

Murd'ring Ministers

Issue #55

January 28, 1983

STUFF

MURD'RING MINISTERS is a gamezine dedicated to the play of postal DIPLOMACY and other multi-player wargames. The subscription rate is 12 issues for \$5.50, or 50¢ each if purchased in smaller increments. For game openings, gamefee information, etc. see the GAME OPENINGS section. MM is published by Ron Brown, 1528 El Sereno Pl., Bakersfield, CA 93304. The phone is (805) 834-8409.

Well, those NIXON AWARD nominations are really flowing in now! I'm very gratified by the support shown this year's Award. The NIXON is awarded annually to "the biggest liar in the hobby". You are asked to submit a nomination for the person you feel most deserves this recognition in the form of a paragraph explaining why you feel he/she deserves the award. All entries are judged solely by ye olde Main Minister (me) and the winner of the award announced. The deadline for nominations is Feb. 14, so you still have time if you move fast to get your nomination in! The winner will be announced in the next issue of MM (#56).

Clark Reynolds, PO Box 160300, Sacramento, CA 95816 (phone- (916) 322-9894) will be hosting "Saint Valentine's Day Massacre II" February 12th & 13th in Sacramento at Games Central Station located at 2630A Fulton Ave. This is a DIPLOMACY tournament that Clark has hosted previously. It will be an unlimited number of rounds and will end at 6pm Sunday. The scoring system will not be publicized, nor will participants' standings be posted until the end of the tournament. Cash prizes for the top three places and Best Country awards will be given out. The total value of the prizes will amount to \$87.50 (based on 28 entries). Registration before Feb. 4th will be \$5.00. Thereafter it will be \$10.00. Contact Clark at the above address for more info. I know Gruesome Grabar will be there and one would think that Steve Langley should show up as well seeing as he lives about 5 minutes away from the store where it's being held. Any others of you brave enough to make it? It's sure to be a lot of fun!

New subber Mark Larzelere, 7607 Fontainebleau Dr., Apt. 2352, New Carrollton, MD 20784 sent me a sample of his zine APPALLING GREED the other day. Most of you have probably heard of it before. It's an established zine as Mark is going into his 38th issue and from what I understand, very reliable. AG is a nifty little inexpensive zine (subs go for 35¢/issue) produced in very clear, easy to read ditto. Gamefees are \$5 plus an NMR deposit of \$3.50 and he has openings in DIP. Besides the game reports, AG has a few short and humorous articles and a few letters. This is a good zine to subscribe to. Why not write for a sample?

Kathy Byrne, publisher of WHITESTONIA's main attraction KATHY'S KORNER has recently undergone emergency surgery. My understanding is that she is recovering nicely after a bad scare. Our hearts and thoughts are with you during your recuperation, Kathy, as well as our prayers for a speedy recovery. Get well!

Mark Berch mentions in his DIPLOMACY DIGEST #67 that there will probably be an announcement that this summer's DipCon will be held in Detroit with ORIGINS after all and not be moved to Chicago, as Al Pearson informed me. I'll let you know as soon as I find out.

MORE STUFF

I played a bit of D&D last night; first time in several months. Coburn, Baldwin, and two other friends came over and I ran them on an adventure. Not a great deal happened but the highlight came when Dan Johannesen's 5th level thief tried to rip a necklace off this beautiful scantily-clad female type person. She was sitting in bed as he attempted this greedy little action and pulled a dagger from under her pillow and gave him 1 pt of damage. Aha! But the dagger was poisoned so the thief ("Sludge") quickly succumbed and died. I always love killing a high(er) level player character!

I mentioned last time that we have been playing a lot of 15mm Napoleonic battles. It is without doubt some of the most gameing fun I've ever had. The last two battles I was involved in found my French forces defending against various allied elements. Both were very closely contested games. We called them draws as they were so even (although technically I could argue that they were both French victories according to the victory conditions we were using.) If you enjoy tactical level battles and are into the Napoleonic era at all, I would recommend you try this game out. We've really been having a time with it! See John's press and Mike's statements about their version of the truth. (But only believe me!)

Two other groups I'm involved with gaming-wise are a couple of sports games. Tom Heflin, Al Rodriguez, myself and others have a SPORTS ILLUSTRATED Pro Football League in progress now and in the spring and summer we have an APBA Baseball League. In the football league, my team is the 49ers. Our team charts are based on the 1982 season stats, so my team is one of the better ones as you can imagine. My record is 7-4 and we currently trail Atlanta in the division by one game. Tom's Cincinnati is going to win the AFC Central easily but Al's Dallas team is struggling (although they did beat the 49ers!). I'll let you know later if the 49ers are able to make history repeat itself and win the Super Bowl! Our baseball league is called the Patrick Collins Memorial League. We managers have drafted our teams and must keep at least 20 of the same players from the year before. We then select new players at an annual draft. My team, the Dizzy Demons came in dead last last year with a record of 27-35. But watch out for the Demons in 83!!

But enough about me . . . Mike Mills, 26 Laurel Rd., Sloatsburg, NY 10974 is teaching us all how to play SQUAD LEADER by mail. If you are interested in a two player pbm SL system, write Mike enclosing 20¢ in postage and ask him for a copy of EMHAIN MACHA #34. Mike is beginning to organize a three round SL tank battle tournament, too, if you're interested.

DIPLOMACY is such a fun game. It's too bad we have real life responsibilities that take away our time we would otherwise have for games. After entering several DIP games in 1980, I decided not to start many more until the numbers of games became more manageable. I started only one new game in 1981 (81CC where my one center England is either soon to disappear or else survive as a puppet to the powers that be) and only one new game in 1982 (1982AW where my 4 center Austria in 1905 does not have a very promising future). So why not start a couple of new games? I did and the first has already begun. It's in Mills' EM and I'm sure it's going to be lots of fun as I have heard from all the other players and it's not even S'01 yet! There's only one hitch. I drew England and guess who's Germany? Woody! How am I supposed to do well with England when there's a player of Woody's caliber in Germany?! If I had known that Kathy Byrne's pick for "The Best Current DIPPY Player in the Hobby" was going to be my neighbor, I wouldn't have wanted in! Why couldn't I have gotten Grabar instead?

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"The devil can cite Scripture for his purpose."

THE MERCHANT OF VENICE I, 111, 99.

THE GAMES!

1981CT JAF ORPHAN GAME

1981CT WINTER 1907

Austria- No Adj

Italy- No Adj

England- Builds A EDI

Russia- No Adj

France- A Mun-r-SIL

Turkey- Builds A CON, F SMY

1981CT SPRING 1908 TWO MINOR POWERS LOSE MONARCHS! WAR CONTINUES!

Austria (Johnson):

A Mun-Sil/d/-r-Boh,Tya,OTB; A Tya-TRI; A VIE-s-A Tya-Tri;
A SER-s-A Tya-Tri; A BUD-s-A Ser.

England (Fassio):

F Nwy-BAR; A Yor-NWY; F NTH-c-A Yor-Nwy; F SKA-s-A Yor-Nwy;
A EDI-H; F HOL-s-A Kie; A KIE-s-French A Bur-Mun; A RUH-s-
French A Bur-Mun.

France (Hanson):

F Bel-ENG; A Bur-MUN; A SIL-s-Englsih A Kie-Ber; F TUS-Rom;
F TYS-s-F Tus-Rom; F TUN-s-F Tys; F Wes-LYO.

Italy (Stewart):*

NMR! A NAP, A ROM - H.

Russia (Sampson):**

A BER-Kie.

Turkey (Greenwood):

A STP-Nwy; A VEN-Tri; F ADR-s-A Ven-Tri; F ION-Tys; F Gre-ALB;
A Rum-GAL; A UKR-s-A Rum-Gal; A Bul-RUM; F BLA-s-A Bul-Rum;
A Con-BUL; F Smy-AEG.

* Would Jim Williams please standby for Italy? See pg. 12 for address.

** Bern Sampson has resigned the Russian position. Would Al Rodriguez please take over this position? See pg. 12 for address.

Fall 1908 due Feb. 25, 1983.

Game Notes: Fassio has paid \$5.00 towards a sub to MM. Hanson already trades for MM. Johnson & Greenwood need to subscribe (i.e. pay for a subscription) with their next orders. Thanks.

1981CT Press-

VIENNA-ROME: Thou actst as thou stupidity were a virtue.

* * * * *

1981D WINTER 1910 CONCESSION AND DRAW FAILS! SEASONS SEPARATE AT PLAYERS' REQUEST!

England- Disbands A Yor; F Mar-r-LYO, A Mos-r-STP Germany- Builds F KIE, F BER

France- No Adj

Turkey- Builds F CON

GM Note: Germany also has A PRU, not listed last time. It was ordered: A PRU-s-A Gal-War.

Spring 1911 due Feb. 25, 1983. There is a proposal for an E/G draw. Please don't forget to vote, remembering that 'NVR' = 'Yes' vote. There is also a proposed concession to England. Please vote on this one too as per above. A player or three has requested I publicize how they voted on the proposals. Sorry. According to the MM Houserules, only the results of such votes are made public; individual ballots must remain secret. If you want someone to know how you voted, tell them (via the press if you want). Orders on file for S'11 for all players, but don't forget to vote (if you want to) on the draw and concession proposals. Whoops! Also vote on a concession to Germany!

1981D Press-

PARIS-LONDON & BERLIN: You guys must be nuts! Why would you even consider a draw when you both are so close to victory? This game offers the opportunity for both of you to dazzle us with your tactical wizardry, yet you both seem hell-bent on wasting the opportunity. I'll probably get blown into oblivion for this, but no way will I vote for a draw between two 14 center powers! Are we not men?

SWITZERLAND: Rumors of chaotic attacks and counter attacks throughout Europe leave our analysts hiding under their beds. Is the German sincere in his talk of peace? Will the English settle for 'half' the prize? Do the French want to prolong the inevitable? What part will Turkey play?

BAKERSFIELD-SWITZERLAND: For the answers to all these questions and more stay tuned for next month's exciting episode!

1982IT FALL 1901 ALL EMPIRES EXPAND WITHOUT LOSS DURING FIRST YEAR OF WAR!

Austria (Gorham): F ALB-Gre; A SER-s-Turkish A Bul-Rum/NSO/; A Vie-TRI.
 England (Baldwin): A Yor-NWY; F NTH-c-A Yor-Nwy; F Eng-BEL.
 France (Wilson): A PAR-Bur; F Mid-IOB; A SPA-s-F Mid-Por.
 Germany (J.Lahue): A MUN-Bur; F HOL-H; A Kie-DEN.
 Italy (Stowe): A VEN-H; A Apu-TUN; F ION-c-A Apu-Tun.
 Russia (Hugh): A Ukr-RUM; F SEV-s-A Ukr-Rum; A War-UKR; F Bot-SWE.
 Turkey (Albrecht): A BUL-Gre; A CON-Bul; F ANK-Con.

Winter 1901 due Feb. 25, 1983.

1982IT 1901 Supply Center Chart)

Austria- Home, SER, (4)+1
 England- Home, BEL, NWY, (5)+2
 France- Home, SPA, POR, (5)+2
 Germany- Home, HOL, DEN, (5)+2
 Italy- Home, TUN, (4)+1
 Russia- Home, RUM, SWE, (6)+2
 Turkey- Home, BUL, (4)+1

1982IT Press-

ENGLAND-WORLD: (AP) British foreign minister assassinated by renegade Serbian dissident. House of Commans dissolved by vote of no confidence - House of Lords split over major decisions concerning upcoming war. King has therefore taken over reigns of government in order to curb previous lack of international communications. Long live the King!

DAILY NEWS (New York: England, Germany Pen Pact.

ENGLAND-GM: Keep Dutch Grenadiers in reserve.

ENGLAND-GM: Beware of Brunswick Lancers!

RUSSIA-AUSTRIA: There comes a time that tries men's souls, that in the course of our nation's history, the people have rebelled against higher subway fare increases. Therefore, we're going for the main railway station to get the head man who's pocketing these ill-gotten profits and put an end to this run-away inflation.

BAKERSFIELD-RUSSIA: ?

ENGLAND-GM: CIC.

GM-ENGLAND: I can't wait to see those Brunswick Lancers again! CIC, indeed!

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WINTER 1900 NEW GAME BEGINS! MM-18 (Boardman Number, please, Don?) 1982??

- Austria - Ty Hare, 1365 Cedar St., Berkeley, CA 94702.
- England - James Donop, 8835 Willmon Way Apt. J3, San Antonio, TX 78239.
- France - Mike Coburn, 5201 Demeret #28, Bakersfield, CA 93309.
- Germany - Paul Gardner, PO Box 283, Randle, WA 98377.
- Italy - Mike Cannon, 1113 Frederick Hall, College Park, MD 20742.
- Russia - Don Scheifler, 23 Ponca, Kirkwood, MO 63122.
- Turkey - William C. Schiwautz, 12212 Hart St., No. Hollywood, CA 91605.

Spring 1901 is due Feb. 25, 1983. Good luck to you all!
 Please let me know if you need a copy of the MM Houserules.

* * * * *

"Let Hercules himself do what he may,
 The cat will mew and dog will have his
 day."

HAMLET V, i, 313.

"A hit, a very palpable hit."

HAMLET V, ii, 295.

1981AY GM Note: A few minor errors were spotted on the 1907 SC Chart. Corrections are: Germany is shown with 8 SCs which is correct but I miscounted them at 7, so Germany is -2, not -3 as reported. Turkey is correct as shown except he's +1, not +2, & finally England is ~~M~~ shown correctly but Lpl should be crossed out. I don't think anybody had a hard time figuring these out but it should be called to everyone's attention anyway. 1981AY WINTER 1907 AUSTRIA BUILDS UP (& UP!!!)

Austria- Builds A VIE, A BUD, & F TRI. Germany- A Mos-r-LVN, A Bur-r-RUH, Disbands England- No Adj A Pie & A Ukr

France- No Adj Turkey- NBR!

1981AY SPRING 1908 ONE REQUEST DOES NOT A SEPARATION RECEIVE!

Austria (Lucas): A Gal-UKR; A RUM-s-A Gal-Ukr; A Vie-GAL; A BUD-s-A Rum; F Aeg-BUL(sc); F Tri-ALB; A Ven-APU; F Tun-ION.

England (Gray): F ENG-Lon; F Nwy-SWE; F StP-NWY; F DEN-s-F Nwy-Swe.

France (Winger): A Mar-PIE; A BUR-Ruh; F BRE-Eng; A Par-PIC; A Gas-FAR.

Germany (Albrecht): A EDI-Lon; F NTH-c-A Edi-Lon; F SKA-s-F Nth; F Hol-BEL; A RUH-Kie; A MUN-Kie; A Lvn-STP; A Pru-WAR.

Turkey (McCloud)*: NMR! A MOS, A SEV, A ARM, A ANK, F BLA - all H.

Fall 1908 due Feb. 25, 1983.

*Would Ron Kelly please standby for Turkey? See pg. 12 for address.

1981AY Press-

LONDON-BERLIN: Do I care that Germans are in Edinburgh and Turkeys are in Liverpool? No way! I can make a living out of harrassing you while France and Austria push you back. If I sound ticked off, don't think it was because of your incredibly stupid and short-sighted stab. It's because of the arrogant as hell letter you sent along with the knife.

PARIS: A lesson to all - Hold out long enough and the cavalry will arrive.

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1982CO SUMMER 1903 - French A Par-r-BRE, Austirian A Bul-r-OTB/NRR!/, Russian F Swe-r-SKA

1982CO FALL 1903 BRITS TAKE BREST BUT B.E.F. DESTROYED! RUSSKIES RECLAIM CAPITAL!

Austria (McCloud)*: NMR! F AEG, A GRE, A TRI, A BUD - all H.

England (Olsen): F Nwy-NTH; F StP(nc)-NWY; F NAT-Mid; F Mid-BRE; F ENG-s-F Mid-Bre; A Pic-s-F Mid-Bre/a/.

Germany (Swartz): A SWE-Den; F BAL-Den; A Mun-RUH; A BUR-Gas; A PAR-s-Engl~~sh~~ F Mid-Bre.

Italy (Palter): A PIE-Mar; A TUN-H; F TYS-s-F Ion; F ION-s-Austrian F Gre-Aeg /NSU/.

Russia (J.Beck): A Mos-STP; A LVN-s-A Mos-StP; A ARM-Ank; F BLA-s-A Arm-Ank; F Swe-Nwy/NSU/; F SKA-H(unordered).

Turkey (Gorham): F BUL(sc)-Gre; A CON-s-A Ank; A ANK-s-A Con.

Winter 1903 AND Spring 1904 due Feb. 25, 1983.

*Would Jim Bumpas please standby for Austria? Address on pg. 12.

1982CO 1903 Supply Center Chart

| | | |
|--|-------|-------------|
| Austria- Home, Ser, Gre, Vil | (5)+1 | (one short) |
| England- Home, Bel, Nwy, StP , BRE | (6)+1 | (one short) |
| France- Par , Vie , Mar, Spa, For, BEL | (4)-1 | |
| Germany- Home, Den, Hol, SWE | (6)+1 | |
| Italy- Home, Tun | (4) 0 | |
| Russia- Mos, War, Sev, Rum, StP | (5) 0 | |
| Turkey- Home, BUL | (4)+1 | |

1982CO Press follows on the next page . . .

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"Words pay no debts."

TROILUS AND CRESSIDA III, ii, 56.

1982CO Press-

RUSSIA-WORLD: Although it is true that there is a large military buildup in Manchuria and the region of Port Arthur and Vladivostok does not mean that we hold any aggressive intentions toward the Japanese. We are holding a conference with the Japanese, but the talks have been suspended due to the English occupation of our capitol. However, soon it will be back in Russian hands, so that the talks may continue.

FRANCE-KENTUCKY KERNAL: On my humble knees, I beg for mercy. Your anger has turned into resentment and I sincerely wish we could settle our differences. Forgive me you damn chicken-plucker!!

ENGLAND-FRANCE: Oooh, I like it when they struggle . . . one thing though . . . could you possibly try to not struggle so darn hard?

RUSSIA-ENGLAND: Thank you for visiting lovely, scenic St. Petersburg. I hope you have enjoyed your stay. Unfortunately, you cannot come back next summer because we have closed the port to English and German vessels of any kind. If you have a complaint, please lodge them with the foreign office, which had been relocated to Siberia.

FRANCE-KANSAS YANKEE: I haven't much time left before I'll become baked in this tumult of E-G center grabbing. I'm really a special person if I have a chance to prove myself.

ENGLAND-GERMANY: I was glad to read that you are not a redneck; this should be the final thing that cements our alliance (frankly I was a little concerned . . .).

RUSSIA-GERMANY: Swedish meatballs are terrible. I don't think your troops will enjoy eating them (mine didn't, but after a diet of rats and moldy boot leather, your taste buds are severely impaired.) I know what you'd like. Try some of that good Yorkshire pudding. It's very good this time of the year.

RUSSIA-ENGLAND: I heard of your terrible lack of dots. I know that a dot is a terrible thing to waste, so I have taken the liberty to send you 10,000 dice. They have quite a lot of dots on them, as I understand.

* * * * *

1982HZ SPRING 1902 NO ONE MAKES LARGE GAINS AS MANY BOUNCES OCCUR!

Austria (Rodriguez): A Ser-Bul/d/-r-Alb,Bud,CTB; A GAL-H; F TRI-H; A Bud-VIE.

England (Cannon): A YOR-H; F Lon-ENG; F EDI-Nth; F NWY-Nwg.

France (Stafford): A Spa-GAS; A POR-H; F Mar-SPA(sc); F Bre-MID; F NTH-Nwg.

Germany (Ozog): A DEN-s-Russian F Swe/OTM/; F Kie-HEL; F HOL-Nth; A BEL-H; A Mun-TYA; A BER-Sil.

Italy (Torkelson): A GRE-s-Turkish A Bul-Ser; F Ion-TUN; F Nap-ION; A VEN-Tri.

Russia (P. Lahue): F SEV-Bla; A RUM-s-Austrian A Ser-Bul; A UKR-s-A Rum; A WAR-Sil; A StP-LVN; F SWE-Nwy.

Turkey (Jones): A Smy-ARM; A Bul-SER; A Con-BUL; F BLA-Rum.

Fall 1902 due Feb. 25, 1983.

* COA - Mike Cannon, 3204 Frederick Hall, College Park, MD 20742.

1982HZ Iress-

ENGLAND-EVERYONE: I apologize that I have not written to any of you recently, but my life the past two months has been very hectic. Forgive me.

ST.PETERSBURG: The Tsar announces the celebration of his 53rd birthday. To celebrate, we will kill 4,000 communist pigs! (What fun). The Tsar invites all the monarchs of Europe to the celebration. All gifts to his Royal Highness should arrive in Moscow no later than the Fall of 1902. (Hint: the Tsar wants a supply center for his birthday.) Please send RSVP's.

ENGLAND-GM: I hope I guessed right, or things will look pretty grim.

GM-ENGLAND: I think you guessed right but things still look pretty grim!

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"O! thou hast damnable iteration, and art indeed able to corrupt a saint."

HENRY IV, PART I, I, ii, 101.

1981AF FINAL STATS AND ENDGAME STATEMENTS

1981AF MURD'RING MINISTERS (Ron Brown). Austria: W.A. "Bill" Hugh (OUT W'06); England: Jim Gray (Draw F'10); France: Tom Mainardi (Drop F'06), Keith Mercer (Res S'07) Dan Gorham (OUT W'07); Germany: Robert Fabry (Drop F'03) Al Rodriguez (OUT W'04); Italy: Jerry Jones (Res F'02), James R. Williams (Draw F'10); Russia: Stephen Lee (Res KS'01), Allen Wells (Drop F'06), Steve Hartman (Drop F'07), Larry McCloud. Turkey: Timothy R. Haffey.

1981AF FINAL SUPPLY CENTER CHART

| | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 06 | 07 | 08 | 09 |
|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| A | 5 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | X | X | X |
| E | 4 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 8 | 8 | 10 |
| F | 5 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 0 | X | X |
| G | 6 | 4 | 1 | 0 | X | X | X | X | X |
| I | 4 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 11 | 13 | 13 | 14 |
| R | 6 | 7 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 3 |
| T | 4 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 8 | 7 |

GM COMMENT: 1981AF began as the twelfth game of reg. DIP in the pages of MM. It had many unusual aspects about it, which are worthy of small mention here. It is interesting (to me anyway) the number of current publishers along with the number of ex-publishers who made appearances in

this game. Some of the appearances were incredibly brief. Last issue in the endgame summary of 1980KZ I mentioned that KZ probably held the MM record for most players at 13. Well, move over KZ. 1981AF had no less than 14 different players of record in it! For those few who started and stayed the whole distance (Haffey, Gray, & Williams) it must have looked like a veritable revolving door of players at one time or another. The publishers involved in this one were: Mainardi & Wells (current) and the ex-publishers involved were: Jones, Rodriguez, & Mercer. Gorham is also a publisher (current?) and Lee was a subzine publisher at one time too (still is?). With this number of publishers dropping out, it was without doubt the first time I've witnessed such a lack of participation by what is usually the caste that shows the most enthusiasm for this hobby. At any rate, the game featured a strong bid for a win by Williams' Italy that was stopped by Gray's England. The two then formed an alliance that was going to inevitably clean the board when the draw passed. Even the passage of the draw was unusual in this game. Only Jim Gray knows whether or not he intended to veto the draw proposal or not. His orders stated something to the effect of: "Vote no to all concessions" (as did Haffey's). But neither voted on the proposed E/I draw (neither did Williams by the way) and only McCloud's Russia voted 'Yes'. The result: a draw for Italy and England. Congratulations to Jim Williams and Jim Gray, two fine players! Also an honorable mention goes to Tim Haffey for doing very well and lasting all the way through this one and to Larry McCloud for coming in as a standby late and stirring things up a bit. Endgame statements from England and Italy follow . . .

England - Jim Gray:

This game was an interesting one to play in, and also one to meet a lot of people. There must have been 9 or 10 players during the course of 81AF. ((Would you believe 14?)). It made things difficult to get a long running alliance going, but fortunately Jim "No NMR" Williams was in the game. He was competent and steady, and that's the best kind of ally to have. Tim Haffey also should be recognized for the solid game he played. Between fighting Russia and then Italy, Turkey remained a powerful, if not slightly outnumbered, force in the game.

Again, congrats to Mr. Williams for a share in the draw, and thanks K should go out to Ron Brown for an artistically GM'd game.

((1981AF Endgame Statements cont. next page . . .))

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"If you have tears, prepare to shed them now."

1981AF (Con'd)

Italy - Jim Willims:

As I was searching through MM #54 for 1981AF, a sudden realization hit me that I had failed to vote for or against the latest draw proposal(s). I immediately got a sick feeling in my stomach, thinking that the last proposal was for ~~zi~~ concessions to each individual power. It was with great anticipation that I scanned the pages of the zine for the small notification of a game's end.

What a relief I felt upon discovering that the game had indeed ended, but with an English/Italian draw. After reading the circumstances surrounding the passage of the draw proposal. I felt like I had stolen a page out of our GM's own book. I had been proposing draws or concessions of one kind or another since Ron won a game because his fellow players forgot to veto the concession. In both cases though, the end result may have been the same even if the games had continued.

I was certain that this game would end in a two way draw and that England would have half of it. I wasn't so sure if it would be Turkey or Italy sharing in the draw. Jim could have chosen any route he pleased because Tim and I were both vulnerable to attacks from England. I must congratulate Mr. Gray on his skillful play, which enabled him to be in such an enviable position so late in the game.

As for my own play in this game, I would not rate it good, but I had some terrific breaks. I came into the game as a standby early on, taking over an Italy poised for a senseless head to head battle with France. I saw immediately, that a war with France would get me nowhere, so my first set of orders moved me into position against Austria who was struggling against Allen Wells' Russia and Tim Haffey's Turkey.

Bill Hugh, the Austrian player, was not too pleased with my move against him, but I managed to convince him that my moves were simply an attempt to get France to back off, so I could slip in on him unopposed. This was not totally ~~X~~ untrue, however, I proceeded to stab Austria that fall by taking Trieste.

Russia and I then stabbed the Turk, while I sent a few fresh troops to slip into France unopposed. A few key NMR's by Mr. Mainardi really hurt him bad, as I was able to get Marseilles, Spain, Portugal, and Paris all within two fall seasons, and all unopposed.

By this time I was rolling. I had stabbed Austria, France, and Turkey and I was picking up supply centers like crazy. I was invincible! Meanwhile, Allen Wells was losing interest in the game and was no longer a reliable ally. Always looking for a better deal, I re-allied with Turkey and stabbed Russia. This netted me Budapest and Vienna as I continued to grow unchecked. I also noticed that my new German ally wasn't much help to me so what the hell, I stabbed him too.

Then, a new Russian player came on the scene, so I allied with him and stabbed Turkey again. Germany was gone now, so I stabbed England again. This was a real dumb move, for the next season, I was stabbed by my Russian ally and I was all alone in the world.

Fortunately for me, Jim Gray is a very reasonable man, and since we both agreed that a war between us could gain nothing, I backed off and sent everything I had toward Turkey. At this time, I had given up my hope for a solo win, and I had my doubts about getting any part of a win.

I had already stabbed Austria and Turkey twice and Russia, France, Germany, and England once apiece. Turkey wanted me bad and I wondered if he would convince England to even his score with me. I was so wide open to any kind of English attack that I wouldn't blame anyone for taking advantage.

Fortunately for me, Jim Gray was in the midst of a very taxing and demanding school year, so he was perhaps too busy to worry about ending one alliance and beginning a new one. Whatever the reason, thank you, Jim!

I'd also like to say a few words about my adversary, Tim Haffey. Although we didn't exactly start a warm friendship here, Mr. Haffey certainly earned my respect. Neither of us trusted one another, but twice it was I who weakened and stabbed. I

((Con'd next pg.))

1981AF (Con'd)

will always consider Tim and Jim Gray to be two of the best players I've x'ever been in a game with.

To close this, I'd just like to thank Ron for another enjoyable game. I'm ready to go back to the standby list now. I always have and still find MM one of the most enjoyable places to play in a game. Thanks again.

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GAME OPENINGS

Regular DIPLOMACY - MM-19 is now in the process of filling. Two signed up so far. Gamefee is \$6.00 plus a refundable NMR Deposit of \$3.00. You must maintain a subscription to MM. The game will feature gray press. Preferences are welcome but final assignment is discretion of GM. That about covers it! Houserules are available on my receiving a SASE from you or by your request (but it's gonna be faster the first way.

MACHIAVELLI - Signups are still frozen on this one so far. Broshot is still interested. Falter is paid. Ron Brown are you still interested? Anyone else? Gamefee of \$6.00 plus NMR Deposit of \$3.00.

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MM STANDBY LIST

The following people have volunteered to take over standby positions (that is, take over a position of a dropping/resigning) for reg. DIP: Larry McCloud, Dan Gorham, Jim Gray, Jim Bumpas, Jack Masters, John MacFarlane, John Beck, Al Rodriguez, Bill Hugh, Ron Kelly, Steve Arnawoodian, Mike Coburn, Jerry Lucas, Jim Williams, Stan Johnson, and Scott Hanson. There is no cost to be a standby player. Requests are made randomly and haphazardly; but hopefully there will continue to be not very many standby requests! Thanks to all the above whose help I appreciate.

I am still actively soliciting standby players for the MACHIAVELLI game that will be filling this spring. Anyone interested?

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READERS' RHETORICAL REPLIES

((from Bill Placek))

As a fairly new subscriber to MM, I am not burdened with any long-time loyalty or personal friendship to color my opinion. I can say only this: your zine is enjoyable, interesting, and I look forward to it -- even though I'm not active in any of your games. (Don't have the time right now). It's mostly about DIPLOMACY (Good), has a lively interaction with its readers (also good), and, it seems, tries to avoid "personality" issues (better still).

Anyway, I hope you'll continue to have the time to devote to MM to keep it coming. Nice job, and thanks for your effort.

Regards,
Bill Placek

((Thanks for the nice words. - RB))

RRR (Con'd)

((from Gary Coughlan))

Dear Ron and Char,

Hi! I'm just organizing a backlog of unanswered letters for the next EE and writing a few on the side. I'm already at the B's! Should be finished next Tuesday at that rate if I work straight through, ha ha.

I wanted to tell you how much I enjoy MM again. Ron, ignore these perverted polls. MM is one of the best all-round zines there are. It was my first zine in the hobby and I still can't think of a better introduction for any novice. (Of course, you didn't have to put Kuszynski in my first game, ha ha!)

Besides this, you are one of the fairest and nicest people in this hobby today, and with all of this you manage to marry one of the female sex's greatest members -- Char. You're a very lucky man, Ron.

And we MM subbers are luck folks too. I fully support Jeff Albrecht's statements on MM and you. The South stands with the Southland! Go Rebels!

Gary

((Thanks for the compliments, Gary. It's always good to hear something nice about the effort you put into something . . . and MM is no exception. Thanks. Yeah, Char is pretty nice. Onward Rebels, march to fame . . . - RB))

((from Bob Olsen))

Dear Ron,

I really thought that the Olsen-Coughlan feud was dead and buried (along with the hopes of all slaveholding traitors to establish a slave empire on our golden shores), and certainly had expected, from the pathetic weakness of Gary's last several responses, that this was the case; but from MM #53 I deduce that the gorge -- excuse me, I meant the South -- has risen again.

You really would think that Gary would have a little more human gratitude than to endlessly ramble on about how late I was getting to pick him up. A little more thought on Gary's part (admittedly we are dealing with an impossibility here) would reveal that there was a very good reason why we were slightly, and I repeat slightly, late in picking him up. Fact was, the airport had been evacuated when it was learned that a flight from Memphis was coming in, and Woody and I were being briefed by the FBI, who very kindly consented to give us each a quick refresher course in Southern speech and folkways before meeting Gary. I learned a lot too -- did you know that Ku Klux Klan sheets are not white on the inside? It's true! Every KKK sheet has the entire text of the Bible printed on the inside, just in case the Klansman gets stuck in the mud and has to have something to read while waiting for somebody to come pull him out! I know it's unusual to even imply that a Southerner can read, but we are dealing, in the KKK, with the very elite of Southern society. Which tells you something about the rest of them, right Ron?

I don't guess it's worth it to respond to every one of Gary's wild accusations. For instance this stuff about the Elvis Presley snuff box he gave me. While I am very grateful, think about it, Ron; Elvis Presley snuff box? That's pretty tacky. We're dealing with a pretty sick person here (this is not news).

I am still willing, however, to make yet another conciliatory gessure. I'm finally going to xname my pet finch, you guessed it, "Elsie". I really don't know what else I can do for Gary at this point. So we'll have a little party me and Olga and Elsie (heh heh heh) and play name-the-finch. & Big fun in Memphis, I'm sure, but just another ordinary day in civilization. I can tell that Gary is still disappointed that the people of Kansas did not choose to be slaves, so I'll also make him this offer -- if he will furnish me with a tiny little finch-size set of fetters, Elsie can wear them

((Con'd next pg.))

RRR (Con'd)

and be his personal slave, and he can live off the sweat of her feathery little brow in the manner to which he would like to become accustomed. What more can I do.

Believe me, peace between us can be achieved. In fact, I am considering offering Gary a job, not as my personal slave (it's against my principles -- I believe in freedom) but as a straight man if I ever take up stand-up comedy. This thing of his about what would be the name of an NFL team in Memphis is absolutely goldern. The Memphis Mud? The Memphis Old Slaveowners? The Memphis Peculiar Institutions? The mind boggles.

Oh by the way Ron, please do not mock Gary like you did in the last issue. You sarcastically referred to me as "Bad Bob" and Gary, having forgotten that he said that the page before, is assuming that you mean it, thus tarring you with the same brush as himself. Please restrain yourself from withering sarcasm in the future, as Gary does not comprehend the higher forms of irony.

Best wishes,
Bob Olsen

((Thanks for writing, Bob. You are probably right about being sarcastic. I would never be ~~da~~ sarcastic on purpose so it must have been an accident. Also, I'm happy that your pet finch is going to finally receive a name and put to rest those awful rumors that you refused to name it because it was soon to be a snack for Olga anyway. The fact that you have named the finch "Elsie" will undoubtedly make Gary feel very happy. Gary, how do you feel about this momentous event, and how do you like the name, "The Memphis Mud"? - RB))

((from Dick Martin))

Dear Ron,

Whoa, Nelly! From reading your latest letter in VOD, I think we're starting to misunderstand one another. Time to eliminate the meddling middleman and straighten out any difficulties on ~~Y~~ our own. I've never solved any problems through VOD and that zeen has caused me no end of grief. Right now, you couldn't pay me to extned my sub.

I agree with you on the concession to one SC powers question. Why not? I think one SC concessions are great! That is, if everybody votes for it. Or else you get misunderstandings like Milky Way. And I don't like to end games too early; I'd rather play. That's just personal preference, though.

I'm not terribly upset at "ridiculous gamefees" on the surface. Quite the contrary, I think you should be able to charge whatever the ~~XXX~~ market will bear! Or whatever you feel comfortable with. I've never felt comfortable charging anything -- even from the start -- and I don't think my games are "worthless". Quite the contrary - I think R1, R3, and R5 were all "great" games in every sense of the word - competitive, entertaining, good to excellent play, super press wars, and very enjoyable (with the exception of the last $\frac{1}{3}$ of R3), and I think I GMed them well, too. Sure, I made mistakes, but who doesn't? But I just couldn't think of a price to attach to them, so decided not to.

So feel free to charge \$6 if Mark Berch and Brux think your games are worth it to them. But I don't see them knocking your door down to sign up! I won't, because that's just more than I'm willing to pay. Sure, it may be "worth" it, you're an excellent GM and very reliable (with a mortgage to pay off on a mimeo machine!) but I've got a mental block against paying those \$\$, Then again, I'll pay \$15 for a GRAUSTARK game (but that includes sub for the duration). MM has always been more of a "gamers" zine, too, and a healthy gamefee is the best way to distribute the costs fairly.

I used my whole "ridiculous gamefee" argument to try and show that, despite what he'd have you believe, Brux is not the good fairy for lowering resub rates a paltry 5¢. That was a cheap, transparent publicity stunt on his part. Yet another attempt

((Con'd next pg.))

RRR (Con'd)

to gain publicity and stir controversy, and it worked. I'm amazed that we all fall for his tricks, time and again, no matter whether he tells us it's a trick to out faces (and he does) or not. Why, at the last ByrneCon, he told a roomful of people, seriously that, "controversy is more important than friendships." We argued with him for hours about that, but he just can't see it any other way. He lost a few old "friends" (he doesn't know the meaning of the word!) with that attitude (me for one), and has made a few more feel weird about him. I hadn't realized that his view of a friend is someone who'll provide him with a controversy. If I didn't still have so many friends, he'd still be ripping me instead of letting Barno do his dirty work for him. That letter was really uncalled for. I wonder if Dipdom-at-large will react about the rumors Barno has started about Julie the same way they did to the Stafford/Coughlan thing. What do you think?

As for R7, well, I've gotten over that. I didn't abuse Langley or any of the other players. I ~~x~~ jumped on Langley as a publisher. How would you react if the same thing happened to you? I never abandoned R7 - as you know because I kept sending you reports - and I really got worked up when accused of doing so. Naturally you got my reports after Frost's - it took time for me to get the results, copy them, and mail them out!). How, logically, could you think I'd abandoned the game? I don't think Langley was swift at all in the way he adopted R7 into MAGUS. He just sailed blithely along, without a care in the world.

In retrospect, I was never more than mildly irritated with you, and amzed that the rest of everybody could assume so much. Considering all my experiences with Langley, I really wonder whether he has a conscience - I have yet to see him show any emotions. But I should never have let Bruce goad me into my outburst. That was dumb and won't happen again. Well, I hope this is all over with!

Remember to enter my contest! (Details soon).

Take care,
Dick

PS- As for NVR = 'Yes', I've had several GMs tell me they wanted to end games which had become "boring" so they could collect the fees and start new games! I could understand that, as I've been tempted to do the same with "boring" games. But I really don't have the tmeptation any more! Not that you do, but there are some GMs like that out there.

((Thanks for writing, Dick and sharing your views. You and I disagree about several things in this hobby - but that's natural I suppose. I'm really happy to see your RETALIATIONs coming out much more often; and the ditto format is nice. I always have thought, for instance, that Konrad's dittoed productions were his best. Bye! - RE))

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