

# Murd'ring Ministers

Issue #52

October 29, 1982

## STUFF

**MURD'RING MINISTERS** is a gamezine dedicated to the play of postal DIPLOMACY, a game owned by the Avalon Hill Game Co. and other multi-player postal games. Subs are 12/\$5.50. There are Game Openings - see that section for details. **MM** is published by Ron Brown, 1528 El Sereño Pl., Bakersfield, CA 93304; Phone (805) 834-8409.

First of all, this issue is going out 4-5 days later than it should be. I apologize for the delay but folks, it's that time of year again where I'm really bogged down in heaps and heaps of work and stuff. Things should be much better by the time of the next deadline (Dec. 3) and pretty much back to normal. The main thing, of course is that football season will be over then. That takes up an enormous amount of time. Speaking of which, thanks to all the well-wishes concerning our team. And yes, we finally did win a game . . . but not until last week! The game I predicted we'd win in the last issue ended in a 7-7 tie. But we upset a team last week 24-17 to post our first win of the season! Tomorrow night, (11/5) we face a team that's not all that bad. We play West High (of Bakersfield, natch). They are only rated as the #1 Team in Northern California and #2 in the entire state! You know how many high schools there are in California? And these guys are on the top of the heap! And to top it all off, it's their Homecoming game. My fellow assistant coach and longtime friend has told me to have four words well rehearsed for tomorrow night: "Kickoff return - get ready!" I'll let you know next issue how bad we got stomped.

Jim Williams, 2500 6th St. SW, Altoona, IA 50009 is announcing a new poll: **THE FIRST (AND ONLY) GAMES PEOPLE PLAY POLL**. Jim would like for all of us to send him a list of the games we all enjoy playing, listing 5 games in two categories. Please list the 5 games you most enjoy playing face to face and the 5 games you most enjoy playing by mail. He'd also like for you to list any games you'd like to see available for PBK play. And finally, he'd like to have you mention the zine in which you heard about this poll from. You saw it here first folks, so please tell Jim!

Larry Peery and Mike Maston are planning to host an all day, all DIPLOMACY event for all southern California Dippy players entitled **MASTADONCON**, in Los Angeles. The meeting is planned for Sunday, April 10, 1983. The meeting is for several reasons: 1) to give Mike and Larry a chance to meet members of the Greater Los Angeles DIPLOMACY community; 2) to give as many members of the San Diego DIPLOMACY community as wish to attend a chance to meet some of their LA counterparts; 3) to introduce the new, expanded version of the **BLACK & BLUE BOOK**, the directory of California DIP players; 4) to discuss the possibility of hosting a major regional DipCon in LA in conjunction with the 1984 Summer Olympics; and 5) to establish a permanent LA counterpart to the San Diego Diplomacy Society. Write to Larry at PO Box 8416, San Diego, CA 92102 for more information. The tentative location for the meeting is: **RENO STREET APARTMENTS RECREATION ROOM, 140 South Reno St. #231, Los Angeles, CA 90057.**

(Con'd next pg.)

"Ambition,  
The soldier's virtue."

ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA III, 1, 22

## MORE STUFF

I can't believe the size and quality of some zines that have come my way recently! Bruce Linsey's latest VOICE OF DOOM (#66) was a mere 54 pages long! As Bruce notes himself on pg. 2, he has in the past year published 13 issues totaling over 400 pages! An incredible amount of time and effort goes into each issue of VD. If you aren't receiving it, you might send for a sample to Bruce Linsey, 24A Quarry Dr., Albany, NY 12205. And additionally, Bruce has lowered his sub rate to 10/\$5.00. You'd better hurry and take him up on it before he changes his mind!

Another zine which is typically monstrous is Gary Coughlan's EUROPA EXPRESS. Gary's latest effort (#18) is 52 pages . . . and it's set in reduced type! Gary always does a superb job and is another zine you really should look in to. Gary is at 4614 Martha Cole Lane, Memphis, TN 38118.

Mentioning Gary brings me to a matter that bears some bit of discussion. Those of you (us) involved in hobby politics, or in other words, those of us who read the various discussions regarding one another's personalities etc. are used to seeing all kinds of mudslinging abound. Lately, some thoughtless members of the hobby have spread malicious and nonsensical allegations about Gary. To be blunt, these people have suggested that he is gay. This sort of thing sickens me. It's equatable to the Marion Bates death hoax of a while back. I'm sorry that there are some who feel that this sort of character assassination is cute or funny. I feel sorry for Gary because I know him well enough to know that he is a sensitive human being . . . perhaps too sensitive for his own good, and this business has really upset him. I hope that whoever is responsible realizes how inappropriate and unnecessary such remarks are and concludes that such tastelessness does not belong in this hobby.

The results of the Leeder Poll have appeared in a few zines recently. I'll wait until I see them in DIPLOMACY WORLD before I publish them here in MM as I don't want to infringe on the first publishing rights to the poll which were purchased by DW. The Poll results which are normally released to all in August were promised not to be delayed by more than a few weeks by having them first appear in DW.

BLACK FROG #60 was released October 16th and is alive and well. Although Jack has not announced that he will be adhering to a regular publishing schedule with future issues, BF is definitely still with us and looking good. Occasionally I read in a zine here or there that Jack left the hobby and/or that BF has folded. This is not true at all. (See 1980KZ for a very soon to be won game by Black Jack). BF #60 featured reprints from his "Diplomacy Anonymous" series and are very well done. You can write Jack at 25711 No. Vista Fwys. Dr., Valencia, CA 91355 and see if he has any left as samples!

This issue will be going out about 6 days later than normal. I apologize for the delay but it was uncontrollable. I won't go into the details but the next issue should be out right on time!

Jack Fleming, publisher of PARANOIC'S MONTHLY will be taking a several month's vacation from the DIP hobby to spend some time in Mexico. Jack is in the process of locating an interim publisher to turn his games over to during his absence. If anyone thinks they may be able to help him in this regard should write to Jack at 5000 22nd NE #211, Seattle, WA 98105.

Ron Brown, publisher of SNAFU! has given me some nice pictures from this past summer's DipCon. Since Ron and I have very few subbers in common, although the pix have been run in S already, we both think it would be nice to see them in MM. Next issue look forward to seeing what some of these crazy devils you read about really look like! Until then . . . Now how about some of what you get this for: the games!

THE GAMES!!

1981AP SUMMER 1909 Russian A Gal-r-WAR

FALL 1909 ENGLISH/ITALIAN COALITION BEGINS TO WEAR DOWN R/T FOES!

- England (Gray): F ENG-H; F BEL-H; A Den-KIE; F HOL-s-A Den-Kie; F Nth-DEN; A SWE-s-F Nth-Den; F Bar-STP(nc); F NWY-s-F Bar-StP(nc).
- Italy (Williams): A RUH-s-English A Den-Kie; A MUN-s-English A Den-Kie; A BOH-s-A Mun; F Mid-WES; F Wes-TYS; F TUN-s-F Wes-Tys; F Nap-APU; A Rom-NAP; F VEN-Adr; A Tri-SER; A BUD-s-A Tri-Ser; A Gal-Rum/d/-r-Vie,Sil,OTB.
- Russia (McCloud): A StP-Nwy/d/-r-Lvn,Mos,Fin,OTB; A Kie-Den/a/; A BER-Mun; A WAR-s-Turkish A Ukr-Gal.
- Turkey (Haffey): F ION-Adr; F EAS-Ion; F GRE & F AEG-s-F Eas-Ion; A ALB-Ser; A Ser-Bud/d/-r-Bul,OTB; A RUM-s-A Ser-Bud; A Ukr-GAL.

Winter 1909 AND Spring 1910 due 12/3/82. There are concession proposals for the following: 1) England 2) Italy 3) Russia 4) Turkey. Please vote with your next orders - 'NVR' = 'Yes' vote.

1981AP 1909 Supply Center Chart

England- Home,Den,Hol,Bel,Nwy,Swe,STP,KIE.....	(10)+2
Italy- Home,Tun,Tri,Vie,Mar,Spa,Por,Bre,Par,Bud,Mun,SER.....	(14)+2 (is one short)
Russia- <del>StP</del> ,Mos,War,Ber, <del>Kie</del> .....	(3)-1
Turkey- Home,Bul,Gre,Rum,Sev, <del>StP</del> .....	(7)-1

1981AP Press-

GREECE-VENICE: It's not much, but it's the best I can do. Hope Russia comes through.

1981D FALL 1909 DRAW FAILS AS ENGLAND BARES HIS BLADE!

- England (Arnawoodian): F Iri-MID; F SPA(nc)-s-F Iri-Mid; A VAL-Bre; F ENG-c-A Wal-Bre; A Lon-HOL; F NTH-c-A Lon-Hol; F Nwy-SWE; F MAR-H (un-ordered); F Wes-TYS; F Nap-ION; F TUN-s-F Nap-Ion; A Lvn-WAR; A MOS-s-A Lvn-War.
- France (Gray): A BRE-H.
- Germany (Langley): A Bur-GAS; A Mun-BUR; A BEL-s-A Mun-Bur; A DEN-H; A Alb-GRE; A SER-s-A Alb-Gre; A Rum-SEV; A UKR-s-A Rum-Sev; A BUD-Rum; A War-H (unordered)/d/-r-Pru,Sil,Gal,OTB; A VEN-H (unordered).
- Italy (Filbeck): NMR; F NAF-H.
- Turkey (Ethington): F BUL(ec)-Rum; A Sev-s-F Bul(ec)-Rum/d/-r-Arm,OTB; F BLA-s-A Mos/Imp/; F Ion-s-F Gre/d/-r-Aeg,Eas,Adr,Apu,Alb,OTB; F Gre-s-F Ion/d/-r-Aeg,OTB; A CON-Bul.

Winter 1909 AND Spring 1910 due 12/3/82. There are proposals for both an E-G draw and an E-G-T draw. Please vote with your next orders remembering 'NVR' = 'yes' vote.

1981D 1909 Supply Center Chart

England- Home,Nwy,StP,Swe,Por,Spa,Tun,Nap,Mar,Mos,Rom,HOL,WAR.....	(15)+2
France- Par,BRE.....	(2)+1
Germany- Home,Den, <del>StP</del> ,Bel, <del>StP</del> ,Vie,Tri,Bud,Ven,Ser,Rum,GRE,SEV.....	(13)+2 (was 2 short)
Italy- <del>StP</del> .....	(0) OUT
Turkey- Home,Bul, <del>StP</del> , <del>StP</del> .....	(4)-2

1981D Press-

SWITZERLAND: Does France indeed have England and Germany confused? Will Italy survive the campaign in North Africa? Will the regime of the Mad Turk collapse under the battering of the English-German colossus? Is there such a colossus, or will the great Black and Blue mass get tangled in its own web? Could an equal division of all Europe be the result of this madness? These and other questions plague our analyst. He doesn't know either.

1982CO SPRING 1902 GERMANS ENTER BURGUNDY AS AUSTRIA SIEZES BULGARIA!

- Austria (McCloud): A Ser-BUL; F GAE-s-A Ser-Bul; A Tri-SER; A VIE-Bud; A GAL-Bud.
- England (Olsen): F Lon-ENG; F NTH-s-F Lon-Eng; F Lpl-IRI; F NWY-H; A BEL-s-German A Ruh-Bur.
- France (Hugh): A Spa-MAR; F Por-MID; A Par-PIC; A Bur-Mun/d/-r-Par, Gas, OTB; F BRE-Eng.
- Germany (Swartz): A Ruh-BUR; A MUN-s-A Ruh-Bur; A Kie-RUH; F Hol-KIE; A DEN-H.
- Italy (Palter): A VEN-H; F ION-Gas; F NAP-Ion; A TUN-Mars/imp without spaceship/.
- Russia (J.Beck): A Ukr-SEV; A MOS-s-A Ukr-Sev; F RUM-s-Austrian A Ser-Bul; F SWE-Nwy.
- Turkey (Gorham): F SMY-Gas; F Gon-AEG; A Bul-Gre/d/-r-Con, OTB; A ARM-Sev.

Fall 1902 due 12/3/82. Thanks to Mike Coburn whose standby orders weren't needed.

1982CO Press-

- LONDON-PARIS: Your letters are persuasive but I would be a sorry fellow indeed if I attacked the guy who supported me. No, I have never been a friend, but I have taken careful notes on Gary's behavior and am going to do my best.
- PARIS CESSPOOL: It has been reported that an English-German alliance has emerged against the humble community of Liechtenstein. The French people cannot tolerate this uneven war where two giants (pillars of society per se) gang up on a small, helpless country. Citizens of Europe, hear me out!! Let's not let these oafs kill the elves of the world! Let's arise to the situation and subdue these kobolds.
- LONDON-ROME: There are possibly not many games where this can be said, but in this one you're out-writing everybody else in the game! Dan Palter I salute you! You other guys, hide your faces.
- KENTUCKY KERNEL-KANSAS YANKEE: Did the chitlins come out of the carpet OK? How could you sleep at ToadyCon? (With 2 Nixon Award Winners under your roof!)
- BERLIN-PARIS: Shame on you for trying to get my good friend Italy to move against me. (Ah . . . you are my good friend aren't you, Italy?)
- ENGLAND-MM-16: I'd all attack Stafford if I were you guys. No offense, Dan, just trying to help.
- GERMANY-AUSTRIA: Tell us more about your exploits at PeerCon II. The Frenchman hasn't mentioned it at all.

1980KZ WINTER 1909

- England- Builds F LON, F LPL, F EDI
- Germany- Disbands A Gas (in disgust)
- Italy- Builds A ROM
- Turkey- Builds F SMY (refuses other build and plays one short in 1910).

1980KZ SPRING 1910 IT'S ALL OVER BUT THE GRYN' AS TURKS MARCH INTO STP & VENICE!

- England (Kelly): F BAL-Lvn; A StP-s-F Bal-Lvn/d/-r-Fin, OTB; F Swe-NWY; A HOL-s-A Kie; A KIE-s-A Hol; F Edi-NTH; F Bel-PIC; F Lon-ENG; F Lpl-IRI; F NAT-s-F Lpl-Iri; F BRE-Gas.
- Germany (Pearson): A Bur-PAR.
- Italy (Hugh): A ROM-Nap; A Mar-BUR; A Spa-GAS; F Lyo-SPA(sc); A BER-s-Turkish A Mun-Kie/NSO/
- Turkey (Masters): A Lvn-STP; A MOS-s-A Lvn-StP; A War-LVN; A PRU-s-A War-Lvn; A SIL-s-Italian A Ber; A BOH-s-A Mun; A MUN-s-Italian A Mar-Bur; A Tya-PIE; A Tri-VEN; F Tus-LYO; F APU-Nap; F Smy-AEG; F Ion-TUN; F MID-s-Italian A Spa-Gas; F POR & F NAP-s-F Mid.

Fall 1910 due 12/3/82.

1980KZ Press-

GERMANY: Now I know who the ingrate England is; which "Hugh" is this? Despite my general, and almost total, revulsion at puppets, I would like to be in another game. As puppets go, he's a damn good one.

1980KZ Press (Con'd)

ITALY-ENGLAND: Hey, Ron, I didn't realize it was you across the English waters. Remember me - I'm the guy who's tried to save you in those twenty-two other standby games you've been in. Let's get together some time and open a keg of nails?

ST. PETERSBURG: Turkey takes its eighteenth center in St. Petersburg and the game is over. It is only fitting that the final supply center for the Turkish victory should come at the expense of England -- the only country, up until this point, that has never engaged in warfare vs. Turkey. Of course we have to play the fall season, not to determine who is going to win, but to determine if Germany will be able to hold onto Paris and survive or whether he will be eliminated from the game.

GERMANY-ITALY: "Turn down any and all builds this winter . . . or you are dead." My, how your master loves his puppet.

ITALY-FRANCE: The tough old cob outlasted his foes again. Remember the corn-on-the-cob son!! (It's the sweetest).

VENICE: Turkish troops have landed in Venice, just as a precaution less the Italians have defied the Turkish ban on new builds and have built a new unit somewhere on the board. If Italy did not build a new unit the Turkish army will vacate Venice in the fall -- on the other hand if Italy did build a new unit, it is goodby Venice.

GERMANY-GM: This dreck makes me puke but I have yet to resign a game.

1981AY WINTER 1906 SEASONS SEPARATE AT PLAYERS' REQUEST

Austria- No Adj	Germany- Builds A BER
England- retreats F Nwy-r-STP(nc);	Russia- No Adj
Disbands F NAT, A PAC	Turkey- Builds A SMY (defers one build & plays one short in 1907)
France- Builds A MAR	

Orders on file for all for Spring 1907; any changes due by 12/3/82; All press submitted will be held over until then also.

1982HZ (formerly MM-16)

1982HZ SPRING 1901 WAR BREAKS OUT IN EUROPE!

Austria (Rodriguez):	F TRI-Ven; A VIE-Gal; A Bud-SER.
England (Cannon):	F Edi-NWG; F Lon-NTH; A Lpl-YOR.
France (Stafford):	F Bre-ENG; A Par-GAS; A Mar-SPA.
Germany (Ozog):	F Kie-HOL; A Ber-KIE; A Mun-RUH.
Italy (Torkelson):	A Ven-TYA; A ROM-Ven; F Nap-ION.
Russia (Lahue):	A WAR-Gal; F SEV-Bla; A Mos-UKR; F StP(sc)-BOT.
Turkey (Jones):	F ANK-Bla; A Con-BUL; A Smy-CON.

Fall 1901 due 12/3/82.

1982HZ Press-

ANKARA: The Turkish softball team, the unwashed nine, set sail today for a whirlwind tour of the countries bordering our native Turkey. No destination was announced but it is presumed that they will just sit in the Black Sea waiting to pickup a game whenever they can find a port to dock in. Abdula Gee Perry, the ace pitcher of the "Nine" was a splendid sight as he boarded ship with 6 cases of vaseline. It is said that he has a severe rash, hence all the vaseline.

MOSCOW-WORLD: Anyone for a 7-way tie?

ENGLAND-WORLD: King Michael the Last and his dread Limeys bid you all welcome, and hopes for the early demise of all of you.

CONSTANTINOPLE: The Ministry has expressed fears of a dock strike that may prevent the sailing of the "Unwashed Nine". To prevent trouble the Ministry has decided to arm the navy and have it stand ready to curtail any rioting. The Ministry also wishes to make it clear that the 10,000 troops that went aboard with the softball team were there only as bodyguards for the team and in no way pose any threat to our friendly neighbors to the north or to our Austrian friends.

GAME OPENINGS

REGULAR DIPLOMACY - I have six signed up for the next game; only need one more to start. Signed up and paid are: Holly Stowe, Wylie Wilson, John Baldwin, Jeff Albrecht, and Jim Lahue. Signed up but needing to get his gamefee in is Bill Hugh. This one should start next issue so hurry if you want in. You must maintain a subscription to MM, pay a \$6.00 gamefee, and deposit a \$3.00 NMR deposit.

I will definitely open another REG. DIP game, MM-18, after MM-17 above has begun. As soon as I have seven more, we start! Same requirements as above. Please indicate whether or not you require a copy of the MM Houserules.

MACHIAVELLI - D.S.Palter is signed up and paid for this one. Ron J. Brown has also expressed a strong interest in playing. Anyone else want to try a little MACH? It is very similar to DIP and a lot of fun. The same costs as above: sub to MM, a \$6.00 gamefee and a \$3.00 NMR Deposit. Need 5-6 players for this one.

You are more than welcome to send a preference list for any MM gamespots, however, all final assignments are left to the discretion of the GM.

\* \* \* \* \*  
MURD'RING MINISTERS STANDBY LIST

The following folks have volunteered to be on the call for standby orders: Larry McCloud, Dan Gorham, Jim Gray, Al Pearson, Jim Bumpas, Ron Kelly, George Cunningham, Steve Arnawoodian, Mike Coburn, Jerry Lucas, Scott Hanson, Jack Masters, John MacFarlane, John Beck, Al Rodriguez, and Bill Hugh. I thank each and every one of you very much!!!

\* \* \* \* \*  
TOURNAMENT PLAY FOR A NOVICE

by  
David Grabar

Recently I attended a tournament where 25% of the people who played were Novices. I suggest that every experienced player bring this paper with him to the next tournament and have your potential Novice ally read over this. The Novice will know that you aren't just telling him a bunch of lies. Here it is in Black and White. It seems that in the "Heat" of a tournament, the Novice doesn't believe the obvious statements that you are about to read. Well, here it is. Read it. The guy is telling you the truth.

#1. STAB WITH SOME SENSE!

You can't win the game on your own. You must work with someone. You must share a common goal towards a common point. Blind stabbing is totally stupid and will cost you the game.

A one center stab is totally stupid! You gain nothing! All you do is make the country you stabbed extremely angry at you. That one center stab won't do beans against the hostile enemy you just created.

If you do stab, get help. Take the country out as fast as possible. Make sure he loses men and won't have any builds coming. You should try to take 3 or 4 centers at once (with the help of others).

Once he is down, KILL HIM. He is a wounded animal. He will pounce on you if at all possible. Don't pity him.

#2. FRONT LINE THEORY

A person who is not fighting you is a friend. A person who is fighting your enemy is an ally (like it or not). It doesn't matter if you have talked or not, it is a

((Con'd next pg.))

TOURNAMENT PLAY (Con'd)

friendship out of convenience.

DON'T, repeat DON'T, take a center away from a person who's doing your job. An example is Turkey and Austria. If you are Turkey, and Austria is fighting Russia in the North, don't take any centers from Austria. Austria is holding back Russia for you. They will fight each other and neither will grow. You can concentrate on Italy full force. A stab of Austria might net you 3 centers, but Austria will crack. In reality, you have cost yourself centers. Austria will remove his men from the front lines. Russia will pour in and Austria will turn hostile. Now, you have lost all the Austrian support that could have been considered your own.

#3. THERE WILL NOT BE A SOLE WINNER!

Tournament is not set up for a single winner. Make a firm alliance and play for the draw. Stick to your allies. The tournament will reward you with enough points to qualify. A stab of an ally will likely cost you both the game. It will also get you a bad reputation as a stupid Novice that has no foresight. Everyone watches everyone and knows who are trustworthy and untrustworthy people. Experienced players jump at the chance to get a trustworthy Novice player on their side.

#4. HOLD IN THERE BABY!

A tournament is set up to see how long you and your ally can hold together. Don't be fooled. Remember, there won't be a single winner. Work towards the common goal. If you stab, you lose.

#5. PLAN FOR THE FUTURE!

You don't have to stay even in builds to have trust. The person on the "front lines" needs the builds. With Turkey and Austria, for example, Turkey only needs 4 or 5 units to do his job. Austria needs everything else. A Turkish army takes 3 years to get into action. An Austrian army is there in 1 year. An annihilated Turkish army has to be rebuilt all the way back in Turkey and again takes another 3 years to get to the front.

#6. PLAY THE STALEMATE!

Get into a stalemate position. Hold tight and don't give it up by stabbing. You are guaranteed a piece of the draw in a stalemate. With luck, you may be able to push onward. Remember, the odds of a single winner will be very poor.

#7. SET A GOAL AND STICK TO IT!

By the end of 1901, you should know who your allies and enemies are. Make your commitments and hold fast. Don't be swayed. Changing in midstream can only cost time (something you can't afford in a tournament).

#8. LET YOUR ALLIES KNOW WHAT IS GOING ON!

Build trust. Keep each other informed on what the other countries are doing and saying. DEMAND to see his orders every time. If he says no, he is planning a stab a little way down the line. Establish the trust and you will have a good ally.

#9. WATCH YOUR ALLIES!

He should spend at least 50% of the time with you. He shouldn't talk to a single country more than 3 minutes. If so, they have something working.

In closing, I just want to stress that you consider that above advice carefully. A tournament is not like a face-to-face game. You have totally different objectives and goals.

(( Thanks for the article, Dave - 3 issues on the house for your contribution. Only one question: how you never follow all this "advice" when you play in tournaments? ))

## READERS' RHETORICAL REPLIES!!

(( from Bob Olsen ))

Dear Ron,

Well, my research is done, and I can now report on the "true" Gary Coughlan. Let me tell you, the truth is far more horrible than even I expected. I only wish I could show you the picture of Gary holding a pistol to Eric Ozog's throat while questioning him about the "In Six". Gary is nothing but a terrorist. Can you imagine trying to compose a suitable answer to the question "Did you vote for a separation of seasons in 'Press Gang'?" or "What do you think of Don Ditter?" while staring down the barrel of Gary's weapon? So typical, so Southern -- Gary rules by terror and intimidation, not by justice. The way he tortured my cat was simply abominable -- it reminded me of the worst excesses of South American dictators, or, for that matter, Gary's behavior in R-3. Just hideous.

I don't remember all the inflated, demented charges Gary made about me in his last raving tirade, but let's just say that by this time people know well to consider the source, as I am sure you are aware. Actually, due to my well-known sense of justice, I asked Gary to put aside this "feud" before he embarrassed himself even worse, but he says that he wants to continue -- apparently in the belief that he has a shred of credibility left (but Ron, that was last year!). So I say, let Gary answer these charges of feline atrocity and armed terrorism -- if he dares. I have witnesses.

Best wishes,

Bob Olsen

(( Well, Gary, is this true? Are you really guilty of feline atrocity and armed terrorism? I'm anxious to hear your rebuttal to these charges. - RB ))

(( from Brux Linsey ))

Dear Ron,

The topic of this letter is a phone conversation which you may have long ago forgotten, since it took place over two years ago.

Back in 1980, I mentioned to you that I had seen your seven strategy articles in a book in some bookstore, somewhat different from what had appeared in MM but still recognizable. At the time, you told me that you had no knowledge of the articles having appeared in a book. You may also recall that I mentioned this in passing in VD #26 and jokingly suggested that maybe you were the same person as the one who wrote that book.

The subject has come up again, because I have just received a letter from a novice player who had a few days ago received a copy of Supernova from me. In the letter, he mentions that the Austria article is strikingly similar to the one in the book, which he too had read. Since I generally print all letters I receive, except for those of no or little interest, I do plan to run his letter.

And that is the purpose of this letter to you. I wish to make some informed comments after printing this letter, and would like to give you a chance to comment in the same issue. The specific question to be answered is this: Do you have any idea how the same articles (changed only slightly) appeared in both MM and a paperback book on board games? I'm not accusing you of plagiarism; nor do I wish to do anything to hurt the friendship we've built up over more than three years, but if possible I'd like a quick answer to that question, along with any other comments you'd like printed on the matter. (As far as I can tell, it's entirely possible that the author of the book plagiarized your material, rather than the other way around. Let me know what you know.)

Best,

Brux

((Con'd pg. 12 ))



-John Michalski

Well, what can one say? Kathy Byrne was there, that's for sure, the rest is rather secondary. PudgeCon was a strange phenomena, for altho even most "national" cons are really only regionals (such as the SF Origins, e.g.), what should have been a backwater regional ~~con~~ drew a national audience. One would expect the Kansas City and Oklahoma contingents ("Dixie Grey" just couldn't make the 105 minute drive, Al Giddings said), and perhaps the one Texan that did show up—but what about Illinois, California, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Tennessee, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and New York? I would have expected more Texans, but only a LE FRONT victim from Dallas, a "Mike Burgess" I think it was, made it. And then of course, there was the star, Kathy. She left New York by train to Trenton, joined Woody, flew to Pittsburgh after a fog delay, there found Hoss Pearson holding their connecting flight, flew to KC, met Scott Hanson from Minneapolis there, and then rented a car the 4 of them then shared for 200 miles more! That's ~~stupidity~~ dedication!

I arrived early Friday afternoon, a 3 hour drive up I35 for me, following Pudge's map through a ROAD CLOSED sign to a new addition in the middle of a desolate prairie in NW Wichita. Pudge and Tro were there in the drive of his new split level on a cul de sac not on my map of Wichita. Anyhow, Tro recognized me and the Thunderbird; Bob kept his cool, not gagging at the sight of me like Kathy did later when I opened his front door to them upon their arrival 2 hours later. Pudge is medium height; a little heavy, kind of like Hoss Pearson if you know him, but cheerier, and not at all the size of a Bill Shaffer or Steve Arnawoodian the way people would have you beleive. The house is shared by he and a cat, and while it lasts, a canary. The cat got a lot closer to the canary that weekend than I did Kathy, but I had a good time anyhow. In a place like this, of course, you have one twin bed. Naturally, with Bob being the owner and host, he got to sleep on a closet floor—Kathy had the bed (alone, sad to say) the whole time! Now, with 20 guys there and one woman (or 19½/1, considering Woody), you'd think we'd be all over her—hah! If you think that, you've never met Kathy. SHE calls the shots. With her dominant personality, I can see how she has 3 postal wins as Italy. I predict 5, and one as Iceland too.

DIPLOMACY was played ("really?"), and there was one memorable game I'll ~~tell~~ you about, but if you are looking for game histories, I'll refer you to the charts in the next DIPLOMACY BY MOONLIGHT. A con is not gaming, any more than a date is to compare ideas with your girl. It is people getting together, people with one little thing, a hobby, in common, and everything else different. ~~Especially Woody~~. A con is like a lodge meeting: a lot of goofs getting together to let down their hair and act silly together. That is what is memorable, not that bullshit board stuff. The highlights of the Con weren't any wins as Austria or crap like that; it was the squirtguns Coughlan handed out, and used; Kathy sitting on your lap; taking pictures (I forgot my camera, darn); seeing Gary squirt Mike Luedi's lens every time he tried for a shot; seeing a black kid coming door to door peddling stolen goods, and 'someone' yelling down "Go away, we're having a Klan meeting here!" when he rang our bell; paying \$10.28 for 20 cans of pop, Osuch over \$30 for a few cases of beer; listening to Al Giddings make a fool of himself when the 198 proof stuff he was chugging began to take hold; seeing Bob Osuch face down on the floor, raising his head only to turn in orders on his was to a 3:15 am solid 3 way draw; calling Daphne Fritz; plotting with Bob to meet an airport gang with my Wichita pamphlets from the Chamber of Commerce, and tell them "Sorry, the wife's thrown a fit so the Con's off. Enjoy Wichita this weekend!"; looking for a big magic marker so we could put a "PudgeCon here!" sign on the portable john at the entrance to the subdivision; taking a Thunderbird full of groady conventioners to a STEAK & ALE Friday night, with a drunken Coughlan yet; laughing when Gary asked for a box for a case of beer, and then finding you have to ask in Wichita; signing 8½x11 papers for the hobby scavenger hunt, then snipping off a tiny corner so they won't qualify; going into SAMBO'S with 7 for breakfast, just after another group of us is leaving after breaking a seat; complaining about the rough carpet you slept on, just before finding someone asleep on the concrete garage floor (true!);

hearing Kathy and your wife discuss you on the phone, while they laugh; finding Arnawoodian's as big a you-know as they say; passing out IRKSOMES, MAGUSS, a fake DIP DIGEST; opening Pudge's refrigerator and finding it full of Shasta Diet Strawberry soda; getting home with 85¢ left in your pocket; coming back early, and finding a "Gone to supper, back at 7:30" sign on the empty refrigerator; -THAT'S what a convention is. That's why it was well worth the \$80+ I'm out, or the \$300 the east coast types must have laid out. I hope I remember that at Detroit time next summer.

There was one memorable game for me, played late Saturday night-Sunday morning. My Germany had an early choice of going with Sherwood's France or Al Giddings' England. Each season to WO1, I could have gone either way. Then I decided to go with strength, Al's England. France went down a little, but not much; the East was in a terrible mess, so a western 3-way developed under Austrian pleas for help. We went east so forcefully that Ozog (Italy) proposed a concession, but since it was "only" WO2, some said better to play it out at least one more year. Too bad. The East got together, we made a tactical error, and by O5/O6, we were stymied. The lines solidified totally, and it looked like 4 hours shot on a 7-way draw. Then Giddings took Tro's Brest. My stalemate line Baltic-Switzerland depended entirely on (former) French support of Munich from Burgundy, so I made a deal with the East: I would abandon Munich and take Al's Scandanavia if they would bypass me as they headed into the E-F brawl in France-Med. Ozog knew I was telling the truth, and went for it. One result I'm not sure they realized but I foresaw, was that once the EFG alliance totally collapsed as it did, so would the RAIT alliance. Quiet ol' Mike Mazzer, languishing with a 4 center Turkey in the forgotten and dead corner, was somehow into Serbia, and then had a fleet in the Adriatic the next year. We called for an RTG draw—Giddings (E) voted no. We included him, RTGE—Sherwood (F) said no to spite Giddings. Steve Langley quit as Russia, as did the Austrian player, out of fatigue. It was going on 2 am. Osuch assumed Russia, Austria went out, Italy shrank. There was total TRG cooperation with little to no diplomacy needed. We were too tired anyhow. The survivors asked for a 6-way draw, and sleep. I said there was a lot of play left, how about TRG? No. TREF would OK any result, but I could see we had it. Eric? "I'll play it if you will". I voted no, and on we went, amid many groans. At 3, TRG passed. Al's England was barely surviving with a unit in Wales, and 5 of my German units in the other provinces of it, plus two of mine in the Low Countries and one enroute. Bob's Russia was in Berlin-Burgundy-North Italy. (I'd promised Tro I wouldn't cross his French border in SO1, and kept that throughout the night, altho I did support Russian A Mun-Bur). Mazzer had a strong position in the Balkans-Med. If it hadn't been "only 1902", an EFG draw would have passed 5 hours before. Now, at 3 am and much negotiating-lying-haggling and weariness later, I came out in an RTG. It was very satisfying. As Osuch and I went upstairs to find sleeping space, ANOTHER game formed! They played to a 5:15 four way draw. Eric kept notes on the results of most of the activity, so check out the current or next DBM.

The last day is always kind of slow. One group didn't leave for Sambo's breakfast until 10, while another group was gone before I got up at 7:30. I would have gone to breakfast then, but there was a car behind me in the drive, and another blocking in 4 of us parked laterally in the street. I thought about crossing the lawn to the neighbor's drive, but the guy was out there with his garden hose wondering what we were: perverts, subversives, or what? So I waited until some others got awake.

There should be a lot of good pictures around, although I'm not sure where they will turn up outside DBM. Kathy brought a camera I think, but I'm not sure W handles photos well. Mark Luedi had a fancy one; I think his may be in DBM. Some of the shots should be pretty good, although Kathy didn't go for my idea of one with her and my heads and hands protruding above the bedsheet, or any good stuff like that. I hope someone publishes the postcard Caruso sent Olsen that Friday too. You see, I'd warmed Olsen up by way of inquiries regarding Kansas laws on automatic weapons, and partition proposals for Kathy, etc., for some weeks. That fool wrote Caruso and said "Michalski is a sex fiend", so here comes this card to

Olsen saying Caruso would kill Pudge personally if he let Michalski "lay a hand— or anything else" on Kathy. That got passed around for a good laugh. There were some other things passed around too, but I won't comment on that. I didn't feel like spending time on them anyhow. I did put in a plug for secret tournament scoring with the two 1-2-3 reps that showed up, but the other discussions hold less interest for me than did even the COSMIC ENCOUNTERS or RAIL BARON games played. Mark Berch was discussed the most, rarely well spoken of, followed by Bill Highfield (MODERN PATRIOT) second. The best stories were those of Langley being missed at the bus station—he looks so unlike what you'd expect, I guess they ignored him on the first pass. Then Coughlan landed, and found no one to meet him. He walked around the airport holding up a dipzine to be recognized, but only drew funny looks, so he called and found no one was waiting or even readily available anyhow. Olsen got back, was told about the calls from Langley and Coughlan whom he'd started after to begin with, and headed back, eventually finding both. (The bus station is downtown, airport SW of the city, his home in the far NE...). When Dave Pilant came up Saturday, he set some kind of record: drew 2 Italys, two Asturias, one Turkey that weekend. (In FTF, Turkey is awful). The games seemed (to me) dominated by EFG alliances, altho I hear it was different upstairs. There were often 3 games in progress, although the third was often Gunboat or Rail Baron. I never got to play on the same board as Pearson, which I'd wanted to, or Woody, whom I was glad to avoid. Kathy's accent was tolerable after a few beers and some Amaretto & Cognac I'd taken along, and I much enjoyed supper out with her, despite our wholly inappropriate attire and a drunken Gary harassing the moronic waiter.

My thanks to Bob Olsen for hosting the Con, hanging tough even as squirtgun battles raged across his home and furniture, cased beer sagged or broke the fridge shelves, overflowing trashbags tumbled onto the floor (see snapshot below), people took showers in his tub shower that lacked a shower curtain...I guess he was just glad Gary never threw up or anything. I'd like to thank Steve Langley for showing up, keeping me from my usual spot as the person most different from what everyone had expected. It was good to see Bob Osuch, Gary, and Scott Hanson again from St Louis a year or so back, my first real FTF meet. Too bad Gary was sober Saturday and Sunday; he's cute when he's bombed. Thanks to Daf Fritz for a pleasant conversation, even though I called her during daylight hours instead of the middle of the night. Thanks to the many attendees who came a long way for many hours at considerable expense (not me, for once, whew), and finally to you readers for plowing through all this!

  
John Michalski



Photo courtesy of Pudge himself. The con in the raw!

RRR (Con'd from pg. 8)

(( Well, you're right, Bruce, that conversation was a long time ago. As I remember it, I told you that that article was based on an article I had seen before but I couldn't remember where. It might have been an old LIASONS DANGEROUSES (Sp?) or a book, I don't know. It seems I also told you that article was written in 1978 so you could check out the copyright date on the book in question; that might help. That's about all I know about and I care even less. Good luck. - RB ))

(( from John Caruso ))

Dear Ron (MM)

Thanks, (I think), for the plugs in the last issue. ((the rest is stopping our trade and beginning a mutual subscription)).

Thanks - Take care,  
John

(( Gosh, John, all I said in the last issue about WHITESTONIA was that it was a great choice for the Eminent Award for Best Zine for Hobby News and it was where I got the info on the awards. I hope that didn't offend you. As for the mutual sub, it's a great idea; you've been churning out mucho double issues and it's only fair to have a mutual sub instead of a trade. Consider it done. - RB ))

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