

PLATYPUS PIE

Today we get to talk about nice animals like skunks, beavers, and buttercups. Learn how to talk to them all in these pages.



I've never understood very much about what makes Diplomacy players tick, and I don't think I want to know. Whats more, I'm getting damned sick of cleaning up the Platypus Litter every third hour. In short terms, animal and Diplomacy freaks, this is just about the last regular issue of this thing that you'll see. C.D. has better things to do.

Walking in the country, you might not want to return to such a sullen reality as this, but if you've made it this far, you're probably stuck with it. This is PLATYPUS PIE, the usual ten pages, and this issue we waltz through various topics, but didn't have room for a poem-sob. This issue we have an updated Calhaver Average, some good advice on how to prepare for cross-examination, a pornographic drawing stolen for the cover, and, early on, you might even find the postal Diplomacy games of 1971EH (The Winner's Game, in Spring 1907), 1972AR (The Newcomer's Game, in Spring 1906), and 1972BT (The Open Game, now in Spring 1908). This is the next to the last regularly scheduled issue--#22 will be the last--and after that issues will stream forth when the games end. The games will be conducted via carbon copy; see page seven for more details.

NUMBER

21

Chas. Van Doren
Memorial
Issue

MARCH 12, 1973

This is PLATYPUS PIE #21, a Journal of Postal Diplomacy. It has no games open now or ever at a game fee of \$20. Diplomacy is half board game, half addictive drug/quicksand, and it was invented by Allen Calhamer. Games Research, Inc., Boston, Mass now sells it for \$8.

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 generally here during the day. If no moves are received, and I don't get a response to me little collect call, then we use the...

REPLACEMENT ROSTER: 1971EH replacement roster is discontinued--I trust all the remaining players. Doug Beyerlein, however, is there in case of emergency; 1972AR (1) Paul Bond (2) Jan Le Pire (3) Dick Trtek; 1972BT (1) Arn Vagts (2) Chris Hall.

THE ROSTER: There is a brand new roster on page four. Circulation this issue is 47 or 48 or so. Who cares?

COSTS: No subscriptions allowed after Mayday, 1973. Subs currently allowed at only 6 for a dollar, with no subs longer than 6 issues. You risk maybe 50¢ if you subscribe, however, as I will firmly commit myself to no more than four issues. More details on page seven, or, if you just recently wrote me, the enclosed flyer.

=====

1971EH B I R S A N B I T E S T H E D U S T : FALL 1907

VAGTS' ITALY DOWN TO THREE AS BIG 3 GAIN
IS A THREE-WAY DRAW IN THE FUTURE?

- AUSTRIA (Wald): [Summer 1907; A Mun R Sil] A Sil-Mun; A Ber S A Sil-Mun; A Tyo S A Sil-Mun; F Aeg-Ion; A Ven H; A Bul-Gre; A Ser U (H).
- ENGLAND (Buchanan): F StP(SC) H; A Nwy S F StP; F Den-Kie; A Hol S F Den-Kie; A Swe-Den; A Yor-Wal; F Iri-Mid; F Eng S F Iri-Mid; F Por-Spa(SC); A Gas S F Por-Spa; F Wes-Lyo; F Mar S F Wes-Lyo; A Bur S F Mar.
- GERMANY (Birsan): NMR [See note below--any moves would have been inconsequential] A Kie U (H) [dislodged to Ruh, OTB]; A Mun U (H) [dislodged to Ruh, OTB].
- ITALY (Vagts): F Tyr-Nap; A Pie-Ven; F Spa(SC) H [dislodged to Wes IAW orders]; F Lyo-Tyr; F NAF-Tun.
- RUSSIA (Bytwerk): F Bla-Con; A Mos-Liv; A Sev-Mos; A Pru S AUS A Ber.

CENTER CHART--End of Fall 1907

- AUS: ~~Bul, Home, Ser, Mun, Rom, Smy, Gre, Ber, Ven, Gre~~ = 11 [May build 3; one short in 1908--only 7 on board].
- ENG: Home, Nwy, StP, Bel, Bre, Por, Spa, Par, Hol, Swe, Mar, Den, Kie = 15. May build two [one short in 1907]. ***
- GER: ~~Kie, Mar~~ = 0; Out of Game. Both units removed.
- ITA: Tun, ~~Gre, Ven~~, Rom, Nap = 3; Must remove two.
- RUS: Sev, Mos, War, Ank, Con = 5; May build one. ***

The *** means that I have acceptable conditional orders. This is being typed Sunday night, and Edi's moves have not yet arrived. If they do, I shall report elsewhere that they did, but they are not important. Given the Austrian and English moves, no conceivable combination could have staved off his elimination. Thanks for playing through, Edi. The deadline for WINTER 1907 moves is NOON, MONDAY, MARCH 19TH, 1973.

---PRESS---

[Spring 1907]: VIENNA: What say, Walt, to your agreeing to hold your gains in the west to Tunis and Naples. That gives you 17 and the Austro-Russians 17. Naturally the German spoils are as already agreed.

[Fall 1907]: AUSTRIA: Lets try to wrap this one up before Brent stops publishing. Okay, gang?

1972AR

A U S T R I A N S I N C O M M U N I C A D O FALL 1906
 SILENT FORCES CUT UP BY GREEDY NEIGHBORS
 TURKEY BEGINS TO STIR ONCE AGAIN!!

AUSTRIA (O'Regan): NMR; A Pie U (H); A Tri U (H); F Gre U (H); A Bud U (H) [disbanded]. See note below.
 FRANCE (Winter): A Mar-Pie; A Gas S A Bur-Mar; A Bur-Mar; A Bel-Bur; F Mid-Naf; F Tun-Tyr; F Lyo S F Tun-Tyr; F Naf-Tun; F Wes S F Naf-Tun.
 GERMANY (Hall): A Vie S RUS A Gal-Bud; A Tyr S FRE A Mar-Pie; A Mun S A Tyr; A Kie-Hol; F Nth S A Kie-Hol; F Den praises Swedish Porno.
 ITALY (Parsons): A Ven-Tyr; F Tyr H; F Tus & F Ion S F Tyr; F Smy-Con.
 RUSSIA (Rocamora): A Nwy H; A Swe H; A Rum-Ser; A Ukr-Rum; F Sev S A Ukr-Rum; A Boh S GER A Vie; A Gal-Bud.
 TURKEY (T.S. Williams): A Bul S RUS A Rum-Ser; F Bla-Con.

 CENTER CHART--END OF 1906

AUS: Bud, Vie, Ser, Gre, Tri = 2; 3 on board, must remove 1 [default removal A Pie].
 FRA: Home, Bel, Por, Spa, Lon, Liv, Tun = 9; No change.
 GER: Ber, Kie, Den, Hol, Mun, Edi, Vie = 7; may build one. ***
 ITA: Home, Smy, Tyr = 4; must remove one. ***
 RUS: Home, Rum, Nwy, Swe, Ser, Bud = 9; may build two.***
 TUR: Ank, Con, Bul = 3; may build one. ***

The *** mean that conditional winter builds have been received from the players so noted. I called Bro. Hugh until midnight his time, and I couldn't put off typing any longer. Winter removals present no problem, and a default removal is listed above. I call, however, for Spring 1907 moves for Austria from Paul Bond, address on page four. I suspect and hope, however, that Bro. Hugh will stick it out. Winter 1906 adjustments are due NOON, MONDAY, MARCH 19TH, 1973. In effect, nobody needs to send in orders, and the Spring moves are due April 10th, 1973.

--PRESS RELEASES--

GERMANY: Kelly Niles got 4 million. Wow! An alert mind in a dead body and the poor dude didn't even have the choice of euthanasia--even with 4 MILLION BUCKS--

GRAFFITTI: (Time; 3/5/73): "Death is the greatest kick of all; thats why they save it for last."

ITALY: Fred--I am considering your alliance offer, but, under the circumstances, don't you think I need more help than THAT?

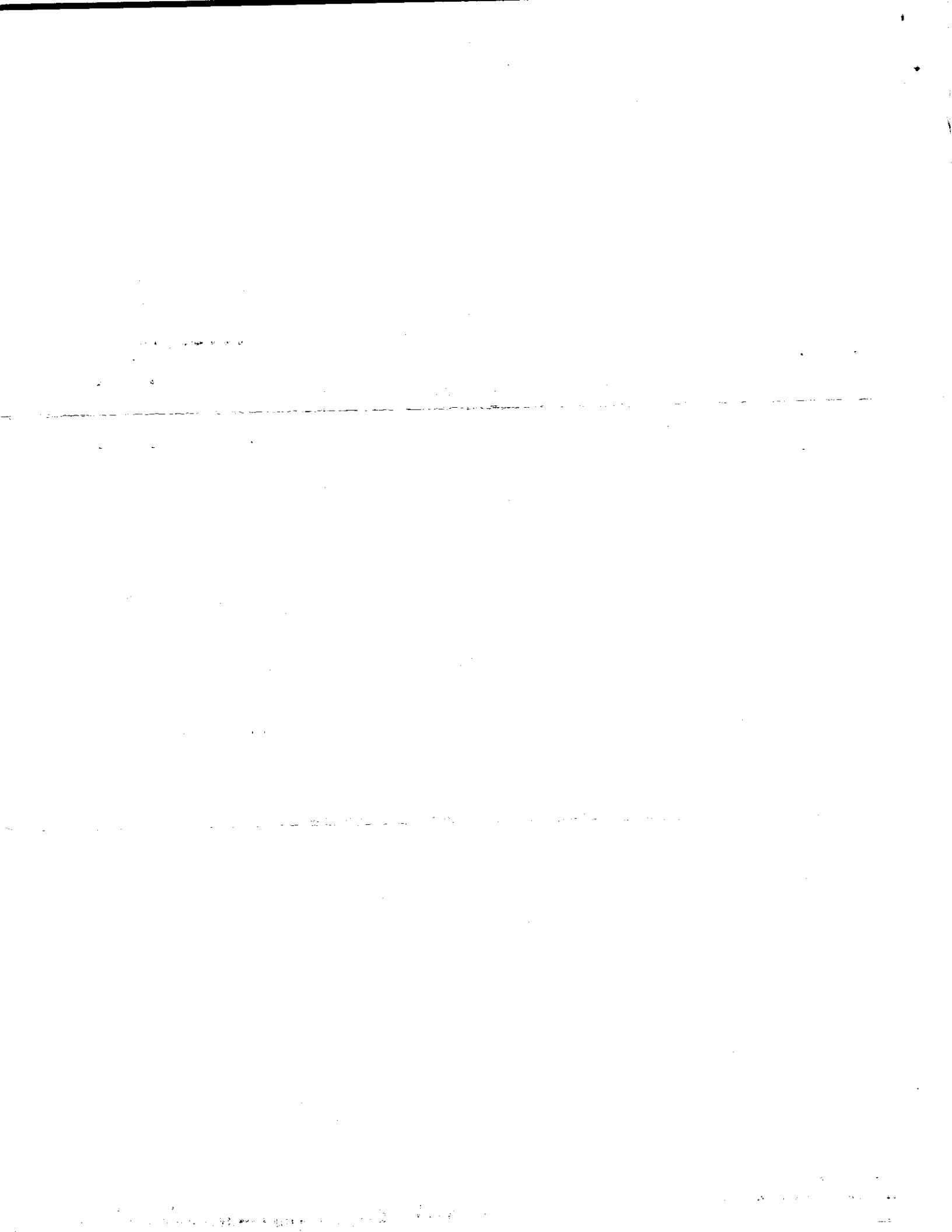
1972BT

NOBODY SEEMS TO WANT TO MAKES MOVES FOR AUSTRIA!!
 McCALLUM GOES UNDER COVER; FIGHTING IN NORTH
 HENDRY RIDES ANOTHER GLORIOUS COUNTRY DOWN!!
 ITALY DIES FIGHTING & SINGING

FALL 1905

AUSTRIA (McCallum): A's Ruh, Mun, Tyr, Ven, Gre all U (H); F's Adr, Gre U (H). I was in all Monday, and have been calling Monday nite; no answer and I have totype this up.
 ENGLAND (Osmanson): A Yor-Hol; F Nth C A Yor-Hol; F Den-Swe; F Ska S F Den-Swe; F Nwy S F Den-Swe; F Nrg S F Nwy.
 FRANCE (Rocamora): F Rom-Nap; F Tyr S F Rom-Nap; A Tus-Rom; F Lyo-Wes; F Wes-Tun; A Gas-Mar; A Bel S ENG A Yor-Hol; A Bur-Ruh.
 ITALY (Hendry): F Nap-Apu and probably sinks into the straits of Sicily screaming "Long Live Italy!"
 RUSSIA (Lipson): A Kie-Den; A Swe-Nwy [disbanded]; A StP S A Swe-Nwy; F Fin-Swe; F Bal S F Fin-Swe; A Liv-Pru; F Con-Smy; F Ank-Con; A Arm-Rum; F Bla C A Arm-Rum.

[Concluded on page 11]



THE LANGUAGE OF ANIMALS

(The trial of a patent infringement suit in the United States District Court at Duluth, Minnesota, before Judge Paige Morris was in its fourth week. The defendant had patented and was selling to the public a beaver trap of unique design. The plaintiff claimed an infringement of a patent owned by him on a trap of a somewhat different design. Many issues were litigated. A minor contention of the defendant was that the plaintiff's trap was not designed to trap beavers but much larger animals; that it would not in fact trap or catch beavers; and that because of the peculiar habits of the latter animals they would not be interested in the device of the plaintiff. The plaintiff, in rebuttal, called a retired professor of Zoology, formerly connected with one of our leading State Universities. The professor was quite an elderly gentleman, inclined to be garrulous, who testified at very great length on direct examination and refused, or attempted to refuse, the contentions of the defendant. He went into elaborate and even painful detail concerning the habits of beavers, as well as many other animals, large and small, wild and tame. His direct testimony was concluded at a late recess, and Judge Morris announced that cross-examination would begin at 2 P.M. During the recess Counsel for the defendant, for some reason never clearly established, but perhaps because of boredom, went out and got drunk. It was not too apparent to those that did not know him well, but nevertheless he was definitely intoxicated on his return to the courtroom. His speech was somewhat thick, and he was quite belligerent, as was his habit when drinking. He lacked that discretion which should be the unfailing attribute of any attorney appearing in a United States District Court. Also, he had forgotten everything except the bare outline of the Professor's testimony and an intense dislike for the witness. The following is a transcript of the proceedings:

Q: Professor, you say you are a professor?

A. That's right, that is, a former professor. You see, I retired in 1915. No, it was really 1916. Pardon me, I would not want to--

Q. That's all right, professor. Professor of what, professor?

A. Zoology.

Q. What's that?

A. Zoology.

Q. Yes, but what is Zoology? Don't try to evade or quibble.

A. I am not quibbling.

Q. Oh yes you are, yes you are, just like all so-called experts and so-called experts.

THE COURT: Treat the witness fairly. He isn't trying to quibble. He just doesn't understand you.

COUNSEL: I have practised in this court for 29 years and no court has ever accused me of mistreating a witness or any court or any client, directly or indirectly, and beyond that--

THE COURT: Proceed.

Q. What do Zoologists do, professor?

A. They study and sometimes teach animal life. It is a bit difficult to define in a sentence. As in many other sciences there are various branches and specialities. It is the study of animals and animal life. I know a Professor of Zoology in a school in Ohio who spent 35 years studying one animal. A snail, or rather the snail family. And again--

Q. What was his name?

A. James H. Hartford.

Q. Where is he now?

THE COURT: What has that got to do with this matter? I am afraid you are wandering rather far afield.

COUNSEL: Your honor forgets this is a cross-examination.

THE COURT: I don't forget anything of the kind. Get along with your questions.

Q. Answer the question.

A. What was the question, please.

Q. Strike it. We will start all over again. I will try to put my questions in such a simple and childlike manner--so simple and easy, that even a professor, a dignified educated so-called professor who comes to Minnesota in the north woods after spending his life in a schoolroom looking at snails then telling, oh yes, telling us, as if we didn't know, what beavers would do.

OPPOSING COUNSEL: I certainly want to object to these remarks. These gratuitous--

THE COURT: Yes, that is very objectionable. Simply ask your questions. You know how. You aren't testifying. Get down to the best of this thing. This is cross-examination, but you can't abuse any privilege--

COUNSEL: Very well, your honor. The attitude of this witness, the sneering, contemptuous, supercilious attitude of this witness towards me and toward the court has so outraged me that perhaps I have lost my temper. I shouldn't have done so. Read the question.

THE COURT: I haven't observed anything improper in the attitude of this witness.

Q. Read the question.

OPPOSING COUNSEL: There wasn't any question. You were starting to make a speech--

COUNSEL: I deny that. I absolutely--

THE COURT: There has been enough of this. If you have any questions, ask them or dismiss the witness.

Q. So you say you are a specialist, an expert, on beavers and beaver traps and snails?

A. I didn't say any such thing, sir. I said I know a great deal about beavers, just as I think I know, or many people say I know, a great deal about many animals. I have lived with them. I have observed them. I have handled them. I have fed them. I was almost going to say that I have conversed with them. They have a sort of language, you know. They are not inarticulate. And the cruelest thing we can call them is dumb animals; and also--

Q. You say that they can talk?

A. Well there is a sense in which all nature has a language which we who study it can understand.

Q. Answer my question.

A. What was your question?

Q. You said a beaver can talk.

A. Please don't try to make me ridiculous. What I said was this. All animals can speak, and by that I mean they can communicate with one another and understand their own language. Even--

Q. Can you talk it?

A. I can answer it in this way--

Q. Answer yes or no.

A. Yes.

Q. I want the reporter to get this. This is good. Mr. Reporter, be sure and get this.

THE COURT: He is getting it.

A (The witness): I was about to say that if one wants to draw an analogy even plant life has a kind of language.

Q. Do you talk that too?

A. As I said before--

Q. Don't quibble. Answer yes or no.

A. Subject to what I have said, I will answer yes.

Q. Did you ever talk to a Buttercup?

OPPOSING COUNSEL: Now, your Honor, this is too much and I--

COUNSEL: He is your witness, he is your witness. You brought him here and you are bound by his testimony. You brought this man here-- Did you ever talk to a buttercup, professor?

A. Well, to those who are familiar with them, and have learned to love them, some flowers have a certain language.

Q. What did the buttercup say to you and what did you say to the buttercup, fixing the time and place as well as you can?

THE COURT: You don't have to answer any such question.

COUNSEL: Exception to the remarks of the court's objection likewise.

Q. Did you ever talk to a giraffe, yes or no?

A. I can't answer that yes or no. I have told you before that all animals have a kind of language which they speak which we who have training and sympathy and understanding can comprehend, and I have said too that I think I can talk to a giraffe, a skunk, a lion, a tiger, a bear, a me, my motives, my wishes, and so on.

Q. Then you have talked to a giraffe?

A. Yes, with that qualification.

Q. And the giraffe talked to you?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you ever talk to a lion?

A. Yes.

Q. And the lion talked to you?

A. Yes, with the qualifications I have stated.

Q. Did you ever talk to a skunk?

A. Yes.

Q. And the skunk talked to you?

A. Yes.

Q. Well next time you have a talk with one of those bastards, ask him for me what the god damned hell is the big idea.

(NOTE: Counsel did not serve the entire 30-day sentence imposed upon him. Judge Morris released him after 11 days.)

NOTICE TO ALL RECENT CEMERS & THE CURIOUS

(1) This issue, or the next, will contain a letter from Lenard Lakofka concerning the International Game Show, to be held in Chicago together with DipCon VI on June 22 through 24th. Information can be gotten through Len, address on page four, if there is really anyone in the world reading this that hasn't heard about it 40 times before. I have a good old class reunion in the great state of Iowa the weekend before that, and I might even drop in for an afternoon to say hello. For those who like to go to game shows and play games, there will be no shortage.

(2) This is the next to last regularly issued edition of PLATYPUS PIE, as most of you know by now. Several subscribers and one or two players have indicated that they will stick with their commitments, so long as issues of the PIE continue to come out now and again, as they will for a while. I will accept subscriptions for the next six issues for a dollar, and that's it. After May 1st, 1973, I will accept no more trades or subs for any reason. Or to whatever publication comes out. Summarizing: there will be an issue sent to all whenever a game ends, in order to commemorate that game; all games will continue via carbon copy. Back issues are still available in scattered form: 50c for all available, sent third class. Available now: 1,3,5,9,10,11,13,15,17, 20 and some are down to one copy. First come, first serve.

THE AVERAGED CALHAMER LISTING -- II

The last edition of the Averaged Calhamer came out in issue #19. Since then I have been able to check back on my listing of draws and have eliminated some of them from consideration in compiling the listings. I have also updated some of the results on the basis of recent copies of EVERYTHING, Conrad's publication of the game results which is well worth the couple bucks I think he asks. Still, however, it is inevitable that errors creep in. The base for this listing is the BROB list in HOOSIER ARCHIVES #105, and I use approximately the same criteria for some limitations on who is and who is not responsible for a "loss" under the system. In brief, the player who starts play for a country can win or lose, but after he drops out or is dropped, he can of course only lose. A replacement player can, in effect, only win--if he loses, the original player for his country suffers the loss, regardless of his degree of responsibility.

This is doubtless not the best criteria in the world, but it does have the advantage of being simple to maintain; it also encourages, at least indirectly, the entry of replacement players into games that need them, and serves as an impetus for original players to stay in the game.

This listing, as the last, is divided into two categories; those with 10 or more games, and those who have completed from five to nine games. There are some more categories this time, though. % is self-explanatory, and # indicates the total number of games completed. W is the number of wins, and D is the number of draws. Remember that to get the figure for division with the wins, the total number of games is lessened by the number of draws (there is some discussion concerning the origin of this concept--see below). Players who have completed more games always rank above those with the same percentage but fewer games.

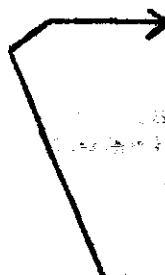
OVER TEN GAMES

NAME	%	#	D	W
1. John Beshara	.637	12	1	7
2. Doug Beyerlein	.533	16	1	8
3. John Smythe	.400	21	1	8
4. Lewis Pulsipher	.400	10	0	4
5. Andy Phillips	.375	18	2	6
5. Gene Prosnitz	.375	18	2	6
7. Mike Goldstein	.308	14	1	4
8. Buddy Trottier	.284	14	0	5
9. Edi Birsan	.259	40	1	10
10. John Koning	.222	20	2	4
11. George Schels	.167	12	0	2
Jerry Fournelle	.389	13	0	5 [forgot him, he's # 5]

FIVE TO NINE GAMES

1. Tom Eller	.833	6	0	5
2. Brenton Var Floeg	.750	8	0	6
3. Randy Bytwerk	.571	7	0	4
3. Lee Childs	.600	5	0	3
5. Len Lakofka	.444	10	1	4
6. Mehran Thompson	.400	5	0	2
7. Jeff Kay	.559	6	0	2
8. Jeff Power	.333	7	1	2
9. Bud Pendergrass	.286	7	0	2
10. Don Berman	.200	7	2	1
11. Jack Greene	.167	7	1	1
12. Peter Ansoff	.167	6	0	1
13. Ed Halle	.143	7	0	1

Note inverted order



Now, that was my usual sloppy job. I trust that you can read all the corrections and understand them. Some of the changes are a result of entering game results, some are nothing more than corrections of my rotten mathematics from the past edition, and some are the result of helpful readers sending in information. Until everyone does that, however, the accuracy of this listing will improve only gradually. Nevertheless, it will improve, I hope.

Two responses since FIS told me that the concept for this sort of a rating list originated with Dick Miller, writing in WAZIR # 4. Now, I read Dick's article, and while I couldn't agree with it 100%, his ideas are very close to mine. Certainly, it was a fine article, and I remember reading his suggestion that any Averaged Calhoun system should simply subtract draws from total games. At the time, however, I assumed that he was simply summarizing the findings of John McCallum, where I had read the suggestion first. When these notes came in, I considered for the first time the possibility that Dick had not read John's articles in Serendip, and I went looking for them. They were not there. Looking further, I discovered that John had communicated these ideas to me not through his magazine, but in personal letters on November 1971 and again in 1972. At those times, he mentioned that he would have to get around to writing up his suggestions at some future time, but I can see now that he did not. Strictly speaking, John was discussing another variety of listing than that I have used here, but the one that was discussed in WAZIR. The concept of dropping draws, however, has been in my mind for years and it was originally suggested to me by John McCallum. Not that this makes any difference--the first time it was ever in formal print, as nearly as I can ascertain, WAS in WAZIR, and I certainly didn't mean to slight Gilbert's contribution, as I simply thought it was a summary of McCallum's viewpoint, as I have done their portions of the article in a way. It has now that I was vindicated, and what question does anybody give a damn as to the way this experiment performs on the last margin now that it has been published?

~~obscene-smelling drainage from polluting God's earth. Furthermore, medicals who are about the secure of their... At a bank, and a pan we ratting live animals. I am going to keep up the "Wazir Rating Book" sponsored by McCallum as a joke. As he says, it is a joke to keep the... and a recent... and a... being...~~

~~THE GREAT ORANGE DEBATE... last evidence about... to a truck with...~~

MEHRAN THOMPSON: And again, for tonight for the day (ala Gertrude Stien): "A Fruit is a fruit, is a fruit."

MARGARET GEMIGNANI: Ft Lauderdale, Fla. Only sweet juice oranges in California are those imported from Florida. The thing that makes California juice so sweet is the Vodka, so you can't taste it.

Berries to you, Rod and oranges. Conrad really hit rock bottom with his last jokes. (Gikes?)

And when I live in California, they will have the best oranges.

[Parentetical here. For years, since I read the above in 1968, I have been getting strange looks from my friends and casual acquaintances because I refer to this state as "Californea." Now, at least, you understand from whence cometh my madness.]

ED SILLI, Gainesville, Fla. Maybe we will not hear so much about California's oranges now that a goodly portion of that state has slipped back into the ocean. Maybe we were lucky and it took National City and its miniature fruits with it. If not, maybe some sane citizen of that state will persuade Gov. Regan to build a five foot fence around National City to keep the fruits from picking the people.

I question Conrad: with California's embargo on fruit coming into the state, did you people grow all those at home? If so, their diminui-

tive size would apparently contradict all Rod has said about the huge California fruit. ((Who's he?))

CONRAD VON METZKE; San Diego, CA: Naus is right, and I knew it all along. The mass restroom frolic was indeed in Chula Vista, except that at the time I wrote my letter Naus lived in National City, and what point is there to telling the truth if it contributes not to insulting Naus? So I - er - amended the truth slightly. The obvious reason that the arrests were made in Chula Vista instead of National City was that, at the time of the orgy, the National City Park was being rebuilt and landscaped. National City still has the old burlesque house in San Diego County, except for San Diego itself; and now that Naus has moved back to the Tijuana suburbs, we can put the park story in proper perspective.

FROM STAB # 62--CONRAD'S REJOINDER

CvM: Mah gawdness sakes alive, the subject's we isa gittin into heah in these heah pages. I see that Gainesville, Florida, 32601, is still mass-producing sludge. So be it. Let the curmudgebous nematode believe, if he will, that California is sliding into the depths. Truth never seems to have been an impediment to Eddie's verbal putrefaction. California is neither sliding into the sea nor being fenced in by our sub-cretinous governor. We are merely re-greasing to prepare for future onslaughts on the already dwindling market for those microscopic and odiferous porcine-wastes that Floridans persist in mis-labelling as "oranges," much to the horror of the Food and Drug Administration and the Truth in Packaging Committee.

California, contrary to popular opinion, has no embargo on fruit. Anybody can bring down-home fruit into California with no questions asked. No doubt some have been misled by reports that tourists have had some "fruit" seized at the borders; not so. Authorities do, of course prevent Florida oranges from entering the state, much as any Conscientious border guard would keep any fly-infected, flea-ridden, nematode wracked, obscene-smelling drainage from polluting God's earth. Furthermore, motorists who at first have felt indignant about the seizure of their Florida "oranges," have later felt intense gratitude towards those responsible. After all, there is a penalty in California for living in unsanitary squalor, and a recently-passed law has declared the mere presence of Florida citrus crap within 45 yards of a human being to be prima facie evidence of idleness, insanity, and reversion to pigdom. The other 48 states--not counting Florida, which, poor thing, is stuck with the slop in the first place--are currently considering similar laws, with passage virtually assured all places other than Mississippi and Alabama (which want to make ownership of Florida oranges a capital crime, considering that Florida oranges all look a sickly black).

The fence around National City seems to have worked. The outside fruit-pickers (fruit picker-uppers) seems to have disappeared. Of course there has been a sharp increase in birth defects, incest, and male pregnancy, but....

Always happy to be of help in correcting Halle.

[And that, sports and orange fans, is it. We have now completed the Organe controversy, and before the folding of PP, too. Just in time to avoid having me pollute the airwaves with assorted trivia of my own. STAB continued into discussions of the Augustan society, and royalty in America. Good subjects all, but not round and firmly packed as is our friend the Organe. I hope you have enjoyed this series, and will continue to think of California and Florida as you spread those orange slices out in the pie before you].

[1972BT--continued from page three]:

CENTER CHART----END OF FALL 1905:

- AUS: Home, Ser, Bul, Mun, Ven, Gre = 8; Even.
- ENG: Home, Nwy, Hol, ~~SEP~~, Kie, Swe = 7; Build one [1 elim, S*05]***
- FRA: Home, Por, Spa, Bel, Tun, Rom, Map = 9; May build one.***
- ITA: Map = 0; remove F Apu--Out of Game.
- RUS: Mos, Sev, War, Rum, ~~SWE~~, Cen, Ber, Smy, Ank, Den, StP = 10; may build one [1 dest, F*05].

As with O'Regan, I tried mightily to get John on the phone. No major reversals were suffered as a result of his transgression, but he might have gained some ground that he didn't. The only Winter moves I need are from Lipson, replacing the destroyed Army in Sweden. Winter 1905 is due by NOON, MONDAY, MARCH 19TH, 1973. I am asking the first standby for 1972BT, Arn Vagts, to submit Spring 1906 standby moves for John McCallum. John, please sit down and drop a move my way via the mails, though I shall of course try to call again. Except for the Russian build, the next move required from players in this game--the four of you left--is the Spring 1906 one, due on April 10th, 1973.

--PRESS RELEASES--

DISPATCH FROM THE LEATHER CAPITAL OF THE WORLD (Peabody, you dummies) King John the Bungler today was carried off to the beautiful grounds of the Glomphf State Hospital for the Criminally Deranged. The reason for this is that he has become the second member of his family to guide a country to destruction within the pages of PLATYPUS PIE. "There are frogs pressing from one side, and a strange mixed breed from the other, consisting primarily of Slavic Swine, and the croaking and the smell have just driven me crazy, plus the fact that I'm the biggest failure ever chronicled within the archives of the Crazy Dutchman." Upon saying this, the King gathered up his scissors and papers, and went calmly into the padded paddy wagon bringing him to the Glomphf State Hospital for the Mentally deranged, and proceeded to cut out paper dolls for the rest of his mercifully short life.

SAN FRANCISCO: John has kidded around about dropping two games in other letters too, but its nothing serious. After all, the replacement position was largely lost by Jeff Key's inattention. Now, if John had shown REAL class--say starting both countries himself and perishing throughout within three game years--I would have been happy to extend to him the Clarabelle/Eric Blake Award for reverse excellence, awarded only rarely to those who have a sense of smell capable of receiving the gift.

DEEEEEEEEEEP THROAT (Chocke)

The New York Judge, I see, has banned the showing of the movie Deep Throat in New York City. Immediately, of course, its lines jumped 400% here in San Francisco, and it had been doing a turn-away business until then anyway. Deep Throat is a silly little venture into pornography, which could not possibly appeal to anyone's purient interests any more than any other porno. I took a date to Throat, and suffered my usual porno-flick ailment--boredom. There is a very low limit to the number of times you can watch a little fellatio and other assorted trips. Sooner or later, we will all learn that you can't legislate morality, and that giving people what should be available anyway is the best way to have them lose interest in it. In the meantime, however, we are stuck with these pedantic moralists who insist on telling you and me what is and is not obscene. Shades of Justice Rhenquists' "Revelries," --his view of topless/bottomless joints. Brother! If there is anything duller than a porno flick, its a bottomless dive. The added attraction

there is nothing more than sadness. Those spots are depressing, and the deadly silence is hardly the contemporary or customary viewpoint of "revelry." Anyway, if you've got nothing better to do than watch a woman with phenomenal throat muscles, Deep Throat is for you. There are some other scenes between the fuck scenes, and the actors sometimes even appear fully clothed. (I guess thats what makes it "arty.")

-coitus interruptus-

Brenton Ver Ploeg
520 Parker, # 202
SF, CA 94118



FIRST CLASS

FIRST CLASS

Richard Hull T
4720 Cloyne, #2
Oxnard, CALIFORNIA
93030