

Carnal Sanders recommends a nice pie for Holidays. I thank him, Glomphf thanks him, and either YOU thank him, or the pie will fly.

Do you want this magazine, really?

The fact that you are reading this means that you are either a Platypus freak, or, what is worse, a Diplomacy* player. Diplomacy is a game published by Games Research, Inc., 48 Wareham Street, Boston, MASS 02118, and they charge a mere eight dollars for it. Eight dollars will only get you 1/26, 897th of an average Giant Platypus Pie, so you see that its not so expensive after all. Conference maps are available from them at 25 for a dollar, which is also what a single copy of the 1971 Rulebook, used in PLATYPUS PIE, will set you back.

HOUSE RULES: Were published in PP #3, now out of print. Sometime soon I will reprint the house rules alone, and send them out to all players once again. Then again, I said "soon" last issue, and you don't see them yet, do you?

THE GAMEMASTER: Brennan Ver Ploeg; 520 Parker Ave., # 202; San Francisco, CA 94118. My phone number is (415) 668-9218, but I am, they tell me, very hard to reach over the phone. The GM obligates himself, however, to be home from 6 to 10 pm, Pacific Time, on the Monday evening before the deadline. No promises on other days, but Tuesdays and Wednesdays are better than most.

ADDRESS CODES: Are found this issue on page five, where I have finally managed to get around to publishing a mailing list. If you have an "SH," it means that you have been foolish enough to participate in the bloody (comes from bloodgen, which is a heavy instrument) "Winner's Game," 1971EH, which emerges from its platypus-beset state right about mnoocowwww.

1971EH

WEST BUDAPEST FISHING FLEETS: east gluts in land communes
WINTER 1901

- AUSTRIA (Ward): BUILD Army Vienna; Army Trieste.
- ENGLAND (Buchanan): BUILD Fleet London; Fleet Edinburgh.
- FRANCE (Warden): BUILD Fleet Versailles; Army Paris.
- GERMANY (Birsan): BUILD Fleet Riel; Army Munich.
- ITALY (von Metzke): BUILD Fleet Rome.
- RUSSIA (Bytwerk): BUILD Army Moscow; Army St Petersburg; Army Warsaw.
- TURKEY (Tretick): No change.

Positions for start of Spring, 1902

- AUSTRIA: Armies Vie, Tri, Ser, Bud, Gre. (5)
- ENGLAND: A Bel; F's Lon, Ed, Nth, Wyl. (5)
- FRANCE: As Par, Bur, For, F's Spa (2), Mar. (5)
- GERMANY: As Hol, Ruh, Mun, F's Ben, Kiel. (5)
- ITALY: As Pie, Tun; F's Rom, Ven. (4)
- RUSSIA: As Rum, War, Mos, St. Peter, Sve, Ank. (7)
- TURKEY: As Arm, Bul; F's Ank. (4)

DEADLINE FOR SPRING 1902 MOVES IS NOW TUESDAY, APRIL 11th, 1972. But note that phone calls must be in by 10 pm of the previous evening.

ADDRESSES: Buddy Tretick has temporarily cancelled his plans to go to Oklahoma City (wise, very wise) and therefore should still be written to at his Maryland address.

STAND-BY PLAYER: Arnold Vagts; address on page five. The press begins on the next page.

1971EH PRESS DRIVEL:

AAQ, Saudi Arabian Alps (Vicinity of Innsbrueck): Urban redevelopment specialists called in to assist in the slum clearance programme now being effected in the region formerly called 'The Alps,' and now politely referred to as 'The Pile,' expressed considerable doubt at their first surveyance that anything could be done to restore the region's ethereal, snow-capped, pristine beauty. Basically, it is felt that in order to have a mountain paradise one must first have mountains, and there ain't none in the Alps anymore. (Veterans of prior issues will recall with glee [or perhaps nausea-bvp] the spicy stories appurtenant thereto). This isn't a good scene, but we gotta call 'em as we see 'em, and we don't see any Alps, so we might as well take the fait accompli by the horns and run with it, crossing our bridges as we gather no moss.

Several proposals to reconstruct the former scenario have met with diluted response--which is to say that they are idiotic. The first scheme was to open negotiations with the nematodes to rebuild their handiwork, but this was bypassed when the obvious absurdity of negotiating with shit came to light. Then several members of the Italian Union of Construction and Building Trades (IUCBT, which means nothing) offered for a reasonable fee to build new Alps out of wood and plasterboard. The stumbling block here was the fee, which for reasons of space must be written exponentially.

Other theories of equal validity were advanced from time to time, and when the laughter finally subsided the method finally decided upon turned out to be the 'Mexican Fix-it.' By this variant of repairing dents in auto bodies a la Tijuana, one stands on the exact opposite point on the earth from the Alps and kicks, thus pushing the land out on the other side. The Italian government is now negotiating for the rental of a soccer team from Sol Hurok, although Hurok seems bent on booking the Bolshoi Ballet and the Banahaytagkan Filipino Puppet Show. We will settle for nothing less than the Surrey Stompers!

EDITown, Germany: PART II--HISTORY OF THE SQUARE ROOT CLUB!

Before the meeting was held, the arrangement committee on furniture and proceedings was called together. ¶ "Gentlemen..." Leinon started, only to be interrupted by the crash of Bakunen's club upon his dead horse: ¶ "How dare you use such a bourgeois term which describes an insulting pig which has leisure time because of the hard labor of the proletariat?" ¶ As usual, Charlie Marks was now splattered with blood. ¶ "Humm...sorry about that gentille people! We have met today to discuss seating arrangements for the club gathering tomorrow as well as any procedural problems that we can perceive of existing in the event that the meeting should require them. As your leader, I have the following suggestions: I suggest that we use one rectangular table for the officers of the Club (Trotsi, Joe, and myself) and for the rest of the Club members we use wooden benches without any tables."

"I disagree! As Vice-President I feel that one table for the President and one table for the Vice-President should be enough while all other members and officers stand at attention before the tables."

"That is just like you Stolow. Always trying to undercut me and my vital position as Secretary of Defense. I, as Sec. of Defense, suggest three tables: one for each officer and a set of army benches for the rest of the club members to use."

With a thunderous smash on his pet security blanket, Mike Bakunen stomped!

[continued on page six]

NOW: COPYRIGHT LAWS & WHAT WE DO THATS NASTY

There are no Diplomacy magazines which are formally copyrighted. As such, there is no barrier to free and uninhibited duplication of articles and material on the game by whatever editor wishes to undertake such effort. Some editors simply proceed to copy what they will, while others go to sometimes a great deal of work to get permission.

As far as I am concerned, there is no reason for anyone to get my permission before they grab something out of this Journal. Anyone foolish enough to do so deserves to inherit that which they will reap. Perhaps less ideally, I am going to copy material (starting with John McCallum's rating list) from authors who probably will not mind without prior clearance. I cannot imagine why this would bother anyone, as long as the source of the material is acknowledged, but if anyone objects, please let me know. If you wish to formally object, I suggest that you first copyright your magazine, though of course nobody would reprint against the express wishes of an author, I hope.

NEWCOMERS GAME, DEADLINES, OPENINGS

There are now no less than five foolish entries for the newcomers game, and it will likely have filled by the deadline of the next issue, April 11th. However, I will send out a carbonated or dittoed game announcement, and thats about all, because finals start in May and I will need the entire month of April to make up for my past derelictions.

In issue #6, I hope to be able to announce a replacement habitat for 71EH and the newcomers game over the month of May, for the deadline dates of the 2d and 23d. At present, nothing has been accomplished along those lines.

At any rate, the entries at present in the newcomers game are: Hendry, Williams, Winter, Hall, & Rocamora. I have been promised that two others are waiting, so we may count the game as informally filled as of now.

Meanwhile, the open game continues to be slow to fill. Remember that you receive the magazine FREE if you are registered for a game that has not yet filled. In fairness, I must now add another item: I will not hold anyone to their entry position if they feel that, after this extensive delay, they no longer want to start a game. Their entry fee is refundable, less what a subscription would have cost for the issues received. As of this date (the 15th of March) no new entries have come in for the open game, and the three entries are still Key, Rocamora, and Strayer.

THE RATINGS--I (THE ODD LISTING)

Last week I received John McCallum's O.D.D. rating list, based on principles inherent in chess systems of rating, and I must say that I am extremely impressed, both with the amount of work which went into the listing, and with John's superb commentary thereon. Unlike John and Walt Buchanan and doubtless others with whom I am unfamiliar, I have no acquaintance with chess-type systems. However, the primary characteristic of this listing is that it rates players vis-a-vis other players only, causing a win over players with high ratings to profit a player to a much greater extent that would a win over players with low ratings. More comment will follow the listing.

THE ODD RATING LISTTop Board

1210 Peter Rosamalia
 1209 Douglas Beyerlein
 1179 John Beshara
 1173 Brenton Ver Ploeg
 1166 Charles Turner
 1137 Andrew Phillips
 1122 Thomas Eller

Second Board

1046 John Smythe (1174)
 1031 Mehran Thomson
 1025 Randy Bytwerk (1076)
 1012 Richard Miller
 989 George Inzer
 964 Edi Birsan
 962 Jeffrey Power

Third Board

950 Ron Dellbringge
 940 Donald Miller
 940 John Shutelock
 926 David Lebling
 926 Bob Strayer
 922 Walt Buchanan
 903 Rod Walker

The remaining people in postal Diplomacy are listed, refreshingly, in alphabetical form, so that you may find their names quickly and without effort. This innovation should probably be applied to other lists which endeavor to list all players, as it is considerable more efficient.

The base score for this listing is 600. That is, 600 is the entry point for new players. John likens this system to entering a hill at a point half-way up through a mine shaft. The shaft is 600. The hill is less steep below 600 and as you near the lower part. As you climb the hill, progress becomes substantially more difficult, and the hill more rugged. I think the term is a hyperbolic curve, but some of the mathematicians in the crowd may be horrified by my lack of knowledge.

The list is strict Calhamer count. That is, getting 2d place with 16 is as good as a loss in 1901. There are some tortured justifications for this, but I don't think we need them, because the list stands very well on its own feet. Besides, the BROB listing, run by Jeff Power and henceforth to be published in HOOSIER ARCHIVES, amply regards such a second place. Certainly, I intend to create no impression that I dislike Calhamer listings. Diplomacy players are a varied lot, and this sort of system is undeniably "pure" in the same way that the averaged Calhamer System (seen from time to time in this magazine) is--it rewards wins only, as Allan Calhamer desires.

Hence, six people loose to the winner, who then aggregates their scores into his own, adding exactly as many as the total of the six losers subtract. Thus, this is what John calls a "zero-sum" system.

This listing shares John's replacement policy with other zero-sum lists he has in the past compiled, such as BROB. That is: a replacement player is apparently not ever held accountable for the performance of his country, unless it does well. There are ample policy reasons for this distinction (it makes replacement players easy to get) although sometimes the effect it has will, in individual cases, be somewhat less than an accurate portrayal of the true game situation.

Issue #4 of Pfennig-Halbpennig, where this list is to be found, is 23 pages long, and I cannot possibly do justice to John's very analytical views here. His address is PO Box 52, Ralston, Alberta, CANADA, and the sub rate is incredibly cheap at 100 pages a dollar.

AT LAST--MAILING LISTS!

1. John Beshara; 155 W. 68th St., #1021; NY, NY 10023 (C)
2. Doug Beyerlein; 3934 S.W. Southern, Seattle, WASH 98116 (S-10)
3. Edi Birsan; 48-20 39th St., Long Island City, NY 11104 (EH)
4. John Boardman; 234 E. 19th St., Brooklyn, NY 11226 (T)
5. Paul Bond; PO Box 6477, College Station, TEXAS 77840 (S-9)
6. Ken Borecki; PO Box 255, Rockville Centre, NY 11571 (T)
7. Walter Buchanan; RR # 3, Lebanon, INDIANA 46052 (EH)
8. Randy Bytwerk; 1915 Maple Ave., #107, Evanston, ILLINOIS 60201 (EH)
9. Allan Calhamer; 501 N. Stone Ave., La Grange Pk, IL 60525 (C)
10. Tom Eller; 29 Winthrop St., Charlestown, MASS 02129 (S-16)
11. James Hall; 1300 30th St., #B2-32, Boulder, COLORADO 80302 (G)
12. John Hendry; 17 Price Road, Peabody, MASS 01960 (G+4)
13. Eric Just; PO Box 131, Paoli, OKLAHOMA 73074 (T)
14. Jeff Key; 7918 Alpha Road, #1153, Dallas, TEXAS 75240 (G)
15. Burt Labelle; 146 Elm St., Saco, MAINE 04072 (C-1972, ratings iss.)
16. John McCallum; PO Box 52, Ralston, Alberta, CANADA (T)
17. Don Miller; 12315 Judson Rd, Wheaton, MARYLAND 20906 (T)(?)
18. John Moot; Games Research, Inc., 48 Wareham St., Boston, MA 02118(C)
19. Lt. WL Norris; 16 Sea Gull Road, Groton, CONN 06340 (C)
20. Larry Peery; 816 24th St., San Diego, CA 92102 (T) (?)
21. Andrew Phillips; 128 Oliver St., Daly City, CA (T)
22. Jeff Power; 121 Gauss Hall, Princeton, NJ 08540 (T)
23. Gene Prosnitz...take it back. He didn't subscribe.
23. Lewis Pulsipher; 321A Twin Towers, Albion, MICH 49224 (T)
24. Mike Rocanora; 3820 Locust, Box D-681, Philadelphia, PA 19104 (2G)
25. George Schelz, Jr.; 9 Buffington Pl., Bronxville, NY 10708 (S-10)
26. Bob Strayer; 207 E Alice Ave., Phoenix, ARIZONA 85020 (G)
27. Buddy Tretick; 3702 Wendy Lane, Silver Spring, MARYLAND 20906 (EH)
28. Arnold Vagts; 2824 Verano Pl, Irvine, CA 92664 (T)
29. Bob Van Andel; 749 Thomas St., SE; Grand Rapids, MICH 49503 (T)
30. Conrad von Metzke; PO Box 8342, San Diego, CA 92102 (EH)
31. Red Walker; 4719 Felton St., San Diego, CA 92116 (T)
32. Bob Ward; 8665 Florin Rd, #176; Sacramento, CA 95828 (EH)
33. Greg Warden; 4500 Walnut St. #106, Philadelphia, PA 19139 (EH)
34. Tom Williams; 1305 Smalley Ave., Muscatine, IOWA 52761 (G)
35. Fred Winter; 2625 El Rancho Dr., Brookfield, WISCONSIN 53005 (G)
36. Peter Weber; 417 E Hatcher, #2; Phoenix, ARIZONA 85020 (T)

And thats it. Some are slightly out of order. A smallish list, I think, and maybe it will get to be smaller. ADDRESS CODES: C=Complimentary, you fortunate people you; S-followed by a number=subscription, with the number being the last issue you will receive; EH=a participant in 1971EH, the Winner's Game; T=Trade, and if followed by a question mark, this means that I subscribe to your magazine, am not too sure you really care about getting PP, and will only send one more issue unless I hear from you; G=entered in a game in PP which has not yet started, and if followed by a number thats your subscription overlap after the game ends; Labelle gets all issues which have to do with ratings throughout 1972 on a complimentary basis. Then he has to subscribe.

This is about what I wanted. A large mailing list is not for me, and thats why I try to make sure that only those people who are actually interested in having this appear in their mailboxes every third week continue on the list. Now that I think about it, even Don Miller is not on my mailing list, and I doubt if he wants to be. So, bring that down to 35. Bliss, peaceful bliss.

[1971EH Press, continued]:

"We have but one foe: the enemies of the people! Our meeting should stress this and our furniture should symbolise the struggle of the people. Therefore the only solution is to have a single very large table made into a round shape. We will have the builders erect a giant guillotine in the center of the table so that everytime someone wishes to speak, a large THUMP will announce his desire."

The meeting was getting nowhere until Charlie Marks with his dark coal-like eyes stood up and froze the meeting with a stare from beneath his brow:

"Look at yourselves...you are arguing like a bunch of children! We shall sit where the masses have sat for centuries. We shall stand where the masses have stood for time memorial: On the ground! We shall sit to hear speakers and we shall stand to be speakers. That is THE way it will be done."

The meeting was silence itself. Leinon thinking about his tall frame considered that he would most likely be taller than any other speaker. Trotsi, thinking that his booming voice would give him an edge of sorts over Stolon in any shouting match, smiled in agreement. As for Stolon, he took it as a challenge to see if his under-the-table dealing would work under the rug. So, with the top three men in agreement, the committee passed the resolution and broke up for the day. The general meeting was set to convene at 12 noon the next day. All seemed quite peaceful on the surface.

[aha][oh][yes][the bloody conclusion follows next time].

JARUL: Yes, I admit most of the press crap last time was badly contrived. Okay, so I ain't inspired. The stuff this is better. By my standards, that is, which has no relationship. But if youse guys want funny stuff, you gotta rejoinder, as they say in the law biz.

OOO, Northern Sardinia: The latest concert of noted Tenor Enrico Carewsojewski included a newly-commissioned number directly aimed at the French. Although printing the music is not[desirable or] feasible nor worth the effort, the words to Carewsojewski's tour de force are as follows:

THE BALLAD OF GROG BOREDOM

Out of the slime heaps, ho, ho, ho
Here comes Boredom, that old phony,
telling how he'll wipe the wops,
He'll keep going 'till he stops.

Ho, ho, ho
Who wouldn't throw
Up on hearing Boredom's song?
His soldiers all
Are one inch tall,
'Bout the size of Boredom's dong.

Here come the frogmen, hee, hee, hee,
Seems they think we broke our treaty,
but there ain't one, there never was;
Wops don't make pacts with Grog the Scuzz.

Hee, hee, hee,
Golly, gee,
Gosharootie, that's too bad!
You won't write,
You can't fight,
Poor old shitpuss, you've been had!
(Repeat chorus and whatever else you like).

UUQ, Trans-Jordanian Pyrenees: In his current world tour of great and famous religious shrines (during which he is also helping set up his new franchise chain of religious artifact shops--piece of the original cross @ 49¢; with cheese @ 55¢), Enrico Carewsojewski stopped here last night and gave a concert including his new 'Lullaby in the Style of Grog Boredom of Lourdes-auf-der-Arno': (to the tune of 'Malbrouk s'en va-t'en guerre')

Oh, the French went over the Mountain,
 The French went over the mountain,
 The French went over the mountain,
 To enquire as to what was happening in the peaceful little
 havens located thereat.
 To see what they could do,
 To see what they could do,
 Oh, the French went over the mountain,
 The French went over the mountain,
 The French went over the mountain:::
 And were scared shitless so they hauled ass for home.

This, of course, can be easily sung to the exact original tune, with very minor emendations in the last lines of each verse to allow for Grog Boredom's usual poetic idiosyncrasy of inserting sixteen extra syllables into an otherwise reasonably metric scan.

ADDITIONS TO ADDRESS (MAILING) LIST

For some reason, (it's hard to write when a delicate little platypus is slowly nibbling upwards on your leg) I neglected two of my trades:

- 19a. Tony Pardini, 19000 Water Blvd, Cleveland, OHIO 44104 (T)
- 25a. Chris Schlicher, 1512 W. Carmen Ave., Chicago, IL 60630 (T)

THE ARDUOUS OLD RATINGS--II

CALHAMER POINT COUNT LIST

The Top Fourteen: (Reprinted from HOOSTER ARCHIVES)

8:55	Edi Birsen	5:00	Jerry Pournelle
8:20	John Smythe	4:40	Hal Naus
7:12	John Barbara	4:12	Dave Lebling
6:12	Eugene Prosnitz	4:10	Mike Goldstein
5:34	Andrew Phillips	4:00	John Koning*
5:12	Doug Beyerlein		Buddy Tretick
5:04	Charles Turner		Charles Wells*
			Monte Zellinsky

Players denoted with an * are no longer active. Coops, Delete John Koning's name from those lists. As I have said before, this is a listing which simply denotes how many games each player has won all together, with no adjustment for number of games. Few changes have been seen since last time, but Edi Birsen has increased his lead slightly by virtue of a draw in 1968.

It is my eventual plan to delete extensive discussions of ratings from the pages of PLATYPUS PIE, although I shall continue (start?) to compile the Averaged Calhamer System. This change will, however, be gradual. The exit date is the end of 1972 and after that I shall leave discussions of this sort to other Journals. Feel better?

THE RATINGS---III & IV

THE ARCHIVES PUBLISHING POLL NUMBER TWO

(The perceptive amongst you will note that not only did I pull a large typo on "Publishing," but that the word should be "Publisher's" instead)

<u>TOP BOARD</u>			<u>SECOND BOARD</u>		
	<u>S</u>	<u>N</u>		<u>S</u>	<u>N</u>
1. Edi Birsan (6)	224	16	8. Randy Bytwerk (1)	93	9
2. John Smythe (6)	204	13	9. Tom Eller	76	9
3. Brenton Ver Ploeg(2)	178	15	10. Larry Peery	67	12
4. Eugene Prosnitz	136	12	11. Hal Neus	60	13
5. Rod Walker (1)	115	13	12. Rick Brooks	56	9
6. Andy Phillips	111	14	13. John McCallum	52	7
7. Doug Beyerlein	103	12	14. Buddy Tretick	41	5

Players with 30 points or more: Buchanan, Key, Pulsipher, von Metzke.

As usual, "S" means the total score (each ballot is scored the same as the UPI and AP football ballots) in points, and "N" is the number of ballots out of the 17 cast on which the player in question was mentioned. The number in brackets is the number of first place votes received. Walt comments on the changes in HOOSIER ARCHIVES #62.

THE AVERAGED NUMENOR RATINGSTOP BOARD

1. Walt Buchanan (20.0)	1
2. Bob Strayer (20.0)	1
3. Randy Bytwerk (17.5)	4
4. Crazy Dutehman (16.7)	3
5. Tom Eller (16.0)	4
6. Lewis Pulsipher (12.8)	6
7. Jack Flemming (12.0)	2

SECOND BOARD

8. Jeff Key (11.4)	7
9. Ken Borecki (10.5)	4
10. Rich Rubin (10.3)	3
11. Dan Barrows (10.1)	5
12. Prosnitz, Gene (10.0)	17
13. Glen Herts (10.0)	2
14. Bernie Ackerman (10.0)	1

THIRD BOARD

15. Henry Kriegsman (10.0)	1
16. Mike Goldstein (9.6)	14
17. Andy Phillips (8.9)	20
18. Jerry Fournelle (8.8)	11
19. Len Lakofka (8.8)	7
20. Rod Walker (8.7)	21
21. Rick Brooks (8.7)	6

Ties are broken first by number of games completed, 2d by alphabetical order. The first thing that strikes one about this listing is that there are very few people that place highly on it that have completed many games. The first board, for instance, only has one player to have finished more than five games. The two players who currently are in first are, of course, very good players. That is not to say, however, that strict averaging should be used on single-scores. There are a couple of people (Bruce Pels is one, I think) that have played one game, and won it. Is their score to be forever unassailable? Of course, both of these players continue with other games (they both play in this magazine, now that I think of it), but its something to think about. The last figure, of course, is the number of completed games on which a player is rated. The (parenthetical) figure is the averaged NUMENOR score.

Regardless, you should get Rod Walker's NUMENOR for the detailed information given on each player. Its extremely valuable and instructive, and is much more intricate and helpful than my brief summation here.

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE BOYS! JUST WHO IS PAYING FOR THAT BUILDING?

To my astonishment, I received a serious answer to my contracts question of last issue, which was the most involved exam question I took last year. Perhaps it would be more accurate (and more trite) to say that it took me.

Bob Ward comes up with an answer which is really pretty correct. Of course, there is no completely correct answer (or maybe even primarily correct) to this sort of question. Bob's point sees the forest past the trees, and eventually awards P \$10,000, in order to have the building cost the Owner \$170,000. Since the worth of the building is \$180,000, this nicely allocates the loss between P & O.

My knowledge of the answer is meagre, though I eventually had the Owner pay the \$160,000 only, I think. According to the Professor's comments:

"Of course, the question demanded a discussion of reformation for unilateral mistake and in particular whether it is available in this case. Paper after paper was content to say that reformation is granted for unilateral mistake 'when the other party is chargeable with fraud or inequitable conduct,' usually citing Restatement 505 (which was reproduced in the casebook) but with little indication that the writer had read or sensed the content of 505. Under the judge's finding (a), it does seem that O in trying to take advantage of a probable mistake by P was acting in a way which might be characterized as fraudulent or close to fraud. But is not reformation designed to make the writing state the agreement of the parties (mutual mistake as to the writing) or in the case of unilateral mistake the intention of one of the parties as to the agreement to be expressed in writing when the other knows what the intention is and that it is not expressed in the writing? [He fares on here, but his eventual point is that reformation is not only impossible, but a pretty stupid answer].

"Interestingly, some papers after very glibly stating that reformation is clearly available, proceeded to reform the contract to state \$160,000, the amount of X's bid. Isn't that doubly difficult to explain?

"THE RECISSION PROBLEMS ... Most of the class, with too little perspiration, thought rescission in order. The next question (which I find most troublesome) is what under these facts is an equitable adjustment? A court does have complete elbow room, does it not, to frame an "equitable" adjustment? Perhaps most writers thought the answer just rolled out--i.e., P is entitled to restitution measured by the value of his part performance (most of the class) or O's actual enrichment in terms of asset increment (some), less the progress payment (which would make the building cost O either \$180,000 or \$170,000). All of these solutions left O bearing the burden of loss flowing from the delayed use of the building."

The frustrating thing about Hurlbut was that the man would NOT give you any answers! As you can see, he is continuing with this habit now. DAMN! THESE ARE THE LAST LEGAL PROBLEMS YOU'LL GET IN PLATYPUS PIE FOR A FEW ISSUES.

Perhaps most appropriate is the set of Answers from Edi Birsan, which were variations of who gets what kickback from whom. Its not necessary to go that far out, however, if one wants to be cynical about the legal profession. Incompetent lawyers are rampant these days, and only the wealthy can afford the good ones. (Subject, of course, to some exceptions. But they are usually so busy that you can't get them anyway).

ma! Error has been committed in fair PP

On page one, as has been noted on the players copies, the English build fleets in London and Liverpool, not London and Edinburgh. The first page was done before this one, and rather than correct all copies by hand, I'm doing this.

BONDED ENTRY STRIKES

Paul Bond also submitted a decent common sense attempt to solve the Contracts question issued in the last PLATYPUS PIE. Maybe my explanation was unclear last time (in the last few pages, that is). So, let me act like Mike Bakunen's dead horse and hit it once again in summary: (1) Reformation was not possible, because reformation is a remedy used, in the ordinary case, solely to patch up a mistake in the written contract when BOTH parties conceived of the contract as something else, or one knew that they other conceived of it as something else, and knew what that "else" was. (2) Rescission of the contract, therefore, is the only real step which might be taken. The contract has not been completed, and, therefore, since no one party was completely at fault, should be dissolved. (3) The real question, of course, is who bears the loss? There is not really a correct answer to this question, and the professor depended on the analysis of the many factors he included on the examination. Any position would be reasonably tenable, provided that the answer was consistent, and showed an understanding of the law.

Parenthetically, the professor who gave us this question was John Bingham Huriburg, one of the most famous and esteemed of Stanford Law Professors before his forced retirement last year. If by chance any of you are around a law library someday, and want to see a profile of the gentlemen, the 1971 Stanford Law Review is dedicated to him, replete with pictures and three personality sketches done by fellow members of the Stanford faculty. It makes for interesting reading if you actually experienced the gentlemen, but you'd probably be bored otherwise. Nonetheless, it helps you to understand the sort of mind that went into the question.

BALBERDASH

I'm not too happy with this issue of PP. Nevertheless, I shall continue to pollute the waves with whatever comes to mind. Sometime in the near future, probably this summer, I am going to shock you all and actually start writing some material on the game of Diplomacy. How to set up a game, for example, in diplomatic terms. I am also interested in the win-or-else v. take-second-if theres-nothing-else controversy that Edi Birsan has started in his ARENA. But, as usual, this will depend on the inspiration of the moment above all else.

be it ever so humble, there's nothing like being stoned

Which means that this is time for another fun-lovers edition of PLATYPUS PIE, a journal of platypus pussy and dung dumps, to come to a close. Next issue will probably carry mess (and less material, because finals will be so close. Well, porn-lovers, hold your breath (with Platypus dung around, thats always a good idea anyway), and we shall see what happens the NEXT time the pie flies.