

Murd'ring Ministers

Issue #43

Jan. 29, 1981

STUFF

MURD'RING MINISTERS is a gamezine dedicated to the play of postal DIPLOMACY, a game owned by the Avalon Hill Plastic IUD Company. MM is published monthly and features 3-4 week deadlines. Ye Olde Main Minister who publishes this thing is Ron Brown, 1528 El Sereno Pl., Bakersfield, CA 93304. The phone is (805) 834-8409. The subscription rate remains at the low price of 12 issues/\$5.50. However, if the Post Office ~~sets it up~~ raises the price of postage again, it will probably rise.

Well, things are finally beginning to return to some semblance of "normalcy" around here. Andy is 100% again and Corey is getting better all the time. Did it seem like a long deadline this time? Last issue I told you about Andy going to the hospital. He returned home the Tuesday before Christmas. Christmas Eve, we had to take Corey to the Hospital Emergency Room as he was very sick and running a dangerously high temperature. He checked into the hospital the next day and spent the following 12 days there. He had pneumonia and we think, although we're still not sure, tuberculosis. This entire ordeal has put a great deal of strain on my family and myself. I plan to continue publishing MM but if the issues are smaller than once they were for awhile longer, please bear with me. Thanks for your understanding. But enough of this. What's going on in the hobby these days?

For starters, Mike Mills, 47 East Mayer Dr., Suffern, NY 10901 has announced that because of unforeseen delays in the publication of the next ZINE DIRECTORY, he is requesting that publishers send him an updated information form. Mike has announced that Gary Coughlan will be helping him with this important project by editing the section on European Zines. Additionally, Mike is soliciting advertisements for the Directory as he is going allout to make this edition a very special one. It will be photocopied rather than mimeo this time around and Mike sounds like it will be really nice. As soon as the finished product becomes available, I'll pass that information on to you and let you know how to get your copy of the new ZD. If you wish to advertise your zine or some related Hobby Service, the deadline for submission is Feb. 20th, '82.

Al Fearson, Box 898, Charles Town, WV 25414 publishes one of the best zines going these days: JUST AMONG FRIENDS. See my pucoming "Zine Review" to see the specifics on what I think about it. (He has a few openings by the way but hurry if you are interested - his games fill fast!). But the reason I'm mentioning Al here is not to plug his zine but to tell you about his recent publication, THE ZINE OF LISTS. I was released in October of '81 so I'm sorry I'm just now getting around to telling you about it here in MM. TZOFL contains lists of interesting topics to DIPLOMACY players. Included are such lists as "Best Jobs For DIPLOMACY Players", "Five Most Improved Zines of 1981", "The Most Appropriate Shakespearian Quotes To DIPLOMACY", and more. I'm not sure what Al is asking as a price for it, but two or three 20¢ stamps sent to him at the above address would probably get you one. It's a lot of fun!

MORE STUFF

Judy Winsome, Apartment 3, 749 21st Ave., San Francisco, CA 94121 has begun a new DIPzine entitled WINSOME --- LOSESOME. Judy snet me issue #1 dated Dec.7th and I must admit to having been skeptical at first about its authenticity. I thought it might be a fake zine. But Issue #2 (1/11/82) arrived the other day and it appears that it's for real! Judy is new to postal DIP but seems to be very enthusiastic about getting into the DIP hobby in full swing. She is currently charging 40¢/issue and suggests that if you are interested in subscribing you send about \$5.00 and she will credit your account. There are no gamefees for the moment; only maintaining a subscription or trade is necessary to get into a game. You should send for a sample today!

Issue #6 of ANDUIN showed up recently here also. ANDUIN is published by Eric Kane, 109 Hicks Lane, Great Neck, NY 11024 and is digest format at 11 pgs plus cover. Subscriptions are 9/\$5.00. Eric has 4 openings (as of 1/21/82) left for reg. DIP at \$2.00 gamefee plus a \$3.00 refundable NMR deposit. There are also openings available in Middle Earth and 1885II, a couple of DIP variants. Write for a sample!

Without a doubt one of the finest, if not the finest aine around today is Gary Coughlan's EUROPA EXPRESS. Gary has gone to the digest format as many (most?) zines seem to be doing these days in order to give you more print in the same space. EE#10 is one of the best zines I've seen printed in 1981 (his December issue). It came in at a whopping 44 pgs.! Gary will make sure that EE always is loaded with excellent reading material. Write to Gary at 4614 Martha Cole Lane, Memphis, TN 38118 for a sample. And as in all cases when requesting samples, send some stamps along. It's only polite! And if you're smart, ask if he has any more #10's left. (It'll take 37¢ worth of stamps to get it to you!). Keep up the fine work, Gary!

* * * * *

((a local bar here in town was offering copies of the following; someone gave me a copy so here are excerpts from . . .))

HOW YOU CAN TELL WHEN IT'S GOING TO BE A
ROTTEN DAY

You wake up face down on the pavement.
 You call Suicide Prevention and they put you on hold.
 You see a "60 Minutes" news team waiting in your office.
 Your birthday cake collapses from the weight of the candles.
 Your son tells you he wishes Anita Bryant would mind her own business.
 You want to put on the clothes you wore home from the party and there aren't any.
 You turn on the news and they're showing emergency routes out of the city.
 Your car horn goes off accidentally and remains stuck as you follow a group of Hell's Angels on the freeway.
 Your wife wakes up feeling amorous and you have a headache.
 Your boss tells you not to bother to take off your coat.
 The bird singing outside your window is a buzzard.
 You call your answering service and they tell you it's none of your business.
 Your blind date turns out to be your ex-wife.
 Your Income Tax check bounces.
 Your pet rock snaps at you.
 Your wife says, "Good Morning, Bill," and your name is Ron.
 You receive your new gamestart information and find you are Austria to Kathy Byrne's Italy!!!

THE GAMES!

1981AB SUMMER 1904 Italian A Tya-r-OTB/NRR/; German F Hol-r-OTB/NRR/.
1981AB FALL 1904 REVOLUTIONS SWEEP EUROPE - TWO NEW LEADERS APPEAR AS NEW TSAR EXTENDS
RUSSIAN RULE!

England (Pleasings): F NAT-MID; F TRI-s-F NAT-Mid; F ENG-Bre; A KIE-s-F Hol;
F HOL-s-A Kie; F DEN-s-A Kie.
France (Manuel): NMR; F Mid/d/-r-Por, Mar, Wes, Spa, Gas, OTB; F BRE, A BEL,
A ROM, A TUR, A MAR & ALL H.
Germany (Goodrich): No units.
Italy (Kuszynski): NMR; A SER, A AEB, A TRI, F NAP, F ION, F TUN - all H; A Vie-H/a/.
Russia (Heindwaki): F Bla-ANK; F Sev-RUM; A Rum-BUD; A GAL-s-A Rum-Bud; A Boh-VIE;
A TIA-s-A Boh-Vie; A DEN-H; F SWE-H.
Turkey (Arnawoodian): A Con-BUL; A GRE-s-A Con-Bul; F ANG-s-A Gre; F TYS-Ion.

Winter 1904 AND Spring 1905 due 2/26/82.

*If David Manuel does not resign the and/or send orders for next season then would
Bern Sampson, 123 Sixth St., Waltham, MA 02154 please standby and take over the
French position?

**Dan Kuszynski has resigned the Italian position. Would Jerry Lucas, 3902 Lakemead
Way, Redwood City, CA 94062 please assume the Italian position.

1981AB 1904 Supply Center Chart

England- Home, Nwy, Dan, Kie, HOL	(7)+1
France- Home, Por, Spa, Bel	(6) 0
Germany- Nwy, Mar	(0) OUT
Italy- Home, Tri, Tun, Mar, Ser	(6) 0
Russia- Home, Rum, Sve, Ber, Vie, MUN, BUD, ANK	(11)+3
Turkey- Con, Sev, Mar, Bul, GRE	(4) 0

1981D WINTER 1905

England- Builds A EDI, F ION, A LFL
France- Disbands F Pic, A Gas, F Tun
Germany- Disbands F Den
Italy- F Bul(sc)-r-OTB; Builds A ROM
Turkey- Builds A ANK

1981D SPRING 1906 BALANCE OF POWER REMAINS V-E-R-R-H-Y ENTERTAINING!

England (Arnawoodian): A Nwy-SIP; A Edi-Nwy; F NTH-c-A Edi-Nwy; A Lfl-NAL; F Lon-ENG;
F Bre-MID; F Mid-MAR; F POR-s-F SEA(sc); F SEA(sc)-s-
F DEN-s-A Bul-Mar/NGO/
France (Kelly): A DEN-MID; F TIA-s-A Bul-Pic
Germany (Langley): A UKR-Sev; A Ruh-BUR; A BEL-s-A Ruh-Bur; A MUN-Tya;
A GAL-VIE; A BOH-s-A Gal-Vie; A SIL-Gal
Italy (Eilbeck): F GRE-H; A Rom-TUS; F Tye-WES; F LYO-Spa(sc); A MAR-s-
F Lyo-Spa(sc); A Ven-TIA; A TRI-s-A Ven-Tya; A Vie-s-A Ven-
Tya/s/1 A BUD-Gal
Turkey (Ethington): A UKR-Sev; F BLA-c-A Ank-Sev; A MOS-Ukr; F Bul(sc)-RUM;
F Con-AG; F EAS-s-F Con-AG.

FALL 1906 due 2/26/82.

1981D Press-

GERMANY-BAKERSFIELD: I want to get in on that vote of confidence for the GM Band-
wagon. You really do do a good job. Thanks.
BAKERSFIELD-GERMANY: Thanks for the kind words. You should see the do do the kids
produce though.
GERMANY-ENGLAND: I am I soup yet?
GERMANY-POPE BRUCE: And to think we used to exchange such long letters about our
hopes and aspirations.
GERMANY-THE CRAZY TURK: So what did you expect? I should tell you my plans again?
GERMANY-ABSENT TSAR: Hey, if you're not using Rum for anything, can I have it?

1981AF SUMMER 1905 Russia A Mun-r-SIL

1981AF FALL 1905 ONE OF THE STRANGEST SEASONS THIS GM HAS EVER SEEN!

- Austria (Hugh): A DUB-H.
- England (Gray): A DEN-Swe; F NTH-Nwy; F GLY-Nwg; F HBL-s-F Kie; F KIE-s-French A Mun-Ber/NSO/; A Lon-Yor/NSU/; A WAL-H(unordered).
- France (Mainardi): A MUN-s-English F Kie; A RUH-s-A Mun; F NNG-s-English F Nth-Nwy; A Pic-Par; F POR-H.
- Italy (Williams): F Ion-TUN; F TYS-s-F Ion-Tun; A SPA-H; A Mar-GAS; F Wes-MID; A VIE-Bud; A THF-s-Russia; A Rum-Ser/NSO/.
- Russia (Wells): F BAL-Swe; F Nwy-s-F Bal-Swe; A BER-s-French A Mun-Kie/NSO/; A SIL-s-A Ber; A CAL; A UKR; A SEV; A RUM; A ARM - all H (unordered).
- Turkey (Haffey): F Bla-ANK; F SMY-H; F GRE-H; F Tun-H/d/-r-Wes, NAT, OTB; A SER-Bud; A BUL-s-A Ser-Bud/imp/.

Winter 1905 AND Spring 1906 due 2/26/82.

1981AF 1905 Supply Center Chart

Austria- Bud	0
England- Home, Den, Hol, Kie	6-0
France- Par, Bre, Por, Spa, Bel, MUN	5-0
Italy- Home, Tun, Tri, Vie, Mar, SPA	8-1
Russia- Home, Rum, Swe, Nwy, Ber, MIA	8-1
Turkey- Home, Dul, Gre, Ser	6-0

1981AF Press-

ROME-ANKARA: It looks like we're at odds again Sul'Tin'. For some reason, I prefer an ally who can say something other than "Mine! Mine!" or "Gimme". You really should be aware that alliances are give and take arrangements, not take and take.

CON-ROM: One thing is for sure, this is the last time x I try to work out an alliance with Italy as the Turkish player. I guess you feel you don't need me. Well, you may be able to take a couple of my centers but it will take you a couple of years and will force you to keep all your fleets fighting me and probably a couple of armies as well. Doesn't leave you much to do anything else with does it? Too bad, the I/T alliance could have been a lot of fun. Now, it looks like a dull game for me, but, know this: I don't resign, NMR out, or give up. What you get from me you will have to take.

AUSTRIA-ITALY: "Think not, thou noble Roman, that ever Brutus will go bound for Rome; he bears too great a mind: But this same day must end that work the Ides of March begun; and whether we shall meet again, I know not. Therefore our everlasting farewell take; For ever . . . Farewell! If we do meet again, why, we shall smile; If not, why then, our parting will be like a good man's last, JULIUS CAESAR."

ANKARA WORLD NEWS REPORTER: It has been reported that Russian Field Marshall Alexander Welliskikov, first cousin to the Czar, is in deep trouble with the Russian High Command. Field Marshal Welliskikov leads the "Keep Rumania Russian Committee" that is behind the recent movement of Russian force from the center front to the Southern front. This has cost Russia two centers this year and next year is expected to see the Northern front rolled back to St. Petersburg and the Center Front forced to give up Berlin. All of this to save Rumania from Turkish annexation. The Tsar must be wondering if a war with Turkey over Rumania is worth it. He loses as many centers as 4 to save one and loses an ally at the same time. Russian watchers in Ankara agree that Field Marshal Welliskikov will probably not be heard of any more after this.

AUSTRIA-RUSSIA: "'Tis a cruelty to load a falling man. In her days every man shall eat in safety under his own vine what he plants; and sing merry songs of peace to all his neighbors . . . Nor shall this peace sleep with her; but when the bird of wonder dies, her ashes new-create another heir . . ." Shakespeare, KING HENRY VIII

LONDON: My apologies for lack of communications with all lately - I have been under great time pressure lately. Things will be improving.

(1981AF Press Con'd next pg.)

1981AP Press Con'd

ANKARA (UPI): The Turkish Sultan announced today that he has declared that a state of total war now exists between Turkey and Russia. The Sultan has called for the people of Turkey to resist the Russian invasion of their country with every ounce of strength they have and to fight to the last man. The Sultan is convinced they will answer his call to arms.

AUSTRIA-TURKEY: "May the fleas of ten thousand camels live happily under your armpits, living to ripe old ages and reproducing abundantly happy families!"
Armenian Proverb

DAILY ITALIAN HERALD: CARBANZO ESCAPES TO SPAIN!!

General Fredo Garbanzo, whose unauthorized attack on France has enraged all of Europe, has escaped from the peace-keeping forces in Marseilles, and led his band of renegades into Spain.

He was captured over a year ago when the regular Italian Army routed Garbanzo's Brigade in Marseilles in a bloody battle that saw Italian fighting Italian. After Garbanzo's capture, his misled followers dispersed into the French countryside.

The issue was believed resolved when Garbanzo was taken into custody, but apparently some Regular Army Italians grew sympathetic with Fredo's cause and not only helped the estranged officer escape but joined his growing army in the assault on Spain.

Pope Spumoni II in an effort to appease the French leaders assured them that Garbanzo would be dealt with and shuffled off to the Italian Penal Colony in Tunis.

The failure of the Italian Army to accomplish this seemingly simple act, is expected to further enrage the French. The outlook for normalizing French-Italian relations has never been bleaker.

FRANCE-RUSSIA: Did you like my answer to your "ultimatum" on Munich? I thought an alliance with England would be a nice response. Now England and I are gonna rip you apart.

ANK-LON&PAR: Anything I can do for you, just ask.

* * * * *

1980KZ WINTER 1905 DRAW FAILS!

- Austria- A Tri-r-OTD
- England- Build F LPL
- France- Disbands F Tun
- Germany- Build A BER, A MUN
- Italy- Build A VEN
- Turkey- Build F CON

1980KZ SPRING 1906 ONE REQUEST FOR SEPARATION NOT ENOUGH!

- Austria (Goodrich): ~~FAIR-ION~~
- England (Sampson): A LON-H; A NWY-s-F StF(nc); F StF(nc)-s-A Nwy; F NTH-s-A Nwy; F Lpl-IRI.
- France (Sperdakos): F Iri-ENG; F Mid-SPA(sc); A TUS-ven; F TYS-Rom; F Ion-H/d/-r-Eas,Tun,OTD.
- Germany (Stephens): A Boh-TYA; A TRI-s-A Doh-Tya; A VIE-s-A Tri; A Mun-DUR; A BEL-s-A Mun-Bur; A Ber-MON; F DEN-H; F Swe-BAL; A LVN-s-A War; A WAR-s-A Lvn.
- Italy (Hugh): A ROM-s-F Nap; F NAP-s-Turkish; F APU-Ion/NSO/; A VEN-s-Turkish; A Ser-Tri; A Mar-GAS.
- Turkey (Masters): A Rum-BUD; A SER-s-A Rum-Bud; A GAL-s-A Rum-Bud; F Gre-ION; F APU-s-F Gre-Ion; F ALB-s-F Gre-Ion; F Con-AEG; A Sev-UKR; A MOS-s-A Sev-Ukr.

Fall 1906 due 2/26/82. There are proposals for E-G-T AND E-F-G-T draws. Please vote with your next orders. NVR = 'yes' vote.

1980KZ Press-

ITALY-WORLD: "The A-Amaz-ing Grace -- How sweet it is!! That saved a wretch like me?!" If England only had a fleet in the Gulf of Lyon I'd be surrounded by everybody in the game. How can I protect my ass when I don't even know where the rear is? You boys treat this poor old man tenderly as "The Big One" is yet to come.

1980KZ Press (Con'd)

FRANCE-ENGLAND: Pretty sly!
DS-DS: It's really quite simple - I am you and you are he and he is me and we are all together.

FRANCE-ITALY: Very sly!
DS-DJ: Thanks for the advice. I'll be scrutinizing the DF/BoE press much more carefully in the future.

FRANCE-TURKEY: Very, very sly! (What are you up to?)
ITALY-FRANCE: "I love Paris in the springtime. I love Paris in the Fall. I love Paris in the Summer when it sigales. I love Paris when it drizzles. I love Paris every moment; every moment of the year. Why, oh why do I love Paris - because my love lives there!" (And Drest - and Marseilles - and Spain - and Portugal). "April in Paris; chestnuts in blossom; holiday tables under the trees - whom can I run to . . . what have you done to my heart?"

1980IX SUMMER 1906 Russian A Ser-r-DUD.

1980IX FALL 1906 SLOW YEAR AS ONLY ENGLAND AND ITALY GAIN!

- England (Schwaütz): F Mid-SIA(sc); F Eng-MID; A Lpl-EDI; F HEL-s-French A Ruh-Kie; F HOL-s-French A Ruh-Kie.
- France (McCloud): F Iri-NAT; A BUR-Mar; A PIC-Tur; A Ruh-KIE; A Del-RUH; F NTH-Den.
- Germany (Heinowski): A Kie-Ruh/d/-r-Ber,OTB; A MUN-s-A Kie-Ruh; F DAL-Kie.
- Italy (Pearson): A Ser-GRE; F DUL(sc)-s-A Ser-Gre; F SMI-Con; A Tri-SER; A TYA-Vie; A PIE-Mar; F Tys-LYO; F Tun-WES.
- Russia (Cunningham): A ANK-s-F Con; F CON-s-A Ank; A RUM-s-A Dud; A VIE-s-A Dud; A DUD-s-A Vie; A Gre-H/d/-r-Alb,OTB; A Gal-SIL; A StP-LVN; A SWE-Den; F NWG-H; A NWY-H.

Winter 1906 AND Spring 1907 due 2/26/82.

*COA - Larry McCloud, 520 Geary, San Francisco, CA 94102.

1980IX 1906 Supply Center Chart

England- Home,Den, NY ,HOL,SPA.....	(6)+1
France- Home,For, Spa ,Del,KIE.....	(6) 0
Germany- NY ,Ber,Mun, NY	(2)-1
Italy- Home,Tun,Gre,Tri, NY ,Smy,SER,DUL.....	(9)+1
Russia- Home,Rum,Swe,Dud,Ser, NY ,Con,Ank, NY ,VIE.....	(11) 0

1980IX Press-

PARIS-ROME: Are you hinting that our non-aggression pact has been terminated?

ITALY-GM: If Cunningham once again "made some slight errors" in his orders (and you should certainly be able to tell), I would like his to be the first name placed in nomination for the coveted 1981 Nixon Award.

RUSSIA-FRANCE&ENGLAND: Your recent aggressive actions in Germany have not gone unnoticed. The Tsar has ordered two units to the west to assist the Kaiser in his defense of Germany.

SWITZERLAND: Remember everybody, we're a neutral country!

MURD'RING MINISTERS
STANDBY LIST

Regular DIPLOMACY - Larry McCloud, Keith Mercer, Ron Kelly, Jim Gray, Bern Sampson, Steve Hartman, Jerry Lucas, and Mary Beck.

Anyone want on or off? Did I leave your name off this list and you'd like it to appear here? Then please let me know! Thanks!

1981AY SUMMER 1903 English A Bur-r-RUH

1981AY THE FOLLOWING PRESS WAS OMITTED LAST TIME BY YOUR REDFACED GM! MY HUMBLE APOLOGIES TO THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT!!

1981AY Press-

PARIS: The French Government sends holiday greetings to the Major Powers of Europe, and a special wish to any of the same who enter French provinces and/or protectorates uninvited! "May your canoe break apart in the heart of the rapids and may your mother be unsuccessful in summoning aid as she runs barking along the shore,"

The omission is to be paid in the form of penance by printing the following:

"MM is put out by Ron Brown;
And it's one of the best ones around.
Nay, I'll say it's the best;
Even though my last press
Wasn't printed, and that brought me down."

I appreciate the time and effort that goes into composing good press and I never purposely omit any; but I'm afraid that occasionally I may do just that. Please accept my penance and my apology. RB.

1981AY FALL 1903 TURKEY ONLY EXPANDING EMPIRE OF 1903!!

- Austria (Lucas): F VIE-s-A Tri; A TRI-s-A Bud; A BUD-s-A Tri; A VIE-s-A Bud.
 - England (Hartman): A Ruh-DEL; F NTH-s-A Ruh-Bel; F MID-Spa(sc); F IRI-Mid; F Bar-NEY.
 - France (Winger): A Bur-MAR; A BAR-Bur; A Pic-BRE; A GAS-Spa; F Spa(no)-POR.
 - Germany (Albrecht): F Dal-LVN; A Kle-BER; A Nwy-FIN; F SWE-s-A Nwy-Fin; A Bel-BUR; A MUN-s-A Bel-Bur.
 - Italy (Martin): F WES-Mid; A Pie-TYA.
 - Russia (Reed): A STP-H; A MOS-s-A SER; A GAL-Bud; A SER-s-A Gal-Bud; F RUM-H; A War-SIL.
 - Turkey (Halls): A DUL-H; F AEG-s-A Bul; A Alb-GRE; F TUN-H; F Tys-ROM; F Eas-ION.
- Winter 1903 AND Spring 1904 due 2/26/82.

*Rich Reed has resigned the Russian position (see his press for explanation). Would Mary Beck, 5640 Netherland Ave., Bronx, NY 10471 please assume the Russian leadership?

1981AY 1903 Supply Center Chart

Austria- Home, Ven.....	(4)	0
England- Home, Bel, NW.....	(5)	0
France- Home, Spa, Por.....	(5)	0
Germany- Home, Den, Hol, Swe.....	(6)	0
Italy- Home, Ven.....	(4)	0
Russia- Home, Rum, Ser.....	(6)	0
Turkey- Home, Bul, Gre, Nap, TUN, ROM.....	(8)	+2

1981AY Press-

DEPARTING ITALY TO ALL: Gas, everybody wrote a 2 SC standby, and I was hoping for a dull game where all I'd have to do is submit orders. Sorry, guys, but I don't have the time to put forth a proper effort. So, I'm going to get out before I do any further damage.

LONDON-BAKERSFIELD: What's going on in Italy?! Any new Popes?

BAKERSFIELD-LONDON: See the above press and say goodbye to Italy in this game.

I think the Sulten has seen to it there will be no future Popes!

MOSCOW: Loyal Allies and Noble Dames, and Gamy Game Masters

Please accept my sincere apologies for the inconveniences caused by my decision to resign from my postal DIPLOMACY games. ((The rest of Rich's letter states his reasons for resigning from all his postal DIP games, which was sent to all the players in this game and was printed in full in ST. GEORGE & THE DRAGON #72; therefore, I'll not print the rest of it here. -RD)) Once again, I'm sorry about the trouble I'm causing you. I wish you all a pleasant New Year, and -- HAPPY STANDING!!

((Con'd next pg.))

1981AY Press (Con'd)

LONDON-EUROPE (and Bakersfield): His Majesty's Foreign Minister, Stephen Hartman, has relocated himself to 965 Myrtle Street, San Jose, CA 95126. It is hoped that the close proximity to the French Ambassador will bring about a restructuring of the English-French relationship.

BUDAPEST: (PP) Help!

GERMANY-RUSSIA: I understand you are leaving the world of 1981AY. If so, you won't mind filling us in on your part in the forged letters. 'Fess up, it was you who was writing the forged letters, wasn't it?

CONSTANTINOPLE: The Porte is proud to announce that negotiations with Austria have been reopened. A quick end to the hostilities has been predicted. This move was prompted by the recent change in leadership in Russia and rumors of a military build-up in Rumania.

GERMANY-FRANCE: You have not honored our agreements, and your worries are just beginning. Enjoy the fruits of your labor.

LONDON-BAKERSFIELD: That was two faced letters, not two faked letters. In either case, it was a very rough effort.

PARIS: French investigative reporter Michelle Wallace on the French TV show "SOIXANTE MINUTE" has uncovered an English plot to sabotage the water supplies of the European Great Powers. When used to boil spaghetti, it causes loss of memory resulting in NMR's. When used to make Dorset, it causes increased sensitivity.

LONDON: "And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that ye be not troubled for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet . . . for nation shall rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom . . . then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted and shall put you to death . . . but he that shall endure unto the end, he shall be saved." MATTHEW 24:6-13.

EXITING ITALY-BUDAPEST: ~~See~~ Hooood! Baset by bad blarney!

ITALY-BAKERSFIELD: Yes, a truly excellent game and zeen. Too bad I can't participate fully in either! Wah!

THE NIXON AWARD - 1981

"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."

So writes Scott Hanson in WISCONSIN #6-7 in nominating Kathy Byrne for the 81 Nixon. That's right. Kathy has moved up from the runnerup spot and is this year's winner of the Nixon!

In his nomination, Scott details how Kathy turned a setback in 1981R ("Fade Away") into her own advantage. A slight typo in the game report had caused Kathy to misorder her units in this game. The Turkish player (Steve "Woody" Arnaoodian) and the Austrian player (John Michalski) could now take Rumania from her Russia, which at the time stood at 16 centers. Scott called Kathy soon thereafter about another matter only to be greeted by a raging Kathy. Gary Coughlan had been consulted by Scott on the adjudicating of such a matter and also tried to talk to her about the situation and had received a similar tongue-lashing. It turned out that Kathy wasn't mad at all but had wanted Woody to think she was so he would not take her Rumania! It worked and Kathy went on to win the game.

Kathy epitomizes what the good DIPLOMACY player must be to be successful: the "Diggest Liar of the Year"! Besides winning the Nixon, Kathy has won this year's Caruso Player Poll and won numerous games of DIP in '81. Our hats are off to you, Kathy Byrne, the winner of the 1981 NIXON AWARD!! Congratulations!

READERS' RHETORICAL REPLIES

((from Ron Brown))

Thanks for your kind words in MM#41 which just arrived. They're especially appreciated as we just finished mailing the players' copies and are now stuffing every one into envelopes. When an issue is finished, I (always) feel a bit down 2-3 weeks' slugging to get it all together, then I start finding the typos and wishing I had written things differently. Ah well. I guess that's how it is for everyone.

Sorry to disappoint you with this month's travel article. I just couldn't find a way to describe the Rocky Mountains. Never felt I got a hold of it right. Anyhow, there's a wild time ahead as I get closer to California. That is really weird. Just sorry if you had to not see me. Thanks again. Best wishes,

((Thanks for the note. Ron is the publisher of SNAFU, a great little(?) zine that comes from Canada. Ron is referring to his travel article which he prints in nearly every issue. Yes, I know how you feel about getting those issues out. When I have the time for it, I really enjoy publishing. When I am pressed for time, publishing seems like just one more thing that I have to do (read as - job). We'll be looking forward to the article on California which I assume will be forthcoming at some time in the future. Yep, California is pretty weird. Which is one of the reasons it's so great. Notice that I said Calif. is great, not necessarily Lakers-patch. Take care - RB))

((from Tim Winger))

Dear Ron, "Digniter Magazine" in MM #40 was the old "fake-the-fake-game" ploy. In MM #39 you said that not too many saw the humor in it. I did, but then I thought the advertisements for the Joan Crawford Day Care Center were funny, and I have two kids. When I saw the game, of course, I knew it was a fake because I was supposed to be in it. I wrote Dan at once saying how funny it was and discussed a variety of options to continue it. I thought it might be funny, for example, if Crawford were the only real player. I also thought that, to be in character, Tom's press should be approvingly sarcastic, saying that the others were stupid, ridiculous, etc. I have now had a little scenario and I thought it had potential. I would give it an "almost well done". Have a heap of happy Holidays,

Tim Winger

((Thanks for writing, Tim. As for the old "fake-the-fake-game" ploy, it seemed like a good idea at the time. But I think I offended at least Jim Harper by including his name therein so that if I had it all over to do again, I doubt if I'd do it. The idea first came when I learned that Dan didn't have any installment of BTM for that issue. Speaking of which, I guess Dan's time for "hobby burnout" has come as he has resigned his Italian position in SIAB and does not wish to publish any more BTM in these pages. Too bad. Maybe he'll reemerge again someday. Take it easy. - RB))

((Con'd next pg.))

"For how can tyrants safely govern home,
Unless abroad they purchase great alliances?"

KING HENRY VI, PART III, III, 111, 16.

RRR (Con'd)

((from George Cunningham))

Dear Ron,

I hope my press doesn't bother you too much. (George is referring to his press a couple of issues back for 80IX) You've always maintained high standards at RR and so I thought I'd give you a little ribbing. On a serious note, I remember handing in several sets of orders so I was stunned when I saw the virtual RRR. I hate to sound harsh, but you deserve 20 lashes with a wet noodle for that one. I don't believe the number of polls that are coming out. They poll everything from GMs to signs to publishers. Now they're even polling the "best" players. This, I feel, is ridiculous. I'm in the hobby for the fun of it, not to prove that I'm better than anyone else.

I've got letters to write and other things to do. So I must bid you a fond adieu,

Sincerely,

George

((George's complaint was well founded. To a certain extent, George had every right to be angry with me because he had sent in a set of preliminary orders with orders for all of his units. I had misfiled these and didn't have them in my "Orders Pending" file. Fred had a set of orders from him with some revised moves -- but only for a few of his units. Then he called and gave a new set of orders to my wife, Char. For some reason, I never saw this called-in set of orders. So the end result was that George only had a few units moving when the results arrived; a fact that naturally didn't set very well with him. (George had every right to be upset about me misfiling his preliminary set of orders. To this I plead, "Guilty as charged". After talking to George about it I instituted a thorough search and found this set of orders. I sent out an amended adjudication as fast as I could to all the players. But it would have greatly simplified things if he had listed all his units on the revised set. This is strongly recommended to ALL players. If you send in a revised set of orders, please list your moves for all your units. On the called in orders I must admit that I don't feel a great deal of regret. Let me explain. If you must call in your orders, please make sure you speak to me; my wife is great (for tolerating the time I spend on this hobby) but she cannot be expected to take down your orders over the phone. She will, but she doesn't like to. If you give her the orders, many bad things can happen. She may not be able to give me the message immediately and Corey may find them before I do. I think this is what happened to George's phoned orders. She may not write them down correctly and if I can't figure them out, it's tough business. So, please follow these simple requests and things will go better for you and your humble (and human) GM and will help make RR a better home for your games. I do indeed deserve 20 lashes for misplacing the original set and all I can do is ask George's forgiveness on that one. I must say that George handled it very well and as he recommended to the other players in 80IX, it's a good idea to send in a duplicate set of orders "just in case". Thanks for writing George and allowing me to share what happened with all. Thanks. -RRB))

GAME OPENINGS

Regular DIPLOMACY - I may be opening a new game of reg. DIP if there is any demand amongst the readership. No new game will begin until one of the current games runs to completion. If you would be interested in joining a new game, I'd appreciate letting me know one day soon. The game fee would be \$6.00 plus a \$3.00 NMR deposit.

ZINE REVIEW

By
Ron Brown

Something I've been wanting to do for awhile and never seemed to get around to it is write a review of some of the zines which I receive regularly, or have seen enough of to be able to critique. I would like to do this now, by offering Part I of my "Zine Review". The opinions which follow are only of the editor and no one else. My rating system is as follows: * - poor - sub at your own risk; ** - hobby average - fairly dependable; *** - very good zine which offers something special; **** - "Stellar" Zine - You owe it to yourself to get this one. In no particular order at all, then, lets start with -

THE VOICE OF DOOM - Published by Bruce Linsey, 244 Quarry Drive, Albany, NY 12205. Sub rate: 20/\$11.00.

Bruce has relented to popular demand and returned to his former practice of publishing large issues full of reading material and only charging for a single issue. VD ranks as one of the very best when Bruce is able to maintain this level of production. Not one to shy away from controversial hobby stands, (this may rank as one of the biggest understatements of the year!), Bruce usually is creating a stir one way or another. VD offers excellent reproduction on open faced pages. The last several issues of DOOM have definitely ranked at ****.

ST. GEORGE & THE DRAGON - Published by Bob Sergeant, 3242 Lupine Dr., Indianapolis, IN 46224. Sub rate: 10/\$5.50.

Bob is one of the premier GMs in the hobby today having just published his 72nd issue. St.G is digest format, reduced type and features excellent repro. Very reliable pubbing schedule and very reliable, competent gamesmastering are the hallmarks of this fine zine. Give it a rating of ***.

LONE STAR DIPLOMAT - Published by Mike Conner, 1500-B Ashwood Rd., Austin, TX 78703. Sub rate: 10/\$6.50.

LSD is undoubtedly one of the prettiest zines around today. Mike uses a very advanced word processor printing method that makes the graphics inherent in each issue the envy of this publisher. Mike makes sure that each issue contains ample reading material and from what I can see the GMing is very well done. The reproduction is excellent. A very classy zine. How about a **** rating.

WHITESTONIA - Published by John Casuso, 160-02 43 Ave, Flushing, NY 11355. Sub rate: 10/\$5.00.

W always advertises itself as "a fun zine", and there is no doubt that John advertises truthfully. Featured is KATHY'S KORNER, "the hobby's best suburbs", done by the Bloodsucker herself. WHITESTONIA places the emphasis on fun. Serious topics usually do not find themselves in its pages although from time to time you may read of a hobby conflict there. W utilizes a digest sized, reduced type format that is adequate but sometimes can be a little hard to read. Of course, it's easy to place the emphasis on fun when you win as many DIP games as John and Kathy do. W is the home of the Annual DIPLOMACY Players Poll held every year (naturally) by John. Rate W at ***.

And that's about all the room for this installment. Look for Part II next time!

* * * * *

"'Tis not my speeches that you do dislike,
But 'tis my presence that doth trouble ye."

KING HENRY VI, PART II, I, 1, 141.

WRAP-UP

Well, that about does it for this issue, boys and girls. Remember the deadline for all games herein is February 26th, 1982. Hope all of you in the East, North, and Midwest are enjoying your weather these days. Today it was nice and sunny and about 70°F. My afternoon English class entered the room today and complained about the hot room so much I had to open the windows and doors. (Just thought you might like to know!) Take care of yourselves until next time . . . and don't go around playing with sharp knives. People might mistake you for Kathy Bynne! Bye!

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* ! ! ! * ! ! ! * ! ! ! * ! ! ! *

Your subscription expires with issue # _____

Trade _____

Sample _____

Complementary _____

Would you please standby in game _____ on pg. _____ Thank you.

Notes:

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