

LIFE OF MONTY

50¢

#36

NOVEMBER 5, 1983

(Kathy Byrne's 34th birthday - I wonder how old she really is....)

If today is someday, this is issue 36 (and correctly numbered) of LIFE OF MONTY, by Don Del Grande, 142 Eliseo Drive, Greenbrae, CA 94904, phone (415) 461-2692, hours 6 PM - 11 PM (1 AM on Saturday) prevailing Pacific time (GMT-7 until October 30, when it becomes GMT-8), at a cost of 50c per issue to North America and 50p (British) to Europe, which is no big deal since Pete Tamlyn is my only European reader (well, he and anybody who reads his issue) and he trades THE ACOLYTE.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS:

R.L. Morton, R.R. No. 2, Greeley, Ont. KOA 1Z0, CANADA

Jim Briggs, P.O. Box 6243, El Paso, TX 79906

SURPRISE #1: Derwood Bowen, 1643 Graniteway Lane, Columbus, OH 43229, has decided (fortunately for us) to publish his subzine SUBMARINE WARFARE in LOM. SW #1 appeared in the anniversary issue of Scott Hanson's IRKSOME!, but Scott decided that he didn't have room for SW, and told me to ask Derwood if he'd move to LOM. SW #2 might be in this issue of LOM, if it gets to me in time. I've still got room for one (MAYBE two, but doubtful) more subzine, especially one from Europe, if anybody out there's actually interested in writing for this trashheap and receive LOM for free....(the "free" bit applies to North American subzine authors as well - just ask Derwood)

SURPRISE #2: This issue contains the rules for the first ever INTERNATIONAL PAN-DIPLOMATIC MONOPLANETARY SUPERQUIZ, planned to start in mid-January of 1984 and run all year. With a little luck, there'll be a semi-big turnout (oh, sure, just like the Runestone poll), which means a semi-big prize pool, most of which goes to the winner. (Even a turnout of 20 means total prize money of \$42, or £28, since this is INTERNATIONAL, and the questions will be written as to not favor North Americans....much)

*****PUBBERS PLEASE ADVERTISE THIS*****

(I'm referring to the INTERNATIONAL PAN-DIPLOMATIC MONOPLANETARY SUPERQUIZ just mentioned, although you should also mention....)

THE FOURTH ANNUAL DIPLOMACY PLAYERS POLL - John Caruso, 160-02 43rd Avenue, Flushing, NY 11358, is running the DPP for the fourth time. To enter, list who you think are the five best players and five best writers in the hobby. Make each list in order; number the best #1, then #2, and on down to #5, in each category. Only one ballot per person, and you can't vote for yourself. Deadline is November 22.

THE THIRD ANNUAL MARCO POLL - Mark Larzelere, 7607 Fontainebleau Drive, Apt. #2352, New Carrollton, MD 20784. This is the same as the DPP, except you list the 7 best 'zines, 3 best subzines, and 5 best GMs. Deadline for this one is also November 22. MAKE SURE YOU SIGN YOUR BALLOTS! (Look for a ballot on the inside back cover of this issue of LOM.

I can remember when some company - I can't remember which one - put Charles Roberts Election ballots (back when anyone could vote, unlike now) in their magazine (it wasn't AH or SPI) on two sides. One side was blank; the other listed that company's eligible games. I'm surprised that nobody has tried that with these polls and their 'zines/subzines/themselves. Not that anyone could get away with it - unlike the old Charles Roberts awards....(I'll let you write me in in the BEST WRITER category - if you think I deserve the spot, of course. If you just feel like writing my name in, do it under BEST GM so that Mark will treat it with the seriousness it deserves.)

What are THESE? ➡ LIFE OF MONTY 11/83

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I see that GAMES MAGAZINE came out with its annual GAMES 100 recently. BIG inhale for the Avalon Hill games: ACQUIRE, FACTS IN FIVE, OH-WAH-REE, SPEED CIRCUIT, CIVILIZATION, GETTYSBURG, NAPOLEON, STORM OVER ARNHEM, VICTORY IN THE PACIFIC, DUNE, TWIXT, SLEUTH, and, of course, your favorite and, well, almost mine, DIPLOMACY. Also included are AMBUSH! by Victory Games, and two Chaosium products soon to be taken by AH, RUNEQUEST and DRAGON PASS (originally WHITE BEAR & RED MOON). Only 13 AH titles? They're slipping.

Speaking of DUNE...here's a quote from John Boardman's EMPIRE #180, dated September 3, 1983: "(Avalon Hill's) ad in the Con-Stellation program book was devoted to a forthcoming game based on Frank Herbert's science-fiction novel series Dune." Apparently, John must have been totally immersed in what a fabulous job then-President Carter was doing to notice that Avalon Hill released DUNE at ORIGINS 79 over four years ago. (Actually, when people list the things that Carter did wrong, most of the things came on or after November 3, 1979, well after ORIGINS.) Of, course, people with John Michalski's political orientations make a few timing errors as well....BATTLE OF THE BULGE (part 2) was released before ORIGINS 81, so it isn't "new". (I do agree that it isn't very exciting....)

"Say, Don, where are your game reviews?" Well, despite the fact that I just got a \$1000 scholarship check (with another grand due in January - and, with luck, I won't have to pay \$700 enrollment fees in the summer, although most of the companies interviewing this early are looking for December graduates to start in January and are coming back in the Spring for May grads), I haven't bought any new games lately, what with a few old ones still waiting to be opened. Have I reviewed STAR FLEET BATTLES? Well, it's space combat with typical STAR TREK weapons and things. HOWEVER....

INSTEAD of reviewing the usual stuff, this version is dedicated to Computer games, of which I currently own one, with two on order....

MYSTERY FUN HOUSE, Adventure #7 in the Scott Adams series, available for most systems (Atari requires 32K for disk, 24K for cassette) from Adventure International, Box 3435, Longwood, FL 32750, for about \$25. (Discount Mail-order places will charge about \$20)

It's hard to review adventure games, since too much review may spoil the fun of the adventure, but here goes. MYSTERY FUN HOUSE takes place in a Fun House, with the player as (I would assume, with the names "James", "M", and "Q") James Bond. The computer describes where you are, what you can see, and what items are present; using one or two words, you must tell the computer what to do next. (For example: if you want to turn a green knob, try TURN KNOB or TURN GREEN.) There are some "helpful words" given at the beginning, like SCORE, HELP, INVENTORY, and SAVE GAME. SCORE doesn't work on the Atari versions (and probably not on the other versions as well); SAVE GAME allows the game to be stopped, saved on tape/disk, and continued later; INVENTORY gives a list of what you are carrying; and HELP gives a clue.

Some things they don't tell you, but might be helpful: if you want to move in a certain direction (North, East, South, West, Up, Down), just type in the first letter (e.g. N for north) rather than MOVE NORTH. Don't waste time, since each action brings you closer to the time when the park closes. And if you ever apparently get stuck, try everything - and then "QUIT" to start over.

Speaking of Scott Adams Adventures for Atari, does anyone have any of the others for the Atari? After all, once an adventure is solved, it stays solved, and it's cheaper to trade cassettes than buy new ones....

Boy, it's been a while since I've used these:

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RULES for the first ever INTERNATIONAL PAN-DIPLOMATIC MONOPLANETARY SUPER QUIZ

1. The INTERNATIONAL PAN-DIPLOMATIC MONOPLANETARY SUPER QUIZ (referred to in these rules as the QUIZ) consists of a series of periodic sets of questions based on five categories: DIPLOMACY (a game invented by Allan Calhmer and currently copyrighted/trademarked by The Avalon Hill Game Co.), the past and present of the PBM Hobby, wargames in general, general academia, and miscellaneous trivia.
2. Each month or so during the term of the QUIZ, another section of the QUIZ, including questions from any combination of the five categories, will be sent to all contestants. Each section has a reception deadline; answers must be received by that deadline in order for those answers to be counted. Answers must be in printed form (e.g. telephone calls are not acceptable, but telegrams, letters, and postcards are). I cannot be held responsible if your answers don't make it in time.
3. Contestants may enter the contest at any time; however, contestants joining after one or more rounds have been completed will not be allowed to compete in those rounds, and will accordingly have a lower maximum possible score. Contestants entering in the middle of a round cannot have that round's deadline extended, but may submit answers for that round.
4. In order to become a contestant in the QUIZ, a person must pay the entrance fee of \$2.00 in American currency or its equivalent in American stamps or foreign currency which can be converted into American currency without undue trouble. In addition, each contestant must include enough postage for the next set of QUIZ questions. QUIZ questions will be printed so that each set appears on one 8 1/2 by 11 sheet of paper, so each contestant must plan the postage rates accordingly. NOTE: Subscribers to the 'zine LIFE OF MONTY may desire to have the questions mailed with the 'zine, thus passing the extra postage fees, but I can't take responsibility if you receive your questions any later because of the 'zine's schedule or any delays in the 'zine's publication.
5. The prize pool consists of all entrance fees converted to cash (i.e. \$2.00 per contestant) plus an additional 5% of this total donated by me personally; in other words, the total is \$2.10 multiplied by the number of contestants - 20 contestants make a total of \$42.
6. SCORING: Unless otherwise stated, each question is worth one point. If a question requires a multiple-part answer, one point is given for having all parts correct; if any parts are incorrect, no points are awarded for that question. Each question may have a scoring provision different from this; if so, how a question is scored is printed with the question itself.
7. THE FINAL RESULTS: Each contestant's total score is the total number of points he/she has scored in the individual sections of the QUIZ. The total prize pool is given out as follows:

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50% of the pool is given to/divided among the person(s) with the highest total score;

the other 50% is divided among the top 25% or top 10 scorers (whichever is lower) plus ties, in proportion to their scores. (Note that the top 25% is rounded down; the term "plus ties" means that if there is no score such that exactly 10 contestants or 25%, whichever applies, have a score at least that high, then the low score needed to share in the pool will be lowered until enough contestants are sharing the prize pool.)

EXAMPLE OF HOW THE PRIZES ARE AWARDED:

Suppose, out of a maximum of 1000 points, A scores 250, B and C each score 200, D and E each score 180, F and G each score 150, H, I, J, K each score 100, and nobody else scores more than 90. (Also assume that there are 50 contestants, so the prize pool is limited to 11 persons, since 7 scored more than 180) 50 contestants make a total pool of \$105, of which \$52.50 goes immediately to A. The other \$52.50 is divided in the proportion 250:200:200:180:180:150:150:100:100:100:100. \$52.50 divided by 1840 equals 2.90055c/point, so A receives (250 x 2.90055c) rounded down, B and C each receive (200 x 2.90055c) rounded down, and so on. Note that all values are rounded down; any extra cents are divided randomly among the pool-sharing players.

8. Other than myself, everybody is eligible to participate in the QUIZ. (That includes my subzine editors.) A subscription to LIFE OF MONTY is not necessary to participate; however, see rule 4. Well, you've probably already seen it, since this is rule 8, unless you read the rules backwards.
9. There is ABSOLUTELY, POSITIVELY NO rule nine.
10. The QUIZ is scheduled to start in January 1984 and end around December 1984. As of October 1, 1983, the plan is to have 10 sections of 4-5 weeks duration. However, this is subject to change.
11. My decisions as to "what are correct answers" are final.

In order to enter the INTERNATIONAL PAN-DIPLOMATIC MONOPLANETARY SUPER QUIZ, mail the \$2.00 entrance fee plus, if necessary, the first round's postage fee (20¢ for Americans and Canadians, 40¢ for Europeans - US stamps accepted) to me (Don Del Grande, 142 Eliseo Drive, Greenbrae, CA 94904, USA). The first round will begin on MONDAY, JANUARY 16, 1984.

~~THE-RULES-THE-RULES-AT-LEAST-YOU-CAN-READ-THESE-LINEAR-SEPARATORS-QUITE-EASILY--~~

And now it's time for LETTERS FROM LIFERS. Here to start us off is Cathy Cuning of Seattle, WA.

X ((Get it? Letters? Maybe Dick Martin will send a Q or something...))

((The REAL letter)) I can't believe you sent me all those Life Of Monty! I haven't had a chance to read any of them, but then I haven't had a chance to do much of anything.

About the ESM - now who says I'm mediocre? Why I can't even spell it! ((You just did!))

Oh I see Dave Grabar still wears his cowboy hat - FTF - what a guy.

***** (5 asterisks indicate it's me) When did you meet Grabar FTF? And have you seen his latest FRP run? By the way, when I heard that Cathy had "taken over THE SHOGUN'S SWORD", I sent her about 6 or 7 (maybe more) back issues going back to #3 or so (the pre-reduction days). I'm not mad that she sent me a used one originally sent to someone else and returned by the USPS - but whyizzitthat everybody else gets issue #1 before I do??

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And now from Jerry Lucas of Redwood City....

Just writing to say "Save yourself some money". Don't send two issues to the same address....Nice pictures in #35. Thanks.

****You're welcome. The first part, by the way, refers to the fact that Jerry subbed (cash) while simultaneously Judy Winsome, who HAPPENS to live at the same address, trades WINSOME LOSESOME. If Jerry is Judy, then who does Larry Peery think Judy is? Supposedly, some woman claiming to be Judy was at MASTODONCON (or was it PELRICON?). Personally, I think WINSOME LOSESOME is a good 'zine, and I suggest you get an issue (Jerry's address - er, JUDY's address - is 3902 Lakemead Way, Redwood City, CA 94062).

((Whoops, here's more from Jerry)) I just got in a new game so please remove my name from the regular Dip setup. Maybe you'll fill it before you graduate.

****Thanks a lot! You would have been #71 However, Rod Walker supposedly mentioned in DIPLOMACY WORLD that LOM is his favorite 'zine (or, as Roy Henricks says in the ZINE REGISTER, his favorite), and the requests for samples/subs have been pouring in. And wouldn't you know I let my DW sub lapse! (Sorry, Rod, but I just never got around to reading my DWs - I do like THE COMPLEAT DIPLOMAT, though.)

The following, from Ken Peel of Santa Rosa (somewhere in the California Wine Valley's southern end), is typical of what's been arriving lately:

Please send me a sample copy of LOM at the above new address. Rod Sent me, and I expect to be wildly amused by each and every issue.

****Ken, you should have subbed a year ago, when I had time to amuse people in every issue. Or, wait until my load dies down - with luck, that'll be in January. Anyway, your 2 stamps will get you 3 samples - not just one or two. (I try to send as many issues as the postage allows - but I'm out of every issue since March!) By the way, Ken USED to live in Santa Rosa - now he's in Silver Spring, MD. Say, does anyone know what Oaklyn's/Tretick's address is? (Just kidding....but I can't be TOO sure after being in a game with "Ian Eckloff".)



DIPLOMACY....GM Dick Martin. Six down, one to go! NO game fees. Hurry up - this one's going fast.

MORE DIPLOMACY. - Derwood Bowen and Mike Ehli will be running games in their subzines, SUBMARINE WARFARE and FNORD. Stay tuned for details.

NUCLEAR WAR / NUCLEAR ESCALATION....6 players, maybe more. Blow up your opponents! No more of this tutti-frutti "dislodgment" stuff....do you have change for 10 million people?

SOURCE OF THE NILE....Well, the opening is still here, even if you aren't.

AIR FORCE/DAUNTLESS....anybody interested in this one? Let me know....

SUB / TRADE / WHATEVER:

XENOLOGIC

NOTES:

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"You will never find a more wretched hive of scum and villainy" ((unless you look))

THE NEWS CENTER REPORT

#40, Sept 1983

MOS EISLEY is this year's top (ahem) subzine put out as filler, controversy generator, and credit proponent by John Michalski, Rt 10 Box 526-Q, Moore, OK 73165. Your views and comments are welcome, unless you are Larry Feery and expect \$2 for the letter.

IN THE NEWS: Well, I'd like to say that Bruce Linsey has gone to Caruso's no-house-rules policy, and add that Amawoodiar likes girls now, or that the budget is so much in balance that postage rates are coming down, but the closest I can come is a Ark, or rather, Mark Berch Dept. item about the weather here: now that it is Sept and the days have been getting shorter for 2 1/2 months, it is time for the twice a year happening known as the Changing of the Weather. Half the year it is hot and dry, 2-4 months a year it is cold and dry, the rest of the time it is both, and blowing like a son of a thing. With the crack of September 1's dawn, we broke a six month record and actually dropped down to SIXTY NINE for a couple of brief overnight hours. (The weather that is, not Claudine and I). Today, it just barely made it into the nineties instead of the low hundreds as has been the norm. Winter is just around the corner. You know, this place is really uni ue. I mean, how many places in this country can you go, from which things get better in ALL directions? And with two directions filled by West Texas and Kansas respectively, that is saying a lot! Actually, this summer did have one break: the remnant of hurricane Alicia passed right over the city, dropping really heavy rains (over an inch in some places, like HERE thank goodness) and kept it cloudy for almost, but not quite, two days. Nothing but a hurricane can do that here in August.

Oh, before I forget, Fluff called with a really cute Aggie joke I dedicate to our illustrious BNC: Did you here about the Aggie lesbian? She likes her.

Or maybe that was in Sleepless Knights. One of those sickies or the other had it.

As a lot of you may know, I was fortunate enough to have percolated to the top of the hiring list for the state of Oklahoma the week after my extended unemployment coverage died. I picked up a spot in the Unclaimed Property Division of the Okla Tax Commission. It is a 40% payout over last year, but it is a 100% raise over what I had coming the week before. That same night I got the hiring call, I was due to talk to the manager of an Arby's 13 miles away, which was the only serious lead I had. Not as a Manager, just as a Scott-Hanson-type flunkie. And I'd have been glad to have it. Every other dicklick I'd talked to gave the old "overqualified" line, saying in effect I should watch everything I had worked for over the years vanish, because I was too good for the flunkie shitjob they were offering. It was a valuable lesson to me about that "security net" Reagan talks about. Ha. There are no supervisory openings, but you are too good for just a staff spot; then you're too good for entry level work; then you're too good for senior clerical spots, so naturally you're too good for entry level clerk. You're too stable for the hustler spots the fast food sweatshops offer, and the result is that you fall straight to the bottom of the job ladder. I wouldn't have believed it if it hadn't happened to me.

But now I'm on with the state. It's the first employer in a long time that I am fairly certain will still be here in 20 years when I'm eligible (I hope) to retire— I'm mentally ready now!

****But are we mantally ready for full-time Michalski again? We're still in shock over THE BRUTUS BULLETIN, you know. All of this unemployment talk isn't exactly comforting to a guy who is looking for career work in software, especially since most of the October interviewers are looking for December graduates. Maybe in January and February, the companies will start making \$12.50/hour offers like they're supposed to. (Burroughs employees get 4 weeks vacation per year, too!)

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One good thing about this job is that it answered an important question that had been bothering me for some years now: what happens to all the workers who turn 38? Are they ground up into sausage or something? Really. I mean, the clerks I hired under me were all maybe twenty, or maybe a late twenties now and then (the one thirtieish woman I hired was one I thought I had a good chance of hitting something off with, but sadly, I had to let her go for an unrelated reason. Too bad.). Then when you interview for another spot, the Controller who interviews you as your potential superior, is 26. What happens to us mid-30s types? ((How many of you thought I was 15? Dream on)) Now I know. They are all in government. I am one of the youngest people around! Another nice thing is that I am a field auditor. We get to go in and watch those very Controllers cringe and quake as they wallow in ignorance, wondering if we will drag them out and crucify them on the sidewalk out front, or show up some failing of theirs so that their boss will do it for us. We are sort of Robin Hood types: out scaring up money for the state's general fund from folks who stole it from the people: banks, insurance companies, utilities, colleges, oil companies, and other similar organizations on the fringes of legality. We even find and return to the legitimate owners, about 20% or so of our take. It's not a desk job like I'm used to, but it's fun, and beats the hell out of 50 hours a week at Arbys for \$3.50 an hour. I'm glad we don't have to sell the house now, because there aren't a lot of buyers at 13 1/2% for over-\$100,000 homes. Pilant just got married here last week, and gave up on the house they were going to buy when rates went up. Poor ol' Fluff is trying to unload the one he bought with his now-former live-in friend who walked out, and there aren't even any nibbles. Fortunately for him, he's making so damn much money that he's not real worried. What's a \$1400 a month house payment to him? An inconvenience. So anyway, the Federal Reserve Board can be assured that the economy won't overheat too fast, what with everyone teetering on the edge. I mean, if they're not careful, they might slip up and let the unemployed fall to or even below 10 million, perish the thought.

Here's a letter excerpt from
EVANS GIVAN

I liked your MES unemployment issue ((in NSWG)). Brought back some bad memories. I was lucky, you remember. It trickled down on me faster than it has on most. Money may not buy happiness but it sure relieves a lot of worry and frustration.

((That's for sure. Now I need to see if I can break the chain of recent history and hold ON to the damn thing. I mean, how many pudgeCons do I have to go to and look forward to all the jibes from Hanson? Two so far...))

ROEYN FINLEY
(excerpt)

Read about your hassles with the AFB. So it's not different in the other services. From what Jim tells me, the Marine Corps pulls enough petty crap too: One of the reasons he's getting out this April. He's decided not to go career military. It seems that headquarters won't ((overlook a prior problem)) back in '81. I don't mind--I'm looking forward to living in one place for more than six months at a time. I just hope he can find a job without too much delay. (With computers in Albuquerque)

((I wish him luck. If it's maintenance, Fluff says there is tremendous demand. Even though maintenance today is largely just board-swapping, no troubleshooting like he and I once did, he says a lot of the present maintenance types have trouble even with the new machines that have ONE board! If programming, well--Bruce Linsey got

*****Remember - Bruce Linsey's got a Masters degree! Still, the guy who interviewed me today says that there's a shortage of programmers, or at least the big companies are looking harder than ever. Say, John, why can't you learn COBOL? It's almost like English, unlike things like BASIC or C or PASCAL (the hard part is trying to remember the differences between assignment and logical equality for each language - i.e. $A = B + C$ as opposed to $IF A = B$; there's $:=$ and $=$, or $=$ and $==$, or $=$ and $=$, or, in COBOL, MOVE and EQUALS....see what I mean?).

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himself a job in Taxachusetts, so surely Jim can get a job out there in Wasteland USA. But if Albuquerque starts to get you down after a while, go reread the Mark Berch Dept of this MES. Thanks for writing.))

MARION BATES (late of PLAGUE TIMES)

PO Box 7091, Grand Rapids MI 49510

Dear John,

Thanks much for your card. I have delayed responding as I was waiting for the deluge of mail I expect from ex-PTers wanting their money back. Well, I have been underwhelmed. In fact, so far I have heard from you and Brux alone. Perhaps some more will trickle in.

I appreciate your willingness to welcome me back to the hobby. You are however premature. While my health is greatly improved I am still rather reluctant to come back at this time. I'm afraid my folding made me a few enemies and, frankly, I don't want to deal with the shit. John, there are too goddam many assholes in the hobby.

Also, I should say that I've always been pretty much a hard core war gamer at heart and probably not cut out for Dip. I've been keeping pretty busy with my writing for the "Journal of 20th Centruy Wargaming" and "The Grenadier." Incidentally, it did my heart good to see the name Nikita Frobish surface in the latter publication. I have my weaknesses but Nikita is indomitable.

At any rate, don't count me out yet. I have some fond memories of the hobby and there are alot of people in it that I cared for very much. Besides, I might be up to one game of Dip if I could find a GM who would accept me. Who knows?

((Hey, you come to da right place! Guess what zine has a game that's been open for over a full YEAR now? Dick Martin, GGM. Should be fun.

You know, I don't really remember what the problem was, other than that you had a lot of medical problems and had to fold. Ok, there was the death-hoax thing which was kind of dumb, but most of the hobby come down in denunciation of the unknown perpetrators. Your fold wasn't messy like that of Jack Brawner or that guy in Michigan or Florida...hmm, come to think of it, I guess you're right, there ARE a lot of assholes out there. But then, same is true of Main Street, USA, right? I was pleased to hear from you, esp. here. Welcome back.))

Well, not really time or space enough to get into some good mudslinging, so John Caruso's letter gets carried over to the next MES, probably to ANDUIN or SK. Another thing I need to do sometime is to give a long review of Avalon Hill's new PATTLE OF THE BULGE game, which is really shitty. The Germans win by doing nothing more than shoving their many, many units forward down the hundreds of roads that blanket the board, and blow away whatever they come into contact with. Good thing that Fluff bought the thing. He can afford to play games and then throw them away, while I'm hard pressed to keep up with postage to remain in the ones (postal) I'm already in. Another interesting topic is the nude bars here which, for varying reasons, I have been able to visit twice in the last month. An interesting experience, if expensive one the first time, and worth commenting on somewhere. I'd do so here, but I have another two MESSs to get out in short order, so this page will be it. Suffice it to say, they had a decent show. Good thing Fluff paid our way the second time.

*****I never get the good stuff, do I? By the way, this "new" BULGE came out in 1981, didn't it? (Oh, I said that on page 2 already, didn't I?)

I saw that Dick Martin got an Olivetti Praxis 35, which has French, German, Spanish, and Italian keyboards. I've seen their MLL20 computer with 15 different languages, including Greek! (I have to admit - it treats English and American differently.)

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STAB OF THE CENTURY

NOT JUST ANOTHER GAME OF DIPLOMACY

THE STORY BEGINS....As a lot of you know, I finished last in the GM section of this year's Runestone poll. By no coincidence, I finished last in last year's GM poll as well. A few months back, Gary Coughlan said that I didn't deserve these low ratings and wanted to be in a game with me as the GM. Soon after, John Caruso said that he would also like to be in a game with me as the GM. Originally, I didn't like the idea of running another regular game, especially since I couldn't fill the Dick Martin game in over a year! (I'm just about there, though.) However, I had this idea....

I told Kathy Byrne of my idea. "Why don't you and John (Caruso), Dick and Julie (Martin), and Scott (Hanson) and Frauke (Petersen) get together with Gary for a game with me as GM? Obviously, it would be a variant game (there's a rule against two people living at the same address competing in the same regular Dip game), but why not give it a try?" In the October 3 issue of RETALIATION, Kathy agreed to play, as did Dick and Julie. As of this writing, Scott and Frauke don't know about the game, although I have written them and informed them about it.

The current plan is to have what I refer to as a "DYO" variant. (DYO, as you WS&IM or SQUAD LEADER types know, stands for "Design Your Own") In other words, each season (or each game year), each surviving player sends in one rule change he/she wants made. The following season, the players (and the GM) vote on it; a unanimous vote means the rule is in effect. (The GM's discretion is added to prevent things like "Make the SCs into non-SCs and vice-versa" or anything else which drastically changes the game.) Other than that, it's good old Dip.

Should, by some miracle that makes November 20, 1982 look like an everyday event, this game actually get its seven players, the country assignments and new and improved house rules for this thing will appear.

Any suggestions for a title?

~~BIGGER-THAN-BIG-GAME-REAL-FIREWORKS-AND-ALL-RIGHT-HERE-IN-ROD-WALKER'S-FAVORITE-ZI~~

**DIP
WARZ**

AND JUST WHEN THE DIPLOMATIC REBELS SEEMED TO BE HEADED FOR THE FINAL ABSOLUTE UNIMPEACHABLE UNIMPEARABLE UNIM-GRAPEFRUITABLE REBEL VICTORY, THERE'S YELLING AND SCREAMING AT YAWN BORING'S FLAGSHIP....

"Excellent news, Lord Sawks Fifthavenue....hey, where did you go? Why can't you force-type images stand still?"

"For a very good reason - your ship is moving! If I were to stand still, I'd still be out in intergalactic medium, which, contrary to the name, is rather large. Anyway, what's all this yelling and screaming?"

"Right here!"

"It looks like another one of those me-damned issues of LIFE OF MONTY, if you ask me."

"That's what it is - but look inside!"

"Let's see....Pan-Diplomatic nonsense....Mossy Eyesore stuff.... something about Submarine warfare - have we tried that yet?....uh, game reviews....another poll ballot....the pubber returns to GMing....the pubber does WHAT?!"

Back with the rebels...."He did WHAT?" yells Rod Seaparter to Oboe-1 Caruso.

"He's running another game of Dip. Just because he's been rated first in the GM polls from the bottom up doesn't mean that you have to panic."

"Oh, sure - we can all die in peace! Forget about the GM polls."

LIFE OF MONTY 11/83 9

Tell them, LLOM."

"Well, studies have shown that LIFE OF MONTY game starts have a lethality index equivalent to 26.932 issues of BORN TO DIP combined with, oh, I'd say, well, about 6.2277859 attacks on El Salvador-type Central American postage stamp WWII-prelude-type thingies, and not to mention enough post-destructive force to eliminate everything within a radius of 527.33 meters, including, but NOT limited to, this ship - and us as well."

"You," says Princess Luscious, "and your big mouth. Say, John Pole-o, what do we do now?"

"So far, we've been to the ice planet Ig Lew, the Pœriplanet, Rod Seaparter's home base, Garra the Elvi master - say, I know where we haven't been to yet....set course 392 mark 88, range 150!"

Baldo Calberchian starts to thinking...."392, at 88, for 150.... say, isn't that - no, it couldn't - well, it is our only choice at the moment, I suppose." Just then, the ship's speakers came through with a message.

"ATTENTION! You are now approaching the border to your galactic treaty zone. Please identify before crossing - otherwise, we'll be very dismayed, and maybe even MAD if you're going fast enough."

"We, uh, are a travelling circus on a tour of the neighboring galaxies. Let us through!"

"Circus, huh? Let's see....(interior of the ship scanned)....with that crew, you must be a side show! Welcome to the GREAT WHITE NORTH. No REBELS allowed."

"What's the mean planetary temperature around here?"

"Rather unseasonable - 20 below zero. You have to remember that it is the hottest time of the day, too."

"Well, - wait, what's this on the radar? It's coming at us with INCREDIBLE speed! Look at that wing span! And its size! It'll eat us for breakfast! Maybe even for a midnight snack!"

"Princess Luscious," Seaparter breaks in, "you don't have to panic yet."

"Have you looked at the radar?"

"Well, no....OOOOHHH and AAAAHHH and all that! It's coming right at us! LLOM, time to impact."

"Well,....it already has."

"Then WHY AREN'T WE IN A MILLION PIECES YET?"

John Pole-o shakes the interior radar screen. The big blip disappears....as a moth comes off the screen. "Boy, what a wing span!"

Meanwhile, the Diplomatic Empire prepares for yet another final assault...."LOM game starts....VOICE OF DOOM house rules, unabridged (this IS a big attack!)....color glossies of known Canadians....full thermonuclear nukes, added to taste....loaded and aimed....wait a minute! You out there!"

Who, ME?

"Of course, you. Did you fire that me-damned cannon of yours yet?"

No, I didn't have time....

"IN THE NAME OF THE ALMIGHTY EMPIRE!" (That means FIRE)

"Where?"

"Out there....thataway!"

The shot goes off with incredible fanfare - you know, the usual Empire garbage. It's getting closer and closer to the Rebels....

~~-WELL-THAT'S-ENOUGH-FOR-THIS-ISSUE-OF-LIFE-OF-MONTY-I'M-SORRY-IT'S-A-LITTLE-LATE-~~

Well, next issue will have, if we're lucky, the beginning of one or two new subzines, plus maybe even news on one or two Diplomacy games, and the usual stuff, like maybe DIP BOWL or BATTLESTABS or Pythonics. And who knows? Maybe even DIP WARZ, but I'm trying to stay away from two consecutive issues of any one thing. Don't panic if #37 is a little late - I'm still carrying a heavy load in Berkeley, and I just blew an Astronomy/Astrophysics midterm (John Boardman, you did NOT just read that). So until next time, remember one thing: the pointy end goes into the other guy's back.

Sorry there weren't any fancy page footers like this
PAGE 10 - I was rushed for time

FOURTH ANNUAL DIPLOMACY PLAYERS POLL....List the five best Diplomacy players and writers in order on the spaces provided, with #1 being the best, #2 second best, and so on.

BEST PLAYER

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

BEST WRITER

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

MAIL TO: John Caruso
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DEADLINE: November 22

SIGNATURE _____

Did you know this was once the inside back cover of LIFE OF MONTY #36?

(cut here)

(cut here too)

THIRD ANNUAL MARCO POLL....List the seven best 'zines, the five best GMs, and the three best subzines in order in the spaces provided, with #1 being best.

BEST 'ZINE

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

BEST SUBZINE

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

BEST GM

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

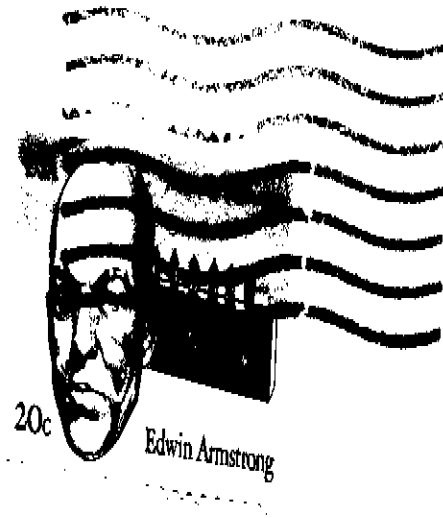
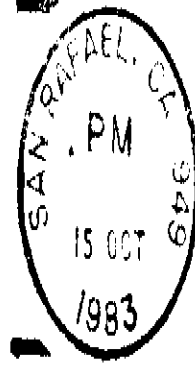
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this came from the inside rear cover of LIFE OF MONTY #36

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