

NOW! Glomphf the Magnificent, Eater of Frenchmen and esteemed of all life-cherishing peoples of the world, and Platypus par excellence, roots about in the depths of his depraved mind, and brings you information on that most noble and judiciously applied power of the court-- the contempt power.

(Julius Hoffman, please take close note).

PLATYPUS PIE #15

How's about a deal, C.D.? You get Vienna, and I get Budapest, Trieste, the Balkans, Turkey & Germany, and three of your home centers. You also get to score a lid of grass from me for only \$60.

Just sign here.

Gimme!

CRAZY DUTCHMAN

ALLY

Welcome to a tri-weekly Journal of faul humor (worse than foul), obscenity, animalpropisms, and slick dime store politics; offered now and again by Brenton Ver Ploeg, 520 Parker Ave., #202 San Francisco, CA 94118. When space needs to be filled, we sometimes record the happenings in postal Diplomacy games 1971EH (The Winner's Game, now in Spring 1905), 1972AR (The Newcomer's Game, now in Spring 1904), and the famous 1972BT (The Open Game, now in Spring 1903). You'll appreciate the symmetry there, and it allows PP to publish a Winter issue only one week after Fall. This issue contains a flyer from Len Lakofka on the last page, to be detached (distinguishable from detached) and mailed, together with two fruit chewy wrappers, to Eric Blake, chairman of the DDA [Defunct Diplomacy Association; a solution to an anarchists dream].

REMEMBER THE SHELTON WORD:

DOPE will get you through times of no money better than MONEY will get you through times of no dope.

Notice the clever way that I have managed to cover up typos this issue. Somehow, I cannot manage to correct the covers, so you'll have to forgive me.

NOVEMBER 6, 1972

This is PLATYPUS PIE #15, a Journal of Postal Diplomacy. It has no games open now or ever at a game fee of \$13. Diplomacy is a board game invented by Allan B. Calhamer, and published by Games Research, Inc; Boston, Mass.

THE EDITOR: Brenton Ver Ploeg (pronounced Ver Plew, in case you were wondering); 520 Parker Ave., # 202; San Francisco, CA 94118. Phone: (415) 668-9218. Deadlines are now 6 pm on Mondays, though your phone calls should be in by noon in order to avoid a collect call in your direction. I am almost always in all day Monday, and try to be in on Sunday evenings. In the rare event that all precautions fail, we then proceed to the:

REPLACEMENT ROSTER: 1971EH; (1) Doug Beyerlein, (2) Len Lakofka; 1972AR, (1) Paul Bond, (2) Jan Le Pire, (3) Dick Trtek, (4) Steven Soong; 1972BT, (1) John Hendry, (2) Arn Vagts, (3) Jim Hall.

THE ROSTER: Change-Dick Trtek to: Room 212, Boucher Hall; 915 E. 53d Street; Chicago, ILLINOIS 60615 (S-28). Add: Chic Hilliker, 3312 Stoneycrest, Bloomington, INDIANA 47401 (T). Delete, subject to notice within three weeks: 16. David Johnson; ~~delete~~, subject to no more notices: 38. Rod Walker & 29. Lewis Pulsipher. If Rod wants a copy, he may have one gratis, but I'm not going to send copies that aren't even read.

COSTS: Subscriptions are six for a dollar, 13 for \$2.00. Which reminds me, Trtek is (S-26) not (S-28). Foolish boy.

1971EH VAGTS TAKES VIENNA AS WARD MOVES EAST!! SPRING 1905
AN AUSTRIAN ARMY MASSACRED IN BURGUNDY!

AUSTRIA (Ward): F Aeg-Smy; A Bur-Mar [Annihilated]; A Gal-Bud; A Mun-Tyo; A Vie S A Mun-Tyo [dislodged; retreats to Boh, Gal, or OTE]; A Bul H; A Ber-Mun.

ENGLAND (Buchanan): F Bot S A StP; A StP sings "Poluska Polya"; F Bar-Nwg; A Lon-Bel; F Nth C A Lon-Bel; A Pic-Bur; A Par S A Pic-Bur; F Mid S GER A Gas; F Por unordered, Holds.

GERMANY (Birsan): A Kie-Mun; A Ruh-Kie; F Bal S A Ruh-Kie; A Gas S ENG A Pic-Bur.

ITALY (Vagts): F Ion S F Gre; F Gre H; F Nap-Tyr; F Spa(SC) S A Mar; A Mar S F Spa(SC); A Tyo-Vie; A Tri S A Tyo-Vie; A Ven-Tyo.

RUSSIA (Bytwerk): A Mos-StP; A Liv S A Mos-StP; A War S A Liv; F Con-Ank; A Sev-H.

TURKEY (Tretick): A Ank - Con.

The Austrian Army Burgundy has no retreat and is disbanded, and the Austrian Army Vienna may retreat as enumerated above.

DEADLINE: 6 PM MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27th, 1972. Remember that the Winter deadline follows the Fall deadline by only a week, so PLEASE REMEMBER TO INCLUDE CONDITIONAL ORDERS FOR THE WINTER SEASON, to save us both some trouble. You can always change them later.

FRESS:

AUSTRIA: Beware of Greedy Italians. Arn, just because you sweet-talked your way into Greece doesn't mean that I consider your rape of Trieste part of the deal. You were supposed to get one center to ~~the~~ look West, so all of a sudden you take two and try to dictate my removal. Death to power-mad wops.

VIENNA: The bungling that has dominated the Russian activities for the past four years must be put to an end. The power that conquers is the power that survives. The Russian armies and fleets have already fled the field of battle leaving the Austrians to do their work. Now is the time for them to face the anger of their scored ally. Beware.

SOME GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS BEFORE MORE GAMES

(1) I strongly recommend the newer Diplomacy magazines that are coming out. I currently have opened trade agreements with Cooper and Hilliker, but there are quite a few.

(2) East Coast mail is taking six days. This issue, all East Coast players copies are going out airmail. In the future, would each of you east of Chicago send me a 3¢ stamp with your orders, as Mike Rocamora did this time?

(3) PLATYPUS PIE back issues are available for two 8¢ stamps each. Please make them commemorative. The list: #2 (1), #3 (2), #4 (0), #5 (4), #7 (2), #9 (3), #10 (5), #11 (3), #12 (1), #13 (5). Numbers in (parens) are the number available.

(4) PP will, as some have asked, be ceasing publication before the end of the school year. I find that publishing means that I don't get to keep the sort of contact with the Diplomacy community that I would wish. Moreover, law review work is overwhelming, and I simply cannot afford to blow this much time. All games will be handled, however, and 1971EH may even reach some sort of conclusion. Whether I transfer them to another magazine or run them carbon copy for players only is something that can be decided later. NO sub fees will be kept.

(5) John Hendry points out that, according to accounting principles my \$180 ditto machine is an asset, not a liability. True enough. Unfortunately, I'm not running a business and the practical problem is that the damn thing is a dead weight, which would be very hard to sell. Its sort of hard to think of that White Elephant as a capital investment. I can't depreciate it, because you can't deduct hobby expenses from your tax return. I don't even WANT to sell it, because its pretty convenient--but its a precious price to pay for a little convenience.

1972BT

GERMANY LOSES TWO CENTERS SPRING 1903
 & LIPSON CONTINUES TO GAIN--PAX: RUSSICANA?
 AS McCALLUM JOINS THE PACK DESCENDING ON MUNICH
 TUNIS FALLS TO ROCAMORA AS CHANNEL INVADED!

AUSTRIA (McCallum): A Tri-Tyr; A Vie-Boh; A Bud-Tri; A Ser S RUS A Rum-Bul; F Gre S RUS A Rum-Bul.

ENGLAND (Osmanson): F Ska-Den; F Hol S RUS A Den-Kie; F Lon-Eng; F Nth S F Hol; A Yor-Lon.

FRANCE (Rocamora): A Bel H; A Bur S A Bel; A Spa-Gas; F Lyo-Mar; F Naf-Tun; F Wes S F Naf-Tun.

GERMANY (Soong): F Kie S ENG F Nth-Den [ENG F Nth NSO][F Kie dislodged, R to Hel, OTB]; F Ber-Bal [dislodged; R to Pru, OTB]; A Mun S F Ber [F Ber OTM].

ITALY (Key): A Pie H; A Ven S A Pie; F Nap-Rom; F Tun H [dislodged, R to Tyr IAW orders].

RUSSIA (Lipson): F Sev-Arm; F Bla S F Sev-Arm; A Rum-Bul; A Den-Kie; A Sil-Ber; A War-Liv; F Bal S A Sil-Ber.

TURKEY (Le Pire): A Bul S A Con [annihilated]; A Con S A Bul; A Arm-Ank; F Smy-Aeg.

FALL 1903 DEADLINE: 6 PM, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27TH, 1972. Remember that Winter deadlines follow Fall by only a week! Therefore, PLEASE INCLUDE CONDITIONAL WINTER BUILDS/REMOVALS. Thanks.

The Players: Jeff Key is moving to (argh) Kansas City, and will have a new address in time for the next issue. Elliot Lipson is about to locate in his new house too. So, lets hope for some stability.

1972AR

FIERCE BATTLE OVER MUNICH!

SPRING 1904

TURKS WITHSTAND ASSAULT AS EAST FIGHTS CENTER
 RUSSIA HOLDS THE KEY, BUT WHATS HE DOING NOW?
 C. HALL ORDERS GHOST FLEET, BACKS UP RUSSKIES
 O'REGAN MARCHES INTO VENICE!

AUSTRIA (O'Regan): F Bul(SC)-Con; A Ser-Bul; A Boh S ITA A Mun; A Bud-Gal; A Vie-Gal; A Tri-Ven.

ENGLAND (Hendry): A Cly screams "Long live the King despite those asses holes Hall and Winter," and makes plans to go down whistlin' Dixie." [gets wish, goes down whistlin' Dixie--A Cly annihilated]

FRANCE (Winter): F Mar-Lyo; F Wes S F Mid-NAF; F Mid-NAF; F Liv-Cly; F Nat S F Liv-Cly; A Bel-Ruh; A Bur S GER A Kie-Mun; A Lon H.

GERMANY (Hall): A Kie-Mun; A Ber S A Kie-Mun; A Den-Edi; F Nth C A Den-Edi; F Den-Ska [no F Den]; F Swe unordered, Holds.

ITALY (Parsons): F Tun-Tyr; F Nap-Ion; F Rom-Tus; F Smy S AUS F Bul-Con; A Mun S RUS A War-Sil; A Tyr S A Mun.

RUSSIA (Rocamora): A Nwy-Swe; A StP-Nwy; A War-Sil; A Ukr S A Rum; A Rum S A Ukr; F Sev S A Rum.

TURKEY (T.S. Williams): F Bla S A Con; A Con H.

The last English unit is thus annihilated. Thanks, John, for playing through to the end. All in all, I am pretty happy with how players in PP stick with the games.

DEADLINE FOR FALL 1904 MOVES IS 6 PM MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27TH, 1972.
 Remember that we have but ONE WEEK WINTER DEADLINES, so please send in conditional winter orders with your Fall moves. Many thanks.

PRESS RELEASES

(These press releases are underlined above for the same reasons the moves are underlined--they don't succeed).

MELK; Nov 1, 1904: Let the lamentable condition of the Turkish Empire serve as an example to those who fail to live up to their international obligations with the House of Hapsburg! /s/ Frans Joseph

PARIS, FRANCE--May 22, 1903: We, the Emporor of France and all outlying territories and King of the U.K. have a statement to issue on behalf of the French people in regards to recent developments in the Western United States and in Indochina..."No comment."

RENO-TAHOE, USA (May 1, 1904): Jimmy the Greek the first today took England off the board, as it will obviously go out first. He also has quoted odds as follows. Austria is at 5-1, Russia is at 5-1, Turkey, Italy, France and Germany are off the board as Russia and Austria will wipe out Turkey, then wipe out Germany and Italy. Finally France. France, he predicts, will be so scared he will cross the ocean with Jet Propulsion; that is, climb in a raft, drop trou, and jerk off. [Now, Jimmy--what a thing to say. But pornographic old PP will be out before we find out whether the obscenity issue will pass, so here we are].

SIAGON, INDOCHINA, FRENCH EMPIRE, April 30, 1903[oops. This is all the re-found press from periods past. I guess I won't bother with it here. Let me know if you want it in].

SEATTLE (Army Washington State to Oregon): French troops pushed further towards the center of the International Communist Conspiracy in San Francisco today. In an historic announcement, General REDNECK decided that he would commit treason and defy the orders of the French Emperor to return to France where his extra troops are needed for the Great European War currently taking place. Meanwhile, troops in Indo-China are reported boarding transports bound for North America in order to relieve the General of his command and get the army back to France. They, however, do not seem to be in much of a hurry even though recent partisan activity has slowed down considerably, probably on orders from San Francisco so that the troops can protect that area.

[Continued on page 12]

RATING LISTS & PLAYER POLLS--THE BROB CORRELATION

In PP #12, you will recall, Doug Beyerlein gave us a comparison of the rating lists with the two Polls, the BPP & the APP. At that time, we discussed whether the polls were a function of the lists (as I thought possible, maybe even likely) or whether the polls were a true reflection of the viewpoint of the "public" in the Diplomacy world. Now, I have a couple of other entrys. First, Doug has sent along the correlations of the BROBDINGNAG system, done by Jeff Power. Second, I have run across the letter from John McCallum that I KNEW I'd received on the matter. (You may perhaps remember that I started to print a letter from him in #13, only to find that it was off the point of the Beyerlein article in #12). To summarize the meanings of the various catagories:

- (1) All 18 players [of note on the two polls]
- (2) The top seven players in the polls
- (3) 18 players minus those outside the top 14 in the particular list analized
- (4) Same as (3), plus removing Walker & Beshara as both are of a controversial nature, which may have influenced their ranks in the polls
- (5) The top seven players minus Walker

	<u>CONDITION</u>	<u>RHO CORRELATION</u>	<u>AVERAGE</u>
BROB	(1)	.830	
Average	(2)	.737	
	(3)	.927	
	(4)	.928	
	(5)	.718	.828
BROB	(1)	.934	
Total	(2)	.961	
	(3)	.950	
	(4)	.945	
	(5)	.958	.950 [!]

The BROB listing, you will recall, awards points for order of finish; +6 for first, +4 for second, 0 for fourth, and -6 for last, distributed down the line. Thus, no other system rewards strong and consistent finishing, and a minimum number of eliminations, more completely than the BROBDINGNAG method. The official listing, however, is very much the averaged one, and the "total" list is something that Doug compiled with the sweat of his own brow. In effect, the "total" system is not a rating list at all, just the same as the Calhamer Point Count List is not, because it takes no account of how many games the player has required to reach X score. This is somewhat ameliorated in the BROB listing, because negative points are possible. Thus, a slow accumulation will take place only for those players above average--usually the players that stay in the hobby anyway.

The correlation averages compare with the other averages as follows: CPCL-.965; ODD - .955; NUMENOR-average - .841; and NUMENOR-total - .888. Thus, the BROB average is somewhat less correlated than any of the others, but the total is right up there at the top. This implies, I think, the same sort of argument that Arn Vagts suggested in #13: that people have a tendency to vote for those who are most active, and have written the most articles. After all, "success" on a rating list is

often preceded by several years in the hobby. I suppose that the polls have the theoretical ability to combat this sort of problem, but they don't seem to very much. Walt Buchanan and Mike Rocamora, who both have some degree of relative newness to the hobby, rank high on the lists, but Walt publishes, so that leaves us with not too many examples. All in all, however, I think that the accumulating evidence seems to indicate that the player polls are often predicated on the sort of information found in rating systems, with exceptions grafted into the framework in cases involving personal contact. This implies that a player goes through an interim period on the polls where, assuming that his ratings are high but his general notoriety is not, he will reach a peak. Then, as he or she becomes more well known to more players, they will vote their personal experiences, and that player will either rise or fall based on their evaluation.

Then too, there are not too many ballots submitted for the polls, though this is improving. I think that when only a few players submit ballots, they are usually the active ones. These players have a rather ingrained tendency to vote for members of their own kind, and I'm not sure this is particularly wrong--it may well be inevitable. Just the same, the polls, both player and publisher, seem to profit from a greater number of votes, and I hope that the trend continues. To the extent that new players submit votes beyond the field of the players whom they have encountered in their limited numbers of games, the rating lists seem to be the only solution for an otherwise incomplete (and thus uncountable) ballot. Who can say that this is wrong? After all, fools like me (and you, if you are reading this far) are the only ones who are interested in rating lists, and the only ones who vote in polls. The critter is the same, I think, so the relationship isn't surprising. The only thing, in fact, which does surprise me is that the accumulative, totaling systems seem to have the greatest impact in the player polls.

According to my hypothesis, this shouldn't happen. Players know that the CPCL isn't a rating list, though that might not stop them from voting for players that have won a lot of games. It is my suspicion that we are at a transitional stage on the polls right now--the older active players cast most of the votes, and they vote for players with whom they have some acquaintance. As more new votes are cast, the system should adjust (according to me) more along the lines of rating systems. Well--its just a thought. Keep in mind that all my ideas are presumptively inane, however, and that PLATYPUS PIE has been denied a license by the Comics Code authority.

 JOHN MCCALLUM; PO Box 52; Ralston, Alberta, Canada TOJ 2N0 (Sep 24, 72)

"Was interested in Doug's item on the correlations between player polls and the rating lists [in #12]. The rank correlation he uses is simpler than a correlation using actual scores. However, what you say about the player poll results being in part determined by the lists is quite true. Only once did I submit an entry to the poll but that time I did exactly as you did; i.e., players that I knew well from having frequently played them I rated on the basis of my own estimation, but those I had little direct knowledge of I rated on the basis of performance as listed in the rating lists. With the exception of individuals like Conrad [von Metzke] and Edi [Birsan], who have played in so many games that they have played against everyone, I am sure that everyone else does the same. So the polls are, in large measure, a function of the lists. It is not surprising, therefore, to find the two highly correlated.

"There is another matter. Only the top 18 are listed in the poll. By confining himself to so few names Doug is bound to come up with some very high correlation figures. All of the players listed will be mul-

tiple winners. All will have high scores on the Calhamer Point Count Listing. All will consequently have high scores on all the other listings too. The correlation coefficients, counting only these people, are bound to be quite high. If Doug counted not the top 14 only but everyone listed, even once, in the Poll then the correlations would drop considerably. [John here included a ¶ concerning the difficulties presenting in resolving the large # of ties that would occur at the lower ranks, but which I'm editing out].

"You will remember that in the early editions of the Beyerlein Poll Doug used to list the names of all the people mentioned at all in the retruns. [True, Doug?] A correlation of these with the ratings would be more informative, and the correlations would be lower.

"But even this is hardly enough. The poll is itself a selective process. Anyone mentioned will be better than the average player. The rating lists, on the other hand, list everyone, good, bad, and indifferent. These coefficients would be much lower if everyone were included. After all, all systems reward a win. It is those who don't win that are treated differently by the various systems, some systems rewarding non-winning survival and some not. Correlations based on the scores of everyone, winners and non-winners alike, would show very much less agreement than is indicated by these figures of Doug's. Even then, though, I suspect that the correlations will be higher than one might think." [Thanks, John. Any comments, Doug?] [Anyone else?]

ITS THE ROGUES' GALLERY RATING LIST--COUNTRIES

The demise of Rod Walker as a force in Diplomacy has caused us all some slow moments, I'm afraid. Game numbers stagnated until Conrad von Metzke took them over, and the center charts are apparently being taken over by either Conrad or John McCallum, both, or maybe even Len Lakofka, who has put out an appeal for center charts for games which have finished since the last edition of NUMENOR.

One of the losses which I didn't think would be recovered was the NUMENOR system itself. The methods are somewhat different, but the rating list is being replaced by one under the name at the headnote above--the Rogues' Gallery list, to appear in Lakofka's LIAISONS DANGEREUSES sometime soon. He has, however, completed the positions of the countries, and I think that they are interesting enough to warrant re-publication. Very briefly, each winner gets 240 points, more or less; the survivors gets 340 points, minus the winner's points. Its apparently possible to get negative points, though I'm not too certain how--write to Len for a subscription to see for yourself. I'm not too clear on all the details, but the categories are somewhat self-explanatory I think. "Elims only," for instance, means that, in that category, France has been eliminated less than all the others. Len's comments are in LD #37.

SCORE BASED ON:

<u>RANKS</u>	<u>WINS ONLY</u>	<u>WINS & DRAWS</u>	<u>ALL + PTS.</u>	<u>ELIMS ONLY</u>	<u>AVERAGE</u>
1	R 9470	R 10667	T 13311	F -2041	R 203.5
2	T 7725	T 10051	R 12944	T -2084	A 197.3
3	E 7390	E 9039	E 12052	E -2094	T 185.4
4	A 5335	F 7435	F 10519	I -2637	F 181.1
5	F 5310	A 5912	G 7791	G -2950	E 176.3
6	G 4155	G 5488	A 7552	R -3296	G 171.0
7	I 3850	I 4785	I 7386	A -3865	I 170.8

As I say, you'll have to get full meanings from Len. Hell, I even left out a column. This list, however, is pretty interesting, and LD is starting to move to my recommended list. If Lakofka doesn't watch it, I'll even start saying nice things about his magazine, which is very much improved as of late.

CONTEMPT OF COURT (Work v. Ramirez)

(Justice of the Peace of Toulumne County, California, 1851)

CASE NO. 315:

This is a suite for Mule Stealing in which Jesus Ramirez is indited fur stealing one black mare Mule, branded O with a 5 in it from Sherriff Work. George swares the Mule in question is hisn and I believe so to on hearing the case I found Jesus Ramirez guilty of feloaniously and against the law made and provided and the dignity of the people of Sonora stealing the aforesade Mare mule sentased him to pay the costs of Coort 10 dolars, and fined him a 100 dolars more as a terrour to all evel docers. Jesus Ramirez not having any munney to pay with I rooled that George Work shall pay the costs of coort, as well as the fine, and in default of paymunt, that the said one mare Mule be sold by the constable John Lunney or another officer of the coort to meet the expenses of the Costs of the Coort, as also the payment of the fine aforesade.

R.C. Barry, Justice Peace
August 21, 1851
John Lunney, Constable

H.P. Barber, the lawyer for George Work in solently told me there were no law fur me to rool so I told him that I didn't care a damn for his book law, that I was the law myself. He jawed back so I told him to shetup but he wouldn't so I fined him 50 dolars, and comited him to gaol for 5 days for contempt of Coort in bringing my roolings and disissions into disreputableness end as a warning to unrooly citizens not to contredict this Coort.

~~RIGHT FROM THE HART~~ PP BRINGS SOME CHEAP COMMENT--

Think things have changed, eh? In Texas last week, a jury gave a defendant 10 years and a day for possession of 1/18th ounce of marijuana, the killer weed. The 10 years and a day? Under Texas law, probation could be granted for sentences under 10 years, and the fine Texan citizens on the panel didn't want a crazed maniac like that loose amongst their fine daughters. R.I.P., Texas Justice.

Meanwhile, this issue of PLATYFUS PIE will be mailed out on Election Day, November 7th, unless I manage to mail it Monday evening (very unlikely). Proposition 19, that California Marijunana initiative, is deemed losing 2-1, but when you think about it, thats not too bad. Several million people, that means, will vote for it. As for San Francisco, it will doubtless pass overwhelmingly in the City, and may even carry Northern California. The noted mayor of San Francisco, Joe Alioto has even publically announced that no arrests are made in the City for simple home use. Maybe someday, this nonsense will come to an end.

Other California propositions are not doing as well. It seems that there are enough stone-agers arand to pass the Death Penalty Initiative. Fortunately, however, it makes no difference. Several years ago, the noble voters of this state passed an initiative which made discrimination in housing illegal, and the Supreme Court threw it out. Since the death penalty is unconstitutional in this state, the voters are really pretty helpless to do much about it. This, after all, doesn't seem to have much to do with the initiative procedure--the voters aren't going to stop murders by trying to get the death penalty back. Remember Charles Manson?

The obscenity proposition looks as if it will lose, though, thereby guaranteeing the further and continued existence of this magazine. It also appears that we'll even pass the coastline initiative--the first real one against the commercial interests in some time.

The other election issues are pretty much foregone conclusions. The latest field Poll says that 85% of Americans now think that Richard Nixon will be elected President. Incredible. I am, as a matter of fact, one of those who feel that the election is already decided, but that's not going to stop me from voting Democratic. Unfortunately, the McGovern campaign simply couldn't overcome the lack of charisma and decisiveness which he seemed to indicate early in the ordeal. So, we'll be stuck with Richard Nixon for four more horrible years. I've not bothered with recommendations, and will not get into political arguments in PP, because nobody is going to be convinced one way or the other in any event. All I possess at this time is a great empty feeling of sadness. The truly astonishing thing to me, I think, is that there are actually some people that think Tricky is a GOOD president, rather than that he is the least of two evils; and the ghost of Judge Haynsworth and Justice Carswell go stalking through my mind. Burger, as you may or may not know, is well reknowned for having one attribute over other possible candidates for the position of Chief Justice which, in Richard M. President's mind, overrode all others: he looks like a Chief Justice. I'm tired of being treated with contempt, but, it looks like I'm saddled with it for

F O U R M O R E Y E A R S ! ! ! !

Does anyone here have an aspirin?

THE ARENA POLL IS OUT--PRELIMINARY COMMENTARY

Edi Birsan's much publicized poll concerning order of finish is completed, and the results are in ARENA #18. The simple fact that 101 questionnaires were returned is enough in itself to warrant attention, because I think that that is some sort of a phenomenal record for Diplomacy polls of any sort. At this point, I am only going to summarize the results of part I of the poll; in a future issue, I may have time to get into the other areas and comment upon them. ARENA may be obtained from Edi Birsan, who currently resides at: RD 5 Box 6, Bridge Street, Hopewell Jct, NY 12533, and subscriptions are seven issues for a dollar. ARENA is very much recommended.

Part I of the poll concerned order of finish, and players were asked to rank all possible results in a game in order of preference; two through seven way ties, and ranking 1 through 7. Naturally, all questioned preferred a clear-cut win as the most desirable alternative (save for a couple of ironic ballots, which Edi discounted). The respondent was asked to rank these positions from 1 through 13. After 100% favored winning, 76% preferred a two-way draw as the next alternative, while 20% opted for second place as the next best thing to a win. 4% scattered evenly between a three way tie, four way tie, and seven way tie. At this point, I will quote from ARENA:

"This break is basically the first determination of the size of the strict Strong Second segment of the Diplomacy population. That is, a clear 20% of the population answered the question of 'what if I cannot win?' by saying that they preferred coming in second to any other possibility aside from winning. These 20 questionnaires will be taken aside in a later report to see if we can form a Strong Second player profile in order to test the ideas in 'Philosophies of Playing Diplomacy' [an article written by Edi in ARENA #2, I believe] as well as to see if there are any further breaks within parts ii & iii that are interesting.

Players rated second place in two groupings. One large grouping of ballots was around the 2 to 4 region (from being second most desirable to fourth most desirable) and then a second group at 8th. This leads us to draw the initial size of the strict 'win-only' players, as they would rate all ties above second place. Thus, a win would be first and a two-way tie would be second, and the ratings would decrease down to 7, which would be a seven-way tie; 2d place was then listed as 8th most desirable. Some of the players whose answers listed only the win and the ties, without mentioning the other placements were also considered within the bounds of the strict win-only school, as was the respondent who listed the Win as the number one choice and noted: 'if you don't win the rest does not matter.' [I WONDER who that could have been]. This gives us 16% of the population being win only in a strict sense. The actual breakdown for 2d place was:

2-20%	
3-35%	The high Don't Care/No answer segment of answers here
4-19%	reflects those three or so ballots that listed only the
5- 4%	win and ties and refused to rate non-win, non-tie place-
6-13%	ment.
DK/NA-- 9%	

Now that we have two groups isolated we can then compare the 20% who are Strong Second with the 16% Win Only, with the staggering 64% remainder lying somewhere in between; this comparison will come in a future issue."

I encourage all of you who do not currently get ARENA to follow this discussion there in the future, because PP will do not a lot more than mention the proceedings from time to time. Primarily, I don't think that I should subject readers who DO get both magazines to re-reading the information time and again. For my part, I'll probably comment in the future by writing letters to Edi, which he will then, with the past as an indication, refuse to publish on the grounds that they offend the public morality.

Parenthetically, however, I might note that Edi cited me as an example, in ARENA #2, of the "Strong Second School." I considered that description accurate at the time, and I still do. Nevertheless, I did not rate 2d place superior to a ~~two~~ two way tie. This suggests to me that the 16% Win-only camp may be rather accurate, while the other figures, particularly the large 35% rating second place as the third most desirable alternative, seem to indicate considerable strength for the "Strong-second" camp beyond the very strict 20% figure. To the extent that I discuss the ARENA survey in future issues, I think it only fair to publicize my prejudices, so you will know of the source from whence all this tripe issueth.

WIN - 1; 2-way tie - 2; 2d place - 3; 3 way draw - 4; 4 way draw - 5; 3d place - 6; 4th place - 7, 5 way draw - 8, 6 way draw - 9, 7 way draw - 10, 5th place - 11, 6th place - 12, & 7th place naturally ranks a dead last 13th.

ANOTHER SHOT FROM FIRESIGN:

PREACHER: . . . noited with oil on troubled waters? Oh, Heavenly Grid, help us bear up thy Standard, our Chevron flashing bright across the Gulf of Compromise, standing Humble on the Rich Field of Mobile American Thinking? Here in this shell we call Life . . .

SOUND: Click!

THE ROGUES' GALLERY MAGAZINE POLL

Len Lakofka is trying to get a consensus concerning the quality of the various Diplomacy magazines, and, towards that end, I am assisting him by proving how low a circulation PP has. Thus, please fill out the form below: (This page is intended to be detachable and biodegradable).

The Rogues' Gallery Magazine Poll will be a bi-annual survey that will be taken two months before the updating of the Rogues' Gallery Rating system. Both shall appear in LIAISONS DANGEREUSES and other magazines that either participate in the survey and/or wish to reproduce the results.

There are four categories; they are: (1) Quality of reproduction, (2) Quality of Gamesmastering (lack of GM errors, rulings, etc.), (3) Interest (features, ratings, articles, etc.), (4) Overall (general impression of the magazine).

List only those magazines in which you are either playing in or have current access to as a subscriber or trader. List NO magazine that you have not seen in the past three months, but list as many magazines as you choose. A rating of five is highest, and one is lowest. Send your ballot to: Lenard Lakofka, 4970 N. Marine Drive, #525; Chicago, Illinois 60640.

[I notice that on the actual form, Len also has a category for "publisher." I don't know, but I assume that applies to the editor's journalistic talents].

<u>MAGAZINE</u>	<u>Publisher</u>	<u>As Gamesmaster</u>	<u>Reproduction</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Overall</u>
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Hey, gang! I just figured it out. Len simply wants the NAME of the publisher, not any indication of his worth as a writer. Okay; so thats the real explanation. Too bad, I liked the catagory.

[1972AR PRESS, continued]:

BRDEAUX: (Out of order release): France today listened to an historic announcement delivered by the Emperor. Said He: "We, the Emperor of all France and her outlying territories and provinces, and King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain, today declare that in view of recent Italian actions against the nobel [does this mean you win a prize? For what, pray tell? We may humbly assume that it ain't literature] government of Germany, We are forced to declare that a state of war now exists between France and Italy, and call on all governments of Europe to oppose this evil and corrupt Italian government." When asked what kind of government he thought best for Italy, the Emperor said, "We believe most sincerely that We are the best hope for Italy."

BRIEF PARTING SHOT ON FUTURE PLANS

I'm pretty clear about the future of this magazine, actually, so I don't know why I muddle about. The games will continue to be run by me, on an individual basis. When each one ends, a full issue of the magazine will come out to announce its completion, and that issue will be sent to my full mailing list. After that, PP will be a genzine, published several times a year, but with much longer issues. Subbers may continue, or ask for a pro rata refund, as they will. In any event, worry concerning this subject is premature, because I will still be publishing for some months. Ample notice will be given, never fear--I have not invested this much time to drop everything, and I'm still going strong. Its just that I know it will eventually have to stop. For now,

YES ON 19 OR BUST!!!!!!

C . I .

Brenton Ver Ploeg
520 Parker Ave., # 202
San Francisco, CA 94118



FIRST CLASS

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