

PRAXIS

#3

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Editor's Steak: Rare

* Three days late. I'm sure you're saying to yourself, "Oh no. Not another one of those 'zines, I hope." Well, rest easy. The holiday season severely curtailed the time available to me for typing. More importantly, the first few weeks have proved to be the busiest period at work for over a year. So considering how hard I've worked to put this out, and how late it could have been otherwise, it's really early. Once the games start, a new department of PRAXIS, VANGUARD, will be sent out separately with the results if it looks like the 'zine can't come out on Monday when it should.

Not all that much feedback over the holidays; I'm hoping for more. SOLIDARITY and the long-awaited THE HISTORICAL SITUATION will return in the next issue, along with a larger letter column, so don't be afraid to write.

Some of you are receiving copies of #2 with this. #2 sold out, but I've made photocopies so you can have a complete collection, but note that the reprints are not of the same high print quality as the original.

I'm very encouraged about 1986, and I don't exactly know why. I still am floating about in that "New Years" spirit, which has usually dissipated by about January 5. I didn't make any fancy resolutions for this year, either. I haven't once written "1985" on a cheque this year. Everything bodes well.

In this issue you will find the introduction of CRITICAL THINKING, a new department of PRAXIS. This time it enjoys a feature I very much enjoyed compiling, a list of The Seventy-Five Greatest Songs of the 1960's. Putting it together brought back a lot of good memories and organized a section of my mind that had been chaotic. I hope that you find it interesting. Perhaps it will provoke you to compile your own list covering the same, or a different period, particularly if you dislike my suggestions. Here's something we can kick around in these pages for a while without getting into too much trouble.

One thing that really bothers me is disorderly queues. People who don't know how to line up thus really bug me too. A queue equitably distributes whatever it is that is being queued for. It also saves the liner-upper considerable mental and/or physical effort by eliminating the uncertainty of how the good will be distributed and by making efforts to improve one's chances of getting the good needless and indeed impossible. Queueing is one thing that native Canadians are very good at. Most Canadian queues are models of order and decorum. American queues somewhat worse, in my experience. One of the worst places around for queues is the Port Authority bus terminal in Manhattan. And this despite the fact that the terminal has those liner-upper helpers you see in banks--you know what I mean, the ones that have little barriers suspended between two poles. People just hop over the barriers, or they take them apart and leave the barrier part lying on the floor, or, worst of all, they take one end of one of the barriers and hook it up to a different pole entirely, so that the line either comes to a dead end or leads the queuers into the garage maintenance shop instead of to the bus they want to go on. People who line up too far away from the person ahead of them are anathema, particularly in the early stages of forming a queue, since a queue should be very regular, tight and straight if it is to succeed.

PRAXIS is a journal of postal Diplomacy published every five weeks (heh, heh) by Alan Stewart, 702-25 St. Mary St., Toronto, Ontario, CANADA M4Y 1R2, (416) 961-8095. Subscription rates: 80¢ Canadian the issue, ten for seven dollars; 60¢ American the issue, ten for five dollars. Postal Diplomacy was not invented by Allan B. Calhaver, as I stated here last time when my fingers got away from me. And none of you caught it--ha ha ha ha ha. John Boardman is the father of postal Diplomacy, while Allan invented the game itself.

Struggle!

STANDBIES: Dave Carter; Melinda Holley
Craig Reges; Dan Stafford; Steve Swigger
(If anyone wants on or off, please let
me know).

DEADLINE FOR ALL THREE GAMES:
Friday, February 14, 1986

1985 ??

ALGOMA

Winter '00

In 1923, Arthur G. Wallis took ALGOMA for the Liberals, beating the Conservative John M. Robb by fourteen votes, 2,365-2,351. Thomas Higgins finished third for the United Farmers of Ontario, with 1,842 votes. The same John M. Robb had lost by 44 votes to a different Liberal in the election of 1919.

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KLAGENFURT, Austria (30th February 1901): A sunny day in the depth of the Carinthian winter was a rarity, but today was one of those unusual moments, and Alfons Figl was enjoying every possible moment. Intelligence-gathering was a bore, and an outright pain when sloughing through meter drifts, but when the golden rays of the sun caressed his face as he plodded along, his chore became bearable. It also tended to speed his work, and in the present instance, he desperately needed some speed; only two weeks since the old geezer had declared war, and already he knew absolutely nothing. How nice.

Klagenfurt is a curious city. There are a hundred bars and Schnapps-parlours, but - unlike most cities of Europe - not one of them is situated on a back street; every single one is within a three-block radius of Franz-Josef-Strasse, blatantly out in the open on Kärntnerplatz. For over two hundred years, all diplomatic intrigue has been conducted in the tavern named Die Schwarze Katz, Number 43 on the street, the one with the cracked wooden walls that suggest seediness but actually provide a semblance of ventilation in August...in fact, over there against the south wall, Booth Twelve will serve very nicely, thank you. They haven't invented microphones yet, but when they do, the first place they will install them in Klagenfurt is in Booth Twelve of Die Schwarze Katz.

Alfons Figl hated to come inside from the scarce sun, but his contact would have been waiting excessively; Sliv was always early. "Sliv" - silly nickname, really, but he refused his Christian name ('Josef' reminded him of The Old Geezer, he insisted), and who could possibly pronounce Myslivecek? No, for as long as he sat in Booth Twelve, he would be called 'Sliv,' and there would be no gainsaying it. Besides, thought Figl as he nodded the host to the booth where he was wanted, what's in a name? The information was always there, was it not?

Alfons Figl acknowledged the familiar spotty face and scraggy beard, and ordered a tankard.

France-All: Merry Christmas (past tense), happy New Year, and how's everyone? Pleased to make your postal acquaintances.

ALGOMA Press (cont.)

Paris (UPI):

The Imposter slouched on his gem-encrusted throne, a troubled man. Hours before he had been produce manager at an Alpha Beta chain store in Albuquerque, New Mexico--then a freak accident; a short circuit in the employee's lounge coffee machine, combined with a rare daylight display of the aurora borealis triggered by telecasts of Still The Beaver, causing his blow dryer to emit a deadly stream of positions that blasted the hapless grocer into another universe, another plane. Waking in a four-poster bed the size of a putting green, surrounded by lackeys, he had found that he was Emperor of France instead of Cucumber King, and in a world about to be plunged into war, it seemed. Well, he would make the best of this--he pressed the Power On key on the Imperial Betamax Machine and called for tapes of Patton, Apocalypse Now and The Sting. He would prepare himself and do whatever he must do...

GM to Whom It May Concern: I keep thinking you'll have something for me/
Something you'll call "orders", but confess/
You've been playing where you shouldn't have beena playin'/
And now someone else's getting all your best/
These powers are made for usin'
And that's just what I'll do/
One of these days these powers/
Will be N-M-R-ing YOU

1985??

B R A N T - H A L D I M A N D

Winter '00

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RUSSIA	Robert W. Greier, Jr., 35171 Gromley, Rd., Salem, OH., U.S.A. 44460
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BERLIN (DEUTSCHLAND AGENCY FOR MILITARY NEWS):

Kaiser Mark announced in a speech before the Reichstag that rising European tensions threatened the independence of Holland and Denmark. "There is a chance that in the large war breaking out that these little nations might be overrun by one or another Great Power". Kaiser Mark revealed that the leaders of both nations had asked for Imperial protection, and that the Kreigsmarine & Wehrmacht was acting at once.

Russia-Board: Let's play nicely now, shall we?

Russia-World: Tongues out to all Denver Broncos fans. GO BROWNS!

GM-Russia: They listened for three quartes against Miami, at least.

GM to Whom It May Concern: You've been lazin' when you'd oughtta been writin'/
And you're thinkin' that you'll never get burned. Hah!/
I've just found me a ~~brand~~ new box of matches/
And what they'll do you ain't had time to learn/
These powers are made for usin'/
And that's just what I'll do/
One of these days these powers/
Will be N-M-R-ing YOU

GM: In 1905, the Conservative candidate John H. Fisher unseated the incumbent Liberal Daniel Burt in the district of BRANT NORTH by 65 votes, 1,242 to 1,177. Burt and Fisher opposed each other in three elections between 1898 and 1905, with the margin between the two being 102, 152, and 65 votes respectively.

GM: The deadline is February 14, 1986, a Friday. Remember that the phone deadline is one minute to midnight the day before (Thursday).

In the election of 1890, the incumbent Conservative, William G. Monk, defeated the Liberal candidate, George N. Kidd, by 9 votes, 1,145 to 1,136

- AUSTRIA Thomas Ockert, P.O. Box 219, Lake Ann, MI., U.S.A. 49650
- ENGLAND Marc Peters, 1814 Cameron Drive #3, Madison, WI., U.S.A. 53711-3357
- FRANCE Bob Acheson, c/o Echo Bay Mines, Lupin, Northwest Territories, CANADA XOE 1M0
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- RUSSIA Gary Coughlan, 4614 Martha Cole Lane, Memphis, TN, 38118
- TURKEY Frank Easton, 2-325 Indian Rd. Cr., Toronto, Ontario, CANADA M6P 2G9

Munich: He was walking in an Ottawa blizzard, looking at the falling snow, musing, as was his wont, when, suddenly, he has wisked away by strangers with Torontonion accents. His slipped in unconsciousness and awoke three days later to find himself in the Kaiser's palace, a largish Wagnerian heroine, wearing nothing except Viking horns, in the bed beside him. "Whence cometh my help?" he cried...and she sang for four days about her undying love for Germany's new godlike leader.

GM: The Gamesmaster's Imperial counsellors clustered about him, shouting contradictory pieces of advice. "That is clearly identified as press, and nothing in it says anything about holding it up until the orders actually appear", said the impetuous, hot-headed, formalistic one whose public comments were so often identical to the Leader's inner feelings. "Let Stewart be Stewart", he flourished triumphantly. "Don't be crazy", said Breadmaker, the wise and pragmatic one. "That clearly is not meant to be printed until Spring '01 occurs. If you print it, odds are the player will resign. You never committed yourself to publishing all press anyway, so just leave it out."

"Well", the Gamesmaster interjected with that familiar cocking of the head and smile. "You both have good points. Let me think about it, after I take another nap." "And by the way", he added conspiratorially, "don't wake me up until after PRAXIS is out."

GAMENOTES

1. These notes refer to and are relevant to all three games.
2. Some player/s have sent in two sets of orders, with one set undated. I believe that in some 'zines (or at least one 'zine that I can think of) this would cause an NMR. I have noted which came first and which came second, so all of you are alright, and if I could not tell/remember/deduce which came second, I would not NMR you but use the dated set. But please, date your orders.
3. It is very helpful if you put your orders, press, and game notes on a sheet separate from all other material (letters, special requests, etc.) If you do not do so, I put the whole thing in the game file, so your orders will be safe, but I might not remember to pull out the other information (e.g. letters for printing)in time for typing/answering.
4. There have been no objections yet to game commentary by Blair Cusack, and some outright approval. Blair notes that he was a little embarrassed to read my comments about him last time, that he didn't want to appear to be boasting, and that had he knewthat I would have been publishing any of his letter, he would have withheld the offer. Great Jumping Jehosofat, it looks like I've offended a subber! Indeed, until I began publishing I didn't realize how easy it was to offend subbers. (Come to think of it, I should have known--I can be pretty easily offendable as a subber myself). Perhaps I can make it up to Blair a little bit by reiterating that I really appreciated his offer; one of the things that I planned to write about sometime in PRAXIS was the infrequency of game commentary. I think there should be a lot more of it, that it should be, if not the norm, at least a lot more common. I mentioned Blair's credentials in order to... well, to establish his credentials! I look forward to his commentary. As stated last time, players in ALGOMA or CARLETON still have until February 14, 1986 to indicate whether they approve or object to Blair commenting on them.
5. The plans for running a variant are still enmeshed in secrecy at this time, but I haven't forgotten about it--watch this space.

Demystification

5

The Search for Living Room

by Marc Hurwitz

Last issue I discussed the different opening alliances available to the German player. This time our topic will be 1st year tactics.

No matter which of the alliances has been made, if any, the German player has but 3 basic openings. I will call them the "Kill France", "Baltic" and "Neutral" openings.

Kill France

A Mun-Bur, A Ber-Kie, F Kie-Hol. This puts immediate pressure on Paris and Mar. It is unlikely that Germany will get either, but Germany will certainly get 2 builds to 1 or none for the French. That is--if the French are fooled. If the French meet the Germans in Burgundy, Germany is back at square zero, except that France doesn't trust him. Of course, it can be argued that Germany would be right in bouncing France out of Burgundy.

France has legitimate reasons to move to Burgundy, however, whereas Germany has none. Therefore, this opening clearly reveals anti-French intentions on the part of the German player, and should only be used if he is confident conditions are right (ie. he is allied with England and/or Italy, and is confident that no other player will interfere with him or his allies).

Baltic

A Mun-Ruhr, A Ber-Kie, F Kie-Den. This threatens neither France nor England. It assures Germany of either protecting Munich or locking up Holland. Most importantly, it gives Germany a decisive role in Scandinavia.

Russia will quickly realize that his role in Sweden is at Germany's whim. If Germany denies Russia this build in '01, the Czar may be stopped dead in his tracks. His value as an ally in the eyes of Austria and Turkey will drop. So, Russia will be eager to deal with Germany.

England, if he has opted to get Russia 1st, will likewise be eager to deal with Germany. If England is being coy, he will still be more amenable to overtures than if the fleet were in Holland.

There are a few weaknesses in the opening. If the Anglo-French juggernaut is unleashed, at least Germany will be well-positioned to take advantage of a Russian attack on England.

Neutral

This opening is best when one is unsure of one's neighbors' expertise and intentions. A Ber-Kie, F Kie-Hol, A Mun-Ruhr. Denying Holland to the English is more important defensively than denying Denmark to him. Russia is not unnecessarily rattled, and neither is France. An attack by France on England or vice versa is best exploited from this position.

There are, of course, numerous other openings. I leave it as an exercise to the reader to calculate the number. However, they are either pointless, or else best used when one knows the personalities involved. A Drive To the East plan is occasionally bandied about. The plan is most effective in obtaining large numbers of centers to the east. However, the centers obtained are in Germany, and they are taken by her western neighbors, France and England! All one achieves is an army-in-exile in Russia, and a thoroughly pissed Russian player who will remember your waste of his game fee for years to come. One subtlety might be mentioned, however. A Sitzkreis in which France and Germany bounce each other out of Burgundy provides security for both, and is useful in fooling the other players about a German-French alliance.

Next issue, we will leave the early game and discuss a topic of the middle game: "Whither the Kriegsmarine".

((Very nice, and three free ones to you.

The "Anschluss" opening, with A Mun-Tyo, seems not to have acquired defenders here; it is reputedly popular in England. I believe it appropriate where you strongly suspect a joint French-Italian campaign against Munich; it puts a stop to such ideas.))

Critical

Thinking

CRITICAL THINKING will contain reviews and such-like material.

Last issue I threatened to produce a list of the best 100 rock songs of all time. I have had the idea of producing such a list for some time? Why? First of all, I'm a list person I guess. Secondly, I hear oldies, and think to myself, "Boy, I still like that song." But how much?

And how does it stand up to other songs I liked later? Or before? I hear a song and say to myself, "That must be one of my top twenty-five favourite songs of all time. Over the years, I must have said that about thirty-five or forty songs. After a while, I say to myself, "Quit saying things like that to yourself unless you can back it up. And, stop talking to me."

On the two following pages you find my list of the top seventy-five songs of the 1960's. I think of it as a list of the best 75 rock songs of the 1950's, but if I said that people might notice some peculiar names on it: Johnny Cash, Frank Sinatra, Lawrence Welk (?).

Billboard magazine lists a "Hot 100" for each week. I went to the Public Library and consulted copies from the sixties to make up my list. Next will be the seventies; eventually the eighties and 1955-1959; then I'll consolidate the lists into a master list I will call, grandiosely, the Top 100 Songs of All Time.

What is there to say about my choices? As you would expect if you knew me, they are eclectic. The Beatles are well represented, with ten songs of the seventy-five, but none is rated higher than number 19. In other words, the whole collection of work produced by the Beatles in the 1960's is beaten out by artists such as Nancy Sinatra, the Five Americans, the Royal Guardsmen and Napoleon XIV. Not many lists will boast this feature.

There is only one song from 1960, and only one from 1961.

One could look over the list and conclude that it is not, in all respects, the product of a mature developed taste. If you saw this list and had to guess who compiled it, you would probably not say "Henry Kissinger" or "my old professor Smith in the Department of Musicology." That's just the way it is. The fact is that music you like in your formative years is likely to stay with you for the rest of your life. I wake up humming some of these songs more than I care to think, and have no reason to believe that I will not continue to do so for the rest of my life. Pity that I wake up singing "No Milk Today" rather than something more edified, but that's the way it is.

There's at least one mistake in the list--one that I caught quite fortuitously about five minutes ago. I am listening to an oldies programme called "Supergold" on the radio, and they just played "'I'm Henry VIII, I Am" by Herman's Hermits. That should have been listed as Number 70, with "King of the Road" and the others following below it. I enjoyed Henry VIII as much now as I did twenty years ago, so maybe I shouldn't pretend that my tastes have gotten more ethereal. They also played "No Milk Today", and I admit that it probably doesn't deserve to be # 27. But I have a special fondness for songs I remember liking at the time they came out, even if they have later been eclipsed in my mind by songs of the same period.

The Mamas and the Papas come off very well in this list, with three songs in the top eleven. Likewise The Association, with four hits in the top forty. The Beach Boys crapped out, did much worse than I would have guessed, because I think of myself as admiring the body of their work. There is something in their laid back, surfing, tanning, California lifestyle that I really don't admire, never have admired, and never will, something that offends my conservative instincts. So their songs really just didn't make it.

I found that my memory was quite faulty as to when some of these songs came out. "Sweet Cherry Wine", which would have rated even higher if I had compiled my list in, say, 1969, seems to be much older than seventeen years. If someone had walked up to me this morning and said "'Sweet Cherry Wine' came out a year after 'The Dock of the Bay' and 'Scarborough Fair', I would have said he was crazy. But it did. Music that departs in some way from older styles will always seem newer than songs in those older styles, whether it is or not.

I have no doubt that this list says something about my personality; tell me what. And feel free (indeed obligated) to send in your own lists and comments.

The Top Seventy-Five Songs of the 1960's

1. Those Were The Days	Mary Hopkin	Apple	1968
2. I Saw Her Again	Mamas and the Papas	Dunhill	1966
3. Western Union	Five Americans	Abnak	1967
4. The Dock of the Bay	Otis Redding	Volt	1968
5. I Heard It Through the Grapevine	Marvin Gaye	Tamla	1968
6. Monday, Monday	Mamas and the Papas	Dunhill	1966
7. It's My Party	Lesley Gore	Mercury	1963
8. Cherish	Association	Valiant	1966
9. Devil With a Blue Dress On	Mitch Ryder & Detroit Wheels	New Voice	1966
10. They're Coming to Take Me Away Ha-Haaa!	Napoleon XIV	Warner Bros.	1966
11. California Dreamin'	Mamas and the Papas	Dunhill	1966
12. These Boots Are Made For Walking	Nancy Sinatra	Reprise	1966
13. Sweet Cherry Wine	Tommy James & The Shondells	Roulette	1969
14. Crimson and Clover	Tommy James & The Shondells	Roulette	1968
15. Proud Mary	Credence Clearwater Revival	Fantasy	1969
16. Stop ! In the Name of Love	Supremes	Motown	1965
17. Ring of Fire	Johnny Cash	Columbia	1963
18. Snoopy vs. the Red Baron	Royal Guardsmen	Laurie	1966
19. Strawberry Fields Forever	Beatles	Capitol	1967
20. Secret Agent Man	Johnny Rivers	Imperial	1966
21. Help Me Rhonda	Beach Boys	Capitol	1965
22. I Saw Her Standing There	Beatles	Capitol	1964
23. Is That All There Is ?	Peggy Lee	Capitol	1969
24. Return to Sender	Elvis Presley	RCA Victor	1962
25. MacArthur Park	Richard Harris	Dunhill	1968
26. Nothing but a Heartache	Supremes	Motown	1969
27. No Milk Today	Herman's Hermits	MGM	1967
28. Stag-O-Lee	Wilson Pickett	Atlantic	1967
29. Don't Let the Rain Come Down	Serendipity Singers	Capitol	1964
30. Windy	Association	Warner Bros.	1967
31. Never My Love	Association	Warner Bros.	1967
32. Calcutta	Lawrence Welk	Dot	1960
33. We Can Work It Out	Beatles	Capitol	1965
34. Wedding Bell Blues	5th Dimension	Soul	1969
35. Folsom Prison Blues	Johnny Cash	Columbia	1968
36. One	Three Dog Night	Dunhill	1969
37. Sit Down, I Think I Love You	Mojo Men	Reprise	1967
38. Day Tripper	Beatles	Capitol	1965

The Top Seventy-Five Songs of the 1960's (Continued)

39. Along Comes Mary	Association	Valiant	1966
40. You Keep Me Hangin' On	Supremes	Motown	1966
41. I Want To Hold Your Hand	Beatles	Capitol	1964
42. She Loves You	Béatles	Capitol	1964
43. Winchester Cathedral	New Vaudeville Band	Fontana	1966
44. I Am A Rock	Simon and Garfunkel	Columbia	1966
45. Johnny B. Goode	Dion	Columbia	1964
46. Satisfaction	Rolling Stones	London	1965
47. Ferry Cross the Mersey	Gerry & The Pacemakers	Laurie	1965
48. Red Rubber Ball	Cyrkle	Columbia	1966
49. The Wanderer	Dion	Laurie	1961
50. The Stripper	David Rose & his Orchestra	MGM	1962
51. Sky Pilot	Eric Burden & The Animals	MGM	1968
52. Indian Reservation	Don Fardon	Creascendo	1968
53. Atlantis	Donovan	Epic	1969
54. Pinball Wizard	The Who	Decca	1969
55. Na Na Hey Hey Kiss Him Goodbye	Steam	Fontana	1969
56. Itchycoo Park	Small Faces	Immediate	1969
57. Scarborough Fair	Simon and Garfunkel	Columbia	1968
58. The 59th Street Bridge Song	Harpers Bizarre	Warner Bros.	1967
59. Ticket to Ride	Beatles	Capitol	1966
60. Dizzy	Tommy Roe	ABC	1969
61. Light My Fire	Doors	Elektra	1967
62. Standing in the Shadows of Love	Four Tops	Motown	1966
63. Just Dropped In	First Edition	Reprise	1968
64. That's Life	Frank Sinatra	Reprise	1966
65. Something	Beatles	Apple	1969
66. Love is Here and Now You're Gone	Supremes	Motown	1967
67. Ruby Tuesday	Rolling Stones	London	1967
68. Yesterday	Beatles	Capitol	1965
69. No Time	Guess Who	RCA	1969
70. King of the Road	Roger Miller	Smash	1965
71. Ballad of the Green Berets	Barry Sadler	RCA Victor	1966
72. If I Had a Hammer	Peter, Paul and Mary	Warner Bros.	1962
73. A Hard Day's Night	Beatles	Capitol	1964
74. Easy to be Hard	Three Dog Night	Dunhill	1969
75. The Rains Came	Big Sam	Eric	1962

The

Party Line

This time we'll try uncut letters (i.e., the whole thing will appear in one place). Let me know which way you like better and I'll do it ~~the other~~ that way.

James Early (cont.)

Also, tell us more about your personal life. What do you do for a living? What do you want to do. I'd be very interested in learning about you, as I'm sure most subbers would. (Plus it's easy space filler when you can't think of anything else.)

Bruce Geryk:

Twenty-second person to ask for a game spot, hmmm? Oh well. That's what an American gets for trying to butt into a Canadian zine!

I really like PRAXIS (issue #1, at any rate). Consequently, there should be five American basic monetary units enclosed in this envelope. Put me down for ten issues.

I noticed you are going to open a variant--FAR EAST would be great. I'm running a game of that here at the University of Chicago--sort of an FTF-negotiation (as opposed to plain negotiation) game with moves submitted twice a week, with results published (well, that sounds too professional--"printed" is more apt) in a 'zine. The game itself is really good. If you can fit me in, put me down for Far East (I know, I'm the sixth player to ask, right?) I made a game-size (as opposed to conference-size) map for this--would be willing to donate it whether I play or not.

((I'm keeping an open mind on opening a FAR EAST game. Let me ask one more time: is anyone else interested in playing?))

The questions you posed ((the SYNTHESIS quiz)) are quite interesting. Unfortunately, I am not a pubber, so I can't offer you any great words of wisdom. All I can say is, as a player, I would never play in a game with anyone who played in my 'zine. Of course, this may be rather unrealistic for the better-known GMs, who would not be able to satisfy such conditions without playing exclusively with novices. What to do? The advantages you mentioned (GM's knowing certain tendencies of their players- opponents) might be considered to be bonuses gained for the "thankless" (at least it seems so) job of publishing. All I can say is that just observing how a player interacts with other players is an insight into what kind of player he is. Consequently, a GM is in the best possible position to evaluate a future opponent.

((Which side are you going to come down on? The two positions you state are about as opposite as they could be--either it is so improper for GMs to have these advantages that they should not even play in a game where they have them, or they're just a fat "bonus" for publishing, there to be enjoyed.))

On your novice article, I have only this to say. I am in a sort of limbo as far as pbm DIPLOMACY goes. This is because most of the 'zines (well, all of them) have been "game-only" 'zines, where there was really nothing more than a game report and some words from the G.. About the DIPLOMACY hobby in general, I am rather ignorant. For instance, I do not know why Brux Linsey and Kathy Byrne are feuding. I know that they are, that they are calling each other very nasty names, and that a lot of people have gotten excited over it, but that's all. Of specifics, I know nothing. What do I do? ((Nothing)). And how do I find out what the feud is about? Can you explain? ((No. I tend to vacillate on this issue, but my considered opinion at the moment and for at least the next five minutes is that people who know nothing about it should make it a point to stay in that condition unless they have some specific reason for informing themselves. "Where ignorance is bliss/ 'tis folly to be wise."))

Your Solidarity questions were, well, hilarious. (I don't want to make fun of your lifestyle--and I'm not--but the way the questions were posed was quote humorous. I'm sure it was meant to be). Being a college student, I can only offer a very few hints:

Plants (in unobtrusive places) make living rooms look great. I've got an apartment here, and the plants are a boon. Also, try to cover as much of the walls as possible

Bruce Geryk (cont.)

without "covering" them, so to speak. Something interesting (and moderately small, compared to the whole wall) looks a lot better than something uninteresting that covers the entire wall. I have some excellent wall hangings that work wonderfully. Of course, I brought them here from Poland, ((of course?)) so no one has seen anything like them, so it distracts them from the surrounding mess. Tasteful posters (framed) are nice.

Don't pick up women in shopping malls. Bad idea, that.

Nelson Heintzman:

Hello, Alan!

Long time since last year's BruxCon, eh. And now you are into pubbing...!

I really liked your maiden issue. I thought your product was quite substantive. All meat...! Think you can keep it up? ((No, I think I'll probably fold next week. Why do people keep saying things such as this? Now I know why Bruce McIntyre complained about people saying the same or similar things to him after Excelsior started up. Oh I shouldn't be so bad-tempered. Suffice it to say that PRAXIS #2 was somewhat longer than the average issue will probably be, and P #1 more varied. But I think I can continue to throw out some items of interest from time to time.))

The Party Line ((now SYNTHESIS)):

1. ((GM knows of player's sloppiness)) How does one propose to screen or censor such knowledge from oneself? A frontal lobotomy? What is learned is learned--we can't wipe out our own memory banks, nor should we try. Factor in the info; that's life, bub....

2. ((GM knows of player's scrupulosity)). Ditto.

3. ((Crossgamers)). If the information was given and/or solicited in confidence, the GM is honor bound not to divulge it to others. However, your scenario suggests that the information was given voluntarily with no restrictions attached. Technically, I would think the GM is not obligated to remain silent. However, is I were he, I wouldn't tell others that this info had been given to me by a player over whom I was GMing. A more subtle manner of dispensing the information is required, I do believe.

4. ((copy player's style of orders?)) Find another way to forge the orders. His format is privileged information to the GM receiving it. The fact that he told his first GM that he always uses the same format is not privileged information, of course; but, for the one GM to deliberately use that format, which he only saw in the first place in his role as GM, would be unethical in my opinion. ((I agree. But where were you last issue, when I was a lone voice trying to defend that opinion against the massed arguments of the whole rest of the hobby?))

5. Resigning is strictly a personal decision. I wouldn't myself. ((whoops, this is about meeting up with the GM deceiver you have turfed from your 'zine)). Having an instant real-life enemy in the game, in fact, should make it easier to select one's friends, now shouldn't it? Of course if the rest of the board are his buddies, you got a problem... Regarding the diplomacy angle, again a fielder's choice... Some people might be sympathetic to your tale of the other guy's perfidy; others may react against you for spreading gossip. Whatever the decision, I see no ethical problem because the scenario makes clear the whole dispute is in the public domain anyway. ((Another good point, one that I agree with. Nelson wrote these answers before # 2 came out, by the way, so Nelson earns points as a man of good judgement for agreeing with me here.))

6. ((suspected GM deceiver in same game with you)) You may not want to ally with him--personal choice. But, the affair must be kept quiet and the GM should not use his suspicions in his diplomacy as a player. If the GM did not have enough proof to take official action, then he has no business sneaking his suspicions behind the guy's back, either.

((Well done ! I very much like your reasoning in general on these questions. You are a Great Canadian.))

Ron (Canada) Brown:

Very nice 'zine Maybe we're headed into a new Canadian classical period. Things look so much better now than they did in the early 80's, especially with Praxis and Excelsior on the scene. Have you any theories as to why Toronto dried up as a source

Very nice zine. Maybe we're headed into a new Canadian classical period. Things look so much better now than they did in the early 80's, especially with Praxis and Excelsior on the scene. Have you any theories as to why Toronto dried up as a source of Dip zines (with the exception of SK and, sometimes, NFA), after being such a hotbed for so many years and why we are now seeing a revival of the Toronto Dip scene?

Anyhow, just to counter the nay-sayers, I approve fully of your method of cutting up letters and grouping them by topic. I used to do that myself and found it's the only reasonable way to deal with a lot of letters on several topics each.

The Party Line: obviously you and I disagree on a number of attitudes. That's okay, as I enjoy intelligent debate (which we don't see too much of in the hobby or elsewhere). You are right that there can be no one "Christian" view. There are people who believe that state-sanctioned murder (sometimes called capital punishment, sometimes called war, sometimes called indifference to human need) is "Christian" and there are those who believe that no state should have the power of life and death over its citizens--and claim the basis for that belief is Christianity. (Don't you love the way I use emotionally charged language to betray my bias?) Further, no one can judge what is "Christian" and what is not--at least from the Protestant viewpoint--for another person. But that does not mean that the Church, as an organization, cannot state its position on issues. As an Anglican I was never taught that I must accept as absolute authority every pronouncement of church leaders. And, there are times when I disagree with given situations--but I don't feel any less a Christian or an Anglican for doing so. In any case, we need strong organizations capable of influencing governments without being a part of the government process itself. I think it is the duty of our church leaders to investigate, meditate, debate, whatever, and come up with policy positions on moral issues--and then attempt to persuade governments to consider their position.

I am unclear about your position regarding Bill Davis. You recognize that he made a major policy decision without consulting his cabinet--something which any citizen should be outraged by, let alone the members of his party--and then give Garnsworthy a hard time because he called Davis a dirty name. I bet a lot of Conservatives called Davis names that cannot be printed in family newspapers. True, Garnsworthy did it in a public forum while party members did it privately, and perhaps we ought to be a little more circumspect in public, but, he spoke his mind and I see no need for him to apologize for that. You don't think there's any relationship between Davis' methods of governing and those of Hitler. That's your opinion and you're as entitled to state that as Garnsworthy is to state his view. (I wonder what the loyal members of the Orange Lodge thought of Davis in his final days? I bet Garnsworthy comes across as a Davis-toady by comparison.)

((I confess shamefacedly to knowing very little about the Canadian classical period. It certainly struck me as curious that Toronto, the greatest city in the world, did not have more 'zines and a more ~~well-developed~~ developed FTF community, at the time I entered the hobby. Chris Greaves' organizing persistence should be credited with whatever revival is now occurring, in my opinion. I'd like to see a Toronto 'zine by a university student--U of T of course. With a university base we could really get something going here.

There are those who believe that the state has divinely ordained sanction to employ capital punishment and to wage war, such as me. Such killing is therefore not murder and not proscribed by the Commandments, "Thou Shalt Not Murder" being the accurate translation.

So much for pacifism, and its fruity ideological neighbouring isms.

The Cabinet accepted Davis' decision to change party and government policy. If they had not done so, the Premier would not have been able to continue with the changed policy. It's just that Bill decided to announce his decision in the Legislature before he told them about it. No, that's not really true. I don't see why any citizen should be outraged by the way a government leader runs his Cabinet. It's his business. Calling Davis a "dirty name" (e.g. f***face) is not as bad as comparing him to Hitler

Kathy Byrne:

I have a complaint--if I got three free issues how come my sub says 11? I signed up for 10 issues starting with #2 so that means I have 11 issues coming, but if that is plus 3-- I really have 14 issues coming. Can Canucks count?

((It's a long story. After a long day of typing, I wanted to take my issues to the local sandwich bar (somewhat misleadingly called "The Beerateria") to address and stamp. I didn't want to take my subber card file with me, lest I lose it. So I made a few notes before I went. Some of my notes were not adapted to present-day conditions. You are right.))

You didn't give me any questions to answer this month. I can't answer my own questions, as if I knew the answers, I wouldn't have given you the questions.

((But, if I delegate the question-asking duties sometimes, as I intend to do, the person who asks the questions won't have any questions to answer that month. More seriously, people were afraid to try funny answers to your questions of last month. OK, you tell me--Canadians are wallflowers, how can we liven them up?))

Roger Maris has left us, and you know the most amazing thing--when he played in N.Y. he got a lot of publicity on his "country style", and true to form, although he resided in Fla., he requested to be buried back home in Fargo, N.D. I guess the kid from the country, in spite of his success, knew where his roots were! Another great baseball player leaves us, so say something nice about him in your baseball corner.

((The whole community of baseball fans has felt a lot of guilt about Roger Maris; don't forget, it was baseball fans who were against him, who wanted Mantle, not him, to break the record, who wrote him nasty letters, who booed him in Yankee Stadium (causing him to give them the celebrated finger.) Roger would have loved to have stayed in N.Y. as a hero after his career, but at that time he was a pariah. He always maintained his resentment against the Yankees, and, not just the Yankees, but New York. It was the New York sportswriters who gave him the hardest time. Although he was resentful, he never became bitter (there is a difference). Yet although they renounced him, he never renounced them. When George Steinbrenner (and let's recognize him for doing one decent thing in his career) made overtures on behalf of the Yankees, Roger was quick to respond. His embrace of the Mick! at Old-Timers' Day was one of the most moving things--well, not too much is that moving in baseball, I admit. Let us say that it was moving to those who were concerned.

The Toronto Globe & Mail headline on Roger's obituary said "Slugger Hailed/ As A Great One". He was a great one, unappreciated in his day, and it is well that he is appreciated now.

Bill Veeck has also passed away since our last issue. He, too, was a great one, and his book, "Veeck, as in Wreck", is unsurpassed in its field, for those who are interested.))

Your False Consciousness section is a bust. You are just inviting trouble. After all, who cares who is Bruce's friend and who is mine. I see no point to a geographic distribution of people. I, personally, find this topic stupid--I know who my friends are and I don't need a poll to determine that--maybe Bruce needs this attention--but I don't. So why bring this crap into your zine--controversy is stupid & I think you're headed in the wrong direction. As for Dave Carter--I'm not going to fight over him--let all the Canucks stand united.

I should ask for a sub refund now-- but I'll give it one more issue.

((If I'm headed in the wrong direction, I'm at least headed there more slowly this issue.

I was moved to consider my position very carefully by your letter--I believe that I could state a rationale for discussing the feud that would convince the majority of my subbers, or indeed of any group of objective people. But the very act of discussing it in detail would require spending three or more pages in the effort--exactly the type of feud-emphasis that you don't want.

Last time all I did was to comment on the letters received as a result of FC#1. Likewise this time. I don't have anything more to say on the subject of my own initiative at this time. FC #1 was printed for a specific and good reason, previously discussed. As we move from comments about FC to comments about the comments about FC to comments about the comments about the comments...you get the picture, there should be less and less of the material you find objectionable ^e every issue. Besides, I have other FC fish to fry.))

Now that Issue II of PRAXIS has floated in, I can relax. I, too, had a slight niggling fear that you might not live up to my review, but I'm pleased to see that you have done. In general, people (and I am no exception) tend to be embarrassed by compliments, and that is unfortunate, because the giver of a sincere and unsolicited compliment is expressing a warmth. Your style of writing strikes a responsive chord (I think it's a diminished seventh on F#) at this end, and I hope you will accept - if not now, then some day - that your abilities with our language are in the realm of real artistry. Does that sound gushy to you? I'm sorry. It's how I feel.

Please note but one specific example: On p.20 you assert in your first line (top) that Bill James "soars into the sublime." Then you quote a long section in which, in fact, Bill James does soar into the sublime. But then, apparently unbeknownst to you, YOU soar into the sublime with your concluding remarks. Yes you do, buster! That, my new friend, is WRITING!

Okay, I'll shut up.

'Scusa, the radio is about to get to Wagner's "Twilight of the Gods" and I can't type during that....

(Half an hour later) Whew! I am exhausted! Talk about soaring, you should have heard what Mehta did with those horns....

Yes. Well, two quick queries.

1. Are there two Robert Achesons? You and others seem to be listing one in NWT, whereas I have one in Edmonton. What's what?

2. I note you've had a response from Pete Birks in England. I've been trying for a time to glean his address; could you please supply it? In the style of another of your correspondents, I'm enclosing a most useful stamped return envelope.

I should now like to get 'touchy' for a sec. You must know that I am not a religious person, and frankly have little interest in the field. I believe that I respect the rights of others to differ with me, so long as they reciprocate; but, because theological matters impact me so little, I occasionally lapse in my consideration of those to whom God has a meaning. It would appear, reading into a couple of your responses to my comments in #2, that I have crossed the thin line. Please forgive the slip; I shall evidence a greater sensitivity hereinafter.

Should it be of interest, I bill myself as an agnostic who eschews atheism only because I can't prove anything. I hold membership in the Unitarian Church, but am seriously thinking of dumping even that.

Finally, permit me to expand on a comment in my last letter, which you printed and responded to in a way that made me realize I'd left myself wide open for misinterpretation. My fault. I refer to the issue of hobby feuds, and my implication that I support the 'ostrich' approach of sticking one's head in the sand and pretending not to notice.

I had not intended that reading. Ken Peel's plaint suggested (though it did not state) that the Great Feud has gone beyond the level of substance and has devolved to absurdity. Issues have been subsumed by rhetoric. There may one have been points to address, but they have long since gone by the wayside.

Ken's point, I think, and certainly mine, is that this Feud has been confronted on its merits, and has not seen abatement despite the good offices of a number of people. It being thus unresolved, it must now be rendered ineffectual. Ignoring it may well be the vehicle for effecting that ineffectuality.

May I also suggest that your allusion to the "wash-our-hands-of-... crimes" comparative (sp? the dictionary's in the room where Eric is asleep, and I can't check or I'll awaken him and have to tell him another story) is invalid. Note that I have offered shunning as a solution, not as an avoidance. You would have to know me to verify this, but I do not support letting the neighbors, or the Ethiopians, struggle and topple on their own. The neighbors must know this about me, too, because they often call on me for help, and I'm glad they do, because being useful helps to validate my existence. That may sound pompous, but I think I'll risk the charge, if only to underline my agreement with your bias against the "it's-not-my-problem" school. It is TOO my problem. And I am TOO my brother's keeper.

Your comments struck a nerve, Alan. I am a humanist. If I thought for one millisecond that confronting the Feud in its present form would engender the least trifle of good, I'd confront in a flash. But I feel we're beyond that, and I feel Ken thinks so as well. And since we are both looking for a hobby that encompasses fun rather than bitterness, we are prepared to ride the feuders off on a rail and preserve our joy.

Did I get carried away? Well, it's your own fault....

Enough rot. It being 11 p.m., and I having to rise for work at 4 a.m., will you forgive me for absquatulating? Please keep in touch.

((Bob Acheson lives in Lupin and works in Edmonton, or vice versa, or is it that he works in Lupin two weeks of the month and Edmonton the other three weeks?

Pete Birks: 65 Turney Road, London, England, SE 21 7JB.

Blasphemy is now so common, even among Christians, that it is unrealistic to expect agnostics to refrain from it. I can't forgive the slip because I took no offence at it. What should I do now? Seriously, I don't use it myself but I take no offence at others who do. Usually it's a speech habit picked up when young anyway, one that you can't do much about.)

My "ostrich" comments were, you will remember, directed at the argument rather than you personally, and I accept what you say about your own motivations completely. I suspect that the majority of the people who use the argument are of the ostrich persuasion, however. And to the extent that attitude may have allowed things to overheat and get crazy, I deeply and bitterly resent it. But, hey!, the fact is I'm feeling pretty ostrich-like myself these days--I'd rather not talk about it any more right now.

Would you be willing to draw me an official PRAXIS stickman that I can use??)

Dave Carter:

Many years ago when I was just entering Play By Mail Dip I met Bob Acheson. Since Bob and I hit it off very well, he gave his secret to picking up girls. Like Bob, it's very simple. All you have to do is stand on the corner of Jarvis and Gerrard with a \$20 bill between your teeth (If you want to be different, like...er...Steve Hutton, you could always stand at Charles and Yonge?)

((Cheap shot. Yonge and Charles is less than one minute from the front door of my apartment. The areas you are referring to are at least two blocks east. Just north of Church and Wellesley there is a "gay" Pizza Nova, which is the funniest place around to eat.))

I thought it was generally known that I'm not a Linseyite but painting me as pro-Linsey in PR#1 was such a small libel that I never bothered correcting you. I'm a little surprised that others did. I invariably always ignore these things since I don't have to defend myself to people that I care about. ((So you do care!!!! Oh, Dave. I'll be such a good father to Adam.)) Acheson considers this wimpish but life isn't always black and white and I just like to wander around the grey areas. (I didn't leave enough space to get myself into trouble answering this one.))

Manx, Conrad!
(Conrad's return envelope)



C. VON METZKE
4374 DONALD AVE
SAN DIEGO CA 92117-3813
USA

Ty Hare:

Thanks for the sample issue of Praxis. I greatly enjoyed it, and fully intended to subscribe immediately upon finishing reading it. But of course, one thing led to another. I carried all of my eggs in one basket, and a waxed wig wears wobbly. To make a long story short, I didn't get around to it.

Until I spoke with Nelson "I'm your friend--I'm not like the others" Heintzman, who reminded me to sub. Here it is!

P.S. I promise that I'll try to be active. Promise.

Bob O'Donnell:

Hello again, got Praxis #2 in the mail yesterday, can't understand why it took 7 days to get here. ((Neither can I. I only sent it First Class, not Special Delivery.)) It takes that long to get a letter to Sweden! You must have received my other letter by now, in which I complain that I have not received any replies to my questions, please feel free to destroy it or whatever you would like except print it! Thank you. Why do yanks stamps "don't cut much ice"? Do your stamps (for 1 ounce) cost more or are us "HOT DOG EATERS" looked down on? I can't understand why Canadians dislike ~~Americans~~ HOT DOG EATERS so? Just what are we accused of doing? Besides destroying Canada's lakes with Acid rain!

((I like Americans, it's just that some people find them loud, obnoxious, insensitive, ostentatious, and rude. Not me, though. Those other, bad, Canadians are the ones who think that way. Each country demands that letters mailed within it bear its postage. Your first-class rate is only 22¢; ours is 34¢))

As for your question "Are you on the lam", yes indeed! I have received strange and offensive mail and I was surprised to receive your zine. ((Everyone in this hobby receives strange and offensive mail and was surprised to receive my 'zine.))

There have been times that I have received mail meant for a different R.A. O'Donnell, and have had a few legal hassles because of it.

Mark Weidmark:

Congratulations on your humungous second issue. I'm sure some of the old-timers, like Blair and Conrad, are already warning you about burn-out. It's dangerous to do too much too fast, but if you can keep up the pace and still enjoy it, what the heck.

Let's take the rest of this in point form:

--sorry about my cheapness (ie 80¢ cheque), but the last Toronto-based zine to use SK's mailing list put out one issue and actually did abscond with the game fees etc. I lost \$5.00, and I really hate getting ripped off. Anyway, here's \$4.00, which reduces my post-Christmas bank balance to \$1.18, but what the heck. (With the work you're putting into Praxis, the zine is a bargain at 80¢ per).

--I'm shocked and astonished...are you actually a real live warm-blood being who read Shocked and Appalled and remembered Mark Weidmark's letter on page 253? If true, you are indeed a remarkable person. Find enclosed a copy of a related piece published by the Globe & Mail in December, 1979.

((Mark's letter to the Globe and Mail: oh hell, I don't have it. Sigh. I'll dig it out for next time.))

--reading through Praxis again I see everyone submitting \$5.00 for a 7 issue sub. so I guess I'll reduce my account to 18¢. ((That's \$5.00 American, enough for them to receive the volume discount. Canadians have to pay \$7.00 to get the same discount. Is it not ever thus?))

--well, I'm getting hassles from the kitchen lady about putting aside dippy letters and getting on with the best Canadian novel ever...

((Sigh again. We'll pick it up with Mark next time. I wish I had more space this time for letters. I have letters I'd have liked to have printed from Carrier, Laster, Coughlan, Greier, Swigger, Caws, Cooley, Hodgins and others. Sorry guys. Next time if I have room, unless any of you don't want to have stale letters printed, and if s, let me know.

You have a better chance of having your letter printed if it is typed in reproducible fashion. You also avoid the editor's snarky parenthesized comments in the middle of your argument--a not inconsiderable benefit. Am I too intrusive with my parentheses? I thought that perhaps I was a little self-indulgent in this regard in #2.))

The Withering Away

And now something I've been waiting for.... I now have a few honest-to-Calhamer novices out there in my listening audience, so I can deliver a few plugs without being presumptuous....Fol Si Fie, by Randolph Smyth, 119-70 Maryland St., Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

R3G 1K7 has (I believe) its last open game opening. Randolph's future game openings will be restricted to players with at least two Calhamer points. This last game opening is hanging out of his 'zine like an overripe fruit, while people are unhappy about not getting into a game in PRAXIS? Anyone who would play in P before FSF is crazy, I opine.

Randolph is the best writer on playing psychology in the hobby and I think I get more enjoyment per printed page from his 'zine than from any other. Subs 3/\$2 Can., 9/\$5 U.S., gamefee is, I think \$9, but well worth it....I would advise any novice to start by playing in Graustark, the hobby's flagship 'zine,

founded by John Boardman, the founder of the postal hobby, lo! these many years ago. Over twenty years of reliable gamesmastering and pubbing on time! It is a marvel. Completely overlooked has been John's skill as a writer. He is a great polemicist and a biting satirist. Not everyone will agree with his views on politics or hobby goings-on. You meet up with a high quality of players there. I think John (234 E.19th St., Brooklyn, N.Y., U.S.A. 11226) charges \$20 for a game these days--but that includes your sub for as long as the game continues. \$20 is cheap to be a part of a great tradition....Conrad von Metzke has openings in Regular Diplomacy, Gunboat Diplomacy and the Cline 9-man variant in Costaguana, which premiered in April 1965. Subs are 226 U.S. per copy (in increments of ten) and there are no game fees. This is what Eddie Shack used to call "A Real Bargoen". Conrad is a delightful stylist with a wide-range of interests, and one feels that he brings the same quality of level-headed appreciation to all of him. I could kick myself to not subbing to Costa a year before. A (favourable) review by Rod Walker in DW accidentally discouraged me by implying that Conrad was close to closing off his sub list. Conrad strikes me as an unusually compassionate, human and sensitive soul. Let's get him, everybody! (Yee Ha!)...W. Elmer Hinton Jr. runs the Postal Locator. Persons who wish standby positions, and persons who wish starts in any game or variant, should inform Elmer (P.O. Box "S", Nashua, N.H., U.S.A. 03061. Pubbers who trade with Elmer should watch his lists, wherein they will find persons who are willing to standby and persons who wish to play. It's that simple! (I hope; if not, I don't understand it.)...Another new Canadian 'zine has appeared! They're spreading like cancer cells. Linda Carson and Jim Gardner publish Buffalo Steak Tartare (#1, 10 Young St. E., Waterloo, Ontario CANADA N2J 2L3). They live together! They hosted Hummuscon last year, and I had a good time there. BST is devoted to "games and other amusements": one Dip game opening, with Steve Hutton as GM, has been announced. It looks to be a 'zine with personality. It's \$1 Canadian per issue, and will publish 10 issues per year. Listen to this line from their editorial policies: "We will not be party to feuds or isms (sexism, racism, etc.)" Isn't that the most drippingly wet line you've heard politically-wise in '86? I feel an irresistible urge to bait liberals when I hear lines like that....I know of only one good thing to come out of The Great Feud, so let's savour it. It's Masters of Deceit, the alternative Novice Packet, edited by Bob Olsen. There are some fine, enjoyable articles in there. Its quality is comparable to that of Supernova, the earlier packet edited by Bruce Linsey. I'd personally give the edge to Supernova on the ground that its articles are more even in quality, but there are some gems in MoD. The writers in MoD are also certifiably skilled in Avoiding The Mention Of Bruce Linsey's Name, which is the point of the whole thing. But feud partisanship has been kept out of MoD, to the credit of all concerned. MoD also has the distinction of having provoked the most bizarre feud rant of the year, by Mark Berch. MoD is \$1 from Steve Arnawoodian, 602 Hemlock Cir., Lansdale, PA., U.S.A. 19446 or Pete Gaughan, 3121 E. Park Row #171-A, Arlington TX U.S.A. 76010. Supernova is \$1 from Bruce Linsey, 73 Ashuelot St., Apt. 3, Dalton, MA., U.S.A. 01226. Bruce has proposed that each packet plug or at least mention the other, for the benefit of the novices whom the project is supposed to help....Bill Quinn, the Boardman Number Custodian, is thinking of appointing an assistant or two to help him out....I need your advice again. Should I, just for a laugh, ask for a Miller Number for my variant from Karel "Charlie" Alarik? Bye....