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Цена 4 коп.

SUBSTITUTION MASS CONFUSION CLOUDS INSIDE MY HEAD

And thanks to our friends in Moscow for our masthead this time. They asked me to remind you that they are still offering the free Russian language textbooks. Get yours today by writing: Radio Moscow, North American Dept, Moscow USSR. Your local distributor of disinformation is SCOTT (Escoffier) Hanson. You see, there is no Portuguese equivalent to Scott, and when they try to pronounce it, it comes out Scotch. So I have to choose of being called "Whiskey" or "Scotish". I am just a tiny bit Scotch, so I took that one.

I hate to charge you all with a double issue, but you had it coming and you knew it. Some cost figures: Each sheet (with 4 pages-front and back) costs 9¢. Postage is 20¢. So this issue, with 20 pages (5 sheets) costs 69¢. Those of you who like reading. And if you were one of the ones who send a buck to cover the sub increase, I added an issue to your sub. Bless your hearts.

But what do you get for your 69¢? Plenty - a special subzine by JOHN MICHALSKI, "MOS EIDLEY SPACEPORT", BENZENE as unusual. Two games finish, the Black Press game starts and already has a new player, a few LETTERS, my nomination for the NIXON AWARD, how to deal with COLD WEATHER, a whole page of MUSIC, and all sorts of good stuff.

GAME OPENINGS are of course of supreme importance. I have one spot left in each of two games: one with 1 week deadlines and another with 2 week deadlines. Game fees are \$3 and \$4 respectively. Subs to this thing are 10/44.50, but cost 50¢ if you buy in a brown sack from the porno shop on the corner. Subscribe and save the embarrassment! This is produced by SCOTT HANSON, 701 15TH AVE SE, MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55414. Phone (612) 623-4240 and if I happen to be home, I'll talk.

I'm just pleased as punch to see the San Francisco 49ers in the Super Bowl. I can remember when I lived in the Bay Area being a 49er fan and catching all kinds of shit from my best friend, who was a Raiders fan. Now I can laugh at him, wherever he is. I think he's at Humboldt State. Anybody out there know a Walter Callen?

I hope you all realize that I should be working on some problems for Math, an assignment in Econ, and a composition for Portuguese right now. They're all due tomorrow. Oh well, grades mean nothing in the real world anyway, right??

DON DITTER SECTION

80LM (IRKSOME): ends on p 10
 81R (FADE AWAY): 3'08 on p 12; ends on p 13
 81CK (GOPHER HOLE): 1'05 on p 11; 8'06 on p 13
 81IN (ROAD TO RUIN): 1'01 on p 14
 82C (TRENAGE WASTELAND): starts on p 10; updated on page 15

DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES FOR
 IRKSOME #8 IS FEB 23.

No Woody. BYR/ty - maybe
 next time.

SHOVELING OUT THE MAILBOX....

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I wasn't going to do it. I really wasn't. Every other zine in the world has a letter column, and this is one place where I wanted to be different. But I've been getting some interesting letters lately, and not just the one from the IRS either. Oh well, I'll let you judge for yourselves...

from Mike Ehli

...NOTICE: I hereby challenge Ig Law to a "pig sty" contest. I believe that there are more species of fungus, more sandy wrappers and more lost armies and fleets from my Dip set in my room than there are in his. The date for the contest will begin as soon as I can find my bed. The stakes: a choice of A) one can of disinfectant; b) one floor scraper, or c) one club, depending on what type of animal life is present. But, Iggy, don't challenge my sister. Some hairy thing was found in her room that was found in her room that has not yet been found in any zoology book or Dungeons and Dragons book. There may be more than one. A massive excavation ~~job~~ will commence as soon as work crews find out how far it is to her floor...

((No, Mike I'm not going to print your light bulb jokes. This guy sent me a letter once before. I tried to ignore it, but this loonie still strives to be heard. The best way to treat this brand of crazy is to give them a taste of attention. Then perhaps they'll be satisfied and go away.))

from Mark Law (only the good parts)

...Frankie's bit was disillusioning, but hey everyone writes retarded stuff when they first join the hobby, right? Too bad about brown hair and eyes. I've got a ~~fat~~ hang-up for the stereotyped type German woman, but now you don't need to worry about me seducing your wife....Games take up too much space....I send you 10 stamps and you don't take my advice ((in 8080 in St. George and The Dragon)) If I send fifty dollars will you ~~go~~ buy a xerox machine and do it right?...Gad LRK does resemble W though. Why don't you waste stamp money and skip the reduction ala all the great times (C&F, Eggnog, BE, VOD, EE, DnD etc.) Say what? EE does it? Not that I know of, am I in for an unpleasant surprise?...You need a letter column, but now isn't the time to start. You need a xerox first. Invest invest invest....

((Bitch bitch bitch....))((Note to Frauke...maybe we could send Ursula to Alaska.))

from Paul Flowers

....I think it was when I was driving home that I came up with this brainstorm. Since you have such a close affiliation with McDonald's you could stage your own "Build A Big Mac" contest to increase your sagging subscription rates. Here's the plan: Send a piece of a Big Mac with each issue, like maybe put some lettuce in one, some cheese in another, or even special sauce, and something else in another and so on. The first person to be able to build an entire Big Mac sandwich wins! You can tell everyone you thought of that yourself. I'm not proud...

((I could list some other things you're not...like same!))

from Tre Sherwood

...Waaaa My Cowboys lost in S F. Super Bowl is meaningless. Absolute worst combination for me, Probably won't even watch it..

((Hey, what more could you ask for?? Both the Cowboys and the Eagles lost. GO MINERS!!!!))

from Steve Arnawoodian

...It's those darn Scandinavians during the holiday season. Too much lute fish, liggon berries, glug, headless herring, marzipan, perl-sokken, and fish balls. If you don't know what these are don't admit it, as you'll get drummed out of the Scandinavian society. They'll take your Viking hat with the horns away...

((Hey! There are four countries in Scandinavia. How many countries are in Armenia, huh?? And marzipan is German...you tell him, Frauke!))

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MORE LETTERS....

from Fred Davis

...I want to reassure you that my Inge is not from Bavaria. However, she does like sauerkraut. Personally I dislike sauerkraut, and can't even stand the smell of it cooking around the house...Inge is from Goeppingen, home of Merklin toy trains. This is about 140 km from Stuttgart, in what they call Swabia or Schwabenland. At home they speak a dialect that even other Germans can't understand. This is halfway between Stuttgart and Ulm, on the main rail line between Stuttgart and Munich...We're looking forward to meeting Frauke next July, if she comes to DipCon. She can get some practice at hearing all sorts of American dialects here. The local dialect, called "Baltimorapese," has adopted all the worst traits of Cockney, Brooklynese, and Upper Southern. Some of it is a bit wierd. For example, if a man tells you he's been out with his paramour, it simply means he's been cutting the grass with his power mower!....

((Luckily the smell of sauerkraut is one thing I won't have to deal with. As of now, we're both planning on coming to DipCon, with a stop on the way in New York. See you there!))

from John Michalski

...I was in Minneapolis, last Thursday for a few hours, but I couldn't find your name in the book. We had a meeting at Apache Corp in an old building called the Foshay Tower or some such. Flew up in the bosses' Commander in about 2½ hours. The city looked pretty clean except for our cabbies; quaint the way you use lumber so extravagantly on retaining walls along the Interstates. On the radio the announcer said it was "2°", going up to five today." We all laughed...

((You wouldn't laugh if you were here today. Another cold snap came through. A few days of below zero weather is OK, but two weeks is ridiculous, especially with wind chills near -60°, -70°. Those retaining walls are sound barriers, designed to keep suburbanites safe from free noise. They cost over \$1 million per mile. Isn't great how a DFL legislature can spend Federal money??))



Some of may have heard about the new domed stadium being built in Downtown Minneapolis. No one really wanted it except the sports teams (more seats means more money) and the Minneapolis Star and Tribune (stadium by their offices means higher property values and more money.) Those of us paying for the the thing think it's ugly and too expensive. Besides, there is no place to park in Mpls now. Where are 60,000 people going to park on Sunday afternoons? As for the weather, baseball wasn't affected and football in the snow has a special charm in Minnesota. But the dome does have one good purpose, as poi pointed out in this copyrighted cartoon by Pete Wagner. The building in the background is the IDS Building, sort of the symbol of Minneapolis. If it doesn't turn out, the top says "World's Largest Pay Toilet," and the toilet paper says "Star" and "Trib." Way to go Petel



JOHN MICHALSKI MAKES HIS TRIUMPHANT RETURN: (like Hitler's armies marching back to Berlin)

"You will never find a more wretched hive of scum and villany"

MOS EISLEY SPACEPORT

MOS EISLEY is a collection of assorted ramblings put out to annoy the hobby by John Michalski ("mih-HOLL-skee"), Rt 10, Box 526-Q, Moore, OK 73165. Comments by readers are welcomed, preferably through the zeen you saw the column in. Opposing views are invited to go to GRAUSTARK, or BERSAGLISTOOPID, or failing that, I can suggest other places you could go.

What's up? Well, on the good side, a number of oddball zines have apparently folded their tents and slipped away into the night. One of the two Great Neck NY "new" zines is already gone, I understand. I believe EREBOR is the survivor, ANDUIN is out. Another NY zine, INVASION, is also reported dead. NY zeens have a tradition of looking decent and folding fast. WHITESTONIA, GROSSFARCE, and VOICE OF DOOMB are notable exceptions. Steve Shaddix's non-lamented WHITE DUD hasn't been heard from in a while, and maybe this time the irresponsible Kovalcik will stay gone also. Guerrier's antics earn him a similar wish here.

On the bad side, Dick Martin's SOME ASSEMBLY REQUIRED has been cut off from the free xeroxing that made those 3 and 4 ounce issues possible, and I'm leery as to its fate. BLACK FROG won't last, I don't believe, but whether that's good or bad depends on whether you look at recent ones or its earlier history. Judy Winsome is starting up WINSOME LOSESOME, a nice looking newcomer ~~that won't carry Mos Eisley~~ you might like. CHEESECAKE is opening a very short deadline BRUTUS BULLETIN MEMORIAL SPECIAL game, 7 or 10 day deadlines. This will be a regDip game, and could be a LOT of fun--especially if we can keep Martin-Byrne-Arnawoodian out of it. Those of you who enjoy fast action, need experience fast, or both, should write Andy Lischett quick @ 3025 N Davlin Court, Chicago IL 60618. Game and subfees are his usual -0-.

POPE JOAN II HUMOR IN THE NEWS DEPT.: Know what used tampons are good for? Hah! I'll bet you said "Press items for COAT OF ARMS!", but no, I fooled you. Try "teabags for vampires".

Other hobby news: Sub rates for COAT OF ALMS may drop soon if Woody and Benito are successful in their new marketing adventure announced in CoA#5. They are jointly producing and peddling "The Woody Wonder", a prophylactic for tongues. They're also looking for a west coast representative (Mark Lew's big break?) Watch for their table in the john at the next Origins!

Now some letters.

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MES 1 P.2 of 3

DAVE CARTER (Sleepless Knights)

118 Horsham Ave, Willowdale ONT M2N1Z9

I remember that I was going to write to you about civil servants but I can't remember why. You must have said something recently? Anyway, speaking as a civil servant, I have to agree with the general consensus that civil servants are slow and inefficient. Oh, there are some (like me) who'll give you an honest days work but there is a great deal of dead wood in my section. You can't blame them though because most of it is managements fault:

- (1) They have absolutely no idea how to motivate workers.
- (2) If a worker slacks off they are reluctant to do anything about it.
- (3) They don't know how to discipline workers. Management's idea of 'discipline' is to do nothing at all and then suddenly (after a year or so) come down hard on them. Coming down hard is to only give them a 'competent' on their appraisal. As a union worker explained to me, they should start with a verbal warning and then give out a warning letter to document the workers problem. So it is possible to discipline/fire a civil servant but management doesn't have a clue as to how to go about it.
- (4) It's impossible to get a decision out of Anyone in management.

Just to give you an example of the way that management rewards zealousness: A couple of years ago we had an unusually bad snow storm that practically paralyzed the city. I got up about an hour early, cleaned the car and made it to work on time even. Most people were late but eventually made it in. Some just phoned in to say that they couldn't make it. So what happens? Because of the bad storm, upper management decides to forget docking sick/vacation for those that did not come in! I don't know whether it's a tribute to my dedication or my stupidity that the next time it happened I still made it in on time but I wonder how many others didn't.

((And not that I'd blame them. When I worked for the Post Office a while here, I found it an almost textbook-perfect case in teaching people not to give a shit about anything. Better to fire all the first three lines of supervisors and turn the job over to the union. Worth a try, even though I am often anti-union. Perhaps civil service jobs should be left instead to trustee-class convicts, or conscripts similar to jury-duty calls or some such. Ron Mazurkiewicz wrote me a nice letter recently that described bureaucratic growth in the nuthouse he works at in Wisconsin. It seems that to watch over 750 patients, the staff on the scene has recently gone over 1150. And remember in his earlier letter on a different topic, that the total German staff at Bergen-Belsen was only 82, yet they got by...))

MARK BERCH (Diplomacy Digest)

492 Naylor Place, Alexandria VA 22304

I can sympathize with Sacks on the smoking issue, as I could with anyone in a difficult position who does not have the necessary skills to figure out what to do. Yes, he has the job of taking care of problems when they arise but with that goes the responsibility of finding a practical solution. This he did not do initially. His first suggestion was a total ban on all smoking, which of course would cause great resentment and havoc. When it was clear that wouldn't go down, he started talking about two separate tournaments, one with and one without, with smokers boards and non-smoker boards, an absurd idea. The second problem was that he kept blaming it all on Wells, and on Brux to a lesser extent. His main line was that since Wells insisted, he had to bar smoking. Actually, it was kind of pathetic, what with Kathy Byrne stomping him and Sacks trying to quote New Jersey law and blaming Wells who wasn't even there at the time.

Perch concludes

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MES 1 P 3 of 3

Actually, its a symptom of a larger problem. Sacks, for all his organizational folderoll, is basically a loner. One reason is that, or perhaps one result is that, he shoots off and does something without consulting people, without seeing if some compromise might satisfy nearly everyone. Kathy ran into that problem recently, when Sacks went off and wrote Randolph Smyth that Kathy and Daly were going to take over the Canadian orphans --- without telling Kathy that he was doing such a thing. It also turned out that Sacks appointed Roy H as their replacement, without getting assurances from them that they wanted a backup.

I think not telling the players the nature of the scoring system is a terrible idea. It introduces a level of guesswork that is unnecessary. A strategy that, if successful might yield a rich reward in one system will be a foolish risk in another. So a player not only has to calculate the odds that his strategem will work, he also has to calculate the odds on whether the success will do him any good. Can you imagine sitting Korchnoi and Karpov down at a table and saying, "OK, guys, keep playing, and we'll tell you when someone has enough wins"? Its not fair to allow A to do better than B simply because A made a better guess at what scoring system would be used than B.

Masters' "adaptations are not plagiarism" defense is bull. No one objects to adaptations. People have been adapting the stories from the Bible for thousands of years. But when you copy whole sentences or even paragraphs with essentially no changes, that's plagiarism, not adaptation. Adapting is changing. Copying is by its very nature not changing. His crediting in # 35 did not specify what stories were involved, did not give a complete list of sources, and just said helped

As for Sacks's letter, of course his cracks in the Oct KGO were about Del Grande and Walker. There are no other possibilities. His "I can't understand why everyone assumes" is typical of Sacks. He absolutely cannot admit he has made a mistake, even if he makes himself look even more absurd in saying such a thing.

Finally, I enjoyed your "So Long" and the related letter in DH. You put the position exceptionally well, and you've put your finger on one of the cruel paradoxes of high-quality zines. In order to do the job real well, it has to be more than a hobby, it becomes a job. But as a job, the "costs" are too high, in most cases, to give the longevity that a hobby-type commitment will permit. I guess its a variation on the old "quality vs quantity" dilemma. At any rate, you did a superlative job. Few zines --- if any --- had the degree of reader participation that BR did, and so it will very much be missed.

((Thanks. Actually the symptoms of "withdrawl" aren't as pronounced as I'd thought they might be. The lack of incoming mail is about the only prominent thing, along with, perhaps, a higher degree of family peace.

I must completely disagree with you on the secret-system idea. I think it unfortunate that the high degrees of logic attempted (if not always attained) in your debates with various hobbyists have fallen so far short here. Your statement that players will be somehow forced to guess how to play the game strikes me as absurd on its face. I feel that they will be forced only to play the best game they can. I do not see playing any strategy based on a guessed-at rating system to be a rational choice for anyone, even with the, uh, "assorted views" one sometimes comes across in this hobby.))

Well, let's see, I have some space left, so how about some editorializing?

WOODOO ECONOMICS was a term tossed around for a while not too long ago, and while it didn't make a lot of sense then, I think the term might be more aptly ascribed to a Justice Dept report lately appearing that pronounced that the rich were getting more government medical aid than the poor were. This preposterous claim was brought about via some voodoo calculations based on the fact that the rich make more money than the poor, are taxed at high rates, and pay for their medical expenses. From these sun-rises-in-the-east items, the idle liberal lawyers at Justice put together a "calculation" that showed the lost taxes caused by the rich deducting their medical expenses exceeded the direct outlays to sickness claims from the leech class of citizens. Some revelation! I suppose if you are an old line criminal of the Left in the Tip O'Neill or Teddy Kennedy mold, such a "fact" will appear as a bolt of light from above. In fact, saying that the overtaxed middle class bears even more guilt for not being richer so they would have to pay more tax per dollar earned, makes about as much sense, and follows the identical "logic". I think it shows that we need a good housecleaning at Justice more than anything else. The good thing is, the claim only goes to show how bankrupt the liberals are these days, in trying to find fault with this administration. If they had any sense at all, they would more cogently attack it for being too middle-roadish, but then, if they had any sense, they wouldn't be liberals to begin with.

(Send your responses to BENZENE, or DIPLOMACY DIGEST).

J.M.

((Now, BENZENE and MOS KISLEY in one issue; what better diversity could you ask for?))



Al Quie
Governor of Minnesota
from the Minnesota Daily
don't you love that face??



sent in by Mark Keller-

from "77 Times of Sacramento"

Located in La Jolla, California, one of the world's finest swimming and surfing beach areas, UC San Diego enjoys the benefits of a metropolitan community surrounded by mountains, deserts, and the Pacific Ocean.

University of California, San Diego

THE RESEARCH PLACE

Shall we not cease fighting against this geometrical Briareus, who uses our fleets like cups to ladle water from the sea, who has whipped our armies and driven them off in disgrace, and who outdoes all the hundred-handed monsters of fable in hurling against us such literary drivel as this issue of

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BENZENE #9 or so

That says ~~"#9 or so"~~ (without the xed out stuff) up there and last issue said "#8 or so" despite Scott who thoughtfully legibleized it into #80150. And, no, I'm still not sure just which issue I really am on, so I'll continue in this style (10/6?) until I find out I'm right or find out I'm wrong. As of this typing (1-1-1982), issue 7 or so which was to show up in Retal has yet to arrive, so be hereby told that anything therein may or may not be obsolete. By the way, in case you're unaware, this is your friendly sub-pubber, Markie Lewie, who may or may not publish anything you write to him at 3120 W 79th Anchorage, AK 99502 (Unless of course you mark it HQ in which case I will ~~add/edit~~ not) and is simply delighted to receive phone calls at 907-243-4659.

PLAYLIST: Smith Corona, "Coronet super 12". I suspect many dipzeens would get typed up a bit faster if pubbers didn't operate assorted sound-making devices while performing said task. I remember once I tried doing likewise while typing up this boy, but since I couldn't effectively pay attention to both things at once, the music served only as a distraction. Perhaps there are some who do primarily retyping, which brings us to how BENZENE is made: (stop me if I already told you this) whenever I think up something or receive something wost-rthwhile I scribble it down and put it aside somewhere where I can find it, then when I suspect it's about time for another issue, I dig it all out and type it all down in some order or another. Usually though, I haven't looked at it in a few weeks so I am reading it as I type and so don't get bored. Further, I tend to do a lot of composing on the spot as this is.

Another game of mine ended about a month ago, not with pleasant results. In fact I'd probably be rather upset if I weren't amused. Since I missed the deadline for my endgame stateanet, I'll tell you about it here. The game is ~~GR CRE~~ a blind deadman game in the now defunct Volkerwanderung. I got Austria which seemed a terrible country considering the deviant rules ~~x~~ while Turkey seemed to have an advantage. So I wrote to Russia and suggested the plan whereby I start an army in Tri (allowed in Deadman) and move into both Ser and Rum and then in fall take Bul while Russia follows me into Rum. Russia agreed to the plan so we carried it out, but not having anything to do with /ie, I decided protecting Tri wasn't worth the effort so I went to Gal and snuck into War. Italy took Tri as expected but I took 3 so was in decent shape. It was a few game years before R realized it was his own southern ally infesting his homeland and I&T started to either NMR or play horribly so I managed to slowly expand until in 1905 I was up to 13 (14? I forget) dots. Then tragedy struck. First My Volker sub ran out, so I sent a dollar (cash) to Bob ((Arnett)). My orders went to the GGM Roy Henricks and made it all right but the letter to Bob was apparently eaten by the USPS; so he assumed my sub had ran out and sent no more, so I neverr got that game report. Unfortunately, this occurred at a time when my dip activities were even more hectic than usual, so it was quite a while before I noticed that I hadn't received a Volker; more than a month in fact which meant I had NMRed but I did have an exceptional position which couldn't have been hurt too much, so I wrote to Bob and Roy again for the latest game report which I received some time in early December (late Nov?). In my incredible luck, the game report which I never got contained a proposal for a F-R draw. Russia had done a lot of expanding in the north and was up to about 10 dots and voted yes, as did France. Turkey was dead and E,MC,I all CD. And Ol' Nanook NMRed so the draw passed and I lost the most promising game I ever had. Grrrr.

(*:That letter also contained a resignation for another game I had just entered via standby, thus causing me to drop out (Gasp!))

And now I'm out of material because this time, despite what I said in my second paragraph, I put it aside somewhere where I CAN'T find it. I did get some nice letters though and I have some stuff which interests ME but will probably bore 98% of the readership-- Excuse me for a minute and I'll try to find a letter or two.

Here's an excerpt from a recent (12-20-81) Kathy Byrne letter:

"As for Masters, I think he's flipped. He's attacking everyone" I thought that was nicely stated I hope KB won't mind me printing it. I'm not sure what my bottom margin is like but I think I'll end this page here. Presumably ~~Wxxxxxx~~irksome will be xeroxed again so my margins don't matter too much.

OUR LIPS ARE SEALED!

This first page is for Don Ditter. One game ends...another begins. For those too dumb to figure out, this is a mid-monthly game report for IRKSOME. First the new BLACK PRESS game...

TEENAGE WASTELAND

WINTER 1900

1982A (if we get lucky)

AUSTRIA	Marion Bates, P O Box 381, Kalkaska MI 49646
ENGLAND	James Woodson, 222 Sanford Hall, University of Minnesota, Mpls MN 55455
FRANCE	Rick Slaughter, Holiday Estates #3, Flora IL 62839
GERMANY	Jeff Noto, 1001 SW 16th Ave #22, Gainesville FL 32601
ITALY	Dan Falter, Box 156, Cedarhurst NY 11516
RUSSIA	John Michalski, Rt. 10 Box 526Q, Moore OK 73165
TURKEY	Bob Osuch, 3417 S Paulina, Chicago IL 60608

OK, youse guys, the first deadline will be JANUARY 16, 1982, that is, unless any of you want a delay, then I'll wait until JAN 29. I won't print any orders on the 16th unless I have orders in from all of you. But it's not the orders that matter anyway, it's the press that counts. Slaughter, Osuch, and Falter have all paid the game fees, the rest of you owe me \$5.00 by Fall '01. Spring '01 orders are on file for Russia. Now for some Winter 1900...

PRESS LET ME KNOW IF YOU NEED HOUSE RULES OR WANT NMR INSURANCE...

OSUCH-GM: Awright, whose the asswipe that needed a delayed Winter 1900?

SLAUGHTER-GM: I must protest this starting delay. It seems unnecessary to me.

TOOTS-GM: Jesus H. Krystskis! A fast game that gets started with a W'00 delay? Shee-it.

NOTO-GM: Ah, so! Onorable GM postpone gamestart to ready up on lees of game maybe? Wassa matter you, kid?

WOODSON-GM: Dearest Scottie-poe: I do so hope I can do well at this new and really exciting looking ga-ame! But why must we wait? You must know what waiting for something does to me, all over. OH----

MAID MARION-GM: Aw, e'mon Scott. It's we GIRLS who are supposed to be late-comers. I'm ready, why can't you seven big men get started on time?

DSP-GM: Thanks for granting me the delay. I am REALLY behind on getting these damn Christmas cards signed. Thanks much.

GM-EVERYBODY: Thanks to you all for writing. I never knew you cared.

IRKSOME

801a

AND IT IS ALL OVER FOLKS.....

The French/Russian draw finally passed. Congratulations to Keith Sherwood and Dave Gareipy for excellently played games...I believe this is the first share of a postal win for them both. Thanks to the stand-bys for sticking it out, and honorable mention to Dan Falter and Kerry Blant for surviving. I hope you all can write me end-game statements to tell the world how you did it. The final stats follow.

GAME: 1980LM ZINE: Brutus Bulletin (S'01-F'08), Irksome (W'08-W'10) GM: Scott Hansen

	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	
AUSTRIA	4	1	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Dave Pilant (out F'03)
ENGLAND	4	6	4	1	1	1	1	1	0	-	Jim Vaughan (drop S'07), Dick Martin (out F'09)
FRANCE	4	6	7	7	7	8	9	11	13	15*	Keith Sherwood (DRAW W'10)
GERMANY	5	5	5	7	7	6	6*	2	0	-	Bobby Stephens (drop F'08); Larry McCloud
ITALY	5	7	9	9	9	7	4	5*	4	1	Dan Falter
RUSSIA	5	4	5	6	6	7	9	12	16	17*	Dave Gareipy (DRAW W'10)
TURKEY	4*	5	4	4	4	5*	5	3	1	1	Brad Wilson (drop S'05); Kerry Blant

End game statements received by 1/16/82 will appear in the next issue of IRKSOME. To the two winners, three free issues of IRKSOME, with my compliments. All there is now is some leftover...

LAST SEASON'S PRESS....

PARIS-HEAVEN: Please, Lord, let the Russian NMR this season.

KEITH-CDARHURST: Done.

LOS ALAMOS-GOPHER THE HOLE: Remember, there's \$20 in it for you if you "misplace" Gareipy's orders and then can't get a hold of him by phone. And \$25 if both Russia and Italy NMR. Remember tuition.

WHOREMOANS-GOPHER THE HOLE: How can you like your names better? Ours are classics. You know there's nothing I can do but hope for a five foot snow in Ohio and Gareipy to NMR. Otherwise, he's won.

G T H-WH: You forgot to tell him that.

THIS SEASON'S PRESS

MOSCOW-PARIS: Good job. We forged a very effective alliance.

TURK-RUSSIA: Thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you—I don't know why I don't know why, but thank you thank you.

NAPLES-RUSSIA & FRANCE: Good game.

MOSCOW-SHIRMA: Sorry about that. Perhaps another time, under other circumstances.

TURK-ITALY: And to think a stubborn 3 unit standby refused you to this.

GOPHER HOLE

SICK Fall 1905

FRANCE DIES IN SLEEP, GERMANY GROWS IN SLEEP

ENGLAND(Ellie)

A BRE says good bye to Uncle Jim(H); A LVP says bye-bye to Little Phyl(H); F eng-MID; F nth-ENG; F SPA(SC)-mar; F WES-tun.

FRANCE(Kestonick)

WHE! a mar r OTH, A GAS H.

GERMANY(Ferman?)

NMR! A SIL, F BAL, A SWE, F BEL, A MAR, A MUN, A PAR, & A BUR HOLD.

ITALY(P Byrne)

F IOW-tun; A ser-RUN; A BUD S A ser-run; F bul(so) a f gre (d, r aeg,eth); F gre a f bul(so)(d, ana); A vie-GAL; A van-TRI; A TIR-man.

RUSSIA(Nete)

A run-BUL; A UKR-runs; F STP(MC) H.

TURKEY(Iverson)

F gre r ALB. F aeg-ORE; F ALB S F aeg-gre; F EAS-1cm; A ank-CON; F BLA S russ A run-bul.

1905 SUPPLY CENTERS

AUS ~~1/4~~

change

ENG 1cm edi my bre per spa LVP

0 out

deadline for WINTER 1905 & SPRING

FRA ~~1/4~~ ~~1/4~~

7 bld 1

1906 is JANUARY 16, 1981. I'm asking

GER home bel hol den swe par MAR

0 out

MARK KELLER, 9536 Shumway Dr,

ITA home tun tri ser vie bud ~~1/4~~ RUN

9 bld 1

Orangevale CA 95662, to submit

RUS mee stp war BUL

9 bld 2 (2 ann)*

stand-by orders for Germany.

TUR home sev gre

4 bld 1

*bld 3 if F bul(so) r eth

5 even

36

PRESS

LONDON & EDINBURGH-LIVERPOOL: It's bloody good to have you on the same team again mate! Cheers and drink up.

JEFF-BOB: Sorry if you feel insulted at my Sherwood references.

LONDON-ROME: It finally happened, Phyl. Your only two friends (Uncles Jim and Omar) have been eliminated and now you are an orphan! See what being a bad little girl gets you! I'll throw grenades at your funeral.

RUS-WORLD: EUREKA! ((Hey, that's where I was born. Eureka, California.))

LONDON-BERLIN: Thank you for being a friend. ((Even an absent one.))

LONDON-MOSCOW: You've been a good standby, Uncle J.

FRA-RUS: Thanks for finally getting rid of AUS; at least I won't be first one out.

LONDON-ANKARA: It's good to see that you are still on the good side of the family. Let's kill them greemins!

ATTENTION:::HOUSE RULE CHANGE.....

From now on, upon request, a list of those voting for and against any draw proposal that season or the season before will be printed with the game results. In face-to-face you know who's for or against a draw, so why not here.

DUKE DURFEE COMPANY

FADE AWAY

1981R

SPRING 1908

BUT KATHY, I CAN'T COUNT UP THAT HIGH

Sent 10/2/82

DOORPAT(Michalek) A vis-GAL; F ION-gre.
 FLUSHING(Martin) A ruh-BUR; A mm-TIR; F WES-tun; F SPA(SC)-war; F nth supports Kathy to victory (d, r yer,mg,eng,bel,aka,etc); F ION & F nth; F hol & F nth(d, ann.)
 CRUDLAND(Byrne) F sev-BLA; A rum-BUL; F CON & A SER S A rum-bul; A SHI S F con; A BUD & auct A vis-tri(MSO); A war-SIL; A SER S A war-sil; A mos-WAR; F my-WTH; F DEN S F my-nth; F VAL-log; F stp(na)-HWI; A kie-HOL; F HEL S A kie-hol; A EDI H; F eng-SUE.
~~WOODY~~ (Woody) A bul-ONE; F AEO S A bil-gre; F rom-NAP; A ven-FRI; F MAR-opa(sc);
 NEW ITALY F TUN-ued.

The concession to Russia bit the dust once again. The deadline for FALL 1908 is JAN 16, 1981.

PRESS
 NEW ITALY-RUSSIA: OK, take Bul. It's yours. What else do you want? Now you have the 4 supply centers that we bet on the World Series.
 GM-KB: You think Woody's dumb, my brother bet 10 cribbage points on the Eagles in the Playoffs.
 CRUDLAND-FLUSHING: I'm not the one voting No! It's OK though, I don't mind proving I can make it to 18 this year.
 LUSCIOUS-TOOTS: What are you up to? I mean you're not honestly sending a fleet down to help Fuddybucker, are you?
 WOODEN PECKER DEPT: Woody "The Bear" and Fast John "Rabbit" Caruso are walking in the woods together. Bear says to rabbit, "Rabbit do you have trouble with the shit sticking to your fur after you crap?" "No, I sure don't," says Rabbit. "Good!" says Bear, as he picks up Rabbit and wipes his ass off with him.
 RUSS-FRANCE: I'll ally with you again if you stop giving Woody centers.
 BIRNEY-WOODY: Sorry, but Bulg is a sure thing. Besides, someone wants to play this game forever - so I decided to go for broke---once again.

A/R and E T/R draws were proposed, but were voted down over the phone at Kathy's New Years Party.

WHO CARES ABOUT CONVOYS, PART 7305.9

In DIPLOMACY WORLD #29, there was an article by Mark Berch continuing a discussion of (in)adequacy in the area of convoys. I find these rule discussions extremely boring and irrelevant, but some moreon (I won't mention any names, but his initials are Mark Keller) wanted to know how I'd rule in each case mentioned. So as a (semi-)responsible GM, I have to answer. If you don't know what I'm talking about, don't worry, it's not that important.

I agree with the position of Rod Walker here; that unnecessary, unwanted convoys should not affect the move of an army. That takes care of the first two examples. For the third example, I can't think of any hard and fast way to cover it; my intuition would say all units hold.

Let me point out that I feel these examples are unimportant and not likely to come up in a game. In my short experience in the hobby I have never seen or heard of these coming up. If you are into these kind of rules arguments, get a copy of the issue of DIP WORLD for \$2 to Rod Walker, Alcala, 1273 Crest Dr, Encinitas, CA 92024. Other sines I've seen with these types of discussions are VOICE OF DOOM by Bruce Liney (244 Quarry Dr, Albany Ny 12205) and APPALLING GREED by Mark Larselers (23 Akin Ave, Capitol Hgts, MD 20743) and I'm sure Mark Berch's sine DIPLOMACY DIRECT may have some past issues on the subject (492 Naylor Pl, Alexandria VA 22304). But don't ask me about it!

F A D D I E 13 A W A Y A W A Y

FALL 1906 SURPRISE SURPRISE...KATHY PULLS IT OFF

DOORMAT(Michalski) A GAI-run; F IOW-gre.
 CRUMLAND(Byrne) F nth-BEL; F BEL-run; F DEN-run; A HOL S F nth-bel; F BEL S A hol;
 F WIL-lop; A EDI H; A BEE S A sil-mun; A sil-MUN; F BEE H; A WAR-gal;
 F bla-RUM; F CON S A bul; A BUL S F bla-run; A SMY laughs at the Turk(H);
 A ser-TRI; A BUD S A ser-tri.
 FLUSHING(Martin) NHR! A BUR, A TIR, F WES, F SPA(SC), & F IOW ALL H.
 NEW ITALY(Woody) F WAR spits at Crud Martin(H); A tri-VIE; F TUN-wes; F ARG S A gre;
 A GRE H; F MAP H.

1906 SUPPLY CENTERS

DOO ~~fff~~ ~~fff~~
 CRU home run swe nwy kie den edi ank lvp con ser bud any ber
 BEE TRI BEL MUN HOL BUL
 FLU par spa por lon ~~fff~~ ~~fff~~ ~~fff~~ ~~fff~~
 NEW ~~fff~~ nap tun gre rom van war VIE

 0 OUT
 23 bld several & WINS!!!
 4 rem 1
 7 even

Well, congratulations to Kathy Byrne on a well played game. (See the nomination for the Nixon Award for an inside story of what she did to get it.) Minor congrats and hearty thanks to those you stuck it out. I'd love some end of game statements from you. Final press and wrap up follow.

RUSSIA-GM: Well at least they can't vote down the concession anymore!
 RUSSIA-THE BOARD: Thanks for a fine game and if it's not over then I can't count.

GAME: 1901R GM: Brad Wilson (Scorn To Dip) S'OR-F'02; Seatt Hanson (IRKSOME!) W'02-the end.

	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08
AUSTRIA	4	4	4	4	4	4	2	0
ENGLAND	4	4	2	2	1	0	-	-
FRANCE	5	5	6	7	8	7	8*	4
GERMANY	6	4	1	1	1	1	0	-
ITALY	5	4	3	2	1	0	-	-
RUSSIA	6	8	11	12	12	16	17	23
TURKEY	4	5	7	6	6	6	7*	7

John Michalski (out F'08)
 Gregg Stebbins (res S'03); Rodney Jones (out F'06)
 Dick Martin
 Phil Cooper (res S'02); Keith Sherwood (out F'07)
 Tom Mainardi (drop S'05); Mark Law (out F'06)
 Kathy Byrne WINS!!
 Steve Arnavoodian

@-played two short *played one short

GOPHER HOLE BLOK WINTER '05/SPRING '06 ITALY GETS INTO THE FAMILY AS A KNIFE GETS INTO ENG.

bldst ENG bld F IOW; GHR bld F KIE; ITA F bul(mo) r ARG, bld F MAP, A VEN; RUS bld A WAR.

ENGLAND (R Ellis) A bre-GAS; A lvp-YOR; F eng-MID; F lon-NTH; F mid-WAF; F WES-tyre;
 F spa(mo)-LYO.
 GERMANY (Forman) F bel-ENG; F kie-HOL; F bel-DEN; A swe-HMY; A par-BRE; A bur-BEL;
 A mun-BUR; A sil-MUN; A war-SPA.
 ITALY (F Byrne) A TRI-alb; A ven-PIE; A TIR S A ven-pie; F MAP-tyre; F ARG-gre;
 F IOW S F ang-gre; A GAI-run; A BUD S A gal-run; A rum-SER.
 RUSSIA (Noto) A WAR-gal; A bul-RUM; A URN S A bul-run; F STP(MC) laughs at the ghost of
 Uncle Oscar(H).
 TURKEY (Iverson) F BIA S russ A bul-run; A CON S russ A bul(OTH); F EAS-arg; F AIB-ioni;
 F GRE S F alb-ion.

Deadline for FALL 1906 is JANUARY 30, 1982. Press follows on next page.

Thanks to Mark Keller for stand-by orders not needed.

GO FOR IT PRESS....

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LONDON-ROME: How's it feel to have an entire world united against you? Ya like it, huh?
LIVERPOOL-VENICE: I hate, detest, despise, abominate, abhor, loathe, and simply just don't like green units (or morons that try to play Italy and end up with everyone on the board against them!)
GM-LVP: I hope you like black units!
MPLS-GERMANY: Let it be known that your stab of England has the Kathy Byrne seal of approval.
BERLIN-LONDON: I'm sick and tired of your ordering me around. Not only that, but your bumbling attempt at an english accent makes me gag.
BOB-JEFF: You are to be congratulated on your resurrection of the Russian Empire.
RUS-WORLD: What is this? Italy builds two? Annihilations? I don't get it? I thought you had to take pieces off the board when you lose SC's.
GM-PILLY: Phil-a-der-a-da???

LITTLE PHILLY-MACHO MEN: How come it takes four hulks to get rid of sweet innocent little me??
GM-FLUSHING: Little, maybe....
PHILLY-TURKEY: Why can't we help each other instead of fighting?
EDINBURGH-NAPLES: Orphan, orphan, orphan!
TUR-ITA: There are only 4 players left in this game, besides you. All four of them are attacking you. WHAT do you have to say for yourself.
WHAT ITA MIGHT SAY-TUR: I came from a broken home??
PHILLY-GER: I forgot when you said you were stabbing Eng for the win. ((How about now??))
ENGLAND-GERMANY: Buddies to the end, that's what we are. Stick it out to the finish when we get the two way draw. I never had a better ally than you!
GM-PHILLODENDROM: Fillet-o-fish?? Felipe???

BERLIN-MOSCOW: I hope you know that Uncle Ellis was just stringing you along. He wouldn't let me attack you until he could get a piece. I guess I showed him.
MPLS-MOSCOW: What he's trying to say is that the fleet didn't go to North just to go fishing.
MOS-COPPER HOLE: You may find my response to some of your letters not arriving as quickly as they used to. Please note that 1) I'm just beginning a new semester; and 2) I am trying to plan my wedding, which will take place in August. Thank you.
GM-MOSCOW: So you're going for more than a \$20 special. Well, I suppose it helps to have both families in the country. Good luck!
PHILLIS-ENGLAND: Sucker!

ROAD TO RUIN

WINTER 1901

NO HEADLINE FOR NEBORING GAMES WITH BUILD SEASONS (8LIN)

AUSTRIA(McCloud)	Bld A VIE, A TRI, A BUD. Also has F GRE, A SER, A MUN.
ENGLAND(Beaty)	Bld F EDI, F LVP. Also has F NWI, F HOL, A LOH.
FRANCE(Keller)	Bld F BRE, F MAR. Also has F SPA(SC):, A BEL, A PIE.
GERMANY(Osog)	EVER. Has F SWE, A LWN, A GAI.
ITALY(Palter)	Bld F NAP. Also has A TUN, F TIS, A VEN.
RUSSIA(Flowere)	Bld A MOS. Also has F BAL, A WAR, A RUM, F SEV.
TURKEY(J Ellis)	Bld F SMI. Also has A BUL, A COW, F ANK.

Spring 1902 is due FEBRUARY 13, 1982. Orders are on hand for all powers except England and Germany. Someone asked what Road to Ruin is; well, it's an album by my heroes from New York, ~~the Ramones~~ The Ramones. Probably their second best. Not second rate, like the....

PRESS...

CZAR PAUL- ALL: In case you didn't catch it my last (musical) press was meant to be sung to the tune of "Let's spend the night together." See, pretty funny, ay? What do you mean no? Take-off you losers!

ITALY-BERLIN: We die together.

ELLIS-FLOWERS: That was a pretty good song you wrote. I just hope that I don't have to ever sing it.

More press of ruin on see next page. Turn it over, you Boto!

ROAD TO PRESS RUIN

15

BUL-WORLD: Help!

ITALY-FRANCE: Here's to our war.

THE GREAT TURK-CZAR PAUL: Well, your majesty (or whatever they call their Royal Family) all doesn't look good with all those little red guys hanging around our "empires," so shall we let him remove himself peacefully or use force?

RUS-ENI: Why in the world won't you write? If you need money for the stamp I'll gladly send it to you. Just write and tell me!

TRINAGE WASTELAND

82C (Damn, we missed it!)

UPDATE. TROUT QUEEN REPLACED!

I haven't received all orders yet for this game, so the deadline is JANUARY 30 for Spring '01. I have, however, received word that Marion Bates has dropped out of the hobby. Never to fear though, his standby is STEVE ARNAWOODIAN, 602 HEMLOCK CR, LANSDALE PA 19846. He'll take over the Austrian position unless Marion happens to come through with orders.

ENDGAME STATEMENTS.....IRKSOME (80 LM)

((note-final stats for this issue appear elsewhere in the zine.))

GM-SCOTT HANSON: I feel rather attached to this game, being the first I ever GMed. It all started out when I wrote a letter to John Michalski in the fall of 1980 asking about publishing a zine for him. He had mentioned something about wanting "normal" material for RHUTUS BULLETIN, and I wanted to get my feet wet GMing a fast game for him. He mentioned the amount of work involved, and suggested I wait until I was settled in at the U of M. A flyer appeared in BB in October, and by December the game was full. I named the zine IRKSOME after my nickname in high school, and the logo I used then still appears on the cover of this zine.

It soon became a game in the BB tradition, lots of press and pictures with high flying gaming on the side. There were guest appearances by Marie and Beth, two of my housemates. I made a few mistakes at first, but hell, the game just cost more peanuts (\$2.50, I think) and the players were patient with me. Eventually it evolved into this notorious rag.

Credit must be given to Dave Gariepy for his slow and steady play. He was down to 4 in 1902 and had just 6 as late as 1906. His playing of Russia was classic once England was taken out by F/G. His stab of Turkey as the Turk took Rome was beautiful. Dan Falter, the professional Italian, played a strong game, but soon faced the fruits of growing fast early: united opposition. His end game tactics were quite crafty, trying to keep his ex-ally France out of the money. He made sure Russia had a sure win before he went down. Gariepy just refused to take center number 18. In face of such a strong ally, he had no choice but accept the draw. Keith Sherwood played well, but was a bit too paranoid. He went after Germany about a year too early, before Bobby Stephens was fully committed in the East. It was Stephens' NHRs that decided that war. Sherwood's tactics were strong, which came in handy with Italy at the end. Kerry Blant deserves credit for taking Brad Wilson's stymied Turkey and made it into the straw that broke the Italians back.

KEITH SHERWOOD (FRANCE): After the first year I was sitting on the fence between choosing England or Germany for an ally. I had started proposing a three way alliance, but both rejected it and ENI asked for help in a two-way. In '02 both were still asking for help against the other. For some intangible reason, I chose Germany and we quickly out down England. But when England was down to only Edi, Germany and I stopped seeing eye-to-eye and split over the decision on how to best go after Italy, who by this time was quite large. Also at this time Bobby Stephens started a long string of GOAs that further disrupted communication between us, and our alliance fell apart in '06. While all this was going on, my cross-board ally, Russia, had gotten back on his feet and was pounding Italy with the help of the replacement Turkey. Between Russia and I we were able to crush Germany and Italy. Italy suicided out against me, keeping units around his lost homeland while giving Austrian centers to Russia. Because of this and Russia's superior building power, Gariepy could have won easily if he wanted to. It's credit to him that he held our alliance so high to culminate this game in a two way draw. This game demonstrates the necessity of keeping in touch. Gariepy and I fell out of touch near the end and I was sure he was going for the win, so I was massing our forces for a final futile attack on his centers.

((More on the next page...))

But a call in the nick of time revealed true intentions and things quickly worked out between us. Dan Palter played a great game. He wrote a lot, although some claim he doesn't. He almost gave Russia the game twice, once by suiciding out against me and again by voting against the draw every season, hoping Russia would win. I have a lot of respect for Dan, who says he always NMRs out. Thanks also to Dick Martin and Kerry Blant for playing standbys out. Hmna, sorry if this is a little long, but this was my first game as a starting player, and I'm dead chopped at getting a two-way draw.

((I have to agree with most of what you say. I guess I'm from the Bloodsucker school of Diplomacy, which says if a win is possible go for it. I wouldn't call it "a credit" that Dave refused the win when offered the win on a silver platter. But I hope he'll have something to say about it!))

PERSONAL NOTES....

Well, my holidays went just fine: nice and quiet and boring. We got all our relatives over for Christmas--a minor miracle--and I could tell my grandparents were pleased. And I was able to find free rides there and back -- another minor miracle.

- But school started again on Jan 4. I'm taking a full load -- 19 credits -- so I'll be busy. I figure Winter Quarter is a good time to load up on credits; you don't really want to be outside anyway. I describe my classes elsewhere in this issue. I didn't say the descriptions were factual, mind you.

- I have to thank Kathy, Woody, and Crad for the present they sent me. It's a McDonald's knapsack which says "Me I'm The One." That ad slogan was used ages ago, so you can imagine how new it is. I thought it was pretty funny.

Immigration News: I got word from the DSB here in St. Paul that my petition for Franke's visa was accepted. Now it will be up to the consulate in Germany to decide whether it will be approved or not after they interview her. Another piece of red tape waded through. It looks like she'll be arriving around Memorial Day.

Which leads to plans for the ChicagoCon this spring. It will either be held some weekend in April or (ugh) Memorial Day weekend. You know which dates I'll be pulling for. And as for all of you upset because you weren't group leaders for the St. Louis Con, I wouldn't be too disappointed. All it meant was that you paid the motel bill. So I'll let John Caruso be my group leader for Chicago. He can pay my bill at the Chicago Hilton (make it a suite, OK John) and arrange my transportation as well. No need to thank me, you deserve this honor!

Another note is that this quarter I once again have an airshift at our college radio station, WMR. You can hear me from 3-6 Sunday afternoons, if you happen to live in a dorm at the U of M. If you'd like, I can record one of my shifts for you if you really want to hear what I sound like. Just send me a cassette tape.

It's been damn cold the past two weekends, but I suppose I can't bitch since it was cold everywhere. But here the wind chill was near -100°. This weekend it was only -70°, and hell, tomorrow they say it will be 20° above! Time to get out the bathing suit and catch some rays!

Some more good news: The Gophers Basketball team beat Iowa the other night (Take that, Jim Williams!). Iowa had been #5 in the country, and the Gophers #9 after losing to Ohio St. My folks are coming down for the Indiana game in about 3 weeks: that should be fun.

Another great experience this weekend was Bar AFS Midyear Conference. Our local group of former AFS exchange students here at the U has this every year for the foreign students now in the middle of their year in America. It really brings back a lot of memories seeing these kids who are going through the same experiences I did 2 years ago in Brazil. I'm writing an article on the AFS program for Gary Coughlan's zine, Europa Express. I may reprint it here.

The state legislature and Gov. Quis finally decided on a solution to Minnesota's money problems. The settlement calls for cutting the U of M's budget by about \$25.6 million, less than half what the governor had proposed. It will mean a 13% tuition hike this summer. Thankfully they are not raising tuition in the middle of the school year like they did last year, things like that tend to fuck up your budget.

Speaking of budgets, I looked over my financial aid forms for next year. Federal cuts and state cuts mean less aid to deal with higher tuition. Oh well. I really do enjoy poverty.

JOHN CARUSO STEALS CANDY FROM BABIES

The year 1982 started out with a bang for the Diplomacy hobby with the First-Step-of-The-Year-Con on New Year's Day at Flushing, New York. No, I didn't go out there for it (you think I'm rich or what?) but I couldn't let such an important event as this go by unnoticed, and besides phone calls are cheap on holidays, so I decided to call out to John and Kathy's to see how they were doing.

Before telling about the call, though, I should tell you about my Christmas present for Kathy's daughter, Phyllis. She was one of my stand-bys who got presents last issue, and seeing how Kathy and all them have been such good friends I thought I'd make her present a little special: I sent her one of the chocolate bars I brought back from Germany. German chocolate is one of the closest things to heaven as anyone who has tasted it knows, and I thought I'd share a little of it.

So back to the story. I called late on New Year's Day. I had just got back in Minneapolis from vacation that afternoon and was hoping that the party was still going. (It turned out I had nothing to fear - the last of the players didn't leave until two days later.) I could tell right away when the phone was answered that it was; there was so much talking and commotion that poor Phyllis had to shout when she answered the phone. There were about 40 people crammed into that apartment.

It turned out that it was a good thing that I called: three of the four players still in FARE AWAY were there and wanted to give me their orders. After talking to Crud, Woody, and Kathy (Phyllis had some orders, too), getting their orders, adjudicating the games, announcing the results, and taking two draw votes (all on my dime!) I finally got to hear about the party. Bruce apologized to me for NERFing me in VOICE OF DOOM (the Galaxy game where my one center stand-by was blown away by Tre-some friend). Kathy and I talked for a while, insulting anybody who happened to walk into her kitchen for food and Woody when there was no one there.

The call got interesting when Kathy wanted me to pretend I was Rod Walker. "I don't even know Rod Walker," I tried to protest, but before I knew it a small voice saying "Hello, Rod?" was on the phone. Suffice it to say that DIPLOMACY WORLD will be getting a very interesting article soon.

The last minutes of the call, however, were the most revealing. I wanted to talk to Phyllis to see how she liked her chocolate. Phyllis, as you may know, is the editor of North America's only roving subzine, PHYLIS' PYRAMID. When she got on the phone, her voice was very faint, almost a whisper. I asked, "Did you like the candy bar I sent?"

"Yes," she said. "It was delicious, the little bit that I had."

"What do you mean?"

"Well, you see, after I had a little piece, I put it away, and when I went back half of it was gone."

"What happened to it?"

At this point Phyllis paused slightly. I could almost hear a faint whisper, a whisper of fear of someone watching or listening. She pulled the phone very close to her mouth and whispered so softly I could just hear the words.

"John ate it."

MY EIGHT HUSBANDS - An IRKSOME feature submitted by Becky Coffman

---parental discretion advised---

Do you know I have been married eight different times to eight different men. Let me tell you what was wrong with each one.

My first husband was a Musician. All he wanted to do was sing to it.

My second husband was a Doctor. All he wanted to do was examine it.

My third husband was a Politician. All he wanted to do was make promises about it.

My fourth husband was a Psychiatrist. All he wanted to do was talk about it.

My fifth husband was a Painter. All he wanted to do was paint pictures of it.

My sixth husband was a Policeman. All he wanted to do was keep it under lock and key.

My seventh husband was a Cook. All he wanted to do was tell me how salty it was.

My eighth and last husband is the one I am married to now, and I like him best. He tore it up the first night and has been working on it ever since.

((You know, seeing as I have Michalski's MOS EISLEY SPACEPORT and now this, maybe I should call this the BRUTUS BULLETIN MEMORIAL ISSUE.))

MY LIFE AS A STUDENT

Many people in the hobby have remarked to me that they don't see how one can have the time to go to college full time and publish a zine at the same time. It's not that hard really. I take the pages to the printer and they do all the printing. Of course, the typing and collating takes more work. Seriously, maybe if I tell you something about my college life, you'll be able to better understand me and thus, this zine.

I'm taking quite a heavy load this quarter: five classes for 19 credits. But as 19 credits costs me more than 12, I might as well take more so I can get that piece of paper for less money.

My first class is in Political Science, it's called International Petroleum Politics. That means we learn all about oil and that kind of stuff. For instance, last week I learned something I bet you don't know: that gasoline comes from oil. I thought that was amazing. This week we learned all about who has the oil: the Arabs. The prof showed us a picture of a guy dressed in a sheet. "This is an Arab. They are the bad guys who have oil. They don't like us." "Boo Hiss," we all yelled. Then he showed a picture of a bald man in a business suit. "This man works for a oil company. He tricks the Arabs into giving him the oil so he can sell it to us. He is a good guy." "Hooray," we all yelled. Then someone shouted out, "Hey, that's John Michaelis!" and we all laughed.

My next class is Algebra. You probably think that's the same class you had in high school with x's and y's and stuff. But that's not it. This is some trick where you put a bunch of numbers in a box and make them all zero's. I think the prof called it a May trick, but that's dumb since it's January. I don't even need a computer to do the work since all answers are in the back of the book.

After that I have Portuguese. You may laugh, but Port. is a very important language. Over 100 million speak it. I've taken this class a few times before, so I got it down. Just nod and smile when the teacher talks to you and you'll do all right. When we have written work, I just go to the library and copy a couple paragraphs out of some Brazilian novel, and I get A's.

My last class is Economics. This is my favorite class, and it's my third Econ class. The first time we talked about demand. The second time we discussed supply. Now that I'm in an advanced class, we talk about what happens when you put the two together. It's really simple; you get a graph with a big X on it. We also talk about current events, like why Ronald Reagan cuts taxes to raise revenue and why when the state takes 5% from the U of M subsidy the U of M raises tuition by 20%.

I also have a special class, a seminar on Censorship. This is fun - this week we read a book by Fluto called "The Republic." I thought it would be good, but it was boring and didn't even have any pictures of Mickey or Donald in it. But we get to watch movies and look at pictures. Some of them are really weird. Why people do things like that I don't know.

But you can see with all these classes, I am really busy. But with the intellectual life I lead, I try to bring some of that advanced mentality to you in this zine. Your mind will be the better for it.

THE PITFALLS OF MY ADDRESS

You'd think writing an address on an envelope would be easy to do, right? Wrong, my address gets screwed up all the time, and often the mail gets delayed. For you slow learners, I'll go through it step by step.

SCOTT HANSON - The simplest part, really. But there are 15 people living in my house, 3 of whom are named Scott, so you gotta say on the envelope who it's for. Don't use "Scottie-poo" like Lew does, the other two Scotts will eat it up. And if you spell the last name "Hansen" like Garuso does, I'll write nasty articles about you.

701 15TH AVE SE - Most people can get the numbers right. The "Ave" is optional; there is no "15th St SE." The important part is the SE. It refers to the Southeast section of Mpls, not the southeast end of 15th Ave. "SE 15th Ave" is not correct, and will cost you a couple days. Forget the SE entirely and your letter will be returned. There are three or four "15th Aves" in the Cities, and it will completely confuse the Post Office.

MPIS, MN 55414 - I know it's a bitch to spell out Minneapolis, and MPIS is the accepted abbreviation. "Minn" is the state abbreviation, so don't use it for Mpls. MN is the P O code for Minnesota. The Zip Code is important, but if you mess it up and the rest of the address is right, it'll only cost you a couple days.

now for Kathy Byrne's favorite part....

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THE MUSIC SECTION.....featuring a guest review by TRO SHERWOOD

THE GO-GOS: BEAUTY AND THE BEAT

The Go-Gos are a 5 girl band out of the West Coast currently big on the national scene with this hit record and riding two hits, "Our Lips Are Sealed," and "We Got The Beat." This all girl band is sort of a throw back to the early 60's all girl groups such as The Supremes, et. al., but with a difference: They play all their own instruments and write all their own songs themselves. Indeed, their supposed goal is to be something more than just "an all girl group." So what of the music on Beauty And The Beat? Great, immanently listenable. No real classics here, but you can dance to all of them. No earth shaking lyrics, but every song makes you tap your feet. With no weighty issues considered in this collection of songs, they are quick and punchy, no song is over 4 minutes long and most are only 2 1/2 minutes. Although they are really not a "New Wave group", The Go-Gos do have sort of a New Wave feel. Indeed, they are on the I.R.S. label, a New Wave record label out of England. "Skid Marks On My Heart" is my favorite cut on this excellent album.

((Thank you Keith. I haven't listened to the whole album, but the parts I've heard are good. I'm especially impressed by the clear, crisp vocals and the drumming. I swear on TV it looked like the drummer was using inch thick clubs as sticks, which I suppose is a way to get more sound with less strength. The Go-Gos are opening for The Police concert here on Feb 2nd. And as for the lyrics having no meaning, I find "Our Lips Are Sealed" an excellent comment on the role of propaganda in Soviet-American relations. Of course, I came to this conclusion after 6 hours of hard-core studying. But listen to the words, it does make sense, in a strange way...))

Twin Town heroes LAMONT CRANSTON, whom I raved about last issue, is now getting some real national attention. A rep of RCA Records was checking out one of their bar dates here and was impressed. Meanwhile, some of you West Coasties may get a chance to see the LC's... they left this weekend to tour along with Molly Hatchet. Well, I'd put my ears through that torture to listen to the Cranstons. So, you guys in San Diego, L.A., S.F., Sacramento, & Oregon see if my taste is good or my taste is great. If you don't fell like putting up with Molly Hatchet, well, the Good Guys from the Frozen North will do some solo dates too, including follow-ups to their Stones dates in St. Louis, Kansas City, and Des Moines.

Now, some torture of a different kind, yes it's

REBORN'S TOP ALBUMS OF 1981....(In no particular order...)

THE RAMONES Pleasant Dreams Of course, my heroes from NYC.

THE ROLLING STONES Tattoo You What can I say, it grew on me after a while. Start me up!

DINE STRAITS Making Movies I think it's a 1980 album, but I don't care. I got it in '81.

LAMONT CRANSTON BAND Shakedown Blues heroes from the Forbidden Cities of Ice.

PRINCE Controversy Another hometown boy, the guy in the raincoat and bikini briefs now is in warmer climes.

J. GEILS BAND Freeze Frame They're finally in the big leagues with this one. "Centerfold" is the single of the year.

THE WHO Face Dances Still at it, these boys, but their collection of oldies, Hooligans, was better.

TOM PETTY Hard Promises He even makes Stevie Nicks sound good. She makes him look good.

THE GO-GO'S Beauty and The Beat I agree with Tro.

FRANK SINATRA Then She Shot Me Down Bet you you didn't expect this one!

MY NOMINATION FOR THE NIXON AWARD;

Kathy Byrne and the Hollowness's Night Massacre

To those of you not in the know or who don't get MURDERIN' MINISTERS, the Nixon Award is awarded to the hobby's best list of the year by Ron Brown of California. Now that FAKE AWEI has ended, I feel the time has come for this story to be told so that all may know of the deviousness of the Bloodsucker, and as a warning to all who may encounter her in future games. Oh yeah, so you can laugh at Woody, too.

Kathy played Russia in the game GUN, an orphan I picked up from Brad Wilson's BORN TO DIP. She was up to 12 centers in Spring '06 when I made a type in that season's report, failing to underline the unsuccessful move A SEV-run. She failed to note this, and ordered the unit as if it were in Rum. This left Kathy unable to build 2 of her four builds that winter and left Rum open to a joint Turkish (Steve Arnwoodian) and Austrian (John Michalski) attack. She now had 16 centers.

It turned out that a week after this next report was published, I had to call Finishing to get Phyllis' moves for GOPHER HOLE. At this time Kathy said that since the move wasn't underlined, she had no way to know the move had failed. I noted that the move that bounced it out was clearly shown, but I would consult another GM and make my decision the next day.

It turned out I had to talk to Gary Coughlan the next day anyway, and I asked what he would do in the situation. He said he'd let it stand, which is what I was going to do anyway. So I called up Kathy to let her know. This was the afternoon of Saturday, October 31st.

My ears were not prepared for what they were about to hear. Kathy was livid with anger. I don't specifically recall the conversation, but I remember the following quotes: "With friends like you and Woody, who needs enemies." "I can't do anything with this position. Give it to Al Pearson. He can win with it." "What did you talk to a novice GM like Coughlan for? I told you to talk to Beroh. He agrees with me." "My position is ruined! They'll get Rum and I don't have the units to stop them."

I know Woody was there for the weekend, and Kathy said he was listening to the whole thing. I tried to explain myself to her, but she wouldn't listen. After 15 minutes to an hour (I was paying for the call.) I had had enough and hung up.

This really bummed me out for the weekend. Having this done to me, by one of my closest friends in the hobby yet, was almost too much. I considered letting her have her way. I considered dropping out of the hobby. I ended up writing a letter of apology to her, but saying as a GM I had to let the ruling stand. In the meantime Gary had called Kathy up and received a similar lashing. He even pleaded with Woody to let her have the centers for the win.

Monday evening comes. The phone rings, and it's Kathy. She's her old self. She explains the whole thing to me. You see, with Rum open, she had to think of a way to talk Woody out of going for it. So she decides to make it look like she's mad at me. Woody being friends with both me and Kathy, would try to save our friendship by not taking Rumania. Gary was just dragged in as an innocent party. She swore me to secrecy until the game was over, when we agreed to both write an article about the whole thing.

She has since reneged on the article idea, so this may be only chance for this story to be told. Gary has been bugging me for weeks for the whole story, and Woody has been confused by how Kathy and I patched things up so quickly.

So, Ron Brown, I hereby nominate Kathy Byrne for the 1981 Nixon award. Anyone who can use the GM and an innocent 3rd party to her own diplomatic advantage, who can simulate a hobby feud to save a center, really must deserve the award.

And, if she does get it, would you please send me another certificate of Diplomatic Survival? I'm in a game with her in Ter-ran, and with the move she just pulled on me, I may need it!

Reader opinion overwhelmingly loved the new format! Take that Mark Lew!

Until next time, keep your feet in the mud, but keeping
You may notice the article on dealing with cold weather is missing. Just stay inside you fool!

MT

STANDBY LIST: McClelland, Carter, Betsy, P. Byrne, Sherwood, Keller, Slaughter, Martin, Woody. More always needed!
Now Subbers: Larry McClelland (Larry's daughter!) and Don Ditter. "Pops" Omaha, too.