

see note on Reverse

For a change, this is an authentic issue of:

# DIPLOMACY DIGEST

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Villifications and Tirades

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It's true, DD has joined the ranks of zines hoaxed. Everyone who has contacted me about it (except for John Boardman, who always seems to fall for these things) correctly assumed that #42 was the hoax and #41 was real, rather than the other way around as #42 tried to present itself. I had mentioned to Bruce Linsey that I wasn't planning to do a Dec issue because I had been in Fla for such a big chunk of the month (and the Nov issue was so late) so he went off and did one himself. See how little it takes to have your zine faked these days? Anyhow, since the zine so closely resembles a normal DD, I am going to count it as part of the normal numbering system. If you did not get a copy, send me a postcard, and I will get a copy to you, plus a replacement postcard.

As for the issue, Bruce may have slipped in some fake fakes there; I was not aware, for example, that Shogun's Sword had been faked at all. As for the headline across the top, Michalski (who said that the typing errors in #42 were overdone --- I wasn't aware that that was possible!) sez that his zine also has been in the top 13 the past three years. Incidentally, John, where is BB these days? Its been, oh, almost two weeks since it came.....

Actually, I had been thinking of doing a theme issue on fakes, tho it would have been dominated by much older material. The page 2 comment was true - I was fooled by the fake Whitestonia. On page 8, Linsey got the convention backwards --- double parens are always that of the editor of DD, triples are for the original editor. And I do congratulate Burce Linsey and Linda Simpson on their upcoming marriage in the summer of 1982. Talk about long engagements..... Anyhow, I'm very pleased that DD has been faked --- its an honor really. Bob Lipton has complained that no one ever faked his TMG altho he has been such a sourpuss recently I don't know why anyone would want to.

This vilifications and tirades issue is a little different from the previous one (#7/8, copies still available at 70¢) not only in being shorter, but because it also has some anti-criticism material as well. Note particularly Greg Warden on why flaying failing GMs is foolish, and some comments by Birks, Turnbull and Pulsipher.

Aside from some tart remarks about John Boardman, this issue won't have a hobby tirade like the last one did. Instead, I'll depart from the usual stick-to-Diplomacy rule around here to deliver a tirade against my boss, Ronald Reagan. During his campaign, he promised that he would enact an immediate and total hiring freeze. Such promises are routine for "outsiders". Anyone who believes such promises is a sucker, and those who believe that its desirable are (except possibly Libertarians) fools. Yet hours after his was inaugurated he signed just such an order. Or so he said. But exceptions occurred immediately. The Postal "Service" is not covered, and wide exemptions are being given to the FBI. More, I can assure you, will follow. Do you really think (turn to page 10)

((Kicking things off are this pair, first Lew Pulsipher in Impassable #61 (2-8-76) in which an unfavorable rating for his poll touches off a wideranging criticism))

### Criticism

I do not mind sincere criticism so long as the critic strives to be objective and explains his reasons. For example, Scott Rosenbuerg and Ben Grossman both disagreed with my first column and we have been able to discuss the differences, tho some appear to be irreconcilable. What I do object to, whther at me or at someone else, is a subjective vendetta, an ad hominem argument -- e.g. "this is bad because Pulsipher wrote it." Yet this is what I have undergone from Len Lakofka for thepast several years, and especially in the past 6 months, and I no longer care to ignore it.

A couple of years ago Len gave my Blood and Iron a C+ in either reliability or physical quality (I don't recall which) WITHOUT HAVING RECEIVED THE ZINE FOR MANY MONTHS (if not years) I did not even have a subber/trader in the Chicago area at the time. How could he know anything about it? Is this being responsible? Is this objective? I am sure that those who did receive the zine at the time would have disagreed with the rating. More recently he managed to rate the North American Diplomacy Player Survey #2 results very low on his overall quality scales in 3 separate issues of his zine, without giving any reasons for the rating except to characterize it as "semonizing". I do not say that the material was great, but the publication history, and the comments on it (which have all been favorable except for Len's) might indicate that such a low rating is not objective. The results were distributed by me to about 50 persons, mostly publishers. Scott Rosenberg printed it in the '75 IDA Handbook. I had intended NOT to submit it to DW --- and actually I never did -- yet Wlat Buchanan went out of his way to obtain permission from Scott to print it in DW as well. Also, the results are similar to the NADPS #1 results, which was voted third best DW article in Walt's survey of some months ago.

Len and I have had some disagreements in the past, but perhaps his reasons for the latest vendetta showed when he told me that I had cost him his chance to be IDA president (this was earlier this year). Probably this stems from my campaign statement in the election for 1975 IDA officers, and I said that readers should not beleive all that they read in the campaign statements, that they should check around, because 2 years before one candidate (Len, but I didn't name him or the office he ran for) had presented his record as IFW President to show his fitness for office when in fact he had presided over the dissolution of what was once the largest wargaming group in the U.S.A. (over 500 members). At the same time, Len, in his presidential campaign statement, once against made the same extremely misleading claims about his IFW record. 2 years before we had gone thru the same thing, with Len unable to deny or contradict my charges; why he tried it again I will never know. I doubt that this cost Len the election (his opponent was the incumbent), but it probably wans't helpful. Clearly, Len held this against me, tho I said nothing that wasn't true, and I didn't mention any names. It was his fault that he tried to mislead the voters, not mine. I think his present attitude toward anything thing that I do can be linked directly to his annoyance that I supposedly cost him the election.

Len's remarks about my column are a good example of how NOT to criticize, unless you simply want to cut someone down. It would have been nice if Len had presented substantive commentary-criticism rather than simply assert that "Mr Pulsipher's set up of the NAG/PG however is a poor one" If Len has a better suggestion to accomplish the purpose I was interested in --- raising publishing standards --- I wish he would let us know. If he disagreed with my purpose, does that make my article "tripe"? Is anything Len disagrees with a "waste"? His final comment, I think, speaks better of his subjective bias than anything I could say. I daresay that Len Lakofka is the only person in the hobby who would completely condemnall that I have written or might write. "Since Lew can't publish himself its a pity we have to read all this long-winded tripe in Impassable, Paroxysm, Speculum, and Pocket Armenian. What a WASTE OF GOOD MAGAZINE SPACE!!" (Quotes from ((Lakofka's Liaisons Dangereuses #63, p 7) (Of course

, no one forced any one of those zines to print my column, and any may reject any particular article they consider not worthwhile.)(Lew was syndicating his "Verhandeln" column in several zines. This article was one in that series)).

The results of a survey Len conducted a few months ago support what I have been saying: 29 people (15 of Len's own readers) rated zines in several categories on a 1-10 scale, 10 best. Of the four zines printing my column, I have regularly contributed articles and letters to two hithertofore; both have higher article ratings than Len's own zine (7.6 and 7.5 to 7.3). The one of the four that I have not contributed to at all until now received a very low rating (5.9, the fourth received 6.8). DW, to which I contribute more than anyone (in fact, more than any two, lately) received the highest rating of all, 8.8. ((I have included this paragraph to show what absolutely ridiculous grounds people will go to to make a point))

When you make a statement, you have the responsibility to back it up. It is much easier to condemn/destroy than to support/create ..... especially if you don't bother to give any reasons. Any fool can do that.

((That engendered Len's response in Impassable #63:))

... Lew first says that I rated Blood and Iron with a C+ having not seen it for some time. That is false. Lew himself sent me two to three copies because of some discussion in B&I on a topic of interest to me -- I believe it was concerning the International Game show, the IFW or convention scoring. As I recall the copy I received was of poor physical quality and thus a C+ in physical quality was generous I feel....

Lew says that I call his comments about NADPS "sermonizing". That is what I said. The dictionary (American Heritage) defines this as "2. A lengthy and tedious reproof or exhortation." Since I believe that "Brevity is the Soul of Wit." I saw no reason to go farther in saying why I rated NADPS as being poor. The material is not criticized (that is, the results themselves) by using the term sermonizing, is it? I find this remark to be quite objective AND if I am alone in it -- which I am not, I have gotten numerous letters saying that Lew is "long-winded" --- then so be it! Note that none of this has anything to do with the material -- that is the results. The results are VERY important to the hobby and Rosenberg and Buchanan are correct in reprinting them. I printed the ballot for NADPS #2 in LD! I will be the first to praise Lew for doing the work of putting together the questions and tabulating the results. It is a long and difficult and Mr. Pulsipher deserves just acclaim for it!

Lew characterizes this as "the latest vendetta". This is nonsense! Pulsipher did cost me votes and perhaps the 1974 election, but he did it because he thought he was right. I do not hold that against him.

Lew brings up the IFW again. I did help the group grow through my personal efforts from 1969-1971. Is that right, Lew? I did a majority of the typing, layout and collating through 1969, 1970, 1971 and a good part of 1972. Is that right, Lew? I did run two IFW conventions during that period. Is that right, Lew? I did get fed up with being the workhorse with NO thanks and NO remuneration. I told the senate that either they help (and the membership -- who loved to play but did not want to work on the magazine in Chicago) or I would not do anything but my constitutional duties. Is that right, Lew? My term of office ended on Dec 31, 1972 and the IFW folded in the Summer of 1973. Is that correct, Lew? For how long was I to be the donkey? How long would Lew have put up with all the work and no pay? The IFW cost me over \$400 and Lord knows how many hours and how many grade points in school. How much should I give, Lew? None of this is misleading the voters, is it? Lew will say but the IFW is dead. And I will say how much do you expect me to do? Should I say to the voters that while I worked IFW grew and prospered, but when I could get no help it fell apart? Okay -- I'll say it! Yet I acted in good faith and that is enough. I have no intention of talking about IFW EVER AGAIN!

...I called Lew's Verhandel'n "tripe" I'm sorry! The material is often very

good. It is the writing style. If Lew would leave out the "or in other words", "in my opinion", etc. and just say ONCE what he wanted to say I would print Verhandln in LD!

Lew concludes with statistics from a survey I ran in LD (and other zines) on magazine quality. He says he is a major contributor to DW. DW is rated as best magazine. Therefore, MY material is excellent. I fail to see that this follows necessarily. Well, there are my reasons, Lew, any fool can see them.

.....  
((In Ethil the Frog, First Cycle #28, June 1973, John Piggott goes after Will Haven))

In Bellicus #10 ((editor)) Will complains that his magazine has been largely ignored by the Diplomacy Press Barons, and, in particular, "John Piggott finds that he "cannot recommend this zine" ostensibly because (tho he does not print this) the deadlines are too widely spaced."

Well, lets get this straight. My objection to Bellicus is not just that the deadlines are too widely spaced. I can appreciate that some players might prefer a very leisurely game with deadlines spaced 6 weeks apart, tho I would not goin such a game myself. No, what's wrong with Bellicus is that it takes so long after the deadlines for the moves to come out. The actual time given for Diplomacy is no greater than for most other magazines. Six week deadlines are all well and good so long as they are not three-week deadlines masquerading as 6-week ones.

Will also commented on the fact that other gamesmasters have reacted unfavorably to his HRs. It would seem fairly obvious that other gamemasters have more insight into the particular problems of running a postal diplomacy game, and that therefore they are perhaps better able to judge than are mere players (and I do not use the word "mere" in any derogatory sense, I hasten to add). Such rules as "the GM may at any time activate units in anarchy, and move them where he thinks fit", or, "the GM will generally respect the 1971 rules of Diplomacy but will bend them where necessary..." merely turn the game into a farce. If such rules were in effect in Ethil the Frog imagine what would have happened to Andy in his ~~game~~ <sup>game</sup> by now, for instance. They are completely ludicrous.

For a so-called rational GM to beleive that these rules could possibly improve the game is incredible enuf. But the thing that really got up my nose about the Bellicus HRs is that they were not published until the first game got started. Surely players have the right to consider whether such eccentric HRs are worth playing under before they have committed themselves to entering a game. ? Well, apparently Will doesn't think so. It would be interesting, to say the least, to see whether Will is able to stay neutral whilst the game is in progress. I know that, for me, the temptation to be partisan in such a situation, especially if a good player like Andy were winning, would probably be too much.

Think, Will, think.  
.....  
((What follows is a discussion of criticism per se, From Ethil the Frog #40, Nov 7, 1973. Comments in triple parens are those of Ethil's editor, John Piggott))

Peter Birks: Of late, alot of people have been knocking Mike Sherrad for his lack of literary ability. These people (yourself, Don Turnbull, Richard Sharp) have been particularly rude in your comments, and if I had been in Mike's position I would have been very hurt indeed. For example, you gave Mike the Black Spot ( a good-humored award, admittedly) for criticizing Ethil the Frog, and forstammering. It seems perfectly all right for you to criticize Our 'Enry, tho, and to make fun of somebody stammering is the most unfunny thing I can think of.

Other such comments have been made on FUTURE WAR. The only things that have ben shown to be at fault with this game have been the missile rules and the atomic bomb rules. Richard pointed this out, not privately, but in his zine Bolchstoss. Mike then

changed this rule, and clarified a few others. This could now be a perfectly playable and balanced game for all you know, but you carry on slating it.

Mike produces a very readable zine. He GMs remarkably well, and deserves a lot more praise than you, or many other people, seem prepared to give him. Alright, you are going to say that it is in good fun, and you mean no harm, but look on some of the things that you have said, and wonder if you would have liked that said about you. Why not try encouraging newcomers to the Dippyazine field, instead of kicking dirt in their faces? At least Richard Sharp's criticisms were constructive.

((I find it very significant, Pete, that you and not Mike wrote this letter. Being a publisher in this hobby makes one a center of a certain amount of attention, and in any field the person in the center is bound to attract a bit of flak - it's a fact of life. This must be obvious from a random sampling of Ethil and other zines; in recent issues of Ethil, for example, I have aimed swipes at Bellicus, Mad Policy, 1901 and all that, Bolshevik Star, et cetera as well as Our 'Enry. Mike clearly knew the kind of thing he'd be in for before he started his mag, and, in the words of Harry S. Truman, if he didn't want the heat he should have stayed out of the kitchen.

As a matter of fact, my criticism of Our 'Enry in Ethil #34 was written after Mike had taken a few potshots at Ethil - get your facts right! Or are you suggesting that I should turn the other cheek?)))

((Perhaps at this point I should quote from Ethil #34 so we can see the tone used: "Mike Sherrad, in Our 'Enry 4 which has just arrived, gives a number of corrections to the FUTURE WAR rules. The corrections are dotted around all over the zine. I suppose it would have been too difficult to put them all in one place. The issue also announced a price increase to 6p per ish (from 5p). This is hardly justified since he obviously doesn't pay for his materials - his only liabilities are for stamps and envelopes. Also included is a letter from Conrad von Metzke about the IDA which deserves serious treatment (though Sherrad's ridiculous interpolations deny it this privilege), and then there's a short blast at Ethil's new policy. The only drawback to this one is a lack of facts and a plethora of untruths. More convenient that way, tho, aint't it, Sherby baby." Yes, but what were those "untruths" or "potshots" as he calls them above? Methinks someone calling another a liar should be specific))

((My original criticism of FUTURE WAR, again ((elsewhere)) in #34, was taking it as an example of bad variant designing. I still stand by this view - it should not have been printed with such glaring rules anomalies. There are others that I could have picked - I chose FUTURE WAR because it was topical and because Richard Sharp had already provided me, thru Dolchstoss, with some data on the mistakes therein. I don't see that this decision necessarily implies that I am biased against Mike Sherrad.

GM's remarkably well, you say? (aside to Mike -- I'm sorry to have to drag all this up but I'm sure you'll understand...) Well, if you don't remember it I'm sure John Lettice will fill you in on the full story about the great Ron Kelly balls-up; I can give you a few examples of the mistake's Mike's made in adjudicating; I could tell you I stopped sending Mike Press because I got fed up with silly non-jokes being shoved into my releases, often in the middle of sentences; you could examine the atrocious orthography of the early issues, or the poor typing (Mike still doesn't seem to have realized that when you type a comma you should separate it from the next word by a space); I could bore you to tears by telling you about the cruddy appearance of the early issues, despite the sophisticated reproductive processes it used; I could demonstrate the aura of amateurishness, of 'don't-care-what-it-looks-like' about it.... need I go on? ((Indeed, need you have said it at all? Recall that this was originally a rebuttal to Birk's "GMs remarkably well" and by the end has simply used the rebuttal as a pretext for rattling off a bunch of extraneous complaints))

And reading thru the above, I find I think it'll hurt Mike more than anything else I've said about him. Was that your intention, Pete? ((See, Pete, you forced me to bring that stuff about lousy typing, etc, up.....))

But, mind you, Our "Entry is improving. The sixth issue I quite enjoyed. in fact, and wrote a short note to Mike saying so. It seemed that he spent a lot more time producing it; it seemed more considered, as if Mike cared about what sort of zine he produced. This is good, promising even more improvement in the future as Mike gets more practice at editing.

There seems to be a ridiculous idea circulating around fandom (and you, Pete, seemed to have contracted a rather acute case of it) that we've all got to be really nice and polite to each other, filling our zines with sycophantic rave recommendations of each other's publications. This seems to me to be both dishonest and, ultimately self-defeating --- can you think of anything more boring than being jolly-D friends with everyone? Yecch! By all means, lets avoid the feuds and badmouthing that split U.S. diplomacy apart some years ago; but the kind of basically light-hearted carping that goes on in British zines is fun to participate in and, I trust, fun to read. You, Pete, seem to object when I gave Mike the Black-Spot - I suggest you ask Les Pimley or Brian Yare what an awful fate I consigned Mike to.....

You criticize me for mentioning that Mike stammers. I notice that you are conspicuously silent on the point of Andy Davidson's snoring, however. One might wonder why. In my opinion, a loud, raucus snore is far worse a social stigma than a stammer ((I can't believe that I typed such a ridiculous statement)); the company of a grampus (for Davidson is no less) is relished by none and cursed by many, especially at night. It is all in fun, of course, and Davidson took it that way; I see no reason to doubt that Mike took my mention of his stammer in the spirit in which it was intended. After all, if he hasn't become inured to people making fun of his stammer after 18 years....((Tho I do not stammer, I have been told by those who do that it can be a very painful social problem. Some aren't sensitive and some are. Making fun of such a person, without first checking with them as to whether they are sensitive, is crude.)) ((That finishes Piggott; next up is Don Turnbull, the Grand-Old-Man of British Dippy))

We are in a strange situation regarding new zines. I cannot help but say that some of the new stuff is frankly awful and not worth anyone's cash. Yet for some reason it seems to be "unfair" to name the culprits in print, and as soon as you do they try to get back at you by taking your own magazine apart, instead of improving their own product as they should. My policy of dealing with awful new stuff is to ignore it, in print and in fact. To date, no one seems to have noticed. Maybe Albion ((his zine)) WILL terminate before they notice. I think you are right - the matter will be put to the test in the long term by the readers, without overt demonstrations of ill-will. After all, I haven't set myself up as a paragon of virtue of good editorship/authorship in Albion, at least not without support from others. If Albion has set something of a "standard" then I am glad.

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((We start with Greg Warden in En Passant #64 , April 1975))

...Recently...several remarks were made by John Boardman in Graustark that I would like to comment on. I quote from #325 (without permission, I'm afraid)

"IDA's willingness to put up with Key is not just inadvertance, but part of an explicitly stated IDA policy....so be warned, if you should even send in a gamefee to a zine published by an IDA member. There is every possibility that you will see neither your money or any services rendered for it. And any complaint you make about this state of affairs to the IDA will be ignored; after all, it might cause "bad feeling."

This statement is pretty close to libel. I am an IDA member and I resent the implication that if someone sends me a gamefee "there is every possibility" that he will see neither the services nor money. In addition, as Orphan Games Project Director, I resent the implication that nothing will be done about orphaned games. If Mr. Boardman would just once remove his foot from his mouth and consider the facts, both past and present, he would realize the pure absurdity of his reasoning.

The facts speak for themselves: when games are orphaned and the IDA, or anyone else for that matter finds out about them, they notify the OGP and the games are transferred, fairly and in an organized fashion. There are no histrionics, nor any condemnations. Who needs them? The TDA perhaps, but everyone else just wants to see the matter straightened out as soon as possible. ((The OGP, under Greg Warden, assisted in the transfer of games from Crush, Command Post, Anschluss, Mordor Gazette, Sinai, and many other zines)).

The IDA in the past has supported and even contributed to (but not "subsidized") the efforts of the Orphan Games Project which by the way is not an IDA affiliate. The OGP, in fact, was in existence well before anyone had ever dreamed of an organization of Postal Diplomacy. The TDA, however, has never done anything to help the OGP, and in fact has only served to make the job of transferring orphaned games all the more difficult. The very hypocrisy of Mr. Boardman's statements about defamers like Reinsel and Tretick is ludicrous. After all, who encouraged Buddy Tretick in his crooked ways? I was around at the time that we were trying to get Buddy Tretick to leave postal Diplomacy (See EP #37) and I know the answer to this question: John Beshara, the "Chairman of the Board" of TDA. Where were you then Mr. Boardman, with your high sounding moralizations? More recently the TDA has entered into the "orphan games business" by handling the transfer of the The Fighter's Home games. I was not asked by the TDA about cooperating with their efforts, but considering their move at least a step in the right direction, I said nothing and watching them go to work. It has been my policy as OGP Director to let other people do whatever they wanted about transferring games: My job is to stand by in case no one else will help. As a matter of fact, I am always pleased to see alternate organizations get into the act; it makes less work for me. However, over six months have passed since TDA decided to handle the matter. What is the result? Nothing, except fortunately father Gorman has recovered his health and is publishing again. And what about Atlantis several years ago? When this zine stopped publishing for over a year, I tried to transfer the games. I got nasty letters from John Beshara saying that Atlantis was an TDA affair and that I should drop the matter. Where was Mr Boardman with his condemnations then? Obviously, the Atlantis players who had waited over a year mattered little to TDA then.

The facts, I think, speak for themselves, but facts mean little to John Boardman and he will probably scoff at them as a "tissue of lies". Mr Boardman, however, is a hypocrite (and probably much more than that) and his recent complaints are little more than an excuse for attacking a rival organization, and another means for getting some publicity for TDA.

One final note. Lest I be accused of partisanship let me state that while I am a member of the IDA, I have also been a member of TDA in the past. I let my membership in TDA drop only when I received absolutely nothing for my membership fee.

((This then engendered the following from Boardman's Graustark #329, 5-24-75))

Greg Warden has undertaken to defend the policy of IDA of not making public the names and misdeeds of fly-by-night publishers who collect fees and then don't publish. Moreover, he has tried to do this without mentioning Edi Birsan, whose policy this is. (Birsan has just ((been)) reelected IDA Chairman) Instead, in a "Brief Editorial" in En Passant #64 he says that I don't have the facts straight.

On the contrary, I have them straight from the lips of Birsan himself. Edi Birsan, Chairman of the IDA does not believe that the larcenous GMs should be exposed publically. The GM who plans to rip off his subscribers can find a congenial home in the IDA. Remember this if you think of sending a game fee to an IDA member. Also, contrary to Warden's lie, I have never supported Buddy Tretick's rip-offs, and have denounced them in print. Meanwhile, it should be recalled that IDA began as an attempt to drive TDA's chairman, John Beshara, out of Diplomacy Fandom. Larry Peery, IDA's founder, admitted as much to me in a letter which I published in Graustark #250. Failing in his acknowledged attempt to take over the TDA, he founded IDA. His publication,

Veritas Vincit, which attacked Beshara, was financed by Walt Buchanan, and also supported by Rod Walker.

Warden claims that TDA has done nothing about the games abandoned when The Fighters Home quit publication. You will find them in Black Hole (see above), thanx to TDA. Now, where will you find IDA Gamesmasters if they pull a Tretick on you? Maybe Birsan and Warden know - but they aren't telling.

((If you the readers are thoroly confused at the moment I don't blame you. However, except for spelling errors, I did type Warden's editorial as he wrote it. That is, tho Boardman says, "...contrary to Warden's lie, I have never supported Buddy Tretick's ripoffs..." in fact, Warden named Beshara (and the verb was "encouraged"). Note also what Boardman claims Peery wrote in Graustark #250. But here's the actual quote from #250: "I will continue, in spite of any and all personal attacks on me by him, to demand ... John Beshara's removal as chairman of the Board of TDA." (The ellipsis ("...") is Boardman's, not mine). There's no mention of driving Beshara out of Dippy fandom, or even of IDA for that matter. For another version of this whole matter see the hobby history issue, Q#21-22. Anyhow, next up is En Passant #67, Sept 1975))

During the summer John Boardman has been at it again; shooting off his mouth in his highly individualistic machine gun fashion, trying to hit as many targets as possible but as usual showing as little evidence of any intellectual discrimination on his part. His attacks of late have become extremely personal. This is unfortunate but is not unusual for Bardman. The eidtorial in En Passant #64 to which Boardman has reacted so violently, was not meant to be a personal attack. In it I merely disagreed with some incorrect and to my mind absurd statements that John Boardman made with respect to the way that orphan games and delinquent GMs are handled by the IDA. Yet now JB insists upon misrepresenting my statements as a personal attack upon himself; and then he reacts with characteristic liberal use of invective. It is essential that JB's reckless statements be answered immediately. I am only sorry that I could not do so sooner, but JB's excellent timing saw to that: he deliberately waited till I had left for Europe for the summer before commencing with his attack. ((Unlikely. #64 was posted in early May; G #329 is dated May 24, 1975))

I will begin my reply by quoting the relevant passages from Graustark ((he then quotes most of the above editorial))

I will standby my statements in EP #64...I practice I have found that most "holy crusades" on the order of JB's "Rip-Off-Roll" are not effective. The reason is that we are not usually dealing with "fly-by-night GMs who collect fees and then don't publish" ((quote is from JB)), but with well-meaning GMs who overextend themselves, who take on too many commitments or publish intermittently. Any Diplomacy publisher should understand this: Often personal matters get in the way of less important commitments. What is needed in such cases is help, not condemnation. With help the GM may be able to continue; with condemnation he will probably give up. When a GM does give up the games are transferred by the O.G.P. If the GM was dishonest in his intentions to begin with, then condemnation will have accomplished nothing anyway, except, that is, to give the person who made the condemntion a warm feeling of self-righteousness. If Mr. Boardman can convince me that his self-righteousness will help the players whose games are being abandoned then I will admit that his methods are better than mine.

JB also states, "Also, contrary to Warden's lie, I have never supported Buddy Tretick's ripoffs." At this point I begin to wonder if JB can read English, or understand a simple declarative sentence. JB never has the decency to quote the remarks that he off-handedly rebuts (if JB's drival can be graced with the word "rebuttal") in print. If he did quote the offending statements he would surely make an even bigger fool of himself than he does now (the possibility boggles the imagination!). I quote from my editorial....((see above)) Nowhere in the above do I say that JB supported Tretick's ripoffs. It is unfortunate that JB has missed the point of my argument entirely. He is after all reputed to be a teacher or a professor ((JB (incidentally to save space I



substitute initials) is a professor of physics), in which case one would expect him to have some cursory acquaintance with written English. However, for JB's sake I will explain the above paragraph again....

Step #1 JB now criticizes the IDA for not denouncing errant GMs

Step #2 When Buddy Tretick was cheating people, the TDA did not denounce Tretick, but rather supported him under the guise of "reforming him"

Step #3 JB at that time did not denounce the TDA for their support (or lack of criticism) of Tretick.

Step #4 JB is now acting in hypocritical fashion

There Mr. Boardman, is that clear enough for you, or would you like me to diagram the sentences for you? Perhaps I could send it to you in cartoon form? Or a coloring book? ((Note how Warden can't resist a final bit of unnecessary ridicule, which cannot help weakening his case)).

As for the final sentence of the above quote from Graustark, I again wonder if JB can read. All he has to do is read En Passant or Brunus Edwardi ((Greg's orphan-zine)) and he would know exactly where IDA (or any other) GMs can be found if they "pull a Tretick" Their games will have been transferred with a minimum of hysterics and a maximum of speed. No need for recriminations, breast beatings, wailing, or gnashing of teeth (nor any TDA-Boardman type of self-pity or thoughts of martyrdom).

Graustark #332: "And I refer you to Warden's completely erroneous editorial in En Passant #64. In that editorial he denies that IDA provides protection to GMs who default with their players' fees and cease publication ... Warden also claimed that I have endorsed Buddy Tretick's rip-offs of this sort. This is a lie."

Nowhere in my editorial do I deny that the IDA does not denounce in print errant GMs. I admitted it and then went on to discuss a) how I, as OGP director, prefer such a policy and why b) how JB's present criticism is hypocritical. The logic that assumes that a refusal to denounce is actually support is beyond my comprehension. By such dubious logic all of us have supported dishonest GMs. As for my completely erroneous editorial (another typical JB generalization) the facts bear me out. See for instance the letter from Birsan to JB in this issue of EP (a letter which JB refused to print in his magazine, for he knew it proved him wrong). Or wait until next issue when I reply to Schleicher's summer editorial.....

Graustark #332: In response to a letter from Robert Sacks stating that I have denied in Turnabout #10 that the OGP is part of the IDA, JB answers: "By the common experience of war-gaming fandom, Greg Warden's statements have little discernable relationship to fact."

To begin with I don't know what JB means by "war-gaming" fandom since the only game I play is Diplomacy and I am not considered a "war-gamer" I will let my record as OGP Director speak for itself, but JB is partially correct: when I play Diplomacy I do not always tell the truth. But this should be no surprise. The difference between JB and myself is that when I stop playing I stop lying. I have no need to make up a fictitious name in order to enter a game twice so that I can cop an easy win. JB does such things, however, and then goes on to moralize about other people's honesty. ((This is the "Eric Blake" incident, never repeated by JB, and over 10 years old by then)). In any case, JB calls me a liar but cannot refute the statement that the OGP is not part of the IDA. Calling me a liar, tho he may do it thrice or thirty times will not make the facts disappear.

Fact: The OGP was founded before the IDA was even in existence.

Fact: The IDA did not even support the OGP until last spring when it contributed under \$10, less than individual contributions, and far far less than I have sunk into the project. This IDA contribution has been the only contribution to date....

JB, however, cannot be as stupid as he makes himself appear in print. He himself knows that he hasn't a leg to stand on, so he resorts to the ploy of branding as lies

all things that he doesn't like. In his efforts to criticize the IDA he has taken the rather desperate measure of criticizing something as ridiculous as the fact that IDA does not denounce errant GMs...

I will not reply to JB's name calling by more name calling. It is obvious that JB is wrong and isn't big enough to admit it. I do wish, however, that if JB insists on calling me a liar, he would at least try to prove it, this is a reasonable proposition, and then perhaps I'm the fool for trying to reason with JB and his pals.

((Next in the issue is Birsans letter, which methodically (and much more calmly) demolished many of JB's statements about both IDA and the handling of orphan games, but I think I've spent enough on these characters and times. I am not commenting on Warden's believability, but rather showing how his editorial was severely misrepresented by Boardman. Alas, five years later Boardman has not changed his tactics one bit. Note the guilt-by-association (with IDA) reasoning above. And recently, he took great offense at an item in the fake Brutus Bulletin (an item which had nothing to do with him, I might add). He then asked for a freeze-out of all those "involved in forging the 69th issue of BB." And some one who says something he doesn't like can be branded a liar. In Graustark #418, 420, 421, 422, and 425 I was so branded (e.g. in #422: "... as big a liar as Mark Berch is ... ") Yet no specifics are given. I have written John as recently as this December (copy of letter available on request) asking him to tell me specifically what is it that I have said that he alleges to be untrue. His reply told me nothing about this, and he said he would not retract anything he said (which included an astounding amount of misinformation about the fake BB). I have reached the end of my patience with John Boardman. He is a fine GM. But his attitude toward those who disagree with him is fundamentally dishonest, and he shows no sign of changing. I do not plan to discuss him in this zine again.

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(FROM page 1)

that given a choice between replacing departing air-traffic controllers and shutting down airports that they will choose the latter? Do you really think that come tax time the IRS won't be permitted to hire extra help? Reagan will make these exceptions (and more) for the same reason that Carter did --- because there is no alternative.

But exceptions aside, a blanket hiring freeze is a stupid idea. It ignores the fact that turnover varies enormously from position to position. Take nurses, who, nationwide, over all employers, have a turnover rate of about 30% per year. The U.S. government, like all large employers, hires nurses because people get sick or have accidents on the job. And when a nurse leaves, you can't substitute a file clerk. You need another nurse --- which Reagan says you can't have. Or take my agency, the Patent and Trademark Office. We are seriously undermanned (see the article in the Feb 2 issue of U.S. News and World Report) with respect to our statutory mission, viz, to issue valid Patents and Trademarks. Typists turn over very rapidly (the better ones get picked off by private firms paying more; others we lose to pregnancy, etc). and we are already short (many of our official actions go out handwritten!). If we can't hire more typists this spring, we are going to be in very serious trouble, because turnover among professionals and management is much lower than typists. Within a month or two delays in turning out our product will be noticed by inventors and their lawyers.

Another bad effect is that such a freeze discourages people from leaving their government jobs. This always happens with freezes. If you've got an offer from a private concern, but aren't sure it will work out, you figure, "If things go bad, I've got a reasonable shot at getting my old job back --- I'm certainly qualified for that or something similar." So with that safety net (perceived or real) he makes the jump. But with the freeze, he says, "I'll wait till the freeze is over."

I don't disagree that the gov't is too large in some respects (tho its interesting to note that the budget as a % of the GNP in 1980 is about the same as 1968, and employee salaries are less than 10% of the federal budget). But a total freeze at any point is just grandstanding. Carter's replace-2-with-1 was much more honest.

The Zine Column #35

Fake Zines Outnumber Real Ones (Almost)

I always get a kick out of listing the hobby's new zines:

Europa Express 4614 Martha Cole Lane Memphis TENN 38118 (Gary Coughlan)  
The White Duke Steve Shaddix 5486 Butano Way Rocklin, CA 95677 (12/\$5/25)  
Peek Box 6824 Burbank, CA 91510 ("Occupant")  
SNAFU! RR 2 Maniwaki, Quebec, Canada J9E 3A9 (Ronald J Brown) (11/\$2.50)

Some explanations are needed. It used to be that someone just testing the publishing waters would start with a Guest GM slot. Gary Coughlan, the "Donovan" referred to in DD #41 who faked VOD and Retaliation gets his start by faking others' zines. Three zines have come out recently, Y'all #1 and #2 (the first of which I didn't get, hint, hint) and Europa Express #1 with Gary's name on it, but he didn't put out any of them (or so he sez). Y #2 (No title is too short to contract) sets some sort of record as the first non-existent zine to be faked twice. EE, which definitely has the Masters' look to it, has a fake letter from Calhamer (Sorry, Jack, the signature is right but he just doesn't say "I always get a big kick out of these rules questions", tho the answer given was pretty droll). It not only has the traditional plug for DD so often given in issues #1, but even better, mentions what a good idea it is to plug DD in #1, so as better to perpetuate this extremely valuable hobby tradition. In fact, now that I think about it, lets all agree that any issue #1 that doesn't have a plug for DD will be treated as a hoax --- OK?

Er, I got a bit off the subject there. Anyhow, Gary really is putting out a zine called EE, but the hoaxer got the fake out before the first real issue arrived. Peek is another story: "Peek is a very special kind of Diplomacy zine published by ((the mythical)) Jane Proskin. PEEK is being sent without charge to those in the hobby that Jane deems as deserving. If you want to make sure that you are deserving and get future copies, send Jane a note (and a few stamps would help)...." Jane has also turned up ~~in~~ a subzine in a fake issue of MM. The zine is strictly for laughs. My copy had "Can you get away from Mona long enough to spend some time with me?" written on the front cover. This was the first time my wife as ever evinced interest in my Diplomacy mail. PEEK looks physically like a Masters product, and the humor is somewhat the same, but it has photoreduction, not normally seen in BF, and Black Frog #31, which gives a good history of the Jane Proskin evolution, implies that he didn't do it. Anyhow, I do recommend it and look forward to future issues.

Speaking of Black Frog Jack recently put out the most detailed how-do-you-like-my-zine questionaire I have ever seen --- and was rewarded by an astonishing 52-out-of-69 response! With close to double his circulation, I very much doubt I'd get 52 responses (Jack Masters 25711 North Vista Fairways Dr Valencia CA 91355; 10/\$5.00)

The White Duke I haven't seen yet; SNAFU!'s Ron Brown isn't the California one ~~what~~, correctly me if I'm wrong, but I don't think we've even had 2 pubbers with the same name before, have we?

Before I forget, I am altering my trading policy slightly. I still don't think much of the institution, but the price difference between this zine and some of the others is getting out of hand. For those zines which cost at least twice DD (i.e. 60¢ or more) I am going to prefer to switch to a traditional trade.

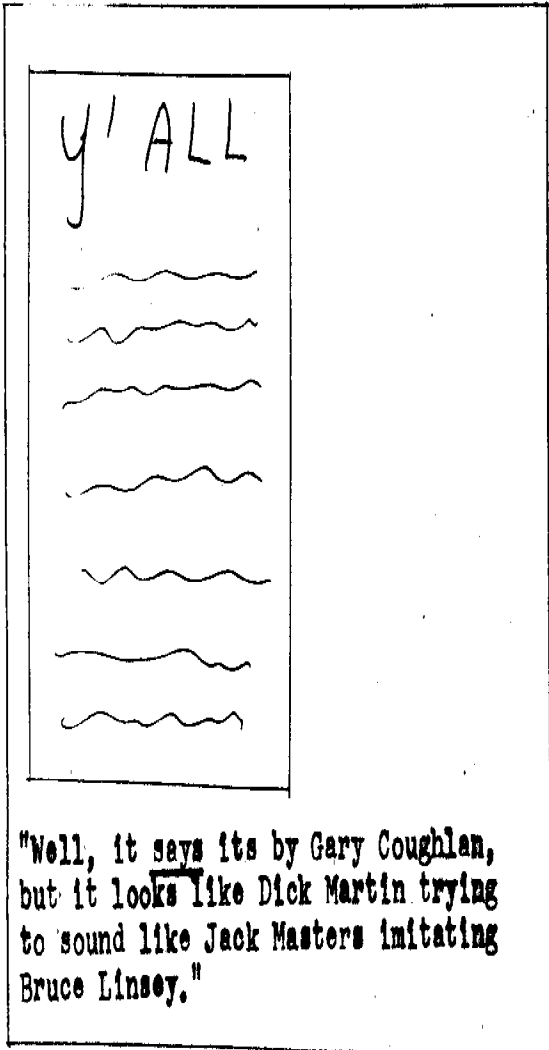
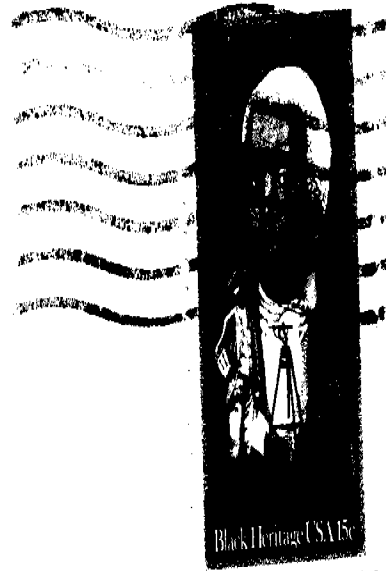
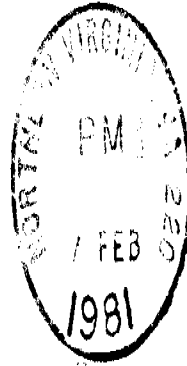
Elsewhere in this issue is mentioned the now defunct OGP. Those of you whose games have been orphaned should contact the U.S. Orphan Service, c/o John Daly Route 2 Box 136-M5 Rockwell NC 28138, who provides this valuable service to the dippy community. John also produces Dogs of War at 10/\$3.50, and I believe has openings at present for \$2. The zine has a good reputation for punctuality.

And a cheery WELCOME BACK goes out to Steve McLendon who, like Bob Sergeant, has gotten his second wind and now has game openings at \$3.50 + \$2.50 deposit, and the sub fee is down to \$6/10 issues. Another GM who is turning to computers.....

Mark L Berch  
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Alexandria, VA 22304

If the Number 43 appears by  
your name, that's a sure sign  
that your priceless DD sub needs  
a measly \$3 to continue on its  
merry way.

USP's" Labor CONTRACT  
IS UP IN JULY!



Jerry Jones (45)  
1854 Wagner St  
Pasadena, CA 91107

JERRY: Dont forget you promised  
to send me the questionnaire miswritten  
orders - but I havent gotten it yet. I would  
also recommend sending copies to Smyth,  
Lansley & Currier, as all have written it's one  
lengthen the miswritten order