

SO I LIED

ISSUE 4

13 October 1984

Cheap Philosophy for the Month (from a bumper sticker): "If you love something, set it free. If it doesn't return, hunt it down. And kill it."

This is SIL, which is being hunted down with intent to destroy at this very moment by Assorted Nutcase Types Including Mothers Against Drunk and Loud Authors of Drivel (ANTI MADLAD). Ha! they'll never take me alive, much less straight. Sub fee is an unwarranted \$.60/issue, and game fees are an outrageous \$8, \$4 of which is an NMR deposit (\$2 penalty each NMR). The second game of regular Diplomacy has been filled, but James has at least four openings in his game, so drop him a line and sign up. His results will go out on a separate flyer, so turn-around time should be prompt. There are also openings in Final Conflict and Abstraction II. Either this issue or next I'll be running a map and rules for each game in an effort to stimulate interest, after which, if there is still no response, I'll just chuck the whole idea out the window. So come on, you variant fans, how about it?

Two statues of nudes--one a very young man, the other a equally young woman--stood side by side in a small park for years. One day the very heavens above opened up, and an awesome Voice boomed out. "Statues, hear me. You have served me well, motionless as you have been for over a century. You have both earned a reward--for one hour you may live your lives as humans, to do as you wish." And so saying, the statues came to life. The boy and girl turned to each other, and with obvious looks of desire, disappeared into nearby bushes, from which soon emanated sounds of grunting and thrashing about. Time passed, and the Voice spoke again. "Statues, you have but five minutes of freedom remaining." The boy turned to the girl and asked "Do you want to do it one more time?" "Yes, yes!" replied the girl, "but this time YOU hold the pigeons and I'LL shit on them!"

You'll notice above it is stated that this zine is produced by Marc and Debi Peters. You will usually find contributions by James Wall and Dale Bakken as well. So how do you know who's speaking when you encounter the pronoun "I"? Well, that's a very good question, and I'm glad you asked it. Anything appearing in ...But I'm Happy emanates from the pen of James, material found in Bottoms Up is strictly the responsibility of Dale, and Debi's writings are titled as such in her "filler" page. Any other rantings and ravings may be attributed to me, Marc. That should clear matters up for the person who pointed out that Dale's column made no reference to the author. This foolish person undoubtedly thought this omission was unintentional; after a few columns it will be plain for all to see why Dale might want to keep his writings anonymous. The same person also pointed out that our COA wasn't listed on the first page, as it should have been for those who might not have noticed it. I guss this guy must have been one of those wimps whose attention I was trying to grab with that nasty notice below our COA. But for the benefit of those wierdos who DON'T pour over the outside cover of every zine they get, the following is offered. Pay attention, there will be a test on this later.

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COA!! MARC AND DEBI PETERS, 1814 CAMERON DRIVE #3, MADISON, WI 53711-3357

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What is the difference between a sewing machine and a woman jogging?
The sewing machine only has one bobbin.

hitched up outside and whispered in the horse's ear. The horse began to snicker, and pretty soon was laughing so hard it fell over. The hombre walked back into Charlie's, collected his winnings and left. Chagrined, Charlie changed his sign to read "\$1000 to whoever can make my horse cry! \$1 a shot." Again this ploy was highly successful, and soon the barrel was full. And again that same dude strolled in, downed a few, and put his buck in the barrel. He walked out to the horse, and the next sound Charlie heard was the horse sobbing like his heart was permanently broken. The man came back in to collect his money, but before he could take it, Charlie stopped him. "Mister, the money is yours" he lamented, "but before you walk out of here, tell me what you did to make my horse first laugh, then cry!" "Why, sure, pardner" replied the winner, "it was real easy. First time I told that horse my dick was bigger than his. The second time, I showed him."

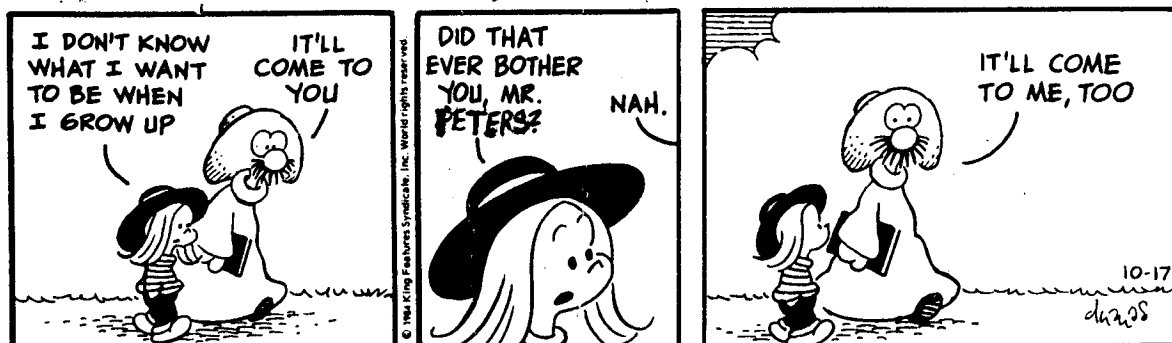
Last issue I made a couple of plugs that didn't turn out too well. Luedi's Thirty Miles of Bad Road will apparently go warehouse, and Ultimately Cool turned out to be a fake, sort of. UC was so much like Keith that it never even occurred to me it might be a fake, and as it turned out it wasn't a fake, but, uh, then again it was. That is, it was put out by Keith in the hope that it would be labeled a fake and the blame assessed to someone else. I'm sure there's some logic there somewhere, but being just a Midwest hick, it must be beyond me.

Speaking of Luedi, "Name-That-Con" Con (or IndyCon, as we've simply been calling it) is this weekend. The list of people I've heard that will be attending just keeps growing and growing. At first I thought it would be impossible for me to go due to a conflict with my job, but I've begged off half of Saturday and hope to get there late Saturday afternoon. I'm very pleased by this, partly because there will be players there I've not yet met, and partly because Mark has traveled far to make many of the Midwest Mob's affairs, and I really owe him a visit. Should be a great time, see some of you there!

What is the difference between your wife and your job?

After ten years, your job still sucks! ((Sorry, Deb.))

There is currently a dispute going on as to who should really be the Hobby Sex Ghod. Unfortunately, the two contestants are as unqualified as one could possibly imagine. Reluctantly, and under extreme pressure from my many groupies fans, I've decided to allow my name to be used in a "write-in" campaign. My qualifications are obvious--just ask any female Dippers who've met me. Nevertheless, I must urge you not to vote for me--those two pathetic specimens of physique attempting to pass themselves off as actual contestants in a Sex Ghod election need an ego boost a lot more than I do.



When it comes to my "career" (and I use the term humorously) I've spent my life so far working as a cook. People keep telling me I could and should do much better for myself, and given my intelligence, they are probably correct. (This is not boast, merely an observation that anyone with an IQ of 129 ought to be able to conquer just about any field he wanted.) However, nothing has ever struck my fancy. This used to bother me, but doesn't much any more. I feel very akin to Funny Floyd in the above cartoon. As would most people, I'd like to be my own boss one day, but in what business? Ah well, no doubt it'll come to me one day. Why am I telling you this? I needed something to fill this page!

FALL 1901

CONSTANTINOPLE CURRENT: It is rumored throughout the empire that for the first time in history the Sultan has left the country. Two opposing reasons are being advanced for the departure. One source suggests that previously secret negotiations with the Pope concerning religious ecclesiasticism have reached a point requiring the Sultan's presence in Rome. Other sources suggest the departure may be in anticipation of imminent economic and military collapse. A definitive explanation is expected to be issued from Madison, the Pope's summer home, in the next sixty days. ((The Pope's coming to MadTown?!? Oh boy, time to dig out my placards: "Get the Vatican out of the Twelfth Century!" "Legalize and Subsidize Abortion!" "Tax the Church!" "Bakko for Pope!!!"))

AUSTRIA	Bud, Vie, GRE, SER (4).	Build one.
ENGLAND	Edi, Lpl, Lon, NWY (4).	Build one.
FRANCE	Bre, Mar, Par, POR, SPA (5).	Build two.
GERMANY	Ber, Kie, Mun, BEL, DEN, HOL (6).	Build three.
ITALY	Nap, Rom, Ven, TRI, TUN (5).	Build two.
RUSSIA	Mos, StP, Sev, War, SWE (5).	Build one.
TURKEY	Ank, Con, Smy, BUL, RUM (5).	Build two.

WINTER 1901 orders due 3 November 1984. For this Winter season and this Winter only, Winter and Spring will automatically be seperated. After this year it will be necessary for one third (1/3) of the surviving players to request a seperation for the seperation to occur. *** My printer cannot underline (or if it can I haven't figured it out yet), so you will note that in the printed adjudication (1) failing moves were NOT underlined, and, (2) the space that the listed unit ends the season in is CAPITALIZED. Obviously, this makes it easier on me, not having to manually underline each failed move. However, the ease of readability is my primary concern, so if you find this style lacking, please give me your opinion, which you can send in with your preliminary set of orders. (Hint, hint, some of you, and you know who you are! Ya bum(s)! Actually, I'm amazed at how concientious most of you have been about submitting an early set of orders, and I know I don't have to tell you how much a GM appreciates that. Thanks for making my life easier.

John's tennis elbow had been bothering him, so he stopped by his doctor's office one day. He was told by the nurse that she would need a urine sample from him. John thought this an absurd request considering the nature of his ailment, but the nurse insisted, so he obliged. After awhile the doctor came in, saying "So the tennis elbow is acting up again, eh?" "Yes", replied John, "your nurse told you?" "No" responded the doctor, "my urinalysis machine told me. This new devise can diagnose every ailment known to man." This sounded like medicinal hogwash to the patient, but the salve the machine prescribed worked immediately, so John agreed to bring in another sample for his follow-up exam. Deciding to play a prank on the doctor, John filled the bottle only part way, then had his wife and daughter fill the bottle the rest of the way. Just for good measure the joker pounded his pud awhile and added a few drops of semen to the specimen. As he got into his car another devilish thought occured to him, and he added a few drops of motor oil from his car. He shook the whole mess up and presented the bottle to the nurse when he arrived at the doctors's office. The doctor was out quite awhile this time, and John was greatly amused by the doctor's probable confusion. Finally the doctor came into the room, sat down across from John and looked him square in the eye. "A real funny guy, aren't you? Well, smart-ass, I've got some bad news for you. Your daughter is pregnant, your wife has the clap, your car's going to throw a rod anytime now, and furthermore, if you don't stop cuffing your carrot your tennis elbow is NEVER going to heal!"

It has been said that those who cannot learn from history are doomed to repeat it. In a recent survey of high school students, one third were not aware that America had been involved in a war in Vietnam. Seventy five percent were unable to locate Vietnam on a map. So what is to become of those who have no knowledge of very recent history, much less being able to learn a lesson from it?

This issue was going to contain other stuff. Stuff about this years campaign, where we're learning 1984 is indeed here. Ronnie says hecklers have a right to free speech when his campaign network organizes hecklers to harass Mondale, then strip anti-Reagan protesters of their signs and shove them off in a corner at each stop the pres makes. Stuff about the military; the Pentagon is forming its own press corp, so we won't be subjected to the biased views of the regualr media. It seems officials were upset that journalists had the nerve to report some facts that were embarrassing to the Pentagon after the Grenada invasion. For instance, most casualties came as a result of three incidents: one in which three helicopters collided, one in which Marines called in fire on an Army position, and one in which four Navy commandos were drowned. The Pentagon says 18 were killed, an independent study by two ex-military men put the total at 44. Stuff like that. But that would be too many bummers for one month, so let's just act likethe rest of America and pretend it didn't happen. SMILE EVERYBODY!

THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME

Election time approaches quickly, and it becomes more evident that unless Reagan starts wearing a bib and drooling upon himself, or can't remember the capitol of the United States, Ronnie can put a last notch in his political gun. (This is assuming he could not get elected to another political office at the age of 78, his age in 1988.) Despite many alarming signals over the last four years, Americans appear gung-ho about re-electing the most conservative candidate since 1964's Goldwater. This country is caught in a wave of extreme rightism that Goldwater could only have wet dreams about. When Barry said during the '64 campaign that "extremism in the pursuit of freedom is no vice", it was just another brick in the ultra conservative wall he constructed between himself and the voters. In 1964 that statement was a political gaffe; when he uttered those same words again at the 1984 Republican convention he received thunderous applause.

Although Reagan slipped sharply in the polls after his dismal performance in the first debate (Mondale looked only moderately better) the president still has a hefty lead over his challenger. So short of completely blowing the second debate as well, Ronnie will become the oldest man ever to become our president. What will the next four years bring? That is not a difficult question to answer; the last four years provide all the clues.

Reagan will continue to push the military and try to avoid tax hikes; much of his campaign has been based on how much a Democrat in the White House would spend. This means more cuts elsewhere--cuts that are going to make the last four years seem like a picnic to lower income families. Economically, the current trend should prevail: continued windfall profits for big business, middle class holding steady (white collars with investments doing better, blue collars doing worse), and the lower class and minorities taking it on the chin. Unemployment is down; unfortunately, many of those no longer "unemployed" are actually just no longer eligible for relief, and the figures cannot account for newcomers to the job market who have never held a job. Over the last four years, income is up about \$1,000 per year for white households, but down almost \$5,000 per black family. Under the Reagan administration anti-unionism has been prevalent; workers have seen a sharp increase of union busting and wage/benefit cuts. Saying that Reagan is directly responsible for this threat to the blue collar class is assuming a bit much. That the trend will continue under his conservative, pro-big business administration is painfully clear.

The most important and alarming trend, however, is Reagan's foreign policy. The CIA's role in Nicaragua is directly parallel to its actions early in our involvement in Vietnam. We have hundreds of "advisors" in Central America, most of which CIA director William Casey denies even exist until they are killed in action and their evidence of their bodies can no longer be denied. Arms are being supplied to the revolutionaries trying to overthrow the Nicaraguan government, and napalm is being used against the Vietnam-like environment there. The CIA has issued a manual diagramming methods for the violent overthrow of the existing government, urging assassination of government officials, the destruction of public buildings/services, and so on. There can be little doubt that direct intervention is the intent of the Reagan administration, unless public outcry derails the intended invasion. Reagan is also staunchly behind the apartheid government of South Africa. This should hardly come as a surprise to blacks, however, who have had ample demonstration of Reagan racism.

A possible trend toward the curtailing of civil rights has already been mentioned; if Reagan has the opportunity to appoint one or two more Supreme Court members, the result could be frightening.

This is a very gloomy picture, to be sure, and events may not be nearly this bad. On the bright side, although Reagan cannot hope to reduce the the federal deficit without cutting ALL budgets (read "including the militarys"), a lot of money is going to be made over the next four years. Unless you are on the board of Shell Oil Co., you and I won't see any of that bread, but much of it will be put back into the economy so these people may make yet more millions. Hopefully this increased productivity will create jobs, so Americans can get their 1% cut of these fortunes. If that doesn't happen, well, war always seems to stimulate the economy. Either way we're covered.

B O T T O M S U P

By: Dale Bakken

I wish Marc wouldn't do this to me. He said now that I've written one article for the zine, it was my RESPONSIBILITY to do it every month! Gawd-damn Marc! You know how I hate that word.

And who am I, you ask? I guess I forgot to mention my name last month and somebody actually WROTE Marc and wondered who the anonymous writer of "Bottoms Up" was! (Thank you Fred C. Davis, whoever you are!) I am Dale Bakken and I happen to reside here with Marc and Debi Peters at 1814 Cameron Drive in the MadCity. No folks, there is no "menage-a-trois" here. We're all adults and not into that kinky stuff. I may sleep with Debi or I might sleep with Marc but I don't sleep with them together. Too weird for me!

By the way, I prefer to call this an "article" or a "column," not a sub-zine. I'm not running any games and in all probability won't be talking about Dip at all. If I do, would somebody out there just say "Shut up, Bakko" and I'll stop. Thanks.

I did manage to get a few answers for my Sports Quiz last month and some were even correct! Fred Davis got all 4 answers right and John Caruso and Kathy Byrne got 3 correct guesses. Here are the answers and hearty congrats to you three.

1. ERNIE BANKS was the last Cub to be MVP. It was in '59 and '60, and he did it for a last place team!
2. 1969 MIRACLE METS.
3. BALTIMORE COLTS is the answer to this one. For those of you who said Kansas City Chiefs or Oakland Raiders, they were AFL teams then.
4. NORTHWESTERN lost 33 straight college football games between 1980 and 1982. How did they ever make the Big Ten?

Since Fred and John/Kathy have trades with Marc & Debi for SIL, I guess I owe you all a kiss. Pucker up!

I'd hate for this to get too easy or too boring so here again is my Short Sport Squiz. Except this one is a little different than the last. This time, I'm going to give you the ANSWERS and you have to come up with the correct QUESTIONS!

1. Joe Dimaggio.
2. Marques Johnson, Junior Bridgeman, and Harvey Catchings for Terry Cummings, Craig Hodges and Ricky Pierce.
3. Marilyn Chambers.
4. Pontiac Silverdome, Home of the Detroit Lions.

Hey Sports Fans! Remember when I said the Packers were the team to beat in the NFC Central Division? Well, I was kinda right. So far, everybody seems to be beating them. Last season, Green Bay scored over 400 points but they gave up over 400 too. This year, the defense is much improved (jumping from 28th to 7th at one point) but the offense that was 2nd best last year is - you guessed it - dead last this year!! I could point out to you a bunch of other statistics outlining Green Bay's dismal start but I won't. They have almost the EXACT same personnel as last year on offense, but they seem to want to run the ball up the middle more this year. Last year, they'd pass to James Lofton, hit TE Coffman over the middle, throw a screen pass, run a draw play, pass to Lofton etc., etc. Some of the blame can be put on Lynn Dickey and Paul Coffman because they have been hurt; but basically, the offensive line hasn't gotten it together yet.

Still with football, I'd like to congratulate Walter Payton and the Chicago Bears. Payton, as all you good sports fans know, has broken Jim Brown's record for most yards gained rushing. Is Payton better than Brown? I don't

know. For sure they are both very, very good running backs and they played in different eras, but if I could have only ONE of them on my football team, I'd pick Jim Brown. He set his records playing a 12-game schedule over nine seasons. Walter plays 16 games a year and it is his 10th year in the NFL. Remember, I still think Payton is a fantastic football player and he's well worthy of any and all records he can get.

JEERS: To Franco Harris of the Seattle Seahawks! He has less than 230 yards rushing as of this writing and I think he's washed up. Hey Franco..Na na na na, hey, hey...good-bye!

CHEERS: To Dan Marino and the Miami Dolphins. They are 6-0 as of now and playing great. "Killer Bees" on defense, Don Shula as head coach, Marino, "Super" (Mark) Duper...could be another dyansty forming down there.

CHEERS: To the Chicago Cubs (snicker, snicker)! They had a great year but couldn't quite hold a 2 game to zero advantage and lost the National League Championship to the San Diego Padres. Too bad Cub fans. But ya shoulda known they'd choke! I heard a rumor that they were going to relocate the Cub franchise to the Phillippines. They'd be called the Manilla Folders.

By the way, I'm picking the Detroit Tigers to win the World Series. By the time you read this, you'll know if I'm right or if I'm wrong.

Is this enough, Marc? Till next month - BOTTOMS UP!

Yep, Dale, that was just fine, thank you. I definitely like the "cheers and jeers" part. Dale was quite correct about the Tigers, who dominated every aspect of the World Series. This surprised me, as I thought that these two teams were two of the best to appear in the Series for quite awhile. Just goes to show the awesome superiority of the American League East, eh?

Dale was also right about the patheticness of the Pack. Sigh. And if that wasn't enough, the UW Badger football team is falling flat on its collective face as well. In their first conference game they faced the then highly ranked Michigan Wolverines, and beat their asses up and down the field. Both the defensive and offensive Wisconsin lines blew out their counterparts. The Badgers dominated every catagory including, unfortunately, turnovers. Five fumbles, one on the Michigan ten-yard line and another on the one, blew the game for them. And it's only gotten worse since there. It's as if the Badgers and the Pack are trying to set a collective record for most turnovers in one state. The only state they might not beat out is California, which has four pro teams and even more colleges. Last Monday night the Pack humiliated themselves on national TV by giving up two touchdowns in the first minute of the game on two fumbled kickoffs, both recovered by Denver and run back for TDs. After that the Packer offense tore apart Denver while Green Bays defense held Denver to a field goal. Result? Pack loses by three. Oh well, they covered the point spread!

A man walked into a bar one day and ordered a drink. The bartender brought over the drink and set it down. To his amazement, a tiny man jumped out of the customers coat pocket and pissed in the drink. The customer sighed, pushed the drink aside and asked for a cheeseburger. When the burger arrived the little fellow dropped his drawers and crapped on it. Stunned, the bartender asked the customer just what was going on. "Well" sighed the patron, "one day I was strolling along the beach when I came upon a brass lantern. When I polished it off, a genie appeared, told me I'd found a magic lantern, and that I would be granted three wishes. For my first wish I requested good health, and I haven't been sick once since that day. My second wish was for money, and I now have more than I could ever spend. For my third wish I requested a ten-inch prick, and he's what I got!"

I have a bit of a hobby rumor here myself. It seems that at PudgeCon III, Steve Langley committed a cardinal sin. Bob Olson, knowing zip about beer, asked Steve if it was OK to leave some of the beer he'd purchased out of the fridge, so as to save a little room, I imagine. Steve assured him it was. Well, in some places it is OK to not keep beer refrigerated, but NOT in Kansas during the summer!! Beer should NEVER be allowed to reach a temperature higher than the 70's. One of the MadCity Mafia saw this atrocious mistreatment of God's Own Ambrosia, and has vowed to wage a Holy Feud against Langley. You saw it in SIL first!

This has not been one of my favorite Dip-weeks since I've gotten into the hobby. Voice of Doom is going to fold, and 30 Miles of Bad Road appears to be soon to follow. While understanding their reasons I still regret the passing of two of the finer Dip zines that I get. What makes me wonder is that, to me anyway, I just don't see alot of new blood around to take up the slack (present zine excepted). I'm only into my third year in the hobby and already the list of those that have burned out seems longer than the list of those I've got contact with. Even Irksome! my first zine is down the tubes. Luckily for me though, being a part of the midwest I've missed most of the shit that has been flying fast and thick lately. We just don't feud in the Midwest. Even with Seattle. I guess what I'm trying to say is that burnout seems to occur either through wrong attitudes (I'm going to drive X out of the hobby because I do not like him/her) or people get so overextended that they just give up (Woodson is a good example). Too bad the attitude of the Madison Mafia isn't contagious because I think that all would be alot happier in the long run.

Game Opening; That's right folks I'm going to run one game right here in these very pages. It will be regular Dip and will be run on strict deadlines. I will mail results out separately to ensure that the game goes on in the eventuality that SIL is ever late. There will be a 3\$ game fee and a 2\$ NMR fee. At the moment I've got 2 signed up.

Political Meanderings: The debate. Big deal. The incumbent always does worse in these things and even Reagan proved that he wasn't the exception. What is amusing is the fact that the press is making such a big thing out of the debate. It just doesn't matter this time around. More people have made up their minds who they are going to vote for at this equivalent point in time than in any previously recorded American Presidential election. The Polls have yet to show any significant shift away from Reagan. He is currently leading in EVERY single state in the South and West. In fact it is beginning to look like Reagan may have a coattail effect this time around in the House and the Senate. The one fact that I keep thinking of is that the Reagan lead in the Polls is as large as in 72 or 68 and in both of those years the Major parties were split on whether to support their nominee's or not (McGovern/Goldwater). Mondale was the solid choice of the politicians in the Democratic party and that is what has them running scared. It looks like it's time that the Democratic party gets some real new ideas before they Mondale themselves into minority status.

HOBBY RUMORS

It isn't coincidence that Al Pearson has resurfaced in the hobby after his 2 year sabbatical. The sanitarium, as a condition of his release, made Al promise to sign up for the Insanity Dip game. What he wasn't told is that he is going to get jumped in all 7 games. You heard it here first folks.

In response to the Byrne/Linsey bruha President Reagan was quoted as saying "There they go again." Mondale meanwhile accused the both of them of ignoring the poor little old ladies while expending all that effort destroying the other.

I actually thought of some Golden Age Press the other day but then I woke up from the nightmare and had a beer.

On the first day of Christmas, my true love gave to me.... a beer. That's true love.

Rod Walker actually accepted some press for his last issue! He spent two weeks meditating on it, made sure that limericks were included, and all the topics were relevant-as long as you were in the hobby in the 60's and wanted to freeze it there.



"Must you play 'war'? Can't you play 'détente' and 'diplomacy'?"

Why did NBC preempt Hill Street Blues in order to show that stupid old woman and that political has-been on my TV? They are no where near as interesting and a debate between VP candidates is about as useful as having two secretaries debate whose boss does a better job of running their companies.

By the way, this page is not to be taken seriously. I refuse to acknowledge any complaints on this page as nothing said here is serious. I just hope that I'm not picking that up from Tallman.

***Yup, this is it; EXPLETIVE DELETED, the only subxyn to boycott the 1984 Summer Clympics! *This is the ECC's bastion inside of "the most wretched hive of scum and villiany", also known as So I Lied! the xyn dedicated to MadLeds. Can I get away with saying that word in their own xyn? If not, Puppy sent a thug after me. To see if I'm still alive, call me at (212) 976-2727. Or drop me a line at: PO Box 1324; SUNY Binghamton, NY 13760.

An ED-torial

Well, if James Joyce can do this streams of consciousness crap, so can I. But how do I start this? Well, (I do tend to overuse that word, if you haven't noticed...) it would seem that the hobby has begun to explode over the Linsey/Byrne feud just in time for elections. The best thing I've seen so far in the feud department was FEUDESSE. Ed Wrobel did a GREAT job and maintained a sense of humor I wish I had. Sometimes I'm sarcastic but not like he responded to Rod Walker's letter. Ken Peel's Novice Package Part II was also very interesting in that he's acting as a "Guest Commentator" not just for the WD IV game but for all the hobby's feuds. His series serves as a good source for my Dippies & Hippies game. If you plan on playing, study what Ken sez cause he knows what he's talking about. Who's James Joyce anyway?

Speaking of Dippies & Hippies, I think I'm going to end up having it delayed because Marc was late last time. Don't run out on him folks, I guess Marc just moved in with Dale Bakken and I sympathize with anybody who's gotta move their junk from point A to point B. I've begun to think of some really good ideas for the ASSHOLE game, so I hope people get their things into me quick. I hope that running the game in SIL will be okay. I can't afford to spend money sending out the reports for free; money's tight as it is. But I just hope Marc is on time for the most part; he's good about his moves, so I shouldn't be worrying in the first place. Hey Puppy, does this sound like a letter you'd get from Carla Russell? You said he changes his thoughts in mid-sentence, so this might be a good take-off huh? Maybe someday I'll be able to write as goodly as Carl? Hee hee hee!

Hey, I can really get into the stream of this consciousness stuff; I just hope that I spelled 'consciousness' correctly. If I didn't, Blarfo will be the first to let me know.

I'm really excited about MEDIOCRECON III. It'll be history by the time you read this, so I'll save some room to include a con review. Blarfo sez some Midwesterners would possibly be interested in attending. Well, if they didn't this time, I'll plan another one for May '85 so that they can make it out here; plenty of time to plan it out.

Didja know that President Reagan is coming to deliver a speech in Binghamton? I'll be the guy wearing my "Reagan's Youth" T-shirt!

This issue will be 'just stuff'. No game crapolla. Who reads game reports anyway? Part of the reason I'm doing it this way is so that next issue, I can get away with doing a 'just games' issue, as I feel my school load will not allow me to do much else. One thing in this issue is the first installment of my Beyond Basics series, which tells of advanced thoughts and strategies for FINAL CONFLICT. Thought of sending it to Dip World, but didn't think they'd accept a variant article. Perhaps Rod would accept a game review about Dippies & Hippies? Yes Rod, I'll give you a right to respond.....

BITS N PIECES

EMPIRES IN ARMS--Find the game if you can; it's not being sold in the states until sometime in 1985, when Avalon Hill will be acquiring it.

***I have been spending most of my wargaming hours learning, teaching and playing EMPIRES IN ARMS, a monster sized wargame for up to seven players which simulates the Napoleonic War from 1805-1815. This game came from a group of Aussies (The Australian Design Group) who are rookies in the gaming business. Their first effort certainly was a winner.

***First, I should warn everybody that EIA is a L-O-N-G game. Turns are monthly. Some simple math shows that a game can last as many as 132 game turns. The game obviously is one which must be left set up at someone's home as each game turn takes about 1 hr to complete. Fortunately, the Binghamton Area has many gamers, and we have enough interested players to play 2 games, if we had another copy of the game.

***Although there are scenarios included, the campaign games are what make EIA a gem. This game actually works, for the diplomatic rules and the military rules of the game both work well together. Below is a description of both sets of mechanics.

***The entire object of EIA is to achieve a set number of victory points before any other major power (France, Great Britain, Russia, Austria, Prussia, Spain and Turkey) is able to do so. Points are gained during each economic interphase depending upon the number of Political Points they currently have. PPs are kept track on a running track which shows each country's political status (from being in fiasco to domination). The closer ones marker is to domination, the more victory points he earns. Political Points are gained and lost through land and naval battles, accept/submitting to conditional or unconditional surrender terms, taking control of neutral minors, and breaking/making alliances. PPs can also be lost by declaring war upon minors or Major powers.

***Declarations of War are made simultaneously, so players can catch their opponents off guard. If a country has war declared upon him, he can immediately demand that some or all of his allies declare war upon the aggressor, or break the alliance and lose political points for breaking the alliance.

***One nice touch to EIA is the trade rules. During the economic interphases (which occur at the end of every three months), Great Britain can announce that it will trade with certain ports to which it can trace a naval path (unblockaded). The owner of the port can then either accept or refuse trade. If trade is accepted, then each player gets an amount of money specified on the port's blockade box, with Britain getting the smaller amount. As one can guess, if England were to trade with all ports, he'd make out like a bandit. One item which works in Great Britain's favor is that if the port is controlled by a minor neutral, it automatically trades with G.B.

***Great Britain also exercises control over trade with the United States. Each power can have one port trade with the US and collect twice what he's normally entitled to; G.B. gets 15 money income each time from her colonies. Of course, G.B. can cut the US off from trading with certain powers, depriving them of their trade income from the US. However, G.B. runs a risk each time she does this, for the US may declare war upon G.B. which will cost her the 15 income, and the 5 political points needed to end the war with the States.

***Great Britain also has one last (but logical) advantage. Should no power win the game by the end of 1815, Great Britain wins, for she has been able to maintain the status quo, keep her trade monopoly, undergo "splendid isolation" (industrial revolution, etc.). It would appear that Great Britain is quite a menace.

***That is, until we start talking about the military aspects of the game. This is where France makes its claim to being the scourge of Europe.

***Players have corps and fleet markers which move on the map. The strengths, size and composition contained within each corp/fleet is kept track on order of battle sheets, which are kept secret from all other players until a conflict occurs. France has a great advantage in that the maximum number of infantry that he may stack within a corp is 10 more than its closest competitor, Austria. In terms of fleets, all fleet markers can contain up to 30 ships. England has the most fleet markers, with France being second and Spain in third.

***Movement and attrition are closely related, in that the farther a corp moves on the map, the more susceptible it is to march losses. Corps can be supplied either by depots (paying for each corps supplied this way) or by foraging. Each area on the map has a forage value. A die is rolled and modified (for unspent movement points, forced marching, unit density of its destination space, winter (which is very DEVASTATING!) and being within your home country). For each point that this modified die roll exceeds the lowest forage value occupied this turn, a strength point is lost. Those who move too quickly will soon find themselves marching their armies to death literally.

***Land battles occur when corps of two different alliances occupy the same space. Players choose tactical charts which are similar to those found in 1776/Caesar's Legions, except the results gained by the tactical portion of the game are more pronounced. Then, players consult a series of combat tables to fight out the battle in three rounds. In-between rounds of combat, players can dice for the arrival of reinforcements and of outflanking forces (if the 'outflank' tactic was chosen). In the case of outflanking forces, combat charts are altered when they arrive, which dramatically increases the moral losses incurred by the opponent. Cavalry are very handy due to their high moral, and that they determine rout losses.

***Casualties are in percentage losses of your forces. Ex: If I have 50 points of force, and you suffer 10% casualties, you lose 5 points. Outflanking forces count double (!). Moral losses are just as important. Each side calculates its ^{strength} moral based upon composition of force (infantry/cavalry/militia/cossacks/guerillas/guards), and a side retreats when its moral is reduced to zero. The losing side then is chased down by the victor's cavalry which can result in crippling losses if he does not have a cavalry force to screen his retreat.

***Fleets work similarly except they don't have to worry about foraging and supply, unless they are left out at sea for long periods of time. Fleets are susceptible to interception during their move; if they move adjacent or into a space occupied by enemy fleets, they can stop you for combat if they roll within a certain range, very much like in Third Reich.

***Final word on EIA: This is the Napoleonic equivalent of Third Reich except this game works much better. It's easier, more tense and the diplomacy is much more interactive, for players are in no way limited by historical alliances. If England and France wish to ally, they can, but that's not saying it's a wise move for either...

Vari-MaryCon News #1

***I was recently appointed by Dick Warner the position of MARYCON Variant Director. In preparation for the 1985 VARIMARYCON, I would like to get started on a project or two which Dick and I discussed over the telly, and will continue via the post. I hope to make all news and comments made public through my subxyn EXPLETIVE DELETED and in POLITESSE and DIPLMACY WORLD.

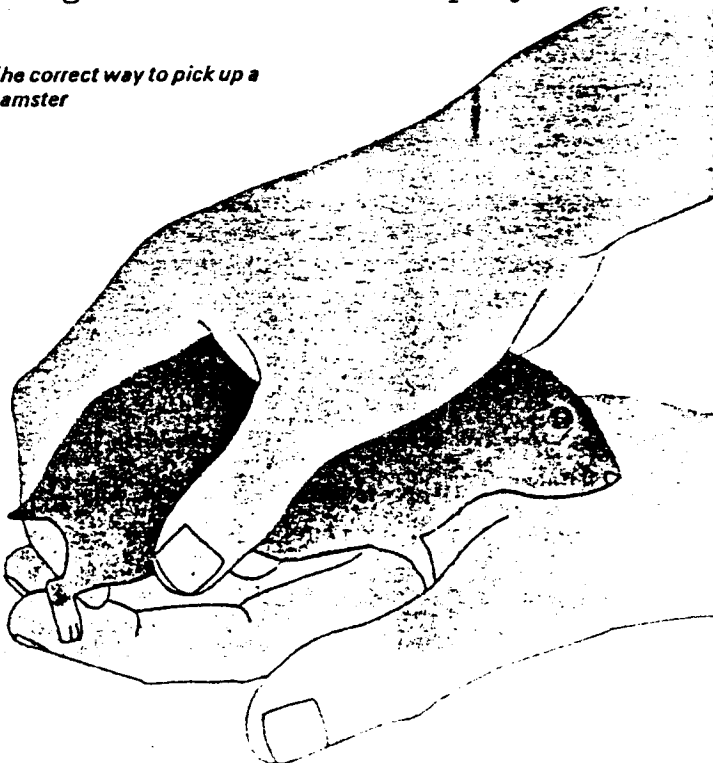
***One project we'd like to embark upon is that of playtesting and developing variants. Our gameplan would be in three steps. First, at the upcoming MARYCON, we will have a feature variant which hasn't been playtested. It will be played a few times both normally and gunboat. Comments will be taken, and the game map and rules changed accordingly. Then, during the Winter months, the game will be played again at MINI-MARYCON under the same guidelines. Finally, the variants will undergo a final playing in its finalized form.

***Therefore, I am soliciting variant designs from anybody who has them and would like them playtested. They are to be sent to me at PO Box 1324; SUNY Binghamton, NY 13901 no later than MARCH 1, 1985. I will be making the selections, so please provide everything I will be needing, and be ready to answer any rules questions.

***MARYCON will also be starting an archive of variant maps. We will be making nice full-sized versions of all variants we test, plus to get the collection started, maps of Abstraction and Final Conflict will be provided. These maps will be hanging on display at Mary Washington College for MARYCON; probably in the pub or the hall in which opening and closing ceremonies were held last year.

***I am anxious to hear any and all comments. Publishers are encouraged to mention this project in their xyns.

The correct way to pick up a
hamster



With much variance.....

Tom Swider
Tom Swider

TERRY TALLMAN DEPT.

Yes, this is yet another illustrations from the NY Times Best Seller's list, ARMENIAN SEX MANUAL.

ARMENIAN FOREPLAY

BEYOND THE BASICS: Playing the Pan-Arab League in FINAL CONFLICT

by Tom Swider

***So you just drew the black block of doom, eh? If you've played FINAL CONFLICT once or twice, you know how quickly South Africa and the Soviets crush your country, and any outside party which comes to your rescue never seem to arrive in time. What's a poor effendi to do?

***The Pan-Arab League have similar problems in FC as does Austria in regular Diplomacy, in that its central location gets it into deep trouble. Most players feel PAL is worse than Austria, for it never seems to get anywhere. Certainly there are plenty of centers for the taking in Europe and Africa, but its initial gains of Somalia, India and Iberia/Morocco make it too spread out, and consolidation never occurs.

***If this is the problem, it would appear then that the Arabs can't afford to go for all three of these neutrals in '01. It should be happy with just two, plus it should make sure it picks up a third non-center to give the PAL its first three builds. Considering that your army does NOT have to control territory from Iberia to India, holding your initial gains will be a lot easier with this more conservative expansion policy.

***If you observe this policy, then who are your enemies? Well, you have three choices: Russia, South Africa and China. Before I discuss your strategies against these three foes, I feel that I should explain how to defend your homeland.

***Your main threat is being crushed between South Africa and Russia. Russia is usually too busy making its European grabs in '01, and South Africa is too far to contest anything except Somalia, which you can support yourself into. Russia has an effective board edge in the north which protects him well. He can attack either yourself China or United States. His trail of thought usually is "USA is too far away to threaten me, while China can serve as a buffer between myself and Australia (besides, China and Australia will probably go to war anyway...), therefore my best choice is the Pan-Arab League.

***What YOU should mention to Russia is that the short term grabs in the middle east are exactly that; short term. Taking control of both Europe and the Middle East make Russia look too scary. A board alliance will eventually form, and Russia crushed. It is true that Russia is the strongest power on the board at the beginning of the game, but being too forward with that power can get people worried all too fast. The Russian should be encouraged to go after hard targets; ones that will be easier to hang onto later on in the game, such as North America and the rest of Asia.

***South Africa also has problems in choosing its enemy for the first part of the game. In many of the games I've seen, Africa takes over all of Africa, making it an attractive target for scavengers such as Brazil and Australia. A similar line of logic should be presented to South Africa; go for the tougher targets that will become permanent additions to his empire.

***Also, as I will illustrate in this series, lying can accomplish feats which appear to be impossible, such as conquering USA or Australia. One or two well placed tactical maneuvers can spell success. Of course, the political situation on board will either help or hurt your

surprise attacks' chances of succeeding. Oftentimes it is wise to attack the power that you can hurt the most by surprise moves.

***In the case of the PAL, the only dangerous move that will be posed is the South African threat to the Persian Gulf in Fall 2101. (Remember that Russia will be grabbing dots in Europe, though his A Oms is still available for a move to Kazakh). The best way to deal with that is to lie to him. Tell him that you'll support him into India with your plane, or that you'll give him Somalia. Hey, he may be mad at you at first, but you should be able to convince him of the logic behind your motives, and that the PAL can still be a good ally. By doing so, you also show South Africa that you ain't easy pickings. This also gives you the time to build a fleet and place it in the Persian Gulf.

***As to the matter of openings:

RUSSIA AS YOUR TARGET: There are two viable openings in my opinion which give you a consolidated position and an aggressive stance towards Russia.

1) f egy-SUD; a bag-TUR; a teh-KAZ; p sau-TEH.

***This allows you to keep yourself consolidated while putting serious hurt on Russia. Chances are slim of him opening to Kurdistan, and if so, you will just wind up exchanging centers at the worst. At best, you guarantee yourself one of his centers. If you should get bounced out of Kazakh, you can always pick up Pakistan and still go for Moscow (or move a tur-BAL and p teh-TUR, which threatens his European centers). True, you are opening the door to Brazil/USA presence in Europe, but if things are going downhill for you, they will be close enough to aid you. If you succeed in taking out Russia, your next step is to kick the westerners out of Europe. As for South Africa, tell him that Morocco is his if he'd like. Giving India to either South Africa or Australia is usually a bad idea, for India serves as a nice base into invading the Middle East. If you support somebody in, give preference to China (unless he's building lots of armies, in which case Australia is your next best alternative.

2) f egy-MED; a teh-SAU; a bag-TUR; p sau-EGY

***A surprise move of a tur-MOS has a good chance of succeeding due to Russian overconfidence (similar to the way in which Italy can nab Munich from Germany in Diplomacy). Your fleet must head out toward Iberia so that next year, you can use that fleet against Russia. Alternatively, you can convoy a tur-IBE and keep f MED at sea so that you can convoy an army built in Winter 2101 into Balkans. Again, the same line of logic for giving up India should be observed, but you will take Somalia for yourself. Giving South Africa India in this instance might encourage him to head towards Australia, since he does not own both Somalia and India, and that your main theatre of war will be in Europe. Plane Egypt is in a good position to support anything.

SOUTH AFRICA AS YOUR TARGET: Again, the opening which you should use depends upon the urgency of attacking your target.

1) f egy-PSG; a bag-SAU; a teh-PAK; p sau-EGY

***Having a fleet in the Persian Gulf assures you no hassles whatsoever. This opening allows you to move into both Somalia and India with support. Both of these centers are important in campaigning against South Africa; Somalia will allow you to build armies closer to his homeland while India will be a good location for an additional plane, which can help in taking NWI and MOZ. If you feel that support is not needed into both areas, f PSG call sally forth into NWI; you probably won't get it, but

it never hurts to try.

2) f egy-MED; a bag-TUR; a teh-SAU; p sau-EGY

***For the observant, this is a repeat of opening #2 against Russia. The follow-up against South Africa is a convoy to Morocco, and taking Somalia of course. In 2102, you will be able to put 2-3 units on Senegal. A Somalia can be supported into Kenya in S'02. So many possibilities exist.....

CHINA AS YOUR TARGET: This possibility might come in handy when and if Rus/PAL/Saf should form a triple alliance(!).

1) f egy-PSG; a teh-PAK; a bag-SAU; p sau-h (S'01)
f psj-IND; a pak-SIN; a sau-SOM; p sau-PAK (F'01)

***And, for completeness sake...the rest of the triple's openings:

South Africa:

f nam-MEA; a rho-ZAM; f cap-SWI; f moz-NWI (S'01)
f mea-SEN; a zam-ZAI; f swi-SEI; f nwi-NEI (F'01)

Russia:

f vla-SOJ; a oms-h; f ark-NWG; a mos-HUN; p hun-OMS (S'Q1)
f soj-NWP; a oms-MON; f nwg-ENG; a hun-GER; p oms-KAM (F'01)

***The whole cut and thrust here is that the Arabs will spend their time assisting South Africa and Russia against harder targets with their reward being China and southeast asia. F Ind will help SAF vs. Australia. Russia will only help PAL against China, but not participate in the spoilgrabbing except for Manchuria and Japan; with those centers and Vladivostok, he will be able to build enough fleets to have influence in the pacific. He will need it, for his target will be the United States. The Arabs will eventually take Iberia and Morocco, and then send units from that point to support Russia into Atlantic sea zones. PAL will eventually be spread out, but it will have its neighbors moving away from him, and he'll have a nice share of spoils.

SUMMARY: Start out slow. Remember, "Plotting" wins the race..... (Aesop's Fables)

UNITED

***UNITED is a soccer game invented by Alan Parr, and has a history of at least 3 years. Players play the role of manager of a team, and keep their teams from year to year. Seasons are held and matches are played using a simple numbers system which allows a number of goal attempts (a match between two teams is resolved in one mailing). Coaches also buy and trade draft choices and players.

***I know this is a bit late, but.....Bill Becker plans on starting a league of UNITED in the states by Sept. 15th, though if you ask nice, he may be able to fit in late-comers. For \$6.00, you will be in the game for one season's worth of postal soccer. I'd sign up if I had the time...maybe next year.

***If you want in or need a copy of the rules, write K-Zoo Bill at: 810 Turwill; Kalamazoo, MI 49007. Ph. 349-6937.

***Too bad there ain't a game like this based on the NFL...

I guess that's about it for now. The Con review will have to wait until next time. I could press Mara into doing 10 p's but this way it'll give ya something to read in the next warehouse issue.

All the best,
HOMC.

The Vicious Hate Sheet

#2

October 5, 1984

Circulation: 13

by Tom Swider

I want to thank everybody for the warm response to The Vicious Hate Sheet #1. Those comments raised my EGO rating by at least 4 points. I will even give special considerations for any player writing in "ego-boo" letters for The Gossip Column.

Also at this time I should talk about the quick deadline we had. I sent my things into Marc pre-dated, so if he's late, refer to the deadline for the Fool's Overture game in So I Lied, which will become the new deadline for ASSHOLE. For those of you reading TVHS in Retal, you will have no excuse for missing the original deadline. Mainly because Dick & Julie are the only people currently in ASSHOLE that have to get the results in R. Hopefully, its debute will inspire some of the Retal gang to join in. How about you, Ralph the Gnome? Or Tallman...oh, I forgot; he's deadwood.

Regardless, I think Marc is back on the straight roads these days, so things should go smoothly from this point on. I'm really psyched into doing this game, and my enthusiasm is directly sparked by YOUR enthusiasm.

I should note a few other things which didn't appear in the ASSHOLE report. Bill Becker (810 Turwill; Kalamazoo, MI 49007) is a late entry into the game, and will be running a Rusnack character. For those of you who are interested, Bill is a "). And, your DM is a "(", and proud of it!

Mike Barno will be doing a character named "Ben Arnold". For those of you who are not familiar with Ben, Ben Arnold (or B.ARNO-ld) was a pseudonym that Mykey used in Retaliation for a series of humor articles.

In a similar vein, I will be running one or two NPCs to make the game more interesting. My main character will be "Barney Oakley". I used this name to write "The Grapes of Wrath" in Al Pearson's Just Among Friends (a xyn from the Golden Era of postal Diplomacy). Although the character was used to mock Jack Masters' plagerizing of Thurber's works, the character played will be a spin-off of Tredick.

The team of Byrne/Arnawoodian will be playing "The Killer Wimps" of Olsen and Caruso (respectively). That's all I know so far about their plans.

The Vicious Hate Sheet is a journal of postal Megadip (aka Dippies & Hippies) published by Little Tommiee Swider, PO Box 1324, SUNY Binghamton, NY 13901. Phone (607) 729-2830. You have to sub to SIL or RETAL to get this, or do what Walker does and buy the used issues off of somebody for an exorbitant price. You can enter the game at any time, at your own risk.. A SASE with 2 stamps will get you a copy of the rules.

Dippies & Hippies is a registered trademark for a game invented by me and perfected by Fred Davis, and is copyrighted by Robinson Hill Game Company.

The deadline for all games contained herein is November 17, 1984.

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A S S H O L E

|                      |                                                    |                    |
|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| ) Dick Martin        | 26 Orchard Way North; Rockville, MD 20854          | Moose Flimsey      |
| ( ) Julie Martin     |                                                    | Hari Kari Cufflink |
| ( Ken Peel           | 8708 1st Ave Apt T-2; Silver Springs MD 20910      | Moritz Busch*      |
| ( ) Ed Wrobel        | Box 3463; Arlington VA 22203                       | Leery Parody*      |
| ( Brad Wilson        | Box 327; Lake Forest College, IL 60045             | T.G. Satin         |
| ( Doug Byrnes        | 2911 Frederick Ave; Baltimore MD 21223             | ed. Noble*         |
| ( ) Kathy Byrne      |                                                    | ? ? ? ? ?          |
| ( John Caruso        | 160-02 43d Ave; Flushing NY 11358                  | ? ? ? ? ?          |
| na Steve Arnawoodian | 602 Hemlock Circle; Lansdale PA 19446              | ? ? ? ? ?          |
| ( ) Mike Barno       | 2811 Robins St; Endwell NY 13760                   | ? ? ? ? ?          |
| ( Mark Larzelere     | 7607 Fountainebleau #2352; New Carrollton MD 20784 | ? ? ? ? ?          |
| ( ) Bob Olsen        | 6818 Winterberry Circle; Wichita KS 67226          | Kathy Boine*       |
| ( Joan Exstrom       | Rt 1 Box 26 W; Philomath OR 97370                  | ? ? ? ? ?          |
| ( ) Dave Grabar      | 1583 Truman Street; Chowchilla CA 93610            | ? ? ? ? ?          |

The Vicious Hate Sheet now boasts 13 subscribers, OVER 1/3 of them from Maryland! We have 2 New Yawkers, 1 New Yorker, 1 from Lansdale, 1 from VA,KS,CA & OR. I hope to get some more players from the Midwest and from the west coast so that we can round out the geographical distribution of ASSHOLE.

The topic this time around is sex..... a ")" in front of your names means you enjoy being on top. "(" means you prefer to let your partner do the work. "()" means you like it anyway you can get it.

If you have a name for your character, there's a name after your address which matches the name of your Dippies & Hippies character. An "\*" means you have a character profile on file. If you don't have a "\*" you need to send me a description of the character you will be role playing as soon as possible.

PRESS:

BOINE to GM: You know how much I hate snotty little kids who can't mind their own business, and you know how much I hate stupid moron GMs who don't know what they're doing--and yet you are both! Where the hell is our map? How can I play this game without a map? Listen, I've got lots better things to do with my time than bother with you, you clown! Shape up--or we'll ship you out!

ARIES to MOMMIE BOINE: Gee, if I'm a bad little boy, will you give me a spanking? Or better yet, could you get Mistress Julie to do the honors? You're never going to get rid of me; I'm in charge now!

AN EXCERPT FROM ed. NOBLE's PETULANCE: "...and just because you guys were already publishing when I was busy discovering Black Sabbath and controlled substances you think you can lead me around by the nose? Do you really think you can tell me anything? I have two year's publishing experience behind me, but you guys have had the same year of experience 15 times! So let me tell you a thing or two, you pompous, arrogant old farts..."

ARIES: That sounds more like an excerpt from "Feudess", MY favorite xyn!

MORITZ BUSCH: First, I want everyone to realize that I am a genuine individual from Bismark's Germany, and that any resemblance I may have to someone in postal Diplomacy is merely coincidental. Second, I want everyone to know that I do not necessarily support Rod or Moose in every arguable minute and insignificant detail. The fact, however, that ultimately the historical record--as seen in Diplomacy Zeitgeist (Moritz Busch, ~~edit~~ custodian)--proves them correct in the majority of minutiae deemed most salient to the larger issue, speaks for itself.

I just tried some fish food, and found I liked it even more than Kibble 'N Bits! It makes a DELICIOUS topping. Sprinkle some of it on some ice cream and see how much your friends enjoy it. I'll bet they'll be pleasantly surprised!

4

The Gossip Column

From Moritz Busch (9/25/84):

Dear Tom,

I officially protest your conduct in this "game" as DM ((Dipi-Master)). The first deadline was much too short, and for my opening (sic) press I did not have sufficient time to put together the kind of substantial legalistic submission appropriate to the case. I take some offense with my low "party" rating, but I will not take issue with you on that; I am still getting over the beer bash at MaryCon. I sternly protest, however, my average "power" rating. There must obviously have been some mistake. My zine, with one of the highest sub list in the entire hobby--not that I want that many people, of course, but it helps keep down my losses since I use offset printing instead of xeroxography (sic)--is, in a sense, a hobby service, and I have beend doing this for more than 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  years! And in all that time, no complaints about my reprint policy.

What? Well those 35 don't count because I am convinced (Moose advised me so) that they are all pseudonyms of Barney Oakley, and it is the obligation of others to prove otherwise. No, birth cirtificates (sic) are not sufficient. They can be forged. I must see the copy of every piece of confidential correspondence written by these individuals that they have ever thrown away, or I am afraid that I will have to advise everyone that these people are perveyors of false information and that they do not exist.

If these supposed individuals continue to so fraglantly flaunt the accepted rules of conduct that I have decided should be established in he hobby, I believe it is our obligation (well, actually Moose's as the Hobby Private Life Custodian, but I obviously support him) to make everyone else aware of it. If one lies in something as important as Diplomacy, one just cannot know with certainty how seriously marred his morals actually are. I accept that if Bruce believes these people are homicidal, we should caution people in the real world of their probable tendencies. Well, actually Moose should, but I obviously support him. Bruce always tells me the straight scoop, and I challenge anyone to prove to me (now, I mean real proof) that there has ever been any untruth in all the varying and conflicting stories he has told others. So there.

((You have many valid points there, Moritz, but since I must be 100% subjective, I feel that a person who strikes over his mistakes in an official correspondance in a game requiring attention to detail will lose command of his audience, thus a lower Party rating. As I am still recovering from Moose's Anti-Beer Bash at Detroit DipCon, I inadvertantly gave you too many Power points, for the reasons explained in The Vicious Hate Sheet #1.

((I agree that non-existing people should present a complete inventory of all correspondences (including any letters they plan to send in the future). But what if the letter is marked "NFP/DNQ/FYEO/SPQR"? Are non-existing entities protected by your accepted rules of conduct?))

From Ben Schilling (7/3/84):

Dear Tom,

So, how's the hobby's intrepid cricket hunter these days? You should have made Origins. I really felt that the postal hobby, especially the East Coast Clique, decided to take their marbles home and stay away when the (illegal (no major con as required)) MaryCon bid was voted down last year. The rather blatant attempt to steal DipCon through charter amendments further convinces me of that. If this continues somebody is going to make me angry, and I guarantee them that they will not appreciate that. Let's be reasonable, DipCon belongs to everybody, not just one segment of the hobby. The local players were there, but the postal players weren't.

I hope that you can use the enclosed pictures, identified on the backs, for your issue #100. ((He means for the Hobby Frontal Nudity Album.)) The only question I have

about that is: How are you going to top NMR! #50? If you don't "see" that zine (sic), #50 was a thirty-minute cassette tape... ((Aural Sex? Ohhh, how kinky!))

Other information of note: Caruso (the cat) is dead. That means there'll be another Hobby Mascot vote before too long in LSD. I figured that, as the instigator of that whole mess, you'd like to have that tidbit. I think that Doodah the wonder slug would probably be a good choice.

I'm enclosing my impressions of DipCon and a report on this year's Gunboat tournament. See you in Seattle next year?

((Not on your life! As the button sez, "The ECC: Like It or Leave It!". Thanks for the Con report and the nude glossies. Although they were a bit sticky, I was able to pull them apart without ruining the photos.

((I think you use the term ECC too loosely. The main proponent of the MaryCon bid would be WARTHOG and Fred Davis and Dick Warner. I feel that they run the BEST show I've seen. I also hope to work closely with Dick as I will be responsible for VariMaryCon. What's wrong with having a DipCon away from a major convention? I realize you don't attract the same numbers, but what you lose in quantity you make up for in quality; quality in players and in enjoyment. And who said that DipCon couldn't be held by itself and away from the East Coast? As far as I'm concerned, there will always be a MaryCon, so I don't care where DipCon is being held. In fact, MaryCon allows the ECC to be satisfied while allowing others the experience of tourney level Dip, which isn't so hot. The idea of these cons (in my opinion) is to meet with friends. The smallness of MaryCon allowed me to make a number of new friends.

In my book, The Real Hobby Mascot is Nobody (mark lew's entry).))

~~~~~

By the deadline date (11/17/84), you should submit:

- 1) Character descriptions (for those of you without them on file; you know who you are!).
- 2) Press.
- 3) Any projects you'd like to embark upon (if any).

Next time, I will print the attributes of all characters after modification, including NPCs (which are controlled by me).

~~~~~

I should mention that the revised edition of the Dippies & Hippies rules are now completed. You should have a set of them in your hands by the time you read this in the xyn. They don't have a sample game turn in them (yet) though when my printer comes back from vacation in Santa Monica, future copies of the rules will have the examples. I am sending the first copies out to Byrnes, Exstrom and Grabar, who have yet to see any edition of the D&H rules. The only changes are in TOADY and EGO rules for the most part, as outlined in TVHS #1.

A warning to everybody: in the mail two days ago, I received a copy of a xyn called Le Fronte De Europa Du Expressish. Although it looks impressive with cartoon characters accompanying the adjudications and colored pages, I advise people to stay away from FEE since it is being published by Barney Oakley. I won't even tell you how to get a sample! Oakley has done such dastardly things such as personifying Monarch Butterflies and Newts. This guy's a loony!

~~~~~

WANTED: Nasty letter written by me to a 12 year old girl. Highest offer over \$50 accepted. Send inquiries to Tom Swider; PO Box 1324; SUNY Binghamton, NY 13901

JUST ANOTHER BORING(?) EDITORIAL

In the last issue I ran what I thought was just yet another opinion on feuding in general. A lot of people have been expressing themselves on this topic lately, and my comments seemed unlikely to spur reply. Wrongo, buffalo breath! A few people wrote commending my stand, but the most lucid and thought-provoking letter came from Bob Olson. Much of it concerned Bruce Linsey, and since he is apparently pulling a semi-retirement from the hobby, I shall omit much of Bob's letter. But I would like to quote selective parts. (Yes, I'm well aware how much trouble that can get one in.)

"I'd like to comment on the editorial in SIL #3 if I may. As I understand it, you think that we should just ignore the Linsey-Byrne feud and let the principals fight it out among themselves (using, I presume, in Linsey's case, any methods he deems convenient). If this is what you meant to say, I couldn't agree less and I'd like to tell you why.

This whole thing--and I include the revelations about how Linsey 'got' Bill Highfield, and certain other episodes not yet generally known--differ in kind from the normal silly snits about house rules and moving to Tro. A consistent pattern on Linsey's part of taking his feuds into people's personal lives is evident. Nobody has to take Kathy Byrne's word for this; I subbed to VOD from #1 to #97, and Linsey had thousands of pages in which to make his case. Instead, he's hung himself."

In the next three paragraphs Bob goes on to describe various "hobby atrocities" he believes Bruce has committed, and they'll not be listed here because it appears that, with Bruce folding VOD, this whole mess just might have the chance to die a merciful death if left alone. Bob finishes by saying "He's ((Linsey)) been able to wreak this great harm on the hobby precisely because of the sort of passivity you suggest. It just won't work. Linsey, and his apologist Mark Berch--and it's now evident that there's not a dime's worth of difference between them--would LOVE to be able to pick off people one by one without a peep from the rest of us. This must not be allowed to happen. As far as I'm concerned "Solidarity" is not an empty word. NEVER AGAIN will anyone have to take on the Linsey element of the hobby alone. Any slander, innuendo, or lie from Linsey or his lapdog MUST be refuted. Any statement from them on ANY topic is suspect, given Linsey's track record, and given Berch's track record of enthusiastic endorsement of every filthy tactic, every lie Linsey has ever put forth.

It'd be nice to pretend this problem doesn't exist. It'd be nice to pretend that this is something other than a final struggle to prevent Linsey and his apologist from imposing a reign of terror on the hobby. But unfortunately, sticking our heads in the sand won't work any more." ((Caps substituted for underlined words.))

Whew. Yeah. Well, in the first place, the example I use of Bruce and Kathy was indeed an ill-advised choice. My editorial, which basically promoted the idea that hobby members should butt out of others conflicts, was not written specifically about that particular incident. I was referring to ALL hobby feuds, the vast majority of which are not nearly as complicated nor far reaching as the dispute between Byrne/Linsey. All too often these disputes grow as a result of on-lookers not actually involved throwing more fuel on the fire (sort of like Bradbury's firemen of Fahrenheit 451). Certainly Bruce and Kathy's dispute was not ordinary, involving as it did the BNC. There have been numerous accusations about some pretty nasty letters being sent. Bob will think me osterich-like, but it's still none of our business. If those letters actually exist, either party has recourse in legal officials and even law suits. (If you were a doctor, and someone sent your daughter an obscene letter, would you contact the police or the AMA?) Kathy no doubt felt she was doing the right thing in stepping down as BNC, thus hopefully removing the controversy from the office. It was a well intended decision, and completely wrong in my opinion. I'm surprised a scrapper like Kathy even thought of it. If I were BNC and someone started making accusations, I wouldn't even consider stepping down until some very solid proof was offered. In Diplomacy, accusations without substantiating evidence are a dime a dozen, and should be ignored as the fluff they are until proof is offered. I heard most of what was accused in this matter, and laughed it off. Bitter feelings abound in

the postal community, and it seems impossible to me that anyone could actually lend credence to any accusations not accompanied by some tangible evidence. Perhaps that's my problem--just because I don't heed mud-slingers doesn't mean others aren't ready to jump on the Blitzing Bandwagon. I guess that was my whole point in my previous editorial: do NOT pay ANY attention to accusations made without substance. If everyone could count on this reaction, people wouldn't have to worry about what others will think of them whenever character assassinations begin. What I do not understand is: how do you drive someone out of the hobby? How would you drive ME out? Fact is, you couldn't do it. Get everyone to boycott my zine? Difficult, but if you're successful, I'll just stop pubbing. Big deal--every pubber know the chore of pubbing is offset solely by the gratitude of the subbers. When they no longer want the product, it's time to stop anyway. Oust me from all my games? That WOULD hurt, but you can't do it. Destroy my reputation? I'll count on my friends to stand by me, and the rest of you be damned if you're that easily swayed--you are not friends anyway if that's the case. The fact is, I don't believe one or two villians can drive anyone out. It's a voluntary decision. And if everyone would mind their own business, no one would have to worry about what others think. As for anything that goes beyond mere bootless denunciations, that's a matter for the law, and legal action SHOULD be taken. 'Nuf said; I'm fast becoming a wind-bag. I hope y'all you understand what I've tried to express, especially you, Bob. It's difficult to find fault with those who would defend their friends. I was berating those who add their own hot air to disputants blowing the accusatory horn.

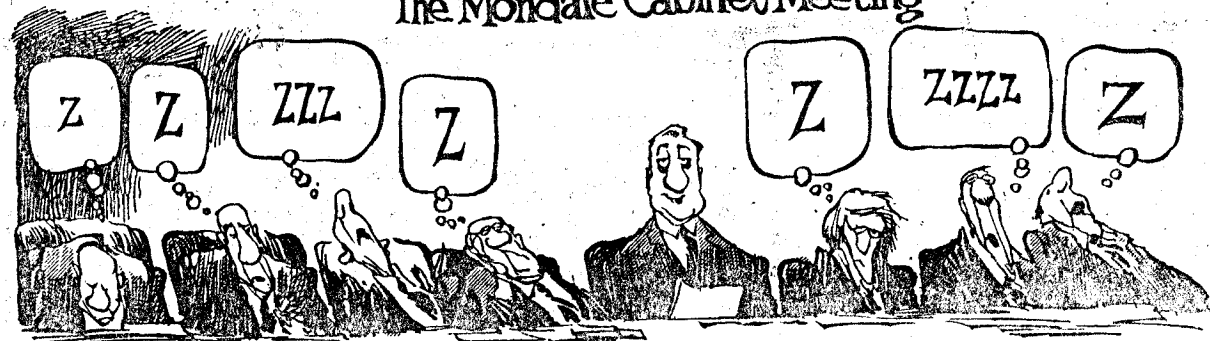
Chicago Tribune

The Reagan Cabinet Meeting



A SUMMERIZATION
OF EACH CANDIDATE:
SENILITY VS. THE
BOREDOM FACTOR.

The Mondale Cabinet Meeting



Only David Pierce was kind enough to send me joke material (although Fred Davis did send much appreciated background information about the ditty). The offer of free issues obviously didn't do the trick, so a new tack is required: puns. Yes folks, until you start helping me run my zine for me, you shall be subjected to the most wretched form of humor in existence; just like the king who grew so tired of his jester's horrendous puns he threw the fool into a closet, locked the door, and informed the jester he'd remain there until he made a pun about the situation. Whereupon the fool promptly yelled out "Oh, pun the door!" Groan! And it'll only get worse until I get some jokes! You've been warned!!

Partial Playlist: Beatles "Rubber Soul" (only group that makes me nostalgic for my youth); Blondie "Eat to the Beat (truly, "I'm Not Living in the Real World!") Mozart "Die Zauberflöte" (The Magic Flute) (My favorite, sang an aria from it in high school competition; also: slap four discs on and you're set for an hour!)

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Two months ago when I first prepared a list of sayings which could be applied to Diplomacy because we needed another page, that's all it was--a filler. Last month, I decided it was important to share our fifth anniversary with SIL subbers so I wrote a second filler. I didn't think anyone ever got to this page before they started rapidly writing letters to other Dip players. However, I discovered people do read the last page and Steve "Cupcake" Knight thank you for very much for the note and anniversary gift. The drinks were old-fashioned when we went out for our anniversary dinner.

Many times I wrote "articles" for some zine or other, but just didn't take the last step of sending them out...just a wee bit of fear in seeing it printed, until we needed that last page of SIL. Now, I plan to write something every month! This month it's about me.

Everyone reading this has heard of Marc or me and some know us personally. My knowledge of the people we have not met personally, however, is like a grab bag. Little pieces here and there from conversations and tidbits in zines, but not enough to get a complete picture of the person. Despite the common theory that all Diplomacy players are fanatics, we all must have other lives. Some other interests that tie in with the rest of humankind. In order to prove this, I'm putting something in writing about other forces that influence my life.

I am not a die-hard Diplomacy player. Quite often, I die quite easily. (In the game...not in an argument.) Part of this is inexperience and part is a lack of commitment. Marc, on the other hand, now has the experience and always had the commitment. While he was getting the experience, I was working on other things: keeping the house clean, our cats healthy and lately, keeping Lisa in school.

Housecleaning is not one of my high priorities. but, after growing up with a mother who spent all her spare time "doing things around the house," I find it hard to let things pile up, leave floors dirty and bathrooms unscrubbed. Since the only way to keep a house clean is not to live in it, housecleaning is one of those neverending jobs.

Keeping our four cats healthy and as little of a rent risk as possible is another home job that is a category by itself. Recently, Natasha, our grandma kitty, had to have surgery because her teeth were so bad. She lost both canine teeth and is now on a special diet because she needs food that is low in protein. Her vet told us it was not an unusual problem for a thirteen year old cat. from my viewpoint, prospects are good that she will live to be one of those grand "little ole ladies" of 25 cat years, which is 175 human years.

In many articles I'll mention Marc, Dale and Lisa. Again, Marc and Dale (Madman) Bakken are known because they are in the hobby. Lisa is not so well known because she is not a Dip player, yet. She is my younger sister, who after numerous adventures, came to live with us last January. As a sophomore in high school, the value of an education is not too clear yet and keeping her in school with good grades is a continuous challenge. In the last nine months, Marc and I have had some of the most rewarding times and some of the most frustrating times. As I reread this last sentence, I realized that most rewarding experiences come from the most frustrating circumstances. If SIL is still being published in June, 1986 expect one article on how Marc and I got her through high school and what a wonderful person our new graduate is.

After reading this little expose', I should be more dimensional - not simply the publisher of SIL. That was my intention. To know someone it is necessary to know something about that person's lifestyle. If anyone else would like to write something similar, I would welcome the chance to print it on this page. The one thing I ask is that it is truthful--I don't relish the idea of eating the words "SO I LIED." If you wish to have something kept confidential until the publishing of SIL, address the Envelope to "Debi's Filler."

SO I LIED!
c/o Marc & Debi Peters
1814 Cameron Drive #3
Madison, WI 53711-3357

FIRST
CLASS
MAIL



ROD WALKER
1273 CREST DRIVE
ENCINITAS
CA 90049

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