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THE NOT FOR HIRE #2

Send letters and subs (in multiples of \$1.00)

29 July 85

to: TNFH c/o Langley
2296 Eden Roc Lane #1
Sacramento, CA 95825

The Not For Hire is a letterzine for Dipdom. The price is \$1.00 per issue whether you write a letter or not. Letters that run over five pages cost their writers an extra \$1.00 for each increment of five pages over the base five. Courtesy copies will be sent to everyone mentioned, so you will be expected to supply TNFH with an address list of all those you may mention.

Not quite as large a turn-out as I had supposed. One person in particular has given a strong negative reaction to the concept of presenting his side of things here. Some of the rest of you are concerned about just how expensive courtesy copies might become. The plan wasn't to stifle discussion through economic sanction, but to encourage discussion in a neutral forum. So, TNFH is calling a moratorium on charging for courtesy copies. It took effect this issue and will stay in effect on an issue by issue basis until it is closed. It will be in effect next issue. It will be closed when I feel that most of the people mentioned herein are subscribers or will never subscribe. When I close the moratorium, I'll be sure to give you warning in 1 large letters a month in advance.

Some questions have been asked about the mechanics of TNFH.

1) What is odd-sized paper? Anything much wider than 8 1/2 inches is odd-sized. Longer than 11 inches I can cut to fit. Wide has to be reduced with an extra copy step, and so costs extra.

2) Why no page numbers. Ah...er...no excuse. I'll try to put them in from now on.

3) Do courtesy copies cost the same as regular copies? That was the original plan, and will be the plan again, once the moratorium is closed.

4) Why The Not For Hire? Why not just Not For Hire? 'The Not For Hire' is the name of Mark Twain's riverboat in Phil Farmer's Riverworld books and I liked the sound of it as well as what it meant.

John Caruso has suggested (in W/KK) that I will find it impossible to keep editorial comments out of TNFH. Maybe so, we'll just have to wait and see. If by that, he meant this sort of thing, he's right. If he meant answers to letters, I will be writing a letter to TNFH myself next month.

Bookkeeping: Total subs: \$122

Debited subs: \$14 spent 7/25/85 \$1.03 envelopes

That leaves \$12.97 to pay for printing and postage this time.

This is being sent to: Stephen B. Dycus (10/9), Dick Martin (8/7), Gary Coughlan (25,8/7), Chris Carrier (10/9), Conrad Minshall (5,4), Melinda Holley (2/1), Paul Rauterberg (5/4), Bob Olsen (10/9), Ed Wrobel (5/4), Ben R. Schilling (5/4), Kathy Byrne (3/2), Mark Berch (16/14), Ken Peel (10/9), Steve Hutton (c), James Wall (c), Terry Tallan (c), Bill Highfield (c), Alex Lord (c), John Caruso (c), Larry Peery (t), Don Williams (s), Pete Gaughan (c), Jim Burgess (c), Bruce Linsey (c), Ron Can Brown (c), Robert Sacks (c), Rod Walker (c), George Graessle (c), Steve Arnowoodian (s), Conrad Von Metzke (c), Francine Byrne (c), John Michalski (s), Bill Quinn (BNC)

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Numbers following names are sub amount going in/coming out of this issue. (4/2) had four, now has two; (c) courtesy copy; (s) sample; (BNC) Boardman Number Custodian; (t) Larry Peery is the only person who has ever talked me into an all for all trade.

I almost forgot to mention the answer to a question that wasn't asked. If I find myself in the position of having to send TNFH to people who live in the same household, I'll let them share a copy.

One final note, Steve Hutton is still in Europe, so don't expect to hear from him for a while. I will continue to send him TNFH until he either responds or it is clear that he won't be responding.

BEST Steve

1985 July 2

TNFH/MAGUS LANGLEY
2296 Eden Roc Lane #1
Sacramento, CA 95825

Is Dipdoo declining?

I really don't think Dipdoo is in a state of decline. For over a year, as I am sure all readers of this zine know, there has been a conflict which has been quaintly referred to as a "feud" but which has more in common with a war. I am not a participant in the Feud/War and have no desire to, I find it FASCINATING to watch it from a seat on the 50 yard line, so to speak. (I sub to all zines which have had Feud/War material in them on both sides, and have spent \$\$ on the phone talking to a number of the parties involved to get their side of the story. In professional postal gaming (where most of my experience as both player and GM is) the Feud/War would have ended up in a court a long time ago.

I would even go so far as to say that the Feud was responsible for my entry into the Dip hobby. I was on the phone to Terry Tailman one day in September 1984 about professional postal gaming and he mentioned that he put out an amateur dip zine. I sent for a sample, which contained some mildly interesting material, a humorous cover, but the best part of the zine was issue #1 of the subzine BAD DOBBIE. The following weekend I spent three hours on the phone talking to Terry about what was going on. Since then, I was able to get names/addresses of other publishers on both sides, and it was through that that I was led into the gaming aspect of this hobby, (which I enjoy in MAGUS) as opposed to the feuding aspect (which I enjoy in ... (fill in the blank))

Wish TNFH a long run.

Chris

Chris Carrier
1215 P St 12
Sacramento, CA 95814
441-0292

②

KEN PEEL

June 27, 1985

Dear Steve:

I understand that you have a new open forum letter 'zine. Letter columns are just about my favorite part of 'zines, and the only suggestion I had to improve Magus was that you start one up. You are probably right that feuding is likely to take up a good portion of your 'zine, but I intend to do all I can to stay out of it.

This letter has another purpose. It is to raise the issue of the role and future of Diplomacy World. As many people may know, I was for a time going to go on board the staff of DW in the position of publisher (a position now filled by George Graessle). Over the last few months, I have been unable to keep up with the commitments I now have, and I realized that it would be irresponsible to take on such role at this time.

But while I was preparing to become the third person in the troika, I was privy to a great deal of inside information on the status of DW. I know that many people have been disturbed by the long delay in getting out an issue of DW that is now over nine months late. (That issue, by the way, is now out.) From the inside, however, I learned much about a part of the problem. Of course, most of the delay had to do with the partial burn-out of its editor, Rod Walker. Quite a few other factors also conspired to add to that massive delay. A deeper problem exists, though, which compounded all of the other problems: technically speaking, DW is not solvent.

So what, one might ask? No 'zine is really solvent. All pubbers pay a part of their publishing costs out of their own pockets. Not being solvent with a sub list of 400, however, is a whole different world from not being solvent with a sub list of 40. Over the past few years -- ever since DW passed from the stewardship of Walt Buchanan, really -- DW has had hundreds of dollars of uncovered sub obligations. What this functionally has meant, is that DW has managed to function from issue to issue only on the cash flow of re-subs and new subscriptions.

When I was in California over the Christmas and New Year holidays (you remember, when I hitched a ride up Sacto-way), I had the pleasure to meet that old time goldenager, Conrad von Metzke. We talked some about his editorship of DW (he was the first editor after Walt Buchanan), and found out that when Walt passed DW on to him, he did so with no accompanying funds at all. Ever since then, DW has had an extremely tenuous existance, with no one but the editors and a handful of others aware of it.

I think that it might very well be a good topic of discussion to consider whether a central clearinghouse-type 'zine such as DW, and if so, what its role should be. Does it contribute to our sense of community? Is it valuable to the ~~cohesion~~ cohesion of our hobby? There are many more questions and issues that might be

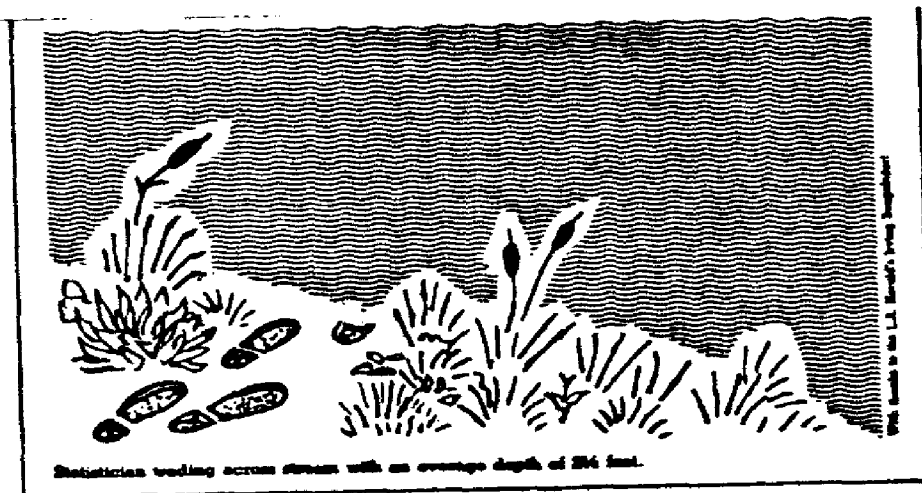
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discussed, of course. If half of our hobby subscribes to DW because they think it is important, however, they should also recognize the continued tenuousness of its existence. The part of the fake Zamainia (or whatever it was called) that someone did of Rod Walker upset some because in it Rod supposedly said that he was folding DW and that there could be no refunds. If DW were to fold in its current condition, however, it probably could not return more than a few cents on the dollar because of the deep-seated deficit of the 'zine ever since Buchanan passed on the name without the money.

Along this line of thought, if something like DW is important, perhaps we as a hobby should consider at some point taking action to ensure its financial ability to continue. And if such an effort were ever to take place, obviously DW would become extremely indebted to the hobby-at-large, and would logically become a genuine hobby service. But what does it serve? What is its unique feature? How would the relief money be handled, or controled, and how would the hobby maintain its presence. Should the hobby establish a revolving and voluntary governing board such as the Dipcon committee?

Anyway, these are just a bunch of ideas I thought I would throw out for discussion. I am genuinely undecided on most of them, but I thought it would be interesting to hear what other people have to say. But this this should do it for now. I'm looking forward to a lively, and I seriously hope not heavily feuding, open forum 'zine. I will have more to say on this and other issues, I hope, next month... or whenever.

Best,



(4)

Bill Quinn

17 July 85

Dear Steve,

I received your mailing of THE NOT FOR HIRE. Since Mr. Lindsey has made public use of my reply to the enclosed copy of his postcard and since there is a public issue as to the message on this postcard, I no longer feel obligated to honor Mr. Lindsey's 'off the record' label. It is true that there was no phone call demanding that I put in writing my stance on the Runestone Poll 'boycott'. As you can see he solicited my confirmation or denial concerning Mr. Meinel's alleged list of publishers voicing disapproval of his participation. Whether or not such a list existed, or whether or not I was on such a list, I do not know. Bruce let it be known by quoting my reply in a circular that I did not disapprove of his participation. This does not mean that I gave him my endorsement.

This matter has resulted in several inquiries regarding Bruce's alleged 'demand'. First, Steve Hutton (or someone claiming to be) called me to ask if the phone call story was true or not. I told this person that there was no phone call and that I had received a written request. I did not feel that Bruce 'demanded' a reply. Some might argue that by claiming I was on the 'Meinel List' Bruce was using coercion. However he would have received very much the same reply if he had asked the question 'Do you or do you not disapprove of my position on the Runestone Poll? A short time later Ken Peel (or someone claiming to be) called for a confirmation or denial of the same phone call from Bruce. I gave this person the same reply. However, Ken claimed to be the publisher in question and requested a copy of the postcard. I promised him I would send it. These two calls occurred before Steve Hutton published the NO FIXED ADDRESS issue which continued the denial of the 'phone call demand' story. I mentally noted that no mention was made of the written request. Due to the success of my business, the demands of getting EVERYTHING published and the disarray of my DIPLOMACY files I was unable to locate the postcard until late June. Soon afterward I sent Ken Peel a copy. Several days later, I received a letter from Mark Berch asking for an answer to this question, 'is it accurate to say that Bruce wrote Bill Quinn demanding that he put

in writing to him that he will in no way take part in the Runestone Poll 'boycott?'. No, it is not accurate to say that. As I stated before, Bruce wanted a reply to whether or not I, as publisher of EVERYTHING, actively and knowingly was participating in Jim Meinel's list of publishers voicing disapproval of Bruce's position on the Runestone Poll. I sent Mark Berch a copy of the postcard to clarify the situation. Because you have entered the controversy yourself, I have sent you a copy also.

In this war of words, there are many truths, half truths, and twisted truths. In this tangle, I cannot say that Steve Hutton's omitted truth constitutes a lie. All sides (how many are there?) use their words, and other's words to fuel their propaganda machines. I would like to see the machines halt due to a lack of fuel. Unfortunately, these propaganda machines seem to have solved the problem of perpetual motion.

Yours,



Bill Guinn

CC: Steve Hutton
Bruce Linsey
Ken Peel
Mark Berch

off the record

1/13/85

Dear Bill,

It has recently come to my attention that Jim Meinel has included you on a list of publishers who have expressed disapproval at my taking over and running the Runestone Poll. Before commenting to anyone else about this, I'd like to hear from you directly whether this is the case; did you at any time mention this to Jim or anyone else? I'd appreciate it if you could reply soon.

I will have little to say in response to Steve Hutton's comments about your attack on me in Everything. While Steve is in my opinion right on the mark, I do not wish to pursue a "dispute" of any sort with you. By the same token, I don't think the hobby is going to be well served if you pursue a dispute with me. (And yes, I did see your letter to Langley.) Hear from you soon, I hope.



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MELINDA HOLLEY

July 15, 1985

Dear Bruce:

Regarding the "Cream Shall Rise" zine, page 54.

- 1) The ZR was indeed a fiasco. How overdue was it? What explanations were given by the so-called custodian for the lateness...before he finally got the product out? How many times did I write and still not have an answer to any of the questions or comments or protests that I made? How many other people were ignored? The ZR was not a smashing success. It was grossly late and, in some cases, completely inaccurate. The product is defective and useless. The custodian is arrogant. The ZR is a fiasco.
- 2) REBEL, as you seem to have difficulty in understanding, is my publication. It is not anyone else's. Therefore, I made the decision of what gets plugged in my zine and what doesn't. Since the RP received wide-spread notice in other (larger) zines, I don't think anyone suffered from the RP not being plugged in REBEL...except for those who feel my zine should serve the purpose of others.
- 3) You disallow votes you don't like. This is because you discount X% of the votes. How do you know that A person voting low for Zine X voted that way because the voter did not like the publisher? Perhaps they didn't like the format of the zine, the zine spent too much time on variants, the zine didn't spend enough time on variants, the zine spent too much time on feuding, the zine didn't have enough letter columns or articles, etc. This is only a sample of reasons a voter might give a zine a low vote. A person's vote reflects how they feel about a certain zine. ~~Perhaps the voter is in the minority.~~ Does that make his vote any less valid? You arbitrarily decide that a low vote means the voter dislikes the publisher. How do you know this for certain?
- 4) If the poll is written (as it was) to vote for zines rating them on a scale of 1 - 10, what's wrong with counting up the votes and awarding first place to the zine, subzine, GM receiving the most votes? The way I see the RP now, it's being done so that nobody can tell who won. Did the first place zine, subzine, GM get the highest vote tally? What does modified mean and preference matrix have to do with counting votes. I say count them and publish the results. Then, if you or anyone else, want to play around being statistician, go ahead. Why confuse the issue?
- 5) Your stating what is a zine and what is a subzine is Custodian Interference. If a publisher states "This is a subzine"...fine. There's no question, then. However, if there is a question about it, the wishes of the publisher to have the zine listed as a zine or subzine should be followed. Your inability to contact certain publishers only illustrates why I protested to Randolph Smyth about your being named custodian.

If a custodian cannot work with the publishers (or members of the hobby), then a custodian should be appointed who can.

- 6) I disagree with several details and I've outlined them previously to you. The fiasco with the ZR (as handled by Roy Henricks and yourself) was only a part of this. Since some of my votes could have been discounted, why should I bother voting? When my votes will be counted, I will vote. When the RP and ZR have custodians who are receptive to criticisms and don't interfere with the normal process of the service, I will participate. Since my criticisms were rejected without being answered as to why they were rejected, why should I participate in something I feel is unfair?
- 7) It's a continual surprise to me that anyone who takes an independent stand within this hobby is considered a freak. I feel the ZR and RP to be fiascos (in the case of the RP) and unfair (in the case of the ZR). So I don't participate. So I'm labeled as a saboteur, a wrecker or hobby services, and so forth. I'm considered childish and having a bad attitude. So be it. My stand is simple. I won't participate in something I feel unfair or in something where I get absolutely no cooperation (such as from Roy Henricks). I will respect other people's decisions to either participate or not participate in hobby functions according to their wishes and desires. I ask I be accorded the same respect.

Sincerely,

Melinda Kelley

cc: S. Arnawoodian
M. Berch
J. Caruso
R. Henricks
W. Langley
B. Olsen
T. Tallman
E. Wrobel

July 19, 1985

Dear Steve:

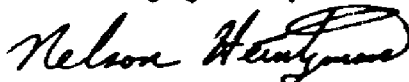
In TNFH #1 I noted with interest your belief that the current Runestone Poll pollster had "caused a split in Dipdom" just through his mere "presence in the position." You further asserted, "That alone invalidates the Poll," and you maintained that regardless of "how good a job" was done, the poll was "ruined...in so far as its having any merit."

By now, presumably, you are in possession of the rather extensive and meticulously detailed report of the Runestone Poll results. Given the innovative analytical methods used to offer the reader new and entertaining insights into different aspects of the poll stats; given the historical recap of past polls and the establishment of honorary awards to those deserving; given the amount of time, energy, creative endeavor, and plain hard work obviously put into this project by the Runestone Poll Custodian, I can not but wonder whether - in all fairness - you have been given cause to reconsider your former harsh attitude toward the validity of the poll?

In my own estimation, this Runestone Poll of 1985 stands as a most impressive achievement which truly reflects the hobby at its best. Not only that, but with an unprecedented 265 voters, it also is legitimately representative of the hobby as a whole. Of course, there are those several dozen or so people who boycotted. This hardly comprises a "split in Dipdom," however; more like a splinter, perhaps. And that even loses much of its significance (as regards the Poll) when realization sets in that the increase in votership was more than fivefold that of those who boycotted. Although I am not suggesting (nor ought it to be so considered) that the poll in any way represents a referendum on the Runestone Poll Custodianship, what should be painfully clear to even the most casual observer is that those who boycotted in the hopes of estranging the Runestone Poll Custodian from the rest of the hobby are, in fact, succeeding only in slowly estranging themselves....

While I'm sure your assessment accurately reflected your own subjective emotional state at the time, Steve, after having witnessed the massive turnout, the elaborate precautions undertaken to insure the legitimacy of the tabulation, and the masterful document produced, do you still stand by your previous statements? I would hope not; but, if you do, please allow me to point out that by any normal standard the Runestone Poll of 1985 can be easily considered a magnificent accomplishment and superlative success. To persist in thinking otherwise reflects a distortion of reality which serves only to shortchange the perceptive mind.

Sincerely yours,



Nelson Heintzman
Bflo, NY

GARY COUGHLAN (July 6, 1985) · For Print In The Not For Hire

Dear Steve,

I got TNFH #1 and I'd like to quote some of your own words back at you about how it made me feel. You wrote in Magus #22, p. 3 (March 9, 1983) the following words: "During my fitful night's sleep, I cried more than once over the fact that people I like very much are hurting each other."

But I have to agree with you that feuds cannot be ignored as I also mentioned in EE #44, p. 28 (May 27, 1985). But, for that to happen and to end them, both sides have to be put under the examining microscope, hence my letter concerning Kathy Byrne which follows this letter.

I am in favor of any forum, which is open to both sides, that examines the "proof" offered by both sides without preferential treatment for anyone. I'd like it pointed out to your readers that Steve Hutton is not publishing his No Fixed Address because he is in Europe for 4 months, and consequently he will also not be able to reply to anything said about him for several issues of TNFH.

I am among the many people who consider Steve Hutton to be fair and even-handed. In TNFH #1, p. 11 ((I numbered the bottom of the pages for ease)), you stated: "In NFA they ((Berch and Linsey)) found a forum that they called "neutral" and "even-handed" and that was neither. In it they got away with making unsupported claims and the calling of names in a sympathetic environment while all who opposed them were subject to cross examination, sarcasm and contradiction." That has been a perfect description of Kathy Byrne's Kathy's Korkor, John Caruso's Whitestonia and Foot In Mouth, Terry Tallman's North Sealth West George and Bad Doggie and Ed Wrobel's Feudesse. But not of No Fixed Address, in my view. Let me tell you why.

In contrast to these four people, Steve Hutton permits anyone to ask questions of anyone else, he sends copies of whatever is said about someone to that person, and he criticizes both sides and calls for "proof" if it has not been offered. Most importantly, Hutton is not feuding with anyone so he has no ax to grind. On several occasions he has sided with Kathy Byrne and John Caruso against Bruce Linsey. As far as I know, Kathy Byrne and John Caruso have not said they are having a feud with Steve Hutton. Are they?

In NFA #32/33, p. 33 (May 1, 1985), Steve Hutton responds to John Caruso with the following: "This is very good news indeed. I've been looking for proof of Linsey's dishonesty with little success. Now you tell me that Bruce was dishonest, and not only can you prove it, but you already have proven it. If you send me a copy of this letter and a copy of Bruce's offer to pay you \$50 for it, I'll send you \$100 in U.S. currency. I will also print copies of each in NFA under an enormous headline, reading: BRUCE LINSEY PROVEN DISHONEST. If you cannot provide me with these things, however, I'll assume that you are being dishonest, which will also be duly noted in NFA." To me, that is being fair and even-handed. And I'm also glad that you are providing copies of TNFH to anyone who gets mentioned here.

Here are the excerpts from Bill Highfield's The Modern Patriot, just as I sent them to Steve Hutton along with 2 letters that I wrote during that period, that you requested. Here is what I said about these papers in NFA #29/30, p. 20 (February 14, 1985): "...Highfield's letter was written September 8, 1983 and Linsey's supposed answer to it was dated October 26, 1983. That is a gap of 7 weeks minus one day. Nothing was shown as occurring between those two dates in Volunteers. Quite a lot occurred and much of it was printed in Bill Highfield's The Modern Patriot which was seen by all his subbers. One of the items printed there was so bad that Kathy Byrne called Bruce Linsey and apologized to him despite the fact that they were actively feuding at that time."

The comment that Kathy Byrne had made in TMP was about Linsey's mental health. It made her look bad, and she knew it. A similar charge has been levelled at me, though not by Kathy, in the past and this kind of tactic should be avoided. That's why I wish comments such as appeared in TNFH #1, p. 30: ("The very best thing you could do for yourself would be to go to see a qualified therapist.") would be dropped. They only make the accuser look bad and win sympathy for his enemy.

Concerning a 1983 letter to Highfield's commander by Linsey, you said in TNFH #1, p. 22 to me: "I believe Gary Coughlan was present so perhaps he will give us his version as nearly as he remembers it." My first indication of this, and I didn't know what was being talked about, comes from your review of the DafCon in Magus #31, p. 7-8 (January 12, 1984) when you said: (Next paragraph)

"Terry Tallman dropped a small bomb about a particularly dirty trick that some piece of slime has played. Terry didn't have any first hand information and so refused to name the slime. I have even less information and so won't even name

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GARY COUGHLAN's Letter(page 2) for print in The Not For Hire.

the victim. I will say that I was heartened to see that everyone was in obvious agreement that the incident was totally malicious and inexcusable. It was a conversation starter though. The talk went from there to lots of this and that about the hobby in general with Terry T., Larry P., Peter G., Don W. and myself carrying most of the burden(1.e. we were the motormouths). At one point, Larry P. told us all to shut up because he wanted to hear what Mark Keller had to say."

Now I remember Larry telling everyone to shut up and asking Mark's opinion but I had mainly been speaking with No-Dip Becky and paid little attention to the conversation going on as Don Williams, I believe, can verify and my own DafCon report in EE #31,p.7 confirms. Instead I was explaining about the hobby to No-Dip Becky and Pete Gaughan said during this time that he thought I had a system of placing pictures in the EE picture contest that could be figured out. And that's all I remember. The several names mentioned in your DafCon account could possibly provide some enlightenment.

My own guess is that Terry Tallman was probably referring to what Bill Highfield had said in TMP #17, p. 7(postmarked November 30, 1983) where Bill merely says: "One well-known(if not well-thought-of)member of the hobby recently tried to blackmail me by saying that he would send incriminating material to the Navy." It doesn't say anything was sent but knowing how Terry Tallman gets his stories twisted, he could have taken it to mean whatever he told you at DafCon if this is indeed where he got his information. And I know that Terry does twist and slant stories about people he doesn't like because he did it to me in one of his publications and called it "The Miracle of Memphis." Jim Burgess, one of Terry's own subzine editors, criticized him over this and that's why I've seen no need to say anything until now. Here is my version of "The Miracle of Memphis." (a xerox to you Steve). (Oh, and Terry Tallman was a subber to The Modern Patriot)

In TNFH #1, p. 6, you mentioned the Kathy Byrne-Bruce Linsey Feud saying: "They have been feuding, according to Gary Coughlan, since 1980." Let me be a little clearer. Their feud did begin in 1980 and the bad feelings date back to then but there have been several periods when Bruce Linsey and Kathy Byrne have been on good terms. Kathy's Kornor itself proves this. In Whitestonia #81 (November 21, 1983) on page 13 of Kathy's Kornor in that issue, Kathy stated(and also printed a letter from Bruce)

"The next three letters, or parts thereof, all deal with the Linsey/Byrne Feud. A feud which has finally been laid to rest. Yeah, I know that is hard to believe, but it is true!!! Bruce and I have finally buried the hatchet, and it will remain that way. Now all I can say is, if Bruce and I can be friends, so can a few of you! I hope that everyone who has bad feelings towards someone will follow our lead and let those feelings die. This letter is a little embarrassing, but it should show everyone that Bruce and I are friends. So take it away Bruce."

((Bruce then wrote)): "Dear Kathy, I just want to express my thanks to you for all you have done for me recently. You could have hit me when I was down, but instead you helped me to my feet again. It took me four years to find it, but underneath that crusty exterior there is a heart of true gold. You were very kind to help me through a painful episode. Now, I want you to rest your sweet head and not worry about me turning against you ever again. From the bottom of my heart, I trust and love you. OK dear? I'll look forward to seeing you in a few weeks. I hope the feeling is mutual. Congratulations, you sweet old loud-mouthed obnoxious broad from Brooklyn, you. You've just made yourself a life-long friend! Again, I can't tell you how much it meant to me that you were there when I needed you. Love, Bruce."

((Kathy then replied)): "This letter, and the one in Magus, were really not necessary. However, I am glad that I was helpful to you, see, sometimes I'm really not all that bad! Anyway, thanks for the kind words, and I'll see you before you see this!!!"

This "love-feast" between Byrne and Linsey came in the aftermath of what had been printed in The Modern Patriot and both of them were angry at Highfield. As for the renewal of the feud, Kathy Byrne has to bear a share of the blame. She can be quite infuriating to people who consider themselves her friends and how much more so to someone like Linsey whom she had quarreled with bitterly. I'll cite an example of my own experience with Kathy Byrne as proof of this.

I know that you and Daf will recall the DafCon I attended where Kathy Byrne called from ByrneCon. Over the telephone she told me that "3 good friends" of hers

GARY COUGHLAN's Letter(page 3) for print in The Not For Hire

had told her that I had called her a "drunkard" in the December, 1983 EE, which she had not yet received, and she continued accusing me of this despite my denials until I finally handed the phone to you, Steve, in disgust. It certainly put me in a bad mood and, later that week, I got phone calls from two publishers wanting to know how they could mend relations between Kathy and myself since they had been at ByrneCon and heard the things she had said. These two publishers were Steve Hutton and Bruce Linsey and this was my first direct speaking contact with Hutton and I was irritated that a Kathy Byrne tantrum over nothing could quite possibly ruin my reputation with someone I didn't know well.

Episodes like this certainly form my opinions on how all are guilty in feud and not just one person. On December 11, 1984, I wrote a letter to Ken Peel which contained the following: "I'm sooo sorry but I just can't see Bruce as a villain. To me, he's no better and certainly no worse than Kathy, Caruso, Tallman and I could go on almost endlessly. The only difference is that it is easy and appears quite popular to attack him. You can rest assured that no mob is going to come after you for going after Bruce. But, hey, criticize Kathy or Caruso and you'll get a lynch mob in short order after your butt and they don't care if what they say is the truth or not. That disgusts me, it always has."

If both sides are thoroughly examined, feuds would cease quite soon. But that hasn't happened in this hobby until No Fixed Address came along. For many months, a stream of abuse was heaped on Bruce Linsey from Whitestonia/Kathy's Kormor, Feudesse, Bad Doggie and other zines. Linsey was not provided copies and no anti-Linsey statement was challenged in the zines as far as I can tell. I hope that The Not For Hire will not follow their example but be like Steve Hutton's excellent No Fixed Address. You admitted some errors you had made and raised some very thought-provoking questions which Mark Berch and Bruce Linsey should answer. I know I'll be looking for their answers.

That's it for this time, Steve. I would like to add that on page 7 of TNFP #1 when you mentioned that things were straightened out between James Wall and Ed Wrobel that you should have also printed the following from that same April But I'm Happy (in So I Lied #6 (April 12, 1985) p. 5 of BIH where James also said to Ed Wrobel: "I hope that this will satisfy you, Ed. Please discontinue sending me your hate sheet Feudesse as well. I simply do not need a dose of bitterness to fill my box whenever the whim hits you to write some more."

If The Not For Hire looks at both sides evenly, it will be to the good of the hobby. And I intend writing TNFH and No Fixed Address and I hope you will do the same, Steve.

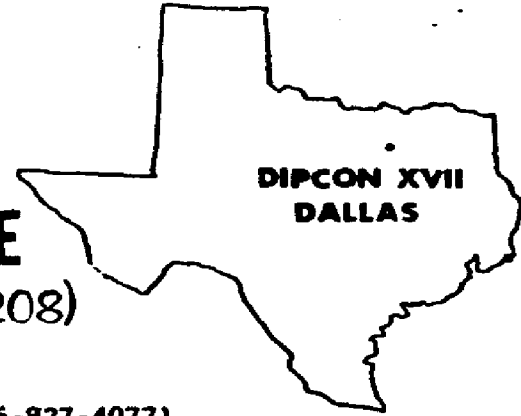


AUGUST 23 to 25, 1985
 Host con: Dragonflight

ECOTOPIA 6

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE DIPCON ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

published by the Chairman, Pete Gaughan (817-633-3208)



The Dipcon Committees:

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This month we have two angry letters. Not much else.

If you are considering a trip to Dipcon in Seattle, please write to Pete and request a copy of Ecotopia #5 and the registration form, or write to Dragonflight (the host convention) at PO Box 0417, Seattle WA 98111.

Lastish I printed all the proposals received up to 21 June 1985. I haven't received any more, but Mark Berch has written to complain about my presentation of an amendment which would have scrapped the old voting procedure. Mark's original proposal was made in April of 1983, and offered to me again this year.

I altered Mark's proposal for two reasons. First, his included provision for a rotation system substantially the same as Ed Wrobel's. Second, it was completely "unofficial"--that is, it did not assign a place for itself within the Charter. I had to guess which portions of the Charter it is supposed to supercede, and where it would be included.

I apologize to Mark for being so editorial with his work. He requests that I not submit any version but the one he wrote. Accordingly, here is the original Berch proposal (substitute this for what appeared last month). However, next time I receive a complaint I hope it is a lot more polite than Mark's; give me a little benefit of the doubt, people.

SITE ROTATION AND VOTING PROCEDURE (Section numbers, etc, assigned by P. Gaughan)
 from Mark Berch

- I. Section 2.3 is amended to include three regions. [I assume Mark will be satisfied with Ed's regions, since he does not specify where the boundaries should be.]
- II. Section 2.4 is amended to read:

The Dipcon site must be rotated among the Regions. The eligible region rotates each year according to the following schedule: I-II-III-I-II-III-I etc, except that if an eligible region isn't selected, it remains eligible for the next year.

[Note: I assume the rotation would kick in at 1987, since amendments currently cannot take effect immediately. Thus, II/1987, III/1988, I/1989, etc. This proposal also removes the provision against having Dipcon in the same state or province in consecutive years, though the "eligibility" system deals with that indirectly.]

- III. Sections 2.5 and 2.6 are deleted, and 2.7 and 2.8 renumbered to 2.6 and 2.7. New Section 2.5 is inserted to read as follows:

After all of the bids have been presented, and discussed, the Chair will call for a vote on the question: "Is there a suitable bid from the eligible region?"

If the vote is yes, the bid from that region is accepted, unless there were [sic] a plurality of bids [sic] from that region, in which case, a second vote will be used to select which bid from that region will be accepted.

If the vote is no, the Chair will call for a vote on the question, "Is there a suitable bid from the region not hosting this DipCon?" If the vote is yes, then the procedure in the previous paragraph is used.

If the vote is no again, then the Chair will call for a vote on the question, "Is there a suitable bid from the region hosting this DipCon?" If the vote is yes, then the earlier procedure is used. If the answer is no, than no site is selected, and the members of the Admin Committee are directed to use their best judgement to select a site at a later time.

Pete here again. The proposal above is still not what Mark wrote, verbatim--if he doesn't want this offered, he'll have to send me something he does want. It has the disadvantage of making it extremely easy for a group to keep Dipcon, merely by voting "no" to suitable bids outside their region.

On a lighter note, Al Pearson has written about last year's Dipcon finances. "The Past Dipcon committee received \$245 from the 1984 Origins (in April)," he writes. "After waiting for the check to clear...and deducting \$50 for postage and telephone, the \$195 was given to the BNC, Bill Quinn. In my mail during the month of June he acknowledged receipt of the check. Thanks to Al for clearing this up and finishing off last year's business so well.

A brief letter from Dick Warner, head honcho of MaryCon: "I attended the Atlanticon hobby meeting and discussed the problem [of competition between their cons] with Robert Sacks. Actually Bill Thompson...made a recommendation that we endeavor to persuade the Dipcon Committee to allow Marycon to host Dipcon in '86 with Robert Sacks and the New York Game Board as the Tournament management. There was support for this though neither Sacks nor I committed ourselves. Both of us realize that the selection of the Dipcon management will and should be up to your committee."

Pete: Apparently Sacks has committed himself now (see below). You are both slightly mistaken since the choice of site and management (called the Administrative Committee) will be up to the attendees at Seattle, NOT the decision of this year's Committee.

Another brief letter, this from Ed Wrobel: "If I were voting under this rule [Berch's], my first thought would be "what is 'suitable'?" and no doubt some voters will put this question to the Chairman. What the proposal really amounts to is a two-tier system whereby first a region is selected and, secondly, a site within that region. If that keeps Dipcon moving from region to region, all well and good, but why not call it what it is instead of loading the Charter with vague language certain to generate argument after argument?"

And, finally, the second angry letter. Robert Sacks had comments on most of last issue. To save myself some typing I'll cut and paste his letter, with my comments in [brackets], after the first two short notes:

The hobby meeting at Origins resolved "That Dipcon be advised that their name has been infringed" (by the so-called Texas Dipcon). [Wrong. I was already aware of "Texas Dipcon", and it is not an "infringement" of our name since Dipcon is in no way legally registered.]

They also discussed bids for the 1986 Dipcon. Expect a bid from Marycon to host Dipcon with the NYGB running the Tournament and disbursing some surcharge to the hobby services. [I suspect that any bid which has strings attached such as choice of management, will be viewed with suspicion in Seattle.]

On "Proxy Balloting": This seems to be a blatant attempt to allow the publishers of large circulation zines to dominate the site selection. There is no substitute for deliberation in meeting. This also discriminates against bids which are dependent on contracts signed less than a year before the convention - the extra 1-3 months required to file will make it impossible for some of the best sites to compete.

[I doubt that late bids would be discriminated against much, since the proposal as worded does not require preregistration. "Absentee" ballots would be "conditional"--or preference--ballots.]

On the "Site Rotation" and "Vote Weighting" proposals: I am getting tired of the attempts to rig and manipulate the site selection. Any procedure which does not permit potential bidders from knowing years in advance when they are eligible will discourage and inhibit bidders, and encourage inferior and carpet-bag conventions. The DipCon is gambling with its existence. The Seminar isn't always held. The hobby meeting is held by the NYGB wherever it runs a major tournament. The proceeds from the DipCon have been misappropriated by host conventions or administrative committees, or wasted in large prizes and self-serving propaganda, while other tournaments and agencies provide the regular support for hobby services that the DipCon fails to provide. (DipCon didn't begin to fund hobby services until after the NYGB run tournament did.) And now the locality which hosted last year's DipCon is running its own DipCon this year, without the slightest protest from the administrative committee.

[Gee, such vitriol. Note that the Seminar is hardly a requirement for a successful con; a hobby meeting is always held by Dipcon as well. Dipcon proceeds being "MISAPPROPRIATED"? Give examples, or shut up. (Not to me--if you have charges against past Dipcon Committees, make them in some other public forum!) And the locality that hosted Dipcon last year (Dallas/Fort Worth Gamers, Inc.) is not running a Dip convention this year. The Dipmeet in Houston this summer has changed its name to Razorcon, AT THE BEHEST OF THE DIPCON COMMITTEE. Get your facts straight before you jump on me, Robert.]

On Committee Selection: So now this is going to be rigged also? In the past committees have been chosen for competence, diversity, and ability to monitor the host convention or tournament. Any attempt to regulate this is not likely to work. Any attempt to change this would be wrong. And any attempt to guarantee particular factions representation on the DipCon Committee will be unacceptable to the hobby.

[Rigged? If somebody wanted to rig the selection he certainly wouldn't pick me to write the amendment! My suggestion is simply that the selection and replacement procedures are vague, and therefore open to abuse. I want to close the loopholes.]

On Houserules: Surely the host tournament will use its own houserules. Surely houserules are not the type of clutter that belongs in the Charter. [Surely you understood that I mentioned that merely to find out how people felt about it. You were the only person to mention it at all.]

Overall, a mixed month--several people let me know they're looking forward to Dipcon, and Mark and Robert wrote to gripe. I can't wait to get out of this job, frankly...I begin to understand what public servants go through.

GARY COUGHLAN (July 6, 1985) For Print in The Not For Hire

Dear Steve,

In TNFH #1, you asked questions of Bruce Linsey and Mark Berch. I, like you, am interested in seeing their answers so this mess in the hobby can be cleaned up as much as possible. I'd like to commend both you and Melinda Holley for answering the questions from No Fixed Address that Bruce Linsey asked of you. It's time for Kathy Byrne to follow your example and to finally give the hobby the "proof" she claims she has, in the matter of the "Francine" letter.

Concerning that subject, I'd like to quote from my letter I wrote to Steve Hutton in the No Fixed Address #32/33, p. 55 (May 1, 1985): "Kathy Byrne made quite a big hobby-wide deal about Bruce writing her daughter Francine a "smutty" letter and said that it was seen by "at least 5 people." In her mass mailing on this and other Linsey "sins" called "The Ethical Bruce Linsey", Kathy said: "I am asking all publishers to please print this. I can prove what I am saying. And that proof is available to anyone." and later in the same mass mailing: "All I am asking is that my side be printed, and yes, I can prove it."

WHERE'S THE PROOF? Ron Brown in NFA #31 quite properly said: "What is wrong is that almost a year after the infamous Francine letter first appeared, no one, except for five mysteriously unnamed people, has seen this letter. In other words, I am criticizing them for making serious charges about a hobby member which they have not substantiated."

And I agree with Ron's assessment. And if Kathy Byrne cannot tell us the "at least 5 people" (and let us judge their impressions for ourselves) or provide a summary of the so-called "smutty" letter or give us the "proof" that "is available to anyone", then Kathy should follow Bruce's example and apologize to him publicly as he apologized to her. I've told a few people that the stupidest thing anyone could do is write a "smutty" letter to the child of your worst enemy, for WHAT could possibly be gained by it? But even stupider than that action would be LOSING such a letter and hence a "golden opportunity" to unquestionably prove to one and all just how bad your enemy is."

I don't know why Kathy Byrne has still not provided this "proof" to the hobby. Steve, in TNFH #1, p. 17, you stated: "Kathy is electing to keep quiet and let Linsey bury himself." Really? Then why did Kathy Byrne send you the postcard she received from Linsey (printed in TNFH #1, p. 37) which stated: "Byrne, Congratulations on driving Doug Beyerlein from the hobby. Linsey." ? That is hardly keeping quiet.

But it is letting other people fight your battles for you. This tactic has been used repeatedly by Kathy Byrne in the 5 years that I have seen her in action and it has widened and worsened many feuds, including the one I had with Dick Martin. Kathy Byrne can no longer evade her heavy responsibility for the bad feelings that exist in this hobby today. That is, and keep her credibility which has really been shaken by the revelations in No Fixed Address.

Let me be candid: I think Kathy Byrne is keeping quiet on this subject because she knows she cannot prove the existence of a "smutty" letter. I don't even think she can provide a summary of the letter which would convince anyone that it was "smutty", outside of her close circle of friends who already believe the worst of Linsey already. I further think that Kathy Byrne deliberately tried to smear Linsey and is desperately wishing people would just forget about the Francine letter.

No way. To me, this letter is just as serious as the Highfield letter that Bruce Linsey sent to the Navy. I have criticized Bruce over that, as well as his letter commenting on Kathy's drinking. Both I thought were wrong. And I believe Kathy Byrne is wrong in this case and, if she is, should take her lumps.

Prove me wrong, Kathy Byrne. In The Not For Hire, you undoubtedly have a sympathetic forum. Steve Langley will undoubtedly present any statements of yours on the Francine letter in the best possible light. And it won't cost you one cent.

Steve, here is a check for \$25.00 to cover the cost of printing Kathy Byrne's letter which provides the "proof" that "is available to anyone" about the Francine letter and to also answer the 17 questions that Bruce Linsey asked of her in No Fixed Address 32/33. Since it was Kathy Byrne who raised this matter hobby-wide in her "The Ethical Bruce Linsey", it is Kathy Byrne who should provide the "proof".... ..not John Caruso, not Terry Tallman, not Bob Olsen, not El Wrobel, not Steve Langley... ..but Kathy Byrne.

I doubt you'll have to spend any of my \$25.00 check, Steve.

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1985 July 19

THE NOT FOR HIRE Lansley
2296 Eden Roc Lane #1
Sacramento, CA 95825

Steve and Daf:

I enjoyed the first issue of THE NOT FOR HIRE, and look forward to a long and successful run. I personally like letterzines, and wish I had been in the hobby when BRUTUS BULLETIN had been around.

I noticed that the fee for MesaDiplomacy participants in TNFH is quite high by Dip standards, but not by mine. In professional postal gaming, where I have considerable experience as a player and GM, a \$1 turn fee would be considered laughable, and people would avoid such a game because people would suspect that it would instantly fold. A normal turn fee covers all expenses plus about a \$2 profit. Based on what you stated in MAGUS 48 about your costs, MAGUS, were it a professional PBM game, would probably cost \$4.00-\$4.50 per turn. Most professional PBMs are about \$4; mine is \$3, and considered low in price (*blush*). Also, many of the professional games allow extra actions at extra cost; one prominent MesaDiplomacy player was spending several hundred dollars a month playing one such game. Some games allow no extra actions, some allow a limited number of extra actions at a limited extra cost.

Using my game as an example, a minimum turn is \$3.00 and results in one page of printout regarding what happened in your position. A maximum turn can go as high as \$7.00 and can run 2 and a half pages.

A MesaDiplomacy turn in THE NOT FOR HIRE, a five page letter in which you cast aspersions but not mention names is only \$1.00. A ten page letter blasting someone not on your sub list is a mere \$3.00 -- less than the cost of a one page printout in most professional PBM games. For \$7.00, a MesaDiplomat in TNFH can write 15 pages of hate denouncing the entire sub list plus 4 people not on the sub list! Where else can you get such a good gaming value?

Therefore, I shall refer anyone who gripes about sub fees in TNFH to the office of the chaplain.

I look forward to seeing you at the the next DAFCON.

Sincerely,

Chris

Chris Carrier, 1215 P St 12, Sacramento, CA 95814 (916) 441-0292

MELINDA HOLLEY

July 15, 1985

Dear Mark:

This is in reply to your article in DD #90/91.

- 1) Your statement on Page 21 "At that time, neither of them sent me a courtesy copy" is TOTALLY FALSE. It may have slipped your mind (certainly you should have stated it in DD #90/91) that last January you told me you had not received a copy of my Nov. 1984 mass mailing. I told you that I had sent you a copy when I did the mailing. I offered to send you a second copy if you wished. You did request this and I sent you you a second copy. To be accurate, you should have stated that you did not receive a copy of my mass mailing until you had informed me of such. It would also have been correct and proper to explain that I told you I had sent you an original mailing in November 1984. Since you and I had this conversation early this year and you didn't challenge my statement then, I find it hard to understand why you're challenging it now. Do you have some evidence to prove your assertion that I didn't send you a copy of my mailing last November? If you do, I'd like to see it. If you don't, I'd like to see a retraction.
- 2) Regarding the Caruso Letter (or "CL" as you insist on calling it), as I have repeatedly told you...you've given me no evidence to change my mind. All you've given me is your unsupported word. If you've gotten no where in changing my mind, I submit that it's because you've given me no evidence to support your statement. Therefore, the fault (if there is such) for my not changing my mind is yours. You have to provide proof (more than your unsupported word). As I have repeatedly told you, I will print no retraction until I see some reason for doing so. Provide proof.
- 3) "I think Melinda knows that her entire point would disintegrate if her readers heard the other side..." My readers? Mark, I'm not Dear Abby. This may surprise you, but your denial is common knowledge. You're not revealing anything that the hobby in general doesn't already know. Certainly people in the hobby closely following this feud know it. Do you believe you exist in some vacuum?
- 4) Your jab about my ethics is pathetic. You, Mark Berch, are hardly someone to raise the banner of ethical behavior. People who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones...particular at someone who will throw them back. Your conduct in attempting to silence Robert Sacks at the DipCon '82 meeting as well as attempting to "pack the house" to prevent valid and normal discussion and comment regarding financial disbursements and rotation of DipCon sites is definitely not a sterling example of ethical behavior. I suggest you clean up your own act before attempting to label someone else as unethical.

Sincerely,

Melinda Holley

cc: S. Langley, B. Olsen, R. Sacks, T. Tallman, E. Wrobel

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Stephen G. Dyeus

Please put me on your list to receive TNH
 for appor 10 issues. I appreciate good comic
 relief material

Stephen G. Dyeus
 3450 Korins Rd
 Evansville, IN 47712

MARK BERCH

Dear Steve Langley,

7-20-85

I note a certain amount of irony in your zine's title. The zine is for hire. I have to pay for the right to defend myself, which is certainly a first for me. At any rate, I want to start with the financial matter first, because if your readers don't wade thru this entire letter, I want to be sure they read this part.

Thief. You start with, "Coincidentally, I don't consider you to be honest, but for more reasons than that we are on opposite sides of a feud. I think you are a bit of a thief." You then give your financial analysis, which shows that at the time you terminated my Magus sub, and cancelled your DD sub, that the two were seriously out of balance. You conclude, "How do you explain that, Berch? Other than the obvious answer, that you keep dishonest subscription records and, as a result, steal your subbers sub-fees? Proof Berch?"

But the truth of the matter is that you have made a major error of omission in your accounting. And even if you hadn't, you still have not eliminated some other alternatives.

You began your account with, "When I started Magus as a zine, you were one of my first subbers. We started what is called a mutual sub. I was already subbed to DD at the time. Our mutual sub started with 10 issues of Magus. I trusted you to credit me with 10 issues of DD." That account is PROVABLY FALSE. We did NOT start with a mutual sub. I started by sending you a \$6 sub check, which you cashed, and gave me 10 issues of Magus for. I have enclosed a Xerox of this check. Note that it is dated right at the time you began Magus as a zine, that it is labled "Magus-sub", and that you endorsed it. It is quite possible that this is not the only money payment I made to you. At any rate, this \$6 payment was NOT reflected in your accounting --- the only cash payment you mentioned was the \$4.15 sent me at the time you liquidated the accounts. It appears that you either did not keep proper records, in which case you shouldn't rely on them in attacking someone publicly, or you didn't bother to check them before you wrote your editorial.

But even without the check, you haven't shown that I've done anything wrong. Even assuming we had a pure mutual sub (which we didn't), an imbalance of this sort could arise from either of the following:

1. As you indicated, I did not credit you with enuf in your DD account, OR
2. You credited me with too much in my Magus account.

Either of these could cause the discrepancy. To put it in simplified form, if I am sending you my apples in an even exchange for your oranges, and at some point, I've got more oranges than you have apples, it could, yes, be that I'm not sending you enuf apples, but it could be that you are sending too many oranges; either will produce the imbalance. From the limited information you presented, its not possible to tell if either or both of these errors occurred, or neither.

And even if it were 100% my error, does that justify words like "steal" and "thief" and "dishonest"? For me to be an "e.g. "thief", you'd have to be prepared to show that it was deliberate. Why do you think that it was? It could have been an arithmetic error, or an oversight. You left out my \$6 payment in your account. I'm not saying, nor do I believe, that this omission was deliberate. You have no justification, none at all, for using a word like "dishonest". Are you prepared to say that you've never made a single mistake (in your favor) in any of the Magus sub accounts? Do you understand what incidents like this do to your credibility?

So where do I stand? Some people are going to read your account in #1, and then decide not to sub --- they may not, for example, want to pay \$1. Even a mass-mailing from me cannot reach all those people, since I don't have a full list of who you mailed it too. And those people aren't going to learn about that \$6 payment.

Courtesy Copy. This incident has certain similarities to the last one. Here's what you had to say:

"Linsey has twice quoted Berch, once in NFA 27/28: "Langley's actions are tasteless and indecent" and again here. What are the sources of these two quotes, Berch? Did you indeed call me "tasteless and indecent" and accuse me of "hit and run journalism"? If not, then we merely have another Linsey fabrication, another attempt to put the responsibility off onto someone else. If so, why didn't you have the courtesy to let me know about it? If both happened in the single DD I returned to you, unopened, then neither is the case, and I owe you and Linsey an apology. Your statement as to the DD by number and page number would be sufficient. I'm sure I can find a copy somewhere."

Then why didn't you do that, instead of writing all that utter bilge first? Those two quotes are, respectively, perfect examples of your failing to consider all the alternatives, and failing to check things out. The first was not a Linsey fabrication, not something I needed to send you a copy of, and not in DD. The "tasteless and indecent" quote was from your own zine. Its at page 10 of Volunteers from the Audience. And not only did you type my letter there, but you referred specifically to that phrase in your response, further down on the same page. The second quote was from the refused DD #85, page 16. The "hit" refers to the "vicious" story that you hit me with, and the "run" refers to the fact that you ran away from what I consider to be your obligation to at least allow me to deny it to your readers. In my opinion, you've made an utter fool of yourself, something you could easily have avoided, if you weren't so hot to throw charges at Bruce and myself.

Freshman Zine Poll. You say, "The next piece of mail I received from Berch was an unmarked DD containing a FZP ballot." I don't know what you mean by "unmarked DD"; all DDs are marked as such. What you got, in plain English, was an envelope which contained an issue of DD, and a ballot for the FZP. You say, "At the time, I wondered if Berch wanted his votes counted or to be able to publish that I had refused to accept his ballot." In the former case, "it wasn't terribly bright", and in the latter, I "should be ashamed of" myself "for attempting to mess over a poll for feud purposes." Either way, then, I look bad, and of course those are the only alternatives mentioned. IN MY OPINION, if you cannot run the FZP without insulting a voter who is just trying to save 20¢ postage, then you ought to find someone who can.

And another thing. You have revealed the fact that I voted in the FZP. You did not say in advance that you would reveal who voted in the poll, did you? But you did it anyhow. Did you stop to think that if you didn't announce this in advance, you shouldn't do this? And you appear to be very selective about this; I only see my name. Did you print the full list somewhere, or did you just rug mine? Do you intend to print the full list, or are you going to be selective?

At any rate, I find great irony in your saying that I might be "attempting to mess over a poll for feud purposes." So far as I'm concerned, that's exactly what you're doing.

Correspondence. Just prior to the above material, you wrote: "Berch was insisting on his "right to reply" but the only letter he sent me was written to Terry. I decided to start returning his mail, too. Sure enuf, a DD wended its way into my mailbox, and we sent it back. About two weeks later a wise head intervened. Peter J. Gaughan asked me to reopen communications. I agreed to go so far as to open my mail....." The letter you refer to was NOT the only letter I sent you. There was another letter, which dealt mostly with the Volunteers material that you had refused to let me respond to. It was in the same envelope that contained the refused DD. Since, to my surprise, you returned this unopened, I understand why you weren't aware of it, but nonetheless, I did write the letter in response to what you wrote in Volunteers. And another thing. Your letter to me said, "Rod Walker convin-

eed me that for the sake of communications I should open your letter ((this refers to the letter written to Terry, a copy of which I sent to you)) rather than simply return it..." This is your letter of Nov 9. But your account in TIFA #1 says Gaughan. How do you explain this discrepancy?

One final point. There was ANOTHER letter that I sent you that you did not mention. That was a letter dated Nov 6. It was included in the same envelope as my letter to Terry. It dealt mostly with the material you had in Volunteers. And I know you saw it because a) it was in the same envelope, and b) because in your Nov 9 letter, you referred to it: "There were several parts, both in your note to me and in the letter you sent Terry, that made me laugh out loud."

To sum up: I sent you an envelope containing a copy of my letter to Terry (which you did refer to in TIFR #1) AND a letter dated Nov 6. Your Nov 9 letter to me referred to both. I sent you a second letter about a week later which was in the same envelope as the refused DD. Thus, you were sent two letters, both largely concerned with Volunteers. Your account mentions neither. It says, "the only letter he sent me was written to Terry." And later "That is the sum total of the Berch and Linsey correspondence file since the feud started (not counting the many Berch items in Volunteers). Both of those statements are false. And of course there is the Gaughan-Walker apparent conflict.

My points are: 1. I did send you letters in response to Volunteers, and 2. You cannot be relied upon to give an accurate accounting of things --- which was the case in the Thief section and will appear again.

Self Misquote. You say: "Berch misquotes himself. Following his "I DID SAY" is not an accurate quote of what Berch said in DD #84. Perhaps he will claim that he said it elsewhere and perhaps he has, but he was castigating me over my interpretation of DD #84 so he really ought to have stuck to the same source. Actually his self misquote is in error only in the wording...The word "repeatedly" was no doubt added for emphasis, and the rest of the rewrite was probably for clarity." The last part of that last sentence is too vague for me to respond to, but "repeatedly" was indeed used in DD #85, the issue you refused, and no, I see no reason why I should be limited to just one issue of DD. Moreover, the statement is accurate for DD #84 as well. You are confusing a direct quote with an indirect quote. A direct quote begins with a comma and a left quotation mark, and purports to be the exact words used. An indirect quote is introduced by the word "that" (here, it was, "What I DID SAY was that...") and does not have quotation marks. An indirect quote --- which is what I had in NPA -- states what the original speaker said without directly quoting the actual words. That is what I did in #84. Altho I did not use the literal word "repeatedly", I expressed that notion in the most vivid and straightforward way possible: I quote Kathy, so people could clearly see her repeating herself. I made no change in meaning from what I said in #84, and thus I feel your criticism is completely invalid.

Vicious Story. This incident places in the sharpest focus the difference in our ethical standards. In Volunteers you printed what I consider to be a vicious story. Lets have a close look at what you did. First, you said that the story was 'NFP' (not for print). Fine, then why did you print it? You also say, "I don't know the details." Again, if you don't know this, why did you print it? You would not, and still will not identify your source. Apparently you just don't believe in letting someone face their accusers. Do you understand how this comes across to the hobby: Steve Langley allows his sine to be used for anonymous personal attacks. Do you understand that there's virtually no other publisher in the hobby who would allow his sine to be used in such a way? The story has Berch doing such-and-such, and Berch says he didn't. That comes down to Berch's word vs ?????. Do you understand that your readers don't want to be placed in such a position?

And on the same page, you said, "I will not print any letters on this or related subjects" --- I wasn't permitted, at the time, to even get my denial before your readers. And indeed, you didn't print either of the letters that I did send you. And I don't see any express ~~of~~ regret from you on this. Indeed, in TNPH #1, you went and repeated the story again! You presented not a shred of evidence to substantiate this story. In fact, three lines after you reprinted it, you invite me to disprove it. I honestly don't think you understand that when you print a critical story, that the burden of proof is on you to present at least some substantiation that the story is true. Instead, you point to me to disprove it. Not only that, but when Bruce asks you for some specifics (the story mentions Bruce's name 6 times), you simply point him in my direction --- as if I'm supposed to substantiate this false story.

And false it is. For example, "Mark's response was to call the person who brought Bruce's problem to his attention a liar." FALSE. I did not do that, or anything remotely resembling that. In fact, to this day, I do not know who was telling the truth in that incident, or whether this was some huge misunderstanding to begin with. Another sentence: "When others were called forward to testify, as it were, Mark defended Bruce against all of them." FALSE. There was no such event. No disputed event was ever corroborated. This picture of me defending Bruce against others brought forward to testify is false because such an event never occurred.

You asked about my definition of "vicious" and how it applies in this context. My dictionary says, "contrary to accepted standards of right or good" and "violative of moral rectitude" (Webster's 3rd New Int.) And that's what the story was. As you said yourself, "I believe that Mark was not being a friend back then..." and that's an understatement. The story you printed presents me as having no interest at all in the truth, but being solely concerned with defending Bruce. I am presented as someone who is, in effect, attacking the messenger of bad tidings. These are not things that I did, but I'm presented as doing them, and thus the story is vicious.

I find defending myself in such a matter extremely frustrating because I cannot spell things out. I know all the specifics, and can quote my responses verbatim. The problem is that this incident developed in correspondence between myself and Kathy Byrne. Kathy's letters were OFF THE RECORD, so I cannot use them. My responses to her referred of course to those letters and again, as a result, I cannot use them. I will not break this confidence. I have written to Kathy, asking for a release, but I have not gotten her permission. When the private letter did not work, I tried going public (in DD #86), but that did not work either. I personally believe, tho I cannot prove, that either Kathy was herself your source, or your source was some intermediary who got the story directly or indirectly from Kathy. There's no other person who would have given you this story. I find it immensely frustrating that she will not give me this release, and yet she has, in my opinion sent this story to you.

The Drinking Letter Defense. You spent approximately one page discussing the events surrounding Bruce's letter alleging that Kathy has a drinking problem; quoting several times from what Bruce wrote, adding your own analysis, etc. In the midst of all this was the following: "I guess the fact that Berch has defended him was overlooked, or perhaps Linsey considers Berch such an extension of himself that Berch's defense is taken for granted." I have not, and did not, defend Bruce in any manner on this issue. The defense you refer to does not exist; it is something that you have made up. If you disagree, please provide a citation and a quote. It's possible that you will argue that you are referring to my defending him on some other issue. If that is the case, then your sentence is extremely misleading. I am sure that the ordinary reader, seeing this sentence in the middle of a discussion of the drinking-letter business, will naturally assume that this is what Berch "defended him" was all about. Please clarify this matter.

I have seen you cite it as a reference. This one is a little complicated, so I will set forth the chronology, point to confusions, and then get to the heart of the matter.

This begins in Magus #38, page 7, where you said, "I have a couple of scenarios for you to consider. The first is the VOD scenario." You then give your VOD scenario. The sixth sentence of this is as follows: "The shock of being confronted by his commanding officer cures Bill, who backs down from the death threats, killing no one and even drops out of the hobby." Then, in Volunteers, I point out that VOD said no such thing: "Bruce didn't say anything of the sort happened as a result of Bill's meeting with his commanding officer. In factm he says nothing about what happened at that point, presumably because he didn't know where is there mentioned anything in the editorial in VOD about Bill dropping out of the hobby except the flat statement, "he is no longer in the hobby"? This talk about his dropping out of the hobby as a consequence of this talk with his commander is simply something that you added."

Your reply to this (Volunteers, page 13) does NOT deny that this was included as part of the "VOD scenario" ----IT CONFIRMS IT: "Come on, Mark, stop being such a ... (supply your own noun here, dear reader). The VOD scenario, as stated by me was not supposed to put Bruce in a good light or depend solely on things that Bruce may have said. It was a possible, if far fetched, scenario as to what may have happened according to Bruce's story as to what he did and why he did it." (emphasis added).

In addition, and now we are getting to the key quotation, you defended the essential accuracy of the why-Bill-dropped-business with the following:

"What are you talking about? You well know, and I know you know since I have seen you cite it as a reference, that Bill said he was dropping out of the hobby because of a letter some nutcase sent to his CO. Se what if Bruce didn't say anything about that. It is still the case."

OK, so in this quote, Bill drops out of the hobby because of the letter, and thats true even tho Bruce didn't say it, and Berch knows it full well. Underscoring above is by me.

Next, in NFA, I quote the second sentence in that above key quote, and issue a comprehensive denial: "That IS FALSE. Steve has not seen me say that because I've never said that at all. I don't even beleive its true. Assigning motives to people is Steve's game, not mine. So far as I'm concerned, Bill gave his reason for leaving the hobby in Europa Express #33, and I will take him at his word that that is his reason for leaving."

In TNPH #1 you generally standby your position and statements. You also claim I am making a false point: "One of these I called the VoD scenario Berch chose to take that to mean that I was claiming the whole scenario was expressed in the pages of VoD." Yes, thats correct. When you call something the "VoD scenario", I beleive that you are giving the strong impression that this is what was in VoD. Your readers are entitled to take that as your meaning.

And finally, I stand by my "That IS FALSE" denial, and I will prove that my denial is accurate and that your statement is false.

First some confusions. In the first page of your disucssion, you say: "What I said was that Berch cited a source that contained Bill's statement, so I knew that Berch was aware of the statement, not that Berch had made the statement." Underscoring added. And I agree with the notion in the underscoring that you're saying that I was aware of the statement. But what do you say on the next page: "You will note that I didn't say you had read it, or that if you had read it, that you understood it." Which is it, Steve? I have to have read it to be aware of it, right? You say first, "I know you knew" and you renforce that with "I knew Berch was aware of the sta-

6
ment." and then you try to claim "I didn't say you had read it."

The second possible confusion comes from whether I'm actually denying what you said about me. Thus, you ask, "What words are you talking about with your "Steve has NOT seen me say that because I've never said that at all." Said What?" All I said was that you had cited a reference so I knew you were aware of the reference."

I gave a blanket denial: "That IS FALSE" Whatever it is that you are claiming I said in this matter is not what I said. The citation of the reference is what I didn't do.

Your phrase, "I have seen you cite it as a reference that..." is somewhat vague, because its not 100% clear what the antecedent for "it" is. You said:

"You well knew"

"And I know you know"

"I have seen you cite it"

I assume that all of those refer to the same thing. The "IS" is what I well know. It all refers to the material following the word "that", viz, "Bill said he was dropping out of the hobby because of a letter some nutcase sent to his CO." Thus, I read your sentence as saying in effect, "You well know it, since I have seen you cite the fact that Bill said...."

You claim now that all you had said was that I had cited a reference which had Bill explaining that he dropped out of the hobby because of a letter, etc." FINE, I DENY THAT TOO.

Now we are getting to the heart of the matter. We both agree that I cited Europa Express #33, and that Europa Express #33 gave Bill's reason for leaving the hobby. However, BILL DID NOT GIVE THAT AS HIS REASON, and hence I was NOT aware of any such statement. I did not cite any reference with any such statement because so far as I know, there isn't any such reference. In the issue, he is very irate about the letter to his CO, but doesn't seem concerned about any impact. He presents his CO as agreeing that the (unnamed --- so we don't know which letter this refers to) writer of the letter was a "lunatic", concluding, "Thank God, however, that so far its gone my way - so far." Then he says explicitly why he left the hobby, so pay attention Steve, and you'll see how wrong you were:

"After over a year of publishing, I have decided to leave the hobby. The reasons, while clear, are none the less painful. I entered this "hobby" with a purpose - to do my best. It became evident that I could not do my best at everything. I had a choice - school or the hobby. I chose the only answer, school."

This is crystal clear. Your statement that, "Bill said he was dropping out of the hobby because of a letter from some nutcase." is false. Thus, your statement that I cited a reference with such a statement is false because so far as I knew, there is no such statement. You are unduly taken to assigning reasons and motives to people -- people like me, Bruce and here, Bill. In my opinion, you are batting 0-3. And you have no right to say that Bill said such a thing when Bill said something totally different. My guess is that you never even bothered to check out that issue of EE, because if you had, you never would have printed what you did. When you're relying on something you've seen, you usually quote from it --- and you didn't here.

Berch/Linsey Yes, what a topic. I'll close with one really flagrant example from among your many references to this: "Linsey, you need professional help. The best thing you could do for yourself would be to go to see a qualified therapist. Berch, you would do us all a favor, especially Linsey, you you would second that motion, instead of trying to talk him out

of it (emphasis added). You're entitled to your opinion as to what Bruce ought to do, but the underlined material is FALSE. I have NEVER done that or anything even remotely similar. There was no such incident. I am, in fact, a great believer in people seeing therapists, its my wife's line of work, and for me to give such advice would be totally out of character for me. I cannot recall ever saying such a thing to anyone, inside or outside the hobby, in my entire life. Would you please name your source?

Indeed, this incident is in some ways a rerun of the "vicious story" business. In both cases, I am presented as not acting as a good friend to Bruce. The source is not given. No proof is presented that the incident occurred. No details are given, but I am presented as in some way as blocking Bruce from taking remedial action. And both stories are false.

There is more, of course, much much more. But I have limits as to how much I'm willing to put into it. I realize that you typed over 36 pages, but I don't have the time and the enrgy to do any more. I am a very slow and inaccurate typist; it has taken me many many hours to type this much. Rummaging thru my old records to find that cancelled check was about 1/2 hours work. And locating the envelope with the refused letter (and DD), and locating the carbon of the other letter (both of which did NOT show up in your "sum total of the Berch and Linsey correspondence file" listing) was close to an hours work right there. If you had kept and consulted proper records, I would not have had to do that digging and writing. I resent the fact that I have to spend all this time -- and why? Because you would rather call me a thief, and get the point across that I didn't reply to your Volunteers essay --- you'd rather do that then take the time to check things out.

And as for the rest, I leave you with one final quote from yourself: "it would be totally irresponsible of me to name names without proof." But you did it anyhow. In, for example, the "vicious story" and "Berch/Linsey" points above, you named my name and you never had any proof. Indeed, if you had checked things out, and stuck to things you could prove, this entire letter would have been unnecessary.

I enclose a list of names and addresses.. This letter, by my calculation, could cost as much as \$124, if none of the people named opt to sub. To be on the safe side, a check for \$16 is enclosed. I consider that an awful lot of money to have to pay to correct your mistakes, but I understand that no one is forcing me to reply. However, unless something rather unexpected occurs (like Kathy permitting me to draw from her OTR letters so that I can prove the falsity of the "vicious story"), its unlikely I'll be participating in TNFH in its present form. I don't wish to sound gratuitously insulting, but you simply aren't worth the time, effort, and money involved.

Mark L. Bard

DICK MARTIN

7/16/85

Dear Steve Langley,

THE NOT FOR HIRE #1 turned out to be a fine production. I doubt it will be a success, though, as I don't expect Hutton or Linsey will leave the cozy confines of NFA. Nice try, though, and I'll send you my feud mail in the future rather than NFA. After all, while I can't be sure that you'll be as objective as you claim, I expect you'll do better than Hutton, who's turned out to be just another Linsey apologist. Worth a chance.

It would add to readability if we knew who was writing a particular letter at the beginning.

But the name of the zeen should be THE STRICTLY FOR HIRE.

Your comments about getting into a feud are well taken. Once upon a time, I made the mistake of getting into a feud. Unfortunately, I ended up with a few individuals who seem to have no life outside of Dipdom, and will be plagued by them until the end of my stay here or they are committed to mental hospitals. A word from the experienced: if you haven't been in a feud up to now, thank your lucky stars and don't ever start. Try as you might, they just never seem to end. And you're not missing anything (anything good, anyway).

For the following semi-open letter to make any sense at all, one should get a copy of NO FIXED ADDRESS #32/33 (and hopefully the issues before that as well). I assume that if you're reading this, you have that NFA.

Dear Steve Hutton and Bruce Linsey,

Oh, so many things to say about NFA 32/33, where to start. Well, how about with section I of Linsey's letter (I'll spare you all from "That Linsey Creature (how cute)" this time).

You wanted a list of Linsey lies, Steve? Well how about section I, sentence number one? I think your buddy is trying to quote me when he says, "Alex says that Linsey is a child molestor." That'd be fine, except I never said any such thing. If so, where? This is easily provable, and I want it proved. It's very true when he says that "the statement is a pure fabrication," but it's his fabrication, not mine. This being the case, his following paragraph about what great friends he is with Alex is irrelevant.

Linsey denied the existence of the Alex letter while sitting in Kathy's living room. Unfortunately, he left no notarized documentation of this verbal exchange.

I have more reason to believe that Julie's description of the Francine letter is just as accurate as Linsey's, since she told me about it long before this whole silly thing became an issue. We have one undisputed claim that the letter was "strange" -- yet the version that Linsey would have us believe to be the true one would hardly even be considered that. Since this whole exchange appears to be unprovable, why prolong the agony? Why keep on lying, Linsey?

Of course you plan to put off answering how the Byrnecons and Marycon were ruined, Linsey, because you're lying here, too. Persistent little devil, aren't you? Since I doubt you've felt guilty about any of your actions in Dipdom, that would hardly stop you now. Go ahead, lavish some imaginary, unprovable details on us. We all love it, you know, being taken for fools.

When I asked where Kathy is spreading stories, I mean just that: Kathy. You know, starts with "K", ends with "y", "ath" in the middle. I don't mean Boardman. I don't mean Langley. I don't mean anybody else. Now that I have spelled this out so even you can understand it, where has Kathy been spreading stories about you, Linsey? And as a further point of interest, when were these stories spread? I know of "The Ethical Bruce Linsey" but that would be, what, a year ago now? I've not been blessed by any Byrne mass-mailings lately, as you seem so wont to do. I'd have to say, then, that you were the one spreading stories.

As for the list of "Kathy's lies" so ably produced by our Dipdom watchdog service, let me note that that's one per year, on the average. Not quite up to the Linsey average of one per paragraph, true, but I'm sure she's trying.

That was so much fun, I'll skip to his questions at the end of the intricate tissue of lies and half-truths for more of the same.

(fully enumerated, for the less mentally agile among us)

1. this is irrelevant
2. this is a lie
3. how can you justify your insinuation that Bill Highfield is a mass murderer?

That way.

4. yes, see above
5. fundamentally, yes. Certainly compared with individuals like yourself.
6. probably not

7. you mean other than the drunken rages letter, and your HOL editorial in VOD (for starters)? Why don't you prove to me that these are totally true. They aren't.

Awww, only seven questions. I was having such a good time, too. Well, time to move on to Steve's reply to my letter.

Steve, you say that I say "much worse" than the "Memphis Drunkard" about Gary Coughlan in my latest letter. Where? Let's see, you must mean when I said, "It's ancient history." Hmmm, yes, that's terrible all right. Come on Steve, if you're going to make accusations like this, please back them up with reality.

It's quite possible for Kathy to threaten Linsey with something he "wanted" -- if he's trying to bluff his way through the situation. I agree that Kathy threatened to show the letter around, but not without provocation.

Hey, what I think about Linsey being a child molestor or not is just that -- what I think. I don't know about Canada, but the US is a free country where we can think what we want (more or less). If he and you want to make a big deal about what I think, you're wasting your time. All this talk of libel just shows me that you don't know what you're talking about. I'll accept your apology any time, Steve.

If you come up with something new, I'll happily continue this discussion. And I mean stuff other than the double dactyl where Linsey accuses me of wanting to be a child molestor -- he'd better fervently hope that I don't sue him for that! Whoever scoffed when I said that Linsey was his own worst enemy might pay attention next time, after that faux pas.

Of course, it is impossible for me to apologize to Linsey regarding his being a child molestor without your drawing the conclusion that I am calling him a child molestor in the first place, isn't it? Yes, he might be a child molestor. So might you. So might I. So what? So I guess I'll save us the trouble and drop the subject here.

Yes, "vulgar, obscene filth" and "smutty hate letter" would appear to be hyperbole (or confusing the letter with it's author and his usual work) when referring to the Francine letter. But don't now make the mistake of assuming that it is necessarily completely innocent. Consider it "unprovable" and leave it at that, if you value your objectivity, which you evidently don't.

Steve, it really gladdened my heart to see that stopping checks is totally legal. Why, I've stopped the checks for my car payment and rent, and am looking forward to more. It's so much easier on the budget like this. I think I'll run out to the store and buy a new stereo tomorrow -- stopped checks seem to be the answer to all my problems.... What, are you gone simple?! Failure to make good on a legitimate check for any reason is "much looked-down-upon" by the authorities. And if the Highfield check wasn't written for a legitimate reason, with Highfield expecting to cash it, why write it at all?

Since you acknowledge that Linsey has made illegal phone calls, what difference does it make who they were charged to or whether they were "in the hobby" or not? How much were they for? Over how long a time period were they made? I think you'll find that this wasn't a one-night binge, but a protracted effort to defraud the phone company. As such, I can understand anybody not trusting him for any reason. Who would trust a thief like Linsey with anything of value? Only a fool.

"The Deadbeat List" appeared in VOD -- Linsey can tell you what issue. The VOD player blacklist (for players who NMRed out of his games) would have been every bit as effective if he never made it public. A Dipdomite is branded dishonest in his business ("outside the hobby," I might add, for those that care about such things) because Linsey doesn't like him -- all the proof is unprovable, trivial, and irrelevant to the matter anyway. Three examples of why he's the eager arbiter of what is Good and Bad. If that's not enough for you to start looking on your own, well, I'm just wasting my time because you're likely to keep saying "not enough." If you want more, look yourself.

Lies? Well, I point them out as I come to them. Perhaps I'm being liberal here by including non sequiturs that he passes off as legitimate answers, or half-truths that he passes off as whole truths. Maybe I'm substituting the pithy "lies" for the more general "untruths" but not always. For instance, is the false quote mentioned at the beginning of this letter a "lie," or what? For lack of a better word, that's what

PUBLISHER'S NOTE. I THINK DICK'S LETTER
CONTINUES, BUT THAT IS ALL HE SENT
TNFH OF IT.

THIS IS THE 'UNIVERSAL STANDBY' FORM THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN IN E.84
PUBLISHERS PLEASE REPRINT.

YES!! I WANT TO BE A UNIVERSAL STANDBY.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

I AM WILLING TO STANDBY IN _____ GAMES.

SIGNATURE

RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO: BILL QUINN
301 CONROE DR.
CONROE, TX 77301