

This issue, Tethausaurus
Presses present an over-
view of the hobby. Star-
ring many pubbers like
the ones below...:

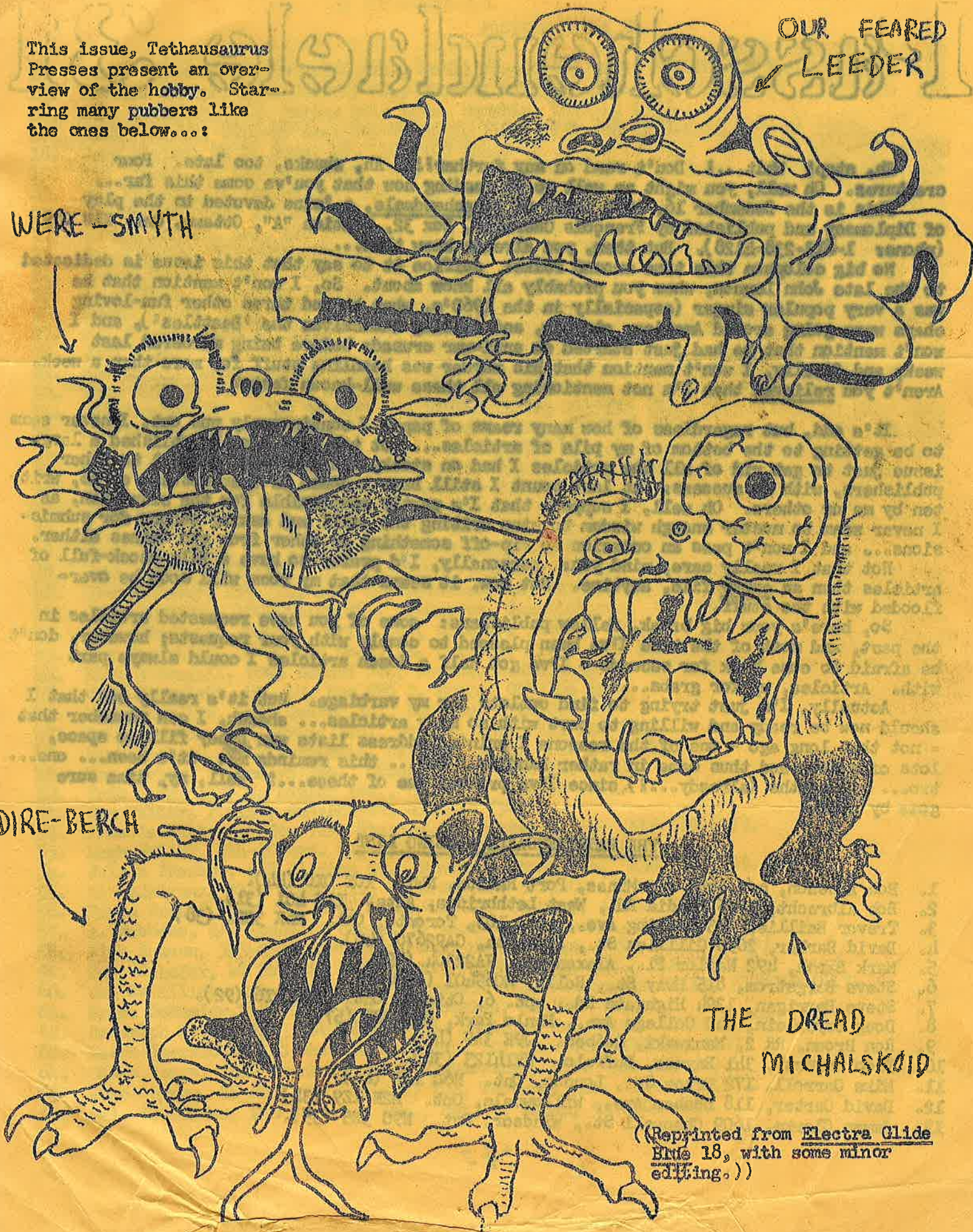
OUR FEARED
LEEDER

WERE-SMYTH

DIRE-BERCH

THE DREAD
MICHALSKOID

((Reprinted from Electra Glide
Blde 18, with some minor
editing.))



Passchendaele 331

Eh, stop! Wait...! Don't read on any further!!! Ah, shucks, too late. Poor creatures. Oh well, you might as well go on reading now that you've come this far...

This is the December 16, 1980 issue of Passchendaele, a 'zine devoted to the play of Diplomacy and published by François Guerrier, Box 32, Station "A", Ottawa, Ont. K1N 0P9 (phones: 1-613-238-1128). But then, you already knew that...

No big colophon this time around folks: suffice it to say that this issue is dedicated to the late John Lennon, whom you probably all know about. So, I won't mention that he was a very popular singer (especially in the 1960's, when he and three other fun-loving chaps were going around America, singing, and calling themselves the 'Beattles'), and I won't mention that he had just started an anti-war crusade before being murdered last week; and finally, I won't mention that his murder was headline stuff for more than a week. Aren't you relieved that I'm not mentioning all these well-known facts?

It's odd, but regardless of how many reams of paper I continuously put out, I never seem to be getting to the bottom of my pile of articles... not too long ago, I published a large issue just to get rid of all the articles I had on stock, and even sent several to other publishers, with no success: at last count I still have a dozen of them mothers or so, written by me or others. Oh well, I suppose that I'm partly responsible for the situation, as I never seem to muster enough wisdom to stop writing the stuff and asking others for submissions... and I won't pass an occasion to rip-off something or other from old 'zines either.

Not that I really care, mind you: personally, I'd prefer to have a file chock-full of articles than an empty file, anytime. But now, it seems that my room will soon be overflooded with the stuff.

So, here's your big break, fellow publishers: some of you have requested articles in the past, and most of the time I've been pleased to comply with your requests; however, don't be afraid to come back for seconds - I've got half a dozen articles I could always part with. Articles, up for grabs...!

Actually, I'm just trying to find outlets for my verbiage. But it's really odd that I should now be ready and willing to part with so many articles... sheesh, I can remember that - not that long ago - one of the reasons I printed address lists was ^{that} they fill up space, lots of space, and thus came in rather handily. But... this reminds me: it's been... one... two... six months (already...!) since I've printed one of these...! Well, my, time sure goes by quick!

THE PASSCHENDAELE MAILING LIST

1. Bob Acheson, c/o Echo Bay Mines, Port Radium, NWT. XOE OXO (44).
2. Bob Albrecht, 17-5 Acadia Rd., West Lethbridge, Alta. T1H 4C1 (31).
3. Trevor Baillie, 193 Dowling Ave., apt. 103, Toronto, Ont. M6K 3B2. (38)
4. David Barker, 2050 Gilliland St., Flacenta, CA92670 (40).
5. Mark Berch, 492 Naylor Pl., Alexandria, VA22304 (49).
6. Steve Bergstrom, 815 Bray St., Rolla, MO65401 (29).
7. Steve Berrigan, 1394 Highgate Rd., apt. 6, Ottawa, Ont. K2C 2Y6 (92).
8. Doug Beyerlein, 640 College Ave., Menlo Park, CA94025 (57).
9. Ron Brown, RR 2, Maniwaki, Québec. J9E 3A9 (41).
10. Thom Burnett, 341 Baynes, Buffalo. NY14123 (38).
11. Mike Carroll, 172 Bruce St., London, Ont. N6C 1H1 (41).
12. David Carter, 118 Hosham Ave., Willowdale, Ont. M2N 1Z9 (34).
13. James Clarke, 1609 Chappell St., Windsor, Ont. N9C 3E5 (35).

14. Steve Colombo, 129 Woodward Ave., Sault Ste-Marie, Ont. P6A 3T6 (35).
15. Michael Conner, 3214 Beverly Rd., Austin, TX78703 (37).
16. Gary Coughlan, 4614 Martha Cole Lane, Memphis, TN38118 (33).
17. Blair Cusack, 8816-46 Ave. SW, Calgary, Alta. T3B 1X8 (35).
18. John Davies, RR 2, Hope, BC. VOX 110 (44).
19. Vic Dupont, 24 Old Mamaroneck Rd., White Plains, NY10605 (32).
20. Bob Francis, 11 Forest St., Danvers, Mass 01923 (35).
21. Claude Gauthier, 2750A Marie St., apt. 30, Ottawa, Ont. K2B 7E7 (35).
22. Curtis Gibson, A-1, 176 Lexington Ave., New-York City, NY10016 (32).
23. Frank Haika, 553 Woodpark Blvd., Calgary, Alta. T2W 3L7 (48).
24. Barry Hickey, Apt. B, 679A St.-Clair Ave. W., Toronto, Ont. M6G 1A7 (41).
25. Al Hoffman, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, 206 Bray, Troy, NY12181 (31).
26. Steve Hutton, Apt. 307, West 5, Box 460, Waterloo, Ont. N2J 4B6 (36).
27. Jan Jensen, 1094 Wellington St., Apt. 1306, Halifax, NS. B3H 2Z9 (31).
28. John Kador, 20 Hilltop Rd., Silver Spring, MD20910 (36).
29. Ron Kelly, 6038 Richmond Highway, Apt. 311, Alexandria, VA22303 (39).
30. John Kelley, PO Box 35, Klickitat, WA98628 (35).
31. Lee Kendler Sr., 4347 Benner St., Philadelphia, PA19135 (x).
32. Ron Killeen, 501A Princess St., Kingston, Ont. K7L 1G3 (34).
33. Eric Kirchner, 308 Enchanted Way, Del Rio, TX78840 (32).
34. Tom Kissner, 1305 Maitland Ave., Ottawa, Ont. K2G 2G4 (33).
35. Oded Klinger, 5681 Ferncroft, Hampstead, PQ. H3X 3V6 (40).
36. Richard Kovalick Jr., 9 Ladd Pl., Watertown, MA02172 (x).
37. Bill LaFosse, 15 Cory Cr., Trenton, Ont. K8V 5W7 (x).
38. Mark Lazarere, 522 W. Grand River, Howell, MI48843 (35).
39. John Leeder, 121-19th Ave. NE, Calgary, Alta. T2E 1N6 (37).
40. Bruce Linsey, Bldg. 11, apt. 21, Leisureville, Watervliet, NY12189 (44).
41. John Lipscomb, 1201 Osler St., Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. S7N 0T8 (32).
42. Andy Lischett, 3025 N. Davlin Ct., Chicago, IL60618 (39).
43. Dan MacLellan, 56 Ogmoor Cres. SE, Calgary, Alta. T2C 2B9 (39).
44. Kirk McDougall, 2023 Edward St., Regina, Saskatchewan. S4T 4N3 (48).
45. John Michalski, Rt. 10, Box 526 Q, Moore, OK73165 (x).
46. Michael Mills, 1585 Quaker Rd., Macedon, NY14502 (x).
47. Ralph Morton, 173 Irving Ave., Ottawa, Ont. K1Y 1Z6 (92).
48. Kent Nielsen, 4404 Britannia, Calgary, Alta. T2S 1J5 (36).
49. Roy Norton, 35 Roslyn Ave., Ottawa, Ont. K1S 4W2 (31).
50. Eric Ozog, 1526 N. Lawler Ave., Chicago, IL60651 (29).
51. Dan Palter, PO 156, Cedarhurst, NY11516 (50).
52. Francis Pinteric, Box 929, Station "B", Ottawa, Ont. K1P 5P9 (37).
53. Hugh Polley, 314-20 Ave. SW, Calgary, Alta. T2S 0E6 (37).
54. Julian Presber, 968 Clifton St., Winnipeg, Manitoba. R3G 2Y3 (33).
55. Al Rodriguez, 2112 Roosevelt, Bakersfield, CA93304 (33).
56. Bryan Ronald, apt. 42, 3705 Fonda Way SE, Calgary, Alta. T2A 6G9 (35).
57. A. Rubbens, o/c House of Games, 75 West Dr., Bramalea, Ont. L6T 2G7 (c).
58. Nick Russen, 353-2503 Hurontario St., Mississauga, Ont. L5A 2G7 (x).
59. Tony Schafer, 48 Mammoth Hall Trail, Scarborough, Ont. M1B 1P6 (38).
60. Ben Schilling, apt. 315, 24730 Roosevelt Ct., Farmington Hills, MI48018 (41).
61. Bruce Schneier, 455 East 17 St., Brooklyn, NY11226 (53).
62. Randolph Smyth, 222 Aberdeen St. SE, Medicine Hat, Alta. (CODE?) (37).
63. Deane Sperkados, 154 West 70 St., apt. 20, New-York, NY10023 (40).
64. Clive Tonge, 2402 Edenhurst Dr., Mississauga, Ont. L5A 2G7 (x).
65. Alan Turner, 55 Maitland St, apt. 702, Toronto, Ont. M4Y 1G9 (50).
66. Eric Verheiden, 200 S. Azusa Ave., apt. 2, Azusa, CA91702 (43).

67. Rod Walker, "alcala", 1273 Crest Dr., Encinitas, CA92024 (c?).
 68. David Weatherhead, 386 Browndale Cres., Richmond Hill, Ont. L4C 3M4 (30).
 69. Cal White, 90 Carlton St., apt. 504, Toronto, Ont. M5B 1L6 (40).

...which is nine down from the previous address list, but then I believe that most of those who left us (e.g., Robert Faquin, Brian Johnston, et alii...) have dropped out from the hobby at large. And anyhow, I have already expressed my mixed feelings about "large" address lists: while they are somewhat ego-pleasing, they do imply a lot of additional boring work such as collating, stamping, and addressing when it comes to putting out an issue of the 'zine.

From this listing, seven persons owe me money, and I expect about six dropouts between now and the next listing. This means that the list should remain somewhat stable in the future.

Geographic distributions: U.S. of A.: 30 (43.5%); North: 1 (1.5%); EC: 1 (1.5%); Alberta: 9 (13%); Saskatchewan: 2 (2.9%); Manitoba: 1 (1.5%); Ontario: 22 (31.7%); Quebec: 2 (2.9%); Nova Scotia: 1 (1.5%). Horrors!... It looks as if the Yanks were taking over this 'zine...!

I have met 16 of my present subscribers (or 23%), which isn't much, admittedly, but then this is more - MUCH more - than a stay-at-home type such as Smyth can say... and besides, this figure should go up slightly, what, with my planned excursions to Montreal, Toronto, and Chicago in January and February...

The number inside parentheses (after your address) indicates when your sub will be up; an "x" means that we are trading, and a "c" indicates that you receive this 'zine only due to the goodness of my heart - or, if you want to see it the other way, you're a very unlucky chap: even if you don't want the 'zine, you still get it...!

I have six trades and eight mutual subscription arrangements with fellow publishers, for a total of 14 "commercial" agreements of one kind or other. Although I believe some of these fourteen 'zines are among the best in North America, there are a couple I'd still like

I'VE BEEN FIRST
 MAN OUT IN ALL THE
 45 GAMES I'VE BEEN IN...

WHAT DOES
 THAT PROVE?

I AM NOT NO QUITTER...!

to weed out. Unfortunately, I can't do it at a quick pace, due to the games I'm playing in in there...

It seems like it's been a long time since there has been any letter printed in this 'zine... or rather, it's been an even longer time since any single issue was predominantly filled with letters. Well, it's about time I remedied that...:

YES, FOLKS, JOHN LEEDER DOES WRITE LETTERS...!:

John Leeder, November 4, 1980:

"Congratulations on bringing in Passchendaele 29 - lots of excellent reading, good reproduction, etc. - size is not alone in its claim to fame.

"Thanks for the basically fair review of Batocha. Quite a perceptive analysis, really. ((You must be kidding...))

"Comments on your comments on my comments on the 'zine poll:

- "I listed 'zines I knew to be defunct because mostly they were alive during the year previous to the announcement of the poll. The poll was not intended to be a snap-shot of the North American hobby at any given instant (which would have been invalid anyway, as the interval between announcement and counting was intended to be three months and turned out to be four). Rather, it was a picture of the hobby over a period of a year - actually a year and a third, as it turned out. I expect that any defunct 'zines on the main list were extant during the period of assessment. I think it would be reasonable to assume that any 'zine which folded before the poll period would receive fewer than five votes and not make the main list.

- "Others have suggested a larger minimum number of mentions for inclusion in the main list. I'm of two minds, as this might cut out good small-circulation 'zines.

((As I think I've implied originally, it all boils down to what you actually want to measure. There's nothing wrong with what you've been doing if you want to measure 'zine quality (but then, why set a 5-mention criterion? After all, some good 'zines may be left out just because they received less than five mentions...); however, a higher minimum may be needed if 'zine popularity is measured (as both the rating and the number of mentions are important to determine 'zine popularity)).

((I feel that the poll results are generally used as an indicator of popularity by the majority of publishers... For instance, a publisher who did well in the poll will tell novices how well he did in the poll, and how popular (= good?) his 'zine is. That is why I'm inclined to think it would be best to increase the minimum number of mentions; but then, Andy Lischett (see his letter later) also has an excellent idea on this point.))

- "I think that if genzines are included then "house organs" should be as well. I don't see setting up a set of criteria for excluding 'zines - if people read it and it has some part in the hobby it should be eligible. Presumably, e.g., readers of The National feel that it fulfills its function very well. Why not let them express this?

((I beg to differ. Genzines ought to be included because they can vary in quality (i.e., the editor can choose to print crummy articles or superb articles). This does not always apply to house organs, which prime function it is to perform a given service, and that's it. Then an evaluation of the 'zine becomes an evaluation of the service, which is what I think happened in the case of Everything. While I suppose rating hobby services is valid enough, doing so by rating their house organ is discriminatory: why not, then, allow for ratings of hobby services using no house organ, e.g., GDO Coordinator? Still, I suppose your implied point that we can't start nitpicking over which 'zine ought to be rated and which oughtn't is valid enough...))

- "Surely three months should be adequate time for responses! If I include the announcement in my end-of-March mailing, editors who trade with Runestone should be able to get an announcement in their 'zine by the end of April, editors who trade with them can get an announcement

in by the end of May, and readers can get their votes in by the end of June. If this system does not provide enough time, surely the responsibility rests with the editors!

((I suppose that your argument makes sense, though I seem to remember receiving the Runestone issue announcing the poll only in May or so (blame the postal system for that one too, I guess...). Still, your implied point that 'zine editors should publicize the poll more diligently (I included...) is well taken.))

- "It's been a long time since my university statistics course, and I suspect that most people are in the same boat as I am, and have forgotten (if they ever knew) what a standard deviation is and what its significance is. And there's so much work involved already that I hesitate to make the job even more complex. (Actually, I haven't completely forgotten about standard deviations - but listing them might imply that results for a 'zine which gets a lot of 0 and 10 votes are somehow less valid than for others, when actually they just reflect controversiality.)

"Stay well!"

((Oh, don't worry about it: I'd have you compile medians, modes, variances, quartiles, centiles, standard deviations and distribution curves for the rest of your life if I could...

((Still, I think that the standard deviation (and the median) could be useful. As you imply, a high standard deviation would indicate controversiality; nevertheless, I'm not entirely convinced that people would infer that results for controversial 'zines are somehow less valid than for others.

((The standard deviation would only add meaning to the results. For instance - under the present system - a final mean result of 4.0 for a 'zine indicates impopularity, to be sure, but just how impopular is the 'zine? A standard deviation of 0 would tell us that the 'zine is generally despised; however, a standard deviation of 4 would indicate that people have mixed feelings about the 'zine - although some hate it, at least some like it.

((In addition, revealing the standard deviation would allow everyone to see for themselves just how valid the claim (made by some 'zine editors) that some people sent in "revenge" (or "spoil") votes is... personally, I believe that some of these editors were perhaps only attempting to explain away disappointing results, but nevertheless...))

Andy Lischett (November 13, 1980):

"Passchendaele 29 was terrific. I can't imagine how much work it was. Anyway, here are some comments starting at page 1 and continuing from there.

"Ralph's cartoons are neat, even if I don't fully understand them.

"The North American Zine Poll. I disagree that John should restrict the type of 'zine included in the poll, or that he should not include defunct 'zines. That could lead to mistakes, arguments, and confusing complications. For example, I thought Assorted Garbage had folded, and would (under your suggestion) not have included it in the ratings. And why don't The National and Everything belong in the poll? There are a lot of ways in which those 'zines can perform their functions, and I think the voters showed their approval of how it was done. In The National you chose interesting subjects, gathered good contributions, and organized them well. Lee Kandter is prompt, accurate, and conscientious in Everything.

((See my answer to John. Also, I do not share your assessment that, "there are a lot of ways in which those 'zines can perform their functions". Take Everything, for instance: so far as I'm concerned, all the editor has to do to accomplish the 'zine function is publish the game-starts and game finishes, and this is IT: no rating in the world will ever change that.))

"Also, I don't think medians and standard deviations are such a terrific idea. As a publisher I'd like to see each and every vote I got (so I could stay up nights trying to figure who gave me the crummy ones), but I doubt that more than a few non-pubbers care a lot about the poll. I don't mean to imply that the poll is not useful or entertaining - it's probably the biggest hobby event of the year - but perhaps publishers wrongly assume that it's as important to their subscribers as it is to them.

((While you probably do have a point here, apathy among non-pubbers (a debatable point, but anyhow...) is no reason to shun sophistication; that is, we should not give up trying to improve over the present system just because some or most of the non-pubbers are apathetic.

or indifferent (precisely to increase their interest in the results if nothing else).))

"Anyway, do John and the hobby need two or three different 'zines claiming to be number 1 (or 2, or 3) by different methods of averaging (or whatever the correct term is)? John's method is simple and effective and to over-analyze the votes would only muddy up the results.

((OK, but do you want to sacrifice sophistication and accuracy to simplicity? I don't see two or three (- or even a hundred) 'zines claiming to be numero uno as such a big problem. At least, this situation would be preferable to having a 'zine be the clear "winner" just because the hobby has decided that the mean would be used.

((Neither the mean nor the median are intrinsically superior to one another: both are equally valid methods of averaging. Why then, be arbitrary as to the method of averaging we use? So far as I'm concerned, 'zine A with a median of 6 and a mean of 5 would have just as good a claim to being numero uno than 'zine B with a mean of 6 and a median of 5. I just can't see arbitrarily saying that 'zine B is "better" or more popular or whatever than 'zine A, and this is why I advocate using both methods.))

"Perhaps you're right that a higher minimum of votes would be better, but from 5 to 10 seems a rather large jump. Maybe John should find a percentage of the votes cast, so that he could automatically adjust the minimum up or down every year.

((Good idea! Thus, John could put all those 'zines with, say, 10%, of all ballots cast on the main listing...))

"What? Randolph is getting married?

"Darlene Dee. Do you take this man to be your lawfully wedded husband, and promise to love, honour, obey, and puppet so long as you both shall live?"

"I do!"

"Randolph Smyth. Do you take this woman to be your lawfully wedded wife, and promise to love, cherish, and protect her home centers from Russia so long as she may build no fleets?"

"I do."

"By the power vested in me by the NADF, I now pronounce you man and wife."

"That's all."

Mark L. Berch (November 12, 1980):

"I am most appreciative of your plug of Diplomacy Digest in number 29. Indeed, it is the most comprehensive review of the 'zine that I have ever seen in print. The only place where I'd disagree is that there is a special emphasis on reprinting old stuff. Issues such as the Lexicon with all-original material appear only occasionally. All other issues are predominantly reprinted material.

((OK: let's pick the last ten issues of Diplomacy Digest, which ought to be a good indicator of what the recent emphasis has been on. Issues 31, 34, 35, and 36 were virtually 100% original material; issue 39 was about 80% original material; issue 37 was 50% original material; issues 38 and 40 were 25% original material; and issue 32 was about 20% original material, and so was issue 33. Assuming that each issue is given equal weight, the average ratio of original material to reprinted material is about 5.2:4.8. My conclusion is that if there's emphasis on anything at all it would seem to be on original material: but I suppose that there are other ways to see the matter.))

"On page 34, Tom Kissner gives what he calls "one of the more blatant examples of ... favouritism"; "Mark Berch ... clearly took unfair advantage of his liaison with the publisher of Diplomacy World in order to push his product. This sort of buddy-buddy patronage system (involving a lot of very presumptuous and ethically questionable behaviour) is exactly what a political trend or character in Diplomacy will lead to." Tom has no idea of what he is talking about. No "advantage" exists or was necessary.

"I wrote to Jerry Jones about the idea of including Diplomacy Digest in an issue of Diplomacy World. There were obvious advantages for both 'zines (true synergism). There were no significant obstacles. I paid Jerry the additional printing costs (no additional postage was needed). I made some small modifications (used the Diplomacy World format, tried to im-

prove my typing, and toned down my normal rhetoric slightly) and sent him the camera-ready masters. There was no "favouritism" or "ethically questionable behaviour" involved whatsoever. Jerry treated me the same way he would have treated any other publisher making such a request. I have since tried to interest a few other publishers in trying the same thing. However, it is expensive, and cannot really be done with the games-portion of an ordinary game-zine. I really wish that Tom had written me first about this "patronage" nonsense, because if he had a lot of wasted effort could have been avoided.

"As for the rest of his article, note that this business is the only recent example he can give of the "politics" supposed harm. So without an example his argument is indeed weak. The next oldest specific example given is the Lakofka-IDA business of 1976-1977, but as both Lakofka and IDA are gone, I don't want to get into this. Suffice it to say that I do not agree with the accuracy of his recollections.

"As for his notion that "almost all ... (are) ... designed solely as an ego boost" (except for the orphan games service), Tom can be excused here because he hasn't actually done any of these functions. I would just love to hear his explanation of the ego-boost involved in being a Boardman Number Custodian, a job which involves an incredible amount of drudge work.

((Tsk, tsk, Tom, I told you that somebody would react, ah, "vigourously" to your argument. But anyhow...

((In point of fact, Tom gave the example of the Walker-Beshara feud, whereupon I added that a similar case could be made of the Lakofka v. Canadians business of the IDA in 1976. And it could. For instance, I could produce a ton (figuratively speaking, of course) of material incriminating Lakofka for his abuses of power - and don't say that they'd lack validity, because one of the items would be a letter from John Leader (which appeared in The Mikumaru Gazette), a man whose integrity and knowledge of the situation is beyond question. Enough of that, though...))

"Your article on the A-R alliance was well done, but I do not agree that it is "seldom-mentioned-and-used". I also think that destroying Italy by 1906 is rather slow. The west will most likely have their business settled well before then, even if Italy starts by allying with England against France and Germany. You're very correct to point out to the Mid-Atlantic bottleneck as a very severe problem."

((First off, let's get something straight: I said that A-R game-long (i.e., from start to finish) alliances were seldom seen, not any kind of A-R alliance. There's a big difference between the two.

((Your notion that A-R game-long alliances are "seldom-mentioned-and-used" is a mystery to me: how often have you come across an article on such an alliance in recent years? Further, it would seem to me that statistics gathered from Everything 40-46 are pretty conclusive for the matter of how often the alliance is seen on the board: of all 260 game-finishes or so, only three games ended in a 2-way A-R draw, and only 12 others ended in any draw including Austria and Russia. And remember that these statistics are only indicative of an A-R game-long alliance: some of the draws may have been due to other factors, such as deadlocks... So far as I'm concerned, these statistics show conclusively that this game-long alliance is seldom seen on board.

((Contrast the number of AR game-long alliances to other well-known game-long alliances, you say? Easy. England and France were part of draws in 31 games, i.e., twice as many games as Austria and Russia...

((As I've said before, I generally distrust hobby statistics; nevertheless, I thought I'd give you something to think over... and in the meantime I'll feel satisfied with the notion that A-R game-long alliances are indeed seldom seen (especially as in all the 7-man games - both postal and face-to-face - I've played, I have never seen any such alliance...)).

((As for Italy getting zapped only in 1906, I believe I said "by 1906", which means that Italy should have fallen by 1906 at the latest. There are a lot of ways Italy could survive until then too (while even helping A-R in their progress in the game...!): Italy could well have gained a foothold in Iberia before being completely zapped (and stick around until 1906 as a 1 or 2 center power...); or she may have agreed to puppet (a useful thing, that, given that Italy was previously at war against the French and may still be used against the West until Austria is strong enough to take-over...!). Still, I'd agree that getting Italy only in 1906 is probably a bit slow, especially if the result is a bottleneck in the

Mediterranean... I was just being a bit pessimistic.))

Allan Hoffman (undated):

"You and your gay-lilade liberal friends of yours better watch out because the impossible dream has come true! Yes, Ronnie Reagan will be the fortieth president and that means that low-life countries like Iran will have to stop abusing us. Not only did Jimmy Carter fall but so did a lot of radical senators. McGovern bites the dust! Church bites the dust! Bayh bites the dust. And the list goes on and on.

"What does a Reagan presidency mean to the US? Well, there certainly will be a draft but it won't affect me because I'm joining the Army Reserves next month (in conjunction with ROTC). Reagan may abolish a lot of social programs but I don't care; I'm young, white, and in three or four years I'll get a decent job. There certainly will be an improvement in foreign policy. There was an incident where Carter asked West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt to employ the neutron bomb in West German territory. After much internal opposition, Schmidt said yes, whereupon Carter decided not to use them after all. What are our allies supposed to think of us? Are we dependable if they are attacked by the Soviets?

"With a Reagan presidency, our friends like Canada and Britain (or should I say, puppets? Parasites?) can depend on the United States to protect their interests in Europe and the Middle East. I'm sure that a lot of members of the Politburo are pissed.

((I wonder whether I should put out another 104-page monster just to answer this? (What's worse, I really could, you know...!)) Naaaa... better try and keep it short. How about this?:

((It seems to me that people often have trouble distinguishing between American interest and Canadian interest. It's the old myth all over again: what's good for the U.S. is good enough for the world (and thus, God Bless America...)... This is no particular criticism of you, as several Americans (most?) and Canadians think alike.

((I am inclined to believe that a Reagan Presidency is not a favourable omen for Canada, contrary to what you imply. This is what his statements indicate, at least. Examples:

((1. Reagan has taken a stand for pancontinental energy-sharing programs, which would involve Canada, the U.S., and Mexico. Now - while this certainly is a good proposal from the American viewpoint - just how do you think such a program would "protect" our interests? You tell me, why would we be interested in "putting in common" our resources with those of the Americans? How is giving away our resources in our interest?

((2. Reagan has been apathetical towards anti-pollution programs. This is particularly harmful to Canada, as pollution in the Great Lakes is one of our urgent problems. Yet, any anti-pollution program there must be bilateral to be efficient, and Canada will certainly be hurt if Reagan is reluctant to co-operate. So apathy towards government anti-pollution programs is the last thing we need.

((3. Just lately, Reagan declared that no area in the world should be considered outside the "American sphere of influence". Pardon my stupidity here, but my poor brain just fails to conceptualize how Canadian interests will be protected if the White House insists on controlling everything we do. As far as I'm concerned, this would only be a neo-colonial regime. Although I suppose I could draw parallels between this "sphere of influence" talk and Japan's "Sphere of Co-Prosperity" of the 1940's, I'll spare you the details. Anyhow, thanks for nothing.

((4. More recently yet, Reagan implied that the U.S. should have sufficient military strength to act alone without consulting its allies if need be. If this is going to be his policy, fine, but let's not be too hypocritical: friends consult each other, they just do not act unilaterally. Or am I perhaps to suppose that Reagan is bent on "protecting" "our" "interests" in the Middle East and Europe (which are relatively unimportant in the first case, and antagonistic to those of the U.S. in the second, but anyhow...) in spite of ourselves by acting unilaterally and without consultation?

((Further, I just wonder how the U.S. are going to "protect our interests" if they always act without consulting Canada, i.e., without even knowing what are our interests...!))

((Moving on, I deplore the fact that the Republicans have had a marked propensity to ignore Canada in their decision-making in the past... in addition, they are generally more ignorant to basic facts pertaining to Canada than are the Democrats. Examples:))

((1. Richard Nixon once declared that Japan was the U.S.' most important economic partner, whereas Canada is. Well, I suppose that Japan has been catching up with us very rapidly for the numero uno spot, but at the time Nixon made his statement, Canada was still far ahead of Japan in terms of economic ties with the U.S.))

((2. Richard Nixon had no regard whatsoever for Canada when he imposed the infamous "August Measures" of 1971 - namely, he imposed an additional import tax on all goods entering the U.S., which shook up our economy rather badly (70% of our trade is with the U.S....). Now, I'd agree that these measures were very good for the United States. But this precisely supports my point that Canadian and American interests are contradictory and even antagonistic. If Reagan is going to protect the American interests with the same diligence that Richard Nixon did, I can assure you that Canadian interests will suffer greatly.))

((3. The Republicans have been generally more eager on applying the U.S. Trade With The Enemy Act extraterritorially than the Demos did, which naturally hindered our own interests and our foreign policy: for instance, when we tried to trade with Cuba, we had to undertake painstakingly slow negotiations with Washington to obtain the suspension of the regulation in regard to the American multinational firms operating in Canada (who were the only ones in a position to provide the products we had agreed to sell to Cuba).))

((4. Finally, there seems to be no specialist on U.S.-Canada relations among the GOP team, which can only be bad news for us. I suspect that this will reproduce the general ignorance (concerning Canada) in government circles under the Nixon Administration. Contrast this with the Democrats, who literally have a wealth of such specialists, e.g., Mondale, Muskie, Kennedy, Curtis, etc.))

((I believe that all the above are worrying signs, and that is why I don't believe a Reagan Administration will be an unmitigated blessing, and also is why I disagree with your notion that Canadian "interests" will be "protected" by the U.S. Now, you can never know, maybe the Reagan Presidency will produce surprises - after all, a lot of Republican Presidents were quite good to Canada, e.g., David Dwight Eisenhower. But - somehow - Reagan just doesn't remind me of Eisenhower... and it's been so long since the Republicans ever fielded a presidential candidate familiar with Canadian problems and U.S.-Canada relations... I doubt that the Reagan Presidency will be of any good to us, I really doubt it, especially as the Canadian gov't is planning on nationalizing 50% of the U.S. oil companies operating in Canada, which just isn't likely to mesh well with Reagan's ultra-reactionary, yes, reactionary, ideology.))

((Sheesh, I've spent over a page just answering your point on the compatibility of American and Canadian interests...! But hold on, I'm not through with you yet (heh, heh).))

((I just wonder how interested you'd be in knowing the other side of the coin in the "humiliation of America" business? My own inclination in this regard is that the U.S. long deserved to be "humiliated", not because they were negligent and let their strength and influence frittle away, but rather because you oppressed and humiliated Third World nations before, for over 30 years, in point of fact. I mean, how are the Iranians supposed to love you after you've spent billions equipping and supporting a regime that strived on social injustice and had its army and its secret police killing people or kidnapping them by the thousands? How would you feel if the Soviet Union equipped Canada with men and weapons and then had it kill your brothers, your mother, your father, your uncles, your cousins, your...? (I know the example is ridiculous, but it does serve its purpose.). Or, how would you feel if you were an Iranian and had to work for a small salary (typically a few hundred dollars per year) 12 hours a day, 6 days a week? If you manage to put yourself in the shoes of a Third World proletariat worker, I'm sure that you will come to understand why they want so much to "humiliate" the United States. And no army, no sophisticated weaponry, no increased U.S. military budget (which is already the largest in the world) is going to change their feelings, which, I might add, I feel are quite natural.))

((Pardon my getting carried away here... geez, I've spent over two pages rebutting your letter, which was only a paragraph long... oh well...))

"In response to your plug on Caméléon à Binoculaires: I think that Pierre may be losing interest somewhat; he polled the players to see if we wanted the game transferred to another 'zine. If game reports aren't in the 'zine, they are sent by flyer two weeks later. The articles are usually good. I don't know if you can't read the 'zine, I certainly can and that's an accomplishment with my broken French. Pierre is a good GM; I have only seen him make one error so far (which caused the delay). The players are, for the most part, interested in their games which is what keeps the game going. For anyone who wants to play in French, it is a good 'zine and the rates are inexpensive."

((I'm glad to see that the readers will have a second version about Caméléon...; this way, they are not so likely to be influenced by my views alone.

((Thanks a lot for writing, pal.))

To end this issue on a humorous tone, here's a true gem from Electra Glide Blue 20:

YOU CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT THEM
(by Steve Colombo)

It was not a particularly noteworthy day. While strolling through Simpson's, I happened to see a rather unassuming box on a shelf.

"What's this? Another one of those juvenile party games?" Why not open it up. Just a look.

At that time I was unaware of the trouble I was getting myself into. Maybe it was those small wooden blocks on the simple board. No matter the cause, the intrigue of the outwardly simple game drew me into its grasp.

Rushing home I found my wife watching her favourite show (reruns of "Gilligan's Island").

"What do you think you're doing!?", she said as I turned off the TV.

"Quick, clear off the table," I said breathlessly (I hadn't wanted to wait for the elevator to try out my new toy.).

With a look that surely would have felled a lesser man, she sullenly removed our prized knickknack turtle from the coffee table.

"What," she said, "Is that?"

"Never fear," I thought, "Once she sees this all spread out she'll be as excited as I am!"

"What are these?" she asked, holding a fleet perilously by one end like an old sock.

"That? That is a... just a minute... it has to be here. That is a fleet." Obviously I was grasping the finer points of the game already.

"Maybe we should go through the rules together first," I said, "Rules for Diplomacy: the exciting game of international intrigue. Chance plays no part. Diplomacy is a game of skill and cunning negotiations. Chance plays no part. Diplomacy tests your ability not only to plan a campaign, but also to outwit your fellow players in diplomatic negotiations... nothing left to luck alone... man against man in an exciting battle of wits."

At last, a game where my wife's seemingly endless stream of luck at rolling dice and drawing cards could not save her. I'll finally get a chance to thrash that overgrown ego within a fraction of endurance; to be able to yawn in her face after winning my fifth straight game.

I continued reading. "The rules of Diplomacy. Section I. Players and countries. Diplomacy is best played by seven players, though as few as two can play. Each player represents... Section II. Miscellaneous. Part 5. Players should note that fleets in Kiel and Constantinople and in any other coastal province can not convoy."

"There, now who do you want to be... Honey?... Who do you... What do you mean it's 3:30 in the morning? You can't go to bed now, we've got to play a game first (She must see her impending fate, trying to avoid the inevitable.).

"Oh, all right, we can play tomorrow," I conceded.
Even better, now I can practice some really fancy moves. Best to Paris... beautiful.
I'll have to use that one tomorrow.

Next day we found ourselves unusually early. After she had avoided it for as long as possible I finally got her to sit down and play. I was ready now. Ha ha! Both of us wrote down our orders. This was it...

"What do you mean I can't move from Brest to Paris? A fleet? Oh no!"

I have to admit that my wife was extremely lucky to win her first game of Diplomacy.

"How about another game?" I asked.

"Not now, I've got to go out," she said.

Obviously she knew she could not luck out twice in a row.

In the next few weeks, I was able to weasel a few more games out of my wife. Once or twice we even got a few friends over to play. I have to admit that she was something more than just lucky to win most of those games. Still I couldn't seem to play often enough.

It was at this point that, by chance, I found in the bottom of the box that newsletter for postal Diplomacy. After sending for the Cepheids newsletter I decided to begin a subscription to Electra Glide Blue.

Unfortunately, I was unable to figure out much of what was being said in those first few issues. The gland and the short forms made much of it unintelligible to me. Who are 'Zine, GM, CDO and NMR anyway?

Despite this handicap, I decided to join one of Cal's ((Calvin White, the editor of Electra Glide Blue)) games for novice players only.

Novice players... ha! Pigeons! This should be a breeze. I'll take care of these rank amateurs and then move on to bigger games.

Let's see now... Spring 1901... How about Brest to Paris? Beautiful!

That's it - and Merry Christmas.

Agadobong Bong!

((People were getting tired of the old
"Fine Jig-a-deo!"...))

François.

François Guerrier,
Box 32, Station "A",
Ottawa, Ont.
K1N 0T9 (1-613-238-4128).

Your sub expires with
issue 35 .

We trade

John Kallay
Box 35, Kluckitlat
WA 98628
USA

