

Published by Steve McLendon, Box 57066, Webster, Texas 77598 (713-332-6620). Subscriptions are 12 issues for \$4.00. Gamefee is \$1.50 + subscription. A \$2.50 deposit is required, refundable if the player does not drop his position. Game openings are NOT available.

Deadline for all games is Tuesday, Oct. 10

Welcome, bloodfans, to yet another heartwarming issue. This is an especially wrenching volume as several players will find that they have been wiped out. If you look closely at the games you will see painful evidence of some fairly shoddy play. You will also see some play that would make even Patton proud. Can you determine which is which?

We were somewhat disappointed by our mediocre (at best) showing in John Leeder's North American Zine Poll (30th place). But for those of you who did take the time and trouble to send in your vote, we sincerely thank you. Top honors were taken by THE BRUTUS BULLETIN (John Michalski, Rt. 10, Box 526Q, Moore, OK 73165). I would also like to congratulate Mark Berch (DIPLOMACY DIGEST, 492 Naylor Pl, Alexandria, VA 22304) for his 3rd place finish.

But we were somewhat pleased with our finishing first in the GM poll. This is a little misleading, however, as we only received two votes (albeit both votes gave us perfect scores). Now I realize that I am by no means perfect as a GM, but it is nice to know that two of you out there think so. We do thank you. Congrats also are in order for Bob Sergeant (St. GEORGE & the DRAGON, 3242 Lupine Dr, Indianapolis, Ind. 46224) for his fifth place finish.

And now, I have some news of major importance concerning this rag. First of all, we are forced to discontinue the colored maps for each game. They do take quite a bit of time to do but the main reason is because, with seven games going, I no longér have the room to put them in. Each game was taking an entire page, not the most effective use of printing space.

Secondly, we plan on returning to our original 3-week deadlines starting next issue. That is, unless I hear outrageous cries of protest from you the players.

In this issue we have the final chapter (at least in these pages) on the Bernie Oaklyn/Buddy Tretick affair, including some letters from Conrad von Metzke and Rod Walker. Also, we have the requested reprint of the second article mentioned last issue. For you old timers here who have read it before, please feel free to skip it.

And now.....the games.

DIPLOMACY is a registered trademark for a game invented by Allen B. Calhamer and copyrighted by Avalon Hill Corporation, 4517 Hartford Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21214.

	<u>,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,</u>	
1977CQ	Thermopylae	Fall,1908
SI	XTEEN DOWN, TWO MORE TO GO FOR AUSTRIA. ENGLISH ROUT	CONTINUES.
AUSTRIA (Ditter)	_: A Con-Ank, F Bla (S) A Con-Ank, F Eas-Smy, F Aeg (A Sev-Arm, A Gal-Sil, A StP-Nwy, A Fin (S) A StP-N A Tyo (S) A Mun, A Ruh (S) French A Pic-Bel, A Mun	wy, A Lvn-StP,
ENGLAND (Sokol)	_: A Kie r/Den. F Nwy-H, A Lpl-H, A Den-Swe, F Hol (S A Bel (S) F Hol(anni), F Nth (S) F Nwy, F Gas-Bre, F Eng (S) F Wal-Iri	
FRANCE (Morrison)	_: F Bre-Eng, <u>F Iri (S) F Bre-Eng</u> , F Mid (S) F Bre-Eng F Spa(sc) (S) F Mid, A Pic-Bel, A Bur (S) A Pic-Be	
TURKEY (Carpenter)	: A Arm-Smy, A Ank (S) A Arm-Smy	•
•	,	
	SUPPLY CENTER CHART 1	.908
Austria: (16) Home,	Ser, Rum, Ven, War, Mos, Sev, Gre, Bul, Mun, StP, Con, Smy, Ank	BUILD 3 (1 short)
England: (7) Home,	Nwy, Swe, Den, Hol, ₱≠₺, ₭₺₺	REMOVE 1
France: (11) Home, Spa, Por, Tun, Rom, Nap, Ber, Bel, Kie		BUILD 2
Turkey : (0) Ank, S		TUO
		e end.
London to Paris and	1977CQ PRESS Austria: I will support whoever asks for help first.	
London to Paris and		Fall,1907
	Austria: I will support whoever asks for help first.	
1977FL	Austria: I will support whoever asks for help first. Cynoscephalae	
1977FL AUSTRIA (Sergeant)	Austria: I will support whoever asks for help first. Cynoscephalae CZAR BOTCHES AS GERMANS CONTINUE TO ROLL.	Fall,1907
1977FL AUSTRIA (Sergeant) ENGLAND(Morrison)	Austria: I will support whoever asks for help first. Cynoscephalae CZAR BOTCHES AS GERMANS CONTINUE TO ROLL: : A War-H(r/Mos or Out)	Fall,1907 Nwy S) Russian A Nwy-Swe,
1977FL AUSTRIA (Sergeant) ENGLAND(Morrison) GERMANY (Sokol)	Cynoscephalae CZAR BOTCHES AS GERMANS CONTINUE TO ROLL: A War-H(r/Mos or Out) F Lon-H(r/Yor, Wal, OTB), F Swe-Nwy, F Nwg (S) F Swe- The Nth-Lon, A Yor-Lpl, F Eng (S) F Nth-Lon, F Den (S)	Fall,1907 Nwy S) Russian A Nwy-Swe, Ven-Rom Ven, F Adr (S) A Tri-Ven,
1977FL AUSTRIA (Sergeant) ENGLAND(Morrison) GERMANY (Sokol) ITALY (Hayman)	Cynoscephalae CZAR BOTCHES AS GERMANS CONTINUE TO ROLL: A War-H(r/Mos or Out) F Lon-H(r/Yor, Wal, OTB), F Swe-Nwy, F Nwg (S) F Swe- F Nth-Lon, A Yor-Lpl, F Eng (S) F Nth-Lon, F Den (S) A Gas-Spa, A Mar (S) A Gas-Spa, A Bur (S) A Mar, A A Mar r/Pie. F Ion C A Alb-Nap, A Alb-Nap, A Tri-V	Fall,1907 Nwy S) Russian A Nwy-Swe, Ven-Rom Ven, F Adr (S) A Tri-Ven, 2-Mar ur, A Vie-Bud,
1977FL AUSTRIA (Sergeant) ENGLAND(Morrison) GERMANY (Sokol) ITALY (Hayman) RUSSIA (Machir)	Cynoscephalae CZAR BOTCHES AS GERMANS CONTINUE TO ROLL: A War-H(r/Mos or Out) F Lon-H(r/Yor, Wal, OTB), F Swe-Nwy, F Nwg (S) F Swe- F Nth-Lon, A Yor-Lpl, F Eng (S) F Nth-Lon, F Den (S) A Gas-Spa, A Mar (S) A Gas-Spa, A Bur (S) A Mar, A A Mar r/Pie. F Ion C A Alb-Nap, A Alb-Nap, A Tri-V F Apu (S) A Tri-Ven, A Pie-Mar, F Spa(sc) (S) A Pie- A Nwy-Swe, A StP-Nwy, A Ukr-War, A Gal (S) A Ukr-War A Rum (S) A Vie-Bud(r/Ukr, OTB), F Sev-Bla(nsu), F A	Fall,1907 Nwy S) Russian A Nwy-Swe, Ven-Rom Ven, F Adr (S) A Tri-Ven, e-Mar ur, A Vie-Bud, urm (S) F Sev-Bla(nsu),
AUSTRIA (Sergeant) ENGLAND(Morrison) GERMANY (Sokol) ITALY (Hayman) RUSSIA (Machir) TURKEY (Berch) An error was made lerror, including Mr	Cynoscephalae CZAR BOTCHES AS GERMANS CONTINUE TO ROLL: A War-H(r/Mos or Out) F Lon-H(r/Yor, Wal, OTB), F Swe-Nwy, F Nwg (S) F Swe- F Nth-Lon, A Yor-Lpl, F Eng (S) F Nth-Lon, F Den (S) A Gas-Spa, A Mar (S) A Gas-Spa, A Bur (S) A Mar, A A Mar r/Pie. F Ion C A Alb-Nap, A Alb-Nap, A Tri-V F Apu (S) A Tri-Ven, A Pie-Mar, F Spa(sc) (S) A Pie- A Nwy-Swe, A StP-Nwy, A Ukr-War, A Gal (S) A Ukr-War A Rum (S) A Vie-Bud(r/Ukr, OTB), F Sev-Bla(nsu), F A A Sev-H(u/o) F Aeg (S) F Gre, F Gre-H, F Ank-Arm, A Bul-Rum, F E	Fall,1907 Nwy S) Russian A Nwy-Swe, Ven-Rom Yen, F Adr (S) A Tri-Ven, P-Mar Arr, A Vie-Bud, Arm (S) F Sev-Bla(nsu), Bla + A Ser + A Bud (S) S were notified of the

Ankara to Sevastopol: Tit-for-tat.

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the Dragon and the Lamb
                                                                            page 3
1977FL
                           SUPPLY CENTER CHART
                                                     1907
Austria:(l?) Tun, Mos?
                                                                       EVEN?
                                                                       REMOVE 1
England: (2) 1/9/1, 1/9/1, Edi, Swe
                                                                       BUILD 3 (1 short)
Germany: (12) Home, Den, Bel, Bre, Par, Hol, Mar, Rom, Lon, Lpl
                                                                       REMOVE 2
Italy : (5) Ven, Kørn, Nap, Mar, Spa, Por, Tri
Russia: (6?) Mos?, War, StP, Sev, Nwy, $\psi_e, \kap, \text{Vie}
                                                                       REMOVE 2?
                                                                       BUILD 1
Turkey: (8) Home, Bul, Gre, Ser, Bud, Rum
Fall, 1904
1977KQ
                                    Apollyon
                   FRENCH HALT TURKISH DRIVE WESTWARD. LAST TRUMPET FOR ITALY??
         (Carpenter): A War (S) Turkish A Sev-Mos, A Tyo-Ven, A Tus + A Tri (S) A Tyo-Ven,
                     A Vie (S) A Tri
                    : F Iri-Lpl, F Lon-Wal, F Edi-H, F StP(nc)-Nwy
          (Pyfrom)
 ENGLAND
                   : F Wal-Lon, F Bre-Mid, A Pic-Par, A Mar-H, A Spa-H, A Bel (S) Russian
 FRANCE
          (Carson)
                     A Mos(sic)
                   : A Fin-StP, F Nwy (S) A Fin-StP, F Den-Nth, A Hol-H, A Mun-Sil,
 GERMANY(Wolfskill)
                     F Nwg (S) F Den-Nth, A Pru-War
        (Kendter,Sr.): A Ven-Tri(r/Pie,Apu,OTB), A Rom-Nap, F Adr (S) A Ven-Tri
 ITALY
         (Rogowski): A War r/Lvn. A Mos-StP(andi), A Lvn (S) A Mos-StP
 RUSSIA
                   : A Sev-Mos, A Ukr (S) A Sev-Mos, F Wes-Mid, F Ion-Nap, F Tyr (S) F Ion-Nap
  TURKEY
                     F Aeg (S) F Eas-Ion, F Eas-Ion
                 SUPPLY CENTER CHART
                                                                     1904
 Austria: (7) Home, Gre, Ser, Ven, War
                                                                      BUILD 2
                                                                      EVEN
 England: (4) Home, StP
                                                                      EVEN
 France: (6) Home, Spa, Por, Bel
                                                                      EVEN
 Germany: (7) Home, Den, Hol, Swe, Nwy
  Italy :(1) Rom, May, Men
                                                                      REMOVE 2
 Russia:(0)/War, Mos
                                                                      OUT
  Turkey: (9) Home, Bul, Rum, Sev, Tun, Nap, Mos
                                                                      BUILD 2
 Winter, 1904 and Spring, 1905 orders are due by the deadline date.
                                                             Thanks to Jerry Rogowski
  for taking over the Russian position and fighting until the end.
COA: Lt. J.V. Carpenter, PSC 3 General Delivery, Lackland AFB, Texas 78236
                                  1977KQ PRESS
 Paris, Fall 1904: Holy Moly Can't anybody stop those Turkish swines? Teddy R., where are
 the fleets you promised me? Long live Germany.
 <del>*********************************</del>
What did Col. Harland Sanders and 800 guests at a weekend party celebrating the
```

88th birthday of Kentucky Fried Chicken's founder dine on? Roast beef, naturally

Austria: (6)	Home, <u>Ser, Gre, War</u>	. В	UILD 3
ENGLAND: (4)	Home, <u>Nwy</u>	В	UILD 1
France : (5)	Home, <u>Spa</u> , <u>Por</u>	В	UILD 2
Germany: (6)	Home, <u>Den</u> , <u>Hol</u> , <u>Bel</u>	В	UILD 3
<u>Italy</u> :(4)	Home, Tun	В	UILD 1
Russia:(4)	/a/, Mos, Sev, StP, Rum	E	VEN
Turkey:(4)	Home, Bul	В	UIID 1

Winter, 1901 builds are due by the deadline date.

COAs: Tom Sherwood, 3238 Senasal, Long Beach, California 90808 Dwayne Shreve, 2732 Ezekiel, Zion, Illinois 60099 Fred Zornow, 315 Pinehurst St., Troy, New York 12182

Press follows on next page.

ŢĀPŌĊŌĹŸPŠĒŢPĒŠŠ

London: England apologizes for the lack of communication. Communication should improve next season. //It better//.

Paris: The French government reportedly initiated a Pogroms for Peace Program. British tourists were reportedly being given tours of specially designed family camps in rural Gascony.

Constantinople: The Sultan of Turkey finds it difficult to understand the silence from so many of his neighbors. Is it his imperial bad breath? Why does anyone sign up to play this game and then refuse to negotiate?

1977K

Armageddon

Winter,1908

THE PAUSE THAT REFRESHES

England: F Spa(sc) r/Por, Builds A Lon. Has A Lon, F Por, F Bre, A Ruh, F Mid, A Bel, A Kie, A StP, F Den, F Bel, A Nwy, F Nth

France : Has A Bur

Germany: F Kie r/OTB. Has A Mun

Italy : Builds A Ven. Has A Ven, F Mar, A Pie, F Lyo, F NAf

Russia: Removes A Lvn. Has A Ber

Turkey: Builds A Ank, A Smy (plays 1 short). Has A Ank, A Smy, F Spa(sc), F Wes, F Tyr, F Ion, A Vie, A Sil, A Gal, A War, A Ukr, A Mos, F Con

Seasons were separated per player request. There is a proposal for a 3-way draw between E/I/T. Please vote when you send in your orders and remember, absence of a vote counts as YES.

Bernie Oaklyn/Buddy Tretick--Final Chapter

Last issue I made an appeal for some concrete evidence to support the claim going around in some circles that Bernie Oaklyn is indeed one Buddy Tretick. As hoped, I received many responses. Letters from Conrad von Metzke and Rod Walker appear herein. I will make no judgements nor issue any warnings. I will let you, the readers, draw your own conclusions. The evidence is as follows:

- 1). I have in my possession a Xerox copy of a mailgram sent by "Bernie Oaklyn" to the GM of a game in which "Bernie" is playing. Western Union shows on its mailgrams not only the name of the sender, but also the name in which the telephone is registered to. In the upper left hand corner, the name shown is "Buddy Tretick".
- 2). A player has his canceled check for subbing to "Oaklyn's" zine. Bernard (Buddy) Tretick deposited this to his account.
- 3). Another player sent "Oaklyn" a registered letter. "Tretick" signed for it.
- 4). I called Long Distance Information (Maryland) myself and, asking for Bernie Oaklyn's telephone number, I was told there's no such listing. I then asked for Bernard Tretick's number and was told it's unlisted. There is a big difference between the two.
- 5). Oaklyn himself says (in his letter published last issue) that he first became acquainted with Tretick by looking him up in the phone book. Any of you people ever found an unlisted number in the phone book?
- 6). I have not seen this myself, but a very good friend just informed me that in one of Oaklyn's recent issues, he moved a player's unit "due to player incompetence". This is exactly what Tretick used to do.

The letters begin on page 9.

The Messenger

by Steve McLendon

Mankind's first serious attempt to communicate with extraterrestrial civilizations occurred on March 3, 1972, with the launching of the Pioneer 10 spacecraft from Cape Kennedy. Pioneer 10 was the first space vehicle designed to explore the environment of the planet Jupiter and, earlier in its voyage, the asteroids that lie between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter. It approached Jupiter in late December 1973, and then was accelerated by Jupiter's gravity to become the first man-made object to leave the Solar System. Its exit velocity is about 7 miles per second (25,200 miles per hour).

Pioneer 10 is the speediest object launched to date by mankind. But space is very empty, and the distances between the stars are vast. In the next 10 billion years, Pioneer 10 will not enter the planetary system of any other star, even assuming that all the stars in the Galaxy have such planetary systems. The spacecraft will take about 80,000 years merely to travel the distance to the nearest star, about 4.3 light-years away.

But Pioneer 10 is not directed to the vicinity of the nearest star. Instead, it will be travelling toward a point on the celestial sphere near the boundary of the constellation Taurus and Orion, where there are no nearby objects.

It is conceivable that the spacecraft will be encountered by extraterrestrial civilization only if such a civilization has an extensive capability for intersteller space flight and is able to intercept and recover such silent space derelicts.

Placing a message aboard Pioneer 10 is very much like a shipwrecked sailor casting a bottled message into the ocean-but the ocean of space is much vaster than any ocean on Earth.

The message itself is shown on the next page. It is etched on a 6-inch gold-anodized aluminum plate, attached to the antenna support struts of Pioneer 10. The expected erosion rate in interstellar space is sufficiently small that this message should remain intact for hundreds of millions of years, and probably for a much longer period of time. It is, thus, the artifact of mankind with the longest expected lifetime.

The message itself intends to communicate the locale, epoch, and something of the nature of the builders of the spacecraft. It is written in the only language we share with the recipients: Science. At top left is a schematic representation of the hyperfine transition between parallel and antiparallel proton and electron spins of the neutral hydrogen atom. Beneath this representation is the binary number 1. Such transitions of hydrogen are accompanied by the emission of a radio-frequency photon of wavelength about 21 centimeters and frequency of about 1,420 Megahertz. Thus, there is a characteristic distance and a characteristic time associated with the transition. Since hydrogen is the most abundant atom in the Galaxy, and physics is the same throughout the Galaxy, there should be no difficulty for an advanced civilization to understand this part of the message.

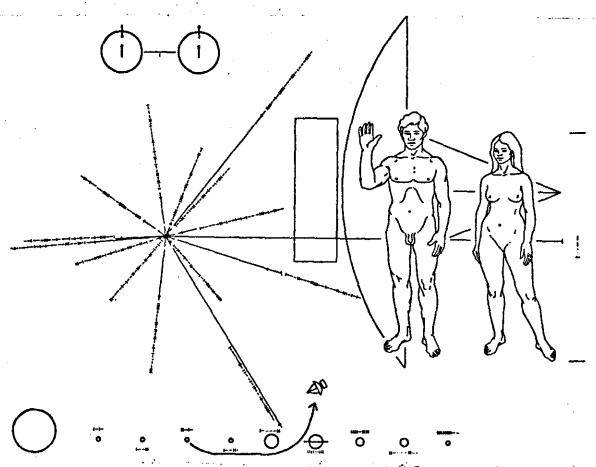
Further binary numbers are shown in the radial burst pattern comprising the main part of the diagram at left center. These numbers, if written in decimal notat-

ion, would be ten digits long. They must represent either distances or times. If distances, they are of the order of several times 10 centimeters, or a few dozen times the distance between the Earth and the Moon. It is highly unlikely that we would consider them useful to communicate. Because of the motion of objects within the Solar System, such distances vary in continuous and complex ways.

However, the corresponding times are on the order of 1/10 second to 1 second. These are the characteristic periods of the pulsars, natural and regular sources of cosmic radio emission; pulsars are rapidly rotating neutron stars produced in catastrophic stellar explosions. A scientifically sophisticated civilization should have no difficulty understanding the radial burst pattern as the positions and periods of 14 pulsars with respect to the Solar System of launch.

But pulsars are cosmic clocks that are running down at largely known rates. The recipients of the message must ask themselves not only where it was ever possible to see 14 pulsars arrayed in such a relative position, but also when it was possible to see them. The answers are: Only from a very small volume of the Milky Way Galaxy and in a single year in the history of the Galaxy. Within that small volume there are perhaps a thousand stars; only one is anticipated to have the array of planets with relative distances as indicated at the bottom of the diagram. The rough sizes of the planets and the rings of Saturn are also schematically shown. A schematic representation of the initial trajectory of the spacecraft launched from Earth and passing by Jupiter is also displayed. Thus, the message specifies one star in about 250 billion and one year (1970) in about 10 billion.

The content of the message to this point should be clear to an advanced extraterrestrial civilization, which will, of course, have the entire Pioneer 10 spacecraft to examine as well. The message is probably less clear to the man on the street, if the street is on the planet Earth. (However, scientific communities on Earth have had little difficulty decoding the message.) The opposite



is the case with the representations of human beings to the right. Extraterrestrial beings, which are the product of 4.5 billion years or more of independent biological evolution, may not at all resemble humans, nor may the perspective
and line-drawing conventions be the same there as here. The human beings are indeed the most mysterious part of the message.

The graphics of the message have been reproduced widely in newspapers and television programs, small art and literary magazines, and national newsweeklies. Response was both enthusiastic and critical, especially from women's groups. We do not think this man and woman are ignoring each other. They are not shown holding hands lest the extraterrestrial recipients believe that the couple is one organism joined at the fingertips. (In the absence of indigenous horses, both the Aztecs and the Incas interpreted the mounted conquistador as one animalatwo-headed centaur.) The man and woman are not shown in precisely the same position or carriage so that the suppleness of the limbs could be communicated—although we well understand that the conventions of perspective and line-drawing popular on Earth may not be readily apparent to civilizations with other artistic conventions.

The man's right hand is raised in what is generally regarded as a "universal" sign of goodwill--although any literal universality is of course unlikely. At least the greeting displays our opposable thumbs. Only one of the two people is shown with hand raised in greeting, lest the recipients deduce erroneously that one of our arms is bent permanently at the elbow.

One man wrote of his concern that the message has doomed all of mankind. American movies of Second World War vintage, he argued, are very likely propogating via television transmission through interstellar space. From such programming, the extraterrestrials will easily be able to deduce (1) that the Nazis were very bad fellows, and (2) that they greeted each other with their right hand extended outward. From the fact that the man on the plaque is portrayed as making what our correspondent erroneously perceives as the same sort of greeting, he is concerned that the extraterrestrials will deduce that the wrong side won World War II and promptly mount a punitive expedition to Earth to set matters straight.

Such a letter more nearly describes the state of mind of the writer than of the likely extraterrestrial recipients of the message. The raised right hand in greeting is historically connected with militarism, but in a negative way: The raised and empty right hand symbolizes that no weapon is being carried.

Perhaps the most perceptive editorial comment was from the New York Times:
...that gold-plated plaque is more of a challenge to us. Despite the
uncanny mastery of celestial laws that permits man to shoot his artifacts
at the stars, we find ourselves still depressingly inept at ordering our
own systems here on Earth. Even as we try to find a way to insure that
sapient man will not consume his planet in nuclear fires, a rising chorus
warns us that man may very well exhaust his earth either by overbreeding or
by inordinate demands on its resources, or both.

So the marker launched into space is at the same time a gauntlet thrown down to Earth: That the gold-plated plaque convey in its time the message that man is still here--not that he had been here.

Sound thinking is a term used to describe the mental activities of those who agree with us.

"alcala" 1273 crest dr. encinitas ca 92024 27 august 1978

Steve McLendon Box 57066 Webster TX 77598

Dear Steve:

Conrad von Metzke mentioned to me that you've gotten involved in the Buddy Tretick/"Bernie Oaklyn" business. He's written you but asked if I might drop you a note on one item.

Actually, I've just written Buddy to inform him that I'm fully aware he is "Bernie Oaklyn", that I don't see what difference it makes at this point, and I'm not involved in the situation any more. I promised deveral people I would look into the matter and make a determination. I have done so. I believe Conrad rehearsed the evidence: the handwriting, the telegrams, the cashed checks, the writing style, the 'zine format, the story about finding a number in the phone book which was in fact unlisted, and so on.

I believe that Conrad also indicated that, contrary to his expectations, nobody...Conrad and I don't...bears him any ill will at this point. We are hoping that things have chanced since 1971, but we are understandably cautious about this. There are still some people in the hobby, Arn Vagts and Charlie Reinsel for instance, who would gladly wring Buddy/"Bernie"'s kneck.

I'm dropping this note just to cover the CLAW & FANG situation. Don Horton bears no responsibility for what happened. I do. Since 1969, my House Rules have had a rule on pseudonyms. The current edition (1 May 1976) states that no person may play in one of my games using an assumed name. Since Tretick violated that rule by attempting to enter as "Oaklyn", he was ineligible to play. I accordingly instructed Don to remove his name from those registered.

As I have told Buddy, this is no reflection on his merits as a player (which, based on past experience, are considerable). However, I am not about to tolerate a violation of my House Rules. If Buddy/ "Bernie" seriously believes he has a method of altering my decision, he's welcome to try. I may lose a nanosecond of sleep over it.

In any event, the last two issues of FLD (I.3 & I.4) strongly suggest that we're dealing with a fairly flaky character. The fact that he is the same flake that we were dealing with prior to 1972 is only a complication. For myself, I have more important things to do than **MAN** to allow myself to get more involved with Tretick's small potatoes. I have fulfilled a promise I made to others, and having done so I no longer wish to be involved.

(On the other hand, I expect the controversy to continue for a while. It's a confusing question, and few people remain in the hobby who remember Tretick very well. I don't anticipate Buddy is trying to rip anybody off, as has been suggested elsewhere, but I do wish he had chosen to deal with the hobby at large with more trust and honesty. He might have been gratified by the reaction.)

Rod Walker

Lear Steve,

It may very well be that "Bernie Oaklyn" is a real person, and it may also be that he is a perfectly competent, honest and reliable gamesmaster/publisher. Frankly, the publications of his which I've seen look fairly good, and at least a couple of his players seem happy. But I am concerned with the necessity for all this subterfuge; if Oaklyn is Trotick, why not just say so and quit trying to hide? Trotick was - I emphasize the past tense - easily the worst GM/publisher this hobby has ever seen, and what makes most of us old-timers so mad is not that he nade mistakes or abandoned games (hell, we've done that often enough ourselves), but that he had the audacity to abandon games in progress in order to make room in his magazine for new games (involving new fees, of course). He is one of only two GMs ever to have had a game voted out of his magazine by its players - and it happened at least twice with Tretick.

If, on the other hand, Oaklyn is not Tretick, then why the elaborate trail of clues leading most observers to believe otherwise?

I admit I can't prove the truth, though I am quite convinced that either Tretick is Oaklyn, of the the two are so closely linked that it doesn't much matter. I will not, however, allow DI subscribers to be led into this miasma through my failure to issue fair warning. If time proves me wrong, and whoever-he-is turns out to be perfectly competent these days, then I'll change my vote later. Roughly speaking, if "Oaklyn" can manage to publish steadily and accurately (more or less) for a year or so, and see one or two games through to genuine conclusion, then I'll be happy to list him in DN and elsewhere. But not now, thanks.

As for allowing "Oaklyn" equal time (I assume you mean in DV), my pages are awfully cramped. He can, of course, submit a letter to the editor, which may or may not be published (as may all letters to the editor).

In the short run, I don't blame you in the slightest for insisting on more than mere rumor before you decide your own approach. In the long run, I fear you will be doing your readers a gross disservice by recommending, by implication or otherwise, the Buddy/Bernie complex. But we shall see, eh?

Arrivederci,

Conrad von Metzke

PS: One more DNQ bit of evidence that may interest you, since you published it. In his letter to Jim Benes, Oaklyn says that he looked Tretick up in the 'phone book. You can check this out yourself; Tretick has (and has had for years) an unlisted number.

//Well, Conrad, I was not aware that I had recommended ANYTHING in my last issue, by implication or otherwise. My message was simply that any responsible journalist, whether he be a small time dippy publisher or the editor of a big tim newspaper, if he is going to print something like "John Doe is a creep so stay away from him", should also print what evidence he has to support his accusation. If a publisher is not willing to put evidence in print, then the accusation should not be in print either.//

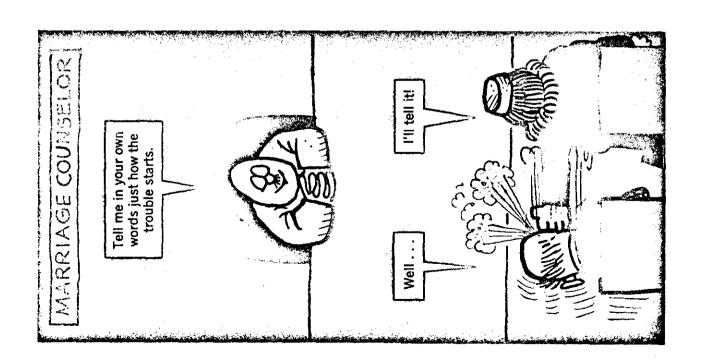
For those of you wondering about the two different type sets appearing in this issue, it's because I typed part of this blasted thing at the office. Well, actually it was in the Control Center during the middle of the night while we were babysitting Skylab.

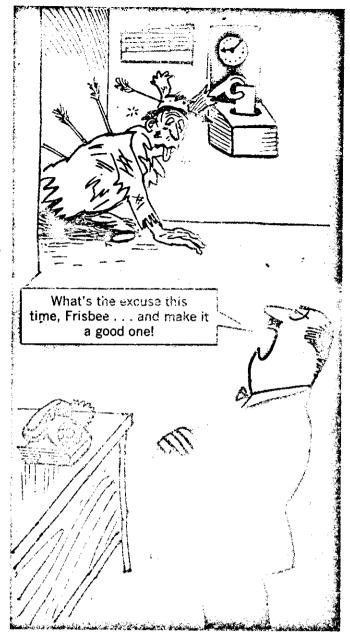
Skylab, by the way, is doing just fine. We have extended its lifetime by at least a year, and calculations show that it will re-enter no sooner than the summer of 1980. Hopefully, we will be able to get a Shuttle Orbiter up to it by the Spring of 1980.

We are now conducting studies to see if Skylab can be used as a base from which astronauts could build a space station. Skylab would be used for the crew quarters while they suited up and sallied forth to join together and weld the large space structures together.

Speaking of astronauts, sometime I am going to have to give you a rundown on what they are really like, especially our new crop of females. Believe me, they are not like any women I have ever met before, and I don't mean that in a complimentary fashion. So just standby. The TRUTH about our world famous heroes will be exposed in these humble pages.

Well, that's all I have to bore you with for now. I'll close this thing out with a few little cartoons. No permission was asked. Sue me. .







"It's the one attack the country wasn't prepared for, Mr. President!"

Steve McLendon Box 57066 Webster, Texas 77598

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