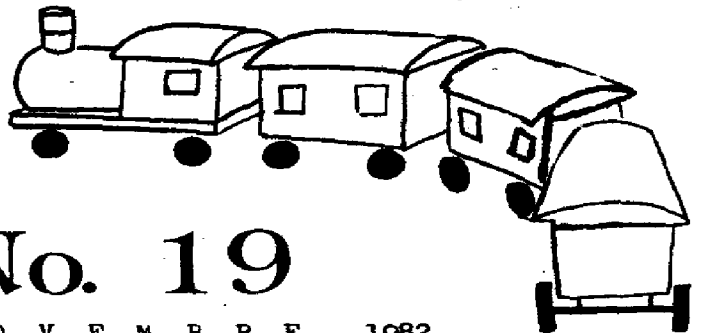


# Europa Express

THE PUBBER: Gary L. Coughlan

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

On pages 42-43,  
Larry Peery wrote a  
heart-felt letter and  
told of a supplement  
he would be putting  
out. If you want it,  
Larry's address is  
P.O. Box 8416, San  
Diego, California  
92102 USA. Remember to  
send an SASE. (Also use  
the ballots for the two  
polls on page 43. Today!!



## No. 19

7 NOVEMBER 1982

§ Well this is the month for those in the United States to have Thanksgiving and I'm thankful for many things. These two issues of EE are now out of the way and everyone has had their fair say. I have corrected the lies which have been told about me in the recent character assassinations, or at least given the subbers of those zines a chance to see the other side. If you are a subber of either Retaliation or Give Me A Weapon, you are getting this issue of EE for free only to give you the side which your publisher didn't see fit to print when he lied about me. This is not a solicitation to you to sub to this zine.

§ And I'm thankful that the elections will be over by the time this issue sees print. (I postdate the issue). There have been some very negative campaigns this year in Tennessee, especially in the Senate race between the incumbent Sasser and the rival Beard. Beard had a series of TV ads which had a Fidel Castro-look alike thanking Sasser for all the money he sent to communist countries! The key line was "Muchissimas gracias, Señor Sasser." The votain question was for the United Nations. I expect Beard to lose big.

§ And I know one guy who will be very thankful when November ends and that is James Briggs, presently undergoing all the pleasures of boot camp at the hilariously named Ft. Bliss. This issue is dedicated to James and his fellow sufferers of D-3-1!

§ Bob Osuch's Mass Murders didn't show up in the mail for this issue but I got a hold of Bob and it will be in the next issue.

§ I went to the Mid-South Fair near the end of September/early October. This is Memphis's annual celebration and they have rides, food, shows and concerts and talent contests. I love fiddlesticks (ice cream covered with chocolate and nuts) and Pronto Pups (known as Corn Dogs to the unsophisticated!). There was a statute of Dolly Parton there this year made all of butter, ha ha!

§ This still isn't a normal issue but it is close to what EE tries to have, articles and letters and the picture contest. There would not have been a police call this time except for Konrad Baumeister's character assassination except for the replies that the other pubbers had from EE #18, *had all of them sent them in.*

§ Within is responses to me from Don Ditter, Mark Berch and Rod Walker for part two of "Players' Rights". I hope that you read everything that they said and also keep in mind what I said in EE #18. Send your thoughts in for EE #20.

§ Are y'all watching "Filthy Rich" on television? This comic series is set in Memphis. I work nights so I don't get to see it but I hear a lot about it. In one of the upcoming episodes, the rich family has to get jobs and one of the women gets a job as a hostess-guide at Mud Island, which is a semi-park, museum, scenic area with stores, bands playing and a replica of the Mississippi River which you can wade in. They probably won't show that though.

§ I want to thank all of you who have written to me during these bad weeks of my life. It is very reassuring to know that there are so many caring people.

\*\*\*\*\*  
DIPLOMACY is a registered trademark for a game invented by Allan B. Calhamer and copyrighted by The Avalon Hill Company.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Remember that EE #18 and this issue are free to you so everyone got 2 added on.

*Dear Larry,*  
*your letter is on pages 42-43*  
*Larry*





## POLICE CALL

Police Call, in the military service, means circling the barracks and picking up cigarette butts and other trash and generally cleaning up or tidying up the area.

As stated last time, this is what Police Call intends to do in regard to me and my zine. 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. 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.

"Before we get to the substance of your complaint, sir, I'd just like to say that this is the first time anyone I could describe as 'an irate reader' ever came into my office in a manner I could describe as 'brandishing a copy of the newspaper!'"

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

But Police Call is fair. Those mentioned herein will have the chance to have their say, as this installment shows. And I still think that all zines should have such a column to deal with lies and misleading statements.

Appearing this time are Diplomacy Digest, Diplomacy By Moonlight, Retaliation and Give Me A Weapon, all of whom were discussed here last time. Let's begin:

1. Diplomacy Digest: DD's pubber, Mark Berch wrote me the following: "This is in response to the "Police Call" of EE #19 [I am sure Mark meant to say #18], in which you gave your two reasons why you did not renew your sub to DD. While you are certainly not obliged to give any reasons for your actions, I am surprised that you chose to do this first in your zine rather than first in a letter to me.

Your first reason is that DD has "deliberately" distorted your positions, which you admit you cannot prove. This is not true; if there has been any distortion it was accidental. But beyond that bare statement, there is nothing I can do in terms of either a defense or what I wrote or a retraction/apology. This is because despite repeated requests, you won't give me the specifics--which specific statements or sentences were the distortions? All you say is "I am not going to answer him in DD."

Your second reason is that, "I don't want to take the chance...of not being able to get a refund when I want one back from DD. I think Mark should clarify his refund policy in view of his comments." This is most strange--I have never heard of someone deciding against subbing to a zine because they didn't know what the refund policy is. Moreover, you neglect to tell your readers that you never asked me what DD's refund policy was. In addition, it so happened that I mentioned in passing a letter to you dated June 9, 1982, "...any DD subber who wants a refund will get it..." That policy is set by me, the pubber. The refund policy at Everything is set by Ditter, the pubber, not Coughlan, the subber, and thus you do not have an automatic right to a refund unless Ditter has set that as E's policy. Just try to get a refund on the rest of, say, a sub to Time Magazine some day, Gary. "

□ If Time Magazine wrote misleading statements about me or my positions, as you did in your zine, I just wouldn't resub just as I didn't resub to your DD. And I'll give you a big hint; your comments in DD #60, pp. 11-12 about me on the Leeder Poll and in subsequent DD issue #61-62 was what you have distorted. I suggest you go back and read, carefully, those pages 11-12, and think just what could have caused a subber of yours of two years' standing to not resub. And these comments were made in DD without you writing any letter about it to me.

Your "repeated requests" was a letter dated September 10, 1982 and marked Off The Record. One letter. And just before that, your DD #61-62 had come out with some more misleading statements about my position by you. I fail to believe that you are as dense as you are making out Mark.

Well, after a further, intensive search, I found Mark's June 9th letter. I had forgotten about it and it had been filed separately with my zines (with Mark's Farrago) and Mark is correct; he does refund for DD. But I wonder if Mark recalls a letter that I sent to him (and Ditter and Walker) on July 21st? And what paragraph 5 meant? HMMMMMMMM.

And you accused me of monkeying with the Leeder Poll. I received four letters from people congratulating me on being the number one zine in the Leeder Poll. (See page 4) ③

(Police Call continued from page 3)

I wrote them back saying that they were mistaken that I had talked to Rod Walker and that EE was number #3. Then I heard that in the latest DD you had arbitrarily separated the zines and the subzines into separate lists, and you clearly announced this fact, and then congratulated EE on being number one. You did not mention that EE was #3 on the poll results that John Leeder sent out or #3 on the list that Rod Walker will be printing in Diplomacy World. If my zine was #1, it would have had the votes to make it unquestionably #1. It didn't and it's not. Yet several zines are reprinting these results based on DD. Thus misleading information is being spread again by you.

□□□

2. Diplomacy By Moonlight: I have exchanged several letters with DBM's pubber, Eric Ozog over the Dan Stafford statements that DBM printed. I have every confidence in Eric and I will be reprinting his comments from DBM (due out in a few days) in EE #20.

I received a letter from Bob Olsen who had written Dan Stafford about his comment and Bob received the following reply and it seemed to be addressed at me. These are Dan Stafford's words to Bob Olsen:

"My letter [In DEM #44] was actually intended to be pro-homosexual, pro-Jew, pro-Berch and Walker, not an attack on Coughlan....I have nothing against homosexuals so, it follows that when I refer to someone as one (mistakenly or not), it certainly is not meant as an insult. If he takes it as one, that's his problem. Open up your mind a little, Gary."

That sentiment is total garbage. If something is "certainly not meant as an insult" just what is it meant as? It certainly wasn't a compliment, certainly not when taken in context with his Mos Eisley letter. No matter how liberal a society is, referring to someone as a homosexual is not taken as a compliment especially in the context that these statements appeared. And Stafford is apparently saying that it is my problem because I'm offended by this. Why don't you check out the letter column this time, Stafford. I'd really be interested to know if anyone at all shares your "philosophy".

□□□

3. Retaliation: After I had mailed out EE #18, replying in detail to Dick Martin's vendetta against me in his latest Retaliation, I received the following letter from Dick. It was immediately apparent that he had not yet received EE #18. He said:

"Dear Gary,

I hear that you're thinking of doing something drastic with EE. Except for my small (OK, to me, huge) complaint, I think it's one of the best around. It would be a shame for you to fold or go to warehouse mode because of Stafford, Berch, me or whoever. I don't think you realize just how many dippers need their EEs! So don't quit in disgust, we are both too stubborn to do that.

"Yes, I was exceptionally unkind to you last issue. I admit that, and I'd like to apologize. I don't hate you, I've just been hurt by the last few "bitch pages" and you seemed intent on rubbing it in--so I lashed back. What can I say? I will do what I can to explain and ease what I said in my next issue. And while I went out of my way to imply that you had no "right of reply", that is certainly not the case. You may write what you like and I will, of course, print it intact.

Well, I've been out of town for a week now, so I've lost my train of thought. Alas. Hang in there."

-----  
Take Care, Dick  
-----

Dick's comments about me in Retaliation were lies. It was a character assassination issue pure and simple. I responded to it in this zine by printing its text in full and telling my subbers exactly why they were reading what they were reading. I did it in a fair objective manner just as I've done the Bitch Page. Even Dick himself above mentions that what he did was "exceptionally unkind." Then he got EE #18, which stated that I expected him to clear up his lies in his next issue or I would do it for him.

Dick Martin responded by initiating a petty ombudsman complaint against me (See page 15) and by coming out with Retaliation a month after his last issue, amazing all of his subbers no doubt. I cannot fault what he said in that issue and I sincerely hope that he means what he says, which was:

"Anyway, as much as I enjoy a good argument now and then, or even a good feud, I'm not too thrilled when it degenerates into namecalling and mudslinging, particularly when it appears in my zine. So I've decided to go back to being "funloving Dick Martin" this issue, and keep my private disagreements private. Fair enough? If only some

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(Police Call continued from page 4 )

"publishers could be persuaded to do the same, it would be a lot more pleasant for EVERYONE concerned. Especially for the "innocent" bystanders, the readers of the zeen. I realize that last issue sounded more like one of Black Frog's final issues than it did like Retaliation, but hopefully this issue will be better."

And that was it. He did not mention me by name, he did not say that he had lied about me. He just said that it was not appropriate that his zeen had been used in such a way, not that what he said was wrong. That's a bit like a man taking some of his friends out for a drive in his automobile and then deliberately crashing into a pedestrian and then saying, "You know it's wrong to use your car to run down pedestrians." and then driving off. That pedestrian has a right to expect redress of his grievances and the driver is liable for damages whether he likes it or not.

Dick Martin did very well to adopt this stance of "fun-loving". He knows he cannot refute what I said in EE #18 and I'm sure he would like to forget all about it. I found out that the vast majority of Retaliation subbers are also my subbers so I'm sending the few who are not, either copies of EE #18 or copies of "Poor Richard's Almanack" from EE #18. All Retaliation subbers are also getting a copy of EE #19, this issue. Maybe EE #20, I haven't decided yet. But what I have decided that if Dick Martin hasn't got the decency to correct his lies, lies which he himself described as "exceptionally unkind", then I am doing it for him.

By the way, R-3 ended in a 4-way draw and my game statement was printed in Retaliation. Steve Langley, a fellow-drawer in that game, wrote to me: "All things considered I thought your R-3 game end statement was a bit restrained. Not that I think it shouldn't have been. I actually think you handled it very well. Better than I did--I was very equivocate." And my sub to Retaliation is now ended as well. If he chooses to, Dick Martin can lie about me in his "zeen" all he wants to in the future. I am only straightening out his lies from Retaliation 53/54. That will be enough to show his subbers that he has an axe to grind against me and that he lied. But I won't be dealing with Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde much longer.

□□□

4. Give Me A Weapon: Konrad Baumeister is the pubber of GMAW and before that he was the pubber of Eggnog. I subbed to both zines and I finally met Konrad last summer at ORIGINS, and I liked him. What is more I have respected him. That ended with the latest issue of GMAW, #20. But, before we get to that, we need to get some background. I will occasionally write letters while under the influence and, after reading them sober, I send them on to the pubber that I wrote them to. They seem to be popular as John Michalski, Ron Brown of California, Marion Bates and Mark Larzelere have printed them in their zines.

I talked to Konrad Baumeister about 2 weeks before ORIGINS and he brought the subject up and asked that I send him such a letter. I did so and at ORIGINS he confirmed that he had gotten the letter, liked it and would print it. In EE #16 (1974) I picture-plugged GMAW and mentioned the letter in passing.

Several issues, three, of GMAW have passed without the letter being printed. In EE #17, Konrad had a bitch about the bitch on Dick Martin. Dick and Konrad are very close friends, both living in Maryland and often see each other. The vendetta Retaliation came out with all Dick's lies and character assassination of me.

Konrad sent out GMAW #18-19 which was put together after that Retaliation reached him. He did not mention the vendetta at all except one cryptic reference on the outside flap which said he might be talking out on some topic which "should be controversial enough" by the time of the next issue. He also wrote to me that he still disagreed with my anonymous bitch page. That was it. That was all. And inside he mentioned



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(POLICE CALL continued from page 5 )

that I had said the fake Leeder Poll results were real and that they were "quite obviously a fake." I wrote Konrad Baumeister the following letter on September 24th and part of it was not for print at that time. I said:

Dear Konrad,

I am afraid you made a mistake when you wrote about the hoax Leeder Poll results in GMAW #18-19 on page 11 when you stated: "It should be noted that several 'zines are buying the story that some of these results are real! Like Europa Express and others."

I am somewhat disappointed that you don't seem to read EE, which is my zine. Very clearly, what I had to say about the hoax Leeder Poll results was on page 12 in EE #17 under the heading "Focus on Fakes". I have already cut my sub from one zine which persisted in distorting facts about me and my zine. I thought more of you than that Konrad.

THE FOLLOWING SECTION IS NOT FOR PRINT

I got GMAW #18-19 today and I was both surprised by what was not in it as well as what was written to me on the outside flap. I have a few questions for you, Konrad.

(1) This is the second issue in a row where you have not printed my drunk letter. May I ask you why not, especially since you specially requested that I send you such a letter?

(2) On the outside flap, you wrote: "I still disagree w/your" bitch page is my guess since I couldn't really make it out. I am sure you will agree that I at least presented your objection within EE in a fair and impartial manner which leads me to point (3).

(3) Since you write me that you disagree with my bitch page, I am just as certain that you have written to Dick Martin about what John Caruso called his "vendetta" against me in the latest Retaliation. I notice an oblique reference on the flap of this GMAW which says you may be talking out on some topics which "should be controversial enough" by that time. Kryptic Konrad, that should be your nickname.

But my drift here is that you are obviously so tongue-tied, in print, when Dick [Martin] goes after me with absolutely no reason and telling the most vicious lies that I am quite sure when I respond in EE to his "vendetta" that GMAW will maintain its neutrality. Or will you? Perhaps that is why you aren't printing my drunk letter. Well, well, who really knows.....The "Memphis Drunkard" (From Retaliation)

Well, those of you who are GMAW subbers certainly know how Konrad reacted. In print in GMAW #20, he said: "I suppose, instead of coming on the way you did in this letter and, later, in your 'zine, you could be a little more polite and understanding, but then, on the other hand, why bother when you're right, isn't that so? As for the three other questions, I'll answer them when you allow them to be printed. Otherwise, try to adopt a more civil attitude and tone of voice (tone of print?) when you write to me. I did not at all enjoy what you wrote, nor the way you wrote it. You used to be a lot more fun-loving, that's for sure."

"Tone of voice" is very important to Konrad. "A more civil attitude" is very important to Konrad. "Being a little more polite and understanding" is very important to Konrad. At least when it is you who are writing him. Please go back and reread what I wrote to Konrad and also what I wrote about his zine in EE #18.

Now that you have hopefully done that, read what Konrad then went on to say about me in his zine on page 11 of GMAW #20. Konrad said:

"In a nutshell: Gary, when you entered this hobby, you really were an optimistic sort. You were unhappy with a game of yours. You feel you weren't treated perfectly fairly. Some people made a few jokes you couldn't take. And so out comes a huge EE assaulting somebody you obviously haven't tried to understand. In fact, you haven't tried to understand anybody in this hobby. Things simply can't always be expected to go your way all the time. So when they don't, don't start flying off the handle about it--it only hurts you. For example, Don [Ditter] may have erred; but after you finished treating him like shit, I can fully understand (and would have done the same) Don's actions towards you. Or that police call page: for somebody who hates feuds, you sure try to start a hell of a lot of them. EE #18 will stand for a long time as a monument to one person's overblown ego and deep paranoid mistrust and hatred of all he doesn't perceive as kissing his ass day in, day out."

And Konrad says he didn't like my "tone" and that I go "flying off the handle." What a hypocrite you are Konrad, and in more ways than one. You choose to let two

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(POLICE CALL continued from page 6)

issues of your zine go by before you can even bring yourself to comment on the vendetta that Dick Martin launched on me and its aftermath when I responded to his lies. And then you can't even say one word against what he did, only me. What a hypocrite you are, Konrad.

Had you read EE #18, you would have seen just how very hard I have tried to get along with Dick Martin. Why don't you read the letter column this time and see how others, who are not blinded by friendship, have commented on how I tried to get along with him. It might open your eyes, but I doubt it.

Everything on your page 11 is

without proof. You don't have one fact to back up your character assassination. Perhaps that is why you didn't criticize Dick Martin's vendetta against me--you found nothing wrong with what he did, absolutely nothing at all.

I came out with a "huge" EE because, unlike you and Dick, I don't do character assassination. But I don't overlook it when it is my character that is being assassinated. I prepare my readers, explain to them in detail what happened and why I am mentioning these things in my zine. I am quite sure that yours and Dick Martin's subbers are still in shock about what you two have written and wondering why? It came from the blue. I could, of course, have had quite a small EE and answered Dick's lies. I could have been much shorter than his 1-page character assassination, and much more graphic and the only difference is that I would be telling the truth.

But character assassination is not my style. I try to present both sides as I have done yours here and as I did Dick Martin's in EE #18. But you and he can apparently only tell one side of a situation, and are quite content to lie about me. I don't fear the truth, I never have. I don't mind negative comments made about me (see Rod Walker, Don Ditter and Mark Serch's responses in this issue) as long as the context is made clear and it is fairly presented. But what Dick did and what you have done is reprehensible. And then you pose as someone to give me advice on how to get along in this hobby. What a hypocrite you are, Konrad.

Why don't you print what Dick wrote about me so your readers can see it? I wonder just how many of them would have reacted had it been them Dick was viciously lying about? I understand that it would be awkward for you if your subbers had all the facts. They might not understand why you jumped on me so hard.

I think I am more disappointed in you than anything else, Konrad. It is a real shame to see you squander your reputation away on such character assassinations and be loyal to a fault to Dick Martin. Answer me this: is there not even one thing that you could find to criticize Dick about for writing his vendetta? Just one? Your whole attitude here seems to be a case of "Dick Martin, right or wrong!" or "Dick Martin hat immer recht!"

You have also criticized the fact that bitches on the bitch page can be anonymous. And then in GMAW #20, you have anonymous zine reviews which I know has hurt Kathy with its comments about Kathy's Kornor. What a hypocrite you are, Konrad.

I took the liberty of printing the "NOT FOR PRINT" portion of my letter. I know the answers to the questions but why don't you answer them for your subbers. All of them are reading EE #19 and all of them have/will see "Poor Richard's Almanac" as well. So now you don't have to reprint my questions, since they can refer to EE #19, and therefore you won't have to go to 14 pages and charge them for a double issue.

And since I don't want you to think that you have to "kiss my ass, day in, day out" (Heavens, NO!), and since you obviously don't read EE in view of your comment, ("And so out comes a huge EE assaulting somebody you obviously haven't tried to understand"), I will no longer inflict it upon you. I am cutting trades. Do not send me any more GMAW. They will only be "RETURN TO SENDER". I don't read zines which go in for character assassination. Since our trade had you as "Trade plus 2" I am sending you a check for \$1.20, the price of two issues of EE. You may have EE #20 as a courtesy copy if you have a response. Unlike you and Dick Martin, I am not afraid to see the other side or have my readers see it also. Oh, and send the drunk letter to John Michalski if you find yourself unable to print it. Or burn it, I don't care. 7

# Wichita

WICHITA CON AT BOB OLSEN'S!

---by Gary L. Coughlan

Porter Wightman, in his report about his trip to Baltimore for ORIGINS, said in The Modern Patriot that "It seemed the only squirt gun at ORIGINS was Gary's - and he used it effectively..." Sometimes terror is the way to achieve worthwhile goals in this hobby so when I went to Bob Olsen's home in Wichita, Kansas on September 10-12, I had a duffel bag full of squirt guns.

That same weekend there was a SauriCon in West Germany with attendees from Belgium and I understand that the languages spoken there were English, German and French. Well our WichitaCon was no different. We had Brooklyn New Yorkese, West Virginian mountain twang, Chicago slumese, Okie from Muskegee all the way to California mellow. And, of course, beautiful Southern.

All in all there were 21 who attended including Bob Olsen. I say "including Bob Olsen" because it probably didn't seem like his house to him since, at one point, he had to sleep out in the garage! Those there were: (a pubber's zine or subzine appears after his name): Steve "Woody" Arnawoodian(Diplomatic Immunity), Jim Burgess, Kathy Byrne(Kathy's Kornor), Gary Coughlan(EE), Randy Ellis, Al Giddings, Scott Hanson(Irksome), Stuart Lancaster, Steve Langley(Magus), Mark Luedi(Thirty Miles of Bad Road), Mike Mazzer, John Michalski(Doc Lisley Spaceport), Bob Olsen, Bob Osuch(Mass Murders), Eric Coo(Diplomacy By Moonlight), Al Pearson(Just Among Friends), Marc Peters, Dave Pilant, Paul Rauterberg, Keith Sherwood(You Know My Name--Look Up The Number), and Bill Yeaton.

We came from 13 states, from coast to coast. I think this is the first Con, out-side of the major ones, which had participants from both coasts. The states were: California, Illinois, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Wisconsin and West Virginia.

I always think it is interesting how people get there. Kathy Byrne and Woody flew to Pittsburgh where they met Al Pearson and all three of them flew to Kansas City where they met Scott Hanson, rented a car and drove 4 hours to reach Wichita. Steve Langley rode a bus for 14 hours from California. Of the rest that didn't live in Kansas, 11 drove in and 3 flew in. I was one who flew in from Memphis. Mike Mazzer and Jim Burgess were the other two who flew in. They were met, promptly, at the airport. I was not. Now the story can be told.

I boarded Republic Airlines; my cheapie Piedmont Airlines doesn't go west. I carried my day's mail with me(The DEM I got would set some of the weekend's mood for me) and I had an Elvis Presley postcard so Bob Olsen could recognize me. Carrying a zine around the airport would be so déclassé as John Michalski would say. I also had a bunch of scavenger hunt items for Al Pearson which I would give him in Wichita so I could save postage mailing them to him. And that was the purpose of the squirt guns. Water power would enable me to win the Scavenger Hunt.

Al Pearson's daughter is running a Scavenger Hunt with many items which would be otherwise difficult to obtain. But many of these items could be gotten from those who would be at WichitaCon; as Porter's quote above showed, they knew the power of the gun!

We land at Wichita. I walk out, smiling, carrying my Elvis Presley postcard and don't see anyone I know(Woody whom I've seen was supposed to be with Olsen). Quickly hiding the postcard, I stood around until everybody cleared out. I felt like poor Dorothy stranded in Oz except I was in Kansas! Thinking "There's no place like home, there's no place like home", I headed for the baggage claim. I got my duffel bag and still no one. I pulled out one of my zines for someone, anyone to see. Finally Woody and Bob Olsen showed up, sheepishly. They had been to the bus station to get Steve Langley and had been unable to find him. So I guess I was lucky! We went back up town to the bus station and they still couldn't find him. Wichita is smaller than I had thought, about 270,000. The airport was tiny. Everything was flat too.

No Langley so we went to Bob's home. On the way there, they said that Michalski and Byrne had finally met each other. Toots and Luscious together at last. Eat your heart out John Caruso! Then we got there. Bob has a large two story home. When you enter the front door, there is one stairway going down to the big utility room, a large playing room(?) and a bathroom. I have ? here because there is no furniture in the lower part of the house at all. The other stairway led up stairs to the living room(which had furniture), kitchen, bathroom, bedroom and office. It was roomy enough for the 21 of us. There was one bed(Kathy got that), one couch(Langley got that) and the floor for the rest of us. I had brought a pillow and a blanket.

So I guess that's the setting for WichitaCon. People drifted in all night Friday and Bob was constantly going to the airport it seemed. Al Giddings arrived on Saturday

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(2)



(WichitaCon continued from page 8)

minus Dixie Gray, whom nobody has yet seen, and that made 21. I'll try to give a break-down day by day but remember this is my viewpoint only and I wasn't everywhere.

After arriving at Bob's on Friday, I revealed my cache of weapons and you should have seen their ~~eyes~~ drool. The thing about the Scavenger Hunt is that the items had to "come" from certain people. So what I was doing was saying, in effect, "I will give you this water pistol if you "give" me this item I have here." Every man (and woman) has their price. Here was theirs: Woody: "Gave" me fish food for a squirt gun; Kathy: gave me a copy of John Caruso's diet plan and as a bonus I gave her four boxes of hushpuppies (No, Steve they aren't shoes!); Scott Hanson: signed a MacDonald's wrapper for his squirt gun; John Michalski gave me a note written on 8½" by 11" paper, something really out-of-the-ordinary for him to write on; Al Pearson for verifying my entries for the Scavenger Hunt; and I gave Bob Olsen and Keith Sherwood squirt guns for free-- --I figured I would need allies in the coming water fights. And of course I had my own.

Michalski's, as befits his station in our hobby, was a huge Magnum which had a devastating effect. Kathy soon realized that hers was called the "Spunkler" and wasn't too effective. My Luger was wonderbar. We all got wet and I got dunked in the end due to my large array of enemies who would come after me when I had to get a refill at the kitchen faucet, the cowards. It was fun.

That was Friday. We spent the time mostly talking and then later eating out. I went with Michalski, Kathy, Scott Hanson and Mark Luedi to Steak and Ale, the classiest place I got to eat at all weekend. I took all my hobby pictures with me so everyone here at this con knows what you look like if I have a picture of you. Hi Frauke!

Mike Mazzer brought Bob Olsen a t-shirt which said "Pudge Con 1982" on the front and "Gag Me With a Spoon" on the back. At the risk of ruining my own picture contest in this zine, even though he hasn't sent me a picture, Steve Langley was definitely the one voted most ~~unlikely~~ as to our image of him. I had him pictured, after phone conversations, as short hair, almost crew-cut, very conservative, and semi-quiet. Well, he was semi-quiet and his voice matched my memory but he had long hair ala the 60s, early 70s and a headband. I think someone described him as looking like an American Indian due to his dark hair. Kathy had called him a few weeks before (never having talked to him before) and pretended that she had gotten his name from a dating service called "Love Mates". Steve was puzzled on the phone and said she must have made a mistake. She said "aren't you Steve Langley, don't you have two daughters?" When he said, "Yes, but...". Kathy said, "Look, I paid \$50 to get your name from "Love Mates" so when are we going to go out?!" She finally told him who she was.

John Caruso, who couldn't go to Wichita, had sent a postcard to Bob Olsen telling him to watch over Kathy and keep her away from Michalski or else. I believe the phrase was "If he lays one hand or anything else on her, I'm coming after ya." The picture I took for Kathy's "snapshot collection" with her in Michalski's lap with his tongue wagging around speaks for itself!

We stayed up late, there was a lot of every kind of beer and the old standby Amaretto & Cognac. I would go to sleep late and get up early.

SATURDAY: I went with Bob Osuch out to eat at Sambo's. We simply don't have these racist names here in the South for restaurants! (Prove it, then!!). Back to Bob's and the first Diplomacy games. There would always be at least two games going on at a time in the basement and usually a Rail Baron game going on upstairs. In the basement, one game had a table with no chairs and the other game had the floor. I was in the floor game. I still can't believe that Scott Hanson and I were allies. He always attacks me. I was surrounded, as Austria, by Olsen, Mazzer, Ozog, and Burgess. We ended the game after Mazzer had done his customary stab of Olsen and Ozog had been eliminated. Eric Ozog always prints the results of his games at these cons in his zine and we're all waiting to see this one, right guys?!

We would negotiate all over the house and in the utility room was a parakeet in a bird cage. The bird didn't have a name, Bob said. Bob also had a cat named Olga who took particular delight in slipping past us into the utility room to jump at the bird cage which caused the bird to flutter about. I was glad I pulled Olga's tail Friday night when I tried to pick her up. Bob had another parakeet named Buddy which had recently died, no wonder!

Lunchtime and I went with Michalski, Osuch and Hanson to Coney Island where the decor is like a circus with distorted mirrors and such. We don't have this chain in the South. Afterwards, we went to a store for some beer. I didn't ask for a "box" to put it in, I just asked if they had something I could put it in. The lady said, "I think I have a lift to put it in." A "lift" must be a box because that was what

((Continued on page 10))



(Kathy, our hobby Princess, brings her Diplomacy style to Wichita!)  
*"Between you and me, I'm beginning to wonder if she's even a princess."*

our cons do have culture at them, ha ha.

After this, I got into a gunboat diplomacy game in which I was Germany and Kathy and Woody were England and France respectively. Soon I was only in Berlin and Portugal and some sharp words were being exchanged between me and Kathy, both of us never back off from a good fight. She would get not one, but two builds every year, and Woody (that Armenian Frog!) kept attacking me. Yes, it frustrated me. Al Pearson also walked out on this game and that ended that. That made two games.

About 2:45AM, seven of us started another gunboat game down in the basement and it didn't end until around 5AM. I outlasted everyone else, sleepwise that is, except for Al Giddings who wanted to know how I knew that he liked the wing as the favorite part of the chicken (from the address list in EE #17). Langley would later say that we kept him awake. What did he care, he had the couch!

SUNDAY: Went with about 7-8 guys to Sambo's for breakfast. I don't like the Wichita papers. Back at Bob's, I didn't play any more games. I read a book on the worst movies of all time called "The Golden Turkeys" and I would read some of it out loud near the Rail Baron game that Al Pearson was in. A few people were eagerly listening to me, since the excitement and pace of a Rail Baron game, to say the least, leaves a lot to be desired. Unfortunately, one of those listening to me was Scott Hanson who would thereby neglect his game turn to the irritation of Al who finally yelled at me: "SHUT UP GARY"! Well, let me tell you, I can take a hint! I got up and went downstairs with my "Golden Turkeys" book and no more was heard from me by that group any more. Al had walked out of two of my games so what did I care about his for? Anyway, about 4 hours later, Al asked if I was mad at him and I said, "No, not after the first two hours." But I don't like be shouted at, by anyone.

Anyway down in the basement, I talked with Keith Sherwood ("Today New Mexico, tomorrow the world" is his letter heading) and read his Diplomacy Archives. He has over 700 zines and records on when they began and ended and everthing in between. John Michalski called Daphne Fritz and we all talked to her. I'm sure she was glad to have been called in the daytime rather than at night for a change, right, Russ?

Michalski left and took the last of his Amaretto & Cognac with him ("There's still about \$2 worth in there"). I straightened up some of the mess; I'm sure it would take Bob days to do it. I flew home that evening to a car in the airport parking lot that wouldn't start. Grrr! I had a real good time and highly recommend Bob as a host. Just imagine having 19 strangers (he had only met Mike Mazzer before) come to your home for a weekend. Thanks Bob!

Some highlights: The refrigerator door always hanging open, Al Pearson forgetting my scavenger hunt items and Bob Olsen throwing most of them out as trash, Kathy trying to get me to take Michel Liesnard's herbs home with me (I left them in Bob's cabinet!), observing how innocent Langley looked when he slept and how conscienceless Mazzer looked when he was asleep, reading the Diplomacy Digest fake which was mailed from Wichita, (10) picking orange lint off your clothes from the floor, Woody's cold to all but Eric and me!

she put the beer in. But who I am, just an ignorant Southerner. We got the beer and had to wait till Bob Osuch finished his video game. He said, "I didn't know I was that good." Back to Bob's.

After being amused at the local news, a few of us played Rail Baron, a new game for me. Al Pearson, as I understand it, always rolls low with the dice. He got tired of this game and quit before it was over.

Al Giddings arrived in the afternoon and he brought a Danish drink called "Aalborg Akvavit" which he got me to try. You take a little in a glass and you have to drink it down all at once quickly. But before you do that, you must sing "Hellan Gär!" which is pronounced "Hell-ahn gore" and means "the whole thing goes" and it is a Swedish drinking song. The stuff tasted awful! But this does show that

## HOBBY-WIDE NEWS

¶ EE has inherited two Runestone games from John Leeder, 1979-R and 1981-HK. Both games are international and run in the British fashion, i.e. Fall and Winter are combined. Both games will be on a 10-week deadline and will alternate with each other within EE on blue pages. 1979-R is now named "House of Hapsburg" and 1981-HK is called "House of Bourbon" after two royal houses in Europe which fought for supremacy there. The idea came from the novel Marie Antionette by Stefan Zweig which said: "Upon dozens of German, Italian and Flemish battlegrounds, the Hapsburgs and the Bourbons had engaged in deadly strife, each party hoping to make itself predominant in Europe. Now, extenuated with fatigue, the longtime rivals perceived that their insatiable jealousies had served only to give free scope to the ambition of other ruling houses. In view of this, the monarchs of France and Austria, and their servants the diplomats, entered into an alliance; and they decided that the friendship between the dynasties should be cemented by marriage.

"The most natural possibility was to betroth the young Dauphin, the grandson of Louis XV, to a daughter of Maria Theresa of Austria and a provisional proposal was made in 1766 concerning Marie Antionette, then eleven years old."

"The House of Hapsburg" will appear first and this will be in EE #20, the next issue. All Malmbergers will be considered to be placed in these two games if the need arises.

¶ Pubbers! Please remember to plug Jim Williams' survey of games that your subbers would like to see. Jim is asking that hobby members, both here and in Europe, send him a list of their five favorite games played face-to-face, their five favorite games played postally and any other games that you would like to see offered postally. Jim feels, as I do, that North America doesn't offer hobby members the scope and variety of games that are offered in European zines. If this survey is a success, perhaps your favorite game can have a chance to be played postally. Write to: Jim Williams, 2500 6th St., SW, Altoona, Iowa 50009 USA.

¶ Remember how Jihad! has folded? Well, this left the Jihad poll up in the air which was a rating poll for all new zines which appeared during the year. Now Scott Hanson of Irksome has announced that he will run this poll so we will all be able to vote on the zines which have been born in 1982. Scott hasn't announced any dates for the poll which will presumably be in 1983 since 1982 isn't over yet. If you think that Scott might not know about your new zine, write to him at: 939 18th Ave, SE, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414 USA.

¶ Rod Walker has been plagued with bad luck lately so Diplomacy World has still not come out. Rod wrote me that there will no be a last quarter issue this year and the next DW will not be out until early 1983. The one with the Leeder Poll results should be out in late November, early December. Hang in there, Rod!

¶ Steve Langley of Magus will be running a poll based rather heavily on the British Zine Poll run by Richard Walkerdine. It is much more detailed than the Leeder Poll has been and it is not known now if it will even include a rating of GMs. Steve will be discussing all of this in detail in the coming months and invites your input. The deadline for this poll is tentatively set for July, 1983. If you have some ideas write to Steve's letter column. His address is: 2154 Fairfield Rd, Sacramento, California 95815 USA.

¶ Anduin (Eric Kane, 109 Hicks Lane, Great Neck, New York 11024 USA) is going to be running maps with its games. If you wish to obtain maps, write to Allen Wells. He will send you a map which you can then take to a printer and get reduced to the size you wish. EE uses these maps at 65% reduction from Allen's map. Allen's address is: 37 Royal Crest Drive, #2, Nashua, New Hampshire 03060 USA. He pubs Dot Happy.

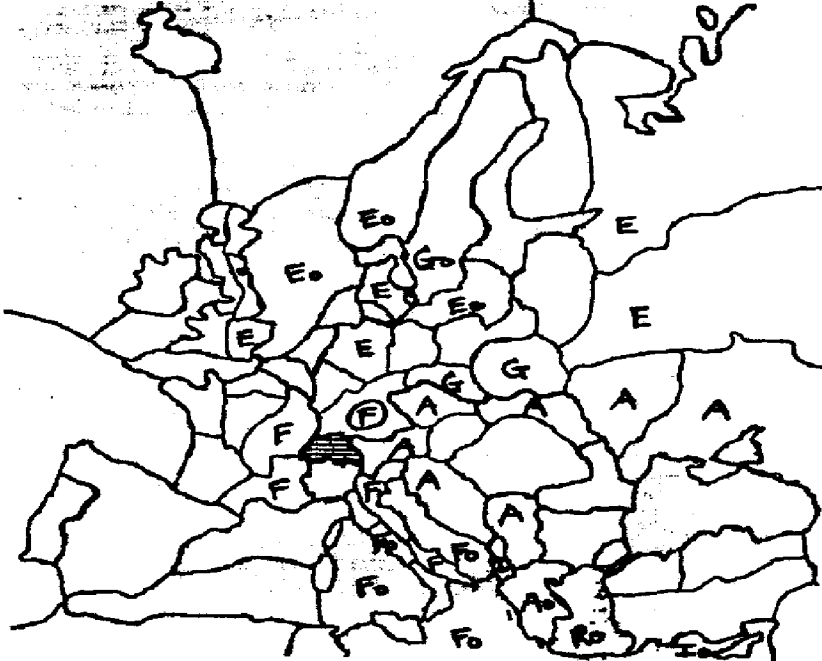
¶ Michel Liesnard and Alain Henry are starting a tri-monthly zine called Midnight Summer Diplomacy devoted to hobby statistics and ratings. They will be trading with Simon Billenness of Great Britain and Don Ditter, our Boardman Number Custodian. If you would like to see such a statistics zine, write to Alain Henry, Rue des Guillemins, 39, B-4000 Liège, Belgium. Michel has offered to throw in a few Chanteclers as well to traders. Such a deal, more North Americans now sub to Chantecler than do Britons.

¶ I am almost positive that after EE #20 in December, that EE will become smaller in size. I still have never yet put everything that I wanted to go into any issue of EE. The typing is killing me!!! Maybe we'll have an alternating articles then letters. (1)



FRENCH MOVE EAST, ENTER MUNICH, VENICE AND THE IONIAN!!!!  
 INCONCLUSIVE ANGLO-AUSTRIAN STRUGGLE OVER MOSCOW!!  
 POSSIBLE REVOLUTION IN GERMANY AS KAISER DISAPPEARS!!!

Ω POSITIONS IN FALL 1905 Ω



§ GAME: "Swedish Roundabout" 1981 AM  
 § GM: Monsieur Gâréaux L.  
 Goughlânniqué  
 § NEXT SEASON IS: Spring 1906  
 § ZAT: Friday, December 3rd, 1982  
 § GAME COLOR: Jaune

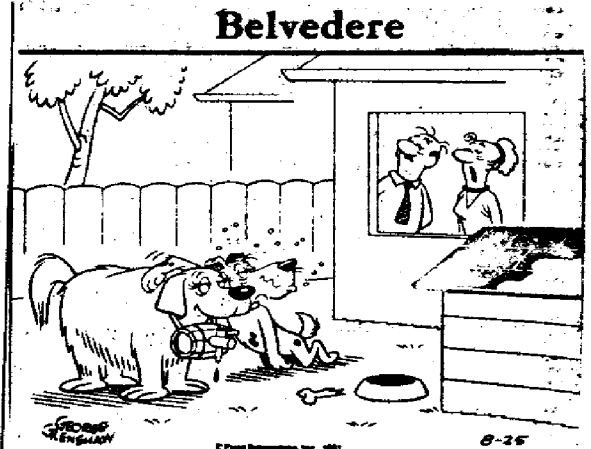
§ GAME NOTES: I am sure that Randolph will be back next time but just in case I am calling on Don Del Grande to send in Malmberger moves. His address is:  
 Don Del Grande (He has your addresses)  
 142 Eliseo Dr.  
 Greenbrae, California 94904 USA

§ Annihilations This Time:  
 Italy's Army Venice.  
 § Dislodgements This Time:  
 Germany's Army Munich. (Where a unit has been dislodged is circled on the map).  
Tiny Spaces: There is a French fleet in Rome and an Italian army in Albania.

All restrictions on your press are now lifted. Thanks for your cooperation. Your cartoon is from Belvedere.

§ ORDERS OF BATTLE FOR FALL 1905 §

- ALLEMAGNE: NMR!!! (Monsieur Randolph Smyth?)  
 (Monsieur Randolph Smyth?)  
 A (SIL) A (WAR)  
 A (MUN) (Ber-OTB)  
 GCM retreated Army Kiel OTB
- ANGLETERRE: A Edi-(DEN), F (NTH) C A Edi-Den  
 (Monsieur Garry Hamlin) F (BAL) S A Edi-Den  
 A (MOS) Holds, A (STP) S A Mos, F (NWY)-Swe  
 A (KIE) S French A Ruh-Mun, A (LON) Holds
- AUTRICHE-HONGRIE: A (UKR)-Mos, A (SEV) S A Ukr-Mos  
 (Monsieur Dick Martin) A (TYO) S Italian A Ven(OTM)  
 A (BOH) S German A Mun, A Vie-(TRI)  
 A (GAL)-Sil, A Bul-(SER), F Aeg-(GRE)
- FRANCE: A Ruh-(MUN), A (BUR) S A Ruh-Mun  
 (Monsieur Bruce Linsey) A (MAR)-Pie, A Tus-(VEN)  
 F Nap-(ROM), F Tys-(ION), F (ADR) S F Tys-Ion  
 F Wes-(TYS), A (APU) S A Tus-Ven
- ITALIE: A (ALB) Holds, F (EAS)-Ion  
 (Monsieur Bob Osuch) A (VEN) Pie
- RUSSIE: F Con-(AEG)  
 (Monsieur Bob Olsen)



"I think this is one romance we'd better break up."  
 Strategy Time for the Other Europeans as France and England "Get High" On Their Joint Victories!!

Memphis to Swedish Roundabout: Since Randolph NMRed and thus didn't send in an order for his dislodged A Kiel from last season, I retreated it OTB. This is also listed underneath the German units in this game report. Your 1905 Supply Center Chart is on page 14.

[VIENNA]- OK, I'll limit my press. No more for the rest of the game.

Memphis to Vienna: Why? Whatcha doin'?

BRUX to Julie: Let go of Krud now, hon. He needs to concentrate more on this game.

Memphis to Swedish Roundabout: Your press continues on page 14.



(Continued from page 14)

this page, I am printing what I sent out to all the "Swedish Roundabout" players. I am a conscientious GM and these charges have no basis at all. Sam Rayburn once said, "It takes a man a long time to build a barn, but any jackass can knock it down." (See page 14)

GAME: EUROPA EXPRESS's 1981 AM "Swedish Roundabout"  
DATE: October 29, 1982

Your Player Code is \_\_\_\_\_.

On Friday, October 22, 1982, I received from Dick Martin (Austria) a copy of the complaint that he made to the ombudsman, John Michalski about me. I understand that he sent several of you, if not all, a copy of these charges. If not, what Dick said:

Dear John,

10/17

Got EE #18 last week, and I must admit that I enjoyed it greatly. I always like good fiction.

However, this time I will be needing your services as an ombudsman. In short, I want 81 AM moved to another GM, as I don't believe Gary will be an impartial GM for the duration of the game. Before, I only had a hunch that this would be the case (and that was part of my first, dropped, complaint), but now I am sure. Please refer to the bottom of page 48 of EE #18. There in black and buff, Gary says that he will be treating my ombudsman case differently from any other because of my "lies". So, if he is so willing to compromise this principle of GMing (which he so hypocritically devoted a 16 page article to in the same issue!), what will be next? "Losing" my orders? Telling other players my moves in advance? The mind boggles, considering the obvious frenzy Gary has worked himself into regarding me.

If he's so willing to write a 16 page article consisting almost entirely of half truths, distortions and outright lies (Powr Rich), and pay his readers in free issues to read it, I don't put much past him. Tampering with the game results would be child's play, and not so easily detectable or proven. So, if at all possible, I'd like the game moved to a neutral GM before another season is played.

Merry Christmas, Gary! You want a complaint that bad, I'm happy to oblige!

Take care, Dick

"The mind boggles" is right. Dick Martin's charges against me have no possible basis in fact. I consider them wild accusations and a figment of Dick's fertile imagination. And an unprovoked smear of my GMing. He seems to forget that he used his Retaliation #53/54 to print lies about me and that EE #18 was a response. Despite our long feud, it has never touched this game and it never will.

In EE #18, page 51, I wrote: I will GM "Swedish Roundabout" as fairly and as impartially for him as I would for any other player in that game. I am not out to 'get' Dick Martin but I will not let the lying go on or go unanswered." I stand by that.

As for me revealing that it was Dick Martin who asked for an ombudsman and Dick accusing me therefore of being "so willing to compromise this principle of GMing", I will quote from a letter that Mark Berch sent me, unsolicited. As you will see from EE #19, Mark Berch completely backed Dick's GMing in R-3 every step of the way. Here Mark says: "I generally agree with your page 5 comments. In fact, I think that whenever a GM delays a game on player request, he should name the player--out of fairness to the non-requestors." And because Dick Martin smeared me in his Retaliation and I had no reason not to think he would be trying to do the same thing to my GMing reputation I revealed it within the pages of EE #18 to any potential players considering me as a future GM and to reassure all my current players.

Bob Olsen (Russia) sent each of you a circular letter from which I quote: "Since we all know that the problems between Gary Coughlan and Dick Martin go back two years and more, I submit that Gary's conduct of 1981-AM to this point is conclusive evidence that he has run the game in an impartial manner, that he is running the game in an impartial manner, and that he will continue to run the game in an impartial manner."

Randolph Smyth (Germany) also wrote to me: "To Dick's credit as well as yours, though, I have never heard more than the vaguest references to your disagreements until now--none at all in the correspondence relating to 1981-AM. I expect that the most

(Continued on page 16)

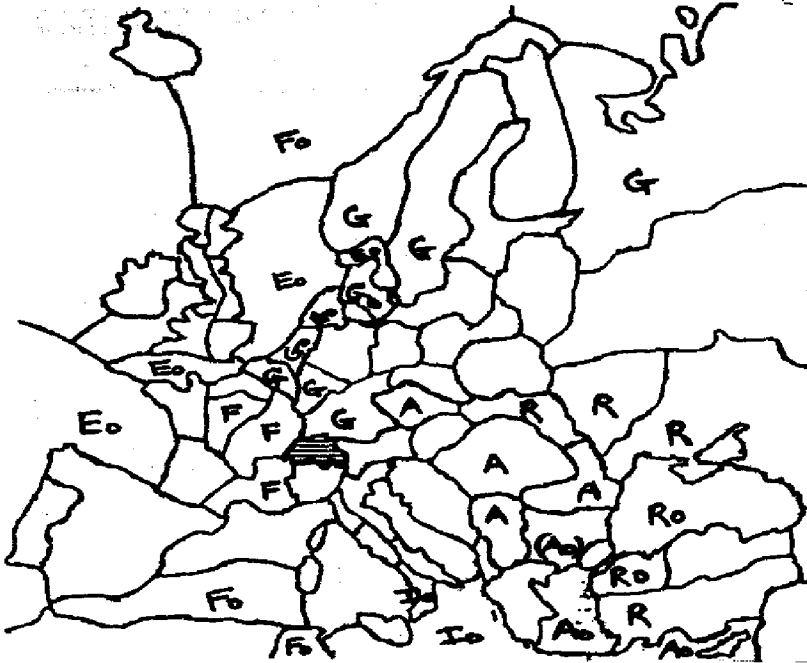
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AUSTRIANS CONQUER RUMANIA IN THEIR STRUGGLE WITH RUSSIA!!  
FRANCE COMES DOWN ON ENGLAND'S SIDE,  
MOVES INTO NORWEGIAN SEA AND BURGUNDY!!!

Ω POSITIONS IN FALL 1906 Ω



§ GAME: "Windsor" 1981 AN  
§ GM: Herr Gärren L. Kaufland  
§ NEXT SEASON IS: Spring 1907  
§ ZAT: Friday, December 3rd, 1982  
§ GAME COLOR: Grün

¶ GAME NOTES: Well, it's now been three years, so next season, "Windsor" changes its name again!

Faz will be on leave at home in Pennsylvania from November 3-9. He didn't send me an address so I'm sure he wants his mail to go to Wedgefield.

Also in EE #20, there is no more restriction on your press. Thanks for helping me out these two issues.

Your cartoon is from Punch.



"Leapfrog? Of course we don't want to play leapfrog!"

§ ORDERS OF BATTLE FOR SUMMER 1906 §

Deutschland: Army Moscow retreats to St. Petersburg  
England: Fleet Tyrrhenian retreats to Western Med.

§ ORDERS OF BATTLE FOR FALL 1906 §

DEUTSCHLAND: A (NWY) Holds, A (STP) S A Nwy, F (HEL) S F Den, A (MUN) Holds  
(Herr Jack Fleming) A (SWE) S A Nwy, F (HOL)-Nth, F (DEN) S F Hol-Nth, A (BEL) Holds  
A (RUH) S A Bel

ENGLAND: F Wes-(MAO), F (NTH) Holds,  
(Herr Mark Fassio) F (SKA) S F Nth, F (ENG) S F Nth

FRANKREICH: A Gas-(BUR), A (PAR) S A Gas-Bur, A (MAR) S A Gas-Bur  
(Herr John Marsden) F Lyo-(WES), F Nao-(NWG), F (TUN) S Italian F Tys-Ion

ITALIEN: F Tys-(ION), F (NAP) S F Tys-Ion  
(Herr Allen Pearson)

RUßLAND: A Mos-(SEV), A War-(GAL), A (UKR) S A War-Gal, A (SMY)-Con  
(Herr Patrick J. Conlon) F (CON)-Bul(ec), F (BLA) S F Con-Bul(ec)

ÖSTERREICH-UNGARN: A Gal-(RUM), A (BUD) S A Gal-Rum, A (SER) S A Gal-Rum  
(Herr Kerry Blant) A Tyo-(BOH), F Ion-(EAS), F (BUL-sc) Holds, F (AEG) S F Bul(sc)

Memphis to Windsor: Your 1906 Supply Center Chart is on page 18 .

England to France: Hey, John, let's get this over with, OK? We have the forces, we have the allies (I think), and the only thing slowing us down is ourselves. So let's at the Hun, and worry about everything else later.

France to England: If my trust in you is misplaced, I'll throw the game to Jack. You wouldn't like that.....

England to Germany: Just sit tight in those harbors for awhile, Kais-baby. Your muscles may have to wait before they're flexed. I really do want Belgium back; perhaps next turn?

Memphis to Windsor: Press continues on page 18 .









PLAYERS' RIGHTS, PART TWO

Last time, in EE #18, I presented my side of an ombudsman case that I was involved in. This issue you will hear three different views from three people who were also involved in it. Don Ditter, Mark Berch and Rod Walker each have their viewpoint printed within. I will save my responses for next time and hope that many of you subbers write in your thoughts after reading both #18 and #19.

Don Ditter and I are now friends and we will be subbing to each other's zines. I will give the briefest essentials in case you don't have EE #18 in front of you. Then Don

Ditter, the Boardman Number Custodian, will give his experience in this matter. From EE #18, p. 16: "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..."

From EE #18, p. 15: "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." First up is Don Ditter:

Dear Gary,

This is in response to your account of the recent Ombudsman decision in which we were both involved. First let me explain why I didn't answer your letters after writing my second response to you:

- (1) I got married and honeymooned for two weeks in Hawaii, and Diplomacy had a very low priority. My letter writing decreased.
- (2) Your letter in response to my decision in which you accused me of not reading your material, ticked me off. As a fair and honest person I resented the implication you made.
- (3) In my second letter to you I had explained my reasoning regarding the Masters' situation and had told you that the subject was closed. I meant it.

In reflecting on the above, I was wrong not to respond to your letters. I should have sent you a note saying, "I did not think it was necessary to question Dick as I felt you had made no case against him." My not responding caused you to overreact by trying to remove me as BNC. But even had I answered with the above response, I'm sure your charges that I was unfair, I failed, and you were screwed would be the same. So now let's get to the real issue. Was my decision regarding 1979 KG a fair one?

First a word about the function of Ombudsmen. If a player and GM have a dispute about a particular adjudication or action in a game, most GMs and players will call upon the service of a mutually acceptable Ombudsman to resolve it. Typically the game is delayed as the decision usually affects the season just completed. An Ombudsman can determine whether a game is irregular or not. This was the case in the past and is certainly a function of [John] Caruso's OSP [Ombudsman Service Pool]. He then forwards a copy of his decision to me to be used in Everything [The BNC's statistics zine where the facts on all games are recorded]. I will accept his decision unless the player or GM asks me to review it. In that case, I will review the Ombudsman's decision and judge the game status. My Irregular notation may or may not be used by those compiling player ratings. A player could plead his case to a ratingsmaster, though this is rarely successful or done. If the Ombudsman's ruling called for an adjudication in the current season, GM failure to make the adjustment would automatically make the game irregular.

Now to the specifics. Michalski had every right to rule whether he thought the game was irregular. You had every right to appeal his decision to me. The bulk of the material you sent me (75%) had to do with the DIAS issue. This was the major point I had considered. In addition you presented evidence of unfair adjudications and an illegal player removal. I reviewed each of these points very carefully and decided you had no case. If Dick Martin were to simply say---"everything Coughlan wrote you was true", I would have ruled in Martin's favor, upholding Michalski's decision.

((Continued on page 22)) (2)

"The only time I feel it's necessary to write the defending party is if the evidence presented would cause me to rule against the defendant. I felt you had no case against Martin. What was I supposed to do? Write to Martin and say, "give me some evidence that will prove you guilty"?

Now to the Masters' removal:

It struck me as odd that you would try to get a game declared irregular based on a wrong done to another player, namely Jack Masters. Let me review the situation. Masters who was attacking you, sent a written resignation to Martin. Masters then changed his mind and wanted back in. Martin decided to accept the resignation and not allow Masters to resume his position. I see nothing improper here. Had Masters been allowed to submit orders after his resignation and then Martin kicked him out--Martin would indeed have some explaining to do. However, Martin did not kick Masters out of the game---Masters resigned.

It seems to me that the player who resigned--Masters---should have been the one complaining. Yet I never received a word from him despite the fact that you sent him material about your action and asked him to respond. Apparently writing me a letter was not worth his effort or he had no complaint.

In conclusion, I based my decision on the evidence that you, the prosecutor, had presented. The defense called no witnesses. They were not needed as you presented all the facts. I made my decision based on those facts, just as Michalski had done.

In this whole dispute you seem to have forgotten that people make mistakes. I do not believe I have in this case, but you and others may think I have. These are only opinions--they are not black or white, right or wrong. I am disappointed that you have cut my sub to EE as a result of this disagreement. I will miss your zine; it was one of my favorites, but if that's how you settle a difference of opinion, so be it. It's my desire that we agree to disagree on this matter and resume our hobby enjoyment without any animosity.

Sincerely, Don Ditter

Next up is one of the two guys who reviewed this R-3 case, Mark Berch who is the pubber of Diplomacy Digest and who is often called to be an ombudsman. The title is his own and very appropriate.

#### The R-3 Mess and Related Issues

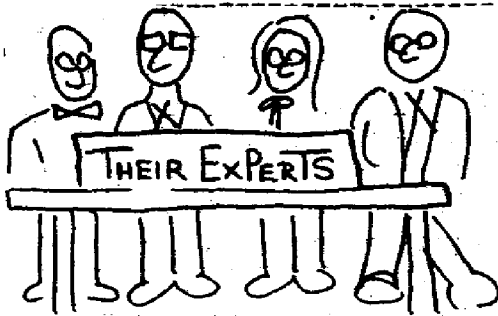
---by Mark L. Berch

Beginning on page 13 of EE #18, Gary Coughlan sets forth in considerable detail the R-3 disputes. Included in this discussion are extensive comments on the function of Ombudsman and the BNC[Boardman Number Custodian], and Player Rights. I am an outsider to this dispute. I have, however, a radically different viewpoint and analysis of both the events and the issues than does Gary---we are, after all, two different people. If you are interested in another point of view, I urge you to read on. It will be somewhat lengthy. I'm a trifle longwinded by nature, and Gary raises a tremendous number of issues, most of them fairly significant. The page numbers below refer to Europa Express #18.

I do not get Retaliation[Dick Martin's zine]. Last spring and late winter I had a friendly correspondence with Gary Coughlan. Into some of his letters he slipped in comments about a frustrating situation he was dealing with, but gave no details. He mentioned that the dispute involved 2 ombudsmen--that really piqued my interest. I had never heard of a dispute with 2 ombudsmen and wondered how such a thing could happen. Finally, when Gary had apparently reached an impasse with the major parties, he sought outside help/advice. That consisted of myself and Rod Walker. His letters to us were, as he accurately described them, "full of venom" (page 31). He felt the system had completely failed him, and that "it had really screwed me over" (page 31). He sent me, and Rod, an enormous package of material, all highly organized, with key portions highlighted.

We continued to discuss the matter, as Gary wanted to find the best way, as he viewed it, to prevent others in the hobby from being screwed in the way he felt he had been, and apparently felt that Rod and I would be of assistance in this. Gary's letters were always prompt to me, and on the one occasion when I asked for additional information, it came right away. He sent me postage to return his materials when I was done. I told him that I would prepare a complete report by July 12. It took me several hours to

((Continued on page 23 )) (22)



Mark Berch's Response Continued from page 22)

"analyze all the material. I was also corresponding with Rod [Walker] at the time, because I like to get another view when feasible. I wrote Gary a 3-page report, which took a while as I am a poor typist, and got it to him by the promised date.

And then the curtain fell. Although I know indirectly that he did receive my report, he did not acknowledge getting it from me. I received not a word of thanks for my efforts. The report, you see, had a fatal flaw: It did not conclude that Coughlan had been screwed by the system. Gary's sense of fair play means that you will get to see another side of this dispute in EE--not just Gary's. Gary's manners are another matter.....

Ombudsmanship is a subject of considerable interest to me. It's probably not generally known, but I've done a fair bit of it. In 1980-1982, I've been a formal ombudsman for a GM-player dispute at least nine times with at least 6 GMs. This, of course, does not make me any more "right" than the next guy. It does mean that, for whatever it's worth, I've got some experience at this, possibly more than anyone in the hobby in this particular field.

First off, a definition. In the context of a GM-player dispute, an ombudsman is someone who is empowered by both sides of a dispute to determine how a game is to be run. He or she operates on line and in real time, as they say. For example: Should the season be replayed? Are these orders ambiguous? Is this expulsion from the game proper? Can these orders be accepted? These are the sorts of questions that I have answered as an ombudsman. The ombudsman acts, in a sense, "in loco GM" [In place of the GM]. It is thus a form of binding arbitration.

Of course, an ombudsman could be used in any sort of hobby dispute, but what I'm referring to here is a formal ombudsman in a GM-player dispute.

The only real qualification for an ombudsman is that he or she be acceptable to both parties. So, at least theoretically, anyone could be used. Many GMs will not accept any ombudsman at all; their HRs [House rules] may even say that their decision is final and cannot be appealed. In that case, any outsider is only an advisor; the GM is not under any obligation to even listen to him.

The ombudsman decision is, of course, binding on both parties. I've been lucky so far; not a single loser has reneged, i.e. no losing player has resigned or a losing GM refused to implement the decision. It follows from this that an ombudsman's decision cannot be appealed to someone else, i.e. another ombudsman. For the losing party to appeal means he has not accepted the decision made, which violates the original understanding. Further, the reason is common sense. An ombudsman is there to resolve the dispute and get the game going again. He is not there to provide ground work for the next ombudsman. Of course, the player, if he loses, may want to persuade a ratingsmaster not to rate the game, for example, but that is another matter. The ombudsman is just the person who decides how the game will proceed.

Now to the specifics in this situation. Gary suggested (page 22) 6 possible names as ombudsman, and said that he wanted someone who had the right to declare the game irregular. Gary ASSUMED that anyone with experience could do this, but in fact, only the BNC does this, only the BNC has this right. The GM, [Dick] Martin, selected [John] Michalski as the ombudsman, and both parties then wrote to Michalski. Michalski is a fine choice, and if I had a dispute, and the GM suggested Michalski, I would accept.

In fact, Michalski does not have the power to call the game irregular. Rather than take full responsibility for his mistake, he [Gary Coughlan] tries to ascribe evil intent to Dick Martin, saying (page 22) "From a later postcard, I now know that Dick knew this all along" (the "this" being the fact that only Ditter can call a game irregular). What later postcard? Apparently this refers to the February 6 note written by Martin (page 19), saying, "...I think I should point out one important fact. Only the BNC can declare a game irregular." This note, I might add, was written at about the same time as Michalski was writing his decision. But Gary only ASSUMES that Dick Martin knew all along. For all we know, Dick Martin just found out on February 6, who knows? There is just as much evidence, i.e. zero, that Gary knew all along and saved this fact for the day he might need it to discredit or overthrow Michalski's decision.

Michalski's decision went against Gary on all counts. Gary says (page 20): "I was really stunned. I thought I had presented my case so well, all those documents,

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"all that time. Then seeing the GM winning by definition, winning by benefit of the doubt." It is quite true that Gary had presented his case extremely well. Indeed, if all players had presented cases as well as Gary did, ombudsmen would have easier jobs. The GM, by contrast, had at best made a perfunctory presentation, and had pretty much ignored one of the issues altogether.

However, neatness does not count. No matter how thoroughly presented, it wasn't persuasive. In fact, it wasn't even necessary for the GM to supply anything. The similar situation arises sometimes in court cases. The prosecution presents its case and then sits down. The defense says, in effect, "Judge, even if everything the prosecution sez[says] is true, it's still not enough to convict, so why bother with the other side at all?"

Now, let's turn at this point to the issues. Gary correctly divides them into three categories: A) Questionable GM rulings B) The DIAS [Draws Include All Survivors] controversy C) The removal of [Jack] Masters. I'll take these one at a time.

A) The "questionable GM Rulings". Frankly, these are not too important, in my opinion, as they are the weakest points that Gary makes. If you want to save time, just skip down to the \*\*\*\*\*[See \*\*\*\* at "B. The DIAS question" on page 25].

Austrian Builds: In the Fall 1909 results, Austria was written as even, but Coughlan realized (Coughlan is Turkey) that he was really +1. However, he did not submit conditional orders "so as not to tip off the GM to tip off Austria." But the next issue had both Austria building Fleet Trieste and the Spring 1910 results; Gary complains that "He [Dick Martin] should have informed us that Austria was given a build so we could have submitted conditional orders." This makes it sound a bit like he wanted to be told this before the Winter 1910 builds, but anyhow, Gary asked for Spring 1910 to be replayed. This complaint has little merit. The error is an extremely common type (it happened in [Eric] Verheiden's Demo game), and many GMs expect the players to catch this, as it's a very easy type of error to catch. I think Martin should have separated seasons, but not doing so was in keeping with ordinary GMing practices, as many good GMs would have done exactly as Dick did. If Gary wants to play games and not tell the GM, fine, but he cannot then turn around and say that he was denied his shot at conditionals--because he deliberately chose not to submit conditionals. And replay is too drastic a remedy.

Missing Retreat: Gary's fleet was dislodged in Fall 1910, but he gave no retreat order for it. The fleet was given the order "F Apu-Ven" in Spring 1911; Gary feels that his "intent" to retreat to Apulia was clear, so the GM should NOT have removed the fleet. This is an example of an "implied order", and they have been argued about for years. A well-known example is "F Bla C A Sev-Ank", but the player forgets to write separately, "A Sev-Ank"--later arguing that it was implied. Actually, the player's position in the convoy case is stronger than Gary's, because the player really did write "A Sev-Ank", though he did it only once, not twice, like he should have--and Gary didn't write the word "retreat" at all. Even so, many respectable GMs would not accept the convoy, as they do not accept implied orders, and Gary's position is even weaker here. I personally would accept implied orders (so long as the implication isn't ambiguous) in the convoy case, but here it's more questionable. Further NO GM CAN BE CRITICIZED FOR FOLLOWING THE RULEBOOK, UNLESS HE HAD A HOUSERULE WHICH OVERRULES IT. That should be self-evident, and the Rulebook is explicit--no retreat order, no retreat. Many GMs do overrule the Rulebook on this, but many do not. Dick's ruling was in accordance with the Rulebook.

Superfluous Removal: In Winter 1910, Turkey ordered the removal of "F Con, F Ank". Actually, he needed to remove only one; the GM removed F Con. No orders were given for either F Con or F Ank in Spring 1911--so no clue there. The Rulebook does not say what to do in such a situation--it's not a CD [Civil Disorder]. The GM's removal was arbitrary, true, but Gary's removal orders forced him to be arbitrary. He had to make a removal, but any choice would be arbitrary because the Rulebook gives no guidance. I have never seen this situation arise before (it arose here presumably because the fleet retreat OTB [Off the Board] eliminated the need for a removal) but I have seen a few cases where too many builds were given, and as I recall, the GM simply went down the list, starting at the top, which is what Dick Martin did as well. Accordingly, Martin's action was proper.

These three issues are really not the subject of much dispute. He [Gary Coughlan] has taken them up with Michalski, Ditter, Berch and Walker, a rather motley collection and hasn't gotten anywhere.



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B) The DIAS Question: Well after the game was underway, the GM announced the game would be run under DIAS, Draws Include All Survivors. Gary, and apparently others objected. Gary calls this imposition "illegal" and states "I did not sign up for a DIAS game", and "DIAS was not in effect when I signed up." However, it appears that Gary was mistaken in this. In issue #41/42 [Retaliation, Dick Martin's zine], the GM states "I had originally made no provisions for just what was included in a draw, and sought to rectify the matter with a new set of HRs [Houserules] in January 1980." Thus he had no stated policy. However, again, a GM can be assumed to be following the Rulebook unless he has a HR (or stated policy, etc.) specifically stating a different procedure. And the Rulebook is unquestionably DIAS. Though in the absence of a policy to the contrary, the GM is presumed to be following the Rulebook and cannot be criticized for following the Rulebook. Respectable GMs such as John Boardman, Eric Verheiden, and Robert Lipton have used DIAS.

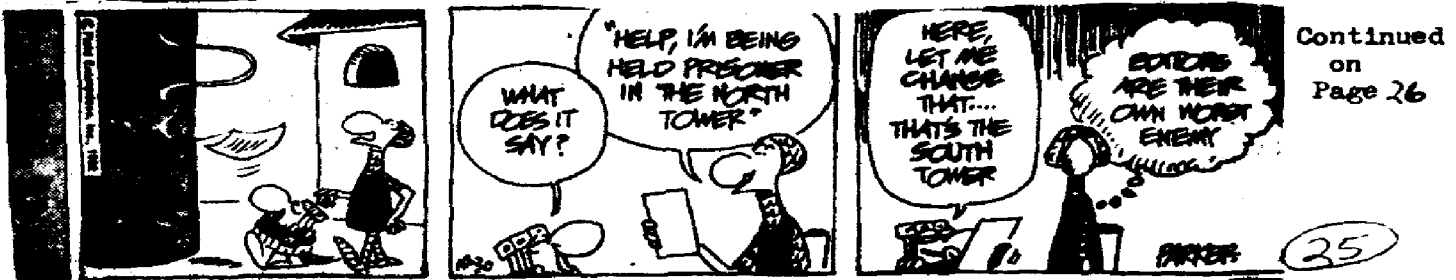
And the fact that Gary thought that Martin did not follow the Rulebook on this point is unfortunate for Gary. He has given no ground for merely assuming that Dick did not follow the Rulebook, and thus cannot complain when it turns out that the GM does indeed follow it. Martin then polled the players in the games which had been underway when the DIAS rule was announced. He stated that "No Vote Received" would count as "Yes." This is, of course, stacking the vote. I personally don't agree with this practice in a situation like this, but it is so common that it cannot be considered as bad GMing. It is also based on the rather sound and oft relied upon principle of "Silence Means Consent." Finally, as the vote passed, accepting DIAS, Martin imposed it on all games, i.e. voting was done in a block, all or nothing. By contrast, Gary states, "Since I was instrumental in getting him [Dick Martin] to do it, I naturally assumed it would be voted by game." But this reasoning would mean that any vote would always be by game, since it will normally be some player who objects. Similarly, Gary states, "It was widely believed that each of the 4 games would decide for itself if it wanted DIAS or not." But no justification for that belief is presented, Martin never said it would be by game, nor did Gary request it by game. I might add that I've seen a number of votes taken on how a game would be run (a couple on deadlines, one on retreats), and they've all been block votes. Accordingly, I do not believe that the "imposition" of DIAS on this game was improper.

C) The Removal of [Jack] Masters: This is the most difficult matter of the entire dispute. The core question is this: Did Martin have the right to remove Masters as a player in the game? If he didn't have the right, the game is clearly irregular.

Masters resigned as Austria with his Fall 1910 orders. Martin stated that he hoped it was "just a spur of the moment thing", but appointed a standby just in case. Both parties then reversed their publicly stated positions. Masters said he wanted back in, and submitted orders. Martin said he wanted Masters out and refused to accept them. The question of timing is an imponderable--Martin could always claim that he decided to accept the resignation the day before Masters mailed in his orders, and who could gainsay him?

The situation is really quite symmetrical, and that is important. It seems to me that either both parties can reverse their public positions or neither party can. I cannot see the logic of permitting one party to change his position without also letting the other party change his public position.

OK, if neither party can change his position, then Masters is out of the game---his resignation stands. If both parties can change their position, then, as I indicated above, the GM can simply say that he changed his mind first, and accepted



the player's resignation before the recision arrived in the mail.

The players must realize that one of the risks that you take when you resign is that the GM might decide to accept it. Alexander Haig [US Secretary of State who resigned] took the same risk everytime he submitted his resignation to Reagan. The last time it was accepted.

It is a difficult question. I fully recognize that reasonable people can easily come to an opposite conclusion. I know of no hobby precedent on whether a GM is required to accept a player's recision of his resignation. It's a judgement call. And that's one of the things that an ombudsman has to do, and that a BNC has to do: make a judgement call.

Of course, Martin took a tremendous risk when he left Masters' status up in the air. If Masters had written one of the players that he was going to submit orders anyhow, and if that player had relied on Masters' letter, then the game would be very severely damaged. However, no one has alleged that this actually happened. Once Martin had left things up in the air, though, the accept-the-resignation scenario was no more risky than the accept-the-recision-of-the-resignation scenario. In either case, a player guessing wrong could be screwed. In either case, a player could protect himself with contingent orders, one set of orders for no-Masters, one set of orders for Masters-still-in-the-game. That is what I would have done as a player, since both possibilities are reasonable events to occur.

Thus, I personally conclude that Martin did in fact have the right to accept Masters' resignation.

This leads directly to the issue of Ditter's conduct. Coughlan is extremely critical of Ditter's handling of the request-for-irregular-status. Gary cites the delay that he had to endure in getting replies from Ditter---a valid criticism. However, Coughlan says of Ditter: "Ditter failed in this primary duty of fairness. He completely failed to get me a fair hearing" (Page 31). An examination of pages 30-31 reveals that Coughlan's main charge here is that Ditter decided that the removal of Masters was proper without learning what Martin's reasons were for accepting the resignation.

However, once Ditter determines that Martin was within his rights to accept the Masters' resignation, Martin's reasons become irrelevant. At this point, who cares? GMs have accepted players' resignations for over 15 years in the postal hobby. No one has ever, to my knowledge, insisted that the GM give his reasons for accepting a resignation.

Here's an analogous situation. It is generally accepted that a GM has the right to determine who can play in his games. If a GM does not want Joe Blow or anyone else to play in one of his games, he has the right to refuse his game fee. He is within his rights to do this. By the same token, the GM is not obliged to tell Joe Blow or anyone else his reasons for exercising that right. He may decide to do it anyhow, of course. But if Joe Blow were to complain to the BNC, the BNC would not need to ask the GM why he exercised the right. All the BNC needs to do to determine that the GM did in fact have the right to act as he did.

As a side note, it should be observed that this complaint did not come from Jack Masters. Jack is well-known in the hobby for voicing complaints. Ditter could well have decided that a challenge could only have come from the removed player himself.

To sum up, then, my conclusions: 1. I agree with the rulings of Ombudsman Michalski, and had I been the ombudsman, I would have ruled the same way on all the questions. 2. Gary received a fair hearing from Ditter on the question of whether the game should be called irregular. 3. I agree with the ruling by the BNC that the game is in fact regular, and would have ruled that way if I were the BNC. It is, I might add, a fairly close question.

There are several other items that I want to discuss as well. The first is: Who is an ombudsman? In this situation, there was one and only one ombudsman; Michalski. Gary, however, repeatedly refers to Ditter as an ombudsman. Thus, on page 31, he says of Ditter: "You have failed as a....ombudsman". On page 15 he refers to Ditter as "ombudsman/BNC". On page 23, he says: "The Ombudsmen, either one of them...." Gary is mistaken. Ditter simply decided whether or not the game should be called irregular, a process that usually takes place after the game has ended, I might add, though there have been a very few other exceptions. By the time Ditter had made his ruling, the game was long since underway. He was thus in no position to, for example, put Masters back in the game. Moreover, there is no evidence that Martin ever agreed to have two ombudsmen.



(Mark Berch's Response Continued from page 26)

Second, Gary makes numerous sweeping statements about the functioning of ombudsmen which I must take the **STRONGEST POSSIBLE EXCEPTION** to. On page 14, he says "The GM in all ombudsman cases is given the benefit of every doubt--count on that." On page 20, he characterizes Michalski's decision as "the GM winning by definition." There are other cracks about how he was screwed by the Ombudsman system.

These statements are untrue, both in this case and in general. Gary is wildly over-generalizing even if these were true in this case. I have seen ombudsmen overrule GMs and I have seen them NOT give the benefit of doubt to the GM. The only case I ever took to an ombudsman resulted in the GM being reversed, and I

myself have reversed GMs on several occasions(although I have upheld them more often than reversed). Of course there is bias in favor of the GM. If a player says he sent in orders, and the GM says they never came, the GM's word will prevail. The ombudsman looks to see if the GM is following his own HRs [Houserules]--but it's the GM, not the player who writes those HRs. If there is no houserule to cover some situation (as is so often the case in these disputes), then the ombudsman looks to see if the solution adopted is generally within accepted GMing practices--practices which are set by GMs. (For example, suppose a GM, having no HR, decides to accept orders linked by codewords and another player objects. The ombudsman will not overrule the GM, because the use of codewords in an acceptable GMing practice, even if relatively few GMs will allow them). But this does not mean that the ombudsman feels that a GM is right by definition. If Gary's statements were accepted as true, the institution of Ombudsman would be just a worthless rubber stamp.

Third, there is the matter of the Martin "ultimatum" quoted at the bottom of page 24, which is the first I have heard of this. This represents disgraceful conduct on the part of Martin. A GM has no business telling a player what to write or not write to the other players. His concern is whether the player is getting in his orders and keeping up the sub. This is particularly true if, as Coughlan has alleged, it was Martin, and not Coughlan, who was keeping the issue alive within the context of the pages of Retaliation.

I want to close with a few purely subjective comments on the actions of people in this affair.

John Michalski did his job as ombudsman quite well. I think it's interesting to note that John, a GM highly regarded by his players, and myself, who never GMed a game, came to the same conclusion.

Don Ditter was unduly slow in responding to many of Coughlan's communications, an error which I believe he presently recognizes. Aside from that, he treated Coughlan fairly, was entitled to rely heavily on Michalski's report if he so desired and came to a conclusion that I agree with. I think however, that he should return to the former practice of making such evaluations of irregular status only after a game is completed.

Dick Martin, judging him only from this game, is a poor GM. His deliberate delay in selecting an ombudsman and his ultimatum to Coughlan are both inexcusable. When Masters tendered his resignation, he should have either accepted it immediately, or contacted Masters privately before announcing the resignation(to try to take him out of it). And when he changed his mind, he should have had a season delay at that time. Making critical comments about Coughlan's comments in Retaliation(except in response to Coughlan's comments in Retaliation, if any) shows poor judgement. I hope that either R-3 was an exceptional game or that Martin will rethink his attitude toward GMing.

Coughlan presents a very mixed bag. Procedurally he has bent over backwards to be fair, even including the final touch of not charging for these two issues, which must be a considerable financial burden. I do not for a minute question his sincerity in thinking he is doing this on behalf of the players in the hobby. However, I think his passion has, at times, overwhelmed his good judgement. He is too quick to assume evil intent on the part of others. His language has been repeatedly very inflammatory. He has assumed from the fact that neither Michalski nor Ditter would back him up that ~~the system does not work~~. I do not believe that he understands that both of them felt they had all the information that they needed. I am frankly puzzled as to why he would criticize Ditter (for not inquiring, but not criticize Michalski for not inquiring.

(Concluded on page 28 ) (27)

(Mark Berch's response Continued from page 27 )

And Gary should be more cautious about making "assumptions".

As for Berch's contribution, I leave that evaluation to others.

P.S. Please feel free to correct all errors of spelling and punctuation. I know how you despise such things.

Mark L. Berch

((If there is any misspelling in Mark's response, it is my fault! I posed fatigue because he certainly gave me a spelling work-out!))

((Next with his views of this particular R-3 case and GM-player relations is Rod Walker who is the pubber of Diplomacy World and author of The Gamer's Guide to Diplomacy. Commenting on EE #18, Rod wrote:))

"As to the whole thing on R-3: I don't see much reason to respond, since I've already said a lot on this and you have all my letters. I believe that the important point is already made...namely that people new to the hobby often have a hard time finding out how things work (or are supposed to work) and that we presently lack satisfactory mechanisms for resolving problems which arise with the quality of GMing. I still feel that the circumstances under which Masters was removed may be more-or-less justifiable from one point of view, but border on GM malfeasance from another (and, in my opinion, more valid) point of view. Mark Berch, still, I believe, strongly disagrees with me on this, but I believe that is because of the difference in points of view. Mark is more mechanistic in his approach, perhaps; that is, based for instance on a strictly literal feeling that a resignation is a resignation is a resignation. I am approaching it more from a sort of notion of a GM's unwritten ethical responsibility."

((This is Gary again. I called Rod and asked him, in that case, if I could print his review of the R-3 case and he agreed. He wrote it on July 18, 1982.))

Dear Gary,

You requested my opinion on this, and I now finally feel ready to give one. The materials sent by you are also enclosed. I noticed the numbering of them yesterday (having previously been mostly interested in the contents), and there appears to be a gap, although I can't tell if anything vital is missing. The items are numbered 1-13, 30-39, C, D, G and no number (a February 6 letter from Dick). However, nothing mentioned in any of the subsidiary discussions seems to be missing, so perhaps this is a complete set and the gap in the numbers does not indicate a gap in reference materials.

There are several issues here. The big one is whether the Boardman Number Custodian made an appropriate decision. In order to make a suggestion in that matter, it's necessary to go over the other issues. I am not doing this with any intent to undermine the decisions of the original ombudsman (John Michalski) nor that of the BNC. I agree with all those who have said that one ombudsman is enough.

1. DIAS [Draws Include All Survivors]. It's unclear what Dick's original HRs [House rules] had to say about draws, although the correspondence I've seen on this suggests that originally they were silent on the subject. The situation would be a little different if he [Dick Martin] had had one HR on who would be included in a draw and then changed it in mid-stream as opposed to having no specific rule and then adding one. In the latter instance, he could just as easily cited the Rulebook and imposed DIAS when the first draw situation came up. Regardless of what the original HRs did or did not say, Dick did conduct a vote on the matter. He restricted those eligible to the original players in the games which would be affected. He announced in advance that NVR [No Vote Received] would be a "yes" vote (a normal procedure, one long in use among GMs). When I read Dick's original call for a vote, I felt he was saying that the votes would be lumped for all games..and it was very clear that he wanted to have all games under the same rule. Gary interpreted the language differently (to mean that the votes would be counted for each game separately) and admittedly ~~mis~~ the language is on the ambiguous side. However: the vote was called for, conducted and announced. Misinterpretations, such as Gary's misreading of Dick's statement, are not uncommon in the hobby. Nothing occurred here which can reasonably be construed as deliberately or maliciously inimical to the interests of any individual player. Michalski and Ditter did not consider there to be any issue of GM misconduct here and I agree with them.

2. Turkey's Winter 1910/Spring 1911 orders: I agree with Gary that his Spring 1911 orders made his Winter 1910 intent clear. Some GMs (myself included) would have

((Continued on page 28 ))

(28)

shown Fleet Naples retreating to Apulia and then disbanded the two home units as ordered. However, many other GMs would have done exactly as Dick did. Bruce Linsey, for one. Their ruling would be that no specific retreat order for Fleet Naples was written, therefore it could not retreat and must be disbanded. Only one further removal would then be needed. The first one written was Fleet Constantinople; off it goes. Turkey is now even so the order to disband Fleet Ankara clearly fails. Which way to rule, the lenient way or the strict way, is entirely a matter of GM judgement. I would not argue the strict way (Dick's) is the best; I feel it is inferior in equity. But he still made a justifiable, correct decision, within the Rules and hobby tradition. Icky, but correct. Again, Michalski and Ditter ruled the same way.

3. The Masters Resignation: This is the sticky wicket. With his Fall 1910 orders, Jack Masters resigned. Dick stated when he printed the orders that he hoped the resignation would be revoked, but he would ask for a standby just in case. But with the very next season (Winter 1910), Dick stated that Jack had sent orders but that he had accepted the resignation after all and would (and did) replace Jack. Given the clear statement with the Fall 1910 game report, Jack Masters had every reason to expect that his orders would be accepted, and so did Gary and the other players in the game. I do not see anything in any of the copied materials which indicates what reason Dick may have had for changing his mind. However, the validity of his reason is not an issue. The issue is his clear and published statement that he would accept Jack's orders if received and his clear and published refusal to keep that commitment. There is no evidence here that Dick ever notified his players in advance that he had changed his mind. I would believe that the expectation Jack could still stay in the game would certainly have affected the diplomacy prior to, and the orders during, that season. If this is a case of GM carelessness, it is a very extreme one, and I would consider it more than just carelessness. This is based only on the evidence I have seen and obviously, had I been involved as an ombudsman on this matter, I would have wanted to look into it more carefully.

This brings us to the heart of the matter. Gary you contend that:

- (a) The BNC should have investigated the matter further, and
- (b) The BNC should have declared the game "irregular", and
- (c) The BNC acted wrongfully by not doing (a) and (b).

Assuming I have seen everything you sent to Don, I tend to agree with (a). However, that depends a lot on the answer to (b). If the BNC would have declared the game "irregular" under a "worst case" scenario for the Masters removal, then he should have given Dick a chance to discuss the matter before he did so. However, if the BNC did not feel the "worst case" scenario would make the game "irregular", then he acted perfectly properly. So we have to examine possible answers to (b).

The answer to (b) is not determined by asking whether the GM screwed up, or whether the GM screwed you. "Irregular" is a flag the BNC puts on a game to alert rating system compilers that there is something about the game which they may wish to consider in determining whether the game should be rated. It applies equally to perfectly good games such as "local" and "telephone" games as well as to some pretty awful abortions. Some raters (e.g. McLendon) will not rate any "irregular" game. Others (e.g. me) prefer to make up their own minds.

The decision of the BNC in any given case is partly his own individual judgement and partly precedent. There are precedents in this instance but they are not clear. The precedent is that if a GM removes a player without good cause, the game may be irregular. "Good cause" would be defined as NMRs, resignation, failure to keep up a subscription (where required to play in the game), deception of the GM, and perhaps some others. The specific precedents are a pair of games in which Buddy Tretick and



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Rod Walker's Response Continued from page 29 ))

Charles Keinsel were players and each was the GM in the other's game. They got into a spat and each dumped the other as a player. The games were declared "irregular". Direct GM interference in the players' conduct of their own game is generally considered something which makes the game "irregular", as with a pair of English games in which the GM made all retreats.

However a situation precisely like this one has not come up before. It may have happened before, but I don't recall that the BNC has ever had to consider it for possible "irregularity" before. It may be that Dick had "good cause" to remove Jack (in addition to the resignation). It may be that he simply decided to accept the resignation after all. In either event, he should have sent an interim notice to the players or delayed the game one issue while giving them notice that he was making the replacement. The important factor, I believe, is the promise made and then not kept, apparently without prior notice.

Did the BNC act wrongfully? The answer is decidedly no. If it could be shown that the BNC made a decision deliberately and maliciously prejudicial to Gary (or to anyone, for that matter), that would be another matter. But the worst which can be said is that the BNC made an error in judgement when considering the problem. Little mistakes caused people to lose their heads during the French Revolution, but I hope we have all grown up some since then and recognize that a mistake is not an abuse of authority.

The BNC's decision in this matter is perfectly correct except, perhaps, in the specific instance of the Masters resignation. In this case, Don either

- (1) Knew something that I don't about the case, or
- (2) Decided that although Dick acted improperly, the game was still not "irregular",

or

- (3) Decided this was not a case of improper action but of careless GMing.

If (1) is true, then the whole issue is moot from my point of view. If (2) is true, then on the basis of what I've seen I would disagree with Don's decision...that is, I feel he is mistaken in his judgement of the matter. I agree that the precedents don't apply precisely, but also note that then this decision is itself a precedent and not a good one. I don't say that Don is obligated to change his mind because he might have some perfectly cogent arguments on his side. But my feeling would be that he should reconsider this item and look more into it.

If (3) is true, I also disagree. The GM made a specific commitment to his players; namely, to accept a set of orders if they were submitted. He then broke that commitment. That is irresponsibility above and beyond the call of carelessness. Again, Dick may have perfectly good reasons for doing what he did, and of which I am unaware, so this opinion is based only on what Gary has sent me. Were I in a position to make any effective judgement, I would of course investigate more.

If anything I have said here brings up issues which Don has not previously considered, then it would not be amiss for him to reopen the issue and look into it. If he does do this, and then finds the game "irregular", my feeling is that I would not rate the game.

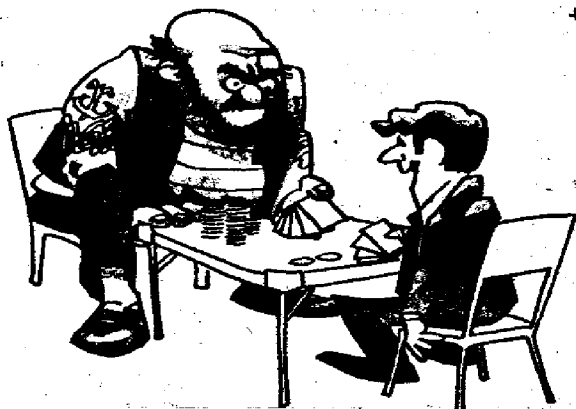
If Don does not do this, or does reopen the issue but still does not find the game "irregular", my feeling now is that I will want to consider the game myself more closely and possibly drop it from the rating system I am now compiling. It appears that the cumulative effects of the Masters resignation may have affected the game too much for it to be compared fairly with others.

This brings up a possibly related side issue. Although sloppy GMing is not ipso facto a justification for "irregular" status, it seems to me that there is a point at which the cumulative effects of continual GM problems and gaffes could be said to have altered the course of the game totally. Games of this character really ought not to be rated. The question is, when is that point reached? I don't say that 1979 KG is an example of what I have in mind; I don't know. Nor do I recommend that the BNC get involved in that sort of hair-splitting..he has plenty to do as it is.

I do recommend that some person or group of people take up the job of investigating games (on the basis of complaints received) to see if the GMing is so poor they would recommend deleting them from rating systems. This would eliminate pressure on the BNC for the improper use of "irregular" to designate such games, put pressure on GMs to do better, and close a gap in the ways the hobby has of dealing with problems.

I believe we always have known this sort of problem existed, but until you

((Continued on page 31)) (30)



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.

Sincerely, Rod Walker

P.S. There is one aspect of this whole situation which I find unsettling. I would characterize that aspect with the word bullying. Assuming an absolute worst case circumstance, Don Ditter made a perfectly human mistake in a complex matter for which no definite precedents exist. All of a sudden Don Ditter is a no-goodsonofabitch and ought to be tarredandfeathered and runoutonarail. All of a sudden he can't subscribe to your 'zine and you cancel your sub to his. Shades of Charles Reinsel, Buddy Tretick and John Boardman! Talk about overreacting...what are you going to do when somebody does you real dirt? Are you going to cry "wolf" every time somebody looks cross-eyed at you?

Then you virtually demand that Fred Davis, Mark Berch and I form a sort of lynch mob and go after Don...with various threats and mutterings-under-the-breath about what you'll do at DipCon if we don't hop-to-it. Explanations that your proposed political actions against the BNC were not only ill-advised but also impracticable only produced more anger, and my proposals of possible positive alternatives (repeated in this letter...) were ignored. This suggests more an interest in vengeance than in problem-solving.

More recently our opinions have clashed on another matter [The Leeder Poll]. I have what I believe are legitimate interests and complaints in the matter which I expressed to you. As a direct result you suddenly demanded the return of the materials on the R-3 problem. Since the two matters are wholly unconnected, I felt your demand unreasonable. Furthermore, it made no real sense since the materials are copies of originals, not originals. And finally, it seemed nonsensical because the return of the physical sheets of paper would in no way deter me from writing the opinion which you now have. I therefore demurred, telling you that you would get the whole thing, "documents" and opinion, in due course. You responded with an almost hysteric demand, threatening various consequences if the sheets of paper were not returned to you by a certain date. I fail to understand why you are overreacting in this way, nor why you feel such a need to bully people in that fashion. Every time somebody doesn't do exactly as you want, when you want it, you suddenly have "lost faith" in them, make unfair and exaggerated polemics against their character and integrity, issue denunciations and threats, and in general behave abominably. Paranoid, even. I mean, your exact phrase in referring to my keeping these sheets of paper a moment longer was, "I won't let you screw me over." That isn't even remotely logical. Kindly explain to me, please, how my holding a set of copies (not originals) for a few days longer, and then returning them to you, can possibly "screw you over". Are you having this frantic snit just because you aren't getting your own way? That's what it looks like from here.

Although you claim to have "lost faith" (&c., &c.) in me, I have not (yet) lost faith in you, although perhaps I have more cause. From the very first issue of EUROPA EXPRESS, and our earliest correspondence, I have felt you were a good and decent human being. I recall the charity (in St. Paul's sense) and patience with which you dealt with John Boardman's verbal nastiness toward you. The reason I am upset with you at the moment is very much due to the fact that your statements to Ditter, me, and others have been so utterly non-typical of you. I can only hope...have faith...that we are going to see a return of the Gary Coughlan we all knew and liked in 1981.

(And by the way, if it's of any interest to you, I readily admit that I overreacted in the matter of the Leeder Poll. See? It doesn't hurt all that much to say, "Gee, guys, I'm sorry I (fill in mistake here) .")

Rod

((I got Rod's comments above, right before ORIGIN'S which both of us would be attending. I called him and we discussed this letter. This whole case has been very frustrating, especially to me and I admit that I did overreact at times, but don't we all have episodes in our lives that we later regret?)) I am printing this P.S. mainly because Dick Martin  
(See page 32) (3)







(WHO is the man in this picture? You tell me! Find out how by looking at page 32 )

(Jim Williams' response continued from page 32 )

"anyone like my tie? Steve Langley is another one with a thing for Easterners. I'm not very trustworthy though so Steve gets  $\frac{1}{2}$  credit.

Mark Luedi---the winner. He is truly a gem of a man. He met me and actually remembered! We didn't even talk for long at all. I was already impressed with this guy for his quick-witted quips in Kathy's Korum but now I believe I've found a role model!

□ Thanks, Jim, I'm sure that put them in their places! The deadline for the next picture contest is December 3, 1982 and is about the guy on this page. What's he like? Where's he from? Is this a face to trust in a Dip game? Whatever this picture "tells" you, you tell me. EE wants a black and white picture of you too for these contests. And, like Jim, you get right of reply. See what others think of you based on your picture alone! And, now to more serious topics.

□□

□ John Caruso (New York, USA): "If the enclosed letter doesn't appear in EE #19, I will send copies of it to others to print, not to mention printing it in Whitestonia. I think I have to. It seems the only way. I am not going to sit idly, while 2 of my friends destroy each other. It hurts me to see you 2 do this. Some people may think this is all one big joke. It isn't.

'Gary and Dick,

This is a letter for print to the both of you. Since most of the "trash" appeared in EE, it is hoped Gary prints this in EE #19. Whether Dick also prints this in Retaliation is up to him. I'm sure I will get my point across.

As you know I have been thrust into this, so-called "vendetta" that you 2 seem to be throwing at one another. I think I can safely say I speak for the majority when I say, "We don't want to hear about it." But obviously to all of us, telling you will do no good.

As you know, I have also just started an OSF [ombudsman Service Pool], whose purpose is to end (or try to end) things such as this, if possible. However, I can see no way in hell that this situation could ever be resolved. You both seem hell bent on being RIGHT. I offer you both a simple solution. If the 2 of you feud with each other, one must lose. My solution is to have 2 separate feuds. So this letter is hereby, a public attack by me on the both of you. Gary--you are a sorehead, drunken mouth of the South. You are a crybaby. Your opinions are lies, your zine's editorial policy sucks. And Dick--you are a crooked GM who hates to be corrected you DRIP. Your zine is as irregular as your GMing. Your opinions are also lies.

Now, neither of you have an excuse for not attacking me. I have called you both, more or less, just what you've called each other. Since my attacks are the most recent, I expect to be the one attacked. I DEMAND IT! And what will I do? I will wimp off and concede to both of you so you each can win your feud, and the hobby can try to get back to normal."

□ I understand what you are trying to do, John, and I do appreciate it and I intend to work with you on the Ombudsman Service Pool. The rest of your letter I disagree with almost completely. I don't like being told I must print your letter while Dick can if he wants to. You were not thrust into this "vendetta". As you well know, Dick Martin wrote vicious lies about me in his Retaliation. I responded in EE #18 to this totally unprovoked attack and I did it in a fair way, unlike Dick. I make sure that my subbers know exactly where I am coming from and why. But before EE #18 ever came out, you wrote the following in your Whitestonia #56/57:

"It seems Dick Martin is back in the news. No, he didn't get thrown out of his apartment yet, nor did he and Julie end it. It seems Retaliation has come out, and uncharacteristic of Retaliation, there was a vendetta attack in there. I can see it of VOD [Voice of Doom] (which had its own attack), I can see it of Diplomacy Digest, Give Me A Weapon, even Italiano Pribe, but fun-loving Dick and Retaliation? What is this hobby coming to? It isn't bad enough that some people complain about things, but now we have pubbers complaining about the complainers. Sort of sounds like either a soap opera, or a lonely hearts club."

Dick Martin knows what he did was wrong (See page 4 ) but he doesn't have the decency to to say so to his readers. And now Konrad Baumeister, in his Give Me A Weapon, has

((Continued on page 34 ))

(Continued from page 33)

also written vicious lies about me for responding to Martin's vendetta (See page 6). Konrad, who is a close friend of Dick Martin, couldn't bring himself to criticize Dick's remarks at all.

I am not on their level. I have never gone after anybody in this hobby and I don't print lies or character assassinations as both of them did. They can whine if they want to when I respond but they brought it upon themselves. No one has ever tried harder than I have, and with the best of intentions, to get along with Dick Martin as I have. I intend to see that both the Retaliation and Give Me A Weapon subbers are told about the other side. After I do that, their subbers will definitely know that Dick and Konrad have axes to grind against me. I won't respond in the future because I will no longer be getting those zines. But these lies in these two issues of their zines will be corrected. I can back up everything I say; Dick and Konrad can't and, unlike me, they can only print one side---theirs.

□□□

Doug Beyerlein(California, USA): "I understand that the Stafford and Martin comments hurt you very deeply and that you want to set the record straight. If I were in your position I would want to do the same. What I was trying to say in my last letter was that there are many ways to do that. I am just afraid that your method will work against you in the long run. It is overkill, although I am sure that it doesn't look like it to you. The problem is that your sensitivity is making you an easy mark.... Whether you like it or not, your publishing of EE makes you a highly visible person in the postal Diplomacy hobby. That in itself takes away some of your privacy. It is true for all public figures....So, if you are going to be a publisher you have to be able to stand the heat of the kitchen, to paraphrase Harry Truman."

□ I wrote to Doug that I ~~may~~ <sup>am</sup> visible in this hobby because I am a publisher but I will not react mildly to vicious lies such as Martin and Stafford wrote, whatever their reasons were if any. If I am chosen as a "target" by someone, this someone will find that this "target" has both the will and the ability to strike back hard. I know a joke when I see one and these weren't jokes. Rather than write a barely one-page character assassination as Dick Martin and Konrad Baumeister have both done, I explain to my readers why I am doing what I'm doing. It takes more time and more space but it undeniably gets the point across. And I didn't charge one subber any costs for my issues, as they did. And I have fully presented their sides. I was not so lucky in their zines. I prefer my method. Call it overkill if you will, it is certainly not character assassination at which Dick and Konrad have shown they excell at. And as you say, Doug, it wasn't you that was attacked.

□□□

Peter Ashley(Colorado, USA): "Your charges in EE #18 are certainly going to make hobby history. First I thought you had blown the whole thing way out of proportion, as no doubt you have gotten cards and letters from all of Dippydom saying so. Plus I remember how fast Masters alienated me and I guess the rest of the hobby with his crusader rhetoric.

However one incident you pointed at seems to make your reaction proper. As a reader of Anduin, I am exposed to Martin's letters there. And I remember very distinctly his charges of your drunkenness. Now I know you already from one Con so I have some experience to discount his statements, but they did make me ask whether you were drunk at such-and-such Con. I can only imagine how someone who doesn't know you believes.

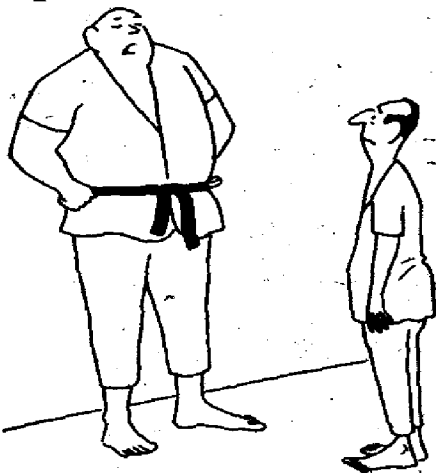
I've also come to the conclusion that the only way to handle criticism, character assassination and the like in this hobby is to answer it. Unanswered statements hang in the air like smoke. And your own zine, while a "drastic" action, is a solid forum for setting the record. In my opinion you have loads of credibility in the hobby, and Martin has an overwhelming burden to face down. It's no pleasure seeing someone's reputation destroyed, but I do think it was warranted here.

□ I do drink at the Cons I go to and I sometimes write letters while I am drinking especially for print to some pubbers. But when Dick said "Memphis Drunkard" he wasn't doing it in a kind way just as he wondered in Anduin if I had had too much "shine". Thank you for understanding why I used EE to answer these character assassins.

□□□

((Continued on page 35 ))

34



(Letter Column continues from page 34 )

Pete Gaughan(California, USA): I wrote you a 2-page letter and stashed it to be mailed after I receive #19, as you requested. Hang in there!

Guy Hail(Texas, USA): "Dan Stafford's slanders are ~~unconscionable~~ ~~stay out of our~~ unconscionable. Stay with us!"

Pat Hart(South Carolina, USA): "I got EE #18. That must have been a pain to put together...I hope you're feeling better about things now and don't leave because of one person."

□ I have received many comments like these and telephone calls as well and I appreciate them all. I was very low before and after EE #18. It seemed everything was coming down on my head at once. It is great to be reminded that one does have good friends.

□□

"Attack me!" Rod Walker(California, USA): "I feel that most people will not get too turned on by your recital of your contretemps with Martin any more than they would by my recital of problems with Sacks. I can't fault your presentation, since it certainly seemed complete. However that very factor may discourage people from reading it.

My overall comment is that you may be taking Martin far more seriously than he intends himself to be taken. There seem to be a number of people in the hobby recently whom I would classify as the "hard tease" types. That is, it is very difficult to tell whether they are speaking in jest. They will come across with some really hard-line -seeming stuff and, when you take umbrage, respond with "can't you take a joke?" Martin may be of this sort."

□ No one could read Martin's garbage and think it was a "joke", not even him(see page 4). I always take character assassination seriously and I have written in behalf of others who have gone through similiar things.

□□

Mark Luedi(Indiana, USA): "Maybe you can draw a parallel between this and what you're going through with Dick. Time, possibly, will heal things if you both let it. It is a shame, but it happens. You just have to do the best you can with it and hope Dick does the same. In the meantime, however, it does cast a shadow over the hobby. And I worry that someday the same thing might happen to me with anybody who now I consider a good hobby friend. I sincerely hope that no more ill-feelings will result from this feud."

□ I am only making sure that the readers of Retaliation and Give Me A Weapon are not getting a one-sided view of ~~me~~. Many of them are also my subbers but some are not. Once I do that, by sending them a copy of this issue plus what Dick actually wrote about me in his zine, that will be it from my viewpoint. Dick has already said in his latest issue that he wants to go back to being "fun-loving". That is fine with me, he does well to return to that status, but he didn't correct the lies about my reputation so how sincere is he? Anyway, my sub to both Retaliation and Give Me A Weapon has been cut and the only connection I have with either of those pubbers is that Dick is in a game in this zine(See page 15) and he and I are in two games together. As I said I overlooked a lot before I put out EE #18 but his "vendetta" was it.

□□

Bob Olsen(Kansas, USA): "I have a new theory, which is that Dick was even more ill-served by Don Ditter than you were. I figure when Dick got let off on the protest without even bothering to say anything, this told him something, confirmed what he had previously probably only vaguely felt, which was that the "Mr Charisma" could get away with anything. If he could beat the rap without doing anything, why not apply the same principle to his games as players and GM, and to his zine as well, for that matter? And if most people let him get away with it, then those who don't must be wrong, correct? Sure! Thus did he become "spoiled" inadvertently. Remember when his flakiness and casual attitude were charming? I do! And somehow they have been changed to..something else."

□ I remember those times as well. But Dick Martin changed and I'm not the only one who has noticed it. And, as I have said, I overlooked a lot until his vendetta against me.

((Continued on page 36 )) (35)

(Letter Column continued from page 35)

Ron Brown(Ontario, Canada): "Okay, re., your battles (EE #18), I wonder, Gary, if you're not overreacting? I know some of the lies told about you were outrageous and it's annoying, to say the least, to see your position distorted in other zines. But remember, this is a hobby, and anyone with the IQ of 10 and the morals of an alligator can start a zine and shoot off his mouth. Frankly, there are a lot of assholes in the hobby(and a lot of excellent, hardworking people as well). I've found, for me, the best way to deal with idiots is to ignore them.

I suppose that's easy for me to say, as I've never been subjected to the sort of thing you're experiencing, except for a couple of issues of Passchendaele. It was relatively easy for me to ignore the lies in Passchendaele as by that time Francois had so little credibility left that I knew I didn't have to answer him. (I wanted to blast him, but better sense, in the form of a wife, prevailed. Turned out she was right.)

The fact that EE was voted number one(if we throw out the garbage votes)and you were voted number 10 as GM, should tell you that you have the respect and support of a great many people. I know I don't give a damn what Dick Martin, or anyone else, says about you, because I can judge for myself everytime I receive an EE. Most people do make up their own minds and aren't influenced by wild unfounded charges.

I do resent, however, your threat to cut subs to any zines which print Dan Stafford's garbage. I decide what goes into my zine. I don't print unfounded attacks on others, but that's not the point. I think you're going to get a lot of people mad at you for that. I realize that you are angry and upset, but that sort of reaction will not help you. A carefully-thought-out putdown of Dan might have worked a lot better. Charges of being gay, or some such, are not worth answering. In this day and age, no one would give a damn if the charges were true in any case. It's of no concern to any-one except you and the person you're with, whatever sex they may be. (I'm sure you're not gay, but, so what if you were?) Hardly worth dropping out of the hobby over.

In short, please remember you're one of the highest regarded GMs and pubbers in North America. You don't have to respond to nonsense. In the "Swedish Roundabout" case, I would have been tempted to go ahead with the next season's adjudication. Why delay a game because of an unformulated charge? I can see it now; a player wants to delay a game for some reason, so he writes the GM, "You have to delay this game because I'm appealing to an ombudsman. It's none of your damn business what I'm appealing. I might get around to telling you when I feel like it." I'd simply carry on with the game until he comes up with something specific that has to be resolved by an outside party. If he NMRs in the meantime, tough shit! Don't let yourself be bullied! If you stand up to such asses they'll leave of their own accord and hopefully will wind up writing insane zines that no one reads or cares about. Anyhow, Gary, calm down. We all love you. Highest regards and fondest wishes."

□ Believe me, Ron, I'm a lot calmer than I was. I don't care what anyone says, EE was number 3 in the Leader Poll this year. If it was number 1, it would have had the votes. Like I have said, I'm bending over to fair to EE players because of my experience. I think I have been very generous with Dick Martin over "Swedish Roundabout" and page 15-16 should meet all of his legitimate gripes. Any zine which prints garbage like Stafford wrote can do so. Freely. But they won't have me as a subber. The problem is that people like you receive EE and can see the other side and I presented both Dick's and mine in, what I consider, a relatively unbiased way. My complaint is that what the readers who do not get EE and only read the lies contained in Retaliation and lately Give Me A Weapon are thinking. Thank you for writing Ron. (I thank all of you who wrote even if I don't say it under your letter.

□□

James Woodson(Minnesota, USA): "Believe it or not I did read all of EE #18. Before it came, I had heard nothing of the "Coughlan-Martin feud" and I will not comment on it until I have seen EE #19. Okay? I will say I'm glad that you did not quit the hobby, before I got the chance to meet you!!"

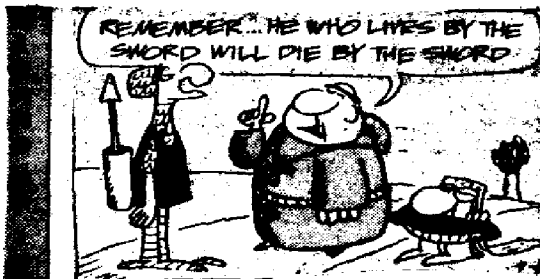
□ (Just remember that I am your ally!). My philosophy in this hobby has been that no one wants to read about feuds, so I try to keep all my disagreements private. But when Dick launched his vendetta against me in his zine, Retaliation, and this was read by all his readers, I had had it. I had tried to get along with him, EE #18 clearly shows that, and I saw all of that as wasted time and effort. So I'm not going to waste my time and effort on trying to understand Dick Martin any longer. I just got fed up.

((Continued on page 37 ))

□□ (30)

REMEMBER... HE WHO LIVES BY THE SWORD WILL DIE BY THE SWORD

(Letter Column continued from page 36)



Mark Fassio (South Carolina, USA): "Whew! Just got your latest issue (I was worried when it was overdue). Needless to say, you have "let it all hang out" in this issue, and I hope to be the first to say: "It's about time!!!" Gary, if I would've had to put up with all that sniping, I would've let him have both barrels a LONG time ago--guess that's the difference between your patience and my emotion.

I honestly can't believe that ~~his~~ such a Jekyll and Hyde in public and then in his zine... ~~If I had read that and NOT~~ seen an outpouring of response from you, I would've thought you were a feeling-less robot or something.

You have nothing to regret or rue from your issue--on the contrary, I think it was very well-organized, truthful and free of vendetta. A swing against a man who is hacking you with a machete is always self-defense, rather than aggravated assault.

Let's just say that I am glad I just sub, rather than pub. The heartache you have experienced, the ups and downs, etc., are much more than is required for such a simple game of skill. Of course, there's nothing like a game to bring out the kid in people, eh?

Gary, there was just so much info. in there, and I read it all in one sitting (break out the Visine) so excuse me if I give you this "broad brush" response rather than get into specifics; I mean, YOU know both sides of the coin already, so there's no sense re-inventing the wheel. I assume you want some sort of reader feedback, and this is it! The feedback says, "Bravo, Coughlan, for standing up to the enemies of truth, and for finally realizing that a man's dignity begins in himself." (Poetic, eh?)

Your zine was a classic, Gary; I can almost see the private and public Martin outpouring now! Well, though you've tried to avoid/settle this thing, may I tell you in all honesty that it is going to heat up before it dies down. Civil War stuff--pubber against pubber, gamer against gamer. But, just like that war, the healing will make everything that much stronger. Dick Martin's Hitler-like bullying and asinine pomposity will be buried in the end, and you have, I think, amply vindicated yourself.

Sorry if I'm going off the "emotional deep end" with my comments; I just wanted to let you know that having all this in print has taken me from apathetic support of a friend...in a dispute I knew nothing of, to a stance of active belligerency, if you will.

Like I told Kathy, if we don't stick up for each other, the geeks in the hobby will run rampant for lack of opposition. You have done the correct thing by printing all this, and I hope you maintain your current courage under fire and stand up to whatever else is thrown at you. I and the rest of your friends will always be there with you in spirit, Gary, you know that."

□ Yes, I know that Faz. Friends like you have helped me see things more objectively and Faz's phone call and Steve Langley's letter (in EE #18) were major reasons preventing this zine from folding. I was really afraid that even after my careful presentation in EE #18 that people wouldn't understand and would resent it. I am confident that I did the right thing.

□□□

Jim Williams (Iowa, USA): "My, but aren't we the testy one! You certainly pulled no punches throughout the issue, which, in Dick Martin sections, gave him a bit of his own medicine. I think you may have been too easy on Dickie all along, resulting in this boil-over of emotions.

I have to say that I really don't care for feuding-type articles, but Dick really had it coming. I know that I would never have been able to contain myself as long as you did. As far as Julie's little letter to Diplomacy By Moonlight, I would have written to her and told her to mind her own damn business.

The Stafford/DBM "Police Call" was another justified complaint, even more than justified. Apparently, when I talked to you on the phone about this, you had recovered somewhat, because I didn't know how deep this unkind cut hurt. As I said, I took the whole thing as a joke (a bad joke, but a joke) in the Woody/BRUX-Suite 100 vein. Of course, I was not the one being written about and the word "homosexual" has never appeared in anything about Suite 100.

The letter by Steve Langley was an excellent one, and it reflects my thoughts as well. I am your friend, be you gay, straight or otherwise."

((My response is on page 38)) (37)

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□ I don't think name-calling should have a place in this hobby and this is what both Stafford and Martin did, however they excuse or dress it up. I think my swift and very widely publicized responses, in EE #18 and in other letters to other zines will go a long way to preventing this sort of thing from happening again. People have to become more aware of what they write and pubbers more aware of what they print. People have been hurt by this whole episode. You mentioned the Suite 100 joke. That is known to be a joke and the jokes are being made by friends of Woody and BRUX. I don't know Stafford at all, although he was once a subber to this zine a while back. And I do know Dick Martin all too well. Thank you Jim for writing.

□□

Steve Arnawoodian(Pennsylvania, USA): "Many thanks for your last issue EE #18 for enlightening the hobby as to the real Dick Martin. I still think you should have charged for it. I guess I should also thank Dick Martin for his continuous compliments toward me. Referring to me as a gutless "cheapshot artist" has really made my day. After all, Dick was the original champion cheapshot artist and during the two years that I've been in Dipdom, I have tried very hard to follow in Dick's footsteps. I now know I am making good headway. So, thank you Dick and please let me know when my apprenticeship is over and I am a pro like you. Signed Anonymous or Woody, take your choice."

□ Woody has called this house often the past few weeks and has seen me go through many mood swings from low to high over this Stafford/Martin situation. Through him, I was able to verbalize my feelings instead of keeping them all bottled up. This let me let off steam and actually think about what I wanted to write and go about it. Thanks, Woody, you are a good friend and I won't forget it.

□□

Cathy Cuning(Arizona, USA): "I didn't know what to expect in #18 and I must admit it was shocking. I couldn't sleep after reading it, I was so upset for you. I will write nothing more on that now, as I will wait for #19, to see the other side. I was thankful that Caruso had written me a few words of advice about this hobby. And I think what you did was quite right. If people upset you, just tell them to "piss off."

The only other comment I would like to say is that I read the things in Diplomacy By Moonlight and Mos Eisley before I got EE #18. I never paid any attention to what was said and just thought it was a joke, not based on any truth. Besides I never cared one way or another about such things. Working in theatre you meet all kinds of people. That's it. Take care Gary and I'm happy that you stood up and said what you did."

□ I am too because it's shown me how many friends I really have. Namecallers should have their comments brought home to them. I still can't believe that they made me feel so low that I was contemplating leaving the hobby. Thanks Cathy.

□□

Mark Keller(California, USA): "Just got EE #18 today and have finished reading it. I have some comments to make, so here they are.

I totally support(with a minor exception below) your position in the Stafford issue. I'm very glad you decided to stay with the hobby. When people launch attacks like that it doesn't change most people's opinion of you, it just lowers their opinion of the person that did it. Now for that exception, in your notice to all pubbers you are being unfair. Any publisher that has a policy of a print-anything uncensored letter column or press in his zine should not be affected. After all once you apply one restriction why not another.....? Both Players' Rights and Poor Richard's Almanac were interesting. I support the bitch page."

□ Thanks for writing Mark and for your support. Let me emphasize that any pubber may print anything he wishes in this hobby. But if this involves character assassination as in the Stafford/Martin/Bausemeister cases, they will lose me as a subber. Any pubber that wants to descend with his zine into the gutter and cover it and himself with mudslinging and personal attacks will do so without me as a subber. That's all I said.

□□

John Baly(North Carolina, USA): "Dick's lucky he didn't pick me."

□ John pubs The Dogs of War and is one of the most non-controversial people that I know of. I just think his statement shows how right I was to respond to Dick Martin's vendetta. I hope no one else has to deal with what I had to, John. Thanks for writing.

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Michel Liesnard(Belgium): "Your EE #18 depressed me. Especially those stupid comments by Dan Stafford. I haven't much to say about them, except that I totally share Steve Langley's views and wish I could have written his letter to you had I been him. Since I hadn't the opportunity to do it, I can only add this: I am your friend, Gary...."

...I must agree with Dick Martin on one point: the current events stuff was interesting and you should have kept it. I know I wrote you "we've had enough of politics" or something like that, but I meant "let's stop feuding for a while", not "for ever."

□ Well politics won't completely disappear from EE but I did feel that we were just going over old ground. Thanks for your Stafford/Martin comments, my friend.

□□□

Kevin Stone(Pennsylvania, USA): "I just received EE #18 and I have several opinions I'd like to share with you. First, I'm very glad you decided not to fold. I'm sure I wouldn't be the only disappointed reader."

As to the Dan Stafford situation, I fully agree with Bob Osuch. Anyone who thinks they can judge another person by his appearance is an ass. Comments like Stafford's carry no weight with me. Besides, your sex life, gay, straight, or otherwise is your own business and has no place in a Diplomacy zine.

On top of this, who ever said that you, Rod Walker or anyone else controls the hobby? In truth, it is the consumer, the player and the subber who run the hobby. They do this by voting with their dollars. If these consumers don't like the product being put out by a publisher, they won't subscribe to, or play in his zine. Not even the BNC runs the hobby. If I wanted to start a zine that used no Boardman Numbers, the only thing that would stop me is a lack of readers or players. It wouldn't be some supreme Diplomacy being. If Dan Stafford cannot understand the situation as I have presented it, I suggest he take a basic economics course. Our hobby is a tiny model of the economics of business.

Because the hobby is controlled by the consumer and because there are Jews and homosexuals in the hobby, these groups have some say in the hobby. Who cares? When I make a comment on the hobby, I do it as a member of the Diplomacy community, not as a Republican. When other people participate in the hobby, they do so as pubbers, players and such, not as gays, Jews, or any other group. Each person should be judged on his own merits, not in the stereotyped image of a group he might belong to. This is for all areas of life, not just Diplomacy.

Closing up this issue, if Dan Stafford thinks he can determine a person's sexual preference by their appearance, I suggest he read the article on Glenn Burke in the October 1982 issue of Inside Sports magazine. Glenn once played baseball for the Los Angeles Dodgers. He is a homosexual."

□ Very good statements and insights and I agree with them. The Inside Sports story was an excellent article. Thanks for sharing your views, Kevin.

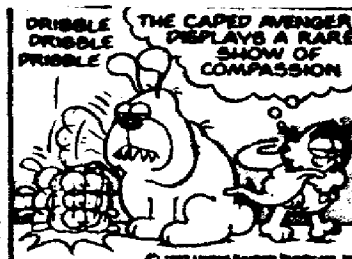
□□□

John Pack(New Mexico, USA): "I have to totally agree with you on the slander being printed about you by Stafford in any case. I think that's pretty disgusting. Unfortunately, there really is no way to completely repair your image. I really wish there was. I hold you in very high esteem anyway, as I always have."

□ Thanks, John. I think had I done nothing, someone else would be a target of somebody on down the road. I think my response has damaged these people's images not my own. The many letters that I have received have confirmed that impression over and over.

□□□

Jim Finley(California, USA): "Just got EE #18 and we wanted to write and let you know



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"you're good people with us. Please don't get discouraged about this garbage--it would hurt the hobby to lose your contribution. What's more important, it'd be a real shame to see you turn your back on something that's so enjoyable to you.

Frankly Robyn and I don't give a fat rat's ass who is straight, gay or fond of chopped chicken liver(except for each other of course). That's a person's own business. Anyone else who decides to make it their concern is a rude, overbearing son of a bitch and unAmerican to boot. they deserve only scorn, contempt and a busted head if they get too pushy.

However, it is a fact, and a disgrace in this nation, that too many of us are just that sort of rude sons of bitches. Because of this, if someone points the finger in the tradition of Adolf Hitler, Joe McCarthy and Jerry Falwell and labels you--rightly or wrongly--as different, a lot of his fellow cretins will near-sightedly aim their self-satisfied snouts skyward and deprive you of their esteem. What a loss!

Well, to repeat a cliché that happens to be very true, you're better off without them. Their dislike means you're not like them so you must be doing something right. To hell with them! The only proper rejoinder to being judged and condemned by such types is to laugh at them if they don't get in the way and hurt them if they do. If all they're doing is talking, they're harmless nuisances, since anyone liable to be interested or affected by their words is another of their type.

To use an attack like this, shows the attacker to be a pompous idiot if he's serious and a hateful, if unimaginative wretch if he's just saying it to cause trouble. Either way, it reflects very badly on the slanderer, not on his victim.

A final note on this subject, anyone who's studied some psychology can tell you that when someone starts rooting in their mental swamp for names to call you, the first and worst thing they dredge up to throw at you is generally whatever they're most insecure, fearful and resentful of in themselves--their own secret worry, handed to you on a silver platter. After all--if that was the first thing that came to mind, it's obviously something they think about a lot.

And that makes their attack hypocritical as well as vicious--and kind of pitiful. Pitiful because it's pathetic for someone to be scared of a harmless difference in himself and vicious for trying to inflict his own needless torment on another.

Enough, I've wasted two pages on this crap and that's enough. The only reason I spent this long on it is the fact that my pet peeve is other people who think I'm here for their benefit and expect me to operate by their standards. I guess I'm an anarchist at heart. Anarchy's impracticable, so I'll settle for being a libertarian."

□ The namecalling still hurts though. It is one thing to consider the situation mentally and logically but quite another to deal with emotionally. I've developed a thicker hide due to this incident. I now consider the source. Baumeister's attack in his zine inspired more pity in me than anything else(page 6). Thanks for writing Jim; the Marines will miss you when you go!

□□

Don Swartz(Kentucky, USA): "I just had to respond to EE #18 and yes, this is for publication: While I sympathize with you on the Dick Martin thing, I feel the only practical thing to do in a situation like that is either to persuade the other players to switch GMs or to resign. There is no way you're going to be able to force a GM to do anything he really doesn't want to do. On the Dan Stafford matter, I really got steamed! I could care less about my reputation in the hobby, but when someone starts making comments about your personal life----well, if it happened to me I would be considering a personal visit to his house(and our "discussion" wouldn't be completely "verbal" either!) In any case I guess I totally agree with Bob Osuch--FUCK him(and all those with a mentality like his!)"

□ I agree; comments about anybody's personal life do not belong in the contents of a zine. I think the strong reaction of guys, like Don, this issue shows that this is a widespread feeling. Let's stab each other in our games but not launch personal attacks. Anyone who does launch a personal attack, deserves all the criticism he gets. Thanks for writing Don.

□□

Jeff Noto(Florida, USA): "My only comment I will make concerns the Dan Stafford comments. I do not sub to Diplomacy By Moonlight, so this is my first reading of the story. As you may know I am a devout Catholic, a member of a church that "looks down" on gays. Well; Gary, all I can say is that I don't give a damn what your sexual preference is!

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"If you say you're not gay, then fine I believe you. To me, it sucks when people apply a label to someone like "fag", "Commie" or "Jew" and won't even try to take an overall view of a person's personality. To my knowledge, none of my friends are gay, but I can honestly say that if one of them were to come up to me tomorrow and tell that they were, my feelings for them wouldn't change."

□ Some people feel safer when they can put people into categories. I think it's sad. Thanks for writing Jeff.



Randolph Smyth(Alberta, Canada): "Last Sunday, I was raking the leaves in my front yard, and came across a bit of paper, upon which was written, "Mister, you are a fag." Now, it had probably blown in from halfway across the city, and it looked like the writing of a 10-year-old who had just learned to join his letters; but for a couple of seconds I felt about 1% of what you must be feeling, and it wasn't too pleasant. Here I am, 30 years old next month and no wife yet; interested in theatre and fencing; I sing tenor; and have a couple of fairly good friends that make no secret about being gay. Sure makes you wonder, doesn't it? Well, I ain't, but it's not the kind of thing you can defend yourself against when you fit into a few of the stereotypes. It's never been a real worry to me, since anyone that knows me well would know better, and I wouldn't choose people as friends that would care one way or the other. Still, an otherwise-hilarious scrap of paper set me back on my heels for a minute.

Still, to give everyone the benefit of the doubt(I'm a wimp, too), several of the quotes in your zine could be read as thoughtless banter rather than anything malicious. Eric Ozog, for instance, may have been just teasing--I don't get Diplomacy By Moonlight, is it in line with a light-hearted approach to other issues? Only Dan Stafford seems out to "get" you, based more on the quantity of his barbs than the content of any particular one.

Anyhow, I don't think that cutting back your Diplomacy commitments(the ones you enjoy) is any kind of an answer....sort of on a par with me moving out of my house because of the note that blew across my yard. It was easy for me: the message went into permanent residence in my garbage together with used Mars bar wrappers and the other junk, and I thought no more about it until reading Europa Express. It's tougher for you to take the same attitude, but I think it's the only one that makes sense. Not that you should ignore something which is circulating the hobby like that, but you have to treat it the same way--like garbage--and not get too heated up about it. It only gives the guy who started it what he wants.

If it's any consolation, I'd never heard about these shots until you brought them out in your zine. So there has hardly been wide publicity given to them before you've had a chance to set the record straight with your subbers."

□ Sort of like nipping it in the bud, eh? I felt disgust and felt that my disgust should be expressed just as publicly as Stafford's comments had. And I think by doing that, that Dan Stafford most certainly did not get what he wanted. He's gotten attention, true enough, but very unfavorable. Eric Ozog has assured me that he will have a statement about it in the upcoming DBM which I will reprint in EE #20. Randolph, your story really hit a nerve with me and I thank you for sharing it with us.



John Kador(Maryland, USA): "I'm not sure what reactions #18 will inspire. I have no doubt it'll bring up a lot of feelings. I know it did in me.

This gay business really upsets me. I think of myself as an ally of gays and some of the joking that's been going on is thinly disguised oppression.

But such is the nature of gay oppression that it feeds on all the insecurity that

(( "Peanuts" is called "Tenavat" in Finnish! ))

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"men have in their own sexuality. Thus, it's almost impossible to have a human discussion of the issues except when at least one of the participants is secure and feels safe. Needless to say, we don't have that kind of environment in the Dippy hobby. I almost believe that the only way to make a difference with this issue is one to one: that is, individual to individual.

I'm saying that because I feel it's counterproductive for you to pursue this issue in the zine. People simply aren't capable of thinking straight on this issue. And to the extent they carry on the dialogue in terms of hateful stereotypes and other misinformation, it's actually damaging.

It might be interesting if someone were to "come out" in the dippy community. But I believe this matter has no place in the hobby. Why? Because it's a very serious issue that is painful for many people. The hobby is just that...a hobby.

I think I understand some of the frustrations you've faced lately. That's why I don't publish. And I know it's not going to make you feel better when I tell you that you're taking the whole business with Dick too seriously. But it's what I believe.

You've put a lot of effort in #18 and I bet it was as effective a therapy as you could get. But I'd rather have seen your considerable energies go into something more productive. I think you even acknowledge that when you made #18 free.

I support your right to publish whatever you like. I hope you let most of the nastiness recede into the past and look forward from now on instead of backward."

□ I am willing to let the "nastiness recede into the past" as soon as it's cleared up in the present. These people have gone after me, not me after them. I agree with you that this should not be a topic in the hobby. It is people's personal business and it is very frustrating when prejudice, on any subject, rears its ugly head. I sincerely hope that these two issues of EE show that the bulk of the hobby is against this type of garbage and that pubbers will think and think again about what they are printing. I did receive one more letter on this subject which is probably the most important of all. And it is next.

□□

Larry Peery (California, USA): "After reading EE #18, I felt compelled to write you about Police Call Sections 3 and 4. I cannot stand by silently and see you fight alone a battle against this particular form of prejudice and intolerance. Especially since it is not your fight to wage alone. The war against prejudice and intolerance in any form must be a universal one.

This is matter of human rights first, minority rights second, Dippy third and you fourth. As such it concerns us all.

My intellectual integrity and the principles involved in this case are more important to me than my survival in the hobby. Fortunately, I have sufficient confidence in my friends in the hobby that I do not fear the contest or its outcome. If others share my view you will find, as you have discovered your critics in surprising quarters, that you have allies in unexpected places.

Although it will be at a considerable cost to you, I believe this discussion can have a beneficial effect if it destroys this particular form of prejudice and intolerance, if it acts as a catalyst for the creation of a hobby-wide code of ethics for publishers, gamesmasters, and players, and if it helps to bring some of us closer together.

There is a tendency in battles like this to stay in the trenches. No one wants to be the victim of a bullet fired from a gun filled with bullets labelled prejudice, intolerance, bigotry, smear, character assassination, and innuendo. Yet, someone must stand up and take the risk.

I know very well that you are capable of handling this fight on a tactical, strategic, and diplomatic level. Unfortunately, the issues raised, and especially the issue of prejudice and intolerance in the hobby, demands a discussion beyond any individual's capabilities. And you are not qualified to lead that discussion as it applies to this issue.

If you are not qualified, then who is? There are many people in the hobby who could lead such a battle. But they will probably stay in the trenches, quaking in their boots, out of fear of a flare burst revealing their true position in the dark of the night.

Like Luther, here I stand. Some will, during the coming battle, seek to hide behind you. Some will, as they already have, offer to stand behind you. I cannot, in good conscience, do either. I must stand in front of you since this is more properly

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