

ISSUE 3

December 16, 1984

Game openings: Diplomacy (BB), Gunboat, Snowball Fighting.

As I start this issue I have no idea what all is going into it. We have the game results from Presidential Politics, an issue of Butter Battles, a rebuttal or two for last months constructive, an apology, and some game openings. If I end up with a strange number of pages (as I always do), then I will try to sneak in a movie review.

First things first. The constructive last issue was written by Jim Meinel. The Editor regrets not mentioning the author, and in fact DID name the writer in an earlier version, but accidentally cut it out while trimming the length of the issue. The mistake was entirely unintentional. No really. (As the Heavens echo with a chorus of "Yeah, sure!").

I am considering running an additional game. I am up for either Snowball Fighting or a no press Gunboat. For those of you who don't already know, Snowball Fighting was invented by Trevor Mandham and Dom Elias and I can fit 4 to 6 players. Naturally I will have a few rules changes, since I can't break my tradition of changing games as I see fit after having played them only once. The Gunboat is no press to try to keep some of the problems others have had from cropping up.

PRESIDENTIAL POLITICS NOTES

Jim Meinel has resigned the position of "JIM MEINEL" on the Republican side, and I have asked Dan R. Young to take his place. Dan's address is 5225 Daves Ave., Culver City, CA 90230. In order to reduce the confusion over this I will also be changing the name of the position to "DAN YOUNG" and he will be the Senior Senator from California. I don't think Jim's resignation had anything to do with my failure to mention him as the author of that letter last time, but most of you are going to infer what you want to anyway. Dan had written and asked to join the game at the time I was adjudicating the pregame and first week moves, so I reluctantly turned him down. I am glad he is going to get a chance to play, though I regret losing Jim.

In addition to that, I didn't hear anything from Dick Martin, so his position is in limbo. He will remain entered in the Massachusetts and Florida primaries, but he can't enter either Alabama or Illinois. And I spelled Massachusetts right!

A few Questions to answer:

If you win a primary this week, but you are not entered in any elections next week, you lose the momentum bonus. Again this is different from the way that Jake has played it elsewhere, but I think I have made this about as complicated as I care to. Wins from either the primaries or the regionals count. Furthermore, as you will notice, anyone who wins or ties (within one per cent) for any election gets the momentum bonus for the next week.

The correct Funds Available amount in Massachusetts is 250 CFP.

The Aid to Nicaragua issue was added this week. The DJIA was 6 bringing the new total to 11. Had anyone cared to they could have spotlighted that issue for the New Hampshire primary, but no one did.

TIME FACTOR NOW STANDS AT: 11

NEXT DATE TO CHECK THE DJIA: 21 December 1984

DEADLINE FOR WEEK THREE: 10 January 1985

There are several corrections from last issues adjudication that I will take care of here. First, the CFP balances were all wrong, except for Dick Martin's (big deal!). The correct amounts with this weeks actions are below. Anyone who wants an explanation of the difference needs but to ask.

REPUBLICANS

CANDIDATES	DAVE	TY	DICK	JAMES	DAN
BALANCE	1275	1306	1440	1306	1254
This Week					
SPENT	<113>	<121>	-0-	<108>	<73>
GAINED	46	119	-0-	44	41
BALANCE	1208	1304	1440	1242	1222

DEMOCRATS

CANDIDATES	JIM	PETE	JAKE	MARK	STEPHEN
BALANCE	1355	1330	1260	1382	1343
This Week					
SPENT	<45>	<205>	<58>	<107>	<92>
GAINED	45	111	48	45	-0-
BALANCE	1355	1241	1250	1315	1251

Sorry about all the mistakes guys. Part of the correction for James and Ty is the miscalculation for both in the Iowa media bids. Part of the Democrats was the fact that I had listed Mark as having travelled in Des Moines and Cedar Rapids, but I didn't give him any votes for them on election day. The delegate count in Iowa did not change, but the CFP's awarded did. It seems that I really had it in for Mark, since I also failed to mention that he set up an organization in Massachusetts during week one. All players should note that change.

Several of you were confused on the media share bids. Anyone who wants one is entitled to a media share at the minimum cost. If you do not bid any shares at the minimum, I will assume that your lowest bid is for that "time share" share. I only list the winning bids, not all of the bids. I will break tie bids, as I did this time, according to who gets the bid to me first. If tie bids reach me on the same day, then I will split the bids evenly, and give the odd one (if there is one) to the winner of a coin toss. There will be a quiz later.

Another problem was that a couple of you sent in that you wanted several weeks of organization in Massachusetts and Florida. After the pregame orders were in it became impossible to get more than a single week of anything. For those of you who asked for more than one week in a state that you did not previously have any organization I simply started one this week. If you already had an organization, then I simply continued it for this week only. I am deducting the money as each week passes, and only the money that you authorize. If you fail to pay for the continuation of an organization, which was set up in a previous week, by telling me that you wish to maintain it, I will discontinue it. You cannot pay for multiple weeks of organization in a state at once. If you really want to try perpetual orders to maintain it, I am willing, but, the cost for that organization will be deducted before any other purchases are made, which may be important in later primaries.

Which brings up an important point that I have been wrestling with since the beginning of the game. In Jake's first game he allowed President Linsey to overspend in one state, but the difference was made up when the CFP gained was added back to his total. Since part of the game is supposed to be its realism, I

thought his decision was not at all inconsistent with reality. But a limit has to be placed or you clowns will start spending in the billions. I think the best thing I can do is declare that a candidate can "borrow" against future earnings, but only with certain stipulations. First, he can only borrow against funds he may receive that week. In other words, the term of the loan is from the beginning of the week to the end of the week. If he does not receive enough funds at the end of the week to cover all of his expenses then he goes broke. Further, he may not borrow more than is available in that week's funds available total. As an example, if a candidate has 50 CPP at the beginning of the turn and that state has 75 CPP funds available, he can spend a maximum of 125 CPP. Any candidate who takes advantage of these "loans" will also have to pay interest at 10%. So in the above example, he could only spend a maximum of 117 CPP (125-8 for interest).

I would like to hear what you all have to say about this before I make a final decision. I don't anticipate it coming up anytime soon, but I would like to be prepared just in case.

DUE NEXT TURN:

Declare candidacy in New York; Media bids and Spotlight issues in Massachusetts; maintain whatever organizations that you have already set up; seven days travel.

When I first made up the schedule I was going to be easy on myself by putting off the elections to the next week. I was planning on getting the orders one issue and not report the election results from that turn until the next issue. On the original calendar move all the elections up to the same week as the media bids are due.

(((((((.....))))))))

HOBBY NEWS

Kevin Tighe (rhymes with high) has announced that he will be starting a new zine dedicated to Regular Dip-DIAS games. Zine name will be (or already is) Redwood Curtain and Kevin can be reached at 290 12th St., Arcata, CA 95521. Price is 25¢ per issue and the first five volunteers to stand-by get free subs. He claims it will be a warehouse zine for three week deadlines, but the quality of his highly entertaining subzine RIMBOLBY suggests to me that he will find equally entertaining filler for RC. Billy Bob says check it out.

Ed Wrobel has apparently folded his zine POLITESSE and has done a good job of it as far as I can tell. The zine was known for its biting wit and the fact that it was dedicated to the play of face-to-face games. I am particularly sorry to see it go because it provided a larger audience for Presidential Politics than I am at present. I was also slightly miffed because it took me four letters and three months to get a sub to it, and I only got one issue! In fact I originally thought that he was just kicking me out of his zine, but Jake H. confirmed that he had indeed folded.

Bruce Lindsey has announced that he will be helping Roy Henricks with the zine register and that it should be coming out sometime in February. Pubbers are encouraged to send their information to Bruce at 73 Ashuelot St, Apt. 3, Dalton, MA 01226. Ads are also for sale in the register for various rates between \$2 and \$9 depending on size and location. According to the most recent information I have, payments for the ads should be sent to Roy at 128 Deerfield Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15235. Deadline for submissions is 11 January 1985.

(((((((.....))))))))

Next two pages are the game results. Slightly new format, but this should be the style I use from now on.

Democrats

NEW HAMPSHIRE

GAUGHAN WINS BY TWO VOTES OVER HALVERSTADT
BURGESS RETAINS DELEGATE LEAD

CANDIDATE	JIM	PETE	JAKE	MARK	STEPHEN
ISSUES:					
Windfall	+ 5	- 5	- 5	- 5	+ 5
Panama	+ 4	+ 4	+ 4	+ 4	- 9
Draft	+ 3	- 7	- 7	+ 3	+ 3
Busing	+ 7	- 3	- 3	- 3	+ 7
Chrysler	- 7	+ 3	- 7	+ 3	+ 3
Nicaragua	+	+	+	?	?
SPOTLIGHT ISSUE	Busing	Draft	Chrysler	Windfall	Panama
VISITS: days/votes					
Manchester	7/8	3/3	3.5/4	6.3/7	2.9/3
ORGANIZATION: weeks/votes					
	4/35	2/26	5/37	3/32	-0-
MOMENTUM BONUS:					
			6	6	6
MEDIA: Votes					
	6	30	6	12	6
number/cost bids					
	1/2	5/126	1/2	2/42	1/2
	1/2	1/ 2	1/2	1/ 2	1/2
		4/ 31		1/40	
TOTAL VOTES:	75	81	79	75	42
PERCENTAGE:	21.30	23.01	22.44	21.30	11.93
DELEGATES:	4	5	4	4	2
CFP GAINED:	45	111	48	45	-0-
TRAVEL:					
DAY 1	Manch	Manch	Boston	Boston	Chicago
DAY 2	"	"	"	"	Chic/Birm
DAY 3	"	"	Bos/Ptsf	"	Birmingham
DAY 4	"	Ptsf/NB	Worc	"	Bir/Mobile
DAY 5	"	Spngfld	Spngfld	"	Mob/Mntgny
DAY 6	"	Worc	New Bed	"	Bnglhap/Rch
DAY 7	"	Boston	"	"	Rochester
Organizations:					
New Hampshire	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Massachusetts	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Florida	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
Illinois	Y	Y	N	N	Y
Alabama	N	N	Y	N	Y
New York	N	Y	N	N	Y
DECLARED FOR:					
Massachusetts	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Florida	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
Illinois	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Alabama	N	N	Y	Y	Y
CFP BALANCE:	1355	1241	1250	1315	1251
TOTAL DELEGATES:	54	52	41	53	43

Republicans

NEW HAMPSHIRE

HARE WINS BY FIVE POINTS

REPUBLICANS IN SPENDING BLITZ; MARTIN APPEARS READY TO DROP

CANDIDATE	DAVE	TY	DICK	JAMES	DAN
ISSUES:					
Nuke	- 4	+ 9	- 4	- 4	- 4
Panama	- 5	- 5	+ 5	- 5	+ 5
Draft	+ 2	+ 2	+ 2	- 14	+ 2
Alaska	- 7	+ 3	+ 3	+ 3	- 7
Nicaragua	?	?	?	-	-
Busing	+	+	-	-	+
SPOTLIGHT ISSUE	Alaska	Nuke	----	Draft	Panama
VISITS: days/votes					
Manchester	4.9/9	.8/2	-0-	4/8	3.9/7
ORGANIZATION: weeks/votes					
	2/26	4/35	-0-	1/16	3/32
MOMENTUM BONUS:					
		6		6	
MEDIA: votes					
	18	24		12	6
Number/cost bids					
	3/22	4/40		2/12	1/ 2
	1/ 2	1/ 2		1/ 2	1/ 2
	2/10	1/12		1/10	
		2/13			
TOTAL VOTES:					
	71	86	14	68	63
PERCENTAGE:					
	23.50	28.48	4.64	20.86	22.52
DELEGATES:					
	5	7	0	5	5
CFP GAINED:					
	46	119	0	44	41
TRAVEL:					
DAY 1	Manch	Tampa		Manch	Boston
DAY 2	"	Sprngfld		"	"
DAY 3	"	Boston		Boston	"
DAY 4	"	"		Miami	"
DAY 5	Boston	"		Tampa	"
DAY 6	"	"		Ft. Laud	Worch
DAY 7	"	"		Jcksnvl	Sprngfld
ORGANIZATIONS:					
New Hampshire	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Massachusetts	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Florida	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Illinois	Y	Y	N	N	Y
Alabama	Y	N	N	N	Y
New York	Y	N	N	N	N
DECLARED FOR:					
Massachusetts	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Florida	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Illinois	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Alabama	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
CFP BALANCE					
	1208	1304	1440	1242	1222
TOTAL DELEGATES:					
	47	46	30	47	44

Presidential Politics

GENERAL ELECTION PROPOSAL

The following is a proposal for the rules regarding the general election. Jake had not written an ending to the game, since it was originally intended to be a representation of the primaries only. Please read over these ideas and send me your comments. Maybe we can have a good discussion and amendment process here, and end up with a playable ending for this thing.

TIMING: The campaign between the conventions and the General Election will last twelve weeks. Orders will be due in three parts: Weeks 1-6, weeks 7-10, and weeks 11 and 12.

SPOTLIGHT ISSUES: The Presidential nominee gets to spotlight two issues per state or region, and the V.P. gets one. In addition, the President's stand is worth twice that of the V.P. For example:

	Ty/Dave	Pete/Jim	Yes/No
Wisconsin			
Windfall	+220/ 78-	-156/110+	329/235
Nuke	+269/ 61-	-122/ 61-	269/242
Draft	+132/ 66+	-302/ 66+	262/302
Housing	+110/ 55+	+110/282-276/282	
TOTAL	991	1209	

I based this on the stands that these candidates have taken on the first half of the Windfall and draft issues, and made up the responses to the Housing issue. I chose the candidates at random. The first time I did this the Republicans came out on top by 9 votes, but rather than listen to Pete scream bias, I rigged the outcome with the Housing issue. I hope everyone gets the idea from that example; if not let me know and I will try again.

ORGANIZATION: In order to get some continuity, and because some of the actions in the primaries should rub off on final candidates, 40% of the votes received in the primaries through the organizations will count toward the final election. The organization will be done exactly the same way as it is in the primaries in all other respects. Obviously both the Pres. and V.P. do not need to set up an organization; all organizations will be considered as representing the party.

MEDIA: Again, there should be some carry over from the primaries, but not as lasting. Each candidate will get 30% of the votes he got for media in the primaries. All other aspects of media will be the same with the Presidential candidates (only) bidding for five media shares in each state or region.

Because it won't be possible to see which bids win in which states, it will be possible that the candidates will end up bidding on more shares than the party can afford. To keep everybody who realizes this from spending 100 times the amount of money that they have, the Presidential candidate will be responsible for submitting a preference list of which bids he wants me to ignore should he end up spending too much. The list can be submitted either as a list of each separate bid, by state, or just about any way that the candidate wants.

TRAVEL: The following scale will determine the votes received from visiting the various cities. Costs will be the same.

	President	V.P.
Travel during the primaries:	50%	30%
Travel in weeks 1-4	70%	50%
Travel in weeks 5-7	80%	60%
Travel in weeks 8-10	90%	70%
Travel in weeks 11 & 12	100%	80%

Butter Battles

Scrabble, scrabble... grab... Whew! Back up to five players. Thought I might lose 'em all for a moment there! The victims:

Tom Boyd, 17018 Via Tomar, San Lorenzo, CA 94580
Nick Falella, 17 Brook Ave., Floral Park, NY 11001
Larry Peery, Box 8416, San Diego, CA 92102
Ron Spitzer, 761 N. Bundy Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90049
Stephen Wilcox, 5300 W. Gulf Bank #108, Houston, TX 77088

The backups: Beyerlein, Gaughan, Givan, and Kohn.

Thanks guys! If you'd like to help out another new GM send just \$5 game fee to Melinda Ann Holley, Box 2798, Huntington WV 25727. M needs (or did need) 1 more for her 1st game. Courtemanche, Caruso, Arnawoodian, Hurst, Corbin, and Laritte are signed up. I'm thinking of waiting on her 2nd game - Kathy Byrne and Jim Bob Burgess are in it, which could prove quite educational.

Are you ready? OK, here comes my very first set of house rules. This is a draft version and will be modified by feedback from you. Suitable prizes are even now being dreamed up for 1st, longest, and most obnoxious feedback!

1. Games follow the 1971/1976 rulebook, as modified by these houserules and further changes agreed to by GM and all players.
2. Prior to gamestart any player may indicate player(s) with whom he/she does not wish to play.
3. Preference lists will be accepted. Partial preference lists will be randomly completed. Players not submitting preference lists have one chance in seven of receiving each country.
4. Players must not deceive the GM, interfere with mail to/from GM, raid GM's files, etc.
5. GM may provide maps, underline failed orders, list supply center counts, etc. Players are responsible for detecting errors in these superfluous GM functions. GM is responsible for correctly and promptly distributing the moves of all players.
6. Protests and suspected GM errors may be submitted up until the next deadline.
7. General orders, joint orders, "codeword" orders, and perpetual orders are not accepted.
8. Phoned orders are taken 6AM-11PM(my time) by me only at my home phone only. Phone deadline is the day before the mail deadline.
9. Orders should include the date that they were written and the player's signature.
10. These houserules incorporate the "1983" rulebook: Dislodged convoying fleets don't stop a convoy as long as one or more convoy routes still exist. In the case of both an overland and a convoy route, the convoy route is used only if one of the convoying fleet(s) is of the same country as the army, or if the player states that his army is moving via convoy.

11. Season separations are granted upon one request. The GM announces who requested a separation.

12. The order of events in an adjudication is of interest to those who choose to write conditionals.

- 1) Determination of whether or not there will be a separation.
- 2) Voting on proposals from previous adjudication.
- 3) Retreats from previous adjudication.
- 4) Builds and removals.
- 5) Moves.
- 6) Voting on proposals from previous adjudication.
- 7) Proposals.
- 8) Press.

The game can end right after 2, 3, 5, or 6. Notice the two voting events? Proposals may specify whether a vote occurs before or after the moves. If not specified it happens before. Announcements by the GM, of errors in the previous adjudication, of votes and proposals made publicly, etc. happen at their logical times.

13. No datelines are reserved. Press is divided into 2 sections, a "white" section, wherein the GM identifies who submitted what, and an anonymous section. If a player does not indicate which section to put an item in, it goes in the white section.

14. Starting players make an NMR deposit. It is forfeited upon an NMR, and must be renewed to continue play. Deposits not forfeited are returned 100% at elimination or, for survivors, at game end. They're returned 50% for resignations received at least one deadline in advance, the other 50% being forfeited. Forfeited deposits form a prize pool. The entire pool is won by the player(s) having the lowest percentage of NMRs. Only starting players who survive past 1904 are eligible for the prize.

15. Proposals must be unanimous to pass. Failure to vote counts as a "no" but the GM announces who failed to vote. If several game-ending proposals pass simultaneously, the GM rejects all which exclude player(s) part of any of them.

16. GM can call a draw between the survivors if center counts don't change for 3 game years. Whether GM does so may be influenced by arguments from players.

17. The GM doesn't interpret rulebook to require that draws MUST include all surviving players.

This was issue 0.3 of Butler Battles. It'll be a subaine once it has a game running. Send comments to me, Conrad Minshall, at 3702 Tatragona Ln., Austin, Texas 78727 — I might even print them.

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<MRY XMS>
<HPY NU YR>
Conrad Minshall
12/7/84

That's it. Please let me know what you think ASAP so we can get this settled.

[illegible]

JUST BECAUSE I'M A DEMOCRAT

AND YOU'RE A REPUBLICAN

DOESN'T MEAN WE CAN'T BE FRIENDS

I CAN HUG YOUR ELEPHANT

AND YOU CAN KISS MY ASS

.....

Last year I sent out Christmas cards, this year I am mailing out a zine instead. So, here is your Christmas wish:

within limits
the undersigned
wishes you a
moderately pleasant
holiday season #

Yeg & Polly Ellis

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120 121 122 123 124 125 126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136 137 138 139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146 147 148 149 150 151 152 153 154 155 156 157 158 159 160 161 162 163 164 165 166 167 168 169 170 171 172 173 174 175 176 177 178 179 180 181 182 183 184 185 186 187 188 189 190 191 192 193 194 195 196 197 198 199 200 201 202 203 204 205 206 207 208 209 210 211 212 213 214 215 216 217 218 219 220 221 222 223 224 225 226 227 228 229 230 231 232 233 234 235 236 237 238 239 240 241 242 243 244 245 246 247 248 249 250 251 252 253 254 255 256 257 258 259 260 261 262 263 264 265 266 267 268 269 270 271 272 273 274 275 276 277 278 279 280 281 282 283 284 285 286 287 288 289 290 291 292 293 294 295 296 297 298 299 300 301 302 303 304 305 306 307 308 309 310 311 312 313 314 315 316 317 318 319 320 321 322 323 324 325 326 327 328 329 330 331 332 333 334 335 336 337 338 339 340 341 342 343 344 345 346 347 348 349 350 351 352 353 354 355 356 357 358 359 360 361 362 363 364 365 366 367 368 369 370 371 372 373 374 375 376 377 378 379 380 381 382 383 384 385 386 387 388 389 390 391 392 393 394 395 396 397 398 399 400 401 402 403 404 405 406 407 408 409 410 411 412 413 414 415 416 417 418 419 420 421 422 423 424 425 426 427 428 429 430 431 432 433 434 435 436 437 438 439 440 441 442 443 444 445 446 447 448 449 450 451 452 453 454 455 456 457 458 459 460 461 462 463 464 465 466 467 468 469 470 471 472 473 474 475 476 477 478 479 480 481 482 483 484 485 486 487 488 489 490 491 492 493 494 495 496 497 498 499 500 501 502 503 504 505 506 507 508 509 510 511 512 513 514 515 516 517 518 519 520 521 522 523 524 525 526 527 528 529 530 531 532 533 534 535 536 537 538 539 540 541 542 543 544 545 546 547 548 549 550 551 552 553 554 555 556 557 558 559 560 561 562 563 564 565 566 567 568 569 570 571 572 573 574 575 576 577 578 579 580 581 582 583 584 585 586 587 588 589 590 591 592 593 594 595 596 597 598 599 600 601 602 603 604 605 606 607 608 609 610 611 612 613 614 615 616 617 618 619 620 621 622 623 624 625 626 627 628 629 630 631 632 633 634 635 636 637 638 639 640 641 642 643 644 645 646 647 648 649 650 651 652 653 654 655 656 657 658 659 660 661 662 663 664 665 666 667 668 669 670 671 672 673 674 675 676 677 678 679 680 681 682 683 684 685 686 687 688 689 690 691 692 693 694 695 696 697 698 699 700 701 702 703 704 705 706 707 708 709 710 711 712 713 714 715 716 717 718 719 720 721 722 723 724 725 726 727 728 729 730 731 732 733 734 735 736 737 738 739 740 741 742 743 744 745 746 747 748 749 750 751 752 753 754 755 756 757 758 759 760 761 762 763 764 765 766 767 768 769 770 771 772 773 774 775 776 777 778 779 780 781 782 783 784 785 786 787 788 789 790 791 792 793 794 795 796 797 798 799 800 801 802 803 804 805 806 807 808 809 810 811 812 813 814 815 816 817 818 819 820 821 822 823 824 825 826 827 828 829 830 831 832 833 834 835 836 837 838 839 840 841 842 843 844 845 846 847 848 849 850 851 852 853 854 855 856 857 858 859 860 861 862 863 864 865 866 867 868 869 870 871 872 873 874 875 876 877 878 879 880 881 882 883 884 885 886 887 888 889 890 891 892 893 894 895 896 897 898 899 900 901 902 903 904 905 906 907 908 909 910 911 912 913 914 915 916 917 918 919 920 921 922 923 924 925 926 927 928 929 930 931 932 933 934 935 936 937 938 939 940 941 942 943 944 945 946 947 948 949 950 951 952 953 954 955 956 957 958 959 960 961 962 963 964 965 966 967 968 969 970 971 972 973 974 975 976 977 978 979 980 981 982 983 984 985 986 987 988 989 990 991 992 993 994 995 996 997 998 999 1000 1001 1002 1003 1004 1005 1006 1007 1008 1009 1010 1011 1012 1013 1014 1015 1016 1017 1018 1019 1020 1021 1022 1023 1024 1025 1026 1027 1028 1029 1030 1031 1032 1033 1034 1035 1036 1037 1038 1039 104

REBUTTALS

I received several answers to Jim's suggestion of an alternate poll to protest Bruce Linsey's Runestone Poll. Thanks to all of you who responded, and double those thanks because very little editing was necessary. Anyone who would like to respond to these may do so by getting me a letter by 10 January 1985.

Mark Berch, 4 December 1984

Fundamentally, Meinel's presentation fails, in my opinion, to give a logical reason for people to boycott Linsey's Runestone poll. Without such a specific reason, after the current controversies die down, I don't see much effect. A few -- perhaps a dozen or so -- of Bruce's enemies won't vote, in part out of a desire that Bruce's project not succeed. These will be by and large the same sorts of people (if publishers) who won't plug the Novice Packet (Supernova). But with so many voting, that won't be enough to cause the idea to fail. With a logical reason why people can't rely on Bruce to run this properly lacking, people will vote or not vote regardless of "Bruce."

James Wall, 5 December 1984

Sorry Jim, but your boycott should be rejected if for no other reason than it perpetuates bad feelings in the hobby. Bruce has admitted to several errors in judgement; he has said he is sorry; do we need a scalp? The hobby would not be a better place without Bruce. Personal feelings aside, he is dedicated, consistent, and he cares. So do I. If Bruce and Kathy must fight, let them go at it until they settle it. Destroying the one Poll in the hobby that has a claim to legitimacy does not help anybody. All it does is hurt the hobby. That is too high a price for a modicum of revenge.

Pete Gaughan (partial reprint of his editorial in Perelandra)

I reject the ugly labels attached to Bruce by other sines. I have no documentation except on those two subjects ((The Highfield Affair and Illegal Phone Calls, both of which he discussed in some length), so for me Bruce is proved guilty of no more than extreme insensitivity and a severe lack of judgement. But Bruce has several enemies, notably Jim Meinel, Terry Tallman, and Steve Langley, who are convinced of his unethical pattern. Some dipsters wonder whether Bruce will be honest in reporting evaluations of their sines in the poll.

Whatever you think of Bruce, you must realize that Randolph has every right to give him the poll. This Hobby's tradition in every public office such as BNC, is for the current public servant to name his own successor. They have the right to ensure that the job will be conducted in a fashion they approve of, and the people we trust for the job should also be trusted in this. The alternative is a hobby-wide plebiscite every time a custodian resigns.

Also there is very little good in the proposal for a substitute poll. It would divide the hobby into two camps, based on nothing but hearsay and innuendo. Also, I feel the hobby does need a single major poll (for many unrelated reasons) while a boycott poll would defeat just this purpose.

I have already told several people that I would support Bruce Linsey.

I apologize to those of you, but I have changed my mind. I do not believe I can send a ballot to Bruce, thereby validating his being entrusted with this responsibility. However, I cannot encourage a substitute poll, on the basis of hobby unity and organization. My only apparent course is not to vote, unless Randolph appoints a new pollster.

((Where did that last paragraph come from Pete? Everything you wrote was logical and pointed to the conclusion that Linsey should be allowed to run the Poll. I agree with everything you say, right up to the point where you decide not to vote. Is that

decision based on the fact that Bruce has been guilty of past indiscretions, or because of personal reasons?

Let's assume that Bruce is guilty of everything he has been accused of. Better yet, let's assume that he is guilty of worse, that he is in prison as a punishment for some heinous crime. Is that reason enough to say that he cannot be trusted with the Runestone poll? When did it become necessary for us to judge others before we can accept them? I have heard that you, Pete, are a Socialist. How do you think my conservative Republican boss would react if he found out that I correspond on a regular basis with a Socialist, or worse yet, that I consider him a friend whose home I have stayed in and who would be welcome in my home at any time? I would think that our situation is much more valid to be judgmental about, but we seem to manage just fine. Personally, I don't care if Bruce is really Charles Manson and Kathy is Lizzie Borden, they are welcome to undertake the Runestone Poll and DW editorship respectively, with my full support, until such time as they prove to be unable to perform their tasks.

Your argument seems to be: (paraphrasing), "several people will boycott the poll if Bruce runs it; I want the poll to survive (or even thrive); therefore I too will boycott the poll." I can't agree with that conclusion.))

Bruce Linsey, 9 December 1984

it follow that there is any reason to believe that I will not handle the Runestone Poll properly? I maintain that there is not. What of my past activities within the hobby? Have I always discharged my hobby obligations with scrupulous care and honesty, or have I shown myself to be lax and irresponsible? I firmly believe that a close and impartial scrutiny of my hobby career will strongly indicate a pattern of high commitment and integrity. I point to Voice of Doom and Supernova as the two most visible examples. In its five years, my line was never late. No games were ever orphaned. When it folded, I promptly refunded over \$500 in subscription balances to my readers. Now, some people say that some of my players were "screwed" by silly house-ules or whatnot, but that gets into differing philosophies of GMing, and it isn't really the issue at hand. As for Supernova, I have fulfilled every order that ever came my way, and close to 600 copies have been distributed so far. But that's only the visible part. Novices have all sorts of questions, and it is not infrequent for me to receive follow-up inquiries in response to Supernova. I always do my best to help these people. Sometimes their questions made it into print (when I was publishing); more often, they'd get a private response, depending on the nature of their questions.

In the case of the Runestone Poll, I think that this is exactly the sort of care and dedication we need. Obviously, I'm not the only individual who would be willing and able to give this project the type of attention it deserves. Far from it: the hobby is full of hard-working people who could do the job as well as I could. But, I'm the one who went and volunteered, and I don't think it can reasonably be claimed that I lack the necessary qualities for the job.

A side question of whether or not I will handle the Poll with scrupulous honesty has arisen. Rather than trying to persuade people that these worries are unfounded (and they are, absolutely), I have decided to address these concerns with a compromise. Pat Conlon, who to my knowledge has no enemies, has agreed to accept ballots and if necessary, verify the results. Thus the question cannot legitimately be raised regarding whether I will tabulate the results honestly, without questioning Pat's integrity as well. Now, I realize that a few hard-core fanatics might still be able to thinking up ways in which I could "cheat", but those with legitimate concerns should be satisfied by the arrangement. I know, and so do many others, that I have the integrity to run the poll honestly; but at the same time, I can-

not ignore the worries of those hobbyists who, for whatever reasons have their doubts. To do so would be to indicate a callousness that in itself would mark me as an unsuitable pollster.

I wish briefly to address an issue much larger than the topic of who will run the Runestone Poll, and that is this: how is this hobby going to operate in the future? ...if I were to knuckle under to the pressures of the people spreading these charges and resign my position as Runestone pollster, would that not send them a clear message? Is this not, in fact, a dangerous precedent to set? Is that how we want the hobby to work from now on? The issue confronting us, then, transcends the question of who will run a poll. We are now faced with the prospect of a hobby run by a small group of people who will feel that they can dictate who does what by spreading false charges, innuendo, and pressure tactics. This must never be allowed to happen. People may ask why I don't step down for the good of the hobby. My response is that it has now become obligatory that I don't step down -- for the good of the hobby.

In light of the above, I would urge you to.... support me as the 1985 pollster. I believe that if you do this, my performance will vindicate your decision.

((I am beginning to think that I have something against final paragraphs. Bruce, I have to agree with your points, but I think you went a bit far in claiming that this is the stand we must take for the sake of "future pollster and custodians." Gee, but that phrase sounds familiar, and I don't think you would care to repeat the fate of the person you nearly paraphrased there! I have yet to hear a valid, logical reason why Bruce should not run the poll, and with Pat helping I can't think of why anyone would object, other than "I hate Bruce Linsey!" That isn't reason enough for me to boycott as well. If there are some arguments that I haven't heard, I am certainly willing to listen, and FF is available for the debate.))

The following is a part of a series of reviews that I may or may not do concerning newspaper columnists. This particular columnist does movie reviews for The Dallas Times Herald, and occasionally appears in The Daily Texan (the U. of Texas paper). If you watch Siskel and Ebert on PBS, this is nothing like it. If you are sensitive to Redneck insensitivities, stop here. Or better yet, figure out that this guy writes with tongue firmly planted in cheek! He only reviews one kind of movie, and uses a unique kind of rating system. Without further ado, here is Joe Bob Briggs, and:

AT THE DRIVE-IN.

Nobody got a lick of work done this week cause the new Dallas Cheerleaders posters came in the mail. Could I have a little silence please? One more outburst like that and I'll clear this newspaper. Now I know we're getting into controversial territory here. I know everybody wants a chance to say their piece. I know you're all p.o.ed about this year's blonde quotient (46.9%). But let's just remain calm until I get finished going over the annual Cowboy cheerleaders Meat Market Report.

As we all know, this is the first year they used the Cowboy Cheerleaders Written Test. We were all against it. We all knew it was gonna damage the crop. But that's past history and we have to live with it now. However, I do think some of the questions were a little tough, and I think we could work on loosening up the academic requirements for 1985. Like, one of the questions on this year's test was, "What city do the Denver Broncos come from?" See? Trick question.

Also they asked em this one:

Q. What does the term "pigskin" mean?

- a) What they wrote the Declaration of Independence on.
- b) People that are related to pigs.
- c) A Football.

Next year I think we need to agree: no "opinion" questions like that. And I want to prove my point by the first shocking Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders Fact: The 1984 crop has only five bimbos with first names ending in the letter "i." Of course, this is the lowest number in history. One Vicki, one Vikki (extra credit for the double-k), two Lori's, and a Kelli. And I am afraid that's it.

Course, that's nothing compared to the second shocking Cowboy Cheerleader fact: I'm almost embarrassed to tell this one. I think it must be a mistake and they left some information off the '84 poster. I searched through the whole deal, read all the parts about how the Cheerleaders went to Ko Rea last year and oiled up some M-16 assault rifles. But I couldn't find nothing in there about dedicating their life to teaching handicapped kids how to say the Lord's Prayer.

Handicapped quotient: zero. Nada. No way, Jose Jimenez. We had some years where the entire squad was dedicating themselves to starting handicapped schools.

Speaking of people that can't talk, Arnold the Barbarian is back again this week. Arnold Schwarzenegger, the A-man, the wildman that put the beef in beefcake, drops buck-nekkid out of the sky and walks around sticking his arm through stomachs of punk rockers. Arnold is "The Terminator," and I'm gonna say it right now, we're talking Drive-In heaven. A cross between "The Road Warrior" and "Halloween," with some "Zombie" tossed in to make it disgusting. Straight to No.1 on the Joe Bob Briggs Best of '84 List.

The A-man is this "cyborg" (half man and half Robotronic City) who gets zapped into El Lay from the future. His mission: to wipe out Linda Hamilton so she can't give birth to the guy who's gonna kill him in the year 2029. So the A-man gets him some Hall's Angels threads and walks into a gun store and tells Dick Miller that he wants a 12-gauge auto-loader shotgun, a .45 long-slide heavy duty handgun with laser sighting, a 9-millimeter pistol and a Plasma rifle with a 40-watt range-finder, and then Dick Miller says "Will there be anything else?" and the A-man blows Dick away in the slow motion and walks out of the store like a National Guard armory with legs.

First Arnold sticks his hand through a car window, steals a station wagon, drives to the suburbs, runs over some kid's play toys, rings the doorbell and pumps six shotgun blasts into a 35-year-old woman. Then he looks in the phone book and finds out he killed the wrong one. Uh oh. So he goes and does the same thing to another bimbo, but after he does he checks her ID and finds out it was her roommate he wanted. What are we gonna do with you, Arnold?

But now its too late, because the target bimbo knows the A-man is breathing heavy. And she's found this other guy (100% pure-dee human) who's been zapped from the future to kill Arnold. This guy's nekkid, too, because the zap machine won't work if you got clothes on. So he lands in an alley and has to run through a K-Mart with cops chasing him before he gets dressed and steals a shotgun and starts hanging around Linda Hamilton's apartment like those guys that go to the movies in their raincoats.

This dude's name is Michael Biehn, and he's having flashbacks like he's been in Nam, and it's making him pretty durn irritated. Especially when Arnold goes in a Disco and the guy at the door says, "Hey, buddy, you didn't pay," and Arnold has to blow away 20 or 30 Empty-V fans who could have tried out for "Soul Train"

