scumbag!

This concludes the Toadies, Feuds & Exposes portion of DBM. Players and people who get this rag will be given through issue #35 to recover and to send in their comments for print. I repeat, this controversy is not going to become a regular feature of DBM, it will only be done once a year. The next time the hobby will be able to put on the boxing gloves will be the October 1982 issue of Diplomacy By Moonlight #46. So be prepared when I let loose my mouth next year!

Letters, Letters, Letters

Terry Tallman (A Tribes of Crane Player)-- You know, Eric; After reading your zine (?) I am much more able to understand why you came across so weird in the Crane newsletter.

It would be very charitable of me to say that the jokers who are in your Diplomacy game range from 3 to 6 beers short of a full 6-pack [ha ha!]. A lot like reading hate mail from Jim Worley [another Crane player, Tallman's arch enemy].

I think I'm going to regret this but I've enclosed \$6.80 for this sucker. As I mentioned in my tape I'd appreciate all the pointers you can give me. I'm sure the theory for this is a little more sophisticated than the rules. Also, player background, i.e. who's a bozo, who's straight shooting, who'll lie their ass off, who are the adults -- if any. Keep em Flying.

[I know you will come across real well in the diplomacy hobby. You're just the type for it. I came across so weird in the Crane newsletter to see how many people (including yourself) I could piss off. And if they take it to heart, that's their problem, right? Wrong! It's my problem when 10,000 warriors come pounding on the doors of Dex (the city I run) huh! Really Terry, I can't be too serious in these PBM games, my life is serious enough as it is. In real life I am quite rational, but in a game? Hell, I'll throw my role-playing character over a cliff for the right effect.

[As for telling you who's a good guy and who's a bad guy, sorry, you'll have to learn that the hard way. GMS aren't allowed to do that. Besides, it would spoil your surprise! However, you ought to be getting a novice packet from Bruce Linsey soon. That will help you out a great deal. And I think you'll know what to do immediately.]

GAMESTART: OZOG III, The National Game, Regular Diplomacy, Winter 1900

AUS: David Reynolds, 3462 Gunston Road, Alexandria, VA 22302 (703) 998-4044
FRA: Steven Duke, Route 3 Fairfield Pike, Shelbyville, TN 37160 (615) 684-8265
ENG: Peter Ashley, 6587 N. Lakewood, Chicago, IL 60626 (312) 743-0242
GER: Terrence Tallman, 16047 28th N.E., Seattle, WA 98155 (206) 362-7890
ITA: Daniel Scott Palter, P.O. Box 156, Cedarhurst, NY 11516 (212) 845-1228
RUS: Daniel Stafford, 2013 Glouchester Ave., Columbus, OH 43229 (614) 895-0245
TUR: James Burgess, 23 William Ellery Place, Providence, RI 02904 (401) 351-1675

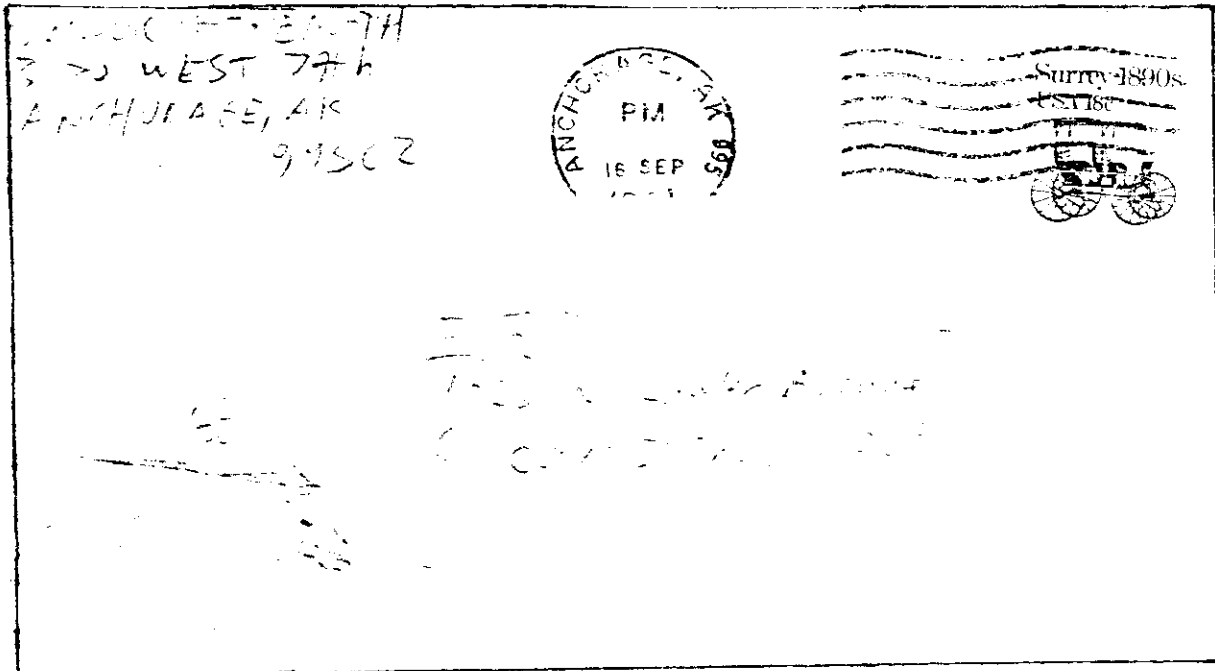
The Winter 1900 set-up of the armies and fleets is normal. Two months will be given for the first season for extra hot & heavy negotiating. Deadline for Spring 1901 is Friday December 4th. This game has great geographical distribution, everyone has houserules and none of you are slouches. So let's start it up! And everybody write press too, and it better be good!

Mark Lew, 3120 West 79th, Anchorage, AK 99502

[Oh! I just figured out what Ig Lew means! heh, heh, igloo!! Jesus it takes me a long time to figure things out. The below letter was written on the back of one of those lousy chain letters in Mark's famous chicken scratch.]

P.S. So...if I write again do I get another issue? [But of course! You can be this rag's resident writer if you want, and continue to get "courtesies"] Maybe I'll scrounge one issue worth of stamps if I can find the price [?] in here. (By the way in my letter, it was "tift" and "RG" not "tift" and "RJ". No big deal.)

Bad Boy Eric! Tsk Tsk. If you want to be accepted around here, you've got to learn the rules. If a letter says "NOT FOR PUBLICATION" Then you don't print it. If you didn't realize til after, you still could have easily amended the situation with your scissors. Like it or not, that's the way it is [what a drag]. I'll give you a chance to practice: Don't print the next word: _____. [I would not print such foul filth anyway.] Now if I see that word in the next issue you are in BIG TROUBLE. One viable alternative would be to replace said word with "[top secret]"



You'll get the hang of it. By the bye, (as JG says), it's "etc", not "ect".

Shreve really was a pseudonym, right? [Why do you ask me to do your detective work? I ought to leave you hanging, but I won't. Shreve is very real and he lives a little bit South and a little bit West of me. It is R. Tretick who we're worried about.]

I doubt you really played Russia before the Czars, as they go back quite a ways: if my memory serves me, the first was Yardslav I about AD 1100 (on the other hand I could be wrong).

Why don't you just forget the games. The one you've got is boring as it is [yeh]. Just fill it all up with sandcastles and losing Russians. Hell, even D&D is more interesting reading than most game reports.

It was rather odd seeing Oaklyn in that game. I've become so accustomed to thinking of you toadies as toadies that I forgot all about your figurehead. Good Night.

[Yeh, I couldn't be a toady without letting "The Top Toad" himself play here, right? Contrary to the policies of most zines, I don't bar him from playing. I am opposed to prohibiting anyone from playing (scumbag or no scumbag) as long as that person doesn't screw around. And Uncle Bernie has not as of yet tried any fast ones. Thanks for your letter, send me another! (Really, I should not encourage the guy, he sends letters to Linsey for print every week.)

THE DREAM POLICE #3 Dream Interpretation On a Vision of Sherwood's

Keith Sherwood-- Hey, I have a dream for the Dream Police Section. It's a reoccurring dream I have every night.

I'm in a room completely naked when suddenly 10 Playboy bunnies appear and start kissing

me all over [woah]. Just when I really get to enjoy this Bob Olsen enters the room and all the girls run out of the room screaming. At this point I always wake up in a cold sweat. Can you help me? Send picture of your 15 year old sister.



Paula Ozog

[Her picture is at the right, and I wouldn't touch your dream with a 99-1/2 foot pole. However, no job of dream interpretation is too tough for Dorothy Ozog, Diplomacy By Moonlight's resident witch. Her analysis is below]:

Naked: A desire to return to fetal stage.

Bunnies: Easter.

Bob Olsen: Father figure.

Girls screaming: Wouldn't you if Bob Olsen walked in.

Cold Sweat: Guilty conscience.

Conclusions: So what we have here is Keith who ate too many chocolate Easter bunnies when he was a child and his father caught him. He felt so guilty he wet the bed.

A Letter From Bob Olsen (COA as of 10/2/81, 6818 Winterberry Circle, Wichita, KS 67226)

Well, you wanted to know about my availability for Sleazecon, or Toadcon, or whatever you call it, so there's no sense beating around the bush. I'm afraid there's just no way I'm going to be able to make it. That's not saying that I might not be free some weekend in October, but there's no way of telling which, if any, it might be. Really it doesn't matter whether it's in St. Louis or Chicago or what; even if it was in Wichita there chances are I'd have to miss it. Ah well, I cherish my identity as a hermit anyway.

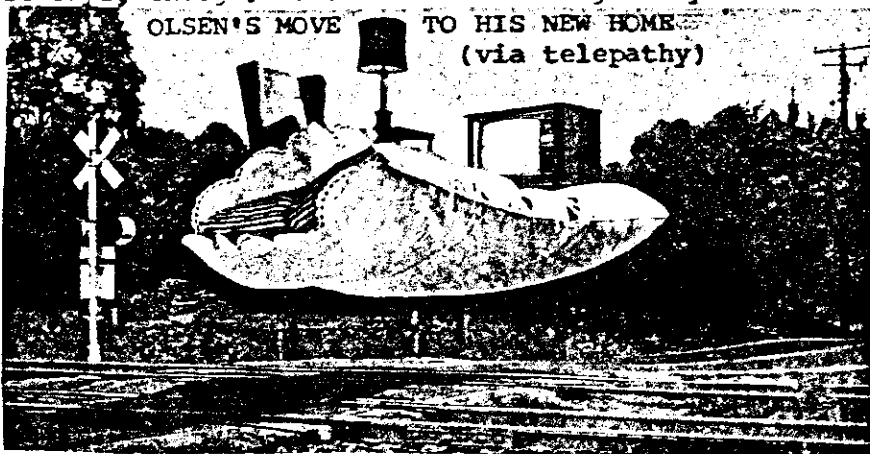
You know, you're really an amazing character [Thank You!]. Even in your little zine you still always manage to have something worth reading. "Eric the Innocent"--probably the most hilarious line you've ever penned! But really, why, quite often there's more to read in Diplomacy by Moonlight than in another dipzine half its size! (Hyork)

I note with regret that I was unable to start a feud between you and Gary C. I did my part and I'm sure that Gary did his, but somehow your goodness and kindness has saved the day. I thought I'd arrived as a troublemaker after engineering Linsey-Masters, but I guess I still have a few things to learn. There's still hope, though; maybe I can get you to publish something Gary marks "not for publication". But then you wouldn't be that silly, now, would you? [don't tempt me!]

So now it's Roger Tretick!! [Yes, he's "back in black"] Jeez, I haven't even figured out who Richard Tretick is yet! Come on, Dwayne, give us a break. Is it true that Shreve works in a lab cloning Treticks all day, and lets them out whenever he wants to cause trouble? Dwayne seems like a handy guy with an insult--Too bad we never met in a game. (Too bad for him!)

So is Toad Sherwood ducking out of his duties in IX, or not? [He's staying, and thanks for the standby moves.] Spiteful character that he is, he's probably leaving it to me to suffer the slings and arrows of Bernie while he goes making nice-nice with Kathy Byrne or something [see the toady list]. I now understand he's now her devoted slave. The guy is a born sycophant. I understand he's even capable of allying with Uncle Dan [ughh].

Too bad the last issue didn't arrive a couple of weeks sooner--I just bought a bicycle recently! And don't make that comment you were thinking of, either [snort, snort]. I hadn't been on one in about 15 years, but like they say, you don't forget. [Might be different in your case] I'll probably fall off the thing one of these days, though. So there's something for you to look forward to. Best wishes.



Fred Davis (pubber of Bushwacker), 1427 Clairidge Road, Baltimore, MD 21207

Thankyou for the sample copy of DIPLOMACY BY MOONLIGHT. Somehow, I always thought your zine had a different name. Did you recently change it? [No, but it was nicknamed the Tretick Gazette.] By the way, I know you couldn't be a pseudonym for Bernie Caklyn, as Caklyn/Tretick would never send me a free copy of anything these days - except maybe a bottle of Bubonic Plague [ha ha!].

Were you interested in trading for BUSHWACKER? You didn't say. It seems that I am out of copies of the August BUSH, but I do have one remaining spare copy of the July issue, which I am enclosing. Let me know if you'd care to trade [yes, that would be fine!]. BUSH runs exclusively variants, and is the third oldest consecutively published Dipzine in North America, having started in March 1972.

I enjoyed your article on "Things to do in Chicago #2". Did you know that I grew up in Chicago? I was raised on Juneway Terrace, the last street in the city, within walking distance of the Lake. Looking out our window, we could see the Calvery Cemetary. Until the cemetary got rich enough to repair their fence, we used to play softball in an unused corner of it. (Very peaceful and quiet neighbors. In the 1940's and 50's, this was a nice area. 'Tain't so any more of course.)

I spent many an hour on the various beaches between Loyola Park and South Blvd., in Evanston [a burb of Chicago], plus some time, during my courting days, at the North Ave. beach. We named the bathhouse there, that looks like a ship, the S.S. Nogo. However, during my high' school and early college days, my best memories were of what was then called Touhy Beach, or "The Stretch".

My friends and I were primarily interested in naval warfare of all sorts, such as the Fletcher Pratt game and playing games on paper. So, when we went to the beach, we soon left castles behind and built warships. One friend had a stroke of genius and discovered that you could build a model ship on a piece of board and move it about! This led to the fighting of naval battles at Touhy Beach, usually in the months of May and September, when it was fairly warm, but the beach was pretty deserted.

We soon found that Gay 90's ironclads made the best designs, as you could still get away with putting ram bows on them. Also, it was a lot easier building a ship with just two big turrets. Each side might build two such ironclads, with varying calibers of guns. In advance, we'd gather stones to match the various calibers. We might have three calibers, say 5"/6", 8" and 11" the biggest they made in 1890. The fleets would start from opposite ends and approach one another, their reciprocating engines chuffing (imaginary) [of course] black smoke as they labored to get up to 16 knots.

When we got within range, we'd stand beside the bows or sterns of our ships and fire at each other. There was no argument about whether a turret was hit, as with a direct hit it was gone. We did have a referee to judge whether certain shots were waterline hits, and to settle any other judgemental matters, such as when a ship would begin to lose speed. The big weapons were the rams, evil pointed sticks sticking out of the bows. Sometimes the ramming would be successful, but occasionally the ship would destroy itself in the attack if its ram was jarred loose and ruptured its own hull.

The winning side would be anybody who still had a ship floating at the end. Ah, those were the days! Let me know if you ever try this. As the hardness or the armor depended on the wetness of the sand, such battles always had to be fought immediately after the ships were built. And you move the boards carefully.

Maybe I'll see you one of these days in Chicago. Could I have your phone no? Best regards.

[My phone is (312) 237-4650. You sure had an imaginative childhood, I wonder how many kids today would do what you have done to have fun? Not many, I'm afraid, most just sit in front of the TV. (It is a rarity when I watch the damned thing.)

So BUSH was going since '72! Let's give Fred a big hand! (applause, applause) And totally devoted to variants! Don't you have trouble filling them? It's my impression that not many people play them. I'm trying to fill an Air-Sea variant myself (it includes submarines and airplanes). Think you might be interested in GMing one? I'll send the rules.

As far as me having naval battles too, I once built little wooden ships (and iron men) with a couple of friends and we'd bash them around. It wasn't near sophisticated as your setups. How old were you when you did that?

When I was in my early teens, I and a couple people built ships (from the scale plastic models) and installed little electric motors with brass propellers and shafts in them. We used

to have imaginary battles in my friend's swimming pool. We didn't need stones however, for one of the ships I had was so unstable that it sank halfway across the pool, despite my coaxing. My buddy said, "ha, ha, it turned into a sub." I didn't think it was so funny at that time, but when I look back on it, it was the damndest thing you ever saw.

The S.S. Nogo is still there, believe it or not. However, Chicago has changed. I doubt imaginative kids such as the ones of your day could have your harmless naval battles in this day of age without some mean kid coming over and wrecking your ironclad, or at the very least, some bitchy lifeguard yelling at you and ordering you out of the water.

Oh yeh, I just remembered, my cousin (who lives on a farm in North Dakota) built some elaborate clipper ships out of wood, complete with cloth sails. And these things were like four feet long! Dean (he's two years younger than me to the day) floats them in a ditch when it fills up with water after the winter. Very impressive. So I guess there's hope for America's youth after all.]

From Jim Burgess: Phew. Quite a long winded issue considering it only has one stale old game currently running. Can't you get up enough to start a new game? [I finally bribed enough to begin it] It seems as if I've been waiting forever [patience!]. I'd like a chance to oppose Stafford again but he is too busy as usual to deal with small fry like me. Ah well, his loss. I'll get him some day for that Air-Sea stab [surprise, surprise! See page 8, the sleaze is back!]

P.S. Lunar charts will naturally be forthcoming from your end with which full moons and eclipses can be predicted [There's none for the rest of the year, I'll have to find out about the next.]

Words of Wisdom from Mike Mazzer

Eric Ozog: A wasted, shaggy-haired flower child with vacant eyes.

GAMESTART: The Local Game, Regular Diplomacy, OZOG IV / Winter 1900

AUS: Dwayne Shreve, 5850 W. Race, Chicago, IL 60644 (312) 921-6515
ENG: James O'Donnell, 225 S. Catherine Ave., LaGrange, IL 60525 (Phone?)
FRA: Dave Gervais, 32 Wildwood, Cary, IL 60013 (312) 639-0426
GER: Brad Johnson, 347 Keystone, River Forest, IL 60305 (312) 771-8136
ITA: Chuck Kaplan, 742 Grouse Court, Deerfield, IL 60015 (312) 948-2871 (work #)
RUS: Bob Amstadt, 35 W 372 Ridge Road, Dundee, IL 60118 (Phone?)
TUR: Don Glass, 442 Vassar Lane, Des Plaines, IL 60016 (312) 824-5589

This game is regular, meaning the Winter 1900 setup of the armies and fleets is normal. Because this game is made up of local players, the Spring 1901 deadline will be Friday November 6th. I am sending houserules with this issue. Good Luck!

Some local views:

Bob Amstadt-- I do not live in the suburbs and there fore am not a suburbanite nor a wimp!!

Chuck Kaplan-- In his latest 'zine Boardman admitted that in "all probability" you exist. Congratulations!

Don Glass-- I waiting very impatiently for the game to get started.

Dave Gervais-- I recently played a new SPI game called SPIES. I think you may enjoy playing it. Beyond a few minor questions about the rules, the game is well thought out [that's rare for SPI]. Although player negotiations are only a part of the game format, as in Diplomacy skillful negotiations are necessary to win. Let me know if you get a chance to play. [Give me a call.]

RATE HIKE NOTICE: Attention please!

The post office has raised the price of a first class stamp to 20 cents, effective November 1st. Diplomacy By Moonlight's sub rate goes up to \$2.00 for 10 issues, effective with issue #35. Your account will be automatically deducted for the new rates.

The following rates are being charged for a double issue for this issue #34. It will cost me dou-

(312) 237-4650



ERIC M. OZOG

1526 N. Lawler Avenue

Chicago, Illinois 60651

OZOG II -- 1979 IX / Spring 1910

ENG (Stafford) a par-bre, a lvp-edi, f enc-lon, f spa/nc-gas, f mid S f spa/nc-gas

FRA (Nelson) f gas-mid D R A, f pic-bel, a mar-bur, a vie-bud, a ber-kie

ITA (Lischett) a rom-ven, f tun-wes, f tyn S f tun-wes

RUS (Caklyn) a nwy-edi, f nth C a nwy-edi, f yor S ENG f enc-lon, f nat-iri, f bel-enc,
a kie-ruh, a boh-tyo, a sil-boh, a ven-tri, f wes-spa/sc, a gal S FRA a vie-bud NSU, a con-
bul, f bla S a con-bul, f rum S a con-bul, a ukr S f rum

TUR (Sherwood) a ser-bud, a tri S a ser-bud, f ion-adr, f eas-smy, f aeg S f eas-smy, f gre S
a bul, a bul H D R A

There has been a proposal for a 5-way draw. Send in your votes, no vote received = Yes.

(Russia to England) If my guess succeeded, considering that your orders would be in favor of taking Brest, you would support f mid-bre, cut support of Gascony, cut support of Picardy, and hope to hold your own. If that was so, we side stepped you, guy. You get the brest, but we get the rest of the turkey. Get it! Gee, there seems to be more than one Turkey in this game. There is Turkey, and there is that 'turkey'.

DEADLINE for Fall 1910 is Friday November 6th.

COA: Keith Sherwood, P.O. Box 6457, La Jolla, CA 92037

TOADCON, SLEAZECCN OR CLONECON-WEST -- FACE TO FACE EVENT IN ST. LOUIS

There were tough choices for me in deciding which city to hold this mini-con. After weighing everyone's preferences I have decided on St. Louis. It was unavoidable to cut out a couple of people who would only go to Chicago. I don't like to be the bad guy in this case, but I can't please everyone.

I prefer the April Con (if there is one) to be held in Chicago, making up to the Northerners who could not make St. Louis.

Below is the information for the October Con:

WHERE: West Port Holiday Inn
1973 Craigshire (at I-270 and Page Blvd)
(west of St. Louis) (314) 434-0100

WHEN: October 24th and 25th
Saturday and Sunday

HOTEL INFORMATION: To place a reservation, call toll free: (800) 942-2552
Check In Time: 1:00 p.m. Saturday
Check Out Time: 12:00 noon Sunday

COSTS: \$60/night double, \$8 per additional person, up to 4 people may share a room. This does not include tax. I have already placed reservations for 4 Chicagoans in one room. Chances are we will tear each other's throats out before dawn.

ADDITIONAL RESERVATION INFORMATION: All other people attending the con are responsible for tak-

Care of their own reservations. When you place your reservation, ask that your room be as close to Eric Czog's room as possible. I will not call in your reservation and take the risk of being responsible if you do not show up. I will suggest below that certain individuals triple up at the very least, in order to save \$\$\$:

GROUP A:

CZOG, A. LISCHETT, ASHLEY, SHREVE,
RAUTERBERG, HURST?, W. LISCHETT?
(the 7 of us in two rooms)

GROUP B:

COUGHLAN, WILLIAMS, HANSON?, DUKE?
(these 4 in one room)

GUY HAIL, LIZ HAIL, CONNER?, MICHALSKI?, STAFFORD? DENISE TUCKER?(GROUP C)
(these 6 in two rooms)

These combinations are by no means official. I am merely pointing out that there must be massive cooperation amongst the participants for reservation purposes. Now don't everyone call in a reservation. Write to your group leader and he will count you and organize the reservation. The Group leaders are OZOG, COUGHLAN, HAIL. Reservations ought to be in at the least, one week before the event so let somebody know real quick!

Eric Czog, 1526 N. Lawler Ave., Chicago, IL 60651 (312) 237-4650

Gary Coughlan, 4614 Martha Cole Lane, Memphis, TN 38118 (901) 362-7206

Guy Hail, 1103-B Lorrain St., Austin, TX 78703 (512) 479-8642

SUGGESTIONS FOR TRAVEL:

(1) Tom Hurst (Madison) can drive to Rauterberg's (Milwaukee). From there they can come to Chicago together. The Chicagoans, Rauterberg and Hurst can take two cars to St. Louis.

(2) I locked up Jim William's cow town on the Iowa map (corn as far as the eye can see!) and it reveals that there is tough driving for him from Des Moines to St. Louis. However, Williams said he would travel to St. Louis if necessary. From what I understand, Scott Hanson (Minneapolis) might get to Des Moines somehow and the two of them would come to St. Louis together.

(3) I assume that if Steve Duke could mysteriously disappear from school for one day, he will get to Memphis somehow and Coughlan and him would come together.

(4) Guy and Liz Hail of Austin have the farthest distance to cover. It is over an 18 hour drive for them, and they are definites. Why don't the two of you try conning Mike Conner into going with you? It would also be very wise to pick up John Michalski in Oklahoma City. It's not out of your way.

(5) Dan Stafford, it is roughly an 8 hour drive from Sleazetown to St. Louis. I-70 all the way and you don't even have to think! Hell, you could even use automatic pilot or sleep-drive your way in. Please consider coming.

(6) Denise Tucker has the shortest distance to cover, a mere two hour drive from her college campus. Hopefully, her work load at school will not be too great, allowing her to come.

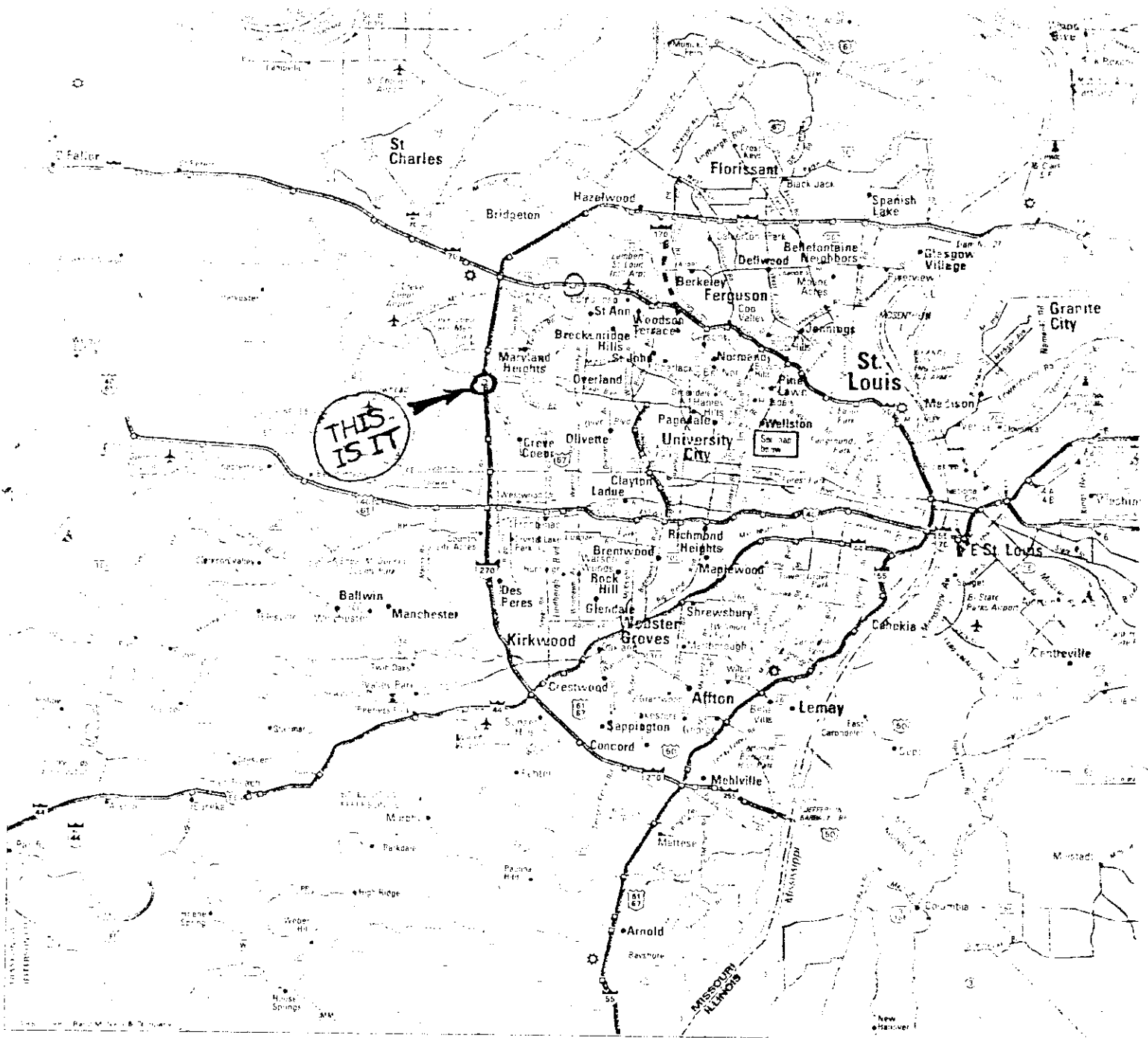
That's about it. The only snag left is for me to find out if the hotel will supply us a couple card tables to play on. If they can't, I can bring one, plus some folding chairs. We'll see what happens. At any rate, the rest is out of my hands, whatever "rest" is. I sincerely hope that everyone who said they would come, comes. And if anyone has anything to suggest or contribute, let me know! We are running out of time. See You Soon!

DIRECTIONS TO THE WEST PORT HOLIDAY INN (See Map Next Page)

When you find you are on the St. Louis bypass route (Interstate 270 North or South):

(1) Exit the freeway at Page Blvd East

(2) Follow this street EAST. You will be able to see the Holiday Inn from the road. The inn is on Craigshire Ave, or Road, or something.



A PLEASANT SHORT STORY

"...she should have known that the only way to rescue damsels in distress is to put her there first." -- See Retaliation (or Grab Dots!!) #33/34, page 5, paragraph 10.

The aging Sears Silvertone compact stereo tried to blast the rock-hard sounds of Toto at an unbearable 12% total harmonic distortion:

Can you tell me where I might find the Hydra
 Is he wearing a familiar face
 Does he still live below Seventh Avenue
 With the princess dipped in lace

It was Ralph the Gnome's turn to roll the dice, the Gnomopoly board (Ralph's own designed variant of Monopoly) indicated defeat for the superhero. His sidekick, Alfie the Imp, held all the color groups on the East side of the board, complete with fat hotels on them all. The game was going very badly. Alfie held every key property that Ralph needed and he refused to make a deal! Now the end was near, Ralph's battleship was right in line to Alfie's "hotel row." The song went to the chorus as Ralph hoped to roll a decent number...

I can tell by the look in your eye

You've never seen the man with nothing to say
I can tell by the look in your eye
You'd better watch yourself
St. George is on his way

As Steve Lukather's high pitched electric guitar took over during the instrumental portion, Ralph let fate decide as he let loose the dice. They clattered to a halt and revealed a 3! Back!

Alfie laughed, "Ha! Sacramento Blvd, three hotels and an office building on it! You're gone, boy, gone! \$3600 smackers!"

Ralph looked at his dwindled supply of cash and mortgaged properties and looked to Alfie and offered, "How 'bout I give you Chicago Avenue with my only housing project on it and the rest of my beer if you let me off?"

"Sorry, the sale is final."

Ralph sneered and flipped the board, multicolored playing pieces scattering throughout the dining room. A little plastic tax-exempt church flew on to the turntable, disrupting the tone-arm's usual path of travel, resulting in a much unwanted "thump-skip-Ka-Pow!", blowing out the strained amplifier section (time to get some Pioneer components, Ralph).

Alfie cursed, "Why did you have to do that for? Sore loser! Your supposed to be a true blue superhero, taking defeat like a man, upholding justice and defending moral values..."

"Thissiz different and I've had it! I can't stand being beat in my own variant!! And if you hadn't picked that 'Old lady dies and leaves you her estate' card, you wouldn't have been in such a rosy financial..."

RRRiiiiiiiiing!! The phone rang, postponing the argument to a later date. Ralph and Alfie both lunged for the telephone, Alfie reaching it first as his friend slipped on game pieces of his own design and fell on his face. As Ralph picked himself up off the floor, brushing off the pieces that clung to his Gnome skin, he heard the end of the short conversation. Yes, Alfie's stutter was back too! Something must have upset him.

"We're working on it, believe me Mr. G!...Uh-huh, oh p-please, not t-that!...Alright." Alfie slammed down the phone. "T-That was t-the HEAD GNOME! H-He wants to know w-what we're going to do about the mechanical Ieapo, and WHEN! He says he wants Coughlan strung up too. Boy oh boy, does h-he sound pissed!"

Ralph rubbed his chin as if expecting a magical genie to appear. They had put off this case long enough. "What else did he say?"

Alfie calmed down somewhat and explained, "He says that if we don't get on the ball and solve this mystery soon, he's going to sell us to Eric Ozog for use as characters in a short story he might write. Chances are we'd get filed away. Isn't that a totaled out bummer?"

Damned right they had put off the Ieapo Case long enough. The superhero and his assistant went back to the dining room table and swept off the debris of gamepieces and empty beer cans onto the floor, preparing for more serious work. No more goofing off and boozing or reading Playboy, ect, ect. Now their freedom was at stake and they must act promptly.

ERIC M. OZOG

1526 N. Lawler Avenue

Chicago, Illinois 60651

- _____ subscribe
- _____ trade
- _____ player
- _____ sample
- _____ time to renew



I COME CHARGING OUT OF YOUR MAILBOX

FIRST CLASS MAIL