



RANDOM THOUGHT

ISSUE #2 - Feb. 7, 1987

Hi again -- and here's the second issue of **RANDOM THOUGHT** -- a zine that's now twice as old as it was a month ago. Geez -- if this keeps up I'll be at issue 2046 by December (try and beat that, John Boardman).

RT is starting to take shape and there's a lot of things I want to talk about. First of all, I want to announce the official opening of Nuclear Destruction. When I first printed the rules, I really didn't expect responses to be so enthusiastic. So far I've got 6 people very interested and a few 'maybes'. The game fee is \$2 so send it in right away!! Write me if you want a copy of the rules. On page 3 you'll find a bunch of ND related questions from Jeff Hoffman and others.

The Diplomacy game has 3 people signed up and maybe the lower game fees (see below) will entice 4 more of you guys. The Empire Builder game has 5 signed up and needs 3 more. Mike Barno suggested that since there are many EB players who already have card sheets, order sheets, etc. from games in Trax or Loose Caboose that they don't need a game start packet. These sound like sane words so I'm only gonna charge \$8 for people who already have the equipment. If you want all the game start stuff -- it'll cost \$2 extra, OK?? As for other games to run, Gunboat was the only one mentioned. So, what the heck -- I'll open a Gunboat game. It'll be run on 2 week deadlines and there will be no press. It'll cost you \$2. Now, if you guys can't come up with any ideas more creative than just Gunboat -- I guess it's up to me. How 'bout Blow-Up or Woolworth or somethin' really interestin'?

Oh yeah, the lower Dippy fees: I found another printing store all the way out in the booming megalopolis of West Lebanon, NH. It's about a 10 mile trek, and it's a little bit cheaper (not much). Also, I've decided not to require a NMR deposit. I've done some thinking and decided that a player will NMR regardless of whether he's paid a deposit. So what this means is that I'm knocking the Diplomacy cost down to \$3 which is closer to where I'd like it. So as a result of the Dippy/EB price breaks, a bunch of you will find yourself with some credit -- just tell me what you me to do with it.

There's also a change to be made in my Diplomacy HRs. It's been pointed out to me (thanks, Kathy) that 2 players from the same area code is not as horrible as I thought it was. So, now in HR#3, it's now more than 2 players from the same area code that won't be allowed. Also, I want to explain that since my HRs apply to all Diplomacy-type games I run, the "unless nobody objects" clause pertaining to related players primarily applies to variants since relatives in a normal Dip game would cause irregularity (no -- not in the medical sense).

Also, as I'm sure you've probably noticed, I'm switching to a smaller printing font that allows me to fit much more on a page. So this way I can pack more chills, spills, and thrills into each issue (not to mention pay less for Xeroxing). I can't really make any promises about the quality of what I type, but the quantity's the same no matter how you print it.

On page 3 you'll find **RT's** first contest. It's a music quiz. And even if you don't know any of the songs, it should give you a good flavor for the Satan-worshipping music that all teenage degenerates listen to these days. You should hear these songs when they're played backwards!! Sounds so strange that it's just got to be a devil chant.

Random Thought is published every four weeks by Jeff Zarse, Hinman Box 284, Hanover, NH 03755. My phone number has been changed. I'm now at (603) 643-7694. Subscriptions to RT run at 60¢ each [10 issues for \$6 (funny how that works)]. I currently have game openings in Diplomacy (\$3), No Press Gunboat (\$2), Nuclear Destruction (\$2), and Empire Builder (\$8 + \$2 optional game start packet). EB will cost you an extra 20¢ a turn if you just want to play EB and not get **RT** (but why would you want to do that?!) Now if that isn't the most complicated game fee system you've ever seen, just let me know and I'll screw it up some more. Oh yeah, I'm also willing to trade **RT** and am looking for other pubbers to trade with -- let me know. I'm also sizing up interest in running a game of **SURVIVE!!**, or for any Dip variants -- (again) let me know.

We've also got a stand-by list you can join to get 3 free issues. This is probably a good idea since I don't yet have any games for you to stand-by in and so you got nothin' to lose. This group of people sure knows a deal when they see one: Paul Gardner, Kathy Byrne, Brian Kegerreis. So go ahead and stand-by.

The latest Vegas line says the smart money's on Conway (Anka's forte is salt water).

in farms. A player may only invest in one farm per turn, and only until the second time war is declared. After that, no more farms available, and all the others stop producing.

4) \$5m is the standard income for all majors. It's source may be considered the "World Relief Fund" if you wish. Majors get additional income when they sell a factory to a minor (again, only one per turn) and this is indirectly related to a major's size as the more prosperous players will be better able to spare a factory to sell.

5) Counter-spies are an interesting idea. I had toyed with the notion of a "home spy" which would simply tell which players had spied on you that turn.

6) The game may be played as a gunboat version with players communicating through press and through notes passed by the GM each turn. I prefer the non-secret set-up as it allows more negotiation.

7) The only time a major loses control points in a minor is when the major power is eliminated.

8) Minor powers only get money from investments made by major powers.

To the Warsaw Pact -- and the NATO Pact,
Down this cul-de-sac -- never turning back.

5) When I walked through the door, my wife she lay upon the floor, and with tears her eyes were sore. I did not know why.

6) I wish they'd fix the wires 'cause my baby don't know that I'm leavin' in the morning and I'm ready to go.

7) Yesterday I got so old I felt like I could die.

8) I see your money on the floor

9) My name is Clinch Dedee. You're the only one I wanna see.

10) All around me are familiar faces.
Worn out places, worn out faces.
Bright and early for their daily races.
Going nowhere, going nowhere.

11) Go on get Tarzan, go on get Jane.
Go on get Superman, get Lois Lane.

12) The phone is ringing and the clock says 4 a.m.

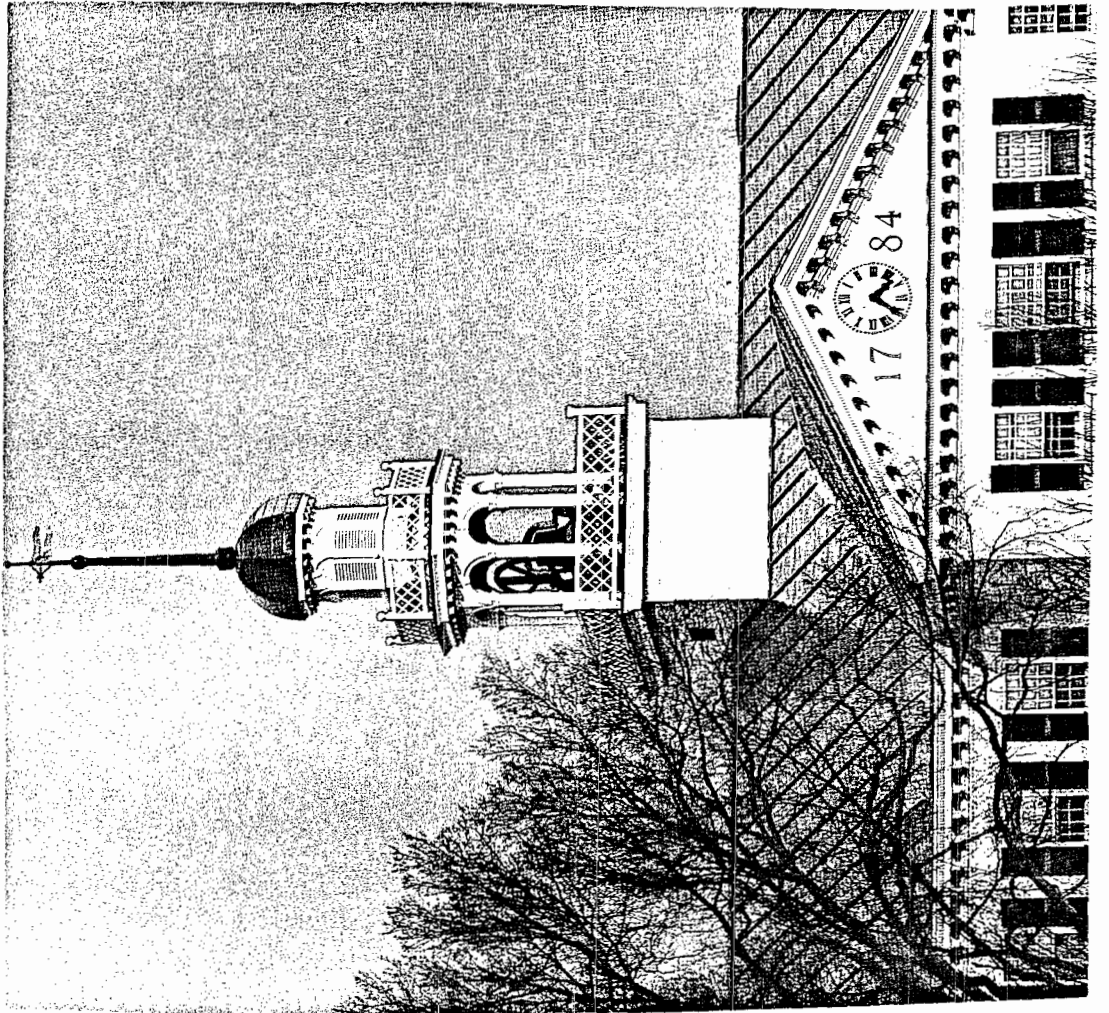
→ Dartmouth Hall
(on the top of it, at least)

Tim Conway?
or

Paul Anka

In a swimming
race across lake
Michigan, who
would win -

**RANDOM
THOUGHTS:**



NOTES:

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LOVE
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demands delinquent child support payments from :

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