

DIPLOMACY DIGEST

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Results and Letters

I'm very pleased --- and touched --- by all the response to my announcement of our upcoming child. The most extensive response comes from Don Del Grande, who has organized a "Berch Baby Pool". You are to guess the gender of the baby, the date and time of day of the birth. The winner will be the person closest, with a 72 hour penalty for getting the gender wrong. Rules are simple: 50¢ a guess, no limit on the number of guesses, and the entire pool of money will go to the winner. The deadline is postmarked 14 days before the birth. You don't have to subscribe to his zine (Life of Monty) or mine to enter. To encourage entrants, and to propagate the myth that DD subbers are better informed, if the winner is a DD subber, 4 issues will be added to his or her sub account (Don is at 142 Eliseo Drive, Greenbrae, CA 94904).

Fred Davis seems to think that the arrival of a child will make me more conservative, politically. Ron ("Canada") Brown assures me that "the sleepless nights during the first few months are rewarded later." (yes, he spelled it "nights", not "knights") Mark Luedi wondered if perhaps I had done some ombudsmaning for the "Apis" game ((that was 81AO in Europa Express, where 4 of the 7 players became fathers-to-be during the game)). No, I wasn't; games in EE appear to be extremely well run. Bob Olsen warns, "You'd better watch out or you'll land up with a Berch" Ah, yes, Bob, that's the general idea. I also received kind wishes from Larzelere, Buchanan, Kador, Linsey, Taylor, Byrne, Caruso, Knight, Beyerlein, Arnawoodian, Langely, Yerkey and others whose names don't come to me at the moment. Anyhow, Mona is feeling quite fine.

I just came back from a most enjoyable "MaryCon I". The setting was ideal --- Mary Washington College, a sleepy campus about 1 hour south of Washington. By dint of a tremendous amount of effort by Ed Wrobel and Dick Warner (who is a prof at MWC), we had 5 boards for both the first and second rounds. All the arrangements were very well done, and incredibly cheap to boot (\$23 covered 3 meals, overnight lodging and entrance fee). The "plaques" were the most imaginative I've ever seen for the winners, and the entire weekend had the "feel" of a lot of planning designed to help people have a good time. I hate to disappoint my regular readers, but I can't think of a single negative thing to say about it! The postal community was well represented by Bill Thompson (1st), John Kador (2nd, and the only win -- R), John Daly (3rd and best T), Tom Mainardi (best A), Jim Yerkey (best I), Julie Martin (who was the official GM), Fred Davis, Woody, Mark Larzelere, Jeff Bohner, Mark Fazzio, and some others. I did better than average for me (a 4-way draw and a wipe-out) for tournament play. Dick Warner, who has an incredible amount of enthusiasm, plans another for the same weekend in 1984, and I fully expect next year's to be even larger. We had plenty of time for play, a room for each board, a sensible scoring system, and just generally a very fine set-up.

THE 1983 DIPLOMACY DIGEST HISTORY, TRIVIA, AND GENERAL TOMFOOLERY QUIZ RESULTS

OK, here goes. If a ! follows the answer, no one got it right. If initials are underscored, only s/he got it. If * appears after the initials, that means s/he got the 1 point for the most amusing answer. Responding were Kathy Byrne(KB), John Caruso(JC), Don Del Grande(DG), Bruce Linsey(BL), Doug Beyerlein(DB), Bill Becker(BB), Al Ross(AR), John Michalski(JM), Steve Arnawoodian(SA), Jeff Noto(JN), Steve Langeley(SL), Mark Luedi(ML), Bob Olsen(BO)

1. Eric Ozog lived across from a convent --- the map was in DbM once! BL*: This must be a trick question -- there were nun. ((Weak, Bruce))
2. Mark Keller invented "NFR" -- no fakes received! Several guesses for Coughlan.
3. Comets and Dippostal games have the same naming system --- year followed by letter. Several funny guesses. DG: They both have soft heads -- every dip game has a few of these AR: They are dirty, made mostly of air, and burn out at the end. JM: The flashier they are, the shorter their life. JC: They are all fly-by-nights. BO: Both composed of hot gasses. SL: They look big and important but are really fairly insubstantial
4. Andersonville is Gary Coughlan's house. BO. Sorry, SL, you don't get 2 guesses.
5. Oxymoron is the first Dutch Dipzine.*DG: It's the only word that describes the hobby as a whole.
6. John Caruso ate Phyllis' chocolate bar, the louse. Caruso tried to deny it with; Don't believe what you read in "Kathy's Korner" *
7. #46, the Israel Trip issue got the most compliments. DB seemed sure it was #49, the Beyerlein interview issue. And no, BO, it wasn't "the one that got lost in the mail"
8. Kathy Byrne is the first of 4 sisters, "Mos Eisley" is the subzine she likes best, and she thinks Don Ditter is the best Diplomacy player in the hobby. No, Kathy didn't get it. This was my fiendish question; both BO and JN got it. I had to cheat slightly, as the correct name is "Mos Eisley's Spaceport", but when Kathy revealed this in W #64/65, she used the shorter form, so I used the "ME" abbreviation in the question.
9. Bernie Sampson called himself Dick Martin's designated standby. JN
10. Glen Taylor NMRed his wife Becky in a postal game, the cad. Several guessed Fritz.
11. The imitation of Gary Coughlan's voice fooled Langely but not Byrne! There were several guesses for Daf, plus some snide comments.....
12. Don Sigwalt married his wife while she was still in high school, and they did live together at the time. Both DG and SL said Jack Masters (with DG referring to a step-daughter Valerie and stepsons David and Kevin) and sounded authoritative about it, so I'll assume they aren't bluffing. Linsey got some action on this one, with KB saying: Thank God Linsey quit publishing (the question called for a former pubber), and BL: Damn, how did you find out about me and Alex. DB winged it with: He obviously found something better to do with his time than publish a Dip zine.
13. Sherwood accused Berch, Rod, Woody, etc of eating quiche! I liked AR*'s succinct: "Everything". Thos he's only a novice, Al is catching on real quick.
14. Al Pearson delayed the takeoff of a plane. Seven people got that one.
15. Franke tried to justify an inland fleet by pouring beer on the board to create a river. 6 got it, but I also liked BO: She quoted Mark Berch. ((A good habit!))
16. Dave Pilant was said to have kept his dirty socks in his dippy set.
17. Most votes cast in a dippy poll was 151, in the British zine poll of 1978. BL
18. Ardyce is Jack Master's wife. 19. Kendter has the most wins with Turkey.
20. More Play of the game articles have been written about Italy than any other country.
21. Russia has the fewest, tho I'm not 100% sure of this. Afghanistan and Swaziland.....
22. Doug Beyerlein takes only Orphan games (to GM) and Standby positions (to play) No, Doug didn't get it. ML*: Oso Sosso. KB's "A Real SOB-Linsey" was a close second.
23. Bob Howerton spent 20 years in US army as intelligence agent. Davis got 3 mentions
24. Down 'A' Dirty PUBLISHED an ode to the sexual usefulness of a cucumber. SL
25. I like Pommery mustard, which is a sweeted cracked mustard! DG* The place where Whitestonia is typed. Kathy is sweet and John is cracked.
26. The Leeder poll results were first broken down into categories by Mike Connor ---- see LSD #13 ----he did this a year before I did, which I wish I had remembered when Gary hammered me for doing it the following year! Nine people guessed me!

27. Dan Palter's multiple stabbing took place at ByrneCon 7. I gave the points to JC and KB, even tho they didn't know which number it was. Don't you keep records?
28. Erehwon (Walker's old gamezine) was once published in Turkey. DB
29. Woody has a 55-gallon aquarium --- an amazing 10 people got that one.
30. Gary Coughlan was jokingly referred to as looking like "Liber^{ce} after a 3-week drunk"
29½. Chicago has very good mail service to SE Canada
31. The Voice began as The Voice of Vienna, to carry the Asutrian press, but later became a full sized dipzine by Jeff Key! Closest was DB's International Enquirer.
32. Both John Boardman and Richard Scott entered a game as E, and also played T under a pseudonym, and won as E (Richard did it in 77DZ)! ML* Betcha they don't anymore
33. Caruso "can't stand cold water" ML. Oddly, KB guessed herself, and JC guessed KB, but I'm standing by my guns --- I'm sure the quote was about Caruso.
34. Scott Hanson was called the perfect Bavarian by Fraunke -- many guessed her!
35. I called my own third place showing in the 78 Leeder Poll "ludicrously high"! Lots of guesses for "Dipimaster", but points went to BO and SL for guessing just DD
36. JAF, Magus, Irksome, EE all have subzines; AG, DD, SG&D, FSF, Rune and LSD dont.
37. In 82CZ ("Final Solution") Italy took Tri and Vie, but lost Ven in 1901.
38. Kathy and Al drew a game of Gunboat Diplomacy --- a variant in which you don't know who the players are! SA and BL got the point for figuring out it was in gunboat.
39. A Malmberger is a standby in EE, and was named after a guy who later dropped. BO
40. Proskin, Blake, Winsome, Oaklyn, and Ames are all famous pseudonyms BO
41. Woody, Gary, Scott, Steve, Ozog, Al, Sherwood were all pubbers at ToadyCon 82! I gave points to those who identified the con (or called it Pudgecon), but no one actually noticed that this was the list of pubbers (i.e. Kathy was excluded, as were others)
42. Peery, Mills, Walker, Walkerdine, Baumeister took publishing breaks and then returned
43. Edi (as in Edi on the map) and Herb Barents (as in Barents Sea)
44. Tjobstron Strom published Baltic Battler, Pete Walker published Baltic Sea! A very tough question --- Pete is probably the most obscure Canadian pubber of all time.
45. Wells, Lew, Linsey and Shapley all wrote articles on Turkey not moving to Bul in S01! I'm amazed no one got this, and there were no funny guesses either.
46. D&L, and DW both put my picture on the cover. DB. The Dragonstooth rating system would be a close second guess, but, oddly, DTRS never actually appeared in D&L.
47. Beyerelain, Del Grande and Sherwood all won the 81 Trivia contest here! There were guesses for "all California", but really, thats not even close to being distinctive.
48. DbM, GWMM, Libertarrian, and LSD are all full sheet reduced! Again, "reduced" isn't good enuf; there are lots more zines which are reduced.
49. Byrne, Michalski, Baumeister, Brux, Martin, Woody, Osuch, Langely were all in the "81II" hoax game in Whitestonia!
50. Byrne and Burgess won the Toady Contest in 1982 --- 8 right answers on that
51. "Why argue face to face...." --- Richard Walkerdine! (I liked the quote)
52. "I can't handle more than 3 feuds at once, so I will have to consolidate several".! This was the trick question --- I made the quote up. Brux and Martin gathered the guesses.
53. "Nothing is wrong with being average" Gary Coughlan! Swider got 5 mentions, but I liked DG*'s bluff: I did, I think, when I got the Leeder Poll results for 1981.
54. "I enjoy feuds myself...." Michalski. 6 people got this, despite the fact that it came from the very last BB, which had a microscopic circulation
55. ".....I've become too fair and trustworthy." Dick Martin KB
56. "I am altering your orders. Pray that I don't alter them further - Darth Tretick" Mark Larzelere. JN
57. Let us jump into the scandal pit together, and drag one another thru the mud" Ozog BO
58. "Those stamps taste awful afer a while"(reason for quitting pubbing): Swider! KB*: Glenn Overby --- why not, he used every other excuse he could think of.
59. "Snatch up Serb, Herb" Pearson (in his 50 ways to leave your lover parody)
60. "There are no friends at the Diplomacy table." BL (Gary Hamlin)
61. "I am having a rather hard time figuring out how to jerk off" Byrne.
62. "At once the Italian and the Turk....." Scott Marley!
63. Berch was accused of making out his laundry list in triplicate (in Magus)! For some reason Gary got 5 guesses.
64. Middle Earth II was the first variant played mostly on a modified board! There were several guesses for Youngestown, which was the first played FTF. 3

65. Elsie, Coughlan's cow, supposedly eats green grits and is porch trained. 8 got it.
66. Jeff PUNCHES lost an election for "Dogcatcher" by 1600 votes
67. DD, Whitestonia, etc all have reduced print but Bushwacker, etc, don't. Digest, too
68. Keith Sherwood was described as a cross between me and John Denver. Is it true?
69. Dave Carter called Smyth's SFS "a dinosaur"!
70. Italy in 76CR was reduced from 16 to 1 center, and yes, standbys were used in that game! BL got the point, since he at least got the zine right.
71. Olsen said of Connor: "A nice guy, but fundamentally luckless". 7 people got this, and I doubt more than 2 or 3 actually saw the quote in St Geo.
72. Pat Conlon gives blood plasma twice a week to "blow on subs and gamestarts"
73. Coat of Arms published a recipe for stuffed camel! I will give credit for Magus, too, tho Magus was actually the subzine (see CoA #12)
74. The phrase "gossipy silliness" to describe Kathy's Korner was invented by me, and don't anyone forget it. 9 people got this one, I'm gratified to say.
75. Plastic Pieces for dippy sets were heavily criticized the past two years! Ah, how soon they forget.
76. Connor had a cat named Caruso. Loads of people got that one right.
77. Ozog, Kelley and Pearson had clean folds; Jones, Cuerrier and Lakofka didn't.
78. Don Sigwalt attended DipCon 82, but was unable to play (couldn't fill Board 23)
79. Shawneetown, Ill was calculated by Del Grande to be the dippy population center of the US hobby. DG. Lots of people seemed to think it doesn't exist. Er, it does exist, right Don? Right?
80. Greatest War in Modern Memory required 4 consecutive NMRs before expulsion!
81. "Ozog" was said by Boardman to sound like "an evil Martian high priest"

And now da results. The winner, with a score of 27 is KATHY BYRNE, who gets 12 issues added to her sub which is already swollen from so many fakes of DD. Second prize goes to STEVE LANGLEY, who gets 6 free issues for his 24 right answers. Strong showings were also made by Brux(23), Caruso(22), Olsen(22) and Luedi(20). 5 free issues also go to DEL GRANDE for the best single answer (his to #3). Lets see. The person with the most tripes at funny answers was Del Grande, the zine most often mentioned was Voice of Doom, the single most common answer given was Bruce Linsey, neatest printing was by Bill Becker, most different kinds of paper was Woody, most shameless attempts to flatter the editor goes to Bob Olsen. Generally, I'm phased, and will probably do another one in 1 1/2-2 years, which will probably be a little shorter. How many of you will still be around then? We'll see.

The 1983 Don Miller Memorial Award

Don Miller, who recently died from cancer, was one of early giants of the hobby back in the 60s and early 70s. He was one of the founders and mainstays of the variant hobby, a vital link between Diplomacy and the general war-gaming hobby, and one of the most prolific of all Diplomacy pubbers. This award is to honor someone who has made a significant contribution to the hobby. As such, it is the counterpart to the Les Pimley Award given by the British hobby. The only real difference between the two is that here the nominees are selected by a committee; and there, by just one person. The official nominees for 1983, in alphabetical order, are:

Mark Berch For service as chief organizer for DIPCON XV and Tournament Director, including designing the scoring system and organizing the panel discussion; for publication of DIPLOMACY DIGEST which has reprinted many fine articles from the past for new audiences; for production of special publications such as "Lexicon of Diplomacy", and Ombudsman services to the hobby.

Kathy Byrne For service on the U.S. Orphans Service during 1981-1982; for hosting numerous "ByrneCons" for Face to Face play in New York; and for making everyone in the hobby aware of the fact that Diplomacy, both Postal and FTF, is not restricted to the enjoyment of those of the male gender.

Don Ditter For service as Boardman Number Custodian during 1981-1983; the assigning of Boardman Numbers to new sections of postal Diplomacy in North America; compiled statistics on completed games; and arranged for their publication in EVERYTHING, the official record of the Boardman Number Custodian.

Lee Kendter, Sr For service as Miller Number Custodian during 1983 the assigning of Miller Numbers for postal variant Diplomacy Games; compiling statistics on completed games; and for past service as Boardman Number Custodian and Ombudsman services to the hobby.

Rod Walker For service as President of the North American Diplomacy Federations; editor of DIPLOMACY WORLD from 1981 to present; and Custodian of the North American Variant Bank; and for past services as Boardman Number and Miller Number Custodian, and designer of the ARDA Catalogue for Variants.

These descriptions were supplied by Larry Peery. Obviously, you can't go wrong with any of them, but you can "write in" someone if you wish. Your vote must be received by Larry Peery Box 8416 San Diego CA 92102 by July 4. You must either sign your ballot or include your name and address on the envelope or post-card. Vote for only one. The winner will be announced at the Sunday Afternoon Award's Ceremony at DIPCON XVI. July 4 seems a long way off, but do it now! This is a way for the hobby to be able to collectively express its appreciation. And finally, if you'd like to contribute a few dollars to help pay for the winner's plaque, send it to Fred Davis 1427 Clairidge Rd Baltimore, MD 21207.

I have just heard from John Caruso, who writes, "Kathy asked me & is asking you not to list her name. She does not wish to accept the nomination. She doesn't feel she's done enough to warrant the nomination." The Whitestonia ballot had her name removed. Oh well, these little glitches can be expected when a project first starts.

Oh, alright, if you insist, I'll wallow in a few pat-on-the-back letters.

Bill Hawley:You have an amazing grasp of the game, which is why I think you should generate more original stuff...your articles that I have seen in DD and DW are the best, in my view. Keep up the good work. ((I enjoy writing articles about play-of-the game, tho its hard sometimes to come up with something even moderately original))

Porter Wightman: Congrats on the Demo game win. I enjoyed your detailed description of it in DD. I actually set up the board and followed the whole game (got a measly score on the quiz questions, tho). ((Don't worry, I won't tell))

Tony Wheatley: I think that DD is one of the best around....Apart from being excellently written, they provide me with entertainment, insight, are always well stapled. ((The Jaded ego of the pubber requires ever more exotic compliments --- and "well stapled" sure is a new one (DDuses 4 staples).))

Pete Gaughan: I, too, preferred (loved) BOAY over "Spain". Thanx for not abridging the diary ((How about abridging the word "thanks"?))

Jim Meinel: Your ((triple)) issue, plainly stated, sucked. I personally like hearing about travels of people so that part was OK. But hitting me up for 3 issues (\$1.05) to see a 25 page endgame statement isn't very fair. I know, an experiment. Some of your other ((experiments)) worked out really well ... With all the many things and people in the hobby, why do your efforts seem to come back to focusing on you. The interview and this endgame statement appear self-centered to me. Did you submit your unabridged statement to Rod for publication in ... DW? Please take this as constructive criticism from one of your readers. You have a fine zine with subbers who want to see it stay that way.((I take your comments in exactly the way you clearly intend them. The interview and endgame statement were collectively, very self-centered, this I will grant, and I'd have been better off with them separated by, say, another dozen issues, but the game ended when it did. No, I didn't submit it to Rod --- it was too long for DW. One of the advantages of having your own zine is that you get to print what you want, regardless of length. One of the advantages of having loyal subbers is that some will like the long stuff, and most of the rest will at least grin and bear it. Thanx for the resub))

Bill Becker: You put out an amazing amount of Dip Material. I really wish I could quit my job so I could catch up with you. There's a lot of envy & respect for you out here in DipLand - besides the jokes these jokers tell. ((Ah, yes, the Diplomacy hobby: envy, respect, and jokes. As the song goes, "Two out of three ain't bad"))).

Pat Conlon: Congrats on the Demo Win (and condolences for the DW cover)." ((Someone else, I forget who, also made such a comment, so I should explain. Mona snapped it, but I set it up, and yes, I do know how to light a subject properly. Putting half the face in semi-darkness was deliberate. All successful Diplomacy players have a "dark" side, which was symbolized in the picture by the axe in my left hand, and the shadows....))

Mark Luedi: "Been doing some things about Bill Quinn's player-record-request-service. The more I think about it, the less I like it. I think some provisions should be added. Either 1) The player whose record is requested be informed of the request (and by whom?) 2) a list of all such requests be printed (by whom of course) 3) All such records be published, or 4) player can designate their files as unrequestable (but players doing so could not request files) ((of other people)). It is public information as Mr. Quinn suggests, it should be available to everyone, free. As its set up now, the identity of the requestor is more-or-less in confidence. Come on! This hobby shouldn't be run by the CIA. We might as well condone letter passing (i.e. implicitly legalize it and encourage it) But then, at least one other person knows there is a letter passer and chances are pretty good more will know about it. However, in this case, the powerful Mr. Quinn holds all the secrets. Any Comments? ((The question of privacy does arise in a game context from time to time. I have heard people urge that they themselves should have the right to determine whether or not their games will be rated, and several years ago a publisher wrote me asking whether he could keep his zine and GMing

out of the North American Zine and GMing poll. In England, they have had a zine called "Who's Where", which basically lists which players are playing in which zines and in which games, and I seem to recall someone objecting to this information being broadcast about himself. It seem to me that if you enter a postal game, you've given up your privacy in that regard. You can't stop the GM from printing your NMRs, the publisher from printing the final box score for the game, the BNC from reprinting that in whatever form he chooses, or anybody else from using that information, whether it be a rating system, a "reliability" scoring system, or Bill Quinn's printouts on players. I basically think these people ought to be able to do their jobs as they see fit, so long as they are dealing with publically available information. As for requiring Bill to publish a list of the recipients of his service, I put that in the same category as requiring a pubber to provide a list of the recipients of his service, i.e. his zine. Some GM's will make available a list of their subbers, some won't. I have done so a few times, but I don't feel that anyone can tell me that I have to provide such a list. That's a policy decision for Mr. Quinn to make, because he's done the compilation. As for being free, well, yes, it would be nice if his work product were free. It would be nice if your work product, i.e. Thirty Miles of Bad Road were free, too, eh?))

Bob Olsen:About "Swedish Roundabout" ((81AM)), you say that it was a game wherein personalities played an important part. I disagree. The only personality that really affected the game was Randolph Smyth's Just look at the endgame statement..... ((he then gives his synopsis)).....this game was a stinkeroo not because of the "personalities and their effect on the game", but for precisely the opposite reason: the outcome was decided in 1901 and playing it out was a waste of time. Had personalities entered into it there would have been some shift in alliances during the game. And the only player who exhibited any flexibility whatsoever, namely me, would not have been subjected to withering scorn in the endgame statements for the sin of playing the board rather than pre-game prejudices. ((Swedish Roundabout, the game that would not die. OK, I'll rephrase it slightly. The game, to an outsider reading the endgame statements and noting the willingness of several players to discuss the game with outsiders, seemd to have been heavily influenced by personalities considerations. It is true that the game did seem to have little alliance shifting, and players formed their plans awfully early. But don't take my word for it; read the statements^{for} yourself))

Frank Cunliffe: Could you please send me a replacement copy for DD #69? Mine was rather mutilated by the Post Office, who didn't even apologize....If you want to, feel free to count the replacement as one of my subscription issues.((I get at least 2 or 3 such mangled/lost requests a year. For those curious, my policy has always been that such USP"S" screwups are chargeable to the mailor, not the recipient (in much the same way the lost orders are the responsibility of the player, not the GM), so there is never a charge. I had a very odd incident in this regard occur not too long ago. Someone, I believe John MacFarlane, had ordered a pack of back issues. As I was filling the order, I remembered that a few months back, Caruso and Byrne had put out an issue of Whitestonia that was packaged to look like a fake of the "DIPMIMASTER" DipCon XV souvineer booklet, complete with a Berch Return address. Kathy had misaddressed MacF's issue, so it had been "returned" to me, and I had never gotten around to remailing it. So I stuck that issue in with the back order. About a week later comes in the mail a letter from the USP"S" saying that my package had been efficiently ripped to shreds, and all that was left was a mangled portion of the envelope, enuf for me to identify it as John's. Would I please identify the contents, they said, and they'd look for it. I couldn't see much point to that --- the zines were well marked as to my address, etc. I was all set to send him a second package when what should arrive, but MacF's fake, a second time returned for improper address. I never did get the other issues back, but the one thing I couldn't replace, the W, did make it back.))((Well, it seemed like an interesting story when I started to type it.))

My comments in #70 on treatment of confidential material drew some responses:

Steve Langley: Don't worry about my "Not For Print" policy - no one will get hurt -- it is only being done to tone down a distinct set of correspondents. I think your policy is too hair splitting - you would seem to require a "NFP" & "DNQ" to truly keep something confidential. ((Don Not Quote or Off The Record are both very strict in my view and thus NFP would be superfluous. NFP is a weaker label --- it doesn't have to be kept secret, just not printed. More on this after the next letter))

Rod Walker: Hobby tradition and the law are confusing on this point. Originally, letters were not printed unless specifically designated as "for print"; otherwise they were treated as private and, in so far as I know, confidential. I had some occasional trouble, in fact, with letters I had wanted printed but had forgotten to so label --- so they didn't see print until I made a request.

Later on, the distinction arose that an editor could print what he wanted of your letter(s) unless you forbade it. There were many individual ways of printing this (DNQ, Don't Print, whatever). But even then, a letter labeled "don't print" was pretty much as confidential for other purposes (in most cases, I guess). The idea that a letter "not for print" can nonetheless be quoted is a fairly hairsplitting notion but not necessarily invalid. But the hair can be split many ways. Why shouldn't "DNQ" be taken to mean, "Don't even quote part of this letter in print, the whole and all of its parts are not for printing." I think splitting hairs is generally non-productive.

The new law on copyright must be taken into account also. Under the law, a manuscript letter is automatically copyright and may not be directly copied without the writer's permission (no copyright notice is necessary on a manuscript). However, this is to protect the pecuniary value of such items (as in letters by Tolkien and Burrough, for example); and while the law could apply to letters valueless in any money sense; I'm not sure it would be worth the trouble to take it to court. Violations of copyright law carry civil penalties only, and you'd have to prove damages of some sort. And the court may find that the law was designed (as it was) to protect commercial property only and therefore not applicable to private correspondence generally. Even so, the law would apply to reprinting only (altho that would include making a Xerox copy), not to quoting parts of a letter in another letter, or reading the entire letter over the telephone, or whatever.

The problem in the hobby these days is not the copying or reprinting of letters, but the abusive use of the "DNQ" and "NFP" privilege. People have taken to putting designations of that sort on all sorts of routine correspondence. Or even not-too- (2)


routine correspondence where the label is inappropriate. Example: Let's say I write you and I say, "John Doe is a creep and he has done this-and-that, etc etc" Or perhaps, less abusively, I tell you something in confidence about Joe Doe. OK, that's sensitive stuff, and I would be right in telling you not to print or quote my letter (or at least that part of it), and to expect you to comply with my wishes. However, let's say I write you and I have some complaint about you, or some negative thing to say about you. I could label that "DNQ" or "NFP", but that is an abusive use of the tag. No: if A writes a letter to B attacking or criticizing B, then A has no right to request or expect "DNQ" protection. The decision to reprint or quote is strictly B's. Frankly even if the request were made, I'd regard it as ridiculous in that circumstance and I'd have no compunctions about ignoring it.

On the other hand, the reason there is abusive use of the label is that there has been for some time been some really abusive reprinting going on --- people reprinting things which anyone with even a shred of common sense would know was never intended for publication. Much of it has been done maliciously, but some of it has been done in stupidity and/or insensitivity. No wonder some people are paranoid about their correspondence and start putting "DNQ" and "NFP" on everything even their press releases.

Another problem is the greater tendency to copy or reprint things is a cruel desire to hurt someone --- or a total insensitivity as to what might and might not hurt someone. The result has been a rash of "bad blood" feuds based on letters which were based on letter which were printed, copied, or even sent without further copying and printing, not to mention statements made in editorials, or letters printed whose authors wanted them to be but which never should have been. There is a widespread boorishness in the hobby these days, a strong tendency toward a lack of compassion with respect to others. The amazing thing is that the victims of lack of compassion very frequently behave in the same way toward others. That's not only insensitive, it's stupid. Is it any wonder, then, that people are getting paranoid about their letters and putting "DNQ" and "NFP" all over them.

And out of all of this we are getting a heritage of feuds, bitterness, shattered friendships, and other repulsive results. That's a hobby tradition, too. It's one we can do without.

((Whew! That's one of the longest letters ever run in DD. Let me dispose of the legal issue first. If A writes B a letter, or sends him e.g. a set of House Rules, that's treated in law as a gift, so it's B's personal property. He can, oh, say, toss the HRs into his fireplace and sell the letter to an autograph collector. Copyright law creates a limited exception. Despite A's gift to B of the letter, A retains the right to make money by selling the fruits of his intellectual effort, viz, the words of the letter. If B takes actions which diminish those profits, A can sue to recover those profits. But A can't prevent B from publishing the letter only if he can show that B's actions would diminish his profits. A's desire not to have the material revealed (e.g. a "Pentagon Papers" type situation) is irrelevant under copyright law. Copyright law is not designed as an override to the right of a free press, but to make sure that it is the author who gets enriched. You might have a case under a "right to privacy", but the courts have been leery of using that concept at all.))

((Rod says that if A's letter to B criticizes B, then A has no right to DNQ protection. I totally disagree, and will never adopt that stance. If A has some criticism of me or what I've written, I want to hear about it. Perhaps he thinks an editorial in DD had the facts all wrong, and the logic severely mangled. I want to get that letter. If I'm wrong, how can I learn from my mistake if it's not pointed out to me? If I think I'm right, I'll want to get back to him --- or raise the issue in DD. After all, if he thinks that way, the odds are that others do too. So I do want to get such a critical letter. However, without DNQ protection, A may be unwilling to write me. He's perhaps afraid that I'll print it, show that Berch's facts were right after all, or that my logic was indeed sound, and in short, he'll look like an idiot. There's a real chance this can happen, and he may just not want to take the risk of writing me without DNQ protection. I do not view the DNQ label in such a critical-of-Berch letter at all abusive. There are some cases when it is abusive. This is when I'm entitled to be able to print the info, but the DNQ label stops me. Suppose A writes me, "Yes, I 

lied about you, and this is Off The Record." That's abusing it. But I take an extremist view on letters marked DNQ or Off The Record. That DNQ label, even tho abusive, will be respected. I will make exceptions only if there is a possibility of bodily harm, but I never expect to ever see such an exception. That information will not reach the public. I consider myself bound by such a request, even if unfairly applied.))

((On printing letters which, tho protected by a label, shouldn't have been printed anyhow, I quite agree, and I criticized a few pubbers back in DD #68 for doing this. An editor who does not use some judgement only makes himself look foolish as well as the writer, and there are letters written which, tho not labeled as DNQ, obviously were not intended for printing. I just recently got a very interesting letter from a former pubber which I would love to run, and was unlabeled, but I suspect he just forgot. So I will have to check back with him before I run it. There are times when you should err on the side of caution and not run something.))

((As for splitting hairs in distinguishing between Not for Print and DNQ, I suppose you have a point there, but I don't agree. We've already got DNQ and OTB which mean the same thing, so do we really need a third label, Not For Print, to say the same thing? And what about the guy who writes something which doesn't have to be kept a big secret, he just doesn't want it to go into a dipzine. If he can't express that idea with a simple "Not For Print", does he have to write the whole damn thing out? I don't see why, when "NFP" will do the job.

((Finally, I see nothing wrong with putting DNQ or NFP on a letter, and I do not view it as all paranoid. If you want your letter to remain private, then say so! So far as I'm concerned, the person's motives for labeling the letter as of NO interest to me, tho as most of you know by now, I'm no fan of speculating on people's motives to begin with. If someone wants to write a nasty letter and vent his spleen, I'd much rather, in general, he keep it private. I can think of 2 ombudsmaning situations I've been in where I would not have been able to function without both parties being able to rely on my respecting the DNQ label on their letters.))

((The next 2 items are ^{not} letters to me, but comments made in zines on this topic, so I'm grouping them here. First up is John Caruso in Whitestonia #69/70. He quoted with disapproval my notion given lastish of what "NFP" means, and said the following:))

"I think this could bring a lot of interesting questions. What does "Do Not Quote" mean? You can't quote but you can paraphrase! People can read it but can't quote from it. What does "Not For Print" and "not for publication" mean? And "Off the Record"? We have untrusting people in this hobby to thank for these little labels. I for one dislike to use them. I think common sense should be exercised, and if you don't want what you said passed around, do not write anything."

((In my view, "Do Not Quote" means exactly that. No direct quote and no indirect quote (or indirect discourse as it is sometimes called), which certainly includes paraphrasing. It means the information is not quoted along to someone else, regardless of whether you use quotation marks. OTR means the same thing; I've never seen any distinction drawn between them. "Not for publication" I would guess means the same thing as NFP, but I can't be sure, as I've never seen anyone use that label. As for John's comments about untrusting people and disliking those labels, I must say that of all the, say, dozen people who wrote me the most (excluding game stuff), the person who has used a protective label on the highest percentage of his correspondence (to me) is without question John Caruso. More on this letter after the next item, which expresses some very similar thought. This is Scott Hanson, writing in Irksome #25. He says that any distinction between the NFP and DNQ labels is "really ludicrous". He continues:))

"The best thing I think is for a publisher to use common sense. One should develop a feel for what is personal and what is public. That's my criteria. Anyone who writes private letters to denounce others deserves to be brought out in the open When you write "not-for-print" on a letter, it is a request, not a demand to be followed. Whether a publisher chooses to comply with such a request is up to each pubber. . . . I don't promise not to print anything that is marked "not-for-print" But such letters are usually too boring to print anyway If you don't have the guts to have what you say made public, don't write it down." 9

((If any publisher (including me) tells you to rely on his "common sense" or his "feel for what is personal" my advice is to be very VERY cautious. Publishers would like you to believe that they are perfect beings, and their "common sense" and "feel" is ALL the protection you'll ever need. Don't believe it. We are human and we make mistakes just like everyone else. And our "feel" might be very very different from yours. These things happen all the time. I've had any number of occasions, particularly in my first years in the hobby, where I've been quite surprised to see a letter of mine in print. It still goes on. In 1983 alone, I've gotten letters from Walker, Wrobel and one other person, all saying that they were surprised to see an (unlabeled) letter of theirs in print, that they hadn't thought it would be printed. Don't let this happen to you. If you want it off the record, SAY SO ---why^{EVER} risk a possible misunderstanding? And as for people lacking the "guts" to make things public, or bringing denunciations "but in the open", I frankly think the hobby needs LESS of that. I can think of several letters of denunciation which I wish the writer had lacked the guts to want printed))

Since this is very much a letters issue, and since there is more variability in the hobby than I thought, let me summarize my policy here at DIPLOMACY DIGEST on the treatment of letters.

If your letter is labeled as Do Not Quote, DNQ, Off The Record, or OTR, it will be held in absolute confidence. The only exception would be if this were a game letter to me as a fellow player, of course, or some bizarre situation where there was a danger to life or limb. Otherwise, even if I in my infinite wisdom feel it would be best to reveal your letter, I will NOT substitute my judgement for yours. If you indicate "cc" at the top or bottom of the letter with names, I'll assume that it's OK to discuss it with them. The label Not For Printing (or Not For Print or Not for Publishing, etc) means that it doesn't have to be kept secret, you just don't want it printed in the zine. The label "No Names", or some such, means I can run it, you just don't want your name used. If you have some other set of conditions (e.g. "DNQ, but you can discuss this with Mr X if you like", to cite a label I sometimes use), just set them forth exactly, and I will follow them. I will NOT override your wishes. I reserve the right to edit for content, language, and space, and I take my responsibilities as an editor seriously. For example, a letter with unsubstantiated allegations, even if true, is unlikely to be printed; a letter with abusive language, even if richly deserved, is almost certainly doomed. If you have special editing requirements (e.g. "No editing except for spelling and grammar"), set them forth, and again, I will not override them. Of course, if they conflict with my requirements, the letter won't be run.

Of course, be aware that other editors do things differently. Some do not edit and some (Langley, Hanson, and Caruso) will not automatically respect a DNQ/OTR label. If any of you publishers would like to add your names to the list of those who will automatically respect a DNQ label (e.g. Berch) or the list of those who will not give such a guarantee (e.g. Langley), write me and I'll be glad to make an update of this list as a public service. I don't know if this movement toward not respecting the label is just a fad, or a developing split in hobby attitudes

The Zine Column #63

Ignore this Headline

SNAFU! #31 was composed on a Xerox 860 word processor and looks impossibly handsome. The zine features hobby nooze, especially from the Canadian hobby, some off-beat travel vignettes which are often incomplete in a very satisfying way, and also the writings of his wife, Ann Fothergill-Brown (including a very entertaining account of her last name and the "troubles" it has caused her). His occasional editorials on hobby matters are exceedingly blunt. His GMing is apparently quite well thought of, tho at present the only opening is in a 10-week deadline International game. The major drawback is the price, 10 for \$8 in Canada, and 10/\$10(US) in the US (Ron "Canada" Brown 1200 Summerville Ave, Ottawa Canada K1Z 8G8).

Fans of VERY strange openings might like to check out FO1 in 1983P. It featured a three-way standoff in Bel, Russia convoying Turkey, Germany supporting an Austrian move, Italy doing the classic Key Opening (F Ion-Eas. A Tri-Ser), Austria moving to the Ion, and Russia entering Boh!.....

Bill Highfield 2012 East Ridge Road Rochester N.Y. 14622 is soliciting articles for his anniversary issue. He plans, somehow, to get 108 pages worth, topping Passchedaele's 104 (issue #29). I think you hit the law of deminishing returns with these. As zines go over 30 or 40 pages, I suspect that the percentage of the issue actually read falls, as readers, confronted by a huge mass, simply become more selective. Anyhow, the largest British zine I'm aware of is Ripping Yarns #6 which was 124 pages. The Swiss zine Europa #15/16/17 was 148 pages, but that is more of a general wargaming zine, so perhaps it doesn't count(er, Bill's zine is The Modern Patriot. It features Rightist Rantings, a subzine by Porter Wrightman with with games GMed by computer, and at least two other subzines)....

Berch-O-Mania seems to be hitting the hobby again, always a welcome development. The recent outburst began with Williams' "What Has Mark Berch Done For Me" Contest, which turned out rather well (i.e. I won). Kathy Byrne has moved from mere appreciation to outright worship in her recent contest in "Kathy's Korner", Terry Tallman has organized a "Yawner Poll", and then there's Don Del Grande's "Berch Babby Pool". Keep up the good work, people.

The latest info on DipCon XVI is available from John Caruso 160-02 43rd Ave Flushing NY 11358; ask for Issue #3, which has ideas for scoring systems, and #2, which gives overall information. The scheduld includes a Panel discussion at 10 AM Sat (July 16), with Round 1 starting at 2:30 PM, ending at 9 PM; Round 2 is Sunday, 8:30 - 3 PM, with Awards ceremony at 3:30 PM. The Committe itself has seen the resignation of Eric Ozog, and replacement with Ben Schilling, who is local (Detroit). For info on Origins itself, write Origins 83 C/O MDG Box 656W Yandotte, MI 48192. The last con run by MDG which I attended was in 1980, and was extremely efficient. Also from John is Issue #4, which lists the proposed charter amendments that will be discussed and voted on at DipCon XVI, all of which strike me as pretty sensible.

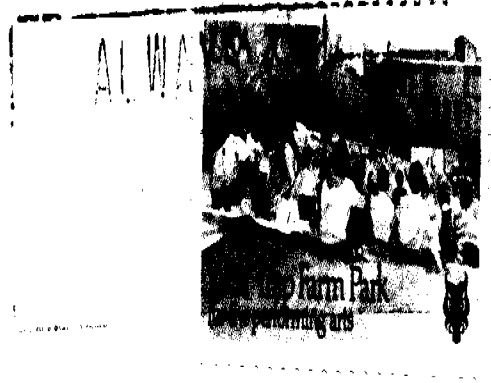
Magus #24 features John Michalski endorsing Jessie Jackson for President ("All the others are ... rich old white men"), , letters from Olsen, Byrne, Arnawoodian, Luedi, Peters and others. Langeley, who earlier said he would no longer respect a "DNQ" label, quotes 4 people, but, oddly, doesn't tell us who..... and speaking of letters, the May issues of VOD had an astonishing number of them. In terms of either number of participants or sheer size, VOD has one of the two largest in the hobby (EE is the other). I notice that Mike Mills' "Eminent Awards" ballot lists 6 nominees for Best Zine Letter Column --- and VOD isn't on the list....in the "They can leave, but they can't stay away" catagory seems to be former publisher Craig Reges, who has recently popped up in a new postal game in Irksome!...Lee Kendter, Sr has resumed publication of the Miller Number Custodian's Zine, now titled Alpha and Omega. This keeps track of game starts and ends in the variant sub-hobby. Subs are 3¢/page plus postage..... a very large number of zines seem to have "announced" that Kathy Byrne will be the next Boardman Number Custodian. This is either the worst kept secret in the hobby, or else a lot of people will have egg on their face? The fact that I'm not announcing it doesn't mean it isn't happening, it just means that I'd prefer to wait until something official comes out from either Don Ditter, or from whomever he has actually picked.

John Daly (Route 2 Box 136 M5 Rockwell NC 28138) is looking for someone to take over the U.S. Orphan Service, as he would like to quit the job. This can be very rewarding, as you are providing a genuine service to the players and to the hobby, and you will see the results of your labors. It is also a very taxing job, since you will see people, especially GMs, at their very very worst. John tells me he has plenty of GMs willing to accept orphans, but the problem is getting the records, etc, from the old GM. The job requires someone who has good judgement, but who can be decisive as well. If interested, write to John.

Well, I have plum run out of room. Some letters about the reprints in #69 will have to wait till next issue, along with the new zine list. Your comments on this issue are, as always, welcome. Next issue, tho, will be mostly reprints.

Finally, barring any unexpected events, I WILL be at DipCon, and I hope to meet as many of you as possible there.

Mark L Berch
492 Naylor Place
Alexandria VA 22304



If (71) appears by your name
its time to renew.

Don't forget the Runestone Fine
Poll deadline of July 4 (Send to
Randolph Smyth 212 Aberdeen St
SE Medicine Hat Alta Canada T1A0R1).

Larry Peery (76)
Box 8416
San Diego CA92102