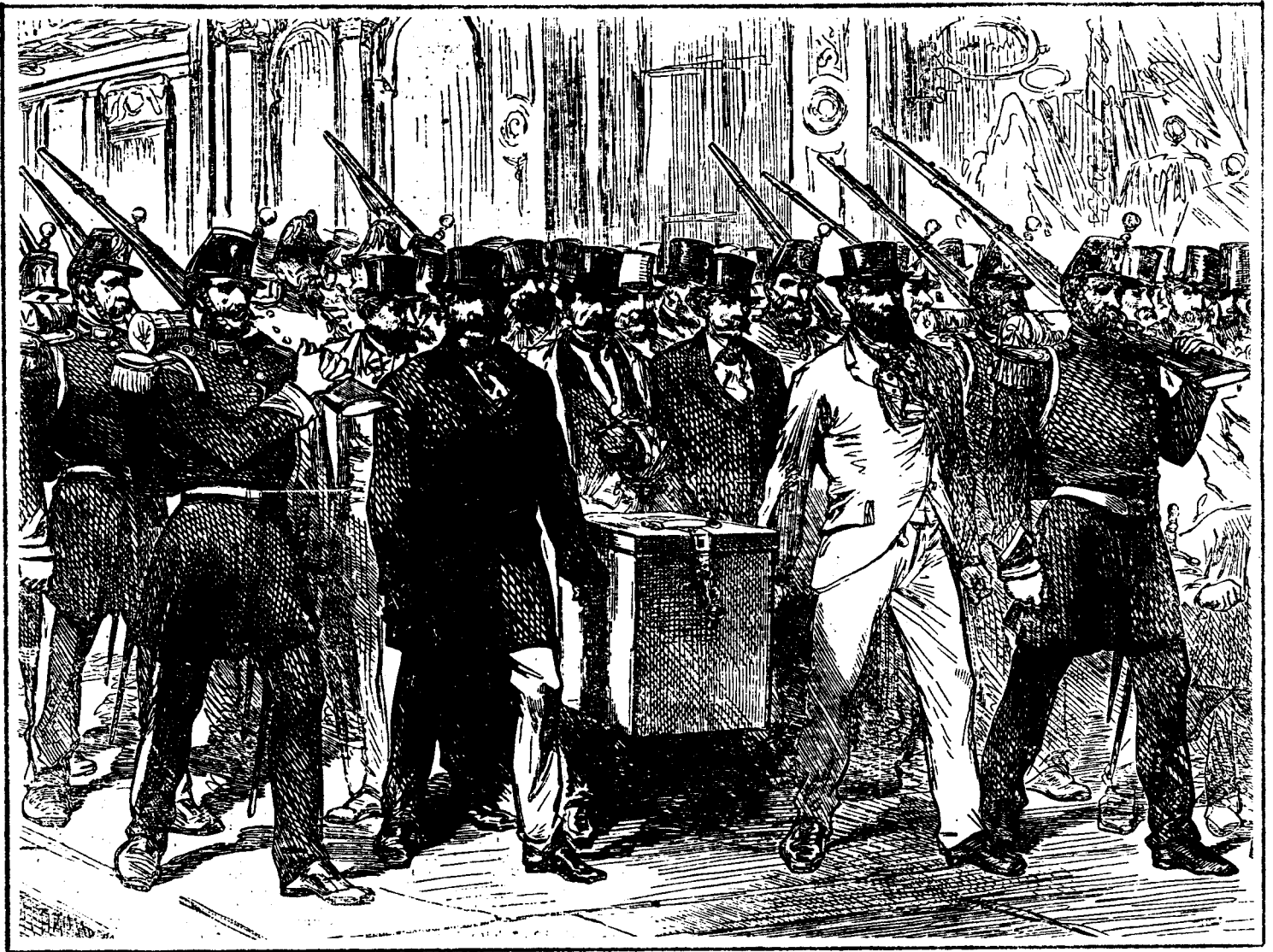


# REBUS SIC STANTIBUS

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 5

APRIL 1976

## ELECTION RETURNS



**KINGS ELECTED IN ALL COUNTRIES**

REBUS SIC STANTIBUS

Published by the New England Society of Cynics, an unincorporated association, 65 Winter Avenue, Staten Island, New York 10301. Telephone (212) 727-0697.

Publication is on a monthly basis. Game deadlines are three weeks in length. Yearly subscriptions are available at \$4.00, with a discount of \$1.00 to players. Make all checks payable to the New England Society of Cynics. Exchange agreements with other publications are welcome.

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# THE CRITIC

BLACK HOLE - published by Douglas Reif, 67 Grosevener Road, Kenmore, N.Y. 14223. 11 issues/\$2.00.

Black Hole is an interesting newsletter, published primarily for the benefit of the players in his games. Mr. Reif supplements his game reports with some interesting and usually humorous, news stories and descriptions of coming events. Recommended.

IMPASSABLE - published by John Boyer, 117 Garland Drive, Carlisle, PA. 17013. 10 issues/\$2.00.

Impassable is one of the great classics of postal Diplomacy, a standard others are measured against. Mr. Boyer runs a surprisingly great number of games, but also publishes numerous articles on coming events and politics in the hobby, making his newsletter a valuable source of news. Impassable is attractively laid out and printed. Very highly recommended.

SPECULUM - published by Dave Kadlecsek, Box 802, University of Santa Clara, Santa Clara, CA. 95053. 10 issues/\$2.00.

Speculum is a very well conceived newsletter. It is written primarily for the participants in the included games but also includes some interesting comment of Diplomacy politics and events. Recommended.

RUNESTONE - published by John Leeder, 208 Haysboro Cr., S.W., Calgary, Alta., Canada T2V 3G3. Subscriptions are 1¢ per page plus postage.

Runestone is full of well done games, news and propoganda. Mr. Leeder has managed to lead his subscribers into a very lively participation in the publication. The net product is well worth reading for everybody. Recommended.

LIBERTERREAN - published by Jim Bumpas, 248 Loraine Ave., Los Altos, CA. 94022. 10 issues \$3.00.

Liberterrean is a kind of soul brother to Rebus, it includes well informed comments on real world and Diplomacy politics, making this a very good newsletter that should be of interest to all. Printing is excellent (done by some strange process), graphics are outstanding, and the games seem to be well presented. Some are non-Diplomacy. Recommended.

THE HORNS - published by Dave Allen, 11 Alma Heights, Off Cavendish Way, Mickleover, Derby, The United Kingdom DE3-5BJ (dig the crazy British address) 9 issues \$2.00 (pay through I.S.E.c/o Birsan).

The Horns is a very welcome addition to anyone's library. It contains a number of games and some interesting information about the Diplomacy community overseas. Printing and layout are casual. Recommended.

LORD OF HOSTS - published by Robert Sacks, 4861 Broadway, Apartment 5-V, New York City 10034. Cost of subscription is to be determined by Mr. Sacks.

His Imperial Majesty, the High Mucky-Muck of The Imperial Diplomacy Association blesses us with a very good newsletter here. Mr. Sacks is also the Miller Number Custodian and published the business of the IADC through this vehicle. Games are very neatly and concisly described. Layout and writing are well done. Recommended.

EREHWON - published by Rod Walker, Alcalá, 1273 Crest Dr., Encintas, CA. 92024. 8 issues \$1.00.

Mr. Walker publishes another great classic of postal Diplomacy in this newsletter. While Erehwon is extremely partisan

in its positions on Diplomacy politics, it is also very witty. A few well run games are presented, but this is primarily a vehicle for propoganda. Recommended.

DIPLOMACY WORLD - edited by Walter Buchanan, R.R.#3, Box 324, Lebanon, IN. 46052. (I'm not sure who the publisher is since D.W. used to be published by G.R.I. I guess it is now owned by Avalon-Hill) Quarterly/ \$4.00 per year.

Diplomacy World, for those of you who are new to this sport, is a thing very much apart from other publications. It is professionally printed, edited and published by the manufacturer of the game for the purpose of providing interesting articles on Diplomacy. Mr. Buchanan includes demonstration games played by leading players, rating lists of players, articles on tactics and published. It's usually about 40 pages long and edited up to professional standards (the only error I've ever seen is a listing of R.S.S. as being brand new when we are at least four months old). Very, very highly recommended. If you don't, subscribe.

STRATEGIC SATIRE - published by the Satirist Press, Box 1832, Chicago, IL. 60690. Quarterly/\$1.25 per year.

Diplomacy is taken seriously by enough fools that a satire newsletter is needed. The wit of S.S. is a clear light through the muck and pompousness in the sport. The writing and printeng is the very best in a non-professional newsletter. Recommended.

THE MINUMAKU GAZETTE - published by Robert Bryan Lipton, Box 1962, Lafayette College, Easton, PA. 18042. 10¢/issue, plus postage.

A very interesting newsletter is this one. Games, partisan Diplomacy news, laughs, and satire are well presented. The game reporting has a flair that is enviable. Recommended.

SAINT GEORGE AND THE DRAGON - published by Robert Sergeant, 2902 St. Paul St., Indianapolis, IN. 46203. 10 issues/\$2.00.

A new newsletter and a very good one. It is very well printed and edited with clever and interesting articles on real world and Diplomacy politics. Graphics outstanding. Recommended.

TETRACUSPID - published by Richard Kovalcik, Jr., Room 101, Bexly Hall, 52 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, Mass. 02139. 11¢ per page pluss postage.

A well done newsletter, primarily dedicated to its players, but containing useful information on events in the community. Recommended.

VERITAS VINCIT - published by Jeremy Paulson with editorial assistance by Scott Rosenberg and Greg Costikyan, 63-60 98th St., Apartment C19, Rego Park, N.Y. 11374. For subscription information see the publisher.

This new publication is the result of a merger of The Pocket Armenian, Urf Durfal, and Imladris. The publishers appear to be very dedicated souls, but publish strictly for kicks. Thier articles are worth reading and games are well reported. Recommended.

[Ed. Note. Not to nock this new publication, we deplore the loss of the Pocket Armenian. I have no idea why Mr. Rosenberg felt the need to merge his publication, but I wish he hadn't. If T.P.A. had been still alive, I would have listed it as a "classic" of our sport, comparable to Inpassable.]

DIIMAN - published by Brad Hessel, 15 Oak Ave., Tarrytown, N.Y. 10591.

A very well written newsletter is this. It includes a lively press, very well reported games, and occasional but very good articles on tactics and play. Printing is very good. Recommended.

# THE MAN OF THE MONTH

Not all of our monthly honor recipients are to be obscure figures. This month's boy is one of the central figures of western history, Pontius Pilate. The most celebrated events of the Prefect of Judea's career are well known to us all. What we will do here is to put those events into a context of history, of the politics of the time, so that he can be more understood as a struggling politician and not just as an indifferent villain.

His family name, "Pontius", has been traced by historians to a prominent clan of Samnites, hill cousins of the Latin founders of Rome. The Samnites were merged with the Latins, not conquered. They remained throughout the history of the empire part of the aristocracy, of the Equestrian Order, second only to the Senatorial or Patrician orders in Rome. His second name, "Pilatus", means Armed with a Javelin. From his names we can see that he was destined by his family for a career in politics. Perhaps he was his family's best hope for advancement within the empire.

Contrary to popular belief, Pilate was not an incompetent governor. The Emperor Tiberius appointed Pilate to the Prefecture from 26 A.D. to 36 A.D., the longest tenure of any governor of that troubled province. He must have been thought to have been skillful or he would have been bounced out sooner. Nor was Judea a petty post for patronage assignments for the high born. It was one of the richest provinces in the empire in terms of tax revenue. The prefect's job in Judea was not to keep Roman Iron Rule, that was not really questioned. It was to keep things calm and tax money rolling in.

Pilate's efforts at keeping the peace are very illustrative of politics of even modern day imperialism. As long as the

supreme authority of Rome was recognized, it was the prefects' duty to make friends with a co-opted local ruling class, and to uphold their local prerogatives in order to keep that friendship. Pilate did not, and could not, bully his way through history. Even as a Tyrant he had to be politic. Pilate's strangely modern problems show how little statecraft has changed.

Pilate, like other Roman governors had to get accustomed to local life. Unfortunately for him, he had to learn the hard way. As Pilate took over, he marched his troops into Caesarea carrying medallions with the emperor's image or bust among their regimental standards. The Hebrews considered these symbols to be violative of Jewish law concerning engraved images (Exodus 20:4-5). Much to the Prefect's surprise, the people of the provincial capital protested with peaceful mass demonstrations, chanting and marching about, much as the weak but unhappy groups do today. After five days of agitation Pilate gave in and ordered the standards remove

Later in his administration, Pilate persuaded the High Priest of Jerusalem to use the temple treasury to build a much needed aqueduct to improve the city's water supply. Pilate did not perceive that the treasury could be thought of as a holy thing. When word got out the people were disgusted with the priest's cooperation with Pilate's efforts to build public works and still keep tax money flowing to Rome. Riots broke out and there is evidence that the people's anger was directed more at the priests than at the government. To protect his friends Pilate sent his troops into the city, but like many a modern police commissioner, he first instructed them to use a minimum of force and not to use their swords. Like police everywhere, the troops overreacted

and bloodshed ensued. The subsequent rioting took several days to put down.

By now word may very well have been getting back to Rome that things were not going so smoothly in Judea. Pilate would have wanted to show the Emperor that Roman authority was still strong and stable in the province. He thought that a little public flattery of Tiberius might put him back in good graces in Rome. He ordered that golden shields, bearing only the Emperor's name, and not his image, be placed on the exterior of his Jerusalem headquarters.

He was surprised to see this backfire. The local priesthood complained that these shields too were violative of Jewish law. But now Pilate would not back down so often. He refused to remove the shields. He would insist on at least this much public respect for the Emperor.

The Judeans went over Pilate's head and complained directly to Tiberius. The Emperor, perhaps by now a little disgusted with his local Prefect, ordered him to remove the offending shields. He was not interested in showy displays, he wanted tax money and the peace that would insure that it would flow in. By petitioning directly to Rome the priests had shown their loyalty enough.

We can assume that by now Pilate had learned enough of the trouble he would get into if he offended Jewish law. The key to this province's governance was to avoid any religious issue whenever possible.

As we all know this was not possible. Jesus of Nazareth had been going about preaching a new word. But more than that he was making waves by condemning the priestly establishment as lazy (Matt 23:2-4) and hypocritical (Matt 23:13).

Jesus was arrested and hauled before the religious court, to be tried for blasphemy, before Caiaphas, the High Priest. Found guilty of the charges, Jesus was to be executed since he had been convicted of a capital offense.

Unfortunately for our Prefect, under

Roman law, he would have to approve and even execute the sentence.

But Pilate knew that this was no ordinary case; Jesus had a following. Seeing another religious issue on the horizon, like many a judge facing a difficult case, he tries to "wash his hands of it" procedurally. Using the thin pretext of Jesus' birth outside the province, Pilate transferred the case to the governor of the neighboring province, to Herod Antipas. But Herod also knew the game and bounced the case back.

Stuck with the decision, Pilate used the Passover amnesty as a way to settle the problem and to judge the strength of the Jesus faction. Seeing it to be small, or at least not present or organized, he proceeded to the trial.

Pilate seems to have acted almost as defense counsel for the accused. He argued that he saw nothing blasphemous or even seditious in Jesus's conduct. But the High Priest seems to have packed the courtroom and someone yelled out, to the delight of the crowd, that if Pilate did not execute Jesus he "was not Caesar's friend" (John 19:12).

This verse in the new testament was the hinge of the whole episode. To be Caesar's friend (Amicus Caesaris) was to be of special rank in Rome. Only a person so honored could wear a golden ring bearing the Emperor's image and could move in elite circles. Loss of this status was a great disgrace, usually resulting in suicide. Pilate probably interpreted this as another threat to complain to Rome. That was the last thing he needed. Case closed.

Pilate played it as safe as he could. He approved of the execution but made his well celebrated display of non-responsibility so as to gather disfavor with no one.

History condemns Pilate, but he was acting according to Roman policy as he knew it. He openly displayed that he was knowingly making a wrongful judgement. He cynically condemned Jesus to death obviously because

it was the most politic thing to do.

Pilate did get his eventually, Later in his administration, in the land of the Samaritans, in Mid-Palestine, a pseudo-prophet with messianic ambitions (whose name is lost to history) claimed he could uncover some sacred temple utensils which had supposedly been buried by Moses on Mt. Gerizim.

His followers, not at all holy men, were armed. They marched to the mountain to dig up the symbol they hoped would help them to spark a revolution.

Pilate blocked the route with his troops and a pitched battle broke out.

Here, however, Pilate had not consulted with the local aristocracy. Resenting it, and complaining of the violence, the Samaritan Senate complained to Pilate's superior, the Proconsul of Syria, who ordered him back to Rome.

Luckily for our boy, by the time he got back to Rome, Tiberius had died. The new Emperor, Gaius Caligula, in another strangely modern move, began his reign with an amnesty. Pilate retired to obscurity.

Let that be a lesson to the Kings and Queen of G.T.D. You are sovereigns but you must be politic, or at least be just.

# GAND TOURNAMENT DIPLOMACY

1976 Dhd

INTERNATIONAL TENSION MOUNTS, POPE FLEES TO SWITZERLAND, MASSIVE CORONATION CERIMONY HELD IN BERNE AS NEW KINGS TAKE OVER EUROPE REGIMES SHAKY IN ENGLAND, TURKEY, DIVIDED IN AUSTRIA

## OPENING ELECTIONS

England: John Kador elected King of Great Britain and Ireland

John Kador	Kador
Gary Carson	no vote
Don Rittel	Kador

France: Harley Jordan elected Emperor of the French

Harley Jordan	Jordan
Dennis Klein	Jordan
Bob Sergeant	Jordan

Germany: Jim Diehl elected Kaiser of Germany

Lee Kendter	Diehl
Jim Diehl	Diehl
Will McDonough	Diehl

Italy: Robert Sacks elected King of Italy

Robert Sacks	Sacks
Karl Schuetz	Sacks
John Machir	Sacks

Russia: Nina Pawlak elected Czarina of all the Russias

Vincent Tsao	Pawlak
Phil McGee	Pawlak
Nina Pawlak	Pawlak
Ian Jeffrey	Pawlak

Austria: Dennis Nagle elected Emperor of Austria and King of Hungarians

Charles Doeher	Martin
Dennis Nagle	Nagle
Bruce Martin	Nagle

Turkey: Will McCullam elected Sultan of Ottoman

Bob Normand            McCullam  
George Lyon            no vote  
Will McCullam          McCullam

COMMENTARY

What remarkable unity! Elections in only one country, Austria, seem to have involved some maneuvering. Let's hope that things pick up.

Unfortunately we now go into a Winter season, with only the kings (and queen) taking an active part in the goings on.

In the next season the kings will make assignments of unit positions for all those who have been assigned to thier country.

I hope that you despots have not bargained away all of the future builds already. You would do well to bring in as many of the stand-by players as you can. As long as your country contains only three players a revolution will be easy to bring about. But maybe I'm just making trouble. ( Ha. Ha.)

PRESS

Brest, France

It has been revealed here today that Dennis, Duc du Bust , will try to gather his unruly, provincial house hold together for the first time ever in order to attend the crowning of the King.

When asked how this feat will be attempted the Duc merely said, "Don't worry!" and retired at two in the afternoon withone of his mistresses.

There has never been an official count of the Duc's family, because of the incredible number of bastards claiming to be bastards.

The Duc is the offspring of the Guise family on his father's side, and on his mother's side is a member of an ancient Gaul family. Hence the family name, Guise and Gauls.

Next: the formation of the royal fleet.

[Ed. Note: You couldn't help yourself, could you?]

REPLACEMENT

Bob Normand has replaced John Arbogast.

# DIPLOMACY

REGULAR GAME #1.

Spring 1901

Austria            A Vie-Tri  
Dave Malmquist    A Bud-Gal  
                      F Tri-Alb  
  
England            A Lpl-Yor  
Don Kittel           F Edi-Nrg  
                      F Lon-Nth

France             A Par-Bur  
Bob Normand        A Mar(S)A Par-Bur  
                      F Bre-Mid  
  
Turkey             A Con-Bul  
Richard Nelson     A Sny-Arm  
                      F Ank-Bla  
  
Russia             F StP-Bot  
Bob Sergeant        A War-Gal



A Mos-Ukr  
F Sev-Bla

Germany  
Jim Diehl

F Kie-Den  
A Mun-Ruh  
A Ber-Kie

Italy  
Jerry Rogowski

A Ven-Tyr  
A Rom-Ven  
F Nap-Ion

Check the Nota Bene section for deadlines.

### REGULAR GAMES ##2,3

We are very embarrassed to find that you games are still not filled. We know you aren't happy either. We'll make a new appeal to our traders for publicity.

What do you think of the idea of waiving the rules against players from the same locality in the same game?

## LETTERS

### Angola - A Counter View

The war has ended. Only in the hills does the echo of gunfire still break the jungle silence. As the smoke clears, the Russians celebrate in the Kremlin on their foothold in South Africa, the Americans sleep soundly at night knowing their country is not wasting time, money, or lives in an unknown spot in the world, and in Cuba, mothers are waiting precariously to hear of the fate of their sons.

While the North Vietnamese blatantly disregarded the treaty they had made with US and commences an all out campaign against South Vietnam, Congress withholds funds to the Vietnamese government.

As Cuban soldiers fight alongside Marxist troops, as Russian advisors teach the usage of their equipment, America turns its head and asks why? Why should I get involved in African problems?

While Russia adds troops to its Warsaw pact, NATO reduces their own commitment. The Russians increase their missile strength, America deactivates its DEW line. As more and more Russian ships are built, Congress slashes the Pentagon's budget.

America talks of her power, America, the land of youth and vitality. Children of the "New Frontier". I see an America who clamor for Peace, who demand justice, who denounce the wasting of funds on war and place reliance on detante; and yet, beneath all the glitter and the glory and all the trnds, I only hear the wind whispering from the past - "Peace in our time... Peace in our time..."

Jim Lawhon

[Ed. note. Thanks for your letter. Maybe all the readers do sleep soundly, but I doubt it]

Look, McGee, for Chrissakes that god-damn nineograph machine is wakin' up alla tenants. Look, you're a nice guy, you pay on time, but that bang-bang shit at three in the morning in making everybody nervous. Sombdy calla cops and there vas screaming and running around all last night.

Whaddya trying to do, overthrow the country? Look, da lady in 5b has a nice daughter right out of college. I fix you up. You talk politics and literchoor and paintings and all kinds of stuff lak dat.

It's not right, niaze guy like you, printing up alla dat shit in da middle of da night - make everybody screen and holler and da cops come.

Ya meet dis girl, Shirley her name, ya go to da mivies and have a nize time. I

pay for da movie. I doan wanna be no prik landlord...I wuz tenant myself.

Da Manachment

[Ed. Note. You wouldn't be putting me on, Arne, would you?]

# NOTA BENE

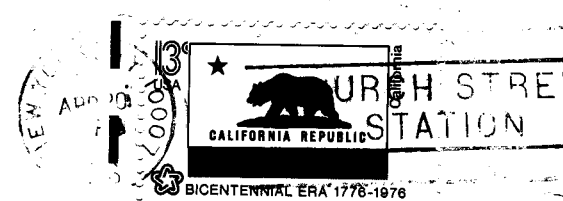
1. DEADLINES. The deadline for the next gamesession in all games is MAY 10, 1976
2. CHANGE OF ADDRESS. For Dennis Klien, Box 912, Knox College, Galesburg, IL 61401
3. PLATER DIRECTORY. Half of our players and standbys have sent in their short, easy to write unless you're ashamed of yourself, autobiographical sketches. If you have not, please get yours in. In the next issue we will run the directory of players in the regular game. GTD players will be listed in the following issue.

REBUS SIC STANTIBUS  
 The New England Society of Cynics  
 65 Winter Avenue  
 Staten Island, New York 10301  
 United States

address correction requested  
 return postage guaranteed

DEAR ROB,  
 PLEASE PUBLISH A NOTICE  
 OF GAME OPENINGS IN REBUS.  
 THANKS,  
 DM

Mr. Rob Walker  
 1273 Crest Drive  
 Encinitas, CA 92024



## FIRST CLASS MAIL