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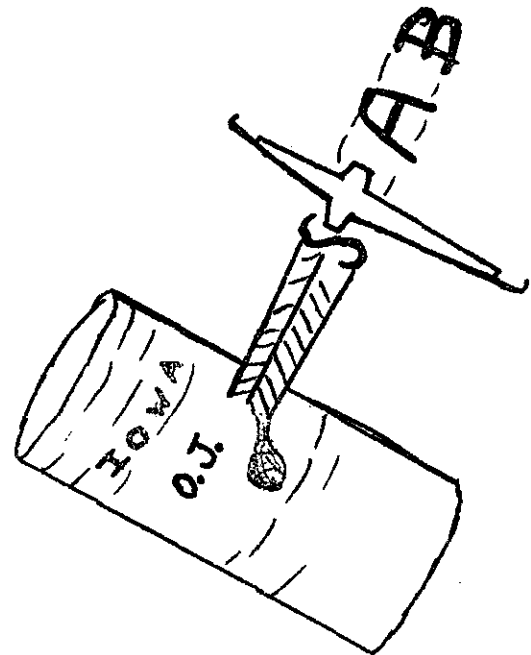
PLATYPUS

Strong
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APPLE

1 1



Welcome to the tri-weekly Journal of despair, joy, animal anthology and sick joke which sometimes, to fill space, chronicles the progress of the by-mail Diplomacy games of 1971EH (The Winner's Game, and backstab of the year accolades), 1972AR (The New comer's Game, where there's a little blood too), and 1972BT (The Open Game, where they're still being unlimbered). This issue, little birthday ge-ge-ge gumdroppers, Uncle Crazy Dutchman did INDEED print page 5 on the back of page 4 instead of page 6, and we now need an unnumbered page in front of page one, so guesssssss what the hell this is.

This is PLATYPUS PIE # 11, a Journal of Postal Diplomacy. It currently carries three postal games, and has no games open. Diplomacy is a game invented by Allan S. Calhamer, and published by Games Research, Inc., Boston, MASS.

THE GAMESMASTR: Brenton Ver Ploeg, 520 Parker Ave., #202; San Francisco, CA 94118. Phone: (415) 668-9218. Deadlines will change to Mondays, as noted in colors below, and they will be at 6 pm. This means that I will be in during the day on Monday, when I have no classes, and will finish the magazine Monday evening and mail in Tuesday AMs pick-up on the way to school. Phone deadlines will, however, be 12 noon, which means that you will have to call at daytime rates. If I have not heard from you, I will try between 5 and 6 pm on Mondays to call YOU, collect of course. If you are not home then, its too bad brother, and I'll list you as NMR, and call for a replacement player. Which brings us to:

REPLACEMENT ROSTER: 1971EH--(1) Doug Beyerlein. More needed-- must have won at least one postal game. 1972AR--(1) Paul Bond, (2) Jan Le Pire, (3) John Tretick, and (4) Steven Soong. None needed. 1972BT--(1) Jim Hall, (2) John Hendry. Players needed--no entry requirements.

COSTS: No games open, now or ever. Subscriptions are six for a dollar, 13 for \$2.00. If you have a current sub and do not let it expire, you keep the old rate.

A R E M I N D E R :

1971EH B U C H A N A N & W A R D T I E D ! W I N T E R 1903
BIRSAN'S REMOVAL WILL CAUSE WONDER

AUTUMN, 1903: GER A Mar R to Gas.

AUSTRIA (Ward): Build A Trieste
ENGLAND (Buchanan): Build A London
FRANCE (Warden): Remove A Burgundy
GERMANY (Remove): Birsan F Sweden [I think you guys can figure this]
ITALY (Vagts): Build A Rome, Build F Naples
RUSSIA (Bytwerk): Remove A Prussia
TURKEY (Tretick): No change required

Positions for the start of Spring, 1904:

AUS: A's Mun, Ber, Boh, Gal, Tri, Ser, Bul; F Aeg (8).
ENG: A's Lon, Bel, Bre; F's StP(NC), Nwy, Nth, Eng, Por (8).
FRA: A Par (1).
GER: A's Gas, Ruh, Kie; F Bal (4).
ITA: A's Mar, Ven, Rom; F's Spa(SC), Ion, Nap (6).
RUS: A's Smy, Sil, Liv; F's Bot, Con (5).
TUR: A Ank; F Rum (2).

P R E S S

ROME: The ITA govt will do all in her power to see TUR elim-- earlier and current negotiations w AUS & RUS are based upon this. Good riddance.

TURKEY TO RUSSIA: We have vowed to return to Smyrna by the end of the game, and we will live up to our word and all of the terms you

[1971EH Press, continued]:

have laid down. Of course, we will go via Bulgaria, God and you willing.

DEADLINE: On page one. I don't know when Bytwerk goes home.

UN

1972AR

FRANCE & RUSSIA TIED FOR THE LEAD NOW
HENDRY GEARS UP FOR A BATTLEFIELD!

WINTER 1902

Autumn, 1902: ENG F Nth R Yor.

AUSTRIA (O'Regan): Build A Budapest
ENGLAND (Hendry): Remove F Norway
FRANCE (Winter): Build F Brest
GERMANY (Hall): No change required
ITALY (Parsons): No change required
RUSSIA (Rocamora): No change required
TURKEY (T.S. Williams): No change required

Positions for the start of Spring, 1903:

AUS: A's Vie, Bud, Tri, Ser; F Alb (5).
ENG: A Edi; F's Wal, Yor (3).
FRA: A's Lon, Bel, Gas; F's NAT, Eng, Bre, Mid (7).
GER: A's Sil, Kie, Hol; F's Nth, Den (5).
ITA: A's Tyr, Ven; F's Ion, Adr (4).
RUS: A's Rum, Ukr, Mos, StP; F's Swe, Sev (6).
TUR: A's Arm, Con, Bul; F Bla (4).

DEADLINE: On page one. Note change well.

THE PLAYERS: Fred Winter has a new address, effective immediately: Alpha Delta Phi, Room 18; 64C N. Henry Street; Madison, WISCONSIN 53703. Bro. Hugh O'Regan is back again at: St. Meinrad Archabbey; St. Meinrad, INDIANA 47577--no word on how long this will last this time.

P R E S S

British Government in Exile in the Leather Capital of the World (F Nth-Yor) (Reuters): XMAS, 1902: King John the Silent issued his first comment on the Great War today: "Spies in and around Paris and Berlin have told me of rumors circulating saying that England will be abandoned by its military forces. It will not. We will fight to the death for our beloved country." Members of the King's court dropped dead with utter shock upon hearing the King speak. There were also rumors of a war between France and Germany.

DUBLIN: Sorry P, atypus Pie but you're no longer in Vietnam. We cannot fulfill your request to kill children. I do think your comments are slightly out of line. You obviously have been smoking pot for too long a time.

SAN FRANCISCO: Well, Brother Hugh, your latter comment is most probably true. Aside from that, I remind you that I have no desire to impugn you or anyone else, and I certainly didn't mean to offend you. It offends ME that both sides slaughter indiscriminantly in Ireland, and it was to that situation that I addressed my remark of last issue. However, given the fact that my beliefs are no better than anyone else's, I often present them. Let me remind all:

THAT: S A C R E D C O W S M A K E T H E B E S T H A M B U R G E R

1972BT

McCALLUM TRIES TO PACK 'EM IN--REVOLT!!
 MEANWHILE, SEVEN FLEETS ARE BUILT!!
 SOONG BUILDS TWO, LE PIRE AN ARMY!!

WINTER 1901

AUSTRIA (McCallum): Build A Trieste [Trieste occupied!]
 ENGLAND (Osmanson): Build F London
 FRANCE (Rocamora): Build F Marseilles, F Brest, A Paris
 GERMANY (Soong): Build Fleets Kiel and Berlin
 ITALY (Key): Build F Naples
 RUSSIA (Lipson): Build A Warsaw & Fleet Sevastopol
 TURKEY (Le Pire): Build A Ankara

Positions at start of Spring, 1902:

AUS: A's Tri, Ser; F Alb (3). [one short in 1902]
 ENG: A Yor; F's Lon, Nth, Nwy (4).
 FRA: A's Por, Bel, Par; F's Mar, Bre, Spa(sc) (6).
 GER: A's Ruh, Hol; F's Den, Kie, Ber (5).
 ITA: A's Ven, Pie; F's Nap, Tun (4).
 RUS: A's Swe, War, Rum; F's Sev, Bot (6).
 TUR: A's Bul, Con, Ank; F Bla (4).

DEADLINE: See page one. Note well the change.
 Fairly dull, lads. I have no press for this game.
Soong is moving--see below for the address, effective early Sept.

IMPORTANT POSSIBILITY; CHANGE IN WINTER DEADLINES?

All three games in PLATYPUS PIE have fallen together, it seems. Moreover, our two out-of-country participants (Soong & Warden) have moved back in. Therefore, I am considering picking up the deadlines for the Winter season, until and unless they get back out of synch. The deadlines under consideration would be one week. This effectively prevents such diplomacy before the winter season, but, according to the 1971 rulebook, page 8: "...builds and removals (adjustments) are written and exposed simultaneously, without any preceding diplomacy."

Thus, builds should be sent in with the Fall orders, conditional of course on the results, in order to insure making the move. I would continue to call collect on Mondays, the same as now, if I didn't have any move on file for you. This will cut the game year down to two months, or a little less, for all games. Its been my experience that the interest level in games also increases when the Winter season isn't a dead weight on most of the players, and one of the games in particular needs an infusion of interest.

Remember that the GM, under the house rules, may request a specific player to make a retreat immediately. I add to this the statement that I may CALL players to ascertain their retreat intentions, and print that retreat in the magazine. As the rules say, there is no requirement that negotiations be allowed before retreats are made.

1972BT change of address: Steven Soong;
 Gildersleeve House
 Box 2219 Alumni Memorial Residences
 Johns Hopkins Univ, 34th & Charles Streets
 Baltimore, MARYLAND 21218

Your editor just returned from Monterey for the weekend, and it was one fine experience. The price of the room was a tad steep, but sleeping with the surf at your door was probably worth it. Maybe I shall sell out to the establishment for mucho bread?

ORANGES, CALIFORNIA, & RESTROOMS; THE
LETTER COLUMNS FROM STABs 54-60

The grand young hobby of Diplomacy by mail seems to have altered to a perhaps slight, but perhaps substantial, degree. When I started actual play of the game in 1968, John Koning's stAb letter columns ("Missif") contained some of the most entertaining material which I have encountered before or since. Most players of that vintage received stAb, which at that time chronicled the statistics now covered by Rod Walker's NUMENOR, and I fear that this is likely to be repetition for them. Moreover, I have shown these columns to some other players who I though might be entertained thereby, so this is hardly original material. Nonetheless, PP will hereby start to reprint the letters of the famous Orange controversy, on a space available basis, as the issues roll past. I think, more than anything else, you might note what different approaches people took to what were the important issues of the day. Offhand, I prefer Orange arguments to Organization arguments.

From Rod Walker, residing at the time in Rantoul, Illinois: "I do not normally write letters to the editor, because they normally don't print them. Of course, if you print this one, it will probably be so full of typos that nobody will be able to understand it. . . .

"What is all this nonsense about beer (yech)? [The former topic of discussion in stAb, and the subject of an eloquent and impassioned letter to the editor back in PP # 4, was beer, and various other beverages]. All beer means to me is some local company that advertises that a certain kind of hops put their beer 'one jump' ahead of the others. Olympia beer advertises, "Its the water," which leads me to take bottled water when I go to Washington. Most beer tastes like its been processed through a horse, and the rest of it is worse. [Koning notes here that]: ((I do not have the experience to make such comparisons, but if you do...)) I'd rather have warm Coke--or even hot Dr. Pepper. So much for beer.

"You really ought to devote your pages to something of national significance. Gentlemen, I give you: the Orange. I will soon be back in Southern California, and (as everyone knows) the only oranges worth eating are grown in California and our outlying province of Arizona. . . . Incidentally, some puny, sour ersatz oranges are grown in Florida, but they are so small in size and horrible in appearance that they are instantly pulped into juice. Having had such juice, I can assure you that it is no improvement. I understand that there is a movement afoot to improve Florida oranges by importing California orange seeds into Florida, smuggled in the craws of Georgia chickens. We have foiled this plot by enlisting the aid of the sovereign state of Georgia (with whom we maintain diplomatic relations, unlike the rebel state of Florida), and California seeds are as yet unsullied by Florida dirt (we have 'soil'; they have 'dirt')(actually its just a mixture of sand and swamp mulch).

"Ah, the sweet tang of a freshly peeled or freshly squeezed California orange. Also our kumquats, tangerines, and lemons are much superior. I will have to admit that that bunch of water rustlers in Arizona raise better Grapefruit. But they do it with our water! [¶] Now that you are aware of the natural superiority of California agriculture, you may go back to your paltry debate on that totally unpotable brew [and we may assume, in 1968, that "unpotable" was not an esoteric pun].

[AND THEN WE COME TO STAB #55, the cover of which had a worried couple exclaiming: "It was okay when we had the rule disputes, and beer, of course, and even the Wells-Reinsel dispute... but we'll never get away with a Diplomacy magazine about ORANGES!"]

[From] Larry Peery: "How can a fruit like Rod Walker know anything about oranges? Lemons would be more likely? ((Are you trying to say that Walker wouldn't know an orange if it ran up and bit him on the leg?))

[From] Carol Ann Schneider, St Louis, Missouri: "California oranges are used in the orange juice they serve here ((Washington University)). No offense to Rod, but its really terrible stuff. I don't know how they can even sell anything so bad. So much for oranges."

Jeff Key, Eatontown, N.J., [while still in the Army:] "In normal circumstances I do not write letters to the editor because I am a rather easy going sort of fellow. Insults roll off my back like rain off an army overcoat. There is, however, one situation which has arisen which I cannot let pass. This is the Walker-inspired debate on oranges. I do not wish to attest to the virtues of that second-best orange that is grown in California or even that watery also-ran that is found in such profusion in Florida. Indeed, I do not even intend to attempt to list the numberless virtues of the one truly succulent and tangy orange that is grown in the United States. My one purpose in writing this letter is to protest the deliberate and malicious affront to which every native and adopted son of Texas was subjected by Captain Rod's letter printed in STAB 54.

"The ignominy of it! The pick up stab and to read a discussion upon the merits of one type of orange over another and not even to find the Texas orange mentioned!

[Jeff then explains how Texas ranks third in production in the U.S., but respects its own product too much to allow it to be drawn upon and besmirched by foreigners. Clearly, says he, the Texas orange is the only onw which has the respect of the local populace]. [He then continued:]

"Yes, now that I think about it, I realize that poor Rod Walker wrote his letter in complete ignorance of the existence of any citrus product superior to California's excuse for an orange. Poor Rod, just to set him straight, as soon as I get back home I intend to send him a few Texas oranges and grapefruits (ask me some time, I'll tell you about the Rio Grande Valley Ruby Red). I think that it must be sort of sad to have to get up in the morning and sit down to breakfast to a glass of Florida or California orange juice when you know that you could be drinking freshly squeezed Texas orange juice."

((Now just a minute! [to remind--all double parentheses are John's] I have stood back patiently--nodding my head occasionally--while readers have labeled Captain Rod a fruit, a liar, and arrogant phoney, and an idiot, but I cannot stand for having him labeled ignorant. After all, the term "ignorant" connotes a state that is temporary, that can be remedied by the application of additional knowledge. Rod Walker cannot POSSIBLY be changed by the application of additional knowledge)).

AND NOW, MORE OF THE OVERWHELMING READER SUPPORT OF WALKER'S POSITION: Margaret Gemignani, Ft Lauderdale, Florida: "Well, Capt Rd does it again. Puts his foot right into it. Now everybody knows I like California but this bit about Florida having crumpy oranges and grapefruits. Whats this about California having the finest beer?

Come on, Rod, how much you get this time for telling such tall tales? I think Horney get through to you at last. ((Huh?))

"Florida organes are good. They are juicy and sweet. They aren't as big as the ones from California that come with three Hippies living in them [WATCH it, Maggie], but they are juicy. [If you bite a hippie, will he not bleed?] California organes are large, but no juice just pulp.

"The Arizona grapefruits I got this year are called "Goldwater's Revenge." Even the pulp wasn't so good. Why, oh why, do you keep shipping fruit after the fruit season is done and out comes the pulpy grapefruit, the tasteless organes, and the moldy apples and rotten peaches. In season all fruit is good, but out of season, don't eat it.

"The organes is always in season in Florida....Fresh Florida organes are natural. They are green, not dyied Organes like California fruit.

"We may have swamp, it is a lot wetty than your desert. That dirt is \$500 an ounce in some places. Yours is much cheaper. Got to be, so many poor hippies are wearing it. The hippies here are clean. They bathe in ocean in good salt every day and drink plenty of organes juice.

"How come if Organes are so good in California you haven't get the Organe Bowl? Your organes are big effect to house term but they aren't juicy. If the beers is as juicy as organes and as late as the garapefruit, it must be something even John wouldn't drink. ((Which John are you speaking of. If its me, then almost anything is something I wouldn't drink)).

"Now that you have been straightened out on the organes I hope you will keep the facts straight."

SO WE ASKED THE MAN IN THE STREET WHICH ~~ORGANE~~ ORANGE HE PREFERRED:
Derek Nelson, Scarboro, Ontario, Canada: "Oranges? What are oranges?"

[The cover of sTab 56 headlines TAKE AN ORANGE TO LUNCH TODAY, and continued: "One day, on the road to Damascus, God spoke to Rodney Walker, saying, 'John Koning is getting out of hand and must be punished. You will write him a letter about Oranges...or is it organes...and then..."]

[Much of the attractiveness of sTab was that Koning usually came out with 20 page issues, and did what he wished with each one. The letter column, however, was one of the finest that I have ever encountered, and, from time to time, it will be a continuing series in PP, regardless of the fact that many readers may have seen it before].

HERE WE ARE AT PAGE SIX, AND YOURS?

Last issue the old wench that tried to get me to eat the poisoned apple down on Market street took her revenge for my not performing various perversions with her, and really nailed page six. Now, some of you may think that I erred on page six, but of course nothing could be further from the truth. If I erred, page six would have been totally blank, as it was in some cases. However, supernatural intervention would have been required, I think you will agree, to get page TWO on the back of page five, and thats what happened in several cases. Rather than complain to me, those of you who have such a valuable item should try to hock it to Buchanan for \$85.89 or so as a valuable collector's item.

Anyone who really wants to be a old foggy, however, is advised that for the less adventurous I have printed up several extra copies of the very informative page 6 of last issue. If you are looking for earth-shaking announcements of import, I think you can forget it.

OH BROTHER--WAS THAT A WASTE OF TIME!

This error of page one has really scrambled my mind. I have already, at this point (9:30 on Monday evening) finished typing the magazine. I have to attend classes tomorrow, but all moves are in. Unfortunately, I have typed up a two page article starting on page seven. Since that takes me to page eight, everything should be okay, and page nine, the Birsan form, should be separate and suitable for detachment and mailing. Unfortunately, my steel trap mind has failed to note that the EVEN numbered pages (starting with the cover; page "0") are on the front of the page, and not the odd numbered pages, as has been the case with past issues.

The outgrowth of all this bullshit has been that page nine, the form which I hope that those of you who have not already responded will send along to Edi, would be on the back of the last page of my article concerning Diplomacy strategy. Now, I am not foolish enough to think that there are any minds out there warped enough to hesitate because of such a thing. But, after all, you ARE Diplomacy players...and the doubt that already casts on your perception is considerable indeed. Therefore, I am not taking any chances. I'll fill the rest of this page with page eight, just to REALLY fuck your minds up, and next issue I'm going to watch what I'm doing, and do this whole thing straight for once. Well, anyway, I have an article ready to go.

PP # 11--page 8 (cackle)

LETS SEE NOW DOC--WHAT'LL THIS COST?

Tempted as I am to get into an argument with Birsan over who loses the most on their Diplomacy magazine, I cannot. I am unarmed, because I simply don't have detailed cost figures. I buy stamps in the most haphazard manner imaginable, and I haven't the slightest idea how much has gone into each issue. Hell, I used to buy dittoes at 12.5¢ each because I was too lazy to walk anywhere else! Regardless of my lack of information save a few cancelled checks, however, I barge into the masochistic fracas of how much I lost, if for no other purpose than to sober myself a tad. To wit:

Stamps (approx).	\$ 32.00	
Ditto & early supplies	194.74	Dec 3, 1971
Ditto paper	11.08	Feb 23, 1972
Ditto Masters	7.65	Jun 16, 1972
Fluid, paper, masters	22.14	Jul 17, 1972
DEBIT:	<u>\$ 267.61</u>	

Detract from that my stunning total of \$9 in subscription fees, together with what eventually worked out, with different adjustments, to maybe \$90 game fees. Figure \$100, and I'm pretty close. That means that, thus far, I have lost about \$170 on the enterprise, though that does not include some small savings because of trades. The ditto machine itself cost about \$180 (\$450 new), which creates the illusion that I have almost broken even on the rest of the deal. Illusion only, however, and there is a huge catch: I am opening no new games, so from now on all I will have to defray expenses will be the small income from subscriptions and renewals, while total costs continue to rise as each new issue comes out. So, at the cost of about 14¢ a single copy, I lose around six dollars every three weeks. I'm out of my fucking mind.

NOW this comes to a close, so page nine will be alone and suitable for mailing. If Birsan tells me that none of you sent anything in, I REALLY will be p.o.ed. Please, if you haven't already, send it in!
-coltus interruptus-

THE ARENA POLL OF PLAYER'S ATTITUDES TOWARDS VICTORY & FINISHING

Edi Birsan, in ARENA, published a survey which was rewarded with what was an overwhelming response for Diplomacy surveys--36 so far. In order to assist him in compiling a large scale report, I ask that those of you who have not yet filled out a copy of this questionnaire do so, and return it to him at 48-20 39th St, Long Island City, NEW YORK 11104. PP will also comment on the results.

I. RANK THE MOST DESIRABLE RESULTS FROM 1 (BEST) to 13 (WORST).

WIN _____	Two way draw _____	COMMENTS:
Second _____	Three way tie _____	
Third _____	Four way tie _____	
Fourth _____	Five way tie _____	
Fifth _____	Six way tie _____	
Sixth _____	Seven way Tie _____	
Seventh _____		

II. CIRCLE YOUR FEELING ABOUT EACH STATEMENT

1. If I cannot win a game then the best thing to do is to try to stop the front runner by stalemating the game.
 - a. Agree Strongly
 - b. Agree somewhat
 - c. Disagree somewhat
 - d. Disagree strongly
2. I will not turn on an ally even if it looks as if he is going to win and I am going to finish second.
 - a. Agree strongly
 - b. Agree somewhat
 - c. Disagree somewhat
 - d. Disagree strongly
3. I will not stab an ally even if it looks as if he is going to win and I am going to finish third.
 - a. Agree strongly
 - b. Agree somewhat
 - c. Disagree somewhat
 - d. Disagree strongly
4. Once a player has attacked me in a game I will not ally with him in that game, even if it means letting another player win.
 - a. Agree strongly
 - b. Agree somewhat
 - c. Disagree somewhat
 - d. Disagree strongly
5. Most players will try to finish as strongly as possible in a game, even giving up the chance for a stalemated game if it means that they can finish second.
 - a. Agree strongly
 - b. Agree somewhat
 - c. Disagree somewhat
 - d. Disagree strongly
6. The distance between finishing second and finishing third is the same as finishing fourth and finishing fifth.
 - a. Agree strongly
 - b. Agree somewhat
 - c. Disagree somewhat
 - d. Disagree strongly

III.

Age in years: 12-15/16-17/18-20/21-25/26-30/31-40/41-50/50+
 Years in postal Diplomacy: Less than 1/1-2/3-4/5-6/7+
 Years playing Diplomacy: Less than 1/1-2/3-4/5-6/7+
 Number of games completed postally: 0/1-5/6-10/11-15/16-20/
 21-30/30+

COMMENTS: