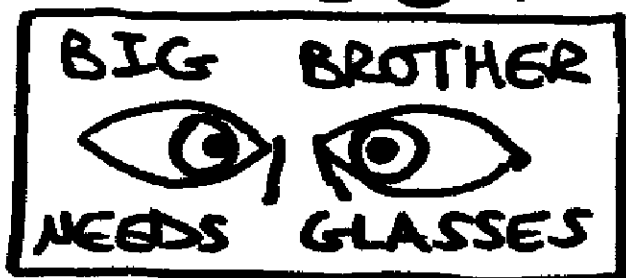


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MURDOCH
TAKING OVER
THE LIFER?

WHAT MAKES YOU
THINK THAT?

INSIDE: KATHY NIXES PHYLLIS-
FRED DAVIS WEDDING PLANS

LIFE OF MONTY

#39

MARCH 11, 1984

83HV - page 4

amazing!
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Howaya? Yes, it's even yet another LIFE OF MONTY, brought to you by that prince of puns, that baron of boffo, that wizard of whoopee, the Unknown Comic - no, it's actually by Don Del Grande, 142 Eliseo Drive, Greenbrae, CA, zip code 94904-1339 (what, NINE digits? Is Big Brother getting closer? Nah, Reagan is too old to be a brother....then again, since when are the FBI and the CIA party-affiliated?), phone (415) 461-2692, but not after midnight Pacific time (GMT - 8 until the last Sunday in April, then GMT - 7 until the last Sunday in October, when it goes back to GMT - 8), nor before noon Pacific time (that's GMT - 8 until....you get the idea). Those of you outside of the United States and Canada use the appropriate country code if you're capable of direct dialing.

Number 39, eh? That means it's been over a year since the last one of these, so it's time once again for a(n in)famous LOM more-or-less annual tradition....

THE THIRD ANNUAL LIFE OF MONTY AWARDS

(better known as the "Lifers")

The **BEST COMPUTER SOFTWARE** award goes to Avalon Hill for TELENGARD, its 50-level version of D&D (right down to "Power Word Kill"), which makes up for the trash job somebody did in getting out COMPUTER DIPLOMACY. Let me get my hands on it - there must be something a Computer Science B.A. from Berkeley can do, especially with an Atari and a color TV.

The **BIGGEST STRUGGLE** award - well, it's a tie between Mona Berch's endeavor to get Joshua out into the world and Mark Berch's attempt to put it into words interesting enough to read through in an issue of DIPLOMACY DIGEST.

The **BIGGEST JOKE** award goes to Avalon Hill's PRO TENNIS for giving Bjorn Borg terrible ratings to go with his low ranking, when his ranking came because of reduced amount of playing - in the game, Borg would be lucky to come close to taking a set from McEnroe, Connors, or Lendl.

BEST 'ZINE - sorry, Gary, but you won it last year. This year's nod goes to the 'zine with the 170-page issue, THE VOICE OF DOOM. Send your complaints to me, and your subs to Bruce Linsey, 73 Ashuelot Street, Apt. 3, Dalton, MA 01226 - 10 issues for \$5.

BIGGEST SHOCK AWARD: Anybody who bet on the 'Skins against the Niners in the NFC championship (unless you're from England, in which case it has to be that 14-12 rugby final at Wembley) - from 21-0 to 24-21, and they had to give 10. This belongs right up there with the **WORST EYESIGHT** award, which goes to those officials at the Skins-Niners game. We wuz ROBBED!

While we're on the subject of the NFL....**BIGGEST JOKE AWARD:** "New York Raiders".

RISING SUN AWARD: TSR gets the nod for its constant delays with "A Gleam Of Bayonets" (monster Antietam game, similar to TSS and BLOODY APRIL) and "Battle Over Britain".

PHOTO AWARD: John Caruso actually wearing his KATHY'S KORNOR T-shirt, captured on film by Gary Coughlan.

For those of you who don't know the story of the shirts, there's a T-shirt shop in Berkeley that makes design-your-own-message shirts. Four members of the hobby have these shirts: Gary Coughlan and I have LIFE OF MONTY shirts (Gary took a picture at DafCon - well, actually, Steve Langley took the picture for Gary - with the two of us side-by-side wearing our shirts), and John Caruso and Kathy Byrne have KATHY'S KORNOR shirts (originally, I wanted to send Kathy a shirt for one of her birthdays, since a card was the typical hobby thing to do - I didn't know how big she was, so I figured that it's better to be too big than too small, and since X-Large fit me just fine, I sent her one of those. At the time, I measured 11 inches taller than Kathy....so I sent John a Kathy-sized shirt for his birthday). Why is it that Kathy never wears hers? (Maybe when I head out east - I'm still working on the details. Now watch me blow one of my courses this spring and have to take a summer class to graduate.....)

GREAT MAPMAKING SPECIAL AWARD: Steve Langley forgot that the highway names had been changed near his house - I followed the wrong road and ended up at some air force base. But he doesn't get the award, since I bought a map at a Shell station which had the same names that Steve's map did!

BETTER THAN ANY OSCAR: In my opinion, there is only one true measurement of what the "best motion picture of the year" is, which has to be based on what the movie is supposed to do. Entertainment value is too arbitrary, and an entertaining movie leads to more people watching it, which leads to the true index - MONEY. No doubt that RETURN OF THE JEDI blew away any competition this year. After what happened to REDS and ON GOLDEN POND (they were made by the same company, whose members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences - the people who vote for the Oscars - split the vote, allowing CHARIOTS OF FIRE to win since the company that made that movie backed it fully), the Oscars don't prove very much. (More evidence: the 1983 awards. Meryl Streep got "Best Actress" for SOPHIE'S CHOICE - or was it for 1982's ~~INDIA A GENTLEMAN~~ **"The French Lieutenant's Woman"** performance in ON GOLDEN POND? And Jessica Lange received "Best Supporting Actress" for TOOTSIE - well, I think most of the voters gave it to her for FRANCES, but had to give Best Actress to Meryl to make up for having to give the 1982 award to Katharine. Got it?) Besides, RETURN OF THE JEDI was the only movie I saw in 1983 in a theater.

WORST NAME AWARD: Those of us who have heard of the application of such words have never heard of a "voluntary tax" - which is what Larry Peery's "DipTax" is presented as. Any number of people think that the intention was for a mandatory tax. (I will say this, though: who would notice a \$1 raise in gamefees? Or, perhaps, as a possibly better idea, a 50¢ donation added to each year's worth of a sub rate? Would you mind having to pay \$5.50 for 12 issues of LOM, even though you haven't got the slightest idea where the money goes?)

BEST TV COMMERCIAL: The local ABC affiliate showed the following commercial in early December: the scene was a typical snow-covered suburbia neighborhood at Christmas, and Santa Claus was driving his sleigh (well, flying). The announcer talked about how there were certain people who will have nothing short of destroying our way of life forever - then a missile was launched at Santa's sleigh, and WHAM. The commercial was for a news series called "Green Street Reds"; Green Street is where the Soviet Consulate is in San Francisco (which also made news when they put a "shed" on the roof, which was rumored to have an antenna that was picking up secrets from Silicon Valley).

BEST PREDICTION: The first female president of the United States will be San Francisco mayor Dianne Feinstein, after she's elected Vice-President in 1988 (she can't run for another consecutive term as mayor) and the big boss bites the bullet.

AND AWAY WE GO....

BOARDMAN NUMBER

1983HV

HERVE Spring 01

A FINE KETTLE OF FISH

A (Michalski): A Vie-Tri, A Bud-Ser, F Tri-Alb
 E (Brawner): F Lon-Eng, F Edi-Nth, A Lpl-Yor
 F (Gardner): F Bre-Mao, A Par-Pic, A Mar-Pie
 G (Shores): A Mun-Bur, F Kie-Den, A Ber-Rie
 I (Bowen): A Ven H, F Nap-Ion, A Rom-Apu
 R (Slaughter): F Stp(sc)-Gob, F Sev-Rum, A Mos-Sev, A War-Ukr
 T (Ehli): A Con H, A Smy-Arm, F Ank-Bla

All moves succeed. Thanks to Ken Peel for unneeded standby orders. You can put that on your resume, Ken. No thanks to Jerry White, for nothing. Don, there's one that doesn't need to clutter your standby list. Spring 1901 and we've got stabs galore already. German peacekeepers in Burgundy, English fishing trawlers in the Channel, French winegrowers (how do you grow a wine?) investigating Italian vineyards, and Turkish cabin cruisers sailing toward Sevastopol. Keep up the good work, men. Let's set another deadline in the space to your left: (Don? Would you do the honors?)

Thank you.... (I'm down here! Try FEBRUARY 29 for Fall 1901)

Paul Gardner has a change of address to: 1676 E 24th, Eugene, OR 97403

← dead-line

SULTAN to CZAR: Purely defensive. Honest.

MOSCOW to UNIVERSE OF MONTY: My first game in LOM which, I find, has a great reputation for its players. How's about giving the new guy a break?

ROCKVILLE: As for the great LOM player reputation, Gregg Shores never got his initial gamestart notice, and I've had some degree of confusion with Derwood's orders. Yes, yes, this is definitely the place to play!

Gregg, if you still would like that lengthy letter of yours printed, just ask.

As for houserules, Don printed them an issue or two ago. Send all inquiries in that regard to Don. I don't know them, and don't really expect to need them. Oh, yes, let's finish up the press....

FRANCE to WORLD: You may not know me and you'll sure as hell never see my American Express Card, but I see you. That's right, I'm BIG BROTHER AND I'M WATCHING YOU.

ROCKVILLE: Oh no, not 1984 jokes!

I guess that about wraps up the press this time. Might as well wrap up the game report as well. Good night, see you in a few weeks time.

Paul, did you used to live in Newfane, VT, or is that another Paul Gardner?

Hey, Dick, let's see the results quickly after the deadline this time, OK? I had to delay the 'zine a week to get this game in. Now look! I'm just loaded with white space, aren't I? I've run out of things to write about. Unless....

~~COMPUTERS-COMPUTERS-COMPUTERS-COMPUTERS-COMPUTERS-COMPUTERS-COMPUTERS-COMPUTERS-C~~

What with getting a talk by Don Parker, the Bald Eagle of Computer Crimefighting, and hearing him talk about, among other things, how the makers of the movie "War Games" wanted his advice, but didn't use it because he gave somewhat realistic advice, and the movie was far from that. (Example: why, after the tic-tac-toe, didn't the computer say, "Nuclear War and Tic-Tac-Toe have something in common; whoever goes first can't lose", start the game over again, and launch our missiles first? Then again, nobody will ever know whether or not the computer would have actually launched the missiles, or just simulated our launch like it simulated theirs.)

I'll save ZORK I until next time, but I will discuss my latest hardware acquisition: the RANA 1000 revised disk drive. This is different from their first offering; that one had buttons on the front (this one uses a flat pad, like the ATARI 400), and wouldn't work in double density. The RANA works in three densities - low (ATARI 810), medium (ATARI 1050 single), and high (1050 double, if double-density DOS ever gets out). For \$50 less, the RANA reads slightly faster than the 1050 (although the 1050 includes DOS and the RANA requires an extra \$35 for it) and is much more reliable. Also, there is the usual extra plug so that you can plug another ATARI-compatible device (cassette, printer, or another drive) to the main computer without an expander. I don't recommend a disk drive to anyone but the hard-core ATARI hack, because of the cost.

DIP WARZ

"And it was suggested by the Earl of Peericlees that in order to maintain the quality of the Diplomatic Empire's efforts to maintain the populace, that a suggestion to the people of a form of payment out of the gold of each one's bag should be asked.

But the others scoffed, since the Empire was in no dire dangers of being in a bankrupt state, and the people were as one for the Empire." Thus, the original suggestion many galactic time-units of your choice, as long as they're sufficiently short - no eons or light-years allowed.

"Light-years aren't units of time."

What was that?

"Light-years are units of distance, equal to 299792.5 kilometers multiplied by the number of seconds per year. What did you get in Astronomy, anyway?"

Well, I - er, uh - a C. But it's not my fault! The final had a lot of questions that were non-mathematically based, and you know how bad I am at that. It was supposed to be Astrophysics. And they didn't show me even ONE constellation in the entire 15 weeks!

"Not one?"

The Big Dipper doesn't count!

"And why-"

"My Lord, the Linoleum Falcon has been sighted again!"

Lord Sacks Fifthavenue turned to one of his flunkies. "Are you sure?"

"Reflected light readings are off all known scales!"

"That Baldo Calberchian made one mistake - he took his hat off."

Meanwhile, John Poleo comments, "Hey, we're being followed on our left side - you know what that means!"

"With you," replies Oboe-1 Caruso, "that could mean anything. After all, we're supposed to represent the radical forces."

"Don't USE THAT WORD AGAIN." Suddenly, the subspace intergalactic radio frequencies became active, or whatever words are supposed to mean that the radio was on.

"Hey, the radio's on," says Princess Luscious. "Who's the translator?"

Rod Seaparter turns to ILOM. "Get with it!"

"What was that? What's this 'Get With It' business? Show some (BOOT)

The message is, 'Prepare for a message from your friendly neighborhood emperor, TS'R ALEX I, the true and absolute Voice of Dim.'"

"Don't you mean Doom?"

"Nobody likes a smartass, you know. Here's the speech: wait a minute, it's another message - 'Any talking, whispering, unnecessary noises, and failure to maintain complete and undivided attention will result in very harsh and severe and nasty and horrible and not at all nice things.'"

The Emperor's voice was heard - er, it began to sound - you know what I want to say. "Friendly neighborhood citizens of our illustrious Diplomatic Empire, and rebels, I am absolutely and positively pleased - no, gratified - more like proud - no, HONORED - that's the one - to announce that we have decided to follow the advice of one of the infamous and heavily disliked Diplomatic Rebels, the well-known Earl of Peericlees (the message was interrupted by canned booing and hissing over the air). With his cooperation, beginning today, every person, creature, or other living organism capable of sustaining a pile of goodies will aid the Diplomatic Empire through a voluntary tithe. Do not feel that this is a mandatory payment, even if we do subject you to painful and incredibly horrible THINGS, full and completely amazing and remarkably sinister GOINGS-ON, or the supreme penalty-"

"He doesn't mean-"

"It couldn't be-"

"Yes, it is - BOTH!"

In the millenia of the existance of time itself, throughout the infinite wastes of finite space, from the four corners of spherical planets, there is no harsher penalty than BOTH. Even in the 20th Century Earth period, there were things like "\$500 fine, 6 months imprisonment, or both" - BOTH was always the cruelest thing. Now, after a long pause, break, silence, etc., the Diplomatic Empire had decided to stoop to extremely low abnormalities this time. That one was even lower than - don't look at me, I'm 6'1 (185 cm) and I don't know any short people in the hobby, off-hand, except maybe 5'2 (157 cm) Kathy Byrne - at least that's what she said her height was....

"Hey, what about us?" interrupts Yawn Boring aboard the Diplomatic Empire's flagship. "Now, where were we?"

"We had just listened to the Emperor's illustrious speech - wait a minute....I'm getting a message to....course set for the Digital system - warp factor 6!"

"What do you MEAN, warp factor 6?"

"That's 216 times the speed of light."

"Look, you - my physics and astronomy masters - mainly, ME - know that nothing goes faster than the speed of light. Clear?"

"Then tell me how Lord Sacks Fifthavenue gets from planet to planet in the blink of an eye."

FLASH - there's a black spot where the smart guy used to sit. Mainly because he decided to dodge the shot. "You missed."

"No I didn't - look out there. Notice something?"

"Say, where did this big black spot come from?"

"Did you ever see those World War II plane photos where American pilots put German Crosses on their plane for each German plane downed? Well, each spot means yet another planet decided to question the authority of THE EMPIRE."

"Where was the usual stuff about IN THE NAME OF THE ALMIGHTY EMPIRE?"

"That took too long. With our NEW and IMPROVED weapons - regular LOM DIPLOMACY openings and everything - we can obtain QUICKER and FASTER eliminations than ever before!"

"Say, what planet did we bust?"

"The UCBVAX planet in the DIGITAL system."

"What did they do?"

"Remember the speech the Emperor just gave? Look down - well, where that large peninsula on the east coast of the largest continent used to be. No, no - a little to the left - now just a touch up - too much - THERE - no, you passed - THERE! That's it!"

"What about that spot?"

"Right in the middle of the speech, somebody on that spot sneezed."

"So what?"

"SO WHAT?" FLASH "Gotcha!"

"Look! The absence of the planet allows us to close in on the Linoleum Falcon and eliminate the Rebels - where are they headed?"

Suddenly, loud music covered the galactic reaches of vast everythingness. From one of the small pieces of the ex-UCBVAX planet came a light that put Calberchian's headglare to shame.

Yawn Boring knew. "It must be-"

Obce-l Caruso knew as well. "It must be-"

All together now: "THE BOURSE!!!"

Rod Seaparter prepared to beam down. "Energize!"

"Seaparter has beamed through the planet piece thingy - but didn't come out of the other side! That must be a porthole into another universal plane type of thing," according to LLOM.

"Where is this place?" asked Seaparter. "Why, that's-"

"YES, Seaparter," replied Lord Sacks. "THE BOURSE. It's time for the big one-on-one combat sequence to decide who reigns supreme and collects the residuals on all of the sequels. Reach for your weapon!" Rod reaches for his lasgun - but the only thing he has is a STAR WARS-type light sword. Not only that, but there was no apparent way out - and the only light came from the swords and the immense brightness of THE BOURSE.

"Attack!" Seaparter makes the first move at Lord Sacks - but the attack was parried. That's strange - the tips of the swords met! Another swing - edge crashes against edge. No wonder! Each attack was mirrored! Seaparter reached out with his hand - Lord Sacks with his other hand - but just before touching, there was a spark between the hands. "THE BOURSE contains many mysteries," said a voice from beyond.

"Garra! Garra the Elvi master!"

"Not-very-young Seaparter, you still have much to learn before you are worthy enough to receive THE BOURSE."

"Well, you could have told me before I got into this mess."

"And don't expect any help in getting out of it - I'm sure you'll find a way.....eventually!"

"But how can I beat Lord Sacks if we make mirrored attacks so our swords

can't penetrate, and we can't choke each other?"

"How about crossbows at 100 meters?"

"The bolts would contact each other at the midpoint."

"How about standing around until one of you dies of old age?"

Lord Sacks interrupts. "We're in a time barrier - no aging."

"Holding your breath until one of you passes out?"

"Get serious! That's the kind of thing in a SNEAK PREVIEW'S Dog of the Month. We need the money, remember?"

"Well then, why don't we - well, there's always - say, what do I have to do to get THE BOURSE?"

"Number one - first and foremost - get yourself out of this mess!" POOF

"Poof?"

"Would you prefer WHOOOOSH or a bright flash of light and a puff of smoke? OK...." FLASH COUGH COUGH

WILL Rod Seaparter get out of this mess? What about the Linoleum Falcon? The Imperial "Voluntary" Tithe? The 1984 'Zine Polls? How about waiting for the next episode, whenever that is??

AND-NOW-AND-NOW-AND-NOW-AND-NOW-AND-NOW-AND-NOW-AND-NOW-AND-NOW-AND-NOW-AND-NOW-AND-NOW-

And now for the 1984 OLYMPIC PREDICTIONS - you heard them here first!

The hockey team (all teams are U.S. unless otherwise stated) will win a silver medal to the Soviet gold. *(well, so much for that one!)*

In figure skating, Rosalyn Sumners and Elaine Zayak (or however their first names are spelled) will take it right down to adding up the points themselves. (For those of you who don't know any better, figure skating judging is based on something called "ordinals" - a 1 indicates that a judge gave that person the highest score of any participant, a 2 means second, a 3 third, and so on. To get first place, a person or pair (in pairs and ice dancing) must receive a majority of the 1s. If nobody gets a majority of 1s, combine the 1s and 2s. More than one majority (only possible with a combination) requires adding up the ordinals, with the lowest total winning; a tie requires adding up the points themselves. If that wasn't clear, it never is - I'm not too sure of this myself.) The only non-American gold will be in ice dancing, where Great Britain's top pair (Torval and Dean?) found a loophole in the ice dancing rules. (I hope those names are right....)

One of the Mahre brothers will win the Slalom and/or Giant Slalom.

Liechtenstein will win yet another gold - and they STILL don't have a national anthem to play! (At Lake Placid, they played "God Save The King" and changed the last word to "Prince".)

The United States will take a BRONZE in basketball. Gold and Silver to Yugoslavia and Italy. The USSR comes up empty.

Gymnastics isn't the same without some squabble - after the last person (either Soviet or Chinese) competes in the Men's Team event, it will take at least 20 minutes - maybe 30 - to get his score because the Soviet and Chinese judges will argue. (In the 1980 Women's All-Around, Nadia Comaneci's final routine took 30 minutes to score because the judges argued over one small mistake which cost her the gold to a Soviet rival; the judges originally wanted to give a 9.85, which would have given Nadia the silver (that's what she ended up with), but some East German judge gave the following argument to raise the score: "Nadia must have more." The next day, some Western papers made it sound like the Soviet judges "found some rules loophole" to lower her score.) Despite the hype and the "home advantage", Americans will win no women's gymnastics golds.

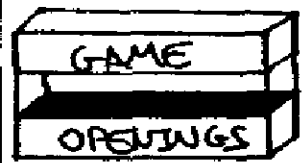
For the first time since 1968, Cuban boxer Teofilo Stevenson will not win the gold in boxing's highest weight class (now Superheavyweight, 201 pounds and above - only in amateur boxing can you not box in a higher weight class without outgrowing the lower ones) - the gold goes to whichever of America's Tyrrell Biggs and Italy's Francesco Damiani is in better shape at the time.

Carl Lewis will win FOUR golds, just like Jesse Owens, BUT he WON'T jump more than 29 feet, nor run 100 meters in less than 10 seconds (the current record is 9.93 by Calvin Smith in Colorado Springs, where Carl refused to compete because - correctly - he figured that any records set would be "tarnished" by the fact that Colorado Springs is 7000 feet above sea level, which makes faster times and longer jumps easier - note that Bob Beamon's record jump was made at the even-higher Mexico City).

ABC will show more than 170 hours of coverage - but will not show more than 5 minutes of any of the following events: field hockey, handball, archery, cycling (not including the sprint events), shooting, and judo. (Well, make that 10 minutes - but include yachting.) Meanwhile, the in-depth events will include synchronized swimming, tennis, baseball (these two are not official events), rhythmic gymnastics (well, this one should be covered heavily), and soccer (even though these are amateur teams), along with, of course, track & field, gymnastics, basketball, boxing, wrestling, volleyball, swimming & diving (to the 10-minute list, add water polo), and weightlifting. (20 hours had to be cut out from the original plan for soap operas!)

FINALLY....San Marino will win a gold medal. I hope they have an anthem!

~~THE-OPENINGS-THE-OPENINGS-THE-OPENINGS-THE-OPENINGS-THE-OPENINGS-THE-OPENINGS-THE~~



DIPLOMACY....yours truly at the GMing helm. Both Gary Coughlan and Dick Martin have expressed interest. Isn't this how STAR OF THE CENTURY started? Anyway, no game fee nor NMR fee. Bjornsson also signed up.

MORE DIP....GM Derwood Bowen in SUBMARINE WARFARE. 7 needed. \$5 NMR deposit. *M. E. H. in F. also has on opening. As fees - 7 needed.*

DIPLOMACY STANDBYS....\$1 credit to any 'zine for completing a position.

NUCLEAR WAR/NUCLEAR ESCALATION....Ehli and White signed up - 4 needed. If you only own one of these games, I'll tell you how the other half works.

PENNANT RACE....Anybody interested? The design-your-own teams rules in ALL-STAR REPLAY will be used. Since ASR folded, I'll send you reproductions.

CAMPAIGN TRAIL....GDW's presidential campaign game. House rules in the next LOM.

FOLDER'S GUIDE TO THE DIPLOMATIC WORLD

This issue begins yet another new feature to this rag - FOLDER'S Guide to the Diplomatic World. Said feature presents some of the lesser-known and more popular (a nice mix) spots of interest to the Dippy people throughout the world.

Located on the A827 some 17 km off the A9 on the river Tay (70 km or so north of Edinburgh) in Scotland is the rather small town of Aberfeldy. Said town was visited by Pete Tamlyn (of THE ACOLYTE) and wife Kathryn on their honeymoon, where they came across this spot of Dip importance. I'm not referring to the Palace hotel with its 18 rooms (1 with bath), but a nearby waterfall which has a woodland walk up its side known as The Birka (scot dialect of birch). Since that's the big thing, other businesses use said name in their titles - which leads me to (you may have guessed) THE BIRKS BAR. (First it's Berch, and now this.....) (For those of you who don't know any better, Pete Birka runs GREATEST HITS, the 'zine that runs away with the British 'zine polls.)

Anyway, there's supposed to be some sort of tradition about how Birks "always buys the first round in 'his' bar". We at FOLDER'S have uncovered the truth - in order to show gratitude for his acceptance of you into "his bar", YOU are supposed to buy HIM the first round. (Of course, if he's not there, you should drink his round for him - being a nice guest and all that sort of thing.) Tell 'em FOLDERS sent you.

Submitted for your approval; one Don Del Grande was about to take a trip through oddness and obsolescence. He found himself in a zone whose boundaries are that of the imagination. A dimension of sight. A dimension of sound. A dimension of mind. A land of both shadow and substance, of things and ideas. An illuminated place where you only come to know when the bullet hits the bone. Guiding him on this wondrous journey is the mesmerizing, hypnotic sound of the

FNORD ZONE

FNORD III ...

Brought to you by: Mike Ehli
136 E. 34th Ave.
Eugene, OR 97405

Phone number; (503)343-6874. Some weekends I'm at (503)726-6999

A review: FNORD 2 was typed up just when LOM 36 came out, and this is being thrown together in a possibly vain attempt to make #38 on time, so it's been 2½ months since I worked on this thing. Someday I've got to make a better schedule.

As is obvious by now, the U of O didn't make any bowl games. Since the last F was written, the Ducks lost to Washington, Wash. St., & UCLA, beat Stanford (the eventual Bottom 10 champ), and tied Oregon St. (0-0)

GAME OPENINGS: I will now start taking names and pref lists for the first dip game. No fees, but feel free to send money anyway, if you wish.

FNORD HOUSE RULES:

0. The LOM HR's will be used with the following amendments, which supersede the original HR's where conflict occurs.
3. Phone orders will be accepted, but if I'm not home that's your problem.
5. If a majority of the players request that the following season be separated, the deadline for moves will not be delayed, but the deadline for retreats and (if winter) builds will be two weeks before the regular deadline. This will insure that the games won't be slowed down.
12. Black press will be used upon unanimous request of the players. In addition, I may give openings for black press games. In either case, guest press will be prohibited.
I will not edit press except for reasons of space, but you are requested to check your personal feuds at the door.
21. Bribes will be accepted, but only those of \$50 and up. If anyone is desperate enough to pay that kind of dough, I won't argue with them.

Rule 9 is abolished and is replaced with:

22. There is definitely, absolutely, positively a Rule 9.
23. The GM's personal press dateline will be "Primus Illuminatus". Only the GM may use this dateline, even in black press games. Fnord.

page 3

(So where are pages 1 and 2, if this is Page 3? And if Rule 9 is abolished but you didn't add a rule 9, then just what is your Rule 9 which your Rule 22 says exists? Here's a possibility: "9. If the right-wing faction wins the upcoming El Salvador election, (fill in appropriate titles here) Reagan has the right to declare the elections invalid based on the grounds that the people were biased by right-wing attack squads in the streets to either stay home or vote right-wing, and that all necessary steps to restore freedom to the country will be instated." I can say these things - I voted for the guy.....)

(From the UO paper, the
Oregon Daily Emerald)

opinion

Here's 10 reasons to re-elect Reagan

LETTERS:

From Gary Coughlan: (12/3/83)

Dear Mike,

I'd liked to have written sooner, but I'm really behind in my correspondence.

I wanted to let you know how much I enjoyed your subzine FNORE and I'm glad you went to Don's zine. He's a great guy and, I think, very underrated in the hobby. Your subzine and Bowen's will add to LOM and I predict you'll be successful! Well, anyway, you now now ((sic)) you have at least one fan! Have you considered going to Daf Con? It's only 33 SSW of Lebanon!

Til later,
Gary

((I'm glad you like it. I just hope my creativity holds out. I mean, who wants to read a warehouse subzine? About DafCon...))

MY VIEW OF DAFCON

DafCon was held New Year's weekend at Steve & Daf Langley's place in Sacramento. This was my first con, and I was anxious to meet a lot of people there, especially Don Del Grande.

I got a ride down there thanks to Terry Tallman, who came down with a friend of his, who provided the car. His friend didn't play Dip; she came to buy some low-tax alcohol and take it back to Seattle.

But anyway, the trip down was relatively uneventful, until we missed our exit on I-80 by 14 miles thanks to some faulty mapping by Steve.

We got there around midnight Friday night. There was a Civilization game going at the time. I got to play the African position, which was already completely smashed, after Gary Coughlan, (also completely smashed) passed out. The game was declared a 4-way draw and I went to get some sleep.

Saturday morning I found out that Don already came and went. AAAAARRRGH!

After watching the Seattle-Miami game on TV, I got into a game of Gunboat. My Italy got bogged down against France (Evans Givan) and the game was finally conceded to Russia (Don Duck Williams). I sat out of the next game, and around 6pm another Civilization game started. There was some delay in starting while we tried to get enough people for both another Dip game and Civ. I got Egypt and I grew rather quickly. I had a good working agreement with Babylon (Diane Keeney) but Africa (Clark Reynolds), Italy (Jim Keeney), and Thrace (Rob Witt) ganged up on me. I made some mistakes and let a dying Illyria (Coughlan) get a foothold in my land. The game ended at 6am with Crete (Vince Bashaw) winning. ((More next time—maybe))

(Maybe....I can think of at least seven reasons to re-elect Reagan: Mondale, Glenn, Hart, Cranston, Askew, Jackson, and whoever the seventh guy is (Sleepy? No, S.I. Hiyahawa (or however he spells it) is a republican. How about Dopey? What do you MEAN, "Reagan is a republican too?"). Yes, I left DAFCON at about 8 PM on Friday - what could I do; it wasn't my car. And Larry Peery thinks I can make it to the next PEERICON - are you kidding?)

"The woman's place --oops!
"You will never find a more wretched hive of scum and villany"

MOS EISLEY
SPACEPORT

Must be 49 or so,
November, 1983

MOS EISLEY is a roving subzine of assorted commentary put out as filler and sub credit generator by John Michalski, Rt 10 Box 526-Q, Moore, OK 73165. Your views are welcomed for print, but if you're like Russnak and have good stuff to say, but label it all as off-the-record, hell with you; who needs it?

HOBBY NEWS Subzines are probably the most newsworthy item of late, or at least it seems that way to me. I liked UDDER NONSENSE by Elsie Coughlan in the latest Y'ALL, which was #6 I think. No, make that #5. I did 4, and this one was next, so it must be 5. One of you can do #6, but include another Udder Nonsense, it's cute.

Then there is the ongoing comedy of MANEATER, but, I won't say much about it. Caruso has said it all in the latest WHITESTONIA. I prefer her KINDER-KIRCHE-KUCHEN better myself.

Then comes Ben Schilling's invisible subzine carried in THIRTY MILES OF BAD ROAD, which Leudi says has now had 3 issues appear. I know Ben would be a good writer, but I didn't see his columns in my issues. I'm sure they were good though, whatever they were. I wish Peery would use the same format...

Speaking of subz's I haven't seen, did you see that John cut BETTY'S BOX from the latest DOGS OF WAR? That's a hobby crime! Hell what do you sub to DoW for, those bland and silly games or something?

Jim Williams puts out a subz called STRAIGHT FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH in TMOBR cited above. Seeing the last one reminded me that I'd met Williams at PudgeCon, and it's almost a surprise, because Williams himself is much nicer than you'd imagine from reading his column. Oddly enough, the same is true of Jim-Bob Burgess, another PCon attendee. In person these guys are real nice, unlike what I think from reading them. Just the opposite is Rusnak, but, what can I say?

Con note: MAGUS advertised that Peter Gaughan will be having a con at his place in Arlington TX (Dallas) the weekend of Jan 13-14, 509 Sandpiper Drive #130, 76013. I will try to attend if I can; I won't know until I see our drill schedules and audit plan, but barring bad weather, I'll attend if possible. I don't know who or what else will be there though; probably a precursor of Origins 84, where I'll be the only one there. Anyhow, if you're in Dallas...

Do you think there is much thought in the Dip hobby? I have to wonder myself. How often, after all, have you heard even non-ECC people pronounce Tyrhennian as Try-HEENEY-en? Geez. Folks, it's TY, not TRY. Those who are educated and/or alert have figured out that it is spelled the way it is because the proper pronunciation is Tie-REN-ee-en. Leave that Try shit to people trying to figure out Sherwood's nickname.

Some publishers really desperate for filler have tried to make a big deal out of

(It's me again. I just heard my friendly neighborhood U.S. Representative, Barbara Boxer (D-Greenbrae, representing S.F./Marin), on the Democratic response to Reagan's speech on January 25. Don't look at me; I didn't vote for her - and the only reason she's in is that the district I live in was gerrymandered with help from a very Democratic state legislature to guarantee a Democratic win. Why else would the district include all of Marin County, the eastern edge of San Francisco, the northern edge of the county south of S.F., and a city that's 15 miles away from the nearest point that's also in the district.)

NEW dip rules. Well of course there are no new dip rules, other than "Dump on Larry Peery, not just Woody", but like I say, some folks are desperate for filler. It seems this farce got started when someone asked Alan Calhmer at a Con what he thought of the unwanted convoy trick, and he said he didn't like it. So what? Probably 60% of the hobby doesn't, some don't care, some (like me) think it's a great loophole if you can ever pull it off. But like I say, so what? Calhmer's opinions now are the same as Boardman's over whether a given dipgame is regular or irregular: just one man's opinion. The shots are no longer called by these guys. The rules will change if Avalon Hill publishes a new rules book, and that's all there is to it. A game will be irregular if the BNC says it is, period. Your opinion and mine are good filler for letter columns, but our opinions, like Boardman's and Calhmer's, are just that: opinions. The rules are the same as they were before, and an unwanted convoy will work or fail on what your GM accepts, not what Boardman's, Calhmer's, or my opinion is.

Speaking of Lettercols:

MARK BERCH (Diplomacy Digest)

Glad you liked my humor item. I don't see how you can say that Peery's work setting up regional cons in California is a waste of time.

((Oh, OK, I'll explain it. First of all, regional cons are a great idea, and I for one not only attend all I can reach, but encourage others to do so as well. Your puzzlement is caused by your confusing regional cons with the many ripoff projects Peery thinks up in order to line his pockets at the hobbyists' expense. Regional cons are worthwhile; any of Peery's work is a farce and a ripoff, as well as a waste of time. Glad to be able to straighten you out.)) J.M.

DEREK CAWS (War and Peace) (British)

Thanks for your letter of 19 September. Sorry it has taken me so long to reply, but you should have received a copy of my zine WAR & PEACE, in which your letter appears, by now. Would you like to subscribe? You will be most welcome if you want to. I only charge overseas subscribers the postage (average about £ 0-50 an issue) and give them the zine free.

You might be interested in the latest opinion polls re nuclear missiles recently published in the UK. While a substantial majority of the British public support a British-controlled nuclear deterrent, only 6% back US-controlled Cruise missiles. I would suggest from these figures that the reason why the British people have not accepted Cruise is what I wrote in W&P - ((i.e., that Br opposition is due to

nuclear missiles being there, but Br having no say in their use or command)) Incidentally, the first Crusie missiles were installed on British soil two days ago. Consequently, there have been numerous demonstrations against them over the last couple of days, some of which have been quite violent. As usual, this is the work of the lunatic left and CND (Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament). I'm sure the majority, those against the Cruise missiles take the same view as me--passive opposition, as the installation is not a catastrophe, merely a little disturbing. Anyway, look forward to hearing from you again.

PS Has anything happened to THE MODERN PATRIOT? I haven't seen an issue of it for over two months.

((No, TMP is running once more, at least for a while. The game Orphan Service is rehousing a lot of his games due to his poor GMing.

I wish more Britons took your view--I don't mind passive opposition or 'concern'. You find their presence there "a little disturbing" under direct US command; I

(I for one don't think that Peery's cons are a ripoff, even if I don't attend. There aren't that many - 2 or 3 per year - well, maybe 4 - but I don't know of any other cons for Dippy run in that area. Most of the other cons (DAFCON, Clark Reynolds' tournaments, and the "big" PACIFICON) are held 400 miles away, which require plane fares of \$100 round trip (more if you don't go LAX-SFO; that's LA-SF international airports).

Speaking of cons, I missed most people at DAFCON, but I did get to see Gary's photos of the hobby. Too bad Gary forgot the pic of Kathy's kids. A few reactions: THAT is Robert Sacks!!! Kathy, how come John wears HIS KK shirt? And "Incredible Hulk Henricks" doesn't look too menacing to me....see you this summer?)

find our shouldering the costs of development-deployment-maintenance "a little disturbing" too. But it's kind of like Iceland, where we provide the defense if you'll provide the base. From here, it seems like you folks are still getting the best of the deal. (I am assuming your country sees our defense as mutual, and that I need not defend that).

I am flattered by your sub offer, but must decline. I've only had employment about half this year, and hobby costs are an extravagance. (I justify high postage costs by taking half my column credits in stamps, half in sub credit). I'm not even maintaining all my current subs, 2½ dozen US, 1 Canadian. But thanks anyway.

Is Loughborough pronounced LOFF-BURROW? And is "Leics" ("likes"?) short for Leichestre or something by the way? Or is it just Leics, period? What hex would that be on a THIRD REICH gameboard?))

J.M.

DON DEL GRANDE (Life of Monty)

What did you think of "The Day After"? If you ask me, we can't unilaterally disarm, because that would give the Soviets the chance to launch strategic chemical weapons at the US, thus leaving the country intact while causing casualties and panic among the population, forcing some sort of deal (even unconditional surrender - isn't the end of capitalism the only thing that can save the Soviet economy as it currently stands?). Bilateral disarmament would be nice - but nice and possible are not necessarily synonymous.

((True, but I don't see chemical weapons as all that dangerous at a strategic level. They are terrible on a tactical level, vs. a platoon, or a hill, or village, but hardly vs. a continent. I think the big whammies are the only real continental concern. As you say, panic would be real, but panic is the biggest danger from chemical weapons. I personally think all disarmament talk is just windowdressing for our weaker-kneed citizens. Disarmament with an enemy is absurd. Planning to wipe them out is the only logical path, only our people don't want to admit it.

I skipped "The Day After." My wife figured the kids would prefer "Eight is Enough," and for once she was right.))

J.M.

STEVE KNIGHT (excerpts)

Been a little while since I wrote. Enjoyed the MES in the VD annish. I kind of get a kick out of revisionist histories of the holocaust. As far as I'm concerned, though, once you get above a million people murdered, there's not a lot of point in arguing over the exact millions.

((True, but the revisionist point is not so much that no one died, but that the cause was not the "factories-of-death" tale we are usually fed. It's a good story for its purpose, but is not supported by the evidence, only by hysteria.))

Work's finally settling down, now that I'm finding my niche. It's still odd adjusting to this glitzy kind of corporate stuff. I'm also not sure how long I'll stay in the east, since I'm

(If the chem-whammies are big enough, they can menace anything. And THE DAY AFTER was 3 hours (well, 2½) whereas EIGHT IS ENOUGH never runs more than 2 hours - I should know; I've seen every episode, including the pilot. Speaking of THE DAY AFTER, I know why they didn't show the men at the launch site complete the launch sequence (the shot stopped with the count at 3); they got that film from a documentary called "First Strike", in which the Soviets launched first - and when the count there got to 2, the lights went out, followed by a flash (the base had been hit by a nuke). In FIRST STRIKE, the Soviets gave an ultimatum: surrender or have every person in the United States wiped out. The President surrendered. Note that Reagan has said that he would never surrender. Here's an idea: let computers fight out WWII, and raise the winner's flag and play the anthem, just like at the Olympics. In case of a draw, give the gold to Switzerland.)

beginning to find out how strong my Midwestern roots are. Oh, hey, before I forget, you're probably a Sooners fan, aren't you? Well, if I won't fall from your graces by mentioning this, I lived in Lincoln, Nebraska for several years before moving to Minnesota. Care for a gentlemanly wager on the Huskers-Sooners game?

((Fortunately for me, I declined that. No, this isn't the OU of years past. This season's team is pretty weak. The only thing they have going for them is that they got rid of Deupree, albeit unintentionally. The seniors got in a good show for their USFL bids, but Nebraska is solid, and should make a clean national sweep, deservedly.)) *J.M.*

KATHY BYRNE, BNC (Kathy's Korner)
(excerpt)

Listen, don't knock Mr West Coast Wierd--Peery wrote me and told me I was the most obnoxious person in the hobby! I found that to be a most appropriate comment from him! As long as I'm on his shit list, I know I'm doing something right! I think he's just jealous because he knows I flirt with all the men!

Maybe you can answer this question: who appointed Larry Peery Chief Cook & Bottle Washer in the hobby? I must've missed something! Now that is a rare occurrence!

((Right. Larry appointed himself, as usual)) *J.M.*

JOHN CARUSO (Whitestonia)

What's this I read in LOM? You calling yourself "us mid-30s types"? Who are you kidding--you haven't seen the mid-30s since they invented the wheel. Hell, I know fossils that are younger than you.

Did you read the latest DW? Highballs had a letter in there complaining because DW plugged him in the previous issue as being far right and a Reagan supporter? (As opposed to an athletic supporter--like Larry Peery). Really--we all know that Highknees makes ultra-conservatives like John Birchers (such as yourself) look like commies. What's he complaining about? Here in Dipdom, we call a spade a spade, right Ace?

I'm glad you decided to run a "Larry Peery -AIDS contest". I say it 'll take him till spring of 1986 to contract it. Why then? You have to figure with all the pinkos and yoyos going to Origins 85, Larry will have his pick of the litter, and will probably score big--bigger than he may wish to.

Too bad you didn't get the job in Arby's--then you would find out what its like to really work. Speaking of work, do you know what Tom Mainardi is doing nowadays? He paints the lane divider lines on the PA highways. You see, all that Sears paint dept experience came in handy.

And speaking of handy--Woody is still French cleaning spots off of sloppy Fat Cat suits. You know--the guys who shot their loads in the wrong place..

Did you hear the good news? Olsen, Mazzer, Burgess, Coughlan are all coming to TurkeyCon. Now the bad news: we don't have a turkey, and won't have one unless you come!

((Nice to know I'm loved.

You err in associating me with the Birchers. I feel they are too moderate. However, there are some areas I am liberal in. For instance, my views regarding the inhibitions people such as myself should have when alone in a bedroom with Kathy could only be described as remarkably liberal. That's about it though.)) *J.M.*

(Views expressed in MES are the views of the persons expressing such views, but LOM and myself accept the responsibility for printing the thing in the first place. However, John, I can't print the last page of the MES you sent - among other things, color pictures can't be xeroxed without nasty things happening. By the way - bad news for John: beginning with issue 40, payment will be \$1 for the first page and 50¢ for each additional, with partial pages paid accordingly, but I'll pay the full amount for an 8½ x 11 submission even though 8½ x 13 represents a full page when reduced.)

WANTED

Yes, it's true - I don't have everything, and not everything is available - not even in San Francisco, which has more restaurants than the average

Diplomacy player can count. So it is up to you, my loyal readers, to help me out. If you need something and want to let others help, send me your ads and they'll appear right here. (No payout for submitting ads, though.)

LOTTERY PLAYERS! I'm trying to compare the different forms of gambling to see which persons are losing the most money (among e.g. horseplayers, casino gamblers, lottery players, etc.) Anybody out there who can send me the rules/regulations (actual tickets are NOT accepted, insofar as I don't gamble (much) - I'm all talk and no action) to whatever state/city lotteries you can lay your hands on - you get a one-issue (50¢) extension to your LOM sub. (This includes Canada.)

'ZINE REGISTER 1984 ADVERTISERS - get your ads in now! You have until April 30 to get those camera-ready ads in to Roy Henricks at 128 Deerfield Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15235 for inclusion in the 1984 Z/R to be released in time for ORIGINS on July 4. Here are the rates and sizes for submissions:

INSIDE BACK COVER (first comes, first gets): 8 1/2 x 13 1/2, \$9

OTHER FULL PAGE LOCATIONS: 8 1/2 x 13 1/2, \$7

HALF PAGE: 8 1/2 x 6 1/2, \$5

QUARTER PAGE: either 4 1/2 x 6 1/2 or 8 1/2 x 3 3/8, \$2

Ads of a half page or larger get a free issue of the 1984 Z/R, which will go for \$2.25 each. Space is limited - act NOW.

DO YOU HAVE ANY LOCAL STREET MAPS? Next to dipzines and stamps, street maps are high on my collecting list. (I also accept subway maps, but only if they're in color.) You will be reimbursed, if you ask.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A SUBBER TO LOM to have your ad right here - but it can't hurt! (Sorry - no personals allowed. To buy/to sell/to trade is OK. Ads may be edited and/or rejected by me for any reasons I can come up with.)

LOMSHIRTS ARE ONCE AGAIN AVAILABLE! Any message you want will appear on the shirt. Cost is \$9 plus 15¢ per letter (or 25¢ per letter if you want larger letters; small letters are 3/4 inch high, while large ones are about 1 1/2 inches high) postpaid. Prices subject to change.

I just got some late news....it's FOLD CITY for - ARES! After 12 issues by SPI and 6 by TSR (of which 5 had games), TSR has decided to move the sci-fi stuff to a section of DRAGON (which runs monthly). Subbers can transfer to S&T or DRAGON or can get cold cash. ARES has had its share of winners (VOYAGE OF THE PANDORA comes to mind) as well as its turkeys (oh, WORLDKILLER, and THE OMEGA WAB) - to tell you the truth, it won't be missed much now that TSR owns the late magazine. Besides - they can concentrate on S&T now....

Well, that ends yet another issue of LOM. I've heard that MARYCON will be June 2-4; if that's true, you can look for me there. With luck, Kathy will hold a special ByrneCon right about that time, especially since she wrote me & told me that. (Well, she said words to the effect of "whenever I'm in town, there'll be a con". I'm letting you know.) Next time, it may actually be on time, but I doubt it. The reason this one was late - about a week - was because I had to wait for the game results from Dick. (One reason why this deadline is short.....) Next issue includes the NADB answers, a possible review of ZORK (the infamous computer dungeon adventure for any number of computers with disk drive - sorry, Dick, cassettes are no good for ZORK because it has to call up data from different parts of the disk after each move), and the usual other garbage that you've come to know and love. Until then, remember that "whenever seven meet, He (choose one: Berch, Walker, Sacks, Boardman, Peery, fill in the blank) is there....."

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