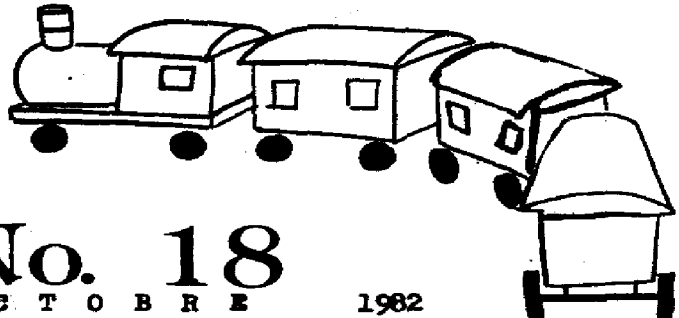


Europa Express

THE PUBBER: Gary L. Coughlan

4614 Martha Cole Lane, Memphis, Tennessee 38118
USA (901)-362-7206

Don't forget to vote in the Marco Poll and the Whitestonia Players Poll. The deadline for both is November 22, 1982 and EE #19 will carry ballots for both of them. Now there is also the Toady and Toad Poll with a deadline of November 5th. It's run by Eric Ozog



No. 18

6 O C T O B R E 1982



§ I am sure that the contents of this issue, so unlike the EEs that you are used to, may not be to the taste of some. But several things have happened in this hobby that have wither upset or angered me and that is why this issue is both so large and also free to every subber. EE #19 will also be free and should be much smaller.

§ There is no table of contents on page 2. The DIPSCRIPTION and the new picture contest are on page 2. The guesses for the picture in EE #16 & #17 begin on page 28. The results of the Eminent Awards are on page 40. The top twenty in the Leader Poll is on page 42. EE's Ombudsman Policy is on page 6.

§ On page 3 is a new feature called "Police Call." On page 13 is an article on players' rights versus a GM and an ombudsman. On page 33 is the beginning of my detailed response to Dick Martin's vendetta in his latest Retaliation.

§ The articles on pages 3, 13 and 33 all have introductory paragraphs warning you of what they are in case you don't wish to read controversy. Again this issue is free. The reason that these articles are so long is that I, unlike certain pubbers, do not lash out with wild accusations at others. But when I do respond to said accusations, everyone will know exactly where I am coming from and why. Chapter and verse.

§ Jim Williams (2500 6th St., SW, Altoona, Iowa 50009 USA) wants to know what games you play besides Diplomacy. He wants to do a survey of players both in North America and Europe. Will other pubbers notify your subbers of this? If there is a large enough interest in other games, they may become more available in North American zines.

§ Three new zines I want to mention: No Fixed Address (Steve Hutton, 704 Brant St., London, Ontario, CANADA N5Y 3N1) is Canada's newest zine. Steve is GMing the orphans from the messy Pasachendaele fold and costs \$5/10. Check him out.....The Prince (Jim Meinel, 628 Whitworth Lane So., Renton, Washington 98055 USA) is for players only and his games will be run on the European method where Fall and Winter are combined. 25¢/issue

§ DIPLOMACY is a registered trademark for a game invented by Allan B. Calhauer and copyrighted by The Avalon Hill Company.

§ Je Maintiendrai is a new Dutch zine available from Hauke Jensen, Hammarskjöldaan 371, 2286 RJ Rijswijk, The Netherlands. JM will have an English language letter column.

BEST OF BEST GM MENTIONS: Mark Larzelere, Tom Mainardi, Mike Mills, Al Pearson, Randolph Sayth. BEST OF DISTINGUISHED AWARD MENTIONS: Bruce Linsey, Andy Lischett, Jack Moxers, Bob Olsen, Al Pearson, Larry Peery, David Perlmutter, Allen Wells. ①

POLICE CALL



Welcome to a new feature in EE which I hope will not have to be here for very long. Those of you who have served in the Army or other branch of service know that Police Call means circling the barracks and picking up cigarette butts and other trash and generally cleaning up or tidying up the area.

That is what Police Call in EE intends to do in regard to me and my zine. Lately, especially lately, I have been reading untrue things about myself and/or my zine and/or my positions. In most cases I write the zine concerned but lately some of these comments have appeared in zines with irregular deadlines or very long deadlines. I intend to answer such comments in the future, both in Police Call and in the zines in question unless I cut my sub with them.

and I say we got into this because people like Tom Paine and Patrick Henry totally oversimplified the issues!"

I am quite sure that the pubbers concerned will not like their zines or names appearing in Police Call. Well, bear in mind, that I don't like what is appearing about my name and my zine, especially when they are untrue.

The zines and subzines commented on this issue are: Diplomacy Digest, Give Me A Weapon, Diplomacy By Moonlight, Mos Eisley and Retaliation. What appeared about me in Retaliation is so involved that it is contained under a separate section called, "Poor Richard's Almanack" on page 33.

I think I am like most of you. I don't mind when the truth is printed about me, my zine or my positions. No one can have any quarrel with that. It is the fuzzy areas that bother me. Once pubbers, and subbers, pay close attention to what they write, there will be no need for this column. By the way, I think all zines should have such a column. So let's begin:

1. Diplomacy Digest: In DD #60 on pages 11 and 12 of that issue, Mark Berch made several misleading statements about my position on the Leader Poll and distorted my position. I commented on this in EE #16, page 18 when I said: "Mark Berch has erected a straw man, supposedly representing my position, and destroyed it with all the subtlety, finesse and savoir-faire of a flame-thrower."

Anyone who is a regular reader of EE knows that what Mark Berch wrote was misleading and distorted. So, when my sub to DD ran out with issue #62, I decided not to renew it for two reasons. One: I don't like zines which deliberately distort my positions. Of course I cannot prove this but I refuse to believe that Mark Berch is so dumb that he didn't know he was writing misleading statements about me. That is why I am not even going to answer him in DD. ~~what~~

The second reason has to do with what Mark Berch wrote me in a letter dated June 1, 1982 during my R-3 ombudsman case (this case is discussed beginning on page 13). I had just cut off Don Ditter's sub to EE and had asked for the immediate return of my sub fee to Ditter's Everything. Mark Berch's comment about that was: "You seem to think you can just demand a refund from E. (Everything) I don't know what the refund policy is at E, but I'M sure that, just like any other zine, its[SIC SIC SEC] set by the pubber, not the subber. You can ask for one, but you can't insist on it."

I don't want to take the chance, besides not wanting to pay to see misleading statements written about me, of not being able to get a refund when I want one back from DD. I think Mark Berch should clarify his refund policy in view of his comments.

Diplomacy Digest is recommended for the articles he reprints there. But I caution all of you to take anything Mark Berch writes, especially about me, in his "The Zine Column" with a large grain of salt.

□□

2. Give Me A Weapon: In the latest GMAW #18-19, Konrad Baumeister was discussing the fake Leader Poll results and states that it was "quite obviously a fake." He goes on to say: "(It should be noted that several 'zines are buying the story that some of these results are real! Like Europa Express and others. In any event, don't believe it."

Those are my words to you readers too. In any event, don't believe what was written in GMAW. In EE #17, I never discussed the fake Leader Poll results without putting "fake" before it and it was discussed in the "Focus on Fakes" section on page 12.

((continued on page 4)) (3)

I have written Konrad about this error. He obviously did not read EE #17 completely. But my point is, one should not ~~make~~ statements on people or zines or anything unless you are sure what you are saying is the truth. And it wasn't here. This is a small thing but then it wasn't YOU who was portrayed as being too dumb to see what was "quite obviously a fake."

□□□

This next section almost caused me to fold this zine this past weekend. I called all of my GMs and cancelled all the press in my games. This was preparatory to sending in final moves and resigning out of all my games. I fully intended to GM the games in EE and nothing else. I felt that bad and that low that people could write what was written about me in Diplomacy By Moonlight and to Mos Eisley.

Please remember as you read this next section that this issue and #19 are free so you are not paying for this. Please excuse my bitter words but remember that I am feeling very bitter that garbage like this can be printed in this hobby. And lastly put yourself in my place and think how you would feel if such trash as this were written about you and published for all the world to see. Then condemn me but not before doing that.

3. Diplomacy By Moonlight: In DBM #44, Dan Stafford wrote some comments about his recent trip to ORIGINS at Baltimore, Maryland which I also attended. The pubber of DBM is Eric Ozog and both his and Stafford's pertinent comments are reprinted here:

Dan Stafford: "And to think that I thought the hobby was run by the Jews. Now they tell me it's the homosexuals! Who was it that started those "terrible" rumors about Walker and Coughlan! I can't really remember. I am neither Jew nor homosexual, but feel that the hobby is in pretty good hands."

Eric Ozog: "Funny, I cannot remember either who started those rumors. No matter, it's not important."

Au contraire, I think it is most "important". But then again I am the one that this junk is being written about. Please remember that these comments are not appearing in a game, nor in black press, nor in fun. This is not humor by any stretch of the imagination. There is no excuse for this trash to be printed anywhere, never mind that it isn't true. It appeared in a zine that I have always highly regarded and was printed by a pubber that I had always considered my friend.

DBM only publishes every two months. That is a little too long to let garbage like this go unanswered. I have also written Eric Ozog a response to Stafford's garbage and I expect some answers in the ~~December DBM~~, November DGM.

And for the question of who started these "rumors", I know that it is Dan Stafford. And Dan Stafford has certainly been busy. He also wrote to John Michalski who published the subzine Mos Eisley. And now he apparently has a friend.

4. Mos Eisley: In MS #10, John Michalski printed the following: "...why is everyone getting on Gary Coughlan's case? Two letters I've received reviewing cons have said how effeminate he seemed. Hopefully no one will print that stuff."

"That stuff" must be pretty bad indeed if John Michalski won't even print it. I hope you are having a lot of fun, Dan Stafford. You have caused more hurt than you will ever know. If it weren't for two friends, in particular, who talked and wrote to me, this zine would be folded today and I would be out of the hobby.

Mark Fassio called me and knew I was depressed. He said if I just quit and slunk away, some people might believe these untrue statements. Also that my friends would say, "If he won't stand up for himself, why should we stand up for him?" And Faz also said that if 2 or 3 people had hurt me, why should I abandon the 100 or more friends and subbers that I have. This turned me around from feeling sorry for myself to feeling angry that I should be subjected to such treatment which is nobody's business but my own and has nothing to do with the hobby anyway.

The second friend was Steve Langley, who was one of my GMs that I called up when I was cancelling my press. He wrote me a letter ~~parting~~ which said: (I had met Steve at Wichita Con before this letter was written):

"I've been depressed about the way the world seems to work since your call. Being labeled homosexual is one of the slanders to which there is no reply. I can honestly say that I wish it were me instead. I don't care all that much, one way or the other, what labels get attached to me."

((Steve's letter continues on page 5)) (4)

"POLICE CALL" continued from page 4 .

(Steve Langley's letter continued from page 4 .)

"It isn't me though, and my indifference doesn't do much for your hurt. I want you to know that I am your friend.

"I want to say all sorts of supportive things and none of it comes out. I guess the problem is that there isn't a lot that can be done.

"There are some people who will see the label and put you in a box marked "Queer" without any thoughts to who you are or what you are. There are others to whom your supposed sexual preferences will make no difference at all. Most of the world falls between those extremes. Defending yourself won't change the closed minds and isn't necessary to the open minds and will only make the discussion a larger and a longer one.

"I personally could care less. Just as I don't care what labels get pinned on me, it doesn't matter all that much what labels others carry. I have one very close friend who is homosexual. Through him, I have met a fairly wide selection of gay people. I know from first hand experience then that you can't tell by looking at a person if he is gay. The "pretty, flouncy, Hollywood stereotype" gay is a figment. I've known only one who comes on like that image, and he is an actor and the image is an act with him.

"So--so what? I don't know. You are pretty. That is a dumb word to use in a supportive type letter--but it is there for a purpose. You are very good looking and you come close, physically, to a stereotype of gay. The stereotypes have nothing to do with reality. As a teen, I was as pretty as you, honest, and I was approached fairly frequently by men, hoping I was gay. I wasn't. I do know that how a person looks can and does hold a lot of influence in how others think of him.

"That you are gay, straight, switch, whatever, is your personal business. That it should be a topic for discussion in Dipdom is a stupid shame. That you should be being hurt by the stupid, thoughtless "cleverness" of people who don't even know you is wrong. What is even more wrong is that there is no recourse. No real recourse.

"You could fight back. Maybe if you did and you made a big enough fight of it, you might even win. There is just enough Don Quixote in me to believe that you could convince the world that it was wrong.

"Whatever--I want you to know that I'm your friend. I also want you to know that the label is meaningless to most people. It really is."

Thank you for that letter, Steve. It came at a very low point in my life. By that time, after also talking with Faz, I was coming out of the dumps. And I was mad. And with damn good reason. Then I got a letter from another good friend, Bob Osuch, who does Mass Murders in this zine, and in a few short words, he summed up the situation:

"Do what you want, Gary. It pains me to see you take the shit laying down. Why must you be so fucking sensitive to such garbage? 90% of the hobby knows you well enough to know better.....FUCK these people. Say it to yourself. You don't need their shit. There comes a time when you must either take that stance and move along with your head held high or spend the rest of your life sniveling and feeling sorry for yourself."

Thanks for that letter too, Bob. I choose to hold my head up. I have done nothing to feel sorry about. On the other hand, I feel sorry for Dan Stafford and his peculiar idea of fun. Since he is getting this copy of EE, I have something to say to him.

Dan Stafford, if I had to make a choice between being gay for the rest of my natural life knowing full well all the scorn, contempt and disdain that gay people have to unfairly endure or being you for one hour, I would unhesitatingly choose to be gay for the rest of my life even if I could return to being myself after being you for one hour. That's how disgusted I am with what you have been writing around the hobby.

Notice to all pubbers reading this: Should any of you allow your zines to become a forum for Dan Stafford or anyone else to write non-hobby comments like this garbage which appeared in Diplomacy By Moonlight, I will be cutting my sub. This includes any subzine he may have or any press he may write in a game. If you feel this is something with which you cannot live, please, by all means, exercise your God-given rights to allow Dan Stafford and his ilk to libel me as gay in your zine. I have my friends. (S)

IT WOULD TAKE A
BRONX CHEER, OBSCENE
GESTURES AND GAGGING
SOUNDS TO ADEQUATELY
EXPRESS MY FEELINGS



---by Gary L. Coughlan

If you will notice the game "Swedish Roundabout" is not in EE this issue. The players in "Swedish Roundabout" were sent the following notice by me September 13th.

"A request has been made for 'Swedish Roundabout' to be delayed so the services of an ombudsman can be used. The request came in a letter that I received today and stated: 'Please delay 81AM until we can find an ombudsman to rule on possible GM misconduct. Details will follow when I can get to a copy machine. How about Michalski?'"

Because I had been treated so shabbily in an ombudsman case myself (See page 13), I do everything in my power to ensure the players that they will be treated fairly. I delayed the game and this player was not identified to the other players in his game.

The "possible GM misconduct" was not specified and took me by surprise. I know I have done nothing. John Michalski was notified. But I had reckoned without the reactions of the other players. Randolph Smyth, "Swedish Roundabout" Germany wrote:

"I've just received your notice that my game, "Swedish Roundabout", is being delayed because someone has accused you of GMing misconduct, but I can hardly be satisfied with that. What's the problem and sez who?"

"Obviously, for whatever reason, you are keeping further details from the other players; but beyond my desire to satisfy idle curiosity, I think we have good reason to get more information than you've given out. If one of the players is going to delay the game and cloud your reputation as a GM, I don't think he has the right of anonymity; and heaven forbid, if there is anything to the accusation, other players may well have opinions of their own to contribute."

"The anonymity of this complainer leaves me, in particular, in an unfortunate position. The other players may feel that I have the most to gain from a game delay, and therefore that I am the most likely culprit. I don't think I should have to defend myself against these suspicions; the diplomacy becomes doubly difficult since I'm not sure that the other players feel this way, and I don't want to look paranoid about it either."

"This assumes that there is, possibly, an ulterior (delay-of-game) motive behind this complaint. The possibility is certainly on the mind of every non-involved player, since I for one have no reason to imagine that the game has been irregular in any way. These days I am extremely selective about the GMs I will play under--offhand, I think 81-AM is now my only game in a U.S. zine--and I'd be very disappointed to encounter any problems."

"So I hope you can see your way clear to giving us the whole story...and for the sake of the ongoing diplomacy, as soon as possible."

 Randolph's letter expressed what was going through my own mind at the time too. Accusations like this have ripple effects. I wanted the matter cleared up as soon as possible. I called Randolph. In the meantime, Bruce Linsey, "Swedish Roundabout" France, had called me wanting to know if it was Dick Martin, "Swedish Roundabout" Austria, since he knew that Dick and I had on-going troubles (See page 33). Bruce then sent a circular letter to all the players in 81-AM and to Michalski, the ombudsman. It said, in part: "I have been playing in '81-AM for almost a year and a half now, and Gary's GMing has been 100% impeccable for the entire time. As far as I am concerned, there is not a ghost of a chance that he has committed any acts of misconduct in this game. I'll stake my own reputation on that--and you know how picky I am when it comes to GMing....Once again, I do not intend to get involved in Gary and Dick's other disagreements. But if Dick is using "Swedish Roundabout" as a means for venting his anger against Gary, then I as a player cannot remain silent. And if he does perchance have a valid complaint, then I want to hear what it is."

And I still want to know what the "possible GM misconduct" could be. The game is still delayed until October 29, 1982 but Dick has inexplicably dropped his request for an ombudsman "at this point." I don't know why---in a game of mine, I would want to deal immediately with "possible GM misconduct." I don't know what Dick's motives were, but in view of his vendetta against me in his latest Retaliation (See page 48), I am releasing this information that it was indeed Dick Martin who brought up the "possible GM misconduct". I would not, at this point, put a smear campaign of my GMing beyond him.

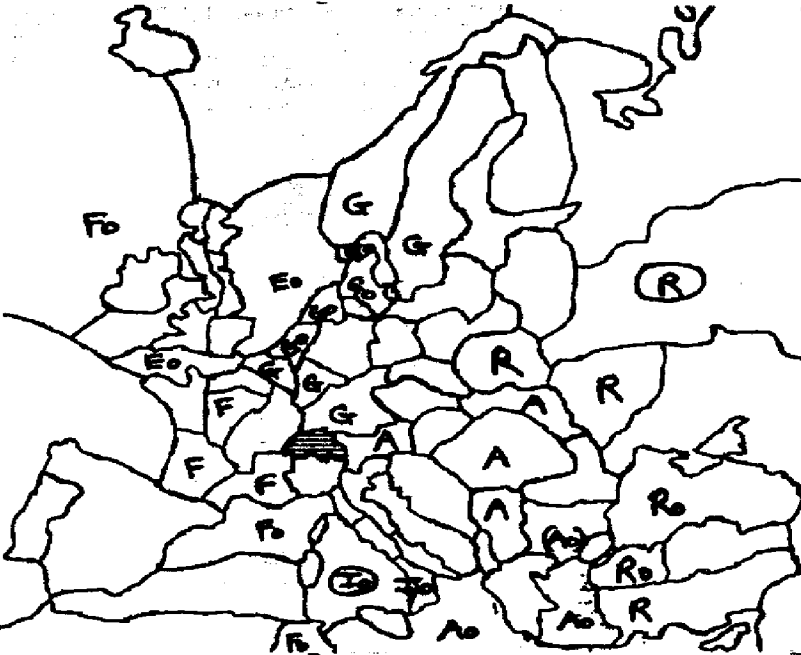
In the meantime, John Michalski has made the following decision on September 24th: John said: "Yesterday I received word that the complainant had decided not to level any charges. Therefore, no misconduct is found, and the matter is considered dropped."

EE's house rules say: "Player-GM disputes will be settled by an established ombudsman in accordance with hobby procedures. The GM will choose the ombudsman." (6)

(6) (But read MY experience with ombudsman - see page 131)

ENGLAND SECURES THE NORTH SEA AS GERMANY TAKES SCANDINAVIA!!
 RUSSIANS LIBERATE MOSCOW!! FRENCH SAIL INTO THE NORTH ATLANTIC!!!

Ω POSITIONS IN SPRING 1906 Ω



§ GAME: "Windsor" 1981 AN
 § GM: Herr Garren L. Kaufland
 § NEXT SEASON IS: Fall 1906
 § ZAT: Friday, October 29, 1982
 § GAME COLOR: Grün

¶ GAME NOTES: Thanks to Earl Wiggers for unused MalMBERGER orders for Germany. Nothing much to say. Thank you for holding your press down this issue. Once more, in #19, and we're home free!
 § Dislodgements This Time:
 England's Fleet Tyrrhenian Sea and Germany's Army Moscow.
 Your cartoon is from And the Pursuit of Happiness.

§ ORDERS OF BATTLE FOR SPRING 1906 §

DEUTSCHLAND: A Stp-(NWY), A (SWE) S A Stp-Nwy, F Kie-(HEL)
 (Herr Jack Fleming) A (MOS) Holds (r-Lvn-Stp-OTB)
 F (HOL)-Nth, F (DEN) S F Hol-Nth, A (BEL) Holds,
 A (MUN)-Bur, A (RUH) S A Mun-Bur

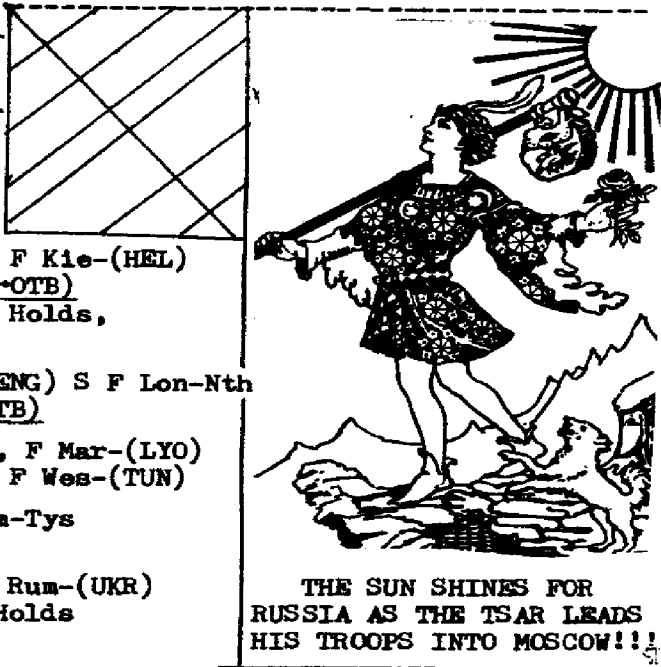
ENGLAND: F Lon-(NTH), F (SKA) S F Lon-Nth, F (ENG) S F Lon-Nth
 (Herr Mark Fassio) F (TYS) -Ion (r-Tus-Wes-OTB)

FRANKREICH: A (GAS)-Bur, A (PAR) S A Gas-Bur, F Mar-(LYO)
 (Herr John Marsden) A Spa-(MAR), F Mao-(NAO), F Wes-(TUN)

ITALIEN: F Rom-(TYS), F (NAP) S F Rom-Tys
 (Herr Allen Pearson)

RUSSLAND: A Sev-(MOS), A (WAR) S A Sev-Mos, A Rum-(UKR)
 (Herr Patrick J. Conlon) F (BLA)-Rum, F (CON) Holds
 A (SMY) S F Con

ÖSTERREICH-UNGARN: A Vie-(GAL), A (BUD)-Rum, A Ven-(TYO), F Alb-(ION)
 (Herr Kerry Blant) F (AEG) S F Alb-Ion, F (EUL-sc) Holds, A (SER) S F Bul(sc)



THE SUN SHINES FOR RUSSIA AS THE TSAR LEADS HIS TROOPS INTO MOSCOW!!!

Memphis to Windsor: First up, we have some "joke" orders which couldn't fit in above....Germany ordered: "Army Belgium holds his head in despair at Munich's indiscretion." And also: "Army Moscow holds for all he's worth."
[PARIS]- The French President is too busy enjoying the late English summer sunshine to write any press this season. Enjoy yourselves!
Memphis to Windsor: Apparently Monsieur Président forgot that I held over some press...
France to Germany: My, but you're getting big now.
England to Germany: Kaiser Jack, you are a wretch. Like I said in my letter, if you treat women like your game neighbors, you either are a permanent bachelor heart-breaker, or else you've murdered them all for the insurance money. With your predicted 3 fleets, you will be able to keep up drastic pressure on me. At least get some tactics this time around; you wasted three game-years the last time trying to destroy me; I don't feel like delaying death this time around.
 Memphis to Windsor: Press continues on page 8 . 7

Austria-Hungary to England: Beware of the Catholic plot.

England to the Archduke: Franz-Blant, I was gonna just forget all about any antagonistic moves toward you, and just go home, but I figured, "why not?" Everyone else is struggling--may as well make you get into some work, too.

Austria-Hungary to England: You have totally misread this game. Austria-Hungary is a threat to no one and vulnerable to all my neighbors.

Memphis to Austria-Hungary: I wonder if you will get anyone else to agree with that?

France to Austria: I agree with every word of your letter, my friend.

Memphis to France: Friend, such a nice word.....

Austria-Hungary to Italy: We need each other more than ever. Haven't we always been friends?

Memphis to Austria-Hungary: Friend, ally, what's the difference any way?

Austria-Hungary to Russia: Ally? Allies share conquered supply centers. How many Turkish centers do I have? Let anyone who considers allying with you take note of your version of sharing the spoils.

Memphis to Austria-Hungary: Yeah, well some people will grab at any ally, even Russia....

England to Russia: Tsar Patrick, I'm on the way to rescue you; please stay in one place long enough to be rescued...as for LSU: Well, it's not, say, Pitt or Penn State, or even an Indiana University of PA, but for a "Southern School", you have made a wise choice.

Austria-Hungary to England: Your Mediterrean fleet is a burr but not much of a threat.

[WALES]- We await the coming storm with resignation. If the French continue on in their position strategy, we have a slight chance of slowing the Hun, altho no doubt, we would be hit again if we looked like we'd gain something for England.

[FORTRESS LONDON]- In a statement made to the English people, His Supreme Generalship Joe Mini stated that the fight against the German barbarians shall continue unabated, until "the last drop of blood has been drained " from the bodies of the people. Blood banks are doing a brisk business.

England to France: Mon-sewer, after all our "minor disagreements" and such, I hope that you have seen the peril at hand. While it would be consistent to anticipate your clone-reaction moves to counter Germany (??? what'd I say??), I nevertheless can't help fearing another love tap from a neighbor. After this move, I hope that fear will disappear, and with it any Austrian accusations about you and Germany lying in bed together this game.

Memphis to England: But Austria is accusing Germany of sleeping with Russia!

Austria-Hungary to the World: French withdrawal from Pope Pearsononi's land has negated the need for a French garrison to protect the Pontiff. Franz-Blant has withdrawn this defensive post in order to protect Hapsburg property from the cozy Russo-Hun's greedy armies poised at our heartland.

Memphis to Austria-Hungary: Heartland? Sounds like home center talk to me.....

Austria-Hungary to Russia: To abandon a home center to show good faith? To show myself for a fool maybe. Weak and vulnerable maybe. A fool never.

Austria-Hungary to Germany: Help Russia anymore and you face a two front war. Maybe three fronts.

Memphis to Austria-Hungary: That rumor is spreading....Hark...and.....Lo.....

England to Germany: Kaiser Jack, I anticipate a 3-power coalition against you soon; no doubt you and your Red Pal will gang up on us separately, but for the time being, try and conquer us! Your fleets will rot in the harbors, until your feeble imagination resorts to Russian-style tactics, i.e., sending overwhelming odds against one point and steamrolling your way over minor odds. Till that happens, may you rot in your enclave.

England to Al: Do I get to write this much press in your zine, now that I've subbed? If not, then I'll have to name EE as the Flagship of The Hobby, instead of your rag.

Memphis to England: What mindless drivel.....

England to all: I write a lot of mindless drivel for a 4-center power, don't I?

Memphis to England: Not any more.....well maybe just one more.....

England to Whoever's Left: There was a young couple named Kelly
Who used to mess around belly-to-belly
One day they woke up
And were promptly stuck
They used cement instead of petroleum jelly.

(Continued from page 10) ELTON JOHN! If you add some glitter to his glasses, Scoop could be a real get-down Rock n' Roller!"

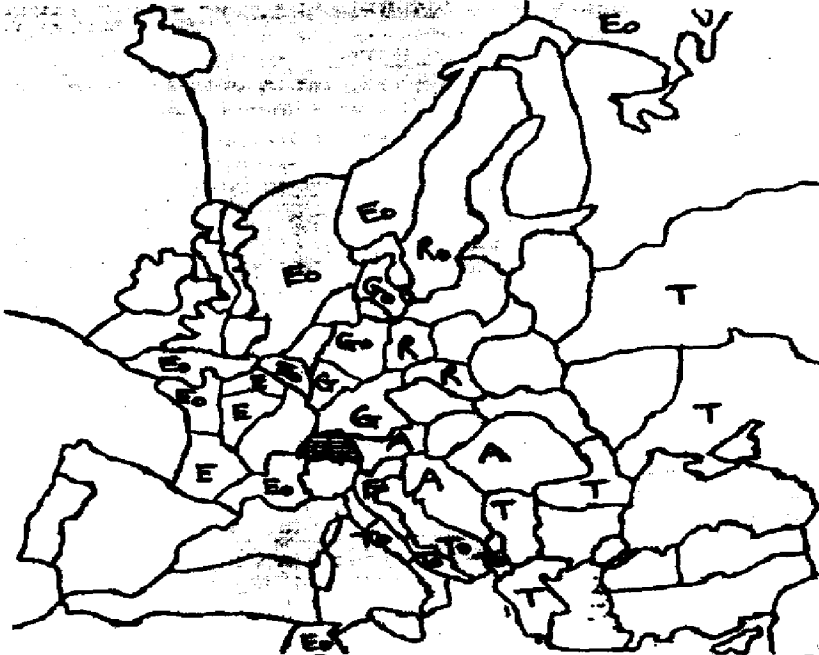
□ I just had to print that one!

□□□

8

AUSTRIA FACES SULTAN'S YELLOW PHALANX!! MOHAMMEDANS
IN MOSCOW!! NEW KAISER ARISES IN GERMANY'S DARKEST HOUR!!!

Ω POSITIONS IN FALL 1906 Ω



§ GAME: "Apis" 1981 A0
§ GM: Mister Gary L. Coughlan
§ NEXT SEASON IS: Spring 1907
§ ZAT: Friday, October 29, 1982
§ GAME COLOR: Blue

¶ GAME NOTES: Allen Wells is now the German player of record. Two proposals this time: An E-T draw and a proposal to "hang Fred Malmberg in effigy and I want this proposal made public."

Jeff Noto has a COA:
303-15 Diamond Village
Gainesville, Florida 32603 USA

§ Annihilation This Time:
Austria's Army Serbia and Germany's Army Picardy.

Thanks for holding your press down. One more issue and no restrictions.

Your cartoon is from Punch. I couldn't resist it so crowded orders!

§ ORDERS OF BATTLE FOR FALL 1906 §

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: A (TRI) S French A Ven
(Mister Mike Mazzer) A (SER) Holders
A (TYO)-Mun, A (BUD) S A Ser

ENGLAND: A Wal-(PIC), F (ENG) C A Wal-Pic
(Mister Jim Williams) F (BEL) S A Wal-Pic
A (PAR) S A Wal-Pic, F (NTH) S F Bel
F (NWY) S F Nth, F Stp(nc)-(BAR)
A (GAS)-Bur, F (MAR) Holders, F Mao-(BRE)
F (TUN) Holders

FRANCE: A (VEN) salutes the efforts of
(Mister Jeff Noto) Wilbur Marshall(Holders)

GERMANY: F Hel-(KIE), A (RUH) S A Bur-Mun
(Mister Allen Wells) A (PIC) Holders-Bur
F (DEN) S English F Nwy-Swe(NSO)
A Bur-(MUN)

RUSSIA: F (SWE)-Den, A Pru-(BER)
(Mister Don Swartz) A (SIL)-Mun

TURKEY: A Bul-(SER), A (GRE) S A Bul-Ser
(Mister Dave Carter) A (RUM)-Bud
A Sev-(MOS), F Ion-(ALB), A Arm-(SEV)
F (APU)-Ven, F (ADR)-Tri, F (ROM) Holders

The 1906 Supply Center Chart and the press for Apis is on page 10. Since going to Wichita, I now have met everyone of you in this game personally except for Jeff. We'll have to arrange for a FloridaCon this winter Jeff. A NICE time of the year.



CAN THE E-T EXPRESS BE STOPPED?????!!!!!!

§ 1906 Supply Center Chart §

| | <u>Gains</u> | <u>Loses</u> | <u>Retains</u> | <u>Has</u> | <u>Builds/Removes</u> |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------|---|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| AUSTRIA-HUNGARY | | 3 | Home | 3 | No change |
| ENGLAND | | | Home, Bel, Bre, Mar, Nwy Par, Por, Spa, Stp, Tun | 12 | +1 (Was one short) |
| FRANCE | | | Ven | 1 | No change |
| GERMANY | | 4 | Kie, Mun, Den, Hol | 4 | No change |
| RUSSIA | BER | 3 | War, Swe | 3 | No change |
| TURKEY | MOS, SER | | Home, Bul, Gre, Nap, Rom, Rum, Sev | <u>11</u> <u>11</u> <u>34</u> | +2 |

Russia to Memphis: Is this short enough?

Memphis to Russia: Whatever you think is best.....

Venice to Russia: I think you're making a big mistake.

Vienna to Warsaw: OK, here's my first lesson by mail. Oppose the guys that have lots of units. Ally with the weak ones. Got that? Oh, never mind.

Venice to Austria: In regards to last season's plan, I think our Russian "ally" lost the playbook.

Vienna to Warsaw: You don't think Turkey will take Moscow? You know, I've got this bridge in New York that I'm willing to let go for a bargain.

Vienna to Munich: I'm sorry. This is so embarrassing. I'm really just rescuing you from the Russians.

Vienna to Ankara: I still think you're going to get more resistance than England.

France to Turkey(with apologies to Woody Allen): I don't want to achieve immortality through my press---I want to achieve it through not being eliminated.

Turkey to Venice: Nothing is assured in PBM Diplomacy.

Memphis to Turkey: Well some things are quite assured.....

[SERBIA]- Quick, Scotty, beam us out of here!

Vienna to Memphis: You know, I'm coming to see the beauty in DIAS more and more these days.

Memphis to Vienna: Now, I know you're not in your "right" mind.

JEN to JRW: By the time you read this, you should have a letter from me. Keep in touch.

Vienna to Venice: Well, kimosabe, I think we'd better git the wagons in a circle. It's beginnin' to look like we're headin' fer the last roundup.

Vienna to Venice: And don't say "What mean we, Paleface!"

Gainesville to the World: 9/4/82 Florida 17 Miami 14

9/11/82 Florida 17 USC 9

How 'bout them Gators?! Especially Wilbur Marshall and James Jones!

Vienna to Memphis: It's starting to look like toilet bowl time.

Memphis to Apis: And my bedtime. It's only 3:30 AM!! Til Halloween!

Picture Guesses continued from page 51 .

"American but not California. I'd guess East Coast. I don't think he looks very trusts-worthy at all, but then, the only person I've ever thought trustworthy-looking was Dave Grabar, so who am I to judge? To put a name to him--John Caruso. PS. What happened to my Allen Wells' picture guess?" ((you put it on a game letter. Don't separate!))
Mark Luedi(Michigan, USA): "This, I think, is another of the people I met at ChicagoCon but didn't get a chance to chat with. Yes! Hiding behind that shirt and tie is somebody who looks an awful lot like Jim Williams. Is it he? A real definite guess there, huh?"

□ Well, all those guesses sounded definite to me. The man whose picture appeared in EEs 16 & 17 is none other than.....Jim Williams of Iowa, a.k.a. England in EE's "Apis". Jim was in my very first game in this hobby in Murd'ring Ministers and we were immediate friends. I still picture him in my mind as a young Jimmy Stewart even after meeting him. He is a good article and letter writer and a good cartoonist and just became the father of Krystal Nicole Williams. I'm sure he will have some responses to your guesses.

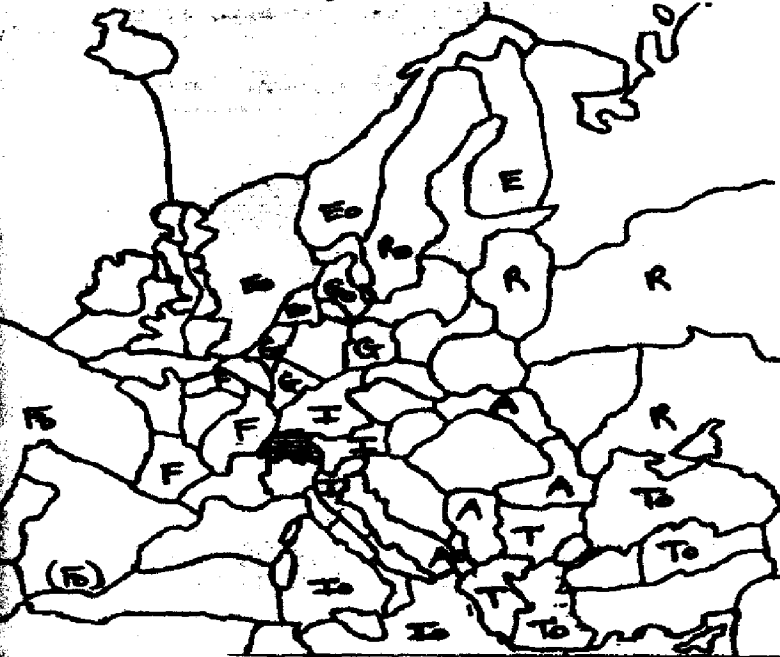
□□□

Jim Williams(Iowa, USA): "As I was perusing through EE #17 and Greg Russell's play, I came upon a picture of Scooper Berch himself. I couldn't help but notice the resemblance between Berch and Mr. "Saturday Nights All Right for Fightin'" himself(See page 8) (10)

TURKEY TILTS TOWARD AUSTRIA CAUSING RUMANIA DISASTER FOR RUSSIA!!!

ENGLISH WARSHIPS OFF KIEL AS GERMANY THWARTS A FURTHER FRANCO-ITALIAN ATTACK!!!

Ω POSITIONS IN SPRING 1902 Ω



§ GAME: "Alsace-Lorraine" 1981 IC

§ GM: 7110214

§ NEXT SEASON IS: Fall 1902

§ ZAT: Friday, December 3, 1982

§ GAME COLOR: Gumbich'

¶ GAME NOTES: So "Alsace-Lorraine" is back on track and is on 10-week deadlines. If all the players agree, the deadlines can be switched to 5-weeks in the future.

Next season is Fall 1902 and, in the North American fashion, only Fall moves are due. You do not have to submit retreats or builds or removals, but only Fall moves.

ZAT is German shorthand for "the next deadline" and is used in German zines.

Robert Jewett will be returning to the US in February, 1983 and Thomas Franke is in Pompeii, Italy on an archeological expedition until September 29th.

Jaap Jacobs is now the Turkish player and his press byline is "Heer Bommel", the main character in a popular Dutch cartoon

which is your game's cartoon for this time by the way. Heer Bommel is the bear in the big chair next to the panda. Your game is in Korean this time. Break the tie!!

§ Annihilations This Time: Russia's Fleet Rumania.

§ ORDERS OF BATTLE FOR SPRING 1902 §

ET'ALLI: A Ven-(TYO), A Rom-(VEN),
(Kathy Byrne-yang) A (MUN) S French A Bur-Ruh
F Nap-(ION), F Tun-(TYS)

OSUT'RIA-HANGGARI: A Bud-(RUM), A Vie-(GAL)
(Malc Smith-ssi) A (SER) S A Bud-Rum
F Tri-(ALB)

P'RANGSU: A Par-(PIC), A Spa-(GAS),
(Thomas Franke-ssi) A (BUR)-Ruh, F Por-(MAO)
F Mar-(SPA-sc)

MOSIA: F (RUM) S A Sev, A (SEV) S F Rum
(Robert Jewett-ssi) F Bot-(SWE), A Ukr-(MOS)
A War-(LVN)

TOKIL: A (BER)-Mun, A (RUH) S A Ber-Mun
(David O'Hare-ssi) F Swe-(DEN), A (HOL) S English F Nth-Bel(NSO)

T'OK'I: A (BUL) S Austrian A Bud-Rum, F (BLA) S Austrian A Bud-Rum
(Jaap Jacobs-ssi) A (GRE) S A Bul, F Con-(ANK), F Say-(AEG)

YONGGUK: A Nwy-(FIN), F Nwg-(NWY)
(Mike Close-ssi) F Nth-(HEL), F Lon-(NTH)



Heer Bommel (see GAME NOTES) joins the party of "Alsace-Lorraine"!

Austria to her Allies: It's been so long, that now I can't remember my superb plan to take over the world. Damn.

Memphis to Austria: The game has been delayed since April and I'm afraid some of the press shows signs of wear and tear.....

Malc to Marion: Get well soon kid.

Memphis to Alsace-Lorraine: On page 2, is more of your long-delayed press. (11)

[ROME]- Help wanted! Red, white and Green blocks are needed to stop the Yellow Fever which wants to invade all of Europe. If we allow this epidemic, we might as well give up and surrender to the Argentines. Well, why not, they'll never hold the Falklands---so we might as well give them blocks to push around. By the way, this American is pro-British----I'm pro-anyone who speaks English.

[BUENOS AIRESVILLE, PRINCESS ANN LAND, (formerly Buenos Aires, Argentina)](VIA RUSSIA) The British fleet has just departed after knocking the piss out of the Argentines, and installing a government more amicable to British claims and sovereignty, the past government having been too friendly and close to ex-Nazis like Adolf Eichmann and Dr. Mengele to name a few. The former government, which had the audacity to invade British territory, was infiltrated with German Nazis who escaped from Germany after World War II.

Memphis to Russia: I'm sure with such pro-British sentiments that you are going to welcome the English with open arms into Finland, right?!

France to Memphis: How is Elsie? I'm very sorry that I won't be able to visit DipCon!

Memphis to France: Well if it's not too late for you to visit DipCon which was last July, it's not too late for you to send a postcard to "Dunk Scott's Head" either.....

Italy to My Neighbors: If you really want an alliance with me--send me a postcard or letter saying "Dunk Scott's Head!" For anyone who doesn't know what kind of lowlife Hanson is--he is the same Scott Hanson who wrote the Argentines and told them to be the first in their hemisphere to blow the British out of the Falklands!

Heer Bommel to Italia: Congratulations on your World Cup.

Memphis to Alsace-Lorraine: The rest of the press held up better than this, ha ha!!

France to England: We hope that Rhys will remain a trustful ally!

Memphis to ALL: Rhys is a small town Welsh boy who has joined an international game in America and is, even now, traveling to the USA and.....

Rhys of Cwmbau i'r Boio (Part IV) (England) "(The Journey Begins)".....On a grey [17], windy morning the tank engine at the head of the 7:15 AM Merthyr to Cardiff chugged merrily along. In the rear carriage, Rhys sat and watched the countryside go past.

He found it difficult to relax. This was his first trip on the train since last year's Sunday School [18] outing to the funfair and seaside resort of Barry Island. The seaside had seemed to be such a long way away [19] then, and now he was going to America!

Once Rhys had finally convinced his parents that he should play in the International Game (if only to inform Americans of their errors in Diplomatic geography) the days up to his departure had passed in a blur. The farewell from Cwmbau had been amazing. On his last night home a special party had been organized at the Coronation Club [Note 15, Episode III] in his honour, and Nerys Jenkins had even let him walk her home, and then (Rhys blushed even as he formed the thought) kissed him to say goodnight.

Then the tearful parting on the railway station this morning--it seemed that half the town had come to see him off. A last hug from Nerys (and right in front of their patents too--they would have him engaged in three days!), the engine beginning to puff and clank, and he was off, a final plaintive cry from his mother ringing in his ear-- --"And don't forget to wear clean underpants [20] every day, boys, in case you get run over and taken to the hospital!"

The train pulled into Cardiff Central forty minutes later, but Rhys didn't have time to dawdle [21]. No visit to the big city [22] of Cardiff for him, no bright lights of the exotic capital of Wales. He crossed rapidly to Platform 2 to catch the Express to London Airport!

(Translator's Notes: [17]- Note proper spelling.

[18]- Held between the two normal Sunday Services in the church and chapels to give Religious Instruction to the younger people of the area (and give the parents a bit of peace on Sunday afternoon!)

[19]- Cwmbau to Cardiff-- 22 miles; Cardiff to Barry-- 10 miles.

[20]- "underpants" --- briefs, jockey shorts, etc.

[21]- "dawdle" --- hang around, waste time.

[22]- Cardiff population about 250,000.

Heer Bommel to the GM: Am I expected to write press?

GM to Heer Bommel: At least say "hi" to your friendly neighbors....

Malc to Jaap and Robert: Welcome to the game, would you be so kind as to turn to face the Eastern wall so I can use this sharp bit of surgical steel.....

Malc to Kathy: Wotcha buggers. I suppose it's my turn to say "Get bloody writing".

Memphis to Malc: "Buggers" Byrne replies on page 41 .

PLAYERS' RIGHTS WHEN DEALING WITH GMS AND OMBUDSMEN
OR

SO FAR, LIKE, "ALICE IN WONDERLAND", MAN!

Dick Martin(June 16, 1982): "Regarding the whole Dippy Don episode--I know exactly how you feel, I've felt the same way before. However, I've found that writing the angriest letter possible and setting it aside for a few days helps me cool down. In the meantime, keep me up to date on the crusade. It's much more fun to be sitting on the sidelines cheering than it is to be in the ring, battling away!"

Dick Martin(September 16, 1982): "I don't know why I should restrict my press to give you more space to abuse Don Ditter (if the rumors I hear are true). Does it mean that if you lose the third time straight we'll have to go for four out of seven? Why do you insist on dredging up dead issues--just so you can eventually find someone who agrees with you?"

Mark Berch(June 8, 1982): "The situation is a lot more complicated than I had originally assumed."

Rod Walker(July 18, 1982): "I believe we always have known this sort of problem existed, but until you brought up this situation nobody was thinking much about it. I hope that this subject will be discussed by various hobby presses and that one or more volunteers(of suitable qualifications) will be available to start doing the necessary work[of investigating games(on the basis of complaints received)]"

John Michalski(June 18, 1982): "You made a good choice in asking Berch and Walker to comment: they know what's what. Unfortunately, it also means you will get two more thumbs-down votes. You see, the basic complaint is only that Dick did a poor job of GMing, which is not uncommon, sad to say. He violated no rule of the game, only perhaps of etiquette. From Chicago reports I've seen, you and Dick got along real chummy, so I guess your chagrin has been transferred to Ditter. But to attack Ditter because he failed to sympathize with the case you imagined you had, will only generate support for Ditter. I suggest you devote the space to something else: maybe a big spread of Scott dunking Kathy's head at Origins?"

John Caruso(August 16, 1982): "I think I'm going to take the bull by the horns and start an Ombudsman service, that, with the BNC's permission, will have the power to influence the BNC [BOARDMAN NUMBER CUSTODIAN--present BNC is Don Ditter] to declare a game irregular. This service can also work as a mediator service for feuds, disputes between pubbers and even in assistance to the Orphan Service. I am soliciting volunteers for the OMBUDSMAN SERVICE POOL. This will be a group listing of all those available to serve as a mediator for disputes, and approved by the BNC, and/or other custodians. I'm looking for feedback on this, as I think it's a long time in coming. Long enough have the players suffered, feuds gone on and garbage been thrown at dipdom. It's time to start having services that protect people's rights."

Eric Kane(September 15, 1982): "If...anyone else has any complaints about my ruling, I would suggest you contact Mark Berch(ombudsman).....If you want a different ombudsman that is fine with me but I don't know any others and besides, Mark is the only one who gets Anduin so he would be most familiar with the game."

Gary Coughlan(June 2, 1982): "Please don't underestimate my bitterness or my capacity for getting my point across on a hobby-wide basis. I have been screwed and I don't like it. Since January, I have worked within this system and I have received nothing but being screwed. Ditter's failures did it. I am going to get action of some kind even if it is only in my zine. However some support would be nice. I don't see this rallying around the BNC and defending his perogatives merely because he is the BNC. Doesn't the player who seeks an ombudsman have any damn rights in this hobby at all? Doesn't anybody give a damn or least something more than lip service? We shall find out."

Statistics. This hobby is filled with statistics. Statistics about almost any topic you can think of. For instance, 18.5% of all Austrias open with the so-called "Balkan Gambit, Galicia Variation." More people whose last name starts with "S" began

((Continued on page 14)) (13)

games in 1981 than any other letter of the alphabet(61); 14 zines were responsible for starting 68 of the 140 games which were began in 1981 in North America; Dick Martin's Hobby Census shows 803 players and their addresses and this is only a partial listing as only 27 pubbers sent in their address lists. We can predict the average number of zines that will arise each year, and how many of them will fold. Yes, statistics on almost every subject.

Except one in particular: how many players get disgusted with a GM's treatment of their game, see no remedy and leave the hobby disillusioned? I know just how they feel because that situation happened to me. But instead of leaving the hobby, I decided to work to remedy my case within the system that the hobby has evolved for settling game disputes. I availed myself of the services of an ombudsman and when I began, I knew nothing of how the system worked. I certainly know now and although my "case" supposedly was settled in early March, I am still bitter at the treatment at I received 6 months later, today. So bitter, that I have resolved that no player who reads this article will be as stupid as I was or as naive if they decide to go to an ombudsman. It has also redoubled my efforts to bend over backward to give EE players the full benefit of the doubt and do everything within my power to see that they have no reason for complaints.

Before I get into that part of this article, let me stress that you do not run for an ombudsman at the first sign of trouble with a GM. You should try to work it out with him if at all possible. Most GMs are reasonable I found; a few are not. But if there is continuing trouble or you and the GM cannot resolve your difficulties, then you should seek an ombudsman. Usually the GM is the one who decides who the ombudsman will be but most will try to pick someone who is agreeable to you.

Now for the bad news, from the player's viewpoint. The GM doesn't have to call an ombudsman. He can ignore your request. And there is absolutely zilch that you can do about it. Some GMs write into their houserules that players can have access to an ombudsman in the event of conflict, like EE (See page for EE's ombudsman policy). But even if an ombudsman is called, the GM is in no way required to abide by the ombudsman's decision should it go against himself. And again there is nothing the player can do about that. When you, as a player, walk into the hobby's world of ombudsman and difficulties with your GM, you are entering a world with its own logic and if you are like me everything seems topsy-turvy like "Alice In Wonderland."

This story is a true one and it is about an ombudsman case that I had this year. I am still very bitter about what I had to experience and I am afraid that this will show through at times. I have decided that instead of sulking about it, that I am going to throw my weight towards the ideas that John Caruso and Rod Walker mentioned in their quotes at the beginning of this article on page 13 . More on that later.

Do you think that when an ombudsman is called in your game dispute, that both you and the GM have to present your sides to the ombudsman? Wrong! The burden of proof is entirely on you as the player. Most GMs are decent and competent and treat their players fairly. Because of this, or in large measure because of it, the GM in all ombudsman cases is given the benefit of every doubt---count on that. You as the player will have to prove every single point and you will never be given the benefit of the doubt. The reputation of the good GMs is such that this benefit of the doubt also is covering bad GMs. Count on that too. It's the nature of the game. Again, I didn't know that either. Benefit by my experience.

Anyone can be an ombudsman but a few individuals get called repeatedly like Mark Berch, Randolph Smyth and John Michalski.

If you think that a GM has messed up your game so badly that it should be declared irregular, there is only one person you can go to in this hobby, the Boardman Number Custodian. The present BNC is Don Ditter, who can also act as an ombudsman. No other ombudsman has the authority to declare a game irregular; only Ditter has that right. Remember that so that your GM doesn't let you waste time and stamps sending your complaint to an ombudsman who cannot rule on that specific point.

In this hobby there is no "GM Code of Ethics" although one has been talked about for years. GMs can write their own rules, before and during games in progress . GMs are a law unto themselves. At the very least you, as a player, should check a GM's houserules before you ever sign up for one of his games.

I am hopeful that this article will create some sort of awareness among players, GMs and (is there any other category?) that something needs to be done to prevent players from feeling that GMs and ombudsmen are acting against their interests. I never used to think that, but now that I have been through the ombudsman system, I have very negative feelings about the whole system. ((Continued on page 15)) (14)



The only way I know how to do this is to show you what I went through. I doubt I would even be concerned with this issue unless I had had this experience. This is essentially my view in this issue. In #19, Mark Berch, Rod Walker and Don Ditter will present their side of this issue. John Michalski and Dick Martin can also, but I will be correcting Dick in that issue due to his vendetta against me in his Retaliation if he submits anything. Mark Berch has told me that he will be in Spain in October so it does not have the time to prepare his submission for #19, he can put it in for EE #20. I will not be correcting Berch, Ditter, Walker or Michalski in #19. That is, in effect, their issue.

I realize that #18 and #19 is shutting out the subbers to a large degree. Only the picture contests and a few other things are being carried. But the issues are free to you and I hope you will regard them as worth your time. I have heard from two subbers on this, Mark Keller and Mark Luedi.

Mark Keller says: "I have some ideas about ombudsman disputes. They may be as off or on base as my ideas about orphans (the next Voice of Doom). I'll hold off saying anything 'till I get the inside story from you in #18 and #19."

Mark Luedi says: "Don't you think you'd better reserve a lot of space in #20 for all the unsolicited responses you'll be getting from your readers? If this is as hot as it sounds, you're going to be getting a lot of people with their comments in your mailbox. Myself, I think if you're going to put EE readers in on this, you should let them respond in the pages of EE. It's only fair. I'm (kind of?) looking forward to it."

Well I hope that subbers will respond in #20. But please wait until you do see what is put forward in #19, and not just what you will read in #18. I certainly do want your feedback. I know that several of you who are also Whitestonia subbers have already volunteered to be a part of the OMBUDSMAN SERVICE POOL that John Caruso has proposed. Get involved. These are your rights we are talking about. If you don't care about how your games are handled, no one else will.

Briefly, the game that I was in, R-3, went first to John Michalski as ombudsman and then to Don Ditter as ombudsman/BNC. (It should have gone to Ditter at the very first but that was the GM's fault and my ignorance. I wanted an irregular ruling from the first). Don Ditter did not tell me why he ruled as he did. He ignored me for 3 months. I became angry and then had Rod Walker and Mark Berch review this case. They essentially held up Don Ditter's position. I was determined that no player would be ignored in this fashion without some public notice. It was wrong. Based on this, that it would be going public, Mark Berch wrote me the following on June 8, 1982:

"You have obviously put out a tremendous amount of effort into this already. I could have put out an entire issue of Diplomacy Digest, I suspect with the time and effort that you have already poured into this. So far, you have nothing to show for it; indeed, matters have actually gotten worse as your complaint has been expanded from Martin to Ditter. The question you must ask yourself is whether you are putting even more "costs" into this merely in an attempt to have something to "show" for your already massive investment. And believe me, the costs will go up. There will be the additional time that Rod and I put in, the time to present this stuff in a zine, and if it's in EE, the space allocation there, and the fact that you will be altering the very nature of the zine. Your hobby reputation will suffer---and is this issue worth the cost of reducing your hobby reputation? Even if your position is generally recognized as correct, your reputation will suffer--make NO mistake about that. Unless the target is utterly villainous, people don't like to hear this kind of stuff, and will resent it. No one really likes a giant killer, particularly a giant who has been doing the part of the job, they are concerned with, well (assigning numbers, reporting games, etc.). Believe me, I know what I am talking about. Nothing I have done in Diplomacy Digest has gotten me more complaints from my readers than my attacks on Tretick. It may seem very unidealistic to consider the costs of an operation as having to be balanced against its value, but that's the real world."

I replied to Mark Berch on June 10, 1982: "You are not the first to observe that I have put out a tremendous effort in this matter. Perhaps you will be unlike the others who obviously did not think I was serious in my complaints or that I would not follow through. You see, when I am screwed, as in this case, I want to find out every little detail that went into that decision. Apparently some of these people are not used to

"being questioned on their actions, period. There is no room for infallibility in this hobby."

"We will see whether my reputation will suffer or not. Ditter may be a "giant" to you but to me this "giant" has clay feet. I was also one of the people who was bored stiff at the Tretick issue. It was in every zine it seemed issue after issue after interminable issue. While bored though, it at least sunk in and I neither subbed to nor played under him nor is he allowed to sub to or play in my zine. I think Don Ditter had better be worried about his own reputation in this matter and I think, my own opinion now, that is what you are primarily concerned with here also. You don't seem to mind that a player was screwed, you only comment "The situation is a lot more complicated than I had originally assumed." Indeed it is."

+++++

So now you know why your EE 18 and 19 are special issues and that you are getting them Free. I worked within the hobby system until ORIGINS in Baltimore and found no real satisfaction. But some of the ideas that Rod and Mark proposed can be made to work as John Caruso is trying to do. Most of these events you are about to read happened over 6 months ago and, while my feelings have cooled off considerably, I am still quite upset at the treatment I received. And believe me, what happened to me can happen to you. To prevent that is the primary reason for these two special issues. So let's get down to cases:

Essentials: R-3, or 1979 KG is a game carried in Retaliation and GMed by Dick Martin. I am Turkey, Jack Masters came in as a standby for Austria (and was replaced by Steve Langley), Scott Jones is England, Stephen Lee is France and Bob Olsen was Germany.

This game has been plagued with GMing errors by Dick Martin who showed irritation whenever he was questioned. Midway in the game, he imposed DIAS [Draws Include All Survivors] on it. I did not sign up for a DIAS game and was upset about this. Masters changed sides, citing DIAS made our 2-way alliance impossible. My position was ruined by this and further GMing errors. Eventually, we got Dick to put DIAS up for a vote. Since I was instrumental in getting him to do this, I naturally assumed that it would be voted by game [There were 4 games eligible to vote]. It was not. 6 people voted to throw it out, 4 people voted to retain it, and 4 didn't bother to vote. Dick claimed this as an 8-6 victory for DIAS and kept it.

Later I found out that at least 3 of the 5 R-3ers, and with strong suspicions of the remaining 2 had voted to oust DIAS from R-3. Clearly Dick had gone against the will of the majority in this game. Coupled with this was what I regarded as another GMing act of reprisal against me. This is item 4. With this I had had it. I felt Dick was a sloppy GM and was twisting the rules against me. I asked for an ombudsman.

Bear in mind, that this was one of my first games. I had poured tons of enthusiasm into it. It was, or had been, my favorite game. The deadline was announced to be on January 21st. I wrote Dick a letter asking for an ombudsman on January 2, 1982. The pertinent parts of that letter said:

"We talked before [A previous disagreement when I was trying to remove the game from Retaliation] that both of us thought Ron Brown [of California] would be a good choice. Any of these guys would also be acceptable to me: John Daly, Bob Sergeant, Don Ditter, Andy Lischett or John Michalski in addition to Ron Brown. I hope one of them is acceptable to you also. All of them scored at the top of the last Leeder GM poll (for experience of GMing many games) and I want someone with experience because I want him to rule specifically whether R-3 can be ruled irregular or not."

"That is how strongly I feel about how R-3 has been run. I didn't put in 2 years of work just to see it go down the drain through what I consider unfair rulings. I know you have a different perspective and that's why I want an ombudsman."

"I'm going to enclose a postcard so you can tell me if the delay is granted and which ombudsman you would like to have. I will make sure that you get a copy of everything that I write to the ombudsman you choose. I would like to get this settled as soon as possible so the game can either continue at the deadline after this one or be declared irregular."

I think I have an advantage most players do not have; I own a xerox machine. I would send copies of everything that I sent to the ombudsman to Dick Martin, my GM. I made copies for myself. My case papers totalled 18 pages. If I had had to do this at the library xerox machine the cost would have been prohibitive.



So I settled back and waited for Dick Martin to return my post-card letting me know who he had chosen as ombudsman. I had still heard nothing from my GM by January 16th and the deadline was January 21st and I didn't know if he was granting a delay or anything. So on January 16th, 1982, I wrote the following to Dick:

"It has been two weeks now since I have written to you about R-3. I have not yet received back the post card I sent you so you could tell me who the ombudsman you chose was. I hope you got the original letter. Just in case you didn't, I will send you a copy of that letter.....

....I can't overemphasize both how important calling an ombudsman is to me and that this game, and how it has been run, has nothing to do with our personal friendship. All of this was explained in the January 2nd letter of which you are getting a copy.

You called a deadline of January 21st for R-3. Therefore, in case the Jan 2nd letter did not reach you I am sending this letter plus a copy of the Jan 2nd letter plus my orders to you in 3 separate letters each with a postcard for your reply as to whom will be the ombudsman.

One letter will go by special delivery--certified so that you have to sign to get it. Another letter will go by regular mail to your Greenbelt address and the 3rd letter will go to your Rockville address. All will be mailed from the post office today and I know that of these 3 letters plus the one I mailed to you 2 weeks ago, that at least one will reach you."

Special delivery letters are expensive. Certified letters are more expensive. On January 20th, 1982, the day before the deadline and over two weeks after I had written Dick, the postcard from the January 2nd letter arrived in Memphis naming John Michalski as the ombudsman. [I had numbered the postcards in the other three letters]. Later, much later, I found out why Dick had delayed for so long. He wrote me on February 25, 1982: "I waited so long because I'm very tired of the whole thing. There was no need for one ombudsman, much less two." And on March 23, 1982 Dick Martin wrote: "I waited 2 weeks intentionally out of apathy, not conspiracy as you imply." And a little later in that same March 23, 1982 letter he said: "While I am a fair and impartial GM, I don't work quickly to correct any problems. Only those which are problems."

Now it is time to look at some of those problems. I will not reproduce the entire 18 pages of evidence here, don't worry. But I will produce just one page of the 3-page cover letter that I sent to John Michalski on January 30th. Dick had waited so long to get back to me with his choice that I had to put EE out on my deadline weekend and do the ombudsman case the following weekend. Excerpts from that letter:

"This letter and these supporting documents are to present my case for you to mediate between me, as a player in 1979 KG (Retaliation's "R-3") and Dick Martin as the GM for R-3. Before I begin, I want it understood that my dispute is with Dick as a GM and not with him as a person or a friend. Friendship should have nothing to do with GMing or playing in a game. Dick is receiving copies of everything that I am sending to you.

Dick Martin has interfered with R-3 to an extraordinary extent and his interference has changed the outcome of R-3. I feel that R-3 should be declared irregular and voided as a game as a result. I intend to prove this with the supporting documents which I have numbered 1 to 13 for your convenience.

Dick's interferences have fallen into three categories: (1) Questionable GM rulings such as the Winter 1910 season--number 4. (2) His illegal imposition of DIAS upon R-3 and his maintaining of it when a clear majority of the R-3 players did not want it and (3) His removal of Jack Masters from R-3 for unexplained reasons. I will deal with each of these separately.

(1) In both Winter 1908 and Winter 1909, Dick screwed up the supply chart center. In Retaliation #37/38 (August 8, 1981), Dick listed Austria as being even. I discovered that Austria could build one unit. I told this to France who had not noticed it. Austria being our enemy at the time, we did not tell him that he was really entitled to build another unit to throw at us in Winter 1909. Neither of us submitted conditional orders so as not to tip off the GM to tip off Austria.

The GM is supposed to be fair and impartial. It is still inconceivable to me that Dick never told us that he was going to allow Austria to build that one unit which is what he did in Retaliation #39/40 (September 12, 1981). The zine was also one week late and Dick did not adjust the deadlines. I asked for a delay and he was very reluctant

"about granting it but when I got the other players to request a delay he finally did. But he refused to allow Spring 1910 (the season when the Austrian effectively used the one build we were not told about) to be played over and my position consequently became worse than it was before. I hold this to be squarely Dick Martin's fault. He should have informed us that Austria was given a build so that we could have submitted conditional orders. He did not.

[Dick's explanation of this failure to notify the players of the Austrian build came to me October 2nd when he said: "The Austrian F Tri-Alb is legitimate. It replaces an army which had been annihilated. I just forgot to list it, is all"]

"I should point out at this time, Dick and I were not friends. It was during the aftermath of this Winter 1909/Spring 1910 season that he sent out the letter to the R-3 players This is number 1. I indeed was trying to remove the game from Dick's GMing because his mistakes showed no sign of ceasing, especially in view of how he said he GMed (which was in Retaliation #39/40, page 24). Also I felt he was needling me and I felt just removing the game would be best."

[That way of GMing by Dick was, in his words: "To give you folks some background, I GM all my games at the typewriter as I go along. I don't set up the board, ever. I don't use maps. After 7 years of Dip, I have the thing pretty well memorized. The only problem is, I trust my players to know what they are doing. So if a player just orders a build, or unit he doesn't have, sometimes I catch it, sometimes I don't. I also rely very lightly on the previous turn's results."]

"This brings us to Dick's removal of Jack Masters. Jack resigned after Dick's critical remarks about him in Retaliation #41/42 (October 10, 1981). But, apparently before the Winter 1910/Spring 1911 season deadline, wanted his position back and Dick refused to allow this for "related developments". This has not yet been explained because Retaliation has not been published since November. I find it hard to believe that Jack deceived the GM in some way which is really the only legitimate way someone could be removed from a game. This is number 4, circled in red flair.

I also take issue with the way Dick handled R-3 in Winter 1910 and Spring 1911 (See number 4 and 5). It is true in my orders that I did not retreat my dislodged Fleet Naples to Apulia. It is also equally clear that I wanted to remove Fleet Constantinople and Fleet Ankara.

My orders and the Austrian orders make it clear that my "intent" was to have a fleet in Apulia and that it was attacking Venice with support of the Austrians. He correctly stated that "no retreat received" and retreated it to the box. Then he, in effect, removed one of my fleets because he "accepted the first removal listed as the one intended rather than use the CD removal rules (which, even though not ambiguous, are not suited for this instance." [This last quote is Dick Martin's words]

I no longer know what house rules are acceptable in what instances to Dick. He seems to do what he wants to. If he is going to remove one of my fleets because it was simply listed first and not in alphabetical order and not according to any established procedure because he thinks that was "the one intended", then why didn't he start even earlier and see that my "intent" was to have a Fleet Apulia? Instead he removes the dislodged Fleet Naples and thereby interferes with what was clearly Turkey's and Austria's intent from their orders.....

[My Turkey had allied with the new standby for Austria, Steve Langley. In this cover letter I also discussed the DIAS situation in R-3 already mentioned on page 16 I then ended my letter to John Michalski with these comments]

"So, to sum up: Dick Martin, as the GM, has made several GM errors which have damaged my position unfairly and beyond my "diplomacy" to correct. He has imposed DIAS on a game after that game had begun and he is keeping it in that game when the clear majority of the players have voted against keeping it in their game. He has removed Jack Masters as a player from a position he wished to keep and he has not explained these reasons. He is removing my units by what he thinks I intend and not by any established standard.

All of these actions have ruined my position as the Turkish player. Due to Jack Masters' interpretation of DIAS, he turned from a sure Austro-Turkish victory to attacking me because DIAS rendered his goal, at least, impossible. Now the game is being won by the English-French. I was prepared to accept this and be exterminated as DIAS called for until Scott Jones [R-3 England who made 3 of 5 voting against DIAS]



"called and until Dick started removing my units without any real standard.

As a result, I do not feel it is enough to throw DIAS out now. The damage has been done. It is impossible to put Jack Masters back into the game. He has been removed for "related developments". It would be "unfair" to the other players to replay Winter 1910/Spring 1911 as I and Austria "intended" it due to Dick's actions. This game has been interfered in to an extraordinary extent by the GM and I think because of his actions, which are at the very least questionable, that R-3 should be declared irregular and voided.

Thanks for reading through all this John and I will abide by your decision no matter what it is. Under no circumstances am I resigning from R-3. Either this game is declared irregular or I'm writing my end game statement! One of the two! But that is up to you."

In the meantime, Dick Martin had sent me a letter telling him he was going to adjudicate R-3 on February 13th which was certainly less than a month's delay and wouldn't give Michalski time to delve into any questions that he might want answered from either of us. Dick's reasoning was: "This whole matter is taking more time than it should. So I'll be adjudicating R-3 on 2/13." My thoughts were that it wasn't I who had delayed naming an ombudsman for over two weeks.

I got Michalski's decision on February 8, 1982, a Monday. It had been written February 4th. Before I tell you what it said I must mention that I later that week got a note from Dick Martin written on February 6 and mailed February 8. Dick's note said:

"Got all your stuff regarding R-3 today. I think I should point out one important fact: only the BNC can declare a game irregular. That's something to keep in mind, wouldn't you say?

I suppose I'll get legalistic and send my side of the story to JM [John Michalski] and you'll get a copy when I get to it. Sigh....

.....Did I tell you that only the BNC can declare a game irregular? So if that's what you have in mind, you should start writing to Dippy Don. I don't think he'll touch R-3, but that's just my personal belief. You're free to find out for yourself, if you'd like."

Since I had stated in my January 2nd letter to Dick Martin that I wanted an ombudsman who could "specifically" declare R-3 irregular and that Don Ditter was among those listed, I quite naturally wondered why, since Dick from this letter obviously knew that only the BNC fit that description, why he went ahead and picked someone who did not have that authority. He had picked Michalski. Finally he answered my question to this in a letter of February 25, 1982 when Dick said: "I picked John because I knew he'd make a fair judgement, and it'd be interesting to read." Yes, John did make a fair judgement in so far as he had authority; but he couldn't declare the game irregular which is what I had "specifically" asked for.

I also wondered in view of what Dick wrote in his February 6th letter if he had sent anything in at all to Michalski. Slowly I was learning..... John Michalski's comments in his ombudsman decision are next:

"Re the dispute: Overall, Dick wins. Not really, as the issues aren't "hard" enough to really nail down, but I hate suspense, so I thought I'd start with the overall leaning first, and get down to these explanations later.

The issues: Gary calls on me to rule the game irregular for various reasons, a serious charge. Fortunately for the hobby, ruling a game regular or irregular is solely the prerogative of the then-reigning BNC, Don Ditter at the present time, in case you want to forward a lot of this to him. Of all the issues, I would have to say that the only real basis for ruling it irregular that would really stand up might be the Masters item. I suggest that if this is pushed to the BNC, you beef up the claim with something firmer though, if at all possible, from Masters himself on this. It will be an uphill fight though, if Masters did submit a resignation.....

The next most serious charge is the GM interference part. Gary is right that the events named did affect his position; however, it is not adequate grounds for irregularity.Now, as to removing F Con over F Ank: we come close on this, since it is a guess on the GM's part when two removals are listed and one is needed, which to remove. As a practical matter, the GM can do almost anything really.....The possibility does exist

"PLAYERS' RIGHTS" Continued from page 19 .

"that a GM can use such judgement calls for or against people for his own reasons; that is true but it is in the very nature of postal Dip that you are accepting the honor of the GM in such matters. GMs do not always prove to be honorable, but a player's only recourse in such cases is to either resign, get the game moved via agreement of all the other players, start a feud, make attacking editorials, vote him low in the next Leeder poll.....For as long as the GM covers himself with a fig leaf of fairness, he is covered; he is presumed right and honorable unless proven otherwise, and to say that one's position suffered justifies your being pissed, but frankly, that's about it.....

.....[ON DIAS IN R-3]...Dick announced that his games would be up to a vote, and that non-votes would be yeses. Stacking the deck perhaps, but again, this is a legitimate GM prerogative. You announce the basis and then hold the vote. Gary did not understand this to be on an all-games-affected basis, and thought it was on a game-by-game basis, and feels rightly pissed. Dick has good reason for doing so, however, in wanting to run all affected games either one way or the other, so again, in matters of policy calling, the GM wins by definition."

When I got Michalski's decision, I was really stunned. I thought I had presented my case so well, all those documents, all that time. Then seeing the GM winning by definition, winning by benefit of the doubt. I wrote John Michalski asking what Dick had sent him and just how bad a GM had to be before a game is declared irregular--I mean just what does he have to do!?! John replied immediately:

"Dick's letter.....there was nothing to it: only a ho-hum, please rule-so-we-can-get-on-with-the-game. He did say he felt DIAS was not an issue, which was not exactly true. It could have been if he had mishandled or misapplied it. As to "what must he do", well, the GM must violate the rules of play and/or principles of fairness. He has not, at least not as far as has been argued....Any GM operates in a position of trust--he is trusted to do right.....

.....All the 'legalistic mishmash' you deride is in fact fairness: applying some logical standard against his conduct before judging it. 'Players' rights'? Come on, Gary, that's just sour grapes. He adjudicates the orders and gets out the results. Maybe not like Kendter or Conner does, but 'within the law' so to speak...Pendancy, arrogance, even sloppiness and tardiness, do not make a game irregular. A poor GM, yes, but an irregular game, no. It detracts from the fun, but if all the players felt that way, they would have agreed to move it elsewhere."

As reported on page 18, we had tried to remove the game but one player wouldn't go along. That one player has a subzine in Dick's zine Retaliation. Kathy Byrne is trying to move her R-12 game from Retaliation and she has told me that this same one player is the only sticking point. But the fact remains: all players have to agree to move a game or it doesn't get moved.

I decided to forward my documents to Don Ditter since someone who had the authority to rule R-3 irregular in the first place was who I had wanted from the start. I sent the following to him on February 10th, 1982. As always I sent copies of everything to my GM, Dick Martin. I still had not seen what he had submitted to Michalski.

"I am in a game dispute with my GM, Dick Martin. The game is 1979 KG also known as "R-3". Dick selected John Michalski as the ombudsman but he says that only you, the BNC, can declare a game irregular if it needs to be and suggested that I forward my complaint to you....

John states that I need to "beef up my claim with something firmer though, if at all possible, from Masters himself on this!" I'm sending this letter to you special delivery. At the same time, Dick Martin is getting copies of all this both special delivery and by regular mail. Jack Masters is being contacted by special delivery also. I am enclosing a copy of my letter to Dick where I am asking him to postpone the deadline from Feb. 20th until February 27th so that Jack has time to reach you and you have time to come to a decision. Also the 15th is a mail holiday so I don't think this delay is unreasonable since I am further appealing my case to you.

I don't know if you are a subber of Retaliation, as John was, so I am enclosing additional documents for you which are explained in the "G" letter in the main....

.....I am enclosing some stamps for you to use to write to the other R-3 players and/or send all of these documents back to me when you have made your decision. You can send back any extra stamps at that time too."

Although I have requested February 27th as a deadline, I do think Dick should wait

(20)

((Continued on page 21))



Players versus GMs
and ombudsmen often
seems like two on one

"PLAYERS' RIGHTS" Continued from page 20 .

"to adjudicate the game until he hears from you. I know as the BNC you are very busy. So I await your decision. Thanks for your time, Don."

Okay, let's get a quick review in here of what had happened up to this point in time. I had requested an ombudsman who could declare a game irregular not knowing, in my ignorance, that only the BNC had this right. I had also listed the BNC as one of my choices. The GM, because he thought it would be "interesting" picked an ombudsman who couldn't rule the game irregular. The GM kept sending me postcards (all of which I had provided when I was wondering why he hadn't told me who the ombudsman was for over two weeks) telling me that he was going to go ahead and adjudicate R-3 on such-and-such a date.

In the meantime, I was sending complete copies of everything I was writing to the GM and had got nothing about what he was writing in return. I was sending much of my stuff by special delivery so that it would speed up the resolving of things. Costly.

Jack Masters, the player who had been removed from R-3, had been criticized by almost the entire hobby for printing uncalled-for remarks about Kathy Byrne in his zine and had announced that he was leaving the hobby. I didn't know if he would write to Don Ditter or not. Then, on February 25, 1982, Don Ditter replied:

"After reviewing all information on 1979 KG, I must agree with the ombudsman decision. The GMing was proper, albeit not perfect. GMs use different methods of making a decision if ambiguities occur. While I agree with John, that Dick was a bit too technical in his ruling, there are GMs in the hobby who are very technical. Apparently, Dick is one of them.

As for the DIAS ruling; a vote was taken and it passed. I can sympathize with the fact your fellow players were against it, but the majority ruled. It is certainly Dick's prerogative to treat all games as a block. You should not have assumed it was an individual game ruling.

As for the rest of your points, I have to agree with John Michalski's judgement. John is an established GM. In a situation like this he is an excellent choice for ombudsman.

In conclusion I will refer to your letter to John dated January 30, 1982 and I quote, "Thanks for reading through all this John, and I will abide by your decision no matter what it is." You asked for an ombudsman ruling, you received it and I concur.

P.S. If you want your evidence returned, let me know."

[And in a personal note at the bottom, Don Ditter wrote to me]:

"Gary: Sorry my ruling could not be more favorable for you, but the other players would certainly feel cheated if the game was declared irregular. I probably would feel the same as you in this matter and probably would have resigned long ago, as I don't like to play for a technical GM."

Bear two things in mind about this Don Ditter letter. He said absolutely nothing about the removal of Jack Masters from R-3, which was a big part of my case. And he didn't return my documents even though I had sent him the stamps and asked him to do so in my February 10th letter. Remember these two points because they will come up again. Also remember his comment to me where I said that I would abide by Michalski's decision.

The day before I got Don Ditter's letter, I finally got some answers from Dick Martin which have been previously discussed in this article. He finally sent me the only thing that he had sent to John Michalski's as his "side" in this case. It was:

"As you may know you've been chosen as the "ombudsman" for R-3. You don't? Oh. To correct Gary, the only thing under dispute are the Turkish orders. DIAS is not a question! This is all pretty silly, actually. I just will not accept implied retreats and see no reason why I should. Sigh. Then I just took the first removal listed, rather than use CD removals. No big deal. Could you please rule ASAP [As Soon As Possible], so the game can get back on the track?"

That was the only thing that Dick Martin as the GM submitted in his behalf. Please notice that it also didn't mention Masters' removal in any way. Since I had had to badger Dick for weeks to even get this from him, I wondered whether Don Ditter had received the same thing from Dick when he made his decision since this letter arrived from Dick the day before Ditter's letter arrived at my house.

((Continued on page 22)) (21)

Also in Dick's letter was the reason why he had removed Jack Masters from the game. I won't reveal that until later in the article. Retaliation had arrived on February 3, 1982 and all Dick had said in the zine about the "related developments" of removing Jack Masters was: "Masters has been removed because I never want to have anything to do with the lying SOB again. I'm in this hobby for fun, and I get very upset when jerks do what they can do to ruin that. I won't put up with that trash." Very moving words and I'm sure that they were sincere but it was not a fit explanation for removing Jack Masters. Don Ditter had been sent a copy of this too. I replied to Don Ditter's letter on February 25, 1982. Please remember the points that I told you to remember on page 21 about Don Ditter's previous letter and its omissions.

"I received your letter today concerning 1979 KG(R-3), and I want to clear up a few points and misconceptions and to request some further information from you. I recognize that R-3 will not be declared irregular and that the game will go on.

I agree that John Michalski is an excellent GM. I had him listed as one of my original choices for Dick to select that would be acceptable to me. However, this is what I said in my original letter to Dick, which is item (6).

"We talked before that both of us thought Ron Brown would be a good choice. Any of these guys would also be acceptable to me: John Daly, Bob Sergeant, Don Ditter, Andy Lischett or John Michalski in addition to Ron Brown. I hope one of them is acceptable to you also. All of them scored at the top of the last Leeder GM Poll (for experience of GMing many games) and I want someone with experience because I want him to rule specifically whether R-3 can be ruled irregular or not."

I don't know how this could have been made clearer. I have not been in an ombudsman situation before, I did not know that only the BNC could declare a game irregular as John Michalski pointed out to me. From a later postcard, I know now that Dick knew this all along. Then why did Dick pick John in the first place? I don't know but this type of mind game has been what Dick has done to me lately. He also waited two weeks to even choose an ombudsman so it wasn't a rushed decision.

John said that I could forward my evidence to the BNC which is you and you were listed on my list to Dick. He suggested that I "beef up" my charges if I did so. I feel I was fully within my rights in going to a GM who had the power of declaring a game regular or irregular, which is what I clearly requested in the first place.

I have written to John telling him that I agreed with his decision based on the facts that he had and that I fully expected you to agree with his decision. I think John is also fair and competent and my decision to go to you is no reflection on his ability. But I have put two years into this game, and I don't enter many, and I wanted to do everything possible to keep it from going down the drain from my viewpoint.

So then I wrote: "Thanks for reading through all this John, and I will abide by your decision no matter what it is." I wrote this thinking that John or any ombudsman could rule a game irregular. You wrote me: "You asked for an ombudsman ruling, you received it, and I concur." I asked for someone who could rule it irregular, a different matter.

You also said: "P.S. If you want your evidence returned, let me know." Well, Don if you read my letter to you when I sent you my evidence on February 10th you will see these words: "I am enclosing some stamps for you to use to write the other R-3 players and/or send all of these documents back to me when you have made your decision. You can send back any extra stamps at that time too." You must pardon me here if I feel that you didn't really look very much at what I sent you when I read that. But I am returning these stamps because I do want my evidence back. Thank you.

And I have one final request and there is absolutely no rush on it, I just want an honest answer. In your letter to me, you didn't mention, at all, that Dick removed Jack Masters from the game. I would like to know how Dick explained this away and if, indeed, he sent you any explanation (you see only yesterday did I receive what his explanation was). In what he sent me, he said that Jack's sub ran out. But when he printed Jack's letter dated October 18th, 1981, it said that Jack sent him a check to extend his sub to Retaliation. The very next issue of Retaliation was when he removed Jack who wanted to come back after his resignation. My, my, that must have been a mighty small check but I am sure you went into all of this with Dick and received a satisfactory answer. I just want to know what it was.

And I agree that the other players in R-3 "would certainly feel cheated if the game was declared irregular" as you say. Especially since two of them are winning because



"of GM errors and imposition of a rule after the game has started. Well, then if you can feel for them so much, you can overlook my bitter feelings in this letter because I have seen a sloppy GM screw me out of a win or a draw in that same game by his "proper, albeit not perfect" GMing and be technically upheld by the ombudsman. I'll take your advice in the future and just resign from such a GM as Dick. I sure won't ever go to an ombudsman again. That is no reflection on you or John; I'm just incredulous that the GM gets the benefit of every doubt. But as John would say, that's "tough bananas" for me.

At this point, I was not trying to get the game declared irregular; indeed it was running again. I just wanted to know the reasons why Don Ditter had decided as he had. Throwing a player out of a game is pretty serious to me and I wanted to know how Dick had explained that away. In the meantime, Dick had been getting copies of all this material and I was sending him personal letters stressing my friendship, (in spite of the fact that I thought he had not acted in a manner calculated to resolve this whole ombudsman deal as fast as possible). But now, Dick was becoming snippy in his comments. In early March, I received a postcard from Dick which said: "I don't like the insinuations you make. 'Keep talking'? Why should I, when all I get back is accusations? In the future I think it best that we keep our relationship strictly on the professional level."

This was quickly followed by the latest R-3 results, which would be printed for all subbers of Retaliation to read. In the game report, Dick wrote: "The ombudsman called to rule on last season, John Michalski, has ruled that the GM did not act improperly. The adjudications stand as written. Now I will have NO more pursuit of the matter. Isn't that right, Gary? PLAY THE GAME!" In the press, the French player attacked me saying that there was no need for an ombudsman (the French player was now winning) and Dick, supposedly the impartial and fair GM said: "I couldn't agree more!" and also wrote about R-3 that "Gary Coughlan ruined it for everybody else."

The ombudsmen, either of them, had hardly giving Dick's GMing a clean bill of health and I didn't like what had happened being misrepresented within the pages of Retaliation [A preview of Dick's later "vendetta"--see page 48]. So I sent the R-3 players copies of the ombudsman reports, and corrected Dick's impression that he had done nothing wrong, on March 12th. As always, Dick got a copy of that letter and I wrote him:

"I hope I can straighten out what you are apparently trying to make a messy situation between us. A "professional level"? Why? All along I have said that my complaint was with you as my GM, not my friend. I consider you my friend but that doesn't mean I have to sit back and let you screw me over in a game. No more so than I would expect you to sit back and let me screw you in "Swedish Roundabout."

Don't you think that you're being just a little too touchy about having your GMing questioned? Why don't we say that I am a real prick as a player and that you are a real prick as a GM? How's that for a mutually satisfactory description? Of course, I am allowed to believe the part of it that I want and you can also believe only part of it.

The point is: let's not quarrel. We, at least I think so, are friends and we have many friends in common. Surely you don't want a repeat of GenCon this year. I let you get to me then; I won't this time."

Only the R-3 players, the ombudsmen and Dick got a copy of my letter to the R-3 players. The mass of Retaliation subbers were to only read Dick's version which was not wholly the truth by any means. In the meantime, Don Ditter had sent me an answer to my February 25, 1982 letter. Don Ditter wrote in a letter postmarked March 7th:

"I apologize for not sending your evidence with my last letter. I assure you that I did read everything you sent me before deciding to concur w/Michalski's decision. I read your note to return your materials but I forgot about it....Sorry.

Regarding ombudsmen...they are very helpful to me and the hobby. They are called in to arbitrate a mid-game dispute between a GM and a player. They make recommendations of what can be done to rectify a bad situation and have saved many a game for the hobby.

I rely very heavily on ombudsmen recommendations when it comes to a game being rated irregular, though I review the matter myself. I've found that good, dependable GMs, used as ombudsmen, make fair decisions. That's not to say I wouldn't overturn a decision I felt was wrong. I would.

Regarding Masters...Dick had a written resignation from Jack, which he accepted, albeit not right away, but certainly before Jack ordered his units again. Had Dick

"allowed Jack to submit orders after ~~leaving~~ his resignation and then replaced him.....
....he would have some explanation to make.

I am sorry you became so bitter over this matter. Disputes such as these are certainly the least enjoyable part of the hobby. It makes one wonder if people have forgot that it is just a game. I'm sorry I could not rule in your favor in this dispute. I hope its result does not sour your considerable contributions to the hobby..or Dick's or mine.

Gary, this is the last I have to say on this matter. I refuse to drag the argument on. I hope you can lay it to rest and get on with enjoying the hobby."

When I got this letter, Don Ditter still had not told me what Dick had sent to him to make him decide the way he had. I had already said that I was not any longer trying to get R-3 declared irregular. I had accepted the decision. I just wanted to know why. One thing that struck me about this letter was that he mentioned he hoped that this situation wouldn't make him or Dick bitter as well as me. I couldn't see any reason why either of them should feel bitter. I was the one whose game had been screwed and now I wasn't getting any answers. I wrote Don Ditter on March 12th this letter:

"I guess it's appropriate now to say congratulations on your marriage, no? I hope you and Debbie will be very happy together. I hope I spelled her maiden name correctly in the last issue of EE and that someone responds to her request, other wives I mean, who don't like to play Diplomacy.

I am sending you a copy of the R-3 game results and the press. Dick apparently intends to be publicly nasty about this as witness some of his comments in the press. He is Rockville. I'm sending you this because I am privately telling the other R-3 players what happened and since I quoted you I thought you should see the context that prompted it.

I consider Dick my friend albeit a bad, sloppy GM. I received the following from him: "In the future I think it best that we keep our relationship strictly on the professional level." Personally I find that very childish but I will be writing him and see if we can work this out. But that doesn't mean that I will let him tell a censored version of what went on, or that it was I who ruined the game.

Anyway, what prompted his remarks above, is that I asked him some pointed questions and for what he sent to you. As you know I sent him copies of what I sent to you. I would like you to just summarize what he wrote to you. You said: "Regarding Masters....
...Dick had a written resignation from Jack, which he accepted, albeit not right away, but certainly before Jack ordered his units again." You could have read this from the xeroxed forms that I sent you of Michalski's letter. What I want to know is did Dick send you anything at all like the series of letters between him and Masters where he printed Masters' orders?

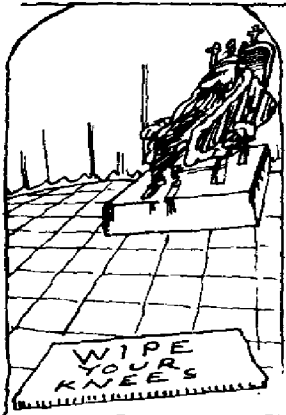
I saw what he [Dick] wrote to Michalski and he didn't even mention Masters in that 1-page letter. I am not dragging out this argument; I concur with the decision. I simply want to know what was said by Dick in his defense of his actions. I feel that this is my right, especially since the decision went against me. I would appreciate your help in this. Thanks in advance; here is a stamp for your trouble."

After this, I got a letter from Jack Masters, the player Dick had kept from his position. Part of Jack's letter said: "Regard the letter to Ditter that you requested. I will write him. I have intended to all along, but have not gotten around to it. I guess I have a great deal of bitterness towards the hobby and about as much toward Martin as anybody else in it. Thinking about the situation stirs up emotions in me that are better off (for my own sake) left dormant." I wrote Jack and told him not to write to Ditter since the decision had already been made. I also saw no need for Jack to dredge up these feelings when no purpose would be served by it.

I had discussed aspects of this case very briefly with Mark Berch who expressed interest in a case that had two ombudsmen in it. His Diplomacy Digest #54 had been a theme issue on "GMing Errors." In early April, I received Dick's March 23 letter:

"Let's get this letter off to a bad start, shall we? Regarding R-3--I think this whole dispute has gone on long enough. So, this xeroxed 3/12/82 letter you sent out will be your last as an R-3 player. Do I make myself clear? If I get wind of another one, you will be asked to resign your position. Failing that, I will remove you from the game. Do you understand?

....Why don't we just say you're a "real prick" as a player, Gary? Have you ever



"paused to think that I'm merely reacting to the way you're treating me? You're not the only person to have ever questioned my GMing, you know, and I've managed to get along fine with the rest. I may not be the greatest GM, but I'm not that bad, either. Don't project your incompetence as a player onto my GMing abilities.

I do plan to keep my ultimatum regarding R-3 between the two of us, and maybe Don Ditter. Publicize it if you wish, I won't."

I might have to accept ombudsmen decisions, and I had, but there was no way any GM could bully a player with an ultimatum like this. I was beginning to get angry too. Dick had also made comments in that letter about my job and my finances. This was early April and Chicago Con was coming up and I did not want a repeat of GenCon between Dick and me. I called in Kathy Byrne and Eric Ozog who had mediated between us earlier (See page 35). I wrote the R-3 players about this. I started sending in 3 sets of orders each season for R-3. And I wrote Dick on April 4th:

"I really am getting tired of writing to you and getting hit back with cheap shots instead. You seem, from my viewpoint, intent on starting a feud, with some of your remarks about my gaming abilities, my job and my finances. Not to mention your remarks about me in the R-3 press.....

...I too think the dispute about R-3 has gone on long enough. So why don't you stop harping about it already? I accepted the decision, I have dropped my attempts to either get the game declared irregular or removed from your GMing, and I am not resigning. But what do I see? You attacking me in print in R-3 which will be read by all your subbers.....

Nor is it right for you to give me and only me an ultimatum like you did...When you wrote what you did in R-3, I wrote the other players in R-3 to give them my side. My side is not your side and your side is not my side. As it is, all the rest of the Retaliation readers have heard only your side. I have wrote all I intend to on the matter; you can have a feud by yourself---count me out! But I won't take bullying, like this ultimatum deal, from you or anyone.....

Dick, have you ever paused to think that I'm merely reacting to the way you're treating me? Stop the public snide remarks and the problem will go away. I am not attacking you in the press, I am not sending you ultimatums and you are doing these things to me. I think you forget that I went through a year of your GMing mistakes before I ever went to an ombudsman. I may not be the greatest player to GM for, but I'm not that bad either. Don't try to get out of your responsibility for some pretty sloppy GMing in R-3 either."

By this time, it had been over three weeks since I had heard from Don Ditter who had not answered my March 12th letter to him. I wrote him telling him of this ultimatum on April 4th.

"I think it would be a good idea if you write to Dick and get him to cool things. All of this is explained in the enclosure [This was about the ultimatum]

Should he throw me out of R-3, I will be coming immediately to you to get the game declared irregular. I know that the GM gets the benefit of the doubt but it certainly doesn't cover an "ultimatum" of this type. For the record, I am not resigning, and I am not sending a resignation statement in and I will not resign if asked to do so by Dick. This is my game and I am playing the position out to the end. No GM can abuse a player like this merely because the player sought the services of an ombudsman.

I know that you travel a lot but I still want an answer to my last letter about exactly what Dick sent you about Jack Masters. What Dick sent you himself. I am turning all of this over to Mark Berch who has expressed interest in a game where a player resigned, then wanted to come back before the deadline, and was refused by the GM. Until I get this information, I cannot forward these documents. Please answer as quickly as possible. I sent you a stamp last time. Thanks for your time."

In the meantime, Eric and Kathy had got through to Dick and he again wrote polite letters minus the cheap shots. Kathy did say that when she called Dick and told him that he couldn't give me an ultimatum and throw me out of my game, She said he threatened to throw her out of her Retaliation game. She believed that he was serious.

Almost four weeks passed since I had written to Don Ditter on April 4th and he had still not answered that letter nor the March 12th letter. I wrote again on April 30th:

((Continued on page 30)) (25)

FROGS SEIZE KIEL

AUSTRIA (Olsen): A VIE-Tyo; A MUN S A Vie-Tyo; A Bud-GAL; A SIL S TURKISH
A Ber; F ALB S TURKISH F Ion; A TYO-Ven; A TRI S A Tyo-Ven

FRANCE (Sherwood): F EDI-Nwg; F NTH S GERMAN F Hel-Den; F BEL S A Hol (OTM);
A Hol-KIE; A RUH S A Hol-Kie; A BUR-Mun; F Mid-WES; A VEN S ITALIAN
A Apu; A PIE & A TUS S A Ven; F TUN-Ion; F TYN S F Tun-Ion

GERMANY (Mazzer): F HEL-Den

ITALY (Martin): A APU chuckles a little bit this time (H); A NAP S A Apu,
 even though its sides hurt from laughter

RUSSIA (Larzelere): A Lvn-MOS; F Kie S A Den/d/r to Bal, Otb; A DEN S F Kie;
F BAR-Nwg; F NWY-Nth

TURKEY (Byrne): A BER S AUSTRIAN A Mun; F ADR S AUSTRIAN A Tyo-Ven; A BOH
S AUSTRIAN A Vie-Tyo; A GRE-Tun; F ION C A Gre-Tun; F AEG S F Ion;
 A Rum-SEV

Yes, France took Kiel, and Germany's out. Thanks for your lively and reliable play, Mike. You damn near survived for another year in Denmark, but a late change took care of that. And the FART draw came within one vote of passing! 3 yes votes, 1 no vote, 2 NVR, and Keith Sherwood voted yes to FART. Hmmm. ART had 3 yes, one no, 2 NVR; the other one (AFGIRT) had no yes votes.

There has been some bitching about my accepting perpetual orders. This will be discussed in the press.

COA: Dick Martin, 26 Orchard Way N, Rockville, MD 20854

COA (as of 9-21): Keith Sherwood, PO Box 6457, La Jolla, CA 92037

Deadline for AUTUMN/WINTER 1907 and SPRING 1908 is Saturday, 9-18-82. I should be in Wichita by then. If so, I'll notify you and probably extend the deadline, but for now, mail the orders to my home address.

| 1907 | # | NET | COUNTRY CENTERS |
|------|-----------|---------|---|
| | 6 | -1 | Austria Home, Rum, War, StP , Mun |
| | 13 | +1 | France Home, England, Spa, Por, Tun, Ven, Hol, Bel, KIE |
| | 0 | -1 | Germany StP |
| | 2 | 0 | Italy Rom, Nap |
| | 5 | 0 or +1 | Russia StP, Nwy, Swe, Den, Kie , MOS |
| | 7 | 0 | Turkey Home, Bul, Sev, Mos , Ser, GRE |
| | <u>34</u> | | |

PRESS

PARIS-CHICAGO: I have a complaint about the letter enclosed with the last issue addressed to "Kathy, Bob, Keith...". Now I can understand you placing Kathy in front of me, age before beauty and all of that. But why was Bob's name in front of mine? Do I not have more centers? Am I not more of a consummate genius? Is he not more of a toady? Oh, I think I answered my own question.

PAR-STP: We've got them now.

HEL-PAR: I warned you about Russia. He was like this with me the whole game.

HEL-PAR: Stab a one-center power? Gag me with a spoon!

CHICAGO-HEL: One-center power? Isn't that a contradiction?

TURKEY-AUSTRIA: Honey, believe me when I tell you I'm not coming after you on the board. Now physically, well, that's another matter! See you in Sept.

MASS MURDERS

CON-PARIS: If you want a four-way, you'd better talk to me about Italy! As I told Russia, I will never let him in the draw...perpetual orders... boo-hiss on him and the GM!!! He isn't even playing the position, Sherwood. Wake up, if it wasn't for a perpetual order, he'd be out! Do you want a draw or not? If you want a draw, kill Martin!!

CON-PAR: I've made my last offer to you! It's now your choice and no Italy will ever get a part of the draw!

MARK DAVID CHAPMAN: Mr. Sherwood?

CHICAGO: I lied about AFGIRT. Mark voted yes to all three draws.

CBS: "Toady to the Max: The Bob Olsen Story" will not be seen this evening so that we may present Fall '07 of Mass Murders...

BOARD-CON: "Miss Nice Guy"?! Give us a break!

STP-CON: Oh, give me a break! Do I look like a man who would veto a draw including myself with this pathetic a position?!

PAR-CON: Right, Mark and I vetoed the draw together. We're working for a two-way, but you figured us out. Totally. I am sure.

CON-PARIS: Don't bother warning me on Olsen, I'll never buy it! If he built in Budapest, he had a good reason, like no other open centers!

STP: Hey hey for the toadies, we keep on toading around, but we're too busy stabbing to put anybody down...

PARIS-MYSELF: Funny, and I thought I was FRANCE! FRANCE! FRANCE! FRANCE!

FRANCE! FRANCE! FRANCE!

FRANCE-TURKEY: Um, Kathy...giggle...be sure to...hee, hee, hee...watch out for Olsen. Ho, ho, ho. He's a great, sneaky diplomat! HAHAHAHAHAHAHAH!

HEL-OSUCH: Are you really going to move in with Olsen? Be careful, if he's as hard on roommates as he is on parakeets, it may be a short stay. See you at Pudgecon on 9/10.

OSUCH: I hope.

HEL-NAP: Why thank you. I'm glad you appreciate my consummation.

FRANCE-BOARD: Well, I never! I can see by the last twenty press releases last report that I am no longer appreciated by any of you. Never mind the fact that none of the releases were from home centers or that they all bear a slight resemblance to Kathy's style, I really believe everyone wrote that press as it was datelined. Sniff. Now I feel really bad....

KB-GM: If you accept perpetual orders from any player, you must accept them from all players! Sorry, Bob, but I'll never agree with you on this point! Dippy Don Ditter says if you accept them from one, you must accept them from the rest of the players! Otherwise, you're changing the game results! So my orders stand! (Forever!)

KB-GM: Don't use "perpetual orders are at your discretion" with me. If you want to play favorites you shouldn't be a GM! I've asked numerous GMs and they all say if you take orders like that from one player you must take the same from us! Sorry for the difficulty, but I feel you're helping the Italian! And that, in my book, is GM interference!

GM-KB: It's a shame you had to go through all that time and trouble over a remark which, as I explained over the phone, was made in jest. The fact is that I have accepted perpetual orders from every player in the game except Germany and Russia. So much for GM interference.

CHICAGO: To bring the rest of you up to date, Kathy Byrne and I had a lengthy phone conversation recently on whether or not I should be accepting perpetual orders in this game. My side of the argument is this: I have always tried to run my games as if they were PTF contests. I abhor NMRs, and do everything in my power to prevent them, including phoning the tardy player on deadline day, if necessary. If I cannot reach the player, then he NMRs. In May, Dick Martin asked if I accepted perpetual orders, as he had an obviously stalemated position and wanted to submit the same orders for five consecutive seasons. I said that I would accept the orders. I realized that perpetual orders could potentially turn the game into a farce, but trusted the players enough to assume that they would use them only if the situation warranted it, as in the case of a stalemated

(27)

((Continued on page 28))

(Continued from page 27)

MASS MURDERS

CHICAGO(cont): position. Other players did submit perpetual orders as a form of NMR insurance, but updated them every season. This was fine with me. I write Kathy at the beginning and tell her how disappointed I would be if she started any trouble out of spite. She said that she didn't like my decision, but that she would abide by it. Everything was OK until I jokingly said that I would accept perpetual orders only at my discretion. Kathy called and was quite pissed about this, as she thought I was serious. I laughed because I thought it was sort of funny. She didn't. I explained everything to her, yet she didn't want to believe me. She kept using words like "favoritism" and "GM interference" until I started getting a little upset myself. It was then that she admitted the fact that my accepting Dick's perpetual orders was her real gripe, because I was not giving her the chance to benefit by Dick's NMRs. She said that this was ruining the game, along with her position. I saw her point, but commented that her strategy of hoping for an NMR was pretty deplorable. She disagreed, and we finally ended up agreeing to disagree. I did promise her that I would rescind the perpetual order rule as of Spring '08, and so I have. In this setting, with the people involved, I made a mistake, and I am sorry for any inconvenience I may have caused. After all, this is postal Diplomacy, as Kathy kept pointing out. Oh, I will no longer accept phoned orders, nor will I call those without orders in from here on out. After all...
CHICAGO: Kathy and I are friends, just so you know.



A MINI-LETTER COLUMN

Look no more! You've come to the right place. Due to the special nature of EE #18 there is no letter column except for the picture guesses for the man in #16 and #17. Also C-G Spare responds to the guesses about his picture which appeared in EE #15. First C-G, then your guesses. New pic on page 2!

C-G Spare(Finland): "I was surprised by the many answers to my pic contest. Here are my comments. Lo and behold, there he stands afore ye in all his glory! You hit it, Steven Duke: Oh, how I, the uxorious husband of a termagant hoyden, have suffered through life. But I have a hard time in Dippy also. Some satisfaction I get out of writing arrogant letters to foreign punks. Well, James Briggs, I don't know if I support IRA, but admire, certainly. She was so beautiful. We are speaking of Ira Furstenberg, of course, who almost a Habsburg prince in Mexico. The Habsburgs are related to the Rassendylls, poor relatives of the Walkers in California. The most famous Walkers are Rod and his elder brother Mister. Mister Walker wears a king-size gray condom and a tiny mask. He resides in a cavern in Africa. Together with his assistant K-9 Devil he slaps bandits in the face with his SS-ring. Rod Walker has attracted much attention lately visiting many porn shops where he has tried to draw various sexual aids over his head. His plans are to join his brother in his quest as soon as he has acquired a uniform of his own and a Perlmutter's-head ring.

How could you, Dave Carter? Isn't Mickie NiAuley [C-G also wrote me, "Have you tasted NiDonald's Big Ni?"] an exceedingly purty girl, a ~~step follower~~, ~~girl Friday~~, Girl Friday in the Mounted Canadian Submarines? I have pictured her as Beetle Bailey's general's prettier secretary????

You were half right Steve Arnawoodian, I beat my three daughters when they dare to near me, but Langley I am not.

If you had spelt buccaneers right, your characterization would have been 100% correct, Mark Fassio. But, alas, to my own disappointment I am not Michalaki, who is my idol too.

Kerry Blant won, because he guessed quite right, Kerry wrote: "...that man looks like...spare. And Spare it indeed was. As an ignorant foreigner you are excused for omitting the circle on the letter a.

Kathy Byrne, you add insult to infaamy! First you spirit away my money, then you call me dumb, ya stoopid broad. I command you to cease and desist as of now. If you disobey me I will tell your mother Jane Byrne in Chicago. Then you will cry as she sends her political myrmidons down to wash your mouth with cognaretto. And if that does

((Continued on page 29)) (28)

Picture comments continued from page 28.

"not help I will come myself to your abode in the south Bronx and wash your mouth with Pernod and Buttermilk. (Yum-yum, hey, Gary?)

And where do you come off, Judy Winsome, criticizing my hairless navel? Your navel you grow bristles around already? Besides, I do too have a hair on my chest although I've lost Alphonse recently, but I expect a new hair to grow out soon. Oh well, you gain some and forfeit some, eh? The word missing from your vocabulary is "gregarious".

The word is spelled lascivious, Mike Mills. I do consider your snide remarks about my gastric protuberance both lugubrious and louche. And I am definitely not Standartenführer Perlmutter (Heute gehört uns Pennsylvanien, morgen die ganze Welt).

I do not collect swords, Mark Luedi, in the sense that I purchase them for filthy money. They are all inherited. Some are ceremonial, more or less only decorative officer's swords, but some have surely been used in improving the looks of sundry muscovites, beautifying them through nose, jugular and even total capital jobs. So you see they are the real NiCoy.

So you want a European to stab, John Pack? Step right in to my cellar, sir. Can I offer you a glass of Amontillado?.....(Does your illiterate readership know the story Amontillado by Poe?)"

□ I don't know but I would urge John Pack to read it first before meeting you!

□□□

Bruce Linsey(New York, USA): "That picture looks a little like me."

Mike Barno(New York, USA): "Hmm, tie, but no jacket. Not a super clue. Either there's a shadow in the picture or he's trying to grow a weird-looking moustache, or the slob should have wiped his nose. He's striking a confident pose, suggesting powerful, aggressive play. He'll attack straight-forwardly, and can stab with a vengeance. When he plays France, he ignores Iberia. Big Bill Becker maybe? No, this guy looks a bit too conservative. The hair's not terribly short--maybe he's one of those fellows from the continent. Either that or it's my sister."

Simon Billeness(United Kingdom): "I'm sure that the person in your picture contest is Geoff Challenger trying hard not to be recognized by any of the London crowd. He's doing his best not to make it obvious by wearing those glasses and that hideous tie, but he doesn't fool me. I expect the photo is one of the left-overs from his passport application. (He's recently been on holiday.)"

James Woodson(Minnesota, USA): "H'mm. Glasses, wearing a tie, definitely from the East Coast. Looks like the sort of guy that never tells you anything in negotiations(despite talking a lot. Notice the tightly closed lips.). I'm going to guess Eric Kane, even though I have never written, heard from or otherwise negotiated with him. Then again, it could be Dick Martin, but I'll guess Eric Kane."

Pete Gaughan(California, USA): "About this month's photo--I'd say it was Mark Larzelere if so many people didn't already know him. The tie and the grin give him away as.....
...Dave Marshall."

Steve Arnawoodian(Pennsylvania, USA): "Class, Gary, class; that's what this guy is lacking. He does care about his personal appearance as his toupee is of an excellent quality. I hope I can meet this guy sometime. I think I'd enjoy meeting a Mr. Magoo Clone. Obviously this person does not play Diplomacy. Just look at that stupid smirk and puffy Adam's apple. This man could never understand the Dip rules as some words have more than 4 letters, thus placing Calhamer's rules beyond his vocabulary level. But do not worry about this wimp; he is fascinated by the game solitaire. He has plenty of time to master the game too, after all he sits around all day at work. Well, if you can call it work---he drives the train on the cover of EE! Well Gary, as usual, this EE photo is of somewhat less than a sophisticated person. But Gary, you really hit an all-time low this month by printing Andy Lischett's photo. Actually I would have guessed you but this guy looks sober."

Jim Meinel(Washington, USA): "The person in the picture looks like a jock through-and-through, no doubt about that. Erect back, high chin, big chest, silly ass grin on his face. Someone who'd say: 'Let me do that for you' and slide a knife up your gut. Hell, I have no idea who he is. American I'm pretty sure. Pat Conlon?"

Michel Liesnard(Belgium): "That guy looks like a European, and more precisely like one of my former Dutch teachers...He must be Jaap Jacobs(though I can't see either "gouda" or "maatjes" on the picture. I suppose he's smiling 'cause he's already eaten both...
..Those damn Dutchmen never share.")

Hauke Jansen(The Netherlands): "That is a very British looking guy in the picture contest! However I can't think of anyone over there he looks like. I'll take a guess...(See 51) (29)

[Below is a copy of the letter that I sent to Don Ditter on April 30th, 1982]

"It has now been 7 weeks since I wrote you and sent you a stamp for you to tell me exactly what Dick Martin submitted to you in the Ombudsman dispute over R-3, 1979 KG. I wrote you the following on that date, March 12th, 1982:

I would like you to just summarize what he wrote to you. You said: "Regarding Masters--Dick had a written resignation from Jack, which he accepted, albeit it not right away, but certainly before Jack ordered his units again." You could have read this from the xeroxed forms that I sent you of Michalski's letter. What I want to know is did Dick send you anything at all like the series of letters between him and Masters where he printed Masters orders?

I saw what he [Dick] wrote to Michalski and he didn't even mention Masters in that 1-page letter. I am not dragging out this argument; I concur with the decision. I simply want to know what was said by Dick in defense of his actions. I feel that this is my right, especially since the decision went against me. I would appreciate your help in this. Thanks in advance; here is a stamp for your trouble."

After over three weeks of no answer from you, I again wrote you on April 4, 1982, again requesting this information. At that time I said the following:

I know that you travel a lot but I still want an answer to my last letter about exactly what Dick sent you about Jack Masters. What Dick sent you himself. I am turning all of this over to Mark Berch who has expressed interest in a game where a player resigned, then wanted to come back before the deadline, and was refused by the GM. Until I get this information from you, I cannot forward these documents. Please answer as quickly as possible. I sent you a stamp last time. Thanks for your time."

It has now been almost 4 weeks since I sent the second letter to you, Don. I think that during this 7 weeks you would have been home at least long enough to jot me a quick postcard telling me what I want to know. I realize that you have just become married and travel a lot but after all, it has been 7 weeks now. I think I have been made to wait long enough for what should be a relatively simple letter from you. Please send it to me.

I care very deeply about my games, and especially R-3 which I spent 2 years of hard work in. If the decision went against me, as it did, I want to know what the GM said or wrote to you, that convinced you of this fact. Specifically, I want to know what Dick Martin said to you about Jack Masters in writing; he said nothing at all to John Michalski about Masters and his handling of him. Please let me know as soon as possible.

I do not like the feeling that I am getting of being farted off by you. Rest assured that I will not drop this issue until my legitimate questions are answered. Why drag this out? Just tell me what Dick told you. This is my right since the decision went against me. I await your reply."

Two weeks later I still had not heard anything from Don Ditter. I was becoming increasingly angry. It was one thing to rule in favor of the GM. I had accepted that. But it was quite another thing to not be told the reason and to be ignored. On May 14-16, I went to Chicago CON and there, at long last, I met Dick Martin.

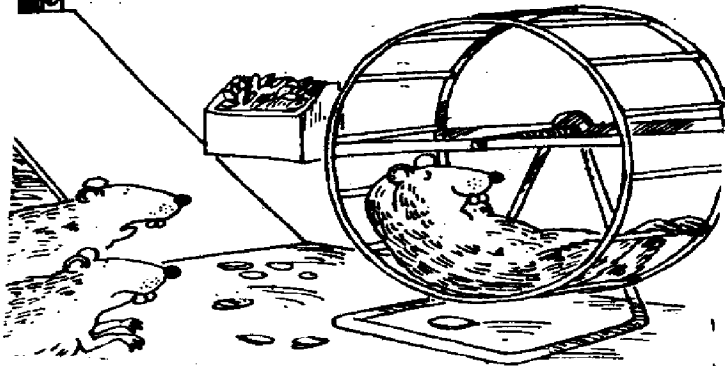
We got along very well. I asked Dick about Don Ditter and what he had sent him about R-3. Dick said that he had not sent Don Ditter anything at all. He said that Don Ditter had not written to him nor called him about R-3 or anything else.

I was really pissed off at Ditter now. I had learned, the hard way, that the GM is given the benefit of the doubt by the ombudsman. But this was going too far in giving the GM the benefit of the doubt.

A player had been removed from a game. The GM had never written one word to anyone about why the player was removed. Another player, me, had questioned this with 18 pages of documents. And Don Ditter, the ombudsman/BNC, did not even bother to check into a single reason why the GM did this. Indeed he didn't even write the GM one word. And he had refused to answer my letters asking why he had ruled against me. I told him I had accepted his decision but I wanted to know why he decided as he did. I had been screwed by the ombudsman system and I didn't like it one bit.

I wrote Don Ditter the following letter on May 24, 1982 and I sent copies of it to Mark Berch, Fred Davis, Dick Martin, John Michalski and Rod Walker. It wouldn't be polite either. My three previous polite letters had gotten me nothing but ignored. I also decided to cut off Don Ditter's sub to EE and end my sub to Ditter's Everything. That letter appears on page 31 . ((Continued on page 31))

"If you ask me, he really abuses the system."



"PLAYERS' RIGHTS" Continued from page 30:
[My May 24th letter to Don Ditter]

"I have been trying for 3 months, since March, now to get you to answer one simple question for me, something you seem either unable or unwilling to do. I sent you a stamp on March 12 and I have written you letters on March 12, April 4 and April 30 all asking for an answer to my one question. All have remained unanswered by you.

To sum up, you as an ombudsman ruled against me, a player in a dispute with my GM in the game known as R-3. In this game, a player had been removed by the GM under very questionable circumstances to say the least.

I sent you 18 pages of xeroxed material setting out in detail my disputes with this GM. The question I have been waiting for you to answer for these many months is: What did the GM send to you to explain why he removed the player from the game and when did he send it?

I know now that the GM did not send you one single solitary item, not even a paragraph (not to mention 18 pages of xeroxed material) to explain his position. And you didn't even bother to write him one damn thing about why he removed a player from the game. So much for fairness in your decision. And this is why you have ignored me and failed to answer my question. You disgust me.

When I questioned some of John Michalski's actions as an ombudsman also in this same case concerning R-3, he answered me immediately, unlike you, and said: "OK, you deserve some straight replies, even if tactless ones." That is class.

You have completely failed as a competent and impartial ombudsman. You have failed to live up to the responsibilities of your position in so far as it applies to declaring games regular or irregular. You don't deserve to have this power which you have abused in my case. Granted the GM in these ombudsman cases is given the benefit of the doubt, but to not even question him when the player has raised some serious charges, such as removing a player, is inexcusable.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Mark Berch, Fred Davis and Rod Walker to find out what I can propose at the DipCon meeting at ORIGINS this year to have another person or groups of persons perform the duty of declaring games regular or irregular since you are so obviously incapable of giving the players in these disputes any kind of fair hearing.

Your sub to my zine runs out with the next issue. Don't bother trying to renew it.

And I want a refund of my sub to Everything and I don't want to wait three months for it as I have had to wait for an answer to my simple question. My sub credit with you is \$5.90. Please use the stamp that I sent you on March 12th and send me my money. And if you wish to end your sub to EE with this issue, instead of the next one, just deduct 60¢, which is all I owe you, from the \$5.90 and send me \$5.30. But send it. Thanks awfully.

I wish I could say it has been pleasant dealing with you but then I would be lying."

I got my money by the first of June. And that started a long summer of correspondence between mostly me and Rod Walker and Mark Berch. My letters were full of venom because I had put my faith into this system and it had really screwed me over. It was not enough that I had been ruled against. I could, did and have accepted that. But I was also ignored. I wasn't to even be told why I was decided against. And what galled me most of all, was that Don Ditter didn't write one word to the GM.

Rod and Mark both were opposed to removing any power from Ditter at all, even if it could be done. The BNC is appointed by a BNC who is leaving the job. No committee elects him, and he is responsible to no one. Part of my June 2, 1982 letter to them:

"I do know...that Dick Martin, both in the letter, item 37 and in person to me in Chicago said that he had no connection with Don Ditter on this matter at all. What this means is that Dick Martin never explained to any ombudsman nor was asked by any ombudsman why or under what conditions he removed Jack Masters from the game. Ditter failed in this primary duty to fairness. He completely failed to get me a fair hearing. He

((Continued on page 32)) (21)

"did not bother to check out what I consider very serious charges against this GM. And in the face of repeated letters, written in polite terms, he maintained silence and refused to tell me why he ruled against me. I do not like this and I am prepared, quite prepared, to make my disapproval publicly known. And I will if I don't get some satisfaction in this matter.

That is primarily why you two and Fred Davis have been made aware of what is happening. I know you have been around a long time and know how things operate in this hobby. I want to know who decided that only the BNC could declare games irregular, when and why. And why such power can be given to someone who abuses it so badly with no system of checks and balances. Hell, even Nixon could have faced impeachment.

At this point I don't care about R-3 being ruled one way or the other. On my own, I kept badgering Dick Martin who finally sent me his reasons for removing Masters.But the point is that it was I, not Don Ditter the ombudsman with the power to rule the game regular or irregular, who made attempts to get Dick's reasons. Ditter didn't do one damn thing.....

My aim now is to get this power taken away from Ditter, either voluntarily or forcibly through existing hobby institutions. If that involves him resigning from the BNC, and I really don't see why he couldn't go on assigning numbers--he apparently does that very well, then I will campaign for that too. Ditter has failed in his job as regards me. If he has done it to me, he could have done it to others in the past, and may do it to others in the future. Players in this hobby deserve a fair hearing and they are not getting it under Ditter. And if you three wring your hands and say as Rod said:

"If you were to consider doing it voluntarily, [This is a letter Rod sent to Don Ditter about the role of the BNC] and if you asked my advice in the matter, I would advise against it. It is not in the best interest of the BNC position, nor of the hobby in general, to do so."

The best interest of the BNC position should be to command respect for it by having someone who is interested in doing the job and who is capable of doing it.....
...The best interest of the "hobby in general" is for players, who make up the vast majority of the hobby, to have someone in this position who is going to fairly consider their complaints when they ask that their games be declared irregular. I didn't receive such treatment...Ditter didn't even bother to write the GM in question and he had removed a player from the game, for God's sake...How many others before me have received similar shoddy treatment from Ditter and how many after me? Ditter failed. This cannot be stressed enough. And it will be stressed in the coming months.

Like I say, time has mellowed some of my feelings. I no longer seek to take any thing away from the BNC's position. But I will never ask Don Ditter to be an ombudsman for any EE game. Whoever I choose as an ombudsman you can be damn sure will rake both you the player and me the GM over the coals. He or she will investigate your charges.

Kathy Byrne said that when she told Don Ditter that Dick Martin had also threatened to remove her from her game when she disagreed with him about his ultimatum to me, that Ditter replied that he thought Dick Martin was just doing that to get me to shut up. Ditter did send an answer to my May 24th letter explaining his position to Rod, Mark, Fred and me but it is not for print.

This has been a long story and I hope most of you subbers have read it. I have not quoted from Rod's and Mark's letters like I wished but there is space limitations. Mark did say that a player could go to a rating master (like the Dragon Tooth System, etc.) and try to convince them to not rate a poor GMed game even if the BNC doesn't declare it irregular. But Rod Walker summed it up best of all and it goes along so well with John Caruso's idea. Rod wrote to me on June 15, 1982; (Think about this)

"If I may summarize your last letter, though, it seems to me that you are saying you feel you were wronged and would like to see repeats of the wrong prevented. If that is the case, then the best solution would be the creation of some group that investigates charges of bad GM practices (which of course moves right over into the repeated suggestions that should be a GM Code of Ethics). I hope you'll agree with me that it would be better to spend time and energy constructively than destructively..I am sure that if there were eventually such a group, its recommendations that a game not be rated (or whatever) because the GM did a notoriously poor job, people would pay attention. ..I believe it would be a boon to the hobby and encourage a big upgrading of GM standards. ...which would in turn help all players."

((Stay tuned to #19)) (32)

Dennis The Menace

POOR RICHARD'S ALMANACK

---by Gary L. Coughlan



"How long before they start doin' unto me what I did unto them others?"

DICK IS ONE PERSON WHO WILL NOT HAVE TO WAIT "LONG" TO GET ME "RETALIATION". READ ON!

Please remember that this issue is free. If you do not want to read my reaction and detailed responses to Dick Martin's "vendetta" attack against me in his latest Retaliation, and the background of the so-called Martin-Coughlan feud, please skip this page and pages 34-39, 43-51. BUT don't say that you weren't warned at the very beginning. The choice is yours.

I have had on-going difficulties with Dick Martin for close to two years now. These difficulties have culminated in what John Caruso called in his Whitestonia a "vendetta" against me by Dick Martin, a "vendetta" that I can not overlook because it is so filled with lies.

I am sure that many of you who are subbers to Retaliation were surprised that Dick Martin was capable of writing such things. I wasn't since I have had to endure, in letters from Dick, insults about my job, my playing ability, demands from him, an ultimatum and other assorted cheap shots. I have never gone public with this but his unprincipled attack on me was the last straw. I have now had it and I'm simply not going to put up with it any longer. Dick Martin has asked for this for a long time and he is now going to get it. And I will even grant a few of his demands along the way.

I realize that this is a situation where I am damned if I do and damned if I don't so I prefer to be damned for doing. I am not just going to roll over and play like nothing has happened. I'm a great believer in "Live and let live", "give the benefit of the doubt" and "bend over backwards to avoid unpleasant situations". The 17 issues of EE before this one have amply proved that. But the latest Retaliation by Dick Martin amply proved that these beliefs were totally wasted on Dick Martin.

So I intend to start at the beginning and work my way up to the present vendetta by Dick Martin. One significant area, my ombudsman case against Dick Martin in my Retaliation game of R-3, will not be discussed in this section but beginning on page 13. The ombudsman case is the source of many of the difficulties between Dick Martin and myself but by no means the sole source.

The story starts when I first entered the hobby in November, 1979. One of my very first games was R-3 in a new zine called Retaliation pubbed by a very friendly Dick Martin. The games there could write as much press as they wanted. There were lots of articles and friendly patter between the subbers. It became my favorite zine and for a long time any article that I wrote in this hobby appeared there and I wrote often. I considered Dick a good friend and even today, even now, I can't believe that I could so totally misread what an individual is like. I really don't think I am alone in thinking that Dick Martin has changed in some radical ways from the friendly guy he was.

I faked Retaliation in November, 1980 as a tribute to a zine and a friend that I enjoyed knowing. Dick Martin enjoyed this fake and I have the letters to prove it. However, by this time, problems were occurring with Retaliation. It was often late and, more and more, the games were being send out on separate inserts, also often later than they should be. In the real November Retaliation, Dick printed every game's press except for R-3. This miffed me and I will freely admit that I made too big a deal about it when I complained. But Dick's reaction was also very irritating. He seemed to go out of his way to antagonize me. Our differences were papered over briefly.

Then EE made its debut in January, 1981. John Boardman threw me out of Graustark when I sent him a complimentary copy of EE and a long letter explaining why I liked fakes and that I faked zines. I joined the list of people who are periodically attacked in Graustark and not allowed to see what is written about them, much less have a chance to respond.

Dick Martin was and is a subber of Graustark and he immediately wrote a note to

((Continued on page 34))

(33)

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

Jim Williams, one of my oldest friends in the hobby, read in EE that John Boardman had thrown me out of Graustark for faking zines. He wrote a letter to Boardman and received a most insulting letter back from Boardman accusing him of being my pseudonym. And, in the Graustark article where Dick Martin's comments were published, Boardman went on to insult Jim which further embittered me against Dick.

I published the houserules in EE #2 (the game starts were announced in #3 and the games themselves began in #4) and thanked Bruce Linsey who have reviewed my houserules and made valuable suggestions. Almost immediately, Dick wrote a very picky letter about the houserules, a letter designed only to irritate and which was poor timing in view of the chilly relations between us. I might add here that my method of being angry with someone, then, was to simply not write the person and to remain silent. Dick's method is to needle, to irritate and to constantly annoy instead of trying to resolve a situation. This was 1981 and I let it get to me then. In 1982 I have not let it get to me. But Dick hasn't changed.

Also Dick Martin began to make an incredible number of GMing mistakes in R-3. I had heard about numerous errors in other games but R-3 had been relatively free of significant game errors. Dick was usually snotty about correcting them and seemed ultra-sensitive to any suggestions that his GMing was less than the best. I go into this situation in detail in the ombudsman case starting on page 13.

The situation between Dick and myself showed no signs of ending soon and GenCon East in New Jersey was coming up. I wrote Dick a conciliatory letter saying that I saw no need for us not to talk to each other at GenCon as that would make our friends uncomfortable. I said that I did not want, however, to discuss our problems. (I didn't see any quick resolutions of them and many of his irritating comments still stung. But I didn't write that to him). I also enclosed a sub check to Retaliation even though my sub had a long time before it would expire. The point is I tried to be nice even though I felt I had real grievances.

In response, I got the next Retaliation all messed up. Those of you who never saw Retaliation in those days must understand the giant size of each issue often in excess of 40 pages and it was an open-page format, not digest. My copy had the pages all out of order, upside down and backward. It looked like someone had just grabbed the pages which were to be collated and threw them up in the air and stapled them the way they came down. Dick wrote on my copy: "Good thing we're not enemies..." I got this just before I was to leave for GenCon. I decided I wouldn't even talk to Dick at all. I got a call from Al Pearson who had talked to Dick and he said that Dick had laughingly told him: "Wait till Gary gets his Retaliation." Dick really sounded like someone who wanted to end a quarrel didn't he?

I arrived in New York at John and Kathy's where I was to stay for a few days before GenCon. Kathy's copy of Retaliation had Dick gloating again about what he had done to my copy and he said: "Julie did it." I was not amused.

GenCon did make many people uncomfortable because Dick and I had a lot of friends in common. I didn't talk to him and he didn't talk to me. I had every intention of resigning out of R-3 and cancelling my sub to Retaliation. One thing stopped me and that was that Retaliation, in spite of the friction between Dick and me, was my favorite zine. Indeed, I still wrote articles for it but it was in response to other friends' articles, usually jibes about the South. Dick couldn't understand how I could write humorous articles and not get along with him at the same time. I don't think he ever tried to understand my position period.

I could only guess what Dick might do in his post-GenCon issue so in my post-GenCon which came out before his, I picture-plugged Retaliation and called it my favorite zine. Everything I said about the zine was true. I just didn't say that Dick and I weren't friends. I also discussed this situation with several of my hobby friends. The general hobby knew nothing of this feud.

The next Retaliation was late, over a week. It had a significant game error and I tried to get the other R-3 players to remove the game to a competent GM. One player did not want to leave so we were stuck. The GMing mistakes continued. I wrote a 7-page letter to Julie Glass, Dick's girl friend (now his wife) explaining in detail my feelings about the situation between Dick and me. She could have done something to help end the feud. She never did.



It was now about September, 1981. Diplomacy By Moonlight, Eric Ozog's zine which came out once a month then, had mentioned how he had tried to get along with John Boardman at GenCon East. (Eric is another Graustark outcast). I wrote him asking why he would want to be friends with such a man as Boardman and I obliquely referred to Dick and my situation with him based on what Dick had written to Boardman.

What I wrote in DBM #33 was: "Yet there are people who defend him [Boardman] even knowing what he is like and how he hurts people. I call such people, 'Boardman Toadies' and to me there is no lower form of life in the Dip world than a Boardman Toady. Now there are some people who genuinely believe and admire Boardman and I don't include them here. A Boardman Toady is someone who panders to Boardman and tells him what he wants to hear--they are in effect making fun of the man while they attack their "friends", comments which find their way into Graustark. I thought I had a good friend, someone I really liked and who I thought liked me. This "friend" wrote some comments, about me to Boardman knowing they would be published, as they were, before Graustark subbers whom I do not know. He fails to understand why I am hurt at this. If he doesn't know, then no amount of explaining on my part can tell him."

I knew that Dick got DBM. I knew that he would know about the Julie Glass letter I had written. I thought maybe this would get across to him. No names were mentioned in my comments. I didn't sully anyone's reputation. Eric Ozog didn't even know that I was talking about Dick Martin.

DBM #34 arrived. It was a so-called "The Toadies Feuds Exposes Issue" and for the first time in public, the "Martin-Coughlan Feud" was aired. There was also a letter from Dick, in response to mine, although I had not mentioned his name. Dick wrote: "My opinion of Gary has spiraled down drastically since GenCon. First he would only say one sentence to me, and I had to drag that out of him. Not a very good way to resolve a dispute. Second, he made several very uncalled for remarks about me to several people at GenCon (I, however, will never stoop to crudity). Third, he plugged my zeen as his favorite zeen in EE #6. Several sources have informed me that he only did this to put himself in a good light, when I continued to attack him. I'm all for sarcasm plus tongue in cheek humor, but outright hypocrisy is something which turns me off totally. Then he writes Julie (you remember her--"subtle plus shrewd"), who tells me he just doesn't want to be picked on. OK by me, why didn't he say so in the first place? I would've complied. Then came his letter which you printed in DBM #33. I can't see it as any more than an unprovoked insult directed at me. This doesn't sound like a man who just doesn't want to be picked on! On the contrary, he sounds like he wants to fight. Well, I won't go for it."

Of course I was upset. I had not dragged Dick's name through the mud and he had gone for the throat. You must remember that the people reading DBM did not know the background of my difficulties with Dick. I decided to give Dick a taste of his own medicine. I wrote a very critical letter to Brutus Bulletin and was preparing my response for DBM when I thought about two things. Eric in his "Toady" issue had shown how ugly this could be if the mudslinging continued. And Kathy Byrne, who was a friend to both me and Dick kept at both of us to bury the hatchet. So because of Eric and Kathy, I called Dick and talked for two hours long distance and ended the quarrel. We both agreed to mutual apologies in our zines (Dick brought up that he wanted an apology for the Boardman Toady statements I had made in EE. I wasn't about to apologize to him without getting one in return.).

Although I didn't like what Dick had written in DBM #34, I let it go and wrote a very positive letter to Eric. I cancelled my Brutus Bulletin letter.

DBM #35 was a special issue about St. Louis Con so it didn't have any letters in it or anything about DBM #34's "Toady Issue". Then DBM #36 came, two months after my call to Dick and Julie Glass when the feud was supposedly ended. My positive letter was in there. Dick didn't see fit to clear up any of his letter but merely said about the feud: "What is this, starting a fight between me and Gary? Seriously, thanks a lot for your help in the matter." There was a joint postcard written partly by me, partly by Dick to show that our feud was over. But what really ticked me off was a letter by Julie Glass, Dick's girl friend. I considered this a low blow, especially since the feud had been over for two months. But it is a style I have come to expect from Dick and Julie.

In DBM #36, Julie Glass wrote: "Of course, I'm not trying to imply that Gary can't take a joke at his expense once in a while, right? All adults can, can't they?"

((Julie Glass letter from DBM #36 continued)) "Of course, Dick just doesn't know when to quit---#--that's the problem according to you [Eric Ozog, pubber of DBM, had said that about Dick]. Bull. Bruce Linsey doesn't know when to quit. Brad Wilson doesn't know when to quit. Woody Mainardi don't know when to quit. But I think Dick does know when to quit, just like Gary knows when to quit. The crux of the problem is, as you have realized, that 'diplomatic relations' between the two have not 'broken down' but rather have 'ceased to exist.' Gary has chosen to air all his gripes to other people besides those at whom his gripes are directed(not just Dick, but also me, Woody, God knows who else)."

When I am troubled I talk about my problems to my friends. I also knew that these friends would somehow be a link between Dick and myself. He mentinned "several sources" in his letter. What this episode taught me was that Dick could be nice over the phone, in private letters, when he wanted to be, and later, in person, as I would discover. But in public letter columns, he would continue to be a nit-picker. I resolved that I would always answer him point for point in any future letters anywhere he wrote about me. But for the sake of our mutual friends, I let this DBM episode pass unmentioned.

In late December, early January, I went for an ombudsman in my R-3 game that Dick GMed. I made up my mind that no one would hear anything about this situation between Dick and me to avoid any charges like Julie Glass had brought up. Throughout the ~~SAC~~ I continually wrote to Dick and stressed the fact that my disagreement was with him as a GM, and not with him as a friend. At first, he seemed to appreciate this but later his letters turned to barbs. More on this later. (The R-3 ombudsman case is discussed beginning on page 13.)

A new zine, Anduin, appeared in late 1981, and had an excellent letter column. Its pubber was Eric Kane and heretofore he had been ^{mainly} a subber of Graustark. I wrote to him my views on fakes and he said if I sent him copies of my two fakes (Voice of Doom and Retaliation) that he would review them in Anduin and give his opinion. This was quite nice for him to do because John Boardman of Graustark was a subber of Anduin and he could conceivably throw Eric out of Graustark too. And by reading Graustark, Eric had mostly heard bad things about me. Here was one Graustark reader that I could clear my reputation with, since any response from me printed in Graustark was outlawed.

In Anduin #5, Eric Kane reviewed my fakes and said: "In any case, when John Boardman found out that Gary was responsible for these fakes, he threw him out of Graustark and tried to have him removed from the hobby. It is my opinion that Dr. Boardman went a little too far in doing this. Gary's fakes didn't hurt anyone and were done in fun. I don't see this as 'fraud' like Boardman said it was. Perhaps if John were to look at the fakes more carefully he might see this and let Gary back in but that's up to him. I'd say that fakes are indeed part of the hobby."

This was very courageous of Eric Kane and I knew that John Boardman and many other Graustark subbers got Anduin and would read it.

But in Anduin #6, John Caruso wrote: "However, Gary's 2 fakes done in the fall were very good, but he never mentions his 3rd fake--The Shogun's Sword. That fake was a bust. It wasn't good, funny or deceiving at all." Eric Kane replied: "So Mr. Coughlan has been holding out on me eh? I doubt that he did it on purpose."

I never did a 3rd fake of Shogun's Sword and I had told the truth to Eric. It wasn't at all apparent that John was joking (John and I are good friends) so I wrote a letter in Anduin #7 saying: "I am quickly finding out that the best way to deal with lies, deliberate or otherwise, such as John Caruso wrote about me in Anduin #6 is to respond to them in Anduin #7." And I pointed out that I had only faked twice and that I wasn't a liar as John Boardman has said.

In Anduin #8, John Caruso wrote: "To Gary--my apologies if I hurt your feelings or offended you. We both know who did the fake TSS, Tom Swider. I only printed the stuff about the fakes to illustrate a point that people will believe a story with $\frac{1}{2}$ facts, $\frac{1}{2}$ fiction...If you place enough stuff close to the truth in an article or letter, you can make people believe it's true." Everything was straightened between John and me, both publicly and privately. This should have been the end of the matter.

Enter Dick Martin. In Anduin #9, he wrote: "I must respond to the second letter from Gary in #7. He's become paranoid lately (too much 'shine?'), and the letter really shows it. A few examples: 1) He confuses Caruso's kidding with deliberate lying or some other hideous plot...Gary "lies" by saying that Boardman is constantly attacking him as a GM. Now, Eric, you know as well as I do that John B has done nothing of the sort. Possibly twice but surely not more than that, has JB jumped on Gary for GMing. "Forging"

((Continued on page 37))

36

(Dick Martin's Anduin letter continued from page 36): "is another story altogether." I can't help but feel that Gary is spending much of his energy looking for trouble so he can 'defend' his reputation'. There are other examples, but I won't go into them here." Eric Kane replied: "I don't exactly agree with Dick about Gary. I thought Gary was well within his rights when he defended himself..." I thought Eric's comments eliminated any need for me to reply to Dick even though I didn't like being called "paranoid".

But in the next issue, Anduin #10, Dick Martin came back again. He said: "First-- the letters. Mine regarding Gary is old news. However, I never said he wasn't 'within his rights'. That wasn't my point at all. My point was that he was 'defending' himself against a joke. Paranoids usually act within their 'rights', so to speak." He went on to say about publisher's burnout which Rod Walker and Mark Berch had mentioned in a previous Anduin: "I view 'burnout' differently than Walker and Berch....I still get warned about burnout(chuckle), even though I'm farther from that than ever."

Eric Kane's response to this was: "I think I'll allow Gary to reply to the part about him if he wishes to." I did wish to, but my letter wasn't printed until Anduin 12 since Anduin 11 was a warehousey issue with no letter column.

Before I print that letter I must update you on what was happening in the meantime. I had finally met Dick in person in Chicago and Baltimore and we had got along nicely. He is very nice in person but in a letter column it is necessary to sink to his level. His zine Retaliation had been very irregular for months and the game results were nearly always late. He had been sending me totally uncalled-for comments in letters to me during the ombudsman case. With Chicago and Baltimore coming up, I didn't want a repeat of GenCon making our common friends uncomfortable. So I asked Eric Ozog and Kathy Byrne to once again step in to iron out differences and try to get through to Dick. They did, just in time for Chicago and Baltimore. During this period is when his Anduin letters were appearing. Now my letter which appeared in Anduin #12:

"In Anduin #10, you [Eric Kane] said you would allow me to reply to what Dick Martin wrote about me if I wished to. I do wish to. To backtrack, Dick has written you at least two letters commenting on my own response to some things that John Caruso said about me that I disagreed with in Anduin. He calls me 'paranoid' for 'defending' myself* against a 'joke'.

"I get a lot of zines and I read every one of them. If someone says something about me that I don't particularly care for, or is untruthful or is misleading, I have absolutely no qualms at all about writing in with my own response. I think most people feel this way. And that is what I did in Anduin."

"The 'disagreement' was between John Caruso and me. The disagreement is over. John is satisfied. I am satisfied. The whole matter is closed. But noooooooo! Dick has to write not one, but two letters about it. I really don't see what his point could be. However, I know from personal dealings with Dick that he likes to needle people and "pick at" what he may think are "wounds"--sort of like rubbing salt in a wound--that's Dick!"

"I suggest that instead of writing Anduin long letters discussing a "disagreement" that is over and done with, that Dick concentrate on putting out his Retaliation which used to come out once a month like clockwork. Lately it has been very irregular. Maybe that is why Dick wrote you and said that he is farther from burn-out "than ever". When you don't publish, you can't burn-out, right Dickiepo?! Well, that's all for this 'paranoid' this time Eric."

To my letter, Eric Kane replied: "Actually, I still agree with Gary. I would do the same thing if I were in his shoes." Please remember this Anduin episode. It plays a part in Dick's letters which I will be publishing later in this article.

Now we are finally getting to the meat of this article, the Retaliation"vendetta"



Continued on page 38

Alas!
Doonesbury
is
folding
in
January,
(31) 1983!!

that Dick launched against me in his latest (take that both ways!) issue. I am now going to publish a series of letters between Dick and myself to show you what I have had to read from him and how I have responded to his barbs. Everything is dated and will be printed in exact chronological order.

Some explanations: Dick is angry about the anonymous bitches. He blames Woody for one of them. Woody is Steve Arnawoodian, pubber of Coat of Arm's Diplomatic Immunity and he gave me permission to use his name in the reprint of these letters. 1979 CG is a Cheesecake game that Dick and I are in together. I just changed sides away from Dick's 9-center Russia. I am a 2-center Turkey. We both came in as standbys.

From Dick's letters, it is quite apparent to me that he likes to dish it out but he can't take it himself. It seems to me that he thinks he is beyond criticism and applies a different set of standards to himself than to others. Me in this case. I will divide the letters by lines.

"Dear" Gary,

August 24, 1982

Thanks for the kind words in the latest Anduin. I really needed that. If you don't want people to comment on your 'feuds', keep them out of the papers.

Which brings up another thing: those "cute" anonymous remarks on your bitch page. If you think that's the way to run a zeen, fine. Just refund the balance of my subscription, please. I don't really care what Woody (95% guess) has to say about the way I run my zeen. I do care that he (just a guess) is afraid to show his name on the snide comments. What's the matter, is he afraid to hurt his reputation along with mine? If I cared about reputations, I might get really mad. Bah! The whole mess stinks. Go ahead, Mr. Hobby Conscience, run Dipdom the way you think it should be run. Just leave me alone, OK?

The census is finished by the way. And thanks about the comment on press systems. I did appreciate that.

Take Care, Dick

PS re: 79 CG --you sure got a lot of builds from your new "ally" didn't you?

Dear Dick,

August 29, 1982

I think yours is the most difficult on-going friendship that I have in this hobby. There is so much that I like about you and then again a lot that I just don't understand about where you are coming from. I got your note on the R-3 orders and I'll just go down in paragraph by paragraph.

First you thank me for "the kind words in the latest Anduin" and say "I really needed that. If you don't want people to comment on your 'feuds', keep them out of the papers."

In the first place, I don't care what you write about me or when you write it. But, count on it, I'll be writing a reply if I see fit. So, take your own advice, if you don't want people commenting on letters that you write, don't write them. I still don't see the point of your two letters in Anduin and that is what I brought out in my own letter. Surely you are not saying that it is OK for you to write whatever you want about me but that, for some reason, I can't have the same right?

2nd paragraph was about the "bitch page". When I announced what it was going to be and that it would be in the next issue (#16), I didn't hear from you at all. Are you opposed to it because you were one who was criticized? Would it have been OK if it was someone else who was being criticized? I said "any bitches" from "anybody". After I said that, I couldn't very well turn down submissions now could I?

For some reason, and I'm sure you'll correct me if I have this wrong, I am getting the impression that you think you should be beyond criticism. Look at it this way, Dick, you are a very visible person in the hobby. Retaliation was a top-flight zine which has been irregular due to your losing the free xeroxing. Then, when the zine hasn't been seen (at that time) for a couple of months, it is announced, everywhere, in the hobby, that Dick Martin is going to be doing the hobby census. I think it was a very valid point for these people to question how you would be able to do this, when your own zine hadn't come out, especially since these pubbers (and both "anonymous" were pubbers) were being asked to take their time to type out their address lists and send it to you.

I wish you would read my reply in #16 to them again. I just stated facts and gave your own explanation from the ORIGINS Retaliation about why the census wasn't ready and that the response of sending address lists was smaller than you had hoped.

Now, #17 is at the printer's now and your letter came too late to print but Konrad ~~414~~ write a bitch about it and that was printed. I don't know how you will feel about that either. #18 will be a special issue but Mark Berch, if he answers a question that

"he failed to answer this time, and I'll print it if you have a response to #16 and #17 taken together. #17 will be mailed shortly after this letter, hopefully.

3rd paragraph: I'm glad the census is finished. In my response to Konrad in #17, I could have said "And the census still hasn't been done." but I didn't. I will be glad to announce that it is done. Please tell me what I should send to you to get a copy. I'd like to give some details about it, etc.

4th paragraph: You thanked me for what I said about the press systems in Retaliation. Well, Dick, I believe in giving credit where credit is due. Both you and I have faults and we also have virtues too.

Another note on the bitch page: I am not immune to it either. Anyone can write in anything and it can be sent anonymously via third parties if about me and the person doesn't want me to know who they are.

I don't know if after reading this, and #17, if you will still want your sub balance refunded or not. If so, this means that someone else will have to be called to play Austria in "Swedish Roundabout" since players must maintain an active sub. If this is what you intend, please submit final orders so that the position isn't worsened. This submitting of final orders will also give you back \$1.00 of your game fee since you will be out before Winter 1905. I do wish you would reconsider if only for the other players' sakes. I stayed with R-3 through thick and thin in my relations with you.

Sincerely, Gary

((I left out a detailed statement about our Cheesecake game which was also in this letter))

Gary,

September 3, 1982

You airhead. Did you even read what I sent you? It would appear not. My main objection was not that I was criticized. I object to the "anonymous" bitches. I also object to your printing bitches without letting the accused reply in the same issue. As you have it set up, your wonderfully cute invention will be the source of plenty of strife. Unless you abolish the "anonymous" bitch I fully intend to request my sub refunded or worse. And if you intend to remove me from 81AM as a result (even if, the way you do it, a sub is not necessary to play) that's just too bad.

Also, since my anonymous complainers are both pubbers, surely they are men enough to step forward and claim responsibility for their words. So I insist on knowing who they are so I can settle any problems privately. I'm not going to do my dirty laundry in public for your benefit. Make that my 2nd condition for subbing to EE peacefully.

As for Anduin, I guess you weren't paying attention again. I had no problems with your reply to my letter. It was the "don't comment on what I have to say--after all, you aren't allowed to write letters until you've put out your zeen" attitude you have that put me off. Your comment to that effect was also put in a most unkind way. So, sure, if you want me to write anything about you, I will. If you'd like me to keep it relevant, true and polite, I expect you to do the same. At this point, you're not.

Retaliation has been irregular since I lost the free xeroxing, not due to it. I just have little desire to keep up the pace I once did. If you don't like it, either get a sub refund or shut up. I'm tired of your holier-than-thou attitude. You're not my conscience.

I had a time figuring out what you were talking about in regard to future EEs. What does Berch have to do with this?

Census stuff is on the enclosed sheet. Too bad it's done, huh? If it wasn't, we'd have some more "fun" bitches, eh? Yes, you could have said that it still wasn't done, but you'd look pretty foolish again.

79 CG Russia to Turkey: I'm not worried about you. I know your competency level. Unless you let Italy order your units, Turkey won't be doing anything to me. I'm better off without you. When Italy takes you out, don't cry to me. As far as I'm concerned you can fly a kite or jump in a lake: your choice. Take Care, Dick

PS What, you want me to be eliminated in 81 AM anyway. It's hard to get game reports when you mail them to the wrong address.

Of course, I had an answer to this but some other things have to be explained in this next section. This is one of Dick's requests and I'll let him tell you about it.

((Continued on page 43))

(39)



THE EMINENT AWARDS

Heer Bommel and NE greet the results of the First Eminent Awards compiled by Mike Mills. Who is Heer Bommel? Well you will have to read the "Alsace-Lorraine" GAME NOTES for that information...As for what the Eminent Awards are, it is a poll based upon the British "Gladys Awards" and run by Mike Mills, pubber of Emhain Macha. Unlike any other poll Mike sent out certificates to the top winner of each, suitable for framing, ha ha. All in all 37 people voted which is good for a new poll which was only announced about 3 months ago. Mike divided it up by votes and gave percentage of all votes for the top 3 zines in each category. The results are: (There are several ties)

BEST ZINE (36 votes)

- 1. Europa Express 27.70% 10 votes
- 2. Just Among Friends 11.11% 4 votes
- Whitestonia 11.11% 4 votes

(18 votes among 11 zines: Cheesecake, Coat of Arms, Diplomacy By Moonlight, Dogs of War, Emhain Macha, Empire, Fol Si Fie, Le Front, Sleepless Knights, Voice of Doom, Winsome-Lossome)

BEST NEW ZINE(34 votes)

- 1. Damn The Torpedoes 19.35% 6 votes
- 2. Winsome-Lossome 16.12% 5 votes
- 3. Coat of Arms 6.45% 2 votes
- Europa Express 6.45% 2 votes
- Perelandra 6.45% 2 votes

(14 votes among 11 zines: Born To Dip, Coat of Arms, Emhain Macha, Helcaraxe, Irsome, Lone Star Diplomat, Magus, Paranoiacs' Monthly, The Schemer, Sleepless Knights, Tacky

MOST IMPROVED ZINE (26 votes)

- 1. Diplomacy By Moonlight 15.38% 4 votes
- Irsome 15.38% 4 votes
- 3. Snafu 11.53% 3 votes

(15 votes among 11 zines: Anduin, Appalling Greed, Born To Dip, Coat of Arms, Diplomacy World, Europa Express, Just Among Friends, The Schemer, Sleepless Knights, Voice of Doom, Whitestonia

BEST FOR DIPLOMACY (34 votes)

- 1. Dogs of War 14.70% 5 votes
- 2. Cheesecake 8.80% 3 votes
- Voice of Doom 8.80% 3 votes

(23 votes among 18 zines: Appalling Greed, Cheesecake, Coat of Arms, Dip By Moonlight, Dot Happy, EFGIART, Emhain Macha, Envoy, Europa Express, Fol Si Fie, Just Among Friends, Magus, Murd'ring Ministers, Saint George and the Dragon, Sleepless Knights, Snafu, Ter-ran, Whitestonia,

BEST FOR NON-DIP GAMES (26 votes)

- 1. Envoy 42.30% 11 votes
- 2. Empire 11.53% 3 votes
- 3. Non-Applicable, a 5-way tie

(12 votes among 8 zines: Bushwacker, Emhain Macha, Empire, Kathy's Korner, Mike's Mag, Saint George and the Dragon, Ter-ran, The Shogun's Sword

BEST ZINE FOR HOBBY NEWS (32 votes)

- 1. Whitestonia 34.37% 11 votes
- 2. Diplomacy Digest 15.62% 5 votes
- 3. Europa Express 12.50% 4 votes

(12 votes among 9 zines: ~~DIPLOMACY DIGEST~~ Diplomacy World, Graustark, Just Among Friends, Lone Star Diplomat, Mos Eisley Spaceport, Murd'ring Ministers, Snafu (What's 9, Mike?!))

BEST ZINE LETTER COLUMN (34 votes)

- 1. Europa Express 44.11% 15 votes
- 2. Voice of Doom 20.58% 7 votes
- 3. Whitestonia 11.76% 4 votes

(8 votes among 6 zines: Anduin, Diplomacy World, Fol Si Fie, Lone Star Diplomat, Mos Eisley Spaceport, Murd'ring Ministers

BEST-LOOKING ZINE (35 votes)

- 1. Lone Star Diplomat 25.71% 9 votes
- 2. Just Among Friends 17.14% 6 votes
- 3. Diplomacy By Moonlight 8.57% 3 votes
- Europa Express 8.57% 3 votes

(14 votes among 11 zines: Cheesecake, Coat of Arms, Damn the Torpedoes, Diplomacy World, Emhain Macha, Envoy, Le Front du Liberation, Peek, Sleepless Knights, Snafu, Tacky

BEST GM (36 votes)

- 1. John Daly(Dogs of War) 11.11% 4 votes
- 2. Bob Arnett(R-Q?) 8.30% 3 votes
- Bruce Linsey(Voice of Doom) 8.30% 3 votes
- Andy Lischett(Cheesecake) 8.30% 3 votes
- Bob Sergeant(St.George&Drag) 8.30% 3 votes

(20 votes among 15 GMs: Doug Beyerlein, John Boardman, Ron Brown(California), John Caruso, Gary Coughlan, Fred Davis, Steve Heinowski, Roy Henricks, Lee Kendter, Steve Langley,

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE (28 votes)

- 1. John Daly 10.71% 3 votes
- 2. Kathy Byrne 7.14% 2 votes
- Don Ditter 7.14% 2 votes
- Michael Mills 7.14% 2 votes
- Rod Walker 7.14% 2 votes

(17 votes among 17 others: Mark Berch, Edi Biraan, Ron Brown(Canada), Allan Calhamer, John Caruso, Dave Crockett, Fred Davis, Roy Henricks, John Leader

((The rest of the names for these two categories is on page 1)) (40)

"Alsace-Lorraine" 1981 IC Press continued from page 12.

Kathy to Malcy Baby: Thank you for the nice letter, telling me what a jerk I am for not letting you take Venice! You certainly have a way with words, I sure hope you have a way with Turks or the Austrian blocks will soon find the yellow slime invading his country!

Memphis to Kathy: Don't take it personally; I think all Americans are "buggerlegs" to Malc.....

Malc to the Tsar: Wotcha Buggerlegs. Hey, how can I write ya, when I don't even know where you live, huh? Hell I don't even know which bloody continent you're from?

Malc to Robert: I wanna peace babe! But my poor lil ol' dove here, man, don't know where to go, man. If I knew where your digs is, ya dig, I'd know where to send it.

Memphis to Malc: Others don't seem to know where they are either.....

Germany to GM: How can Thomas Franke invite Elsie to Germany? He ain't there yet.

GM to Germany: And he and "Buggerlegs" Byrne didn't get anything off of you this time either! Elsie's trip is put into abeyance anyway. I won the toss and went to Wichita.

[VIENNESE BOYS' CHOIR]-(Austria):

Behind the smile the stranger lies
Beware of what is in her eyes
Looks like fun, but she's after you
It's not funny what that smile can do.

Behind the smile there lies a face
Filled with cunning but she's full of grace
Comes on friendly but she's deadly too
Beware or she'll take care of you.

An innocence so well rehearsed
So naive that's all you ever see
Behind the smile you cannot see
Lies another full of mystery
Don't be fooled by that friendly grin
The jaws of Death are going to call you in.....

(Dedicated to Kathy)

(Apologies to David Coverdale and Roger Glover)

Malc to Malc: Ever been confused?

France to England: Sometimes your "information" is very confusing---or do you have a certain aim.....? Remember your last letter!

Memphis to France: Remember Bernie Marsden!

Austria to France: Who's Bernie Marsden you ask? My God, a bloody heathen. Hold still while I mobilize my forces so that I can blast the heretic off the face of the board. Besides, who's this bloody Ieapo Stabo then? Some no-good upstart from the Bronx I bet..

Austria to France: Didn't see Whitesnake either, my God. This guy deserves to be stabbed.

Italy to France: Cute build! Would you like me to tell you where to shove that fleet? It better be in Spain or else! That was an official warning, one wrong move and it's WAR!

France to Italy: I didn't stab you, as you can see by my moves--I hope we can keep on good relations!

Germany to France: "Welcome, welcome" may I ask you to stay for supper? We shall try BYRNT FRANKS. I must admit that your proposition to meet our Russian friend in BERLIN will have to be postponed for now. How about breakfast?

Memphis to Germany: Will you be serving French toast? You know what they say about French toast.....

France to Germany: Sometimes French toast doesn't taste very well; people get a certain illness called the "Surrender Disease": they won't fight anymore and move eastwards! Usually only German troops are affected....

Memphis to France: Usually, but then there are other known cases as well.....

Malc to Café: Who's gay, you sniveling little Eyetie? I'm only a good natured college student with a severe bout of identity crisis! Rumour has it that the crisis is brought on by a severe affliction of sobriety, so I'm trying to amend this little problem.

[MALC]- Yippee, I've actually finished my degree and qualified! So, guess what...I'm bloody drunk again! Hiya Gary.

Malc to Kathy: Outtaawayyou, I'm a comin' thru. I'm off on a pilgrimage to the west. So gethellouta Munich, I need the space to move my armies. This France hasgottago.

Italy to Germany: How dare you call me a pain in your "nich"(?) Always using those

((What "those"? Turn to page 42 for the revealing answers!)) (41)

In a September 16, 1982 letter to me, Dick wrote the following: "OK what I'd like is this: reprint the long anonymous bitch before mine, preferably in issue #18."

"Then, reprint your letter of September 7 with this letter following it. It would be best if you interspersed my reply paragraph by paragraph with your original. Call it an article titled "The Other Side of Gary Coughlan". It also should go into #18 because with time, it will lose its relevance." Take Care, Dick

OK, Dick gets his wishes in this case. My September 7, 1982 letter is what I wrote in reply to his September 3, 1982 letter on page 39. When I wrote it, I had not yet seen the "vendetta" attack that Dick Martin had launched on me in Retaliation. I got that issue on September 13, 1982. Bear in mind that what Dick wrote at the top of this page here and what is contained in his letter of September 16, 1982 was written after he wrote his "vendetta" and knew that I would have seen it. Of course, it is not mentioned at all. This is, to me, Dick's double standard coming through again. First up the Bitches. The long anonymous bitch which appeared in #16 said: (A lot of the "You" is referring to me, Gary Coughlan):

(3) Anonymous: "Dick Martin doing the hobby census? Does that mean no Retaliation for three months? The old Dick Martin, you know the reliable one, would have done the list. But the new one, associated with John Carlos Enterprises, can only NMR in Diplomacy games. If Dick wants my sub list, he'll have to come to my house and copy the subbers' names and addresses or each subber will have to send their name and address to the Drip."

And Dick's reply, after his "vendetta" (It's on page 48 if you can't wait to read it!)

"Here's my complaint about your anonymous bitches, as expected. I don't object so much to the questions raised, some people consider publishing a zeen on schedule (if at all) a prerequisite to participation in Dipdom. You're one of those picky types, so it's understandable why you would consider the census and my zeen as linked. Obviously when I pick a project, I see it out to its conclusion (remember who started the USOS?) No, I thought not....) [USOS was an Orphan Service started by Dick Martin, John Daly and Jack Brawner] ---often not on schedule, but I finish what I start.

"What I do object to is what you consider "personal" or not. Now, I never knew that calling someone a "drip" was impersonal, and the tone of the long anonymous gripe was anything but impersonal. I certainly expected nothing better from a cheapshot artist like Woody. I'm not even surprised that he didn't even have the guts to take responsibility for his words. (What's the matter Woody, don't you want ~~everybody~~ everybody to see your total lack of class?) I had expected you to have enough class not to print trash like that. I don't mind criticism if it's done constructively, and I don't mind doubts expressed openly. This was neither, just another one of Woody's attempts to be "cute" at someone else's expense. Ha ha. I had hoped you would recognize it as such, but instead you call it "not personal". Really? What I wrote to Boardman regarding your faking was less personal than this, and you sure took that personally! I thought you were past the point of trying to "get me back" for that. Are we even now?

Do you really want everybody to be able to express their feelings about some things they don't like? You're going to have more hurt feelings than you expect, I bet. But hey, if your objective to cause as much anguish as possible, I'll make sure Robert Sacks gets a gift sub to EE. That should make you ecstatic!

Secondarily, I'm disappointed that the gripers feel they must be anonymous. I certainly don't feel that I'm the vindictive ~~sort~~, and that would be the only reason I can see for remaining anonymous. The lack of communication is discouraging. So have fun with your bitches while you can, I don't think they'll last long.

My reply to Dick's response to the anonymous bitch about him: I made a mistake when I printed the word "drip". I am sorry. I apologize. But the rest of that anonymous bitch was facts. I mean all this year since last November I have been thinking that Retaliation has been late. It's only come out 4 or 5 times this year. But now I see that you are not into schedules. I wish I had known that so I wouldn't have been ripped off by those ridiculous double issues for \$1.00 a blow. Especially revealing was what Dick wrote in the latest Anduin about his publishing:

"On publishing--I put out Retaliation religiously for 2½ years. That's long enough as far as I'm concerned. So now I publish when I feel like it. I've adopted much the same attitude as Konrad--I'm only doing this for the amusement of myself and a small segment of my subbers. When it ceases to be fun for us, I'll probably fold. The games

(Dick Martin's Anduin #13 letter continued)

"are all delinked so there is no burning need to publish regularly--a "schedule" is not enough reason for me. I might add that Gary is welcome to a sub refund any time, if he doesn't like the way I work. At least I have a sense of decency"

Take care, Dick

Anyone who wants to see Dick's "sense of decency", please, please, please look at his vendetta against me on page 48 .

Much of the time, Retaliation was late. When I did the fake Retaliation in November, 1980, when the zine was about 1½ years old, its often lateness was commented on. The game results are often late. This "delink" idea intrigues me. How long has it been in effect? Listen very carefully, I want a sub refund back from you for Retaliation only if it means that I can continue in R-3. If I am reading your Anduin letter correctly, this does mean that I don't have to maintain a sub to Retaliation and can still remain in R-3, right? I no longer want to receive Retaliation since the "vendetta" as John Caruso called it.

Other points in your bitch: What you wrote to Boardman was a lie. He used it to attack me, in print, before Granstark readers with whom I have no means of responding. If I thought he'd read them, I'd send Boardman your letters to me praising the fake and even asking for additional copies for some of your friends. In EE, you have the right of reply which you have just gotten.

I, after the "vendetta" you launched against me before you wrote this bitch, can quite easily understand why these pubbers would want to remain anonymous. If that issue of Retaliation doesn't prove that you are "the vindictive sort", nothing will convince people. And the bitches will last just as long as people have gripes in this hobby, either open or anonymous.

Now, we move on to what I described on page 43 . I have never responded to Dick's letter of September 16 until now. So the 1st Gary is my September 7, 1982 letter in response to Dick's September 3, 1982 letter. Dick's replies in here are from his September 16, 1982 letter after he had written the vendetta in Retaliation and knew that I had gotten it. The 3rd is my answers now, after seeing the vendetta. This is what Dick requested and I'm going to see that he gets it.

1. (Gary): "I got your letter of Sept. 3rd today and that is why I'm writing. You set the policy in your zine and I'll set the policy in my zine, okay? If my zine doesn't meet your standards, then just ask for your sub money back, but don't just bluster about it."

2. (Dick): "You set the policy in EE, and let me set mine? You seem to be only too happy to tell me how frequently I should publish. Next time you tell me to mind my own business, make sure you are minding your own at the time."

3. (Gary): "When I signed up for Retaliation as a subber and for a game, I was led to believe that I would be receiving it on time. Now I see from the Anduin letter that you are publishing for the "amusement" of a "small segment" of your subbers. I knew that it wasn't for the rest of us who paid good money. Like I said above, end my sub if I can still remain in the supposedly "delinked" R-3. What a novel concept!"

1. (Gary): "I will not abolish the "anonymous" on the bitch page unless a sizeable number of people wish me too and that just hasn't happened. An example of this is my love for current events and the political discussions in EE. I personally like this but my perception was that most or many of the subbers were not in favor of it. So it has gone."

2. (Dick): "So, do a sizeable number of people like the anonymous bitch page? I've not heard anybody who defends it except you. Do you know any major newspaper that prints letters anonymously? No, because it is abominable editorial policy. The current events staff was interesting, you should have kept it."

3. (Gary): "So you liked the current events, eh? Funny I never heard from you one way or another about it and my changing policy was announced several issues ago and most of the letters I received applauded that decision. Certainly major newspapers and magazines print anonymous letters. I do believe they are signed something like this: "Name Withheld Due to Request". They probably want to avoid vendetta attacks by you! The majority of EEers have not said anything about the bitch page, just like most subbers don't express their feelings on most topics. Sort of like the current events, you know how that goes don't you, Dick."

((Continued on page 45))

(44)

Six-Pack Diplomacy

"POOR RICHARD'S ALMANACK" Continued from page 44
((This is ~~not~~ "PRA" because Dick Martin will no doubt find some way to call it an unprovoked attack!))

1. (Gary): "I type my zine, including the bitch page, over a period of several days. Frauke's letter came during that time and made it into the letter column. Had that been an entry for the bitch page, there would have been no way that the "accused" could have had time to have his reply in. And such a system is unworkable anyway. And everyone has the right of reply which has been hobby practice in other similar areas."
2. (Dick): "What is more important to you--typing your precious zine or the feelings of your subbers? If it's the former, I think you're an irresponsible jerk. If the latter, you're doing a lousy job. Yes, the system works--I've seen it. It's very simple, you don't print slander until the accused has a chance to reply. If it delays it by an issue, what's the big deal? Right of reply is not all it's cracked up to be. If I'd had a chance to reply at all, all I had to say was "the census is finished" and that would be it. Now I have to go through this whole thing while everybody gets to ponder how bad I am for a month. And what of anybody whose sub expires--are you going to make sure that they see my reply? I doubt it. If the system I like worked in BB with its 2-week deadlines, surely it can work with 5-week deadlines."
3. (Gary): "You say, 'It's very simple, you don't print slander until the accused has a chance to reply.' Pray tell how that philosophy was followed in view of your vendetta in Retaliation. After the way, you delayed even naming me an ombudsman for R-3 (See page 17), why should I allow you to delay what was a valid complaint for God who knows how long? BB, or Brutus Bulletin never had a system like that. I would often write letters to that zine in response to other letters. I remember when Bob Arnett insulted Bruce Linsey---I didn't see Bruce's reply in that issue. It came in the next one, along with one from me. I am doing nothing that has not been done before. If you're so hepped up about this, why don't you write Eric Ozog about the Dan Stafford comments he printed about me (See page 4). I have to wait 2 months to reply there. How about an Ozog vendetta?"

1. (Gary): "I don't reveal those who wish to remain anonymous and with your publication of the Hobby Census, it will show beyond any doubt that you are capable of setting a task for yourself and carrying it out. Find enclosed a check for \$2.00 for sending me the census."
2. (Dick): "I completed my tour with the USOS [Orphan Service--see page 43] with no hitches. I've proved myself more than 99% of Dipdom has, and I'm tired of it. You, on the other hand, have never done anything of general value. I suppose that those of you who never set tasks and carry them out must keep a close eye on those of us who do? Yeah, we might not complete it, right? Ha. The people who do the work are just opening themselves up for criticism from the do-nothings. I don't know if it's worth it, it's a wonder anybody does anything."
3. (Gary): "My, my, we're certainly playing the martyr's role this time, aren't we?! I was nothing less than supportive of your Hobby Census project. I plugged it repeatedly in this zine. I sent you my address list. I sent you money for the completed project. But, if you are going to charge \$2.00 to those who contributed and \$5.00 to anyone else, you are not going to have many people even see it. That's hardly "general value". I am not one to toot my own horn but I think when I typed up the Foreign section of the Zine Directory and gave a complete listing to all European zines for the first time in hobby history that that is of general value. Mike Mills, Zine Directory pubber, certainly thought so and the ZD is widely spread throughout the hobby. It only costs \$1.00. In EE, I am proud of having brought North Americans and Europeans together on a wide basis. I am almost certain that that is the first time this has happened."

1. (Gary): "I think my Anduin letter can be summed up as that old moral: 'People who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones'. I didn't writing criticizing anything about you in Anduin until you threw some pinpricks my way first."
2. (Dick): "My Anduin letter was relevant to yours. On the other hand, yours expanded into irrelevant areas with your catty remarks. You seem to have missed my point---too many beers?"
3. (Gary): "That's a cheap shot, even for you, Dick. As I have a cow named Elsie and always eat Grits for breakfast, so I am now tagged with the image of the drinker in this hobby. Just call me the "Dean Martin" of the hobby; I've got the reputation but others drink just as much, or more, than I do. Pardon me, but I replied to your Anduin letter and I do believe it mentioned "burn-out". This letter is on page 37. You're just upset because at long last, I'm starting to reply to your cheap-shots. No more one-ways." 45

1. (Gary): "When R-3 ends, and I am voting for the 4-way draw, you don't have to worry about sending Retaliation to me anymore. Please just take any sub credit that I have, after R-3 ends, and buy Julie a present with it or something."
2. (Dick): "R-3 will end someday, maybe. Just because you voted for the draw doesn't mean it's over (you still haven't grasped this concept). I will not keep a penny of your sub money. No, I will not give you the opportunity to call me a thief for not refunding your sub money. I wouldn't put it past you. Thanks anyway."
3. (Gary): "This is typical of why I can no longer be nice towards Dick. Besides the "vendetta" (see page 48), he just shoves a cheap shot back. As much as I have criticized folding pubbers in this hobby who do not refund money, do you really think after I offer you my refund money for a gift for your wife, that I would turn around and call you a thief? My God, all you would have to do is produce my letter telling you to keep it or use it for Julie. As for R-3, I know that 2 of the 4 players are voting for the draw and a 3rd one proposed it. I am reasonably certain that the 4th one would vote for it. God, I hope it's over. I'm getting real impatient to write my endgame statement."

1. (Gary): "EE #18 will be my viewpoint of how Ditter as ombudsman failed to give me a fair hearing. I wrote extensively during the summer to Rod Walker and Mark Berch and I will be quoting from their letters. In #19, they have their right of reply without me putting in my comments. You can too if you want to since I am going to be giving out the background of the R-3 situation in order to show how Ditter wronged me."
2. (Dick): I got courtesy carbon copies of much of Berch and Walker's stuff. Don't just quote their stuff, print it all, or you'll be giving your own bias, which is considerable. In particular, print the long P.S. by Walker on your bullying habits in its entirety. I certainly found it to be true. "Ditter wronged you" by upholding an ombudsman's decision against you. You certainly have an active imagination. Some people have better things to do than waste time on reading all the junk you spewed out on R-3. Just because you spend 40 hours preparing your case and Ditter spends 1 reading the stuff makes you right and him a criminal?"
3. (Gary): "Of course I have considerable bias---everyone does in this R-3 case which is discussed in detail beginning on page 13 . It still pisses the hell out of me that your sloppy GMing screwed me out of a Turkish win or an Austro-Turkish draw. The reason Ditter, Berch and Walker are getting an entire issue in #19 is so that they can fully and adequately present that side. I don't think I can be fairer than that. I am not about to use my issue, #18 to build their arguments for them; they are perfectly capable of doing that on their own, in #19. Rod and I both wrote some letters in the heat of our Leader discussions. He can print in #19 whatever he wants. You can still present your "side" too if you wish. But I will be correcting you point by point in view of your Retaliation vendetta. Rod, Mark and Don will not be corrected, in #19. Whatever they say will stand for the full five weeks until #20. Mark Berch will be in Spain during October, so he can have his comments in #20 if he is unable to make #19."

1. (Gary): "I won't cry when Italy takes me out in Cheesecake if he does. So far you are the only one who is crying, in your press."
2. (Dick): "I really don't care. Italy is keeping you alive as a favor to me, so I won't turn him down."
3. (Gary): "Oh? Is this then the reason that you threatened to suicide out in Italy's favor unless France and England join your Russia (total of 20 units) in disciplining Garry Hamlin's 1-unit Germany and my 2-unit Turkey for our "foolish play"? You keep pleading for a draw to end the game. Why don't you ask Andy to impose DIAS on the game like you did your games in Retaliation? See you on the playing board!"

((Continued on page 47))



Hang in There! If you've read this far, you're gonna make it!!

(46)

1. (Gary): "You say, "It's hard to get game reports when you mail them to the wrong address." I have wondered, three times now, why you have never informed me of your address changes if you want the results as badly as you claim. I am enclosing the copies of notices that I sent your fellow game-players on your address changes on the dates of August 18, 1981; May 11, 1982; and August 26, 1982. Randolph's [Randolph Smyth who is Germany in "Swedish Roundabout" and lives in Alberta, Canada] were always sent special delivery or he was notified by telephone. This was an extra expense to me since if you had informed me, in time, on these three occasions, I could have included your COA in the game results insert."

2. (Dick): "I usually change address on short notice, and send out COAs with the zeen. Andy does not get Retaliation so I write him specially. He often gets my COAs first. I usually inform the players of my COAs myself."

3. (Gary): "Sorry, I might believe that one time, but THREE times? No way Hosea! I am left to read about your COAs, once in Life of Monty and twice in Cheesecake. This goes beyond mere coincidence. As I expect my GMs to keep me fully informed of any player's COA, so I keep the players in my games that I GM fully informed of COAs. But I can only do that when the players, or subbers, do that for me."

1. (Gary): "On your orders for this season you say: "Request separation of seasons since GM mailed game report to wrong address." I am denying this for the following reasons:

a. In our Cheesecake game, the deadline was August 18th, 1982. The deadline this past season for "Swedish Roundabout" was August 20th, 1982. You informed Andy because your COA was printed in Cheesecake. I was not so informed and my deadline was after Andy's.

b. None of the other players in "Swedish Roundabout" have had any addresses to change this season so you know what their addresses are. Furthermore, as stated above, all of them were immediately informed of your own address change."

2. (Dick): "I owe you an apology, I thought I had announced my COA in the Retaliation I handed out at ORIGINS. I was mistaken, I'm sorry."

3. (Gary): "I wonder why you weren't sorry about your Retaliation vendetta against me as well since when you wrote this statement, you must have known that I had seen it?"

1. (Gary): "If you still want to end your sub, let me know. I will mail it to you, if you so request, on September 25, 1982, the day after the deadline so you will have abundant time to change your mind if you want to. But when your sub ends, you can't continue as Austria in "Swedish Roundabout". Virtually all GMs say that players must maintain subs to the zine if they wish to play in it."

2. (Dick): "I will not kill my sub if it means that I must drop 81 AM. I start games, and follow them to the end. Just ask Jim Meinel. You won't get rid of me that easily. Most GMs require subs because the game reports are printed only in the zeen. Do you know what your houserules are for?"

3. (Gary): "Yes, I know what houserules are for. They are there to assure the players that they will be treated fairly and under what rules which I have bound myself to abide by. It is a courtesy that I give the EE players by mailing their game results, complete with maps, press and moves in advance of the zine. It is a courtesy that costs me time, stamps and envelopes. The least, the very least, a player can do is maintain a sub to the zine when he is getting such a courtesy."

1. (Gary): "My houserules on this, contained in Issue #2, which you received, state:

"2. To participate in a game, a player must maintain a sub to EUROPA EXPRESS and pay a game fee...Should a player's sub expire, he will be replaced by a standby." A sub has always been necessary to play in my zine no matter whether the EE players get the game by separate insert or not. And in case you think I am singling you out, please check the game reports for "Windsor" and "Apis" in the 17th, and latest issue of EUROPA EXPRESS."

2. (Dick): "A sub to EE has always been required to play in your games, but it has never been necessary. Except in your mind."

3. (Gary): "Does any pubber reading this agree with Dick? In any case, my houserules appeared in EE #2, the game start announcements appeared in EE #3 and the games themselves started in EE #4. You knew which rules you would be playing under before you ever started. Unlike you when you imposed DIAS on your games after they had begun, I have never added any rules. I don't believe in using houserules to screw players or forcing new rules on players that they didn't sign up for. I have always been upfront."



"POOR RICHARD'S ALMANACK" Continued from page 47.

1. (Gary): "So let me know what you decide. Til then....."
2. (Dick): "I've decided that the jury is still out on you. It'll be interesting to see what kind of fool you can make of yourself over the next few issues. Have fun, I will."
3. (Gary): "Still having fun, Dick?! Your mistake was in pushing me just a little bit too far. As I said at the beginning of this "expose", I have overlooked a lot but your vendetta was it. I've mentioned that "vendetta" so much that it's time we finally looked at it. I will print it in its entirety, then correct it point by point."

The following words were written by Dick Martin and appeared in Retaliation #53/54. It was an attack out of the blue, completely unprovoked. John Caruso called it a "vendetta". It made me decide that Dick needed to get what he had been asking for all these months. See what you think of it and perhaps you can see why I am angry:

THE BITCH PAGE

"I can't recall being this disgusted with dipdom since the late Jack Masters left us. It seems that a certain Memphis pubber is lacking in either integrity or intelligence. I don't know which, but I am hoping it is merely intelligence. Not since Robert Sacks have I met anybody who thought his word was law like this. What is hard to stomach is that his "friends" encourage this behaviour of his because to do otherwise would incur his wrath. And believe me, when he gets upset, he tries to drive folks out of dipdom. First it was Don Ditter, then John Leeder. Who will be next? I hope it's not you, because this guy will stoop to just about any means to get "even" with anyone who was foolish enough to do him "wrong". I know what it's like, because he has taken to printing anonymous slander directed at me, while calling it "well-founded and not personal." Really now, calling people a "drip" is definitely a sober voicing of a complaint? Not where I come from.

Now he is encouraging folks to write in lies about anyone they don't happen to care for at the moment. And what's better, you don't even have to take responsibility for your words. Boy, the fun you can have with that, eh? I'm really looking forward to all the productive change this novel invention will bring! Either that, or this pubber will use his forum for anonymous character assassination directed at anyone he doesn't care for. I expect that "The Bitch Page" is merely a trial run as he finds out how far he can go. Who knows, maybe we'll have the second all character assassination zeen in dipdom (the unlamented BLACK FROG was the first). I, for one, will be glad to see it go away for good. It's a good thing I didn't mention this Memphis drunkard's name, or he might expect me to give him equal space. But since I didn't, nobody really knows who I'm talking about. Isn't anonymity a wonderful thing?"

((That was page 4. And on page 20 of that Retaliation, Dick Martin wrote:)):

"There's been a big deal made about the Leeder poll lately, as if you hadn't noticed. It's a month past the deadline, and we have no idea what the results are. That nasty man Rod Walker tried to scoop everybody with the results, too. So what? I mean, the poll is not going to make or break anybody, except maybe Leeder's patience. Maybe that's because I don't measure my value in terms of other people's opinions, that I don't get upset about it. I didn't care when I was #21 or so, I didn't care when I was #5, and I don't really care where I end up this year. As far as I'm concerned, he can do what he wants with it. Leeder's doing all the work. The Mouth of the South has started a campaign to destroy the poll if it's not run to his liking. Being much more visible than Leeder, he may be able to do it. If it's such a big deal, why doesn't he do the work, rather than sit around and complain about those who do? I mean, fair is fair-- give us a chance to gripe for a change!"

Before I answer these preposterous lies, I want to include the correspondence that Dick ~~my~~ way with that Retaliation and after it.

Because I am slowly becoming aware of how unfair Dick can be, and in such a public way, I am going to anticipate one of his lies just in case. Ordinarily I would never reveal, outside the game, an ombudsman request. I will in this case and you will see why.

With that copy of Retaliation came a letter from Dick Martin which said: "Please delay SIAM until we can find an ombudsman to rule on possible GM misconduct. Details

((Continued on page 49)) (48)

"POOR RICHARD'S ALMANACK" Continued from page 48 .

"will follow when I can get to a copy machine. How about Michalski? He did well the first time.

Take care, Dick

PS. I won't get to a copy machine until I return home at the end of next week.

Since I had been treated so shabbily by Dick Martin in my R-3 game when I went for an ombudsman, delays etc...(See page 43), I have bent over backward to be fair in my games to all players. I have complete faith in Michalski, who ruled in the R-3 case. That very day, even as I read the "vendetta" in Retaliation, I delayed Swedish Roundabout and informed all the players and Michalski. In the meantime, I received the Hobby Census report from Dick where he said:

"Here's your census. I really am trying to be reasonable with you, you know."

I had to laugh at this, a bitter laugh. I had just seen how "reasonable" Dick was trying to be with me with his "vendetta". Then came his September 16, 1982 letter which you have already read on page 44 . Then last came a postcard on September 17, 1982:

"I have decided that there are more important things in life than winning arguments and proving points. Please drop my request for the ombudsman at this point. I'm writing all the players and informing them of my decision. I don't even need a separation of seasons.

"I'm willing to call a truce on one occasion—if you abolish the anonymous Bitch Page. Simple as that."

Take care, Dick

Not word one about the "vendetta" he had launched against me in the pages of Retaliation. But he's willing to "call a truce." That's a bit like the Japanese wanting to talk peace right after Pearl Harbor and not even mentioning Pearl Harbor. Jack Masters said something in Black Frog #52 which I am coming to agree with more and more. Jack said: "Dick Martin, whose logic always has escaped me..." That was on another topic but it certainly holds true here.

I am quite sure that the ombudsman request was either (1) A shabby attempt to "get me back" for ever daring to ask for an ombudsman in R-3 or (2) A ruse to get "Swedish Roundabout" delayed, when his separation request had already been denied. In any case, his notice of dropping the ombudsman case came 4 days before the original deadline for that game and there was no way that I could reach the players in time. So the game is still delayed. If Dick Martin has any possible reason to charge me with "possible GM misconduct", he's got till October 29, 1982 to do so. John Michalski is standing by. In the meantime, I've asked Michalski to let me know if deception of the GM has occurred because I do think this was a ruse. I know that I have done nothing wrong. More on ombudsmen, "Swedish Roundabout" and EE policy on page 6 .

The reason I am mentioning Dick's request for an ombudsman is because his charges of "possible GM misconduct" are undocumented and now he has dropped his request. Funny, if I thought there was "possible GM misconduct" in one of my games, I would want to get to the bottom of it. Since Dick has dropped it, I am anticipating, in view of his "vendetta", a possible smear campaign against my GMing. Remember you heard it here first.

Now to answer his ridiculous charges in his vendetta against me. I cannot imagine anyone, outside of Boardman, raging on like ~~me~~ ^{me}. I know that the size of this article might seem excessive compared to the barely one page attack that Dick launched on me, but I feel that explanations and background information are very important.

To begin, I have never stated that my word was law, anytime, any place. I have never tried to drive anyone out of the hobby. Is that within anyone's power? Would anyone want to use such power if they had it? I know I wouldn't.

Dick says: "...he tries to drive folks out of dipdom. First it was Don Ditter, then John Leeder." As far as I know Don Ditter is still the Boardman Number Custodian and is still assigning numbers for games. As this issue shows, I do have difficulties with Don Ditter over my R-3 case and I do think he did not give me a fair hearing and I did say earlier in letters to Rod Walker and Mark Berch that I think he should give up his sole right to declare games irregular or resign as EMC. I have cooled off remarkably since then. But at no time did I try to drive Don Ditter from the hobby. And up to the time of the publishing of the Retaliation "vendetta", nothing appeared, in print anywhere in this hobby where I tried to drive Don Ditter out of the hobby.

((Continued on page 50)) (49)

I challenge Dick Martin to provide such proof and show how I carried out this plot!

Then he mentions John Leeder. Here he strikes a position that is somewhat true, at least in regard to the fact that Leeder is leaving the hobby. But I certainly cannot claim credit for it. John Leeder sent me Runestone #361 (September 7, 1982) in which he announced his imminent leaving of the hobby. John Leeder said in #361:

"I have decided to phase myself out of Diplomacy publishing. The major reason is that I have regained custody of my two older children.....Just for the record, this is not a reaction to the recent controversies surrounding either the Miller Numbers or the Zine and GM Polls. I've weathered such greater controversies in the past; these are hardly enough to drive me from the hobby."

So, even though I disagreed with the way the Leeder Poll was handled this year, I did vote in it and as I said last issue and the issue before that, I am publishing the results. But, I have not driven John Leeder from the hobby either.

Beyond that, John Leeder wrote me a personal note, part of which said: "As you can see from the accompanying Runestone, I'm leaving the hobby, and looking for new homes for all my games. To my knowledge, you're the only North American GM running worldwide games. Are you in the market for worldwide orphans?.....don't feel obligated to take any or all games--but any you wanted to take would be a help."

I told John Leeder that I would take two of these games and run them separately from EE so that the players didn't have to bother about a sub fee, especially since one lives in Abu Dhabi! Would John Leeder write me such a letter if I had driven him from the hobby? I think not. Let's move on.

I have already apologized to Dick on page 43 for printing that he is a drip. In view of his "vendetta", I find it ironic that he gets all worked up over one word. "Memphis drunkard" is probably what Dick calls "definitely a sober voicing of a complaint?" Hahaha.

I have never encouraged anybody to write in "lies about anyone they don't happen to care for at the moment." If that were true, you could expect every pubber in this hobby to jump all over me and I would deserve it. The Bitch page is for gripes about what is bothering any of you in the hobby. This has been explained each time the Bitch Page has appeared and as I said on page 39, even I am not immune. And I do not print personal attacks. Again, I am sorry that I printed "drip"---but this cannot excuse or condone the "vendetta" that Dick Martin launched against me in Retaliation.

I don't do character assassination. Dick Martin has a penchant for that as this article, in his own words, shows beyond a doubt. And if he thought that I would ignore such a "vendetta", he was sadly mistaken. If he wishes to construe this as "character assassination", well I've seen ample proof of how he can portray himself as a martyr and a victim despite what he dishes out to others.

"Memphis drunkard" I have already discussed and "equal space" within the next Retaliation, I will discuss later in this article.

I, as "Mouth of the South", never started any campaign to destroy the [Leeder] poll if it's not run to my "liking." I simply said that I would plug it anymore nor would I publish the results unless the results were open to all zines on an equal basis as the case has been up to this year. I did not urge anyone to boycott the poll. I voted in the poll myself. I am printing the results in EE when they come out also.

In fact, the only one that I know of who publicly stated that she intended to boycott the Leeder Poll was Kathy Byrne. She changed her mind. I wonder if Dick intends to launch a "vendetta" against Kathy? Or did he launch a "vendetta" against me just because he wanted to? None of his points have made any sense to me so far so why should this be any different?

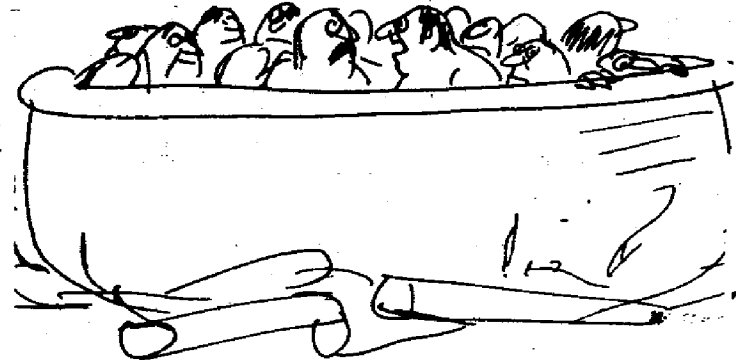
What really grabbed my eye was Dick's statements on his not caring where he placed in the Leeder Poll. Let's look at his exact words again. He said:

"I didn't care when I was #21 or so, I didn't care when I was #5, and I don't really care where I end up this year."

That is a lie, at least it was last year when Dick Martin and his co-publisher, Julie Glass cared very much where Retaliation placed.

((Continued on page 51))

(50)



"Remember, we're all in this thing together."

GARY L. COUGHLAN
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(There were 21 who went to WichitaCon
at Bob Olsen's. My report will be in
the next EE.)



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53

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