

LIFE OF MONTY

70

MARCH 15, 1987

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This is for those of you who complained about the "computer look" of the text in past issues. Thanks to SubLogik's PUBLISHING PARTNER (and no thanks to my Hewlett-Packard ThinkJet, which is not enough like an Epson to be able to use "final-draft" modes), there's a new look to LIFE OF MONTY, brought to you by Don Del Grande, 142 Eliseo Drive, Greenbrae, CA 94904-1339, phone (415) 461-2692, but try to keep it from 5 PM to 11 PM if you do call.

A number of you have asked what the sub rate is. Well, it depends on the number of pages in the issue:

12 Pages - 50 Cents

16 Pages - 55 Cents

20 Pages - 60 Cents

24 Pages - 65 Cents

More than 24 Pages - 80 Cents

I try to keep it to no more than 20 pages an issue, but it's not easy. (Now that I'm back to smaller print - sorry to those of you that liked the larger one - issues should be smaller.)

There's plenty of news this time, so let's get right to:

MONTY'S NEWS AND COMMENT is brought to you by someone who doesn't worry about the ticket scandal surrounding the 1988 Winter Olympics. Even I know that the major events are scheduled for the best TV coverage.

The big story - **NO MORE KATHY BYRNE**. She hasn't gone anywhere - except to Vegas to get married to John Caruso. Why did you two wait until after the 10% marriage deduction was removed?

Meanwhile, I recently received issue one of **OHIO ACRES** by Robert Galer Jr. (and his "damn fine wife" Edna), 36171 Gromley Road, Salem, OH 44460. **OHIO ACRES** has eight digest-sized pages and a \$6/10 issue sub fee, with no game fee for Dip. However, it also includes a subzine called **OUT TO PASTURE**, by Derwood Bowen. Yes, it's the same guy that does **SUBMARINE WARFARE** in **LOM**. There's a word for guys like Derwood - **NEWLYWED**. Yes, Derwood got himself a ball and chain - a trouble and strife - there's a lot of that going around lately. (Don't look at me!)

XENOLOGIC

Also just arrived is issue one of **RANDOM THOUGHT** by Jeff Zarse, Hinman Box 284, Hanover, NH 03755. Issue one has six full-sized pages (including a photo of the editor) for 60 cents an issue. Game fees are \$4 (plus \$4 NMR deposit) for Dp, \$10 for Empire Builder, and none announced yet for Flying Buffalo's old Nuclear Destruction (not Nuclear War) and Parker Brothers' **SURVIVE!**

THE VOLCANO CITY NEWS, by Rory Noble, 438 S. 10th Street, St. Helens, OR 97081 - as Rory puts it, "The Great North-Wet". (Didn't Terry Talman use that once?) Anyway, while you're figuring out what the volcano in question is, I'll tell you that issue two has seven single-sided full pages for 35 cents (even though postage is 30), and includes openings in Diplomacy and AD&D. (Rory even plans to use the Wilderness and Dungeonmaster's Survival Guides.) There are also plans to run a game of 1958 rules Dp.

PENGUIN DIP, by Stephen H. Dorneman, 95 Federal Street #2, Lynn, MA 01905. It hasn't come out yet - there's only a flyer, printed by a Macintosh and including some Mac art. The price will be \$5 for 10 issues with a \$3 Dp game fee. Stephen joins the exclusive **DIPPERS & DRAGONS** club, consisting of those of us who have edited Diplomacy 'zines and written for **ALARMS & EXCURSIONS** (a former Charles Roberts award winner). The club now includes Stephen, myself, Cathy Ozeg, and Robert Sacks, with George Phillips as a semi-member (**THE STRATEGIST** is not exactly a Diplomacy 'zine). Did Peggy Gemignani ever edit a Dp 'zine? (And am I forgetting somebody else? Send those applications in.)

OK, enough of the new stuff. You can't really tell how good a 'zine is going to be from early issues - remember the early LOMs? Of course not, since I don't think any of you were subscribing back then. (Well, maybe Dick Martin, but that's probably it.)

Speaking of Dick Martin....

don't ask me where **TIMEWARP** is; it didn't arrive in time to be included

DIP WARZ

Anyway, when we last left our heroes, whenever that was, we had discovered that newly-elected EMPEROR-elect Rod Seaparter had to face THREE TASKS before he could become EMPEROR officially, thanks to some last-second legislation passed by former EMPEROR Lord Sacks Filthavenue. And now...the official announcement of the FIRST TASK

"EMPEROR-elect Seaparter - step forward for the first task!"

Seaparter steps forward.

"OK, that's the first task out of the way. Be WARNED, however, that the final two tasks are a bit tougher." And now...the official announcement of the SECOND TASK

"Your second task is to do something about the lack of heating."

"Sounds simple enough."

"On the ig Low planet."

"WHAT?"

"Please stick to the standard font in the future. You have been given your task - and no fat charging your expenses to the Empra just yet."

Teriffic - how do you provide heat to an icebox planet? Erupting volcano, maybe? "Hey, where is the phone book on the Linoleum Fakon?"

"There isn't any," answers John Pole-O. "since there isn't any phone on board. We have a subspace radio book, though."

"OK, mister smart guy, look up the cheapest - er, uh, NEAREST - volcano constructors."

Just then, Obee-1 Caruso grabs the book. "He said the smart guy! Anyway, it's a toll call, so we'll just head there. 1LOM, set coordinates for 33.82007, -21.38008, 1.1223, plus 1, zero, plus 3"

While they're making their trip, let me explain that the first three numbers are three-dimensional coordinates within the universe described by travelling through the other three spacial dimensions in distances relative to the current one by the amounts given in the last three numbers. Simple.

"Yeah, sure, simple," complains Princess Luscious. "Look, there it is now - Dimwood Boeing's Volcano Delivery - Nice And Hot In 30 minutes or 52 off the price. Land this thing!"

BOOM

"Not so hard next time!"

"That explosion was from one of those Cannon Salutes. Seems that somebody just got married around here," explains Seaparter. "But back to the task at hand. How, Dimwit?"

"That's Dimwood."

"Whatever. We need an extra-large volcano to go."

"With extra spewing ash." "And easy on the molten lava."

"OK, with extra ash and easy on the lava."

"And where do you want this delivered?"

"To the Ig Lew planet."

"Sorry, that's out of our delivery area."

"WHAT??!!"

"Please stick to the standard typesize next time, however unreadable it may be."

"OK, mister smart guy, what is your delivery area, and Oboe-1, I'm NOT talking to you!"

Dimwood Boeing pulls out a map. The entire universe is shaded, except for one small dot with the words IG LEW PLANET. "Will there be anything else?"

"How about a six-pack of cola?"

So, armed with their six-pack of cola - "Not very cold, is it?" - the Diplomatic Rebels try to think up another solution. As you may guess, this is not as easy as it sounds. Suddenly....

"ILOM, set course for the Italiano planet, Chowchilla system!"

"You don't mean," says Oboe-1, "that we're going to get-"

Suddenly an announcement comes over the radio.

"All hail Grabar the Hott!"

"Not him again." Suddenly, the Hott himself appears.

"Yes, him again! What incredible feats of strength, courage, intelligence, and other miscellaneous skills do you need me for?"

"We need you to get some heat on the Ig Lew planet."

"Certainly - take care of a thousand guards guarding the central heating, perhaps? Outsmart a gigantic freezing computer?"

"No - we'll tell you what to do when we get there OK, we're there!"

Excuse me what do you MEAN, I need a purple with white dollar-signs Form To Use "OK" More Than The Normal Number Of Times?

After the ensuing paperwork, the Linoleum Falcon arrives at the Ig Lew planet. "OK, Grabar the Hott, now just stand out there and act like your normal self." So Grabar the Hott goes onto the surface. There appears to be some heat generated in his vicinity - but wait! The incredible freezing forces soon put a stop to that! "Throw me down a blanket or something!"

"Didn't work, did it?"

"Brilliant, Princess - you have a talent for spotting the obvious. What's left? What can possibly generate enough heat?"

1LDM provides the solution. "For someone who can spot the obvious, the Princess missed one! Archive tapes rewinding . . . search mode on . . . set outside speakers to maximum volume . . . playback mode ON"

"Fellow citizens, this is Lord Sacks Fifth Avenue speaking to you tonight about the recently-passed Constitutional Covenant. Since all of you are just dying to hear what is in these texts, the annihilation fleets coming to your area will speed up the process. In the meantime, I will quote the entire text for the benefit of those of you who want to know what you can do to prevent from suffering an incredibly painful death. Article one taxes shall be levied according to the following schedules: those making more than 1,000,000 credits (did you ever notice that virtually every science-fiction story uses "credits" as a monetary unit?) will receive a refund equivalent to 100 percent of the amount made. Those making 500,000 to 999,999 will receive a refund equal to 25 percent. Those making 75,000 to 499,999 will receive nothing. Those making 50,000 to 75,000 will pay 50 percent of their earnings. Those making 10,000 to 49,999 will pay 100 percent of their earnings. Those making 1000 to 9999 will pay 200 percent of their earnings, and failure to pay the full amount will result in the guilty persons being forced to work for us at a rate just slightly ahead of the penalty rate charged to the unpaid balance. Those making less than 1000 are guilty of something and will be handled in the usual manner"

Even the Ig Law planet is no match for that hot girl. Eventually, the planet's mean temperature reaches somewhat tolerable levels, and there's still plenty of speech remaining.

"Turn that thing off! We don't want this place to become a desert, now do we?"

"Say, if we've been here playing speeches for so long, how come nobody has launched an attack on us?"

"Good question!" says Yawn Boring in the ex-EMPEROR's ship. "Your Everythingness, why didn't we attack?"

"What - and interrupt my speech? Anyway, prepare to attack! What have we got?"

"All that's left are some back BLUNT INSTRUMENTS and the occasional OHIO ACRES."

"That will have to do - load - prepare - aim - now, IN THE NAME OF THE ALMIGHTY MEI"

(Pause) (ZAP) (New crew member fires the attack) "Attack on course!"

Will the attack reach the Linoleum Falcon? What about the THIRD TASK? And will DIP WARZ get another Walker Award nomination? We'll find out tomorrow, same Dip-time, same Dip-channel

KINGMAKER, PARLIAMENT....BIGSHOTS DON'T SHOW UP

Three factions - the Krikkit Konfederation, the Sacred Order of the Miraculous Panty-Hose, and the White Duchess - send all nobles to Parliament, which is in Preston. The Gray Knights of Lancaster NMRed, so no nobles show up; the Rampant Royalists did not play any nobles.

PRE-PARLIAMENT: Berkeley is played by the White Duchess. Grey becomes Admiral and controls Carisbrooke City; Talbot becomes Chancellor of Lancaster. (Robert, you don't have the other office, according to my records.) Greystoke is executed.

KRIKKIT KINFEDERATION (Miller)

STANLEY

NEVILLE, Shrewsbury City, Northampton City

GREY, Earl of Worcester, Admiral of England,
Carisbrooke City

TALBOT, Chancellor of Lancaster

20 Commons, 10 Lords, 12 Town Votes

SACRED ORDER OF THE MIRACULOUS PANTY-HOSE (Mazzer)

CROMWELL, Earl of Richmond, Captain of Calais

COURTENAY, Warden of the Cinque Ports, Saxons, Flemish
Crossbowmen

ROOS

HOWARD

MOWBRAY

9 Commons, 9 Lords, 5 Town

GRAY KNIGHTS OF LANCASTER (Thornsberry)

HERBERT, Le Michael

BOURCHIER, Earl of Wiltshire, Constable of the Tower
of London, Flemish Crossbowmen

STAFFORD, Bristol City

PLANTAGENET LANCASTER

BEAUFORT

SCROPE

PLANTAGENET YORK

COVENTRY TOWN

26 Commons, No Lords, 11 Town

WHITE DUCHESS (Ozog)

HOLLAND, Earl of Salisbury, Lieutenant of Ireland,
Ipswich Town, Le Lucas, Le Rose

PERCY, Chancellor of England, Nottingham Town

HASTINGS

POLE

31 Commons, 7 Lords, 6 Town

TOTAL VOTES: 88 Commons, 26 Lords

SHIP LOCATIONS: Le George at Preston, Le Trinity at
Caister, Le Rose and Le Lucas at s15, Le Michael at
Milford Haven, Le Margaret at Lynn, Le Christopher at
Southampton. (Le George transported Cromwell from
Calais.)

According to the rules, the four rounds of nominations
are made by, in order, the WD, the WD (again), the KK,
and the KK (again). Both Cathy and Robert, please
make two (separate) lists of nominees for the cards
available (and please state which one of your lists is
to go first!).

CARDS AVAILABLE

Earl of Westmorland

Duke of Exeter

Earl of Kent

Earl of Essex

Constable of Dover Castle

Treasurer of England

Warden of the Northern Marches

Marshal of England

Steward of the Royal Household

Chamberlain of the County Palatine of Chester

Archbishop of Canterbury

Bishop of Carlisle

Archbishop of York

Bishop of Lincoln

King's Pardon

15 cards total. The deadline for nominations is MARCH
19. Here's the press....

SOMPH-ALL: Votes for sale! Votes for sale! Who'll
buy my nice fresh votes?

WD: No press this time

GM-WD: What??!!

MEETING OF MINDS #6

Yes, this is the first MEETING OF MINDS of the 1987 "season". First, congratulations to Malcom Smith, who, by virtue of his win at Dipcon (the largest event) and the fact that nobody scored in any two events, gets the "whatever you call finishing first for the year" for 1986.

Now for 1987, and already I have two proposals for changing the system being used.

FIRST, due to the fact that only certain tournaments are really major, open tournaments, while others are either limited to certain persons or so restricted (geographically or otherwise) that one "top player" can gain points at an advantage, the 1987 ratings will be based only on certain tournaments, and these tournaments will be announced in advance. (Also, the tournaments can be classified as "North American Tournament Ratings sanctioned tournaments" so that players who know what the NATR is about - and even those who don't but may want to - would know that ratings points are on the line.) So far, the following tournaments are sanctioned (dates where available):

DIPCON - Madison, WI, June 5-7; contact Marc and Debi Peters, 1814 Cameron Drive #3, Madison, WI 53711 for details)

ORIGINS - Baltimore, MD, July 2-5; the tournament is run by Robert Sacks under the auspices of the NYGB.

MARYCON - Fredericksburg, MD, no date specified but usually in late May (however, this may conflict with Dipcon).

PEERICON - San Diego, CA; usually in August but may be moved up to mid-June this year.

PACIFICON - San Mateo, CA, over Labor Day weekend. Jim Bumpas (formerly of LIBERTERREAN) runs this event.

If anyone else knows of a tournament being run (for example, in the Southwest, or in Canada), please contact me at least six weeks before the tournament is held with the details so that it can be listed as a sanctioned tournament (if sanctioning is given) in MEETING OF MINDS in time to be seen.

Since the number of tournaments is now limited, participation in more than one can make a big difference.

The second proposal concerns non-North American tournaments. Beginning either this year or in 1988, the North American Tournament Ratings will become the International Tournament Ratings (or, alternatively, "World Championship Diplomacy", although this may conflict with the proposal for a "World Dipcon"), and include major tournaments from throughout the world (for example, Midcon and Manorcon, both in England). However, I need to know of all of the major tournaments in Europe and Australia (as well as any others, although Europe, Australia, and North America are the three "focus points" of Diplomacy) - any help here will be greatly appreciated.

The two tournaments I have heard about, mainly from Simon Billenness and what I read in Pete Doubleday's THE THING ON THE MAT, are:

MANORCON - Birmingham, England, sometime in July

MIDCON - again near Birmingham, in November

There is also supposed to be a "Eurocon", but I do not know if it is an open tournament or restricted to qualifiers.

GAME OPENINGS

DIPLOMACY Signed up: Dorneman, Hopcroft, Slaughter, Holley, Casey. Need 2 more.

KINGMAKER Signed up: Coufal, Hopcroft, Ozog. Need 2-3 more. Will start when current game finishes.

1830 Signed up: Geryk. Need 3-5 more.

PRESIDENTIAL POLITICS 2 Signed up: Ellis (R), Wilcox (R), Halverstadt (D), Anderson (D), Holley (D), Brown (?). Parentheses indicate party (Republican, Democrat, or no choice yet). Need 4-6 for each party to begin.

RAILWAY RIVALS Signed up: von Metzke. (Watts has been dropped because of the break in the RGR-LDM trade.) Need 4-5 more. British map used.

STANDBYS Diplomacy: Dorneman, Vu. Kingmaker: Anderson. Sub credit (or cash, if you prefer) for standbys when called, assuming you take the position.

New game this time: **KINGS & THINGS** released by Games Workshop and West End Games. It looks like a simpler version of TITAN (for example, there is no "mustering", and battles do not require separate maps). If I can get a PBM system together, there will be an opening for 4 players.

LEATHER GODDESSES OF PHOBOS already filled - by me. If any of you decide to play it, note that you must read the 3-D comic book in the instructions for the important clue required to get through the catacombs. (This was done to allow copies to be made, yet plated copies couldn't be finished since necessary information is in the game box. Of course, once the pirates discover the secret and include a separate file containing the necessary information, there goes that idea, or didn't Infocom think about that?) And Julie Martin, no fair using "cheat sheets" this time - do it properly or not at all.

REMEMBER TO GET THOSE DIP TOURNAMENT RESULTS IN TO ME FOR NATR RATINGS. (Cash Reimbursement available on request as an incentive - but don't expect \$8 for a 14-player tournament.)



(TIME) LORDING IT. . . .



A SUBZINE BY MICHAEL HOPCROFT
2190 W. BURNSIDE #108
PORTLAND, OR 97210 USA

!HOPETH IS ISSBT IME!HOPETH IS ISONT DME!HOPETH IS ISONT IME!

Welcome to the latest issue of (TIME) LORDING IT. I'll be brief this time out; I'm keeping busy these days on many non-game related projects including a play. So I hope I can be forgiven for telling the story as briefly as I possibly can.

RUMOURS AND REPORTS

When is a game not fun? When your opponent is the Celestial Toymaker, that's when! The Toymaker has managed to lure the Doctor into his realm (using Harry as the bait), and now the Time Lord is literally at his mercy! What fiendish game will the Toymaker have in store for the only being in all of time and Space ever to defeat him?

THE FIRST (TIME) LORDING IT POLL

The question I would like to ask you readers is simple enough; who do you think the next Doctor should be?

You see, in the interim between this issue and last issue, Colin Baker has found himself out of a job. The BBC is developing the nasty habit of using actors as scapegoats for a program's supposed problems, and when the ratings for Season 23 proved mediocre at best, Michael Grade decided to give Colin the boot. Very nasty, but it's done now and set into concrete.

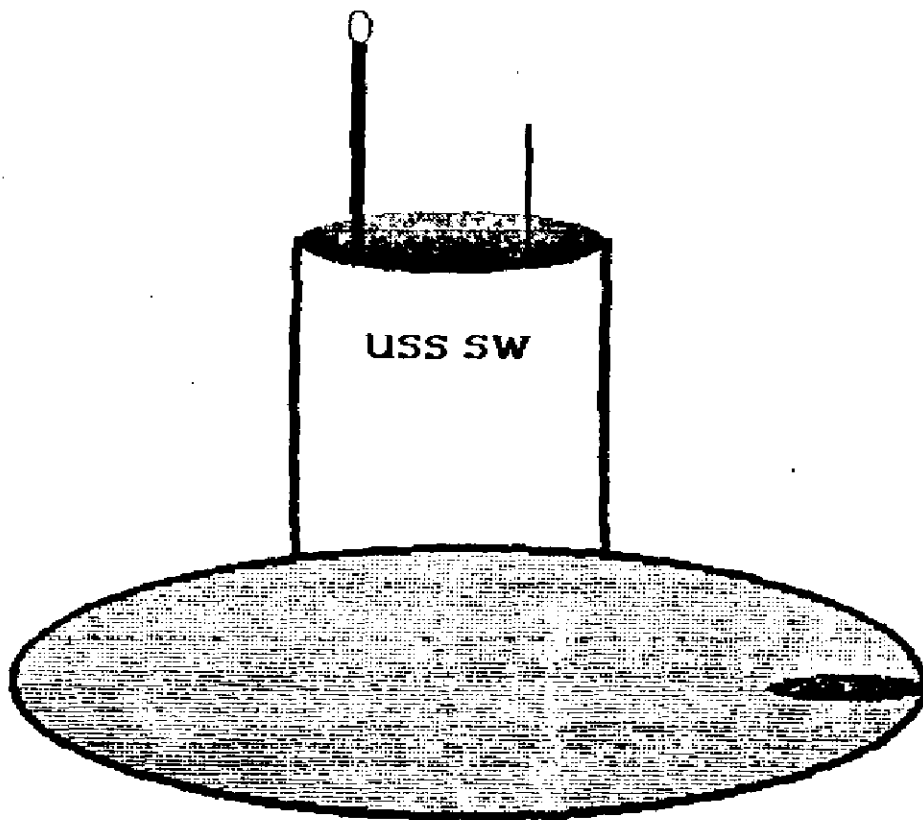
So drop me a line and let me know your choice for the next Doctor (there will be a seventh Doctor, although it looks like it will be another shortened season). If I get interesting results I'll put them in the next issue. And if they're dull; well, I might just put them in anyway. That's the trouble with writing a subzine. The address for your responses to this question is above in the header (handy, what).

Incedentally, by the time next issue rolls around we should know who the new Doctor is going to be. . . (Of course he'll be Who. . .)

GAMESPOTS

I still have some ppenings for the DOCTOR WHO PPM role-playing campaign. Drop me a line if you're interested.

I am also looking for bits and pieces of cloth. The purpose? To build a cat, of course. More on that next time.



SUBMARINE WARFARE

(a neat idea for a subzine)

by

Derwood Bowen
2140 East State Street
Salem, Ohio 44460

(Fanfare!) Whoopee! Yeeahoo! Zippadeedoodah! Yeah, I'm excited. I just got married. No more swinging bachelor life for me. I have a wonderful woman who is a wonderful wife. We're living a wonderful life and having a wonderful time. Isn't all this wonderfulness sickening? Well not to me. I am too happy right now to care. Ebullience abounds here. So why am I doing this instead of fondling my wife or something? Well, first of all, she's watching some silly game show. And, I can't spend every waking hour in wedded bliss. Besides, I told Don Del Monte I'd do this thing for him every once in a while. I am still amazed the last one didn't make it to him in time for inclusion in the appropriate LOM. Life is rough, sometimes.

So far, being married hasn't meant a lot of changes in the way I live. In truth, we've only been man and wife for 3 whole days. But we were living together before that, so it hasn't been a radical change in living style. I think I can recommend living together before getting married. It gives both of you a chance to learn to accommodate each other before you actually say the "I do's. That way, if there are any problems, you haven't committed yourselves to a lifetime of living with them. Solve them first. I realize that my way isn't for everyone. Indeed, some will find it morally reprehensible. As a matter of fact, I have encountered some people in real life who believe that way. We were preached to, and had scripture read to us to dissuade us from living in sin. Now that we're married we are not "living in sin" any more. But it doesn't change a thing for our Bible toting friends. Because we haven't repented our evil ways. I don't believe what we did was wrong. I wouldn't have done it if I did. But I most certainly

would never criticize someone who did believe that way. So, live by your own personal standards. Listen to those you respect, but make your own choice. What we did worked well for us. On that basis, I would recommend it to others.

WEDDINGBELLSARERINGINGWEDDINGBELLSARERINGINGWEDDINGBELLSAR

Well, the regular football season is over. The Cincinnati Bungles managed to bungle enough to not make the playoffs. It is kind of amusing to note that last year 8-8 was good enough to win the central division, but this year's 10-6 didn't even get Cincinnati into the playoffs. Life is rough, as I always say. I have to take my hat off to the Browns. They are playing real ball right now. And it looks good for them for years to come. I expect that, in the next couple of years, people will no longer be putting down the AFC Central Division. The two Ohio teams are playing ball, and Pittsburgh showed signs of coming back at the end of this season. Houston, oh well.

It is difficult to write about the playoffs while they are actually happening. I watched part of both Wild Card games. The jets might actually scare someone if they suddenly get well. Cleveland has to deal with them next. I expect they could give the Browns a run for their money, but Bernie should pick apart their secondary. The Redskins have shown that they are one notch below the Giants (and probably the Bears). With the injuries they sustained in their trouncing of the Rams, I can't see them doing very well. I would not have expected them to do well anyway.

I decided to leave the above. I am writing this after the playoffs but before the Super Bowl. So, of course, I now know that the Giants meet the Broncos. I was mostly on, I guess. Anyway, coming up Sunday is the big media event. I hope that Don Del Monte has this by then, so you'll all know who won before you read about it here. Well, I never claimed that SW was a current newspaper.

SUPERSUNDAYSUPERSUNDAYSUPERSUNDAYSUPERSUNDAYSUPERSUNDAYSU

There is a new dip zine upon the horizon. It is called Ohio Acres. It is put out by one Robert Greier, here in Salem, Ohio. Bob is in to rock and roll, major sports, and dip. The zine is liberally sprinkled with Bob's sense of humor. Send him a stamp for a sample at 35171 Gromley Road, Salem, OH 44460. There might still be an opening for dip available, even. And, yes, I do contribute to this thing in a small way.

PLUGPLUGPLUGPLUGPLUGPLUGPLUGPLUGPLUGPLUGPLUGPLUGPLUGPLUGP

Well, gang, what does everyone think of Ronnie's big SNAFU? I mean, of course, the Iranian-Contra thing. The whole thing strikes me as pretty incredible. The more I hear, the more incredible it sounds. What's amazing is that, if someone wanted to, they could have siphoned off a spare million for themselves. See, since no one in the upper echelons of government had any idea this was going on (snicker, snicker), there can never be a total accounting for all the money. From what I understand, no one even knows how much is actually involved. I was pretty amazed last time when I found out about the stunt pulled by Ivan Boesky. But this certainly ranks right up there. And, while the dollar amounts aren't quite as high, they are still substantial. But, Oliver North is a hero, of course. He was acting to promote peace and death in Nicaragua. And now, he will swing in the breeze (figuratively) while protecting whomever above him was involved (a la G. Gordon Liddy).

If this incident does nothing else, I believe it will forever destroy the notion that our government is trustworthy. It will get away with whatever it can. I wonder what has been done that we don't know about. Maybe it is just as well that I don't know (Bad attitude, Derwood.). It is kind of interesting to note that, when the CIA ran amuck, they reigned them in. Then another group was created to do what the CIA couldn't (It seems like it, anyway.). I am disenchanted with our Federal Government. And, it won't get any better. Somebody argue me out of this one. I would enjoy that.

BIGBROTHERBIGBROTHEREASTASIAEASTASIABIGBROTHERBIGBROTHEREAS

I had the great good fortune to leave reality behind for almost two weeks. That is to say, I went on my honeymoon. My wife and I went to Freeport in the Bahamas. We drove to Miami and took a cruise ship over. Then we spent 5 days there, before reversing the process to return home. Yes, we did enjoy ourselves, thank you. But that's not what I actually wanted to write about.

What I wanted to write about was the leaving reality part. While we were gone, I did not think about my business, my taxes, my checking balance, how much money I owe, my cat being sick, or any of the other things that make daily life a pain. I want to tell you that leaving all that behind made a really fabulous time. If I had gone alone, that part would have been great. The fact that I took my new bride with me made it heaven.

Of course, the return was traumatic. I don't mean to imply that my problems are worse than anyone else's. I suspect that not to be the case. But when you leave all that and then come back to it, somehow it seems worse. Even more oppressive. I am starting to get back into the swing of things. My wife and I cleaned house. We have laundry to do. I have some bills to take care of. All the humdrum day-to-day things. I don't know how these things effect others, but this time around was especially tough for me. I have decided I want to be wealthy. It's nice to dream that someone doesn't have these kinds of problems. The truth is probably that everyone has problems. Even wealthy people. But I would like to find out first hand.

Paul played ball in the hall. The ball broke a doll on the wall in the hall. Saul called Paul to the stall, for having the gall to play ball in the hall. Saul hit Paul, and made him bawl. Awl.

Enough for now. You'll just have to settle for this small SW until next time. Hopefully, you won't read this in March. I thought I mailed the last one in plenty of time, but obviously not. Mail seems to be slow here in Salem. Anyway, take care until next time we take to the underseas in a thrilling episode of, "Submarine Warfare."

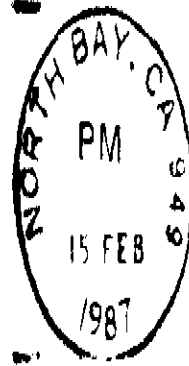
THE LIFERS

Fill in as many categories (1-5 entries) as you wish. As many names as you want can be put in the True Hobby Masters box.

HOBBY GENIUS	MOST IMPROVED ZINE	BEST ZINE FOR HOBBY NEWS
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
BEST LETTER COLUMN	HARDEST COUNTRY TO PLAY IN DIP	BEST GAME OTHER THAN DIP/VARIANT
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
BIGGEST HOBBY PERSONALITY	FAVORITE MUSIC GROUP	TRUE HOBBY MASTERS
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

SIGNATURE _____

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FIRST CLASS MAIL