

"Never tried it, but it sounds like fun." -- Steve Clark discussing the idea of spitting and/or pissing on homeless people (from RANDOM THOUGHT 11.5).

"Several blocks away from where I live are the Robert Taylor Homes, the 'projects', the poorest area in the United States. I have .. respect and sympathy for many who live there." -- Steve Clark writing in PRAXIS 22, proving what a hypocrite he is.

Rich Kids From Elite Snob Universities Get No Sympathy From...

The MegaDiplomat Achieving Zeeness! with Issue #8

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The MegaDiplomat is the zine and official publication of the Feud Number Custodian. The FNC is Chris Carrier, 1215 P Street 12, Sacramento, CA 95814, and enjoys getting Feud-related phone calls at 916/441-0292 at just about any hour of the day or night. This issue of the MEGADIPLOMAT is a sample issue, and subscriptions are 50c per issue. The next twelve issues are available for \$5.00. Subscriptions over \$5.00 will not be accepted, as large sub balances equal messy folds. Non-North Americans multiply the above sums by 1.5 for surface and by 2 for air subscriptions.

This issue is going to about 100 North American hobbyists that were culled from the most recent sub lists of PRAXIS, VERTIGO, and RANDOM THOUGHT. About 70 of you subscribe to PRAXIS and 30 of you don't. Of those that don't, I have one piece of advice: DO! SUBSCRIBE! RUN, do not walk, to the post office with a sub check and get this publication!

Fellow publishers -- please plug the MEGADIPLOMAT in your zine. I am also interested in either an all for all trade, or a mutual sub, as you prefer. Also, I would greatly appreciate it if you plugged the Feuder Awards, a ballot for which is enclosed.

Well, the big news is that I've decided to start publishing. I've enjoyed the three years I've been subpublishing, but now it's time to move on.

Subpublishing is nice. No photocopying, no addressing, no stamping and mailing. All you have to do is write the material, send it in to the home office, and wait for it to come out. And wait, and wait, and wait. Which is the main advantage of publishing -- you can get your material out in a timely manner. So, for example, if you find out that an enemy of the hobby is a liar, failure, and fake, you can inform everybody within a matter of days.

RUNESTONE 1988 -- A COMMENTARY

In spite of the MEGADIPLOMAT's poor showing, 18th out of 28, (the bottom of the middle third!) I'm still quite pleased with how it came out. I received nine votes, the distribution of which was 122466789.

PRAXIS finally got what it deserved, VICTORY in the Runestone Poll. It is an honor that comes only two years too late, but better late than never. Another pleasant surprise was BENZENE finishing in the top ten percent, #6 of 71 rated zines on the main list. This is a zine to watch in the future, and could be a potential winner if PRAXIS were ever to fold. The ZINE REGISTER came in second; isn't it interesting that this zine picked up just as it began to cover Feud material? Should tell the editor what the hobby really likes. Peel has come a long way from when he was a pathetic anti-Feud whiner. Keep up the good work! ECU came in #21, barely in the top third; this is an underevaluation in my opinion, as I feel this zine should definitely be in the top 10 percent.

DW came in fourth, and for some reason is rated as the "Greatest Zine of All Time" in spite of the fact it was irregular for years and swallowed the balances of its subscribers, and is little more than a vehicle for Larry Peery's whining that we don't support his projects. Hey, this is a free and open hobby -- people will support what they want

to support. At least DW NEWS got what it deserved, 65th, in the bottom 10 percent. Again ... who needs a zine about a zine? Apparently people felt the same way about DWjr, which failed to make the main list, receiving 2,571 on seven votes, FOUR of which were zeroes. Good work guys.

COSTAGUANA came in 18th place, and loses out on its chance to win a Coughlan Award until at least '91, and it was at the top of the upper-middle quarter of zines. This is about where it should be, and where it would have been in 1986-7 if the hobby had been impartial in its treatment of it. It's a nice zine -- too nice for the MegaDip hobby, in my opinion. Editorial bashing of Bad Boys could propel it back into first place -- and this time around it would deserve it.

KNOWN GAME OPENINGS improved from dead last to 64th, which puts it one outside from the bottom 10 percent. Which is about what it deserves; the only reason it isn't dead last is because of the spoiled children in our hobby.

VERTIGO was 48th, which puts it at the top of the bottom third; this I feel is too harsh a rating -- top of the middle third is where it ought to be.

However, BLUNT INSTRUMENTS received its much-deserved drop of most places in one year, from second from the top to second from the bottom. 'Nuff sed!

As to subzines, while I remain disappointed with my own showing I do note that I have a Lifetime Score of 2.69, and I note that a new award has been created similarly to the Gary Coughlan award for zines, the LUCKY DUCKY award, for any subzine that finishes in the top six for three years running. Unfortunately my showing this year has blown my chances of getting a LUCKY DUCKY; but hopefully in 1991 I'll be basking in the glow of a Coughlan Award.

Bruce also included with THE CREAM SHALL RISE a questionnaire concerning the future operation of the poll, and I'll make my comments on it public for hopefully greater effect in the next issue; for now, I hope you'll write to Bruce and send him \$5 for a copy of TCSR; his new address is PO Box 1334, Albany, NY 12201.

POLITICS

As I mentioned in #5, (but am restating again for the benefit of non-PRAXIANS) my politics is right-wing on the subjects of foreign policy and law and order, and I like how Reagan has brought prosperity to the economy through tax cuts and the reestablishment of national pride as opposed to crybabynism and national malaise which was the hallmark of the Jimmy Who administration. However, I break with Republican economics on the subject of the minimum wage, which I feel should be raised to \$4.65/hour. Also, I disagree with certain far-right Republicans and Libertarians who favor dismantling the basic social safety net that was established in the 1930s and 40s under President Roosevelt. Social security, wage/hour laws et al., were passed for a very good reason which is still as valid as when these laws were passed: without them, we would become a low-wage, sweat-shop country like a number of Third World countries. However, I find myself in strong agreement with the Libertarians on the subject of repealing laws regulating private consenting-adult behavior: pornography, prostitution, seat belts, etc...and I strongly believe that the Moral Majority is neither moral, nor the majority.

Also, I note with a big smile on my face that my prediction of two issues ago that 1988 was going to be a dirty election was right on the mark. After all, Dukakis just rehired John Sasso, the guy who did to Straight A Biden what I did to Bruce Geryk. You see, politics can be as much fun as the Great Feud!

As to who will win the election, I predict Bush will win, by a popular vote of 50-51 vs 49 for Dukakis and an electoral vote of 353-185. I'm predicting DC, HI, IL, MD, MA, MN, NY, PA, RI, TN, TX, WA and WV for Dukakis and the rest for Bush. I entered this in the Presidential Contest run by Bruce Linsey; entry form enclosed.

As I said in PRAXIS, the point of revealing my politics was to get a political lettercol started. If no one is interested (although I would hope someone comments on the following editorial), then I will probably confine politics to not more than two articles every even-numbered year, before and after the national election, which leads me to,

The editor's presidential endorsement, or,

**Rich Kids From Brookline,
Massachusetts, Don't Believe In The
Pledge of Allegiance**

In this election, I am strongly supporting George Bush. Of course, I would strongly support Mr. Bill if that's what the alternative was to "Magical Mike" Dukakis — and if you think that's a cheap shot, I'd like everyone to remember what happened the last time we elected an unknown Democratic governor with no foreign policy experience.

The Democrats have this PROBLEM, you see — ever since 1972 their presidential delegate selection process has caused the nomination of extreme left winners — McGovern, Carter twice, Mondale, and now Dukakis. However, the average American voter does not share the political goals of the Democratic leadership, and they know this. Case in point: The American people have repeatedly stated at the polls that they do not want to see a general tax increase. The Republicans know this. The Democrats know it. And Michael Dukakis knows it.

That's why the Dukakis campaign has been one of deceit — to win, the Dukakis people know they have to keep their candidate's positions under wraps until after he has won the election. Dukakis and the Democrats know full well that the American people will not vote for someone who vetoed the Pledge of Allegiance in schools, gave furloughs to first degree murderers, refused to allow civil defense planning in his home state, increased spending 72% in five years, turned Massachusetts from No. 22 to No. 5 in taxes in his first term, and who is a card-carrying member of the ACLU (Allowing Criminals to Leave Unsupervised). So, they have to keep all this under wraps — until November 9.

There are some who would say that it is improper to question Dukakis' patriotism because of his Pledge of Allegiance veto. I think not — after all, it was leftists like Dukakis who do not hesitate to bash conservatives with false accusations of racism any time they can get away with it, and who apply the word "racist" to anyone who does not share their views, as Joe McCarthy used the word "communist" in the 1950s.

Dukakis' image is totally phony. He claims to be a Mr. Clean who says that after he's inaugurated "the ethics office will be in the Oval Office." Well, let's take a look at the record:

-- Dukakis' former education adviser embezzled \$80000 out of the state treasury. What did Dukakis do? Appointed him president of Bridgewater State College!

-- This is the same Dukakis whose deputy commissioner resigned in 1985 after the FBI revealed his ties to a convicted loan shark.

-- Dukakis' head of the Metropolitan District Commission police was convicted of perjury and conspiracy.

-- And then, New Braintreegate. In 1984, a closed prep school in New Braintree was put on a list of possible new prison sites. Two men bought the site for \$3 000000 — and lo and behold, 12 days later New Braintree was moved to the TOP of the prison site list, and "Mr. Ethics" Dukakis asks the legislature for \$10 000000 to buy the land! Needless to say, the two buyers are big Dukakis contributors.

-- And last but not least, two Dukakis appointees to the board that controls dentistry in Massachusetts got busted for soliciting campaign contributions from ... you guessed it ... dentists!

Seems what we have here is another big spending tax addict, anti-defense, blame America firster of the sort that damaged this country no end from 1965 through 1988...

SEE YOU AT THE POLLS!

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Now, I'd also like to know what the hobby thinks about these topics, and I'd like to hold a round robin discussion on the following questions:

1. Do you think that a game should be run in the MesaDiplomat?
2. Would you like to see Illuminated Mesadip, Quest for the MNC, or a game of that nature run in the MesaDiplomat?
3. A number of hobbyists have predicted that Dukakis will win the election. Does anyone have a scenario that would give Dukakis 270 electoral votes?
4. Do you think Dukakis is a member of the hobby (or will join the hobby) after reading my presidential endorsement on page 3?
5. Are you enjoying the 1988 election, with its mud flying at a rate not seen in a presidential contest since 1884?
5. If you were rating this issue in the next Runestone Poll, what would give it on the 0 to 10 Runestonish scale?
6. Jeff Zarse is believed to be a bit more "moderate" than the rest of the Bad Boys. Does this mean that if he was an Iranian, we would have sold arms to him?
7. Do you think that we (the hobby, the United States, the western alliance in general) would be better off if Bruce Geryk's parents had stayed in Poland, or if the US Government had refused them entry because of what Mrs. Geryk was carrying inside her?
8. Do you think if Steve Clark's daddy had shoved a coathanger up his wife one fine day when he was drunk 30 years ago, we'd be better off?

(Subsidiary to question 8 -- answer only if you are oppose abortion): 8a. Would you be willing to make an exception in the above case?
9. What do think is the most ridiculous claim made so far in 1988?
 - a. Dukakis saying he is tough on crime.
 - b. Bush saying he is an real Texan.
 - c. Steve Clark saying he is not a snob and has respect and sympathy for the inhabitants of Robert Taylor Homes.

Back by popular demand...

AN INTERVIEW WITH BRUCE GERYK

The MesaDiplomat is happy to have as its special guest on its evening radio show "Feudovia Tonight," Bruce Geryk, formerly of the University of Chicago, who'll be speaking with us concerning the astonishing revelations that have come to light lately concerning his secret double life.

(As in the interview in MD #6, any comments made by anyone are ACTUAL QUOTES from that person.)

The MesaDiplomat: What is your reaction to the broadcast over the Mesachannel and repeated in the last issue of the MesaDiplomat.

BG: [dazed] What?

MD: The broadcast where it stated that you had dropped out of college in June 1987.

BG: Do you really equate a BA from Sac State with serious degrees from Chicago, Yale, Penn, and the like?

MD: Do you equate dropping out of the University of Chicago with getting a degree from Sac State?

BG: Carrier appears to be so clueless I don't want to waste my time on a detailed refutation of his last letter. Let it suffice to say it was simply ridiculous.

MD: What do you find ridiculous about Carrier's assertions?

BG: I know plenty of people who work 70 hours a week on schoolwork.

MD: Obviously, you weren't one of them, or were you?

BG: [No comment given].

MD: What did you tell your father after you blew \$54000 of his money on tuition for a degree you never received?

BG: Take some drugs, dude!

MD: What do you think of Ron Brown's commentary comparing you to pro-communist radicals of the 1960s?

BG: Ron hasn't stopped doing what he did when he was in school -- wasting his time.

MD: How would you square that with the fact that Ron got his degree and you didn't?

BG: Do you really equate a BA from Sac State with serious degrees from

Chicago, Yale, Penn, and the like?

MD: We'll now take a call from the audience ... it's Rod Walker!

Rod: I sense deep frustration and awesome unhappiness in the Bad Boys.

MD: Rod, didn't you say that *before* you learned about Bruce Geryk being a liar and a failure?

Rod: Yes. He is clearly making projective accusations and has nothing better to do with his time than to be cruel and vindictive towards innocent people.

MD: Well, those comments get the Feud Fan seal of approval. Do you have any comments for Bruce Geryk himself?

Rod: He ought to start tending to his problems rather than trying to show how superior he is to people who are in fact superior to him.

MD: Another call ... Steve Clark ...

Steve Clark: The opportunities that many hobbyists have simply thrown away my poor neighbors at the Robert Taylor Homes would kill for. It is an insult to everyone at Robert Taylor Homes, and it makes me sick.

MD: Than why do you hang out with someone who wasted \$54000 in tuition?

SC: If these people are so f---ing intelligent, then why do they have such pointless lives?

MD: By pointless, I take it you agree with Dr. Walker about Mr. Geryk "has nothing better to do with his time than to be cruel and vindictive towards innocent people?"

SC: It must take a great intellect to work all day at a job you describe as dismal and still come up with this stuff.

MD: I thought so ... next call!

Bruce Linsey: Is a "bully" someone who preys on people not as physically strong as himself, or does the term also include someone who picks on people less fortunate financially, intellectually, or medically?

MD: Perhaps you would like to answer that, Mr. Geryk.

BG: The first principle of Bad Boyishness is ridiculing people for sport.

MD: Would you therefore agree with Mr. Linsey?

BG: What we really want is our own hobby, since we are lazy and cruel at the same time.

MD: Thank you for the interview.

THE RUNESTONE FEUD INDEX

Many people use the Runestone Poll not only as a way to measure zines, but general forces and tendencies in the hobby as a whole. Although there are those who bash the Poll, with its current turnout of 508 hobbyists it is clearly as representative of the hobby as a whole, as, say, a Presidential election is of the wishes of the American people, in terms of the percentage of the population that does vote in proportion to the total population.

In 1987, the Pollster started something called the "Hobby Health Index" to determine what he considers the hobby's health; he feels that, in some way, the thousands of individual votes cast in the hobby is somehow indicative of the overall health of the hobby. The HHI is a number from 0 to 100.

Actually I *don't* consider the HHI to be a valid indicator of the hobby's health. It is, however, an indicator of the level of Feuds and Feudings going on in the hobby at any given time, simply because people use Runestone Poll Zeroes as a Feud weapon to lower other people's Poll standings, and if there is a hobby-wide war going on, such as the Bruxelles vs the Bruxbashers, or the Responsible Adults vs the Spoiled Party Children, a lot more 0s will be floating around reducing the HHI. This isn't bad for the hobby or an indicator that it is sick, anymore than the scuff marks on a football field after a rough game indicate that the field is unplayable. Diplomacy, after all, is the gameboard on which MegaDiplomacy, (also called Dip in Real Life) is played.

To compute the Runestone Feud Index (RFI) I decided to use data from the Zine and Subzine Polls only, and not the GM Poll, as you have to be a player to vote in the GM Poll, and therefore it is less affected by Feuds and Feudings. The two effects I decided to measure were the departure from absolute asskissing (an average of 10), measured in points, and then secondly, the number of zeroes each voter gave out. I felt that general tendencies in the hobby were better represented by the departure from ten, so I decided to square that number, and then multiply the number of zeroes per voter. This gave the following results for the years 1985 through 1987:

Year	Avg. score	0s/voter	RFI
1985	6.548	0.204	2.429
1986	6.735	0.223	2.374
1987	7.009	0.100	0.892

When the Poll was being conducted in the spring of 1988, I knew that the RFI would be going up, as spring 1987 was full of ass kissing, while in the autumn/winter of 1987-88 the Bad Boys declared war on the civilized hobby, which would cause the RFI to rise! based on the above data, I came to the conclusion that the RFI meant this:

If RFI < 1, it meant the hobby was full of insipid pacifist wimps.

If RFI > 1 but < 2, it meant the hobby was in more or less normal condition.

If RFI > 2, the hobby was experiencing all the glory of postal combat.

I had hoped the RFI would be > 2 in 1988, and had dreamed it might break the 1985 record. To say I am pleased with what happened would be the understatement of the year, as the RFI for 1988 is:

1988	6.418	0.344	4.419
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with a new minima in the combined Zine/Subzine score (NOT the same as the Hobby Health Index because the HHI contains the GM poll and this doesn't) and a new record number of zeroes, both per voter and total. A 1988 voter was > 3 times as likely to give a jerk a zero as were the voters of 1987. What can I say, but,

**I ' M PROUD OF YOU GUYS !
THE FEUD FOREVER -- BAD BOYS NEVER !**

HYPOCRISY CHECK

I would like to call a hypocrisy check on a large fraction of the MegaDiplomacy community. There has been a lot of saying one thing and doing another in this hobby, and it makes me sick.

I would like to call a hypocrisy check on Larry Peery. Here is someone who perpetually whines about the Great Feud, says its terrible, evil, immoral, and goes so far as to compare me with the scum of the earth such as the Bad Boys. Meanwhile, he's advocated for years something called a "Diptax" an involuntary contribution to the funding of hobby services. Larry, don't you know that the division of such a fund would fuel Feuds that would make Byrne vs Linsey, or Bad Boys vs Civilized Hobby Members, look like a San Diego evening fog compared against Hurricane Gilbert? Larry, do us a favor -- stop whining because the hobby doesn't bow to your whims.

I would like to call a hypocrisy check on Elmer Hinton. Hinton is the guy who charges professional PDM fees for running Diplomacy and amateur boardgames, sends out slams to novices warning people about this and that, (including me for a "demonstrated lack of respect for the American legal system" no doubt a reference to the fact that I believe the hobby should settle its disputes without reference to Real World institutions). Actually, Elmer, I have enough respect for the American legal system to want to keep a judge from laughing in the hobby's face if a hobbyist dragged a hobby dispute into a Real World court. I have enough respect for the legal system not to clog it with frivolous cases when the average time between the incident that causes a civil suit and its coming to trial is 14 years in most of the country. I think any hobbyist who goes to court to file a suit because of some hobby matter is taking away from people who NEED the recourse to justice that is being denied by all the f---ing delays in the court system -- accident victims and victims of crimes suing their attackers for damages. Also, I have a sub to your zine and haven't seen a copy in 12 years. What's wrong, you working on Lords of Valetia or something?

I would like to call a major hypocrisy check on Bruce Geryk. This is the guy who has shot off his mouth for months about how the Runestone Poll was a waste and the hobby a refuse for people who have "failed in life." Yet, lo and behold, but who voted in the Poll? You guessed it, Bruce Geryk! The same Bruce Geryk who kept running off at the mouth about what a success he was in life when he...but we already know. Bruce, you are the "ultimate example" of why we need HYPOCRISY CHECK.

I would like to call a hypocrisy check on Steve Clark. He's the guy who beat up on any number of hobbyists for being "low income" when he fact he makes less than his enemies. He's the guy claiming to be pursuing a "career in scientific research" when he is really just a bottlewasher in a lab. And of course, he SAYS the Runestone Poll is a total waste...but he votes in it anyway. Steve, here's to you ... hobby hypocrite.

I would like to call a hypocrisy check on Jeff Zarse. This is the same Jeff Zarse who has no idea what Real World life is (his parents are almost as rich as the Chappaquiddick Kid) and who picks on Conrad von Metzke for working at the Post Office. This is the same Jeff Zarse who claims to be a self-made success at Dartmouth, but whose father put him down for a place at Dartmouth the year he was born...the same Jeff Zarse who PRINTED IN HIS ZINE a piece of deserved hate mail he got from his college for ignoring college rules. Zarse also is a Runestone voter, I might add.

I would like to call a much smaller Reality Check on Simon Billinness. This is the guy who whines about how evil, horrible, and life-destroying the Feud is, yet cheers on the anti-Bad Boys whenever he can. Simon, I approve of your stance ... but not the anti-Feud whining. Admit it, come out of the closet, say you love this stuff, because you do.

In the next MegaDiplomat, due out the week after the election...

--Updated list of all Feud Numbers

--Hate mail from Bruce Geryk

--Perhaps a story, an article about the upcoming CANADIAN election, and much more! So, please,

SUBSCRIBE!