

REBUS SIC STANTIBUS

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 12

DECEMBER 1977



REBUS SIC STANTIBUS

Published by the New England Society of Cynics, an unincorporated association. Inquire care of the publisher, 100 Belmont Place, Apartment 3-F, Staten Island, New York 10301. Telephone (212) 273-2365.

Publication is on a monthly basis. Game deadlines are three weeks after each publication date. Yearly subscriptions are available at \$4.00. Make all checks payable to the New England Society of Cynics. No fee is charged for participation in published games.

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HOW TO SPOT A LIAR

by Desmond Morris

There are many occasions in our social lives when we wish to hide our true feelings but somehow fail to do so. The bereaved mother who is trying to conceal her sadness from her children is said to be "putting on a brave face," as if she were wearing a mask of false expressions over a face of true ones. When we fail to deceive in this way, how does the information about our true feeling leak out? What is the source of this nonverbal leakage?

The case of the bereaved mother is one where the deception fails because there is no great pressure for it to succeed. In fact, there is a positive advantage in its failing to deceive. If the bereaved mother were too successful in concealing her grief, she would be criticized for lack of feeling. Equally, if she failed to display some visible inhibition of her grief she would be said to lack courage and self-control. Her "brave face" is therefore an example of pseudo-deception: Consciously or unconsciously, she wants her forced smile to read as forced.

But what happens if the pressure to deceive is greater? The defendant in a murder trial who knows he is guilty but desperately protests his innocence is under enormous pressure to succeed with his deception. He lies with his verbal statements and must match his words with his equally convincing body actions. How does he do it?

The answer is that he can control some parts of his body better than others. The easy parts to discipline are those whose actions he is most aware of in ordinary signaling. He knows most about smiles and frowns - he sees them occasionally in a mirror - so he can lie best with his face.

His general body postures can give some valuable clues because he is not always fully conscious of the degree of his stance or the degree of his slump or alertness. But the value of these body postures is reduced by social rules that require stereotyped poses in specific contexts.

A murder trial defendant, for instance, is expected to sit or stand stiffly, whether he is innocent or guilty, and this can easily act as a "signal blunter."

Hand movements and postures are more useful clues to deception because our murdered will be less aware of them, and because there exists no set rules to blunt his manual expressiveness.

Finally, his legs and feet are of particular interest because this is the part of his body he is least aware of. Frequently, however, the actions of the lower region of the body are obscured from view, so that, in practice, their usefulness is limited.

To sum up then, the best way to deceive is to restrict your signals to words and facial expressions. The most efficient means of doing this is to conceal the rest of your body or to keep it busy with a complicated mechanical posture that all its visible deception clues are stifled by the demand for physical dexterity. In other words, if you have to lie, do it over the telephone or when threading a needle or maneuvering a car into a parking space. If much of you is visible and you have no mechanical task to perform then to succeed with your lie you must try to involve the whole of your body in the act of deception.

Whole body lying is difficult for most of us because we lack practice. When we do undertake a deliberate lie, we are often clumsy in executing it and only the observational ineptitude of our companions can save us from discovery. Actually our lies are often found out, but remain unchallenged. Two possible reasons for this are that our companions are either too embarrassed to expose our falsehood or they are too confused by our actions to be able to identify the exact nature of the lie.

Successful liars are those whose working lives involve repeated and prolonged deceptions and, what is more, deceptions that are open to challenge. Unless they are capable of lying successfully and of sustaining their lies, they are doomed to

failure in their chosen professions. As a result they have to become adept at contextual manipulation (choosing the right moment to lie) and at whole body lying. I am not thinking here merely of the obvious examples - great actors and actresses - but also the other super liars, the professional diplomats and politicians, the conjurers and magicians, the confidence tricksters and the used car salesmen. For all of these, lying is a way of life, a skill that is polished until it sparkles so brightly that the rest of us, most of the time, actually enjoy being taken by it.

Turning from the would-be deceiver to the would-be detector, what are the specific clues that give the game away? A series of experiments by American research workers have provided some of the answers. They asked trainee nurses to lie and tell the truth about certain films they had been shown. At a number of secessions they were asked to describe what they saw, sometimes truthfully and sometimes untruthfully. While they were doing this their every action and expression was being recorded by concealed cameras. It was then possible to analyze in detail all the actions that accompanied truthful statements and all those accompanying deliberate lies, and study the difference between them.

The nurses tried hard to conceal their lies because they were told that skill at deception was an important attribute for their future careers. This it is, for anxious patients require reassurance that they are on the mend, or that risky operations are really quite safe, or that baffled doctors know exactly what the complaint is. What is more, they ask for reassurance while at the same time being acutely tuned in for the slightest sign of any hidden half-truth or even pessimisms. To be a successful nurse one must be a convincing liar. The experiment was therefore more than an academic exercise - and in fact it turned out that the nurses who were in the top of their class were also the ones who were the best body liars in the film report tests.

Even the best body liars were not perfect, however, and the experimenters were able to assemble a set of key differences in body actions between moments of truth telling and of deception. They are as follows:

‡ When lying, the nurses decreased the frequency of simple articulations they made with their hands. The hand actions they would normally have used to emphasize - to drive home a point, or to underline an important point - were significantly reduced. The reason is that the hand actions, which act as "illustrators" of spoken words are not identified gestures. We know we wave our hands about when we engage in excited conversation, but we have no idea exactly what our hands are doing. Unconsciously we sense that perhaps our hands will give us away, so we suppress them. This is not easy to do. We can hide them, sit on them, stuff them deep into our pockets (where they may still let us down by finding some coins and jiggling them), or, less drastically, we can clasp one firmly with the other and let them hold each other down. The experienced observer is not fooled by this - he knows that there is something amiss.

‡ When lying, the nurses increased the frequency of hand-to-face auto-contacts. We all touch our faces from time to time during conversations, but the number of times these simple actions are performed rises dramatically during moments of deception. Deception favorites include: the Chin Stroke, the Lips Press, the Mouth Cover, the Nose Touch, the Cheek Rub. During deception attempts, any of these show a marked increase.

(CONTINUED NEXT MONTH)

This article is reprinted from the October 17, 1977 issue of New York magazine. Desmond Morris is an anthropologist and is the author of The Naked Ape.

GRAND TOURNAMENT DIPLOMACY

1976 Dhd

Winter 1906

WAR INDUSTRIES HAVE SLOW YEAR

European People's Democratic

Republic Phil McGee, Comrade Chairman
Build: A War, V. Tsao, Commander
Has: A Gal, A Swe, A Mos

Central European Associated

Republic Phil McGee, Chairman, Committee
on State Security
Has: A Bul, F Con, A Vie, F Den
A Nwy

France

Harley Jordan, Emperor
Build: F Mar, C. Doehrer, Commander
Has: A Par, F Pie, F Edg, F Nth

Germany

John Kador, Kaiser
Remove: NRR (remove A Pic
Has: A Ber, A Ruh, A Mun, A Kie

Austria-Hungary

Chuck Doehrer, Kaiser
Has: A Bud, A Ser

Holy Roman

Empire Robert Sacks, Emperor
Has: A Ven, A Smy, A Tri, A Boh

Madiera

Dennis Klein, Sovereign Prince
Has: F Lpl, F Por, F Bre

Moldavia

Dennis Klein, Sovereign Prince
Has: A Arm, A Rum

Corsica

John Machir, Sovereign Prince
Remove: F Tun
Has: F Rom, F Nap, F Gre, F Ion

Rules Changes

The proposed rules changes have been approved. They take effect with this gamesession.

I'd like to thank the players for their approval of the rules. I think they are good rules, that will improve the game.

I especially want to thank the players who approved the rules changes because they thought the rules are good, even though they feared that the rules might hurt their positions in the game.

Commentary

This has been a revolutionary year in the life of the game. Without doubt, the most interesting so far.

To begin with, we had the revolution in and around Russia, leading to the creation of the EPDR and its obvious satellite, the CEAR. In that revolution, Phil McGee returned to Russia, like Lenin (He'll love reading this!), to transform crumbling Russia into world power status. The monarchy under the Tsarina had collapsed and Vinnie Tsao, surprised by his new power, passed it on to Phil McGee. This made the Russian revolution rather bloodless, but it appears that it was not intended to be so. The fact that V. Tsao so quickly passed power to P. McGee indicates, to me at least, that he and McGee had been planning a revolution for some time, and that only unfortunate fate put the rebels in power without having the fun of a bloody coup d'etat.

With its nine units, Comrade Chairman Phil McGee broke off the satellite state of CEAR so that he could keep control of his own units. (An annoying circumvention of the rules which presents very difficult drafting problems for me to find a way to avoid) At any rate the EPDR-CEAR axis is formidable indeed.

Dennis Klein decided to try royalty himself, and rebelled from his French and Austrian lords to form his own Madiera and Moldavia. Madiera will be a great pain to France and Moldavia will go on to be the new Turkey.

John Machir's new Corsica, I predict, will be the key country in the game within the next two years. Not the

largest it will be, but still the most important. J. Machir should be able to do a lot with his little country.

These revolutions have a very interesting thing to tell. When we consider that B. Normand used to be Turkish, and that C. Dupuis used to be English, there are now no remaining truly loyal commanders. No one has a history of trustworthiness.

Now let's look at the situation. The leading player in the game is still Harley Jordan, Emperor of France. France itself has only five units, but has much more influence than that. H. Jordan is the only Austrian commander. The effect is that he has more influence over Austrian affairs than does his Kaiser. The French Emperor is also the controlling force in Germany. Though the German unit he commanded was lifted, the other German units are commanded by C. Dupuis and C. Doehrer, both French commanders. Considering that neither German commander has a first loyalty in Germany, Germany remains very much under French control.

The secessionist rebellion in Madiera is really no disaster for France. With no nearby allies, Madiera can bravely fight to the last but will be reconquered. Madiera will, however, very much slow French progress.

Phil McGee and his EPDR is in a good defensive position. If he can keep peace with Moldavia, outward pressure on Germany and Austria can be had, especially considering that Jordan's forces still have Rome to contend with.

Moldavia, under Dennis Klein, could fight the EPDR, but will be much better off going after the weak eastern half of the HRE, it having only one unit to protect two centers. With CEAR help, Moldavia can end up with all of Turkey and more. The key problem for D. Klein then, is not military but diplomatic. Real growth can only be accomplished by finding diplomatic recognition.

The Corsican revolution will not be crushed. Corsica is as powerful as

(continued on page 7.)

FIRST REGULAR GAME

1976 BE

Winter 1907

England
R. Kelly

Build: A Edi
Retreat: A Mun-Bur
Has: A Swe, A Nwy, A Ber,
F Nth, F Pru, F Hel,
F Fin

France

Build: none

B. Normand
Has: F MAO, F Tun, F Lyo, F Wes,
A Mar, F Spa(sc), A Ruh

Italy

Build: none

J. Rogowski
Has: F Tyr, F Tus, F Ion,
A Pie, A Gal, F Con, F Nap,
A Stp

Austria
D. Malmquist

Build: A Bud (no other possible)
Has: F Adr, A Boh, F Ank
A Mos, A Tyo, A War, A Mun

SECOND REGULAR GAME

1976 DG

Winter 1905

Turkey
B. Normand

Build: F Smy, F Con
Has: F Bul(ec), F Bla
A Sev, A Rum

Austria

Removal: none

C. Gibson
Retreat: A Sil-War
Has: A Bud, F Alb, A Tyo, A Tri

England
R. Kelly

Build: A Edi, A Lon
Has: A Mos, A Stp, A Nwy,
F Bar, A Liv, F Bal, F Bot

Note: Since the retreat to Warsaw results in a gain for Austria, there is no removal.

France
J. Machir Build: A Par, A Bre
Has: A Kie, A Ber, A Ruh, F Mar, F Nth, A Sil, A Mun

Italy
Remove: A Nap
Has: A Ven, F Tyr, A Pie, A Vie, F Ion

Russia
C. Dupuis Remove: A Mos, A Gal
Has: None (see Austria)

Note: Concession to France fails.

THIRD REGULAR GAME

1976 IL Spring 1905

Note: There will be no replacement for Mr. Enzler. I have no standby players available.

ENZLER RESIGNS!

Turkey
J. Rogowski A Sev-Rum
F Eas (S) F Aeg
A Ukr-War
F Bul(ec) (S) A Sev-Rum
F Aeg (S) F Bul(ec)
A Mos-Liv
A Rum-Gal

Austria
R. Kelly A Ser (S) Turkish A Rum-Bud
(NSO) (dis)

France
E. Vesneske A Par-Pic
F Bre-Eng
F Nth (C) A Nwy-Hol
F Lpl-Cly
A Bel-Ruh
F Eng-Bel
A Nwy-Hol
A Gas-Bur

England
G. Bakich F Den-NMR (dis)
F Swe-NMR
A Lon-NMR

Italy
M. Berch F Rom-Nap
A Tri-Ser
F Tyr-Ion
A Vie-Gal
A Tyo-Ven
F Ion-Aeg
A Bud (S) A Tri-Ser
F Gre (S) F Ion-Aeg

Germany
R. Enzler A Sil-Gal
F Hel-Den
A Liv-Mos
A War (S) A Liv-Mos
(S) A Liv
F Edi-H
A Kie (S) F Hel-Den

PRESS

1976 BE

Paris: (AP) We can now see who really rules the Austro-Italian alliance! Too bad about those builds, Austria, but then Trieste and Vienna will be Austrian again soon, won't they?

1976 DG

Pest: Green-suited bodies float down the Danube all summer and fall and winter. We estimate 1/3 of the Italian army have either drowned themselves or been bumped off and

dumped in. They're so disgusted with that Italian government that persisted in invading the idealistic meritocracy they'd rather go to their reward now than hope for any from Rome, which uses them like slaves or cannon fodder.

Ples welcome our boy. Warsaw's happiest winter in years.

1976 IL

(Paris-Berlin) Well, Richard, you should have expected this (perhaps you did). There were quite a few signs that I was going to

attack you: 1) England is just about gone, so all of my northern units are about to become useless. 2) I am obviously concentrating northward, and you are just as obviously the only other northern power. 3) I have to attack either you or Italy, and a glance at the board will make it obvious who I have to choose. I didn't really have to attack you, however. You made it inevitable by your actions: 1) You've been sitting in Edi for two years, contrary to one of our most basic agreements. 2) You've flattered me to help you out in England and Scandinavia, without giving me any assistance at all. 3) You refuse to acknowledge the fact that I have to do something with all of my units in the north, expecting me to spend the next two years swinging them down to the south to attack Italy without any promise of support from you. 4) You tried to pally off Italy and me against each other, trying to get me to attack Italy,

suggesting moves and builds which would obviously antagonize him, and telling Mark to attack me, a move which is obviously suicidal, since he would be fighting on two fronts extremely far apart from each other. 5) You've only written to me once in the past two months. 6) You ruined any chances for a draw by dealing dishonestly with both Italy and me, asking us to waste our time fighting each other while you waltzed into Turkey. Basically, Richard, you completely ignored the long range aspects of the game, including our relative positions, Italy's and my needs, and the need to deal honestly with at least one player in the game. At the same time, you spent all your time demanding that Mark and I help you in your short term needs, while refusing to acknowledge mine (Edi). Diplomacy is the name of the game, Richard, and stupid play deserves what it gets.

(Paris) You all know my reasons for attacking Germany. Anyone wishing to join me is welcome. Please write.

G.T.D. Commentary

(continued from page 5)
the HRE, and its units are better placed. With Diplomatic recognition, Corsica should be able to finish off the HRE, probably to the delight of Austria and France. There are only five original countries, three under the control of H. Jordan. Corsica should demand recognition as a price for continued war on the HRE. With it, Corsica will replace the HRE in the position of Italy. Since the French axis will be extending recognition to Corsica, the EPDR should not want to be left out, and should also extend the token friendship of recognition.

To prevent this disaster, Bob Sacks can try a number of moves. First, he can try to patch things up with France. This means some fast talking, but perhaps he can do it. Secondly, he can patch things

up with John Machir, perhaps by offering to abdicate to him.

The alliance structures are, happily, hopelessly confused.

The EPDR-CEAR is allied with Moldavia against the HRE and Austria. This means that they are at one time fighting the HRE in Turkey and with the HRE against Austria.

In such a confused situation, being on the side of the Moldavians does not necessarily make the EPDR an ally of Madiera against France, but considering that the best growth pattern of the EPDR is into Austria, and that Austria is a satellite of France, war with France will come.

This means we should see Germany, another state under French control, attempting to invade the EPDR, in order to deflect the attack on Austria.

If things do shape up as I predict; France, Germany and Austria against The EPDR, the CEAR, Moldavia and Madiera; and with the HRE shrinking down to Italy alone or being replaced by Corsice; the Corsica will control the balance of power.

Take the best offer, John!
You're in the driver's seat.

Harley Jordan can give you recognition, but, once given, he can't take it back. Once Madiera goes under there will danger no mater where you turn, and great promise.

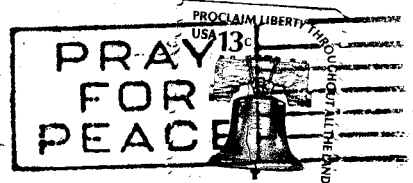
NOTA BENE

1. Deadline: The deadline for all games is January 14, 1978.
2. Phone Numbers. Once again I remind you all. I should have a fast way of contacting you.
3. Achtung: According to Jim Bumpas' Liberterraan and the United States Code (10 USC 311) The Militia of the United States consists of all able-bodied males at least 17 years of age and generally under 45 years of age, who are, or who have made a declaration of intention to become, citizens of the United States. Also included by the express terms of the statute are female citizens of the United States who are comissioned officers of the National Guard.
Fall in, slaves!
4. Thanks to our readers: This issue marks our second anniversary. We thank our readers for your continued support.
5. Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good stab!

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