

In this issue of the "Wierd" mag, read what to do with a problem child, rot with inactivity as you scan four rating lists with time that could be spent better elsewhere, and learn how many people will fit in the National City restroom (in a pinch, so to speak). For lo, the gods of ill fortune bring you . . .

PLATYPUS PIE

I'M LETTING THE CRAZY DITCHMAN OFF TO DO THIS ISSUE, BUT ONLY BECAUSE THERE ARE ONLY THREE ISSUES TO GO!



You expected Anne He Funicello, maybe?

SENT LOVINGLY ON JANUARY 29, 1971

Welcome to the third WINTER issue of PLATYPUS PIE, wherein your lazy gamesmaster publishes the Fall seasons of the games, which were sent only to players last week at this time. I've just come back from two weeks of Colorado skiing, and, of course, that's better dan dis. This time, we have some poetry, some meaningless prattle (as usual), a lot of ratings (lots come out around the Holidays), and actually do get around to recording the fitful progress of diplomacy games 1971EH (The Winner's Game, now in F/W 1906), 1972AR (The Newcomer's Game, in F/W 1905), and 1972BT (The Open Game, in F/W 1904). Platypus Freaks welcome.

Through this door to the City Park Restroom →

[Scale: one inch = one inch]



This is PLATYPUS PIE #19, a Journal of Postal Diplomacy. It has no games open now or ever at a game fee of \$17. Diplomacy is a board game invented by Allan B. Calhamer, and currently published by Games Research, Boston, Mass.

THE EDITOR: Brenton Ver Ploeg; 520 Parker Ave., #202; San Francisco, CALIFORNIA 94118. Phone: (415) 668-9218. PLATYPUS PIE is published every three weeks, except that Winter issues follow Fall by only a single week. The Fall issue, PP #18.5, went out to players only last week, because I was snowed under with work and the flu immediately following my return from Vail. Those moves are duplicated here, together with the Winter moves (builds, removals, retreats). Only three issues of PP remain to be published before we go underground, sending issues to players only until such time as a game ends. Total additional issues: six. After that, PP becomes an irregularly issued game commentary/genzine/extraneous bullshit magazine. In short, something like now, but no schedule, and no games. [And if you cocky bastards that read this section in issue 18 are looking here, you're wasting your time. I'll get you in later. On the other hand, there weren't very MANY of you].

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

ROSTER: Add: Ray Bowers, 625 Evans, Kirkwood, MO 63122 (T); also Gene Prosnitz, 200 Clinton Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201. Change Bob Van Andel from (T) to (S-35) [the fool]. COA: Bro. Hugh O'Regan, from St. Meinrad Abbey to: 1371 Eigenmann Center; Bloomington, INDIANA 47401.

COSTS: Game fees noted above; subscriptions are not really available, but donations to the gamesmaster will always be taken kindly.

1971EH

N O S H I T , S P O R T S F A N S FALL 1906

BLOOD SETS NEW RECORD EVEN FOR THIS GAME--KNIVES FLASH!

BOTH BIRSAN & VAGTS LOSE THREE CENTERS TO ENG/AUS!

TRETICK'S TURKEY BREATHES ITS LAST!

AUSTRIA (Ward): A Con S RUS F Bla-Ank; [RUS F NSO]; F Smy S A Con; A Vie-Tri; A Boh-Vie; A Mun S A Sil-Ber; A Sil-Ber.

ENGLAND (Buchanan): [AUT '06: F Spa(SC) R Por]; A StP-Nwy; F Bot-StP(SC); A Nwy-Swe; F Nth-Den; A Bel-Hol; A Bur S A Mar; A Mar S F Mid-Spa(SC); F Por S F Mid-Spa(SC); F Mid-Spa(SC); F NAF-Mid.

GERMANY (Birsan): A Kie-Mun; A Ber S A Kie-Mun; A Ruh S A Ms-Mun; F Bal S A Ber; A Gas S Eng A Mar.

ITALY (Vagts): F Ion-Tun; A Pie-Mar; F Aeg-Ion; F Wes-Mid; F Spa(SC) S F Wes-Mid [dislodged to Lyo IAW orders]; A Gal-Ukr; A Tyr S AUS A Mun.

RUSSIA (Bytwerk): A Arm-Ank; F Bla S A Arm-Ank; A Mos-Ukr; A War-Ukr.

TURKEY (Tretick): A Ank-Con [Annihilated].

CENTER CHART--END OF FALL, 1906:

AUS: Bud, Ser, Bul, Mun, Rum, Smy, Tri, Vie, Con = 9, May build three, but room only for one. BUILD ARMY BUDAPEST.

ENG: Home, Nwy, StP, Bel, Bre, Por, Spa, Par, Hol, Swe, Mar, Den = 14, May build four, but room for three only. BUILDS ARMY EDINBURGH, FLEETS LONDON, LIVERPOOL.

GER: Kie, Den, Nth, Swe, Ber = 2, Must remove three. Removals appear on next page.

ITA: Home, Tun, Mar, Gre, Tri, Vie = 5, Must remove three. Removals appear on next page.

RUS: Sev, Mos, War, Den, Ank = 4, Even.

TUR: Ank = 0, Out of Game.

1971EH (Continued):

- Germany removes F Denmark, Armies in Ruhr, Gascony.
- Italy removes Armies Galicia & Tyrolia. [1 dest' S'06].

Positions for the Start of Sp, 1907

- AUS: A's Con, Bul, Tri, Vie, Sil, Mun; P Smy (7) [Two short].
- ENG: A's Edi, Nwy, Swe, Hol, Mar, Bur; F's Liv, Lon, StP(SC), Por,
Spa(SC), WAF, Den (1st time short).
- GER: A's Kie, Mun (2).
- ITA: A's Pie; F's Ion, Tun, Lyo, Wes (5).
- RUS: A's Mos, War, Ank; F Bla (4).
- TUR: Out of Game (Third Turkish for Game).

PRESS: [Fall 1906] -----

AUSTRIA: After extensive consultation, which must have nearly bankrupted the English treasury, an alliance of convenience has been signed between England, Russia, and Austria. The eventual expectation is that the Italians, who have tried to play off the Austrians and the English, will be reduced in their influence; the Germany, meanwhile, who have frustrated all Austrian desires for peace, will vanish from Europe. Of course, it may equally be that the whole thing will go wrong and the Austrians will vanish. So be it.

VATICAN: The Pope told an enthralled audience that God had chosen the Italian Navy to stop the deceitful, lying, tricky, fucking back-stabbing bastard English sons-of-bitches from world conquest. History will vindicate Italian actions and condemn those of the English pigs. The world court in San Francisco is asked their legal opinion on prosecuting a lawsuit for breach of promise [did he alienate your affections? You can't sue for that anymore in California, but maybe you could in Indiana] against the shyster lawyer [redundant--ALL lawyers are shyster, right?] employed by England in the back woods of Indiana [You've obviously never seen IN].

DEADLINE FOR SPRING 1907 MOVES IS NOON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1973. Recall, please, that there are no mail deliveries on that day.

LE PIPE & TURKEY GOES OUT: FALL 1904
EAST/WEST BATTLE SHAPES UP AS ITALY AXED TOO!

- AUSTRIA (McCallum): A Mun-Ruh; A Bon-Mun; A Tri-Ven; A Tyr S A Tri-Ven; A Bul H; F Gre-Aeg;
- ENGLAND (Osmanson): A Liv-Yer; A Nwy-StP; F Eng-Lon; F Nth-Den; F Hol-Kie; F Den-Swe [dislodged to Antwerp].
- FRANCE (Rocamora): A Bre H; F Mid H; A Mar-Tus; F Lyo C A Mar-Tus; F Tyr-Rom; F Rom.
- ITALY (Hendry): A Ven-Tri [dislodged and R-OTB]; F Rom-Nap; F Nap-Ion.
- RUSSIA (Lipson): A Kie-Den; A Sil-Ber; A War-Liv; F Rum-Bia; A Ank-Smy; F Con S A Ank-Smy; F Arm-Ank.
- TURKEY (Le Pipe): A Smy-Bul; F Aeg C A Smy-Bul [A Smy R Syr IAW orders].

CENTER CHART--END OF FALL 1904: TURN TO PAGE TEN TO GET POSITIONS.

- AUS: XXXXXX Home, Ser, Bul, Mun, Ven, Gre = 8, Builds Fleet Trieste.
- ENG: Home, Nwy, Hol, Den, StP, Kie = 7, Builds Fleet Edinburgh.
- FRA: Home, Por, Spa, Bel, Tun, Rom = 8, Builds Fleet Marseilles.
- ITA: Ven, Rom, Nap = 1, removes Fleet Ionian; 1 dest, F'04.
- RUS: Mos, Sev, War, StP, Rum, Swe, Kie, Con, Ber, Smy, Ank, Den = 10, Builds Army Moscow.
- TUR: Ank, Smy, = 0, removes both units; OUT OF GAME.

1972 AR EVERYTHING REALLY DULL!!!; FALL 1905

no centers change hands whatsoever/allies steady

JOKING NONEXISTENT AS PRESS WAVES SILENT

- AUSTRIA (O'Regan): A Vie S A Bud; A Bud S A Vie; A Ser S F Bul(SC); F Bul(SC) H; A Pie S ITA F Lyo-Mar [ITA F Lyo NSO].
- FRANCE (Winter): F Spa(SC) S A Bur-Mar; A Bur-Mar; F Nat-Mid; F Wes S F Tun-Tyr; F Tun-Tyr; F Naf-Tun; A Mar-Pie; A Pic-Bre; A Ruh-Bel.
- GERMANY (Hall): A Hol S FRE A Ruh-Bel; A Mun-Tyr; A Ber-Mun; A Kie S A Ber-Mun; F Nth C RUS A Swe-Par [loses way]; F Den C FRE A Bur-Mos [FRE A busy fighting Communists, refuses transport].
- ITALY (Parsons): A Tri S AUS A Vie; F Eas-Smy; F Tus-Tyr; F Ion S F Tus-Tyr; F Lyo S F Tus-Tyr.
- RUSSIA (Rocamora): A Gal-Vie; A BohSA Gal-Vie; A Boh S A Gal-Vie [for extra effect, you got that order twice]; A Rum-Bud; A Ukr-Rum; F Sev S A Ukr-Rum; A Nwy S A Swe; A Swe S A Nwy.
- TURKEY (T.B. Williams): F Bla-Bul(EC); A Con S F Bla-Bul(EC).

Retreats were nonexistent, and did not effect the count, which differed not at all from the results at the end of 1904. Ergo, no changes made. WINTER 1905, therefore, does not exist.

Positions for the start of Spring, 1906:

- AUS: A's Pie, Vie, Bud, Ser; F Bul(SC) (5).
- FRA: A's Bel, Bre, Bur, Mar; F's Mid, Naf, Spa(SC), Tun, Wes (9).
- GER: A's Hol, Mun, Kie, Tyr; F's Den, Nth (6).
- ITA: A's Tri; F's Lyo, Tyr, Ion, Smy (5).
- RUS: A's Nwy, Swe, Boh, Gal, Ukr, Rum; F Sev (7).
- TUR: A Con; F Bla (2).

CENTER CHART -- 1901 TO 1905

	A	01	02	03	04	05
A	4	5	6	5	5	
E	4	3	1	-		
F	6	7	8	9	9	
G	5	5	5	6	6	
I	5	4	6	5	5	
R	6	6	6	7	7	
T	4	4	2	2	2	

Happily, all seven players are originals here, and England, which was played by John Hendry, was played through to the bitter end.

Players should note the address change for Bro. Hugh on page two. The deadline for Spring, 1906 is NOON, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1973. Remember, however, that the 19th is a Holiday with no mail delivery, and plan accordingly. Particularly you, Bill--your moves usually arrive on Monday.

THE RATINGS--I/ ARCHIVES PUBLISHER'S POLL

1. Edi Birsan (3)	186	14	8. Len Lakofka	83	11
2. Crazy Dutchman(4)	177	13	9. Conrad V Metzke(L)	71	7
3. Walt Buchanan	114	12	10. Gene Prosnitz	66	8
4. Doug Beyerlein	110	9	11. Lew Pulsipher	59	6
5. Tom Eller	101	9	12. Randy Bytwerk	51	7
6. Andy Phillips(1)	93	12	13. John Koning	40	5
7. John Smythe	93	11	14. John Beshara(1)	35	3
			14. Hal Naus	35	7

15 ballots cast. Players w/ 25+: Barents(1), R. Brooks, Reinsel(1), Rocamora, Vagts. And an interesting result. If anyone wonders, I did some thinking and put John Beshara in first.

THE RATINGS II -- BROBDINGNAG LIST

Those who pay attention to my ramblings will recall that the BROB list has always been my favorite rating list, if only for the reason that when I started playing, it was the most prestigious. It does not take into account the country difficulty, nor does it consider the level of opposition. The final disadvantage is that all games count equally, thus penalizing those who have recovered in recent play, the best example of which is of course Edi Birsan.

That said, however, I like BROB for the single aspect it has which I consider balancing: it does not rate the winner as overwhelmingly more important than other positions, since winners get +6, 2d +4, and so forth. Over the years its become apparent that a larger margin might be preferable, but since winner-only systems in recent years have increasingly ignored the second place finisher, BROB's over-compensation serves as an interesting balance. The system was designed by John McCallum, but has been kept during the last couple of years by Jeff Power, who does it quarterly. The top boards follow, and I assure you that my position is not going to stay constant very long.

<u>TOP BOARD</u>	<u>%</u>	<u># of gms.</u>	<u>SECOND BOARD</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Crazy Dutchman(6W)	95.8%	8 +44	Len Lakofka (W)	85.5% 5 +22
2. Randy Bytwerk (4W)	91.6	7 +34	Arn Vagts (W)	84.0 3 +14
3. Lee Childs (2W)	88.9	3 +16	Dan Barrows (W)	81.4 6 +23
3. Mike Rocamora (2W)	88.9	3 +16	Jeff Wolfe (W)	81.2 2 +10
5. Tom Eller (5W)	88.3	6 +28	Andy Phillips (6W)	81.0 18 +67
6. John Beshara (7W)	88.2	12 +55	Jeff Key (2W)	77.4 6 +19
7. Walt Buchanan (2W)	87.5	2 +12	Dick Miller (2W)	76.7 3 +11

COUNTRY LIST

237 games have	57.6%	+217	England (34W)
been completed	56.2	+176	Turkey (35W)
	54.6	+133	France (25W)
	51.5	+ 42	Russia (44W)
	49.0	- 29	Italy (17W)
	44.1	-167	Germany (19W)
	36.9	-372	Austria (28W)

Thus, its readily apparent that Austria, when they do not win, gets it hard from her neighbors. The other interesting country is of course Russia, the big winner, who also does poorly when they don't get a strong finish/start.

Since this issue is so totally laden with ratings, a common thing at this time of the year, I am going to use the BROB listings to compile the first Averaged Calhamer Listing to appear in PP in a great while. Later.

ANDY'S RE-JOINDER: DELAYED ANHILE

Last issue, I gave Andy Phillips an opportunity, about 2/3 of a page, to respond to our discussion of last time. I have a letter from Andy, and its length is right, but he says in effect that he covered too many issues and would rather start with the central issue. To wit: what reasons I can think of for treating the wooden blocks as a game rather than as a simulation. In effect, he poses a question, and misunderstands my firm commitment to NOT get into several rounds on this. Therefore, I am going to give Andy another 2/3 page, in any future issue, to write an affirmative argument concerning the order of finish controversy. It will not, I remind you, see any comment from me. For those interested, PP #18 gives you a citation to COSTAGUANA, where such discussion was once held.

THE AVERAGED CALHAMER LISTING--PRELIMINARY WORKSHEET

Since the new BROB is now out, I am using it to start work on a new listing. One which, I hope, will be continued as PP goes into an erratic schedule. The reason that this list is preliminary is simple: it does not delete the number of draws from the player's overall game total. In the future, I shall NOT attempt to integrate the draws into the game total, but shall take a suggestion offered by John McCallum some time ago, and simply subtract the number of draws in which a player participated from the overall game totals. In short, a draw is simply disregarded. As a result, the percentages of some players will rise a bit in later editions. I'm asking concerned players to let me know their number of draws, and I'm even sending this issue to Jeff Power, in the hopes that he's not as busy as he probably is, and will let me know the number of draws each of the following names has participated in.

Now, for some particulars. Now, it's hard to get around the problem of strict averaging--lower game totals have much higher averages than equally skillful players with higher game totals. In fact, it's clearly absurd to have a player who has won his only game on top of the listing, at one for one. The easiest solution to this problem, and the one which I have chosen, is to pick arbitrary limits on two levels. The first is a category that I will keep as the maximum level--ten games. All players are listed who are (a) active, (b) have finished ten games, and (c) have finished that harried number of games with better than .143, which is the average rate of one in seven.

The second list has a range of the five games from five to nine completions, inclusive. Again, five games is completely arbitrary, but as such is better than nothing. The implication of a five game lower limit is that all the players you see on the BROB list as having won at least one of their first four games will enter the Averaged listing at at least the .200 level, and may perhaps do better than that, as Rocamora, Miller, and Buchanan are certain to do. Enough. To the listing.

<u>10+ GAMES</u>			<u>5 - 9 GAMES</u>		
	<u>%</u>	<u>#</u>		<u>%</u>	<u>#</u>
1. John Beshara	.583	12	1. Tom Eller	.833	6
2. Doug Beyerlein	.500	16	2. Crazy Dutchman	.750	8
3. John Smythe	.400	20	3. Randy Bytwerk	.571	7
4. Andy Phillips	.333	18	4. Mehran Thompson	.400	5
4. Gene Prosnitz	.333	18	5. Lew Pulsipher	.333	9
6. Jerry Pournelle	.308	12	6. Jeff Key	.333	6
7. Mike Goldstein	.286	14	7. Bud Pendergrass	.286	7
7. Buddy Tretick	.286	14	7. Jeff Power	.286	7
9. Edi Birsan	.237	38	9. Len Lakofka	.200	5
10. John Koning	.200	20	10. Dan Barrows	.167	6
11. George Schelz	.181	11	10. Peter Ansoff	.167	6
			12. Don Berman	.143	7
			12. Ed Halle	.143	7
			12. Jack Greene	.143	7

--I have corrected Randy Bytwerk to his four wins. The other potential error I see is Len Lakofka, who has probably won more than this indicates. Well, I'll let you know.

THE RATINGS IV -- POINT COUNT

This edition of the Calhamer Point Count List contains 224 games, somewhat fewer (older) than the BROB listing, and was found in HOOSIER ARCHIVES #104. The top 15 follow:

10.450	Edi Birsan	6.200	Gene Prosnitz	5.067	Chas. Turner
8.333	John Smythe	6.000	Crazy Dutchie	4.333	Jerry Pournelle
8.200	Doug Beyerlein	5.333	Hal Naus	4.167	Mike Goldstein
7.567	Andy Phillips	5.200	John Beshara	4.000	Listed next pg

4.000: Randy Bytwerk, Tom Eller, John Koning, and Charles Wells. Offhand, I can see some inconsistencies between the BROB listing (and the Averaged "Calhauer" I deduced from it) and the CPCL that are not accounted for by the small number of games completed between the CPCL and the BROB. I doubt that anyone cares, but the distinctions are doubtless attributable to different philosophies of what constitutes a ratable game. Back issues of HOOSIER ARCHIVES doubtless contain the relevant information.

ADVICE TO THOSE WHO HAPPEN TO HAVE SUCH CHILDREN HANDY:

R. Emmett Kane, M.D.

If you've got a son or daughter
 Who ain't livin' like they orter,
 If they'd suck an egg and peddle you the shell;
 If the neighbors and the preacher,
 The policemen and the teacher,
 Are convinced that they are headed straight for hell;
 If their instincts are possessive
 And their ego is excessive,
 If they're short on brains but very long on jaw,
 Don't sit up nights and worry,
 Make your mind up in a hurry,
 Chuck 'em off to school and make 'em study law.
 Have 'em learn the art of stalling,
 How to howl like Virtue bawling,
 And to make their betters think that they are tops;
 How to wheede fortunes stealthy
 From a clientele thats wealthy,
 And to be elected judge in case they're flops.
 To become a politician
 Must, of course, be their ambition,
 Help 'em buy up all the ghosts they can afford.
 Its the lawyer's bounden duty,
 Be he moron, shyster, cootie,
 When the gravy train is moving, be aboard.
 He, of course, must hold his licker,
 Be a Latin-spouting slicker,
 Fill the human race with wholesoms fear and awe,
 For the life of Riley waits him
 Till the Devil up and dates him
 When he's finished with the practice of the law.

LETS SEE NOW--HOW ARE THESE DITTOES WORKN?

I've located a new place to but ditto masters. The three-day lag time in ordering Sears ditto masters usually means that I am out, and the players in PP games saw how shoddy the dittoes I use in emergencies are. So, these are \$4.20 for 100 (compared to \$12.50 for 100) and I think they are the same quality as those I have liked before. The BEST part, of course, is that commenting thereon allowed be to fill up this dead space here at the bottom. Wheeze.

W.S.
 Buchanan



— WHEW!

BET YOU THOUGHT WE'D NOT SEE ORANGES THIS TIME! HA!

[Continuing with the letter column from sTab, we shall gaze in awe upon what credit Cpt. Rod gave Norm McLeod for introducing Blueberries to the pages of sTab. This is issue #58, 27 December 1968]:

ROD WALKER, Rantoul, Illinois: Blueberries??? Those nasty little purple things that stain everything they touch? They have all the taste and tang of youngberries. Listen, Norm, baby, I managed to sidetrack all the inane talk about beer in this rag, and I'll be damned if I'll let you do the same thing to me! Piddly, bedraggled blueberries, indeed!

I am aware, as Margaret Gemignani has so aptly pointed out, that Florida oranges are just chock full of seeds. In fact, Florida oranges which are not all peel are so full of seeds, so fertile, that there is scarcely any room left for meat or juice. Why anyone bothers to raise Florida oranges, which are scarcely better than weeds, I cannot imagine.

Conrad, my friend, you should be aware that National City was not always like that. But it did, I confess, go downhill when I left it. In any event, it is my painful duty to inform you that there are no orange groves in National City--nor have there been for 30 years. There were lemon groves in the north, some 60 acres of them owned by my grandfather, but they are gone, now. I have never heard that story about the city park, but it is ridiculous. Have you ever been in the city park rest room? There might be room for seven in there, but not 37. If 37 people ever did get in that room, regardless of their sex or sexual inclinations, the only way anyone could get them out would be with a crowbar. Really, Conrad, do you believe every rumor you hear?

But I do not bring you rumors. I bring you the word. In the beginning there was the orange, and the orange was with California, and all others are but cheap imitations. Only in California can you get sweet, juicy, tangy, real oranges, which make excellent eating, wonderful candy, splendid maralade, delicious cake, scrumptious pudding, unbelievably delicious preserves of all sorts, sherbet, punch, mixer, soft drinks, glazes and garnishes.

And just remember, Richard Nixon is a Californian. [Lets not overdo this--he is from SOUTHERN California, after all]. Eat your hearts out, foreigners! (Retch, retch, retch...)

LARRY PEERY, San Diego, California: I see that Conrad has dragged out all his old cliches and jokes about National City, Florida, and Texas. It is too bad that such pollution had to be spread throughout our lovely country. That is, what you can see of it...choke, cough, gasp....

I can't say too much about oranges, but I do know that the best strawberries come from Alaska. [Wrong again, Peery--they come from Iowa].

JOHN SMYTHE; Lincoln, Nebraska: Concerning the erudite discourse on the relative merits of oranges, organes, groanes, and blueberries, I am amazed that Mssrs. Walker, Halle, von Metzke, Naus et alia continue to overlook the contributions of America's most important crop. Perhaps these scholars are unaware of corn bread, corn on the cob, corn flakes, cornpone, corn starch, corn meal, and corn whiskey. But such is highly unlikely. I can think of only one explanation for such a phenomenon. Since M. Walker just hopped to live in California, I can appreciate his passionate defense of that states most important fruit crop. The remaining gentlemen are long time residents of rather remote and backward parts of America, so they may be forgiven their rather provincial opinions.

In regard to your vicious exercise in muckraking, I protest, most strongly, your vile innuendo that I would force a tea-drinking Christian soul to consume the devil's drink. Furthermore, if my memory has not failed me, the only instance in which I stomped and called you a dirty _____ " was when you won the race to the refrig for the last bottle of beer. I still insist that Your start was highly irregular. Whoever heard

of a race beginning with one of the participants gaining an insurmountable lead by claiming that he must first visit the john? If you do not print a retraction of your slanderous statements I just might decide to cut your quota of lightbulbs this New Year's Eve.

((You cannot hide the truth behind a cataract of lies, Smythe. I won the race to the refrigerator because I am a clean-living, healthy, noble, humble young fellow, and for no other reason. Besides, if I did have an unorthodox start, one must use all one's cunning to beat an old hand like you to the last bottle of beer.)) [The remarks in ((double parens)), to remind you again, are John Konings].

MORE NERVOUS POETRY--KENNETH PATCHEN STRIKES AGAIN

[Once again, sports fans, we return to a poem from Because It Is, a volume of substantial length that is my favorite book of poetry].
BECAUSE THE NERVOUS VINE WOULDN'T TWINE

He and they and the ladderleaner's step-niece
Charged into the forest to rub elbows;
It was still pretty soapy but not all geese
Drink wine in the summertime. "Well, Jason,"
The first soldier said, "expect a lot more
Of my kind along; we'll add a bit of real color--
Squop nap the pretty water thats in him; get to the core
Of his nasty little apple; brighten his pallid wool;
Give him the peace that comes only with war."

So, since that sounded completely disgusting,

They got right at it, hack, hack, hooray!

And up on Mars they damn near

Disappeared. I suppose from that distance

Caesar's backside does look as fetching,

And kissable, as an infant's ground,

Whereas here, of course,

the civilization

is necessary flavor seems to cast its pall over the hobby.

That isn't always the case. In fact the converse is often

the case. There can be no doubt--the overall character of

the game has changed considerably even since I entered it in 1968, and the

obscure to people like Greg and Bob must be even more understandable. I have

at this time, by the way, published a poem considerably earlier than

the last one I published. I recommend that, instead of just skin-

ning it over and saying "well, so" (as far as many (depending on what

you're on at the moment), you look more closely, and get this message.

It's clear, plain, and far more eloquent. Today, the war in Vietnam "ended."

But future generations should not despair--the civilization will give

them theirs, too].

Forgotten press release from 1972AR:

NEW YORK: Why has the famous New York Orange been overlooked?--
 Orange ya goin' to da subway?--sic, sic, sic!
 SAN FRANCISCO: Orange ya wishin' ya ain't said that?

1972BT(CONTINUED)SPRING POSITIONPositions at the Start of Spring 1905:

AUS: A's Ruh, Mun, Tyr, Ven, Sui; F's Gre, Tri (7).
 ENG: A's StP, Yor; F's Edi, Nth, Ska, Kie, Lon (7).
 FRAT: A's Bre, Bur, Bel, Tus; F's Rom, Lyo, Mar, Mid (8).
 ITA: F Nap (1).
 RUS: A's Liv, Mos, Den, Bar, Smy; F's Bal, Bot, Bla, Con, Ank (10).

There is no press. DEADLINE FOR SPRING 1905 IS NOON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1973. That day, I remind you, is a Holiday, and there will be no mail delivery thereon. Capanson's news arrived on Monday this time, but of course there was only a week deadline.

1971EH -- A SINGLE WINTER 1906 PRESS RELEASE:

ROME (Comments from the Pope): "Ouch, but that blade smarts! However, I deserved it and my removals speak for themselves. Hope you have completed your vengeance."

CLOSING COMMENTS AND BLITHER

This edition will go out in envelopes, so I won't bother to save space at the bottom. Woe is me, I have been up a great deal working on this damned magazine. Until 4 am last night, and Edi's call awakened me this morning at about 9:30. This ditto is the worst purchase I may ever have made.

(1) Bet you thought I'd forget to note those players (and they were all players except for Chris Hilliker, who sent a very pleasant note) who caught the offer of free airmail delivery. To wit: Winter, Rocamora, Lipson, Hall, and Birsan. Sorry, Fred, but the other issue was stretching too hard. Tch. Hilliker wrote a note that said everyone always reads all of PP, but nobody would be that stupid. All in all, I think I was proven incorrect--people DO waste time on the masthead. Sigh. In a costly venture, what's a few more pennies? as *sidssak dnA*

(2) Next issue I may publish Greg Wardens excellent editorial in EN PASSANT, which more or less echoes Bob Wards complaints about the hobby in these pages. I might add at this point that I completely agree--the mercenary flavor seems to cast its pall over the hobby. This isn't always resultant in decreased quality, I think, and in fact the converse is often true. But of one issue there can be no doubt--the overall character of the game has changed considerably even since I entered it in 1968, and the change to people like Greg and Bob must be even more substantial. I have one question though--what can be done? If the answer, as I suspect, is nothing...well then, we are all wasting our time complaining about the good old days. We may as well continue in our ways, fully aware of the burning buildings about us.

(3) Last issue was a REAL rush, and several errors were made in the center chart for 1971EH. All concerned players caught the error, however, so there really wasn't much of a problem.

-coitus interruptus-