

KUSS the game in PONTE... is full → but I do have

These openings. IRKSOME!

THE ZINE AN (only delayed)

WILL YOU BE WINE, WILL YOU BE MINE, WON'T YOU BE MY TOADY
NO. 4

November 21, 1981

Hello boys and girls. This is uncle Scotty and this is you copy of IRKSOME. Can you say "Diplomacy?" Very good! Uncle Scotty's house is at 701 15th Ave SE, Mpls MN 55414, and his phone number is (612) 623-4240. Can you say "Obscene phone call." Here, I'll show one to you. Now you try. Very good.

Well, it's 1:30 Monday mornign, and only two pages to go. You can see my spelling is affected by the time of night as well as the events of the previous evening. We residents of the Gopher Hole (my rooming house) held our first annual Film Festival. We all showed some decades old home movies whiel we drank, ate, smoked, and cheered ourselves on. Talk about a good time. See if you can guess which pages I typed right afterwards.

* Oh yes, I should mention game openings. Space is open for a 1 week black press game. That will be starting after Xmas: I have down Michaelaki, Bates, Noto, Woodson, Slaughter, & Palter. Game fee is \$5 for that one. I'll also be opening up another 4 week game (\$3) and a normal press 2 week game (\$4). Should be some fun, so sign up today! + 3.50 sub

This was the weekend of the Rolling Stones' stop in St. Paul. And I wasn't there. \$16.75 for a randomly drawn seat seemed a bit expensive. Scalpers were getting about \$25; 60,000 sent in requests for 18,000 seats. For Bruce Springsteen maybe I would skip my rent for a month and live in the gutter, but not for the Stones. Paul Flowers caught the Stones in Ohio (Cleveland, I think.) and had this to say: "Stone's concert was unvelievable. I've never seen anything like it. They opened, like usual, with 'Under My Thumb.' I went crazy. Mick's singing was very clear and wasn't run over by the guitar work. Major points of the concert were the rotating stage, Mick's run through the crowd (I couldn't believe he got out alive!) his ride on an elevating platform, and of course the trip in the cherry picker in the middle of a light show. It was fantastic."

The next IRKSOME is going to look a bit different. I'm going to try xeroxing and reducing the pages. I figure I can print and mail 12 pages at cost of 47¢. Advantages include less work for me, being to use pictures and cartoons and such, and being able to print on weekends. But it would mean a price increase and a digest format that may be harder to read. I'll try it for #5 and see how it works. If you plan on submitting something for #5, please have it ready to xerox if you can.

You may have heard about our snowstorm of the past week. Twelve inches is the biggest storm we've had since 1977. 100,000 house were without power for a couple days, and the Hubert H Humphrey Metrodome was deflated. (We call it the Metrozit and it popped.) But snow in the Cities is no big deal compared to out in the small town. There a storm would cut us off from civilization for a couple days. Life is easy here.

So what's in this issue?? Games, as usual, one new one and couple nearly over. Ig Lew took the month off to clean his room, he'll hopefully be back next time. Woody-Byrney looks at Woody and Byrney. Jim Williams and I look back at Ouzocon. (Ouzo is a Greek drink that Gary brought to St. Louis. He said Marion Bates drinks it on special occasions. The stuff tasted so bad that it's have to be a very special occasion before I drank that stuff. We left the bottle for the maid.) And even a serious thought on the back page. So stci around...for a good time.

LATE NEWS: Black press game is full. All players please send preference list.

ENJOY!

Scott

THE WOODY-BYRNEY PRODUCTION: PART I

This is a Woody-Byrney Prod., only Woody doesn't know about it!! Our usual Woody-Byrney Prod. for the month is making a guest appearance in Whitestonia, as that is where Scott Hanson is being roasted!!! (and quite well, too)) But I knew everyone would be real disappointed and the quality of this zine would go down if I didn't do my monthly attack here...so to keep this zine respectable.....

WOODY IS A MINDLESS DRONE AND A BIG JERK!!!!

You have to know Woody to know that the above statement is an understatement! Do you really want to know what a jerk he is? I know most of you are going to find this very hard to believe-but Woody actually called me up and asked me if I wanted to bet on the World Series. I said sure, but I would never take the Yankees. As it turns out the first condition of the bet is that he has to take the Yankees, as he's sure they are going to win. I said okay, what do you want to bet? Are you ready for this??? I hope you're sitting down-Woody says "How about 4 supply centers? Are you chicken Kathy, I bet you're afraid to bet supply centers." Realizing that this boy is a mental case, and realizing how tremendously lucky I am (I mean look at my track record for allies: Stebbins, Del Grande, Dunn, Wilson, and esp. Woody), I say Okay, you've got a deal. First off, I knew the Dodgers were going to win as I called up Reggie Jackson, and he told me that the Yankees were going to lose just to show Georgie what a pig they really thought he was.

Well now comes the time for Woody to pay up! He calls me up to tell me that he isn't going to pay. I said "Oh yes you are." He says that he is going to prove that it is illegal to bet supply centers. I said it's also illegal to let nuts run loose, but you're still walking around. Now, I ask all of you-have you ever met a bigger jerk in all your life, betting four supply centers? If you want to know why he said 4-that is because he went for broke, all or nothing. In all his games the most centers he has is 4, and that is only if the game hasn't gone past 02. If it's past 02 he's down to 2 or 1. Just because Woody is a jerk, why should that let him be a welcher???? Woody is a Welcher, Woody is a Welcher!!!!

Now if any of you have any doubts that Woody is a jerk, did you know that he is the same person who wrote an article calling Bob Osuch, someone he doesn't even know, a jerk, or that he wrote an article calling Hanson disgusting! And there was also that horrible article about Tropical Fish. That article alone was enough to prove that Woody is a jerk.

Woody came to my house to visit last weekend. He arrived with a shopping bag full of fish, real live fish in plastic bags, and green seaweed in other bags, and gives them to Phyllis. He does this just so he can aggravate John Caruso, because he knows that John hates fish, and he hates seeing the electric bill, because ever since Woody forced a 16 gal. fish tank, complete with heater, gravel, and fish on Phyllis, our electric bill has gone up \$30 a month. Caruso says if Woody keeps it up, he's going to be banned from Flushing.

Another example of just how sick Woody really is-when he went to Atlantic City to pitch pennies (no, he doesn't dare play Black Jack, as he loses at least \$100 when just pitching pennies) he mails John Caruso a present. That's right, he mails John Caruso a box of Salt Water Taffy, and on the card it says "Sweets for the Sweet." John does not have a sense of humor any better than Konrad's. Not only does John not think this is funny, he wants to know why Woody has this death wish. John, better known around here as Grizzly, makes Ross Pearson look like a midget! Why does Woody insist on bothering him? Tell me Woody isn't nuts.

I mean he really has an obsession about bothering Caruso. He calls our house everyday except Wed., no one calls on Wed., as I go bowling. John claims that no one ever calls him, all the calls are for me. So what do you think Woody does? On Wed. night he calls up, and John answers the phone. Woody says to John, "I can't believe that I got through on the first try." John says, "Woody, it's Wednesday,

continued next page

WOODY VS. BYRNEY CONTINUED

she's bowling, why don't you call her there and have her paged." Woody tells John, "I know she's bowling, and I already tied up the bowling alley's phone for half an hour, they finally made me hang up, so I decided to call up my good friend John Caruso, and talk to him." Now, everyone knows that Woody is the last person John wants to talk to, but he continues to aggravate John by keeping him on the phone for 45 minutes talking about his new fish tanks, and all his dip games. When I come home John tells me that he is going to make me quit the bowling league if he has to waste his time entertaining the lunatic on the phone.

I think I have provided sufficient proof that Woody is a Jerk! But if there is any doubt...just wait until John sees what Woody bought him for Christmas. Woody will be luck to escape with his life!

((Thank you Kathy for that interesting profile. But IRKSOME is an equal opportunity zine and all that, so here is Woody's view of Byrney.))

AND Yet another Woody-Byrney Article. Only Byrney doesn't know about it.

KATHY BYRNE (Alias Kathy Byrnzio)

The time has come for the truth about Kathy Byrne-alias Kathy Byrnzio. Yes, a native of Venice, Italy, Byrnzio as the GI's called her immigrated to the USA in 1947 at age 14. It is the deep seated affection for the land of her birth that compels her to assume its role in Diplomacy time after time. It is her natural gift of communication skills-particularly with soldiers, regardless of nationality, which she developed during WWII in Italy, that makes her one of the game's most formidable opponents today.

"I can remember," said Kathy in a Hustler Magazine interview, "when the American GI's finally marched into Venice. So much cheering. The soldiers were really wonderful. There were ones of all shapes and sizes," she said, "not to mention the men themselves."

Maintaining effective communication separately with Fascist, German, and then finally Allied troops was an important facet of her personality. This turned out to be the key to her survival. Depending on who was courting her at the time, the portrait in her boudoir alternated between Mussolini, Hitler, and Churchill. She found it necessary to tell white lies from time to time, as well as an occasional stab in the back. This habit has remained with her through the years and has proven to be one of the more quaint and charming qualities that Kathy has brought to the game of Diplomacy. She received many gifts from the many soldiers she came to know. Aside from the countless pairs of nylons, chocolate bars and American cigarettes, she received some rather extraordinary gifts for "special favors." She managed to accumulate three German supply centers from one particular general. Unfortunately she lost them in a bet on the outcome of the war. (Kathy took Germany and six points.)

As a dissheveled, disappointed and penniless Kathy Byrne disembarked at Ellis Island in July of 1947 she pondered what this great land of opportunity had in store for her. The next ten years of her life varied greatly. Sometimes enjoying great success but only to fall into poverty soon after. This cycle repeated itself so often that life for Kathy was beginning to resemble one big Chutes and Ladders game.

As we know now things got much better and Kathy now shares every aspect of her interesting past with each of us in the Diplomacy hobby. I implore all within the sound of my voice to have compassion for her, respect her, humor her, befriend her-but for God's sake don't ally with her.

Make sure you read IRKSOME next month, there will be another Woody-Byrney article. I'm not sure who the article will be about but get ready to see a glass break!

ZEE GAMES....

ROAD TO RUIN.....8LIN.....SPRING 1901 NO(T MANY) SURPRISES

AUSTRIA(McCloud) A vie-TYR; A bud-SER; F tri-ALB.
ENGLAND(Beaty) F lon-NTH; A lvp-YOR; F edi-NWG.
FRANCE(Keller) A par-BUR; A MAR S A par-bur; F bre-MID.
GERMANY(Ozog) A ber-FRU; A mun-SIL; F kie-DEN.
ITALY(Palter) F nap-TYS; A ROM H; A ven-PIE.
RUSSIA(Flowery) F stp(sc)-BOT; A MOS-sev; F SEV-bla; A war-UKR.
TURKEY(Ellis) F ANK-bla; A con-BUL; A smy-CON.

Okay folks, Fall 1901 is due DECEMBER 16, 1981. Notice the Boardman Number of 8LIN. I'd rather call this game by its proper name, though. COA for LARRY McCLOUD: 729 Leavenworth St., San Francisco, CA 94109. But hey, we even have some press...

TURK-ITALY: Hello, is anybody there? I sure hope that I might receive some sort of note in the next year.

BERLIN-HANSON: I wrote these orders on the 11th of November. Now you know what a full moon does to me.

HANSON-MOONIE: Yeah, life's rough. Moon's in the east and you're getting shined from the west.

TURK-ENG: Hail! ((Surely you mean "snow"-or haven't you heard of the Mpls weather the past week??))

((Almost forgot, see Ozog's song on the next page...))

GOPHER HOLE.....8LCK.....FALL 1904..... A COMEDY OF ERRORS BY BOTH GM & PLAYERS

a couple notes: last time, the RUSSIAN A bud was dislodged, and the GERMAN A bel-BUR succeeded, dislodging the FRENCH A bur. Affected players were notified.

RETREATS: FRANCE A bur r MAR; RUSSIAN A bud r GAL.

AUSTRIA(Cummings??) NMR!! A RUM H.

ENGLAND(R Ellis) F nwy-NWG; A BRE s germ A pic-par(nso); F SPA(SC)-mar;
F MID-gas; F nth-LON;

FRANCE(Kostenick) F wal-ENG; A MAR-spa; A GAS s A mar-spa; A par h(d, ann.)

GERMANY(Forman) F ber-BAL; A ruh-BUR; A MUN S A ruh-bur; A SWE H; F hol-BEL;
A bur-PAR; A PIC S A bur-par.

ITALY(P Byrne) F tys-ION; A VEN H; A tri-VIE; A BUD S A tri-vie; F ion-AEG;
F gre-BUL(SC); A SER S F gre-bul(sc).

RUSSIA(Noto) A war-UKR; A GAL-rum; F BLA S A gal-rum; F FIN S F stp(nc);
F STP(NC) S F fin.

TURKEY(Iverson) A bul-rum(d, r con,otb); F SEV S A bul-rum; A arm-ANK;
F aeg-GRE; F smy-EAS.

1904 SUPPLY CENTERS

	#
AUS rum	1 even
ENG lon edi nwy bre por SPA	6 bld 1
FRA mar lvp par spa	2 rem 1 (1 ann)
GER home bel hol den swe PAR	8 bld 1
ITA home tun tri ser gre VIE BUD BUL	9 bld 2
RUS mos stp war fin bul	3 rem 2
TUR home sev gre	5 even

Interesting...Winter builds and SPRING 1905 are due at/on DECEMBER 5, 1981. Note on December deadlines...I am skipping the deadline that would be on Dec 19... if things stay on track Fall 1905 will be due on Jan 2, 1982. Say adios to this page cos Gopher Hole press is on the next one.

ROAD TO RUIN PRESS...

CHICAGO: Now introducing Konrad Baumeister on his fuzz guitar singing the Ozog theme:

He said drunk funk'd punk ya want a racial war?

I said Spring '01 a bore no more

Blood and guts gush gore galore

Ruskies screamed bwt what the hell you doin'?

I said I'm cruisin' for your bruisin'

Oh yeh babe I'm on the road to ruin

((I'll give it a 98...it's got a good beat and you can dance to it))

COVER HOLE PRESS...

LONDON-ANKARA: Hallo. Is anybody in there? Just nod if you can hear me. Is there anybody home.

UNCLE JEFFY-UNCLE KEN: It's a deal. You hit her low and I hit her high. ((And she sneaks out the middle....))

GRAMPS-PHILLY: Just what was the last word in that press release you scibbled and gave to Scott last season? Well, come on. Can't you even write right? ((No, just get 9 centers...by the way, the mystery word was "allies."))

MOSCOW-LONDON: How can I call someone who takes 2 of my supply centers "friend"?

LONDON-F WALES: Ha ha!! Didn't get me sucker!

LONDON-THE KAISER: Now is the time to remind you that I'm from Kansas and the Kansas state motto is "To the stars through difficulties." We'll make it Uncle Bob. ((Yeah, you've certainly had the difficulties....))

LONDON-WHAT'S LEFT OF FRANCE: I would have said Paris but now Paris is in Germany. I guess you can look forward to that very near date when you won't be playing France in SLCK because there's not going to be a France in SLCK. Bye-bye.

EDINBURGH-ANKARA: So you've decided to ally with Ms. Mussolini, eh? Well, if this rumor is true, you are officially expelled from the good side of the family. Ally with Russia!

PHYLL-UNCLE KEN: Hurry up. Russia might get rid of Austria before we get rid of him.

GRAMPS-PHILLY: And to think you were once Russia's most trusted ally! What a treacherous stabber you are. ((Don't blush now, Phyllis....))

EDINBURGH-MOSCOW: You are hereby christened as Uncle Jeffy!

THE TELEPHONE GAME...

One thing I've found the last month is a group of Diplomacy players at the U of M. In fact, one of them, James Woodson, worked at the same place as I for six months without us realizing the other was a Dipper. Anyway, I was invited to play in a telephone game with twice weekly deadlines. I'm getting killed because I really don't have time for it and all the other players all know each other, but what the hey! Here's the most recent season. The GM is Brad Stavors.

Fall 1901

AUSTRIA(Ed Newman)

A tyr-MUN; F alb-GRE; A SER S russ A ukr-rum.
(has home, MUN GRE SER for 6)

ENGLAND(Chris Clough)

F nth-NWY; F lon-INTH; A wal-YOR. (has home NWY for 4)

FRANCE(John Kennedy)

F bre-MID; A mar-SPA; A bur-MAR. (has home SPA for 4)

GERMANY(Brent Metcalf)

F hol-BEL; A kie-DEN; A mun-BER. (has kie ~~mun~~ ber DEN BEL

ITALY(Mike Herman)

A rom-TUN (C by F TYS); A PIE H. (has home TUN for 4// 4)

RUSSIA(James Woodson)

F arm-SEV; A UKR-rum; F bot-SWE; A SIL S aus A tyr-mun.
(has home SWE for 5)

TURKEY(Scott Hanson)

F BLA-rum; A BUL S F bla-rum; A con-ANK. (has home BUL -4)

Nothing like being Turkey and facing a R/A. Italy, where are you????

Don't forget I still offer free issues for radio station stickers. Thanks to Jeff Ellis and Mark Keller for their contributions. I'M still waiting for WMMR, Woody...

IRKSOME...80LM SPRING 1910 AND AT THE FINISH....

builds: FRA blds A MAR, F BRE; RUS blds F STP(NC), F SEV, A MOS, A WAR;
TUR rem A smy; ENG & GER are OUT...

FRANCE(Sherwood) A MUN-sil; A HOL-kie; A bel-RUH; A EDI-nwy; F NTH C A edi-nwy;
A pie-VEN; A TYR S A pie-ven; F TUN-ion; F TYS-nap; A mar-BUR;
A ROM s F tys-nap; F bre-ENG; F LON s f eng(NSU).
ITALY(Palter) F NAP-rom; A ven s F nap-rom(d, r tri,tus,otb); F ION-nap;
F APU S F ion-nap.
RUSSIA(Gareipy) F stp(nc)-NWY; F SKA S F stp(nc)-nwy; A nwy-SWE; A BER S A kie;
A KIE sulutes the French forces (H); F den-HEL; A lvn-PRU;
A MOS-war; A WAR-sil; A gal-VIE; A BUD S A gal-vie; A bul-SER;
A gre-ALB; F con-AEG; A ank-CON; F sev-BLA.
TURKEY(Blant) F EAS-ion.

Fall 1910 is due DECEMBER 5, 1981. Proposed is a concession to R and a F/R draw.
NVR is "Yes." Someone asked: my HR's don't disallow permanent votes. But the vote
is as important this time as never before, so don't forget. It might be your last
chance...to read the...

PRESS

TURK-WRLD: A port. A port. My kingdom for a port.

CEDARHURST-KEITH: As you won't accept my puppet, please accept my suicide.

TURK-WRLD: Allah why has thou forsaken me?

MOSCOW-PARIS: Purely defensive-Honest!!

TURK-ITALY: Our plan is working. Now let's go for the win.

CEDARHURST-GAREIPY: Please note Tri's ~~unoccupied state~~.

TURK-RUSSIA: Pardon me as I eat my press. do-do-do-doo-do-do-do-dum.

THE TRUSTWORTHY ONE-TRO: I still am. Trust me.

FADE AWAY.....FALL 1981 07 RUSSIA RESIGNS...TO VICTORY(most likely)

retreats GER A ber r SIL; RUS F hol r HEL, A tri r SER. ~~also RUS A con-1981~~

DOORMAT(Michalski) F adr-ION; A tyr-VIE; A TRI s A tyr-vie; A bud s A tyr-vie(d,

FLUSHING(Martin) F HOL-kie; F NTH-hel; A MUN-kie; A bur-RUH; F LON-wal; //ann)

F WES-tys; F ~~old~~-SPA(SC).

GERMANY(Sherwood) A SIL-ber.

CRUDLAND(Byrne) F NWY-nth; A WAR-sil; F WAL-lon; A EDI S fren F lon-yor(NSO);

F DEN-kie; A gal-BUD; A SER & A RUM S A gal-bud; A KIE-mun;

A BER s A kie-mun; F iri-ENG; F HEL-hol; F CON H; A SMY S A con.

TURKEY(Woody) F AEG-con; A BUL S F aeg-con; F ROM-tys; A VEN-tri; F lvo-MAR:

F TUN-wes;

SUPPLY CENTERS

DOO vie ~~for~~ ~~for~~ ~~for~~ TRI

FLU par bre bel spa por lon ~~for~~ MUN HOL

GER ~~for~~

CRU fome rum swe nwy kie den edi ank lvp con ~~for~~ ~~for~~ ~~for~~

SER BUD SMY BER

TUR bul nap tun gre rom ~~for~~ VEN MAR

2 rem 1 (1 ann)

8 bld 1

0 OUT

17 bld 3 (was 2 short)

7 bld 1, but no room

Strange situation in this game. First, Kathy Byrne, for reasons not related to this
game, has resigned. Second, each power still in the game has proposed a concession
to Russia. Any stand-by will just be getting a free win. So I am going to ask for
a confirmation of the concession before asking for blds. If I receive no objections
to the concession before DECEMBER 5, 1981, I will print the final report and ask
for end-game statements. If there is objection, a stand-by will be called and the
game will continue. Sound fair? Press on next page.

I forgot the RUSSIAN move A con-SMY last time. Believe me, it won't happen again!

FADE AWAY PRESS

CRUDLAND-FLUSHING: I don't mind sharing, but you said our alliance was dissolved. Does this mean we're allied again? Oh good.

LA JOLLA: Did Kathy win yet? Did I die yet? Do I care yet?

GM-JUCSD: Maybe, yes, and no. Thanx for the article on rec sport team names, but none of them really compare to Sperm Pistols or Snarf Puppies or even my own Gopher The Hole.

OU-UM: What's an Iwegian? A ouija player? Woody trying to say Iowan.

UM-OU: Iwegians are the team the mediocre Gophers beat that's going to the Rose Bowl. But hey, anybody's better than Ohio State or Michigan. And Minn. & Okla. have something in common - we both manage to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory. Oh yes, Iwegians are Iowans. Kind of like Norwegians, you know.

BUD: I call for Bill Shaffer to replace Buddyfucker. The press in this game is too drab. Kathy senses the easy win too much to write anything good; I'm too disgusted; and Tro has to have Tro write orders for him yet!

CRUD-DOORMAT: Nuke Woody and we can end this game.

CRUDLAND-WOODY: I hope you hit Mars or Spain. Never know you might have got lucky. Sorry but I really had no choice. I'm not used to walking out of anyone's center.

MOTTO #1: "love...it's a bitch" Mick Jagger. "Allied to Kathy...what a bitch"- B. Arnawoodian.

MOTTO #2: "Life is no joke; therefore let us make it one"-Gimme Your Money #8. "This game was no joke, until Woody made it one"-Needs No Ironing #43/44.

FLUSHING-CRUDLAND: This is only a minor setback for you, my dear. You can still grab the winning dots from Woody. Would you please do so we can end this?

ENGLAND-BERLIN: I agreed with Brux too. Look what it got me. I haven't even got my yamulka back yet... ((?))

FRANCE-TURKEY: Now she owns all your home centers, and you probably hit Mars. Why don't you try screwing a woman for a change, instead of me and Michalski up the ass!

TRO'S TRAPPINGS: Do you know hwy Arnawoolyheads have such big nostrils? God held them by the nose while spray painting them. Know why their palms and soles are white? That's how they were set to dry.

PARIS-GM: Ahem. Didn't you forget a Russian unit? ((Who, me??))

DOORMAT-FUDDYBUCKER: What's this fleet Greece to Aegean bit? If you do things like that, Kathy will be mad while she takes all of your centers. And you want her to be happy taking them, remember?

MAR- * GOL: Take me, I'm yours!

MARK BERCH DEPT.: Cilly up here lately. First light snows will be seen before this 7:07 goes out. About average.

PARIS: Who keeps proposing draws? I'll veto all draws that include Woody, he'll veto any that don't, and Kathy will axe them all anyway. There's only one conclusion and that's to concede to Russia.

JOHN BOARDMAN DEPT.: Know why Linsey never goes to Denver? His lips would explode above 4000 feet! (no problem. House rule #216 forbids the GM from going above 2000' without the help of certain illicit substances.)

LOOKING FOR A GAME????

Aside from the openings in IRKSOME, there are two lists in the hobby listing game openings in various zines. "Known Game Openings" is printed by Robert Sacks 4861 Broadway 5V, New York NY 10034, and "Pontevedria" is distributed by Rod Walker, Alcala, 1273 Crest Dr, Encinitas CA 92034. Both are updated monthly and are free with a SASE. IRKSOME's openings are listed in both.

DUNGEONS AND LESBIANS.....a different kind of fantasy role playing game

my friend Marcia came up with that one. she had a cold and was on drugs at the time. she is also cute and blonde and unattached (and short.) letters to her can be sent c/o the GM. she goes through men at about the rate of 3 per week.

1976NF GM: Vic Dupont, 24 Old Mamaroneck Rd, White Plains NY 10605
winter 1915 GOOD OR BAD NEWS, THAT THOU COMEST IN SO BLUNTLY
ENG blds F LON. GER A kie r BER, rem A ruh. ITA F alb r ADR, A ven r PIE,
rem F adr, A tyr (error last time-has F TUN), TUR bld A ANK (is 1 short).

spring 1916 IF THEY WANT PEACE, NATIONS SHOULD AVOID THE PIN-PRICKS THAT PRECEDE
CANNON-SHOTS

ENGLAND(Ripper) F TYS S ital F nap-icn(NSO)(d,r lyo,tus,OTB); F NAF-wes;
F eng-MID; F nsh-HEL; F lon-NPH; F kie-BAL; A den-KIE;
A hol-RUH; A BEL S A hol-ruh; A PIC S A bel; F NWY-stp(nc);
F FIN S F nwy-stp(nc).

GERMANY(~~Tong~~/Moccio) A STP H; A ber-FRU.

ITALY(~~Albrecht~~) A bur-PAR; A pie-MAR; F TUN-wes; F NAP S F rom-tys; F rom-TYS.
Carter)

TURKEY(Hickey) F alb-ADR; F VEN & F ION S F alb-adr; F GRE S F icn; F con-BLA;
A smy-CON; A ank-ARM; A gal-SIL; A tri-TYR; A sev-AKR;
A VIE & A MUN S A tri-tyr; A MOS-stp; A LVN S A mos-stp.

Deadline for Fall 1916 is DECEMBER 9, 1981. My pubbing date for next issue is 12/16.

Addresses: Tom Ripper, 7290 S Dudley Ct, Littleton CO 80123 USA

Carmino Moccio, 9417 Foster Ave, Brooklyn NY 11236 USA(See that, KK?)

Dave Carter, 118 Horsham Ave, Willowdale, ONT M2N 1Z9 CANADA

(Ontario! Please Mr. Postman...)

Barry Hickey, 679A St. Clair Ave W, Toronto, ONT M6C 1A7 CANADA

Press: NIL Vic, or whatever identity he is using now says "This medium is open
for communication since we now have one beleaguered garrison and one beautiful
bounce and two new, active players. I regret losing Mr. Albrecht. The game headers
are from Shakespeare and Napoleon, it says here. We only had one call for a separ-
ation of seasons, 2 would be necessary. Once again, the publisher has control over
deadlines ((Roger)). This game has been inspected by a U S Postal supervisor in
person upon the premises of yours faithfully, the effervescent and enraptured by
Amore, EL-MERHANI.

"Lord Dimsdale has been asked to comment on the progress of the game and the
above remarks. In plain English, Write Press! says Dimsdale. He also notes that
EL-Merhani sped across Ontario and was warned at the U S border about entering a
foreign car in a foreign country. Dimsdale also reports that Elmer read Connec-
ticut's oldest continuing newspaper's editorial suggesting that Quebec should rat-
ify the constitution or else there'll be something like the United States' Articles
of Confederation. Inappropriate says Dimsdale. No Foreign meddling!

"Au revoir, Clive Tonge. Say au revoir & not good-bye, DIMEDEL! Ave atque vale,
PASSCHENDAELE!"

NEWS ON THE PERSONAL FRONT...

A decision has been made on the great college major sweepstakes. The winner is...
Economics and International Relations, kind of what I was thinking about when I
started. It will be a double major, and luckily the two fit together quite well.
But I've still been warned that I'm a glutton for punishment. But that's life on
the supply side.

I can't afford to print this issue. I just thought you all should know that.

For you international romance watchers, you'll be glad to know that I sent the
petition for Frauke's visa today (11/23.) Now by the good graces of the INS, she'll
be arriving around the first of June. Now we gotta get her into the University and
find her a job and find an apartment, and get a marriage license somewhere in there
too.

Fun day at school today. It rained early this morning, putting a sheet of ice on
all streets. The MTC cancelled bus service, so since a lot of students couldn't
get to school, most classes were cancelled. How nice, that ice.

PERSONALITIES ON PARADE; A VERSION OF OUZOCON

There and Back Again, or 52 hours with Scott Hanson

by Jim Williams

Did you know that our publisher's nickname in high school was Irk? Did you know that that is why he decided to call his zine Irksome? Did you know that he likes to wear funny shoes that make it impossible for him to cross busy streets in a hurry? Not a lot of people know that.

You can learn a lot about a person when you're with them almost constantly for over 2 days. Yep, I learned a lot about Scott and about the rest of the group in attendance at Midwestcon '81. I imagine Scott has taken care of all the key points of the events in St. Louis, so I will just skip that, and give my impressions of the people who were there.

Kathy Byrne: Kathy was not in St. Louis, but her name came up a lot. I got the impression that she is one of the most talked about people in the hobby. Gary Coughlan even brought a picture of her from GenCon to show to people like me who haven't been fortunate enough to meet her. (When I do meet you Kathy, I'll tell you what everybody said, OK?)

Gary Coughlan: I have known Gary for over two years, both postally and vocally. He is quite different in person than he is on the phone. An uncharacteristic shyness overcomes him in the presence of a large group of people. Nonetheless, his wit and enthusiasm still manage to show through. I'll never forget his "explanations" after he unsuccessfully tried for Marseilles and Trieste as Italy in 1901. "Are those my orders?" of "I can explain!!" In another game, he showed his coldbloodedness, again as Italy, by taking my Munich in 1901 with the support of the conniving....

Guy Hail: Guy hails from Austin, Texas, and drove to Memphis so he could ride in with Gary. Guy proved to be an affable gent, for the most part, even if he did help Gary get Munich. He is kind of a small man, and he has red hair all over his face. He is softspoken too, although not as softspoken as his wife....

Libby Hail: Libby was the only woman in attendance, and I really didn't see much of her. She always seemed to be playing on the other board, except for the Gunboat Diplomacy games on Sunday. She was Turkey and I was Austria, and we seemed to have an unspoken agreement for a while not to attack each other. When we finally did lock horns, nothing much came of it. I got the feeling that if she expanded her involvement in playing Diplomacy, she could be on the growing list of good female players.

John Michalski: Quite a guy. I am very glad that I met John, as I'm sure everyone who meets him is. He is an effervescent, enthusiastic guy that seems determined to have a good time whatever he is doing. He had time concentrating on his games with Scott constantly bowing before him and kissing his feet crying, "My mentor! My savior! Give me your blessing!" (It's OK Scott, that's what us toadies are for!)

Eric Ozog: Eric organized the whole affair (organized?), I had been told that Eric was a "Little Blonde hippy" but found this to be untrue. I had also been told that he was an excellent face-to-face player, and found this to be true. He was my ally in two games, and I learned some of the finer points of FTF negotiations from him. He move an unaided army to Portugal as Russia was the highlight of my Gunboat Diplomacy game, proving him a tactician also.

Andy Lischett: Andy wasn't a very loud or conspicuous person during the con. He did make his presence felt, though, come game time. He was one of several people who helped eliminate my Germany in my second game. He seemed to do well in all the games I saw him in. Andy, in fact, reported the only solo win of the con when he was conceded to on board 2 of Gunboat Diplomacy. His massive Germany was the best showing of any Germany the entire weekend, rivaled only by the other gunboat Germany played by...

Dwayne Shreve: Dwayne and I are sort of comrades in arms. Neither one of us are recognized as existing entities by the irrepressible John Boardman. We now can vouch for each others existences. Dwayne showed his great resiliency by bouncing back rather well on Sunday, after consuming mass quantities of mind altering substances the evening before.

More of the dinner on the next page....

MORE PERSONALITIES EXPLAINED....

Bob Osuch: Bob also consumed his share of alcoholic beverages on Saturday. The Ouzo took its toll, however, and Bob was unable to answer the call early Sunday morning. Bob also managed to have a share in taking apart my Germany (along with Gary, Guy and Andy). Bob, as did all of the Chicago players, proved very adept at face-to-face gaming.

Paul Rauterberg: Paul ran into a bit of bad luck en route to St. Louis. It seems that his car gave up the ghost about 40 miles outside of town. Fortunately, he knew someone in St. Louis so he got a ride in. The things a Diplomacy player must do to get in a little face-to-face action. Paul was instrumental in forming the stalemate line that led to the infamous 7 way draw. (But I'll bet he'll never admit it though.)

Peter Ashley: Peter (who I had never heard of before) and I had an interesting confrontation in our first game. He was England and I was Russia. He stabbed me and took Sweden. I stabbed him to get it back. Then I stabbed him again to get Norway. He got the last laugh, however, and outnegotiated me after that. He ended up getting both Scandinavia and St. Pete eventually, but I pulled back into Warsaw and Moscow and helped form the stalemate line that caused the (gasp) 7 way draw.

I believe that covers all the hobby members in attendance, except for maybe one. Hmmm...Oh yeah! Good ol'....

Scott Hanson: I spent a lot of time with Scott during the weekend, and try as I might, I couldn't help liking the guy. I had my doubts when I first saw him at the bus station. He wasn't quite what I expected, but I figured it was too late to send him back. He noted that I wasn't as "distinguished" as I sound on the phone. I'll have to try and make my voice sound more stupid looking from now on, so people aren't disappointed.

Scott's face-to-face negotiating proved to be quite good, since he managed to get a few suckers into helping him collate, fold, staple, and otherwise mail that month's Irksome. (Don't blame me if you didn't get all you pages. I didn't get paid for doing it!)

He also was, I believe, the biggest Turkey of the con. (The country, that is...) By not putting any pressure on Bob Osuch's Russia, he had an indirect hand in eliminating my Germany. I can forgive him for that, though. I'll never forgive Gary. I'm even thinking of renouncing my Coughlan toadiship.

All things considered, Scott was a very road-worthy companion. He proved quite capable at getting cassettes out of the case and Pepsi out of the cooler. He didn't have to go to the bathroom too much, and he didn't make any cracks about my drinking until I almost killed us both.

As far as his aptitude on being a roommate, I suppose I'll have to give him a passing mark. He didn't leave any dirty underwear lying around (in fact I don't think he changed them) (Just kidding), and he didn't snore too loud. My only complaint is that twice during the night, his bed started shaking and he started yelling, "Frauke! That's it!" Germany is a long way from St. Louis, but she might have heard him.

I did enjoy the entire weekend, and I can honestly say that meeting our Mr. Hanson was a big part of the reason why. Next April, I can heartily recommend that anyone who can possibly make it to Chicago come to Midwestcon '82, and meet all these exciting Dip folks. (And me!) See you then!

((Well, thanks Jim for that interesting account. I suppose now is the time to put in my two sense worth about the whole thing. Jim missed a couple people, but did a good job of describing the people there. My own story begins a little bit longer before than most, seeing as live further from St. Louis than most. But I suppose now it's time to type a title and begin the article.

STORY OF THE ST, LOUIS BLUES (and blacks and yellows and...)

Noon Friday, Oct 23. I nearly missed the bus to Des moines, but the MTC pulled through and brought me to the bus station just in time. I had my IRKSOMES (con't)

THE REAL STORY OF ST. LOUIS...THE SPIRIT LIVES ON

printed and all ready to collate, my Dip set, and a few books I had to study for school (I had a Portuguese test at 8 Monday morning.) I also had to read the original Players Guide to Diplomacy (aka The Prince by Machiavelli) to read for history. But I was sooo tired after a busy week, so I slept all the way to Des Moines.

4:30 Friday. The bus arrives in Des Moines, about 45 minutes earlier than I told Jim. I decided to explore downtown, but quickly got bored and called Jim. (Yes, Mr. boardman, he is listed in the Des Moines phone book.) He was nothing like I expected, a lot younger and more fun looking. We stopped at his house just long enough to pucker up some munchies and meet his wife before we hit the road.

I was delighted to see that his bomb was equipped with a tape deck. We sang Beatles crossing into Missouri, rocked with some oldies down U S 60, and had Bruce Springsteen pumping as we roared down the Interstate into St. Louis. We got to the motel about midnight, meeting a clerk that didn't know what day it was and finding out why the place was so cheap. We gave it half a star for sanitizing the toilet and went to sleep.

The next morning we went to McDonald's for breakfast. I cook breakfasts at McD's every weekend and he insists we eat there. After Jim fell in love with 3 of the natives, we went exploring at a mall. We found that Xmas decor was already up and that the center wasn't enclosed like they are up north, so we got some beer and went back to the motel to wait. We waited and waited. We checked all the neighboring motels. We played a quick game of one on one. We waited for over two hours until finally a bunch stumbles into our room. I knew which one was Michalski right away--he introduced himself as Curtis Gipson. I said I was Bernie Oaklyn and we went to play Diplomacy.

I gasped as I picked Austria. I got together with Osuch's Turkey against Coughlan's Russia, but I was sideswiped by Bob Kluge's Italy. I ended up with a lonely fleet in Greece, constantly supporting Turkey F aeg-ion and getting an honorable mention in the draw.

After an expensive dinner at a neighboring hotel (Gary insists that I ordered fried chicken just to aggravate him. I'm really a closet Southerner!) We played again. I got Turkey. My non aggression pact with Osuch in Russia grew into an alliance (he has good taste in allies!). With Guy Hail chasing Germany, I easily got his centers and after a few white lies to Gary's Italy, a R/T draw was conceded. My first share of a victory ever!

The next day saw a long search for breakfast, and then a quick game of Gunboat before checkout time at noon. I got Eng stuck to Gary's Russia. Of course we went at each other from the the beginning, but Eric Ozog's pirate Italian fleets and Andy's growing Germany (who wasn't feeling well and threatened to throw up on the board) forced me to lay off, and we conceded to G the season I was eliminated.

It was now nearly noon, and we raced to make sure we got checked out in time. We all gossiped a bit in the parking lot a bit, ~~promising to meet again in Chicago,~~ and right after I dropped my IRKSOME in the mailbox, Jim and I took off. This time we listened to the Cardinal-Viking game, and Jim laughed with glee as the purple ones were defeated. Jim drove very well all except the last hour of the trip, when proceeded to nearly hit an oncoming car head-on and get lost in his own home town. But we did make it safely...an hour after the evening bus to Mpls. I had to wait for the one leaving at midnight. Jim was tired and dropped me off at the bus station at ten, so I thanked him and went off searching for a donut shop or cafe. I found that Des Moines rolls up its sidewalks at sundown, and found nothing open. I caught the bus at midnight and settled down for a rough nap before arriving in Mpls at 6 am.

I took a city bus home, read my weekend's mail, and hurried off to my test. It had been a long weekend, and my checking account still hurts because of it. But it was worth it all. Don't believe a word Coughlan says about me, and if Osuch thinks I look like a munchkin, well, I'll show him when I grow up. And Michalski says I looked 10 years younger than I was. Well, I guess I have to admit that Phyllis Byrne was in love with my picture until she found out I wasn't her age. But he acted about 30 years younger than he looked, And Jim was a dimmer all the way.

THE BACK PAGE NEWS

IRKSOME'S MUSIC REVIEW: My own Top Ten songs

I decided to change the music column a bit. I couldn't find/afford any good albums this month except for the Prince album, which I don't feel like reviewing. So I'm just going to list my ten favorite songs. They say you can tell a lot about a person by there music, so let's go. In nor particular order.

FREEBIRD - Lynyrd Skynyrd
BORN TO RUN * Bruce Springsteen
BORN TO BE ALIVE - Patrick Hernandez
I JUST WANNA HAVE SOMETHING TO DO - The Ramones
RAT TRAP * Boomtown Rate
HARDER THEY COME -Jimmy Cliff
TWIST AND SHOUT - The Beatles
ANOTHER BRICK IN THE WALL (PART II) - Pink Floyd
LET'S GO - The Cars
ROCK AND ROLL DAMNATION - AC/DC
WE'VE GOT TONIGHT - Bob Seger
BABA O'RIELLY - The Who
LOVE ME TWO-TIMES - The Doors

Well, a few more than ten there, but that's OK. Except for a few on the list because of people, places, or times they remind me of, most of the songs deal with frustration, mainly sexual. All you Freudians can have fun with this one.

THE SERIOUS THOUGHT

This has been a sad weekend for me. There are some vicious things happening in this hobby lately, and one of my best friends was a victim of it this past week, and was very hurt. I'm speaking about Kathy Byrne.

A recent issue of BLACK FROG contained a dispute with Fred Davis, and as part of it John Masters included some comments that Fred had apparently made about Kathy in a letter. These comments should never have been printed. They were personal attacks on a person not connected with the matter at all.

Kathy was very hurt, and for her they were the last straw. She has decided to quit the hobby to stop having her personal reputation being constantly doubted, both in press and in articles like the one I mentioned. It's a sad thing and shows the poor state of the hobby when a 17 center Russia calls me up to resign. It's sad because she is such an excellent player who had brought a lot of fun and excitement to the hobby. It's sad because it's probably less than 1% of the hobby that's causing it.

I personally hope she reconsiders her decision to quit the entire hobby, but beleive that no one should have to put up with that shit. Why is she singled out? Because she's female? Beacause of her relationship with John Caruso? Because of jealousy of her good play? It's prebably a combination of the three. But it's sad to think that I can only recommend a hobby I really love and enjoy to half my friends, and not to the other half because they might get hurt because they're female.

DATA:

NEW SUBBERS: Carmine Moccio, James Woodson, Dan Palter, Rick Slaughter, John Douglas, & "thw mystery subscriber."

NMR INSURANCE LIST: Michalski, Martin, Sherwood, Byrne, Arnawoodian, Gareipy, McCloud, Blant, Kostenick, Forman, Ellis, Noto.

STANDBY LIST Lew McCloud Noto Carter Beaty PByrne Sherwood Keller Slaughter Martin
(My offer for Xmas presents to standbys has now ended. All those on the list now will get 5 issues of IRK unless they ask for something else or I think of something more appropriate for that person)

That's all for now...have a good Thanksgiving!

Kathy