

EGG NOG

ICANBELIEVETHEAMOUNTOFISSUESIVEPUTOUTINTHELASTYEARORSOMHEREDIDALLOFTHATPAPER

EGGNOG #45-46 is a product of Konrad Baumeister, 11416 Parkview Lane, Hales Corners, WI 53130 USA, and hence of the Crossroads Press International. Phone number is (414) 425-4631, and is to be used between 7 and 11 p.m. EGGNOG is run on four week deadlines and sells for the rate of 10/\$3.50 (still). There are no game openings. All articles printed are repaid at the rate of 2 free issues for each published page (my typing). This is EGGNOG Enterprises Production #107. And that is that.

BELIEVEITORNOTITGOINGTOGOBACKTOTHE TWO COLUMNFORMATWHICHIJUSTFORGOTTO DO ABOVECK

THE OVERSTUFFED RECLINER

(THE EDITOR'S COLUMN)

This is exactly what it claims to be this month -- my column. Read.

MUSICAL COMMENTARY

I enjoyed picking out this month's album, for reasons only known to myself (unless you have it too). Of course, It Crawled Into My Hand, Honest was an album put out by the group The Fugs. The Fugs existed from 1965 to 1969, and consisted of Ed Sanders (vocals), Ken Weaver (vocals, drums), Tuli Kupferberg (vocals), Ken Pine (vocals, guitar), Bill Wolf (bass), Bob Mason (drums) from one time or another.

The Fugs were once referred to as the Lenny Bruce of rock. Certainly, right from the start they went out of their way to be "offensive," particularly on such musically (at that time) taboo subjects as explicit physical sex and drugs. Songs like "I Couldn't Get High" and "Coca Cola Douche" proved the rule, not the exception. Like Bruce, they were comics and satirists, except that their literary leanings led to the creation of some beautiful lyrics on some beautiful and outrageous subjects.

The Fugs never claimed to be rock musicians. They were, first and foremost, poets.

Starting out in the mid-sixties, in a small theater on New York's St. Mark's Place, they came together: a team of East Village poets and artists who decided to sing some of the poetry they were writing. At that stage, it was unthinkable for poets to form a rock group, and especially for freaky-looking poets to form a freaky rock group. The sixties freedom was burgeoning, however, and soon the Fugs had garnered an adoring (albeit microscopic) following.

An 'underground' New York record label, ESP (a company that catered to freeform music and poetry), signed the band, and soon the Fugs were on wax. A leap for the "big time" in 1968 led to a contract with Warner/Reprise Records. The fates were not kind to the Fugs on their commercial venture and, by 1969, the group was off the label; they disbanded that same year.

In a sense, the outrageous verbal and physical activities of the Fugs paved the way for the more refined insanity of such artists as Frank Zappa, Cheech and Chong, and the punk rockers.

JOHN KEELEY GETS LANDSCAPING CHANGED

Everybody should read the latest Murd'ring Ministers put out by Ron Brown, for the full story of how a girl gave John Kelley, publisher of The Beholder a bloody lip! I kid you not...and while you read through MM...well, you'll see how excellent it's gotten lately yourself. Write to Ron Brown, 1528 El Serena Place, Bakersfield, CA 93304.

BOARDMAN NUMBER UPDATE

Lee Kandter's second Everything, #44, has come out. Lee is the person to write to for a Boardman Number for a new regular gamestart. His address is 4347 Benner Street, Philadelphia, PA 19135. A \$1 donation for each number would be appreciated, but is not required, despite what has been circulated in some 'zines. And ask for a sample of Lee's gamezine, Why Meg which has just celebrated its second anniversary with a gala big issue!

HOMOSEXUAL BULLETIN

Anyone who has any ideas at all about homosexuality should subscribe to John Michalski's 'zine, The Homosexual Bulletin. For the last 15 issues (at least -- probably closer to 20) there has been a debate in its pages about whether gays should be nuked, gassed, or otherwise systematically exterminated, and how to go about it. Of special interest are pictures which Bill LaFosse offered to display, of homosexuals "blowing his load" (his words) in public restrooms. Besides this, Mark Borch offers some pretty well ignored rational arguments and raises important questions which go unanswered as Michalski asks why Borch didn't reply to Michalski's points. A must for non sequitur fans, or students of classic ironies.

Also an attraction of HB is the general filth of the press, which isn't even attempting to be funny; just flinging around insults in extremely immature ways. Of course, John not only encourages this, but actually contributes most of it!

POLICY CHANGE FOR EGGNOG

For last the (exchange those two words) one and a half or so years, it's always been my policy to continue to send the issues left on the subscriptions of players who had dropped out of games in EGGNOG until said subscriptions run out. It has happened on several occasions that those people later resubscribed and signed up for other games as though nothing had happened. No longer will this be the case. In MOBY GRAPE and POLITICIAN (and the old SWLABR) I have decided that if a player dropped out of a game he was playing in those pages, that I would confiscate monies on hand, and announced this fact in those 'zines. I am doing the same here. If someone drops out of an EGGNOG game, I will confiscate whatever money he has left in the EGGNOG till. If players later want to resub, that's OK. If people resign formally, and submit a final set of orders, they will not suffer the loss of their money. Let's hope that dropouts are cut down even more by this rule. (My drop rate is microscopic anyway; I should be very happy.)

ALMOST FORGOT

Above I plugged Murd'ring Ministers. I forgot to mention that he has openings in Submarine, a war game, and is searching for one more player. Sign up!

VOLKRWANDERING

Volk has been faked again! I love it! The second one comes right out and admits it's a fake, but is credited to Al Rodriguez...in the real Volk Andy Harris and Dave Barker admit putting out the first fake! It's obvious, though, that the latter two also put out this last fake, and claimed that Al did it. It's really great fun! By the bye, Bruce Linsey's latest Volk was mailed from Leigh Valley, PA. He lives somewhere in New York (I take it Leigh Valley is on the border; the rest of the state is...

QUESTIONAIRE

The response to last month's questionnaire was relatively light to moderate: 24 came back. That's a bit under a quarter of those who received it. I will extend the deadline another month (until next issue) and hope for more. Some of you said that they would have sent it in but didn't want to butcher an EGGNOG issue! Well, I'm flattered, but then Xerox it! Overseas subbers are invited to send theirs in too. I'll have the results for you next issue.

CHEESECAKE

...is a small 'zine put out by Andy Lischett, 3025 N. Davlin Ct, Chicago, IL 60618. While it's occasionally warehousey, last issue was hilarious. Inside were parodies of the infamous Page Ones of all EGGNOG issues, what with music column, linear separator, colophon, and a "Flemish Game"! I loved it! Also was the same for the Toronto Telegram with slightly less success, but with its own good points. Cheesecake's humor is among the best; wish there were more. Price is right, too: free for standby players! Try it!

PRICE INCREASES

In the last two weeks, five 'zines have raised their subscription rates, and two their game fees. EGGNOG is not one of them, and does not intend to raise its rates in the foreseeable future; but at 10/\$3.50 it's among the very least expensive around! I can remember when the issue that sold for a dime not the norm. Inflation is taking its toll on all of us, I guess. Shame that the only thing worse than Carter's foreign policy is his domestic policy. (Jerry Ford where are you when we need you?)

SILVER SHAMROCK?

There's been that flyer going around talking of the "tournament" with a \$25,000 cash prize, with coverage by ABC Wide World of Sports, and so on. As has been mentioned in a few 'zines already, this is a hoax. However, I

have nowhere read the most obvious reason (though, when I get Bruitania I'll probably see it): The Silver Shamrock casino of Las Vegas does not exist, and the promo agency of L.A. probably does not, either. I've been to Vegas off and on since I was a two-year-old, and just lately again (two years ago), and there never was any Silver Shamrock casino. No casino hatches a project like this before its second birthday! Geez! John Masters did it.

RETALIATION

...was mentioned last issue. It is getting bigger and better all the time, and Dick Martin intends to expand it some more. For that he needs some reliable guest GMs and more players! Cheek last issue for address and details. On the back of this latest issue, his sister Sue "wrote" me a poem:

"We love you Konrad, Oh Yes, we do. We love you Konrad, And we'll be true. When you're not with us, (near us), we're BLUE. Oh Konrad, we love you!" Then she asked me if I could guess what play her school put on that weekend. You get the greatest things in the mail, and for only 15¢! (Remember when it was 8¢? Less? It may be 20¢ soon, I've read. Gawd!)

RULE XIV, 3

...has always and will always be followed in my games. This means the removal of a dislodged unordered unit, regardless of the player comes back next season. Rule XIV, 3 of the 1971 Rulebook states this clearly. To say that this rule was meant purely for f-t-f play is incorrect; many postal players, like Rod Walker, were the ones that helped write the 1971 Rulebook. Why should any gamesmaster change the rules of the game just to protect a player who missed his moves? And if the GM does intend to do this, he should prominently mention this in his Houserules. If it is not in

the Houserules, it is to be assumed that the standard rules of Diplomacy are being adhered to. And those rules mean rule XIV,3, too. Right?

Allowing these units to retreat, I feel, is almost as foolish as the concept of "neutral moves," which of course, do not exist per se.

AH, FINALLY!

I thought that the only heckling I was ever going to get from Bernie "Oaklyn" would be in personal letters (there have been plenty of those). At last he attacks me openly in his Front de Lib, aka La Guerre. In 1978AU, a game I guest GM for Clay & Fang, I questioned the use of a word in a press release of his which he is lucky I bothered to print at all, by typing the word "sic" after it. His conclusion in FLD is that my life has no meaning, and that I should repent of my sins -- after being thrown out by Don Horton, who runs C&F! At first reading of his attack I thought honestly it was a weak joke! Like I said, this month's mail has been something else from the usual hum-drum!

Shrink: So what's your problem, Buddy?

"Oaklyn": I have this feeling that everybody's trying to take advantage of me.

Shrink: Impossible. Besides, that is a perfectly normal feeling.

"Oaklyn": Thanks, Doc, I feel better already! How much do I owe you?

Shrink: How much have you got?

More Overstuffed Recliner Later.

HURST TOURNAMENT RATING SYSTEM:

THE LETTERS COME IN

From Tom Hurst: Thanks for printing my article, even though it took up a lot of space. I know what that costs. It seems that it always takes up reams of paper to explain a simple concept -- such as how far one scored above or below the average of all the scores at a tournament for players playing the same countries you did, averaged over the number of rounds you played. Anyway, I'm glad that you understand the

math. Dick Martin doesn't, and he thinks that it will take forever to calculate scores (How long does it take to calculate a simple average for a country over all games played? and that the system will still not stop metagaming. (Of course, not only will a player have to calculate scores for all games in progress, but he will have to do so for all games played on a player-by-player basis. Even then he will have to remember that his calculations will have to be subsequently adjusted for games finished after he makes his first calculations. If an player can do that, he deserves to win, as his powers are far beyond the mortal plane.)

By the way, Konrad, I did get the idea for my article from DW. I did not particularly like the systems proposed there since it seemed to me that they missed the whole point as to what a scoring system was meant to do.

In that the other systems have tried to provide an overall system, I think that they have bitten off more than they can chew. In my opinion, what was, and is, needed by the hobby, is a system by which prizes and titles can be awarded at tournaments on an equitable basis. This became the driving force behind my work on my system. In other words, I tried to give the hobby what it needed. Of course, if a better system than HTM is proposed, I will be the first to laud it. Diplomacy deserves as much.

I'm gratified that you, at least, can understand my discarding the idea of a "win" in my system. I did it precisely because games in tournaments rarely reach that stage and to stop a player who is doing so well so early is somewhat akin to penalizing a football team because it scores too many touchdowns in the first half. (Besides, if every player playing a country scored over 18 SCs, his score vis-a-vis the average for the tournament for that country wouldn't be any better than that for any other country vis-a-vis its average.)

indeed, it could even be worse, according to my system!)

All in all, I think that the HTM system fulfills a need in the hobby. Just remember that the HTM system is for tournament use only. Based upon this and the other assumptions in my article, I think that HTM will give a good account of itself. Any comments and/or suggestions can be addressed to me or (if you would) to Konrad. I'll try to reply to them as they come in.

From Randolph Smyth: Just rec'd EGGNOG #43-44, and thought I might as well comment on the Hurst Tournament Mean System. I'm afraid that, even to a non-metagamer like myself, a good way to "beat the system" suggests itself immediately. A player who has done reasonably well in early rounds of a tournament and, with a few quick calculations, is able to single out another fellow as "the guy to beat," may find it very simple to modify his diplomacy accordingly. For instance, if he draws Italy in the last round, he's played Austria earlier while his "opponent" has played Russia, he's likely to make an R/I deal to wipe out the Austrian (improving his own relative score) and allowing the Russian to grow unchecked (decreasing the impact of any good Russian results). If successful, the game could end with Russia at 25 centers and Italy at 9 -- and with the unity of purpose possible, success is quite likely. This sort of thing could distort the play of the final games not only at the end, but even before 1901 begins! The smaller the tournament, the more critical such distortions will be.

So, I would say that the new system does not avoid metagaming -- in fact, it's made easier than under many other rating systems. Still, the proposal has merit: as you pointed out, the most interesting idea is to abolish the win/draw concept altogether. I think the idea of a reduced victory criterion has bothered a lot of people: it seemed necessary in a time-limited tournament round, but obviously the game was not really "won" and a would draw under

tournament conditions is only a cop-out for those who don't want to risk anything further.

After all, even the 18-center cut-off is only a convenient point to prevent games with no time limit from dragging on for ever. Positions are possible (though wildly unlikely) where 3 or even 2 units can hold a stalemate line against the rest of the board... and an England whose last unit has been annihilated is still unassailable to a power with over 30 armies, if it's foolish enough to neglect the build of a single fleet! So what is "victory," really?

I'd be willing to play under Tom's system, in spite of the residual metagaming possibilities -- the concept is really quite easy to grasp after the higher math is dispensed with, so everyone at least understands the ground-rules. One of the defects of other systems, I think, is that many players are befuddled by the complexities of the scoring, giving an unfair advantage to the metagamers who do take the trouble to work out methods of beating the system. The absence of the victory criterion also negates much of the rationale behind the hotly debated coin-flip resource.

There is no way of preventing some sort of metagaming in any scoring system that doesn't depend on a fight to the finish. For a chuckle, let me throw in my own idea to stop metagaming in tournaments, by the "blitzkrieg" system. All games are fought to the (18-center) finish, with a maximum 15 minute period between seasons. Players who wish to concede to a power, or are not doing well in the game, may drop out at any time and join a new pool for another game in the hope of doing better. In any case, the remaining power(s) must fight on to 18 centers before claiming credit, even when facing 6 CD positions. A few new wrinkles turn up in the diplomacy: a strong neighbor

should not be antagonized by a stab if there is any other way to win, or he will take the full 15 minutes between seasons to negotiate with himself, cutting into your time to try and win another game. (Otherwise, compliant players may drop out or play 5-minute seasons to accelerate things) It is to the winning player's advantage to keep his most loyal helpers in the game, as it will take longer to reach 18 centers if everyone else is in CD.

The winner of the tournament is the guy who wins the most games within the time limit. There are no set number of games or rounds per player -- new games begin as soon as seven players are available from other games. Of course, players should not play against those they've met in earlier rounds, which means that the waiting list will be somewhat longer; this will discourage a too-hasty dropout.

This keeps all participants involved in an interesting game most of the time, probably with a "British" style; many CD positions and a preoccupation with a quick drive to an 18-center win.

From Mark Elliott: First off, let me say I was glad to see a letter on Diplomacy rating systems last issue as I had been working on one myself recently. Tom Hurst's HTM seems like a very good system in many ways, was similar to mine (i.e. comparing how each player performed with each country against the average performances of the other players).

However, there is one addition which, although it makes the system even more complex, I think is important. In the majority of tournaments, such as the one held at last year's Origins, there is only time for a player to compete against one ~~fixx~~ of the total players. Because of this, while each person is rated against all the others, he may actually face opponents whose ability greatly exceeds (or is far beneath) the average ability of all the participants. Therefore, each player should have his final score modified based on the level of his opponents. The formula:

$$\left(\frac{EOS}{n}\right) + PS = \text{Adjusted Score}$$

This will balance the players' scores by awarding more points to those players who faced tough opponents than to those who faced weak ones. An objection to this addition might be that by defeating one's opponents, one is lowering their score and thereby lowering one's own score. But, since in most tournaments, every person plays every other person just once, one's skilled opponents should more than compensate for any loss to you in their other games. (I forgot to identify what the variables represent in the above equation. They are)

PS = Player's initial score

EOS = Opponent's average initial score

n = number of games played

Besides this small addition, I think that Tom Hurst has come up with an excellent rating system. I hope he doesn't mind my suggested modification.

From Konrad: Nobody minds constructive criticism and/or well-meaning suggestions, such as yours, Mark. We have one last bit, and it's a full-fledged article:

AN ANALYSIS OF THE HURST TOURNAMENT MEAN SYSTEM

By Mark L. Berch

In EGONOG #43-44, Tom Hurst proposed a Tournament Scoring System, the HTM system. While the formulae give the impression of great complexity, it is actually quite simple. The number of supply centers that you get in a given round is compared with the average for everyone else in that round for that country. If you exceed the average, you get 1

point for each center that you exceed the average by, minus 1 for each that you fall behind. This is done separately for each round, and then the results are averaged to give a final score. There is also something called "pairing", which is not explained, but which does not seem to have a vital role.

I present the following criticisms:

1) There is no such thing as a win or a draw. In doing so, Hurst has missed what is to me the entire point of the game. Supply Centers, (again, in my view) are nice, but are only a means to ^{the} end. To Hurst, they are an end in and of themselves. This robs the game of much of its richness and complexity. Suppose the leader offers you an alliance to divide up a third party. Ordinarily, you must weigh the advantages of the extra centers over the fact that such a deal may give the leader an insurmountable lead. But under Hurst, life is much simpler. You automatically accept. Much diplomacy can be conducted over the issue of who goes in to a draw, and who accepts survival in lieu of being wiped out. All this is abolished. Then there is the drama of a stop-the-leader alliance, as various players race to submerge their differences and form a stalemate line to keep the leader short of the victory criterion. Again, this vanishes. Many games, particularly if the tournament runs until 1909, which will be the case for DipCon 1980, really will be draws (or wins, in some cases). Why not treat them as such?

2) Counting just centers produces gross oversimplifications. In my opinion, a guy with 10 centers and who is top man on the board has done a lot better than someone who has come in with 10 centers but second to another with 18. But Hurst will count them as equal. And I say that Mr 9 in a 13-12-9 conclusion has done better than Mr 9 in a 11-10-9-2-1-1 conclusion, but again, so long as they are the same country, Mr Hurst will treat them the same.

3) The Hurst system will produce much cross-gaming influence. Players will look at other boards to see what-

er they are doing well (and thus play cautiously for the rest of the game) or are doing poorly (and thus should take some sizeable risks to get a decent showing). I think that your score should reflect your performance vis-a-vis your real opponents -- those on your board. I think that it is unfair to the other players to have someone's play influenced by what they cannot affect -- what is happening on another board.

4) Understandably, HTM requires three rounds. However, that is not always possible. DipCon 1980, for example, will be only two rounds.

5) HTM introduces a rather substantial luck factor. It is a fact that the relative strength of the countries fluctuates from round to round, due in part to the rather small sample size. This means, for example, that a 6 center Austria might do quite well in one round, and very mediocre in the next. Two players could turn in identical performances with identical countries, but land up with very different overall scores because one happened to play his country in rounds in which those countries did well.

6) Survival is rather undervalued. The difference between 1 center and being wiped out is the same as between 1 and 2 centers, or between 11 and 12. Remember the game must be kept interesting for those doing poorly as well.

7) Note that the game does not stop at 18 centers. Someone who reaches 18 or so centers can gain a colossal advantage, by really running up the score. Usually, once a player reaches 16 or so centers, he is strong (unless there is a full or partial stalemate line against him, which is very unlikely in this scoring system) that very rapid growth is assured. Going from 18 to 23 in one year would not be unheard of, and that's with the same amount as going from say 5 to 10 centers in the next round.

Of course, these are just my values, and I do not pretend that most people share them. For example, if you are of the "strong second" philosophy, this will be a fine system, since it strongly encourages you to ally with the leader under almost any circumstances -- he will be the most effective ally at securing more centers.

From Konrad: Thanks, Mark. Two freebies. I hope that Tom will answer the points Mark brings up next time.

SOME LETTERS

From Eric Ozog (accompanying his orders for 1979CU, on which this letter is based; there was a combined W/S season called for, but if 2 people asked to separate seasons, I would have done so. Nobody asked for one as it happens, but the principle of this letter is the important part): You must not separate this season. As you can see, if you do separate, it will give Turkey and Italy, my enemies, an undue advantage by seeing what I am going to remove, and that, my friend, is not fair. If you separate, I will be in ruins.

(Turkey and Italy, and the rest of the board, have the right to see everything that happened in Winter when or before they write their Spring orders. That's because Winter is a separate season which comes before Spring chronologically. Before Spring starts, Winter has already been finished, and the results open to all. That's why once upon a time, all zines published Winter separately all the time. Purists still do so today, but I like to combine seasons to save time. The option of making Spring orders conditional upon everything that happened in the Winter is still there, and has the same effect. If they had wanted, to, Italy and Turkey could have made their orders conditional upon what you removed in the Winter. It's fair. It's the rules.)

From Mike (Smacko) McMillie: Today I received a notice in the mail from a Vegas Promotions Unlimited concerning a \$25,000 National Diplomacy Championship from Aug 22-24, 1980 at the Hill-

ver Shamrock Casino in Las Vegas. Let me start by saying is this for real? (This letter came in right after last issue. While the "Championship" will not be held -- it was a hoax -- the gist of what Smacko has to say deals with the principle of the thing and not the fact of it. That is why it's printed. Give everybody something to think about.) To me it seems absolutely ridiculous. First, who would put up 25 G's for a Diplomacy Tourney? Second, who has the right to claim that this is the National Diplomacy Championship? Thirdly, why hasn't this been brought up before?

Now let me come to the critical question: Should Diplomacy be played for money, especially that much? I have always said that Diplomacy should not be played for money as it puts a different air on the game. What I mean here is that when people play for dinero, they stop playing a friendly backstabbing cutthroat game (which I feel is the whole point of playing the game) and start playing a bitter win-at-all-costs, who-cares-about-after-the-tournament enemy-making Diplomacy. The key here is that I feel Diplomacy is a friendly game that is to be played by friends or by people who will be friends after the game. Normally in an f-t-f or p-b-w game, if you get eliminated or are made a puppet you won't hold a grudge against someone or at least won't for long. You will also be more susceptible to making a draw in a draw position rather than play it to a stalemate end. In a game where money is involved, that massive fault that escaped Pandora's box, greed, sets in. Now after a game you go off in a huff and wish death or at least disease to your opponents. You also start

play to the bitter obvious end just because there may be some outside chance that 17 units of your color will miraculously appear and save your game along with your lone piece in Portugal or Tunis or Sweden. There is also some chance of violence in the form of fighting, kicking, etc. And don't say it doesn't happen! I have seen it (and am guilty of it) and that was only for a paltry \$50 first prize. What do you think will happen with a \$25,000 dollar prize?? Men have killed for less!

So much for my reasoning behind playing Diplomacy for money. Now I will go to the "preliminary announcement" and show why this tournament is either phoney or ill-conceived.

The initial paragraph explains that 7 finalists will compete for \$25,000 and will receive an all-expense paid trip. No arguments there except for the above. Is this Henry Kissinger going for an expensive alibi? Maybe it's Jimmy Carter looking for a new Secretary of State? Or then again it could be just a cosmic plot.

The next paragraph says that the championship game (a single game?) will be made up of qualifiers from 6 regional tournaments and an at large random slot. First, someone is going to call one game a championship? Boy, what about the guy who draws Austria, his least favorite country? He is just up feces estuary without a means of locomotion, especially if he is surrounded by a Russian-Turkish friendship, that may be a hold-over from previous play. The only fair thing would be to have at least two games, and give everyone a semi-equal percentage of winning. The second absurd thing here is having 6 regions and an at-large/Mike then talks of relative distances and such/.

Paragraph 3 states "The National Championship game itself, will be conducted in a new and unusual manner." What the hell? I thought Diplomacy was a set game. I thought it already had a format. Why do we need a new game? Isn't the old game good enough?

I will skip the first paragraph and go on to the second which says "All diplomacy will be conducted... via house phone." This really changed the game

No longer can one have 3-way conversations as in fif, and no longer can one pass letters as in pbm. In addition, one can only get the sound of a voice, while not seeing a face, which a student of body language would use in the preliminary rounds. Also a person will have no idea as to who is talking to who, again unlike fif which this is supposed to be.

In subparagraph 3, the new rule change is that all moves will be entered by computer. Not bad, except it forbids secret moves on the table, and other devious things which are part of a friendly game.

Subparagraph 4 really sums up what I've said all along. "The game will be played until the better end." I don't think I have to go through that argument again.

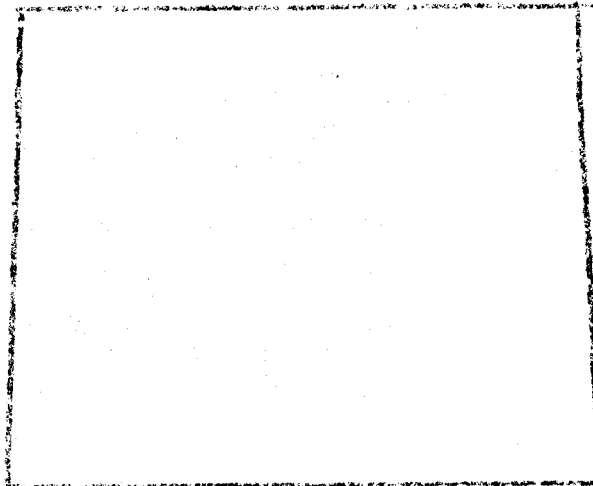
Subparagraph 5 states that "Draws including more than three players will be allowed." What about stalemates...? What about the endless backstab game where only one or two countries get knocked out and everyone else in anticipation of big money continually breaks alliances?

The big kicker is subparagraph 6 which contains "The Silver Shamrock will conduct paramutual wagering on this event." I love having this point tucked away. Now we can see who can afford this one time good deal. I hate the idea though, of having my favorite pastime (other than women and flying) turned into a means of gambling. In simple language, it sucks! If I wanted to bet or wish someone to, I would rather see it done on cards.

The last numbered subparagraph, number 7, says "Coverage by ABC is anticipated." Why would anyone, especially Wide World, want to go through the rules to explain to the public a wargame that would not be easy to televise, especially if the contestants are separated and doing their negotiations by house phone. I can see Howard Cosell right now, trying to explain the intricacies of Diplomacy.

ic relations. I think you can see how preposterous it seems....

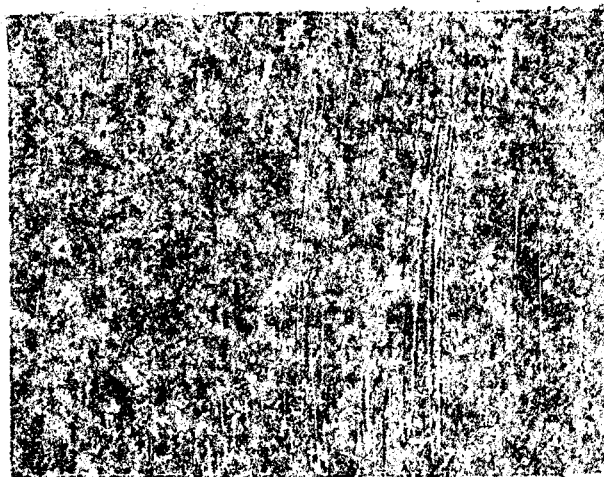
(You made some good points, especially about playing for money. Dippy players being what they are. I could easily see some violence happening.)



PHOTOGRAPHY CORNER

Konrad's Kamera has done it again -- trespassed onto foreign territory to bring back a picture of some of the troops fighting out there. This time the picture opposite shows the Russian army on winter maneuvers in Siberia. (Note to overseas subbers: This won't make any sense to you, but note colors for North American pieces run: Austria red, England dark blue, France light blue, Germany black, Italy green, Russia white, Turkey yellow.)

Our second prize photograph this month is a rare one indeed. Few exist right now. To your right is a picture of the British navy during submarine maneuvers. Suitable for framing or wrapping fish.



I can't think of anything to fill this space with offhand, so I'll just leave it blank, something rather unlike me. On the other hand, I will fill it up.

1976IH --- W10/Spring 1911

- ENGLAND(Lishett): F Eng-Mid, F Iri
S F Eng-Mid
- GERMANY(Cooper): Rem F Hel. A Wal-
Lyp, F Nth S F Bel, F Bel S F Nth,
A Ber-Mun, A Kie-Ruh
- RUSSIA(Kelly): Bld A StP, A War, A
Mos, No Moves Rec'd. A Rum & A
Sev & A Gal & A Ukr, & A War & A Mos
& A StP & A Nwy & F Swe H
- TURKEY(Verheiden): Bld A Con. A Con-
Cly, F Aeg & F Ion & F Tyn & F Was &
F Mid & F Net C A Con-Cly. F Ere S F
Mid, A Ser-Bul, A Tri-Ser, A Ven-Tri,
A Tyl S A Man, A Dun S A Bur-Roh, A
Por S F Pic, A Bur-Roh, F Pic S F Bro

send in any Spring orders. Since he didn't specifically call for a separation fo seasons, and the fact that both Winter and Spring were due at once was prominently announced last issue, this is Ron's fault and the seasons were combined. Thus the NMR. No standby will be called...assumedly Ron won't be dropping out at this late a stage in the game. Let's hope I'm not wrong.

Andy: Care to pass on to me the results of the latest Chicago meeting? I couldn't make it due to time pressures, parties, girls, parties, girls, wine, parties, girls again! You know how it goes. Seriously though

A rather inactive season. Fall 1911
due May 8, 1930, May 7 by phone. Ron
Kelly sent in Winter orders, but didn't

This is the last...

This is the 12th in a series of monthly CAT-TASTROPHEs. As you will find out shortly, hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, and revolutions are mild in comparison to what follows. For the time being, editorial offices are located at 560 S. 11th St., Beaumont, TX 77701 on hole 19, Course #1. Phone calls are all right as long as it's your nickel and as long as you call between 4 & 10:00 on Thursdays (CST, by the way). While you're at it, ask for Dave Hite, because nobody else understands this silly game.

WELGA'GHE'NE'IST'RO'PLIGATO'YLD'BA'LS'PARATO'IN'PIAL'AYS'ITI'A'PE'LA'TRO'BLIGATO'YC'AP'AROV'!!!

Off the Top of My Head--Ed.'s Column

1. Sorry that most of you missed me the last couple of months. In Feb., the deadline occurred just as I got back from a business trip. After typing up the ditto and rusing it off to Konrad, I found out that my assistant had one day's worth of mail which just happened to contain somebody's orders, so I sent out separate adjudications to the players only. March, as Konrad obliquely referred to in his last issue, my cats ate my last ditto! Well, they didn't really eat it, but they shredded the hell out of it and I was again forced to send out adjudications to players only. So, what it amounts to is that the game continued, but everybody other than the players missed my witty comments and had to put up with another page of Konrad's blithering! In order to make up for that, I have expanded to 2 pages this time.
2. This is my 1st anniversary issue. Gawd! I can't believe that I have survived a whole year. Originally, I started out in Bob Beardley's PROPHANA, but a couple of months later, Bob folded. Konrad was kind(?) enough to throw me an ~~ammunition~~ life preserver and haul me in out of the waters of uncertainty I was drifting in. In the meanwhile, I have moved twice and may soon be moving again. After a year as a rubber/GI, I must admit that I have gained a new measure of respect for the idiots (like Konrad) who churn out issue after issue! I mean, it's hard enough for me to adjudicate 1 game, fit everything into my allotted space and get it off in the mail--I don't have to do any of the heavy-duty crap like running off dittos, collating, stapling, addressing, or licking stamps. I can just imagine what I'm doing now multiplied 10 or 20-fold, and that's just writing the material! I must also ~~admit~~ admit that I enjoy doing this, and hope to continue for a long time to come.
3. Anybody out there have a bad experience with SPI? I did. I subscribed to their damn Strategy and Tactics magazine for one year, received one issue, and then nothing. Well, I wrote to them and told them to send me my zines or my money, or I was going to the Better Business Bureau. wonder of wonders, my zines finally arrived. I wish they had sent me my money! Avalon-Hill's only redeeming quality lately is the fact that they publish Diplomacy. I'm still waiting for a reply to a letter I sent asking a couple of simple questions. Hell, I even included a SAS! Such service!
4. I better get to the game before I run out of space. Besides, I wouldn't want to spoil the surprises coming up!

1979: AUSTRIA&ENGLAND STYMIED IN QUEST FOR NEW CENTERS! Spring, '04
 ((England retreats F StP(nc), A YCR, and A PUN OTT)) ((Germany builds A BER&TUN, F KIE))
 Austria (Rubinstein) A VIE S A BUD; A BUD S A TRI-SER; A TRI-SER
 England (Kluge) F Wtd-TUN, F ENG S F NTH, F LTH S F ENG
 France (Kelly) A PAR-BUR, A SPA-MAR, F POR-LAO, F ENR-PIG, A GAS-BRE
 Germany (Aucott) A BER-SIL(AUN S), F KIE-HLG, A RUM S A HUN, A BEL-BUR, F POL-NTH(F NYS),
A MOS H(A StP S), A DRMA SWE H
 Italy (Hurst) A ROM-VIE(A TYO S), A GNE-ALP, F ION-TUN, F NAP-TYN
 Turkey (Elliott) A SER-PUD(A RUM S), A POL-SER, F PLA-CON, F Etd-AEG, A UKR-GAL, A SEV-BOS
 *Austrian units in VIE&BUD are annihilated; Fall '05 deadline is May 2, 1990.

NEWS:
 Zagreb(UPI) Austria files her traditional protest at being misquoted in the last issue. What was meant to be said was that I had planned to wipe out the 3 pieces I now have and to retain the 3 wiped pieces ~~XXXXXX~~ for a suicidal offensive v Turkey... Tune in for the next episode of "you too can be Hapsburg for a day."
 BT Protest noted, however, I typed everything as I received it.

CAT #12 4/4/80

19790 PRESS cont.

RO: The initials NEMO appeared on the wall of the Austrian Legation today. At this writing, no one has been able to explain ~~WHAT THIS IS~~ who caused this mysterious appearance, or what the letters mean. Street rumor suggests that the letters may stand for "No more r. Nice Guy." Confirmation of this rumor is expected soon. to WHI: Not again, alt! Just we always be at odds? (A suitable "screw you" reply is confidently expected soon.) to CAT: And into the fray steps another, /With his words an opponent does another, /Five-liners I do, /To give others the screw, /r. hite, you've just found a brother! CAT to RO: To the guy in home named Hurst, /Your poetry's not bad, I've seen worse, / Though this info's belated, /I doubt if we're related--- /Sure hope that your bubble's not burst!

The CAT's Meow—a logic problem.

For those of you who weren't around for the first installment of this madness, the name for this zine was inspired by my cats. In response to a question from Tom Hurst, below are some statements (clues) about them. From those clues, match the name, color, physical defect (one is missing a hind leg), and the order in which I acquired them. First correct answer will receive whatever Conrad deems appropriate for the crime. That is, of course, providing that Conrad doesn't submit the first correct answer, in which case, I will compile a 25 question trivia quiz for him as his prize.

1. The first 2 cats have nothing wrong with their tails; the last 2 have nothing wrong with their ~~XXXX~~ paws.
 2. Jeremiah and the 4th cat are both predominantly black and orange.
 3. The 3rd cat's tail is not bent, and he is not Fred.
 4. The blackwhite cat, which is not Clawed, is missing her front paw.
 5. Harvey is not striped and is not missing anything.
 6. Clawed came before the black/orange spotted cat and after the black and orange striped cat.
 7. Fred came after the cat missing its hind leg, but before the grey/black striped cat.
 8. For your information, in spite of the names, 3 of the cats are female and one is male.
- The explanation of the answer and announcement of the winner will appear in #14.

DEAR CRABBY—advice for Dip players and other poor schmucks

Dear Crabby, I am playing in 4 games in one zine. I was on the verge of winning one and had a shot at drawing in 2 others when the low-rent pubber decided to close up shop. what can I do? STRANDED

Dear STRANDED, You were a victim of the Conrad Von Retzke Law of Publishing: Old pubbers never die; they just fold away! Fear not! The Flying Dogs of Retaliation to the rescue! Write to Jack Bratner, John Daly, or Dick Martin—they'll handle orphan adoptions.

Dear Crabby, I notice that your address has changed 3 times during the past year. What kind of sleazy, fly-by-night operation are you running anyway? CURIOUS

DEAR CURIOUS, what kind of sleazy fly-by-night operation would you like? write and tell me—the post office will forward it to wherever I happen to be next month! I mean, this is a HIGH-CLASS sleazy, fly-by-night operation—I aim to please!

Dear Crabby, while on vacation recently, I had occasion to meet one of the players in one of my games. As a matter of fact, we're closely allied. After meeting this guy, though, I found out firsthand what a low-life, conniving SOB he really is—I don't trust him any further than I can throw him. What should I do? UNCERTAIN

DEAR UNCERTAIN, I'd suggest that you invite him out to your place on his vacation so that HE can find out firsthand what a low-life, conniving SOB you really are! After that, I think a duel would be in order.

Since I have a couple of lines to play with, for the benefit of those who missed it last time, a plug for Whitestonia by John Caruso, 42-34 Saull St., Flushing, NY 11355. \$4/10, it includes Dip, Nuclear Holocaust (a 20-player variant), London Ships & Iron Men, and Castro Wind. At the same address, for \$2.50/10, you can also receive Byrne Syndrome, by Kathy Byrne. Kathy runs Nuclear Holocaust games and explains about "Byrne Syndrome" (the disease) and Heinowski specials. Both are worth the price for the press alone!

1978T -- Fall 1906

GI: Dave Burke, 5512 Julmar Drivem
Cincinnati OH 45238 USA

FRANCE(Kluge): A Nwy S GER S Den-Swa
F Nth S A Nwy, A Par-Cas, A Bur-Mar,
A Tus-Ven, F Lvo S F Wes-Tyn, F Wes-
Tyn, F Tun S F Mes-Tyn/R Mar, Wes,
OEB/

GERMANY(Cooper): F Den-Swa, F Bal S
F Den-Swa, A Kie-S A Ber, A Bar S
A Mun, A Mun S A Bar, A Ruh S A Mun,
A Nwy S FRE A Nwy

ITALY(Pagedas): F Aeg S RUS A Bul-Can
A Tyl S HIS A Boh-Mun, A Pie-Ven, F
Tyn-Tun, F Ion S F Tyn-Tun, F Mes-Tus

RUSSIA(Uli Baumeister): F Bar-Nwy, A
SEP-Nwy, A Fin S A SEP-Nwy, F Ska S
A SEP-Nwy/RR Bot, OTE/, A Pri-Bar, A
SIL S A Pru-Bar, A Boh-Mun, F Sev-Pla
A Bul-Con, A Rum-Bul

TURKEY(Kelly): NWR! F Bla H, A Arm H,
F Con H/R Ank, Sny, OTE/

Centers: FRA: Home, Spa, Por, Lon,
Lyp, Gny, NWY: 8, Evan, GER: Home, Den,
Hel, Bel, Edi, SWE: 8, Hld 1 (will be
1 short), ITA: Home, Ser, Gre, Tri,
TUN: 7, Hld 1, RUS: Home, Bud, Ska,
Nwy, Vie, Rum, Bul, CON: 9, Rum 1,
TUR: Ank, Sny: 2, Rum 1.

The draw vote has once again failed and
has been re-proposed. Vote with your
Winter 1906/Spring 1907 orders, due to
Dave May 4, 1980. Ron accidentally
sent orders to me (Konrad), but Uli
didn't see them; we all arrived back
home from vacation on the 8th, days
after Dave's deadline. Ron, send your
orders to Dave Burke, address top of
page. Thanks.

1878IP -- Spring 1906

ENGLAND(Eckanus): A Bel-Pla, A Hol-
Bel, F Hel-Nth, F Nth-Eng, A Yor-Wal

FRANCE(Kelly): A Ruh-Mun, A Bur S A
Ruh-Mun, A Pie-Tus, F Lvo C A Pie-Tus
F Tyn S ITA A Rom-Nap/nso/, F Tun S
F Tyn

GERMANY(Van Alkenade): F Nwy-Nth, A
Swa S A Den, A Den & A Mun S A Kie,
A Kie & A Ber S AMun

ITALY(A Cooper): A Rom S FRE F
Tyn-Nap/nso/, A Vie S A Bud, A Ven S
A Tri, A Bud S A Tri, A Tri S A Bud

RUSSIA(OD): A Mos H, F Lvn H
TURKEY(Joy): Hld F Sny, F Sny-
Aeg, F Sev-Pla, F Ion-Adr, F N
Nap S F Gre-Ion, F Gre-Ion, A
Alb-Tri, A Ser S A Alb-Tri, A
Rom S A Ukr-Gal, A Ukr-Gal

The vote for the draw failed by
one vote. Thank you to Phil Coop-
er for taking over Italy. Thank
you Steward for the rest of your
money. (Not much.) Fall 1906
is due May 8, 1980. There has
been a proposal for an EFGIT draw.
Please vote with your orders.

1979CU -- Winter '03/Spring '04

ENGLAND(Counselman): Hld F Ion.

F Lon-Eng & Hol-Bel, F Nth S
A Hol-Bel, F Nwy-Bar

FRANCE(Hollingsworth): F Bro-
Mid, F Spa(sc) H, A Ruh-Mun,
A Bal-Ruh/a/, A Bur S A Ruh-Mun
A Fin-Bel

GERMANY(Cooper): Rom F Hel, A
Den & A Mun S A Kie, A Kie S
A Den, A Bar S A Mun

ITALY(Pfohl): Hld F Rom & F Nap.
F Rom-Tus, F Nap-Tyn, F Ion-Tun
F Alb-Ion, F Tri-Alb, A Tyl-Tri
A Vie S A Tri-Tri, A Rum-Ser

RUSSIA(Ozog): A Rum S OTE, Rom
F Pla, A Nwy-Den, F Ska C A
Nwy-Den, F Swa S A Nwy-Den, A
Pru-War, A Ukr S A Sey/nwy/ A
Sev H

TURKEY(Van Alkenade): Hld F Ank
(will be 1 short), F Bul(sc)-
Pla, F Ank S F Bul(sc)-Pla, A
Arm-Sev, A Con S F Gre-Bul(sc),
F Gre-Bul(sc), A Bud S ITA A
Rum-Ser

Phil, you accidentally sent me
a letter you had meant for Eng-
land. Made no difference, but
thought you ought to know. Fall
1904 due May 8, 1980. Press!

MOSCOW: I, Eric Ozog the Black-
hearted hereby decree that Russia
shall pull out of the deep South
and watch Italy and Turkey fight
over Serbia. What fun! But a-
las, I want no part of it.

TURKEY: Contrary to certain
allegations (suspicious) voiced

In and by EGGNOG, Sultan Van Aikemade does maintain a legal residence in Racine, Wis, and encourages one and all to send lots of letters and post-cards. Occasionally, I've seen send a reply to them -- should they merit a reply. As to the affairs of the Turkish State, they are now classified and covered under an Islamic cloak of secrecy, which could only be lifted by a word from the late Ayatollah Khomeini, who drowned in the Ionian Sea while on a missionary journey to Rome.

1979IJ -- Fall 1903

AUSTRIA (Buscha): A Tyl-Vann A Tri-Alb, A Vie-Trk, A Ukr S A Ukr-Ion, A Gre S A Tri-Alb, A Ukr-Ion
 ENGLAND (Cantabrigia): No Novus Raclid. A Esp N/a, F Ind H, F Nth H
 FRANCE (Bolline): F Hal-Lvp, F Nat S, F Hal-Lvp, F Bre-Mid, A Bel S A Bur, A Bur S A Bel, A Gas S A Bur
 GERMANY (Sulberger): A Ruh-Bel, A Hol S A Ruh-Bel, A Mun-Ber, A Kis S A Mun-Ber, F Hal-Den
 ITALY (Kador): F Tun-Ion, F Alb-Adr/a, A Ven H, A Rom S A Ven
 RUSSIA (Lee): A War-Pru, F Swe-Nwy, F Bel & A Sil S A Pru-Ber, A Pru-Ber, A Con-Sov, A Arm S A Con-Sov, F Ank H
 TURKEY (Borden): A Sme H/a

There has been a concession proposed: to Russia. If everybody votes yes to concede the game to Russia, it shall be done. Center Chart follows. Winter 1903 only will be due May 8, 1900. If everybody submits Spring 1904 orders then we'll do that too.

Center: AUS: Home, Sern Gre, Bul: 6, Even. ENG: Edi, ~~Ypp~~, Lon: 2, Even. FRA: Home, Spa, Por, Bel, Lvd: 7, Bld 1. GER: ~~Ypp~~, Kis, Hol, Mun, Dae: 4, Sem 1. ITA: Home Tun: 4, Bld 1. RUS: Home, Swe, Rum. Con, Nwy, Ank, Sov, Ber: 11, Bld 3. TUR: ~~Ypp~~, ~~Ypp~~: 0, Out

Thanks to Larry for playing it to the end, even though he was dead in 601 when he missed his move. On second thought, Spring 1904 is due with Winter 1903: both May 8, 1900. Press:

BERLIN TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: Monst, guys, I'm usually a pretty prolific

press writer, but the only thing I can think of to say is "Oh shit!"
 BUDAPEST (July 4, 1903): The Prime Rib Minister publically congratulated the Russian army for its glorious victory over the Turks. "The people of Austria, Hungary, and Serbia sal to our Russian ally in the conquest of the terrible infidels of the east."

TRIESTE (July 28, 1903): Albanian government officials arrived today after fleeing from the Italian invasion. "Our country is now in total chaos and control by the Italians. Thousands of innocent women and children have been slaughtered by those pizza mongers." The Albanian President whentonto say that he and the rest of his army will help lead the Austrian counter offensive to regain the homeland.

VIENNA (August 10, 1903): Hundreds of thousands of demonstrators marched into the capital today, demanding the ouster of the Commanding General of the Western Defense Army and the STAB forces for his failures and gross incompetence in deploying his forces. Many of the demonstrators were military personnel.

Some government officials feared total turmoil and a possible coup if some affirmative action is not taken immediately.

TRIESTE (August 11, 1903): The Prime Rib Minister, in a press conference, reacted quizzically when asked about the English statement regarding an "alliance." "We have no idea at all of what England is talking about. However, we are always receptive to discussion in all matters pertaining to peace and defense. If the English people wish to open negotiations, we will gladly listen to their proposals, but promise nothing."

The Minister then commented on other developments in Western Europe. "It sure is amazing how Germany, France and Italy are getting along. The German-Italian alliance the French-Italian alliance coupled with the French-Italian alliance

and with the French-Germany/English conflict is very puzzling. I wonder if the French people realize that if it weren't for the Austrian army, it could very well be an Italian-German-English alliance against France. Who would survive then? But now, the back gate to survival is open. May we remind the French that the Italians were starting to move their naval forces westward when the Austrian people launched their offensive, thus causing Italy to change direction again."

VIENNA (August 11, 1903): Officials announced that the Commanding General of the Western Defense Army has been executed for his faulty planning in the Spring Offensive against Italy. "His incompetence as a leader has needlessly cost thousands of lives and resulted in utter failure. Let this be a warning to all of our military leaders that gross incompetence will not be tolerated. They must produce satisfactory results or face the consequences."

TYROLIAN (Sept. 15 1903): It was announced that the first field promotion of the Austrian-Italian conflict was made. An unknown Corporal has been promoted to a Major in the Tyrolian forces because of his heroism under fire and his abilities to arouse fellow comrades in battle.

VIENNA (Sept. 23, 1903): The Prime Rib Minister issued a baited warning to our German "friends". "The Russians are coming! The Russians are coming!"

We urge the people of Germany to welcome our allies with open arms."

VIENNA (Oct 1, 1903): The Italian leadership is constantly urging us to make peace with them now and attack our Russian allies. If we did as they suggest, would the Italians sit idle? Would they attack France then? Or, would they again attack us? We are not as stupid as you constantly tell our Russian allies." The Prime Rib Minister went on to say that "We will never forsake our allies. Furthermore, our Russian allies will not succumb to the Italian and German pressure to attack Austria, as they know that after Austria is defeated, Russia will have to fight a stronger Germany and a stronger Italy ALONE."

1979IK -- Winter 1902

(There were 3 separation requests, so separate it is!)

AUSTRIA (Bassett): A War R Gal/a/
F Gre R Alb. Has F Alb, A Vie,
A Tri, A Ser

ENGLAND (Luckenbill): Bld F Edl &
F Lon. Also has F Mid, F Bre,
F Eng, F Swe, A SEP

GERMANY (Palter): Bld A Ber & A
Mun. Also has A Den, F Par, A
Sil, F Bel, A Bur

ITALY (Cifain): Bld F Rom & F Nap.
Also has A Por, A Spa, A Mar, F
Apu, F Ion

RUSSIA (Huret): Even. Has A War.
A Mos, F Sev

TURKEY (Brewner): Bld A Con. Al-
so has A Gre, F Ass, A Hag, A Bal
F Bla

Austria tried to retreat to Gal, but can't because that's where the attack on War came from, so the army is disbanded. Austria then was going to make a removal, but will not need to, since the A War R OTB. There are orders on file for everybody, but half of the board wanted a separation. Press (Some was withheld because it might influence the next season):

MOSCOW: The Rump Tsar today announced that the conversion of his troops' arms from muskets to breechloaders has now been completed. He went on to say that as soon as he figured out a way to manufacture ammunition, his troops would indeed be formidable.

LWOW TO NATWERP: Galicia! If you can't figure out why, then hold your peace!

ANK TO LON: Your place!

MOSCOW: The Rump Tsar was found in a cabbage patch with an empty bottle of vodka in each ear. His peasant subjects had mistaken on his head for a garbage can.

ANTWERP TO MOSTWERP: Guess who's coming to dinner,

LON TO BERL: Rumor has it that large numbers of inebriated Eye-talians have been seen staggering

toward Par, it is suspected they have something evil in mind -- breathing garlic down your pants. LON TO ROME: Fear not, help is on the way!

Spring 1903 due May 8 1980.

1979IL -- Fall 1902

AUSTRIA (Garter): F Gre S A Bul, A Bul S A Bud-Rum, a Ser S A Bud-Rum A Vla-Gal, A Bud-Rum
 ENGLAND (Martin): F Nth-Lon, A Yor S F Nth-Lon, F Bar-Nwg
 FRANCE (Lee): F Mid-Irl, A Mar H, A Wal-Iep, F Englon, A Spa-Por
 GERMANY (Elliot): A Dan-Swa, F Ska S A Dan-Swa, A Kle-Den, A Mun-Sil, A Bel H
 ITALY (Luckenbill): A Tur-Syr, F Ion & F Bas O A Tur-Syr, A Pie H
 RUSSIA (Aucott): A Mos-Sev, A Ram S A Los-Sev/R Ukr, JTB/, F Bla S A Mos-Sev, A StP S P Nwy, F Nwy S A StP
 TURKEY (Hurst): F Con-Ank, F Aeg-Smy, A Sev-Hos/R Ukr, Arn, GRY

Centers: AUS: Home, Ser, Gro, Bul, Rum: 7, Bld 2. ENG: Lon, Lyp, Rai, 2, Ram 1, FRA: Home, Spa, Por, Lyp: 6, Bld 1. GER: Home, Hol, Bea, Spa, Bel: 7, Bld 2. ITA: Home, Tur: 4, Even. RUS: Home, 5, Even or Bld 1. TUR: Home, 3, Even or Bld 1 depending on retreat.

Winter 1902 & Spring 1903 due May 8. Orders can be made conditional. Press:

TURKEY TO RUSSIA: I wouldn't sing my eulogy yet, Walt. I can still play kingmaker. -- ABED

TURKEY TO ITALY: Did you know that I'm part Neville on my mother's side, Chris? Ah, those English governesses! By the way, F Nap-Ion indeed! -- ABED

ISTANBUL: The Sultan Abed today announced the winner of the only annual Silver Platter Award before he absconded with the contents of his treasury and harem. He expressed the hope that the Austrian Emperor would publish a suitable acceptance speech, especially since he has heard so little from him of late. He also confided that the Austrian was not given the

award because of his sparking personality, but rather because he was the least patently offensive of the three possible candidates for the honor. -- T.N.T.

SIANGRI-LA: Sultan Abed-A-Thomas today reaffirmed he is continuing to direct the destinies of his people. This information came as he had just finished settling into his plush accommodations at the Grand Hotel. He said that he identifies with the sufferings of his people under the heel of the foreign aggressors, but that he finds it easier to govern when he is not distracted by bullets whizzing past his ears. Orders will be dispatched to his commanders in the field by radio for as long as they're still around to receive them. He then retired within his suite to play a game of Diplomacy with his close friend, Idi Amin. -- T.N.T.

GERMANY TO AUSTRIA: Watch the little green men!

ROME: The people of Italy, through the grace of God represented by His Royal Majesty King Christopher the Slightly off-center, with regret and extreme sorrow declare war upon the rotten, grimy, ignoble, mustachioed and Godless Infidels of Turkey. Let all know by this solemn declaration that a state of hostility hereafter exists between the Kingdom of Italy and the Empire of the Ottomans. Amen and pass the chianti.

ROME TO ANK: Prepare for peace, we're gonna force it down your throat!

BER TO PAR: Need help?

ENGLAND TO FRANCE: En garde!

ENGLAND TO GERMANY: Help!

ENGLAND TO NORWAY: Sorry I could not stay, but I have matters which require my full stupidity back home!

1980I -- Fall 1901

Das Deutsche Spiel

Natuerlich habe ich ein Fenier gemacht, in dem ich den Zugabetermin fuer Heute setzte. Er wird bis um 8 Mai 1980 verschoben. Wir werden 8 Wochen ZAT haben fuer Spring und Fall, aber nur 4 Wochen fuer Winter. OK mit euch?

1980s -- Winter 1901

AUSTRIA(Rodriguez): Bld A Vie & A Bud. Also has A Tri, A Ser, F Gre
 ENGLAND(Hurst): Bld F Edi & F Lon.
 Also has A Den, F Nth, F Nwy
 FRANCE(Counselman): Bld A Par & F Bre.
 Also has A Mar, A Spa, F Por
 GERMANY(Boudon): Bld A Moh. Also has A Bur, A Rub, F Bal
 ITALY(Osueh): Bld F Nap. Also has A Tyl, A Ven, F Tan
 RUSSIA(Parker): Bld A StP, A War.
 Also has A Gal, F Swe, A Rum, F Sev
 TURKEY(Wakefield): Bld F Smy. Also has A Bul, F Aeg, A Con

Spring 1902 due May 8, 1980. Press:

ALEPPO TO VIENNA: The quality of Austrian statemanship has come a long way since Metternich. It would now appear to be somewhere in between the Rasputin and Idi Amin schools of Diplomacy.

BERLIN: Am I to take your presence in Burgundy as an unfriendly gesture?

EGGNOG: That should be Paris-Berlin, not just Berlin. Sorry.

ROME: When asked about the movement of the northern troops, presidential advisor Basketti remarked that the precise orders were only to "take the scenic route." At which time he abruptly departed.

ITA TO FRA: Did you go to "Buzard Day?"

EGGNOG TO ITALY: Did you?

Those were the games, done in chronological order for the first time ever in EGGNOG's history.

SOME REFLECTIONS ON THE POSITION OF AUSTRIA-HUNGARY

By Dave White

Playing Austria is a lot like drinking Spanish fly and milk of magnesia -- you can't tell whether you're coming or going. I have risen to the highest peak (winning) and sunk to the deepest pits (being first eliminated) as Austria, so it only seems

fitting that I should be the one to counsel you ~~people~~ people about this crazy position. Besides, Konrad has been on my ass, and The Spendthrift made a snide comment in the press of 1979CU last issue, so I thought that this would be the perfect time for it.

You see, the first time that I ever played Austria was also the first time I ever played Diplomacy by mail. I had learned the game years earlier while at the University of Wyoming, but it wasn't until years later that I finally got a set and got hooked on this silly game. I was sick of trying to hustle up 6 basket cases for ftf games, so I desperately send out a flurry of SASEs claiming that I was desperate enough to even play ITALY! The first response I got back was from Steve Helnowski. Steve claimed that he had no trouble at all finding Italian players for Ter-Rand but rather that the problem was Austria. Like a dumass, I volunteered to play Austria in an AREA-rated game, 1978AB.

The gruesome details can be found in Diplomacy Digest #29 -- I entered this particular game in the Diplomacy World Stab Contest. I didn't win, but Mark Berch thought it was good enough to be printed. In case you don't have that particular 'zine handy, a short synopsis follows:

First off, I got England, Germany and Turkey to go along with me in an attack on Russia. After agreeing to neutralize Gal, I moved there. In the meanwhile, Turkey moved to Bul, Bla and Arm, and Germany moved to Den. Russia helped out in the spring by moving A Mos north, and then in the Fall by NMRing. By then I was in War, and Turkey squeezed Russia out of Rum, leaving it vacant. On the other side of the board, England and Germany got in to Swe and Nwy, while at the same time completely devastating France. I was playing both ends against the middle by using Turkey to wipe out Russia and trying to get Italy to wipe out Turkey. That was my

plan, but it didn't quite work out that way. Italy saw the shambles of France and decided to scarf up some of the remains, leaving little to use against Turkey. I stiffed Italy out of our previous deal and went with Turkey. By the middle of '02, Russia was just about finished and Turkey decided that Germany would be next, so he started filtering units over that way. After a long phone conversation with Germany, I decided to stab Turkey. Stole 2 of his centers personally, contributed to the annihilation of another unit and supported the English into another Turkish center, but was cut by the last marauding Russian unit. At the same time, Germany was stabbed by England. Too bad, too, because Germany was one move away from disemboweling Italy! Turkey resigned the next move, and no replacement could be found. So I carefully gobbled up the Turkish centers while assisting Germany against England by giving him War. A few moves later, I stabbed England, Germany, and Italy (the only remaining players besides myself!) and gained 5 centers in one year, which added to the 13 I already had gave me the magic 18 for the win.

Fresh from my victory in 1978AB, Konrad suckers me into playing in a new game. My preference list was: (1) Austria, (2) 6-way tie among the remaining countries. I was thrilled to receive my first preference, and set

about to re-enact the same diabolical plot. However, as the results of 1979CU will bear out, winning with Austria is like drinking gasoline, then swallowing a match -- it's a neat trick, but you can only do it once!

.....
 Dave has a way with analogies, eh? Maybe it was your press in 1979CU?

Actually, I happen to have material for about 24 pages this issue. However, I've typed all of this issue, GM'd and so forth, all in the same day, this being Thursday. I'm still suffering from jet-lag from my flight home from Germany, so to hell with it, I'm dead. (No coffee pot here, either. Hate coffee.) Next issue, look forward to 1978AQ wrap-up with game end comments, article by John Kador, letter from Dan Falter, summary of the EGGNOG Questionnaire mailed last month, and somehow we'll squeeze in the games and some press, too. But best of all, next month we'll have another book to review for out heading! Aren't you ecstatic? So forgive me the 18 page double issue. There's so much more, but so little time, and even less typing ability after so many hours of doing this shit.

Last line. Bye.

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