

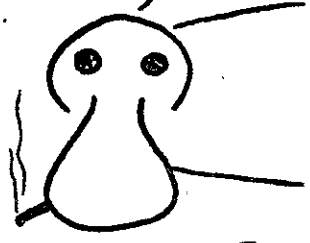
This issue of the infamous Diplomacy magazine issued by the Crazy Dutchman is devoted and dedicated to the citizens of San Francisco, who became the only county full of people in California to pass the California Marijuana initiative, Proposition 19. In commemoration, we have a little patter from the California Pelican, 1965. . . .

FAR
OUT.
MAN

NOVEMBER 27TH 1972



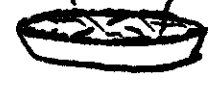
See this world-famous literary personality. You have probably always admired her, but now you see the truth. She is no more than a plain ordinary Mead. Now you know why her eyes are always like that, and why she always wore that same old red dress--she spent all her money on junk.



GLOMPHF
THE
MAGNIFICENT,
EATER OF
FRENCHMEN.

PLATYPUS

16



THRILL TO THE
GOREY COLORS AS
BLUEBERRIES DO BATTLE
WITH ORGANS

"Marijuana" is an old Spanish word which means, "Jesus Christ would you look at the pupils on that clown!" It is grown only in Mexico, and on Parker Street just above Dwight Way. "PLATYPUS PIE" is an old animal-fetishist word which means "Jesus Christ would you take this thing away from me!" It is produced only in off-color bistros and on Parker Avenue, just below Turk Street by me for you and rambles on this issue about various subjects, finally getting around to Postal Diplomacy games 1971EH (The Winner's Game, now in Fall 1905), 1972AR (The Newcomer's Game, now in Fall 1904), and 1972BT (The Open Game, now in Fall 1903).

Read with
delight and joy
about PP's imminent
demise!

ROT WITH BOREDOM AS
THE EDITOR DISCUSSES
THE ELECTIONS!

This is PLATYPUS PIE #16, 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; 520 Parker Ave., # 202; San Francisco, CA 94118. Phone: (415) 668-9218. Since the recent departure for other climes of a good friend of mine, I am answering the phone nearly all the time that I'm in. I call players collect that haven't gotten moves in by the evening preceeding the deadline, and, should that fail, I turn to the:

REPLACEMENT ROSTER: 1971EH (1) Doug Beyerlein, (2) Lenard 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: Add: Richard Hull, 4720 Cloyne, #2; Oxnard, CALIFORNIA 93030 (T).

COSTS: Game fee above should read \$14, not \$13. Subscriptions are six for a dollar, 13 for \$2.00. But, we are going out of business in a few more months here at Platypus Heaven. See pages 5-6 of this issue for more details. Huzzah!

1971EH E N G L I S H F L E E T S T E A M S E A S T FALL 1905
 & BUCHANAN & VAGTS SQUARE OFF FOR A DISAGREEMENT
 AS THE GERMAN ARMY IN GASCONY SWOONS!
 TRETICK'S TURKEY REMAINS ALIVE AGAIN

- AUSTRIA (Ward): [Summer 1905-A Vie R to Boh]; F Smy H; A Bud S A Boh-Vie; A Boh-Vie; A Mun-Tyo; A Bul H; A Ber S A Mun [dislodged to Pru, Sil, or OTB].
- ENGLAND (Buchanan): F Bot S A StP; A StP H; F Nwg-Nat; F Por-Spa(SC); F Mid S F Por-Spa(SC); A Bur-Mar; A Bel-Bur; A Par S A Bel-Bur; F Nth unordered, Holds.
- GERMANY (Birsan): A Kie-Ber; F Bal S A Kie-Ber; A Ruh-Mun; A Gas S ENG A Bur-Mun [ENG A Bur NSO; also-impossible].
- ITALY (Vagts): F Ion-Aeg; F Gre-Bul(SC); F Tyr-Wes; F Spa(SC) S A Mar [dislodged to Lyo IAW orders]; A Mar S F Spa; A Ven-Tyo; A Tri S A Vie.
- RUSSIA (Bytwerk): F Con-Ank; A Sev H; A Mos-StP; A Liv S A Mos-StP; A War S A Liv.
- TURKEY (Tretick): A Ank-Con.

CENTER CHART--END OF FALL, 1905:

- AUS: Bud, ~~Vie~~, Ser, Bul, Mun, ~~Smy~~, Rum, Smy = 6, EVEN [1 dest, S'05]
 EN G: Home, Nwy, StP, Bel, Bre, Por, Par, Spa = 10, may build one.
 GER: Kie, Den, Hol, Swe, Ber = 5, may build one.
 ITA: Home, Tun, ~~Spa~~, Mar, Gre, Tri, Vie = 8, EVEN.
 RUS: Sev, Mos, War, ~~Smy~~, Con = 4, must remove one.
 TUR: Ank = 1, EVEN.

DEADLINE FOR WINTER 1905 ADJUSTMENTS (AND AUTUMN AUSTRIAN RETREAT) IS NNOONN, MONDAY, DECEMBER 4TH, 1972. ONLY ONE WEEK. In fact, I have orders from all concerned, but I want to keep the games in sequence; besides, changing the schedule would be unannounced and therefore unfair.

There is (what, again?) NO PRESS FOR THIS GAME!

AND NOW ITS FORWARD--INTO THE P A S T

1972AR P A R S O N S I S P R E T T Y A C T I V E ! FALL 1904
 ITALY LOSES TUNIS, MARCHES FREE INTO TRIESTE!
 GERMANS ENTER MUNICH IN BLOODY BATTLE WITH A
 BOOST FROM ROCAMORA'S RUSSIAN ARMY!!
 CONSTANTINOPLE HOLDS OUT AGAIN!

AUSTRIA (O'Regan): F Bul(SC)-Con; A Ser-Bul; A Ven-Pie; A Boh S ITA
A Mun; A Vie H; A Bud-Ser.
 FRANCE (Winter): A Naf S F Wes-Tun; F Wes-Tun; F Lvo-Tyr; A Ruh S
GER A Kie-Mun; A Bur S GER A Kie-Mun; F NAT-Mid; F Cly-NAT;
A Lon-Bel.
 GERMANY (Hall): A Kie-Mun; A Ber S A Kie-Mun; F Swe-Bal; A Edi H;
F Nth C FRE A Lon-Bel.
 ITALY (Parsons): A Mun H [dislodged and annihilated IAW orders];
A Tyr-Tri; F Tyr S F Ion-Tun; F Ion-Tun; F Tus S F Tyr; F Smy
S AUS F Bul-Con.
 RUSSIA (Rocamora): A Nwy-Swe; A StP-Nwy; A Sil S GER A Kie-Mun;
A Ukr S A Rum; F Sev S A Rum; A Rum H.
 TURKEY (T.S. Williams): A Con H; F Bla S A Con.

CENTER CHART--End of Fall, 1904:

AUS: Bud, Vie, Ser, Gre, Bul, ~~Tyr~~ = 5, must remove one.
 FRA: Home, Bel, Por, Spa, Lon, Liv, Tun = 9, may build one.
 GER: Ber, Kie, Den, Hol, ~~Smy~~, Mun, Edi = 6, may build one.
 ITA: Home, ~~Tyr~~, ~~Mun~~, Smy, Tri = 5, Constant. [1 elim, F'04].
 RUS: Home, Rum, Nwy, Swe = 7, may build one.
 TUR: Con, Ank = 2, Constant.

DEADLINE FOR WINTER 1904 MOVES IS NOON, MONDAY, DECEMBER 4th, 1972.
 I have acceptable conditionals from all players concerned except for Austria. Hugh, please send moves in by return mail--I will send this copy of PP to you via airmail. Failing that, please call Sunday evening.

PRESS

MELK, Nov 19, 1904: Concern was voiced in Vienna today over the lack of progress being made by the Emperor's troops in taking the walled city of Constantinople. Field reports indicate that the Turks have abandoned their use of "Greek Fire" in favor of lobbing "Platypus Pies" over the walls [how can they lose?]. In view of this escalation the Emperor has called for the help of the Imperial Russian Navy [without much success--do you think that THEY want to get close to such massive examples of rectal art?]. Brenton, can't you keep your beast home? [Sorry--Glomphf tells ME what to do, not the other way around].

WAYFARBACK, SWITZERLAND: The shifting alliance structures in this strange game have given us gnomes of Zurich some pause. We recognize the French lead, but think that the Russian diplomacy has salvaged some valuable lost ground. France stands at 4-1 against, Russia 5-1 against; Turkey is 20-1 against, and Italy has suddenly dropped to 10-1 against, with Austria close behind at 9-1. Germany, for different reasons, still moves into a tie with Austria at 9-1 against. Poor England is off the board. Thats the way the fleets bounce. Cow Pies are 3-1 for, and Giant Platypuses are 4-1 for.

 The reason the bottom of the pages in this issue (and the next few) will be off line is that my typewriter took a graceful gallop through the air only to land ungracefully splat upon my floor. As a result, the guide was broken, and now I have to guess. I am not very good at guessing. Sigh.

1972BT

A U S E R O - R U S S I A N S D O W E L L
 CONSTANTINOPLE & MUNICH FALL--GERMANY OUT!
 ENGLISH ATTACK ON BELGIUM FAILS!:
 GAME SOON TO ENTER NEXT STAGE

FALL 1903

AUSTRIA (McCallum): A Tyr-Mun; A Boh S A Tyr-Mun; A Tri H; A Ser-Bul;
 F Gre-Aeg.
 ENGLAND (Osmanson): F Den H; A Lon-Bel; F Eng S A Lon-Bel; F Nth C A
 Lon-Bel; F Hol S A Lon-Bel.
 FRANCE (Rocamora): A Gas-Ere; A Bel S GER F Hel-Hol; A Bur S A Bel;
 F Mar-Lyo; F Wes-Lyo; F Tun-Tyr.
 GERMANY (Soong): F Hel-Hol; A Mun-Kie; F Pru-Ber.
 ITALY (Key): NMR: A's Ven, Pie; F's Tyr, Rom all Hold. I tried to
 call Jeff both Sunday and Monday evenings without success; thus
 far, I have no new address for him.
 RUSSIA (Lipson): A Bul-Con; F Bla S A Bul-Con; F Arm-Ank; A Kie S AUS
 A Boh-Mun [AUS A Boh NSO]; A Ber S A Kie; F Bal S A Kie; A Liv-
 Pru.
 TURKEY (Le Pire): A Con S A Ank [dislodged to Smy, OTB]; A Ank S A Con;
 F Aeg S A Con.

CENTER CHART--End of Fall 1903:

AUS: Home, Ser, Gre, Bul, Mun = 7, may build two.
 ENG: Home, Nwy, Hol ~~7/9/10/11/12/13/14/15~~ Ooops. Den = 6, may build one.
 FRA: Home, Por, Spa, Bel, Tun = 7, may build one.
 GER: ~~Bel, Kie, Mun~~ = 0, Out of Game.
 ITA: Home, ~~Tun~~ = 3, must remove one. Default removal--A Pie.
 RUS: Home, Rum, Swe, ~~Bel~~, Kie, Con, Ber = 9, may build two.
 TUR: ~~Bel~~, Ank, Smy = 2, even if A Con R OTB; otherwise, remove one.

DEADLINE FOR TURKISH RETREAT & WINTER 1903 MOVES IS NOON, MONDAY,
DECEMBER 4TH, 1972. Remember that this is only ONE WEEK AWAY! I current-
 ly have conditional winter moves from all but John & Jeff--I expect to
 call them to get the moves.

STAND-BY PLAYER: John Hendry, please submit a removal for ITALY.
 Also, plan on being called if it doesn't come in. While I shall call
 Jeff collect to get his removal next Sunday evening, I will call you
 at my expense, because one week isn't very much. That is, of course,
 providing that I can't get Jeff.

There is NO PRESS.

MISC. TRIVIA WHICH GOES HERE:

- (1) Please note a small error in the center chart for 1972AR. There should be an addition as follows: ENG (Hendry): ~~Bel~~ = 0, Out of Game.
- (2) Many thanks to Steven Soong for playing his position as Germany through to the bitter end. I am, by and large, VERY happy with the way all of you are sticking to the committment that you originally made.
- (3) Back issues of PP are still available, at an even cheaper rate of a dime each, except its 16¢ for the two issues of #3 that are left. The issues available are: 2,3,5,7,9,10,11,12,13, & 15. I say this because a couple people are getting this issue that haven't received many issues of PP before.
- (4) Roster addition: ADD: Ray Bowers, 625 Evans, Kirkwood, MO 63122 (T), and a single issue complimentary copy goes to Jack Shannon, 3050 Madiser, #17; Fullerton, CALIFORNIA. He doesn't give a zip code. Also, if he'll bother, I would also like to add Steven Bell to my trades, but I don't currently have his address. Somebody tell him.

A TALE OF TWO LAWYERS

I know of a clever young lawyer
 Conversant with all the Reports;
 He retains in his head all that Blackstone has said
 On pleadings and answers and torts.
 He reels off judicial opinions
 From Marshall's to Chief Justice White's,
 Injunctions, restraints and amended complaints
 He says are his greatest delights.

But though he quotes obiter dicta
 And knows all about what they mean,
 And he has stowed every word of the Code
 In the depths of his marvelous brain,
 At sessions, or even police courts
 You never will see him appear;
 They keep him at work as a library clerk
 At fifty-six hundred a year.

I know of another attorney
 Whose knowledge of law is so slight,
 That is colleagues can't see how he got his degree
 Unless with a blackjack at night.
 But he blusters and shouts at a jury,
 Spouts language all over the place,
 And the courtroom is filled and the public is thrilled
 Whenever he's trying a case.

His clothes are the latest and loudest,
 His fees are the highest there are,
 And the people agree as a unit that he
 Is the brightest young man at the bar.
 This tale is the truth, not a fable,
 And therefore no moral I'll draw,
 But I trust you'll observe that an ironclad nerve
 Is an excellent thing in the law.

--Paul Arnold, circa 1900

[In case that passage creates any doubts, I don't consider myself to be one of those who knows the law].

THE PLANS FOR THE DOWNFALL OF PLATYPUS PIE

First, I shall run all games to completion. I thank all those who have offered to guarantee my games, but I guess its not necessary because I will continue the games on a limited basis, sending them to players and archivists only.

Second, when any game ends, a full-sized issue of PLATYPUS PIE will be issued to announce same. The other games will also come out in that issue, because I plan to keep deadlines the same as they are now. If they get out of sync, I'll leave out the errant game. When full issues come out, they will be sent to my full mailing list.

Third, PP will continue as a genzine, issued irregularly. Subbers: therefore have an option: full refund, or keeping their sub as is.

DOWNFALL, continued:

As a result, subbers would probably get more for their money, because genuine type issues would probably be about 20 pages. No promises on that, of course, but no matter what, you couldn't do worse. Subscriptions, after all, are by issue and not per year. In the event that you have the good sense to avoid, not to say spurn, PP: I shall refund via check the unused portion of your purchase price.

Traders are another matter. Several people get PP by virtue of the fact that they want all magazines, in whatever taste presented. They are fools, is is plain, but far be it from me to quarrel. Thus, free copies will be sent to Buchanan, Lakofka, Winter, von Metzke, and McCallum, as well as those listed as receiving complimentary copies at the present time. This policy is contingent on some sort of visibility of result. That is, should Lenard stop publishing his rating list, I would stop sending free copies, because he would have no further need.

All other traders are advised to use their own judgment. You might be willing to continue trading for a while to see what sort of production I come out with. If I publish a 20-30 page issue once every two to three months, you are not all that far behind; on the other hand, you might not like losing that sort of money, however slight it might be. Also, I make no promises as to frequency once all three games are completed. It may be frequent, and it may not be frequent.

I shall depend on being told by traders what their policy will be, even if its only a scribbled note on the cover of their magazine. If they wish to discontinue trading, I will stop sending magazines. I may also send them a check for a subscription, but you can't tell. I will be getting fewer magazines too, in addition to doing less in the field in general. More on that in a minute.

If I do NOT hear from traders, I will go by their policy expressed tacitly. In short--whether they still send the magazine. If not, I will also sever trading, and decide to subscribe based on the magazine in question. If they do, I will continue with the trade agreement, though they may not hear from me for a while.

Let me reiterate, however, that until all three games end, I will run the games, though they will be sent only to limited numbers of people. When the games end one by one, I will run a commemorative issue for that game, and include the same sort of filler material now found in the pages of PP: comments on play of the game, pornography, some letters and articles by others, tips and pointers on animal sodomy for fun and profit, and assorted legal nonsense (though using the terms "legal" and "nonsense" together almost seems tautologous). All players on the list will get these issues first class. Later, genuine issues may be sent out third class if they are really large.

When, you are asking, will all this happen? (Now, all of you who waded through all the above bullshit are going to get a useful piece of information). Not as soon as I might have implied. I tentatively plan to have the last issue generally distributed on a regular schedule to be #23, dated March 13th. That would be a Winter issue, and would carry all three games through two more game years. It is possible that I will carry on through to #26, finishing another year, but that is less likely.

Which brings me to the final issue--why? The answer is simple, really. Publishing really doesn't fit my desires in the hobby. I like to write letters to people I have met, commenting on points they have made on items common to both our interests. I also like to write letters in general, which I find I have no time for when I'm publishing a diplomacy magazine. In short, even if it were not for everything else, I just don't LIKE publishing that much, though I still enjoy the hobby a great deal. What else? Studying, sex, smoking, & sleeping--at last!

ITS A WONDERFUL SEASON FOR DEBAUCHERY

Its now Friday, and I have just returned from a ski trip which began last Monday. The object was to avoid the weekend crowds, and it was a success all around. The weather was fantastic, and the lift lines were minimal. For anyone who knows about the differences, we skied Sugarbowl for two days, and then spent a day at Alpine Meadows. Naturally, I avoided Squaw Valley. Its this sort of stuff that makes me wonder what ever got me into this foolish game of Diplomacy anyway. The company of a beautiful woman is superior to that of a Diplomacy player in almost every regard.

There aren't a lot of skiers in the hobby, but I wanted to put this in so when George Schelz gets back from Europe he will have something to set off against his tiring tales. On tap: Vail in mid-January, and then back to the Northern California areas sometime in the Spring.

AND NOW THE RATINGS--THE NUMBER ONE TIME MENTIONED THIS ISSUE
ITS THE ROGUE'S GALLERY RATING LIST

Last issue, I printed the country listing from Lenard Lakofka's new rating list; one which supplied some fascinating facts about something other than the numbers of wins attributable to each country. Now, reprinted from HOOSIER ARCHIVES, here are the top two player boards from Len's list. As I mentioned last time, his methods are too advanced for someone who had a rough time with sixth-grade math, but I know enough to copy them down from Walt's magazine, so here they are. LIASIONS DANGEREUSES, Len's magazine, will carry the full listing very soon, and it is highly recommended. Explanations of the results will be found there.

THE CENTURY CLUB

<u>Name</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>Games Played In</u>	<u>Corrected Games</u>	<u>Accumulated Points</u>
1. Crazy Dutchie	193.0	8	8.00	1544
2. Tom Eller	189.2	7	4.85	918
3. Don Miller	183.0	4	4.00	732
4. John Beshara	157.7	11	8.61	1354
5. Randy Bytwerk	152.2	7	7.00	1166
6. Len Lakofka	131.3	8	8.00	1051
7. Charles Turner	130.6	10	9.77	1254
8. Lee Childs	116.2	7	3.88	451
9. Dan Barrows	115.8	5	4.09	474
10. Rick Brooks	103.5	4	4.00	414
11. Banks Mebane	102.3	6	6.00	614
12. Peter Rosamilia	100.4	10	6.86	715
13. Gene Prosnitz	100.1	17	15.93	1607
14. John Smythe	100.0	24	18.21	1827
14. Jeff Key	100.0	6	5.57	556

About all I can tell you for certain is that it takes a minimum of four games in order to be counted on this listing, and that the column for "corrected games" takes into account the number of replacement positions in which the player in question has played. This is a truly novel feature, and solves one of the more difficult problems encountered in rating lists. Meanwhile, Doug Beyerlein has another list to run a correlation for.

THE RATINGS III MINUS I--DECEPTIVE HEADINGS FOR PP

Right here, in some future issue, Doug Beyerlein has promised me that he will reply to John McCallum's article of last issue. (whew).

MAYBE WE NEED ANOTHER STATE--SAN FRANCISCO

Anyway, I'm happy here. Last issue came out just about the time of the elections, and all the prognostications I made there (based on the polls) came out true. There was only one thing that struck me as unusual: we voted on four or five elective offices, maybe 22 state propositions, and perhaps 40 other, local, propositions. For the first time that I can remember, every single one of those votes had me voting the same way that the City did. San Francisco County was the only one in the state to pass the marijuana initiative, gave the Coastline Initiative its biggest margin, rejected the Obscenity proposition overwhelmingly, and beat down the farm-workers initiative by 2 to 1. If my current state of unemployment continues, I may have to work somewhere else, but I do know one thing: this has just got to be the most liberal city in the United States. And, as I mentioned before, the last mayoralty election had a candidate, Tony Serra, running on the ticket of the PLATYPUS PARTY! Can such an endeavor be all bad?

PRESS RELEASE OF THE DAY--FROM AN OLD STAB GAME

MOSCOW: Well, we thought we had this deal with Turkey, and he stabbed us. Then we thought we had this deal with Austria, and he stabbed us. We were allied with Germany, then he stabbed us, and now England holds the capital. All in all it hasn't been too good a year.

Bob Ward

CONTINUING THE GREAT ORGANE DEBATE--MCLEOD'S NEW ENTRY

[Now, from STAB #57, we continue with the raging organe debate]:

ED HALLE, Gainesville, Florida: "Rose Bowl? Rose Bowl? Oh yes, isn't that the thing the networks devised to keep the football nuts glued to the set until the Orange Bowl comes on? Of course. Anyway, if there is as much smog on New Year's Day as there was today for the USC-UCLA game, they may have to use radar to find the ball."

NORMAN MCLEOD, McLean, Virginia: I must confess that I am not the world's greatest expert on Oranges, or is it organes? To Rod Walker goes this honor(?). So, let us consider, instead, the subject of Blueberries, as I AM the world's greatest authority on this subject.

Now it may be true that Americans consume a great many more oranges than Blueberries (you understand, of course, that I am not conceding the point; I am merely pointing out that it is more likely),. However, this fact, even if true, does not indicate that oranges are superior to blueberries, or even that people prefer oranges to blueberries; for, indeed, the real truth is just the opposite. The American people have been horribly victimized by their horrible fiends, the orange growers, and their affiliated groups (Ex: orange wholesalers, orange retailers, orange processors, und so weiter). The crummy Californians, Sandy Floridans, and ten-pint Texans have been, for years, inundating our unsuspecting nation with (A) a tremendous surplus of oranges and (B) a gargantuan, untruthful advertising campaign; through the totally unscrupulous people mentioned above, the Big Lie has reached America. This campaign has, admittedly, quite effectively gotten rid of the worst of the surplus of the seedy and tasteless--or, rather, horribly tasteful--oranges (organes? GROANES!???) . As a result, millions of unhappy Americans, actually believing the hogwash advertising fed them by the orange growers, thus honestly think that (a) groanes are good for them (a total falsehood) and that (b) groanes are the only fruit that IS good for them; as a result, they dutifully choke down their ration of orange crud, found most often in the slimy, stagnant, and generally repulsive liquid form.

Such is the groane. But what about the blueberry? Well, the blueberry is undoubtedly the finest fruit that nature has to offer. As a result, blueberry growers don't have to resort to dirty tactics, such as lying, as do the groane growers. Also, BB growers keep operations relatively small and individualized, thus enabling them to keep up the unbelievably high standards of quality; the contrast to the mass-produced, shoddy groane is most striking. The people who eat pure blueberries, as they have not been roped in by pressure advertising techniques, consume them for two reasons: (1) They are smarter than the ignorant guzzlers of groane juice and (2) Blueberries taste GOOD (a quality definitely NOT shared by groanes from any state). Finally, let us compare usefulness:

BLUEBERRIESGROANES

PIE YES! Yes! MMMMMmmmmmm!!

If they were used in pies, nobody would eat them; drinking the crap is bad enough.

JUICE No, thanks be to the Almighty!

But of course. Oranges, or groanes, are so horrible raw that it is necessary to squeeze most of their flavor out of them; the seeds taste best of all the groane anyway.

RAW YES! Mmmmmmmmmmm!

A form of fast poisoning, if you ever get the hide torn off.

OTHER Blueberries & Cream:
An UNMATCHABLE dish!

An efficient means of eliminating the surplus population.

Finally, I will mention the location from which blueberries come (no, I don't mean the ground). As all of you poor fools who guzzle all that cruddy groane and its waste products are so ignorant that you will have to be told, I will just go ahead and tell you. Maine is the one state from which real blueberries come, so there can be no discussion there.

MARGARET GEMIGNANI, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida: Capt. Rod should not have tempted me by lettinf on as the expert on lemon. I could answer that but I'll pass it up.

If Capt. Rod got a large all peel orange, it got a California orange [sic]. ((Huh?? But now I see the distinction. In California they raise Oranges, while in Florida they raise Organes. No??))

But never fear, California is still good wine country.

[And, at this point, we leave the happy organe warriors just prior to a couple of goodies from Walker & von Metzke. Maybe next weeks issue will fill you all in].

GRAFFITO FOR THE MASSES

Peace with honor is like cottage cheese with catsup.

A barfing dog never bites.

A man without a God is like a fish without a bicycle.

DULL TIDBITS OF THE NOBLE LAW

(1) No doctor, ever, has been prosecuted for an act of negligence while rendering assistance at the scene of an accident.

(2) The actual, paid tax rate for taxpayers in the 70% bracket at \$100,000 per year is 32%. When the annual income increases to a cool million per year, the actual tax rate increases somewhat less dramatically to 33%, where it stays for higher incomes.

where did that letter GO?

Somewhere around here, I have a publishable paragraph from John Beshara chiding me for my "votes" in the Birsan poll on finishing mentioned in the last issue. I'll print in next issue, but I assure one and all that I was quite serious--I do regard second place as a more prestigious event than a four way tie. You'll note that I also ranked second place ahead of a three way tie, and this, of course, is more arguable. I believe that my only response here could be that it would depend on the situation and the allies involved. I can envision situations where I would prefer 2d place to a three way tie, and I can equally imagine circumstances where a three-way tie for first would be quite preferable.

My favorite rating system, from the say I started play of the game, has been the BROB system, and I confess that I have come to think of the game in terms of the values therein assigned. Now, some of the very best listings issued these days--John McCallum's O.D.D. listing, for example--count wins, or a fractional win, as the only important element. While that may accurately reflect their viewpoints, it does not reflect mine. I side with Arn Vagts, Walker, and a few others who have been vocal on the subject, in viewing a Diplomacy game as a seven-player tournament. There was a somewhat lengthy debate on this subject in some back issues of COSTAGUANA, so I won't bother to cover it again in detail here. But, honest, I clearly DO prefer 2d to a four-way tie, although its a toss-up versus a three-way tie. Now, as to whether this means that all my games devolve into situations where I go for the 2d place position rather than trying for the win is something open to argument. But I don't think that a cogent argument can be made based on past games that such is the case. You can still try to win the game without adopting the view that if you don't, you have lost--regardless of the circumstances of placing.

We have all been in some games where better players were eliminated earlier than players who were considerably less skilled, but happened to have been blessed with a less vulnerable position. To this extent, ranking according to place may be inequitable. There are, however, a couple of ameliorating factors which occur to me: (1) Over any kind of a long run, these factors are bound to average out. Ten games should be more than enough. (2) Very good players caught in a difficult situation will often manage to survive, if only at very weakened strengths, far after other, weaker, players have been eliminated. How they can do this is another subject, but it sure as hell helps if your conqueror is kind. Aren't they all?

That seems to bring about the completion of another stirring issue of that Journal of inconsequential note, PLATYPUS PIE. I want to leave you with the words Zeus spoke to Narcissus: "Watch yourself!"

--coitus interruptus--