

REAL-KILL®**PRECAUTIONARY STATEMENTS**

Hazards to Humans and Domestic Animals.

CAUTION**KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN**

Harmful if swallowed. Avoid inhalation of vapors. Avoid contact with skin, eyes or clothing. Wash contaminated skin promptly with soap and warm water. For eyes, flush with plenty of water. Get medical attention if irritation persists. Avoid contamination of food and feedstuffs.

Do not use in commercial food processing, or storage, serving or preparation areas. In the home, all food processing surfaces and utensils should be covered during treatment or thoroughly washed before use. Cover exposed food. Remove pets, birds, and cover fish aquariums before spraying.

PHYSICAL HAZARDS

Contents under pressure. Do not use or store near heat or open flame. Do not puncture or incinerate container. Exposure to temperature above 120° F may cause bursting.

STORAGE AND DISPOSAL

Storage: Store in a cool, dry area away from heat or open flame.

Disposal: Do not re-use empty container. Wrap container and put in trash collection.

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REALEX CORPORATION
BOX 78, KANSAS CITY
MISSOURI 64141

EPA Reg. No. 9688-37-478
EPA Est. 478-LA-1

REAL-KILL®**Automatic Indoor Fogger II**

- * **KILLS:**
- FLEAS · TICKS
 - HOUSEFLIES
 - MOSQUITOES
 - BLACK CARPET BEETLES
 - SAW-TOOTHED GRAIN BEETLES
 - RICE WEEVILS
 - SMALL FLYING MOTHS
 - SPIDERS
 - CENTIPEDES
 - WASPS
 - PILL BUGS
 - CRICKETS
 - SILVERFISH
 - AIDS IN THE CONTROL OF ROACHES.

**REAL-KILL®****Automatic Indoor Fogger II****Works While You Are Away**

ACTIVE INGREDIENTS: d-trans Allethrin (allyl homolog of Cinerin 1), .300%; related compounds, .023%; *3-Phenoxybenzyl d-cis and trans **2,2-dimethyl-3-(2-methylpropenyl) cyclopropanecarboxylate, .191%; * other isomers, .009%; Petroleum distillate, 14.477%.

INERT INGREDIENTS: 85.000%
*d-(cis, trans) phenothrin; **cis/trans isomer ratio; max. 25% (+ or -) cis min. 75% (+ or -) trans.

NET WT 7.5 OZ 213 g**KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN CAUTION**

See back panel for additional precautionary statements.

REAL-KILL®**Automatic Indoor Fogger II****DIRECTIONS FOR USE:**

It is a violation of Federal law to use this product in a manner inconsistent with its labeling.

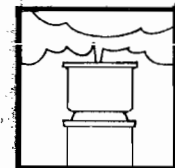
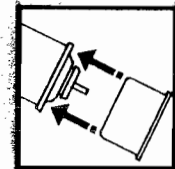
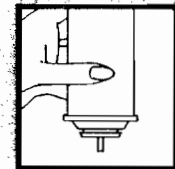
1. Cover exposed food dishes and food handling equipment. Open cabinets and doors to area to be treated. Shut off fans and air conditioners. Put out all flames and pilot lights. Close doors and windows. Use one unit for each 6,000 cubic feet of unobstructed area. To kill fleas, use one unit per 1,500 cubic feet of room space.

2. Place fogger on a raised area such as a table or chair with newspapers covering the area directly under the can.

3. Remove cap. Turn can upside down. Tilt top of can away from face. Place hole in cap top over stem on top of can. Place cap down until firmly in place releasing spray. Set can upright on paper and leave the room. Leave treated area for 2 hours.

4. After 2 hours, open all doors and windows, turn on air conditioners and fans and let the treated area air for 30 minutes.

5. Destroy pet's old bedding and replace. Treat dogs and cats with registered flea and tick control product prior to re-entry.



THORN AMONG THE FLOWERS

August 29, 1983

LITTLE SCOOPER ARRIVES

#73/74

Meaningless Meanderings

PART C

DIAS

And now a word from our sponsor. "Are you having trouble in your home with flagrant fleas, sickening ticks, messy mosquitoes, creepy crickets, small flying moths, saw-toothed grain beetles, and rice weevils? You need the Real-Kill Automatic Indoor Fogger II - kills bugs, freshens the air, clears your sinuses, attracts the neighborhood stray cats, works while you are away! It is a violation of Federal law to use this product in a manner inconsistent with its labeling. (Well, I'm just typing this straight off the label.) Caution: keep out of reach of children. AIDS in the control of roaches, too! (Only if they are homosexual roaches, I guess. For the straights, you need Real-Kill Roach Brothel.) Harmful if swallowed. (Oh yum, yum, look what we're having for dinner tonight - a Flea Bombe!) Contents under pressure. (Aren't we all?) And now, back to our regularly scheduled broadcast."

See what happens, Stevie, when you don't write a good Patter for me to parody? I'm reduced to parodying the labels of old boxes which happen to be lying around. Now as soon as my two hours are up, I can go back into my room again and quit doing this. Death to fleas!

If you are Larry Peery, you are totally confused by now, and have probably already gone on to the next page. If not, I would like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who made kind comments on our gala anniversary issue. Let's have a few more like that one, shall we? "But how?" I hear some of you asking. (I have very good ears.) "SUBMIT!" I say. Submit something other than 20¢ per issue (80¢ from those who won't even write a note asking for the low rate). Write a letter! An article! A poem! A song! Send us your picture! Your EP orders! Your credit card number! Ya mutha! Wouldn't you rather read something clever, witty, and original in this zine, rather than an article like

SO YOU WANNA BE A ROCK 'N' ROLL GM?

Lately, I've been seeing letters in several zines around the hobby (Lone Star Diplomat and Murd'ring Ministers, to name two) in which certain players are dropping out of the zine with complaints like: 1) the GM NMR'ed the player when he had "sent in orders on time," 2) the GM makes too many or too serious adjudication errors, 3) the GM takes too long to come out with the adjudications. Now I happen to believe that you "Don't complain about things if you aren't willing to help fix them." But so far, I see only complaints and no suggested solutions, except "Go find another GM." Since no (that's right, absolutely no) GM is always perfect and timely, the player who is looking for a reason to complain or to blame for his poor showing in a game will always be able to find one. Even in the NMR situation, the players faulted the GM, not themselves.

I also happen to believe that you "Don't judge a man until you have walked a mile in his moccasins." Do you think any of these players have actually GM'ed a game themselves? Or put out a zine month after month? I doubt it. Almost anyone who had done it themselves would have a little more sympathy than to quit a zine completely. They could at least finish the game, and then not sign up for any more under that GM. (Oh, of course, there are a few perfect people out there who have GM'ed and published, and they wouldn't have to be sympathetic. They'll never need a break, so why should they give someone else one?)

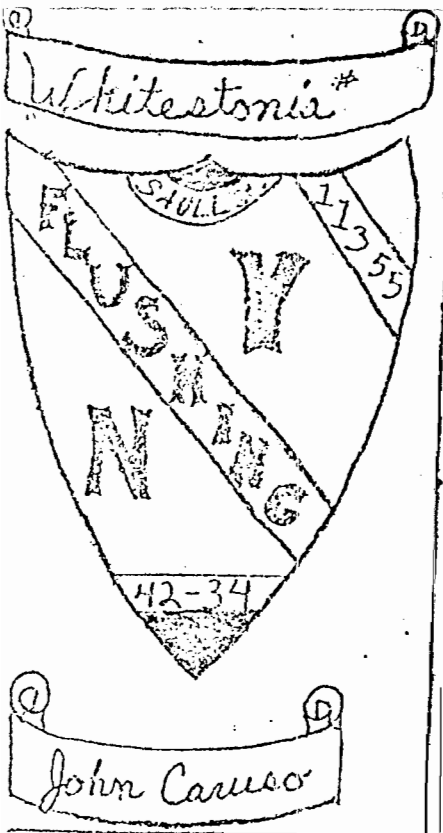
So anyway, while I have no complaints about my GM (thank you, Mark Larzelere), I am willing to offer some suggestions. I can prove these problems cannot be solved by conventional means (see BORING ARTICLE inside, if you are interested and have some computer background), so I'm offering some unconventional solutions:

HOW TO AVOID AN ULCER (AS A PLAYER OR GM)

1. Bernie Oaklyn method (p or gm) - GM the games you play in; play in the games you GM. While you're at it, play all the positions, and give yourself a win.
2. Sue Martin method - Don't play or GM at all. Just write funny notes on the outside of someone else's zines.
3. John Caruso method (gm only) - Have only two houserules: 1) The GM is always right. 2) If the GM is wrong, rule 1 applies.
4. Julie Martin method (p only) - Only play under Mark Larzelere. You won't have much to complain about, except that he's folding soon.
5. Mark Lew method (gm only) - 1) Call the players at 4 AM to make sure they don't NMR. 2) Invent a variant so complicated that no one knows if you made a mistake or not in the adjudications. 3) Come out so irregularly that no one knows if you're late or not.
6. Dick Martin method (p only) - Don't play under Mark Lew.
7. Julie Martin method - Don't live with Dick Martin if he plays under Mark Lew.
8. FTF method - Don't play postally. This game was created for face-to-face play. I've certainly found that everyone is less nasty and more willing to work things out in person than they are through the mail. Good gaming!

FAMOUS HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS, PART XXXIII

Perhaps you were wondering where the right/left controversy that has raged through Dipdom for the last few years was originated. Or perhaps not. Still, here it is. That Caruso just loves to cause trouble, doesn't he?



WHITESTONIA

Issue 19

This is Whitestonia, a game zine published every 3-4 weeks or so by John Caruso 42-34 Saull St Flushing NY 11355. Within these pages you'll find WSIM, Dip, NH, and Mastermind. We have game openings in Dip only at the present time, but will soon open up another game of either WSIM or a tactical game of some sort. Yes that's right, the Mastermind game has started as well as the 2nd Dip game. Now on to the show.

SUB FEE \$4.00 for 10 issues
DIPLOMACY \$2.00 7 openings
WSIM \$2.00 no openings temporarily
MASTERMIND \$1.00 no openings temporarily

The picture shown on the right is the official Coat of Arms for Whitestonia. This is the only issue which will bear it. So save the front page. It will become a collectors item and will be worth millions.

DIPDOM SOCIETY PAGE

Oh no, dahling, don't worry your silly little head about having missed THE Social Event of the season. You wouldn't have felt very comfortable anyway. Only the really big, BIG names were there - oh really, dahling, Liz Taylor's wedding DWARFS by comparison. I said big names. John Caruso, John Michalski, Bob Olsen, dear, dear Daphne Langley ... or is she still going by Fritz? I'm telling you, sweetie, even I'M having trouble keeping track nowadays. Oh yes, of course, your precious Konrad was there too, with some little tramp he picked up hitchhiking on the freeway. No, dear, HE wasn't hitchhiking - SHE was. He was driving that charming little sports car the Martins had to give up - you know, dear, I hear that they're living on the veritable EDGE of poverty these days in some vile little town - yes, RockVILE, that's the name. They had to DRIVE to Wichita in some crampy little Japanese import because they couldn't afford to fly. Why, even Gary chartered a Lear jet, and he raises cows for a living.

But anyway, dahling, I know you're just DYING to hear what went on, so I won't keep you in suspense another minute. I arrived at what I considered to be a fashionably late hour - the con started on Friday morning, and I arrived late Saturday night. Well, I couldn't believe my eyes, dearie - NOTHING was going on. All those big names, and they hadn't even broken the ice yet. I mean, I know there had been a few tiffs - lover's quarrels and whatnot - between some of them, but even I wasn't prepared for THIS. They had all the so-called "East Coast Witches" on one side of the room, casting spells or whatever it is they do, and all the "West Coast Burnouts" on the other side, being self-righteous or whatever it is THEY do. And there was poor dear Bob Olsen in the middle of it all trying to play host. Oh, how I hated having to tell him that Strawberry Diet Shasta just was NOT going to make ends meet! They're all just lucky that I popped in right when I did, or they'd probably STILL be standing there.

So anyway, it was immediately obvious to me, as hostess extraordinaire, that what this con needed was a sodden, drunken ORGY. "To HELL with little wooden blocks," I shouted. "Everyone into the pool!" Julie Martin, clever girl that she is, picked up on my cue right away, stripped off what little clothing she had (thank God she had shaved), pranced out the sliding glass door, and dove into the pool.

Well, after that, of course, there was no stopping them. It certainly was a good thing that Bob invited a few more girls this year, although I could tell that CERTAIN PEOPLE weren't too thrilled about it. I heard Daphne dear say something like, "Oh well, I suppose you have to take the good with the bad." My sentiments exactly. Anyhow, she and Steve were having a good time floating around on the Inflat-A-Sheep, while the various other duos - you know, John & Kathy, Dick & Julie, Konrad & Bimbo - were engaged in various ... water sports, shall we say? And then Bob Osuch and Gary were having some sort of a drinking contest to see who could chug the most pool water, so I sent them to the Jewel Osco Grand Bazaar to get ice cream and booze instead. That poor little Eric Ozog just sat there on a chaise lounge the whole time looking confused, but after all, dahling, it WAS his first time. He'll never learn ANYTHING from that dear, sweet, innocent little Cathy. Cunning, she's not. And then Bob Olsen and John Michalski kept showering the whole place doing cannonballs off the high dive - poor Woody was trying to light the barbeque grill, and he never DID get it going. I don't suppose anyone minded anyway.

Well now, after the orgy, everybody was MUCH nicer to one another. A good orgy will do it every time, I always say. That's how we do it down in Palm Beach - or at least that's how we USED to do it before that slut golddigger Roxanne Pulitzer got us all in trouble. So yes, we all went inside and had a nice little chat about the people who couldn't make it. We talked about who is the father of Mona's baby (Alex is jealous), and Elsie the alcoholic (sad, but true), and another thirty hours of juicy gossip, but I can't put it all here, dahling. You'll have to read the Dip Enquirer.

R12 RESULTS: TALLMAN COMES THROUGH AGAIN!

R12 Winter 05

E: nothing at all
 F: nothing for him either
 G: build F Kie
 I: build F Rom, F Nap
 R: NMR! A War retreats to box
 T: no action here

R12 Spring 06

RUSSIA TAKES THE EASY WAY OUT

E (Byrne): F Nws S F Nwy, F Nwy S Russian A Mos-Stp, F Hel-Nth, F Lon S F Hel-Nth
 F (Del Grande): F Naf-Wme, F Mao-Spa(sc), A Bel S A Bur, A Bur S A Bel, A Gas S A Mar,
A Mar S F Mao-Spa(sc)
 G (Brawner): F Nth-Bel, F Swe-Nwy, A Stp-Nwy, A War-Mos, A Sil-Mun, A Mun-Bur,
 A Ruh S A Mun-Bur, F Den-Hel, F Kie S F Den-Hel
 I (Lee): A Pie-Mar, F Tys-Wme, F Gol S F Tys-Wme, F Rom-Tys, F Nap-Ion, A Rum-Sev,
 A Ukr S German A War-Mos, A Arm-Ank, A Gre-Con, F Aeg C A Gre-Con,
 F Bul(sc) S A Gre-Con
 R (Tallman?): NMR! A Mos H
 T (Hurst): F Eme-Ion, F Con-Bla, A Ank H

Underlined moves do not succeed. The French A Bur is bounced to Par, Pic, or the box. The German F Nth is bounced to Edi, Yor, Eng, Hol, Den, Ska or the box. The Russian A Mos is Killed due to the NMR. No Standby will be called for Russia unless Moscow is vacant in the fall (and Russia then gets a build). Let us set the deadline for next moves at August 31, shall we?

ENGLAND to TURKEY: Nothing like being stood up - where were you?

ROCKVILLE: Maintaining that "air of mystery" I suppose.

FRANCE to TURKEY: Pray real hard - you still probably won't survive the Italian wave, but it can't hurt.

FRANCE to ENGLAND: You want to fly me to Turkey? That's the only way I can save him.

ENGLAND to FRANCE: At least you know I'll go down fighting.

ROME to LONDON: You were right. I sorta like this "Italy" stuff. Kinda like playing Austria but with fleets. Toot-Toot! How long do I got to wear this little sailor suit? It's all scratchy. What do you mean, "six more centers?"

ROME to BERLIN: Relax. From now on when you start to worry, just think how much worse you'll feel later on when I have 17 and am waiting on you. No point in breaking a sweat till then.

PARIS to BERLIN: If you aren't noticing, Italy has just about assured the fall of the Turkish centers - that's 14, and he's making his way towards Spain/Portugal/Marseilles/Moscow...if you're expecting a 17/17 or something, remember Scott Hanson and Maniacal.

ENGLAND to GERMANY: Go milk a cow!

ENGLAND to RUSSIA: Let me guess, you didn't go to St Pete.

ROCKVILLE: Or anywhere else, for that matter.

ENGLAND to ITALY: Thanks for the broccolli, it was delicious!

ENGLAND to GM: Congrats on winning Snits Revenge, next year maybe you can win at Old Maid!

ROCKVILLE: Or maybe even Chutes and Ladders?

RL2 PRESS AND NO LILY WHITE!

MARSEILLES: The French home fleet today received orders to stay off the expected Italian western movement. Meanwhile, the Southern Armies began to dig in - on the Spanish border. When asked why not fortify the Italian border, the reply was, "This way, they'll hod out longer. What craftsmanship! What beauty! Why bother wasting them on those foreigners? They don't know art from pepperoni pizza."

ROCKVILLE: Mmmmm...a godd pepperoni pizza would really hit the spot right now. Well, Sultan Abed has been abed lately - evidently enough to keep him from writing up an installment of Lily White...too bad. So does the series skip to the next writer (should be Germany), or does Tom write another one. Hmmm, this could be interesting. TWO Lily White series running simultaneously?! Well, I'll print whatever I can get! Bye Bye.

SCHIZOPHRENIC #98

September 1, 1983

RL2 RESULTS: TWO DOWN, FIVE TO GO!

RL2 Fall 06

AREN'T RETREATS WONDERFUL?

- E (Byrne): F Nws S F Nth-Edi, F Nth-Edi, F Nwy S F Lon-Nth, F Lon-Nth
- F (Del Grande): (A Bur retreats to Par) F Spa(sc)-Gol, A Bel S English F Nth-Hol,
A Gas S A Mar, F Naf-Wme, A Mar digs in, A Par breaks out the champagne glasses
- G (Brawner): (F Nth retreats to Edi) F Edi thumbs nose at England, A Stp-Nwy,
F Swe S A Stp-Nwy, A Mos H, A Mun-Ruh, A Bur-Mar, A Ruh-Hol, F Hel S A Ruh-Hol,
F Kie-Den
- I (Lee): A Pie S German A Bur-Mar, F Wme-Spa(sc), F Gol S F Wme-Spa(sc), F Nap-Ion (no!),
A Con-Ank, A Arm S A Con-Ank, F Bul(sc)-Con, F Aeg S F Bul(sc)-Con, A Ukr-Rum,
A Sev-Rum, F Tys-Wme, F Ion-Iri (huh?)
- T (Hurst): A Ank-Rum, F Bla C A Ank-Rum, F Eme-Ion

Underlined moves do not succeed. To the best of my knowledge, there is no Italian F Nap (yet, anyway). The English F Nwy is bounced to bar, ska or the box. The French F Spa(sc) must go to por, mao or the box. The German F Edi is knocked to cly, yor or the box. Last but not least, the Turkish A Ank is knocked to smy or into the box. Boy, that's the most retreats I've seen in a long time! SC Chart is:

- E: home, ~~Nwy~~ (3) remove 1
- F: home, ~~spa~~, por, bel (5) remove 1
- G: home, den, hol, vie, swe, stp, war, mos, nwy (11) build 2
- I: home, tun, tri, gre, ser, bud, rum, sev, bul, con, ank, spa (14) build 3
- R: ~~rum~~ (0) over and O-U-T
- T: ~~ank~~, ~~ank~~, smy (1) remove 2

On this happy note, let's set a deadline for the next turn for October 1, 1983. It'll be for winter and spring unless I get three requests to separate. This may be a good time for that, from the looks of it, but I'll leave that up to y'all.

LON (I HOPE) to ROME: I just knew that you were kinky enough to get off on playing Italy! Anyone who likes brocolli can't be all bad!

LON to GERMANY: For such a nice person, in real life, you certainly are a creep on this board! I can't wait for the axe to fall on you! 17/17 - yeah sure - did you go to the Scott Hanson school of gullibility!

LON to TURKEY: An NMR by Lily White - how could you?!

AND THE ANSWER IS...SPAGHETTI WITH SAUSAGE!

TUR to THE WORLD: This isn't suicide, it's RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK! If I go down, I'll take Lily with me. Who wouldn't? --Abed

ROCKVILLE: Good point.

LON to GM: Can you believe I actually wrote all these conditions, on this kind of hopeless position - no, neither can I!

ROCKVILLE: You said it first.

FRANCE to ENGLAND: Get them - "17/17"! Who's going to stab who first?

LON to FRANCE: I think we are in trouble, but don't tell anyone - loose lips sink ships!

PARIS: The head guy, whoever he is, ordered a party to celebrate the ongoing German campaign. Just because we're losing is no reason to sit around and do nothing while the bubbly lays around collecting dust and is begging to be taken by the Krauts.

FRANCE to RUSSIA: You're supposed to PLAY OUT these 1 center thingies. Just for that, you can't join the ESM, and I don't care if Cathy is taking over TSS - my "one year game opening" certifies me as the true and lawful bastion of mediocrity in the Pacific area.

ROCKVILLE: If you say so, but I'm not so sure, myself. Sounds more pathetic than mediocre.

FRANCE to GERMANY: Burgundy's a shade of red, and I hate that color (at least until I graduate in May) - you can have it, for now. And is that an Italian army in Sev to support Ukr into Mos? An 18/16 is as good as an 18/1, you know.

SOMEWHERE IN THE KAISER'S CHAMBERS:

LILY: What are you thinking about, dear?

KAISER JACK: How clever I am, honeybunch. Not one of the other powers suspect it, but the Lily that escaped from ny dungeons was actually a clone.

LILY: You are a genius, sugarplum.

KAISER JACK: Yes, I know. It comes from the other powers underestimating me.

ROCKVILLE: I don't know about the other powers, but it sounds pretty shaky to me!

TUR to ENG: Got sick and couldn't get to Detroit. If you would have written, you would have known.

MADISON: New address as of 10/1/83 will be: Tom Hurst, 51 Belaire Dr, Madison, WI 53713.

ROCKVILLE: Hope you last that long! Nah, no way you can't....

MEMO: Banco de Median/Roma -Security Dept; special groups- File #36fj88
Briefing notes; HQ, Geneva

Re: LILY WHITE; Habius Corpus or Post Mortum?

(1) source: Dang Fu; Loatian Embassy, Kiev. Photo ID @ f/5.6 white female; either entering or exiting backwards from Russian Army HQ, Livornia. Subject is either carrying or being bitten about the elbow by atomic device.

(2) source: interrupted German Telephone Corps transmission. contact claimed with Druid resistance movement at EDI guerilla leader, (WAITE) reported to be trained in telephonic weaponry with friends in Italy.

(3) \$2,000,000 exchanged to SPANISH LIRA Banco de Median/Madrid Countess L. Blanco of ~~A~~ragon.

(4) source: maid at Oasis Motel, Istanbul, reports wet-spots on the sheets from the Sultan's haarem. Interrogation by Banco de Median auditors.

STATUS ACTION: -DESTROY SULTAN ABEDO!

Guido

Guido

August 6, 1983
R13 1982 - CE

ELEPHANT HEART

RUSSIA GETS EXCELLENT RESULTS WITH ATTACK ON SERBIA
Italy gets to keep Trieste despite NMR. (see above)

Fall 1906

eng-Brad Wilson--f stp.nc-nwy.

fra-Perlmutter--f wmd-tyn, f lyo (S) f wmd-tyn, f mid-naf, f eng-nth,
f lon (S) f eng-nth, a mar-pie, a edi-H, a bel-ruh,
a hol & a bur (S) a bel-ruh.

it-Chuck Kaplan--NMR, (a mun (R) otb) has f-adr, f-ion, f-tri, a-tyo.

aus-Bob Olsen--a vie (S) Russian a sil-boh.

rus-Tom Hurst--a bud-ser, a rum (S) a bud-ser, a sev (S) a rum,
a ukr (S) a sev, a sil-boh, a mun (S) a sil-boh,
a kie (S) a mun, f den-nth, f nwy-nth.

tur-Eric Kane--(a tri (R) alb) f bul.sc-gre, a arm-bul, f bla (C) a arm-bul,
f con-aeg, a alb-tri, a ser (S) a alb-tri. a ser/anihilated.

Stephen Lee--guest GM, right ventriclè, auricle, seeker and fakir extrord-
...but Keith Sherwood gets all the credit! HUMBØØØ HUMBØØØ

ENG-- WY , <u>STP</u> .	(1)	even
FRA--home, por, spa, lon, lvp, edi, bel, hol.	(10)	even er
ITA--home, tun, WY , <u>TRI</u> .	(5)	build one
AUS--vie.	(1)	"the rock"
RUS--mos, sev, war, swe, den, kie, ber, bud, stp , <u>RUM, SER, MUN, NWY</u> .	(12)	build three** z
TUR--home, gre, bul, WY , stp , WY .	(5)	play one short even

WADO I KNØ? -- The deadline for WØ6 and SØ7 will be whendville Sept. 7th. Much to my suprise, the R-F-T draw proposel only barely failed and even as we speak the delagates are reconvening on Lake Lucern to consider the most recent R/F draw proposel. Please vote on this with your next orders. Once again; with justified practicality in this game, NVR = "yes" to draw! I want to take this time to thank all of you for helping me avoid a very sticky situation this turn in this my maiden game as virgin gamesmaster. Had Eric NMR'ed this turn and had the R-F-T draw passed, we'd have ended in the shadows with 'civil disorder' sharing in the draw possibly... or a lucky standby. I'd be tempted to grab Turkey's third for myself. I need the points! Fortunately, with your help, we were able to skirt this mess. But none the less, this game could really use a professional stand-by. Some-one like OLSEN! How about we lets him move whats evers left over each turn? I'm for Olsen. And speaking of which, its not too early to start talking presidential politics. Its about time this hobby pulled together and tried to drop one of our boy's into the old casa blanca and I can't think of a bigger guy to try and push than BOB OLSEN! Seriously, isn't it time for a black candidate? Someday the moderate line will be, "well candidate yes, but president NO." So what better time is there than now for the Demo's to be first in endorsing a black candidate? Reagan's popularity is actually raising which is unprecedented for a third-year incumbant. He will be a monster to run against in '84 (unless the Demo's run a third party candidate just a bit to the right of Reagan and split his coalition ala John Anderson '80) My politics are generally on the far left. I haven't been "for" anyone since Eldridge Cleaver in '68 yet, now, in retrospect; I think Carter may have been the best president we have ever had. With people like Kennedy, Carter, and Brown all apparently on the disabled list the libralish wing of the party is experiencing the severe effect of the general vacume within the party. But Jesse Jackson seems to be running hard for someone's endorsement. I think I would be more comfortable with Andrew Young or maybe Ron Dellums

ELEPHANT HEART -- hey, I got the floor and I ain't finished...

Now Ron Dellum's name keeps coming up concerning house dope deals in Congress so his credible appeal might be limited to a few people like me. Never can tell...So in short, I think its a good time for the demo's to get behind a black candidate. And more importantly, its time for someone with coyrage to stand up and say what the rest of us are all thinking: A black president is our only real insurance against a CANADIAN permeating our highest institutions! Or would you rather wake up some morning and find your friends all talking and dressing like Canadians! Or your daughter listening to Canadian music! You go to work and find one of 'ems got your job and is willing to work for coins that look like slugs. At stake here is not only the pufity^{at}emigrant western culture, but the whole World Series!

CARDIOGRAMS --

AUS to ITA & TUR -- With one lousy stinking unit (well maybe it doesn't stink...it could be Perlmutter's) to my name, I manage to submit orders every time. Seemingly I'm more interested in this game than some. So, can I borrow some of those units you're not using?

Sheridan -- Calm down, now, Bob. I already asked about those extra units and just for the record I believe you are seemly interested while "they" might be the ones accused of seemingly having interest. I can speak it, I just can't spell it very well.

OLSEN to GM -- K-QP9. Watch it Lee, you're playing with an expert.

Sheridan -- Is that a real chess opening? I was going to ask about them numbers, but I don't think the King can move out opening thru the pawns anyhow. I know which way the horsies go... I could have used one of them in R3 to get at Munich! One, two, and over.

OLSEN to GM -- Sorry to hear you've expired. And you in the first bloom of youth too. Ain't that a pistil? Too bad you didn't exhibit a little more stamèna...personally I think it was a case of too much sex and violets. May you be reincarnatèd as a big cat; you'd make a dandelion. Want more? The possibilities are infinite.

Sheridan -- I wouldn't want to be accused of propagating that kind of press so if you've written any more, I suggest you nasturt'em! I hope that nips that in the... source.

AUS to RUS -- "Can't anybody play this here game?" -Stengel

MADISON -- The Drunken Tsar apologises to the irritable eyetie. Did not realize it was all a plot to give Olsen opportunity to call us all BOZOS.

Sheridan -- And these guys represent the most solid alliance in the game!

AUS to STP -- What the Pope was trying to say last time was:
"Nana nana, nana nana, nana hey-hey, goodbye."

WADO I kNØ? ... continued.

...oh yea, what about the game? Russia and France are stomping the rest of you players. Stay-tuned for more in depth incisive commentary about this game, later.

MORE ELEPHANT PRESS --

STP -- How'd I get into this center?

Sheridan -- You barely made the press section.



BLACK IS BLACK
I WANT MY VIENNA BACK

AUSTRIA (Mazzer): A Ser-BUL; F ION-Aeg; A BUD S ITALIAN A Tri-Ser;
A ANK S RUSSIAN F Bla-Con
ENGLAND (Barno): F Ska-SWE; F Nwy S F Ska-Swe/d/r to Bar, Nwg, Ska, Otb;
A Wal-YOR; F LON-Nth
FRANCE (Cunning): A Bre-LVP; F NAO & F MID C A Bre-Lvp; F IRI S A Bre-Lvp;
A BEL H; A PIC S A Bel
GERMANY (Coughlan): A DEN S ENGLISH F Ska-Swe; A KIE S A Den; A Mun-SIL;
A Boh-VIE; A War-MOS; F HOL-Nth
ITALY (Ozog): A Tri-SER; A Alb-GRE; F NAP-Ion; F TUN H
RUSSIA (Michalski): F Swe-NWY; A STP S F Swe-Nwy; A Gal-WAR; F BLA-Con;
A RUM S AUSTRIAN A Ser-Bul
TURKEY (Conlon): F Syr-EAS; A Bul-Con/d/destroyed; F SMY S A Bul-Con;
F AEG S F Syr-Eas

Talk about your basic bloodletting. No less than twelve centers changed hands this year. Sometimes it's nice to be in the right place at the right time. Stay tuned for further developments.

1983 RUNESTONE POLL: Bet your typewriter can't type downhill like that. That feature cost a lot of money, but it was worth every penny of it. I thought this year's poll was one of the more representative ones I've seen as far as the results went. Europa Express deservedly was number one zeen. DbM was an amazingly close second. I liked that one too, while it was around. Other zeens I enjoy, most notably Irksome and Retaliation suffered due to irregular pubbing schedules. Voice of Doom wound up near the top, finally. Mos Eisley was the number one subzeen, as it should have been. Ah, Michalski's candid style is so refreshing in this day of dodging bullets, don't you agree? By that I mean that there is a tendency in some of us to not express our true feelings for fear of retaliation or bruised egos. John does not fall into this category. I did good in the poll, and I thank all who voted for me. Shit, I just can't seem to get past Daly and Beyerlein. Guess I'll have to talk to my Chicago people on the coasts and see what I can do about eliminating the "problems".

Thanks to Daph Fritz for standby orders that weren't needed.

Deadline for Autumn/Winter 1903 and Spring 1904 is Friday, August 12. This is Pudgecon weekend, so please advise whether the orders you send are your final set and maybe I'll get the game out early.

1903	#	NET	COUNTRY	CENTERS
	4	0	Austria	Tri, Vie , Gre , Kan , BUD, ANK, BUL
	3	-1 or 0	England	Edi, Lyp , Lon, Nwy , SWE
	7	1	France	Home, Spa, Por, Bel, LVP
	7	1	Germany	Home, Hol, Den, War , VIE, MOS
	6	2	Italy	Home, Tun, SER, GRE
	5	0	Russia	Mos , Sev, StP, Edi , Syr , RUM, NWY, WAR
	2	-1	Turkey	Con, Smy, Ank , Bul , Set
	<u>34</u>			

COA: Pat Conlon, Box 17014, LSU, Baton Rouge, LA 70893

PRESS

TURKEY-TURKEY: I've worked too hard to get this position. You can't have it.

BERLIN-RUSSIA: I only tried to go to Moscow to keep you from having two units on Warsaw.

BERLIN-VIENNA: You have outsmarted yourself this time. I hope Michalski didn't take your army down to Ankara in the spring just to kill it in the fall. Fall is what counts, you know!

MASS MURDERS

DAF-BOARD: Hi everybody! I'm pleased as punch to be invited to play here with you! I've seen this Diplomacy game a lot, and it looks so interesting. I'm really happy to have the chance to enter and get to know you interesting and pleasant people!

A-I: Eh man, dig this: "Daphne" as Turkey! Mmmm, pussy on the Hoof! Let's go for it!

DAF-BOARD: Stand back, LongDongs, you're gonna see a REAL woman now.

JOHN-BOB: Daf? DAF?!?!? Shit Bob, I stab Turkey and you give it to Daf?? What next, turn the GMing over to Tallman or something? Gawd.....

GMS-BOARD: So far, the counts are as follows: Mazzer 602; Barno 259; Coughlan 1069; Cunning 0; Ozog 2904; Michalski 6045(he's been saving up the longest)

MARIE ANTOINETTE TELLS ANOTHER ~~VX~~ STORY: I'd like to share another fairy tale with each and every one of you. In this one, I play the part of Goldilocks even though I have red hair! (Hell, if you believed that I could play the part of Snow-White in that other story, I know you can really stretch your imaginations!) Of course, there are three bears in my life right now. Papa Bear Michalski, but ooooooooo, he's too far away and distant to be of any use to me! Then there's Momma Bear Coughlan but he's too near and too powerful for me to want to mess with him. (Burgundy gets me tipsy anyway!!!!) But, fortunately, there's Baby Bear Barno who's near me, and is weak, and just got supply centers hanging out all over just ready to fall into my eager hands! Yes, Baby Bear Barno is just right! But, be that as it may, Bobby Osuch, nothing can come between you and me!

OSUCH-MARIE ANTOINETTE: Nothing?

MARIE ANTOINETTE-OSUCH: Fresh!

CATHY-ERIC: At last we meet, face to face and see each other in..... in the flesh! When you bought me that Mig Mac and told me about the three most popular opening moves for Italy, I was in 7th heaven. But the others are right, you do look like Tom Petty.

BERLIN-OSUCH, MAZZER, MICHALSKI & CONLON: Boy, are you guys in trouble now! Every one of your subzines were more popular than Kathy's Kornor in the Leeder Poll! You know what they say about hell hath no fury and all that...

CATHY-MESA: Hey, guess what? Not only am I not writing much press this time, I also think your GMing is great! Aren't you the lucky one?

FRANCE-ENGLAND: I now have a cause in life! To save the world from your Rocky Horror press! Thank you!

VIENNA-MARIE ANTOINETTE: Elf-lover may be dallying with me as a passing fancy, but I suspect his heart belongs to you.

PAR-BER: I don't know about Mazzerman. He's trying to get us to fight each other. Now Gary, you can trust me. Have I lied to you yet?

AUSTRIA: I'm Mike Mazzer and I say "OINK, OINK, OINK!!!"

A MICHALSKI LOVE SECRET: Always remember that women like romance, so be romantic and debonaire. One of my favorite lines is: "I want to hold you. I want to love you. I want to feel your lips close to mine." That gets 'em slopping wet between the legs every time.

VIENNA-MOSCOW: Very good, John. All is forgiven.

VIENNA-DAPHNE: If I had even suspected that you'd get this position, I would have suicided first rather than attack you.

CONLON-OSUCH: Well, thanks for using my press last time even if my moves did arrive too late to be used. I'm out of the Army Reserves till next summer so I shouldn't NMR again.

CATHY-ALL NEW MEMBERS OF THE "GLOVER ROGERSON FAN CLUB": Keep the money coming, but remember, Glover wants more females in his club!

MARIE ANTOINETTE-BOARD: I'm going to take over England and rescue Malcolm McDowell! Then he's going to show me his clockwork orange.

MARIE ANTOINETTE-BLARFO: I'm gonna take over England just like I'm taking over The Shogun's Sword. Don't get in my way and I promise you a painless death.

BERLIN-AUSTRIA: Well, there were armies from four different countries on Vienna and I didn't want to be left out of the fun. Hopefully, I helped to block everyone out and keep it Austrian. You really should write me you know--I mean besides you're... (11)

MASS MURDERS

MICHALSKI-CONLON: We may not be allies now but we sure do have shit in common! Here's another meaningful Cremer passage to me: "In Morocco they never wash their hands, or anything else for that matter. One time, in a Moroccan restaurant, a waiter set a dish of fish in front of me. I had just seen the guy come out of the shithouse. He had hitched up his trousers with one hand, picked up the plate with the other and brought it to me. I saw brown streaks--shit--on his hands and when I examined my plate where he had touched it, I noticed the same brown muck. I'd had a hell of a time scraping together enough dirhems for a meal, but I wasn't about to scrape shit off my food too." The moral, to me, is always eat American!

WITCH-ELF: I can't wait till we get to drive, drive, drive and then stop and then drive, drive, drive and then drive, drive, drive some more!

VIENNA, MESA: "The resurgence of Austria"? I've resurged out of the frying pan and into the fire.

MESA-AUSTRIA: Actually, you'd be doing quite well were it not for your German friend.

SHIRLEY TEMPLE TIME: Russia: My little Sarah wouldn't cry. Austria: But I'm Sarah!!

MICHALSKI-OZOG: Well, how'd it go at Origins? Did you get laid?

OZOG-MICHALSKI: I'm a man now!

OSUCH-OZOG: Did you do everything I told you to do for your big date at Origins?

OZOG-OSUCH: No, I forgot my rubbers. I still don't see why I needed rain-boots. After all, it wasn't going to rain in Detroit in the summer.

COUGHLAN-OZOG: Did you get lucky at Origins, hey, hey, hey?

OZOG-COUGHLAN: Yes, I was in a draw in one of my Diplomacy games.

CATHY-BOB OSUCH: Well, now I meet Eric Ozog, Pat Conlon, Brad Wilson and Mike Barno, they were all at Origins. Mazzer, Michalski and Coughlan have nothing to worry about in drawing in this game!

VIENNA-BERLIN: Please don't take my support of Russia to Con as hostile, (I know how sensitive you are about these things) but I'm obliged to repay the favor of getting Ankara.

BERLIN-VIENNA: Mike, I'd like to ask you as a personal friend to please refrain from the obscene press you've been submitting here! It's gross and it's not worthy of a Mensa member. Think of Amanda--would you want her to grow up and read what her Daddy has written here? Be honest, you know you'd feel ashamed. And if you won't think of Amanda, think of little Vivian Vashti or Ferdinand Alfonso who will be born to you and your lovely wife Peggy this October.

MARIE ANTOINETTE-MICHALSKI: Well, since you asked, ORIGINS was soooo anti-climactic.

BLARFO-MICHALSKI: Regarding your last Mos Eisley in EE: You spoke of "all the shit flung at Kathy". Exactly who or what has been flung at Kathy? I see where she is dishing it out to several people but I haven't seen anyone hit her back like she's hitting them.

BERLIN-ST PETERSBURG: Did anyone ever tell you you're persnickety?

BERLIN-RUSSIA: As strange as it may seem to you, I really am not your enemy; I sincerely want you as Germany's friend. Except I don't want you allied with such powerful friends in such potentially powerful alliances which can be directed against me or even the entire board. I guess what I mean to say is why not speak for yourself, John, as Priscilla of Pilgrim's Progress said.

ENGLAND-FRANCE: You're beginning to get on my nerves, woman.

FRANCE-GERMANY: If I see German armies in Burgundy, I will be forced to let the English dogs live and throw my units at you! Just think what that would mean! Pretty grim thought, eh?

BERLIN-ROME: It would serve Mazzer right if Michalski and Conlon destroyed his army way down yonder in Asia. But what do we know--one greater than we has called us "complacent for now".

MESA: Uh, better look again, there was only one unit that could possibly move to Ankara.

BERLIN-VIENNA: Is it safe?

MASS MURDERS

BERLIN-LONDON: Austria's version of what has happened was a little garbled in translation, as usual with "Smooth-Talker Mazzer". Here's what really happened:

Ozog: Allied with Mazzer from the beginning although they were both involved in a fake war with each other. Both were frightened of the powerful Conlon-Michalski alliance and called upon me for aid. At the cost of two home centers, I gambled and aided them.

Michalski: Allies with everyone but Germany which makes me nervous and therefore very protective of my own interests. Everything I did against Russia has been at Mazzer's urgings, which have been constant and unchanging.

Conlon: Told everyone he was only after Italy, while he chewed up Austria and wrote shitty press.

Cathy: You have your own opinion I'm sure.

Gary: In return for friendship, I gave Cathy Belgium and tried to give England Sweden. I don't believe in giving something for nothing in return and at first I wasn't offered anything but then I delivered. Everything I've done has been entirely defensive considering my central position and the swirling alliances around me. If you want to know anything else, ring Berlin for the true story.

VIENNA-GARY, JOHN & ERIC: You've all been so nice to me (sniff) I just can't bring myself to attack any of you. It's so nice to be loved! (sniff, whimper)

A COUGHLAN LOVE SECRET: Fust, y'all git sum grits and MO'lasses, then you find a cow an'.....

BERLIN-VIENNA: Is it safe?

BERLIN-PARIS: I think I've found it, the Denver Glont reference I mean. But the marker fell out, so you lucked out this time.

AUSTRIA: Damn! Now I've got Turkish sand in my ruby slippers. Now where's Toto?!

ALL THE OTHER MARIE ANTOINETTES-MARIE ANTOINETTE: Look yourself, dearie-- we created this dateline--we made you a star--a legend in your own time, SO BUZZ OFF before you get stung. (PS: That was you wasn't it?)

MARIE ANTOINETTE-BERLIN: I'm almost positive that I don't "jiggelate luhstibilities" either.

COUGHLAN-BARNO: Valerie Bertinelli is just a Van Halen groupie.

BOARD-HANSON: Maybe there's hope for you yet now that Frauke is in the US. She'll make sure you aren't a mindless Byrne toady.

MESA: So another season bites the dust. Still not sure about Pudgecon, but can't worry about that right now. Have to get to work.

((Yeah, never did get too sure about it from what I understand. Good thing I didn't go to see you and the Keither, eh? Them's the breaks....

((On the following page is DAYLESFORD (yeah, it's a silly name, but it's better than DAYLESCHRYSLER), a new subzeen by Brad Wilson. Six people are already signed up for the Dip game there, which may be the last one I join for quite some time. So if you have this uncontrollable urge to drive me into the dust, this may be your last chance. Anyway, I'm looking forward to it. Brad may be many things, and I've heard him called many things, but "boring" was never one of them. It should be an interesting game and I'm looking forward to running the subzeen in RETAL as well. So it's a little bit messy, so what? You can still read it, right? Sure. So sign up today. I highly recommend it.

((Of course, Swami Brad is off his rocker with those predictions. Washington will win the NFC east and the stupor bowl again this year. No SF 49ers for us, no sir. The rest of the predictions look good, except Perlmutter's Rams are dead meat already. If the Falcons don't kill them, they'll still find a way to die.

((And how about the Orioles, too! Baseball is the best pro sport, and the O's are going all the way. No doubt about it. For a team that always finishes strong, as they do, to be ahead at this stage of the season is like handing them the pennant. And the White Sox will be cannon fodder. Everybody knows that the NL is a bunch of pansies this year, so Baltimore has got it made. Maybe I'll even talk Julie into going to a game with me....))

DAYLESFORD # 1

Along a commuter rail line near my humble home, there is a small, little-used railroad station named Daylesford. It may be small, but the building is beautiful and the stop is well appreciated by those few who use it. Thus, I named this DAYLESFORD because while it will always be small, I hope it is always appreciated and helpful. This is, then, DAYLESFORD, a subzine devoted to the postal DIP=LOMACY X hobby and to the running of postal Dip games. It is theoretically a subzine of Dick Martin's fine zine RETALIATION but all those who play here receive it every month, independently of the zine. We do have game openings, or rather one opening, for ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ free=no sub fee, no game fee. Hard to beat, eh? Signed up are: Martin, Russell, Williams, Selinger, Boney, and 1 other. (6) need 1. I also could use standbys. Who am I, I just realized that I never said. Hmm..this is published by Brad Wilson, 302 Friendship Drive, Paoli, PA 19301. That address is ~~XXXX~~ subject to change very soon and if it does all concerned will be notified. Any contributions by RETAL readers are more than welcome and will be rewarded with, uh, well, my good wishes. I thought I'd say that I feel honored to join the RETAL family and look forward to my association with it. Howsa that for nice words, Dick?

GAME OPENINGS -Reg Dip-6 signed up, need 1. Blind Post Card Dip-if there is any interest in this I'd love to run it. It is simple and cheap-no fee, of course. You submit your orders on a PC addressed to ~~me~~ ^{yourself} and mail it in an envelope to me. I take the PC, underline the failed moves, write any other pertinent game data (SC's, X etc.) on the card and drop it in the mailbox to you. You know who is playing the other powers but you don't know where their units are. I've played it and it is a lot of fun. Any interest?

BRUX Dep't.
DAYLESFORD house rules are those of RETALIATION, August '83 edition as amended by me. Those who are playing here will find HRS enclosed. Those who are not, if you really want them, write and you can have a copy ~~for~~ \$300 for the asking. Any gripes, let me know.

Dept-hey Dick, is this ~~XXXX~~ R14?

OTHER RAGS BY THE SAME ~~XXXX~~ AUTHOR: I also pub VERTIGO, a subzine in Woody's COA and THE TOAST OF PHILADELPHIA, a musical review and commentary in Konrad Baumeister's GIVE ME A WEAPON! Needless to say, both are fine zines since I ~~XXXX~~ honor them with my presence (just kidding!) and worth a look. Ask for a sample of each.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH: "Hey, you know, if you cut Swider's legs off and covered him with fur, he'd look like, you know, one of those things in RETURN OF THE JEDI...an Ewok, that's ~~XXXX~~ it!"
KEITH MERCER

10 MEN WHO WOULD LIKE TO (STILL) MARRY EIZ TAYLOR: 1) John Michalaki, 2) Richard Nixon, 3) Tom Swider, 4) Eddie Fisher, 5) Ronald Reagan, 6) Phil Donohue, 7) Konrad Baumeister, 8) Mark Berch, 9) Prince Andrew, 10) Stephen Lee

PREDICTION TIME with SWAMI BRAD: NFC EAST: Dallas, NFC Central: ~~X~~ Green Bay, NFC West: Los Angeles, AFC EAST: Miami, AFC Central: Cincinnati, AFC West: LA Raiders. AFC ~~XXX~~ Champ: Miami. NFC CHAMP: Dallas. Super Bowl winner: ~~MM~~ Miami. College Football: U.S.C. #1, Michigan #2, Penn State #3. Baseball; Phila= Chicago World Series. Mets in 6th, 21 games out.

SEE Y'ALL NEXT MONTH

20 1 2 1989 Prince ~~XXXXXX~~

WHAT GOES AROUND
COMES AROUND

Autumn 1903: English F Norway retreats to Skagerrak

Winter 1903: England removes A Yorkshire; France builds A Paris; Germany builds F Ber; Italy builds A Venice, A Rome; Turkey sent no removal, GM removes F Aegean

Spring 1904:

AUSTRIA (Mazzer): A BUD-Vie; F Ion-AEG; A ANK & A BUL S RUSSIAN F Bla-Con

ENGLAND (Barno): F SWE-Nwy; F Lon-NTH; F SKA S F Lon-Nth

FRANCE (Cunning): F Mid-ENG; F IRI S F Mid-Eng; F NAT-NWG; A Lvp-WAL;
A Par-BUR; A PIC S A Par-Bur; A Bel-RUH

GERMANY (Coughlan): F Ber-BAL; A DEN S ENGLISH F Swe (OTM); A Kie-MUN;
A Sil-BOH; A Mos-LVN; F HOL-Nth; A VIE H

ITALY (Ozog): A Ven-TYO; A Rom-TUS; F Nap-ION; F TUN H; A Ser-TRI; A GRE H

RUSSIA (Michalski): F NWY S GERMAN F Hol-Nth; A STP S F Nwy; A War-MOS;
F Bla-CON; A RUM forgot what to do (H)

TURKEY (Conlon): NMR. F EAS H; F SMY H

Boy, I'm depressed, because I'm typing this as Pudgecon is in full swing, and I'm not there. I wanted to go very badly, but have been hit with an assortment of financial matters lately, so I couldn't make it. I even found a new airlines that opened in Phoenix August 1 called America West where I could have flown round-trip for 140 bucks, a far cry from the 270 or so that American was asking. Oh well, saved Olsen a trip to the airport.

I'm calling Daph Fritz again for Turkey. Last call for Philip Morris.

That's a real interesting game you have there. Reminds me of MANIACAL, a game I ran in Retal that was an I/F throughout and ended in an Italian win for Kathy Byrne. Toots might remember that one. Nah, come to think of it, I doubt if he remembers too much about this one, as in "A Rum forgot what to do". That's him, John "What Country Am I Anyway" Michalski. Time to cut down on the old gameload, or what?

COA: (Effective 9-7-83), Mike Barno, Box 1187, 25 Andrews Mem. Dr., Rochester, NY 14623 (716) 475-3977

PRESS

BUD-BER: "Fall is what counts, you know." Gee. That's very profound. I can't believe you flunked out of Mensa, Gary.

GERMANY-AUSTRIA: I've seen your "friendship". Is it any different from your enmity? If so, please tell me the difference. I'm tired of sacrificing German interests for your survival while you sow lies about me to my allies.

BUD-BER: Funny, I thought I was writing you. I don't remember a lot coming my way from you.

BERLIN-VIENNA: Thanks for informing me of your intentions of supporting Russia to Con. I'd much prefer knowledge closer to home so that I don't waste my units and valuable moves protecting you from dangers you know full well don't exist. You've seen what happens to the little boy who cries wolf once too often.....

MESA: By the way, what ever happened to the wolf in that story?

MAZZER: Oink? I'm the pig? Coughlan's the one in Vienna, my friend, my good ol' buddy.

E-G: "A Boh-Vie, A War-Mos"? My oh my.

BUDAPEST-MESA: Actually, that's the story of my career. "I could have been doing quite well except for Gary Coughlan." We all have to play the sucker to a sweet-talking scoundrel. Olsen is to me as I am to Gary.

MASS MURDERS

FRANCE-GERMANY: GARY, Gary, gary, oh, GARY, Gary, gary--what will I do with you? No trust at all, well I couldn't stand being nice while you kept screaming I/F alliance. If you think about something enough, it happens you know.

MARIE ANTOINETTE-BOARD: Stand back and watch me French-Fry Barno! Chips, anyone? Tally-Ho!

MARIE ANTOINETTE-BOARD: Well, I'm tired of Belgian lace and English beer. I want something German now.

CATHY-ERIC: Mmmmmmm. I just love Mig Macs! And to think, I didn't even know what a Mig Mac was until Osuch got through with my press!

SWITZERLAND: High-level sources have announced a series of top level meetings held in Seattle between the French Queen and the Italian King. The meetings were said to have lasted one week. What this portends for the future of Europe can only be spectualated.

MESA-SWITZERLAND: "Spectualated"?! At least Mig Mac was a typo.

A MICHALSKI LOVE SECRET: Always remember: 3-D is better than 2-D. Throw away the fuck books.

A GMS LOVE SECRET: Two silk scarves, two sets of ankle manacles, ostrich feathers, ice, melted chocolate, one bull whip, whipped cream. Plus one man and a good stiff...drink!

GMS-MICHALSKI: It's a good thing I didn't get the Turkish position (besides the fact that your back would have gone out), getting raped by you and Mazzer would have been bad for my reputation.

BLARFO-GMS: "Barno, 259"?!? We'll have to have a little chat at Wichita.

GMS-BOARD: A modified sperm count report. Michalski 2079 (lost some due to dreaming of Leia in chains); Coughlan 1000 (he lost his 69 sometime in 1967); Cunning 1904; Ozog 0; Somewhere in Detroit 1000.

BLARFIELD-CATHY: Origins was nothing compared to what the upcoming weekend should bring...

CHICAGO-MEMPHIS: Whine, whine, whine, all you do is whine. "Sir?" says the waiter. What? "Will that be white whine or red whine?"

AUSTRIA-GERMANY: Re: Mass Murders press. Boy, if y'all can't take the heat, get out of the South. You will continue to be abused until you leave Vienna...if you don't, I'll send "Elf-Lover" after you.

CONLON-MICHALSKI: You sure treated me like shit but at least we can talk some shit. Remember what Jan Cremer said: "The Dutch countryside rattles away underneath my asshole. I wonder why the railroads don't make things more pleasant for their customers. I imagine I can hear the turds fall with a dull slap between the rails. Sometimes, on a bet, guys used to lie down between the rails. I can picture some cat squeezed flat against the ties down there. His friends, who encouraged him and put up money, squat on the grassy grade, holding their breath as the train rumbles past. Just as my car runs over his body I open the sluices and a great pile of shit, his friends gape at him for a minute, not realizing what has happened, then burst into insane laughter." Reminds of the kind of friend you've been to me, shithead!

CONLON-MICHALSKI: Shit shit shit!! You know what I would like to do is take a shit in Old Faithful Geyser at Yellowstone. Then when it blew all my shit would fly on all those soft Winnebago type tourists who don't like to walk walk and walk like I do.

PUNK-POPS: Sure I'll pick you up on the way to Pudgecon. Are you back in town? If so, just stand by the side of 55 and wave a placard that says "PudgeCon or bust".

ENGLAND-FRANCE: Come on baby, pull my strings!

FRANCE-ENGLAND: Oh, so you want to be my puppet then, eh?

GARY: Come on guys, do I have to write ALL your press for you?

ENG-FRA: Oh Cathy, hit me again, I love it! Let me once more taste the sting of your oiled whip biting into my flesh...for only then can I find the orgasmic satisfaction that my tortured soul needs. Take my pride, take my zine, take my juices! (This press release was inspired by a wet dream in a Santa Monica bed.)

AUSTRIA-ITALY: Find any wild beavers in the Washington woods, Eric? (wink, nudge)

ITALY-AUSTRIA: No. And what was I supposed to do with the Crisco? All we ate were hot dogs

MASS MURDERS

ELF-WORLD: Yes, I am officially a REAL MAN now and am very happy. Who would have known an elf and a witch could make it work when there are so many miles?

FRANCE-ITALY: I love good weenies!

DAF-BOARD: LongDongs? I like that. Who knows, it may even be true.

ENG-FRA: Saw Malcolm McDowell in "Cat People" the other day. What IS it with you and ravaged pussies?

BERLIN-MESA: Now remember you can type up Mass Murders at FudgeCon. You did a game once before at Olsen's, remember? It was such a nice typewriter. Be there!!

MESA: Book him, Dano!

BERLIN: Let's see, there will be a summit meeting in Wichita of the leaders of Russia, Austria, England, Italy and Germany as well as Her GMS Government-In-Exile of Turkey. One thing for sure, there won't be any cunning among these leaders....

COUGHLAN-CONLON: You see from EE#26 that Richard Gee of England thinks I and Cathy Cunning are one and the same. You've met us both, what's your opinion?

MESA: Funny, I always thought Richard Gee and Ronald Golly were the same person too.

FRANCE-ENGLAND: No, no Austria and Germany are both wrong. Let me tell you what has really happened in this game:

John "Hunk" Michalski: Allied with Turkey to start, then got bored and stabbed him. Now working with Mazzerman, but who knows when he'll get bored again?

Rat-Pat Conlon: Don't know what Rat-Pat did to cause his death. I suggest you not to follow in his footsteps.

Eric "Elf" Ozog: Wanted to work with Gary, but Gary gets so nervous you know.

Gary Coughlan: Said he'd give me Belgium but he didn't. Then he did later. Attacked Russia, defensive. Attacked Austria, defensive. I figure I'd better attack him before he attacks me defensively!

RUDAPEST-STP: What Gary is saying is he wants you to be his friend, but he wants all of your centers. Gary has this need to be loved by the people he craps on.

GARY-MIKE: I see you named your subzine after your Diplomacy style: Strange Doings!

BERLIN-MOSCOW: I feel like we're playing the "shell game" over Warsaw and Moscow!

ELF-WITCH: I love you very much. Even if I have to drive and drive anddrive.

OZOG'S LOVE SECRET: Be kind and loving and have fluffy hair. Pierce her soul with your eyes, and above all else--act elfin.

GMS-AUSTRIA: Don't go getting gentlemanly on me. I got the position because I wanted to be attacked by you and Michalski. It was short, but it was fun.

DAF-MESA: Do I get another call to play with these guys, or have they shot their wad?

MESA: I suspect the latter is true, but you got the call anyway. Call it "clean up detail".

MICHALSKI-OSUCH: I wonder if you-know-who knows that his refund check to Mark Lew was printed you-know-where?

OSUCH-MICHALSKI: I told you you-know-where is desperate for good filler of any kind so its readers don't have to read personal attacks all the time.

MESA: No comment.

FRANCE-ITALY: My, my, what big armies you have.

WORLD-MOSCOW: Don't you feel a little silly there? The only black piece in a white world.

CATHY-MESA: Hey Bob, why don't you give the results out at Fudgecon? The whole MM mob will be there except for me and maybe Barno won't make it. I wonder if anyone will come back alive?

MESA-CATHY: Thanks for rubbing salt into the wound.

MASS MURDERS

OZOG-OSUCH: Well, there are two types of gross press. First is the stuff Michalski writes, the second is the sickly sweet romance stuff I've just written. They are the same, only I gag on the former and John gags on the latter.

BUDAPEST-BERLIN: It will be safe in a season or two.

SCARLETT O'HARA TIME: Austria: But where shall I go, what shall I do?!!

Russia: Frankly, Mazzer, I don't give a damn.

BERLIN-ST PETERSBURG: Well, you are persnickety!

BERLIN-BARNO: Please stay out of the North Sea and in London. Cathy needs practice in taking centers, not having them given to her!

MESA-BERLIN: Don't look now, but...

BUDAPEST-BERLIN: Guess who's getting next year's Nixon Award?

BERLIN-ROME: 1/100th of a point and that's when your zine was folded and dead, dead, dead. Think what you could do if you were to revive DbM. I'd like to be the first to say: REVIVE!!!

BERLIN-PARIS: I've found it! Your Denver Glont quote I mean. But I'm holding it since Bob doesn't want to spend all his time typing this up at Pudgecon. After all, he's got to participate in the water gun fights.

MESA: I knew there was a reason I didn't go.

BUDAPEST-BERLIN: I apologize. You're right, you didn't flunk out of Mensa. You just quit in disgust because you went to one of the parties and couldn't get laid.

BLARFO-MICHALSKI: I didn't write the press accredited to me last time; as far as I'm concerned, everything related to Kathy, Bruce, etc. should stay private. I'm involved too deeply with too many of their problems to make trouble with gratuitous public statements. If something needs to be said, I'll damn well say it--in the right forum. I've had too much shit. Okay, Gary? I'll write my own, thank you very much.

MESA: Besides, how does the saying go, "Once burned, twice shy"?

MESA AGAIN: That's it, except for this rather amusing card I got from Kathy Byrne, reprinted here for your enjoyment:

MASS MURDERS GUEST PRESS any reason

FAG CITY-ALL: "Scott Manson has my permission to say any thing that he wants here in the Mass Murders press.

signed

Kathy Byrne
Kathy Byrne"

FAG CITY-CH: You can verify the signature, Bob?

KB - BO: I have to do this. I don't know what he's talking about! Why, do I have to sign this? I don't know what he's talking about! me

CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM (for once!)

(The following is part of a recent letter from Jim Meinel. Since this part deals with Retaliation only, it is published here. The rest of the letter deals only with Dick's new publisher's zine, House of Lords, and will probably be published there. I say this because we usually publish the entire letter, to avoid out-of-context statements and misquotes which editing often produces. We wouldn't want to start another feud over a phrase like "thorn among the flowers," now, would we?)

Jim Meinel (Tuesday evening, August 9, 1983, Writing on the Floor)

Given your feelings on what you think others think of you, you probably won't care what I'm going to say. But I'll say it anyway and be done with it; it won't be mentioned again.

((J here to answer this letter. Normally, you are right; I don't care what others think of me. However, when I receive a criticism as gently and constructively worded as this one, I'll listen. Some of the nicest letters I've ever received were critical of me. Hell, I might even do something about it.))

Retal used to be good. Then it wasn't, but I wouldn't know, I wasn't getting it. The only fact I personally know is that the last 3 issues were very good. Without the arguing and the arguing-type letters, it would be a great zine. Sans the bickering in the anniversary issue, I would have felt that issue was one of the top 2 or 3 I have ever seen. It's my opinion that a few other people feel that way too (only from general attitudes, I haven't discussed this with anyone). The impression from over here is that Retal is getting better, but is impeded by the fighting. What if it was excised? If that would strip Retal of the flavor and style that you think it should be, then don't. After all, you publish the damn thing, print what makes you happy. But without the fighting and back-and-forth arguments, what you'd have left is excellent repro, damn funny and witty stories, entertaining games and articles and a couple of energetic and bright editors, not to mention the long and illustrious history of Retal.

((Spoken like a true diplomat. I must thank you for a couple of things here. One is having your own opinion and calling it your own - not trying to act as though you speak for the entire hobby. Two is allowing for the possibility that maybe the zine does need a bit of bickering in order to keep its "flavor." After all, would the cartoon of lynching Brux have been as funny if you didn't know about the bad feelings between us? Would the two Blathers have been as funny if you didn't know that I was poking fun at Barno and Langley for picking on me and my friends? But if you'll notice, the main element of our humor is that we are really picking on ourselves more than anyone else - Dick pictured himself in the lynch mob, and the two Blathers were mainly about me, Dick, and Konrad. Charlie Chaplin said something like, "There is no humor without some pain." The problem is where to draw the line. And right off the top of my head, I can't think of any zine which I think has drawn the line correctly. Most of my favorite zines finished in the bottom of the Leeder Poll this year - many of the zines I find dull and bland finished at the top. If these results mean anything at all - and I'm not saying that they do - they say that we're doing-pretty much what we want to accomplish. I feel we're in good company. We want to publish for the people who want to read us. Hopefully, we can find a way to keep you in that group.))

You are doing it with HOL - no controversy. No "statement" of non-controversy. No "I won't if he won't." Just a resumption of a fine product. It gets back to a lot about what you were saying about polls - do you

MORE CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM (thank Berch!)

care what others think? I guess I'm the sort who does - that's why TP is lowkey (bland) and that's why I'm writing this. Retal could be great to a lot more people if the arguing was gone. For what it's worth.

((I don't know about that. I'm arguing with you right now, and I think it's getting us both somewhere closer to where we we're trying to go - us a little less feisty and you a little more so. Seriously, it seems to me that you're as big a fan of open, honest discussion as I am - and you're as tired of nastiness as I am. Sigh. Where to draw the line so that everyone recognizes this is funny, this is not, this is acceptable comment, this is not, this is the time to end this, this is not. Maybe HOL will help. In the meantime, we'll do the best we can to keep the volume down to a dull roar.))

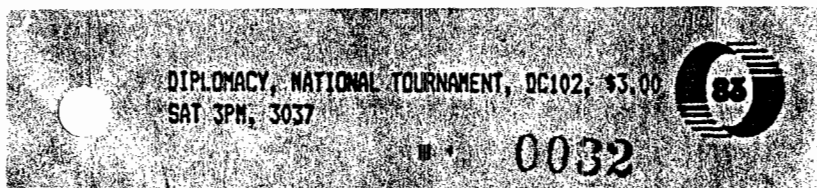
Keep up the good work, both of you. ((and Dick too, right?)) Some of those stories were funnier than hell. And yes, I wish I lived closer too! You gotta run another picture of your wife, Dick, my copy came out bad. ((Surely you are not referring to the picture of Marilyn Chambers?!)) Take care and let me hear from you.
Best, Jim

((Just a short addition from me now...glad you liked the 4th anniversary issue. I also thought it was good as just about anything we've put out. The bickering...well, I think it's dying off. Out of 80 some pages, I felt the 3 pages of "controversy" was all I could dig up. Sorry of disappointing all you blood-and-guts fans out there, but I'm fresh out. Just don't provoke me, already!

((As for "needing" controversy to add flavor to the zeen, well, I don't feel that way. Controversy is never necessary, you can maintain a decent discussion without it. Personally, I'll be quite happy when the dust clears and we can get back down to enjoying ourselves in everything. It does get tiresome being on guard all the time. All dipdom needs is a few more honest people (by that I mean willing to say what they feel without rancor and back-biting) and we'd all be so much better off. One principle that I've tried to maintain is that I'll print just about anything. That way, if there's something you don't like, there is also a good chance that there will be something you do like. Rather than trying to avoid offending everybody, we try to make everybody happy at least at one time or another. That's the whole "boutique zeen" concept. By its very nature it both works and fails to work. Bet you never thought so much thought went into this random hodgepodge, did you? Neither did I! -DM))

FAMOUS HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS, PART XXXIV

The Dipcon at Origins this year. And I was there. Then why didn't I hand in my event ticket, you ask? I dunno. Were we supposed to?



THE EP RESULTS: A place, a concept, and now a halfway house for Dip addicts

1983J vj08 "Everybody Plays" Dip!

Featuring this month: A tip of the top hat to our newest "The Wiz" Ericane, an incredible re-appearing act from the land of back issues Dan "Pokerface" Stafford (cracked not one smile at Origins), a kiss from the magician's lovely assistant for Fred "Skirtchaser" Davis, a hat pulled out of a rabbit for Ben "MYOB" Schilling, another two incredible re-appearing acts from the BYOB gang - the dynamic duo of Brad Wilson, and the monamic uno of Konrad Baumeister, and a live x act for Mr. 9½ Himself, You-Know-Who.

EP Fall '03

METS LOSE (5 hits, 2 runs, 1 error)

- R (Davis): F Nth-Den, F Swe S F Nth-Den, F Nwy-Nth, F Bla-Bul(ec),
 A Rum S F Bla-Bul(ec), A Ukr-Mos, A Arm-Ank
 I (Martin): F Ion-Tys, F Eme-Ion, A Vie-Tyo, A Ven-Pie (dislodged, r Rom,Apu,
 G (Schilling): A War S A Boh-Gal, A Boh-Gal, A Sil-Ber OTB)
 F (Ericane): F Wes-Tun, F Bre-Mid, F Pic-Bre, A Mar-Pie, A Gas-Spa
 A (Stafford): A Bud S A Ser-Tri, A Ser-Tri, A Tus S F Adr-Ven, F Adr-Ven,
F Gre S RUSSIAN A Rum-Bul (nice try, nso)
 T (Davis): A Smy-Con, A Ank-Con, F Bul(sc) H (dislodged, r Aeg,OTB)
 E (Wilson II): A Kie-Ber, A Lon-Spa, A Cly-Edi, A Yor-Bel

Underlined moves do not succeed. The Turkish unit A Ank was incorrectly listed as A Con last time - luckily, three of you were smart enough to catch it: Fred - who played T, Dan - who catches all my mistakes, and, what's this? Even the new player, Eric, caught it! Of course, Brad and Rad haven't been around, so they didn't catch it, but who knows what they did catch?!?! If you don't want to catch it, send in Autumn retreats for the Italian A Ven and the Turkish F Bul(sc), as well as Winter builds and removals for all countries by September 26, 1983. Remember, Autumn and Winter are considered separately - the same person will not necessarily order the same country both seasons.

Supply Center Chart

- | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|------------------|
| A: bud, tri, ven, gre, ser | | even |
| E: home, hol, KIE | | build 1 |
| F: home, bel, spa, TUN | (<u>wasn't</u> playing 1 short) | build 1 |
| G: Kie , mun, ber, WAR | | even |
| I: rom, nap, vie, tyo | (even if retreat OTB) | remove 1 |
| R: war , stp, mos, sev, nwy, den, | (was playing 1 short) | build 1 |
| rum, ank , SWE, BUL | | |
| T: con, smy, bul , ANK | (build 1 if retreat OTB) | even |
| neutral: gre , por | | hanging in there |

Rule Change

Rules? What rules? I make 'em up as I go along.

Commentary

As requested in last month's commentary, we had all serious orders this time, except for Brad Wilson of course, but England still managed to pick up another build in spite of him. That's OK - some simple-minded antelope out there will probably build another army, and England will be in the same boat as before, i.e. no boat. Russia managed to recover nicely from last season's giveaways, but Dicko helpfully screwed up Italy's position. At this stage, I predict: F/R draw. You heard it hear first.

PART V: THE EP STRIKES BACK

Press

WIZARD to EVERYONE: Abra Abracadabra, I wanna reach out and grab ya.

NORTH OF THE CANADIAN BORDER: Are any of these orders serious? Does anyone care?

PAOLI to GMS: Hey, you wanta serious, you-a go to VOD-a, eh you wanta fun, you staya here.

MISTRESS to PAOLI: No, thanks, I never want to be that serious.

ECC to EP: Love it or Leave it!

EP to ECC: Can Fred Davis be in the ECC? He ordered his fleet to Bul(EC).

PAOLI to RETAL: Happy birthday!

PAOLI to SHERIDAN: What's a ACW?

DAVIS to MISTRESS: Who's this guy Olsen saying, "Who's this guy Davis?"?

MISTRESS to DAVIS: I dunno. It looks like he ain't around here no more.

MISTRESS to INTERESTED PARTY: I do not patronize or "humor" Mr. Davis. He humors me by playing here. I never thought that someone of his stature in "Variant Dipdom" would ever be interested in my silly little deviant. It's like having John Boardman play in your regular Dip game. (I hope Fred takes this as a compliment!) He just likes to have fun like all the rest of us.

RAIN: What did you want the money for? I would have assumed the \$600 was enough. It was fun, but for that kind of money I can spend a month in a whorehouse ... if I'm really good, I suppose. Can't rack up too much of a bill. Or a Bill.

MISTRESS to RAIN: \$600? That's money for the jukebox. Try five times that amount, and I figure you'll come closer to paying off your debt to society. My society, that is. But ve haf vays of making you pay ...

Letter (Fred Davis, 8/20/83)

Dear Mistress Julie:

Since you informed me of your disinterest in obtaining a Miller No. for this game, I took it upon myself to write the Miller No. Custodian, in order to ensure that this game is properly recorded in the Diplomacy Archives for all eternity. You will be pleased to know that a copy of the "EP" Rules is now on file in the North American Variant Bank, under the designator "vj08/n."

((All right, now that's the kind of player I like! Taking care of things for his busy Mistress on his own initiative! Now, which one of you will volunteer to adjudicate this for me? It takes me an hour just to adjudicate because I keep checking back to see that all the units do exist, etc. - and then I still makes mistakes! Anyway, I agree with Fred - "EP" Rules!

The letters "vj" are the category for "Put-Ons," or, if you prefer, games presented tongue-in-cheek. ((Who's cheek?)) "08" means it's the 8th game of that category so classified. "n" means there can be an infinite no. of players. Don't feel bad, my "Strip Dip" Variant was also classified as a Put-On (vj03/04-06). I don't understand why. All it required was having an equal number of players of each gender, with players losing their shirts, et cetera, when they lost Home Supply Centers. (The "et ceteras" were more interesting than the shirts). If you're interested, I'll be glad to send you a copy in a plain brown wrapper, free of charge, as it was printed in the June 1976 BUSHWACKER.

(("Strip Dip" eh? Wouldn't that be more of a "Take-Off" than a "Put-On"? I don't suppose this game gets too much play. Most Dippers would rather talk about it than do it. "Dippers don't do it - they just negotiate!"))

But I digress. I've received a letter from Lee Kendter, Sr. advising me that "the Miller Number for that game is 1983J vj08. Since I don't have an address for Dick, would you pass this along to him?".

PART VI: THE RETURN OF THE EP

I have informed the Honorable MNC that this game is being run by Mistress Julie, and not by Dick. Also, you are duely (not dull-ly) recorded in the ARDA Catalog as the designer of this variant. To the best of my knowledge, you are the first member of your gender (notice how we avoid the word "sex") to be so-honored. There is another female name in the catalog, but she turned out to be a he. There's no danger of that happening in your case! In any case, you now have the ownership of Miller No. 1983J vj08 for recording this game.

Regards, Fred Davis

((I didn't realize you were squeamish about the word "--x"! I'll be careful not to use it anymore. Let us hope I do not turn out to be an "it."))

Sex Preferences

Fred Davis - "het"

Ericane - "As to my sexual preference, I am still waiting for the Lord to answer my prayers, but so far Alex hasn't said anything!"

Dan Stafford - 1. Women who drink Mountain Dew.

2. Women who don't.

3. Dykes who Dew ((in order of preference))

4. Dykes who don't

5. Gary Coughlan

Brad Wilson - "WDDP"- with Dave Perlmutter

Ben Schilling - "MYOB"

Konrad - "You know my number, my name, sexual pref, and drink. (You seem to know better than I do anyway!) Well, I suppose pref. these days runs toward 'diz' or High School dizzes with preschool brains."

((Yes, Konrad, I suppose they are safest for you. Or is that from you?))

Drink Preferences

Dicko - "Pepsi"

Brad Wilson - "How much do I drink? Ever read The Sun Also Rises, by Hemingway? You know, 'I got up, had a Scotch, went to brush my teeth with champagne, then I had four brandies for breakfast. I went to the cafe and had a carafe of Beaujolais...' - About that much daily."

Konrad - "For someone as anti-drink as you, I find that a curious request. But then I always liked that..."

((What, my curious requests?))

All right, youse guys, next round I want to see EVERYBODY's drinking habits.

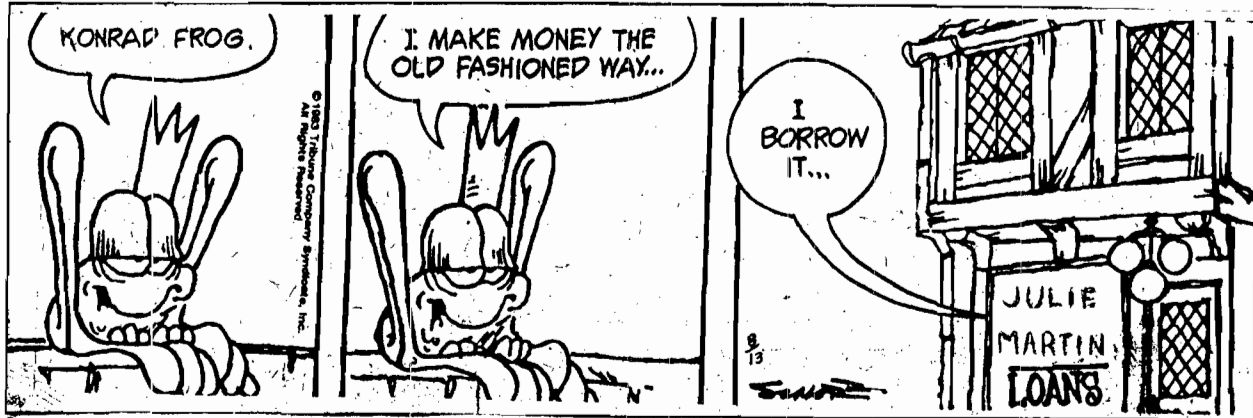
Cartoon

"Welcome once again, mistresses and gentlemen, to the exciting game show that's loads of fun for almost everyone, except our lucky ~~victim~~ contestant, CARTOON BLACKMAIL! That's right folks, and this issue we'd like to welcome to the game our newest scapegoat, the vulnerable Konrad Baumeister! (Yay!) OK, Konnie, here's how the game goes. Each issue, we will print a cartoon which exposes something about you that you may not want our studio audience to know! Each issue we will also print a dollar figure which you may wish to pay our sponsor to prevent anymore cartoons being published! The catch is, each issue the cartoons get nastier and the price goes up! So, it's all up to you, Raddie; how long you let this senseless cruelty continue! By the way, audience, we'll also be taking side bets on how far Konrad will go! Makes the game more fun and interesting for you! So let's start now with a little number that's not too bad. Remember, they will get better (or worse, depending on your point of view)!"

PART VII: THE LIBEL CONTINUES

Current Price on Your Head: \$25

Current Side Bets: none



"All right, Mr. Baumeister, is it worth \$25 to you to stop us now? No? You realize, of course, that a little editing could have made that particular cartoon a lot more damaging to you? I'm warning you - I'm going to get my money back out of your hide one way or another. I think \$25 is a ridiculously low sum to ask in consideration of the thousands 'donated.' Oh well, it's up to you. Next cartoon will be worth \$50. See ya next issue!"

AND NOW, A WORD FROM OUR SPONSORS IV

THE BOY LEARNS HIS LESSONS ALL TOO WELL: Episode 4 in the neverending crusade for nonsense and silliness, starring the Innocent, the Debauched, and the Lustful. In which boy meets girl (yet again).

It was 4 AM and Giovanni was hunched, unmoving, over his desk. After the first day of classes, he already had much homework to do. This play, "Naked Came the Gamesmaster," was proving to be more complex than he had anticipated.

Raoul Lee and Michele hunched, moving, in the top bunk. What they were studying also was proving to be more complex than anticipated. It looked like another long, hard semester for the two.

At almost five, Giovanni closed his books and leaned back to stretch. It was the first time he had moved in over two hours. The lad quietly clicked off the light and slipped into his pajamas, ready for a good three hours sleep. Tomorrow would be another grinding day of classes. Only one problem: the bedsprings squeaked in the bunk above. What to do?

"Ahem. Excuse me, Raoul Lee, but could you please keep still for a short time? At least until I fall asleep?"

"No problem, kid. We'll just move to the Tantric Mushroom position for awhile. That okay with you, Michele, baby?"

After a muffled affirmation and a bit more squeaking, silence descended on the room. Still the boy could not sleep, he had a burning question that had to be asked.

"Ahem. Excuse me again, Raoul Lee, but I have another question, if you don't mind."

"Mmmhmm...go ahead, kid."

"Why do you stay up so late and...do...what you do?"

"Yoww!! I live my life like there's no tomorrow. All I've got I've had to steal. Least I don't have to beg or borrow. Yes I'm living at a pace that kills!"

"Oh. Thank you."

"No sweat, kid. Hey Michele, that feels good!"

"Mmmgphlmph!"

Less on this in Episode 5 -- Your Mother Should Know

BORING ARTICLE

Well, I'm visiting Dick at work for lunch, so I get to type this on his typewriter! This is pretty fun - I wish we had a Selectric. I wouldn't make near as many mistakes. Anyway, this article is in reference to SO YOU WANNA BE A ROCK 'N' ROLL GM? (see first page article). It will probably be very boring to anyone who doesn't have a computer background, but I (Julie) think it's pretty neat. I think I have actually proved that any adjudicating system for postal Diplomacy will /can never be perfect, no matter how good the GM. I invite discussion from anyone who understands this. (don't wanna explain)

1) NMR's - This is a problem in message packet transmission and reception.

I assert that it can be proven: Any adjudication system will fail, i.e., cause a player to NMR when he has in fact sent in orders, at least once.

Limiting Assumption: if the system requires that all the orders be assembled at some place where all the players cannot assemble to verify that the orders are, in fact, there.

Proof: Either one or both of two cases must occur to insure that at least one set of orders arrives:

- a) the player must send in an infinite number of sets of orders, since any finite number of sets of orders could be lost (message packet "dropped")
- b) the GM must wait an infinite amount of time to be sure that at least one set arrives, since if he waits a finite amount of time, the set might arrive the next instant after he gives up waiting.

The following "solution" is also not effective:

- c) the GM sends back a message to the player, i.e. "I have received/not received orders from you"; this fails under either a) or b) or both, with the roles of the "player" and the "GM" reversed.

g

2) adjudication errors - This is a problem of inputs and error detection.

I assert that it can be proven: Any adjudication system will fail, i.e., cause an adjudication error or fail to detect an adjudication error, at least once.

Proof: a) There are an infinite number of possible inputs (orders) to the adjudication system. It is not possible to preconceive every possible input; therefore, it is not possible to preconceive every possible error, nor to detect it nor handle it.

- b) There are ambiguities in the interpretation of the rules; therefore, it is not possible to give a strict definition of what is an error.

Interesting side note: The above proof also shows that no program (in particular, no computer program) can be written which can adjudicate Diplomacy completely on its own. It also shows that Bruce Linsey can never attain his objective with his houserules; i.e. that of letting the player know beforehand how he will adjudicate any given situation.

3) lateness - This is a problem of outputs and definition.

I assert that it cannot be proven: The adjudication will never arrive.

Proof: As in part b) of section 1), one would have to wait an infinite amount of time to prove that the adjudication never came out.

I assert that it cannot be proven: The adjudication is late,

Limiting Assumption: if no date has been preannounced for its arrival, nor no system has been preannounced for determining the arrival date.

Proof: If it has not been defined what "late" is, it is impossible to determine if the adjudication is "late" or not.

VARIOUS NONSENSE

How about those Russians, huh? Pretty stupid move shooting down a 747. Now Willy Highfield is gonna be maaaaad.... Isn't it interesting the way that story developed? First, the plane was "lost." Then it was "forced down on Sakhalin Island" with all passengers safe. Then it was "shot while escaping." What next? WW III? Hey, I can't wait for the fireworks to start. My personal preference is to start "accidentally" running destroyers into those Russian "fishing" trawlers. Oops! That's the fifth one of those we've sunk this week. Tsk, tsk, they really should be more careful, you know. Just remind me not to go on any intercontinental flights in the near future.

MARK BERCH REPORT: Haircut about two weeks ago, pretty short. Good thing, too, as temperatures have been in the mid to high 90s for months. This is great! I'll take the heat over lousy snow any old day. And we don't have any of the three foot long roaches you get in the south. How's Mesa, Bob? Like the heat after those cold Chicago days?

Byrnecons - past, present and future. By the time you read this, we'll back from another one of those suckers. Last one was on the last weekend in August (if you want to call it a "real" Byrnecon) - we didn't play any games, just sat around and chatted mostly. Julie and I were up in Great Neck (of all places!) for a friend's wedding and used the Byrne ranch as a base of operations. After the East Coast Clique ad hoc meeting, we dropped in on the Mutts game at Shea stadium. Kathy's scoring system is amazing! Julie and Lousy figured out pretty much what was going on (Julie mastered "Good eye!" by the third inning). We ended up missing out on half the David Bowie concert later that night, but that's the breaks. That was the first baseball game I've been to since Roberto Clemente hit a triple off the right field wall against the Orioles in the world series many years ago.

Meanwhile, football season has started again. Yawn. The Redskins are marginally interesting, but I'm not crazy about them like some others around here (my mother for instance). Crazy. College basketball is easily the best sport around, with pro baseball as a distant second. But I just don't have the interest/time to follow them anymore. C'est la brie.



((Aww, it's not really that bad!!))

Hey, look what I found in all those old zeens: from VOD #40, Brucksies review of his 10 favorite zeens. Do you recognize this one?

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Retaliation

#4 #4 #4 #4 #4 #4 #4

Retaliation is published by Dick Martin, 26 Orchard Way North, Rockville, MD 20854, once every four weeks. Subs are 40¢ per issue for resubbers and 80¢ per issue for new subbers who don't try to talk Dick into the lower rate. The only opening at present is in a blind game of some sort...

It is not true that players in Retaliation write more press than the rest of the hobby combined. But it's close! Retal is probably the largest zine in the hobby right now; last issue checked in at 48 pages. The main reason it is so big is because it is overflowing with reams and reams and reams of press!

Retaliation, like most of the best zines around, is very reliable. Last issue was just a bit late, but I understand the players got the moves on time -- which I believe is always true when he mails the zine first class. Moreover, Dick is very dedicated toward doing things right. His players respond by taking as much interest in their games as any players in the hobby; the high level of press is a barometer of this interest.

The best thing about this zine, though, is that you can tell the publisher is having fun, and when he has fun, so do his readers. Practically all of what appears here is lighthearted if not downright humorous. Moreover, Retal spouts off in all directions at once; you never know what's going to be on the next page (unless you're in the middle of a game, in which case expect PRESS for the next five or six pages!). Dick doesn't have the hangups and inhibitions of most pubbers; it's OK by him if a page or two is upside-down or stuff gets out of order. With some zines, such oversights come across as disorganization; with Dick, it just adds to the lighthearted atmosphere he tries (successfully) to create in the zine.

Dick writes the same way he publishes, too -- wittily and humorously. Whatever he puts in his pages is generally fun to read, down to the table of contents. And the back page usually contains a friendly, handwritten note from him, or better still, his sister Sue! A very personable editor of a very personable zine -- whoops, zeen!

But for all Dick contributes to Retal, his readers contribute more. This is because of a policy which is evident just by looking at his sub rates: he never stops encouraging subber participation in some form or another. He is blunt about it, too: he does not want to just mail out the copies to people who are merely going to sit there like bumps on a log and only read it. If you sub to Retal, you do something for it!

Last issue contained, for instance, a 7-page play by Gregory Russell which touched on most of the major issues, controversies and feuds in the hobby, satirizing a lot of the serious stuff that's going on. R-3 and MANIACAL are two of the most discussed games in the hobby, too.

There are weak points, the biggest of which is the press. If you like reading all that stuff, fine; if you don't there's still plenty for you elsewhere in the zine. In my opinion, about three-fourths of the press ought to go and the zine would improve overall. Also, Dick tends to have a fetish, almost, for not taking things seriously. This is OK -- it's a hobby, after all -- but he overdoes it. The best example of this is the way he handles his houserules, updating them in dribs and drabs each issue just to reinforce the notion that they aren't to be taken too seriously. This is fine if you don't want a handy reference to his GMing techniques, and so long as I'm not playing there, I don't. IEAPO's babblings are just plain tiresome at times, and I wish some of this stuff could be curtailed.

One other good point that I didn't mention was that Dick breaks up the zine well with comics, photos, and drawings. Sure is more pleasing from a graphical standpoint than reading page after page full of print like you often must in other zines, including VD. As most of my readers know, Dick and I disagree on topics involving GMing quite a bit more often than we agree. Nonetheless, Dick at least respects opposing viewpoints and will permit criticism to be printed. In the back of my mind is a worry that if he keeps putting out 40+ pages, he's going to burn out. But I hope this doesn't happen too soon, because the hobby will lose a fine zeen. Face yourself, Dickie! And the rest of you Doomies -- send off for a sample post haste!

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Expiring soon: Langley (73), Woody (75), Brawner (76)
Gone gone gone: Fritz
COAs: Jim Meinel 7410 Nancy St, #1, Anchorage, AK 99507
Tom Hurst 51 Belaire Dr, Madison, WI 53713 (on October 1)
New subbers: none (rejoice!)
Bulle Penne: Baumeister, Hanson, Hurst, Phillips, Wilson (5)
Game Openings: regular dip, no fee/sub needed, GM Brad Wilson - needs 1 more
Trickle Down Dip: need 3 more
3D Plomacy: still moribund even though Steve Hutton likes it
EP Dippy: the more the merrier....
Snits Revenge: what, no challengers?
Anything Else?: so yer all wimps, so what?

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

I'D NEVER WANT TO VISIT MOSCOW. WELL, MAYBE AS A MEMBER OF THE OCCUPATION FORCE....
David Douglas Johnston, a man for our times

THE T OF C

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first class