

The

THE SPIRIT OF THE THING

because quality matters.

Scribblerist

INTIMATE, DISCREET AND UNINHIBITED

Issue #4

* * * WORKING LIKE A DOG * * *

September 9, 1988

URBANE SCRAWL Part I

Well, lookee here, THE SCRIBBLERIST has returned in a spanky new format and a little behind schedule. Of course, all of this can be explained in very simple terms so there is no need to worry about the zine's health and well-being. Hell, I was even thinking of changing the name of this little thing but decided against it for the time being. Now, why is this this little beastly late? Well

As I told all of you last issue I took a very extended vacation, first to my girlfriends then up the east coast to Canada and Maine with the folks. All tolled this meant about three and a half weeks when I did very little zine related work at all, not to mention the fact that I didn't have access to my mail. When August 29th finally did roll around I found myself confronted with a pile of mail, a zine that was due out in less than a week, and the prospect of readjusting to University life. Needless to say, the zine and mails took a back seat to trying to get my life in order. However, not wanting to let you down I told myself to get TS #4 out this week and here it is, in all its pristine glory.

One more thing that you may be wondering about is this new format. I know, I know, I said that I wouldn't change format, but the more I thought about it the more the digest format made sense. I did a few calculations and digest format came out just as economical as open page and since digest will be a bit easier for me to type up and format I thought I'd give it a trial run. If you hate it, let me know; if I hate it, you can be sure I'll let you know. I just thought it would be nice to try something new. One more, late breaking news item: we may be getting a subzine sometime soon. It's not a definite but keep your eyes peeled in future issues.

Oh, I almost forgot [yeah, right!], while on vacation the Runestone Poll results came out. As expected, PRAXIS was the runaway winner, a full half point ahead of the second place finisher. How did I do? I finished forty-fourth out of seventy-one zines on the main list. I'd be lying if I said that I wasn't a little disappointed but I understand the rating. After all, I had only put out two issues when the polling period ended and as such the people who voted didn't have all that much to go on. Hopefully, by next year we'll be a little more settled here and you'll have a lot more to enjoy and vote on. Hell, I've got ten issues to convince y'all to vote me a "10" in the next Poll. But does this mean that I, Mark Lilleleht, am becoming a slave to THE Poll? Nah, I'd just like to put out a quality product that you guys (and gals) enjoy reading every five weeks [gulp], or so.

Well, that's about all for now; the word processor tells me I'm getting to the end of a page. Enjoy TS #4 and keep those letters coming.

CATCALLS FROM THE CHEAP SEATS

The mailbag isn't exactly bulging with your letters regarding topics discussed in previous CATCALLS, though I did get quite a few play/read lists which will be printed later. Let's see, what have we got for this issue of CATCALLS? A couple short snippets plus a very interesting and lengthy letter regarding SDI from David Hood. But enough, here are the letters ...

Cal White:

Format - Ne Touche Pas! Leave it as it is. It looks good, is not hard to read, and isn't very bulky.

<<Oops! Well, like I said, we'll give digest a try and see how it goes.>>

Tom Nash:

Anyway, let me pose a question to Brux Linsey, since he, 1) obviously reads your 'zine, 2) writes to it, and 3) raises questions about the pronunciation of your name. Hey, Brux, what the hell is the story of how you spell your first name? Is it a simple affectation? A calculated effort to keep from being confused with MacIntyre and Geryk? Or is there some long, involved, feud related story behind it? Inquiring minds want to know!

<<Well, being one who desires to satiate even the most perverted desires of my readers [don't get any ideas!] I forwarded that question to the man himself ... >>

Brux Linsey:

As for the origin of "BRUX" <<the R should be reversed>>; let's just say that when I was in the Scouts I had a friend named Frank. One day, just for kicks, I started calling him FRUX. He retaliated by calling me BRUX, and it STUX! (Groan ...)

<<Boy, I thought it would get ugly but never imagined it would be that bad!>>

Eric Walton:

About the U.S. building an ABM system using today's know-how; I did forget to tell you that we have started construction of such a system. This system was built to protect our missile fields, then, due to budget cuts, was not completed. This shows how concerned the U.S. is about protecting citizens from Soviet missiles. Why build a system to protect missiles that should already be launched by the time the system would come into play? It seems to me that before Reagan announced the effort to develop Star Wars the government was willing to rely on MAD (Mutual Assured Destruction) to stop the Soviets from launching an attack. Why doesn't the government really try to find less costly ways to protect the U.S., rather than jumping at the chance to waste, at least right now it is wasting, taxpayers' money on a chance that a better system can be developed. What is the government coming to?

<<A lot of the questions posed above are answered in the pro-SDI side by David Hood's letter [below] and I'll respond there. However, if I can play devil's advocate for a second: There are only five ways to protect the U.S. from Soviet missiles. First: MAD as described above [people are tired of being "slaves" to nukes]. Second: Ground based ABMs [prohibited by the ABM Treaty]. Third: Bilateral disarmament [the ideal solution but one which, realistically, will never and probably should never occur]. Fourth: Unilateral disarmament and hope the Soviets don't attack [very few would go for such a "strategy" and looking at it from a pragmatic viewpoint it would be foolhardy at best and suicidal at worst]. That leaves us with the fifth and final option: SDI. Scary ain't it?!?>>

David Hood:

Mark, Mark, Mark, Mark. You've been reading too much again! The attacks you made on THE SCRIBBLERIST #3 on SDI have been quite popular in the press ever since March 1983 when Ron made his famous "Star Wars" speech.

Unfortunately, none of them hold water ... Let's consider your arguments as made in that issue:

1) Early warning stations, etc. will allow us to get our missiles in the air before

Soviet warheads blow them up - thus no need for SDI to protect our retaliatory capabilities.

The problem with this is that our government has (wisely) ruled out going to such a "launch-on-warning" doctrine. The risks are entirely too great! Although our instruments to detect a Soviet launch get better all the time, the small margin of error that does exist, coupled with the outcome of that small risk (nuclear holocaust) translates into a cogent argument for waiting until a Soviet strike has hit before returning fire.

It sounds weird - but it really is the safest way to do it.

<<I agree that a "launch-on-warning" doctrine would be a dangerous if our technology were not so great. Granted, I would never advocate a launch if only one station reported a single warhead. That, almost assuredly would be a fluke. The essence of our early warning systems is that they're layered to insure that if one should give out there would be many more layers to compensate for that failure. It is a very dangerous game we're playing with the Soviets but it is one we've been playing for almost forty years. It has its problems but it is the one thing aside from a concern for civilization as we know it that has kept the world in an uneasy peace.>>

Also, Soviet technology might begin to cut into the time we would have to get our bombers into the air and our missile silos "warmed up." Using still-experimental "depressed trajectory" techniques, they may soon be able to hit our silos from subs off the coast of North America at half the time it now takes. Space-based SDI may be able to deal with this threat, though it would be difficult. Point defenses, however, would still be able to defend the silos with some measure of effectiveness.

So, you see, your "boxers" analogy is actually quite a good depiction of how such an exchange of warheads would take place. Just remember that the first boxer's objective is to break the boxing gloves of the other!

<<Again, though this may be naive and narrow-sighted I still fail to see how a full scale Soviet launch could go undetected. True, dangers exist but I find it hard to believe that our multiple early-warning radar stations dotted across the globe (and now in space) would all light up with thousands of tiny "blips" due to a flock of geese or an electrical malfunction.>>

2) You say that using SDI to protect missiles would be useless, in that our cities would be reduced to "miles upon miles of rubble."

You're missing the point. If the Soviets cannot be sure they will take out our retaliatory missiles/bombers, then they would never attack in the first place. There would be no rubble. Protecting our missile silos / bomber fields is the best protection for our cities. Trying to protect cities with a non-perfect defense (i.e. some warheads will leak through) is a waste of time and money. Protecting 50% of our population would be useless - our nation would be hopelessly destroyed anyway - but protecting 50% of our missiles means that Soviet cities would be destroyed. So, no war will occur in the first place.



<<This is an argument that we could debate forever and never come to a mutually acceptable conclusion. The problem is that you don't see how we can continue in what is admittedly a very unstable situation. For you, SDI appears to be the best alternative. For me, on the other hand, the current situation, though unacceptable and a little scary, is still the best alternative. I do not see why we can not continue under MAD while we attempt to pare down our respective nuclear arsenals. The Soviets will never be able to know for certain whether or not we'll be able to detect a launch and retaliate in kind. As such, an attack will never occur.>>

3) You claim that SDI cannot defend our cities against Third World attacks or accidental launches since I admitted that it cannot defend against Soviet attacks on our cities.

Untrue. The reason we cannot defend our cities from a Soviet strike is due the sheer number of missiles they would be firing. But the much smaller number fired accidentally by a silo or a submarine (let's say 10 or less) could easily be intercepted by our space-based defense. The 10% leakage rate for my proposed system is based on trying to intercept thousands of missiles, not just five or ten.

<<Point well taken; my stand on this issue was based on ignorance. Here's an idea: if we must carry on with SDI research and eventual deployment why not have the system concentrated over population and industrial centers. MAD would continue to hold the Soviets back while SDI would protect the people and industry from an accidental, small-scale launch or a third country limited attack.>>

You also want documentation on costs. The figures I quoted come from the HIGH FRONTIER Project, which was the first group to advocate strategic defenses in the Reagan error <<oops! ignore that>> era. Contact General Daniel O. Graham at 1010 Vermont Avenue NW, Suite 1000 Washington, DC 20005 for the specific numbers.

By the way, space is already hopelessly militarized by satellites of every type which are indispensable to modern warfare. And there are very few government projects worthy of anything but repeal in the U.S.

<<Hard to argue with that. It's sad that "the final frontier" should be militarized so soon. One more dimension to go and we'll have the market cornered. Can you picture the mighty Caesar leading the American invasion of Grenada? Nah!>>

Cal White:

Teen-Age Sex -- In 10 years you'll laugh at your current frustrations, but as for now take my advice - the more effort you put into looking for it, the less likely you are to get it. Relax and it'll come (er, you know what I mean) to you. And by the way, just because you think 19 may be your peak doesn't mean you'll be washed up at 20. Take it from this not-so-decrepit 30-year old!

<<If I actually was going out looking to get "laid" I would have died of frustration long ago. No, I came into school just looking to have a good time whatever happened. I wasn't going to push (unless absolutely called for!) anything or actually go around looking for a "woman." What ended up happening is that I slid into a very satisfying relationship which, as of September 4, 1988, has been an ongoing affair for one year. Funny, but Heidi doesn't seem to like it when I go out to parties "looking," if not for it, at least at it.>>

Pete Gaughan:

This will be sitting in your mailbox, just drooling with anticipation, just thrilled, dying of glee as it springs out to taunt you with the fact that THE LETTER IS ON A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER! I hope a tree falls on you in retribution for the pain you've caused them by this requirement.

<<Gee, Pete, are you upset by something I said?!? Would you believe I got a papercut opening your letter?>>

Well, that's all for now. I don't want to seem impatient or premature but my debate with Eric Walton and David Hood on SDI seems to be slowing down. The two [three] sides are pretty well entrenched and not likely to be rooted out. Don't let this scare

you though; if you've got something to say, SAY IT! However, I would also like to get the ball rolling on another topic. Let me think How about the role of religion in modern life. Is it nothing more than a long held system of superstition(s) used to explain that which we can't explain or is it an integral part of ones life that enhances not only ones life but will also insure a pleasant hereafter? Another, more direct question: is it necessary for one to be religious to be "moral?" I will accept anonymous comments as long as they are of a non-inflammatory nature [try not to attack any people or denominations too harshly if you're going to write anonymously].

!!!! GAMESTART !!!!!

Yes sir (or ma'am), we filled out our Gunboat Dip gamestart soon after TS #3 came out. This will be a non-negotiation variant of reg dip where nobody knows who anybody else is. Press, however, will be both allowed and encouraged as long as it does not pertain to the game or give away your identity [negotiating will be considered deception of the GM]. I will not request or accept either a Miller Number or a Miller Number Under the Covenant. Instead, the game will be known by its christened name, "BaNgwana." The BaNgwana were an islamic tribe scattered about the Kongonese rain forest who gained a somewhat unsavory reputation by aiding slave traders and European invaders.

If you are playing in this game I'll write your name and country assignment on the blanks below. One more thing. I'll be utilizing what is known as a "phantom" player who will submit neutral orders for each country every season. The "phantom" will be a TS subscriber but a non-Gunboat player (and will also be able to submit non-game related press each season). This will help to eliminate NMRs which will keep any one power from stagnating. If you asked to sign on and don't have a country name written in below then, unfortunately, you didn't make it in time. But buck up, I may yet call you as a standby! Country assignment below.

Country :

URBANE SCRAWL Part II

Oh boy, has this been a busy last couple of weeks! Vacation, quitting work, and in the end it was all replaced by that one overriding factor in my life that I can't escape, school. Can't say I don't enjoy it. Aside from the parties and the almost endless socializing I must say that I thoroughly enjoy learning. Ever since I can remember wanting to get married (and this goes back a long way, to when I was 4 or 5 yrs old according to my folks) I've also wanted to be a "professional" student. It is, without question, part of the fear I feel about entering the "real world" but it is also, to a large extent, a symptom of my desire to learn as much as possible.

That was one of the most frustrating things about where I worked this summer. True, it was in a medical library, but aside from the fact that I have virtually no interest in how to resect a bowel I was also tucked away into the very pits of the library, the audio-visual department. It was a situation where I felt smothered. The air was too clean, too artificial, too comfortable. The light was full but somewhat disconcerting. There were no shadows, no crannies where it would have been dark if the sun were allowed to shine. There were no windows. I felt embalmed; my mind and body both were stiff and unmoving; it took a herculean effort to read or write anything but the simplest of phrases. And though I had that section of the library largely to myself I couldn't concentrate or focus my mind on any one thing for too long. These were the days of 95+ degree heat and if I were just walking along the street I would have welcomed the coolness of the room. Instead, I longed to step out into the sun and otherwise oppressive humidity at the end of the day. I was able to feel this air, it elicited responses from my body and mind whereas the sterile environment of the library merely fostered a feeling of nothingness and emptiness. Nothing much ever got accomplished there.

But now I'm back in school, free to move as I please. It's a wonderful feeling, that of knowing that there are people around sweating and shivering as much as you are. And as your body liberates fluids your mind liberates glorious thoughts [though they sometimes smell as much as those bodily excretions; couldn't one consider a lobotomy as nothing more than mental deoderant?!?].

"New Ruler Makes Good On His Promise - The Damn War Finally Starts"

The Players:

AUSTRIA	Andrew YORK	14001 Oak Meadows #917, Universal City, TX 78148
ENGLAND	Chris HURLEY	3508 Orbitan Rd, Parkville, MD 21234
FRANCE	David ORNE	1234 Reynolds Rd #242, Lakeland, FL 33801
GERMANY	Jim DIEHL	10530 Riverview Rd, Eden Prairie, MN 55347
ITALY	Chuck HANNA	379 Wilet Ct, Severna Park, MD 21146
RUSSIA	Jim NICKEL	426 East Columbia St, Falls Church, VA 22046
TURKEY	Charles GREGER	2621 McCulloch Apt #1A, Lake Hauasa City, AZ 86403

Spring 1901 Orders

AUSTRIA	F tri-ALB, A vie-BUD, A bud-SER
ENGLAND	F edi-NTH, F <u>LON-eng</u> , A liv-YOR
FRANCE	A mar-SPA, F <u>BRE-eng</u> , A par-GAS
GERMANY	F kie-DEN, A ber-KIE, A mun-RUH
ITALY	F nap-ION, A rom-APU, A ven-TYO
RUSSIA	A MOS holds, F <u>SEV-bla</u> , F stp(sc)-BOT, A war-UKR
TURKEY	F <u>ANK-bla</u> , A con-BUL, A smy-ARM

GAME NOTES:

- * Underlined moves fail as is the norm. Also, the capitilized abbreviations are where the unit currently is placed.
- * I was planning on including a map for this and all games but seem to have lost all my good maps. As such, there will be no maps this issue though I will try to secure some attractive, readable maps.
- * Deadline for "Fall 1901" orders will be Wednesday, October 12, 1988.

THE PRESS:

BERLIN - ROME : Tyrol ja; Munich nein.

MADRID (January 21, 1901) : In an emotional address given this afternoon by the King of Spain, a formal request for military aid from France was issued. "Ground troops are desperately needed in our struggle with the Basque Separatists," said the King, "and we beg assistance from our strong neighbor to the north."

In a statement released shortly thereafter, the Prime Minister of France accepted the Spanish plea for help. "Well, they really asked for it," the Prime Minister was heard to say. A French army under Field Marshall J.P. Dillon was rumored to be preparing to cross the Pyrenees into Spain within the next few months. Field Marshall Dillon, when asked about his experience in Iberia, commented he had never been to Spain, but he kind of liked the music.

International reaction has been mixed. The Russian ambassador revealed that his country had received a similar plea from Afganistan some years ago, but had rejected it. The United States accused the French of orchestrating a thinly veiled invasion, and threatened to boycott the next Olympic games. International analysts scoffed at this idea, pointing out that the 1904 Olympics are scheduled to take place in St. Louis.

When the Andoran ambassador was asked for his feelings about the French army moving

past his country to Spain, he replied "We are all hoping they either forget about us or ignore us altogether, just as Allan B. Calhauer has." Diplomats across Europe were at a loss to explain this obscure reference.

HOOVILLE - BOARD : That's the way to do it!

ALWAYS THE BRIDESMAID

While we're on the subject of games how about the little ol' standby list. You get one issue for signing up and another two if you end up taking over a position. Also, be warned that you may be called on to standby for the Gunboat game as well. Let me know if you want on or off the list : Diehl, Salvatore, York, Hurley, Greger, Hawes, Hood, Shouba, Fargo, Orne, Heinowski, and [what standby list would be complete without ...] Holley. The list seems to have stabilized. Thank to one and all.

PLEASE SIR, MAY I HAVE SOME MORE

Seeing as how both regular Diplomacy games are now up and running and the Gunboat game should start next issue we are left with only one game opening remaining. Don't expect any more openings for a very long time. Juggling schoolwork and this zine will be hard enough without adding more adjudications on the load.

I have one position left open in "Snowball Fighting." The game is free and rules are available for a rather paltry \$ASE. So far seven have signed up and I have room for ONE more. This should get off the ground next issue, but no quarantees are forthcoming. So far, those signed up : Gaughan, Salvatore, York, Hood, Schnelker, Walton, and Hurley. One more and we're on our way.

URBANE SCRAWL Part III

Quick, quick, quick. Let me just get a couple random thoughts off my chest. They aren't exactly earth-shattering, but they may prove entertaining.

Like every teenage boy [we're talking 14-16 years old] I used to carry a condom around in my wallet. It left an egg-shaped outline in my wallet so that even after I got rid of the condom I was still afraid to let my parents see the wallet. But the overwhelming question is why the hell did I do that. A little bit of wishful thinking on my part I'd imagine.

Long held wisdom is that the writers skill is in the way that he or she can pick and chose the words necessary to form the whole of the book or short story. Not for one moment do I doubt that any skilled writer must have the ability to piece the correct words together but I'd contend that the ability to come up with a believable story is just as important. Everyone reading this I'm sure has come up bits and pieces of that great, but unwritten, American novel. Yet how many of us can actually sit down and draw out a plot that can believably and cogently weave all those pieces together?

I'm sick and tired of political labeling. In this day and age there exist very few people or organizations that can be so conveniently cubby-holed into one of the long accepted political labels: conservative, liberal, and moderate. I'll be the first to admit that while I'm fairly liberal [even borderline socialist in some cases] in most things I still hold some conservative views [and have even, horrors, supported Ronny on some of the stands he has made]. One amusing comment that has come out of all this, however, is the following : "A conservative is nothing more than a liberal that's been mugged."

One of the most sickening aspects of my vacation took place on the ferries between Maine and Nova Scotia. Once on the boat and out to sea the "casino" opens and all the slot machines come to life. Now I don't object to gambling at all; I love betting on football, horses, or whatever, and thoroughly enjoy the occassional poker game. What was so depressing was watching these people standin in front of the slots with a totally blank expression, pumping quarters into the damn things. Zombies, every one.

"War Breaks Out; Flashpoints Dot the Map of Europe"

The Players:

AUSTRIA	Thomas THORNSEN	113 Glensummer Rd, Holbrook, NY 11741
ENGLAND	Barry HAWES	18292 Rolling Meadow Way, Olney, MD 20832
FRANCE	Pete GAUGHAN	3105 East Park Row #132, Arlington, TX 76010-3710
GERMANY	Mike HENRY	3755 Capital of Texas Hwy S. Suite 130, Austin, TX 78704
ITALY	Jim DIEHL	10530 Riverview Dr, Eden Prairie, MN 55347
RUSSIA	Vince SHOUBA [COA]	PO Box 2671, Houston, TX 77252
TURKEY	Eric WALTON [COA]	PO Box 187 Station B, Nashville, TN 37275

Spring 1901 Orders:

AUSTRIA	<u>A</u> <u>VIE-tyo</u> , A bud-SER, A tri-ALB
ENGLAND	F edi-NWG, F lon-NTH, A liv-EDI
FRANCE	A mar-SPA, F bre-MAO, A par-FIC
GERMANY	F kie-DEN, A ber-KIE, A mun-RUH
ITALY	<u>A</u> <u>VEN-tyo</u> , <u>A</u> <u>ROM-ven</u> , F nap-ION
RUSSIA	F stp(sc)-BOT, <u>F</u> <u>SEV-bla</u> , A war-GAL, A mos-UKR
TURKEY	A con-BUL, <u>F</u> <u>ANK-bla</u> , <u>A</u> <u>SMY-ank</u>

GAME NOTES:

- * Underlined moves, as is customary, do not succeed. Capitalized abbreviations represent where the unit currently resides.
- * Although I'd prefer you kept your negotiations to the mails a few of you have requested that I publish your phone numbers. In deference to those who can't afford long distance phone calls please try to control yourselves. Here goes:

Pete Gaughan - (817) 633-3208
Eric Walton - (615) 421-1741

- * One of you almost NMRed out this turn. I must remind you to keep the deadline in mind and mail EARLY!
- * Please remember to specify whether a particular unit is a fleet or an army.
- * Note that BOTH Eric Walton and Vince Shouba have changed their addresses. Send all subsequent correspondence to their new postal homes!
- * As for mps, see the "BaMbuti" Game Notes section.
- * Deadline for "Fall 1901" orders is Wednesday, October 12, 1988.

THE PRESS:

TUR - RUS : I do not take kindly to insults and threats! Prepare to die!

VIENA - ROME : Your last letter made it quite clear that we are not going to be allies. If you cannot bring yourself to play A Rom-Apu, then I cannot allow A Ven-Tyo.

FRANCE - IK : Lest anyone doubt the existence of Mike Henry, due to his using a business address, let me reassure you. Mike is indeed a real person, sort of. He **does** exist (I met him at Dipcon) but he's a CPA who's in law school, so "real" may not apply. (No need to thank me, Mike!)

TUR - AUS : Onward!

TUR - ENG/GER : Go get him!

FRANCE - ITALY : Jimbo! At long last! After being your gm for a while now, I am curious as to just what sort of negotiator you are! Here's hoping I heard from you.

ROME - TUNIS : Welcome to the Roman Empire 2nd Edition.

FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE : "Let us always remember the crucial distinction between the legitimate use of force for liberation and totalitarian aggression for conquest." -- R. Reagan. (The Tsar, remembering, moves to liberate Rumania.)

HOOVILLE - RUSSIA : True, but who's to judge which is which?

TUR - WORLD : Sorry, guys. I have been moving back into school and have not had much time to write anybody. From now on I will be able to write to everybody. Again, sorry for not introducing myself properly to everyone.

ST. PETERSBURG : Please hereafter contact the Russian state at its new address <<printed above>>. New phone number to be published shortly.

FRANCE - IK : Disappointment here. I cannot believe that you would all have the unmitigated gall to actually **write letters** to me! You people seem to think that this is some sort of game of Diplomacy or something! Well, let me tell you that I've been in this hobby for seven or eight years now and it is truly **gauche** to actually negotiate. Now, stop it or I will be forced to report you all to the Boardman Number Custodian.

FRANCE - GM : If any of them take that seriously, I will laugh myself to death. I'm grateful for the way this one has started!

GM - FRANCE : Don't give them any ideas! I've seen plenty stranger things happen in my short sojourn in this here little hobby!

..... PENCILS DOWN AND HANDYOUR PAPERS TO THE FRONT, CLASS!

Well, now is as good a time as any to give the answers to last month's quiz. A total of seven people sent in answers last time which is still rather low. I mean, after all, there are free issues on the line here. Oh, by the way, I've decided on what the grand prize is going to be: A collection of cartoons entitled, "A View From Ground Level." "View" was carried in one of the college newspapers here for a goodly many years and it gives quite an entertaining picture of Mr. Jefferson's Resort. But enough babble, here are the answers to last month's quiz:

1) Patusan was a land created by the English novelist, Joseph Conrad (one of the greatest writers in the english language, I might add), for his novel, **Lord Jim**.

2) The "law and order" vice president who resigned under suspicion of tax evasion was none other than Maryland's Spiro Agnew.

3) The cover that Robert Palmer did of a Little Feat title track was none other than "Sailin' Shoes" which appeared on Palmer's SNEAKIN' SALLY THROUGH THE ALLEY but was originally the title track of a 1972 Little Feat release.

4) Believe it or not, I've forgotten who painted "Peppermint Tower in Honor of Greedy Little Girls." Most of you guessed Salvador Dali, which is definitely wrong. I believe that it was painted by Luis Bruenel, though I ain't shore.

So far the standings look like this: Gaughan, York, Hurley, and Williams all have

ne correct. Lew, White, Salvatore, and Thornsens have answered two right. Walton
necks in with three points, Greger has four, Orne five, and Justin with six. Remember,
t the end of the series of five quizzes each correct answer will net you a half-issue
ree! Also, the overall winner will get that special prize. So come on guys and gals,
et's start answering those questions!

NOTES FROM THE UNDERGROUND

Ya'll did good. Many of you answered my plea for lists of your own creation. So,
instead of having to listen to my endless drivel I present to you the lists of your
fellow subscribers. Of course, this doesn't mean I haven't included my own lists, I
have, but they're interspersed with others. I welcome any future submissions as well so
keep 'em coming.

David Orne's First Five CDs He'd Buy If He Had A CD Player:

1. ABBEY ROAD. Absolutely no question, #1.
2. GOODBYE YELLOW BRICK ROAD. The full spectrum of Elton's abilities.
3. CHICAGO VII. Progressive jazzy with pop, this album was produced at the height
of their popularity, amidst tensions that fueled rumors of their breakup.
Consequently, there are many instances of individual contributions by group
members who are (or were) normally only background. Mix in the Beach Boys as
backup singers and enjoy.
4. RUNNIN' ON EMPTY. Even though Jackson Browne includes a eference to cocaine on
every single song, it remains one of my favorites. Plus, all but a couple of
songs are in the key of "C", so I can play along with my harmonica.
5. WISH YOU WERE HERE. Good to find it on your playlist, too.

Rumours, Dark Side of the Moon, Chicago II and V, and Aja would have to wait.

Andrew York's Books to Read Again and Again:

1. The Foundation Series
2. Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance
3. The Hitchhiker Trilogy (of four books)
4. Starship Troopers
5. The Ring Trilogy and The Hobbit
6. Chronicles of Narnia
and
7. The Prophet

Your Publisher's Summer Reading List:

1. Kurt Vonnegut : Galapagos, Deadeye Dick, and Slapstick
2. Colin Turnbull : The Forest People, The Mountain People, and The Lonely African
3. Tom Sharpe : Vintage Stuff, Riotous Assembly, and Wilt
4. Laurens Van der Post : The Heart of the Hunter
5. Gabriel Garcia Marquez : In Evil Hour
6. David Eddings : Guardians of the West
7. Albert Camus : The Stranger
8. Roger Zelazny : The Guns of Avalon
9. Walker Percy : The Last Gentleman
10. Douglas Adams : Dirk Gently's Holistic Detective Agency
11. Innumerable magazines : Military History, US News, The Nation, and Archeology

The Hobby's Top Ten Zines:

1. Praxis [9.088]
2. Zine Register [8.587]
3. Penguin Dip [8.138]
4. Diplomacy World [7.994]
5. Perelandra [7.857]

6. benzene [7.829]
7. Cheesecake [7.798]
8. The Canadian Diplomat [7.659]
9. Magus [7.525]
10. KK/Whitestonia [7.483]
44. The Scribblerist [5.797]

Cal White's Very Own Playlist:

1. SOLDIERS OF FORTUNE - The Outlaws
2. WILL THE WOLF SURVIVE - Waylon Jennings
3. STORMS OF LIFE - Randy Travis
4. PHAEDRA - Tangerine Dream
5. VIVA TERLANGUÁ - Jerry Jeff Walker

An Educational Readlist By David Hood:

For information on how the free market works, try **Human Action** by Ludwig von Mises. If you want a shorter version might I suggest reading selected essays in **Capitalism: The Unknown Ideal** edited by Ayn Rand?

If you want to know why the Supreme Court has been, historically, the most powerful opponent of individual liberty, try Henry Mark Holzer's **Sweet Land of Liberty?**

Wanna know why free trade is the best policy for the U.S. even if every other country passes high tariffs? Read ~~Free Trade~~ **Free Trade** by Joan Kennedy Taylor.

And if you want me to shut up about all this serious stuff, then go read **The Final Resolution**, by John Ford. It is probably the best Star Trek novel written to date.

Chris Hurley's "Couple Of Questions For Those Rocket Scientists Among Your Readers":

1. Which freezes faster, hot or cold water?
2. Do two cars, each going 60 mph and travelling directly towards each other, hit with the same force as one car going 60 mph which crashes into a 10 ft thick brick wall?
3. Imagine two vehicles which travel at 3/4 of the speed of light. If they pass each other (i.e. going in opposite directions) how does the one vehicle appear to the other?

Your Publishers Five Classes This Semester:

1. ANTH 101 - Intro to Anthropology [needed for a major].
2. GFPT 101 - Intro to Political Theory [needed for a Foreign Affairs major].
3. HIEU 209 - Birth of Europe [what the hell].
4. GFIR 301 - Evolution of International Relations [pretty self-explanatory].
5. HIEU 353 - European Diplomacy and Ideology 1740 - 1848 [another, what the hell].

Bill Salvatore's Put-On Music Review:

Album of the Week : "Up Yurs" by the French group, MESS YURS. Only a few good cuts:

Force de Frappe - a tasty paean to the introduction of milk-shakes into French "cuisine ordinaire"

Day Fee, American - a raunchy put-down of Yank tourists who don't understand the nuances of the hot-sheet trade

Lune-Tigre de Papier - a scathing send-up of the American space program

Everybody Here Belongs In the Hermitage - Voltaire's reactions to Leningrad '88

All in all, this group is verbally imaginative, though melodically trite. This album was worth every cent I paid for it.

I guess that it's my responsibility as editor to find something to put in this little bit of white space remaining : It is now 4:24 AM, September 9th. I've been typing for the past seven hours. I think I deserve this : ARRRRRRRGGGGGGHHHHHH!!!!!!

VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

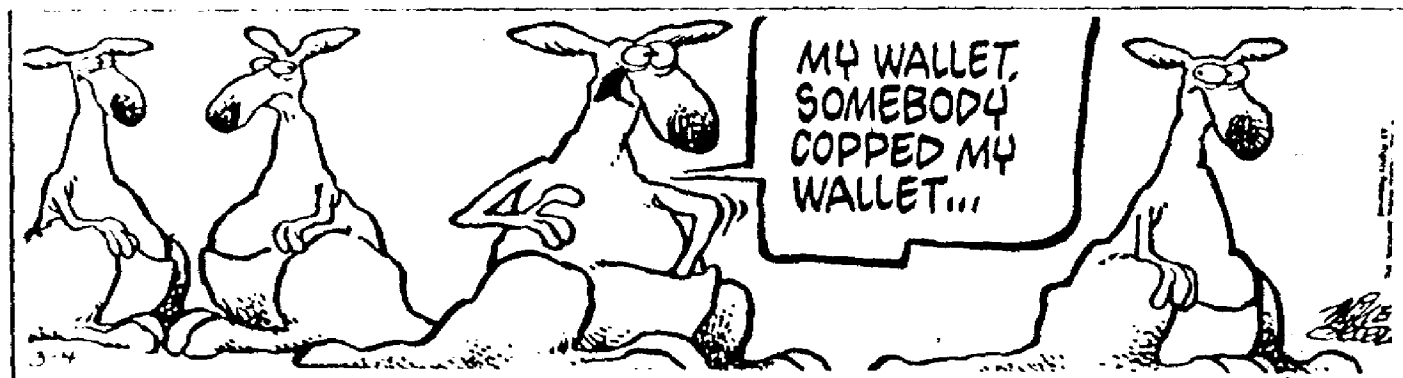
My, oh my, haven't we been quite a busy little hobby while I was away vacationing. The Runestone Poll results came out [for top ten look in earlier part of zine], war has been threatened, zines have been found and others lost, and a million other things have come up in the various zines that I read/sub to/trade with. Let's start with the Lost and Found, the most innocuous and uncontroversial of the topics:

- Lost - RANDOM THOUGHT (The mouthpiece of the Bad Boys hasn't surfaced in quite a while. I got a sample from BB #1, Jeff Zarse, and decided to sub a couple months ago and have yet to hear anything.)
- EXCELSIOR (Sent away a sub check about a month and a half ago and haven't heard anything. I understand that Bruce is just terribly unorganized so I'm not too worried about this one.)
- HOUSE OF LORDS (Still missing. Would really love to get ahold of #16, especially since we are trading. Julie? Ho-hum.)
- Found - FEUILLETONIST'S FORUM (After a long absence for personal reasons Greg has brought FF back from the dead and it looks as good as ever.)
- COSTAGUANA (Didn't fold as such but Conrad is promising to pare Costa down to size. The confusion comes in that Conrad mails out Costas on a rolling basis whereby there could be one to nine weeks between issues. But don't worry, you'll get 'em all.)
- NORTHERN FLAME (The problem here was that an administrative snafu left me off the mailing list. Going strong and looking very good.)

As I said, the Runestone Poll results are out and you can read all about them in THE CREAM SHALL RISE, the zine whose sole purpose is to report the results. This time around CREAM costs a whopping \$5 but is a sum total of 116 pages of analysis, commentary, and what have you. The five dollar price tag is a little steep but probably worth it just to look through all the stats. Don Del Grande raised a good point in the latest LIFE OF MONTY regarding the bulk and price of this year's CREAM. He suggested that Bruce Linsey offer a bare bones packet which would list only the zines/subzines/gms, # of votes, average, preference, and the final ratings without all the commentary and detailed analysis. This would cost less and probably be a better deal for people who just want to see the results without the bulky filler. Excellent idea Don, but right now I guess it is up to Bruce. What do you think?

Brux's name pops up again as the hobby gossips turn to talk of feuding. As most people know by now the Martins/Linsey relationship hasn't been one of the smoothest in hobby history. Recently there have been numerous flare-ups in addition to the fact that people like John Boardman are jumping on the bash-Brux bandwagon. Robert Sacks has always been there taking stabs at Bruce and what is more John Caruso has reentered the scene with his roving subzine, FOOT IN MOUTH. Caruso's subzine is far from being a straight "Brux-bashing" vehicle but he just can't seem to resist taking a stab at Bruce at least once in the course of events. Well, sum it all up and you've got prime feud material: something for Chris Carrier, the self-appointed feud fan, to feed upon, and plenty of bullshit to sling back and forth. Bruce has actually threatened a war in a mass mailing to publishers and as such I'd imagine that things are looking pretty "good" for something major to hit the fan in the near future. To me, this is all ridiculous. A while ago people were bashing the Bad Boys for being so malicious and hateful. True, but in the process they made some good points which forced us to think about our own involvement in the hobby. It is almost universally agreed that their behavior was childish and spiteful and all around obnoxious [if sometimes enlightening]. On the other end of the spectrum you have grown adults arguing over the "right" to give numbers to games or poll hobby participants as to their opinions on the rags we read. It's like two preschooler arguing over who gets to pee in what corner of the sandbox; understandable in 3, 4, and 5 years olds but utterly ridiculous in people purported to be mature adults. GROW UP! If Bruce wants to spend his time and effort [not to mention money] on polling the hobby populous so be it. If both Hyatt and Martin want to give Gunboat games numbers don't sweat it. Just relax and enjoy the company of others. We are all here to have a good time, not to make a power grab; so why don't we just let people live their own lives, both inside and outside the hobby.

Now, what of the one-sided novice discussion I've been typing up the last few issues? Well, above all else we have to make newcomers to the hobby feel comfortable and welcome. I don't see too many problems with the number of incoming players as I've gotten a fairly steady trickle of inquiries from those just entering the hobby. Sure, we could always use more people involved in the hobby as it is the personalities in this hobby that make it so fun and entertaining. But in order to keep up the flow of novices we must make sure that those who first sample the hobby aren't turned off and away by the rapidly growing schism and accompanying bickering. I think it would be too much to ask the two sides to reconcile their differences but I do see a need for the less "hobby politics" oriented zines to step up recruitment of novices. Obviously, the publishers can't go out and solicit novices off the street nor could he/she finance a mass mailing to a large group of wargamers or RFGers. What we, as a hobby, must do is point novices towards those zines which are the most entertaining and, if you will, most "innocuous." It's sad that we might have to slowly "ease" novices into the hobby in order to show them that though these deep schisms may exist there are also many friendships that develop and much fun to be had. End of sermon.



URBANE SCRAWL
Part IV

"A Primer On Hooking the Perfect Babe or How I Convinced Heidi I Was Worth the Trouble!"
[with apologies to the females in the audience]

I'll tell you from the outset that I am still astounded by the fact that Heidi Brown, this goddess who could have had anybody she wanted, decided that I was the one. Looking back on it I've tried to come up with some of the reasons she fell for my gag. Now, I don't guarantee success nor do I even state for a certainty that these are the real reasons. I don't know, and I really don't care; but for those of you out there still looking for a mate this may help.

1. Act goofy. This is the one sure way to draw attention to yourself and maybe catch the eye of that special someone. It can't be anything too bizarre or people will think you're sick. Instead, just be a little eccentric. It will separate you from the "herd" and pique the interest of the women.
2. Be shy. Girls just love this! When you're acting in front of the group be as gregarious and outgoing as is humanly possible. But when you get in those one on one situations you have to be slightly retiring and shy. If you spout off about yourself straight away there will be nothing to hold her interest later on. Instead, give her hints as to yourself bit by bit. You'll see her again or she'll make that special trip to see you.
3. Own/wear strange things. Again, it's the quickest way to draw attention to yourself. What's more, these somewhat bizarre objects will be great conversation pieces. Once the conversation gets started she'll be a lot more comfortable and receptive to your charms [I'm not advocating immediate

seduction. When I say charms I'm referring to that gem of a personality that you have]. There will also be an air of mystery about you, a uniqueness that everyone wants to possess/be attached to.

4. Provide food. At least in college this is the ticket to the big leagues. Contract dining is just so awful that you can get on many people's good side by offering them the meagerest of snacks.

5. Be nice and sincere. Above all else these two traits reign supreme. You can't act these things out. They have to come from the heart and the soul. Women can see through a thinly veiled attempt to get them in bed. Everything you say must be felt by you and you have to treat them, and everyone else kindly. An interest in the person for their mind and body will win out every time as long as you express it sincerely.

As for myself: I'm a strange bird by nature, had a stuffed macaw hanging in my window, my teddy tucked into bed, wore rafting sandals, offered toll house cookies and brownies to anyone but made sure to single Heidi out for special treatment, was very gregarious in groups but tended to be more reserved in single situations, and just tried to be myself. Hell, it seems to have worked. Happy Hunting!

YOU HAVE THIRTY MINUTES, BEGIN

Again, another four questions at which to try your hand. I'm not sure what kind of questions I'll ask this time around but I will try to make them a bit easier [though I don't want to start handing out free issues hiddly-piddly]. Come on, folks, free issues and it costs nothing to play. It's not addictive nor will it make you fat. Even safe for children!

- 1) Name the nineteenth century paleontologist who set forth the theory of catastrophism; the theory that the earth was periodically struck by catastrophies which wiped out almost all living things. The planet is then repopulated by the few survivors and by new species created by God.
- 2) The Ethiopian Church practiced an archaic type of Christianity which based the divinity of the king on the belief that he was directly descended from what two biblical characters?
- 3) Name the movie which depicted the greatest number of kisses ever on the silver screen in a single feature.
- 4) Name the high ranking Soviet official currently on trial in the Soviet Union on corruption charges.

That's the lineup for this issue. These should be a lot easier than last issues questions. I realize that I say that every time but I think it's kosher this time around. Have fun with it.

BACKWASH [Urbane Scrawl Part V]

Well, that wraps up another issue of THE SCRIBBLERIST. Let me know what you think of the new format, it's important that you're as happy as I am with both the content and format of the zine. We ran a little bit longer than I thought I would due to the fact that I decided to make this typing session an all-nighter and go until I filled out sixteen digest pages. Call it diarrhea of the mouth, call it insanity, or just give me a call and try to talk me out of doing this ever again!

I guess I should get a couple miscellaneous notes out of the way before I go much farther. You know, some of that administrative stuff that gets so boring and tedious.

I've gotten my new phone number and it is (804) 971-8294. I've got a single room which means that if I'm not here the phone will not get answered. I'll take calls at anytime though I ask you to use your judgement when deciding it might be fun to talk to me at 5 AM on Saturday. I'm usually up until 2 or 3 AM but I will not be here on Thursdays or Fridays for the next month or so. The reason is that we have fraternity rush coming up so I'll be at events those nights and if I am home I'll probably be drunk as a skunk and consequently incoherent. Also, try not to let it ring too many times as a courtesy to my suitemates.

Back issues of TS can be secured for a 25 cent stamp apiece.

Andy York suggested that I run a survey finding out all sorts of neat things about my subscribers. I'd been thinking of doing that but want to wait a few more issues and stabilize the subscription list.

Hope everyone enjoyed this issue of TS and I look forward to hearing from all of you. Take care and enjoy yourselves!

Circulation : 44

Fresh Meat - Melinda Holley [24]; David McCrumb [1]; Tom Nash [15]; Dave Palmer [12]; Michael Schnelker [13]; Conrad von Metzke [1].

Old Hands - Scott Beckett [11]; Ran Ben-Israel [1]; Simon Billenness [1]; Heidi Brown [1]; Francois Guerrier [MS-#4.10]; Fred Davis [1]; Don Del Grande [1]; Jim Diehl [14]; Charles Fargo [1]; Pete Gaughan [13]; Charles Greger [13]; Chuck Hanna [22]; Barry Hawes [13]; Steve Heinowski [1]; Mike Henry [12]; David Hood [1]; Chris Hurley [13]; John Justin [1]; Bruce Linsey [17]; Julie Martin [1]; Jim Nickel [12]; David Orne [15]; Cathy Ozog [12]; Ken Peel [1]; Larry Perry [1]; Bill Salvatore [12]; Vince Shouba [13]; Thomas Thorsen [22]; Eric Walton [12]; Cal White [1]; Jimmy Williams [6]; Brad Wilson [1]; Andrew York [13].

Say Goodbye - David Anderson [4]; Mark Lew [4].


Samplers - David Andersson; Byron Gutierrez; Mike Pott.

Actual Handwritten Note To You [maybe]

Larry,

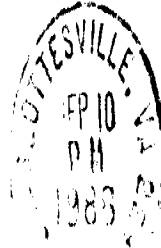
I feel I ought to thank you as I've gotten a couple enquiries based on a DW review of TS. I'll see if I can't come up with some sub money sometime soon.

In the meantime, enjoy this issue and take care. Thanks again.

Best,


The Scribblerist

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THE SCRIBBLERIST is published at five week intervals by Mark Lilleleht, Post Office Box 3166, Charlottesville, VA 22903-0166; phone number (804) 971-8294, call anytime though use judgement at "extreme" hours. Subscriptions are available at 10 issues for a paltry \$4.50 in the U.S., and 10 issues for \$5 to Canada. Trades, US or Canadian, welcome and actively solicited. Two regular and one gunboat diplomacy game are already filled, ONE position left in Snowball Fighting (my last opening for a long time). Diplomacy was invented by Allan B. Calhauer.