

Penguin Dip #29



Welcome to PENGUIN DIP #29. 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, 94 Eastern Ave #1, Malden, MA 02148, and available as a 10 issue (1 year) subscription for \$15.00, \$20.00 outside of the United States, it is also available for contributions of articles, artwork and for the Usual Stuff.

Whew, it's been, and will continue to be, a busy couple of weeks. I hope the strains don't show in the zine, but let me tell you if you looked in the apartment (and were lucky to catch us in) you'd surely find a pair of

FROM THE FLOE: PENGUINS RUNNING RAGGED.

You want details? 48 hours of Home Show duty in the last five days, to start. And I come home from the show Sunday night (my 34th birthday), try to get some laundry done, and end up falling down a flight of stairs.



Now I'm sporting a black eye, along with knuckles scraped raw, and assorted other bruises, cuts, and contusions. What I need now is a story about how bad the other guy looks...

There's more, though. An extremely enjoyable trip to Vermont that Penny and I and **Ernie Hakey** took over the Columbus Day weekend, searching out Eric Bealer's last East Coast art show before he heads off to live in Alaska (we had lost a beautiful print by him in the fire last year, and wanted to replace it with another of his works), along with visiting the Springfield Apple Festival (cider jelly, yum!) and seeing **BILL AND TED'S EXCELLENT ADVENTURE** on videotape (excellent movie, in a bogus sort of way). Optometrist exams, with the inevitable (and expensive) new lens for both of us. Classes (there's truly nothing to compare with tracing and coloring your initials some nine times a week...). Upcoming Halloween parties to put together costumes for. **Prodigy**® now available for the Macintosh (my ID# is VMHK13A - who's interested in PBEM Dip?). A Bob Dylan concert tonight. And somewhere in that foot-high pile of bills, zines, letters, and other mail are three or four PBM games whose orders are going to be due Real Soon Now. Not to mention that I'd really like to watch some football before the season's over.

At least they've been keeping the World Series waiting for me.

Seriously, I hope all our Bay Area Penguin Dippers are all right. I've spoken to **Eric Anderson** and **Chris Anderson-Hoke**, and am glad to say that they're both okay, although stuck with a royal mess of glassware, liquor, and books to clean up from spilled bookcases. Anybody out there with a good earthquake story to tell?

Stories this issue look to be Diplomatic ones, from **Ron Cameron's** Dipcon report as our featured article, to the Back Page, with two of the Black Tie Affairs games ending (both in two-way draws -- and how about some game-end statements for next issue?) and a new game starting (plus see the end of page 17). But there's plenty of non-gaming meat in the Letters, and I'll try to tuck a review or two in here somewhere as well. Next issue, **Lawrence Watt-Evans** is back again with a writer's-side view of the panel discussions at SF conventions, and I'd like to see some holiday theme articles, too.

Artwork this issue is by **Ruth Thompson** (cover), **Scott Ruggles** (6 left), **Peggy Ranson** (6 right, 15), and **David Haugh** (12) plus various computer thingies, most from Activision's POSTCARDS™. Like this one:



Letters from my Betters

ROCK 'N' ROLL RUMBLINGS

BILL WARE: "I think Peggy Ranson's letter which appeared in PD#27 demonstrates at least two things: Peggy is very opinionated and everyone who enjoys music is opinionated. When it comes to choosing the top rock songs, people tend to choose songs contemporary to when they became musically conscious. Most of the songs they choose are from what was popular at the time they became musically conscious."

"I would find it extremely difficult to list a top 100 rock songs. It would be easier to list the bottom 100. Classifying music is even more difficult. Your recognition that rock artists did Dylan songs does not by itself make Dylan a rock artist. There's a rock version of "Bolero," but Ravel is no rocker. And some songs by rock artist, like INDIAN SUNSET by Elton John, have few to none of the characteristics of rock music."

"What it boils down to is many of us have a passion for music. Listing favorites is only useful in helping find those who share a similar passion which begets camaraderie. Judging from Peggy's list, we could be musical soul mates except I'm not that crazy about Motown (except what Goffin & King wrote and other artists covered), and I've taken to listening to this New Age/Contemporary Jazz stuff, and I like Weird Al, and . . . (By the way, the title of Chuck Berry's classic is JOHNNY B. GOODE, and it's out of this world -- on the way out of the solar system and into deep space via Voyager II.)"

PHIL TORTORICI: "As I have had my rock & roll historian's hat on for the past few days, now seems appropriate to give you my Top Ten Singles. There are three banana boxes of old music periodicals sitting next to the bookcase, and I have decided to cut and file these before doing anymore artwork. Plus the recategorizing of my record collection. I'll never get this done otherwise."

"OK, singles. From the pop field. (Including folk rock, jazz rock, straight pop, heavy metal, early R&B, etc.) I like a snappy pop tune. Two verses, chorus, bridge break, verse then chorus. The archetype single format. I am a little too young to appreciate the early sixties music that Peggy R. writes about. But I love a good single. In no particular order:

SWEET CHILD OF MINE - Guns and Roses. 'Classic' pop structure with a twist in the instrumental break. Great late sixties, non processed, guitar lead. I dislike the bulk of their work but adore this single.

I WILL NOT GO QUIETLY - Don Henley. Bitter, bitter, near industrial dance tune. Hot. Very hot.

TAKE ME AWAY - BÖC. UFO/Illuminati fantasy. Good break. Catches your attention from the first few bars.

CROSSROADS - Cream. The power trio at it's best.

STARRYEYES - The Records. Neo Mersey beat with good lyrics.

FIREWOMAN - The Cult. Turn the volume up to 'melt' on this one. Sets me on fire.

NO MATTER WHAT - Badfinger. Great false ending. McCartney would be proud.

SUBDIVISIONS - Rush. Intelligent power trio music with a good balance between synths and guitar.

STRUTTER - Kiss. Power pop, with a great hook.

ROUND AND ROUND - Ratt. They may look like Rocky Horror Picture Show boat people, and the bulk of their work is disposable, but this single hits the mark."

"Robert Hauser - 13 greatest? You have to be kidding."



ROBERT HAUSER: "Rich Hanson corrected our shameful failure to include Harry Chapin in our Top Ten lists. TAXI is a favorite of mine and CAT'S IN THE CRADLE is one of the few songs of the rock era that move people to tears. Had my list been longer I would have added LOST IN YOUR EYES (Debbie Gibson), WILDEST DREAMS (Moody Blues), and a half dozen songs from Billy Joel and Steve Winwood."



GREG MAYNARD: "Rock 'n' Roll, eh. Well, on a Sunday afternoon with the wife and kids at the in-laws, the honey-do list somewhat caught up, I'll lock the doors and unplug the phone. Settling in my Lazy Boy with a stiff scotch, this is my favorite listening list.

BAD COMPANY - Bad Company

IRON MAN - Black Sabbath

REVOLUTION - Beatles

WHO ARE YOU - Who

A SPACE ODDITY - David Bowie

FUNERAL FOR A FRIEND - Elton John

RUSSIANS - Sting

BARRACUDA - Heart

LA GRANGE - ZZ Top

I SHOT THE SHERIFF - Eric Clapton

WHOLE LOTTA LOVE - Led Zeppelin

ALL ALONG THE WATCHTOWER - Jimi Hendrix

AQUALUNG - Jethro Tull

SPACETRUCKIN - Deep Purple

To limit this to a dozen or a few more is almost unfair. Several others come to mind as I am typing now. Perhaps at some later date a revised list that has been given some time will be in order."

SCOTT RUGGLES: "I can't believe the dinosaur music you people are coming up with Abba? Christ! There's no soul there. My Top Ten? Very different:

BEAT BOX - Art of Noise

I GOT A LINE ON YOU - Spirit

I GET AROUND - Beach Boys

SHINE ON YOU CRAZY DIAMOND - Pink Floyd

SHAKE THE DISEASE - Depeche Mode

BALL OF CONFUSION - Temptations (I think)

STORY IN YOUR EYES - Moody Blues

BALLROOM BLITZ - Sweet

HEADHUNTER - Front 242

OBSESSION - Xymox (formerly Clan of Xymox)

This is MY top ten, not a top ten of all time, but songs that have had an influence on me. But a lot of the sixties music grates on me. Especially Bubblegum, Folk, and Dylan. You really had to wade through huge geologic layers of crap to get to the good stuff during the 70's, which was dominated by SEASONS IN THE SUN, AFTERNOON DELIGHT, THE NIGHT CHICAGO DIED, BILLY DON'T BE A HERO (ah, Paper Lace, what ever happened to them? as if I really cared), DO THE HUSTLE, THAT'S THE WAY (awhawnh awhawnh) I LIKE IT, and anything off the Saturday Night Fever sound track. During that time I listened to the blossoming of the AOR format with KSAN and KSJO, to avoid the marching masses of flaming shitheels going to the Disco. Things change, and I find myself listening to Post-Punk-European-Industrial-Electronic-Dance Music, which has superficially the same niche as old Disco, but it has a raw edge and a bad attitude which I find enjoyable. The social aspects of Dance I find interesting. (Okay! Okay, I like to preen, and watch young women wriggle on black leather minis). So I listen to Soul-less Eurosynth, this probably explains my disgust with filking."

NOSTALGIA REVISITED

JACK JEWART: "Nostalgia of 60s that I remember. I supported the Massachusetts National Guard "Yankee Division" Boston, eight inch artillery pure. Some fool gave them a nuclear capability and I delivered their trainer. They locked it up in the vault and posted it with the 'Radioactive Trefoil' and the next weekend the Mamas & the Pappas put on a concert there with 15,000 screaming banshees. Also I remember 'Chase in Church,' the Active military man that sought sanctuary in the Church when the Army was looking for him (being AWOL). Matter of fact it was I who was on Duty Officer that night at Fort Devens and I gave the order NOT to go in to remove him, as he was coming out on his own accord the next day. The fellow that was with him refused to show up for the draft and let me forewarn you, the US Marshalls do NOT believe in sanctuary as they went into the Church, cuffed him, and hauled him out!"

SHAGGY CARPET TALES

ED WROBEL: "I don't understand how you all can construct Top Ten lists of this and that with such hubris. Talk about dreaded enumeration and outdated hierarchical modes of conceptualization! Get organic, dudes, get whole. Synthesis not analysis!"



SIMPATICO CINEMA

ROBERT HAUSER: "I agree with Lawrence Watt-Evans that STAR WARS is one of the all time greats, and PHANTOM OF THE PARADISE was a quite clever black comedy updating of THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA starring an impressive Paul Williams. Here's me list: (6) ZULU: A classic adventure story featuring the underrated Nigel Green (Dolby of THE IPCRESS FILE) as Sergeant Bourne. (5) AND THEN THERE WERE NONE: The brilliant 1945 version of Agatha Christie's best mystery. (4) THE WILD GEESE: An all star cast in a fictional story inspired by the real exploits of Mad Mike Hoare. (3) THE THREE MUSKETEERS (and the sequel): Swashbuckling and slapstick, with a varied cast that was uniformly superb. (2) REANIMATOR: Horror/black comedy starring the Cushing and Lee of the 1990s, Jeffrey Combs and David Gale. (1) SCREAM AND SCREAM AGAIN: The SF/horror/spy thriller that united Vincent Price, Peter Cushing, and Christopher Lee in one film for the first time. The weird themes and convoluted structure of SASA confused some critics (Price in a recent interview said that he still doesn't know what the movie was about) and it was panned in some quarters (Lee calls it a failure in his memoirs), but I love horror movies and it is the best one I've ever seen."

FIAWOLI

HARRY WARNER, JR: "Your report on the Noreascon is the first detail information I've received on what happened in Boston. Someone sent me a postal card containing the Hugo winners (and forgot to sign a name so I don't know whom to thank), and a couple of fanzines have contained just a paragraph or two about it. But I'm grateful to you for ending my suspense over the general condition of things at this year's Worldcon."

"I hope everyone who writes about the event takes the same attitude that you did, to the effect that it was a good con and well managed. It would be such a refreshing change to read that sort of judgements on a Worldcon, after a barrage of griping about Worldcon committees, hotels, finances, and other matters in each recent year. I'm also happy to find in your report a lot of references to the little things that make each con distinctive and are often overlooked in most reports, like anecdotes about several panels and what sort of freebies were offered."

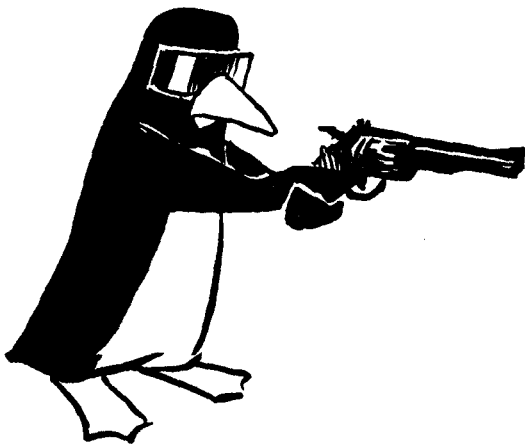
HARRY WARNER JR: "I don't know anything about filk music except what I read in fanzines. But Michael Hopcroft's article interested me this time because it's about musical settings of Kipling poems. A couple of years ago I read through the big collected edition of Kipling's poetry for the first time, although I'd known a few of his poems well for many years. That experience confirmed what I'd suspected after reading a lot of Kipling fiction, that the writer wasn't the narrow-minded bigot that he's usually pictured as nowadays. He took the side of the oppressed natives, animals, and other unfortunate groups eloquently and he doesn't deserve the image he has somehow acquired. He's like Stephen Foster in that way: Foster wrote the first popular songs that depicted American blacks as human beings rather than subhuman objects of ridicule, and now many of his songs are considered bigoted and perpetuating a false image of slaves."

"I assume that the Leslie Fish performances use new melodies for the Kipling poetry. But there was a time about a half-century ago when several of his poems were often heard in recitals and concerts as they'd been set to music by various serious composers. Walter Damrosch's setting of "Danny Deever" still is recorded once in a long while but there were others for such poems as "Mother of Mine" and "Boots and Recessional." Of course, the celebrated Whiffenpoof Song uses words which are mostly taken from Kipling."

SCOTT RUGGLES: "Michael Hopcroft's article is well written. Well written enough that I can read between the lines and tell that this music is not for me or my friends. Leslie Fish is a Wobble. This execrable little organization of revolutionaries, preached violent anarchism during America's involvement in the First World War. The organization is pretty much dead, except for a few romantics, and bitter old timers who still cling to it. The politics I find detestable, and the presentation is a little primitive. As one who enjoys music more, the less vocals there are, the filk proceedings remind me of a cross between a campfire sing along, and my parent's Joan Baez records, both not in this writer's "fun" category. I have witnessed these proceedings at a few conventions, and the article only confirms my first impressions. There is also a very dated feeling, as if this is the last fading after image of the 60's. These are soon to be the 90's and the young fans wear cammo. I suppose it will retain a following among the hard core non-conformists."

[SCOTT RUGGLES CONTINUED] "Speaking of other unpalatable things in fandom, I noticed Stephen's reaction to the IN LUST WE TRUST publication. I ran into a high concentration of furry fandom at this year's San Diego Comic-con. Actually there are two movements. The older and smaller of the two, are those fans and professionals that like funny animals as they were in the 40's, wisecracking animated characters. The "new" movement views "anthropomorphics" as viable dramatic characters, and objects of desire. Personally I find myself more agreeable towards the older crowd. I like the classic Warners animation, and will go see it in theaters if it is playing, but then at one time I was an animation student. The other movement, I find sick and depraved."

"At the con, there was a party for a noted Funny Animal APA. I was not a member, or a prospect, but since I was staying in the room the party was held in, I was there. The artists ranged from barely talented to well known pro. They seemed to be decent people at first, but during the course of the party, they would engage in some of the most petty and vicious gossip I've heard since working fast food. The fans were worse. Human spheroids of the worst sort, unwashed and unhygienic, with glistening lips and scraggly greasy hair, wearing earth brown T-shirts covered with buttons would sidle up to artists and, with fixed plastic smiles, would ask in a breathy voice if he would pleeeeeease put something in the book. (?) The horror . . . the horror. I had a talk with one of the artists out in the hall, and she thought the whole scene was pretty disgusting, but liked the money, because a lot of these fans were rich, obsessed, or both. As long as the money was there she would draw the stuff. "Buxom bunnies in bondage" was a phrase that was batted around at the party. She seemed to think that the fans were thus because they wouldn't have a chance at real females. The anthropomorphics were safe, friendly, and exotic. The fans and pros have a custom of passing around these black, leather-bound sketchpads. A few of them knew I drew, and they passed some books my way. Looking through the books, I found a lot of the art was hardcore pornographic, and a lot of it was pathetically amateurish. Occasionally there would be a nice piece from some pro. I did them without complaint, as was the custom (no money asked, none received), but if I didn't do a funny animal, they got a little disappointed. Hell with 'em. I was just there to keep an eye on my luggage. Some of the artists I met were uncorrupted by the scene, and I have begun bountiful correspondence with them, but the fans I will avoid. Even I have standards when it comes to money."



We Also Heard From: Teddy Harvia, Ben Indick, Peggy Ranson, Lawrence Watt-Evans, and Don Williams.

MY FIRST DIPCON -- DIPCON XXII

Con Report by **Ron Cameron**, member DIPCON XXII Administrative Committee

As most people that have played the game with me either in person, or by mail, will certify, I have a tendency to ramble on and on . . . and on. This tale about DIPCON XXII will be no exception, so get ready for not too short a read.

My DIPCON weekend started well before the actual official events and registration. As a member of the DIPCON Committee, I had the distinct advantage and enjoyment of knowing many of the attendees beforehand. This created, in my feeble mind, many illusionary and pre-conceived mental pictures of these people that I was about to meet, in person, for the first time. In addition, as founder of the CAMCON Diplomacy events in the Los Angeles area, I looked forward to renewing friendships and visiting with once again, those 'deadly Camconians' that I hadn't seen in several months.

On Wednesday before the con started, Steve and Linda Courtemanche arrived at my home quite late in the evening. They were finishing up their California vacation. They had spent the day at Knott's Berry Farm, and, by the time that they arrived, my wife Kathy and I were both sleeping. Since we both had to work that day, we left the door unlocked with a note for Steve and Linda to let themselves in, and make themselves at home. We greeted them briefly the next morning and went off to work, while they took on Disneyland with the other tourists. Early that evening (Thursday), Don Williams arrived. To say he was more than a little 'pumped up' and 'raring to go' is an understatement!! We were both uncaged, irresponsible party animals. Off we immediately went to the local Shakeys for beer, pinball, and pizza. I conveniently forgot my wallet so Don had to pay for everything, including the quarters for the video games and the six-pack and cigarettes purchased on the way back to Casa Cameron.

It wasn't too long before Steve and Linda arrived, wrapping up a long day at Disneyland. My daughter, Julie, had made a chocolate cake for occasion, but had gone to sleep with the rest of my sleepy family by the time our mouseketeers walked wearily through the door. Don, Linda, Steve, and I devoured the entire chocolate cake, and then talked hobby for quite a while. Steve and Linda are two of the nicest people that you would ever want to meet. The time, effort, money, and support that they (and Don) gave me on the Holley Award project will never be forgotten!

Next morning, Don and I were off like a shot to DIPCON while Linda and Steve were to meet us in San Diego later, as they wanted to drive down the coast and do some scenic sight-seeing. Turns out that they were so tired from their visits to Knotts and Disneyland, that they spent most of Friday morning in my spa. Linda apparently has got the California bug and wants to move here immediately. We'll have to send her that bumper sticker "WELCOME TO CALIFORNIA, NOW GO HOME." Ha ha.

Arriving at Larry Peery's, we were greeted by the King himself. I was told by more than one person that Don and I had missed a great mixer the night before. Larry proudly gave us the nickel tour of his house, complete with the "Duck Williams Bathroom" and DIPLOMACY WORLD Central. I met Matt McVeigh and his gorgeous wife; they had come all the way from England. Matt, I believe, was runner-up World Con Diplomacy Champion. We said hello, and laughed with Camconians Hohn Cho and Tim Moore. Mike Legg was selling very nice Diplomacy map postcards. I finally got to meet Mark Lew and David Hood. Great guys, one and all. Some of us participated in a cork gathering event held in Larry's backyard. Essentially, Larry scattered some colored corks around and the seven participants scurried to see who could gather 18 the quickest, either by initial grabbing, or later trading. It took the winner all of five minutes to achieve his 18. Later, to our astonishment, we found this event would count in some minor way, as part of the winner's final score.

Don had promised Gary Behnen a ride from the San Diego airport, so we stopped there en route to the hotel. I'll say this about Gary; he's not what I had expected. Like myself, he's not a little overweight, not too physically attractive, and certainly not someone you'd like to have come to your front door to pick up your daughter for her first date. While Don Williams is about 6'2", lean, and fairly good looking (in my wife's eyes), Gary is the exact opposite. Still, Gary has the personality of a comedian and it's easy to immediately see why he's won so many postal games. He's the kind of guy that you'd like to have as your partner on a game show. Or in a dark alley. Both Gary and Don would be hilarious on a night out on the town. Pity Gary is a St. Louis Cards fan.

The Town & Country Hotel is one of San Diego's best. Thanks to Mike Maston, Larry made a terrific choice for the Con location. The facilities are expansive and expensive, to say the least. I think Fred Davis got lost three times before he found the convention hall. People like Fred made DIPCON XXII the success that it was. He was always there to help, always with a kind word and a friendly smile. Our game rooms were as comfortable and modern as any convention I've ever attended, and as a banker, I've attended more than a few. Walking up to the registration table, I saw Marla Cronin and Audi Jaxon. This was a nice touch, I thought, two attractive, pretty young ladies the first people you see at the con. They had everything well in order; the registration packets and program were very well thought out and structured. Even the greenest novice would have had no trouble figuring anything out. I thanked Audi once again for her help that she had given me in the previous months. The room where the blood was soon to spill was crowded, the atmosphere cordial, but at the same time tense. I wanted to meet everyone, play everyone. Someone remarked that it seemed like just before feeding time at the zoo.

Gunboat was the first game of the night. Seven or eight tables started up. Rules were explained, "NO TALKING," and gamemasters assigned. David Hood was our GM. Now David is the kind of guy you'd like to have show up at your doorstep to escort your daughter on that first date. This guy is Mr. Right. Got his act together. No wonder he's a past DIPCON Champ; he's persuasive but not domineering, friendly, but not with too much syrup. He also has what few good face to face players possess, the ability and expertise at being a good listener. Mark Lew is also in this category. Talk to him for five minutes and you immediately admire him, even if you are in disagreement. They both exude such confidence without being obnoxious.

I won my Gunboat game Friday night, with an 18 center England. It took me slightly over six hours. I later found out Jeff McKee got double the credit that I did for 'Beating' the computer and gaining 20 centers in 13 minutes. Sour grapes? I was not, nor was anyone else I talked to that weekend, happy how Larry Peery ranked and scored the events. However, that is another article; maybe a longer one than this.

Mark Lew won the Gunboat division with a 14 center Germany. Figure that one out. Mark and I can't to this very day, especially since Steve Cooley and Bob Aube had 18 and 19 center wins as Austria and Italy, respectively.

I did admire Jeff McKee's pooh-poohing his mastery of a flawed Diplomacy computer program. A relative newcomer to the play-by-mail hobby, Jeff has a good intelligence for the game and a cockiness that you admire. I hope Jeff stays in the hobby and continues to publish. It will also be interesting to see his thoughts about his second place overall finish at DIPCON XXII which in large part came from beating that flawed computer program. Of course, that's not Jeff's fault that this event was given so much weight in the scoring system.

Saturday morning brought the team event. The fun part of this event was that you knew exactly what country (pre-assigned by team captain) that you would play. Everyone on your team would play his country at a different table. Steve Cooley, from the Los Angeles area, had hand picked a superb slate of seven face to face gamers. Steve is probably the best face to face Dip player that I've ever had the pleasure (and displeasure) of competing against. Larry Peery originally balked at Steve's lineup. "They're too good; we'll have to break them up!" he said. "Calm down Larry," I replied, "I'll just form a better team."

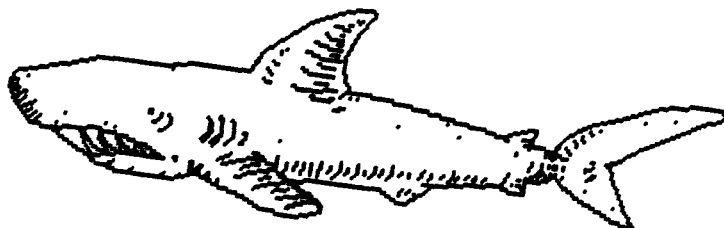
Don Williams and I got together and did just that. And what a team!! I called it Cameron's Californians, all members California residents, or ex-residents. We had tournament champ Edi Birsan playing Italy and (should have been tournament champ) Hohn Cho playing France. Don was to play Austria and I was to play Turkey. Mr. Gary "Greedy" Behnen played Russia and Camconians Eric Aldrich and Steve Golog played England and Germany. Remarkably, the team finished with six draws and one survivorship -- probably a record that will stand for some time to come. I sure was proud of these fellows! Steve Cooley's team finished in second place and it seemed the competition was fierce, especially since there was not one win in seven boards played. How did I do as Turkey? Fairly well, an enjoyable game considering I wanted to do well and felt the pressure. I think I ended up with 9 centers in the four-way draw.

Saturday night saw the first round of Individual Diplomacy. Just before the round started, it was evident that everyone was quite excited. You could hear a pin drop as the names were read assigning players their tables. Problem was there were 53 participants and four were needed to volunteer to sit out. Since news of my Gunboat win had spread like wildfire, I was willing to leave my table. Also, as a member of the DIPCON Committee, I thought I had that responsibility. I received assurances from Don Del Grande, tournament director, that missing the first round would not be held against me. Later, I found out that playing that round and doing well would have placed me among the final leaders, as the lowest round performance would be eliminated from a player's score. Sour Grapes? Naw, only the victim of one person's value judgements about how the ranking of the events and the scoring system, radically changed for this Dipcon, could have such a profound effect on the overall winner and champion.

I watched and observed and kibitzed round one of the Individual Dip competition. There was Cathy Ozog, fighting for her life as Italy, and making it to '07 before elimination. Cathy is one hobbyist I'd wished I had more time with which to visit. Hohn Cho, always precise and cunning, was having an easy time of it, and on his way to an 18 center win as Turkey. Sue Welter was also playing Turkey at another board and holding her own with 8 centers. Sue is quite a crackup. Her bubbly personality was a real pick-me-up for me all those times we spent talking in the hall. You see, as smokers, and no smoking allowed in the game rooms, I happily spent time talking with her, even as my games were taking place. During round one, I was hoping Vince Lutterbie would get eliminated so we could play that game of Acquire we had hoped to face off on for so long. Vince is truly one of the most amicable people I have ever corresponded with in the play-by-mail hobby. He is no disappointment in person. Too bad he is such a good player; he slugged it out with Steve Cooley and only because of Germany did not get part of the draw. Still, Vince finished a strong 12 center Turk. By that time I was dead to the world and asleep like a rock back in my room.

The next morning, after a swim in the pool and a small Continental breakfast consisting of a Miller draft and a doughnut, was the hobby meeting. Dave McCrumb, Cathy Ozog, and David Hood all submitted bids to host DIPCON XXIII in various cities. Edi Birsan was of the opinion that Dipcon should be held exclusively of any other gaming event or convention. Most of the meeting agreed and the vote gave David Hood and his Carolina Diplomats the DIPCON XXIII location in North Carolina.

Round Two of Individual Dip then started. Six boards convened and I drew Russia. I normally like to play Russia, but, in this case, did not play it well. At first, Turkey and I had a good, solid alliance going and together we had 12 units by the end of '02. But Italy would not let Austria cave in. Worse, I had made a tactical error by stabbing Germany too early, and he and England quickly moved against me. With nowhere to go to grow, it was obvious that the Sultan would gladly join in. I couldn't blame him. Mercifully, the game ended in a 1907 seven-way draw. Overall, in round two, the competition seemed very good as no one had better than 12 centers.



Zines, Zines, Zines!

Zine Reviews by **Stephen H. Dorneman**

SF FANZINES

RISING STAR

Scott E. Green, 47 Byledge Road, Manchester, NH 03104

This small (six pages, including front and back covers, for number 45) zine is basically a small press market report listing. \$7.50 for six issues (\$1.50 for a sample issue) does seem a little steep for its size, but if you're an aspiring genre writer or poet an investment in RISING STAR might pay off for you. This issue alone lists the names, addresses, and payment rates (if known) for 20 different small press markets -- then Scott reviews (mostly with one-liners) another 20 or so publications. Never heard of COSMIC ADVENTURES, GHOST TOWN QUARTERLY, or THE INDEPENDENT COMIC BOOK SAMPLER? Well, Scott can help you out.

THE NATURE TO WANDER

Dale Denton, 2016 Ravinia Circle, Arlington, TX 76012

Dale belongs to a writer's group and includes some fan fiction in his zine -- but even if you're not a fanfic fan (I'm not, although Dale's picks are better than the typical selections), there's much to like in these 39 Macintosh-produced, digest-sized pages. Particularly if you're interested in reviews of various popular culture vehicles. Dale leads off the latest quarterly issue with a design engineer's look at extra-cost service warranties (avoid them at all cost!), then mixed in with the fiction you'll find book and movie reviews, Things Which May or May Not Be Reviews (a column by Scott Cupp), various short radio, music, and fanzine reviews, and four pages of letters from the readers. Worth a look, at \$1.75 for a sample or the Usual.

SEMI-PRO ZINES

SCIENCE FICTION EYE

Stephen Brown & Daniel Steffan, P.O.Box 43244, Washington, D.C. 20010-9244

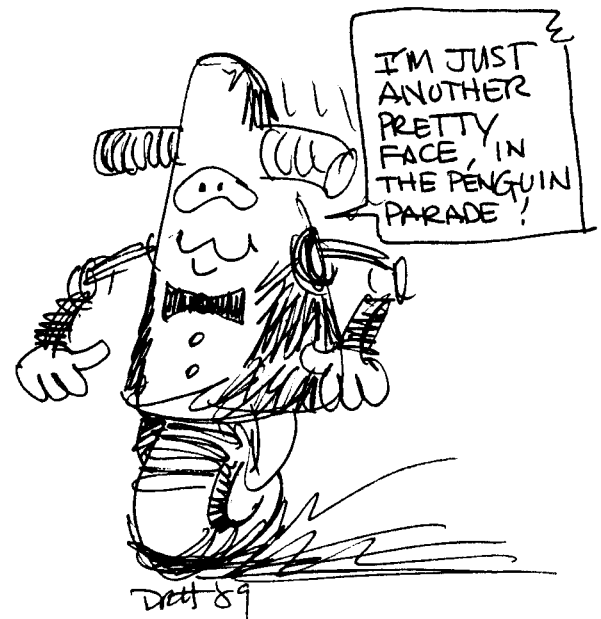
I've only seen one issue of this thick (104 pages), slick (both cover and contents) publication, but already I want more! Published, they say, "approximately three times a year by the 'Til You Go Blind Cooperative," SF EYE is a walk on the wild side of speculative fantasy, a trip to a very weird world that is beyond Cyberpunk, well past the New Wave, and very far ahead of The Last Dangerous Visions. No fiction here, just writing by people concerned with finding the cutting edge of genre fiction today -- and scouting out where it's going to be tomorrow. In the issue I have (July, 1989 - \$3.50 each, \$10/year), Lewis Shiner and Howard Waldrop interview each other, John Shirley surveys the new SF Underground, the editors lament the death of Salvador Dali, Paul Di Filippo writes about Thomas Pynchon and his imitators, Dan Joy looks at drugs from a user's perspective . . . and lots more, including a great letters column. If you're easily offended, then this zine will certainly offend you, and you should stay away. But if STAR TREK novelizations, sequels to prequels to sequels, and SF magazines that are indistinguishable today from their issues of twenty years ago are driving you out of the bookstores -- this should be your next stop.



BLACK TIE AFFAIRS: THE GAME OF DIPLOMACY

INVITED ARE:

Eric Anderson	820 E. 21st St. *4, Oakland, CA 94606
Larry Botimer	13833 NE 11th St. *3, Bellevue, WA 98005
Derwood Bowen	251 Ward St., Salem, VA 24153
Steven Cariberg	1353 Gray Rock Drive, Marietta, GA 30066
Ron Cameron	7821 Bouma Circle, La Palma, CA 90623
Kathy Caruso	636 Astor St., Norristown, PA 19401
Dave Ditter	8049 Idaho Circle North, Minneapolis, MN 55445
Scott Fort	76 Mountain Trail, Warrior, AL 35180-9070
Mark Hakey	5447-A LeMay Avenue, Otis ANGB, MA 02542
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
Jack Jewart	24508-38th Ave. Court E, Spanaway, WA 98387
Lee Kendter, Jr.	264 Spruce Court, Bensalem, PA 19020
Kevin Kinsel	21561 Oakbrook, Mission Viejo, CA 92692
Eric Klien	10 Sinai Circle B10, Chelmsford, MA 01824
Tom Nash	5512 Pilgrim Road, Baltimore, MD 21214
Jim Nickel	429 E. Columbia Street, Falls Church, VA 22046
Cathy Ozog	P.O. Box 17457, Munds Park, AZ 86017
Marc Peters	4002 Hanover St., Madison, WI 53704
Michael Quirk	3830 Chester Drive, Glenview, IL 60025
Steve Rush	6301 Lyndale Avenue South, Apt. 102, Richfield, MN 55423
Mark Sheron	1924 Heritage Park Dr. *107, Oklahoma City, OK 73120
L. Watt-Evans	5 Solitaire Court, Gaithersburg, MD 20878
Brian Wilson	945 Inskip St., Victoria, B. C., Canada V9A 4J6



All players note; a Draw must be **unanimous**, and an NVR (No Vote Received) equals "No," unless the NVR is part of an NMR, when it is counted as a "Yes."

ROCKHOPPER'S SOCKHOP FALL 08 BN87AU

England (Hall): (A MOS RETREAT STP) A StP-Mos, A Lvn-War, A Ber-Mun, A Den-Pru, F Hol-Bel, F Bal CONVOY A Den-Pru, F Hel-Kie, F Eng-Pic, F Nth SUPPORT F Hol-Bel, F NAO-MAO, F Iri SUPPORT F NAO-MAO

France (Quirk): (A TYL RETREATS PIE) A Bre SUPPORT F Pic, A Mun-Tyl(Dislodged; retreat Bur, Ruh, or OFF), A Bel SUPPORT F Pic(Dislodged; retreat Bur, Ruh, or OFF), A Pie SUPPORT ITA A Ven, F MAO SUPPORT A Bre(Dislodged; retreat Gas, Spa(nc), Por, Naf, WMe, or OFF), F Pic SUPPORT A Bel(Cut), F Ion SUPPORT F Adr(Dislodged; retreat Tun, Nap, or OFF), F Adr SUPPORT F Ion

Italy (Ozog): A Ven SUPPORT FRE A Pie-Tyl(No Such Order), F TyS SUPPORT FRE F Ion, F Apu SUPPORT A Ven

Turkey (Nickel): A Tyl-Mun, A Vie-Tyl, A Boh SUPPORT A Tyl-Mun, A Bud SUPPORT F Tri, A War SUPPORT A Mos(Cut), A Ukr SUPPORT A Mos, A Mos HOLD, F Aeg SUPPORT F EMe-Ion, F Gre SUPPORT F EMe-Ion, F Tri HOLD, F Aib SUPPORT F EMe-Ion, F EMe-Ion

Underlined moves do not succeed. Items from Japan this ish, courtesy BUSINESS TOKYO. Like canned roses, 17-20 vacuum-packed fresh blossoms for ¥4,500 (\$34.70).

ENGLAND (LPL, EDI, Nwy, STP, SWE, DEN, KIE, LON, BER, HOL, BEL) 11 EVEN

FRANCE (MAR, PAR, BRE, SPA, POR, TUN) 6 REMOVE 2*

ITALY (VEN, ROM, NAP) 3 EVEN*

TURKEY (CON, SMY, ANK, RUM, SEV, BUL, GRE, SER, BUD, VIE, TRI, WAR, MOS, MUN)
14 BUILD 2

*Depending on retreats

Both the **FRANCE/ITALY/TURKEY** and **ENGLAND/FRANCE/ITALY/TURKEY** **DRAWS** have **Failed** to pass. Proposed we have a **CONCESSION** to **ENGLAND**, a **CONCESSION** to **TURKEY**, and an **ENGLAND/FRANCE/ITALY/TURKEY DRAW**.

SHOUTED OUT THE WINDOW (Press)

England-Turkey: "What do you say Bud, are we a team or what?"

Yen-Smy: "I guess you're not my Bud again."

London-Paris: "It seems your Maginot Line is a bit leaky!"

THE MAGELLAN COTILLION FALL 09 BN87AV

England (Rush): A Pie HOLD, A Kie HOLD(Dislodged; retreat Ruh or OFF), A Hol HOLD, A Nwy HOLD, F StP(nc) HOLD, F Nth HOLD, F Bar HOLD, F WMe HOLD, F Naf HOLD, F Den HOLD, F MAO HOLD

Germany (Hauser): A Bur-Mun

Italy (E.Anderson?): **NMR!** (GM RETREATS F APU OFF) A Ven HOLD(Dislodged; retreat Tus, Rom, or OFF), F TyS HOLD

Russia (Bowen): A Ber SUPPORT A Mun-Kie, A TyI SUPPORT A Tri-Ven, A Tri-Ven, A Boh SUPPORT A Sil-Mun, A Mun-Kie, A Pru-Sil, A Sil-Mun, A Lvn-StP, F Bal SUPPORT A Mun-Kie, F Swe-Den

Turkey (Caruso): A APU SUPPORT F Ion-Nap, A Alb HOLD, A Ser-Gre, F Gre-Ion, F Ion-Nap, F Adr SUPPORT RUS A Tri-Ven

Underlined moves do not succeed. A pocket radio complete with broadcast station cards. Tired of wasting all that effort tuning in your favorite station? Just pop in the correct card. ¥128,000 (\$985).

ENGLAND (LPL, EDI, LON, BEL, HOL, BRE, MAR, POR, Nwy, SPA, STP, DEN) 12 BUILD 1

GERMANY (PAR) 1 EVEN

ITALY (ROM, TUN) 2 EVEN

RUSSIA (WAR, MOS, SEV, SWE, BER, MUN, RUM, BUD, VIE, TRI, KIE, VEN) 12 BUILD 2

TURKEY (SMY, ANK, CON, BUL, GRE, SER, NAP) 7 BUILD 1

The **ENGLAND/RUSSIA DRAW** and the **ENGLAND/RUSSIA/TURKEY DRAW** have both **Failed** to pass. We have proposed anew an **ENGLAND/RUSSIA/TURKEY DRAW** and an **ENGLAND/GERMANY/RUSSIA/TURKEY DRAW**. Would **Mark Sheron** (address above) please stand by again for Italy?

WHISPERED IN THE HALLS (Press)

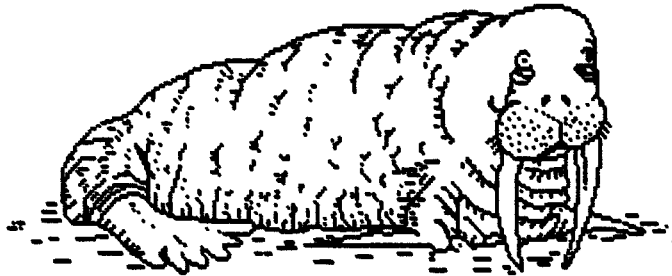
Russia-England: "I never planned on hitting you. You have gone crazy over the capture of Kiel."

Kathy-Steve: "I am not as naive, as you are stubborn. Vote for the draw - you can't win!"

England-Russia: "You're right, Derwood, time to move on."

Derwood-Steve: "How large of a draw do you want? Germany is in if you put him in. R/T can't effect that."

KK-Booper: "As long as you get your moves in, there'll be no RUSH to the winner's circle!"



KING BASH

W/S 10/11

BN87CP

Peace Breaks Out as E/F Draw Passes!

Austria (Ricker): A Rum SUPPORT A Bud, A Alb SUPPORT A Ser(Destroyed), A Bud HOLD, A Ser SUPPORT A Bud, F Gre SUPPORT A Alb(Cut)

England (Schlosser): (BUILD A LON) A Mos SUPPORT A War, A War SUPPORT A Sil-Gal, A StP SUPPORT A Mos, A Lvn SUPPORT A War, A Sil-Gal, A Ber-Sil, A Lon-Den, F Bal HOLD, F Kie HOLD, F Bar-Nwy, F Nwg HOLD, F Den-Hei, F Nth CONVOY A Lon-Den

France (Rigley): (BUILD A PAR, F MAR) A Apu HOLD, A Tri-Alb, A Ven SUPPORT A Tyl-Tri, A Gal SUPPORT ENG A War-Ukr(NSO), A Boh SUPPORT A Gal, A Vie-Bud, A Tyl-Tri, A Par-Bur, F Ion-Gre, F Adr SUPPORT A Tri-Alb, F TyS-Ion, F Mar-Lyo

Russia (Ditter): A Ukr-Sev, A Sev-Arm, F EMe-Aeg

Underlined moves do not succeed. *Kappadio*, a waterproof radio, floats in your bathtub while you sing and scrub.

The proposed **ENGLAND/FRANCE DRAW** has **Passed!** Peace reigns over Europe, protected by the Anglo-Franco Codominion!! Congratulations to **John Schlosser** and **John Rigley** for their draw!!!

NATTERINGS OF THE COURT (Press)

Paris: "Come on guys, give it up! Have we not Bashed this King enough?"

Paris-London: "As you see my fleets like the warm waters of the Med."

Adelle Soirée

W/S 07/08

BN88E

European Conflict Settled by Treaty! France/Germany Draw passes!!

France (Botimer): (BUILD A PAR, F BRE) A Mar-Bur, A Bel-Bur, A Par-Bur, F Edi HOLD, F TyS SUPPORT F Tun-Ion, F Naf-Tun, F Tun-Ion, F WMe SUPPORT F Naf-Tun, F Bre-MAO

Germany (Weseman): (BUILD A BER, BUILD A MUN) A StP-Mos, A Vie-Bud, A Lvn SUPPORT A StP-Mos, A War SUPPORT A Gal-Ukr, A Gal-Ukr, A Sil-Gal, A Mun-Boh, A Ber-Sil, F Nwy-Nth, F Hol-Nth

Italy (Ozog): A Ven-Tri, A TyI SUPPORT A Ven-Tri, F Nap-Apu(Destroyed), E Rom-Nap

Russia (Carlberg): NMR! A Mos HOLD

Turkey (Watt-Evans): (F NAP RETREATS APU) A Tri SUPPORT A Bud(Dislodged), A Rum-Gal, A Bud SUPPORT A Rum-Gal(Cut), A Ukr SUPPORT A Rum-Gal(Destroyed), A Sev SUPPORT RUS A Mos, F Ion-Nap, F Apu SUPPORT F Ion-Nap, F EMe-Ion, F Gre SUPPORT F EMe-Ion, F Aeg SUPPORT F EMe-Ion

Underlined moves do not succeed. Stick-on earrings will stay in place for a week without marring virgin ears (many Japanese believe that physical changes will alter fate) for ¥100 (\$.77) per pair.

The **FRANCE/GERMANY DRAW** has **Passed!** Congratulations to **Larry Botimer** and **Mark Weseman** on their Draw!!

GENTEEL DISCOURSE (Press)

France-Turkey: "Whatever your motives were, you did as you told and warned F/G in stabbing Italy. That's the bottom line."

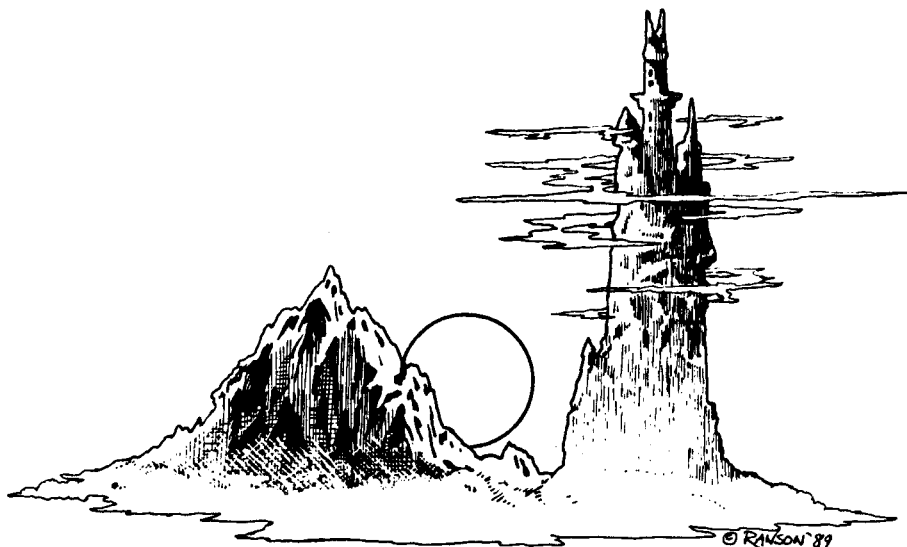
Ven-F & G: "The two best allies in the world. I don't think Turkey likes you very much. Larry, have you been turning on your charm again?"

Turkey-Germany: "Russia's 'last chance for survival'? How the heck do you consider it survival to concede the game?"

Laro-Cathy O: "Forget it! Russnak kicks my butt too easily in Titan."

I-T: "I did write you up to the last move before you stabbed. I even write to you now. Why is it that no one can understand what a wonderful ally I am even when I don't write? My fate will always be the one who is stabbed."

Turkey-All: "Okay, who voted against the draw? Whoever it was, if you've got a better idea, let's hear it."



SPHENISCIDAE HOLIDAY**SPRING 04****BN88HI**

Austria (Holley) A Ser SUPPORT A Bud-Rum, A Rum-Ukr, A Tri SUPPORT GER A Mun-Tyl, A Rom SUPPORT F Ion-Nap, A Bud-Rum, A Gal SUPPORT A Rum-Ukr, F Ion-Nap

England (Watt-Evans) A StP-Mos, F Fin-StP

France (Jewart) A Bel SUPPORT A Par-Bur, A Spa SUPPORT A Mar, A Mar SUPPORT A Par-Bur, A Par-Bur, F Lpl-Cly, F Lon-Yor, F Naf-WMe, F Bre-Eng

Germany (Ditter) A Mun-Tyl, A Ruh HOLD, A Kie-Den, F Edi-Nwg, F Swe-Nwy, F Den-Hel, F Ber-Bal, A Hol-Kie(Impossible; No Such Unit)

Italy (Cameron) A Pie-Tus, F TyS-Ion, F Lyo-TyS

Russia (Sheron) A Mos SUPPORT A War(Cut), A War SUPPORT A Mos

Turkey (Kendter) A Sev SUPPORT AUS A Rum-Ukr, A Bul HOLD, F Bla SUPPORT A Bul, F Con-Aeg, F Smy-EMe

Underlined moves do not succeed. From Fuji Xerox, a hand-held portable color copier, only ¥56,800 (\$437). Nice.

HOLIDAY GREETINGS (Press)

The Watcher (Turkey): "A German naval power? What is going on here folks? Since when does Germany need more naval units than armies? I think that France had better watch its back door."

Italy-Turkey: "Stab her, STAB HER!"

R-T: "Hey, pick on someone your own size!"

France-World: "Just defending and honoring all treaties."

Pope-France: "Although I don't believe you, we'll play it your way because I have little choice. The win is yours."

R-E: "Yes, I am having fun, and who told you I didn't have a good reason to screw you? They lied."

Italy-Germany: "Thanks for your letter but you didn't say if you wanted Venice with my help. Only you will pick the A/F victor."

GENTOO SET-TO**SPRING 02****BN89HU**

Austria (Carlberg) A Ser-Bul, A Bud SUPPORT A Tri-Vie, A Tri-Vie, F Gre SUPPORT A Ser-Bul

England (Kendter) A Bel SUPPORT GER A Mun-Bur, F Eng-MAO, F Nwy HOLD, F Edi-Nth, F Lon-Eng

France (Nash) A Bur-Pic(Dislodged; retreat Par, Mar, or OFF), A Spa-Gas, F Por-MAO, F Bre-Pic, F Mar-Lyo

Germany (Klien) A Den-Swe, A Mun-Bur, A Kie-Ruh, F Hol-Kie, F Ber-Bal

Italy (Ditter) A Tun HOLD, A Pie-Tyl, F Ion-TyS, F Rom-Tus

Russia (Fort) A Fin SUPPORT F Swe, A Vie SUPPORT A War-Gal(Dislodged; retreat Boh or OFF), A Sev-Ukr, A War-Gal, F Swe SUPPORT A Fin(Cut), F Rum HOLD, F StP(sc) SUPPORT A Fin

Turkey (Jewart) A Bul SUPPORT F Bla-Rum(Cut), A Con SUPPORT A Bul, F Bla-Rum, F Smy-Aeg

Underlined moves do not succeed. Toothpaste sprinkled with solid gold flakes, at ¥1,500 (\$11.50) per tube.

HURLED EPITHETS (Press)

Turkey-World: "Holy Allah!"

Ger-GM: "Liar! I ate a lot of your delicious Penguin Dip and found that it has 800 calories per serving! Boy, has it made me fat."

Ger-Fra: "Here's a nice quote from Islands in the Net, by Bruce Sterling:

David clambered suddenly out of bed, "Atlanta, who's online?"

["Uh, the name's Nash, Thomas Nash, you don't know me . . . "]

"Tom, I want you to get a look at this." David picked up his glasses and scanned himself head to foot.

"What do you think of that?"

["Um, seem to be having some trouble with brightness levels, Rizome Grenada. Also, you're not wearing clothes. Right?"]"

NEW GAMESTART!!!

MACARONI HOEDOWN

WINTER 1900

BN89??

Austria (Larry Botimer) Has A Vie, A Bud, F Tri

England (Mark Hakey) Has A Lpl, F Lon, F Edi

France (Brian Wilson) Has A Par, A Mar, F Bre

Germany (Kevin Kinzel) Has A Ber, A Mun, F Kie

Italy (Marc Peters) Has A Rom, A Ven, F Nap

Russia (Jim Nickel) Has A Mos, A War, F StP(sc), F Sev

Turkey (Scott Fort) Has A Con, A Smy, F Ank

Underlined moves do not succeed. *Talk Gear*, an alarm clock "so fearful you won't dare disobey it." ¥5,000 (\$37).

NEW GAMEOPENING!?!

With two games ending this issue, and another threatening to finish, is it time to open another one? Yes, but I'd like to try something different with the next game. Enough ladies interested in starting an all-female Dip game? How about overseas and non-US American players; interested in a five-week deadline International Game? An all-novice, or all-pro game? I'm also open to other suggestions, so let me know if you're interested in another regular Diplomacy game, and who or what you'd like to play against. Game fee will be \$6.00 in all cases.

GATECRASHERS (Kathy Caruso, Ron Cameron, Brian Wilson, Scott Fort, Mark Sheron, Lee Kendter, Jr., Greg Maynard, Larry Botimer, and Michael Quirk). Standbys receive 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.

Deadline for **all** games is **NOVEMBER 25.**

Stephen H. Dorneman
94 Eastern Ave #1
Malden, MA 02148



FIRST CLASS

LARRY PEERY
P.O. Box 8416
SAN DIEGO, CA
92102

SAMPLE - I hope you enjoy this latest PENGUIN DIP! Also, Ron Cameron has
a Dutton cover right inside. - Thanks - Steve

THE BACK PAGE 0

In the past couple of weeks, earthquakes in the United States and the People's Republic of China have made headlines with their destructive force. But when the history books are finally written summing up the twentieth century, these geologic movements will rate at best a footnote compared to the political movements now taking place in Eastern Europe.

Following the lead of Poland, Hungary has now proclaimed itself a true republic. With a new legal code and a revamped constitution, in the spring Hungarians will participate in free multiparty elections for the first time since 1949 -- surpassing even Poland's reforms. That stalwart bastion of Communism, East Germany, is starting to show major cracks, with tens of thousands of citizens fleeing to West Germany, massive pro-democracy protests spontaneously erupting in East Berlin, Dresden, and Plauen (30,000 marchers!) in the past few days, and the resignation of Erich Honecker as Communist Party leader. Czechoslovakia continues to clamp down on dissent, but it is expected that this week's anniversary of Czechoslovakian independence (in 1918) will bring with it demonstrations and changes at the highest levels of the party. Only Bulgaria and Romania can still be counted on to continue with Communism as usual -- and even that could be considered a show of defiance to Mikhail Gorbachev's Soviet Union!

In this political earthquake, the Warsaw Pact is crumbling. The question is, what new structures will rise up to replace it? An even larger European Economic Community than originally planned for in 1992? A Greater Balkan Co-prosperity Sphere? Or European civil wars, fires of conflict that could easily rage out of control and engulf the entire continent and beyond?

American emergency relief is needed. There are fires that must be fought, and structures to be rebuilt.