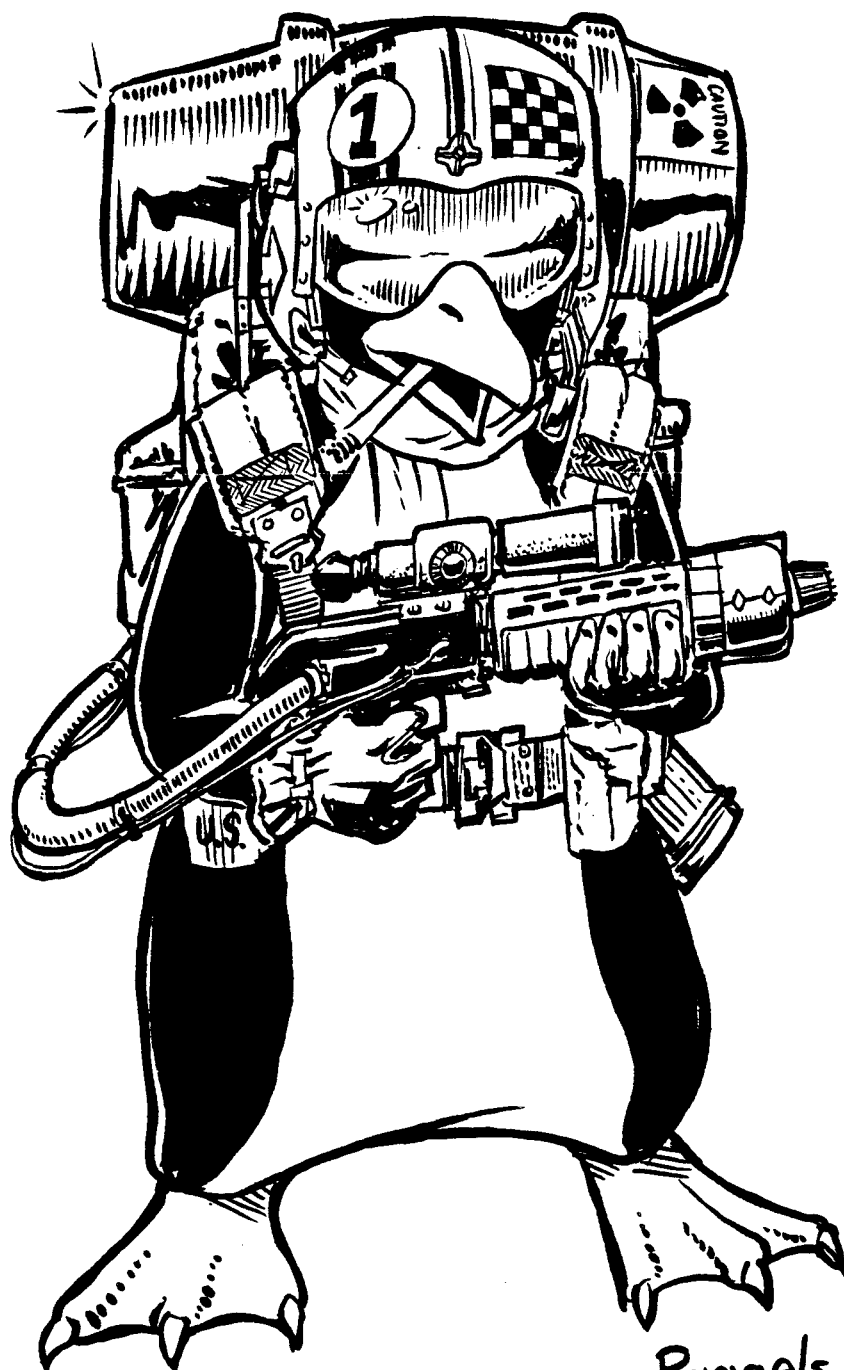


PENGUIN DIP #15



Ruggels
© 1988

Welcome to PENGUIN DIP #15. PD is an SF fanzine, an artzine, a general gaming and role playing game fanzine, and a postal Diplomacy zine. Edited, published and copyrighted (except where noted) by Stephen H. Dorneman, 95 Federal St. #2, Lynn, MA 01905, available as a 10 issue (1 year) subscription for \$15.00, \$20.00 outside of the United States, and is also available for contributions of articles and/or artwork or for the Usual stuff.

It's 87 degrees Fahrenheit at 10:00 PM as I'm typing this. We have no air conditioning, I'm on the last can of cold caffeine-free Coke, and the zine's got to be finished tonight. The Antarctic's looking better and better to this penguin as he writes

FROM THE FLOE: ALL DRESSED UP

and no place to go with this editorial page. What say we get right to the introductions? This is the special Hard SF Issue of PD, and inside you'll find a Hard look at the US Space Shuttle program by **Eric Anderson**, a review of two Cyberpunk novels by myself, lots of the usual Letters, Games, and Stuff, and a random walk through the mind of **Rod Walker** by himself.



WAY COOL PENGUIN

In particular, check out Rod's column where he suggests compiling a PENGUIN DIP "Reader's Choice" list of the '10 greatest SF classics of this century'. I'd definitely like to see what lists you Penguin Dippers come up with, make up a composite list of those titles that appear most often, and compare it to my own list. So get with it! It's Top Ten time, and you get to be the Home Office . . .

And speaking of Late Night With David Letterman, is there any other reason to care about the Writer's Strike? At least as far as TV goes, I'm sure there are a lot of movies I'd like to see being pushed back in production even as I (I'm not a union member) write this. One movie that did get to be produced, and that Penny and I did get to see, was the George Lucas/Ron Howard fantasy Willow. A movie that I'm still not sure whether I liked it or not. Any reviewers out there care to tackle this one and straighten me out? About time we had some movie reviews here . . .

More special issues? Well, **Kathy Luzzi** would like to see a Horror issue, there's been a Diplomacy strategy article promised that would be a fine centerpiece for a Dip issue, and if I get a Willow review and a couple of other fantasy movie reviews we'd have a special issue right there . . . But it all depends on what comes in the mail. (So just what kind of special issue does the KGO Zine Directory bring to mind, eh?) How about a New Artists issue - with lots of New Artwork. How do you like that segue to the credits for -

ARTWORK this issue by **Scott Ruggles** (Cover, 2, 13), **Russ Miller** (4,9), **Sheryl Birkhead** (5), **Kathy Luzzi** (6), **Andrew Edelston** (11), and **Jim Tozzi** (17). Each of them receives one or more issues of PD for their creations. As noted last issue, sub credit is now given out as follows: Articles - one issue credit per complete page of printed text. Artwork - one issue credit per quarter page size of illo.

Font of the Month Club this month brings you: **Crypt and Cyril**.

THIS SENTENCE IS WRITTEN IN 12 POINT CRYPT.

ТчИС сЕНТЕНце ИС шРИТТЕН ИИ 12 ПОИИТ ЦЮРИЛ.

LETTERS

SF STUFF

GARRET SCHENCK: "My intention in pulling the 'hoax' was purely for fun -- I decided I would pile more and more absurd baggage on de Havilland's cart until it finally collapsed of its own ridiculous weight. I really feel humor and satire deserve a place in your zine . . . but I understand you, as the zine publisher, may feel differently."

[Actually, I enjoy good humor and satire, although it is a matter of taste as to whether a practical joke, such as a series of apparently serious reviews of non-existent books, movies, games, etc. would be considered either good humor or satire. I do feel somewhat bemused, with the proverbial egg on my face, for taking the bait and running with it for so long. I do apologize to the many Penguin Dippers who wrote me about their unsuccessful attempts to find de Havilland's books. From the response, it's a pity her Marna series doesn't exist - it looks like there'd be a good market for it.]

SPACE COMMUNICATIONS

jan howard finder: "As to our non-existent space program, your readers could make a lot of difference by spending about \$2.00 a year. I realize that this is a lot of money, but one has to make sacrifices for one's dreams. I send a letter to the President with copies to my three Congress Critters on two dates: 20 July - "On the 20th of July in '69 the first human set foot on the moon. He was from the USA. The next human to set foot on the moon will be from the USSR. Happy Anniversary! I'm pro-Space and I vote!" and "4 October - 31 years ago the first satellite was orbited - by the USSR.. They have a Space Program, we don't. Happy Anniversary! I'm pro-Space and I vote!"

"By the way I understand that at least seven persons were killed on US highways last week due to equipment failure. I think the government should close down the highways until we get a safe car program. Just think of all the women and children who die from poor equipment/cars. Tsk, tsk."

"I would like to recommend WELCOME TO MOONBASE by Ben Bova. It is a fascinating read. Oh yes, I predict that the Soviets will land on the moon during '97 with a concurrent unmanned Martian Lander. After all, '97 will be the 80th anniversary of the Great Proletariat Revolution and the 40th anniversary of Sputnik."

"Of course, but then we'll be fourth in space after the Japanese and the Europeans. That is, if the Soviets haven't interdicted space to anyone not having their permission. It is coming."

POPULATION SENDINGS

HARRY ANDRUSCHAK: "I am a little annoyed at you this time around. Your Back Page [of #13] has a comment or two about over-population. Thrillsville. Then on page 2 you give congratulations to a fan for being a father. Yah."

"That is the way it always seems to be. We have an over-population problem. Let the other guys do something about it, not me. Let the other guys do something about it, not me. Let the Asians and Africans and everyone else do something about it, not us. . . . We have superior genes or something, and it is OK for US to reproduce and congratulate each other for being parents. Sure."

"In my case, I had a vasectomy operation in 1973, before I had any children. True, it wasn't easy for a single man to get a vasectomy, but it could be done via Planned Parenthood. So I did, and have never never never regretted the decision. That is my contribution to the over-population problem. Let it begin with me."

"You??"

[I believe in a very Capitalistic sort of population control - if you can afford to feed them, house them, and educate them, have all the children you wish to have. It is the lack of choice for the poor and uneducated that I deplore. Although regardless of the parent's straits, I will still welcome a newborn child to the human fraternity, and applaud the continuance of the species - and I see no contradiction in that.]

DRUG DISCOURSE

jan howard finder: "Actually I sort of like a mandatory death sentence for selling Crack and heroin. For selling grass maybe one good lash for each conviction or one per kilo. Just a thought. Of course, I favor lashing for DWI as well. Public, of course. A little bit barbaric, but then so is the crime.



Listen... I never met an Art Director that didn't understand a left hook or a slug from a .45. Ya gotta know how to talk to 'em.

RELIGIOUS TESTAMENTS

SCOTT RUGGLES: "I firmly disagree with Rod Walker's assertion [*in PD #11*] that the world's great faiths are the salvation of humanity. While they do good works for the poor I do not trust them. I only have to look at Iran's slide back to the Middle Ages, the grip and political clout that the Baptist Church has on the South, the mentality that it spawns in regards to newspapers and school textbooks, the pressure they exert to regulate and enforce a certain morality on the populace at large, the psychological damage that the fringe religions and cults inflict, and the mind-bending, emotionalistic stupidity of the New Age movement, to see that religion is not the answer. Education is. Only with the proper tools of knowledge can one function in society. Religions take responsibility for filtering and disseminating information, after adding a healthy dose of myth and misinformation."

"A person must be responsible for his own destiny as life is not fair. People have to take responsibility for themselves and the risks in their lives. Governments should concern themselves with the larger issues such as territory and national survival. People can only do this when they are properly informed without bias. Stupid or incapable people fall to their own level without any artificial props. Truly clever people can overcome their limitations. It is information and education that is the key."

PSUEDOSCIENCE BABBLE

DON WILLIAMS: "I heard a story after this Reagan/astrology broke out: on a Federal building in downtown L.A. a banner was seen recently sporting the slogan 'Just Say No To Astrology'. I, too, am not a fan of this administration - after eight years of Ronnieism, I'm more of an unreconstructed liberal democrat than ever. Even so, I didn't like having this astrology ignominy added to insult. (What's your sign, by the way?!)." [*Libra - but on the cusp with Scorpio.*]

SHERYL BIRKHEAD: "We don't quite see eye to eye on the astrology thing. My personal feeling is that it is about as ridiculous as it can get - and who the heck CARES? The various news media must be getting pretty hard up for headlines. I'll readily admit that I look at horoscope pieces -- I doubt there are too many people who can say that they haven't/don't. But, I also move right on having done that. Again, I don't 'worry' about it - but hate to see it blown up so much out of proportion."

DIPLOMACY MISSIVES

BRUCE LINSEY: "I have a few comments to add to last issue's discussion of how to spot a good GM."

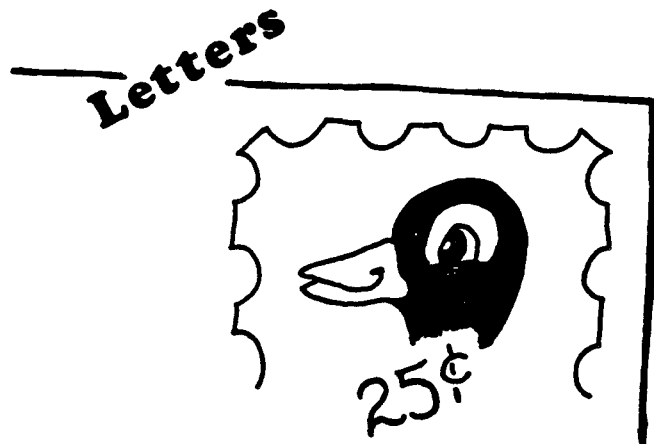
"The very best thing a prospective player can do is (as has already been suggested) to follow the GMs games for a few turns before signing up. Are the game reports produced on time? Does the GM seem fair in his treatment of the players? Are the adjudications relatively error-free? If the answers are all yes, this GM will probably give you an enjoyable game."

"Next: Check out the GM's standing in recent Runestone Polls. The better GMs will usually score highly in the eyes of their players. People like Andy Lischett who do consistently well are very good bets for a good game."

"Finally: ask the GM for a copy of his houserules. These are a guide to this particular GM's methodology in running his games. Most good GMs will have a well-thought-out set of procedures, available to prospective players. Study the houserules, and decide whether you like this GM's style."

STVEN CARLBERG: "My friend Cecil Hutto is organizing a Diplomacy game among members of the Southern Fandom Press Alliance (the apa I'm OE [*Official Editor*] of until the end of 1988 . . . and I was wondering about getting a Boardman number for this game. I thought you might let me know how one goes about doing so. Of course, we've played Diplomacy by mail without Boardman numbers in the past, in Southern Fandom, but I can't think of any reason not to get one, and thought it might be fun. Comment? Help?" [*To get a Boardman number you just need to write the current Boardman Number Custodian (BNC) with the starting player's names and countries, and let him know in what forum the game is being run. Often people will include a small contribution (say, \$1) to defray costs, but it's not required. Then when the game is finished, you should send the BNC the endgame stats, with a supply center chart for the whole game, and any player changes that took place. The current BNC is Steve Heinowski, 51500 Portman Road RD#2, Amherst, OH 44001.*]

We Also Heard From: Kathy Luzzi and Rod Walker



LOST IN SPACE?

Article by **Eric Anderson**

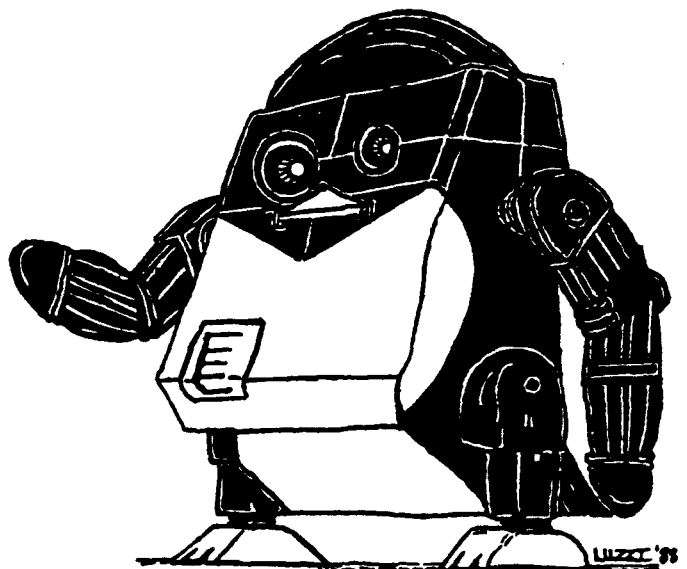
Several issues back, Steve lamented that our Space program has come to a standstill, while the Russians continue to set endurance records. Every other industrialized country in the world seems to have an ongoing launch program (or at least a piece of one through the European Space Agency), while for a time there we didn't have a single booster certified for launch. One of the problems is our heavy reliance on a single launch system, the Space Shuttle.

Like many space enthusiasts, I have a love/hate relationship with the Shuttle. On one hand, as an artifact, it is arguably one of the greatest technical achievements of all time. It is also, for the moment, the only game in town. Some space advocates have made continuation of the Shuttle program seem like the only way to carry on the mission of the Challenger 7. Speaking ill of the Shuttle feels like something close to heresy. On the other hand, it has big problems. It is incredibly expensive to run. Even in the development stages, the cost of the program grew to dominate NASA's limited budget, resulting in the so-called "slaughter of the innocents" in the late seventies and early eighties. The design and the redesign (in part due to not spending the money to do things right) represent a horrible series of compromises. (I know I've complained both that it cost too much and they spent too little. It's not really contradictory. When building something complex, money spent early defining the project is money well spent. Trying to save money by reducing the engineering effort often doesn't work.) More fundamentally, the Shuttle puts lives at risk every time a satellite is launched.

The scariest thing about the Shuttle is the real fear that it will never fly again. Or that if it does, it can never be made to keep the launch schedule needed to keep costs reasonable and to keep customers from taking the Long March. Since the loss of the Challenger, NASA has put patches on some of the bigger problems and has made the go/no-go decision process more conservative. It's not clear that the new SRB design is the right fix (O-ring heaters sounded like a joke the first time I heard about it), but I'm at least as worried that Launch Control will become so conservative that they will never let the bird fly. It's fine to be conservative when there are lives at stake, but once again, it points out the problem with having to risk lives to launch every satellite. Delaying a flight doesn't just mean waiting a little longer for your next 300 cable channels (all with reruns of Gilligan's Island). Being unable to launch on demand means if a military reconnaissance satellite fails or the Russians use their demonstrated ASAT ability to kill one, we can't follow their activities with the accuracy we need. We have to be able to loft "sky-eyes" on demand; even when there is no active conflict, peace comes from peace of mind.

Still, there is hope. The Shuttle is coming back "better than ever," and NASA and the Air Force are bringing back unmanned boosters for more routine jobs. They are also taking a serious look at boosters beyond the Shuttle.

The best reason for hope has come from the White House, in a fundamental recent change: Reagan has decided to promote private space development. Over NASA's firm objections, they are requiring NASA to work with, rather than actively fight, private space-oriented businesses. (Remember when Prudential proposed funding a fifth orbiter?)



NASA may still view the Industrial Space Facility as unreasonably cheap competition for its (\$20 billion?) space station, but they will have to launch it, and to put experiments on it if it can be done that way cheaper.

Best of all, NASA is finally going to consider putting the shuttle external tanks in orbit. Why is this so good? The external tank (ET) is now dumped into the Indian Ocean after having attained about 98% of orbital velocity (the maneuver used to dump the ET actually reduces the Shuttle payload capacity). The ET contains tons of unused cryogenics (they don't run the tanks dry) in 35 tons of high-quality pressure vessel. NASA doesn't have any use for the ET in orbit; they prefer designing a space station from scratch. Several private firms do have ideas for ETs, and if space is ever going to be cheap, ETs may become the Quonset huts of low earth orbit. For those of us who see the proposed NASA Space Station as too little, too late, for way too much money (by 1996 we hope to have built a station almost as big as Skylab was), ETs offer the same opportunity for conversion to a general facility as the Apollo upper stage used for Skylab. The biggest factor limiting space industrialization is the cost of putting mass in orbit; by converting the ET to "payload" we double the Shuttle's capacity in a single blow.

Finally, with NASA taking a more relaxed attitude toward "competition," the big aerospace companies are getting into the private launch race (i.e., General Dynamics is building 18 Atlas/Centaurs with company funds, for commercial launch beginning 1989). I'm cheering for the startup companies too, but it is realistic to suppose that most of them will fold without a single launch. General Dynamics or McDonnell-Douglas have at least proven they can build boosters that fly, and should have a good idea of what they cost. Space industrialization will certainly produce some new corporate giants, but the current big companies that are progressive enough to see the potential could well show the first real fruits.

The more players on the field, the better. Once even one company or governmental body has reason to have a significant presence in space, use of extraterrestrial resources becomes favorable. Once we have the first moon mines or trap the first near-Earth asteroid, man is in space to stay. The diversity of the current drive toward space is the greatest reason for optimism about its long-term success.



VACUUM FLOWERS/MICHAEL SWANWICK
HARDWIRED/WALTER JON WILLIAMS

Book Reviews by Stephen H. Dorneman

On the surface, these books are quite similar. Both have as their major conflict war between Earth and Earth's now-independent space colonies. Both books are obviously members of the so-called Cyberpunk Movement, with the Movement's emphasis on a gritty, dirty, information-rich picture of a realistic near future. Both concern a balkanized humanity busily engaged in sex and drug use. Perhaps most important, both show the extensive cyborging of mankind, detailing a blurring of the lines between man and machine. Both novels are quick to change settings, and both follow two characters (one man and one woman) caught up in a rebellion against a supposedly decadent organization. But both books are also very individual novels, aiming for different goals with varying degrees of success.

Vacuum Flowers is the more ambitious novel, very reminiscent of the works of Bruce Sterling. In it Swanwick takes the reader on a grand tour of the solar system, from one orbital O'Neil colony to another, from hollowed out Deimos to a radically-changed surface of the Earth, even to comet-based Dyson Worlds transformed into a habitable environment while still part of the far-orbiting Oort Cloud. More important than the settings, though, are the radical changes that mankind has undergone in Swanwick's future.

Almost all humans who remain on Earth have become part of the Comprise, a colonial organism linked by radio, microwave, and other means of communication built into each member, an organism that wants to expand out into space but is limited by the speed-of-light constraints of its information flow. The rest of mankind is changed by its use of "wetsurgery" techniques to overlay one person's personality over another, whether to disseminate useful skills, reform criminals, or simply for entertainment. The main character of Vacuum Flowers is a Wetsurgeon/Programmer, Eucrasia Walsh - and also Rebel Elizabeth Mudlark, another personality overlaid on and in conflict with Eucrasia.

This conflict between Eucrasia and Rebel Mudlark is mirrored in the conflict between Wyeth, the male lead, and the hive-mind of the Comprise. And whether or not Eucrasia's two personalities can integrate themselves into one is very important to the Comprise's goal of joining the rest of mankind in space.

Swanwick has fired at a number of targets in this novel, and he does hit more often than he misses. The writing itself does not flow exceptionally well, and in a number of places physical movement of the characters is substituted for plot movement, but this truly is an example of SF as a literature of ideas - and in ideas alone, in just 248 pages you get your money worth (\$2.95 for the Ace paperback).

Hardwired doesn't aim quite as high, but hits the target dead center. This is a book with plot, characters, action and adventure that throws you into a believable future head-first. Earth has lost a military and economic war to the Orbitals (L-5 Colonies), although some "dirtboys" are loath to admit it. The novel follows the lives of Cowboy (a "panzerboy", wired to interface directly with the planes and hovercraft used in smuggling Orbital goods from one independent section of the US to another) and Sarah (once a prostitute, now an assassin, hardwired for combat with a deadly built-in bioweapon, a "cybersnake"). These characters are drawn closer and closer together in a fast-moving story of rebellion against the Orbitals, and a rebellion against acceptance of the hand fate has dealt the two.

Be warned that these books are often depressing, and both contain a 'healthy' amount of sex and violence, and quite a few loathsome characters - some of them the heroes. But aside from that caveat, I would recommend either book to anyone who enjoyed Gibson's Neuromancer, Sterling's Schismatrix, or who just enjoys good SF.

A RANDOM WALK(ER) THROUGH FANDOM

Musings by **Rod Walker**

Since PENGUIN DIP is the only SF fanzine I sub to (because it's also a Dipzine), I thought I'd write and drivel on a bit on SF and other literary stuff. Mostly about my favorite subject, of course. Me.

Mike Resnick was by for a visit the other weekend -- the first time we've actually met, although we've been corresponding for years. We met when he subscribed (many years ago) to my fanzine PELLENNORATH. (More about that anon.) Since he and Carol own a kennel, and Jim & I also own one, the major topic of the day turned out to be dogs, and not what you probably expected. Mike did have with him the cover for his latest novel, Ivory. It's much the best cover anyone has done for him thus far (in my opinion). Interestingly, Ivory started out as a piece of mainstream fiction, but Mike's agent convinced him he could get paid a lot more for it as SF. The book, as so many of his books, arises from his great love of, and interest in, Africa. Resnick is damn good and only gets better as he goes along. Another book, Paradise, is in the works, and I understand that so is a sequel to Adventures. (Oddly, Adventures is the only one of Mike's books I have not wholeheartedly endorsed as wonderful. It's one of his favorites, of course. We've agreed to disagree on that one.)

Mike and I started writing before Birthright and Souleater had been published. When he subbed to PELLENNORATH, I wrote him to ask if he were the same Michael Resnick who had written X (a title Mike would as lief forget, a Burroughs pastiche, so we won't mention it here). When his books started coming out, I started writing reviews of them - at that time for NIEKAS. Mike felt that I got at what he was trying to say in his books better than other reviewers, and we got to writing back and forth quite a bit. When I got serious about my own writing, he was a tremendous help. It will be very much his fault if my first novel ever gets published. It's gotten to the point, though, that I'm a bit scared every time I write a review of one of his books. I worry about missing the point. Or, rather, the points; his novels always have layers of meaning. The interesting thing is that the pro reviews seem to regard them mostly as simple adventure stories, which is particularly what they are not. They only seem to be, on the surface. His greatest tour de force thus far is the wonderful tapestry of Santiago.

Steve, if you're going to do a "hard SF" special, why on earth are you including Heinlein? I don't mean to belittle his achievement, and his recent death would seem to call for a tribute in PD, but . . . hard SF?? By the way, you know that Cliff Simak died recently as well. Much as I like Heinlein (particularly the early Heinlein), I cut my SF teeth on Simak's City, still even now for me one of the most wonderful SF books ever written - witty, deep, moving, skillful, gripping. Even when not considered as a genre piece, it is one of the classics of this century, along with Canticle for Liebowitz, Pavane, Dune, and a few others which . . . well, wouldn't it be fun to ask your readers to list, say, their choices for the 10 greatest SF classics of this century? It would really be interesting to see the lists. I expect that at least one Heinlein book would be on most of them, and I could almost predict which one it would most often be. In such lists, I suppose you might want to exclude fantasy, so long as the line between those genres were not drawn too finely. Obviously you would not want to have included anything by Baum, Tolkien, Burroughs, Eddison, and the like. I would suggest also excluding basically 19th-Century writers who slopped across the dividing line at 1901 (such as Wells and Verne). After all, they established the genre, so they're automatically classics.



I may have mentioned before that I have a pro sale this year - a short to an SF parody anthology, Shaggy BEM Stories, which will be available at NolaCon/WorldCon this summer in a limited hardcover edition. Maybe mass market paperback later (light a candle!). There may be a second volume of these travesties, and I've already submitted something for it. There are 29 in the current collection, and I understand some of them are absolutely hilarious. Many are original, others are reprints. Asimov, Clarke, and a number of other Big Names are in it, as well as unknowns such as myself. My contribution is a parody of the (horrible) "Gor" novels of John Norman, as well as blood-&-guts fantasy in general, called "Queen of Borr". I think Poul Anderson's classic and side-splitting "The Barbarian" is in it also. My hopeful contribution for the hopeful next volume is "Bright Eyes For Gretel", although I'm hoping to do a short Resnick parody before there is a deadline for the next one. If there is a next one; I've got to emphasize that it's a very theoretical quantity at this point. A lot depends on how the first one does, and the market for parody material is not always that hot.

I assume you get DIPLOMACY WORLD, and saw therein the first chapter of my semi-SF parody of the first Sherlock Holmes story ("A Study in Scarlet"), "A Pastiche in Purple". That is finished now, 25,000 words, and in the process of revision. I'm hoping Ed Ferman will love it. I also plan to make it the first in a projected book collecting several stories in the same setting. For those not getting DW: the SF aspect of the story is the setting - an alternate world in which the Reformation was mostly a failure, the Stuarts are still ruling England, and the Borgias have been hereditary Popes since 1603. The stories are all set in the reign of the nymphomaniacal Pope Joan II (r. 1899-1976), most of them in or near Rome. The "Holmes" character is the English Ambassador to Borgia Italy, Sir Henry Orfal-Dorfal, an extremely short (3'9") gentleman whose face is almost completely obscured by lavish white hair and beard, and whom women find utterly irresistible owing to a witch's curse. He is also a virtuoso on the *harpiscotch*. And he is the greatest consulting detective in the world (notwithstanding the pretensions of a certain amateur named Mycroft Holmes). His "Watson" is the Transylvanian Ambassador, Radu, Count Drakul (whose great-great-ever-so-great grandfather was the Count Dracula). Many of the stories are taken from Drakul's memoirs, My Life, Death, and Times. I have rewarded Mike Resnick for his past friendship by christening my "Moriary" character as Miklos Fennimore Wretchnik. I suppose a number of SF writers will have avatars in the pieces as time goes on. When I parody "The Sign of the Four", the guy who shoots the poison darts will be an evil dwarf, Harlan Kyrie Eleison. I know that at least one SF/Fantasy writer subs to PD, Lawrence Watt-Evans, so he will no doubt find his name taken in vain (at least) once I figure out what to do with him. Any suggestions will of course be welcome.

Speaking of Watt-Evans, it would be interesting to have him write more about his own work. I don't suppose you could encourage him to do so? He is the only active member of the hobby who's an established pro writer, insofar as I know. We used to have others -- Pournelle, Chalker, Harness -- but of course before any of them had seen print (at least in any major way).

I did mention my old fanzine, PELLENNORATH. I plan to revive it as soon as I have the facilities to do so. More than half my reference library is in storage or in other ways inaccessible. This will change once we build my new office - scheduled, for the last five years, for "next year". I think Jim is really serious about 1989, though. The projected building also includes a garage and a separate kennel for our own dogs (getting them out of the house - we have about a dozen stock and retired animals with us).

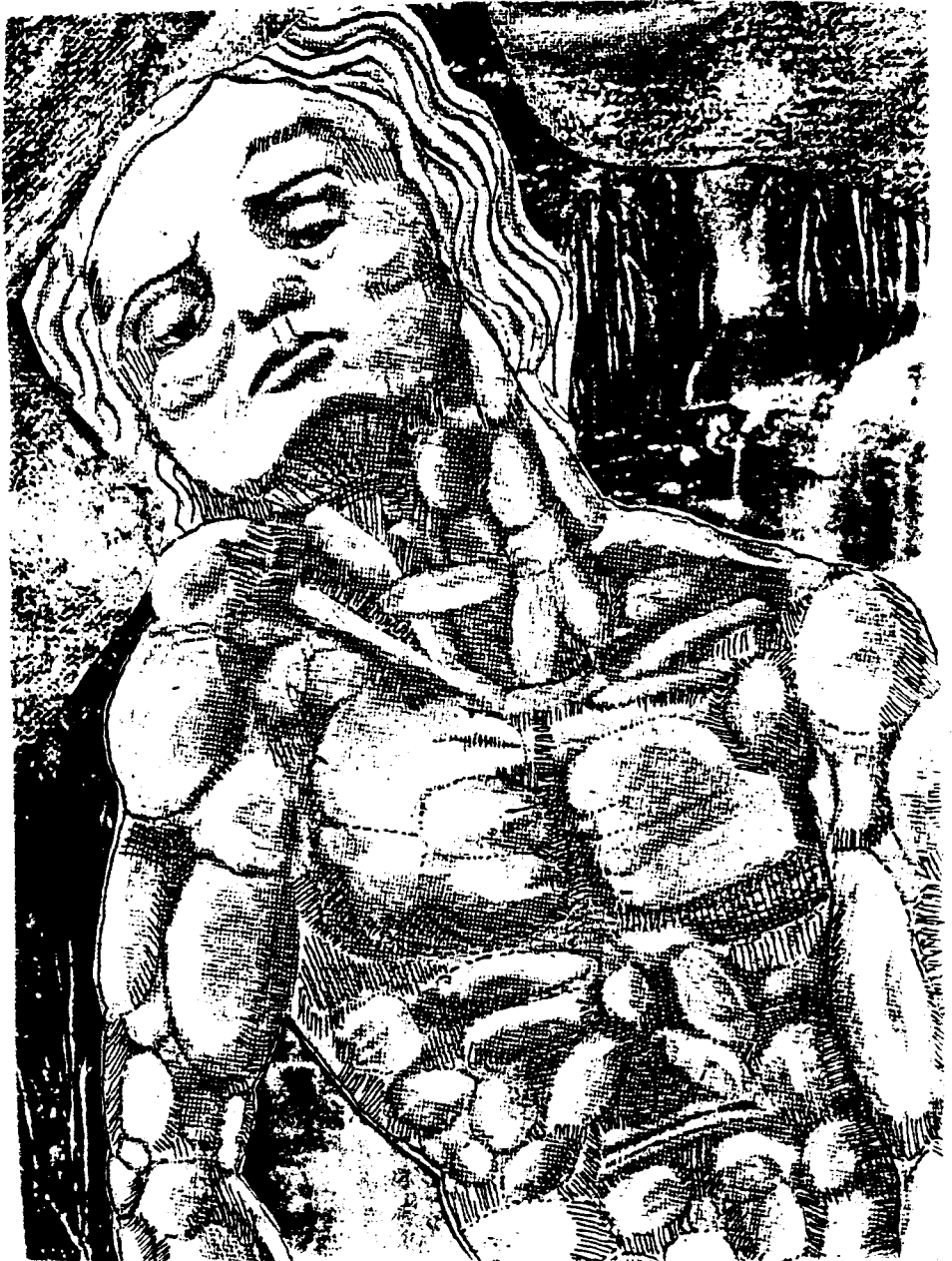
PELL was (is to be again) a fanzine relating to fictional geography. There have been six issues. When I revive it, the first thing I do will be a massive issue reprinting the material from the first six issues with expansions, corrections, and improvements. That will include Barsoom, Amtor, and other Burroughs settings; Darkover; Nabokov's Zembla; Graustark, Ruritania, and other settings of late Victorian and Edwardian romance novels; Lovecraft's Dreamland; Alexander's Prydain; Harrison's Viriconium; Smith's Zothique and Hyperboria; Utopia; the classic Atlantis; and a number of other places. The Darkover portion includes a gazetteer.

This will be followed by a gazetteer and atlas of R. E. Howard's Hyboria (the world of Conan, that is). This was originally planned as a three-issue serial, and the first issue was in fact typed and run off. I didn't send it out owing to deep dissatisfaction with how the finished product looked. Splitting it up into three sections wasn't very satisfactory, either. I like the single-issue idea better, although it (like the first big sextuple issue) will take a good deal of time and money to bring about. But it will be fun.

You might notice from the list above that non-SF/fantasy settings are also included. I hope to get into such places as Koster's Tinieblas, Conrad's Costaguana, Nabokov's Estotiland, Waugh's Azenian Empire, and so on. Many very well-known mainstream writers get into fictional countries - Robbins, Monsarrat, Mann, Thackeray, Salinger, and so on. (Heresy! Mentioning Mann and Robbins in the same breath!) I have dozens of examples, and still very occasionally reading the shelves in the general fiction sections of used book stores will yield a surprise. Marquez has a lot of such settings, but his have no real geography which can be mapped - which is a very common trait of Latin American fiction in which the locale is a created one. The well-known comedian "Cantinflas" wrote a fictional-country novel (Los Cocos), but I have yet to see a copy.

Another problem I have with this is that I am most inartistic. I hope one day to find someone with some ability in that direction who would like to do artwork and some attractive maps for this production. Anyone who's interested might write me (1273 Crest Dr., Encinitas, CA 92024) and we can talk about it.

Best, Rod.



The Zoser Chronicles

Volume 3, Number 7

10 Nov, 334 Apshai

HEIR BORN TO LORD OF ZOSER! On November 1st, 334 Apshai, a male child was born to Lord Ahntek-Mohn and Lady Perheti Ahntek-Mohn of Zoser, their first. The Priestess Boofhet of Isis attended. Perheti, ever the gracious Lady, had the child a week earlier than the Healers had predicted, thus permitting her husband to attend the Aptor Harvest Festival. Gifts and congratulations for the son of the Knight of the Sun have begun to arrive from throughout the Golden Realm and Beyond.

APTOR FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS. Although smaller than Zoser's recent Holiday, the Aptor Festival still more than quadrupled the population of that nearby village. The well-organized hosts were ready to handle the crowds, though, with homeowners opening their doors for the extra guests, many festive tents set up outside the walls both for housing and for festival events, and the recently completed Golden Sword Inn commandeered for the visiting nobility. Special escort service was provided for merchants by the Sacred Warriors of the Bronze Shield, in light of the recent disturbances on the road.

Although no joust was held, a five-part competition took place (in Riding, Archery, Melee, Javelin, and Strength events) to determine the winners of the Gold Stars of Aptor, and the overall Champion of the Fair. Although the Lord of Zoser won the Melee event, and one Tindr Valrson the Archery contest, it was Captain Harkim of the Sacred Warriors who was crowned Champion, with particularly strong showings in the Riding, Archery, and Melee events, and winning the Strength competition (a log-throwing match).

Other events held were in Weaving (where Zoser's Weaver's Guild did particularly well), Baking, Cooking, Music & Storytelling (won by Teti of Khnum), Farming displays and a separate Crafts Fair.

LORD OF APTOR GETS THE GIANT'S GOAT: During the Aptor Festival, a tremendous goat, the size of a great warhorse, was presented to Lord Rakhmire as a gift from the Hill Giant Jarl. The beast was subsequently slaughtered and roasted to feed the visiting lords and ladies. Also during the Festival a Temple of Osiris was formally consecrated, as well as a Temple to Thor dedicated by the Jarl of Thorsglen. A Priest of Thor named Ataulf has recently come to live in Zoser, and talks of dedicating a Temple there, as well.

MAGIC ITEMS OF POWER have surfaced in Zoser recently. Through the Astrologer Sven Einarson a Crystal Ball has been made available to the Mages of Zoser's Circle of Power, and a black leather Mage's Staff of Power was sacrificed to the Norse god Frey in the furnace of the Odínhouse. The Lord of Zoser has made known that a great broadsword of magic, the Sword of the Sun, is known to be in the area, and has offered an Excellent reward to the man who brings it to him. It is said that the Sword was lost from the Golden Realm during the Goblin Wars, and that it has recently been seen in the Giantlands. And a man known only as The Black Mage has found an enchanted Throne of Gold deep in an abandoned Goblin Cave, and has hired a hundred hobgoblins to carry the Throne back to the Mage's tower.

DWARVEN MERCHANTS have broken off contracts with human merchants in Zoser, supposedly due to the presence of hobgoblin guards, and have threatened to beat at least one carpenter who was willing to trade at the new hobgoblin Trading Post. Perhaps in response, the Lord of Zoser has lately reduced the number of hobgoblins patrolling outside the town, but an official has said privately that it is not the hobgoblins themselves that the dwarves object to, but the loss of their monopolies.

IN OTHER NEWS: Bat-winged humanoids have been sighted on a number of separate occasions, mostly to the northwest of town, flying from the hills near Smoking Rock to the Jagtooth Mountains.

BLACK TIE AFFAIRS: THE GAME OF DIPLOMACY

INVITED ARE:

Bob Addison 1602 Carey Lane #237, Silver Spring, MD 20910
Eric Anderson 820 E. 21st St. #4, Oakland, CA 94606
Fred Anderson 78 Brightwood Lane, West Hartford, CT 06110
Larry Botimer 13833 NE 11th St. #3, Bellevue, WA 98005
Derwood Bowen 989 Morningview, Akron, OH 44305-1474
Stven Carlberg 316 Cedar Crest Court, Lafayette, LA 70501
Kirk Carroll 2800 July Street #46, Baton Rouge, LA 70808
Kathy Caruso 29-10 164th St., Flushing, NY 11358
Dave Ditter 8049 Idaho Circle North, Minneapolis, MN 55445
Michael Gonsalves 1401 Haven Rd. #T-6, Hagerstown, MD 21740-3071
James Hall 4316 Ewing Avenue S., Minneapolis, MN 55410
Robert Hauser 7 Mead Terrace, Glen Ridge, NJ 07028
Melinda Holley P.O. Box 2793, Huntington, WV 25727
Michael Hopcroft 2190 W. Burnside #108, Portland, OR 97210
Vincent Lutterbie 21 Paulina Drive, Hannibal, MO 63401
Jim Nickel 429 E. Columbia Street, Falls Church, VA 22046
Bernie Oaklyn 13412 Brackley Terrace, Silver Spring, MD 20904
Cathy Ozog P.O. Box 5225, Munds Park, AZ 86017
Michael Quirk 3830 Chester Drive, Glenview, IL 60025
John Rigley RD 1 Box 170, Richmondville, NY 12149
Steve Rush 6301 Lyndale Avenue South, Apt. 102, Richfield, MN 55423
Mike Sargent P.O. Box 190286, Anchorage, AK 99519
Garret Schenck 40 3rd Place, Basement Apt., Brooklyn, NY 11231
John Schlosser c/o Borgersen, 7768 Trevino Lane, Falls Church, VA 22043
Michael J. Smith 4329 McPherson Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63108
Nhan Vu 626 Heather Avenue, Placentia, CA 92670
L. Watt-Evans 5 Solitaire Court, Gaithersburg, MD 20878
Mark Weseman * 124 Burleigh Drive, Ithaca, NY 14851*



ROCKHOPPER'S SOCKHOP WINTER 04 1987AU

(Seasons separated on 2⁺ requests)

Austria (Gonsalves): (A TRI RETREATS VIE, REMOVE A VIE, F ION) Has A Gal, A Bud

England (Hall): (BUILD A EDI, F LPL) Has A War, A Mos, A Edi, F Bar, F Kie, F Den, F Nws, F Iri, F Nth, F Lpl

France (Quirk): (A MUN RETREATS RUH, BUILD F MAR) Has A Bre, A Bel, A Ruh, F NAO, F Lon, F Tun, F Spa(sc), F Mar

Germany (Ditter): (A KIE RETREATS BER, A GAL RETREATS OFF, REMOVE A BOH) Has A Mun, A Ber

Italy (Ozog): (EVEN) Has A Tri, A Tyl, F Alb, F TyS

Turkey (Nickel): (BUILD A CON, F SMY) Has A Ukr, A Gre, A Sev, A Ser, A Con, F Rum, F Aeg, F Smy

Underlined moves do not succeed. But that's something you've asked not to happen here . . .

SHOUTED OUT THE WINDOW (Press)

England-WorId: "Things just don't seem to work out the way ya plan them, huh?"

Italy-Austria: "Sorry, I only hope I will survive."

THE MAGELLAN COTILLION

WINTER/SPRING

05/06 1987AV

Austria (Smith): (REMOVE A BUD) A Mun-Tyl(dislodged; retreat RUH or Off), A Rum-Bul, A Ser-Gre, A Bul SUPPORT A Ser-Gre(Cut), A Boh SUPPORT A Mun-Tyl, F Bla SUPPORT A Rum-Bul

England (Rush): (BUILD A LON) A Pic-Bur, A Lon-Pic, F Kie-Den, F Hol-Kie, F Edi-Cly, F Lpl-Iri, F Eng CONVOY A Lon-Pic

France (Oaklyn): (EVEN, BUILD A BUR (Impossible), A GAS (Imp.), F RUH (Imp.)) A Spa-Gas, A Bre-Par, F Nat-MAO, F MAO-Spa(sc), A Por-Cly (No Such Unit)

Germany (Hauser): A Mar-Spa

Italy (E.Anderson): (BUILD A VEN) A Tyl SUPPORT RUS A Gal-Vie(No Such Order), A Tri-Ser, A Ven SUPPORT A Tyl, F Alb SUPPORT TUR F Gre, F Ion SUPPORT TUR F Gre

Russia (Bowen): A Sev HOLD, A Ber SUPPORT A Sil-Mun, A Sil-Mun, A Ukr SUPPORT A Sev, A Gal-Bud, F Nwy-Nwg, F Swe-Nwy

Turkey (Caruso): (BUILD A ANK) A Smy-Con, A Ank SUPPORT A Smy-Con, F Gre SUPPORT F Con-Bul(sc)(Cut), F Con-Bul(sc)

Underlined moves do not succeed. Nor does a lone request for season separation.

WHISPERED IN THE HALLS (Press):

England-Turkey: "You need my help against Austria? You've got the Pope and the Czar and you still need me? Still, after this turn I could probably help you if the price is right."

Turkey-England: "I agree, one NMR does not a 'jerk' make. Some people are jerks without ever NMRing - just ask the Archdope."

(France): "'The Russian's are coming, the Russian's are coming!', the cry went out to the small backward populations of the island off New York City. 'Naw! That was the name of a movie, not the real thing!' 'Who you telling? I can see for myself!'"

London-Paris: "We have you surrounded. Give us all your women between 18 and 25 and we may let you live."

(Paris): "The name of the game, if you want to be the one in the Victor's Circle, is to maintain the balance of power. To do that, dear Russia, you must make your peace with Austria and move, with the aid of the Austrian unit now in Munich, versus England. He is cornered like a rat, awaiting the convoy into Clyde to break his back. He can not defend the North Sea, the Norwegian Sea, and guard against my lonely fleet slipping into his back side (otherwise known as Liverpool). He is fleet happy and sad. He can not move inland. Let's crumble him now, else he is the victor . . . or are blinders on the eyes of the people of Russia. Of course, Austria should be willing to give you Rumania and convoy into Armenia. Austria then gets to hold off both Italy and Turkey while you get rich off of English centers with French dressing adding taste to your efforts."

Turkey-Archdope: "Italy gets my harem, I get his pasta & all you get is one big headache!"

England-Germany: "Hope you're having a wonderful vacation in the south of France. Please just keep the pressure on Spain."

France-Germany: "How does it feel to be the rat in a cat and mouse game. Bite the cheese. Actually, I have this thing about getting you to go broke using up lots of 25 cent stamps. Too bad about Holland. Looks like England does not want you at more than one center. Now, if you would like to make some sort of agreement, we could retake Munich for you at some point in time. If you are going out, do it with style, grace, decorum, and the pride of owning your own home center."

Turkey-Italy: "Thanks, I needed that!"

London-St. Pete: "Just leave me alone long enough to crush Bernie. Germany and I deserve our fun."

KK-Booper: "'Bout time you did something right!"

Caruso-Oaklyn: "I told you I could outguess him - let's just hope I can keep this up."

[**GM-Bernie:** "How about cutting out the Building and Ordering of imaginary units. Your poor GM has trouble enough just keeping track of the real ones!"]

Turkey-GM: "Gee, it took till 1905 to get to 4 - at this rate I could be at 5 by 1910."

THE EMPEROR'S BALL REDUX! REPLAY FALL 05!!!

GM GOOFS!! 1987AK

We'll do this one over again. As was correctly (if not promptly) brought to my attention, Turkey's supported attack on Trieste bounces France's supported attack on Trieste - Turkey holds the supply center, and the beleaguered garrison is not destroyed. Changes are marked *this way*.

England (Hopcroft): A Swe HOLD(dislodged; retreat FIN or Off)

France (Sargent): A Vie SUPPORT GER A Sil-Gal(Cut), *A Tyl-Tri*, A Pie SUPPORT ITA A Ven, F Tun SUPPORT ITA F TyS-Ion, F WMe-TyS, F Naf SUPPORT F Tun, F Lyo SUPPORT F WMe-TyS

Germany (Schenck): (A GAL RETREATS BOH) A Kie SUPPORT F Nth-Den, A Nwy-StP, A Boh SUPPORT FRE A Vie, A Sil-Gal, F Nth-Den, F Ska SUPPORT F Den-Swe, F Den-Swe, F Ber-Bal

Italy (F. Anderson): A Ven SUPPORT FRE A Tyl-Tri, F Apu SUPPORT F TyS-Ion, F TyS-Ion, F Nap SUPPORT F Tys-Ion

Russia (Holley): A Bud SUPPORT TUR A Tri-Vie, A War SUPPORT A Gal, A StP-Nwy, A Gal SUPPORT TUR A Tri-Vie(Cut), F Bal SUPPORT ENG A Swe(Cut), F Rum HOLD

Turkey (E. Anderson): *A Tri-Vie*, A Ser-Tri, A Gre-Ser, F Alb SUPPORT A Ser-Tri, F Aeg SUPPORT F Ion, F Ion SUPPORT ITA F TyS(dislodged; retreat EME or Off), F Adr SUPPORT F Ion

Underlined moves do not succeed. This time for sure.

ENGLAND (0) OUT! [*A SWE REMOVED*]

FRANCE (BRE, PAR, MAR, POR, SPA, LPL, VIE, TUN) 8 BUILD 1

GERMANY (KIE, BER, MUN, HOL, BEL, EDI, LON, Nwy, SWE, DEN) 10 BUILD 2

ITALY (VEN, ROM, NAP) 3 REMOVE 1

RUSSIA (STP, SEV, WAR, MOS, RUM, BUD) 6 EVEN

TURKEY (CON, ANK, SMY, BUL, GRE, SER, TRI) 7 EVEN

Thanks again **Michael Hopcroft**, but you're still eliminated. Not a gigantic change for the most part, but I found it too late to solve via a separate mailing. Sorry about that, and feel free to change the moves and builds I have on your file to reflect the new situation. Deride me in new press if you'd like.

KING BASH 1987CP

SPRING 04

Austria (Gaughan): A Ser SUPPORT A Ven-Tri, A Con SUPPORT RUS A Arm-Ank, A Ven-Tri, A Tyl SUPPORT A Ven-Tri(Cut), F Aeg SUPPORT F Ion, F Ion HOLD

England (Schlosser): A Hol SUPPORT F Hel-Kie, A Den-Swe, F Swe-Bal, F Hel-Kie, F Nwy SUPPORT F Lon-Nth(Cut), F Nwg-Bar, F Edi-Nwg, F Lon-Nth

France (Rigley): A Pie-Tyl, A Ruh SUPPORT A Mun, A Mun SUPPORT A Pie-Tyl(Destroyed), A Par-Bur, A Mar-Pie, F Tun-Ion, F TyS SUPPORT F Tun-Ion

Germany (Hakey): A Boh SUPPORT RUS A Ber-Mun

Italy (Carroll): A Rom SUPPORT F Adr-Ven, A Tri SUPPORT F Adr-Ven(dislodged; retreat VIE, BUD, ALB, or Off), F Adr-Ven

Russia (Lutterbie): A Arm-Ank, A Sil SUPPORT A Ber-Mun, A Ber-Mun, A StP-Nwy, F Ska-Swe, F Smy HOLD, F Bot SUPPORT F Ska-Swe

Turkey (Vu): A Ank HOLD(destroyed)

Underlined moves do not succeed. Nyah-nyah-ya-nyah-nyah.

Thanks and the position going out to **Pete Gaughan**, Dipcon Czar and our new Austrian Emperor.

NATTERINGS OF THE COURT (Press):

Emperor-Tsar: "Sorry buddy - I ran out of smart things to say. But I am working on it for next time."

Italy-Russia: "What was that you said about those that NMR'd?"

Emperor-Rome: "Time shall tell if we can trust each other. I hope to hear from you soon."

Italy-France: "You must learn to treat puppets with a little more respect!"

Adélie Soirée

WINTER 1901

BN88E

Austria (Nickel): (EVEN) Has A Vie, A Ser, F Gre

England (Holley): (EVEN) Has A Nwy, F Nwg, F Nth

France (Botimer): (BUILD A PAR, F MAR, F BRE) Has A Spa, A Bel, A Par, F Lon, F Mar, F Bre

Germany (Weseman): (BUILD A BER, F KIE) Has A Mun, A Hol, A Ber, F Den, F Kie

Italy (Ozog): (BUILD A VEN, F NAP) Has A Tyl, A Tri, A Ven, F Tun, F Nap

Russia (Carlberg): (BUILD A SEV, A WAR, F STP(nc)) Has A Bud, A Fin, A Sev, A War, F Swe, F Rum, F STP(nc)

Turkey (Watt-Evans): (BUILD F SMY) Has A Bul, A Con, F Aeg, F Smy

Underlined moves do not succeed. And you don't have to ask for this separation, Winter 01 stands alone here.

GENTEEL DISCOURSE (Press)

France-Italy: "You call Ven-Tri not aggressive?"

Italy-France: "What no word? Write before we have war."

Berlin-Rome: "Your silence is making me nervous."

France-England: "Ah, mon ami, what to say. The game seems in tatters already."

Turkey-Italy: "Bear with me."

Munich-Italy: "I think RinTin is the one who knows how to keep Melinda in line."

France-Turkey: "You my friend are set to get ripped if I/R wish."

Italy-Austria: "You know how I tried to get Tri in 1987AU - Now at last I got it. Sorry it had to be at your expense. . ."

France-Russia: "My, my, my what a big appetite you have. Question is, is Turkey or Italy you real friend."

PRAYDA (Russia): "Having found what he was looking for in Budapest, Russia's Tsar Stven is now off to winter in Sweden, where he will visit relatives and attend the International Conference on Consonant Clusters in Karlskrona."

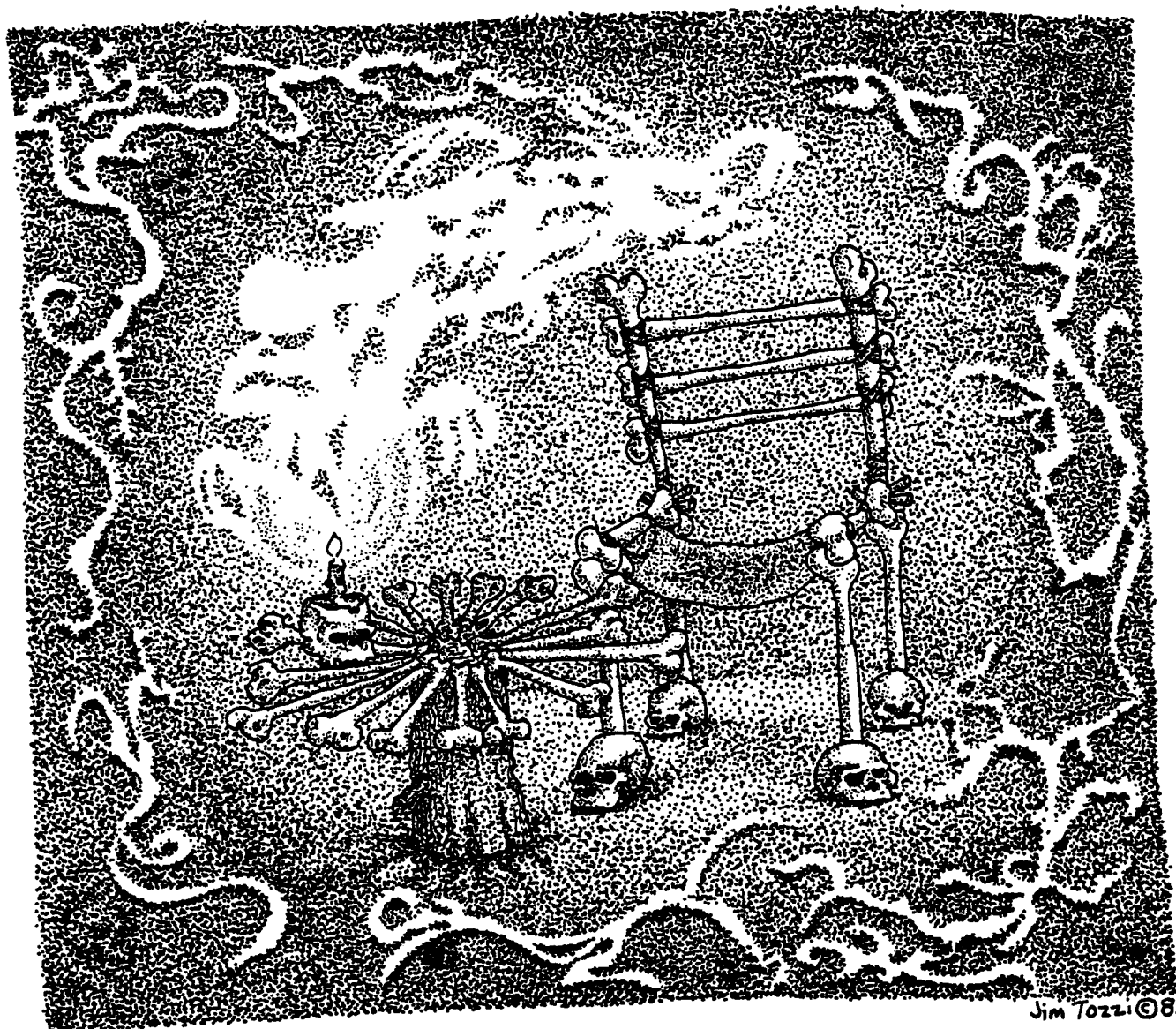
Germany-France: "Beware Italians in elven attire."

France-Germany: "You really should have bounced the Russian. Now you have a big bad bear after you."

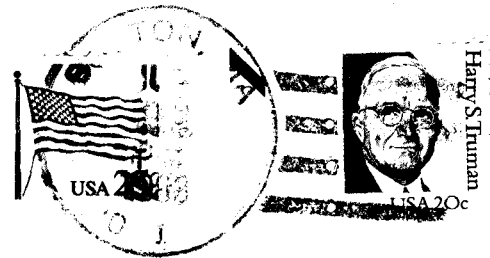
Berlin-World: "My new permanent address as of July 1 is: **Mark Weseman**, 124 Burleigh Drive, Ithaca, NY 14851."

GATECRASHERS (Chisholm Gentry, Ron Cameron, Derek Levison, Mark Weseman, Michael Gonsalves, Kathy Caruso, Dave Ditter, Michael Hopcroft, Michael Quirk, John Richards, John Fisher, Bill Ricker, Mark Sheron, and Pete Gaughan). A standby pays no game fees, receives sub credit for submitting unused moves and upon playing a position to completion so let me know if you want on (or off) this list. Thanks to all for helping out!

Deadline for all games is **JULY 23**. Be there. Aloha.



Stephen H. Dorneman
95 Federal Street #2
Lynn, MA 01905-2230



FIRST CLASS

Rod Walker
1273 Crest Dr.
Encinitas, CA 92024

Sub Ends # 22

↑ Thanks for the column - paragraph was inserted - *Stephen*

THE BACK PAGE

The economy reports on CNN and the business sections of newspapers and magazines would seem to be the least likely places to read about what's happening in SF, but one esoteric bit of tax law could greatly change the art and literature you, the fan, get to see. And not for the better.

The 1986 Tax Reform Act was designed to simplify the United States Income Tax, and to make the current tax system more equitable. And to this end, the lawmakers who codified the Act in one small section (Footnote 263A (b) of Section 263A, to be exact), brought the business of freelance artists in line with that of other businesses - in particular, making the artist (both writer and graphic artist) subject to the Uniform Capitalization Rules.

So, in English, what this means is: to deduct as business expenses the costs incurred in producing a work of art, the artist must keep track of which purchases are made for which particular creation. And even worse, the artist must estimate the potential earnings of a given piece, providing quarterly estimates to the IRS, subject to penalties for failure to pay taxes if you guess low, paying the higher taxes on those guesstimated earnings if you're high. And for the visual artist, works held waiting later sale of other rights or of the work itself are taxed as commercial inventory. Give me a break!

Novels aren't engine parts, and paintings aren't boxes of cereal. If this section of the Tax Reform Act is allowed to stand, you're going to see a lot of part- and some full-time writers and illustrators become full-time something else. Held subject to the Uniform Capitalization Rules of other businesses, artists are going to take the route of certain other business - the route to bankruptcy court.