

Oh all right, make it a regular issue of...

PRAXIS

#4
February 20, 1986

Circulation: 62
Editor's Socks: Mismatched

Late breaking news: a dramatic shake-up of priorities at work means that I may be able to take a vacation this spring. I had been hoping for one for some time, but it looked impossible. Now it looks possible, even likely.

That means it may be time for another of my patented bus tours throughout the United States. They are the marvel of my friends. I buy a Greyhound Ameripass, and take off, sleeping on the bus. Some years ago I was a university student enjoying a year off and wanting to see the world, never having ventured farther south than Wheeling, West Virginia. Cash was limited. So for a month I toured the U.S. on an Ameripass and \$8 per day, visiting New York City, Boston, Washington, Princeton N.J., Winston-Salem N.C., Savannah Ga., Dunedin Fla., Montgomery Ala., New Orleans, Chicago, St. Louis, Dallas, Abilene Tx (yee ha!), El Paso, Phoenix, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Denver, Kansas City, Saline Kansas, and who knows what else.

I enjoyed it so much that I've made shorter jaunts of ten to fourteen days' duration three or four times since then. The sleeping on buses is what appalls many, but I like it--if I can get two seats to myself. Sharing a seat is a foretaste of purgatory--just not enough room.

I'm not the only one who tours this way. Gary Hawkins recently published a book, USA by Bus and Train, discussing this mode of travel. It's pricey at \$14.50 in Canada, but it's a specialized subject, and Gary knows what he's talking about. He's been there; I can tell. The rudiments of bus travel are enumerated: travelling as light as possible, and knowing what things to keep handy in an overnight bag and what things to stow away; selecting cities to visit that have interesting downtown sections, and bus terminals downtown; knowing what kind of area you're walking out into at 3 A.M.; obtaining Russell's Guide before you go; comparing Greyhound and Trailways routes and schedule (either line's pass is honoured by the other, although they take no pains whatsoever to advertise this fact). He knows the subtle details, e.g. that one significant disadvantage of checking luggage at coachside is that while you are doing so six or seven people with no luggage will board before you and take the best available seats. I laughed at Gary's tips about how, subtly, to deter people from sitting beside you on night trips (so you can stretch your legs). It's not hard to do, but doing it without being rude is a challenge. Gary recommends the old standby, the single best technique I've ever found: feigning sleep when other people are boarding the bus. I don't use it too often, because I feel guilty. Am I being fair to the other passengers who also would like a whole seat to themselves? His views on choice of seat are unorthodox: he prefers the aisle seat. You can stretch your legs, and people boarding will usually choose not to push their way past you. I prefer the window seat; it is vital in sleeping on a bus to have something on which to rest your head, and when sitting in the aisle there is : nothing.

Anyway, if this vacation comes off, it may be March 10-24 or something like that and the next PRAXIS would be delayed a week. If this happens I will extend the game deadline accordingly and let players know. Anybody want to be visited by the editor?

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The Historical Situation

THE HISTORICAL SITUATION in #1 was not the greatest quiz of all time: it was too hard. Most people who entered did so to be polite to a new publisher, and I thank them.

The scores: Andy Lischett 13!!!!!!
Fred Davis 8
Nelson Heintzman 7
Bob Acheson 5
Matt Kazur 4
Steve Langley 4
Randolph Smyth 2
John Michalski 2
Chris Greaves -1

Two American dollars and 50¢ to Andy (IOU)!

Spiro Agnew, then considered a Progressive Republican, beat George P. Mahoney in the Maryland gubernatorial race in 1966. Fred Davis got this: he crossed party lines to vote for Agnew. Mahoney ran a quasi-racialist campaign against open housing laws ("Your Home Is Your Castle"). Nancy Ames, the TW3 girl, sang the songs on That Was The Week That Was, the American satirical show of the '60s that was the forerunner of Laugh-In and Saturday Night Live. I watched an old tape of TW3 at the Museum of Broadcasting in New York City last time I was there. Abraham Ribicoff said "If George McGovern were President today, we would not need Gestapo tactics in the streets of Chicago." He said it at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago in 1968, as part of his speech nominating George McGovern. Mike Royko's book, Boss, is a superb biography of Richard Daley. Andy Lischett scored some points here. James Harris started his career with the Buffalo Bills and became a top quarterback for a year or two with the L.A. Rams; Marlin Briscoe quarterbacked the Denver Broncos for a year before becoming a stand-out wide receiver with the Bills and later the Dolphins. Easy points for Nelson Heintzman. The book "Naked Came the Stranger", very soft porn, was written by a group of twelve professional writers, each of whom wrote one chapter based on a short plot outline sent out by the publisher. It sold alright, and then the story was revealed. The point being how trashy and worthless these kind of books are. A couple of people got this. According to John Diefenbaker, Robert McNamara's testimony before the U.S. Senate proved that the U.S. wished to offer up Canada as a nuclear sacrifice. And, the Chief alleged, John Kennedy called John Diefenbaker a S.O.B. in a marginal note found on some U.S. presidential briefing papers. Kennedy denied this, telling friends that he couldn't have called Diefenbaker a S.O.B. because at that time, he didn't know he was one. Louis Harris the pollster was supposedly sent up to help the Liberals. Walter Cronkite was dropped from the CBS convention anchor slot at one of the 1964 political conventions. At that time, Huntley-Brinkley had been beating Walter like a drum for many years, and he was close to losing his job. How things change. His predecessor, Douglas Edwards, continued to work for CBS radio for years, and was doing so at least as recently as a year ago. "Send them a message": George Wallace. "A Chouce Not An Echo": Barry Goldwater. "He if fresh but the others are tired": John Lindsay. "Trust the people": again, George Wallace. "In Your Heart You Know He's Right": again, Barry Goldwater. "Sixty Days of Decision": Lester Pearson (Canadian content time). Batman was on Tuesdays and Thursdays during its first year. Peyton's Place, My Three Sons and The Fugitive were also nominated; don't know if they were also correct. Frank Gorshin, superb as The Riddler, was the first Special Guest Villain. Geez, everybody knows that Bobby Richardson led off for the 1961 New York Yankees. Not Joe Pepitone, Andy; he was a power hitter; not Billy Martin, as the Yankees traded him in 1957. John Kennedy and Barry Goldwater planned, yes, to run for President in 1964 against each other (2 pts) but more importantly to campaign by staging debates across the country, two or three times a week, all campaign. Might have changed the face of American politics. No, Nelson, Eugene McCarthy did not win the 1968 Democratic primary in New Hampshire (trick question). Andy got it right: L.B.J. won, but not handily enough.

Struggle

STANDBYS: Dave Carter; Melinda Holley; Craig Reges
Dan Stafford; Conrad von Metzke; Steve Swigger;

(If anyone wants on or off, please let me know
and if it doesn't happen the first time you ask,
be insistent.)

DEADLINE FOR ALL THREE GAMES: Friday, March 21, 1986

1985??

A L G O M A

Spring '01

GERMANY RENOUNCES DENMARK

The electoral district of ALGOMA was abolished in 1933, and re-established in 1966.

AUSTRIA (von Metzke)	F Tri-Alb, A Bud-Ser, A Vie-Bud
ENGLAND (Smyth)	F Lon-Nth, F Edi-Nwg, A Lvp-Yor
FRANCE (Finley)	A Par-Bur, A Mar S A Par-Bur, F Bre-MAO <u>COA!! See gamenotes.</u>
GERMANY (Greaves)	F Kie-Hol, A Ber-Mun, A Mun-Ruh
ITALY (Bevis)	F Nap-Ion, A Rom-Apu, A Ven H
RUSSIA (Bowen)	F St. P (s.c.)-GOB, A Mos-Ukr, A War-Gal, <u>F Sev-Bla</u>
TURKEY (Weidmark)	F Ank-Bla, A Con-Bul, A Smy-Con

GM: Jim Finley's address is no good after February 28. After that, he can be reached at
P.O. Box 502, Quantico, Va., U.S.A. 22134

KLAGENFURT, Austria (31st April 1901): It had been many months since Alfons Figl had set eyes on 'Sliv,' and the latter had not worn the interval well. When last they had met, 'Sliv' had instantly flashed his totally toothless grin; now, the man sat without the slightest hint of humour, staring stonily.

"Hello, Sliv," began Figl tentatively.

"Gorbach, you are a fool. You would not be the least bit cheerful if only you knew the truth."

Uh-oh, thought Figl, he's forgotten me. "Sliv, it's Fonzie! Leo Gorbach is dead, remember?"

Sliv slammed his fist on the table: "Of course I remember, you idiot! Have you forgotten that I have a code?"

"Oh, I'm sorry," said Figl, producing some tissue. "But what is this about knowing the truth?"

Sliv screwed himself up to his full aspect and gazed on his contact with the coldest stare ever created. "Fonzie, it is absolutely too horrible to believe, yet I know it is true. And you know well that I've been wrong only once in thirty years. Yes?"

"Yes, Sliv, I know," reflected Figl, remembering Sliv's insistence that the newly-devised Pasteur treatment for hydrophobia was actually a Knights of Malta plot to transform the universe into semi-lobotomized androids. "I trust you, so tell me; I must know! What is happening?"

Sliv leaned disgustingly close. "It's ZSOS. I have learned, nearly at cost of my life, that their agents have deployed a new weapon. Rumour calls it a Domsday Weapon."

"Oh, God my Lord in Heaven!" proclaimed Figl, "If that lot have their way we are all for the hereafter! What can you tell me of this weapon?"

"Not much yet, but I'm working on it. It is called 'The Lion,' and I'm told it's the fiercest weapon of destruction ever encountered."

Figl sighed, crossed himself profoundly, then rose resolutely to go. "Sliv," he said, "Keep me informed. We have routed ZSOS before, we shall again."

"A last word, Fonzie?" called Sliv after him, "I know not what it means, but I have been told very finally: 'Be very familiar with meat.'"

Russia-Italy: Did you Byrne Austria?

Jeff Beck (from Moscow)-Italy: He's not a bad man, just ambitious.

Sevastopol-Turkey: No Black Sea for you!

Russia-GM: The term "hot dog eaters" seems to be your insulting term for Americans. I eat hot

(cont.)

Russia-GM (cont.) dogs (ketchup, onions, relish) and am not even remotely upset that someone knows it. But I am not sure that I would want that on my tombstone. Actually, I suppose hot dog eater is no worse than Yankee or Canuck, although hamburger eater is more appropriate.

GM-Russia: My sister's term, not mine. There's nothing wrong with humorous terms like "Yankee" and "hot dog eater". "Canuck", however, is very crude and ill-mannered and its use suggests vulgarity and a lack of sensitivity.
Germanmeister-Gamesmaster:

What can I say? All of those FTF games in Toronto and never a chance to be Germany. Now you put me in a PBM as Germany and include "How-to" instructions in your 'zine. Should I follow the recommendations and assume that your readers are stupid enough not to read the Marc Hurwitz commentaries? Should I ignore the advice and assume that your readers are so simple-minded that they assume that I'll follow the Hurwitz philosophy? Should I follow the recommendations every alternate move? And if so, in Spring or in Fall? And should Winter be included, so that every other Spring and Fall follows "THE PLAN"? And having asked all these questions, should I follow YOUR advice? Was that a typo, where you had "Kill-France" and was it supposed to be "Kiel-France"? Is the French player reading this? Does it matter? Maybe the Hurwitz arguments are intended for Ron Brown, but why? I've been to Ottawa, and it is a very nice town indeed. The residents didn't strike me as being particularly stupid; the fly-in visitors yes, especially those that get VOTED to fly in. But Ron Brown? He never struck me as being particularly stupid. Indeed, he hasn't struck me at all yet, although he might after reading this press.

It must be that those fellows in the BRANT-HALDIMAND game have got it in for me. One of them is going to tell me what to do, and another is then going to tell me where I went wrong. And that's not counting Dave Carter's summation at the next Pizza-eating bash, or Fight-The-Frenchie contest that we hold here in Toronto every month (Did that get our group another plug?). I would dearly love to tell Jim Finley (Lt., J.R., H.Co., 3rd PLT, TBS; MCDEC, VA and Bar) that I'm a friendly sort of guy and do not want to spend the rest of the game sharpening the old ploughshare to a finer edge - I have enough trouble sharpening the old wit as it is, and it is quite blunt nowadays, I can tell you. Or maybe you know already, but does he (Jim Finley (Lt., J.R., H.Co., 3rd PLT, TBS; MCDEC, VA and Bar))?

Or there again, maybe I'm confusing Marc's article with the questions you posed in PRAXIS#1 about what to do with your living-room, but I don't think so. Maybe it is a subtle hint that I should lay down a carpet-attack (carpet-a-tacks? don't be silly) but against who? If a carpet attack is anything like a Russian steamroller, where will he get the money to pay for it. His Germany is already over-subscribed in war loans as evidenced by the requisitory statement attached to his name, "Owing Mills.". Like the fly-in voters of Ottawa.

And if the know-all and the tell-all guy really have got it in for me, or are about to put it in me, isn't that cross-gaming? Or is THIS cross gaming, where I get all angry and hot under the collar for no apparent reason whatsoever? When all is said and done (and make no mistake, there is a lot more to be said in this game than there is to be done!) the advice on what to do is almost impossible to follow. How am I supposed to know if England has opted to get Russia first? Neither England nor Russia have been given the sort of advice that I've been given. Frankly (as long as Jim Finley (Lt., J.R., H.Co., 3rd PLT, TBS; MCDEC, VA and Bar) doesn't think that by that I'm assuming the Frankish speech) I'm more confused now than I am when Dave Carter (as Italy) tells me (as France) not to worry, which is what I do best when Dave Carter (playing France) tells me (as Italy) not to worry in one of our FTF games. It surely has not escaped your attention that the only thing Dave Carter ever remembers after a FTF game is what we had for lunch (Italy's native dish) when he's played Italy (and most of France). But I digress. While he digests.

Anyway, I liked reading the nice article by Konrad Von Metzke and wondered whether I too should write something, I mean something sensible instead of this Press business. It seems to me that at least Konrad wrote something about near where my pieces are, instead of rabbitting on about England and Russia. Most people (and I include myself here) know that Germany and England, and Germany and Russia too, haven't gotten on too well together in the past, so it seems a bit of a waste of time talking about them in an Article on Germany. And talking about Holland and Belgium is a bit funny. I know that the Belgians speak a form of German, but so do the South-Africans (not counting the Bantus!) don't they; and Belgium isn't part of Germany, is it, unless we've somehow slipped into that far-out game of Diplomacy that you keep mentioning. Now, on re-reading (yes, not just reading! I have to ride the stretcher home from work, as well as to work) PRAXIS#2 I see that Marc Hurwitz IS Germany in the Brant-Haldimand game, so maybe his long-winded scheme is a coded way of his to send in sets of orders.

It's a good thing that you picked provincial names for these games. I've not travelled outside Ontario, except for a trip to Montreal the year before last. And I'm not a very provincial type myself! Anyway, there you have nineteen questions for your next issue.

Warsaw-Vienna: Have you become comfortably numb?

Akibizar, Turkey: The broad expanse of the Black Sea glittered like diamonds cast across the face of a blue moon viewed from the apex of triangulated coordinates 47° from earth plane Gilbert, Texas 3,782,000 million kilometers out N.N.E. and 73° from lunar plane Mercator Crator 2,093,000 kilometers out S.W., but it was just a pretty backdrop for the episode taking place in one of the high mountain pastures above the port city of Akibizar. The sheep went about their business, baa-baaing contentedly over the succulent green shoots, while Bingoh the shepherd boy, just 14-years-old this month, lay on his back in the shade of a fig tree.

"Oh, oh, oh, oh," said Bingoh, slapping his palms against the ground.

"Sssshhhhhh, listen," commanded Trilynda, clamping a hand across the boy's mouth. She tossed back her silken mane of jet black hair, cocking an ear towards the city far below. Bingoh opened his eyes, but his vision was transfixed upon Trilynda's two tawny orbs, full and ripe as melons, glistening with the sweat of her labours. He heard no sound.

"Guns from the fortress!" Trilynda cried. "The sultan has finally declared war!"

Bingoh let out a shriek of agony as Trilynda back-flipped off of him, landing on her feet. The girl . . . but no, we should call her a woman, for at 19 years she was every bit the full embodiment of womanhood . . . quickly pulled on her calf-length white cotton dress and the iron-studded leather jerkin which had been specially made to accommodate her. Leaping on the ass grazing nearby, she spurred it to action, and was off, jerkily bouncing down the valley. She looked back once, just briefly, and shouted:

"Goodbye, uh . . . what was your name?"

"BINGOH! MY NAME IS BINGOH!" he hollered after her, but she was already out of earshot. After a time, when Trilynda had disappeared over the horizon, Bingoh turned slowly about and surveyed his flock.

"Here sheepy, sheepy," he called, singling out a young ewe.

Paris-Berlin: Hi, good to hear from you. Please don't take alarm at these moves; I hope my letter explained them adequately.

Paris: The Imposter paced, restless. Couriers raced through the night bearing orders to the generals and admirals waiting to enact his will...he wanted more information. Conflicting signs, ominous silences--he needed data. Unless another freak accident flung him back to his produce department--and its interest was fast paling next to being Emperor of France--he had to did in and handle the crises indefinitely.

France-England: Hey,neighbor...having a pleasant month, I trust? Interested in a cultural exchange program, our wine for your beer? Let me know, maybe I can interest you in some escargot too.

France-Italy: Bonjour, how's life on the other side of the mountains? Let's see, you're a wine country too...a celebrity exchange program, that's it! I can offer you Jacques Cousteau for the Pope.

France-World: Greetings to all--it's been good to hear from you (most of you) and I hope the game goes wonderfully for each of you, unless it keeps me from winning.

GM: Blair Cusack, commentator, you are welcome to these folks. Your commentary is due at the same time as the deadline for all three games, printed on page two.

Before we get on to BRANT-HALDIMAND, I would like to say something to you all about--about--fire doors. At the school I went to, they had these long corridors and halls that we used to run around in. Then one year, they installed ugly fire-engine red fire ~~halls~~ ^{doors}, something about the insurers demanding them, and how they would stop a fire. What a lot of nonsense! All they ever did was (a) uglify the place (b) get in my way when I was running away from one of my persecutors.

OCTUPUS AND HEDGEHOG FIND SOMETHING TO DEFEND AGAINST

In 1895 the Township of Tuscarora was shifted from SOUTH BRANT to NORTH BRANT.

AUSTRIA (Cusack) F Tri-Ven, A Vie-Gal, A Bud-Ser
 ENGLAND (Holley) A Lvp-Edi, F Edi-Nwg, F Lon-Nth
 FRANCE (Wiedemeyer) A Par-Bur, A Mar-Spa, F Bre-MAO
 GERMANY (Hurwitz) A Mun-Ruh, F Kie-Hol, A Ber-Kie
 ITALY (Carter) A Ven-Tyo, A Rom-Ven, F Nap-Ion
 RUSSIA (Greier) F St.P (s.c.) GOB, F Sev-Bla, A War-Gal, A Mos-St. P.
 TURKEY (Givan) A Con-Bul, A Smy-Con, F Ank-Bla

BERLIN (D.A.M.N.) Kaiser Mark announced in a speech before the Reichstag that Holland had rejoined the Reich. "A plebiscite found 90% of the people in favor of Holland being absorbed by the 2nd Reich."

Tur-Eng: Does Bilbo live? Did the B. Lady take it all? My life's an empty shell. But, what can you expect from somebody who's radio station starts with a K?

Dubrovnik: Oberst Redl swore softly in the smoke-filled darkness that was pierced by the solitary bright light that beamed down on the unconscious anarchist suspect slumped over in The Chair.

Wireless communication to Sarajevo via numerous "links" wasn't working (as usual) and the plot was to hatch tomorrow afternoon during the Archduke's visit. Maybe all for the best, he mused. How could he possibly explain his certainty based upon his own operational experience in Serbia that this peasant's "vision" of tomorrow's clandestine operations was quite possibly accurate? Disturbingly accurate when interrogation revealed little possibility that this tattered urchin had ever set foot outside Hercegovina.

As the cigarette smoke swirled and eddied through the white core of light he recognized several key anomalies in all of this. Why did the peasant constantly refer to "Die Schwartz Katz" and a person called "Sliv"; yet insist that neither entities resided in or near Dubrovnik? Or in Sarajevo for sure thought the Oberst.

He was mulling over the significance of "Booth Twelve" when the courier arrived with sealed orders revealing the impending arrival of naval elements that would subsequently head for Durazzo... with him on board. Had Ridl known that Austrian mobilisation had been ordered or that Austrian troops would cross the Serbian frontier, or even that tomorrow's assassination would pull the trigger of a much larger gun, his decision to take the peasant aboard ship would have been more than a "lucky" one. But Oberst Ridl wasn't prescient. His luggage was.

Russia-World:

I realize that in issue #3 I made a tremendous spelling mistake. The sentence should have read "Songs out to all you Denver Bronco's Fans, Boo Cleveland clowns." I realized it was my error, not the GM's, he's such a professional, proper spelling, correct margins, meets deadlines, OOPS!

SOPHIA (D.A.M.N.) :Herr Dukenkirch, our Balkan correspondent, reports. "Hundreds of refugees from the south and east are pouring into Sophia every day. Rumors of incipient Turkish aggression are everywhere. The fear of the fanatical Moslem hordes is paralysing the government!"

Con to Mun: I've noticed that whenever Turkey and Germany open by moving toward each other, they win. Otherwise, France and Russia win. Many years of scientific study support this. In either case, Austria is first out. How'd we do?

GENEVA (D.A.M.N.) : Delicate German/Austrian/Russian negotiations over the Turkish problem appear to be stalled over Austro-Russia refuse to allow the German army into Galacia & Ukrainia en route to conquest of the Islamic Menace. The German delegation has threatened to break off talks if no progress is made in the next 5 weeks.

Tur to Ger: I hope you weren't serious about invading my homeland in 03. I think you'll be long gone before then.

Con to Bul: Welcome to the first of a long list.

GM-Aus: Please see the game notes relating to ALGOMA.

GM-All: Friday, March 21, 1986:the next deadline.

"WELCOME TO PRAXIS", SAYS TURKEY TO RUSSIA, SAY ENGLAND AND FRANCE TO EACH OTHER

In 1894, George N. Kidd challenged William G. Monk again, but this time Kidd ran an a Conservative-Patrons of Industry candidate against the incumbent Monk, the official Conservati
Kidd won the rematch, 1,986 to 1,136

AUSTRIA	(Ockert)	A Bud-Ser, F Tri-Alb, A Vie-Tri
ENGLAND	(Peters)	F Edi-Nth, F Lon-Eng, A Lpl-Wal
FRANCE	(Acheson)	A Par-Pic, F Bre-Eng, A Mar-Spa
GERMANY	(Brown)	F Kie-Den, A Ber-Kie, A Mun-Ruh
ITALY	(O'Donnell)	A Ven-Tyo, A Rom-Ven, F Nap-Ion
RUSSIA	(Coughlan)	F St.P(s.c.)-GOB, A Mos-St.P, A War-Lvn, F Sev-Rum
TURKEY	(Easton)	A Con-Bul, A Smy-Con, F Ank-Bla

St. Petersburg: The gala winter balls in this capital city are coming to an end. Russia's armies are on the march but no one knows their ultimate destination.

Lon-Bre: Perhaps now you'll write?!?

Tur-Rus: Sorry, but this is my only chance to get two centres. Anyway to patch things up?"

Lon-Kie: Perhaps now you'll write?!?

Munich: He was walking in an Ottawa blizza rd, looking at the falling snow, musing, as was his wont, when, suddenly, he was whisked away by strangers with Torontonion accents. His slippied 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.

Russia to England: You made me nervous when you didn't write. Very nervous.

Russia to Turkey: I hope my trust in your good intentions wasn't misplaced.

Russia to Austria: To you also I told the truth.

Russia to Italy: The stronger Italy is the safer the Russians feel.

Russia to Germany: The Tsar wishes to see Germany powerful enough to stand against any two foes at once. Only then can Russia have true security in the west.

Lon-Ven: Perhaps now you'll write?!?

Lon-Mos & Vie: Thanks for writing!

Lon-Con: What would make you write?

Russia to France: Ah, so we meet again!

Lon-GM: Is it too late to get into "Brant-Haldimand" with Evans Givan? Rats!

Russia to GM: Is Conrad Black your hero?!

GM to Russia: I have decidedly mixed feelings about Conrad. Thanx for the clipping. Conrad wa in the news last week. He's raking off the Dominion workers' pension fund (not stealing, taking profit accumulated in the fund through shrewd investment in excess of what's needed to pay the workers' pension entitlements). When the leader of the NDP (Socialists), Bob Rae, called him down on this, Conrad called Bob an ignorant, pusillan^cimous hypocrite (or whatever) and suggestèd that the workers didn't deserve any sympathy, pointing out all the merchandise they had supposedly stolen from Dominion stores in the last two years. Conrad's OK, but I wouldn 't put my trust in him. Ronnie Reagan and Maggie Thatcher are my real heroes. Plus John Diefenbaker, Mickey Mantle (now recognized by Bill James in his new book as being the best centrefielder of all time at the peak of his c^career, yes, better than Ty Cobb), George Will, George Grant, Sir Robert Filmer, Pat Moynihan, Punch Imlach, Casey Stengal, Sterling Lyon, Lionel Groulx, Paul Weyrich, Sir Robert Peel, the Action Française (hahahahaha, just kidding with that one),... Aren't you sorry you asked?

RANDOM NOTES: What is it about Britisher zines? Is there some rule that says they must all be more literate than all North American zines? What it is (to answer my question) is that they know how to combine a casual, chatty style with an underlying formality and gravity of approach. Foreign 'zines are part of a Dip player's life c^cycle: regular Dip, variants, con-going, pubbing, foreign 'zines, hobby servicing, etc., and I wouldn't want to force you out of your natural place in the progression, but, anyway, subscribe to War and Peace, by Derek Caws, Telford Hall, Ashby Road, Loughborough, Leics, ENGLAND L11 3UA. Play of the game, Zine reviews, Soccer, Letters, Tournament scoring, Hobby news and Intelligence are offered.

Demystification

WHITHER THE KREIGSMARINE?

by Marc Hurwitz

Sometimes the midgame will come and find Germany with a navy of three or more fleets. This will be either by design or circumstance. There are three instances.

I. Germany built fleets to defend against England. England is vanquished by France and/or Russia and Germany now has freedom of action.

II. Germany allied with France and/or Russia and has just eliminated England.

III. Germany built a fleet or two to assist in fighting Russia or France.

In most circumstances I feel Germany should not build any fleets at all. What does one do with it? How can it defend (or inhibit aggression) against Der Vaterland?

There are three targets for a German fleet: England, France, Russia. England is too far off to attack if France is strong, or if a strong Italian player occupies France in force. France & Russia offer better prospects. One must be very conservative if the situation in Austria is bad (i.e. a strong player dominates the area and is in search of a target). On the other hand, a 3 or 4 power imbroglio in Austria-Hungary can give the Kriegsmarine a free hand.

As an example, I give Spring 1905, in 1983 CP (Graustark #490, p. 5)

FRANCE: FLEETS Edi, Mid, Wes, Lyo; ARMIES Bur, Lon, Mar, Pie

GERMANY: FLEETS Nwy, Nth, Nwg; ARMIES Hol, Pru, Sil, Mun, War, Tyo

ITALY: FLEETS Gre, Nap, Rom, Ion; ARMIES Ven, Tri, Ser

AUSTRIA: ARMY Vie

RUSSIA: ARMIES Fin, St. P. Mos, Gal

TURKEY: FLEET Bla; ARMIES Bud, Bul, Arm

Centers:

GERMANY: Bel, Hol, Swe, Den, Nor, War, Ber, Kie, Mun

FRANCE: Lon, Liv, Edi, Spa, Por, Bre, Par, Mar

ITALY: Tri, Tun, Gre, Ser, Ven, Rom, Nap

AUSTRIA: Vie

RUSSIA: StP, Mos, Sev, Rum

TURKEY: FLEET Bla, ARMIES Bud, Bul, Arm

Past history: German/French alliance vs. Brits, Italian stab of Turkey over Austria, Turkish stab of Russia, Turkish NMR.

Germany has to decide: whither the Kriegsmarine? Rather than explore the variety of possible moves, let me suggest two.

PLAN A: "STAB FRANCE": A Sil-Mun, A Mun-Ruh, A Hol-Yor via North Sea, F Nwg-NAt, F Nwy-Nwg, A War-Sil, A Pru H, A Tyo ?

Notes: Army Tyrolia can do any number of things, depending on the diplomatic situation. It should try to 1) help the Italians so they can better attack France; 2) keep the situation in Austria mixed up. Army Warsaw retreats because perhaps that was part of a deal Germany makes with Russia so Russia will go fight Turkey and leave Scandinavia neutral.

PLAN B: "FINISH OFF RUSSIA": A Hol-Bel, A War-Ukr, A Sil-War, A Liv-War, A Mun-Sil, F Nwy-Swe, F Nwg-Bar, F Nth H, A Tyo H

Notes: Army Tyrolia is used to keep the Austrian situation up in the air. F Norway goes to Sweden to forestall an erratic Russian order A Fin-Swe; also, it can be used in the Baltic to increase your army mobility later; also it puts France's mind at ease. A Hol-Bel is a standoff with the French.

There are other good and bad things about each plan, but both have 4 principles in common:

1. Some units are kept in Germany. The German player built A Munich last season for just that purpose. Units in Germany are a deterrent against a stab.
2. The Navy holds the North Sea. This holds a hammer over France's English possessions while shielding Germany's Scandinavian holdings.
3. While keeping some units at home, the German player gets his units behind enemy lines. This pays off more quickly than a frontal assault. Whatever the other player's spring move was, the German player is positioned to counter it in the fall.
4. The indirect approach is used. This theory, formalized by Liddell Hart, is as old as war. Hannibal used it, as did Alexander before him, and Lee during the American Civil War. Rather than fight France in France, fight him in England. Losing those centers (and units) will start France on a downward spiral he will never pull out of. Likewise, the main Russian strength was in Scandinavia. So, Germany should strike at Russia's home centers.

Now, 1983 CP was a very atypical game. The German player, Kaplan, was like Julius Caesar both good and lucky. England, Russia and France all NMRed several times. No strong power emerged in the east. In actuality, Kaplan stayed allied with the French and played more cautiously than I've outlined. He went on to win, with France an unstabbed strong second.

Next issue, I hope to take up the mathematics of wargame theory, as developed by the Rand Corporation and some other Deep Thinkers and as applied to Diplomacy, in an article entitled: "Von Neumann was German."

((Thank you very much, Marc--I am really enjoying this, and am particularly looking forward to that next article as you have described it. Four and one-half free issues to you--tremendous.))

Synthesis

Very soon after I started playing I became interested in the standards that are used to declare a game "irregular". I'm not the only one: there's a lot of comment going on right now, and there has been a very intelligent debate in the last two Murd'ring Ministers,

This is the time to think about this, now. Bill Quinn will be passing the job of BNC over to someone else soon, and I want to be able to flood the new guy with ~~recommendations~~ recommendations as soon as he takes over, before he has any chance to become institutionally defensive and set in his ways. So, Good People of PRAXIS:

1. If the tag "irregular" is not meant as a badge of dishonour, as I read that it is not, shouldn't some other term be invented to use for the really cruddy games--the ones where something dishonest or completely contrary to the rules of Diplomacy is going on?
2. Should some set of written rules for determining regularity be adopted? Think about this--rules mean certainty perhaps, but could they possibly cover every situation? Would they invite GMs to engage in strange practices simply because they know they can show that these practices are not forbidden by the binding rules? Would they be of any help to anybody other than "rules lawyers", considering how complex they would have to be?
3. Why do we dub "local" games irregular? Why not drop the tag entirely--if four dispersed people are willing to play in a game with three people from the same street, what's the harm? The three people's advantages--let the other four players worry about that, and deal with it. Why not let the composition of the game be a matter between player and gamesmaster--make the gamesmaster state his policy about putting "local" players together, and let his subbers describe whether they want to play? Nothing is more annoying than having your game declared "irregular" in about 1904 because of something that is supposed to be depriving you of a fair chance, or whatever, when you're doing fine and couldn't give a damn.
4. Since dropping the "local" tag is too radical a step to happen in less than 20 years, can someone at least invent and defend a logical definition for "local"? Hurry.

The Party Line

Here is a PARTY LINE quiz for you. Last issue I promised to do something that I can no longer do. Further, it is dubious whether I can even ethically tell you what it is that I can no longer do. Who can figure out what I am talking about?

In addition, I was writing-to-space-available when answering Ron (Canada) Brown's letter, and I did not leave enough space for a full answer, and did not use the space available to print an intelligent answer. So please let me expand.

Alan Stewart:

You mention that Anglicans do not feel bound to accept the authority of church leaders' pronouncements. That should be a hint right there that something is wrong with them making these pronouncements. It is the job of church leaders to exercise authority over their flock, and within their rightful dominion I believe it has always been Christian teaching that they must be obeyed. The job of coming up with policy positions on moral issues is the job of politicians, not Church Leaders as such. Laymen should indeed regard it as a duty to let moral principles affect their political decisions--as their consciences direct them.

Bill Davis' inadequate consultation before deciding to recommend a change in party policy--if that is an outrage, then it is one that is committed with great regularity. The problem of prime ministerial domination of government policymaking has been recognized in English-speaking countries--it is something that all serious political men have been grappling with (witness Mulroney's recent proposals for reform of the House of Commons). What on earth does this have to do with Hitler? Garnsworthy's remark revealed such an inability to reach rational political judgements that it disqualified his views from serious consideration. And in a sense I do not blame him for that. It is not his job to think deep thoughts about the political system, and I doubt that he has spent much time doing so, up until the day when the government proposed giving more public monies to the schools of another church.

Now, two feud letters this issue, so would those who are offended by such scandalous doings please shut their eyes. Don't open them again until we get to Gary Coughlan's letter.

Chris Carrier:

Enjoyed the first two issues of PRAXIS, and I would like to state that the primary reason that I subbed was the existence of the FALSE CONSCIOUSNESS section. I am glad that you can see through the hypocrisy of prominent Feuders who say that they don't like The Feud.

As to Ken Peel's letter ... I reread it, and found only one word I disagree with. Let's go through sentence by sentence ...

"I beg to differ on the Chris Carrier thing. Yeah, parts of it are fairly funny, but Carrier is an odd and troublesome character." I do not consider myself troublesome, and yes, I am a bit odd, but so is the rest of the dip hobby.

"He met Terry Tallman in professional PBM gaming, and Terry happened to send him a NSWG w/BAD DOGGIE." A true statement of fact. Yes, over a year ago Terry and I were on the phone discussing commercial PBM. I had heard in FLAGSHIP, a commercial PBM publication, that Terry publishes his own zine so I sent him 88c and asked for a copy. The copy, postmarked 84/10/29, had in it BAD DOGGIE 1. I talked with Terry on the phone for three hours after it got here and he gleefully explained every sentence in that issue of BAD DOGGIE. BAD DOGGIE 2 I read at DAFCON 4, and it had Linsey's address in it, and I called him up and got his side of the story, and The Hobby hasn't been the same since...

"Carrier is a true Feud FAN and voyeur." True. The only difference between me and the rest of the hobby is that I admit it.

"Fascination with Feuding is the only reason he is here, and his only real participation in our community." True. If there had been no BAD DOGGIE in that issue of NSWG I probably would have lost interest in the follies of DipDumb. (I might add that NSWG is coming back for one more issue and folding, and that Terry plans to issue a public apology to the Hobby for guiding me in.) I do, however, participate in the MAGUS bourse and can be found on the standby list of MAGUS and EXCELSIOR.

"He spends a lot of time on long distance phone calls digging up leads on the latest goings on in the world of megadip." True. That is why I am the ideal Feud Number Custodian — someone who enjoys Feuds without participating in them himself.

"His joy with Feuding goes way beyond the concept of laughing at it so that one doesn't cry at it." True. I haven't had so much fun since I was in college and various factions fought erasure wars on the university computer.

((I do not believe that any of the feud participants "like" the Feud is the sense of intentionally inflaming it. What happens is that everyone regards his own participation as necessary or at least justified self-defence, or harmless clean fun, while imputing the worst conceivable motives to the other side.

About your other comments I would only note that your devoted study of feuding seems to have equipped you well to defend yourself without provoking others.

I liked the Megadiplomat #3, particularly the musical composition ("We Are The Feud").)

Dan Stafford:

I don't believe I've ever seen a new zine become "mainstream" quite as fast as PRAXIS has. It will be interesting to see if you can remain mainstream and still avoid becoming a feud zine. Of course, you'll get absolutely no help from me on that score. To wit:

With regard to the question you raised in your first issue about Canada being Linsey country, and Ron Brown's answer that Canadians "have a finer sense of justice than Americans do" as his explanation of the phenomenon in your second issue, let me say this. I think that Ron has probably missed the point but his answer may have provided a clue to solve this mystery. Quite frankly, I don't know when I've seen a more egotistical or conceited statement in hobby literature. So, now I think I know why Canadians, or at least one particular Canadian, flock to the Linsey banner.

My theory, as you might have guessed, is quite different from Ron's. I speculate that it is the physical remoteness of Canada which explains this mystery. Because of the distances involved, very few Canadians have had the opportunity to meet both Byrne and Linsey. Americans, on the other hand, are far more likely to have. I'll let the reader draw his or her own conclusions from this.

Keep 'em coming.

((Thanx for the "mainstream" comment, but upon thinking it over I have concluded that I have no idea where the mainstream of the hobby now is, or for that matter whether it is or is not a good place to be. I wonder...is the mainstream sort of like the middle of the road, where you run the risk of being smashed by vehicles proceeding in both directions?))

((About the finer sense of justice comment, I must note in Ron's defence that his view about the difference between Canadian and American senses of justice is not idiosyncratic, but is indeed widely shared, and repeated, and taught. The Toronto Star quite coincidentally recently carried a feature article that expresses the same view virtually identically, down to Ron's note that the forbidding weather up here had something to do with the difference. Certainly it is a different sense of justice; that I believe myself.))

((The conclusion I draw from your last sentence is that Canadians who meet both Kathy and Bruce would find Kathy a more engaging personality, would desire to be her friend, & c, and would therefore end up on the other side. Let us assume for the purposes of the argument that this is true. Even so, I am impressed not a whit. My central conviction about The Great Feud, as I have mentioned, is that automatic and fanatical defence of "friends", and conversely the view that anyone who is your "friend" must be an automatic and fanatical defender are the prime factors accounting for, indeed, to be blamed for, the state we are in today. Since PRAXIS #1 I have changed this position: I now am more strongly convinced of it.))

((You are right about the difficulty inherent in making observations about the Feud without becoming a feud zine. With the optimism of youth I thought that I could turn the stuff on and off. But once the camel has stuck his nose into the tent...))

MSU is winner of Praxis Award

By PEGGY MCCOLLOUGH

A practical approach to an urban problem has won the Center for Voluntary Action Research at Memphis State University an international award from the Washington Association of Professional Anthropologists.

The center, a part of the Anthropology Department at MSU, received the Praxis Award earlier this month for forming a coalition of 11 agencies and government departments to institute a weatherization program in the Binghamton neighborhood. The award is given for excellence in the application of anthropological knowledge to human problems.

The project began in 1983 when Memphis Light, Gas & Water officials contacted the center about jointly developing a new approach to its weatherization program, said Stan Hyland, co-director of the center. Using what he called "action research," the center chose the Binghamton neighborhood as its target and

surveyed the residents on problems.

"The most important thing that came out of the research was the finding that people didn't isolate a utility problem from a health problem from a crime problem," Hyland said. "That led us to (the idea of) putting together a coalition of agencies," called the Neighborhood Agency Coordinating Team (N-ACT).

In addition to increasing participation in a free weatherization program, the coalition helped residents form a neighborhood group that helped spur the opening of an optional school in the old Lester Junior High School; attracted summer jobs for youth, and created a small weatherization business.

N-ACT now is working in Prayser.

Sharing top honors with the center was a Washington State Cambodian resettlement program that placed Cambodian children in foster homes.

Gary Coughlan:

What do you think of this headline and article, "MSU is winner of Praxis award"? It doesn't explain what "Praxis" means, but, thanks to you, I did not remain in ignorance!

((I didn't really want to publicize this award myself, but now that it's been brought up, I hope you'll agree that the Department was very well deserving, although I was very impressed by the Cambodian resettlement project as well.))

Fred Davis:

I was interested in your list of the "75 Top Songs of the 1960's." This was an era I remember very well. It marked the end of the era of "pop" music as it had existed since the late 1920's and the coming of radio, and the start of the "rock" age. Many people in my generation were very distressed when we could no longer turn on a radio and depend on receiving nice, soft music between the half-hourly newscasts. Many a time I was forced to jump up and change stations, or, if driving a car, shut off the radio to eliminate the horrible noise emanating from it. In 1971, I discovered an all-news radio station

in Washington, D.C. Thereafter, I rarely listened to any other station, since this was the one AM station I could depend on not to offend my sensibilities by playing songs extolling the use of drugs or teen-age sex.

However, during the 60's I was still in touch with what was playing on AM radio, and with ever-decreasing frequency was able to hear some good music. As an example of how "out of it" I was, I find I am familiar with only 19 of the 76 songs you mentioned. (That's counting "Henry the 8th I Am" in both columns.) I'm sure a few of the others would be familiar if I heard them, but there are only 19 to which I can recall some of the words and melody off the top of my head.

Here is a list of my Top Ten favorite songs of the 60's...and my All-Time Top Favorite Pop Songs. You may list this as The Square Report if you wish:

1. The Impossible Dream, from "Man of La Mancha" 1968?? ((Your #1 is also Dr Zhu's favourite pop song! Your #2 would have made my top 100. I thought I would have been the only person in Christendom to juxtapose If I Had a Hammer and Ballet of the Green Berets. I see you have reversed the order, no doubt for didactic reasons.))
2. Bridge Over Troubled Waters late 60's ??
3. My Cup Runneth Over (w/love) fr. "I Do, I Do" 1962?
4. Scarborough Fair (your 57)
5. Those Were The Days (" 1)
6. Yesterday (" 68)
7. Ring of Fire (" 7)
8. Don't Let The Rain (" 29)
9. If I Had A Hammer (" 72)
10. Ballad of Green Berets (" 71)

1. Smoke Gets In Your Eyes, fr. "Roberta". circa 1932
2. Some Enchanted Evening, from "South Pacific", 1948
3. As Time Goes By, from "Casablanca", 1942
4. The Impossible Dream, fr. "La Mancha", 1968?
5. The Girl That I Marry, fr. "Annie Get Your Gun", 1949?
6. The Tennessee Waltz, Peggy Lee?, 1948?
7. On Top of Old Smoky, The Weavers, 1951
8. Chattanooga Choo-Choo, Glen Miller, 1941
9. Deep in the Heart of Texas, ?, 1941

"Shut the Doors, They're Coming in the Windows." As an example of wasted youth, psychotic division, I can still give you all the words to "The Hut Sut Song"! They just don't make songs like that any more.

It's been fun writing this, but I must sign off now. Two men in white coats just rang my doorbell.

Andy Lischett:

Here are some unorderly favorites from the '60s. At least, I think they're all from the '60s:

I Fought The Law	Bobby (?) Fuller Five	Love is Like a Itchin' in My Heart-Supremes
Communications Breakdown	Led Zeppelin	Back in my Arms Again "
Whole Lotta Love	Led Zeppelin	Easier Said Than Done Essex
Dancin' In The Streets	Martha & Vandellas	Shoop Shoop Song Betty Everett
Jimmy Mack	"	Wild Thing Troggs
Heat Wave	"	Love Me Do Beatles
You Really Got Me	Kinks	Little GTO The GTOs (this group
Born to be Wild	Steppenwqlf	and song were commissioned
Be My Baby	Shirrels (?)	by General Motors)
White Rabbit	Jefferson Airplane	Little Deuce Coupe & other car songs
Somebody to Love	(my favourite album)	

Of your choices I especially like #s 5,7,9,12,16!, 24, 28, 40, 46, 50, 73
((Car songs: "Hot Rod Lincoln", from the seventies, is likely to end up in my top seventy-five from that period.))

Bob Acheson:

Re your musical choices--I liked your No. 1 pick and I'm going to try & pick it up. No. 7 SUCKED.. Gag me! No. 13 is also one of my favourites. I liked the C.C.R. version if No. 5 better. Your No. 18 made me laugh, it's been years since I heard that one. I remember one of my high school teachers put it on a history quiz--one of the few ones I ever answered correctly.

I noticed that Simon and Garfunkel's "Sounds of Silence" wasn't on your list--was it done in the 60's? ((Yes. It didn't make it. If I'd listed 100 instead of 75, it would have.)) I also thought that Indian Reservation was done by Paul Revere & the Raiders? Also, if I'm correct, "Just Dropped In" was done by Kenny Rogers & The First Edition. ((What is it with you guys? I told you that I looked this stuff up in Billboard; I'm not just spinning tales here. One thing that surprised me in compiling the list was the number of songs that were done by two, three, four or more artists, with each rendition hitting the charts. I have one hell of a time deciding whether I like Marvin Gaye's or Aretha Franklin's rendition of "I Heard It Through the Grapevine" better (was it Aretha Franklin?) Did n't know CCR had done one; until I saw all these TV ads for their greatest hits that have been popping up these last few weeks.))

Dan Young:

Sorry to take so long to respond to your sample, but here I am. Let me say that PRAXIS is far and away the most interesting dip 'zine I've seen since Voice of Doom folded. ((I'm getting a little spooked at all these references to resemblance to Voice of Doom. Sort of like people walking up to Clint Hartung in spring training **all those years and saying "Boy, that swing of yours sure does remind me of the Babe."** I haven't yet had anyone write in saying "Your 'zine is the best thing to happen to the hobby since VoD folded" but I suppose it's only a matter of time.)) I love baseball and can talk about it for hours (or pages). I'm in a local Rotisserie League (if you've heard of it and any hot tips (especially trade rumors or hot tips or soon-to-be-starting minor leaguers) would be appreciated. ((I'd love to play in a Rotisserie League. Make no mistake, I'd win the damn thing too. Going away. Cecil Fielder will oust Willie Upshaw from his job within a few years, and he may DH a lot this year. On the Jays, get rid of Garth Iorg, Ernie Whitt, Cliff Johnson (sniff), Dennis Lamp, and Doyle Alexander.))

I found your "novice" article (in #1) to be extremely accurate. As a novice, I really loved to hear about the letter writer's "real" life. Still do--guess I'm not a hardened veteran yet! One thing that cannot be stressed enough is the first letter: being the author of the first dip letter a novice receives can have quite a positive impact.

Paul Gardner:

You must be quite the trooper--I heard you stayed in Dalton until the very end (New Year's Day?) It does seem that your zine does bear some resemblance to VD, perhaps you and Brux also have some things in common that you were able to share with one another. ((Each other. What in hell does that last sentence mean? Actually we found that we both like sports games. Brux has designed a strategy-oriented football game using a unique game system that is the equal or better of any of the commercial games operating at the same level (no player or team strength ratings).))

To make things easier on me and hopefully more organized for you, I'll comment on PRAXIS #3 as I read through it.

P. 1 Of course we don't have "queues" in the "good ole" USA, we have lines and it seems to be that most people respect line etiquette without the use of liner-upper-helpers. In fact politeness from folks in places like Dunkin Donuts always amazes me--"No, he was first", that sort of thing. Of course, I'm speaking of a small town in Vermont, not some urban mob scene. Do people run red lights often in Toronto? That's one thing I seem to see more here. ((I'm not sure, but I think not.))

P. 2,3,4, Pretty tasty press you've got. Can't wait to read it when the games really get going.

P. 5 I like Germany. While I haven't been a world-beating Kaiser, I haven't got clobbered either. I've never felt that my '01 options were as restricted as what Marc Hurwitz states. In my pregame analyses I try to figure how best to deal with the 2 powers most dangerous to Germany--Russia & England. England is the more dangerous, but has good ally potential while Russia has very little ally potential and is very likely to end up at war with Germany sooner than later. My feeling is that a truce with England early plus A Mun-Sil in S '01 is one of the strongest opening moves Germany can make, especially if Turkey agrees to join from the south.

((A Mun-Sil is reputedly becoming increasingly popular in England. Haven't you forgot someone in all of this? Doesn't FRANCE have some relevance to the goings-on here? As GERMANY, I agonize about FRANCE's intentions and more or less ignore ENGLAND. Once he finds a French fleet in the Channel I don't need to worry about him for a goodly while.))

P. 6,7,8, Looks like you were into pop music long before I was. Your list was fun to look at. I'm curious, did (do) you have a particular criterion in mind when you were sorting out #1 from #2 or was it just what you like? ((The latter)) I do see some songs that I could go along with you on--"Dock of the Bay", "Grapevine", "Proud Mary" and several others are great choices. ((I consider the three you mentioned to be very similar songs. I've been listening with more care to 60s songs on oldies songs since I typed my list, and I haven't found many mistakes--no "Damn, I forgot that one entirely" or anything.))

Party Line P.9,10 Bravo to Ron Brown! The churches should make their moral positions known to the government on a full range of issues--not just abortion or school prayer. In the process, all parishioners will discover exactly where their church leaders stand ((an unappetizing prospect to be sure. By the way, the Ontario Court of Appeal found Bill 30 extending R.C. funding to be constitutional yesterday. Garnsworthy is supposed to have held a press conference yesterday. Maybe I'll hear on the news (while I'm typing) what he said. What will Lewis blame this on? Communist robots? Judges who are secretly Cardinals in the Roman Catholic Church? Secret payments from Paraguay, emanating from sinister movements financed from profits in the drug and white slavery trades? What will he say to relieve the constant, pounding pressure pulsing against his brain? fact: I wouldn't tackle the debate over capital punishment from a Christian point of view for two reasons: 1) I'm not a Christian 2) The Christian religion has deep roots in the field of crime and punishment (and war): When you think about dealing with crime in terms of what we know about ourselves, the human species, today the whole concept of punishment-sentencing seems antiquated. The solution is rooted in genetics, nutrition and upbringing...and incarceration only helps create a criminal class which literally breeds and reproduces itself. Capital punishment as we practice it currently in the U.S. means nothing--it's like losing a lottery.

P 11-15 Several good and interesting letters, but you do have the right to edit or just not print a letter--take this one for example. I don't think this deserves print

Paul Gardner (cont...)

but I'm encouraged to get into the swing of commenting on things even if my words of wisdom don't see print. It's not that I mind the letters so much as that your zine seems to be turning into a games and letters thing after starting out with such diversity. Hope we'll see that diverse nature again.

((Ah, all I asked was that everybody wait until after #5 before starting to wade into PRAXIS, and will people honour that one little request?

((The funny thing is that your complaint about #3 struck a chord with me, but on comparing 1 and 3, it isn't correct; at least I don't think so. But in any case, I like games. I think that as a general observation, it would be a good thing for the hobby if zines continued to offer games. And I like good press. And I like letters: reading them, printing them. I want to continue to print them. I also have a lot of article ideas.

((What I'm going to have to do is make PRAXIS longer. This I will try to do. The basic issue will still be sixteen pages, but once every three or four issues, or perhaps even more often, we'll have more. What do you say to that, Good People of PRAXIS?))

Jeff Hoffman:

I recently wrote to Simon Billenness and he sent me a sample copy of PRAXIS, # 1. (I also got 34 other samples from him, quite an envelope full.) I was impressed by what I read and would like to begin a subscription.... ((Plug: Zine Bank. Simon Billenness. Limey. 61A Park Avenue, Albany, N.Y. U.S.A. 12202. Good thing. Me like. Can't find price. Try \$1, or maybe send \$2.

Simon is another of these hyper-literate Englishmen. Did anyone else see the reaming out he and Pat Conlon and Steve Langley gave to Greg Ellis over Greg's comments about Michel Liesnard's letter? Hoo boy, it was brutal. Which reminds me: Feuilletonists's Forum, Greg Ellis, \$5 U.S./10 issues, 700 Rio Grande Austin, TX 78701. A fine letter column primarily about politics, the U.S. variety, which I really enjoy.))

Steve Swigger:

The departmentalization is a great idea (that way I can skip all the baseball junk) and your choice of departments should lead to some good lively and meaningful discussions both on and off hobby subjects. One which I'd like to suggest to you...is the question of why we play Diplomacy. I got to thinking about this a lot while reading Diplomacy Digest #59 "Draw vs Strong Second" and have always been interested in understanding the Diplomacy player's mind. ((As a player, I am a committed adherent of the Strong Second philosophy (snicker, snicker))).

((Steve goes on to note that the existence of stalemate lines is contrary to, "the antithesis of" Diplomacy because "the fascinating aspect of the game/is/ that there is/ only one winner but that you can't/ win without allying with other players." Comments from the Good People of PRAXIS?))

Randolph Smyth:

((This is further to my response to Randolph's response to my "crossgamers" question in SYNTHESIS, appearing on p. 9 of P #2.))

I can't disagree with anything you say, but I think you've pushed the scenario into terms more black-and-white than would ever arise in reality. Does your belief in their cross-gaming relations correspond with the "truth"? Perhaps they only told you because they consider you a good friend and wouldn't take advantage of you in a similar situation so you have nothing to fear. Or perhaps they've realized that such tactics lead to successful but unsatisfying games, so their revelation was a first step toward abandoning the practice entirely. If my motivations for divulging the story should be considered, I would first be very sure about their motivation for telling me in the first place.

I don't think cross-gaming rumours are as rare as you think. If I'm playing Germany and know that England and France are allied in some other game, I'll find some casual way of telling Russia and Italy about it. It's dangerous to go beyond the evidence, but I'll use any data I can back up.

Re p. 12: if you can't trust someone on a certain level, then he'll never make "a good ally". Circumstances may force co-operation, but my definition of "ally" goes further. "Revenge" is the wrong label too: there are plenty of guys I prefer not to work with, without any desire to "get back at them". ((Bye!))

To bring down expectations, I bring you a special bad issue of...

PRAXIS

#4

February 20, 1985

Circulation: 50

Editor's Capricious

I go out sideways today and seed bird. It was Oriole, with instinctive

red striped which mark the brede. It made me thing of spring, and of ending of winter, that make me so sad. And also of baseball, that I like, and bill James, I keep writing about Mr Jame because I like him. You don't like him, or like talk of bird, nad how it make it feel? Tough shit. I keep talking about him anyway. Because I feel like it.

Someone say PRAXIS is not good, they don't appropriate it. They are late

lars, everyone of them. Prove it, I say, wheres your proof? You don't like

Praxis, what about your face, will you like it after I kick it in? Thought not. Or editing and printing or not printing letters. ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~

Hey, pal, your letter--well, Dr Zhy forgot to buy toilet paper the other day. more Variety? Okay, here it is, M-O-R-E-V-A-R-I-E-T-Y-, you crisp or sharp.

I read the zines, and I know when you are talking about me behind my back. And you think I dont notice. And the laser beams too--no one mention them.

me to decorator my apartment with tin foil. Forget it, I found out yesterday. the messages you send through the fillings in my tooth, I take care of them.

Politics? They're all crooked, each and every flaming one of them. I had to go through every tooth before I found it, but it's history.

expectedly the honest ones. They remond me of Hippocrates. And priests: no mass. take. High payment, high mass; low payment, low mass; no payment, no mass.

Games ar in here but they bore me. I didn't like some of o your orders so I

changed them. A waste to see the channel and the black sea so incitingly open. You don't like my new orders? Too bad, I got a phone call from you just before

the deadline. You don't rem ember it? Well you should take more care, you should ha

ver thought of this before you disagreed with me.

Sub rates go up now. Doubled. Look on your first payment as as inve-

st ment.

You wnt some return on it, dont you?

More lists this issue. They're easy to type. The ten most overbearing pub lishes

in the - hobby. The ten stupidest people there. The ten most overrated zines in the

hobby. The ten most dreaded postmarks in the hobby. Ten Gms you should never play with.

I want to begin some serious discussion on paying psyc hology too, if any of you

'n oe know any/ ything about it wehich, I doubt. Like, is it good to write

a first letter with "YOU DUMB SHIT IF YOU ATTAC K ME AGAIN IM GONNA KNOCK

YOUR B LOCK OFF"

How much more crap do I need hear, anyway?

Somebody wanted to know about the differen-ce between F NFP and OR OTR.

I'm gald to see that there are peepke worrying about it. As Tottie Fields said,

there's one born every minute. As if I could care what you want on your letters

to write on them. Ive got some very, very juicy stuff already, and if you dont

shut your mouth, a lot of people are going to "find" it in their mail next

week. Big joke, you say. Sure. Wait and see.

Well I always like to leave my readers with a personal note or two. This old fat

woman wouldn't get out of my way when I got on the Bay Street Bus this morning

I've been riding this bus for two years, and if people aren't courteous enough to

get in when it's minus 10 degrees outside, well,