

RAGING MAIN

#2

1 June 1983

: Raging Main is a monthly blurb of postal Diplomacy and other stuff. It is published and edited by James S. Woodson, P.O.Box 33032, Pensacola, FL, 32508. My phone number is (904) 456-8661 EXT:456.

: Subscriptions to RM can be secured at the rate of twelve issues for \$5.00. Trades are solicited from other publishers.

: Game Openings; The first game has five players signed up, so we should be able to start by the next issue. These are Menders, Roybal, Quirk, Makuc, and Bakken. I will start another one as soon as this one is filled. There are also openings in a game of Diplomacy for military personnel only. I've only two signed up for this so it could take a while to fill. Any publishers who have military subscribers, I would appreciate it if you would plug this gamestart. Military men (and women) from any country are welcome. No game fees will be charged for any of these games.

: What do you think of the new masthead? I like it better than the other one, but still am not thrilled with it. What do you say? Different variations on the name of my 'zine have been popping up lately. A recent Mos Eisly Spaceport referred to it as RAISINS MAIN. John Michalski also sent his sub money with the request to send him "Rasing Cane". I also got a sample request from Mike Mazzer in which he asked for "Hello, Sailor!". Well, why not? Maybe I'll just change the title with each new issue.

: Standbys — I need them! Anyone who plays a standby to its completion will be given a three issue sub extension.

: Mark Berch Department: All I can say about Florida weather is that it's HUMID! I grew up where it is hot, but dry. On top of this, the air conditioner in my building hasn't been turned on.

: John Kador Department: One of my pet peeves is when people say that something is 'very unique'. Why even say 'very'? My dictionary defines unique as "being the only one; being without like or equal". This is not something that can be intensified by the word 'very'.

: Playlist: The Net (Little River Band); Desparado (Eagles); Beethoven: Concerto No. 4 in G Major for Piano and Orchestra, Op. 58 (Leon Fleisher and the Cleveland Orchestra, George Szell, Conductor)

This and that...

A few of you have asked what I'm doing in Pensacola. At the moment the answer is, not much. I was originally scheduled to start my Navy flight training last week (23 May), but it appears now that I won't begin for another four to five weeks. Almost seven weeks ago, I was playing basketball with some friends in Minnesota and I came down wrong on my right ankle. Sixty seconds later, my ankle looked like a musk melon.

I went to the hospital and after looking at the x-rays the doctor informed me that I had torn two of the ligaments in my ankle. Well, that was seven eons — I mean weeks — ago and my foot is still in a cast.

Once I start Aviation Indoctrination (AI), which is the first phase of the flight training, the first thing that I get to do (after the physical examination, where I still could get thrown out of the program) is run the obstical course. Unfortunately this is something that would be a bit hard to do with ones foot in a cast. The cast comes off in a week and a half (10 June) and then I'm looking at three weeks to get to ankle (and the rest of my body) back into shape.

This brings me to what I have been doing. I've got a job at CNET — that's the Chief of Naval Education and Training — in the office that deals with NROTC summer training. Is there anyone out there who is in a game with Bill Highfield and needs to get him to do something? Contact me. I can arrange for some terrible things to go on his cruise record and he'll certainly do whatever you ask rather than face that. Bill, is there anything special you would like the CO of Saratoga to know about you?

All these delays in my start will most likely mean that I'll be in the middle of AI during DipCon and most of the other summer Dip get togethers. So, I can't be sure if I'll see any of you this summer. For this I'm sure you are all eternally grateful.

MOVIE TRIVIA QUIZ

Last winter, a large metropolitan newspaper had a movia trivia contest with the grand prize being \$1000. A bunch of my friends and I set out to win. There were 110 questions and we got answers for over 90 of them. It wasn't enough. I'll print a few of them each issue and when I'm done, I'll give a years free to the person with the most right answers. Be advise These are tough.

1. Just before the subway-grating scene in "The Seven Year Itch", Marilyn Monroe emerges from a movie theater feeling sorry for the title character of the film she has just seen. What is the title of the film?
2. In "Bonnie and Clyde", Warren Beatty bawls out Michael J. Pollard in a movie theater. What movie is being shown at the time?
3. In "Arthur", what is Arthur's favorite liquar?
4. What law firm opposes Paul Newman in "The Verdict"?
5. Early in the same film, what does Newman have for breakfast?
6. What does dyspeptic Charles Coburn eat for lunch on his first day as a new employee at the Neeley's Department Store in "The Devil and Miss Jones"?
7. What is the name of the character, played by Monty Woolley, who comes to supper and stays and stays in the film version of "The Man Who Came to Dinner" and what living gift does he receive for Christmas from Lucius Beebe?
8. In "48 Hrs.," what "meal" does Nick Nolte buy Eddie Murphy?

Answers are due by 1 August 1983 and will be printed in RM #4.

WHAT'S IN A TITLE?

I asked all of you that last time and got a few interesting responses. Unfortunately, none of them were totally correct. But at least you tried, and the guesses were usually quite amusing. For example: John Caruso says: "Raging Main — obviously — named after The Main, the ship the Spanish sunk, about the Spanish-American War time. Do I win anything?"

Sorry, John. Although your history is very good, your spelling isn't. U.S.S. Maine was sunk by the Spanish in that war, and it prompted the morale building slogan, "Remember the Maine!" Nice try.

John Michalski says: "Raging Main comes from your ravaged blood vessels where you were main-lining the drugs that made you decide to GM and publish, right?"

No, that's not it either. It certainly is an interesting interpretation of my reasons for pubbing. You're not the only person who has doubted my mental state when I made the decision to start RM.

Dale Bakken says: "... I assume it's an old nautical term, but beyond that, I don't know."

True, but you don't win anything for a thin guess like that. Sorry.

Mark Keller says: "Raging Main = Name of a ship"

That certainly would be interesting, wouldn't it? How would you like to be captain of a ship with that name. But, no. To my knowledge there is no ship with that name.

Jim Makuc says: "As for what Raging Main refers to, I have hired a scholar to find out. The word rage can mean violent and tumultuous as well as just plain mad. It comes from the root rabhas which means violent. The word main is a little tougher. It can refer to the high seas of a broad expanse of sea, or a main mast or main sail. I prefer to stick with the sea. Therefore considering you are in the Navy I assume Raging Main refers to a storm of some force out at sea, such as a Typhoon. Or on the lighter side of the earth, it could mean what you service guys do while you have a 48 hour pass. Ravaging all the bars on Main Street not to mention the alleys."

Here's our winner. Jim's first explanation is quite close (My intent goes a bit farther) and his lighter side guess is certainly the most original. Well, maybe not original, but at least well thought. You win three free issues.

What is the correct answer, you ask? Here it is.

The words 'raging main' refer, generally, to the sea and its tendency to be unfriendly. Specifically, my title is in reference to the person who controls them. That, of course, is Neptune.

King Neptune is the supreme authority to any mariner and he is honored as such whenever he boards a United States naval vessel. When does this occur, you ask? He arrives each time a ship crosses the line. (That's navy lingo for the equator)

A person who has never crossed the line is called a "pollywog" (or simply a "wog"), while someone who has crossed, and gone through the necessary initiation is called a "shellback". Believe it or not, this vital information is recorded in ones service record. During the initiation festivities, (don't ask me to describe them, I'm still a wog) Neptune invariably arrives.

Whenever a commanding officer or any other senior officer arrives on a ship (his or any other) he is "bonged aboard". In doing this, the quarterdeck's boatswain's mate strikes the ship's bell the appropriate number of times and announces over the 1-MC (PA system) who has arrived. This is done by stating the officer's command. For example, "Nimitz, arriving" or "Third Fleet, arriving."

The number of bongs depends on the rank of the officer. Lt. Commander and below rate two; Commander and Captain, four; Commodore and Rear Admiral, six; Vice Admiral and above, eight. This last group includes Cabinet members and the President.

When King Neptune comes aboard during the ceremony, he is given ten bongs and announced, "Raging Main, arriving."

HOUSERULES (continued)

My request for comments on my houserules brought three responses; two from established GMs and one from a player. I thank you all.

Bruce Linsey (Mr. Houserule himself) says: "The houserules look good for the most part, but you've left quite a lot of ground uncovered. On your HR #8, I recently ran into a ludicrous situation because of my 'No Vote Received= yes' houserule. A concession to a one-center Turkey was proposed, and one player voted yes with everyone else not voting. The Austrian player flew into a rage when I declared the game over. For that reason, though, I found it necessary to ammend that rule.

"In #6, do you mean that it will only take one request to separate seasons?"

John Michalski says: "HR's: I support your black press policy; stick by your guns. I would suggest separations require a majority, or at least 2 votes to pass, or fools will drag a game out forever. NVR=yes is a good policy also."

Dale Bakken says: "Your Houserules are fine. Pretty much of what a lot of other zines are doing. May I add one suggestion? This is an idea of a couple of other zines I subscribe to are doing. How about charging an NMR fee? Something like \$4-5 is most common."

I'm going to stick with NVR=yes. If a player doesn't care to vote, he should not complain when the game is declared ended. However, it is possible for someone to NMR by mistake and be unable to veto a draw. Therefore, I will allow another vote if an NMRing player has the deciding vote. All players may change their votes if they wish.

I will ammend Rule #6 to require at least two players to request a separation for it to take place.

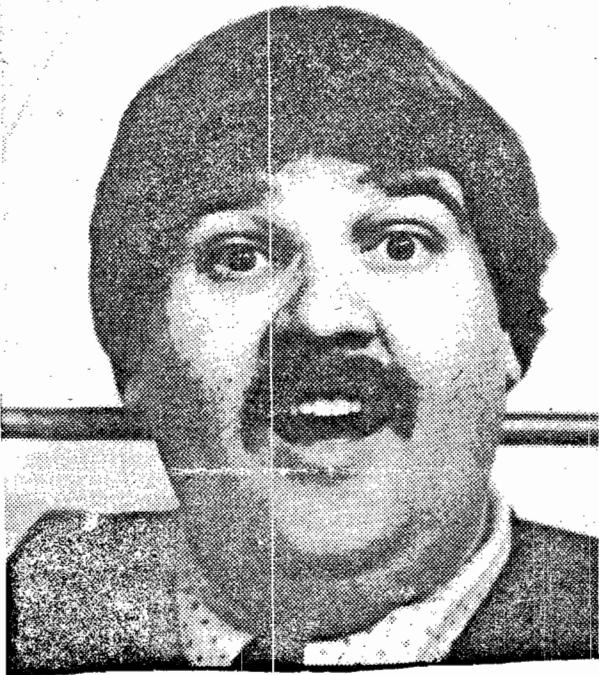
The NMR fee is an idea that I toyed with but discarded hoping that it would be easier to fill the game openings. I may instigate one in the future if NMRs become a problem.

AMMENDMENTS

6. (change to read) Seasons will be separated upon the request of at least two players, unless there are only three or less players in the game in which case one request will suffice.

8a. (addition) If no player vetos a draw proposal, but one or more players did not submit moves, then the game will be suspended while another vote is conducted.

8b. (addition) Draws do not need to include all surviving players.



THIS WEEK

featuring

Scott Hansen

"King Size Comedian gets big laughs!"

Bob Protzman
St. Paul Dispatch

I'll bet that all of you who met Scott at DipCon last year thought that he was a small guy, and not a 'King Size Comedian'. He also probably told you some story about his job at McDonalds or some library. Well now you all know the truth. Irksome's publisher is not a mild mannered Univ. of Minnesota Student. He's a comic knockin them dead in St. Paul night clubs. Don't let him fool you again.

You never expected RM to come out with hard charging investigative journalism like that, did you? Well this is only the beginning. I'm still wondering why Scott tried to keep this a secret for so long.

My request for business cards did not bring a very big response. The prize for the most unusual card would have gone to Jim Makuc but it isn't a real card. It's only a piece of paper that has been printed up.

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Jim's explanation: "... some kids made up ten of these for me last year. I was manager in our high school band. I was always asleep in the morning when kids came to put their instruments away or ask to have them fixed. They said a cheery hello, but I just growled and said bug off. You know how rainy Mondays are, right? Well to make a long story short, we had a basketball pep band and we had nicknames on t-shirts, and I was the SENIOR GROUCH, and these jokesters made up these cards."

The winner comes from Bruce Linsey. Bruce would have won two free issues if he hadn't have bothered to explain where he got the card.

Bruce says: "I'm enclosing a business card given to me to give to you by hobby sweetheart Alex lord. Her mother runs an antique store in the Catskills."

So, the two free issues go to Alex, and not to Bruce. Actually, the first card that started my collection came from an antique store. Look for it on the next page.

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Here it is! The card that started my collection. The place even has a sign hanging in the store with that slogan on it. If you knew the owners you wouldn't think that it was that unusual.

Dale Bakken sent me a card from his girlfriend with the warning:

"Please don't call her up and ask for a date. Hmmm ... on the other hand, if you do get a date, can I get sub credits???"

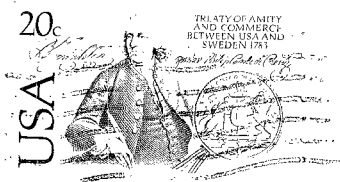
I'll let you know what happens the next time I'm in Madison, okay, Dale? On second thought, why don't you send me her picture so I'll know if the trip will be worth it?

Judy Winsome recently gave out the first "Carter Award" to the most sexist person in the hobby. Scott Hanson won for his 'nude' stick drawing of his girlfriend. I think Dale may be off to a good start on next years award (if there is one) with his comments. Good luck, Dale!

That should wrap it up for this month. Hopefully, next month will bring the start of the first game. Thanks to all the publishers who plugged or will plug Raging Main.

6/7/83
James S. Woodson
is your man!
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