

EGG NOG

THIS ISSUE A BUNCH OF OTHER STUFF AS WELL AS THE ABSOLUTE EASTMAN RIGHTLY NOT THE WHAT CAN I SAY

EGG NOG #42 is a product of Ronald Baumeister, 1146 Parkview Ln, Niles Corners, WI 53150, D. C. and of Crossroads Press International. EGG NOG is a quadri-weekly journal of postal Diplomacy which costs at the rate of 10 issues/\$3.00. At this time there are 42 more openings, and may not be until September or thereabouts. Specialty players are quite welcome however. All articles submitted are paid for at a set rate... This is EGG NOG Enterprises Production #06. 1980 and...

THE OVERSTUFFED RECLINER

This is the editor's column, which generally hits just about everything on my mind, and it is injected all over the 'zine in various places.

MUSICAL COMMENTARY AGAIN: HEADING

We Sold Our Souls For Rock & Roll was of course an album put out by the group Black Sabbath. It was sort of a greatest hits album, which for me is cheating, but I have the parts that go into it too, so who cares? Black Sabbath itself deserves some discussion, for me if not for you.

Black Sabbath consisted of Ozzie Osbourne on vocals, Bill Ward on drums, Tony Iommi on guitar, and Gaezer Butler on bass. The Lord High Ministers of all that is sinister, Black Sabbath was a British foursome who slugged their way to the top brandishing a deafening style of rock would reestablish the role of volume in popular music and help give birth to a new musical label: heavy metal. The Sabbath crew first

united as Earth in Birmingham, England. By 1969 their name had been changed to Black Sabbath and their stage antics became firmly entrenched in menacing mysticism. Their first album totally revolted critics who saw them as one out above terminal illness.

While critics wretched on their typewriters, producing some of the vilest reviews ever, the public flocked to the ever-touring brigade like moths to a flame. Vocalist Ozzie Osbourne took great delight in outraging the public and the Sabbath fans enjoyed the insults. Sabbath's Paranoid and Master of Reality saw them enter supergroup status. The band's business interests, however, nearly wrecked their career. A tiff with a manager brought total cessation to Black Sabbath activities following the enormously successful Sabbath Bloody Sabbath. The band made their way back to the studios some two years later for Sabotage, but by that time many of Sabbath's old fans had moved on to newer and more current rock items. In 1977, Sabbath faded from the rock and roll scene... a victim of changing times.

(These things seem to be getting longer and longer, don't they?)

WHY IS THIS ISSUE HERE SO EARLY?

Remember when I told you on Page 11 or 12 of last issue all of the stuff I had on file? Well, it turns out that on March 6-8 I'll either be in Washington D.C. or, on the 7th, in court! So, I didn't see myself as having the time to put out a big double issue then, so am killing some of the back log with this issue.

EGGNOG POLITICAL VIEWS ONCE AND FOR ALL

[It has always been EGGNOG's policy to stay away from politics, and, indeed, from politics articles in other 'zines as well, since I think that most of the people writing them ought to have their heads examined. They are almost all thinking only of the position of the United States, and never of anything else. But enough of that...there is a letter in another 'zine which I submitted as a joke and was taken semi-seriously! Don't tell the pubber (just let him go ahead and think it!), but this article and this one alone contains my opinion on the Iran and Afghan crises. I don't want anyone reprinting it anywhere and will not print any letters commenting on it in the future. I don't think I'll use EGGNOG as a platform like this again, and that's it. I happen to think that politics don't go into such a 'zine.]

This article was written in late January, but was forced out of last issue because of lack of space. It is thus only discussing the situations at that time, i.e. makes no mention of the possibility of a withdrawal from Afghanistan and is hardly optimistic about the hostage situation.

Actually, in Afghanistan, there's nothing going on in there that has not been happening there, and around the world, for years. Two years ago in the page 36 news of your newspaper, Afghanistan was pretty much taken over by a puppet government answerable to Moscow and the communists. Nobody noticed, or even cared, but Russia had control from that point onwards. Now that the situation got out of control of one despot, the Russians are in there, restoring what to them is order. If religious fanatics were attempting to gain control of the United States violently, what do you think we'd do about it? Throw flowers at them? Add that to the fact that the Communist society is an atheistic one, and what do you have? While it's not the most humanitarian thing in the world, the Soviet Union will hardly sit idly by while watching its subject ally Afghanistan slide into oblivion -- they'll go in there and

(Yes, your buddy finally sat down and wrote out this trash! Go ahead and read it now that you've come this far and have read everything!)

restore their kind of order, of course. The United States might never stick by their allies (you name one or two that we've stuck up for (instead of just stuck) in the last few years when they needed our help, OK?), but it must be said that Soviet Russia does make sure that nothing gets out of control. In Czechoslovakia and Hungary, for instance; when they were having problems internally the USSR had no trouble at all deciding to go in and help the government, because that government was licking boots made in Moscow. We would just let any country fall, in the name of letting the people decide what's best for them! (And it can be proven in most instances that few people really do know what is best for their country.) So the USSR is just sticking up for their government in Kabul. It would do the same for any of its other allies. (What happens to its enemies is something else again.)

It seems to me that this is a bit of overreacting we are currently seeing in the White House. After all, when things went down in Cambodia, South Yemen, Angola, etc (not to mention Afghanistan of two years ago) nobody said a word -- or actually Carter and the press never said a word. (I said plenty.) Hardly a mention. Now, with all of the recent successes around the globe, the Soviet Union was getting fairly confident that anything they did would meet indifference and total inaction on the part of the peanut-head in Washington, and in pursuing the so-far accepted policy they move into Afghanistan to rearrange the same political apparatus which nobody objected to installing years ago. Now the President, coincidentally (if you believe that maybe I could interest you in a plot of land I have in Florida...) in an election year,

decides that he's going to get tough with the Soviet Union. So what does Carter do, with his sure eye on the polls? (I suppose that it should be mentioned that this is primarily a tactic meant for internal consumption. Nobody outside of the United States is buying any of the bull- shit being handed them, but then they aren't voting in November, either.)

He cuts the grain shipments to Russia. On the surface this looks quite good, but of course, as with all other Carter ideas, it won't work. Very few other nations will go along with this, basically because they can use Soviet capital and technology. Had it ever occurred to you that West Germany is a lot closer to the Iron Curtain than the United States are? That's why. If they balk, not only will their economies be bent out of shape (ours can't get much worse, so we can go ahead with the plan), they are also a lot closer to the Soviet power we're all scared stiff of. And remember how we embarrassed Argentina and the government for months on end from the White House and through the press? Argentina happens to be one of the world's largest grain-exporting countries. If I were in Argentina, I would overproduce just to screw up the USA, but the USA probably wouldn't be able to figure out why we won't do as it begs us to. Stupid, that's what Carter is. We can go around harassing all of our allies but when we need their cooperation we expect it. Bah, Russia won't even notice the embargo.

Next we declare the Persian Gulf in the United States sphere of influence. Naturally it's important to us, but saying that the Persian Gulf belongs to us before anyone else is absurd. When the nations in the region feel threatened by the Soviet Union they'll come to us anyway. On the other hand, if we tell them that they are all responsible to us to begin with, that won't make them too happy. And we don't have many friends there to begin with. Imagine: If the United States were to send troops into Mexico or Guatemala, what would we think if Russia declared the entire Gulf of Mexico to be in their sphere of influence? Foolish, right? And Afghanistan is right in the Soviet backyard; we didn't seem to care when the USSR acted in Africa or Asia, did we? We didn't de-

clare anything else to be in our sphere of influence, even though the Vietnam area used to be only a few years ago. Now we will help anybody who asks for guns by sending them guns, fine enough. But where was the United States when Angola and other countries needed a little bit of help? Let us face it, as an ally, Carter looks worse than most of us Dippy players, though he gains absolutely nothing from being so bold (at least we can grab a few supply centers).

Then there's the Olympics. Quite aside from whether or not it's proper or not for the games to play a part in international politics, it's foolish for the United States to boycott them, for one very basic reason: hardly any other countries will join in. Just wait and see. If we alone withdraw from the Games, we would be laid bare as a friendless power (which is what we are, but enough of that). If we can't convince the rest of the free world to go out with us, and we can't, then the gamble is already lost.

To go to war over Afghanistan is also illogical. If Carter is re-elected we'll do doubt go to war over something or other which could easily have been avoided if he had had his eyes open during his first term. A stiffer policy in 1977 and 1978 would have avoided the Afghan situation now. That much is obvious. As much blame must rest on our glorious President as on the Kreamlin. To get overly excited now is foolish, the observant could see it coming a long time ago. But to overreact or not react at all is the American way. And what can be done?

As for Iran, I'll have to cut this short since I've spent enough space on this article already. The principles opposing the Ayatollah in Iran (and his regime, once he is gone) are the Communists! Any direct action against Iran would simply make the Com-

munists the strongest force in Iran, which seems stupid, to say the least. Things could have been done in the early days of the crisis, but Carter didn't have the brains to implement them then. It would, for instance, be nice to say that the CIA knew the names of at least the heads of the "students" -- this would scare the living shit out of them. But one of Carter's big early programs was to screw the CIA, and now we hang by our own rope. Also, any economic sanctions would not have much effect on Iran -- after all, they suffered over there for a long time under deprived conditions, and I will assume for now that they have the will to do so for a little while longer.

One hope is that the Ayatollah will soon die; he isn't a well man anymore (whether he ever was is arguable), and is an old man. Any attempt on his life by the CIA or similar organization would not help at all, either; Khomeini would simply become the martyr to the cause, which would make the problem worse than it was before. At least now the Ayatollah hates both the United States and Russia; if the Communists, the full channel of Persian Hate would be towards us, and the Russians would be in control of the oil fields. (Making the whole area might be fun, but the Soviets are too close to the area to go along with it, and Carter is afraid to scare Russia too much).

What can be done? Carter has broken down all methods of retaliation (especially the CIA) already, and a military act would only hurt us. Besides, do you believe that Russia will tolerate an American military presence on its own borders, which also means that we are in a position to cut their oil? No way.

We can only hope that Carter screws Kennedy all to hell in the primaries (or, better yet, that the Kennedy "curse" repeats itself and someone knocks Ted off), as even Carter's better than that Kennedy idiot ("The Shah was a cruel despot" -- evidently supporting the Ayatollah!) and that anybody, likely Bush but Reagan would also be OK, wipes Carter out in November. At least we might be able to kill off the extra 10% inflation Carter gave us in a few years.

(You might assume that I am unsatisfied with the job the Democrats have been doing

in Washington. That's right, I would rather have a Nixon in the White House right now, who was a (allegedly -- let's not go into that) "criminal" than Carter, who is a certifiable idiot when it comes to foreign policy, history, and -- my god! -- the economy. At least Nixon made us some friends in the Far East -- Carter and Company have done a great job of screwing our friends and encouraging our enemies. A vote for him is a vote for Brezhnev.)

Enough said, don't you think? I'd love to have some feedback on this, but will not print any of it. I'm already tired of the whole depressing topic.

1979L WRAPUP & ANALYSIS

First a few words by our commentator of the very early part of the game, John Boyer ('member him?). He said, right after the game began, that he would predict the outcome. Disregard the "computer" bit; he's joking.

JOHN BOYER (February 17, 1979): By computer analysis, I hereby officially predict the following outcome of STRANGE BREW's first Demonstration Game, being analyzed by myself, John Boyer of Carlisle, PA: A three-way draw between England, Germany, and Turkey.

KONRAD'S KOMMENTS: Obviously he was banking on the friendship of Germany (schuetz) and England (Kendter) for this outcome -- though he appears to have guessed wrong, in that it ended in a four-way English-French-Russian-Italian draw after Germany resigned.

1979L CLOSIGN COMMENTS

By Eric Verheiden, Analyst

This game went on a bit too long, I believe, the outcome was clear some seasons back and only wishful thinking kept the draw vote from passing earlier.

The game began with three rather independent battles shaping

up: Austria vs Italy, Turkey vs. Russia, and England and Germany vs. France. Though initially Italy, Russia and France found themselves somewhat on the defensive, all three survived to the end while all of the initial aggressors, only England survived, mainly due to a timely alliance switch by Lee Kantor.

The Turkish offensive was stopped by some neat Russian tactics (Russia lost Sevastopol but gained the Black Sea at the end of 1904) and a total diplomatic failure by Turkey. Russia compensated for southern losses with northern gains in the classic fashion and, with no outside interference, brought the Turkish offensive to a grinding halt. Intervention against Austria broke the stalemate line between Austria and Italy and to the eventual defeat of both Austria and Turkey.

Italian gains were used to build fleets to push further eastward, while Russia proceeded with a massive army build-up which eventually dominated eastern Europe, but failed to obtain a crucial winning margin. Russia pushed westward against Germany, hampering an already slow attack on France and threatening a breakthrough to the west. It was here that England pitched sides to France and quickly built up a western stalemate. France was aided in no small measure by perceptive Italian reluctance to march westward. Such a move would have paid off very slowly and would more likely have encouraged an English breakthrough into the Mediterranean early on and left eastern gains even more vulnerable to the Russian army steamroller of Fred Hyatt. As it was, France survived and repaid the favor by, in effect, demanding the Italian rear while Leland Hanson created his own eastern stalemate against the Russians. This was made somewhat easier with only a single Russian fleet to contest the Mediterranean. Dave Bunk's choice with France was made somewhat easier of course, by a heavy (early) build-up of English fleets and a remote but still possible threat of Russian victory. Sometimes it is better to take a draw and not push your luck.

Congratulations to all the surviving players, I think all played quite well.

I remain perplexed by Hyatt's predilection for armies, but as a gamble for breakthrough and victory in the west, perhaps it makes more sense than otherwise appears.

MORE KONRAD'S COMMENTS: Thanks for the last time to Eric for his excellent analysis for this Demonstration Game! He did a great job almost from the very beginning, and gets a complimentary sub to EGGNOG for along time. If there's ever anything I can do for you, Eric, just drop me a line!

His run through the game was quite good, and I don't have to fill in any holes. One thing I'd like to mention was that there were several cases of Fred sending in winter orders where he built fleets and then hastily crossed them out and opted for armies instead. I have no idea why he would want to only build armies except that, in an earlier EGGNOG game in which Fred was a participant, 1978HI, Karl Schantz's Russia won in 1906 or 1907 with a full 18 centers even after building only armies from year one. Perhaps Fred wanted to try to see whether or not it would work. In this case, however, it failed because the opposition caught on pretty soon after Fred began to make some big moves, just how the wind was blowing.

I'd like to thank all of the players for participating in this game; we didn't need a replacement player! It was exciting most of the way (except toward the end there).

I have no plans to start another Demonstration Game With Expert Analysis -- just not enough time to run one, and not enough room in the 'line to have it run! Sorry, but... in any case, congratulations to all of the players involved. You all did a great job. Leland, Fred, and Dave all came back from seemingly lousy positions, and Lee gave a good demonstration of just when to get rid of one ally and get another; timing's the name of the game, sometimes.

I guess that I'm almost at the bottom of the page. What I do to fill it up with remains to be seen, as even I don't know what to do.

1979L END-GAME STATISTICS AND SUPPLY CENTER CHART (LEE KENDTER TAKE NOTE!)

Game: 1979L. 'Zine: STRANGE BREW. (Played February 12, 1979, to February 7, 1980 for six and a half game years.) Gamesmaster: Konrad H. Baumeister.
 Austria: Steve McLendon (out F'05). England: Lee Kendter Sr (drew S'07).
 France: Dave Bunke (drew S'07). Germany: Karl Schuetz (res F'04), Civil Disorder (out F'05). Italy: Leland Harmon (drew S'07). Russia: Fred G. Hyatt (drew S'07). Turkey: Jerry Jones (out F'04). Analyst (well, why not?): John Boyer (drop F'02), Eric P. Verheiden, Jr.

	01	02	03	04	05	06
Austria	5	5	2	1	-	-
England	4	5	5	7	8	9 drew
France	4	5	5	5	6	6 drew
Germany	5	5	6	2	-	-
Italy	4	5	6	7	6	4 drew
Russia	5	6	8	12*	14	15* drew
Turkey	5	3	2	-	-	-

From STRANGE BREW #27, the last moves of this Demonstration Game, on which so much time, space, and moeny has been wasted:

1979L -- Winter 1906/Spring 1907

ENGLAND(Kendter Sr): Bld A Lon, A Nwy-StP, F Bar & F Bot & A En S A Nwy-StP, A Den S A Kie, A Kis S FRENCH A Mun, A Lon-Hol, F Nth C A Lon-Hol, F Swe-Bal

FRANCE(Banke): A Mun H, A Ruh & A Bur S A Mun, A Gas S A Bur, F Mid H, B Spa(so) Holds (Really ambitious, wot?)

ITALY(Harmon): A Vie R Boh/a/, Rem A Syr, F Eas-Aeg, F Ion S F Eas-Aeg, A Ven S A Tyl, A Tyl S FRENCH A Mun-Boh/nso/

RUSSIA(Hyatt): A Mun R Boh/a/, Bld A Sev & A War, A StP H/a/, F Ber H, A Mos & A Lvn S A StP, A Sil S F Ber, A Vie-Tyl, A Sev-Arm, A Bud-Vie, A Tri S A Vie-Tyl, A Spy S A Sev-Arm, F Aeg S A Spy/d/, A Ser-Gra, A Bul-Con, A War-Pru

THESE DEMONSTRATION GAMES TEND TO GO ON FOR AWHILE BUT THIS ONE LASTS LESS THAN A FULL YEAR LETTER COLUMN AGAIN!

From Fred Davis: Rec'd a photocopy of some lunatic ravings from Curtis Gibson, mostly directed against you, and warning me of eternal damnation if I don't see things his way. As it was microscopic in size and obviously not written in any form of English known to me, I threw it away unread.

[Thanks, Fred. As you know, you also figure prominently into the Gibson affair; or at least Gibby thinks so. He seems to remember you're correcting the problem in that Small World game when it comes to sending others his anti-Davis hate mail, but forgets when it's pointed out to him in the letter columns of 'zines like The Voice of Doom. A sad case, really. I suppose that it would probably be best for all to just ignore this bizarre cross-game enemy and hate-mail distributor; if anyone gets any, my advice is to toss it into the circular file.]

From Scott Marley: I'm glad you filled the German game -- will it be carried in EGGNOG? If not, I'd like to receive

it; mein Deutsch ist nicht so gut, aber I like to keep in practice whenever I can.

[It will be carried in EGGNOG; you'll see Spring 1901 next issue. As for the part which you would let me print, let me say that I agree with you entirely; you know it and I know it, but how many others do?]

From Mike Mills: I do believe that this is the first time that I've actually sat down and written you a letter, isn't it? [Second.] Well, anyway I want you to know that one reason I enjoy EGGNOG is the featured album of the month. From your musical taste I suspect you are older than 21 years old, or a very smart youngster.

It was a long time since I heard the old chicka-chicka-what on the Mayall album. As a matter of fact, I didn't remember I had it, until I searched through the whole stack. Thanks for calling it to my attention.

One thing though, your feature of Flowers of Evil for Mountain!

(continued Page 7)

Letterscolumn (Mike Mills has the floor)

I always thought that the Manu-
sachusetts album was their peak -- get
it! Once again, however, I dredged
out an old forgotten friend from the
sheds and gave you some love. I
really think that it is better than
any. Just fired Angela would put ERB
in its place.

One old band that I especially like
is the old Beatles. I wish Peter Frampton
was because after Frampton left Mar-
riott just couldn't get the show toge-
ther. I saw both versions -- with and
without FF -- and the album was missing
its pulse without Frampton. I thought I
think Frampton is better than any
other. Billy Louie. The album at
Fillmore album, there is a really fine
version of Le Jean, a Walk in the
Splinters. Marriott and Frampton's re-
placement tried to pull it off and
FLAT... the album featured FF.

Anyhow, just to let you know that
those featured albums are well appre-
ciated. How about one of Manu-
sachusetts or Black Sabbath with
surprise?

...you're really hung up on Black
Sabbath, which is a supreme hard rock disc.
Only thing though, it was produced in
68? [November 1967] and the bass and
drums are pretty god awful compared to
the strong rhythmic sections on today's
stuff. Later, Clapton and Bruce ought
to re-record that album. (You thought
the Latin winter would bring you down
forever, so you rode upon a stealer to
the violence of the Sun... I did you know
that DG was the very first album I bought
as a kid of 13 summer. Can't you see
That She's Mine by the DG5 (64) was my
first 45, boy how time flies.

I think that you ought to write an
editorial on the way things around these
days! The ONLY thing that the new bands
have going for them is that the studio
production has improved 100%. I only
hear a lot of copying, which is probab-
ly good for the marketing man for the
label. Well, enough about records...
(Rest is off the record, unfortun-
ately -- I agree on that, too.)

Thanks a lot for writing, Mike! I
am always glad to hear from people with
a fine sense for good music. Comments:

I'm not 21 years old, and I won't
be for a little while, either. I
will be heading out to college in
August, so maybe that will tip you
off as to my age. I don't like to
advertise it, but... In any case,
my musical taste is diverse to say
the least, but I could say that I
generally like most well-done stu-
dio recordings from about 1962 to
1975 or 1976. After '76 there has
come very little worthwhile -- a
lot of crap, really, with few very
good tunes. Still, rock is what
I am and probably always will be.

I have a Black Sabbath album col-
lecting copies of it. The album
and it contains what was taken
from Black Sabbath to ZZ Top -- about
20 albums now. That's a lot of
cash tied up there! Actually, a
fairly large percentage of this
stuff has been handed down to me
by my older brothers, who bought
it when it came out. I've also
bought a good deal of stuff myself,
and happen to know a bit about his-
tory and the like, so I can write
a lot more stuff. In any case, my
taste has been cultivated by the
influence of my brothers.

Morrison is actually on tour again;
I don't know what his band consists
of this time, but...

Black Sabbath of Evil just struck me as
a good album title. I haven't
Manu-
sachusetts, Black Sabbath album (the pre-
ceded by Black Sabbath for about
four months, you know) and agree
with you on the comparison; but
the Mountain Climbing album also
has its good moments, methinks.
(That's their second album, natch.)

I was going to do a Humble Pie
album for this month, but then de-
cided on Black Sabbath (blow-your-
brains-out kind of rock; also not
bad, depending on your mood!) in-
stead. Frampton's live album is
not too bad, but the studio stuff
is less interesting, and think that
his Hard and Humble Pie days were
much better ones. (And you're right
about Frampton's replacement --
Dave Clempson, I think -- just could
not keep up the pace.)

Son of Schmellson was Harxy

Nillsson's, I believe, which I also have and isn't half bad. (Nillsson is an eccentric's eccentric, personally, and hasn't been rockin' for a while; not since EMILISSON, methinks. I wouldn't mind seeing something new from him...)

Yeah, I like Marshall Stack, the second Great album. I've always said in the pages of RAGNOC that the Great was, in my opinion, the Very Best Rock Band Ever, and that Clapton is the best guitarist ever. Anybody that does not agree with me is a lack his subscrip- tion money! But seriously, I don't think that Bruce or Baker came off badly on D; which, tussle as you think are so weak on their sides? Bruce, in my opinion, is the consummate musician, and Baker a hell of a drummer. They didn't call themselves the Great for nothing! As for lyrics, this was the age of psychodelic balsh: is no more wierd; or how about the Beatles? "I Am The Walrus"? Oh, did you know that I recently saw that copies of D in the record stores are being marked as col- linal... albums were cheaper than, too. Correct again on the production. In these days, without a good producer you get nowhere, and there certainly is little innovation in the field these days... People like Felix Pappalardi or Todd Rundgren or Frank Zappa (created as his own music is, he's a top-flight pro- ducer) can really dictate what a band sounds like. As for your waa-up about being born under a bad sign, people have been shot for better jokes in Russia, you know! t those were the days, as you said! Yeah, I know, SEUGH... or you others out there, that was an inside joke which I'm not about to explain here now. Enough room on my already in this issue, eh wet?/

lines. RAGNOC #43, which will be sent out on schedule (i.e. dead- line, as usual) will be a "normal" sized issue again. (Even I no longer know what "normal" means. Once upon a time RAGNOC issues were averaging ten pages, but un- til today, I've never had an issue as with less than twelve, if it wasn't double-sized. I guess that "normal" should read ten-twelve.) That means that I've left over some filler and articles. How a- bout that? Too much stuff piling up? Hardly. Keep it up. Without its interesting reading material from I in a few months time, and as the American market overdrive once said, "You're only as good as your last record." I know that someday we'll be gone. Keep it coming in! Actually, it's all self-explana- tory, really. I don't know why I have to make things so complicat- ed. When I want to do something, I'll do it! Here's your damned issue, and expect another one af- ter the next deadline! That easy!

THE MAILS AND MY TIME (OR LACK OF THAT AND ITS EFFECTS UPON YOU ALL) Seems that every day brings me more mail than yesterday. I have about twenty things which come be- fore Diplomacy in terms of impor- tance for me, some of which take a lot of time indeed. While I do end up filing half of my mail (a lot of it is just moves for various games coming due here or there), some of the stuff demands an an- swer. I do the best I can, but can only set aside one hour, but sometimes two for Diplomacy every night -- more time I have not, e- ven though I'm now working at the First Wisconsin Bank these days and have a little bit more time (and money) to do such stuff. One person got pretty pissed off at me for putting off the answering of his letter two weeks (which is not uncommon alas)! So if you do get something from me relatively soon after you first sent me a letter, count yourself lucky.

OVERSTUFFED RECLINER (from P. 1) nstead of putting out a double is- sue when I won't be home (kind of dis- apointing), I decided to kill some of the excess of stuff right here in this issue sent out between dead-

Overstuffed Recliner Cont'd:

Lots of people just get some notes on the bottom of their EGNOG issue each month. What I'm trying to say is that I just can't answer everything, though I encourage you to keep sending in those deep and thought-provoking letters. I'll get to it when I can. At first I have about 11 inches worth of material to work my way down from (just happened to measure it...), it can always happen that the letter gets printed in EGNOG and answered in these pages.

More Overstuffed Recliner later, should there be time and space.

LAST COMMENTS EN 19788

BEN SCHILLING (Italy): For your information (and that of any out who cares), the reasons Fred Mintz gave me for his strange articles were: a) he was going overseas, and b) we were both 1) from Wisconsin and 2) in the Army at that time. Of course when he dropped, I had to cover up a bit against the new French player, who wasn't in on our plans.

SPECIAL FEATURE (FOR WINDSOR GAMES)

The Youngstown Variant game for the POLITICIAN 'zine just got underway, and instead of wasting more stamps to inform the players specially (many of which get EGNOG anyway) I thought I would just start this game in the pages of this 'zine, which doesn't run any variants, for POLITICIAN, which doesn't run any regular games! Some of the players haven't paid their game fee of \$2 (they know who they are), and I'd like to receive that with the Spring 1901 orders, due March 19, 1980. (Starting the game in the next POLITICIAN wouldn't have allowed for enough S01 negotiation time.) The country assignments were done mostly by preference list, and where none was given, the luck of the draw. Get writing your letters right away. Anything goes in these games. If I am right, we'll start next column.

Spring 1901 due March 19, 1980

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: John Zipper, 14 Cherry Brook Lane, E. Windsor, NJ 08520
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 JAPAN: Salvatore Colombo, 60 Grand St, New York, NY 10013
 RUSSIA: Gene Prossnitz, 200 Clinton St, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201
 TURKEY: Chip Chamley, USNP, Box 7 Karliarik, BPO NY 09571 (Island)

That's it. I can't understand why some of you played the countries you did (who would want Germany?), but there you go 'em. I wouldn't worry about the heavy dose of New York players: I happen to know that all of them would just as soon draw the knife on each other as they would on someone not living in the area (I really do mean it when I say that I know: I have the experience to back it up!). So play away. Like I said, anything goes: Black Press is indeed encouraged, stabs, letter forging or passing, everything meets with my approval except one: cheat the game master, and you lose everything you have on file with me in the way of money. In every case, the decision of the game master is F I N A L (but do point out any GM errors, should they occur -- I am not infallible, as is constantly pointed out to me). And I even have two potential standby players for this game, should we ever need them...but all in all, we have a fine bunch of reliable players here. Enough killing of space -- let's move onto the last few lines.

Space intentionally left blank.

CHICAGO MASS MEETING

On February 10 I went down to Chicago to take part in the bloodletting going on down there, and have to say that I really did leave an impression! I'm going down again on March 9, 1980 to try to see if I can kill that impression I made by being a good ally in a game! I believe that this month the games will be at Andy Lischett's house, 3025 N. Davlin, Chicago, IL 60618. Among the players last time were Andy, Eric Ozog, Wayne Shreve (our host), Bob Osuoh, Stan Casella, Jack Frost, Ken Sniegowski, Dave Crockett, Scott Lawryn and half a dozen others whose names I have already forgotten. I will, next issue, give the full details of why I will be tarred and feathered before the next game, but I can assure you all that, should you decide to go (and I will, and will possibly take Gerry Van Alkemade in tow when I do go down), don't expect a bunch of ministers and church-like behavior, definitely not. It's not that kind of a Mass Meeting. The last two were successful, even though I did start a bit towards the end, since we "forgot" to go out to eat, and I suggest that anyone in the Chicago area drop by and play a game.

In any case, my review, as I said above, will be next issue.

OTHER THINGS IN EGGNOG-LAND

At this time I'm also running the independent orphanazines MOBY GRAPE and SWLABR. I am contemplating taking the few games which those two 'zines cover

and throwing them into EGGNOG, despite the current space problems. In these cases the space covered is very little, as none of the games have generated press (except one) for several months, and all but one are about to end anyway. This move or the idea of it, is in the hope that I can get most of my eggs into as few baskets as possible as soon as possible. VANILLA FUDGE and POLITICIAN will continue running with nothing else instore for them, but it's the small 'zines which I'd like to kill. In any case, moneys would be transferred to EGGNOG, and some of the players already get this, so the problems are only those of deadline scheduling to maneuver them into this 'zine.

NO GAME OPENINGS

Surprisingly I am still getting requests for game openings! At this time there are no game openings, and I don't think there will be until the end of the summer. Especially if the above about transferring some games I'm running elsewhere into this 'zine becomes reality. Space is such a rarity these days, especially because I like to ramble and babble endlessly about things just like this.

LOTS OF THINGS IN STORE FOR YOU

Next issue might be bigger than I wanted it to be (10 pp), since I still have a lot of stuff to run! Like the forgingletter article and a lot of miscellaneous plugging.

EGGNOG #42

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The Special Off-Deadline Issue of EGGNOG Which Is Assumedly A Surprise!? I Have More Fun Stapling & Lickign & Typing, & etc!