

I can't say much for your cause if you voluntarily receive this rag, but the Creep Detachment wants Glamph and me to welcome you to the E.   
*George Memorial Edition of the...*



**PLATYPUS**  
**PIE**

**WAF**

**BAN!**  
**HAMERS!**

**WAF**

**WAF**

**CHRISTMAS DAY 1972**



This, appropriately, is a pile of Platypus Dung, which accurately represents the C.D.'s former, successful performance on law exams. The knife, alas, speaks for itself.

nasochists, this is Platypus PIE #18, a tri-ly Journal of animal idocy and pornography. This time, Andy Phillips and the C.D. make mutual fools of themselves, and Doug Beyerlein has a thing or two to say about rats. Oranges are in the Holiday stocking, of course, as well as a couple other minor things, possibly including postal Diplomacy games 1971EH (The Winner's Game, in S'06), 1972AR (The Newcomer's Game, in S'05), and 1972BT (The Open Game, now in S'04). Otherwise, how's your GIANT PLATYPUS?

**PIESS**

This is PLATYPUS PIE #18, a Journal of Postal Diplomacy. It has no games open now or ever at a game fee of \$16. Diplomacy is a board game published by Games Research, Boston, Mass., and was invented by original thinker par excellence Allan Calhamer.

THE EDITOR: Brenton Ver Floeg; 520 Parker Ave., #202 [and just to prove to you that nobody listens, I offer a free airmail delivery of all future issues of PP to anyone that makes reference to this offer by the next deadline date in a letter to me] San Francisco, CA 94118. Phone: (415) 668-9218. PLATYPUS PIE is published every three weeks, except for Winter deadline issues, which are published the week after the Fall moves.

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.

COSTS: Subscriptions are six for a dollar, period. Less expensive rates are no longer around, because PP will cease publication in March. If you keep the old rate, however, you are lucky.

ROSTER: Several players are home for the holidays, but there doesn't seem to be anything serious insofar as time is concerned, so I'm ignoring the changes, except where noted relative to individual games.

1971EH V A G T S A N D W A R D A T P E A C E ? ? SPRING 1906

ENGLISH FLEETS STEAD SOUTH AS SPAIN FALLS PREY

LAST TRETICK UNIT APPARENTLY HEMMED IN!

(But in this game, lets wait to see)

AUSTRIA (Ward): A Bul-Con; F Smy S A Bul-Con; A Bud-Vie; A Mun H; A Sil S A Mun; A Boh S A Mun.

ENGLAND (Buchanan): F Bot S A StP; A StP H; A Edi-Nwy; F Nth C A Edi-Nwy; A Bur-Mar; A Par-Bur; A Bel S A Par-Bur; F Spa(SC)-Lyo [dislodged; may retreat to Por, OTB]; F Mid-Maf; F NAT-Mid.

GERMANY (Birsan): A Kie-Mun; A Bar-Sil; F Bal H; A Ruh S A Kie-Mun; A Gas S ENG; A Bur-Mar.

ITALY (Vagts): F Alg-Con; F Gre-Ion; F Lyo-Spa(SC); A Ven-Pie; A Tri-Tyr; A Vis-Gal; A Mar S F Lyo-Spa(SC) [A Mar annihilated]; F Wes S F Lyo-Spa(SC).

RUSSIA (Bytwerk): A Sev-Arm; F Con H [dislodged, Bla, OTB]; A Mos H; A Liv-War.

TURKEY (Tretick): A Ank-Con.

DEADLINE FOR FALL 1906 MOVES IS NOON, MONDAY, January 22d, 1972.

Please note that this is four weeks away. This is due to my impending ski trip to Vail starting in early January and continuing until about the 20th. Now, last Winter issue we had almost no troubles with people submitting conditional orders, so I am going to ask for them this time, in order to attempt publication of Fall and Winter together and get us back on schedule. I will call you at my expense if something untoward comes up. This will be done ONLY if players in all three games submit acceptable conditional orders, so please do your best.

PRESS

AUSTRIA: Randy, please retreat to the Black Sea. I will support you to Ankara next time and we will finally be rid of Turkey. Your idea of a guessing game just takes too long.

SAN FRANCISCO: This seasons award for the only press release, a true-to-life \$20 bill marked by the F.B.I. in connection with the D.B. Cooper caper, will be sent to Bob when he coughs up my half.

1972AR

R O C A M O A R O L L S I N T O A U S T R I A SPRING 1905  
 WINTER THROWS FLEETS INTO MED, F IRI CONFUSED  
 MEANWHILE, HALL'S GERMANY CONTEMPLATES...  
 TOENAILS??????  
 S T R A N G E T A C T I C S I N S . E .

- AUSTRIA (O'Regan): A Pie-Mar; A Vie-Gal; F Bul-Rum [impossible--the Bul Fleet is on the SOUTH Coast, not East Coast]; A Ser & A Bud S F Bul-Rum.
- FRANCE (Winter): A Mar-Pie; F Lyo S A Mar-Pie [dislodged to Spa(SC) or OTB]; F Mid-Wes; F Tun S F Mid-Wes; F IAF S F Tun; A Bur-Mar; A Ruh-Bur; A Bel-Pic; F Iri-Mid [no F Iri]; F IAF unordered, holds.
- GERMANY (Hall): A Edi-Hol; F Nth C A Edi-Hol; A Kie S A Edi-Hol; F Bal-Den; A Mun-Tyr; A Ber-Mun.
- ITALY (Parsons): F Tyr-Lyo; F Tus S F Tyr-Lyo; F Ion-Tun; F Smy-Aeg; A Tri-Tyr.
- RUSSIA (Rocanora): A Nwy S A Swe; A Swe S A Nwy; A Sil-Boh; A War-Gal; A Ukr S A Rum S A War-Gal; F Sev S A Rum.
- TURKEY (T.S. Williams): A Con H; F Bla S A Con.

DEADLINE IS NOON MONDAY, JANUARY 22d, 1972. This is four weeks away, due to the gamesmaster's desire to ski, but I would like to combine Fall and Winter to make up the week, so please send conditional Winter orders. See comments in relation to 1971EH deadline, and later in this issue for more details.

From Somewhere in the mountains of Eastern Turkey: HEEEEELLLLLLP!!

1972BT YOU TELL ME ABOUT FRA/ITA! SPRING 1904

OSMANSON DECIDES TO GARRISON NWY, AND DECIDES  
 GUSP TO RIP OFF KIEL AS AN EXTRA WATERING SPOT TOO!!  
 ROCANORA/LIPSON JOCKEY ABOUT, DON'T DO MUCH!  
 THE FALL OF 1904 SHOULD BE A GEM!

- AUSTRIA (McCallum): F Gre-Aeg; A Bul H; A Vie-Tyr; A Tri S A Vie-Tyr; A Mun S A Boh; A Boh S A Mun; A Bud H.
- ENGLAND (Osmanson): A Liv-Lon [impossible]; A Lon-Nwy; F Nth C A Lon-Nwy; F Eng H; F Hol-Kie; F Den S F Hol-Kie.
- FRANCE (Rocanora): A Bre H; A Bel S A Par-Bur; A Par-Bur; A Bur-Mar; F Mar-Lyo; F Hes-Mid; F Tun-Tyr.
- ITALY (Hendry): A Pie-Ven; F Tyr-Nap; F Rom H.
- RUSSIA (Lipson): A Kie H; F Bar S A Kie; A Bar-Sil; F StP(SC)-Bot; A Biv-War; A Con-Ank; F Arm S A Con-Ank; F Bla-Con; F Sev-Rum.
- TURKEY (de Piro): F Aeg S A Con; A Con H.

DEADLINE IS NOON, MONDAY, JANUARY 22D, 1972. Please read comments concerning this deadline under 71EH & 72AR, and submit conditional orders so we can hurry things up. I might even be willing to call at my own expense if something untoward came up.

THE PLAYERS: Elliot Lipson is finally settled. His new address is on the roster found on page four, and his new phone number is: (703) 755-7013.

There is--again--no press. Am I scaring it off?

1971EH NOTICE: Walt Buchanan will be gone from Indiana for a couple of weeks starting next week. Ask him about exact dates. His address will be: Lt. Walter Buchanan, USS Henley DD-762, FPO NEW YORK 09501.

CHRISTMAS MAILING LISTING

1. John Beshara; 155 W. 68th St., #1021; NY, NY 10023 (C)
2. Doug Beyerlein; 3934 S.W. Southern, Seattle, WA 98136 (S-27)
3. Edi Birsan; 48-20 39th St., oops, I mean % Veteramo, RD 5, Box 6, Bridge St., Hopewell Jct, NY (EH)(T)
4. John Boardman; 234 E. 19th St, Brooklyn, NY 11226 (T)
5. Paul Bond; PO Box 6477, College Station, TX 77840 (S-33)
6. John Boyer; 117 Garland Drive, Carlise, PA 17013 (T)
7. Walt Buchanan; RR #3, Lebanon, IN 46052 (EH)(T)
8. Randy Bytwerk; 1915 Maple, #107, Evanston, Illinois 60201 (EH)
9. Allan B. Calhamer; 501 N. Stone, La Grange Park, IL 60525 (C)
10. Bruce Chin; 628 Melrose Drive, Salinas, CA 93901 (S-24)
11. Steve Cooper; 3073 S. Buchanan St, #B-2; Arlington, VA 22206 (T)
12. Tom Eller; 29 Winthrop St., Charleston, MA 02129 (S-24)
13. James C. (Chris) Hall; 1300 30th St, #B2-32; Boulder, CO 80302 (AR)
14. John Hendry; 17 Price Rd., Peabody, MA 01960 (BT)(AR) + 4
15. Chic Hilliker; 3312 Stoneycrest, Bloomington, IN 47401 (T)
16. Richard Hull; 4720 Cloyna, #2; Oxnard, CA 93030 (T)
17. John & Jan Le Pire; Rt. #1, Box 77C; Montrose, MN 55363 (BT)
18. Lenard Lakofka; 4970 N. Marine Dr., # 525; Chicago, IL 60640
19. Maj. Elliot Lipson; 4419 Coldbrooke Court, Alexandria, VA 22306 (BT)
20. James P. Massar; 127 N. Emmons St., Dannemora, NY 12929 (T)
21. John McCallum; PO Box 52, Ralston, Alberta, CANADA T0J 2N0 (BT)(T)
22. Don Miller; 12315 Judson Rd., Wheaton, MD 20906 (T)
23. Bro. Hugh O'Regan; St. Meinrad Archabbey; St Meinrad, IN 47577 (AR)
24. William Osmanson; 1015 Union St., Morris, IL 60450 (BT)
25. Bill Parsons; 510 S. Park St., Streator, IL 61364 (AR)
26. Andy Phillips; 128 Oliver Street, Daly City, CA 94104 (T)
27. Mike Rocamora; 1-5th Ave. Hotel; NY, NY 10003 (Apt 17A) (AR)(BT)
28. George Schels, Jr; 9 Buffington Pl, Bronxville, NY 10708 (S-26)
29. Steven Soong; Box 2219, Johns Hopkins U., Baltimore, MD 21218 (BT)
30. Buddy Tretick; 11710 Coldstream Drive, Potomac, MD 20854 (EH)(T)
31. John R. (Dick) Trtek; Room 212, Boucher Hall; 915 E. 53d St., Chicago, IL 60615 (S-26)
32. Arn Vagts; 2824 Verano Pl., Irvine, CA 92664 (EH)
- \*33. Bob Van Andel; 749 Thomas Street, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 (T) [?]
34. Eric Verheiden, Jr.; 3245 S.W. 185th, Aloha, OR 97005 (S-29)
35. Bob Ward; 8665 Florin Rd, #176; Sacramento, CA 95828 (EH)(T)
36. Greg Warden; 911 S. Farragut St. #2, Philadelphia, PA (T)
37. Tom S. Williams; 1305 Smalley Ave., Muscatine, IA 52761 (AR)
38. Fred Winter, Jr; Alpha Delt, Room 18; 640 N. Henry St., Madison, WI 53703 (AR) + 4

Those names (only Bob Van Andel's this time) marked with an \* are receiving their last issue this time unless I hear from their magazines or them by next deadline. Xin loy, G.I.S. Codes: C= Complimentary; T = Trade; S = Subscription; Two-letter codes--the respective games in PLATYPUS PIE these days.

This, the latest edition of the mailing list, has been pared back down to about where I, in my infinite laziness, like it. Once I was' across 50, and looked to be climbing, but that seems over. The few new trades that I established have been overcompensated by the drops since last issue. In case anyone has wondered, you get a new mailing list once every four issues, when my addressograph blanks run out. Oh yes, I almost forgot Crazy Costa:

- 34a. Conrad von Metzke; PO Box 8342, San Diego, CA 92102 (T)

A SMALL BLOW FOR PERSONAL SATISFACTION

Abigail Van Buren, the shallow-minded protector of the chastity of young women and defender of the other varieties of American moral faith, has a tendency to display, from time to time, her gullibility. I here reproduce a letter to Abby from the San Francisco Chronicle of several weeks ago, together with Abby's wise, witty, and well-thought-out response. I can still see the girls in whatever sorority house came up with this letter laughing their young fannies off.

"DEAR ABBY: I get so riled when I read what some women write to you and complain about. Let me give you a sample of what my life has been like:

"When I was a year old, my mother ran off with another man. My father boarded me out, and when I was 12 he remarried again and I went to live with his and my stepmother. That marriage was no good, either. My father was a big drinker and used me sexually so I got married at 14 just to get away from home. I had three miscarriages and one live child from that marriage, then my husband left me for another woman. I was only 21. Then I married again and I thought my luck had changed, but no sooner did we have a decent house and nice furniture than we got burned out and lost everything. No insurance to begin with.

"Last March I was raped by two men on my way home from work and they broke my glasses if a classic sentence, that. Unfortunately, it's also the one that gives the letter away. Then my husband got laid off from work, and on the way to pick up his unemployment check some kid in a jalopy hit him and totaled our car.

"Right now I am in the hospital having a hysterectomy. Every word of this is true, but there are plenty of people who are worse off than I am because I have a man who loves me and I love him."

LUCKY

DEAR LUCKY: Matching your experiences in one lifetime would be a job for Job.

HO-HUM: PHILLIPS UNLOADS ON THE EDITOR

At this juncture, I am going to allow PP to sink even deeper into the mire than his usual rummy status, because I am going to drop, alas, back into that god-awful, better-than-nothing way draw, and other involutions of that same discussion. Frankly, I am bored to tears by this, but one of the things attractive about Andy Phillips is that he is impossible to bore. Ergo, he wrote me a letter, and I guess I'll print it. To wit: [my comments are in these brackets, as usual].

"Justifiable reasons to go for second?" Well...you gave your reasons, but I'm hard put to see where you justified them. Admittedly, if you replace the scenario Calhamer provides with one that makes the game a series of duels (a la the old BROB rating system) then playing for "second place" makes sense. But why commit such a wack surgery on the game? If you "justified" it, I can't see where.

[I wonder why Andy says "old" BROB. I assume, however, its because he doesn't agree with it, because Jeff Power still puts it out, and its my favorite listing. Andy, the fact that Calhamer thinks this is a fine old recreation of NW I--actually, its a historical disaster, as we all know--doesn't MAKE it so, any more than Jetan has to be played with live players because Burroughs created it in that manner].

The problem seems to be that whenever you're about to justify yourself, the attraction of your conclusions becomes so overwhelming that you make a quantum jump to their location without going through the intervening steps. E.g., you reach the point of saying that it is "an unalterable fact: there are seven people that start a game of Diplomacy." Dazzled by the brilliance of your revelation, one waits with baited breath for your lucid explanation of the significance of that undeniable truth. Instead--whoosh! out comes that breath--we turn the page to find that you've gotten to your conclusion by virgin birth, without the nasty necessity of using any fact you might have marshalled:"... and all results which seek to negate that fact suffer accordingly. Rather than view the game thus, I VIEW the games in terms of wins and losses, but not on a per game basis...I VIEW confrontations with individual players on a one-by-one basis. That is..." I VIEW, I VIEW, I VIEW...and forget about reasons, folks! I HAVE SPOKEN!

[Andy, I'm a little mystified by your (customarily polite) approach. My use of the constant expressions of opinion was to convey nothing more than the fact that it ~~was my opinion~~. For, unlike you, I do not feel that I have a monopoly on truth, and certainly not on something as nebulous as the order of finish in a game of Diplomacy. So, while you're making fun of my constant use of first person, I'm afraid that it was primarily to impress upon the reader that what he was getting was, indeed, nothing but my viewpoint. I ~~really~~ don't understand your view--do you forbid me to express my viewpoint in my own magazine? Besides, don't you ever get tired of all this? You, Rod and I went through all of it last summer in COSTAGUANA, and Rod obliterated us both--in my opinion. If anyone wants to see all this nonsense complete with "reasons," I suggest that they ask Conrad for Volume V, #s 18-20; Vol VI, #1, where ample numbers of them are provided. Here, however, I think that readers will have to content themselves with views.]

Anyway, not only are there seven players, but, "Each player represents one of the Great Powers of Europe..." Equivantly, each player might just as well have been said to be "the Lord-Chancellor of some early 20th century European nation, out to get the best for it that [he] can in terms of national survival." Apparently you have conceded that that bit of role-playing automatically implies balance of power play [oh, brother!] (Birsan's "win-only" is a misnomer [why?] which I wish you would abandon, by the way) so there's no need to prove that again, I'm glad to see. [?]

OED, that "placing" ~~trick~~ is no part of the game of Diplomacy, as it should be played [the Gospel according to Phillips, I guess]. Like it or not, Diplomacy without the scenario (or, rather, with the alternate scenario of one-on-one confrontations) just isn't Diplomacy. [This is a tempting paragraph, but I think I'll leave well enough alone. But look, Andy, can't you really see that this is just as conclusionary as anything that I come up with? The only difference is that its now your viewpoint. At least, you and I had equal opportunities to express our viewpoints in Birsan's poll, and we know how that came out, don't we?]

To say that "the "votes" we take on order of finish are...more often than not...woefully meaningless" surely requires some qualification! To take examples that we are both familiar with, you won '69AB because of Bytwerk's 'vote,' '69V because of Naus', and '69CB because of Walker's. And Childs won '69BD because of yours, and Vagts, once yours was in. The player who plays for place rather than risk elimination is extremely atypical, not the 'usual' case you make out.

[This brings me to perhaps the most interesting part of Andy's letter. I am, however, unclear about his last sentence. It seems to make sense only if you change 'atypical' to typical, although that, in turn, doesn't seem to square with his philosophy. The 'atypical' statement contradicts his assertions about all the games he mentions, so you figure it out.

[Now, about these games. If I may say so, Andy now has intruded upon something that he simply doesn't know about. He came into all three games he mentioned, antagonized plenty of people, and made it easy to get remaining participants arrayed in a "get Phillips" arrangement. Its very difficult, it seems to me, to come into a game where the diplomatic structure is already well-established, and speak of the games as if one were intimately acquainted therewith. In those three games, Andy played his usual tactically brilliant game, but, cumulatively, went from the nine centers he started with to a total of two. In specific, I know of a couple of those players who intended to win the games involved (you'll see this as Walker's comment starts to appear in the 69CB PHOENIX comment), something else which you ignore. Its not fair to them, as we are, to make general statements implying that all those games were losses because they all just wouldn't do what you say. As another example, MY 'vote' in 69BD was based on two factors: (1) an agreement I signed with the other two players which agreed to a three-way tie--the last thing I ever heard from that game, and (2) the fact that I felt I had to attack you--given my reaction to being told what to do. After all, we must preserve our credibility, right? wins

[Finally, its nothing profound to say that game result from 'votes' by various players. According to this analysis, all games result in votes for 2d or some other place, because theoretically, no game of Diplomacy should ever be won. The game is "Diplomacy," not "Tactics," you know, and part of the whole thing is to try to influence other people to do what you desire. The vast majority of games finished have been won by a single player, implying, in a way, that all of those games resulted in second-place 'votes,' making it rather typical, to say the least.

[Nevertheless, Andy mistakes my drift, and I thank him for calling me on it, when I said that most "votes," as in the Birsan poll, are meaningless. My point is that one cannot realistically determine what he will do in a given game until that game situation comes up--seldom if ever will that decision be the same as one made in the abstract, absent the personal contacts which make up each game. And thats why the votes are meaningless.

[Which is enough. The best element of the game, as I have said before, is probably the fact that players of such diverse philosophies as Andy and myself can both play and enjoy the game. The primary difference seems to be that Andy is right, and I only have my opinion. For the sake of equal time, Andy can have a half-page in the next issue of PP, and I'll print it as is, without any commentary whatsoever.]

[Christ! I hate this sort of shit.][I'm such a boor when I do it].

#### FUTURE PLANS FOR PP--SULLIED INTELLEGANCE

This magazine goes in cycles, you'll have noted, between absolutely no diplomacy-related material to some articles concerning it. In the future, I am tentatively planning to go back to some of my files from past games and examine letters that I have received, commenting on good and bad ploys. It may take a while to work it hup, however. We'll have to see.

MORE ON THE BEYERLEIN PLAYER POLLS

The last page of this issue of PP contains a ballot for the next Beyerlein Player Poll, which I hope you will fill out and send to Doug. Here, however, Doug responds to John McCallum's views of the Player Polls (both the APP & the BPP) back in PP #15. In order to really understand the letter, you should review John's comment, but some of the points he made were (1) that the correlation would be much lower if more than just the top 18 names on the polls were used, and (2) he agreed that, more often than not, selection for positions on the polls were functions of the rating lists, rather than the other way around. Doug's commentary follows:

"The rank correlation was used because, as John said, it is easier to compute than the correlation using actual scores. Another factor I considered in making the choice was that a player's rank is actually more meaningful than a player's score is in most rating systems. This is because the computed scores have little, if any, physical significance (with the exception of the CPCL) and are only used to rank the players in the rating list. This will probably change with time when something like a score of 1600 in the O.D.D. brings on the same connotation as a 2400 chess rating.

"I agree that at least at the present that the polls are in part a function of the rating lists. However, this should change in the future as more players become aware and watch the play of others in various games. In this respect I would bet that game 1972CR currently running in HOOSIER ARCHIVES should have some influence on the upcoming APP & BPP. This will become more of a factor as more top player games are run.

"I confined myself to only 18 names for the correlations because they were the only players that had good data for. This especially tended to be a problem when I was looking at the player polls because they only give the names of the top 14 players. Therefore, to get any sort of realistic numbers, I had to do some approximations plus adding a bulk package of scores at the lower levels to even out the extreme variations. I know that the last sentence has completely confused anyone who has read this far, but if I were to tell you exactly what I did and why you still would not understand and I would probably run on for another three or four pages. So, on to further discussion.

"None of the editions of the BPP have included in the results all of the players who received votes. There have always been too many names to take such a step. I cut off the names of players who receive less than 20 points if I get 20 or more ballots. If there are less than 20 ballots, the cut off level is the number of ballots actually received. BPP #1 had only 11 returns, and that has been the lowest of the four conducted so far.

"I think the above covers the points which John made. If anyone wants me to go into more detail, they should probably write me directly as we must be boring about 99% of the PP audience."

Doug Beyerlein

CRAZY DUTCHMAN 0 FOR 4

Professional football doesn't turn me on a great deal, I must admit. It's rather like the modern American Bread-and-Circus rolled into one, and it takes peoples minds off things which really count, but just the same, I thought it was worth a mention that I hoped wrong on all four playoff games. Maybe you fans can bribe me to root for the other team next week?



EVEN HANDED JUSTICE

Translated from Boileau by Alexander Pope

Once, says an author, where I need not say,  
 Two travellers found an oyster along their way.  
 Both fierce, both hungry, the dispute grew strong,  
 When scale in hand, Dame Justice passed along.  
 Before her each with clamor pleads the laws,  
 Explains the matter, and would win the cause.  
 Dame Justice, weighing long the doubtful right,  
 Takes, opens, swallows it before their sight.  
 The cause of strife removed so rarely well,  
 "There, take," says Justice, "take you each a shell,  
 We thrive in courthouses on fools like you.  
 'Twas a fat oyster; live in peace -- Adieu."

---

 (Random speculations)
HEARTFELT REQUEST TO PLAYERS IN PLATYPUS PIE GAMES

All in all, I think that the games are proceeding well. I have had to drop only one player, and one player resigned in favor of the first stand-by, who then proceeded to do an excellent job. There have been a couple of players who wondered aloud at my headlines, but I don't really worry too much about it, because I don't think its outside the provence of the gamesmaster to speculate generally on the potential strategic and tactical set-ups seen in the games. In fact, I rather like it when one of my gamesmasters does it.

But its all rather frustrating, because I am having to watch good games from nowhere but the sidelines. Therefore, I would like to make this appeal: that, as often as possible, players send in some comments about their games along with their moves. This will materially assist my instinct for the curious, and might help me to comment on the games upon their completion (though I will primarily depend on comments from the winners in that regard). None of this material, mind you, will lend anything to the headlines, though I shall continue to speculate openly on the progress of the various countries. Hell, its not so bad. Try playing in a game where you get commentary sometime, such as the current game in HOOSIER ARCHIVES that Doug discussed, and both he and I are playing.

Finally, let me re-state my desire for complete conditional orders along with the moves for next Fall, due in a month's time. While knowing the Fall results is of course the player's right, it is NOT the player's right to desire time to negotiate builds and removals. Although the postal game usually lengthens the winter deadlines, the rules specifically disallow such negotiation, and of the players who have thus far expressed their opinion on this matter, the vote is 4-1 in favor of the current short PP winter deadlines.

AH-HAH! BET YOU THOUGHT YOU'D ESCAPED THE ORANGE!

[We continue, fruit freaks, with the Missif Column, this time from a brand new issue, sTab #58, Christmas 1968].

TERRY KUCH, Chevy Chase, Maryland: I have just received word from the American society of fruits (National City, California) that they disagree with Norm McLeod's attack on oranges in favor of blueberries. Where would history be, they said, with Price William of Blueberry? What kind of spectrum would we have with 'red, blueberry, yellow, green ...'? And who would believe Navel Blueberries? "The fact that more blueberries are eaten than oranges", as McLeod claimed, the Fruits claimed, I claim, "is because blueberries are smaller. Not only does it require more blueberries than oranges to make a pie, but more people have berry sized mouths than orange sized mouths." they concluded. I can only add that I prefer oranges because its easier to type, being shorter, and faster to say, having only two syllables, except in Cincinnati, where they pronounce it "ornj."

~~I note with interest that 37 homosexuals were~~ arrested in the city Park restroom of National City, California. I have enquired of the Society of Fruits whether that is because:

- (1) the city park rest room is the largest city park rest room in the world, or
- (2) because homosexuals in National City are extremely small, or
- (3) whether this was a stunt of 'how many faggots can get into the rest room at one time, 'a la telephone booths?

Rumor has it that they were caught only because the reporter they invited to be present to cover them for 'Life goes to a party' turned out to be straight.

JOHN MCCALLUM, Ralston, Alberta, Canada: You can tell Norm McLeod that I agree with his preference for blueberries over oranges. However, they are not all grown in Maine. New Brunswick has wide areas of blueberries. They are the cultivated variety and taste just like Maine blueberries, good but not the best. In Quebec they grow wild. Smaller but much tastier. They are in such profusion that the girls in the Saguanay Valley are popularly called "les bluets," (the blueberries).

STILL ANOTHER SHOT FROM THE FIRESIGN--BOZOS ON THE BUS

VOICE OF GOD: Before the beginning, there was this Turtle. And the turtle was alone. And he looked around, and he saw his neighbor, which was his Mother. And he lay down on top of his neighbor, and behold, she bore him in tears, an oak tree. Which grew all day, and then fell over, like a bridge. And lo, under the bridge there came a catfish, and he was very big, and he was walking, and he was the biggest he had seen.[Fading] And so were the firey balls of this fish, one of which is the Sun, and the other, they called the moon.

EXPERT VOICE: Yes, some uncomplicated people still believe this myth. But here, in the technical vastness of the future, we can guess that surely the Past was very different. We can guess, for instance, that these two great balls. . . [Cross fading]

DR. TECHNICAL: [fading up] We know for certain, for instance, that for some reason, for some time in the beginning, there were hot lumps. Cold and lonely, they whirled noiselessly through the black holes of space. These insignificant lumps came together to form the first union--the sun, our heating system. And about this glowing gasbag rotated the Earth, a cat's-eye among aggies, blinking in astonishment across the Face of Time . . .

BEYERLEIN PLAYER POLL BALLOT #5

The Beyerlein Player Poll (BPP) is a poll of the Postal Diplomacy Community to determine the best currently-active players in Postal Diplomacy. Any postal Diplomacy player, gamesmaster, editor, or publisher may cast his/her ballot for the top 14 (from # 1 to # 14) currently-active Postal Diplomacy players.

Points are given as follows: 1st place - 20 points, 2d place - 17 points, 3d - 15, 4th - 13, 5th - 11, 6th - 9, 7th - 8, etc. The points are then totalled for each player and the top 14 players listed by point totals. Results will be published in all interested zines.

The BPP is not affiliated with any Diplomacy organization.

**TOP BOARD**

**Comments:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_

**SECOND BOARD**

8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_
11. \_\_\_\_\_
12. \_\_\_\_\_
13. \_\_\_\_\_
14. \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete the ballot, sign it, and mail it directly to:

DOUG BEYERLEIN, 3934 S.W. Southern, Seattle, Washington 98136

Incomplete ballots or those without signatures will not be counted, and the DEADLINE IS 6 FEBRUARY 1973. Thank you.

[This is the complete form that Doug included, and the only thing that I'll put on the back of this page is some more comment he also sent out in WASHINGTON REPORTS pertaining to the poll. So, please detach and mail!]

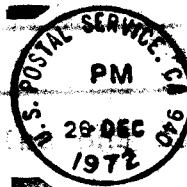
The final ¶ from Doug's WASHINGTON REPORTS:

"If anyone happens to remember reading Lakofka's LD #36 a few months back they might remember seeing a ballot for BPP # 5 in it. The response: two ballots returned. If Edi Birsan can get over 100 ballots for his order of finish poll then I should be able to do better than the 20 or so returns in the past BPPs....Although I don't have the time or space to go into detail now, let me say that the BPP is designed for the Diplomacy public to have its say on who the best players are. Individually this means that each player/GK/publisher should sit down and make a list of the top players known either from personal experience, games observed, reputation, rating lists, or whatever is most important to that individual. Then try to put them in order. A major feature of the poll is that a new and upcoming player can receive recognition years before he or she tops a rating list. So, remember to CAST YOUR BALLOT. Thank you."

A final note here from me(BVP): Pages 2,4,5,6, & 7 were done on my old, cheap (4.5¢ each) ditto masters. The rest of the pages, including the cover, were done on sets that were rip offs at 12.5¢ each, and, if you can see a difference, its that the more costly ones are of less quality. Agreed? This magazine costs me a fortune!

C . I .

Brenton Ver Ploeg  
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ALIENS MUST REPORT  
THEIR AD  
DURING



FIRST CLASS

FIRST CLASS

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