

# The Scribblerist

Issue #1 Two Plus Game Openings \* \* \* The Premiere Issue \* \* \* First Print Run : 235 May 27, 1988

"I told him ... that we ate when we were not hungry, and drank without the provocation of thirst."

Jonathan Swift from Gulliver's Travels

And so begins the life of The Scribblerist, a zine that was originally intended to be a well organized and very structured, along the lines of ECU but will probably end up a little more informal, similar to a zine that I've taken quite a liking to, Vertigo. The quote is quite apt for what I'm doing here. I will not die nor suffer from some traumatic emotional breakdown if I don't publish but I do feel an urge to write and publish which has been with me since I first entered the hobby. Well, we're off and running. I hope you enjoy the zine and please, I urge you to write whether or not you decide to sub with comments, suggestions, praise (always welcome), or criticism (which is happily received if it will improve the zine). I do hope I get to everything and that you, the readers, are sufficiently sated at the end of this issue.

## What's In A Name?

The name for this zine, The Scribblerist, comes from a club that the esteemed english satirist Jonathan Swift belonged to in his early years in London (hence the reason for the Swift quote at the beginning of this issue). Although I haven't been able to dig up much information regarding the club other than that which was alluded to in last semester's Comparative Lit class I gather that it was a group of aspiring writers centered in London during the late 1600's. The reason I chose the name should become evident as you read the zine, but if you can't figure it out let me know and I'll see if I can't come up with some kind of BS reason. My other zine, Interloper, got its name because it is exactly that, a (sub)zine that pops up every so often, but that will be explained later...

## Brief Playlist...

They seem to be all the rage so I'll throw in my two cents worth: Little Feat, FEATS DON'T FAIL ME NOW (Great tunes mixed with a bit of country and a bit of blues, the song "The Fan" is a bit reminiscent of The Steve Miller Band (though Little Feat is in my opinion the better group)); Traffic, THE LOW SPARKS OF HIGH HEELED BOYS (Some great, smooth, polished, and mellow tracks, great to cuddle with a loved one by); Ten Years After, A SPACE IN TIME (Good old fashion rock and roll that goes back to the nuts and bolts of the music).

(I refuse to rate as I'm so damn indecisive that I'd never be happy with whatever rating I would end up giving it)

## The Zine

Well, I guess it's about time that I described in a bit greater detail the whole idea/structure behind this zine that you're reading. The Scribblerist's editor (that's me) hopes that it will become quite a chatty little zine. I'm not necessarily talking about a cutesy little zine where everyone pats everyone else on the back, nor do I purport to become a feud zine. I entered the hobby and now pubbing in order to have fun and god damn it I'm going to have a hell of a time regardless of what anybody says! Oops, lost a bit of my head there. What I'd like to see is an active sub base. Now don't let me discourage those who simply want to watch the machinations of the zine but I do hope that I can get a core of participating and contributing subbers. What do I plan to highlight in this zine? Games (see below), maybe a touch of politics, an hobby news that comes my way (very little actually does), reviews of books and music (coupled with the inevitable

read/play lists), general chat, and just about anything that strikes my (or hopefully your) fancy at the moment.

The Scribblerist is scheduled to come out alternately on a five and six week cycle. The reason is that in the games of Dippy that I plan to run I want to separate as winter seasons which calls for my (sub)zine, Interloper. You're probably saying right now what the hell is he talking about?!? Well, it goes like this: the TS with the spring moves is published then, five weeks later, the next TS comes out containing the fall orders for all games. Here comes the unique (some would say screwed) part. Two weeks after the fall orders are published the Interloper is published complete with all winter builds and fall retreats. My aim behind this is to try to mimic the rulebook as closely as possible by separating the seasons while allowing for precious little diplomacy regarding those builds. Finally, four weeks after the Interloper is published out comes the next TS with the spring orders of the next year. [Okay, bowing to popular pressure I'll chart it for you below.]

Week 1 TS #3 (with spring orders)  
Week 6 TS #4 (with spring retreats and fall orders)  
Week 8 Interloper #1 (with fall retreats and winter builds)  
Week 12 TS #5 (with spring orders)

Now I'd be willing to cut the 5/6 week schedule down to a 4/5 schedule if the players agreed and felt that that would allow them enough time for communication. So when you sign up for a game let me know what kind of schedule you'd like to see. In fact, I think I'll include an order form at the end of this issue which you can send in which will ask you that very question.

Now you know about the structure and content, what about price? For The Scribblerist I'll put the price at 10 issues for \$4.50 in the US and 10 for \$5.00 in Canada (US funds please). This might come down if the zine doesn't bulk up or I may just give everybody a few free issues along the way to compensate. After all, I'm here to have fun not make money. Subs to Interloper will be 10 issues for \$3.50 but will have little of interest to those not playing in a game (maybe a little playlist and some aimless chatter and/or a quiz or two, who knows?!). Game fees will be assessed independently. Well, I guess you know it all. Onward and upward we go ...

!! GAMES !! GAMES !! GAMES !!

Alright, here is the deal. I am opening up two, count them TWO Diplomacy games for your enjoyment. If you want you can enter both games though those not signed up for the first game will be given priority in the second opening. The fee for each game will be \$5.00 and will include a sub to Interloper for the duration of the game whether you're knocked out or not (however, if you resign or NMR out you will no longer receive Interloper).

That's all that I have formally planned right now but the following are possibilities (if there is enough/any interest): Gunboat Dippy, Everybody Plays Dippy (where all subbers are allowed to submit orders for whatever nations they want and press for all, orders for each nation are chosen randomly each season while all the press is published, currently running in Vertigo), Snowball Fighting (a cute and entertaining little game), United Soccer (could have a mini-league), or a game, non-dippy, of my own design (a holdover from my days in professional PBing). If any of these appeal to you let me know and we'll see what we can put together.

## Another Little Playlist

The Ozark Mountain Daredevils, IT'LL SHINE WHEN IT SHINES (A little known group that produces some great mellow music with a slight country twang); Robert Palmer, SNEAKIN' SALLY THROUGH THE WOODS (A great tape of some real fun music; listening to it

outside in the shade on a warm summer day can't be beat]; Steppenwolf, STEPPENWOLF THE SECOND [Some great tracks including the immortal "Magic Carpet Ride"].

### Little Ole Me

Well, now that you know probably more about the zine than you ever cared to I guess it's time to fess up about what the hell I'm doing here. My name is Mark Lilleleht, I stand six feet tall and weigh about 155 pounds. I've got sandy blond hair and green eyes and am fairly lazy and tend to procrastinate when doing things I don't enjoy. Some bare biographical data about me may be fitting at this time: I just escaped from my first year of classes at the University of Virginia with a respectable GPA [it got me on the Dean's List and I kept my scholarship so it wasn't all that bad]. Right now I'm not sure where my academic wanderings might carry me but I'm currently looking into an inter-disciplinary major encompassing Foreign Affairs, History, and Anthropology. The first and the third are potential majors in themselves while history is something that I'm drawing into my studies to round out my studies whatever I choose [in fairness to all fields I'm also still considering math]. Socially I've got a wonderful girlfriend who's not only beautiful but also incredibly intelligent and I just became a brother at my fraternity [Sigma Alpha Mu] where I'm Alumni Relations Chairman [I put out the chapter's newsletter, see a connection here]. This summer I've taken a weekend job at the University and am currently looking for another part-time job that will up my summer earnings. Outside my girlfriend, working and the hobby my main interests lay in reading [both the so called "classical literature" and fantasy/science fiction], listening to music [I hate to use that word again but my interest is mainly with "classic" rock but I'll listen to just about anything on the radio aside from the modern shit], and biking to keep me in shape.

My hobby activities? Well, I entered the hobby about a year, year and a half ago crossing over from the commercial PBM games that began to get rather tedious and expensive. Since then I've joined two games as France and Russia and have taken over one position as a standby England. My skills as a player are admittedly not up to par with the truly skillful players but I think all and all I'm an adequate diplomat. What's more my recent burst of enthusiasm for United Soccer has left me in two leagues and a standby in a few others. I've also just found myself in a game of "Downfall" in Excitement City Unlimited. Things are shaping up for quite an interesting next few years.

Outside of gaming I sub to quite a few zines and contribute when I can. I've been rather neglectful in that aspect of subbing but hope to rectify that situation during the summer when I actually have free time. So all of you pubbers who are getting this little gem just watch your mailboxes as the letters from Charlottesville overflow the box [yeah, right]. Next up...

### The Runestone Poll

First off let me apologize to Bruce Linsey for not including a copy of the poll with this issue. I figured that most people who are receiving this issue already have gotten at least three copies of it by now and its inclusion would have simply upped the expense of this issue. However, if any of you need a copy of the poll I'll be happy to send one off with the next issue, just let me know. Now to the nifty gritty.

Recently there has been a big stink raised about the Poll, mainly from those who argue against the purpose of the Poll. Dick Martin offered free issues to subbers who rated his zine a zero [I believe it was a year ago] and John Boardman has claimed in the latest issue of Bravstark that the Poll was nothing more than a "private enterprise of ego expansion." Such opinions and opposition to the Poll seem rather empty in that the Poll is such an inconsequential facet of the hobby. Personally I have absolutely no problems with its existence and do not see it as some sort of attempt on Bruce's part to boost his hobby standing or self esteem. I'm a bureaucrat by nature and a number cruncher by desire. I have a great time just sitting down and working out some mathematical problem or some numerical situation and as such the Poll would be great fun for me. Just think, all those ratings just waiting to be condensed into a form that actually meant something. Now why must Bruce's

running of the Poll be some self centered venture? If he is anything like me he runs the Poll for enjoyment, because he likes to crunch all those numbers. And after all, all of the motivations aside what possible difference does it all make? If your subbers say they're happy, if you enjoy pubbing what you do, what the hell does the poll mean other than a chance to win that nifty prize [cough, cough] and possibly see your name in lights? Postal Dippy is a hobby to be enjoyed; finishing near the bottom may be a bit of a blow to the ego but what does it all mean in real terms? Absolutely nothing! Maybe this is similar to the reality checks that the Bad Boys issued [though I really don't desire to be tied too closely to them]; if so it is a rather toned down version. Come on guys (and gals) we're here to have a good time so let's go ahead and have fun, the poll is nothing to get uptight about. 'Nuf said.

[The forum for Poll debate seems to be Alan Stewart's Praxis and I'd kind of like to keep it that way although I welcome any comments you might have on what I've just said. Really, I'd rather not field any verbose, long winded, and malicious asides to this issue, let's leave that to Alan!]

### Miscellaneous

Before I forget let me slip in a few comments that are important to me at least. First off I've got to thank Bruce Linsey [yes, the same that is featured above] who helped me out so ably when I first entered the hobby and who so generously provided me with most of the labels that are featured on these issues. Without his help the administrative side of this first issue would have been a real bitch!

Also, as seems chronic with pubbers/GMs I'd like to request standbys for the upcoming games. Any one who signs up and is asked to submit orders will receive two free issues of The Scribblerist.

One more thing that should have been coupled with the Runestone section: I encourage all those who are voting to pledge to AIDS research. AIDS is not a homosexual disease nor is it some sort of retribution from the Divine. It is a virus that is spreading alarmingly fast through all facets of society and your contribution to the cause can do nothing but help society and yourself in combating this threat.

### Something New ..... A Little Read List

This time we'll turn things around and look at things you can concentrate on while listening to all that music: Charles Baudelaire, FLOWERS OF EVIL [became one of my favorite poets this year for his ability to turn the grotesque into something worthy of art and because of the stark reality he presents]; William Faulkner, absolutely anything [Some of it may be a little tough to wade through, try ABSALOM, ABSALOM!, but once you cut through his difficult structuring there's a great picture of America present]; Christopher Rowley, THE WAR FOR ETERNITY [I haven't had a chance to read the sequel to this one but if it's anything like WAR it should be a great read].

### Rambler Man

I think it's about time that I just sit back and mumble for a while about nothing in general. To hell with form and structure and any type of continuity of content, we're going for quantity.

In the latest issue of Vertigo [I guess it's time I gave the address: Brad Wilson PO Box 126 Wayne, PA 19087 - now is this the only zine I read? No, but I just got the latest issue so what the hell!] Dick Martin mentioned that he'd take anything by Kurosawa as one of his movies if he had to pick a few movies to take along to a desert island. Well Doctor Dicko, you hit one right on the head this time. Kurosawa is probably one of the greatest directors of all time anywhere. His latest effort, Ran is one of the most intense films I've ever seen. The colors and the gorgeous, albeit frightening panoramas coupled with intensity of the actions left me drained at the end of the movie. It lacks the humor of his classic, The Seven Samurai, but both are amazingly entertaining films. One word of caution: Prepare to feel the movie, not just watch it, they leave a

lasting impression.

Has anyone out there read L. Ron Hubbard's, "Invasion Earth", series? Since it is coming out in paperback it's slipped into my price range and I've been thinking of reading them but I won't waste my time if they are not worth it.

One thing that I'd like to mention is that I'm an avid collector of dippy zines [like I said I'm a born beaurecrat, read paper pusher, the thought of all those reams of paper sends a chill up my spine] so if any of you tossout old zines or are getting rid of collections you don't want and/or desire let me know and I'm sure we can work something out. I'm not trying to start an archive or anything like that, I just enjoy browsing through old zines.

### And Now, A Little Quiz

The following questions are garnered from the classes I took last semester, the various music I listen to, and everything that I've ever read in my life! [Ha ha, got you worried!]

- 1) Who is widely considered to be the father of international law? [Hint: He's a Dutchman]
- 2) Who is the lead singer and flutist of the rock group, Jethro Tull?
- 3) In what book is Flint the Caveman featured? [Hint: It's not what you may think]
- 4) Who uttered, "Nuts!", the single most eloquent line to come out of WWII and why?

Perelandra style, a free half-issue goes to each subber for each correct answer plus a bonus issue to the one with the highest total score. Maybe I'll turn this into a cumulative thing to last over a couple issues, who knows. I'll be interested in seeing how many of these you get.

### Thoughts From The Bridge

I'm just curious as to what people think of the whole Noriega situation. What with the movement of the Reagan administration recently towards a more tolerant approach to the strongman it looks bad for American prestige and its worldwide image. Thinking about it I think that the charges against Noriega should not be dropped regardless of what effect it would have on the General. It is a matter of principle that these charges be upheld for we can not be seen as folding up before some dime store hood. Too often the Reagan administration has paraded across the front pages waving the banner of great American ideals as justifications for its actions. Yet the Iran-Contra scandal fairly well destroyed that myth by showing just what the administration would do to insure its goals

[although I do hate to bring it up again it seems valid in this case]. This incident with Noriega is simply further proof of the fact that this great vision of a towering and triumphant American that Reagan wants to press on the American public is slowly crumbling around Reagan and his clique. Unfortunately, I must admit that George Bush said it best [I don't particularly like Bush though he seems rather innocuous unless he proves to be as ineffectual as he seems in which case he could do serious damage on the foreign policy front - Mike Dukakis isn't exactly my cup of tea either, all in all it looks like a pretty bad year for an election] when he commented that drug traffickers were on the level of terrorists and that he would not bargain with terrorists. Unfortunately Reagan refuses to listen to Bush and a couple other advisors [including the beleaguered Edwin Meese] who urge him not to cut deals with the General. The problem comes from the fact that we've already sunk ourselves in so deep that it will be hard to extract ourselves and still come out of it looking okay. I'm not sure what I'd suggest but the dropping of the indictments seems to be going about it the wrong way. Any suggestions? And what of that Meese fellow? Should Reagan keep him in place, giving the democrats much needed campaign ammunition or should he let the poor guy go, thereby freeing up the Justice Department to go about its assigned duties rather than having it defend its chief twenty-four hours a day?

"This is the end,  
Beautiful friend, the end."

-The Doors

And so closes the first issue of The Scribblerist. I do hope you enjoyed it and I do hope you decide to sub and participate in what I hope will become a fairly free-whelling zine. Looking back on it this issue seems a little too formal and structured, but hey, I had a lot of administrative chores to get out of the way, so stick with me and I'm sure we'll slip into a fairly comfortable groove soon enough. SUB, SIGN UP FOR SOME GAMES, WRITE A BRIEF LITTLE LETTER FOR ME TO PUBLISH; WHAT THE HELL YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO LOSE!!!

A quick little note:  
next publication date will be  
either June 24 or July 1.

Till then... Best,



Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

I'd like to sub to:  
 The Scribblerist \_\_\_ issues for \$ \_\_\_  
 Interloper \_\_\_ issues for \$ \_\_\_

In AEEGIRT form  
Please →

Yes, sign me up for (1 or 2) dippy games \_\_\_\_\_ Preference list(s) \_\_\_\_\_

I'd like to standby for a dippy game: YES NO I'd prefer 5/6 4/5 week dead-  
 lines

I'd be interested in (no commitment): \_\_\_\_\_ Gunboat \_\_\_\_\_ United \_\_\_\_\_ Snowball Fight  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Everybody Plays \_\_\_\_\_ Mark's Game

**BREASTS**  
**WHOLE**  
**99**  
 LB.

SO THEN I REMEMBERED THAT IN SOME CULTURES A SPARE TIRE IS CONSIDERED A SIGN OF SEXUAL POTENCY...  
 HAPPY WINTERERS!



YEAH, BUDDY! CHECK OUT THAT WASH-BOARD ABDOMEN! WALL OF SINEWY MUSCLE, NOT A HINT OF BEER GUT!

...however, hope is restored by the current buying power of the dollar!

The sorry state of personal affairs...

Actual Handwritten Correspondence To You [redacted] .....

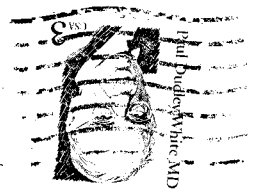
Larry,  
 Well, here's something else for you to throw into the archives; another zin has emerged and it's called, The Scribblerist. I'd really love to see you board and contribute [hopefully making it one of the better zins in the hobby]. Let me know what you think and talk later.

Best,  
 M

P.S. I suppose this makes me vulnerable to requests please to sub to OWZ!

THE SCRIBBLERIST is published alternately at five and six week intervals by Mark Littlejohn, Post Office Box 3166, Charlottesville, VA 22903-0166; phone number (804) 296-8291 (but subject to change with the school year). Subscription rate: \$4.50 for 10 issues to the US, 10 issues for \$5 to Canada (US funds only). TWO DIPLOMACY OPENINGS plus other games as desired [see inside]. Diplomacy game fee is \$5 plus continuing subscription to The Scribblerist. Diplomacy was invented by Allan B. Calhamer.

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