

# LIFE OF MONTY

#27

FEBRUARY 6, 1983

or, as Bruce Schaefer  
would say, 1982 II

50¢

And to start off the new year, a new ribbon. This is the model 1983 LIFE OF MONTY, brought to you by Don Del Grande, live from 413 Deutsch Hall, 2650 Durant Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94720. Scheduled to be included in this issue are the start of a new saga, the all-new-and-exciting-too DIP BOWL, another bit of the Satirical Six, more Kingmaker (you can always skip that), and some idle gossip. I mean "scheduled" because I'm never too sure what ends up in an issue of this thing.

(IN EUROPE:  
45p)

I can't believe that I outlasted JUST AMONG FRIENDS, but Al recently announced that JAF has ceased to be published. We'll miss Uncle Al every month, with his "personal glimpses" and his exploits with his wife Nancy and their children. Maybe Al will put out a subzine to WHITESTONIA - that could be an unstoppable (one p?) combination, with Caruso, Byrne, and Pearson under one roof. (And maybe John Boardman will suddenly fold - they're both about as likely.)

But now it's time for.....

MONTY'S NEWS AND COMMENT is brought to you by anybody who wants to.

TSR mailed issue 90 of STRATEGY & TACTICS early in December. This issue had been completed by SPI before the takeover, but the game (MONMOUTH, an American Revolution game using the WELLINGTON'S VICTORY system) hadn't quite been produced, so TSR took care of that. I don't know if any of you received this, but my copy of MONMOUTH was almost unplayable - literally. TSR's die-cutter blew it, and I almost had to RIP the counters apart! I hope that they get better.

And speaking of TSR, they have announced that SPI's BATTLE OVER BRITAIN game, scheduled for release last April, will be developed and released early in 1983. ANTIETAM needs more work, and an ORIGINS release is rather iffy. Maybe in time for GEN CON. The first games to be released under the TSR banner will be THE CREATURE THAT ATE SHEBOYGAN, FIREFIGHT, and SWORDS AND SORCERY. If you want to know what SPI games, components, and back issues are available, write to Customer Services Department, TSR Hobbies, P.O. Box 756, Lake Geneva, WI 53147. (Equal time - VICTORY GAMES, INC., 43 W. 33rd ST, SUITE 603, NEW YORK, NY 10001)

Rod Walker has returned to the big magazines - in the latest GENERAL (the one with GUNSLINGER), he has a new column, THE COMPLEAT DIPLOMAT. This column describes the first 25 years of DIPLOMACY and the hobby. However, I do have one gripe. The first three sentences go: "We must admit that there are other games besides DIPLOMACY. Grudgingly...but we must admit it. These games are of three types: Outdated Predecessors, Inept Imitations, and Cumbersome Complexities." That's nice, Rod, but what about KINGMAKER and CIVILIZATION? (Speaking of CIVILIZATION, I'd suggest that you fans of that game watch for the November/December 1982 issue of THE GENERAL, available at better gaming stores near you, or send \$2.75 (Canadians \$3, Europeans \$3.25) to Avalon Hill, 4517 Harford Road, Baltimore, MD 21214. Those prices include postage.

And now for a few notes from Larry Peery....first of all, Larry has noticed all of the polls that have been taken lately, and all of the complaints that go with them. He suggests that there be an Official Hobby Pollster, whose job it would be to take care of the "big" polls (the North American GM/Zine polls, for one). Anybody out there who has polling experience and thinks they can do the job, talk it over

I must be slipping - it's been only a month since my last issue. Anyway, this is PAGE 1, so enjoy it while you can.

with Larry. Also, there's Larry's FOTOBANK idea, where all of the prominent hobbyists can send pictures of themselves, pix taken at cons, and so forth, so others can use them in their 'zines. Here's one of his better ideas: the DON MILLER MEMORIAL TROPHY FUND. Naturally, the fund is to purchase the DON MILLER MEMORIAL TROPHY. The trophy would go to the person who did the biggest service to the hobby during the preceeding year (naturally, the award is made annually). Last, but not least, comes the Fall Elections for the INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMACY HALL OF FAME. The IDHOF needs nominations and members for the Election Committee. For details on any of these, contact Larry Peery, c/o IDS, P.O. Box 8416, San Diego, CA 92102.

For those of you looking for Don Ditter, the Boardman Number Custodian, he has moved to 63 SOUTH MAIN STREET, FLORIDA, NY 10921. And speaking of custodians, Lee Kendter Sr., 4347 Benner Street, Philadelphia, PA 19135, has taken over from John Leeder as the Miller Number Custodian. However, it seems that he didn't sign the Covenant (I assume it's some sort of Loyalty Oath), and Robert Sacks claims that he will take over as MNC if no one signs a loyalty to the Covenant by January 1. Given that this issue of LOM comes out after January 1, and not having heard to the contrary, I assume that Lee is the MNC and Sacks doesn't recognize him. But who among you recognize Sacks? I support Lee Kendter Sr. as the current MNC, and suggest that Robert Sacks take two hard-luck points.

Which brings up the question....is there too much Sacks in the hobby? (You've never heard that there's too much Sacks & violence on TV?) Then again....is there too much TSR on TV? Good night!

~~-THE-PRECEEDING-QUOTE-WAS-NOT-MEAN-T-MEAN-THAT-SACKS-SHOULD-LEAVE-THE-HOBBY-HAVEN-  
-YOU-EVER-HEARD-OF-A-PLAY-ON-WORDS?~~

"No, I haven't"  
There go those voices again - but I told you it was new and improved.  
"Here's the question....the center of the map shown on a Conference Mapsheet is in Prussia. On that same map, which SC dot is closest to the top?" (RRRRING)  
"New York, Swider....Sweden"  
"No, can you-"  
"WHAT? Are you sure? That couldn't be wrong. I want to complain-"  
"That's mediocrity for you, but this isn't the ESM team!"  
"I know, but mediocrity extends to the corners of curved space."  
"The corners of....anyway, can you take it, CC?" (BUZZZZ)  
"CC, Leeder....How about St. Petersburg?"  
"Which coast? That's an ambiguous answer - only kidding, but wrong nevertheless."  
"How about Variant Dip? I was the MNC, you know."  
"That's beside the point - there's no such thing as Variant Dip Bowl. Respect to Don Miller notwithstanding, the answer is Norway."  
Could YOU have answered that? These idiots couldn't but that's



Definitely not some fly-by-night organization, DIP BOWL comes, as usual, from Wheeler Auditorium on the campus of the University of California in Berkeley....

By "Loyalty Oath," I did NOT mean that it refers to loyalty to any person(s).  
PAGE 2 is loyal to nobody.

Now, let's meet the teams...."Bill Highfield, from Rochester, NY.... Tom Swider, from Endwell, NY....Phyllis Byrne, from Flushing, NY.... Eric Kane, from Great Neck, NY.....Those are the varsity dippers from the NEW YORK PUBLIC DIPPERS (NYPD).....Randolph Smyth, from Medicine Hat, Alberta....Ron Brown, from Low, Quebec....John Leeder, from Calgary, Alberta....Dave Carter, from Willowdale, Ontario (I hope these cities are correct).....and those are the varsity dippers from the CANADIAN CLUB OF DIP ("We'll drink to that!")"

Now pushing the fast forward button...."Wrzubviplqzahudna ahsjifngom dniahdkensianekwhaithsnal" and all that....and now for the real fun: "Here's the tossup: for 10 points, of the Baltic, Skagerrak, Irish, Adriatic, and Black, which one can be used in a St. Petersburg to Syria convoy?" (RRRING)

"Ney York, Byrne....Adriatic"

"Phyllis, you're supposed to know everything about spaces near Italy - didn't your mother's victories teach you anything, besides the fact that you can always win if you get novices as allies? Anyway, that's wrong-" (BUZZZZ)

"Canadian Club, on the rocks - er, Smyth....how about, er, uh, the Irish?" (Phyllis gives a nasty look) "Not THOSE Irish - the Irish Sea"

"Can we accept that? OK, we will, insofar as that's the right answer. Here's the bonus, worth 30 points: a long time ago, there was a question about a block of 25 connected SCs. For 15 points, which non-SC land space should be turned into an SC to join the largest possible number of SCs, and, for another 15, how many SCs would be joined together?"

(CC talks it over, then Leeder gives the answer) "Add Burgundy to get 30"

"Burgundy is correct, but there are 31 - did you remember to add Burgundy? The score is now....what do you mean, you can't count that high? Where did you learn math, USC? At least you can count dollar bills and yards gained per rush, but when it comes to this stuff, it's out of your league. Anyway, here's the next tossup: here's one of these end-of-the-game quick ones - for 10 points, how many different countries, if they can be called that, are there in CIVILIZATION?" (Pause) (Longer pause) "No answer? The answer is 9" (TWEETTTTT) "There's the whistle....it's official! The final score is 265 for the Canadian Club Of Dip to Minus 20 for the New York Public Dippers - the CANADIAN CLUB - wait a minute, what's this?"

"Stop the match!" says someone whose initials are SR, but not necessarily in that order. "I want the CC disqualified! Their members haven't signed the covenant of loyalty to the Diplomatic Empire and they refuse to bow down to the Supreme Leader!"

"Aren't you a little early?"

"Isn't this DIP WARZ?"

"No, it's DIP BOWL"

"I'm sorry - wait a minute, I remember you from last year! We were robbed of the title....and how did New York lose? New Yorkers never lose - the Mets and Rangers excluded, of course." He shouldn't have talked about the Mets in front of Phyllis, since I know Kathy can sense every word Phyllis hears. However, Kathy's team won't be on for a while, since next time (this is the new part) the CANADIAN CLUB OF DIP defends its title against the 1980 world champions, the FLYING DOGS OF RETALIATION.

~~-NOT-MUCH-NEW-AND-IMPROVED-IT'S-STILL-THE-SAME-OLD-STUFF-ISN'T-IT?-JUST-GREAT-HUH-WO!~~

FILLER....Southeastern Massachusetts Gamers will host Worcester Wargamers and Mid-Hudson Valley Games Club hosts Mercer Adventure Gamers in the semi-finals of the 1982 Northeast Gaming Association Playoffs. The NGAP is a 12-team event which pits teams of four players against each other in 6-hour matches, with "hours won" determining victory. I'll bet Caruso, Heinowski and two others could murder any of these teams....

Oh, sure.... this is PAGE 3

A rather short time ago, in a galaxy near and dear to our hearts, there were, with apologies to Darth Vader, Captain Kirk, and Douglas Adams, plus a few of our own,

# DIP WARZ

It was a time of intense struggle. Rebel diplomats (no, I'm not referring to you Southerners - well, not necessarily, anyway) had won their first victories against the evil Diplomatic Empire. Naturally, this irked the Almighty Emperor to no end. The power of the Empire had been tested for the first time, and the forces couldn't take the heat, especially on those ice planets. However, the Empire was far from destroyed, and at this very minute the collective

minds of the Imperial Masterminds were working on a secret weapon which would bring the Rebels to their knees.

"We have brought forth from the farthest reaches of space the most terrible things that exist in the universe....a book of Vagon poetry.... a sample of BORN TO DIP!...volume 1 of John Boardman's Black List.... and the most vile weapon anywhere - by itself, guaranteed destruction - the game reports of all games played in LIFE OF MONTY."

"Nothing is that powerful."

"Oh? We lost two planets just getting it here. Now, we combine the elements....add a strong cup of tea....behold! Death to the rebels! IN THE NAME OF THE ALMIGHTY EMPEROR!" Just then, the Emperor's left-hand man walked in, amidst a blaze of trumpets.

"ENOUGH! Do you guys have to do that every time I walk through a door? Why can't you jazz it up a bit, while you're at it?"

"Yes, my lord" answer the musicians collectively.

"Hail Lord Sacks Fifthavenue" exclaim the scientists.

"Yes, do. Tell me, have you finished the weapon?"

"Well, we're just finishing up - that 1981AS is highly unstable, you know."

"Did you put in the 1981CP? That will finish off the Rebels for sure."

"No, my lord - I thought you said that the orders were changed!"

"You FOOL - you've made one mistake too many." He paused....there was a large noise, followed by a large silence and a lot of dust where one of the scientists stood. Unfortunately, it was the wrong one.

"My lord, may I suggest-"

"Look, I've had it with you as it is. Get this thing ready for launching today! Otherwise, I'll aim at somebody else - how would you like that?"

OK, so the Empire is finishing their secret weapon. Meanwhile, the Rebel forces on planet Flushing 7 are discussing their next strike.

"OK," said Oboe-1-Caruso, "about our next strike-"

"Didn't the narrator just say that?" interrupted Princess Luscious, not realizing that I'm in their future. "Oh, I'm sorry."

"If you ask me," says John Poleo, which is a bad pun, but what do you expect for 50¢, "I say we go right to the heart of the galaxy, seek out this Emperor guy, and blow him away."

"You would say that. May I suggest a more liberal approach?"

"Did you say liberal?"

"We're supposed to be rebels, you know. What I suggest that we do is that we go from planet to planet, turning the populations toward our cause, and then take our collective troops and force those idiots into submission."

"That won't work - don't you ever read FREEDOM IN THE GALAXY? We're supposed to let the domino effect overwhelm the empire for us. Besides,

Life, the Universe, and PAGE 4?  
Beam me up after that one!

they've got that Secret Weapon of theirs."  
"So? We have our own, for just such an emergency. It's unstoppable! It's incredible! It's also deductible."  
Soon the trio boarded John Poleo's Linoleum Falcon, and zoomed across vast reaches of space at Warp 6. Suddenly, from behind a well-placed asteroid, there appeared an Imperial Garter-fighter prepared for attack. "Garter-fighter, location 135 mark 22, range 10000 km and closing on an intercept course."  
"Fire phasers!" ZZZZZZAAAAAAPPPPPP "Direct hit"  
Big deal. Wait a minute - what's that in the far corner? It looks like an Imperial Galactic Super-Deluxe Large Economy Size Planet Buster. It appears to be Imperially Galactically Super-Deluxely Large Economy Sizely Planet Busting. What appeared to be a lot of loose sheets of paper suddenly floated toward the planet. "What are those things?" asked Princess Luscious.  
Oboe-1 Caruso looks shocked. "It couldn't be - but it IS - they're LOM GAME REPORTS!!" Suddenly, the planet evaporated in a flash of light and some march music. Oh, yes - the crew thought they heard the words "And now for something completely GLAAAK". That's another story.  
"My lord, the weapon works. Wait-what's that?"  
"What that?" asked Sacks Pifthavenue, with his usual lack of expression on his face-hiding mask.  
"That that in the corner."  
"Find out if they've signed THE LOYALTY OATH."  
"By your command, Lord."  
"That's BATTLESTAR GALACTICA, isn't it? I hated that show."  
"GLAAAAAAKKKK" (sound of a man choking)  
In the meantime, the Linoleum Falcon evaded the sensor scope, and made its way to Memphis 1, the home of the Rebel's best hope, Garra the Elvi Master.  
"Bring the translator to the transporter room - we'll need him..... Energize!"  
(Sound of four people beaming down)  
"Y'all call'd?"  
"Translate that!"  
"He said, 'It is an honor to greet the leaders of the Rebel Forces against the Empire and their Oath of Loyalty'"  
"Tell him it is an honor and a privelege for us"  
"We'uns're glad t' come"  
Enough of this! (It's driving me crazy!) What's that?  
"It's" (it better be translated) "Party pooper! It's the Imperial Galactic Etc. Etc. Planet Buster, and it's headed this way! We're doomed - unless that secret weapon of yours works, Oboe-1"  
"Of course it works - do I look worried?"  
No, he didn't....here comes the weapon!  
"Prepare to destroy the planet - they refused to kneel down in front of the emperor - they'll pay dearly! IN THE NAME OF THE EMPIRE!!"  
The Planet Buster launched its weapon.  
"I heard that - launch our weapon!"  
"My lord, they've launched their own weapon."  
"What could they have that could - oh, no, it couldn't be! They don't exist! Head for the emergency ship!!"  
The LOM game reports were no match - for LOM game openings.

TO BE CONTINUED.....MAYBE

PAGE 5, however, is a one-time-only thing in this issue. (Who's the Emperor going to be?)

Now for a small intermission....seems that STEVE HEINOWSKI dropped out of the AREA Top 50. All together now: AWWWWWWWWW. And now for a little filler....I haven't plugged any 'zines in a long time, have I? For that matter, it's been a long time since anybody has plugged LOM.

ENVOY - Roy Henricks, 128 Deerfield Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15235, once every 5 weeks, about 20 pages per issue, cost about 80¢/issue (it depends on the number of pages). Deep inhale - openings in DIPLOMACY, KINGMAKER, RAIL BARON, RICHTHOPEN'S WAR, MACHIAVELLI, SAMURAI, GUNSLINGER, KAMIKURA, STARSHIP TROOPERS, SPIES, DUNE, STELLAR CONQUEST, and EMPIRE BUILDER. Any game you didn't see - just ask Roy. Face it - any 'zine I pay cash for must be good.

WHITESTONIA - John Caruso, 160-02 43rd Avenue, Second Floor, Flushing, NY 11358, once a month, 32 pages, cost \$12/year (12 issues). Those 32 pages include 12 (16, if you're lucky) of the hottest thing since sliced moon bread (that's from FREEDOM IN THE GALAXY) - KATHY'S KORNOR, by the one and only (thank God for that) Kathy Byrne. Some people think that KK isn't very good - you can always ask John to leave it out of your issues if you feel that way (but no discount). However, I'm sure that none of you do, since my house rule #31 says you have to be of SANE mind (pubbers excluded, of course). Another one of those "must read under any & all circumstances including nuclear attack & academic probation" 'zines.

EIPOPA EXPRESS - Gary Coughlan, 4614 Martha Cole Lane, Memphis, TN 38118, once every month, 40 pages, cost - well, I don't know, but it's worth any price (just about) to get this one, since it's loaded with articles on anything & everything, plus one of the best letter columns around. Gary has the perfect solution on how to cover all of these gripes we've got - he doesn't. (Well, nobody's perfect....)

THE VOICE OF DOOM - Bruce Linsey, 24A Quarry Drive, Albany, NY 12205, once every month (at least once per month), the size varies wildly, but most of the time it's about 30 pages, cost \$11 for 20 issues. The highlight of VOD is the letter column - hear people voice their complaints and compliments on anything they feel like voicing about. And hope that you never get to see his house rules - they're rumored to fill untold volumes! By the way - W, EE, and VOD have one thing in common - they have no openings.

And speaking of openings.....

**GAME  
OPENINGS**

DIPLOMACY....GM: Dick Martin. Game fee has been reduced to ZERO (John, I'll just add the \$1 to your sub). Have three (Michalski, Brawner, and Gardner); need four more. That leaves only Michalski in the MARK KELLER game, and still nobody in the JIM MEINEL game. Why is it that Bruce Linsey

can fill four games up at once, but it takes me forever just for one? YOU PUBBERS OUT THERE (especially those without Dip openings) - howzabout plugging these openings??

ORIGINS OF WWII, SLAPSHOT - Nobody even asked. How humiliating! They're still open.

GUEST GMS....for a LIMITED TIME ONLY, apply to GM any non-DIPLOMACY game; when it fills (and begins), you get a LIFETIME SUB to LOM (yes, that includes after your game ends - limited time only, though, so hurry).

PAGE 6 | AMOUNT IN SUB  
TRADE XENOGENIC

Excuse me if I'm not very enthusiastic about this part of the issue. I just got back to Berkeley, where I have been subjected to everything imaginable - and, to top things off, I keep looking for the Carriage Return on this manual typewriter (after a month of electric). Here's the full story:

SUNDAY (January 2, 1983), 7:00 PM: Lug my portable TV, 2 large economy size stereo speakers, and assorted other things from my car to the dorm some 400 excruciating feet away. I had enough trouble getting things inside the elevator without having to get them out again.

8:00 - Now that I'm moved in, I can rest, right? NOT quite - I have to go across campus in the middle of the night (in Berkeley, this is not the smartest thing in the world to do - roughly equivalent to rolling for a Wandering Monster, for you FRP'ers) to see which classes I got into.

8:30 - Since I am majoring in Computer Science, I am a junior, and I have applied to a certain course for the third consecutive time, you would think that I could get into a class required to graduate in the major. I was naive to assume that...maybe I can appeal, but that's another story.

MONDAY, 6:30 AM - My roommate's alarm goes off. As a result, I am unable to fall back asleep.

9:00 - First class. Naturally, it requires the farthest possible walk across campus. At least it's downhill.

11:00 - Second class. There are 30 chairs in the room. There are 70 or so students there! It seems that the room was inadvertently assigned to two classes. Guess what? I had the class that had to move. Things got better - only 45 students showed up in a room that had 30 chairs.

12:00 - My scholarship notice says to go to the second floor of the administration building to pick up the cash. (In order to keep the money circulating, the rent is immediately due - about \$200 more than the check.) The people on the second floor tell me to go to the first floor, where I stand in line for 15 minutes. They tell me that they don't have the check - go back to the second floor. Back up the stairs - what do you MEAN, go to the THIRD floor and ask where my check is? Up the stairs - my check was delivered and is on the first floor, huh? Back down...the check was where it was supposed to be, but they overlooked it the first time.

1:00 - Across campus to eat lunch. Not surprisingly, I end up covered with chocolate syrup.

1:30 - Back across campus. I'm supposed to sign some forms saying that I'm declaring a major in Computer Science. Why is the door locked?

2:30 - Go to the bank (on the other end of campus, of course). More waiting in line, naturally.

3:00 - Back to my room. Letter from Pacific Telephone: "Unless your bill is paid by January 6, we will disconnect your phone and charge \$22 plus \$40 deposit to restore service." I didn't even see the original bill until that day. (And guess where the Pacific Telephone office is located?)

TUESDAY....I can rest a little. I'm forgetting something. I'm forgetting that only 6 pages of this issue of LOM have been typed! Serves you right for not sending in articles.



NOTES:

FREESIE

PAGE

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All right, you've asked for it! Larry Peery wants our views on a Diplomacy Code of Ethics. That's supposed to be the topic at the next Diplomatic Round Table. (Something done at Origins? There is a SMALL chance that I can get a job out east this summer and I MIGHT be able to get away to ORIGINS for a day or two, but no guarantees.) Since I've got some space left over in this issue....

THE VIEWS ON THE CONTENTS OF A HOBBY CODE OF ETHICS - said views are those of the editor, who takes sole responsibility for the contents. In other words, address those letters here, and not to, for example, Larry Peery.

Code of ethics, eh? One can hardly apply ethics to a game where trust and treachery are the key ingredients. Still, we must draw the line somewhere. I am making the rather naive assumption that this hobby exists for the enjoyment of its members, whether by playing the game and having a good time, by doing everything honestly (and a few things dishonestly) in their power to win, or whatever else. If you don't like games where we have to resort to codes of ethics, I suggest RAIL BARON - and forget about applying for an AREA rating. (Tom Shaw wrote up the AREA Code of Ethics a couple of years ago.)

What appears to be the problem that has been around for the longest is the pseudonym problem. It hasn't disappeared - I was a witness to the Michael X. Jackson affair. (For those of you who don't remember, Michael X. Jackson was Michael Hasten's pseudonym at the PACIFICON Diplomacy Tournament - both names made it to the top board, and Mike played under the (higher-rated) pseudonym, which went on to win the tournament (and a nice cash prize, to boot). By the way, nobody minded - much.) There's no easy way of telling who's who in a game. I can't find anything really wrong with using a pseudonym, provided that the same person isn't using it to evade one (or more) of the common-sense rules of the game. For example, a player playing under two names is not the fairest thing in the world, not to mention a player who is GMing that same game! Naughty, naughty. There is no punishment too harsh for these individuals - including a session of Vagon poetry.

Next up is feuding, a subject near and dear to our hearts. Who among you doesn't honestly care about the exploits of hobbyist X concerning hobbyists Y and Z? (Not that there aren't any of you who don't care....) I can't think of any feud that didn't start over a game of Diplomacy! (Well, MAYBE the Walker/Boardman "feud" didn't, but that wasn't really a full-blown no-holds-barred event - the well-known battles followed Dip games.) This will NEVER stop until (and unless) there exists some sort of all-knowing, all-powerful, all-impartial, all-willing-to-get-yelled-at-and-talked-about (somebody that can take the pressure - see, for example, the recent Orphan Service controversy resulting in the resignation of one of its members) ombudsperson(s) willing to make rulings on things like this. No more questionable calls by GMs, no more feuds - no more dreaming of these "supposedly guaranteed" solutions; you know as well as I do that we'll never get rid of feuds. However, I've never heard of a KINGMAKER feud.

So far, this has been a lecture on what's wrong with the hobby rather than an article on what should be in a code of ethics. This next one is going to sound crazy - I think that a "standardized set of house rules" is in order. Not that every 'zine should have the same game and NMR fees, for example, but there should be a guideline on whether or not to use DIAS, what to do in case of a Spring 1901 NMR,

In case of an NMR, women ad  
PAGE 8 first!



how to handle certain rules ambiguities, and so on. If most GMs used a standardized set of HRs (with a few local modifications), things might get a bit easier without having to worry about whether or not orders written under a full moon must be in red ink on canary-color paper with green vertical lines on one side. Also, everybody must agree on one or more ombudspersons ((normally, I don't like using "...person" instead of "...man", but ombudsperson is a common term in Berkeley, so it sticks)) who will rule on diplomatic matters (not a set of ombudspersons from which one is chosen, but a panel which rules as a unit - if there is more than one person who can make final rulings, and they are separate, then the whole idea is worthless because there would be more than one set of ideas on what is right in force). Finally - and most importantly - the hobby should be a place where novices can join without being immediately subjected to the latest petty arguments about who did what. There should be some sort of service directing novices to 'zines which deal more with playing the game than playing the hobby, for those who just want to get in a game of Dip between boards of Russian Campaign or whatever. (That's one of the main reasons I joined - now I'm stuck writing articles like this.) Otherwise, the hobby could get rather static until either things cool down (oh, sure) or everybody leaves the hobby and it starts all over again. I'll bet on the latter.

~~OKAY-THAT'S-THE-BORING-STUFF-AND-NOW-FOR-SOMETHING-COMPLETELY-DIFFERENT-PYTHONICS~~

This is the story of a man and a woman getting married.

"I now pronounce you man and wife"

Soon after, they burst into a department store (e.g. Macy's, Harrod's) and head for the bed department.

"Can I help you?" says one of the store workers.

"Yes, I want to buy a bed," replies the groom.

"How much were you thinking of spending?"

"Do you have anything for £50?" (50 pounds)

"I'm sorry, sir, but our cheapest bed is £800." (I think I'll just spell it.)

"800 pounds?"

At this point, another employee comes to them. "You must remember that Mr. Harrows says everything 10 times too much. Otherwise, he's perfectly all right, you understand."

"I see, so your cheapest bed is 80 pounds."

"800 pounds, yes sir."

"And how long is it?"

"Well, I'll ask....Mr. Verity!!"

"Yuh?"

"What is the length of the Wedding Night Special?" ((this is not the actual name, which escapes me at the moment))

"Two foot long."

"Well, you must remember that everything he says must be multiplied by three. Otherwise, he's perfectly all right. But it does mean that when he says a bed is 2 feet long, it is in fact 60 feet long."

"What's the cost again?"

"800 pounds, plus the mattress."

"How much for that?"

"I'll ask....Mr. Lambert, could you show these 20 good people the dog kennels?"

"Dog kennels? No, no, we want mattresses!"

"You must remember not to say the word "mattress" to Mr. Lambert, because he'll put a bucket over his head. Otherwise, he's perfectly all right." The couple walks over to the mattresses. "Yes?"

You must remember that PAGE 27 is always three times what it should be. Otherwise, it's perfectly all right.

"We'd like to look at the dog kennels."  
 "Yes, well that's the pets department, second floor."  
 "No, no, we want to look at the dog kennels."  
 "That's the pets department, second floor!"  
 "We don't really want dog kennels; it's just that the man over there-"  
 "Oh dear, what has he been saying?"  
 "He said that you'd put a bucket over your head if I said mattress."  
 CLUNK! Mr. Lambert puts a bucket over his head.  
 Mr. Harrows comes over. "Did you say mattress?"  
 "Well, yes."  
 "I did ask you not to, didn't I? Now I'll have to go into the fish tank and sing." (SPLASH) "And did those fee.....t In ancient time.....s Walk Upon Eng-land's moun-tains gree.....n And did the hol.....y lamb of-" (Lambert takes the bucket off) "He'll be okay for now. Just don't - you know, don't."  
 Lambert returns to the couple. "You were saying?"  
 "We'd like to take a look at the dog kennels!"  
 "Yes, second floor!"  
 "No, no, those dog kennels, like that one." (Points to a mattress)  
 "Oh, a mattress! If you wanted a mattress, why didn't you just say mattress?"  
 "You put a bucket over your head the last time I said mattress."  
 CLUNK!  
 "Oh dear. (SPLASH) And did those fee.....t...."  
 Meanwhile, other workers are getting the news.  
 "Did somebody say mattress to Mr. Lambert?"  
 "Twice."  
 "Hey, everybody, somebody said mattress to Mr. Lambert twice!"  
 "It's not working, we need more!"  
 Everybody joins in the wet stuff.  
 "And did the hol....y lamb of God Shine forth a-mong those shrouded hills.... And was Jer-u-sa-lem.... buried here...." (I hope those words are right!) (Anyway, the bucket comes off, and everybody gets out.) (Lambert to the couple again) "Yes?"  
 (The wife speaks) "We want a mattress!"

I wish she hadn't said that.



And now for THE ANSWERS to the 1982-83 NAB PROSPECTIVE HOBBYIST EXAMINATION! I only hope they all fit.

- 1) C - A Babel Fish is a universal translator
- 2) C
- 3) E - England, France, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales
- 4) D - from 8000 BC to 5000 BC in 2 turns
- 5) C - Turkey has 5
- 6) D - where were the others?
- 7) A
- 8) D - there are only 8 in the box!
- 9) B - \$22 for CIVILIZATION, and a cheap map to boot
- 10) B - you guessed it, CIVILIZATION
- 11) E - if each player gets one titled (and no other) noble.
- 12) C
- 13) D - A finished second
- 14) B - it's always the young ones
- 15) D
- 16) GULF STRIKE (actually, CIVIL WAR, AMBUSH, and HELL'S HIGHWAY will come out at about the same time)

I'll repeat the address - VICTORY GAMES, INC.,  
 43 WEST 33RD STREET, SUITE 603, NEW YORK, NY 10001

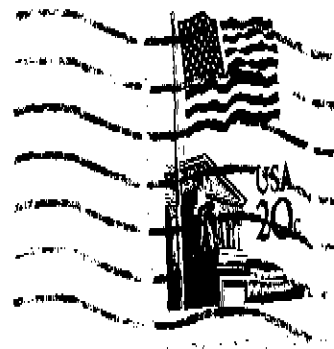
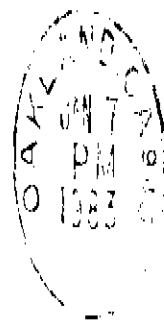
Look for a review (or more) in the future -  
 but this PAGE 10 is taken.

- 17) I-80 connects New York to San Francisco.  
 18) Prince. (I missed it when I first heard it.)  
 19) TWENTY YEARS ON  
 20) Tottenham Hotspur by 2-1 over Queen's Park (in the reply)  
 21) I'll bet a lot of you said Linda Simpson. WRONG - they broke up. The correct answer, using the Mark Berch sense of unfallable logic that says that if Kathy Byrne and John Caruso come up with the same answer to a question and different answers to others, the one they answered the same must be right, is Steve "Woody" Arnawoodian back in "Suite 100". (Besides, I said "dumped", and Bruce reminded me that he and Linda broke off the engagement after about seven months.)  
 22) Ionian Sea and Eastern Mediterranean - shame on you who missed it!  
 23) I blew this one - there were FOUR two-coasted provinces; Spain, Bulgaria, St. Petersburg, and Finland.  
 24) Kathy and John lived at 42-34 Saull Street  
 25) Jeapo's from Honestinjun. Don't you read my house rules?  
 26) T - Sandra is a blonde and Trillian has dark hair.  
 27) T - well, it doesn't yet.  
 28) T - what? How could HEXAGONY and FOOTBALL STRATEGY beat KINGMAKER?  
 29) T  
 30) F - it should be "Alan, as the British player,..." Alan Moon can't come up with die rolls when he needs them (witness his first year in the AHFSL, where he lost three games on bad die rolls which cost him game-winning field goals).  
 31) F - it's a good thing I read the Letters to the Editor column in THE GENERAL; otherwise, Roy may have actually gone through with a start of AREA-rated RAIL BARON. One question said: "Can non-wargames be AREA rated?" The answer: "No (otherwise Tom Shaw's FOOTBALL STRATEGY record would make him #1)" - and RAIL BARON, removed from the EBG, is not a wargame. (what I meant to say here was that Roy would have tried on AREA start - the AREA coordinator would have rejected it)  
 32) T  
 33) F - the phone number was wrong; it's 643-1806. (2185 was last year.)  
 34) F - I got the impression from the ad that that company handles software for microcomputers, of which Berkeley has none which require software.  
 35) T - FREEDONIA, I think it was called.  
 36) The best answer: B & C - Marvin and TSR always seem to do the wrong thing at the wrong time.  
 37) John Caruso had the best one: Flushing - ByrneCons are more fun & better organized than most gaming cons.  
 38) Nothing - provided, of course, you remembered to first place your back against the floor.  
 39) It had something to do with comparing the TSR takeover to being in a Dip game as Austria against Kathy.  
 40) I couldn't decide either.  
 41) People don't throw it on the tracks, so it doesn't clog up the trains.  
 42) There aren't any hexes, dice, or CRTs; it's also too fun.  
 43) I'd spend the extra \$10 or so to buy an unmounted Dip map and some blank mapboard backings, and make my own good board. (Better and cheaper - just cut the board apart!)  
 44) The only way- as extra armies.  
 45) I'd say THE BEST OF KATHY'S KORNOR.

The scores....Mike Barno: 460....Jack Brawner: 400....John Caruso: 530.... that means KATHY BYRNE and her score of 610 (on the 200-800 scale) take top honors. The "best answer" goes to Jack Brawner for his answer to 36: Robert Sacks and Beer Diplomacy are both variants. That ends the issue (and just in time) - KINGMAKER will come out separately this time. (No games here, just like the good old days....)

It's not my fault - everybody NMRed!  
 How common is that? PAGE 11  
 didn't NMR (it was close, though).

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