

THE PODUNK NEWS

Issue #48

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Fourth Anniversary Issue

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Wiretap 39

Still late, but earlier than last time, the zine of Colorado and Iowa arrives again. This is THE PODUNK NEWS. Subs are 30¢/ issue, 20¢ if you hold a standby position. There are no game openings at present.

Standby List

Bob Acheson, Konrad Baumeister, Don Blasland, Curt Gibson, Vincent Lieut Jim McManus, William Newell, Pete Pariseau, and Craig Reges. (Acheson, Baumeister, Gibson, Kelly, and Reges eligible for reduced sub rates.)

Collect Calls

Konrad Baumeister, Don Blasland, Doug Carman, and Jim Wilson.

Changes of Address

1. Tom Sherwood - 3238 Senasac; Long Beach, California 90808
2. Bob Hartwig - 304 Slater Hall - U. of I.; Iowa City, Iowa 52242.

News

Surprises are in store for you this time folks. To start, I'm not going to fold. It seems that a lot of people get depressed after vacations (like DipCon), and since alot of you had some encouragement for me, I decided to keep going for awhile longer.

Konrad Baumeister is starting a new zine called Eggnog. His address is on the last page. He will probably be taking his game in PODUNK when it starts in October. We're working out the financial arrangements, but I hope that none of your subs are reduced in the new zine. No sub lengths will change in PODUNK, unless 77 KU is the only game you're in, in which case this is probably your~~83~~ last issue.

My newest game still has no Boardman Number. I hear that Dennis Agosta has taken the BN's, and am checking on the game.

IDA elections are coming up. If you're a member and would like to volunteer fro an office, or nominate someone else, I hope you'll write to Jerry Jones at 1854 Wagner St.; Pasadena, California 91107.

What follows is a reply ~~83~~ to an article which recently appeared in Greg Costikyan's Urf Durfal.

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URF-DURF FODLIES

(An open letter to Mr. Costikyan):

Greg,

Your recent article in URF DURFAL #33 was riddled with innacuracies, exaggerations, and distortions. This is in response to your numerous ~~4~~ errors.

First, if you will recall, I was also at the 1977 DipCon in Lake Geneva. However, it seems that our memories differ. Specifically, I recall both myself and John Baker abstaining on the DipCon Society issue. This left only 3 yes votes out of a seven man council.

second, at the private meeting prior to the General Meeting (which both you and Mr. Grossman were quite late for - even though both of you had been told much earlier) it was agreed that anything approved was subject to later approval by the entire Council.

You are correct that no more Council Courier's were put out that year. However, this does not mean that your Society could ~~§§~~ begin without Council approval.

The 1978 Council resolution did NOT nullify all 1977 Council actions, only 1977 Council's actions made in 1978. We were acting out of precedent, as similar procedure was used in ~~§§~~ 1977 regarding the 1976 Council. If you will recall, the charter was accepted in 1978 by the 1977 council, with Ben Grossman running the vote.

You may also recall that I voted yes on Grossman's vote. I did so because ~~§§~~ I knew that the new council could revoke the action made in 1978, and because I needed to keep you 2 spoiled brats happy long enough to get the new council going. Perhaps that was sneaky, cheating, or whatever. But while we're on that subject, perhaps you'd like me to bring up your "Depreciation Expense" for your mimeo, your costs for reproducing your 1977 "Handbook", and Greg's cost for mimeoing each issue of Diplomacy Review. Then maybe the members of this hobby could see that your only interest in the IDA is financial (~~§§~~ i.e. - lining your own pockets at the expense of the membership.)

We do NOT have a committee to select a new charter for site selection. We DO have a bill which says that DipCon MUST be rotated between 3 regions if possible, and also gives the boundaries for those regions.

As for this year's DipCon, you speak very authoritatively for a person who wasn't there. Rod Walker did NOT hold a meeting of the "DipCon Society" (unless he was by himself at the time). The meeting you mention was chaired by MYSELF and no one else, and was NOT a meeting of the "DipCon Society".

The meeting chaired by myself did choose the sites you mention, and DipCon will be with Origins/PennCon next year. Rod Walker's part was in the help of phrasing motions for the selection of each site.

The IDA does not accept the "fact" that the "DipCon Society" is a functioning organization. This is because the "DipCon Society" did NOT function. The IDA functioned by selecting next year's DipCon. We will NOT right the "DipCon Society" simply because it does NOT exist, except in the overworked imagination of Greg Costikyan.

As for your claim that the IDA has only its own interests at heart, I claim that we have the interests of the entire hobby at heart, for without the IDA at the 1978 DipCon, NO site would have been selected for next year, and there would be no 1979 DipCon.

Quite to the contrary Mr. Costikyan, I claim that you are the one with only your own interests at heart. Those interests are the destruction of the IDA (as witnessed by your campaign statement in last year's bid for the Presidency), the increased inflation of your overly-inflated ego (as witnessed by your editorial), and continued bickering within ~~§§~~ this hobby (as witnessed by your constantly picking a fight over anything that pops into your head as being bad).

The day this hobby recognizes that you are nothing but a trouble-maker will be the day that this hobby improves tremendously.

Sincerely,  
(Bob Hartwig).

((I have withstood much abuse from all sides this year. However, this is one area where I can't remain silent any longer. Hopefully, others will feel the same way and show it by their actions - RAA.))

## BOB RETURNS TO COLLEGE

by  
Bob Hartwig

In a mor pleasant vein, here's my story on returning to college.

I had intended to take a little vaction after leaving work with the Highway Department. So before going to Iowa City, I decided to spend some time with relatives in Northern Iowa, near Mason City.

I made the trip in 14½ hours, leaving home on a sunny, clear, and Colorado-dry day. Progress was rapid, as trucks rolled along at 70+ mph. Once in Iowa, the rain started, and continued for the rest of the trip, slowing me down to 30mph in places, but not long enough to lose too much time.

The 340 mile trip was taxing, but after 9 hours sleep I was ready to visit my relations, and add to my family tree. My genealogical research went quite well, as I dug up a family tree (in German script) which carried one line back to the 1400's. I also discovered the location of a book on the Allen line, which I am trying to obtain.

After visitng a few local cemeteries, my research came to an end, as time forced me to return to college.

The trip to Iowa City was strange, as grade schools were in session, and there was very little traffic. I arrived on August 30th, at 2:40 p.m., over 1 hour late for my registration time. I then registered, unpacked, ate, and unpacked some more. It was a busy day.

Lately I have been going to classes, collecting books, running errands, and generally trying to make up for last time. Hopefully PODUNK won't be too late, but I think I can get it out soon.

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## REPORT on the T.A.I.U.P.P.C. &amp; I.G.T.

August 2nd, 1978 - a day that will live in spathy. Yes, the 3rd Annual Inaugural Unannounced Podunk Publications Convention and Invitational Golf Tournament was delayed 3 days from the annouced date. The change was, of course, unannounced. In attendance was Editor and Publisher of 2P, Inc., swell kid, and nifty dancer Bob "What's-his-name" Hartwig. This quorum of 1 conducted the following business:

- 1) Cancelled the Golf Tournament when Gerald Ford failed to attend for the 2nd straight year.
- 2) Called a Second TAIUPPC&IGT for later in August, since attendance wasn't good at the 1st.
- 3) Voted Bill Kelsey (ever present and barely there) there in spirit.

August 6th, 1978 - another apathetic day. The 2nd half of the TAIUPPC&IGT was held on THE HILL in Boulder, Colorado. Attending were Bill Kelsey and your's truly. Business at this meeting included:

- 1) Attending "MontyPython and the Holy Grail".
- 2) Bill Kelsey groveling at my feet to be included on point 3 above.
- 3) Cancelling a report from the AdHoc Committee on Changing the Name of The Podunk News for No Particular Reason (AHCCNTPNNPR). The report was cancelled for no particular reason.
- 4) Scheduling next year's TAIUPPC&IGT for on or about August, 1979.

Both Conventions wecr enjoyed by all in attendance, and it is hoped that next year's will be equally pointless.

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And now: On to the games, since that's what you're all waiting for anyway, right?





1977 CF (Simplic) -

chaps. Since the only satisfaction this game would have given me was the elimination of Gibson and since that was refused me, to hell with 770U.

((He may change his mind with the Jones resignation, methinks)).

THE LITTLE SICILIAN (via Tours and 1977 CF): Chapter I.

"Papa, so many innocent people have been dying lately - and all of them connected to my shop! I don't understand anything anymore; I wish you'd explain it to me." Roberto and his Papa were seated in the living room after a hard day at work.

"Well non, I thinka it all boilsa down ta dis: all dese poor, innocent people havea been adying, and nowa itsa time fora da guilty ta die. I got a contract out ona Momicelli; he peeks outa his back door, ana he's a dead man."

"So, Papa, you're responsible for all of the deaths. But I don't see why; why do you kill people left and right?"

"I don'ta kill dem; I have dem killed for me. Ya gots gotta unnerstan' da difference."

"There IS no difference, Papa! You're a murderer, a murderer!!" Roberto jumped up and ran into his papa, tears streaming down the youth's shiny cheeks, and he beat his puny fists against his Papa. Mr. Martnonni thought his chest would cave in.

"Here's a gots BIG difference, Roberto my son. My hita men can get 20-life, buta I can get da capital punishment. It'sa something ta be g proud a!"

#### Chapter II

"Dat Papa, why? Why do you do all of these things?" Roberto asked non calmly, seating himself again, and wiping the tears from his eyes on his sleeves.

His Papa replied, proverbially, with a question: "Why da ya worka in dat shop?"

"Because I need money to work myself up to higher levels, Papa."

"Samea goes fer me. You tinka I EEEE puttin' my life on da line every day by makin' people unhappy? I needa money too, ta get ta da top. De only action here is vice, gamblin', numbers, and small-time organized crimes; narcotacs is where de action is! How mucha dough you gets, Robb?"

"Not much; you know that Papa."

"A, and dat's da reason fer bein' in dis business; we couldn't live de way we do on your salary, coulda we? My line a work makes money, and lots of it. Anything fer a quicka buck?"

"Anything?"

"Anything."

#### Chapter III

Roberto and his father, the infamous "Papa" Martnonni, sat in silence for a few moments, thinking. Then Roberto jumped to his feet decisively, and walked to the door. Stopping in the frame, he looked back at his father. "Papa, I don't want to have anything to do with these small-time killings."

He was interrupted: "Neither do I; I justa told you, I wanna movea up ta do big-time mardows and drugs. But go on."



THE SEARCH

(Part III)

Our adventurers stared tensely at the Orcs. Each side drew weapons, and a fight seemed likely until Brad the Bard stepped in. He quickly used his charisma and smooth tongue to calm the 2 sides enough for Sir Kay to obtain some information.

The Orcs worked for Syevdak, an Uruk-hai in the service of the Chromatic Dragon. They were spying on this party, attempting to discover its purpose, but had been unsuccessful at eavesdropping.

Sir Kay, with the help of Oro LeeOre managed to convert some of the Orcs to his Demi-god Ukko, and convinced them that double-crossing their master was a wiser plan. The fighter Gannalon, bored with the trip and desiring to split forces, went his separate way - as commander of the newly converted Orcs. Gannalon was to continue seeking out the True Ones covertly. His outward purpose was to keep the Orcs busy and away from the main group and the Chromatic Dragon. Gandalf's ~~purpose~~ ~~sensory~~ was to prove helpful in the latter regard.

The remainder of the group travelled on through the valley and out of the mountains. But before they reached their exit, they met a group of Gorgons, and a fight ensued. By an amazing stroke of bad luck, Gandalf was turned to stone in the 1st round of melee, sending Brad into a rage. He leapt into the air and out of sight. The fight continued as more of the group was turned to stone by Gorgon breath.

As things looked grim, a dragon landed behind the beasts (1 of 4 had been killed by Yarri in 1 blow), and began biting and clawing furiously. But the dragon was also turned to stone (just after Yarri) just as he killed the last Gorgon.

Yet somehow the gods knew of the beleaguered group. It seemed that one member was almost superhuman, and to bring that person back to life would be a prestigious deed for the one who did it. After much bickering, it was agreed that all of the gods would throw a ~~spell~~ Stone-Flesh spell at the same moment, on penalty of death to any god who cheated.

None did, and the spells flew simultaneously. Each of the other characters was raised by his/hers respective god, and were ready to leave again. But Gandalf was despondent. How could he have been stoned? His despondency turned to anger towards the chaotic gods present, and he challenged Utko (Demi-god of Swordsmanship) to a sword fight.

Utko deferred to his most powerful earthly cleric, Sir Kay, and presented Sir Kay with his personal flaming sword. The fight was close, as Gandalf also had a Wizard's Sword. Each killed the other at the same moment, and each was raised from the dead. Gandalf was much happier - he had just killed someone using a Demi-god's sword, Sir Kay received a Flaming Sword identical in appearance to Utko's, and the group continued on its way.

In the meantime, the gods had decided to hold a meeting elsewhere, and left the area.

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Special Notes: ATTENTION DIPLOMACY PLAYERS:

CRAIG REGANS has a Change of Address not listed on Page 1:  
Craig Regans - 1501 Higgins Hall; Western Illinois University;  
Macomb, Illinois 61455.

CLEVE WILSON: I need your phone number to call you collect.



Exec. Ed.

Standby Requests:

1977 CU - Bob Acheson for Russia. (Note - Jerry Jones has resigned and you can take this position permanently - guaranteed).

Jim McManus for Germany.

1977 KU - Anyone for Austria. *Vincent Liza* for England (permanent replacement).

1978 (ONE) - Jim McManus for Austria. (Note - Guy Erwin may wish to retain this position, this is just in case he doesn't. If you take it over, it will be as a permanent replacement.)

~~Vincent Liza~~ for Germany.

*Cliff Gibson*

((Anyone else is also free to submit moves for these positions. I hope that some others will, as they may be needed.))

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Moves Due:

1976 BJ - Winter/Spring, 1977.

1977 CU - Fall, 1978

1977 KU - Spring, 1979.

1978 (ONE) - Winter, 1979.

((Separation requests in BJ will be honored, but I hope you'll try not to ask for one.))

The Next Moves Are Due On:    O C T O B E R    6    ,    1 9 7 8.

Konrad's Moves Are Due On:    O C T O B E R    4    ,    1 9 7 8.

((Konrad may request them even earlier, since EGGNOG #1 is scheduled for October 1, and I'm not sure if he's taking 77KU. Be ready for a postcard from him.))

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Iowa City, Iowa 52242  
Pl: (319) 353-0767

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Sub Ends:

Messages: