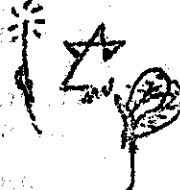
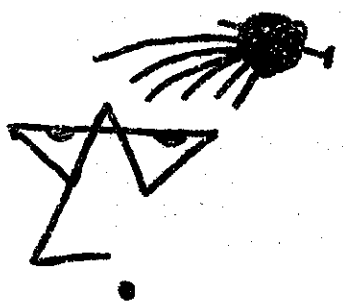


ERETHWON

75 

1 April 1974



Mr. von Metzke? You don't know me, but I'm the little old lady who lives in a shoe. ...I'm fine, thank you. ... Yes, so are all the children. Um, we've recently been using a lovely hiking boot that once belonged to one of the Harlem Globetrotters, but we really need more room. And so I was referred to you....

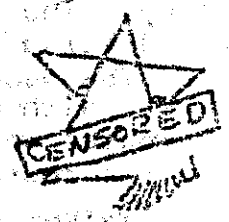
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WARNING: Although the Attorney-General's office has determined that prolonged use of this 'zine may be dangerous to your health (just ask John the Fearless of Brooklyn), prolonged contact with the Editor might be kinda fun. Just don't let the former catch you doing the latter.

I have just (29 March) received a letter from Allan Calhaver, dated 21 March. He also sent copies to John Boardman and John Beshara. The latter of course no longer publishes on his own and would in the ordinary course of events (I suppose) pass his copy to Boardman. God knows what Boardman will do with it. But I would hope that this communication gets some circulation. I am passing my copy on to Walt Buchanan, along with my comments.

Allan writes (orders in the examples are edited to conform to my notation system):

"I have received an interesting letter on rules interpretation originally sent by Clive E. Bach, D.P.M.S.S., Univ. of Cambridge, 16 Mill Ln., Cambridge CB2 1SB, to Philmar Ltd.

"Bach says in part:

"I observe that because of one rule which is in this booklet [i.e. the 1971 Rulebook--RW] but not in the earlier, one can now produce a paradox. The rule is that if a fleet is dislodged then any army it was conveying has no effect on the province to which it was being conveyed. Consider then the following set of orders:

ENGLAND: F Lon S RUSSIAN F Nth.

RUSSIA: F Nth C GERMAN A Hol-Lon, F Yor S GERMAN A Hol-Lon.

GERMANY: A Hol-Lon.

FRANCE: F Eng-Nth S by F Bel.

If Germany's attack succeeds then the French attack succeeds so the German attack can't succeed? Conversely if Germany's attack does not get through then the French attack fails so the German attack succeeds!

"Another very strange result of the new rules is demonstrated by the following orders:

ENGLAND: F Edi-Nth S by F Yor, A Lon-Bel C by F Eng & S by A Pic.

Germany can apparently prevent the army from getting from London to Belgium by writing

GERMANY: F Nth C ENGLISH A Lon-Bel!

thus preventing a supported attack with only one piece.

"I should however comment that these rules are on the whole a great improvement on the older set -- at least three ambiguities that we had found have been corrected -- given time I hope we might find a few more in the new ones."

"End quote. The first case refers to Rule XII.3. It seems to be an elegant variant of Pandin's Paradox, using fewer pieces and the interesting twist of an army attacking the fleet that is supporting its convoy. The problem is very closely allied to the problem solved by [Rule] XII.5.

"The second problem arises under XII.4, and is altogether new and clever, although a simpler version was debated years ago when ambiguous routes were of doubtful legality and an unwanted volunteer could render a route ambiguous by chipping in a convoy order."

[Walker here:] Allan goes no further in his comments, although I wish he had. Let me add a few of my own. Both of these situations, or at/least similar ones, had long before been thrashed about, and both could arise as easily under the old Rulebook.

Most (if not all) GMs have always ruled that a convoyed attack had no effect on the province being attacked if the convoying fleet were

dislodged. The old Rulebook said as much when it stated that such an attack "does not take place" (or some such words...I no longer own a copy). However, situations did not arise, in which it was necessary to make a ruling on this point, very often.

When the new Rulebook was being written, my original "compromise" draft had a provision relating to Pandin's Paradox. In the end, however, the philosophy of verbal economy won out; we could not take account of every esoteric possibility and still have a usable document. Unless there is a deliberate plot afoot, it seems to me unlikely that this sort of situation would ever arise.

As to the other situation: Dick Shagrin originally raised the "alternate convoy" idea which now bears his name. He argued that it was a legal alternative, although it could occur only in a few areas of the board. There was considerable debate, and it seems to me that most GMs ruled that it was not legal, but there was a lot of disagreement as to what should be done if such an order were written anyway.

The Rulebook attempted to solve only the major difficulty. Bach's clever innovation and some related ones remain a knot for each individual GM. My own rules provide that a player may specify which fleet is to convoy his army, and then that convoy order, if given, is the only valid one. In this instance, if the orders were written as printed here, I would rule something like "home fleet has preference"--that is, if the English player had intended to be convoyed by the German fleet, he would not have ordered his own to do it. Therefore, I would rule the English attack successful.

I realize that such a ruling creates a possibility for deception at the next higher logical level. That's unfortunate, but how much abstruseness can one pre-plan for?

SECOND VERSE...

Well, no sooner do I type the above than I receive a letter dated 26 March from John Beshara. He says:

"In July of 1972, Eric Verheiden authored an article in WAZIR No. 4, entitled 'Convoys Aren't a Puzzlement'. His clever resolution of Pandin's Paradox also resolves the paradox contained in your [Calhmer's] letter of March 21st.

"Eric's resolution proposed a rules change, as follows: 'If a convoyed army's attack would affect the position of any of its convoying fleets, the army may not move.' The crux of Eric's analysis for the change is:

'In particular, this rule extends and clarifies the basic concept of Section XII, paragraph 5, in that it not only prevents a convoyed attack from protecting the convoying fleets but also prevents it from harming them as well, because a convoyed army's attack may not cause the dislodgement of any of its convoying fleets. Whenever the convoying fleets cannot be dislodged, my rule does not apply.'

"The other 'strange result of the new rules' you present...is an oldie! Years ago I amended my houserules to permit a country to designate its convoy routing. For example, if in the example cited, England

orders A Lon-Bel C by F Eng, the German order is nullified. This proposed rule change was widely disseminated in an article of mine and is still retained in my house rules. My recollection is the article was published not later than 1970 and a number of Gamesmasters adopted the rule."

[Walker here -- John here reemphasizes my point that these problems arose long before the new Rulebook. I must confess that I never saw the point of Eric's article. It seemed to me to be a fancy, involuted, and legalistic way of saying that the Paradox could not be resolved except by nullifying the movement orders of the convoyed armies. It seemed simpler to me to admit the Paradox and adopt the easy way out. The effect is the same, and the verbiage less. However, I suppose some will be happier with Eric's proposal, since it sounds more like a solution than a capitulation.

[I don't know how many GMs, besides John and myself, retain the house-rule allowing players to designate the convoy route. I suppose most people the situation is too rare to bother with. I must confess, however, that John's reference to his article caught me by surprise; I was not aware he had written it! Of course there was a lot of debate on the Shagrin thing, and I suppose I missed some of it. The proposal for designating the convoying fleet within the army's order was made by me, in NUMENOR, in June 1970 (at which time I also altered my HRs), at which time I believed myself to be the first so to do. It would be interesting if some ardent archivist could peruse the pages of GRAUSTARK and find John Beshara's proposal. I'm sort of curious as to which of us was actually first. Walt??? Conrad??? Andy???)



①

...Hello, Conrad? Gee I'm sorry we busted up the game so early last night.



②

...Yeah, really. That new guy who played England offered me this really stupid alliance. And I said, "Up yours, fellah!"



③

He just smiled and said, "O.K." So we went to his place....

SIGNS OF THE TIMES, #1

Seen on University Avenue in San Diego:

S & M PRINTERS

But they have some kinky customers! Midwestern "Mother", please take note....

COLOPHON

Wow, I nearly forgot! This is ERHWON, an irregular journal of postal Diplomacy* and other perversions. Subscriptions are 6/\$1, or 20¢ each. There are no game openings. Original articles, poems, and

short humor items are solicited. The right to edit, in the interests of space, grammar, maximum effect, and some low standard of taste, is reserved to the Editor. Blanket permission to reprint any item in EREHWON is hereby given to any postal Diplomacy editor. This permission is subject only to two requests, first, that the original author and source be properly credited; second, that a copy of the publication carrying the reprint be sent to me.

This is Pandemonium Publication #535, edited and published by Rod Walker, 417 Juniper St., San Diego CA 92101. Phone: (714) 235-0164.

*DIPLOMACY is a registered trademark for the game invented by Allan B. Calhamer and copyright by Games Research, Inc., 500 Harrison St., Boston MA 02118.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. MARK WEIDMARK, 528 Park Cres., Pickering, Ontario, L1W 2C9, Canada, is selling his Diplomacy collection. He offers about 100 pounds of Dippycrud, postpaid, for \$130.00. Hamburger's going for \$1.30 a pound, so why not this stuff? Seriously, Mark's collection spans perhaps the last 3 years or so pretty completely and the price is consequently a bargain.

2. POT. Well, we finally got a response to our article on grass. It was a little negative "equal-time" piece by a "Ms. X". Of course, I am not obligated to give equal time to anybody. However, I would like to print the item. I do not wish to print an anonymous article, because it is my policy to have the author identified. I recognize that there are sometimes valid reasons for hiding behind a pseudonym, as "Auntie Clio" does in this 'zine, for instance. The Editor must reserve the right to determine whether anonymity is warranted in each case. Therefore, if "Ms.X" will get in touch with me--by name this time, dear--we can discuss using a nom de plume. If I feel there is a valid reason for it, we will go ahead. As things stand now, I do not intend to publish anything without the proper name of the author on it.

3. THE CONTEST. Owing to a money shortage, many issues of EREHWON 74 were mailed too late for people to make the 1 April deadline. If you received EREHWON too late, and know the answer to the question, send it in. To date I have received no correct answer, and the earliest answer wins. The deadline is whenever I type issue #76, so send in your answer as soon as possible.

4. TELEPHONE CALLS. Generally speaking, it is not easy to reach me. I get home about 5:30 pm and usually leave by 7:30. I frequently stay up until midnight and never go to bed before 11. On weekends it is impossible to plan. I am usually up by 9 and home until 12 or so, but I frequently get my hair cut between 9 and 10 on Sunday morning and if I stay overnight somewhere else on Friday or Saturday, God alone knows when I'll get home the next day. So if at first you don't succeed, dial, dial again.

5. NEW GAME?? Game 1972FO has ended by concession. That leaves me free to run a new game. I would like some ideas about what people want, and where. Let me throw out some ideas.

I may take on an orphan game, as 1972FO was. If it has only 3-4 players and is close to finishing, I may still open a new game. It is that possibility I want to explore.

Auntie Clio has been pestering me in this regard. Her suggestion is to revive LUXOR, which I would type and mail (and Conrad von Metzke would reproduce), and run therein a "Queens' Game". I have some reservations about that. For one thing, that was the original idea behind LUXOR, and as I understand it the 'zine failed to fly. For another, Auntie's style may tend to put off some people who might otherwise be interested (on the other hand, the "camp" style can be pretty cute if done right--as witness Lou Rand in the Advocate). We could make room for that game here in EREHWON, too. Anyway, that is a possibility, and if anyone wishes to follow it up, he can write Auntie c/o me.

Another possibility is to run a separate straight game in a small one-sheeter which would go to players and archivists only. We might have some press in it for our own amusement, and might possibly get up to as much as 4 pages. Again, we could also simply put the game in EREHWON, but that would mean putting governors on the press in both games (the alternative, publishing more often, is out).

Well, let me know your ideas. If you wish to volunteer for a certain type of game, if I run it, send a preference list of the Great Powers with your suggestion(s). But please do not send money.

.....
 ...behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bring forth

THE GAME: 1973IK

Winter 1901: No orders were received from Russia, George Lowrance. Again, I still lack a total of seven s/b players, but one that I do have had Russia as first choice. He is John Treck, 5326 S. Cornell, Apt. 502, Chicago IL60615. John is now s/b for Russia. In the position lists below, builds are indicated by *.

AUSTRIA (Scott): A Bud*, A Tri*, A Vie*, A Bul, F Gre, A Sor (6).

ENGLAND (Kelly): F Edi*, F Lon*, A Bel, F Eng, F Nwy (5).

FRANCE (Brooks): F Bre*, A Mar, F Por, A Par (4).

GERMANY (McKeon): A Ber*, A Kie*, F Den, A Hol, A Mun (5).

ITALY (Brooks): F Nap*, A Pie, A Ven, F Tun (4).

RUSSIA (Lowrance): NBR, F Bot, A Fin, F Rum, A Ukr (4, 1 short).

TURKEY (Warden): F Ank*, F Aeg, A Con (3).

SPRING 1902 ORDERS are due Monday, 19 April 1974.

MY GOD, THE WORLD IS COMING TO AN END...THERE'S NO PRESS....

1973IK -- ANALYSIS

Eric Verneiden

The first Fall season saw the game return to more traditional lines as the Turks found themselves the loser in the Eastern Alliance Sweepstakes. The French did somewhat better than last time and may escape the fate of the Titanic a bit longer. Meanwhile, the Italians' major accomplishment seems to have been the successful defense of Tyrolia from the Italian invasion.

The French did not do too badly and should use their build to raise a new northern fleet. This will help some, but the land defense is

still weak and Italian intentions uncertain. Long-range prospects are probably still dependent more on eastern intentions than anything the French can do themselves.

The English did better than might have been expected. With two builds, probably F Lpl and F Edi, and continued German cooperation, eventual prospects in Scandinavia look promising without sacrificing the current French offensive.

The Germans also have two builds; however, the Russians' Austrian ally has three, so the Germans may want to keep an eye on defensive as well as offensive prospects. Still, to keep things rolling, they will probably take something like A Kie and F Ber for use against France and Russia respectively.

The Turks were clearly the big losers of this round. Even with the probable rebuild of F Ank, the Turks have only three units with no prospects for more, isolated fleets, and no control of the Black Sea. The only thing which might save them for the immediate future is the paucity of Austro-Russian naval forces; however, at best they face a guessing game, one which they must lose sooner or later. The only thing which might save them is effective outside intervention on their behalf. However, this seems unlikely given the current state of affairs.

If the Turks were the big losers, then the Austrians were the big winners. Three builds probably give them enough forces to open up a second front, but where? The build in Trieste should provide a hint and my guess is an army to help out their Russian ally.

The Russians are beginning to look overextended. The move to Finland only make sense if it is followed up with the build of F StP(nc). With the new fleet, Norway can be taken, but holding it very long may be a quite different matter as the Anglo-German alliance brings in additional naval forces. In the meantime, central Russia is almost wide open, which is one reason why an Austrian distraction may be in order.

The Italians should take F Nap, but what will be done with it is hard to say. A new Austrian fleet in Trieste might decide the matter, but otherwise, well, continued defense of Tyrolia perhaps?

 FILE 13
 (our letter column)

JOHN BESHARA, 155 W. 68th St., Apt. 1021, New York NY 10023. "EREHWON 74 is fabulous. It is current, readable, and cleverly interesting...

[Blush....]

"You're wrong about one thing. Some months ago Hillikor suspended trading with Boardman and then a short time thereafter Birsan did the same thing. That did not take well with John, for he has been generous to a fault over the years in giving more in trades than he gets. To my knowledge, there were no personal reasons why they suspended trade relations. ... So if you are going to crack whips about the willingness and tradition of trades, point it in Birsan's direction, too.

[Yes, I suppose I would have to. I don't believe that everybody has an obligation to trade with everybody, because I could not afford to maintain such an extensive circulation list and I believe many others could not, either. But I feel the major 'zines (however you want to define that) should trade, and I am against breaking off trades for stupid reasons such as John's. But I cannot see any reason for Edi not to trade with John and I am sorry to hear that this has happened.]

"...you've yet to mention my name in your rag...."

[OK, John?]

Now that The Exorcist has assured us that the Devil is good box-office, we may expect the usual run of cheap and sleazy imitations. The Hexorcist, a party record, has already made an appearance, and rumor has it that The Sexorcist, a gay porno flick, will soon shoot across the silver screen. As for other movies, the possibilities are limitless. The near future will no doubt see things like The Possessed, The Demon, What the Altar Boy Saw, He & She & It & Them, and so on. There will no doubt be some tendency to combine with other current crazes, such as Exorcism of the Apes or Fisca of Possession (which has a priest who is a black belt in Karate crossing incantations with a demon who is a bilious belt in kaunch-fu).

Reruns of the original flick will of course continue to be profitable, especially since there will be some difficulty getting it on television. Ultimately, however, there will be real money in a remake of the film. Naturally, it will have to be a musical. And here, friends, is our pilot for such a venture, aptly re-titled:

THE DEVIL MADE ME DO IT

Since this is a re-make, some slight rewriting will be necessary. It would involve plot, story line, dialogue, characters, names, incidents, and similar minor items. And since exorcism is an ancient ritual, it would be in keeping to make the musical score a composite of old standards and/or adaptations thereof.

This is the heart-rending story of the famous actress, Jeannette McDonald, and her daughter Regan. Regan McDonald is one of those sweet curly-headed little darlings that evokes a flood of tears in every middle-aged spinster that ever lived. Shirley Temple would have been right for the role. Anyway, mother and daughter are very close.

All priests in musicals are of course Irish; in this one we have Father O'Karas and Father O'Dwyer. We're not sure what it is they do, but apparently they are always doing it together. In an early scene they sing the "I Wonder Why" duet, and the European version of the picture can include an actual rubdown with a velvet glove.

Then there is Detective Kindergarten, who is always very suspicious. He firmly believes the butler is responsible for everything, but having read "cherchez la femme" in his Dick Tracy Crimestoppers' notebook, he is avidly investigating the maid. The European version can include a sequence in which the investigation reaches a climax.

Other characters include Father O'Karas' mother, a crusty old hypochondriac who is so convinced she has cancer that she fails to have a case of pneumonia treated until it is too late. Also Father O'Martin, Dean of the local rectory. The Dean spends most of his time digging up beer cans at the beach and making voodoo dolls. He is considered an expert exorcist, and has thus far performed the ritual on three dogs, a cat, a rooster, Patricia Hearst, and a whole series of Girl Scouts who have attempted to sell him cookies.

The picture opens with Dean O'Martin digging on the beach. He finds a weirdly shaped beer can and sings "Ah! Sweet Mystery of Life!", a sequence which is very weird (the beer can joins in the chorus) but which can be immediately forgotten. It has nothing to do with the rest of the picture except that it establishes that O'Martin is a kook and enables the producers to steal something on which the copyright has expired.

Father O'Karas then stops holding Father O'Dwyer's hand long enough to go hold his mother's. He sings the old stand-by "M.O.T.H.E.R.", and

this shows that he really loves her and all that. Assisted by three canes, two crutches, and fifty yards of antique shawl, Mother O'Karas does a little Irish jig. The effect is somewhat spoiled, however, by the dense fog generated by the two dozen chamber pots Mother O'Karas burns continually to drive away evil spirits and T.B. germs. When she dies, O'Karas goes through all sorts of guilt trips about not buying her enough chamber pots.

Several people die in the picture. Every time this happens, the chorus does a little bit from the Verdi Requiem. The copyright has expired on that one, too.

Well, now we are ready for little Regan McDonald. She loves her mother dearly. She is always doing things for mama--such as making little papier-maché phallic totems and such-like. At one of mama's garden parties she breaks into a heartfelt rendition of "Mammy!" She breaks tradition by not doing it in blackface. However, the guests don't mind because although Regan's face is not black, her tongue--astonishingly grown to a length of two feet--is.

From such humble beginnings, Regan becomes thoroughly possessed. There are clumpings in the attic, and chains on the stairs, and haunting laughter in the cellar--and groans in the audience, since these are all dubbed from the sound track of an old Bela Lugosi film. Regan adds a fright wig and a set of Hallowe'en fangs to her two-foot tongue, and sits around growling and snarling at everybody. She even bites the postman. At this point she may be played by Phyllis Diller instead of Shirley Temple.

Mama McDonald is naturally worried about these admittedly unusual manifestations. She becomes alarmed when various people are killed by mysteriously jumping out of Regan's bedroom window: her boyfriend, the upstairs maid, a local Nazi, and a pregnant sow. She responds with typical practical realism and motherly concern, and consults leading experts in veterinary medicine, acupuncture, phrenology, faith healing, and psychiatry. This mixed bag of quacks examine Regan and, singing "Doo-Oh-Black Magic", they conclude she is possessed. This is a lavish production number, the doctors doing an intricate dance around Regan, who sits staring at the ceiling while exploring her navel with her tongue.

It is decided to call in a team of exorcists. There is a keen competition among the priests in the area. Father O'Karas and Dean O'Martin lose and therefore get the job. They run around town scrounging up three gallons of holy water, a satchel full of relics and pieces of the True Cross, Band-Aids, and a can of Bactine (Regan bites, remember?).

Regan, meanwhile, is going completely to pieces. Alone in her room, she communicates with the demon, singing, "I've Got You Under My Skin". For company she puts on a great act: levitating, roaring, laughing ghoulishly, changing wine into water, the whole bit. She does a lot of imitations: her mother's boyfriend, Father O'Karas' mother, Mickey Mouse, Helen Keller, Patrice Lumumba, Irma La Douce, Godzilla, Sonny & Cher, the Kingston Trio, the Budapest String Quartet, the Dave Brubeck Quartet, the Sextet from Lucia, the Beethoven Septet, the Mendelssohn Octet, Nine Maids A-Milking, Ten Lords A-Leaping (on the maids, presumably), and the entire U.S. Senate in full cry. Most shocking of all is her language. "Darn!" she screams. "Oh, poooooooooo!!!" Obviously possessed.

Then follows the actual exorcism. This is another production number. A whole bevy of Jesuits, led by Fathers O'Karas and O'Martin, swarm into the room and dance around Regan's bed singing (to the tune of "Bill

Bailey"), "O! Satan, Won't You Please Go Home?" Regan levitates and floats above them vomiting red, white, and blue confetti. This powerful ceremony has considerable effect. When it is finished, Regan's mother, the butler, and 15 Ursuline nuns in the convent next door are also possessed. The sight of 18 black, two-foot tongues flicking all over the screen is said to unnerve all but the most steel-willed movie-goers.

But all ends happily, as is obligatory in musicals. Everybody gets somebody. Detective Kindergarten gets the downstairs maid. Regan and her mother get each other. Father O'Karas and Father O'Dwyer get each other. Dean O'Martin gets pneumonia. The Devil gets stuck with mother O'Karas, whose hypochondria is so infectious that she has him convinced that he is in danger of getting chilblains in Hell.

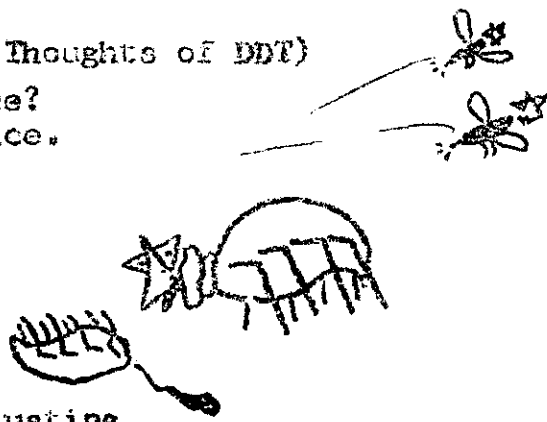
[Comments and threats to possess (or exorcise) me may be addressed to the usual place. We hope to follow this with a review of the book, movie, and subject.]

THE POETRY CORNER

We are pleased to announce that the Society of Female Astronauts has just voted our favorite poet, Senile Quiverlips, as "The Man We'd Most Like to Perform Re-Entry With", one of this association's most coveted awards. We are herewith reprinting a poem of his which originally appeared in EREHWON 28, back in April 1969.

AN ODE (OR SOMETHING) TO SPRING
(or, An Old Man's Fancy Lightly Turns to Thoughts of DDT)

Here comes the Spring, and isn't that nice?
Soon we'll have flies, mosquitoes, and lice.
And each little thing
That hatches in Spring,
They'll crawl and they'll buzz,
Leave droppings and fuzz,
Spin their webs and dig holes,
Crawl in dishes and bowls,
Infest, and, in fact,
Distress and distract.
In time they will mate; then they'll go lusting
To eat one another; simply disgusting.
Right now we have birds, and next month we'll have bees,
And little soft things eating leaves from the trees.
I grant that Spring is a time of inanity,
When men and the beasts increase their insanity.
Spring brings us loonies, by quarts and by jugs:
Spring may go crazy--but must it go bugs?



Well, that would appear to be all we have room for this issue. Sigh, ...do you know I used to put out issues that were as much as 30 pages long, and that in elite type??? Gosh! And for a dime an issue, too. I'm not sure they were the good old days, but isn't it nice to have some (yech) nostalgia? See ya!

