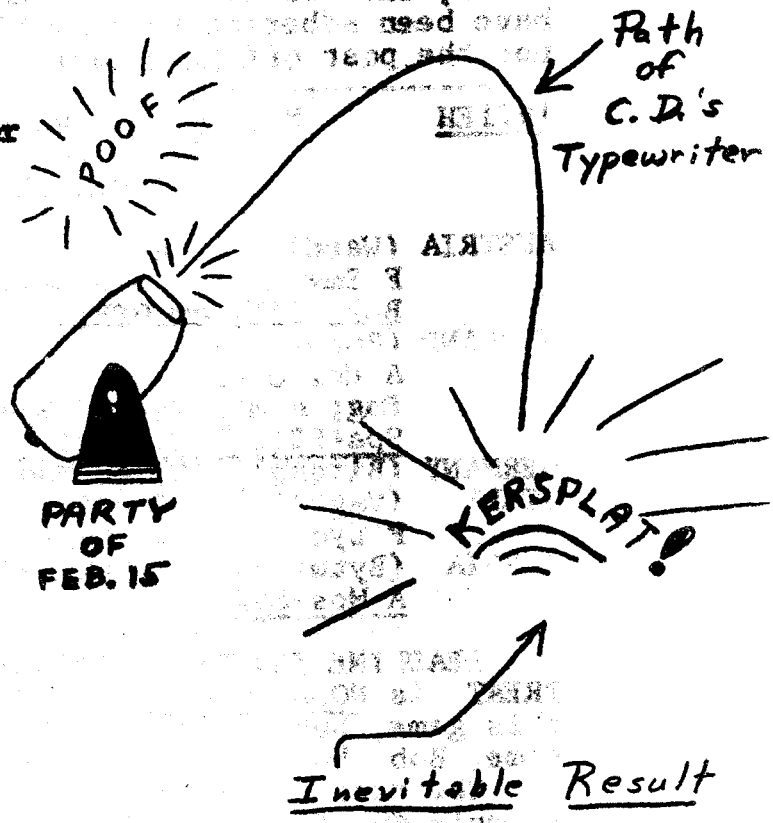


I was thinking about writing this movie about a gay vampire called Dragula but the National Lampoon beat me to the title, so instead I turned to a caper film about an Austrian Bank Robber who does the Viennese Vaults, but I couldn't get there for local writing, so I guess I'll just waste my time and put out another issue of . . .

# PLATYPUS

# PIE #20

Ah yes, fools. This is the very last Spring issue of PLATYPUS PIE that you will ever see. It is short and is being done on another typewriter because my other one had a conflict with the laws of gravity. This time we talk about ratings, and that's it, except for the orange series. Its pretty dull, actually, and if I were you I'd chuck this thing right away without bothering to open it. If, on the other hand, you are interested in 1971EH (The Winner's Game in Spring 1907), 1972AR (The Newcomer's Game in Spring 1906) or 1972BT (The Open Game in Spring 1905) then you have my permission to punish yourself a little more. Turn the page.



FEBRUARY 19, 1973

This is PLATYPUS PIE #20, a journal of Postal Diplomacy. It has no games open now or ever at a fee of \$19. Diplomacy is a board game invented by Allan 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. Deadlines are now noon on Mondays, and I'm usually home during the day. Late moves, however, should be called in if at all possible on Sunday evenings before the deadline. I call collect if no moves are in. If all else fails, we go 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) Arn Vagts (2) Chris Hall.

THE ROSTER: Add Dick Swies, of Chicago Illinois. I don't have his address here, but this section reminds me to send him one when I get home. I'll include it next issue. He's a sub.

COSTS: No subscriptions allowed, unless you didn't know that I'm going out of business very soon.

#### ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENT

As is patently obvious to anyone familiar with my usual typewriter (see later in this issue), this is different. Reason: my regular typewriter was broken during a wild party at my apartment last Thursday, and I have to type this at school on the law journal machine. This means that this issue will be only eight pages (maybe six?) and, unfortunately, that time will delay us all: I hope to mail this out on Wednesday morning, a day later than usual, and two days later than the accelerated schedule that I have been adhering to recently. So, if its here a day late, its not the post office's fault.

1971EH

MUSICAL CHAIRS LIVEN UP THE IBERIAN!

SPRING 1907

BIRSAN & WARD EXCHANGE CENTERS

VAGTS GOES ONE WAY ONLY--WEST!

AUSTRIA (Ward): A Con-Bul; A Bud-Ser; A Vie-Tyr; A Tri-Ven; F Sny-Aeg; A Sil-Ber; A Mun S A Sil-Ber [dislodged to Bob, Sil, or OTB].

ENGLAND (Buchanan): F StP(SC) H; A Nwy S F StP; F Den U (H); A Hol U (H); A Swe U (H); A Edi-Yor; F Liv-Iri; F Lon-Eng; A Mar-Gas; F Spa(SC)-Mar; A Bur S F Spa-Mar; F Por-Spa(SC); F Naf-Wes.

GERMANY (Birsan): A Ber-Mun; A Kie S A Ber-Mun.

ITALY (Vagts): F Ion-Tyr; F Tun-Naf; F Wes-Spa(SC); A Pie-Mar; F Lyo S F Wes-Spa(SC).

RUSSIA (Bytwerk): A Ank-Sev; F Bla C A Ank-Sev; A War-Pru; A Mos-StP--

DEADLINE FOR FALL 1907 MOVES, TOGETHER WITH AUTUMN 1907 RETREAT, is NOON, MONDAY, MARCH 12th, 1973. There is some press in this game, but I'm afraid I left it at home. I'll print it next time, Bob, but for now you'd better apprise them all yourself.

The Munich/Berlin battle is interesting. See 1971 Rules, example #9, for an analagous situation. Jeff Key once indicated to me that he would rule otherwise, I think. The rules, though, are clear.

1972ARGERMANS MARCH INTO VIENNA; ARMY FALLS  
TURKEY SEIZES BULGARIA--SURPRISE!!SPRING 1906

**AUSTRIA** (O'Regan): A Pie-Mar; A Ser-Tri; A Bud S A Vie; A Vie S A Bud; [A Vie disbanded]; F Bul(SC)-Con [dislodged to Gre IAW orders].

**FRANCE** (Winter): F Spa(SC)-Lyo; F Tun H; F NAF S F Tun; F Wes S F Spa-Lyo; F Mid S F Wes; A Mar-Pie; A Bur-Mar; A Bel-Bur; A Bre-Gas.

**GERMANY** (Hall): A Tyr-Vie; A Mun-Tyr; A Kie-Mun; A Hol-Kie; F Nth C (ENGLISH Ghost Army) [H]; F Bal (Moral) Support (TURKISH F Bla) [No F Bal]; F Den U (H).

**ITALY** (Parsons): A Tri-Ven; F Sny H; F Lyo-Wes [dislodged to Tus IAW orders]; F Tyr-Tun; F Ion S F Tyr-Tun.

**RUSSIA** (Rocamora): A Bob S A Gal S GER A Tyr-Vie; A Rum-Bud; A Ukr S F Sev-Rum; F Sev-Rum.

**TURKEY** (T.S. Williams): A Con-Bul; F Bla S A Con-Bul.

Deadline for Fall 1906 Moves (Please include conditional adjustment orders) is NOON, MONDAY, MARCH 12TH, 1973.

There is no press. At least, that's the way it seems to me, because I haven't brought the notebook along to school. If there is, I shall print it next time.

1972BT and AUSTRIAN-RUSSIANS STAND OFF IN AEGEAN! 1905: SPRING  
HELTER-SKELTER CONFLICT IN SCANDINAVIA

**AUSTRIA** (McCallum): F Tri-Adr; F Gre-Aeg; A Ruh H; A Mon S A Ruh; A Ven-Apu; A Tyr-Ven; A Ser H.

**ENGLAND** (F Kie-Den) (Ooops--Osmanson): F Ska S F Kie-Den; F Edi-Neg; F Nth-Nwy; A StP H [disbanded]; F Lon-Nth; A Yor H.

**FRANCE** (Rocamora): F Lyo-Tyr; F Rom S F Lyo-Tyr; A Tus-Ven; F Mar-Lyo; A Bre-Gas; F Mid-Wes; A Bel S A Bur; A Bur S A Bel.

**ITALY** (Hendry): F Nap-Apu.

**RUSSIA** (Lipson): F Con-Aeg; F Ank-Con; A Sny-Arm; A Mos-StP; A Liv S A Mos-ScP; F Bot-Fin; A Ber-Kie; F Bel S A Ber-Kie; A Den S A Ber-Kie [dislodged to Swe, OTD]; F Bla wishes it were A Sil or A Fin or F Swe (H).

The players are stationary, as far as I know. Deadline for Fall 1905 moves (please include conditional adjustments) is NOON, MONDAY, MARCH 12TH, 1973.

THE ABSURDITY SPEAKS FOR ITSELF:

-OR-

HOW TO WRITE AN INCREDIBLE LINE:

"Immediately after the cease-fire the two South Vietnamese parties will achieve national concord and reconciliation; end hatred and enmity; prohibit all acts of reprisal and discrimination against individuals or organizations that have collaborated with one side or the other; ensure the democratic liberties of the people--personal freedom, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of meeting, freedom of organization, freedom of political activities...right to property ownership, and right to free enterprise." [Art 12 of the Vietnam Peace Accord]

SOME MORE RUMINATIONS ON THE END OF PP--WHAT WASN'T DONE

I started publishing PLATYPUS PIE on the day I bought a ditto, probably out of the desire to avoid wasting a \$200 investment. In retrospect, I wonder whatever motivated me to purchase the evil machine in the first place. Many hours have gone into the magazine that might have been fruitfully spent elsewhere. Maybe it was the fact that I always wanted to see a magazine that was even more wierd than those on the market, but I didn't really do anything I wanted to. Projects, hopefully to analyze completed games data to see how X player did overall, died on the vine; that probably due to the fact that the TERMINUS project seems to wear people down, and the records never became available. Articles on good play are all very fine, but they reach limits, I think.

The tactics, of course, take very little time to digest. There are any number of excellent articles telling you how to fight in general terms, and numerous contributions discussing the strategic/tactical positions of all the countries individually. These contribute, I believe, to sound play because they hopefully decrease the percentage of strange errors and intentionally bizarre tactics. (Not entirely, natch--Conrad will hopefully be with us always).

But once you've covered it, I believe you have it. The game is not technically intricate, as chess is, and future generations of tactical articles will probably contribute less and less--if anything at all--to the literature. All that remains, I think, is nevertheless substantial. What tactics, for instance, have been employed by Eller, Beshara and Beyerlein (the top players in last issues "Averaged Calhamer" Listing, and used for illustrative purposes only) in their games? What paths did they follow to victory? Perhaps just as important--what combination of events and tactics sent them to a loss?

Now to some extent, this benefits players who are encountering these players in other games. Knowing what Birsan did in 1971BC is pretty easy, because it was widely circulated; knowing what Monte Zelazny did to obtain win # 3, however, is generally quite far from the general knowledge. There is a larger sense, though, than the mere players involved. We have said all that can be said about tactics and strategy in general terms, although the end of such articles is probably years away. Isn't it time to study games as illustrations of such generalized material. What happens in 1903 to countries that use X famous opening? To the same country that employs Y instead? What countries start to go out in the middle game when the choices are equal, and what influences that path?

All these questions are questions that PLATYPUS PIE was once intended to answer, but I know now that such desires were futile. Had all the center charts from all games been sitting on my desk the entire time, I would never have had the opportunity to prepare the articles, or even to do the research. Moreover, I probably would not have been pleased with the result because the time input would have had to be so minimal.

For example, I once set out in these pages to provide a series of articles which I hoped would portray my viewpoint on how to run negotiations, and stopped only after I read my gems...and discovered that they were junk, not at all presenting the thoughts that I wished to present. Its not possible, however, to write ANY article first, because time demands that PP be composed on dittoes from the start. Thus, editing was out.

Some of you may remember that stage of the PIE. I would ramble for a while, but mostly, I was just satisfying my stoned mind--if anything was learned, it was because it was already known intrinsically. Eventually, I evolved more into the format that now pollutes the national Post Office system, and its here that PP will stay as it goes into this, its final game year of operation.

The last page contained a brief shot at one of the things that I wanted to do, but there were others along that line and others. Perhaps someday the "book" will contain illustrative games, but until then we'll have to continue saying something that even games diagrammed step by step will not change--the only thing you can teach about playing this game is that you can't teach anything; its there or it isn't.

Then too, the format bothered me. Why should I try to get all this done when we're already so damned mercenary? But I was too reticent to get into it, because by then my press writing had died off considerably, and I was spending less and less time on the game.

So, 15 months gone by, or will by the time PP ceases regular publication. Maybe I could paraphrase the last phrase by saying that the only thing I learned about running a Diplomacy magazine is that you can't know how foolish it is until you try it. Believe me, there is a chance that you won't like it.

This isn't all to say, however, that I'm sorry I did it. If I'd had the extra time, I probably wouldn't have studied with it anyway. Its been an interesting experience, and I think I have been fortunate enough to get dedicated players who are willing to stick with me if I do them the courtesy of getting the magazine out on time. Jeff Key was dropped only when he was totally submerged, and everyone else has been prompt--I think the games have only had a single missed move throughout. Thanks for that, at any rate, and I DO want you all to know that I've appreciated it.

---

### THIS IS AN INTERESTING PLACE TO LIVE

The time has come when I am finally starting to toy with concepts like "where the Hell should I work?" In moments of jaded bliss like that I can but answer: San Francisco.

I've alluded to my preference for this City on numerous instances, and it gets truer every day. At first, it just seemed like this would be a nice place to go to law school, and it is. There is, however, more. Not only does San Francisco contain so many of us Commie-Pinkoes that we comprise the majority around here, but so much goes ON here, both legally and in general. Out on Ocean Beach the other night was a new artistic concert: a Piano-burning; (Avante Garde, wouldn't you say?) the artists hung two asbestos-wrapped microphones inside an upright piano, and fit it at the bottom. The sound was amplified 500 times or something like that and broadcast up and down the beach on some very large speakers. It must be noted, however, that some a-artistic heretics were present: some people roasted marshmallows over the piano as it burned.

A burning piano, by the way, sounds, well...what can I say but "far out!"

Legally, theres been some interest. This semester I have a clinical class called Personal Injury Litigation, taught by a local attorney who is truly phenomenal. One of the requirements is that the students attend 20 hours of court, in one of four or five designated personal injury cases. So, I was lucky enough to watch a couple of legal firsts: An award of \$10,500 against the City and the police officer involved for injuries inflicted in anti-riot procedures, and, with a bigger pay scale, the record \$4,000,000 recovery for Kelly Niles. Thats at 40% contingency fee, folks.

THE RATINGS -- I (BPP)

The rating lists are coming out fast and furious these days, and, since I only have two more issues of the PIE to put out in terms of a regular schedule, I will continue with my pledge to publish them all. Recently, however, Len Lakofka has undertaken approximately the same endeavor in LIASONS DANGEREUSES. In short, this idiocy will be continued after I quit, and in the pages of a magazine whose circulation is considerably larger than this. Len's magazine, by the way, has recently moved onto my personal recommended list, and I urge those of you who do not now to patronize him. At least if you are interested in rating lists and/or tactics.

Meanwhile, The latest Beyerlein Player Poll is out, and the level of response was staggering! No less than 44 replies were received, which is quite some accomplishment as measured against the past results. The large turnout meant that, for the first time, Doug went to three boards.

<u>FIRST BOARD</u>	<u>TOTAL PTS</u>	<u># OF BALLOTS</u>	<u>FIRST VOTES</u>
1. Edi Birsan	461	31	10
2. Crazy Dutchman	379	26	8
3. Doug Beyerlein	339	30	-
4. Len Lakofka	256	26	1
5. Walt Buchanan	222	23	1
6. Andy Phillips	222	27	3
7. Tom Eller	216	17	2
<u>SECOND BOARD</u>			
8. John Smythe	199	20	-
9. Conrad von Metzke	168	21	1
10. Lewis Pulsipher	119	17	-
11. Mike Bocamora	118	12	2
12. Rick Brooks	115	14	1
13. Gene Prosnitz	88	15	-
14. Hal Naus	82	12	-
<u>SEE? THIRD BOARD</u>			
15. John Beshara	76	11	1
16. Charles Reinsel	69(!)	7	1
17. Mark Wiedmark	62	6	2
18. Randy Bytwerk	62	6	-
19. Ed Rack	61	5	1
20. Arne Vagts	49	6	-
21. Charles Miller	44	3	1
21. Chic Hilliker	44	4	-

Doug's next poll will be in Autumn, and will be distributed through participating magazines.

DO YOU BELIEVE THIS?

(Item in Herb Caen, S.F. Chronicle): "Supposed to have happened to Jennifer W. at a McDonald's Hamburgery near Redwood City. "Forgive me for staring," this elderly woman told her, "but you look SO much like my daughter. She's dead." Oh, that's sad, replied Jennifer. "Please do me a favor," the woman went on. "When I leave, call out 'Bye, Mom!'" Of course, agreed Jennifer, feeling a bit silly but complying. When Jennifer started out, a few

minutes later, the attendant said "That'll be \$4.65 -- your burger and Coke and the things your mother left with."

Anyway, I like the story.

THE RATINGS -- II -- ROGUE'S GALLERY

This version of Len's system is incomplete in that it rates only those with over four games. The top two boards follow:

<u>TOP BOARD</u>	<u>Corrected Games</u>	<u>Ttl Games</u>	<u>Avg.</u>	<u>Tot. Pts.</u>
1. Crazy Dutchman	8.00	8	193.0	1544
2. Tom Ellier	5.71	8	165.7	946
3. John Barbara	8.61	11	157.7	1354
4. Randy Bytwerk	8.00	8	153.6	1229
5. Len Lakofka	9.25	10	130.2	1284
6. Rick Brooks	4.00	4	103.5	414
7. Gene Prosnitz	16.93	18	99.7	1680

SECOND BOARD

8. Terry Buch	4.53	5	98.7	447
9. Doug Beyerlein	17.21	28	97.7	1680
10. Lee Childs	8.33	12	97.7	833
11. John Smythe	19.74	26	95.3	1880
12. Jeff Kay	6.57	7	90.3	593
13. Lew Pulsipher	8.34	10	81.8	682
14. Ed Biran	31.06	43	75.6	2347

ROGUE'S GALLERY TOTAL POINT COUNT  
(Not a rating list, I suppose) (No?)

1. Ed Biran	2347		
2. John Smythe	1880		
3. Doug Beyerlein	1680		
3. Gene Prosnitz	1680		
5. Crazy Dutchman	1544		
6. John Barbara	1354		
7. Len Lakofka	1284		
8. Randy Bytwerk	1229		
9. Buddy Trotick	1218	19.48	27
10. Hal Maus	1202	27.45	49
11. Andy Phillipa	968	16.80	38
12. Tom Ellier	946		

Just what a "partial" listing is, you'll have to find out from Lenard. I just prints whats I sees.

THE ORANGE SERIES--STAB #59

**ROD WALKER, Rantoul, Illinois:** If John Smythe believes that oranges are California's principle fruit crop, then he has never been in Hollywood. Or a National City Rest Room.

Humph. He forgot popcorn, the only way in which the stuff is really edible.

The superiority of oranges over blueberries is so obvious that it really need not be discussed. For one thing, even if one liked blueberries (which, I admit, I do, in muffins), they are a

seasonal crop and likely to be expensive even when they are in season. Oranges, on the other hand, grow all year around, where they will grow at all, and grow superbly well, large, juicy, flavorful, and delicious and oh-so yummy in California. The bright color is a delight to the eye, in contrast to the dark, drab colors of certain other fruit (i.e., blueberries).

HAL NAUS, Chula Vista, California: In answer to the Walker and von Metzke letters about the "Fag" convention in the Rest Rooms of National City.

First of all the location is wrong, it actually happened in the "Memorial Park" rest room in Chula Vista, and the number was 29 not 39. I am sure if you would enquire of the Chula Vista STAR NEWS they would enlighten you on the subject, since to them it was front page news including all the names and addresses of the individuals and as many names as they could get.

The way they were caught [I'm just following orders, Captain ], because the police were hiding in a small back room and taking pictures of the proceedings. The hit song of the time, that was requested over and over again on the local DJ stations, was Frankie Laine's "Blowing Wild."

National City has one of the largest City Rest Rooms in Southern California, while Chula Vista's is adequate for the needs, and even to this day this fine city is known as the city of Parks and Queers.

((Tune in next time for another fine message from the Chula Vista Chamber of Commerce)).

[I'm unimpressed. One in eight people in San Francisco may be on welfare. One in seven, however, are gay. I have no information on whether the numbers are mutually exclusive].

The following was the cover on STAB #59:

*"Well, John, we survived the discussion of oranges in this Diplomacy magazine, but we may not be so lucky with the controversy over the homosexuals in the National City park rest rooms. I mean, Diplomacy fans aren't interested in sexual perversions."*



John  
Long  
Gene  
Crazy  
John  
I  
Randy  
Bobby  
W  
And

*"I'm afraid you're right, George."*