

Perelandra

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oh no, Henry...

It's back!

Sorry, all your letters will not deter my fanatical conviction that Dipdom needs this 'zine!

Seriously--the only way to find out whether a 'zine will work is to put it out and see whether it floats. Having begun that process, it would be very easy for me, even after only one month, to say, "Well, no one's interested." But it is encouraging to get letters from people who used to be merely names (Ozog, Boardman, Berch); I'd just like to have some input from 'regular' Dippys like meself.

I hope everyone realized that last month's "issue" was a quickie (I hate to say "rush job") designed to prove my good intentions. Like Mark Berch, I like to see a set of House Rules early in a publication, so mine are in this ish (I think I may take flak for not being complete enough, but that debate has been raging through the hobby since before I moved to California in '71). Also, some responses displayed a startling lack of ESP; nobody picked up that I intend to publish every month EXCEPT 1 Jan and 1 May (these just happen to be around finals).

I had believed that most people would understand the "no trades" flag--alas, no. I meant it. I appreciate all of you who sent sample issues of your own 'zines in return (and I'm subbing to a couple of them) but unless you subscribe or submit an article (ask me first) you get no Perelandra. Can you live with that?

Other cleaning-up: samples are available for a SASE; nothing in Perelandra is copyrighted unless noted explicitly at the time of publication (though common courtesy requires credit to P); dynamis (for you who don't read Greek) means "power" and is a common term in philosophy and in the New Testament for "excitement" or "importance"--I use it as a catch-all for artwork, etc., which I do occasionally for campus organizations' posters, flyers, and ads. dynamis is not a company, let alone a corporation.

Well, having thoroughly confused everyone (by moving to the above address for the summer and by issuing two first issues) as well as alienating most people (see the article inside, not to mention my tone on this page), I press on; the one thing I want very much is a gamestart, but so far no good. It's a bargain, folks. Your total cost is just \$7 (U.S.)--a \$5 sub, which will last 'till you're elim'ed if you're a player; a \$1 gamefee; and a \$1 (refundable) NMR deposit. Send it now and beat the rush!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT TO SOUTHERN CAL DIPS!! (offer good all summer)

Any PBM or FTF player wishing to join me for a day of FTF play can give me a call--I hope to organize a 'con' for a Saturday in June. Grab it now, friends, after 1-Sept I won't be living with a pool and outdoor grill. Phone (213) 947-2766 (wkdays 944-0578).

BATTLE STATIONS (rather crassly plagerized from Ron (Quebec) Brown)

I'm printing this up for this issue only, since several people expressed surprise at receiving issue 0.

This is a sample; you won't receive another Perelandra without sending money (see masthead):

Don't worry; I'm presenting you with a free sub (either because of your service or because I feel like it):
You are a subscriber, but you should decide to renew when your sub runs out (with issue: _____).

A ΔYNAMIS PRODUCTION

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Well, this issue is a little heavy, so I hope this is a somewhat lighthearted page. It's basically a short biography, with more opinion than fact; since many are seeing Perelandra for the first time right here, be forewarned by this.

I was not born or raised in California. I always make that disclaimer right away because everyone assumes a) I've been pampered b) I have no strong opinions and c) I have no tolerance for 60-degree weather, just because I live here. My childhood was spent quite innocently in Parma, Ohio, just five minutes from downtown Cleveland. Ah, Cleveland--home of the Cuyahoga (Indians), the baseball Indians, and a river that burned two or three times every year, it was so polluted (they've since cleaned up both the river and Lake Erie). I have endured as many jokes about my hometown as anyone from Podunk, Peoria, or Pittsburgh.

Why, then, leave such a garden spot for the Pacific? Ask my father--he'll just point to a photo of our whole family shoveling the car out one morning. So, it was off to sunshine and swimming pools that didn't need to be assembled. The pool at our first home here was larger than any two rooms together. We were the first of our very close-knit Irish-Catholic extended family to leave Ohio (my mother's side of the family was concentrated in Rochester, NY) but by now there are Gaughans and other relatives from Arizona to Maine.

A small aside: I pronounce my name "GAW-ken", with a sound something like a German ch in the middle (this is the old Irish usage). Many insults have hereby been avoided, since the rest of the bunch says it in one syllable, i.e., "Gaughan With The Wind".

High school was primarily occupied with taking pictures--and creating photographs, which is entirely different from shooting football or award ceremonies. Between my freshman and sophomore years, though, came an immense change: I finally left the Catholic church which had held so little importance for us all for years. Now, I hate trite phrases as much as the next guy, but you'd have to call it a 'conversion', since I became an evangelical Baptist. I still get ribbed about being the "Orange Sheep" in an Irish household; they never did tell my 90+ year-old grandmother what I'd done. (Please read my article further on before you jump to any conclusions.)

Now I'm at the University of Southern California, with one year left towards an A.B. in german. I do plan on studying for a master's degree, either in linguistics or at a seminary, but I don't feel much like thinking beyond this summer right now.

If this is a breach of ethics someone tell me, but I think I'll leave the rest of this page blank. After all, I might think of something to say to you personally! Grüss Gott!

*The Perelandra form
is enclosed... Thanks for
your support!
Pete*



- I. To participate in a game, a player must:
 - A. be a subscriber to Perelandra (I am going to try to keep the subs down to about 40);
 - B. pay the current gamefee (now \$1.00) in U.S. dollars. A standby taking a nation after Winter 1904/5 is exempt from the gamefee;
 - C. pay a \$1.00 NMR fee, which will be refunded (IF the player has not NMRed) when the game ends or when the player is eliminated, whichever comes first. (Standbys are not exempt from the NMR fee.)

- II. Registration of a player in a game creates the following agreement between the GM and the player: (note: agreement, not contract)
 - A. The GM agrees to manage the game in an accurate and prompt manner, and to provide smooth transfer of the game to another GM if he is unable to do so. "Accurate" means correcting mistakes--if the GM is aware of the error before the next deadline.
 - B. The GM agrees not to editorialize concerning the game or its players while they are in the game.
 - C. The player agrees not to deceive the GM as to address, identity, or any other game matter, under maximum penalty of expulsion.
 - D. The player agrees not to call the GM between 11 p.m. and 8 a.m. Pacific Time, under a maximum penalty of expulsion. Please note: it is very difficult to contact the GM by phone--do not rely on phone orders as your primary means.

- III. The GM will endeavor to keep deadlines four weeks apart.
 - A. There will be three major seasons: spring moves, fall moves (including spring retreats if necessary), and winter adjustments (including fall retreats if necessary).
 - B. Orders will be due by 11 p.m. Pacific Time on deadline day; deadline day will usually be the Friday closest to the 25th of the month.
 - C. When a player's orders are not received by deadline, the GM will request that a standby submit orders for his position with the next season. The player's country will be in civil disorder for the current season (all units hold unsupported, defeated units retreat off-the-board, GM performs any needed disbands); however, the NMRing player is still the player of record until he resigns--see rule IV.
 - D. Mail orders must be signed; unsigned orders will not be honored, even if they are the only set received for that season. Each player will be asked to submit a signature card at gamestart, and should always sign his/her full name.

- IV. A player who NMRs three times in a game, or in two consecutive seasons, has resigned and a standby will receive his position.
 - A. Standbys will not be called for nations with fewer than three supply centers.
 - B. Concessions or draws may be proposed beginning with Spring 1905, and may pass only upon the 'yes' vote of all remaining players having at least two supply centers.

continued. . .

*Diplomacy is a game invented by Allan Calhamer, currently produced by Avalon Hill Game Co., Baltimore, MD; these games are intended solely for the private, non-commercial use of our audience, but may be reprinted without written permission if credit is given to Perelandra.

- C. Votes on concessions and draws should be sent with orders. Only a timely, officially received 'yes' vote constitutes agreement to a concession or a draw; all votes will be published, with their countries identified.
- V. Press is encouraged, and will only be edited if space demands it.
 - A. Press must not be datelined from the GM's reserved dateline (announced at gamestart) or from "USC"; players may not dateline press from another player's supply center.
 - B. Press containing vulgar, obscene, or excessively abusive language will not be printed. Please be informed that my opinion of obscene is probably more "Puritanical" than other players', in keeping with the literary tone of this magazine.
- VI. Players will note that any practice not expressly forbidden is on a case-by-case basis at the GM's discretion; any rule herein may be appealed to the GM by two players, each having at least two supply centers. Note that right of appeal does not guarantee victory.

The New Intolerance? ... part 1

Maybe I'm stirring up more trouble than this is worth, but I'd like to reprint here an article which I wrote for the April 13th Daily Trojan. There was no special occasion; like this 'zine, much of my effort is spent on "routine" efforts at making people think

The biggest problem in the current debate between right and left is the refusal of both sides to see how similar they are, and how similarly uncaring.

We all know there is a raging social debate in the United States. The most striking feature of this conflict is this: The civil liberties activists (composed especially, but not exclusively, of Libertarians, homosexuals, and feminists) and the "new right" (especially its largest constituent, the Moral Majority) are equally dangerous. Each would like the rest of us to believe that its enemy is un-American, unscrupulous, and out to control our lives in defiance of this country's heritage. I submit that all of these things are true of both sides.

Since its inception, the Moral Majority has drawn justified criticism as an organization committed to legislating morality. Led by the much-maligned but sincere Rev. Jerry Falwell of Virginia, it has unfortunately degenerated from an active supporter of a set of principles, to an active opponent of certain people. This clearly refutes what should be its main concern, if it is indeed a Christian organization: to see that individuals understand and are given the opportunity to accept a biblical point of view.

When quotes are presented to us claiming that a particular "Christian" leader is an anti-Semite, or that another advocates a "first-strike" capacity, the only question is why other members of their groups don't disown these men. It is hard to justify groups with such unjustifiable ends.

One of the central accusations weighed against the religious new right is an apparent ignorance of the principle of separation of church and state (although this language is not found in the Constitution). The Constitution essentially forbids a

(cont'd next page...)

NEWS IN BRIEFS

WASHINGTON--The United States Postal Dis-service announced two weeks ago that, for the first time in recent memory, it is turning a profit. USP"S" officials say the system should be \$500,000 in the black at the end of this fiscal year.

SACRAMENTO--California Governor Jerry "Moonbeam" Brown has recently requested foreign aid for the state from Japan! (In case you haven't heard, Japan has been embargoing our fruit.)

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Note!

Anyone who's reading Perelandra has probably already heard about this, but for you degenerates who don't open your Dip mail, it's election time again in Dipdom.

The Fifth Annual North American GM Poll: You may rate any GM in whose postal game you were a player since April 1981 and under whom you played long enough to form an educated opinion of his competence.

The Sixth North American 'Zine Poll: Rate any publication "substantially devoted to Diplomacy" which has published more than one issue since 1 April 1981, on the basis of the entire series (not individual issues).

Procedure: Rate on a scale of 0 (worst) to 10 (perfect), no fractions. You may not rate yourself in either poll. Send your signed ballot, with a note on how you are involved in the hobby (required) to John Leeder, 605 15th Street NW, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2N 2B1.

Guest of Honor

Imagine yourself at the Tuolumne Soda Springs on the bank of the river, a day's journey above Yosemite Valley. You set off northward through a forest that stretches away indefinitely before you, seemingly unbroken by openings of any kind. As soon as you are fairly into the woods, the gray mountain-peaks, with their snowy gorges and hollows, are lost to view. The ground is littered with fallen trunks that lie crossed and recrossed like storm-lodged wheat; and besides this close forest of pines, the rich moraine soil supports a luxuriant growth of ribbon-leaved grasses--bromus, triticum, calamagrostis, agrostis, etc., which rear their handsome spikes and panicles above your waist. Making your way through the fertile wilderness,--finding lively bits of interest now and then in the squirrels and Clark crows, and perchance in a deer or bear,--after a lapse of an hour or two vertical bars of sunshine are seen ahead between the brown shafts of the pines, showing that you are approaching an open space, and then you suddenly emerge from the forest shadows upon a delightful purple lawn lying smooth and free in the light like a lake. This is a glacier meadow. The trees come pressing forward all around, planting their feet exactly on its margin, and holding themselves erect, strict and orderly like soldiers on parade; thus bounding the meadow with exquisite precision, yet with free curving lines such as Nature alone can draw. With inexpressible delight you wade out into the grassy sun-lake, feeling yourself contained in one of Nature's most sacred chambers, withdrawn from the sterner influences of the mountains, secure from all intrusion, secure from yourself, free in the beauty. ...You are all eye, sifted through and through with light. ...

Go where you may, you everywhere find the lawn divinely beautiful, as if Nature had fingered and adjusted every plant this very day. ...

The influences of pure nature seem to be so little known as yet, that it is generally supposed that complete pleasure of this kind, permeating one's very flesh and bones, unfits the student for scientific pursuits in which cool judgment and observation are required. But the effect is just the opposite . . . the mind is fertilized and stimulated and developed like sun-fed plants. All we have seen here enables us to see with surer vision the fountains among the summit-peaks and the great history of the relatively new-born meadow.

(from John Muir, The Mountains of California)

Intolerance continued

tyranny of the majority, as embodied, for example, in a state church. Although the Moral Majority is still a group of Americans claiming their fair say in government, it is in danger of eventually becoming such a tyranny. Bear in mind that the MM is not fighting for Christianity, but for moralism, which can be (and is) subscribed to by people of many faiths.

Those of you who think this is a real waste can knock off here, since I'll be running the rest of this in the next 2 issues. If you liked it...well, consider it bait.

Puisque la philosophie est celle qui nous instruit a vivre, et que l'enfance y a sa leçon comme les autres âges, pourquoi ne la lui communique-t-on? On nous apprend a vivre quand la vie est passée. La philosophie a des discours pour la naissance des hommes, comme pour la décrépitude.

Plaisante fantaisie: plusieurs choses que je ne voudrais dire a personne, je les dis au peuple, et sur mes plus secrètes sciences ou pensées renvoie a une boutique de libraire mes amis plus feaux. . . .

(from Michel de Montaigne, Essais)

Since it is philosophy that teaches us to live, and since there is a lesson in it for childhood as well as for the other ages, why is it not imparted to children? They teach us to live, when life is past. Philosophy has lessons for the birth of men as well as for their decrepitude....

((Reflecting on diaries)) Amusing notion: many things that I would not want to tell anyone, I tell the public; and for my most secret knowledge and thoughts I send my most faithful friends to a bookseller's shop. . . .

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