

India Doubles Skeleton Sales
NEW DELHI (AP) — The overseas sale of Indian human skeletons more than doubled from 22,790 in 1968 to 49,341 last year, officials reported.

GRAUSTARK

#221

26 September 1970



Best of all is Larry Hagman, the college president. He is the perfect liar, cheat, hypocrite, and dirty old man. He is so good that the only role left for him to play is Richard Nixon.

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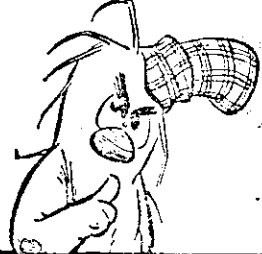
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MOD SQUAD IS BULLSHIT

"IT DIDN'T WORK FOR ME EITHER. DON'T, NOBODY BELIEVES THE LIES ANY MORE"

YEE, TO GET RID OF
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GET RID OF THE CAUSE.
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WHAT DO YOU
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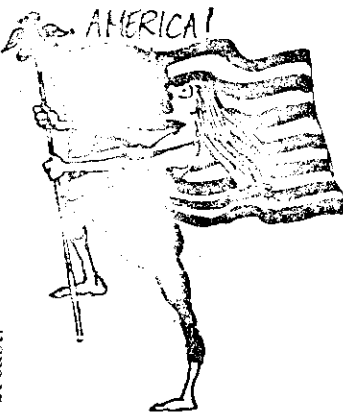
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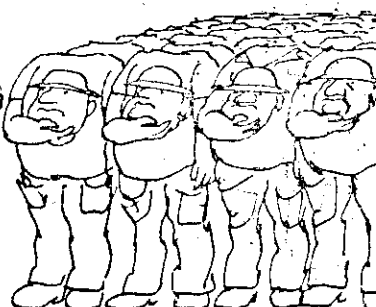


PEEKING AT HISTORY

ST. ALBANS, England, May 7 (UPI) — The sign on an inn named the ancient Briton pub for years has shown Queen Boadicea fully dressed in skins. Today it was repainted to expose the medieval monarch's right shoulder and breast.



HEADS OFF! THERE
GOES THE FLAG.



AGNEW DEDICATED A SHRINE IN GEORGIA TO THE CONFEDERACY

-AND IN CLOSING,
I WANT IT
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ABRAHAM LINCOLN
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Ant
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Naked Went the Apes
OSLO (AP)—The Kristiansen Zoo in southern Norway found four baboons—one male and three females—demonstrative sexually and shipped them to Denmark where the attitude in such matters is more relaxed, newspaper Verdens Gang reports.

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"ARE YOU ALONE?"
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1970W

"Fall 1904"

HEAVY FIGHTING IN NORTH

ENGLAND (Kimmel): F Eng-North Sea; F Den S F Eng-North Sea; F Swe-Norway; A Fin-St.P; F Bar S A Fin-St.P.

FRANCE (Vest): A Hol & F Pic S A Bel; A Bel S A Hol; A Bur-Ruh; A Mar-Pie.

GERMANY (McCallum): A Kie-Den; F Hel S A Kie-Den; F Norway S RUSSIAN F Ska-Swe; A Ber-Kie; A Ruh holds; A Mun S A Ruh.

ITALY (Ward): A Tyr holds; A Ser & A Bud S RUSSIAN A Gal-Rum; A Vie S A Bud; F Bul(s.c.) holds; F Eas-Smy; F Ion-Aeg; A Gre S F Bul(s.c.).

RUSSIA (Salcedo): A Gal-Rum; A Ukr S A Gal-Rum; A St.P-Mos; F Ska-Swe.

TURKEY (Grayson): A Smy holds; F Bla-Con; A Rum-Sev; A Sev-Mos.

Underlined moves are not possible. Russia retreats A St.P-Liv, and the Turkish A Rum is annihilated. England may retreat F Swe-Fin, -Bot, or -Bal, and F Den-Ska or -Bal, except that the two dislodged fleets cannot both be retreated to the Baltic Sea. THESE RETREATS SHOULD BE PHONED AT ONCE TO THE GAMESMASTER, who will inform the other players by air mail. The High Combatant Powers now control the following supply centers:

ENGLAND: Edi, Liv, Lon, St.P. (4)

ITALY: Bud, Bul, Nap, Gre, Rom, Ser, Tri, Tun, Ven, Vie. (10)

FRANCE: Bel, Bre, Hol, Mar, Par,

Por, Spa. (7)

RUSSIA: Mos, Rum, Swe, War. (4)

GERMANY: Ber, Den, Kie, Mun, Nor. (5)

TURKEY: Ank, Con, Sev, Smy. (4)

France and Italy may each build two units, and Turkey may build one. England and Germany must each remove one unit. The deadline for these "Winter 1904" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 10 OCTOBER 1970.

1970E

"Winter 1905"

RUSSO-ITALIAN ALLIANCE SCENTS VICTORY

In addition to the "Fall 1905" moves printed in GRAUSTARK #220, Germany ordered F Eng-Mid, which failed.

ITALY (Becker): No build received. TURKEY (Amling): No removals received.

RUSSIA (Burley): Builds A Sev. Gamesmaster removes F Bla, F Syr.

Although Russia gained 2 supply centers in "1905", there is only one home supply center on which a new unit can be built. The deadline for "Spring 1906" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 10 OCTOBER 1970.

ROME (3 Dec. 1905): Pope Becker met with Czar Burley today here in Rome. Both leaders expressed pleasure at the way the war was progressing. Pope Becker stated that the Black Plague would be driven out of France in a short period. He congratulated the Czar on his brilliant attack on the Yellow Scum in the East. He cautioned the Czar not to become too involved in the Turkish harems since there is much fighting to be done in the north. Having visited Smyrna himself, after the recent takeover, the Pope noted that the Turkish girls did have a certain charm.

LISBON (15 Dec. 1905): Informed sources indicated today Pope Becker was slightly disturbed that the English fleets had not been ordered during the Fall campaign. He felt that there must have been extenuating circumstances why the English fleets had not moved according to plan. He issued a statement that he would continue to implement his part of the plan with no hard feelings towards the Prime Minister. The Pope indicated that he was more than willing to keep his part of the bargain to rid France of the dreadful Black Plague.

SEE PAGE 4 FOR INFORMATION ON STAND-BY MOVES IN 1970E!

1970D

4

"Spring 1906"

ENGLISH, ITALIANS IN ALPHONSE-AND-GASTON ACT

ENGLAND (Wells): F Wes S ITALIAN F Rom-Tyr; A Bre-Pic; F Eng-Mid; F Hol-Kie; F Hel S F Hol-Kie; F Ska-Den; F Bel S A Bre-Pic; A St. F holds.

FRANCE (Salcedo): A Bur-Par.

GERMANY (Prosnitz): F Swe S A Den; A Kie-Hol; A Ruh S A Kie-Hol; A Mun-Kie; A Den S A Mun-Kie.

ITALY (Whito): A Gas S ENGLISH A Bre-Par; F Nap-Apu; A Ven S F Nap-Apu; A Pic S A Ven; F Rom & F Tun S ENGLISH F Wes-Tyr.

TURKEY (Grayson): A War-Liv; A Mos S A War-Liv; A Tri-Ven; F Adr S A Tri-Ven; F Ion-Nap; F Apu S F Ion-Nap; F Bla-Con; A Tyr-Pic; A Bud-Tri; A Vic-Boh; F Aeg-Ion; F Eas S F Aeg-Ion; F Smy-Aeg.

Underlined moves are not possible. Italy retreats A Ven-Tus, F Nap-Tyr. The deadline for "Fall 1906" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 10 OCTOBER 1970.

Gene Prosnitz has left for a one-month trip to Rhodesia. In his absence, Germany will be played by Sam Nierenberg, 117 W. 197th St., Bronx, N. Y. 10468. Nierenberg's telephone number is 212-549-6260. He has been apprised of Prosnitz's strategic plans and will attempt to follow them. He will submit the German moves for "Fall 1906" and "Winter 1906"; Prosnitz will resume direction of Germany with the "Spring 1907" moves.

THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY

Your Gamesmaster most sincerely hopes that nothing is done to dissuade or prevent Nguyen Cao Ky from speaking at next Saturday's pro-war rally in Washington. When the American people hear, in their own capital, the policies which they are expected to underwrite with their blood and money, I anticipate a further growth in the anti-war movement.

Men like Ky's sponsor, the Rev. Carl McIntire, were a popular form of public entertainment in the part of the country where I grew up. A typical sermon or speech of this sort begins with a diatribe against the Catholics, continues against the Jews, takes a swipe at the Communists, comes back to maul the Catholics a little more, whoops it up for whatever war may be going on, and then concludes by asking the blessings of the gentle Jesus. Out of courtesy to his hosts, Ky may incorporate a few of these ideas in his own speech, together with his well-known admiration for Hitler and his disdain for the forms of democratic opposition.

I hope he's televised on every network.

*

Two stand-bys are needed for 1970E, as reported on p. 3. Since Italy is eminently viable, Marty Kirkpatrick (320 Yale St., Nampa, Idaho 83651; 208-466-7036) is called upon to submit "Spring 1906" moves for that country. As for Turkey, the first person to submit a "Spring 1906" move for the remaining Turkish unit can have it if Ray Amling is not heard from.

*

Recently Wally Conger sent me a clipping from the conservative weekly Human Events, in which a former Marx Brothers writer named Ryskind whoops it up for the Hard Hats. On the opposite side was this ad:

"Communism and Humanism - viewed as two serpents in remarkable prophecies. Paperback import from Holland foretells future disasters, oceans flooding Europe, Red China on march. Book 'Lady of All Nations', \$2.", with an address.

Is there still anyone out there who wants to take conservatism seriously?

HABSBURG EMPIRE EXPIRES

Gamesmaster Beshara reports that the Turkish move he reported to GRAUSTARK as "A .. Arm-Sev" in "Fall 1910" (#220) should have been "A Arm-Smy, and successful. "Winter 1910" builds were:

FRANCE: Builds A Bre, refuses to build 2 other units.

GERMANY: Builds F Ber.

TURKEY: Builds F Con.

ENGLAND (Lasky): A Ukr S A Mos; A Mos, A Lon, F Ska, A Edi, & F Norway hold.

FRANCE (R. Miller): A Bre-Hol; F Eng & F North Sea C A Bre-Hol; F Mid-North Atlantic; A War S A Gal; A Gal S A War; A Tri-Ser; A Bud S A Tri-Ser; A Alb-Gre; F Ion S A Alb-Gre; F Aeg-Bul(s.c.); F Adr-Alb; F Tun holds; A Sil-Mun; A Kie S A Sil-Mun.

GERMANY (T. . .): A Rum S A Sev; A Sev S A Rum; F Den S F Swe; F Swe S F Den; F Ber holds. (Shuldiner)

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Kimmel): A Ser-Rum.

TURKEY (Becker): F Gre-Aeg; F Con S F Gre-Aeg; F Bla S AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN A Ser-Rum; A Bul S AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN A Ser-Rum; A Smy-Arm.

Underlined moves are not possible. The last Austro-Hungarian army is annihilated, and France retreats F Aeg-Smy. The deadline for "Fall 1911" moves is 6 PM, MONDAY 5 OCTOBER 1970.

1970J

"Winter 1905"

Following "Fall 1905" moves, France retreats F Pie-Mar.

GERMANY (Berman): Builds A Ber.

RUSSIA (Grayson): Removes F Norwegian Sea,

ITALY (Comber): Builds A Ven.

A Ukr, A Gal.

TURKEY (Aita): Builds A Con.

* The deadline for "Spring 1906" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 10 OCTOBER 1970.

1970M

"Winter 1904"

FRANCE (Strayer): Builds A Mar.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (H. Anderson): Removes

GERMANY (Barents): Removes A Yor.

F Adr, A Tyr.

ITALY (Kirkpatrick): Builds

RUSSIA (Leinhos): Removes A Liv.

F Nap.

TURKEY (Cairns): Builds A Ank, F Con,

F Smy.

Turkey now has 9 supply centers but only 8 units, since there are only 3 home supply centers on which new units may be established.

Herb Barents writes that he missed the "Fall 1904" moves because he never received GRAUSTARK #219, and that he is now playing under protest.

The deadline for "Spring 1905" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 10 OCTOBER 1970.

MOSCOW: The Czar's agents have uncovered the mastermind of the German High Command. Apparently a unique computer using white subes with various siphers inscribed insure total unpredictability in the movement of Kaiser Barents' forces.

THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY

John Beshara, whose house rules were printed in #220, writes that he is modifying his victory criterion to agree with that of GRAUSTARK. See GRAUSTARK #190, p. 7, ruling #25, for the victory criterion used here.

What happened to all those press releases?

THE DIPLOMATIC POUCH

DAVID LINDSAY (31 August): With the demise of WWI-C [in GRAUSTARK #217] it seems there may be a few loose ends to tie up...

First off, I originally agreed to the draw because I was sure that Ron could win the game, and when he offered me a chance of breaking even I accepted it. You see, the victory conditions are a 2/3 majority of all pieces on the board or capturing all enemy capitals. The word 'pieces' was what made me accept the draw. Since Ron could build up U. S. units as long as he had the Mid-Atlantic I thought that he could accumulate enough of them to gain a 2/3 majority. However, looking at the conference map with the positions on it I see I was mistaken. By my calculations Ron would need 37 units, or 26 more than he has now; unfortunately he doesn't have enough space to put them all. So that way of gaining victory is out. And both of you are correct in saying that the game is now stalemated militarily. It is a 'classic' situation, first commented upon - though in different circumstances - by McCallum in Brobdingnag some time ago, as impregnable to assaults because it is not out flankable. So it seems that the game is a true draw, though if Ron had room for the American troops it would not be.

One of the more interesting features of the WWI variant is the ease with which strategy may be formulated: no treacherous allies, no sneaky maneuvers, no involved plans to get X to stab Y. Just maneuver your units to gain a certain goal. In fact the game has a chess-like simplicity in number of pieces and spaces. But like chess the game does have quite a few opportunities for clever maneuvering and gambits of various natures. One idea that immediately struck me when I saw the game was the possibility of using a computer to analyze the game. I can't prove it, but I suspect Dave Johnston may have hit upon the idea also because of the way he moved his troopers: Germany was reduced quickly and efficiently and I was unable to make any advances anywhere but Russia. I suppose I should ask Dave about this, but I doubt if he would have time to reply.

[Maybe he was using a ouija board. See GRAUSTARKs #169 and #218.]

Anyway, this brings me to another point. I suspect that Dave's moves and Ron's too are the best that could be made under the circumstances. And shedding the skin of modesty like a snake I think mine made the best of the situation. If this is so, and John could check this by looking at the other games, then it would seem that WWI is a draw if played correctly. I strongly suspect it is, though a computer could probably tell us for sure. Anyway, comments...on this would be greatly appreciated.

That seems to be it. I'd like to thank both of you [a copy of this letter went to Ron Salcedo, Lindsay's opponent] for making this game possible and also enjoyable. I've enjoyed my fantasies of power and hope Ron enjoyed his; hopefully John enjoyed seeing press releases from Grande Casino. Thanks, fellows, and maybe we can have a reunion in 10 years or so and play the damn thing over again. Until then - tennis, anyone?

[Aha, but Gamesmasters also have fantasies of power! If the players get to think of themselves as kings and emperors, then Who do you think the Gamesmaster is?]

MIKE AITA (24 August): You may be interested in knowing that according to...Ben Levine, who writes for the Daily World, the Jewish Defense League never did bust up the place. They merely shouted at the machines and left when the cops came - no arrests. As you might guess, the cops took their time coming.

[For earlier news on JDL attacks on anti-war groups see GRAUSTARK #215. The JDL has since tried to break up concerts by Soviet musicians in New York and Chicago.]

CHARLES WELLS (21 August): I disagree with your ruling concerning AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: A Bud-Tri; A Ser-Tri.

ITALY: A Ven S AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN A Bud-Tri.

If the unit in Budapest had belonged to someone else, say Russia, you surely would have allowed A Bud-Tri to succeed whether the Italian support was desired or not. [Yes.] Similarly if A Ser had belonged to someone else (just as long as A Ser and A Bud belong to different countries. This is

But the Rulebook says flatly that all rules concerning movement of units and resolution of battles apply regardless of ownership of units, with only one exception. This exception has to do with a unit being dislodged, which is not happening in this example.

If in addition to the above there were an Austrian or Italian unit in Trieste then I would agree with your ruling. But if Trieste is empty or occupied by any country other than Austria or Italy then I would say that A Bud-Tri succeeds. (It can't be occupied by Italy because the exception in the Rulebook applies to a country attacking or supporting an attack on one of its units.)

O At
P Great
E Intervals
R This
A Appears
T To
I Inflamm
O Optic
N Nerves

443

[This interpretation has already been discussed in GRAUSTARKS #218 and #220. I stand by my interpretations in those issues.]

ANDREW PHILLIPS (3 September): Do you really believe the crud you're laying down? Anyone who believes that "our society" has a "huge and desperate class of the poor" and only a "thin crust" of middle class is simply not in touch!

I say what I see. Anyone who walks north along Park Avenue from, say 70th Street to 120th Street - a distance of only 2½ miles - can see that our society still has the same intolerable contrast between the immeasurably wealthy and the hopelessly poor as it did at the turn of the century. One can take such a walk in any American city, and see such a contrast. Only an inadequate welfare system stands between our cities and social revolution, and inflation is making that welfare system more inadequate every day. If we now have anarchists, bombings, riots, assassinations, and high crime rates, just as the society of The Proud Tower did, it is because the same causes produce the same results. The society of 1900 and the society of 1970 differ only in such trivial matters as the skin color of the urban poor, the occupations of the middle class which scorns them, and the media which make different social classes aware of one another's way of life.]

Some strange people on your "New Blood" list [in GRAUSTARK #219]. Mischel and Rosenfeld have been playing at least a year, and Kringsman has been publishing for months -

[They're new as far as my records go.]

On the rules: I do not think George Heap's points about the Beshara Rule [in GRAUSTARK #218] are particularly well taken. First, a unit which "may not move" may still have an effect at its destination. Note the same words are used under "Conflicts" as under "The Convoy Order". Secondly, he fails to back up the assertion he makes in the sentence preceding his examples. Thirdly, A Bel-Lon is no more a legal order without a corresponding convoy order than A Bel-Mos - the applicable sentence requires both.

Actually, I don't think this is a question that can be resolved solely on the basis of a literal reading of the Rulebook alone. You merely have to decide what you consider reasonable. Consider: A Lon-Bel; F Eng; G A Lon Bel /d/ A Hol-Bel. If you assert that a stand-off has occurred, it would seem to follow that if A Hol-Bel was changed to A Hol holds, A Lon-Bel would no longer be stood off. Unopposed, it should - by analogy -

succeed. Now, looking at the situation from the "coarse ~~move~~ viewpoint, such a result is not unreasonable given the period of time over which the actions take place. Unfortunately or fortunately, as the case may be, such a result contradicts the Rules. C'est la guerre -

Please clarify your ruling on George's fourth example. [This was the same situation as is discussed in Charles Wells' letter in this issue.] If you really hold the Austro-Hungarian units cannot act against each other, you have to deal with the fact that the rules state that such moves are "of no effect"; thus: AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: A Vic-Tri, A Bud-Tri; ITALY: A Ven-Tri. Such a ruling would contradict the Sample Game [in the Rulebook] but that's been no object in the past, has it?

[Under these circumstances I would have underlined all three of those moves. If three units, each with no support, all try to get to the same space, none of them succeeds.]

What would be your rulings in the following cases?

[My rulings are indicated by underlinings for the impossible moves.]

1. ENGLAND: F Iri S F North Atlantic-Mid; F North Atlantic-Mid.

ITALY: F Spa(s.c.)-Mid; F Wes-Mid; F North Africa S F Wes-Mid.

2. TURKEY: A Con S RUSSIAN A Rum-Bul; F Bul(s.c.)-Aeg.

RUSSIA: A Rum-Bul.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: A Gre-Bul; A Ser S A Gre-Bul; F Ion-Aeg.

[The Turkish F Bul(s.c.) is dislodged.]

3. AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: A Tri-Bud; A Ser S A Tri-Bud; A Rum-Gal; A Bud S A Rum-Gal.

RUSSIA: A Gal-Bud; A Vic S A Gal-Bud; A War-Gal.

[The Russian A Gal is dislodged.]

4. ITALY: F Tus-Tyr; F Ion-Tyr; F Nap S F Ion-Tyr.

ENGLAND: F Tyr-Ion; F Tun S F Tyr-Ion.

5. ITALY: F Tus-Tyr; F Ion-Tyr; F Nap S F Ion-Tyr.

ENGLAND: F Tun-Ion; F Tyr S F Tun-Ion.

The indicated rulings are as per the SHRs. [The what?] While I'm on the subject, how about:

6. ITALY: F Wes-Spa(s.c.). [OK, but why ask?]

7. ENGLAND: A Lon-Bel; F Eng C A Lon-Bel; F North Sea S A Lon-Bel.

FRANCE: F Bro S F Bel-Eng; F Bel-Eng.

...Re GRAUSTARK #218, p. 10: Am I to understand that you actually believe in "natural law".

[Yes, but in the sense that Jefferson used the term in the Declaration of Independence, rather than in the sense that our Romish neighbors use it. In that document Jefferson lists certain attributes that are a natural part of man, as much as are arms and legs. Among these are certain political rights whose use may be denied or atrophied - as may be the use of the limbs - but which can be alienated from a human being only with his life.]

As an Atheist, where do you get your moral imperative? I mean, why do you give a damn about all the things you seem to give a damn about?

[Out of a mere preference for life over death, construction and preservation over destruction, learning over ignorance, and consequently peace over war. I do not pretend to the "impartiality" in these matters upon which some people pride themselves.]

THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY

"Every man has a liver, a spleen, a pair of lungs, and a flag; all four organs are vital. There are said to be men without a liver or a spleen and with only one lung; there are no men without a flag." - Kurt Tucholsky

*
"FLAG. A colored rag borne above troops and hoisted on forts and ships. It appears to serve the same purpose as certain signs that one sees on vacant lots in London - "Rubbish may be shot here." - Ambrose Bierce

PROPHET AND LOSS - III

Five prophecies appeared under this heading in GRAUSTARK #214, but two of them were fakes. They "prophesied" things that had already happened, and, per design, elicited comments that such things could not possibly take place. In case any readers feel cheated at this development, a few "genuine" prophecies are given instead.

1. The 1970 elections will be a Democratic landslide in New York. The entire statewide ticket will win, including Arthur Goldberg for Governor and Richard J. Ottinger for Senator. Nelson Rockefeller will be consoled with a federal appointment, probably at or immediately below the cabinet level, or an ambassadorship.

2. The next election to choose a new Pope will result in a split in the College of Cardinals. A rump faction will elect a rival claimant to the papal throne. (This does not include the existing claims of the French priest Michel Collin, who says that he has been "Pope Clement XIV" since 1950.)

3. The Department of Defense will be accused of secretly letting contracts to build a laser defense against intercontinental ballistic missiles. Whether such lasers will work, and whether they ought to be built, will be the subject of a debate comparable in intensity to the ABM debate.

4. Palestinian emigrés in Lebanon will make a serious attempt to overthrow the government of that country within the next six months.

5. The midi-skirt will be a financial disaster.

THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY

"Has no one ever pointed out that the Bhagavad-Gita has probably killed more people, as a document, than Mein Kampf?" - D. V. Latimer, East Village Other, 15 Sept. 1970

"The very same people who applauded the President for setting a date for our withdrawal from Cambodia attacked administration critics for trying to set a date for our evacuation from Vietnam." - Douglas E. Schoon, letter, New York Post, 16 Sept. 1970

GRAUSTARK, the oldest bulletin of postal Diplomacy, is published on alternate Saturdays by John Boardman, 234 East 19th Street, Brooklyn, N. Y. 11226. Subscriptions are 10 issues for \$1.00. Back issues are 10¢ each or 15 for \$1.00. All back issues from #195 are still available, although some are running low. No new games are presently being organized, except one for residents of New York as described in the last issue. This publication is not edited under the supervision of Bangs Leslie Tapscott.

The Nazi physicist William L. Pierce, mentioned in #215 as having threatened the lives of three anti-war Senators, has just been thrown out of the American Nazi Party by its post-Rockwell Führer, Matthias Koehl. No question of politics was involved, simply a personality clash. Koehl holds all the trumps here; not only is he Führer, but the party is financed by a wealthy male bedfellow of his.

Needless to say, though the Department of Justice is prosecuting a death threat made against President Nixon by a Black Panther in California, it has no plans to do anything about Pierce.

Belated thanks to Brian and Sherna Burley, who held a long and enjoyable housewarming over Labor Day weekend. Numerous Diplomacy and science-fiction fans congregated from as far away as Boston and Baltimore to help the Burleys, Sherna's parents, and a few mundane friends to consecrate the new dwelling. Sherna's mother provided enough food to feed the retreat from Moscow, while her father regaled the company with tales of his days in the Irish Republican Army, and everyone else ate, drank, played frisbie, ate, slept, sang, ate, drank, talked science-fiction or politics, ate, read, drank, and ate. Unfortunately, no one had brought a Diplomacy set, but otherwise a great time was had by all.

The academic year has begun again, but with a difference. Brooklyn College students now have 2 weeks off before the election, so that those who want peace can work for either the candidate of Nixon's war party or the candidate of Johnson's war party!

WHO OWNS THE FLAG?

"Nebuchadnezzar spake and said unto them, Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up?" - Daniel iii, 14

"This board will not sit here and listen to anyone who won't stand and salute the flag...Anyone who will not salute the flag of the United States of America has no right to ask anything of its government." - Joseph C. Irwin, Director, Monmouth County (N. J.) Board of Freeholders, New York Times, 20 August 1970

There was once a time when the flag of the United States of America belonged to all of its citizens, without regard to their political opinions. It was a flag born in revolution, standing not so much for a tract of land as for certain ideas which the government of that land once pledged to uphold.

Now it has become a partisan banner, and the tiny minority of war-lovers wave it as they smash the heads of women and children in the streets. However, these same war queers object to the use of the flag by people who prefer peace and want it now. It seems to be proper to wear a flag sticker on your car window or a "hard hat", particularly when accompanied by a pro-war slogan or the name of a pro-war candidate. But it is improper, it seems, to wear a necktie with a flag pattern, or to use the flag in conjunction with a peace symbol.

What the war queers are out to do is obvious. They want the flag to have all the prestige that it has as a national symbol, and at the same time to attach this prestige to their own faction. This, of course, is impossible. Neither a sinking ship nor a sinking cause can be kept above water by nailing the flag to its mast. All that will happen is that the flag will go down along with the cause to which it has been attached. If people feel shame at the sight of their country's flag, the blame belongs with the men who appropriated that flag and flew it to justify the My Lai massacre, the clubbing of peace demonstrators, and the suppression of the peace movement's duty - not right but duty - of free speech.

The American Civil Liberties Union has been swamped in recent months by flag cases. According to an article in the September issue of their monthly Civil Liberties, people have been arrested for the following acts:

1. Sewing a flag to the roof of a car. (This is perilously close to the flying of flags from car antennas, which is quite common.)

2. Sewing a flag to a jacket, thus "mutilating" it.

3. Wearing the flag as a kerchief, covering the head in a traditional symbol of mourning.

4. Being present when a flag was burned. (Testimony of witnesses was conflicting even on this point.)

5. Sale or use of a flag superimposed on a dove, or with a peace symbol on it, or with the 50 stars arranged in the shape of a peace symbol. (There is, incidentally, no law specifying the way in which the 50 stars may be arranged on the canton of the U. S. flag.)

6. Wearing clothing in flag patterns.

7. Showing up for a pre-induction physical wearing nothing but a flag. (The inductee claimed that if the government was going to ship him back wrapped in a flag, they may as well send him out the same way.)

In fact, according to the Indiana director of the ACLU, "One of the most frequent kinds of harassment is that in which a motorcyclist wearing a flag on his jacket is stopped by a policeman wearing a flag sewn on his sleeve." (New York Daily News, 23 August 1970)

And drivers for United Parcel Service and the New York Telephone Company have been told that they can use flag stickers on their vehicles and buttons on their clothes, but no others. Flags displayed in such a way as to indicate support for peace are forbidden. A telephone company spokesman put it very frankly when he said, "If the flag is consid-

ered to be favorable to any one side, then that's too bad. That's the symbol of this country." Like many Establishment positions, this one pretends to impartiality while taking sides. The flag is intended to be at once everybody's symbol, and the emblem of the war-lovers.

Naturally, this is doing well for the flag business - we may recall that ancient Roman shoemakers organized frequent parades so that shoes would wear out faster, giving them more business. Several flag manufacturers report record sales, including the small-size flags called "grave-markers". One of them, Emmanuel Weiner of Art Flag Co., told the New York Post that "even though patriotism was increasing, the flag business was dying because now people aren't entering the trade." (22 May 1970) "I have a 20-year-old son, but he's in college, dodging the draft," Weiner said, "and he won't even come here and look at the place."

Other people with a cash interest in the flag include Gulf Oil, which is distributing free flag decals at its stations. Gulf Oil received \$95,942,000 in military contracts in fiscal 1969, so presumably they have good reason to feel patriotic. (Fran Manuskin, letter, New York Post, 29 May 1970)

Burlington County, New Jersey, harbors more of this peculiar sort of patriot. On 8 July 1970 the County Board of Freeholders voted unanimously to require all county-owned cars to carry flag decals with the slogan "Our Flag: Love It or Leave". (Parenthetically, one wonders why such people got mad when young men take them up on their offer and head for Canada!) But later the vote was revoked when it turned out that the flags with the slogans had been provided by the Klks Club. This whites-only organization has as much right to fly the U. S. flag as Charles Manson does to call himself "Christ". (New York Post, 9 and 23 July, 1970)

But the most outrageous use of the flag is now taking place in New York. A splinter party that claims to be the true exiled pretender to the Republican Party feels that the major party candidates for U. S. Senator are not sufficiently bloodthirsty. This group, the Conservative Party, has nominated James Buckley, and his candidacy is being assiduously pushed by National Review, whose editor is his brother William. (The James Buckley candidacy is a godsend for another James Buckley, co-publisher of the pornographic weekly Screw. His obscenity case is being held up until after the election, lest two James Buckleys in the headlines at once prove confusing to both Conservatives and porn readers.)

Instead of the Democratic jackass or the Republican mastodon, the Conservatives have adopted as a symbol nothing less than the flag of the United States of America. Their stickers and posters bear nothing but the flag and the word "Buckley". The Conservatives, allegedly a "law-and-order" party, seem to have no use for the following law:

"The flag should never be used for advertising purposes in any manner whatsoever. It should not be embroidered on such articles as cushions or handkerchiefs and the like, printed or otherwise impressed on paper napkins or boxes or anything that is designed for temporary use and discard; or used in any portion of a costume or athletic uniform." - U. S. Code 36, Section 176

In addition, a New York state law says it is a misdemeanor "to place a representation of the flag on an envelope or business stationery and to use that stationery for business purposes or correspondence, precisely what Buckley has done". (New York Post, 11 August 1970)

At this point the whole flag issue reaches absolute chaos. Naturally, no legal action is going to be taken against Buckley or his party, no matter how many assistant district attorneys try to make themselves reputations by prosecuting housewives who have peace symbols superimposed on their car's flag stickers. All that will happen to him is that, despite long news reports in the same newspapers that tried to make George Wallace a "third major candidate" in 1968, Buckley will run a poor third.

But a curious sort of revenge is shaping up against those who have tried to make display of our flag a substitute for defending an indefensible war. Eventually a President of the United States - maybe even the present one - will be forced to the realization that only an immediate withdrawal of all US troops from Vietnam will save his political career. Naturally, the war queers will assail him as a "sell-out", "back-stabber", and "traitor". And, equally naturally, that President's supporters will wave the flag, claim that he is acting in the national interest, and call the hard-line hard-hats "unpatriotic".

Then what a change we will see! Whenever that flag is waved in support of the President's unilateral withdrawal policy, war queers will boo it, hiss it, tear it, and burn it. For, as anyone who has ever watched or listened to them can verify, they do not love their country and its flag so much as they love war, bloodshed, destruction, and death. If the flag of the United States is ever waved in the name of peace, they will burn it in the name of "victory" over whatever Sinister International Conspiracy is popular at the time.

Until that happens, those who want to love both peace and America can show it in a number of ways. Separate flag and peace stickers can be displayed, as recommended by Dean and Gerda Koontz. (GRAUSTARK #218, p. 4) There is a flag decal in which the 50 stars are arranged like a peace symbol. Or, since the American invasion of Vietnam has placed this country in great internal distress, it is perfectly permissible to display the United States flag upside down. This does not cast contempt on the flag, but instead is an internationally recognized symbol of distress. Prosecutions based on such display of the flag have been uniformly - and quickly - thrown out of court.

THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY

"The outbreak of he-men who love the flag and love America and hate surrender on the battlefield and anarchy at home is merely a symptom of what is about to happen in the United States of America...I would like to see a Hardhat Unit formed in every village, city, and hamlet community in the United States. I would like to see its membership limited to people who love the American flag...There is room in an organization like this for people of all political parties with just one qualification: Respect the flag, love American tradition, and hate treason." - Gerald E. K. Smith, The Cross and the Flag, August 1970

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"Construction workers are...notorious for not having that many brains, that they would actually get militant and kick ass when they have to get up on those pylons every day in full view of any sniperscope. And although the one day they kicked ass - the asses, that is, of lunch-breaking, very astonished Pace College part-time students - did provide them with a certain notoriety for kicking ass, you will notice that ever since a bomb blew apart one of their front-lot equipment trailers last June, they have not been doing much of that, either." - D. A. Latimer, East Village Other, 15 Sept. 1970

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Though most students are anti-war, the others are also heard from. Painted in 3-foot high black letters on the side of the Brooklyn College library are the words "GIVE WAR A CHANCE".

GRAUSTARK #221

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

"The Flag should never be displayed with the union down save as a signal of dire distress." - Public Law #623, Sec. 4, Par. (a)