No. 2



Published by Steve McLendon, Box 57066, Webster, Texas 77598 (713-) Openings in regular DIPLOMACY are available. Gamefees are \$2.50 (plus a \$2.50 refundable deposit if the player does not drop his position) + a subscription of \$3.00/12 issues.

Deadline for all games is Thursday, March 31

1977k

Armageddon

Spring, 1901

FRENCH AND RUSSIAN DRAGONS ALREADY OUT OF LAIRS!

AUSTRIA(J.H. Fleming): F Tri-Alb, A Bud-Ser, A Vie-Tri

ENGLAND(Mark Zimmerman) : F Lon-Nth, A Lpl-Edi, F Edi-Nwg

FRANCE(Frank McIlvaine) : A Par-Bur, F Bre-Mid, A Mar-Pie

GERMANY(Bob Sergeant) : F Kie-Den, A Ber-Kie, A Mun-Ruh

ITALY(Jerry Rogowski): F Nap-Ion, A Ven-Pie, A Rom-Ven

RUSSIA(Robin Smith): F Sev-Bla, A Mos-Ukr, A War-Gal, F StP(sc)-GoB

TURKEY(Lee Kendter, Sr) : A Con-Bul, A Smy-Con, F Ank-Bla

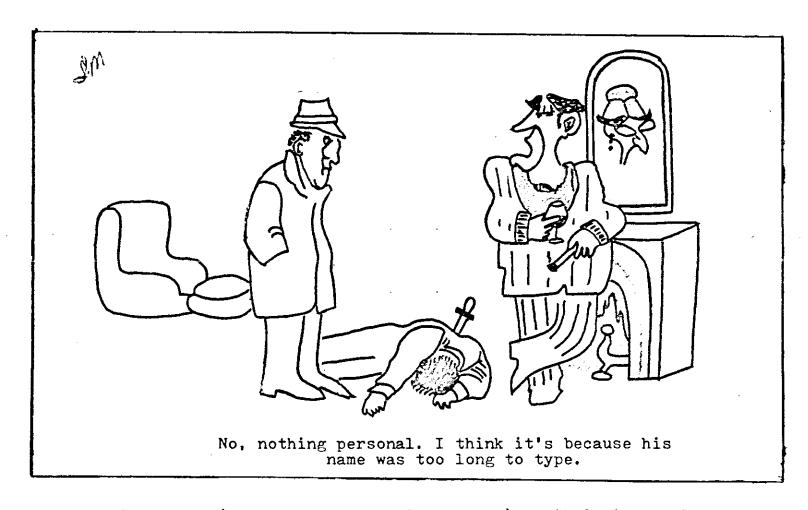
Wow! You guys have really come through and confirmed my suspicions about your #icions aggressive style of play. It is always a neat trick when even the gamesmaster cannot tell the allies.

It is indeed very seldom that one sees a bounce in the Piedmont right off the bat. The situation in the east is still very fuzzy. That bounce in the Black Sea could be very real antagonism or just a decoy move. A big question is which way will England go? He has played it rather coolly on the opening moves, obviously in order to keep all his options open. It is way too early to tell, but I just have this feeling that there are hidden knives all over the place.

In our first issue I stated that all seven of the players in this game are particularly talented in some form or another, and Frank McIlvaine has asked me (officially) to state specifically what strengths each of the seven possess.

Well, to begin, they are <u>all</u> exceptional tacticians, especially Mark, Frank, Jerry, and Bob. They impress me as the kind of guys who can take on anybody in a one-on-one situation and make mincemeat of them. Robin and Lee are experts at misdirection and deception. One never knows what

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they are going to do (or cause other nations to do) until it is too late (for the other guy). And finally, J.H. is in a class all by himself. Besides being a good strategist and tactician his letters and press releases usually keep one in stitches and liven up just about any game. (I was a little disappointed in that you didn't give us a sample this time, J.H.).

We received many flattering comments on our first issue and I want to thank you one and all. Mark Berch sat down and wrote me two pages of comments and suggestions and we really do appreciate that, Mark. I did not specifically call for comments/suggestions but they are, of course, welcome anytime. This is your zine and your opinions about what you want and don't want are very important. If I can make this thing half as good as some of the other gamezines I am familiar with (St. GEORGE and the DRAGON, DIMAN, COMMAND, and The BLACK HOLE, to name a few), then we will have accomplished our goal.

We received many favorable comments on our color cover. I hope to have a color cover every third or fourth issue. It will be a different cover each time (you wouldn't want to see the same old thing over and over again, would you?). I cannot put them out any more frequently than that because 1) I have to draw them and 2) they are quite expensive to reproduce, although I do get a discount. At any rate, only game players will receive them.



Yes, that's my fleet in the Channel. How <u>else</u> can I support you into Belgium?

We have four people signed up for our second game and on top of that we have two additional games to fill. So, all together, we still have 17 positions open in regular Diplomacy.

1977K Press

Paris: In the Parisian streets the flower (?) of French manhood marched from the city. However a bordello just outside the city sidetracked all except one platoon of former accountants and hair dressers called by some the "pretty boy" brigade. The accountants were turned off because the bordello didn't use a double entry accounting system and the hair dressers were turned off because the occupants of the house

let everything go wild (including their hair). A single platoon of soldiers marched into Burgundy. In the Italian front a squad of soldiers went into Italy in search of a good pizza, and immediately declared it a full fledged invasion.

/The following submitter requested to remain anonimous but rest assurred, dearly beloved, that it is not mine/

The Adventure of the Wooden Blocks (transcribed from the casebooks of Ron Kelly, Consulting Diplomat)

Chapter One: FEMME FATAL

I stood at the window and tried to count the snowflakes as they fell from the grey Washington sky. There wasn't much else to do on a Sunday. Yesterday's mail delivery had yielded only twelve zines and seventeen letters, and my responses were already sealed and ready to be posted by that evening. I guess I should really get more involved in this hobby, but I'm too lazy.

So, I continued the debate with myself, as to whether or not to put some shoes on and go out to buy a bag of "Chips Ahoy" cookies (my supply was running low). Before I could decide, though, a taxi pulled up to the curb below me and stopped. A woman, heavily bundled against the cold, got out, paid the driver, and then looked nervously in all directions before entering my apartment building. I knew, before I heard her footsteps ascending the stairs, that she was coming to see me, the world's first (and probably only) consulting diplomat. It's a sense one develops after long experience in the hobby--one learns to recognize the fear, the paranoia, the trembling hands and averted eyes of the victim of too many stabs. Such are my clients. I take their lost positions and, sometimes, save them, in exchange for a share in the Calhamer points they earn. It's a living.

Then her footsteps stopped and I heard a timid tap at the door.

"Come in," I said, little realizing the magnitude of the adventure that was to follow.

-To be continued-

Just because you are paranoid, it doesn't mean that someone is not out to get you.

The Stars: Can We Learn? by Steve McLendon

There has been much talk about the money this nation spends on space exploration, most of it negative. Most people seem to think that NASA's budget rivals that of HEW or the Defense Department. The military budget has always been on the increase and is now resting at just over 120 billion dollars. The NASA budget, on the other hand, reached a peak of 4.9 billion during the glory years of Apollo and is now around 3.6 billion dollars. If the space exploration critics have their way it will drop even lower.

We have put men on the moon, actually landed an Earth vehicle on Mars, sent probes to the different planets and even beyond this solar system, and erected large deep space telescopes and antennas not only to learn more about distant stars and galaxies, but to also "listen" for other sentient beings that may exist in our universe.

Since I work for NASA and have been actively involved with every manned space flight since Apollo XII, I have been the recipient of a large number of questions about our motives. "Knowledge and exploration are important, but surely they are not worth billions!", "Why outer space, why don't we solve our problems here on Earth first before we start spending money for this?", are two of the most frequent questions, and it is this issue that I would like to address.

I indeed agree that not all problems on Earth have been solved. After several thousand years of existence on this planet, the human species is still bedevilled by unanswered questions that make life less rewarding than it ought to be. The most important of these questions have less to do with technology than with behavior and philosophy.

Certainly it would be nice to know whether extra-terrestrial civilizations have been able to utilize forms of energy as yet unknown to earthly intelligence or to eliminate what we regard as incurable diseases, to mention only two of our current and ongoing tangible problems. But it is only a matter of time before the human brain will develop new sources of energy-whether from the Sun, tides, winds, fuel cells, hydrogen, or whatever--and also discover cures for all diseases. These, after all, are transient matters of a type that has yielded to human scientific intelligence in the past. Far more persistent and baffling, however, are the abstract problems--the values of life and the way people treat one another. We are still largely illiterate in the knowledge of human relationships.

If other galaxies have civilizations that are unmarked by brutality and violence, it would be useful to know how this came about. The inhumanity of humans to one another continues to be the most serious problem on Earth. Overt slavery has been abolished, but exploitation of large numbers of humans by their fellow creatures seemingly knows no end. It would be useful to know whether other sentient creatures have been able to develop a philosophy of living that sees life as the highest value. Also, whether they have been able to retain their sensitivity and respond compassionately to the lives around them.

Next, have other civilizations been able to organize for the widest good? Organizations on Earth tend to be tribal. Despite the fact that all Earth-dwellers share the same habitat and are dependent on the same conditions for their existence, most of their organizations are directed against one another. There is no organization of the whole that is acting adequately in behalf of the human interest. The human species is intelligent in limited matters, but its efforts to organize for world peace are puny and incompetent.

Are there places in the universe where intelligent creatures are primed psychologically and philosophically more for peace than for war? Places where war has been eradicated and where the emphasis given to a decent existence has a clear priority over the emphasis given to instruments of mass annihilation?

Are there places in the universe where the development of the creative potentiality of the individual is a basic function of society? Where social justice does not have to be fought for every inch of the way but is a source of pride to those who administer it?

Are there places where people are strong enough to manifest tenderness and are brave enough to make known their trust? Places where people have no difficulty in finding precise words to convey their intent?

Are there places where intelligent creatures communicate without ultimatum, where compassion and conscience are more readily summoned than temper?

Does all this seem a bit idealistic? Perhaps so. But if there are places in the universe where people make genuine sense of their existence as a species and where they comprehend the delicate connections between the individual and collective existence, all the treasures on Earth would be a small price to pay for the clues.

GAME OPENINGS

St. George and the Dragon (Bob Sergeant, 3242 Lupine Dr., Indianapolis, Indiana 46224). Bob has 6 positions open in the last game he will open up for some time. GF is \$1.00 + a sub of \$2.00/10 issues. This is one of the best and most regular zines around so get in now!

COMMAND(Dennis Agosta, 16 S. Wilber St., Belleville, New Jersey 07109). Dennis has openings in regular Diplomacy, Youngstown, and Kingmaker. GF are \$2.50 + a sub of \$4.00/16 issues. Another very regular zine.

TETRACUSPID (Richard Kovalcik, Jr., Room 205, Bexley Hall, 50 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, Mass. 02139). Rich has 4 openings in one game. GF is \$2.00 (+ \$3.00 game deposit) + a sub of 1¢/page plus postage. Players from New York and New Jersey are not eligible for this game.

CENTURION (Russell Fox, 5160 Donna Ave., Tarzana, California 91356). Russell has openings in regular Diplomacy and Central American Diplomacy. GF are \$2.00 (\$1.00 is refundable) + a sub of 11/\$3.00. There is no GF for Central American Diplomacy (just sub).

GAME OPENINGS (cont'd)

The WARMONGER (Alan Rowland, College Station, P.O. Box 2173, Easton, Penn. 18042). Alan has three openings left in his new novice game (less than 1 CP), GF is \$1.00 (+\$1.00 refundable deposit) + a sub of 1¢/page plus postage. He also has openings in THE TRADER VARIANT @ 25¢ (write to Alan for details).

BOAST(Herb Barents, RR4, 1142 S. 96th Ave., Zeeland, Michigan 49464). Herb has one game open in regular Diplomacy. GF is \$3.00(\$2.00 is refundable) + a sub of \$3.75/17 issues. A very regular zine.

Well, for those of you who don't already know, Connye and I were married last month and we are still staying in a motel waiting for our house to be finished. She and I signed a contract before the wedding stating that if I could put up with her French poodle then she could put up with my Diplomacy. We are still undecided as to who got the worst of the bargain.

Seriously, she has been quite helpful in getting this pulled together. While I type she brings me beer, peanuts, aspirin, etc. Come to think of it, she is a professional secretary so why don't I get her to do this #!\$&#! typ.... AA-A--AH-H-H:!!!

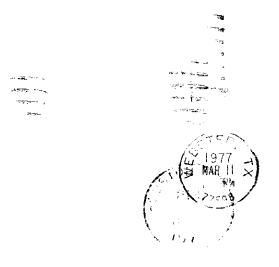
Well, some of my ideas are good anyway. We should be moving next week, and our phone should be installed by March 15 or so. If you need to phone in orders (or if you just feel depressed and need an understanding soul to talk to) then telephone INFORMATION should have the new number. If you have trouble in reaching me, tuff. So get 'em in.

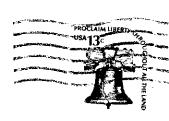
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"France and England are going to stick it to Germany, Italy is going to stab you in Trieste, Russia....

STEVE MoLENDON BOX 57068 WEBSTER, TEXAS 77598





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