

MM MM

Issue #73

August 24, 1984

STUFF

MURD'RING MINISTERS is a gamezine dedicated to the postal play of DIPLOMACY and other multi-player wargames. MM is published by Ron Brown, 1528 El Sereno Pl., Bakersfield, CA 93304 - (805) 834-8409. Subscriptions are \$5.50/12 issues - 50¢ each if purchased in smaller increments. There are no game openings at present. Standbys are always needed and welcomed!

Now, for the . . .

ASTROLOGICAL GUIDE TO DIPLOMACY

(This series is taken from the Jan 1st, 1981 issue of BLACK FROG, published by Blackjack Masters - only the names of some of the zines have been changed under "Best Zine to Play")

LEO

(The Lion, 24 July to 23 August)

The most famous person born under the sign of Leo was Marvin A. Brown, and there have been very few others, born under the sign that even approach his fame. The Leo-born are often thought to be sentimental. This is not true. Actually they are cry babies. You can identify a Leo by finding a person who is sucking his thumb and telling everybody how poor off he is. If you sympathize with him he cries because he thinks you agree; if you don't, he cries louder because you are such an insensitive person.

Leos make good GM's and often pub their own zines. They are strong and decisive DIPLOMACY players and play a very good game. They know all the standard opening combinations by name and usually have their games planned ahead for at least four seasons. They are not innovative, and this is their biggest fault in a DIPLOMACY game. One of the most feircely fought postal matches (still in progress) of all time involves two Leos, a Gemini (playing in best form) and a Saggitarian.

Best Countries for Leos to Play: England, Turkey
 Easiest Signs for Leos to beat: Cancer, Libra
 Best Zine for Leos to Play In: MURD'RING MINISTERS

VIRGO

(The Virgin, 24 August to 23 September)

The Virgo is extremely talented, quick to absorb facts and free food. Due to the Virginal aspects of this sign, chastity, purity, and cleanliness are permanetn, damaging hang-ups. Virgos are usually down on their luck and have financial problems. So many people are out to get them that it is a good idea to speak softly and carry a bail-bondsman's phone number.

DIPLOMACY is not a game for Virgins. The best thing to be said in favor of Virgos as DIPLOMACY players is that they never forget a deadline and that their orders are always very neatly written and accurate. Apart from that, ~~they're~~ they're hopeless. Quiet, gentle, careful, they don't have the spirit or daring necessary to make a successful player. What's more they are completely incapable of telling a convincing lie. Virgos loathe all wargames in general; for the most part they would be better off if they stuck to Badminton. There are exceptions of course, but not too many. A postal DIPLOMACY game was once won by a Virgo -- but only once, and this was a fluke of a sort where two of the other players were also Virgos.

Best Country for Virgos to Play: None.
 Easiest Sign for Virgos to Beat: Capricorn
 Best Zine for Virgos to Play In: EUROPA EXPRESS

THE GAMES!

1983CR FALL 1904 GM DELAYS GAME - CATCHES ERROR IN LAST REPORT AT LAST SECOND!

Sorry to have to slow your game with a delay. In MM#71 I corrected a missing unit: French F Tys. Then last time, in #72, I omitted it again! And therefore there needs to be a correction to the last game report. I'm surprised no one pointed it out so I could get an immediate game correction out. I had already adjudicated and typed the F'04 results when I noticed the error. Please correct your game reports to show: Italian F Ion-Tys/d/-r-Tun,Nap,Apu,Adr,Alb,Gre,OTB.
French F TYS-H.

All other moves remain as published in MM#72.

Preliminary orders on file for E,F,G,R, & T. New deadline for any changes etc. will be October 5, 1984.

1984CH FALL 1901 VERY INTERESTING YEAR IN BALKANS AS 4 NATIONS STAKE CLAIMS! BEAR SAD!

Austria (Johnson): A RUM-H; A GAL-s-A Rum; F TRI-H.
England (Van Meter)*: NMR; F NTH,F LON,A YOR - all H.
France (Torkelson): A Bur-BEL; F Bre-MAO; A Spa-POR.
Germany (Coburn): F Den-BAL; A Kie-DEN; A Ruh-HOL.
Italy (Gorham): A Ven-TYA; A PIE-s-A Ven-Tya; F Ion-GRE.
Russia (Schilling): F Bot-SWE; A Mos-WAR; A UKR-Rum; F SEV-s-A Ukr-Rum.
Turkey (Sherin): A Bul-SER; A Con-BUL; F Ank-CON.

Winter 1901 due October 5, 1984. If everybody sends in S'02 orders, we'll combine seasons, otherwise only W'01 for next time.

*Would Ron Kelly, 240 Manor Circle #8, Takoma Park, MD 20912 please standby for England?

1984CH 1901 Supply Center Chart

Austria- Home,RUM.....	(4)+1
England- Home.....	(3) 0
France- Home,BEL,POR.....	(5)+2
Germany- Home,DEN,HOL.....	(5)+2
Ital. Home,GRE.....	(4)+1
Russia- Home,SWE.....	(5)+1
Turkey- Home,BUL,SER.....	(5)+2

1984CH Press-

PARIS: Bimbeau pondered the responsibilities of leadership with a heavy heart. Eventually he turned to his aide and spoke, "It's terribly difficult to keep the peace, Buvard. Especially in times like these."

VIENNA: Austria wants peace but will defend its borders and national interests.

ST. PETERSBURG-CONSTANTINOPE & BERLIN: I know that I was a little slow in getting those first letters out, but you two are even further behind than I was.

ANKARA-WORLD: Now that I'm settled in let's open up these lines of communications.

LYONS: A well-dressed couple ate quietly at a corner table in an ordinary restaurant. No one noticed the envelope the waiter slipped to the woman as she left. As she slipped it into her handbag, she trembled slightly. "More information from Hedda Cabbage," she thought. "I certainly hope it helps Bimbeau."

ST. PETERSBURG-VIENNA: I'm willing to trust you, at least to a point. Of course, that could change very quickly.

BAKERSFIELD-ST. PETE: You mean, as of now?

"By the pricking of my thumbs,
Something wicked this way comes.

Open, locks,
Whoever knocks!"

1982IT FALL 1907 RUSSIANS FORCE A FLEET INTO THE NTH SEA! TURKS RECLAIM ADRIATIC!

France (Wilson): F Nth-Den/d/-r-Yor, Eng, Hel, OTB; F NWG-Nwy; F EDI-Nth; A Ruh-HOL; F BEL-s-A Ruh-Hol; A BUR-Ruh; A PIE-s-Italian A Ven.

Germany (Kady) F Nth-Den/d/-r-Yor, Eng, Hel, OTB; F NWG-Nwy; F EDI-Nth; A Ruh-HOL; F BEL-s-A Ruh-Hol; A BUR-Ruh; A PIE-s-Italian A Ven.

Italy (Cannon) F Nth-Den/d/-r-Yor, Eng, Hel, OTB; F NWG-Nwy; F EDI-Nth; A Ruh-HOL; F BEL-s-A Ruh-Hol; A BUR-Ruh; A PIE-s-Italian A Ven.

Russia (Hugh): F RUM-H; A TRI-H; A VIE & A TYA-s-A Tri; A MUN-Ruh; A SIL-Mun; A BOH-s-A Sil-Mun; A KIE-Hol; A BER-Kie; F NWY-s-F Ska-Nth; F DEN-s-F Ska-Nth; F Ska-NTH; F Bot-SWE; F BAR-Nwg.

Turkey (Albrecht): F Alb-ADR; F ION-s-F Alb-Adr; F Gre-ALB; F Aeg-GRE; F Eas-AEG; A SER-H.

Winter 1907 AND Spring 1908 are due Oct. 5, 1984. There is a proposal for a 4-way R-I-F-T alliance. Please vote with your next orders remembering that 'NVR'-'Yes' vote!

1982IT 1907 Supply Center Chart

France- Home, Spa, Por, Bel, EdI, HOL	(8)	+1
Germany- EdI	(0)	OUT
Italy- Home, Tun, Ipl, Lon	(6)	0
Russia- Home, Rum, Swe, Nwy, Bud, Den, Kie, Vie, Tri, Mun, Ber	(14)	0
Turkey- Home, Bul, Gre, Ser	(6)	0

1982IT Press-

ITALY-FRANCE: Yup. I'm still here. Are you?

EUGENE-BAKERSFIELD: You must love this game - no press - quick type-up.

BAKERSFIELD-EUGENE: Yes, "Quickies" have their place.

ITALY-RUSSIA: Is your present status in this game the result of playing balls out, or need I ask?

Italy-TURKEY: Fleet overflow. Are you enjoying this? Should have built armies and gone north (nothing against you Czarie old boy, just kindly drop dead).

((GM Note - Omitted last winter were the retreats: Russ. A Nwy-r-STP; & French A Dur-r-1983HX SPRING 1903 ANGLO-GERMAN INVASION FORCE MARCHES INTO PARIS STREETS!!! PAR))

Austria (Hager): F GRE-s-Italian F Ion-Aeg/NSO/; A SER-s-A Bud; A VIE-s-A Bud; A Bud-s-A Vie/s/

England (Hugh): F NWY-PAR; F Nth-Nwy; A Pic-PAR; F ENG-Bre; F BRE-s-A Par; A Par-s-A Bre/d/-r-Gas, OTB; F Mar-LIO; A Poi-SPA; F MAC-NAT.

Germany (Corham): F SWE-s-English F Nth-Nwy; A BUR-s-English A Pic-Par; A Bel-PIC; A Hol-BEL; F Kie-BAL; A Den-H/NSU/; A MUN-H; F DEN-H(unordered).

Italy (Cannon): A Pie-MAR; F Tun-WES; F TYS-s-F Tun-Wes; F ION-H; A TRI-s-Austrian A Ser.

Russia (Baldwin): A Rum-BUD; A GAL-s-A Rum-Bud; A BOH-Vie; F BOT-Fin; A STP-Fin.

Turkey (Torkelson): F Eas-AEG; A BUL-Ser; A CON-Bul; A ANK-Con.

Fall 1904 is due Oct. 5, 1984. *Would Melinda Holly, PO Box 2793, Huntington, WV 25727 please take over the Austrian position? Ken Hager must resign. The new Empress of Austria is Her Majesty Melinda!

1983HX Press- BERLIN-"SUB"LINE: The strudel does smell good! And we hope to teach you how to cook it too!

ATLANTA-BAKERSFIELD: Failure to distinguish between Turkeys is a sign of advancing age.

BAKERSFIELD-ATLANTA: You don't know how right you are!

ANKARA-KIEL: The "sublime" you are thinking of is a cross between a lemon and an Englishman. As Allah is indifferent to all crosses, you can be sure you are off the Mark.

TURKEY-AUSTRIA: Knock knock. Who's there?

BAKERSFIELD-TURKEY: Now it's Melinda!

THE PORTE-TSAR JOHN: That Lenin fellow has German gold. Confiscate it and buy some big guns.

THE PORTE-POPE MIKE: If you've kept your word this time, Allah will be merciful.

1983CS WINTER 1904 SEASONS SEPARATE AT PLAYERS REQUEST!!

Austria- Disbands F Alb	Italy- No Adj
England- F Nwy-r-NWG; Builds F ION	Russia- Builds F STP(nc)
France- Builds A PAR, F BRE, F MAR	Turkey- Builds F SMY
Germany- Disbands F Bal	

Spring 1905 due Oct. 5, 1984. Preliminary orders on file for A,E,F,G,R,&T. All press submitted for the combined season will be held until the publication of the S'05 results in the next issue.

1983F WINTER 1906 TURKS ENLIST NEW REGIMENTS OF VOLUNTEERS FOR HOLY WAR! DRAW FAILS!

France- F Rom-r-TYS; Builds F BRE	Russia- A Mos-r-OTB; A Nwy-r-OTB
Germany- Builds A BER & A MUN	Turkey - Builds A CON, A ANK, A SMY
Italy- NRR! GM Disbands F NAF	

1983F SPRING 1907 TURK MARINES LAND ON OTRANTO BEACHES! FRENCH MARINES CONTINUE INTO NWY!

France (Coburn):	F TUN-H; F WES-s-F Tun; F TYS-Rom; A TUS-s-F Tys-Rom; A Bur-MAR; F Bre-MAO; A Bel-Nwy; F NTH-c-A Bel-Nwy; F NWG-s-A Bel-Nwy; A Nwy-FIN; F Bar-STP(nc).
Germany (Gardner):	F DEN-H; F Swe-BOT; A War-Mos/d/-r-Lvn,OTB; A Ber-SIL; A FRU-s-A Ber-Sil; A Mun-DOH; A Kie-MUN.
Italy (Cannon)*	NMR! A ROM-H.
Russia (Scheifler):	F SKA-Den.
Turkey (Schwartz):	A Ukr-WAR; A MOS-s-A Ukr-War; A GAL-SIL; A Vie-TYA; A Ser-TRI; A Bul-RUM; A Con-DUL; A Ank-ARM; A Smy-APU; F AEG & F ION-c-A Smy-Apu; F VEN-s-A Smy-Apu; F ADR-s-F Ion; F NAP-s-Italian F Rom.

Fall 1907 is due Oct. 5, 1984. There are two draw proposals: 1) F-T Draw, and 2) F-G-T Draw. Please vote with your F'07 orders, remembering that "NVR"="Yes" vote!

1983F Press-

ANKARA-ROME:	You will indeed be the eternal city if you stay put.
GERMANY-RUSSIA:	Hate to see you leave, but since you're going why not take half of Turkey's dots with you?
ANKARA-PARIS:	I took my best shot so let's wrap it up.
PARIS-ANKARA:	It was worth a try but the end will be the same.
GERMANY-TURKEY:	Warsaw is not for free . . . it's for me.
ANKARA-BERLIN:	Well, you secured your position and your survival so let France and I share the glory.
GERMANY-FRANCE:	Bon't listen to him. (Sound like a song?)

MACHIAVELLI NO. 52

SPRING 1455 Retreats: Papacy A1-Modena-r-Mantua

SUMMER 1455

DUCAT EXPENDITURES:

Papacy - Bribes (#4) E (4.2) Buy AUTONOMOUS GARRISON. Replace the autonomous garrison in Sienna with Papacy G1.

SUMMER 1455

Milan (Albrecht):	A1 Genoa-s-Montferrat; A4 Montferrat-B; <u>A3 Trent-A-Carinthia</u> ; A6 Milan-A-Tyrolea; A2 Como-s-Tyrolea; A Piac.-A-Milan.
Venice (Coburn):	<u>F2 Upper Adriatic-A-Croatia(nc)</u> ; A1-Ferrara-s-Mantua; A3 Verona-A-Mantua; <u>A4 Dalmatia-A-Croatia</u> ; A2 Friuli-H.
Florence (Cannon):	NMR! A1 Spoleto-H; A2 Bologna-H; A3 Sienna-H; F1 Modena-H.
Papacy (Kettman):	<u>A1 Mantua-A-Modena/d/-r-Pont.Parma,OTB</u> ; A3 Patrimony-A-Rome; <u>F1 Aquila-A-Upper Adriatic/imp/</u> .
Naples (Lucas):	A1 Naples-A-Capua; F1 Eas Tyrr Sea-A-Tivoli; <u>F2 Corsica-A-Wes GLYO</u> ; F3 Messian-H.
Turks (Palter):	A1 Ragusa-A-Herzegovina; F1 Ion-A-Lower Adriatic; F2 Palermo-A-Bay of Tunis.
Austria (Broshot)*	NMR! A1 Bosnia-H; A2 Carinthia-H; <u>A3 Tyrolea-H/d/-r-Austria,I</u> Turni,OTB.
France (Scheifler)**	A1 Savoy-H; A2 Swiss-H; F1 WesGLYO-H; F2 Provence-H.

Fall 1455 due Oct. 1, 1984.

*I have no current standby to call for this position (see below). If Jim NMRs again (unlikely) I'll put Austria in CD until I'm sure he doesn't wish to play.

MACH. NO 52 (Con'd)

* I have no current standby to call for this position (see below). If Jim NMRs again (unlikely prospect), Austria will go into CD.

**Would Ron Galicia, 6672 Plaza Ridge Rd., San Diego, CA 92114 please assume the throne of France? Don regretably must resign the position. This uses up my only standby for the game. Anybody else out there want to standby for this one?

Autonomous Garrisons Remain In: Savoy, Montferrat, Lucca, Piombino, Ragusa.
Treasury Report
Milan - 13d
Venice - 12d
Florence - 1d
Papacy - 10d
Naples - 5d
Turks - 1d
Austria - 2d
France - 5d

1983AY SUMMER RETREATS 1904 - ENG - FNWY-NWG

1983AY Fall '04 Austria Vanishes under joint Russo-Turkish and Franco-Italian Assaults!

Sun to set on British soon.

- Austria (Stafford) : F ADR-APU, A Ven-s-French, A Tus-Rom-NSO/- A-
- England (Olson) : F NWG-Nwy, A NAF-h, F Wal-TRI, F Hol-Hol-7d/-r-Nth, OTB
- France (Lucas) : F NES-GLyo, FL Lon-WAL, F Mao-SPA(sc), A PIE-s- It. A Apu-
VEN, A TUS, - IT. A Apu-VEN
- Germany (Albrecht) : A EDI-h, A Mun-KIE, A Kie-HOL, F HeIB-s-A Kie-HOL, F Nth-BEL
- Italy (Arnawoodian) : A APU-VEN, F NAP-s-F Rom, F ROM-s-F Nap, F TUN-h
- Russia (Brown, Can.) : F Nwy-Nwg, F SKA-Nwy, A STP-s-F SKA-Nwy, A Vie-TYR
A Gal-VIE, A BUD-s- Turk. A Ser-TRI, F RUN-h
- Turkey (Brown, USA) : F TYR-GLyo, F ION-s-Aust. A Ven-Apu-NSO, F GRE-s-F Ion,
F AEG-h, A Ser-TRI, A ALB-s-A Ser-TRI

22 1983AY Supply Center Count

Austria	Ven, TRI	(0)	OUT
England	Liv, SPA, Nwy, NDE	(1)	-3
France	Home, Lon, Por, SPA	(6)	+1
Germany	Home, Edi, Den, Bel, HOL	(7)	+2 short 1
Italy	Home, Tun	(4)	0
Russia	Home, Rum, Swe, Bud, VIE, NWY	(9)	+2
Turkey	Home, Bul, Gre, Ser, TRI	(7)	+1

Winter 05 and Spring 05 orders due Sept.

A quick comment before the press. Part of the reason this game has been declared irregular is that Ron help decide a Stand-by pick when Woody NMR., This WAS NOT correct. I first picked Jack Master as the stand-by and asked Ron if that was OK. I later changed that pick to Jim Bumpas because Jack lives so close to here and I didn't want it looking like Ron picked the player. Now the press! (next page)

1983AY Press:

Russia-England-- I'm sure glad I was forwarned about your devastating attack on St. Petersburg. Just don't try getting that army into Sevastopol or I might get mad!

Russia-Board : If you ask me, you're all irregular.

Never Never Land: Tinker Belle was beside herself with grief over the reports of Peter's mishap. How could he let himself get mishandled like that. It was just like him, just what Tinker would have expected of him. Now there was virtually no hope that Peter would return to resume his role in national affairs. Affairs indeed, that old reprobate.

Tinker left these thoughts and resumed his meal. It was tasteless. He put it aside and turned to his magic crystal ball. It was filled with a green cloud. "I wonder what the Pope wants?"

Serbia--Somewhere at a hilltop shrine to the elder gods--Al-Gonoreah peered through the darkness and watched as the elite "Black Guard Terrorist Regiment" members completed planting their demolition charges. Soon all was quiet, and the ready signal given. Al-Gonoreah stepped up and two strides had him standing erect on the platform hastily erected nearby. A hush fell over the soldiers.

He whipped his shining, flashing scimitar from its jeweled scabbard and waved it over his head. "our mission shall not end until we have accomplished the will of Allah! Allah has directed me to trample and destroy all false gods. Now, let another pagan temple be wiped off the face of the Earth!" He dropped his blade, and was greeted by a huge roar and a flash of light as the ancient ruins disintergrated in the blast of TNT. "Soon we will be knocking on the doors of Rome to do the same..." he wispered softly to himself

Remember orders are due Oct.5, 1984.

MORE STUFF (Con'd from pg. 1)

EMHAIN NACHA #49 arrived with the word that Michael Mills will fold after next issue, #50. EM will then become a subzine within the confines of EUROPA EXPRESS. Mike announced that his present DIP games as GM will be his last, sticking to GMing games of KONIGREICH and SPQR, two multi-player wargames designed by Mike himself. I've always enjoyed EM immensely and am glad that Mike will be gble to keep it going in a great setting!

Keith "Tro" Sherwood, 8866 Cliffridge Ave., La Jolla, CA 92037 has started a new zine that is ultimately cool entitled ULTIMATELY COOL. This one looks like it could become one of the funniest and perhaps best publications in the DIPLOMACY world. Subs cost 65¢ per issue. Game openings exist in regular DIPLOMACY - \$3.00 gamefee and NMR deposit of \$5.00. When I first saw this one, I thought "fake" at once. But then it's hard to fake a zine that doesn't exist. And then when I thought about it, it's only natural that one of the hobby's best fakers should have his zine turn out so. Why not send for a sample copy of the first issue today?

An interesting announcement came out recently that Jim Meinel, PO Box 832, Anchorage, AK 99510 will run games that are now filling by flyer rather than in his zine, THE PRINCE. He charges \$12 flat game fee (no sub required) and will refund \$6 if you are eliminated before the beginning of 1904. Game openings close 9/24/84 . . .

((Con'd))

STILL MORE STUFF

The final issue of SNAP! has appeared, issue #45. It is only fitting that such an outstanding zine should go out in such a burst of glory. It is a very well done issue. And reminds us all once again how much we'll miss Ron Brown's zine. Good show . . .

A new old zine has reappeared on the scene! It's COMMAND, published by Dennis Agosta, 57 Meadow Rd., Edison, NJ 08817. COMMAND was one of my first zines in the hobby. My second game of postal DIP was in G. I'm very happy to see it started back up and urge you all to give Dennis your support. He plans to open regular DIP game openings, and if this "Volume 2" of COMMAND is anything like the first, it will probably be more than 10 or so games. The sub rate is only \$4.00/12 issues, Game fees are \$5.00 with no NMR deposit required. Dennis is even offering a special offer: if you were a G subscriber in "the old days" you can write to Dennis - your first 12 issues and game are FREE. It's an offer I can't refuse! Best wishes with the next volume of COMMAND!

This month's issue wraps up the Zodiac Descriptions. Hope you enjoyed seeing those again from the pages of BLACK FROG.

I've got a bunch of interesting, juicy letters for the next issue; could use some interesting, juicy articles to go with it. Anyone waiting for a chance to get something published?

Many of you have read in the past few months of a "roving subzine" by John Caruso entitled "FOOT IN MOUTH" that has been blasted for saying bad things about people. In John's defense, I don't think what he wrote was all that bad, but it did get to some people, and not in a positive way. I'm glad to hear that John plans to curtail these "attacks" and not have any more appear in FIM. I've known John for a long time in this hobby and know that his sense of humor is not quite like everybody else's. I'm not convinced that John wasn't merely trying to be "funny" and maybe get a few folks stirred up.

A reminder: Please, please include all the following info with your orders:

- 1) the Boardman Number of the game
- 2) the season scheduled to be adjudicated
- 3) today's date (the date you're sending the orders)
- 4) write the orders themselves legibly
- 5) your signature

It still surprises me how many "grizzled veterans" out there still don't send in proper orders. And please - only use one sheet of paper per game. If you are in 2 games, your orders should be on 2 separate sheets of paper. I usually figure things out anyway; but if an error appears and you left out one of the above, the fault will be considered to lay with the player, not the GM!

Football season is here again and underway. My high school team (Gary's favorite H.S. team in the country by the way because we're the South High Rebels) is looking pretty good for this early in the year. Our passing game looks sharp for so early and we appear to have 2 or 3 outstanding kids - which helps! In the college ranks, look for Arizona State, USC, and UCLA to be the powers out west, while U of Miami (FL), Notre Dame, and BYU also look good. Miami Dolphins looked pretty great by trouncing the powerful Redskins and the Raiders seem as if they will be as good or better than last year. The Rams will do OK, but out here, the 49'ers should be the best in the west in the NFC. Hey Midwesterners, who's the best team in the NFC Central? The Lions, Bears, or the Pack?

"Affliction may one day smile again;
and till then, sit thee down, sorrow!"

WRAP-UP

This brings us to the close of another issue. I decided to go back to what I'm supposed to be doing; i.e., putting out issues with games results only and separate and distinct all-reading issues. Because I don't have all the stuff typed yet for the next all-reading issue, I'll go ahead and get these game results to everybody in relatively short order. You know, I characterized MM to a long-time subscriber on the phone the other night as a zine that you knew for sure would be appearing but you never knew if it would be on time or not. He agreed. I'm sorry that I can't be as punctual as I am with this issue or as I used to, but real-life upheavals take their toll over the years on all but a select few. I want all who subscribe and/or play here to realize and understand the situation. I am thankful that I have been blessed by readers who are very understanding and tremendously supporting. Without you guys the zine would not exist. And your input can really help out. In the next all-reading issue, you'll see a lot of letters that illustrate my point. Look forward to some very well-written bits of correspondence in the ol' RRR. Anyone who has an article in mind and would like to write and submit it for the next issue has about 3 weeks to get it in. That is, IF I get the all-reading issue out before the next games issue deadline of Oct. 5 (I'd rate it about 50-50 right now. Time is precious these days. I'm starting a new teaching job at a new school and have football besides. So we'll see how it goes. Hope you all had a very pleasant summer! The Angles are not out of it yet (5 games out of 1st place) but they'd better play their best ball of the season here on out to overtake the Twins and stay ahead of the Royals and ChiSox. The Dodgers are out of it already, as the Padres are not going to be caught by anyone in the West. Ditto Detroit in the AL East. NL East - The Cubbies are the best team in the division, but the Phillies have been known to have great Septembers and the Mets, coming back from a brief slump, appear to be a bona fide contender. Well, see you kiddies next time. Remember, the only safe place for that big sharp knife you're carrying around is a nice warm back! Bye! - RB

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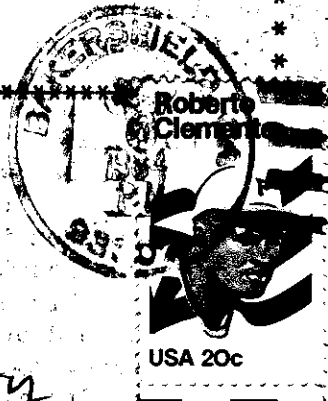
* Notes To You: *

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