

Opening Shot

It was a close thing. I nearly had two jobs. I had already met the principal of the school and agreed on the class and texts I'd use (an advanced grade 13 class, rather than the slow grade 12 I'd originally been offered) and I'd been to the board offices to fill out the necessary tax forms (where, I was delighted to discover, I was served by a former student, now a charming young lady). The call for the computer operator's job came with about 48 hours left before I'd have been committed irrevocably to teaching for five weeks.

So, I've been a government employee these past few weeks, earning my keep by servicing the needs of not one, but two Cyber 170's (they're big), and their attendant hosts of 38 disk drives, seven tape transports, three line printers, two plotters, and miriads of terminals. And all this is to run one medium-sized government department.

THE ZINE THAT DARES TO BE KNOWN BY GOOD TASTE ALONE...

| | |
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STANDBY ORDERS REQUESTED FROM:

| | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Jan Jensen, 1983 Q | p. 7 |
| Garry Paulson, 1982 IF | p. 13 |
| BONUS: Adam James Carter | p. 16 |
| Mommy & Daddy Carter | p. 3 |

Shift work is part of the routine, as those machines have to keep producing printouts 24 hours a day, else the entire department, and hence the government, cannot function. (Why do I get this vague feeling that I've entered Kafka's Castle?) Which brings up a problem. This week I'm on the evening shift (4-midnight), which means I simply cannot make the necessary telephone calls for NMR Insurance (unless you want me to call before 3 pm or after 1 am). Ann volunteered to take care of it this time (bless her heart). But, listen guys, you can no longer count on me being home during the evenings—and don't dare call when Ann's sleeping!—so **USE THE MAIL!** Seriously. I don't mind the occasional emergency, but some of you are depending on using the telephone, either to call me, or for me to call for NMR Insurance—and that dependancy has to stop. It's a postal hobby, so please use it as such.

Judging from the mail service I've been getting NMR Insurance calls should be rare. Instead, I've been having to make 5-6 every issue—and that's a problem, even more so now that I can't always call you. Since I've moved to the city, Special Delivery letters have been getting here in good time (about 24 hours). I don't know about Special Delivery from the U.S. yet, but will keep you posted on how well that works if someone tries it again. SD is a lot cheaper than a phone call. (Oh, please don't call during the day, either, as, if I've been on the midnight shift, I won't appreciate being awakened at 10 in the morning. If you must phone, try between 8 and 10 pm. I'll be on evenings only 2 weeks out of every 8, so the odds are with you. Better yet, telephone during the weekend before the deadline.)

Anyhow, 90% of you are great about getting orders in in good time via the mail. I appreciate it. Thanks.

SNAFU! is a zine devoted to the postal play of DIPLOMACY and its variants. The board game is produced in Canada by Waddington's House of Games in Bramalea, Ontario.

SNAFU! is published by Ronald James Brown, 1200 Summerville Ave, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1Z 8G4. Tel: 613: 722-5059 (Before 10).

Subscriptions: 10 for \$8.00 in Canada or the USA. \$10 overseas. See Battle Stations for any game openings.

There's been some to-do in the U.S. zines lately about "Not For Print" or "Do Not Quote" messages appearing on letters to publishers. Some pubbers have taken to splitting hairs about the precise meaning of these messages with the result that items not intended for publication are getting passed about. I know of a few who have thrown up their hands and said that from now on anything sent to them is for publication, no matter what the author has indicated. I believe this whole affair is absurd. Off the cuff remarks, or private messages, are a part of communications, and I want to assure anyone sending something to me that I do understand plain English and respect your requests not to print items if you wish. It's something I've often run into and I've never had any problems with it.

Further, some GMs have decided to inflict the rule that "Draws Include All Survivors" (called DIAS) on their games. I've already discussed this rule in my Rules articles and said I think it is a poor rule that should not be in any revisions of the Rule Book. DIAS takes control of the course of the game away from players and drastically changes the aims and negotiations during the game. It is a stupid rule, because players should have the right to decide who should share in a draw—and negotiating such is part of the game. Because of the fuss, I think I should repeat here that DIAS will never be imposed on the games I am running. Period. You guys decide who will be part of your draws. They're your games.

I don't understand why these sorts of "controversies" spring up from time to time. Diplomacy's supposed to be fun, not an exercise in legalistic arguments. A little common sense would go a long ways in some quarters.

Before I forget, and one tends to, I'd like to express heartfelt thanks to all those who sent messages of encouragement and help during my recent spell of Depression style living. Being unemployed is like being on an emotional roller-coaster—and it can be very hard at times to maintain a sense of perspective and balance, let alone work up the necessary enthusiasm when one keeps reading about PhDs who haven't found work for three years, or massive layoffs in the field you're trying to get into. But, all the little notes scribbled at the bottom of pages of orders, or on the backs of zines—and the full letters giving advice and guidance, all helped tremendously. It's really nice to know that there's so many people out there plugging for you.

The next stage in my career change (you didn't think I intended to stay a computer operator for long, did you?) will be to learn a few more languages. I have access to the system at work outside of my working hours, and so can play with programs in Assembler or Pascal, or whatever. I've also had a chance to write a few programs for a local elementary school. They were delighted with the results—and I was delighted to be able to write them for them. So, we'll see. Nothing's settled yet, except that I am working—and that makes a difference.

Otherwise, anniversary coming up next month. I have an article on the history of the hobby in Great Britain, but would like more of that kind of thing. Any variants you'd like me to print? Now's the time, as the anniversary issue is where I break the budget. I appreciate getting articles as soon as possible so I can type them up on the word processor at least a week before the deadline. Thanks in advance.

Trust as many of you as possible made it to Detroit and had a great time. Wish I could have been there, but, I could hardly ask for time off after only a few weeks on the job. Maybe next year. If any of you took pictures of the goings-on and people present and can spare some, I'll give you sub credits for any you can send—and return the pictures slightly marked up (glue on the backs). Hope you're all enjoying the summer holidays.

Other Zines

Received a sample of a relatively new zine recently. DJAGH (short for Diplomacy Is Just A God-damned Hobby) put out by Glen Taylor, 13,635 Grenoble Drive, Rockville, MD 20853. I can't find any info about price, frequency, or game openings. Oh well. The issue I got was 28 pages, with lots of letters, a report on a Mathematical Olympiad, and an article on "Passive Defense against Nuclear Attack." Quite a variety of topics. Best check it out for yourself.

Hobby News

We have a new Boardman Number Custodian: **Kathy Byrne**, of 160-02 43 Avenue, Flushing, New York, 11358. So, start sending all game starts and stats to Kathy. She did a great job with the Orphan Rescue Service a while back and I'm sure she'll do just fine. Super thanks to **Don Ditter** for the great job he's done with the BNC these past few years. It's a very demanding and thankless task, but I'm saying thanks anyhow. Best of luck to Kathy.

Re. the CDO Co-ordinatorship, I'm no further ahead than last month. I wrote Anwyl, asking his intentions, but have received no response, though four weeks seems like a reasonable time to respond to something so important in. Meanwhile, Steve Hutton is trying to re-write the CDO Constitution so that it makes sense. I suggested he opt for a committee system so that responsibility can be shared. I guess I'll have to hold off announcing my resignation until that's straightened out and we know where we stand. Of course, any new constitution will have to be ratified by the members, so, looks like it's going to take a while to get everything sorted out.



Canadian Summit Meeting, March, 1983
Rear: Dave Carter, Anwyl of Weismark
Front: Me, Steve Hutton, Julie Carter

Rules

RULE VI: The Board and Set (Part Two)

Section Three of this rule describes the starting positions of the playing pieces. Notice that certain limitations and conflicts are inevitable in the beginning set-up.

For example, Russia is prevented from going immediately to Norway on the opening move, by being assigned a Fleet on the South Coast of St. Petersburg. This assures England of one uncontested supply centre in 1901. England may well wish to start with three Fleets, as England must develop as a sea power, but she is limited, somewhat, by being assigned one army in the beginning. The Austrian Fleet Triest makes it somewhat difficult to launch an immediate all-out assault on Italy, as the Fleet has a very limited value in such a battle. Italy is protected, in 1901, from France as well, by virtue of the Army in Marseilles. Imagine the problems Italy would have if Austria began with an Army Triest and France with a Fleet Marseilles.

Real problems are caused by the placing of Turkey's Fleet. Russia and Turkey must be immediately suspicious of each other, with those fleets aimed at each other across the Black Sea. But Austria would be very unlikely to gain control of Greece in 1901 if the Turkish Fleet began in Smyrna.

The beginning set-up is a well thought-out balance of power. Neighbours must begin immediate negotiations. Will Germany allow Russia to take Sweden in 1901? Will there be a clash in Burgundy or the English Channel? How will Russia and Turkey resolve the Black Sea conflict? Will Italy head towards France, Turkey, or Austria? Who gets Belgium? For the answers to these, and similar questions, see the Spring, 1901 adjudication for any game. And, at that point, the battles have already begun.

1982 I - Mensa 16

AUTUMN, 1905: ENG: F Nth R Bel. GER: A Mun R Sil.

WINTER, 1905: ENG: B F Lon. GER: D A Pic, A Bur.
TUR: B A Con. RUS: B A War, A Mos.

SPRING, 1906: GERMANY GOES FOR ENDRUN WHILE RUSSIA AND ITALY CROWD HOMELAND. LADY PODAG VISITS BEATLE SHRINE AND SCOTS START LEARNING RUSSIAN.

ENG (Mike Mazzer): F Edi & A Lvp - Cly (F Edi /d/, R: Yor, Cly, OTB; A Lvp /d/, R: Wal, Yor, OTB); F Lon* S F Bel - Nth*.

FRA (Robert Young): F Por* S ITA F Lyo - Spa (sc) (NSO);
F Bre* - Eng; A Gas - Bur*; A Par - Pic*.

GER (Windy Windblad): F Kie - Hol*; A Sil - Gal*.

ITA (Keith Sesler): F NAO* S TUR A Cly - Lvp*; F Lyo* S &
A Mar* S F WMed - Spa (sc)*; A Pie* S A Mar; A Mun - Ruh*;
A Tyr - Mun*.

RUS (Dave Lincoln): F Nwg* S F Nth - Edi*; A Nwy* H; A Ber* S
A Den - Kie*; F Bal - Den*; A Boh* S A War - Sil*; A Mos
- War*; F Aeg - Ion*.

TUR (Paula Dodge): A Cly - Lvp*; F MAO* - Eng; F NAF* - NAO
(IMP); F Tyr - WMed*; F Ion - Tyr*; A Ser - Gre*; A Con
- Bul*.

Summer Retreats and Fall, 1906 due Friday, 19 August, 1983.
(Next deadline: 23 September)

NOTES: We have a proposal for a draw of Russia, Turkey, and Italy. As this is the first proposal, No Vote Received = "No," but please get in the habit of voting.

Because of England's retreat, please revise the 1905 supply centre chart to show England 4 (home, Belgium); France 4 (Par, Bre, Por, Spa).

Also, there is no standoff in Clyde, as England A Lvp was dislodged by an attack from there; hence, Clyde is available as a retreat route. (I once had a big argument about this in a game—I was wrong—so I thought I'd point it out.)

PRESS

Turkey to Russia: I think my betrothed in England just got the shock of his life! Lady Podag from Turkey.

Liverpool to Clyde: What's a nice girl like you doing in a place like this?

Moscow to London: Your welcome press to Turkey's assumed entry into the "IBSDL" Society was obviously premature. However, you may now enroll twice.

London to Ankara: Dear Lady Podag, Hadn't you better start looking to your homeland rather than taking all these expensive junkets to Scotland?

Bourse (82 I)

SPRING, 1906: ANOTHER NEW COMPANY ADDS TO MARKET TRENDS.
ROUBLE HEADS FOR \$2.00US!

| | US\$ | £ | Fr | DM | L | R | Tp |
|-----------------|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| OIC (Briggs) | 0.98 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1962 | 500 | 3250 |
| MI (Cusack) | 0.25 | 0 | 1350 | 0 | 1259 | 2224 | 1485 |
| JILT (Gaughan) | 3844.78 | 0 | 0 | 500 | 1400 | 1600 | 1000 |
| BOT (Gautron) | 53.00 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 2000 | 1000 | 1100 |
| VIC (Jensen) | 66.62 | 600 | 0 | 2000 | 2000 | 2000 | 1200 |
| OIL (Lowe) | 30.82 | 0 | 0 | 935 | 990 | 4100 | 2110 |
| MINE (Phillips) | 31.50 | 0 | 500 | 500 | 1800 | 1000 | 2600 |
| CRAP (Smith) | 8355.00 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Purchases | | 0 | 0 | 200 | 3221 | 1000 | 100 |
| Sales | | 1000 | 2000 | 1550 | 500 | 0 | 1250 |
| Net Change | | -1000 | -2000 | -1350 | +2721 | +1000 | -1150 |
| Old CMP | | .55 | .55 | .75 | 1.21 | 1.76 | 1.62 |
| Change | | -.10 | -.20 | -.13 | +.27 | +.10 | -.11 |
| New CMP | | .45 | .35 | .62 | 1.48 | 1.86 | 1.51 |

Fall, 1906 due Tuesday, 16 August, 1983 (Next: Tues., 20 Sept)

NOTES: The new company is: la Banque de l'Ordre du Temple (fondée en 1128), owned by Claude Gautron, 620 rue St-Jean Baptiste, Winnipeg, Man R2H 2Y1.

OIC (Jim Briggs) has a COA: PFC James M. Briggs, 546-23-3253, HHB,S+F Bn, TSB, Ft Bliss, TX 79906 (after 20 July).

Still having problems with people trying to sell more than 500 units of a currency per turn. Come on: it's such a simple rule! Oh, I made a correction for OIL's dollar holdings. Don't know why I keep picking on him for simple adding errors!

Bourse continues page 15

1981 W - North 1

WINTER, 1909: ENG: B F Lon. RUS: D A Sil.

SPRING, 1910: BIG NORTHWARD PUSH ACROSS MAP AS RUSSIA MOVES TO MEET ENGLISH THREAT. LOGJAMS BREAKING UP?

AUS (Bob Olsen): F WMed* S ITA F MAO; A Bud* S A Gal*; A Gal S A Rum - Ukr*.

ENG (Errol Platt): F Nth - Nwy*; F Lon - Nth*; A Hol* - Kie; F Swe* - Den; A Bur* - Ruh; A Gas - Par*; A Bre* H; F NAO* S & F Eng* S F Iri* - MAO.

ITA (Bill Young): F Por* S & F Spa(oc)* S F MAO*; F MAO g A Mar - Gas*; F Lyo* S A Pie - Mar*; A Ven* S A Tyr*; A Tyr S A Vie - Boh*.

RUS (Garvin Boyle): A Mos - StP*; A War* S A Ukr - Mos*; A Mun* - Ruh; A Boh - Mun /d/ (R: Sil, OTB); A Kie* - Den.

TUR (Steve Hutton): F Ion* H; A Bul* H; A Sev* S AUS A Rum - Ukr; F Bla* S & A Arm* S A Sev.

Retreat and Fall, 1910 due Friday, 19 August, 1983.
(Winter & maybe Spring due 23 Sept.)

NOTES: Thanks to Mike Mazzer for unneeded standby orders. We have a proposal for a concession to England. Please vote, as No Vote Received = "Yes."

1981 KA - North 2

AUTUMN, 1906: TUR: A War R Gal*.

WINTER, 1906: FRA: B F Mar. GER: B A Mun, A Ber. RUS: D F Bot, A Lvn (by GM). TUR: B A Ank.

SPRING, 1907: TURKISH ARMY STILL BEING KICKED AROUND. RUSSIA OUT. REGATTA IN MEDITERRANEAN.

AUS (Nelson Millar): A Vie* S A Bud - Gal*; A Tri* S A Vie;
F Ven* H; A Ukr - Mos*.

ENG (Jan Jensen): A StP* H.

FRA (Jack Jung): A Spa - Mar*; A Pie* - Ven; F Naf* - Tun;
F Tun* - Ion; F WMed* S F Tyr*; F Tyr S A Tus* - Rom;
F Mar - Lyo*.

GER (Blair Cusack): F NAO - MAO*; F Bal* S A Pru - Lvn*; A Ber
- Pru*; A Nwy* - StP; A Tyr* S A Boh*; A War* H; A Mun* S
& A Boh S A Tyr.

ITA (CD): A Rom*.

RUS (CD): A Mos /A/.

TUR (Paul Rauterberg): A Ank - Arm*; A Gal - War /d/ (R: Rum,
Ukr, OTB); F Rum - Bla* A Sev* S AUS A Ukr - Mos; F Adr*
S F Gre - Ion*; F Apu* S AUS F Ven; F Nap* S ITA A Rom.

Retreat & Fall, 1907 due Friday, 19 August, 1983.

(Next deadline: 23 September)

NOTES: Thanks to Dale Bakken for standby orders. The A-T-F-G draw was defeated.

PRESS

Budapest: The Canadian Post Office needed more than a week to deliver a letter 70 miles. Shit, my grandmother can jog that in a week.

1982 J - North 3

SPRING, 1906: ENGLAND INVADES GERMANY; TURKEY INTO AUSTRIA, WHILE ITALY CAUGHT IN THE CRUSH.

AUS (Nelson Millar): A Ven* S TUR A Apu - Rom; A Vie - Tyr*;
A Bud - Ser*.

ENG (Doug Millstone): F Eng* C A Lon - Pic*; F Edi - Nth*;
F Hol - Kie*; F Bel - Hol*; A Swe* § F Ska* - Den;
F StP (nc)* H.

FRA (Darryl Phillips): A Bre* H; F MAO* M§ F Spa (sc)*;
A Mar* H; A Pie* - Tus.

GER (Martin Taylor): A Den* § & F Bal* C A Pru* - Swe; A War
- Gal*; A Lvn* H.

ITA (Roy Smith): F Lyo* S F WMed* - Spa (sc); A Tus* - Rom.

TUR (Dennis Duncan): F Aeg - Ion*; F Ion - Nap*; F Sev - Bla*;
A Apu - Rom*; A Con - Bul*; A Mos* S GER A Lvn - War (NSO);
A Rum* S A Gal - Bud*.

Fall, 1906 due Friday, 19 August, 1983. (Next: 23 September)

NOTES: Thanks to John Davies for unneeded standby orders.

PRESS

Ibn-Abdullah-Duncan to Grand Duke Nelson: No doubt you have been expecting this for a long time; however, I do not enjoy this but I feel that the lack of builds indicates a lack of interest in our alliance and possible ill-designs towards the Sublime Porte and his people. I therefore regard it as necessary, to protect both our empires, that we take over the military responsibilities of our respective monarchies.

We wish to thank the government of Italy for their gracious offer of port facilities in the great port of Naples. By the wisdom of ALLAH, we no longer drink...alas. We do, however, ingest the Door to Paradise and are looking forward to making many new Italian friends.

Austria: It is now open season on Posties in Maniwaki. No license needed; no limit to the number of Posties taken in the hunt. All weapons allowed; all hunters are welcomed.

1983 Q - North 4

SPRING, 1902: FRANCE FALLS ASLEEP AT SWITCH AGAIN. RUSSIA FACES DOUBLE SET-BACK IN SOUTH.

AUS (Bob Acheson): A Ser* S A Bud - Rum*; A Vie - Gal*; F Gre* H; A Tri - Bud*.

ENG (Paul Watson): F Nwy* S RUS F Bot - Swe; F Lon - Eng*; F Nth* - Bel; A Yor* U.

FRA (Scott Marley): NMR! F MAO*, A Spa*, A Par*.

GER (Keith Sesler): A Mun* - Sil; A Kie - Ruh*; F Den* H; A Bur* S A Hol - Bel*.

ITA (Dennis Duncan): A Mar* S FRA A Spa - Gas (NSO); A Ven - Pie*; A Rom - Ven*; F Nap - Ion*; F Tun - WMed*.

RUS (Steve Berrigan): A War* - Sil; F Bot - Swe*; F Bla* & A Arm - Ank /d/ (R: Sev, Syr, OTB); A Rum - Bul /d/ (R: Ukr, Sev, OTB).

TUR (James Keeley): A Bul* S AUS A Ser - Rum (NSO); F Con* - Bla; A Ank* S A Smy - Arm*.

Autumn Retreats and Fall, 1902 due Friday, 19 August, 1983.
(Next deadline: 23 September)

NOTES: Will Jan Jensen, 115 Albro Lake Rd., #3, Dartmouth, NS B3A 3Y7 please submit standby orders for France. Thanks Jan. James Keeley has a COA, so here's all the addresses:

Bob Acheson, c/o Echo Bay Mines, Lupin, NWT XOE 1M0

Paul Watson, RR 5, Stony Plain, Alta TOE 2G0

Scott Marley, 12682 Swidler Pl., Santa Ana, CA 92705

Keith Sesler, PO Box 158, Fraser, MI 48026

Dennis Duncan, PO Box 1733, Saskatoon, Sask S7K 2L4

Steve Berrigan, 100 Leacock Dr., Kanata, Ont K2K 1S6

James Keeley, 12-3111 Blakiston Dr. NW, Calgary, Alta T2L 1L7

PRESS

Premier Duncanini to Europe: To quote Pierre Elliot True-dough: "Perhaps the Universe is unfolding as it should." But I will be damned if I can make any sense out of what is happening here.

1980 AM, Winter, 1910
 Draw: England, Russia,
 Turkey



1980 AM

Orphan 4

WINTER, 1910: THE PARTY'S OVER. ENGLAND, RUSSIA, AND TURKEY
 HAVE NO OPPOSITION TO THEIR PEACE PLANS.

Everyone voted in favour of the draw. Though it's really Spring, 1911, I think the usual practice is to go to the nearest Winter season for statistical purposes. (I may be wrong on that.) In any case, there's no point in adjudicating the spring moves, seeing as you're all in agreement on ending the game.

So, congratulations to Jan Jensen, Dave Carter, and Rob Lowes and thanks to Gary Ferguson and Pete Gaughan for taking standby positions. I agree the game is in a virtual stalemate, unless Turkey or Russia turned on the other, giving the win to England. Good, steady play from the drawees.

Endgame Statements due Friday, 12 August, 1983.

(This is early to give me a chance to put it all together before the big deadline rush. Thanks, guys.)

THE STATS

zines: INFIDEL! (to Spring '02); SNAFU! (to end)

GMs: Nick Russon (to Spring '02); Ronald J. Brown (to end)

| | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 06 | 07 | 08 | 09 | 10 | |
|-----|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|------|
| AUS | 4 | 5* | 4 | 4 | 1 | 0 | | | | | |
| ENG | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 12 | 13 | 13 | 15 | 15 | Draw |
| FRA | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 2* | |
| GER | 5 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | | | |
| ITA | 5 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 6* | 5 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | |
| RUS | 6\$ | 4 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 8 | Draw |
| TUR | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | Draw |

* = 1 short
 \$ = 2 short

AUS: Alain Martin (Res S05); Gary Ferguson (Out W06)

ENG: Jan Jensen (Draw W10)

FRA: Mike Carroll (Dro W02); Pete Gaughan (Res F10); CD

GER: Claude Gautron (Dro F08); CD (out W08)

ITA: Bob Albrecht (Out W10)

RUS: Claude Gauthier (Dro F01); Dave Carter (Draw W10)

TUR: Cathy Lynch (Res S04); Rob Lowes (Draw W10)

1980 HM, Winter, 1909
 Draw: Austria, England,
 Germany



Orphan 5

1980 HM

AUTUMN, 1909: TUR: F Con R Bla. RUS: A War & A Mos R OTB.

WINTER, 1909: AUSTRIA, ENGLAND, AND GERMANY SIGN PEACE ACCORD,
 DIVIDING CONTROL OF EUROPE. THE WAR IS OVER!

AUS (Mark Keller): B A Bud. ENG (John Horn): B A Edi.
 GER (Claude Gautron): B A Ber. RUS (Steve Berrigan): even.
 TUR (Pierre Touchette): D A Smy.

The A-E-G draw passed with two votes in favour, and three "No Votes Received." Interesting game; one doesn't often see so many Austrian fleets. Germany made a good recovery from a weak position in the early game. England is the only player surviving from the game start. So, congrats to the three of you and thanks to Steve Berrigan, Pierre Touchette, and John Davies for taking standby positions.

Endgame Statements due Friday, 12 August, 1983.

(This is a week ahead of next issue's deadline so I can get these prepared in advance. Thanks for your co-operation.)

THE STATS

Zines: INFIDEL! (to Fall '01); SNAFU! (to end)

GMs: Nick Russon (to Fall '01); Ronald J. Brown (to end)

| | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 06 | 07 | 08 | 09 | |
|-----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|-----|----|----|--------------|
| AUS | 6 | 8 | 9 | 11* | 11 | 11 | 12 | 11 | 12 | draw |
| ENG | 5 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 10 | draw |
| FRA | 4 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 0 | | | | | |
| GER | 4 | 4 | 5 | 7* | 6* | 6* | 7\$ | 8* | 9* | draw |
| ITA | 3 | 1 | 0 | | | | | | | * = 1 short |
| RUS | 5 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 2 | \$ = 2 short |
| TUR | 4* | 4 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | |

AUS: Keith Mercer (Dro S03); Mark Keller (Draw W09)
 ENG: John Horn (Draw W09)
 FRA: Claude Gauthier (Dro S01); John Davies (Out S06)
 GER: Joe Bradley (Res W02); Claude Gautron (Draw W09)
 ITA: Bill Plante (Dro W02); CD (Out W03)
 RUS: Steve Colombo (Dro F07); Steve Berrigan
 TUR: Barry Hickey (Dro W02); Lori Jensen (Res F04); Pierre Touchette

1983 R - Seven Nations

FALL, 1901: TURKEY, RUSSIA AT WAR! ENGLAND MOVES TO MID-ATLANTIC, FRANCE GAINS THREE. AUSTRIAN ARMIES MUSHROOM, BUT MOST OPT FOR SEA POWER.

AUS (Randolph Smyth): A Tri* - Bud; A Ser* - Bud; F Alb - Gre*.

ENG (Richard Gee): F Eng - MAO*; F Nth* C A Yor - Nwy*.

FRA (Axel Halfmeier): F MAO - Por*; A Mar - Spa*; A Bur - Bel*.

GER (Roland Bakker): F Den* H; A Ruh* S A Kie - Hol*.

ITA (Frej Wasastjerna): A Ven* H; A Apu* H; F Ion - Tun*.

RUS (Walter Compton): F Sev* - Arm; A Mos - StP*; A Gal* - Rum; F StP (sc) - Bot*.

TUR (Gary Coughlan): F Ank - Bla*; A Bul* - Rum; A Arm* - Sev.

WINTER, 1901

AUS (3-5, +2, Builds A Vie, A Bud): home, SERBIA, GREECE.

ENG (3-4, +1, Builds F Lon): home, NORWAY.

FRA (3-6, +3, Builds F Bre, A Par, F Mar): home, PORTUGAL, SPAIN, BELGIUM.

GER (3-5, +2, Builds A Ber, F Kie): home, DENMARK, HOLLAND.

ITA (3-4, +1, Builds F Nap): home, TUNIS.

RUS (4-4, even): home.

TUR (3-4, +1, Builds F Con): home, BULGARIA.

Spring, 1902 (and summer retreats) due Friday, 23 September.

NOTES: Yes builds may be conditional on events in the Fall (or retreat) season. Orders may always be conditional on events the previous season. I had no problems with anyone's format for builds. (Actually, I like this way of combining seasons.)

I am somewhat concerned about those in Europe asking for NMR Insurance. Are you sure it's worth \$50+ for an MNR? If you send one set of orders by return mail and another a few weeks later, there should be no problems. By the way, Randolph is back in Medicine Hat.

PRESS

Turkey to Germany: Kunt U ons op de kaart laten zien waar we ons bevinden? Sevastopol?

England to Germany: The absence of correspondence on your part is remarkable. Are you sure you have not mistaken this game for postal chess?

Turkey to France: Können Sie mir einige Can-Can Girls zeigen? Für den Harem, natürlich!

England to Russia: Please don't foul up or welch on this one. You will support me into Sweden, remember? PS, are you for real?

The Pope to the Sultan: It all depends on which Greens you mean and when. My goal is to have my own Greens dominate Europe sometime around 1914, though not necessarily in the eighties. Anyway, the scenarios currently favored by military and political circles in the Vatican call for Trieste to be one of the last centers taken over.

Turkey to Italy: Haluaisin pullon italielainena viiniä. Onnittelut kohti Sinikkan isä!

England to Italy: "Yep...I guess you're right." Zow - Zap! - Zonk!! It's the dreaded Compton Clout again!!!

Note: In Europe there is a beetle, the Colorado Beetle, that ruins things. In that part of the world known as the Seven Nations it seems that a similar insect exists known as the Compton Clout.

Turkey to England: I'd watch that fleet on the north coast of St. Petersburg if I were you!

Turkey to Russia: Your Apartado or mine? I'm glad I decided to visit Russia before it visited me!!

England to France: Happy?

England to Turkey and Austria: There...I told you to buy pound sterling last month. Not only is King Richard III on the throne, but England has been renamed Thatcherland. At this rate the dollar will be worth 20 pence by the time you arrive.

Turkey to Austria: The Sultan has decreed that your period of exile shall be ended. Speak to us, O Hapsburg!

Turkey to GM: Not Den Hagg! It's Den Haag! Don't be the ugly Canadian! Leave that to Randolph!

1983 Brn16 - Variant 2

(Blowup)

SUMMER, 1902: RUS: A Vie R Tyr /A!//

FALL, 1902: ITALIAN FLEET SINKS IN IONIAN, DESPITE THE TURK'S EFFORTS TO SAVE IT! ENGLAND MOVES UP ITS SEA FORCES; GERMANY, RUSSIA FIGHT FOR SWEDEN.

AUS (Bruce Poop): A Bud* S & A Vie* S A Rum - Gal*; A Ser* - Rum.

ENG (Steve Hutton): F Pic* S & F Iri* S F Lon - Eng*; F NAO* - MAO.

FRA (Mark Keller): F MAO* - Eng; F Bre* - Eng; A Spa* H.

GER (Keith Sesler): A Kie* - Den; F Bal* S A Den* - Swe; A Sil* - War.

ITA (Dave Lincoln): F Gre* S F Adr - Ion /A!//; F Tyr - Tun*; A Ven - Apu*.

RUS (Nelson Millar): A Fin* S A Nwy* - Swe; A War* - Sil; A Gal & A Sev* - Rum (A Gal /d/ R: Ukr, Boh, OTB); A Tyr - Tri (NSU now).

TUR (Dave Carter): F EMed* - Ion.

SUPPLY CENTRES, 1902

AUS (5, build 1): Tri, Bud, VIENNA, Rum, Ser.

ENG (4, even): home, Bel.

FRA (4, build 1): home, SPAIN.

GER (5, build 1): home, Den, Hol.

ITA (5, build 2): home, Gre, TUNIS.

RUS (5, even or build 1, depending on retreat): home, ~~MAE~~, Nwy.

TUR (3, build 2): home.

Winter, 1902, Mining Operations, AND Spring, 1903 due Friday, 12 August, 1983. (Next: Sept 23)

NOTES: Thanks to Rick Young for unneeded standby orders. I will separate Spring and Winter if two or more request it.

PRESS

Turkey to Italy: You must be using a different type of mine from moi. Like maybe an exocet missile? My decision is unchanged but I hardly think you are worrying about it much tho?

Austria: Do not go gently into the dark night,
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

Moscow to the World: The fiend that blew up the Maniwaki post office has gone too far. Those loonies couldn't even get a letter from Maniwaki to Ottawa (80 miles) in a week. Mark my words: Heads will roll! Hey Keith, you wouldn't? Now not even you could have done that!

Rome to Constantinople: The world community, as if with one voice, condemns the brutal murder of the Italian hostages by the Turkish government. Such behaviour can accrue only the harshest measure of retribution. The Italian government intends to build a suitable memorial on the site of the diplomats' martyrdom.

Italy to Austria: Q: How many Canadians does it take to defeat Austria? A: Three. Q: How many Canadians are there? A: _____
(Fill in the blank).

1983 Ecb19 - Variant 3

(Woolworth II-D)

AUTUMN, 1901: AUS: A Gal R OTB; GER: A Kie R Ruh.

WINTER, 1901: EUROPE CROWDED WITH NEW FLEETS AND ARMIES.

AUS (???) : B A Vie & has: F Ven, A Bud.

BAL (???) : B A Ser & has: A Rum, A Bul, F Gre.

ENG (Steve Hutton) : B A Lon & has: F Ska, F Nth, F Ice.

FRA (Keith Sesler) : B A Par & has: A Mun, A Swi, F Bre.

GER (???) : even. Has: F Den, A Hol, A Ruh.

ITA (???) : D A Tyr. Has: F Tyr, F Ion.

RUS (???) : B F Sev & has: A Fin, A Ukr, A Gal, F Bla.

SCA (Dave Carter) : even. Has: F Lap, F Bal, A Kie.

SPA (Bob Albrecht) : B A Mad & has: F MAO, F WMed, A Mar.

TUR (Nelson Millar) : even. Has: F Ank, A Aeg, A Con.

Spring, 1902 due Friday, 19 August, 1983 (Fall due Sept. 23)

NOTES: Thanks to Claude Gautron for unneeded standby orders. Appreciated. There was an error last month. Balkans could not support the move to Bulgaria from Greece as Macedonia is in the way. Nothing changed though.

I have Spring '02 orders on hand from England and some other power.

PRESS

Italy to Austria: Hell, I don't mind you burning your bridges. I just hate it when my units are on them when you do so.... nevertheless, I am removing my army in Tyrolia and I will not be attempting to kick you out of Venice. I just want to kick the Spaniard's ass. Can I trust you?

Austria to Italy: All is forgiven if Army Tyrolia is removed.

Russia to Austria: Sorry, but I needed the build. Keep on attacking Italy and I'll leave you alone.

Turkey to the World: Not only do my neighbours not know what they're doing, the post office doesn't either. (Anyone got a good carrier pigeon for sale?)

England to Russia: Scandinavia asks you to leave his country and then attacks you when you try to do so. Face it: Carter must die!

Russia to Scandinavia: Right. Now let me get back into St. Petersburg, ok?

Scandinavia to Russia: I'm glad you didn't build in StP. Still buddies, eh?

Spain to Italy: A quick death is occasionally a blessing, but your method leaves much to be desired. I suggest you move to Libya.

France to Spain: I didn't appreciate that last set of moves one bit!

Woolworth continues page 15

1982 IF - Millar 1

SPRING, 1903: RUSSIAN EXILED TO THE ARCTIC. TURKS, AUSTRIANS, & ENGLISH ADVANCE. GM: Nelson Millar
327 Wilfred Leblanc
Maniwaki, Québec
J9E 1X7

- AUS (Rauterberg): A Vie - Tyr*; A Gal* S TUR A Rum - Ukr;
A Ven - Rom*; A Ser* S A Tri - Bud*; F Gre - Ion*.
- ENG (Touchette): F Ska* S & F Hel* S & F Nth* C A Lon - Den*;
F Hol* S A Ruh - Kie*.
- FRA (MacLellan): F Bre - MAO*; A Mar* H; F WMed - Tun*;
A Mun & ENG A Ruh - Kie /d/ (R: Boh, Bur, Ruh, OTB).
- GER (Sesler): A Ber* S A Sil - Mun*; A War - Mos*.
- ITA (ΜΑΥΙΔΩΝ, CD): A Pie*.
- RUS (Acheson): A Swe - Fin*; F Den - Bal*; A Mos U /d/ (R:
Lvn, StP, OTB); A Ukr - Mos /d/ (R: War, OTB).
- TUR (Ferguson): A Rum - Ukr*; A Sev* S GER A War - Mos;
F Bul (ec) - Rum*; F Bla* S A Sev; F Ion - Tyr*; F Smy -
Aeg*.

Summer Retreats & Fall, 1903 due (to Nelson) Mon., 15 Aug. 83.
(Next deadline: 19 September)

NOTES (Ron): Dam MacLellan's subscription expired last issue and, despite notes reminding him, I have not heard from him. Thus, I'll be holding his copy until he sends money. Will Gerry Paulson, Box 6, Amisk, Alta. TOB OBO please submit standby orders for France? Thanks Gerry.

Addresses:

Paul Rauterberg, 4922 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53208
Pierre Touchette, 1, rue Georges, Masson, PQ J0X 2H0
Keith Sesler, PO Box 158, Fraser, MI 48026
Bob Acheson, c/o Echo Bay Mines, Lupin, NWT X0E 1M0
Gary Ferguson, PO Box 338, Maniwaki, PQ J9E 3C9

PRESS

Moscow to London, Vienna: I don't know what's taken you guys so long? Even Germany is helping now.

From The Diplomatic Pouch

(Note: The following article was originally published in *Diplomag* No. 23, May 14, 1978. It is reprinted here with the permission of the author and the then-editor, Fred C. Davis, Jr. It points out a very important reason why players should keep some record of their games, not relying entirely on the Game Master's report. All GMs err--even the best of them.)

GAME MASTER ERRORS

By Bill Young

To what extent should players be required to be alert for and correct GM errors?

Most game masters have a good house rule to the effect that if a GM error goes undetected for two seasons the adjudication becomes final regardless of the error.

Fine, but what if a GM error is detected by only one of two affected players while the other player is, by the error, misled, and thereby induced to submit impossible orders?

Some players feel that they should be entitled to rely upon the printed adjudications. If, in reliance thereon, they are induced to submit impossible orders (or even less effective orders), they feel the game should revert to the season of the GM error, the GM should publish a correction, and the misled player should then have an opportunity to revise his orders.

I disagree. GM error is inevitable; part of the game. If you save all orders for face to face games and then replay them in the quiet of your den, taking time for careful study of each conflict and adjudication, I predict that you will find an error in most face to face games.

Postal players naturally rely more upon the accuracy of the GM than do FTF players because between reports our minds wander. Probably most of us are unable to keep our boards set up so that we need to rely upon the GM to reestablish the position for us. How many of us go back to the prior issue and repeat all the study that led to our published orders?

Nevertheless, we should assume responsibility to check the accuracy of the published adjudications. If we lack the interest, time, patience, or ability to discover a GM error we should suffer the consequences of our neglect.

For Example: The GM reports orders as follows. ENG: F Tyr - Nap; A Rom S F Tyr - Nap; F WMed - Tyr. AUS: F Nap - Tyr. The English order "F WMed - Tyr" should not have been underscored because it succeeds (Rule IX-7). Austria notes the error and submits effective countermeasures next season. But England fails to note that his order F WMed - Tyr succeeded and should NOT have been underscored. He submits useless orders for the non-existent fleet in the Western Med and fails to submit any order for the fleet which had moved to the Tyrrhenian Sea. England should not have an opportunity to correct his mistake. The more alert Austrian player should have the benefit of his detecting the GM error.

Travel

CANADA, AT LAST!

I don't recall much of the rest of the northward thrust through California, Oregon, and Washington. It was a blur of mountains and trees. Passing near Portland was spectacular, as a great arm of the sea reached between mountain ranges. By this point, I was more interested in getting back to Canada. About 30 miles from the border I stopped at a road-side inn for a hamburger and cup of coffee. I struck up a conversation with the waitress, a girl of less than 20. She was enchanted to hear I was from Canada and informed me she had even heard of it. She told me she had once been to a place near there called by some woman's name that she couldn't recall. I prompted her with "Alberta" and she said yes, she thought that was it. She assured me that it was very near Canada though. 30 miles from the border!

I debated going to Vancouver, but decided against it, as I was anxious to get to Calgary where I had an aunt who could put me up for a while while I rested from the

past few weeks. So, I took a secondary road to the border, to cut off a piece of the dogleg. The first small town I came to on the Canadian side I stopped at a restaurant just to revel in being "home." I had a few thousand miles to travel yet, but it was like listening to my next door neighbours just hearing those regular voices without accents.

I stopped for the night beside the Fraser River at a small campground sandwiched between the highway and the canyon. It was damp and raining lightly, but I went for a walk, peering down into the gorge. A train track had been etched into the cliff on the far side and all night I heard the unending screech of brakes as trains worked their way down the canyon, or the powerful "huff, huff, huff" of those working their way up.

Next morning, I continued on through the mountains, passing through towns I had heard the names of: Revelstoke, Golden, etc. I picked up a hitch-hiker on the Roger's Pass and we wound down towards Alberta. At one point we stopped and peered into a river that was so far below us it was just a silver thread. Leaving the mountains was dramatic. The road heads down for a long time, the mountains thinning, then, suddenly, the unbelievably flat prairie stretches out before you, a shimmer of heatwaves rising from it, distorting the colours.

In Calgary, I took the hiker to the bus station, then phoned my aunt from a phone booth. She was almost hysterical to hear my voice, as I hadn't seen her since I was eight years old. She asked where I was and said she'd send her daughter to find me. A stunning 17-year-old blonde arrived in a beatup Chev and led me back to the farm just a few miles west of the city. Drinks, coffee, and food were poured into me as the entire family gathered to see this long-lost relative from the east. They gave me a room of my own where I could relax and unwind. I spent four days just chatting, sleeping, and recovering my strength for the long drive home.

WOOLWORTH CONTINUED

Balkans to Budapest: Now that the Turkey is cooked, let me know if you would like to have some Russian stuffing with your serving.

England to Germany: My advice to you is that you help destroy Scandinavia (your sworn enemy) and try to work out a deal with France. The French should be reasonable since they have Spain to worry about.

France to Germany: My attack on your country is over. There is a very small problem I must get rid of now, so hopefully we can be at peace.

Scandinavia to England: Ska? You wouldn't attack the Wayne Gretzky of postal dip would you?

Spain to Germany: Possibly a mistake?

France to Germany: I lied.

Scandinavia to Germany: You call this a war? You're just a big bully!

England to Scandinavia: Three neighbours, three enemies. Good luck!

BOURSE CONTINUED

PRESS

OIL to Germany: It wasn't the stab I expected. I'm sorry to see it was against you. Hang on for a couple more turns. I'm heavy into panic selling.

OIL to OIC: Glad to see you coming in and buying piastres. Especially when I made a similar purchase. Now, if the Sultanness would take a look at all those nice Italian centres.

Letters



Dave Carter (Willowdale, Ontario) tells us what it's like to be a new daddy. "Adam is doing just fine. He eats, sleeps, and shits a lot, just like all babies. I'm proud as punch with him and so is Julie. Julie gets really tired with all the feedings (she's breast feeding) but he's already started to go a little longer between his night feedings.

"PS: Kids do take a lot of your time, don't they?"

Time? Is that that thing I used to have lots of before Christopher was born? I've forgotten what that was like. Welcome to the club, Dave. He'll be 18 before you know it.

Rob Lowes (Peterborough, Ontario) keeps us up to date on the progress of his wee one. "Yes, we're still enjoying Clarice around the house....The babe is not into walking yet, but she does like to stand. And we're still waiting for her to produce any teeth. But she's still drooling lots."

Not to worry Rob. One day Christopher couldn't stand alone; the next he was running--or, so it seems. Such a delight to see him squeal with pleasure, then come toddling towards me when I pick him up at the baby sitter's. Of course, the more skills they acquire, the more potential dangerous situations they get into. Seems he's chipping his teeth as fast as he can grow them these days.

Advice from **Larry Peery** (San Diego, California): "...for my sake, don't push those kids into Mensa. Let them enjoy their childhood before you try to make them into mini-adults."

My sentiments too, Larry. But, I wonder if I don't detect a note of stereotyping here? I recall a questionnaire I filled out for some SIG or other which asked, "How long have you been a Mensan?" I answered: "Since conception." My brain was wired long before I wrote the test for Mensa. Same for anyone. One can inhibit a kid (as I was) so that he won't live up to his potential, or one can encourage him. I'll follow the latter course with my kids (and I hope you all do). Giving a kid the freedom and guidance to let him follow up his interests is not turning him into a "mini-adult"--or any other stereotyped image of a "Mensan."

Okay, how about some heavier stuff? **Rod Walker** (Encinitas, California) is not one let a careless remark on history go by unchallenged. "Re. your comment that slavery wasn't much of an issue in Britain at the time of the American Civil War. Au contraire, it was. This was precisely the time when the English governments were actively trying to suppress the slave trade in Africa, and the existence of slavery in the Confederacy was precisely what made England reluctant to opt for the otherwise very attractive policy of splitting the U.S. That, and the threat of a stop to shipments of American grain, then an important mainstay of the English food supply.

"Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation must be seen in this light. You will recall that Lincoln was in fact pretty indifferent to the question of slavery in the South itself. Officially indifferent anyway, regardless of his own personal feelings. He was willing to keep slavery if by doing so he could keep the Union. However, by the Proclamation he made the war in effect a crusade against slavery. This was calculated not only to silence certain critics of his own party, but also as a weapon to keep the English out of the war. They would never dare side with the South once slavery was an issue. And it worked. Popular sentiment in England swelled against the Confederacy and thereafter England began to take a much harder non-belligerent stance against the CSA. France would not act unless England did...and France saw a victory for the CSA as the best way to keep her toehold in Mexico. So that ended any real chance the CSA had of any favorable European intervention."

What I meant and what I wrote were two different things. I meant to say that slavery, itself, was not much of an issue in the war. I realized that Lincoln was not the "Great Emancipator" as portrayed in children's books and that the Proclamation was the result of political considerations. He may have had moral qualms about the existence of slavery (I don't know much about Lincoln's personal life), but winning the Civil War was the primary motive.

As for England's attitudes towards slavery, I must plead ignorance. I had assumed, I guess, that Canada was the end of the Underground Railroad for the same reason as it was during the Viet Nam War. That is, American law stops at the border (whether red necks like it or not) and we don't enforce U.S. laws in Canada. Anyhow, thanks for your history lesson. Appreciated as always.

Jumping back a few issues, **Richard Devereux** (Surrey, England) writes: "Regarding the questions at the bottom of page 18 ((of No. 31)) I find it difficult to understand why people are continually searching for abbreviations. The abbreviations set out in the rules were meant for face to face **Diplomacy** where time is a critical factor. I think if you're going to write a letter, and you want to be understood, you should write your orders out in full. This avoids any ambiguities, and does not really take much more time. If you care about the game you will find the time anyway."

Agreed. You know, the players who submit orders in the easiest manner to deal with (everything written out in full, one game per page, all pertinent information, etc) are almost always publishers or GMs themselves. I guess they've learned from experience what a nuisance it is to deal with tiny pieces of paper filled with abbreviations interspersed with personal notes and no clue as to what game or season they belong to. Considering the messes I get in the mail, it's a wonder I don't make more errors than I do. What can you do? Some people are determined not to change.

There are those, though, who believe the abbreviations and reporting style used in **Diplomacy** is compulsory. I've seen some of these people trying to teach novices how to play, confusing them needlessly with tables of abbreviations before they've even had a chance to play.

Re the occasional pictures I print, **Gerry Van Alkemade** (Athens, Greece) writes: "Hey! That Ann sounds like a great lady. Why don't you run her picture sometimes instead of your own (with or without the evolutionary Christopher)?"

It's like this: everytime we get a batch of pictures back from the developer and I say to Ann, "Hey, that's a great picture of you," she says, "If you put that in **SNAFU!** I'm getting a divorce." Just shy, I guess. I'll keep working on her.

Kathy Byrne (Flushing, New York), our new Boardman Number Person, has a few comments about Canada: "By the way, you better say something nice about New Yorkers. We awarded a big contract to Canada for subway cars. That really makes sense to me: let Canadians build our subways when they don't even know what a subway looks like. But I look at it this way: anything has to be better than what we have now."

A few weekends ago Ann and I were riding the quiet, clean, efficient Metro in Montréal and I remarked that I wondered what Kathy Byrne would think of it. Guess we don't know what subways look like, as ours aren't decorated with graffiti. Something nice about New Yorkers? Couldn't you make it an easier question? We did spend our honeymoon camping near Syracuse. It was very pretty there and the people were nice. Does that count? Or do you distinguish between New York Staters and New York City folk?

The issue that got the most response from last month was my argument with Bob Albrecht over what he called my "censorship" of press. **Pierre Touchette** (Masson, Québec) wrote: "I want to say I support your position against Bob Albrecht from Calgary about Black Press."

I don't think that's what we were arguing about, though it did come up. I don't like Black Press, personally because: 1) I respect people who stand behind what they say and think those who write anonymously are cowards; 2) it adds an element of confusion and uncertainty to a game without adding anything; 3) it can too easily be abused. However, if a GM wants to run a Black Press game, that's his affair. But, Black Press or no, the publisher still must maintain editorial control over what appears in his zine.

Dave Carter: "Bob Albrecht's stand on Censorship of his press is just too far away from practicality to make sense. I certainly do not want to pay extra sub money just to read a player's press. (Any player's, not just Bob A's.) What if every player was given the same rights? It would mean that your per issue sub would be \$10 and every issue would be 100+ pages. Bob sounds like a liberal politician."

It sure wouldn't be \$10 each and 100+ pages per for long! I wonder which would come first: my burnout, or reaching 0 subbers?

Rod Walker went on at some length on the subject: "As to Bob Albrecht's comments: Bob seems unable to tell the difference between censorship and editing. Censorship is outside authority telling an editor, or producer, what he must put into print, or on the stage. However, an editor's job is to edit, which means he is required to select and choose the material which he will publish. The suggestion that an editor not do this (eg., print everything he gets willy-nilly) is criminal. It is a suggestion that an editor not do his job. It is the editor's selectivity which gives a publication its character, individuality, and interest. Printing anything you get isn't editing, it's pure sloppiness.

"I will grant that dipzines, by and large, don't have the same responsibility to the public that might be had by, say, The Atlantic. But the principle is really the same. The editor's job is to accept and reject material in such a way that the character and quality of his publication remain within the guidelines he has established for it.

"Now of course some editors really have no standards, or very low ones. However, any editor who takes pride in his zine will want that pride to be legitimate and he will not print junk. He will further have firm and general principles which apply to what he will and will not print and he will apply them with equity and probity. In that way he is going to get a consistent result with a particular quality.

"A good example is Diplomacy World. We have very definite standards. We don't get into porn, for instance. I happen to like well-done hardcore porn films, which is my own personal taste, but I am absolutely not going to have verbal porn in my zine (most verbal porn is inartistic anyway, so why bother). Furthermore, there are no feuds, no personal attacks, in DW. Period. Don't bother sending them to me. That's not censorship, that's editing, and it establishes the character of the zine. People know they can trust me not to print certain kinds of crap. What Bob proposes is that editors have no standards, no taste, no consistency, no judgement....

"I recall an instance in which Walt Buchanan once refused to print a PR of mine set in Rotterdam, a ministate of the Low Countries. The PR revealed that the dikes in Rotterdam were very leaky and most of the population spent most of their time with their fingers in the holes in the dikes. When asked why this was done instead of simply repairing them, the King of Rotterdam replied, 'It's all in knowing what dikes like.' Walt cut it. I found another zine for the release and got it printed there. Walt was editing, and was selective. That was not only his right, but his duty. If Bob Albrecht has a problem with your doing the same, there are plenty of zines out there which print whatever they get. They are usually on the trashy side and some are unreadably stupid. That's what you get with an unselective editor who doesn't do his job. As a writer, I have my standards too...I'm picky about the company I keep. You sure won't catch me submitting much (if anything) to an editor with no principles.

"Furthermore, Bob ignores another factor in true censorship. Censorship is where a certain item is forbidden to be printed or produced anywhere. Only a government can do that. An editor is simply saying, 'Send this somewhere else; I don't want it.' That's not censorship; it's simply an exercise of taste and judgement. Now it may not be in good taste or judgement, but every editor will act according to his/her own instincts and abilities. Bob may well complain that editorial judgement is bad; I have seen my share of crummy editors. But for him to complain that editorial judgement should not be exercised at all...that is the most utterly stupid position I've heard in a long time."

I didn't receive any response from Bob in answer to my replies, nor did anyone write to support him, though I have seen zines which boast they'll print anything. They do, as Rod pointed out, become trash that's not worth the time it takes to read them. The long-since folded Brutus Bulletin is one that comes to mind. The last few issues were filled with racist hatred and vile insults that were supposed to be "funny." Guess I have a different sense of humour.

Where the problem arose between me and Bob was simply over datelines for press releases. I have a rule that press releases should be datelined from the country of origin, or at least clearly indicate the author. There was nothing else wrong with Bob's press releases. If I hadn't have been so short of space that particular issue I would have indicated the country of origin myself--as I have often done before.

But, I also cut other press releases that month (not written by Bob). Two of them wandered on for over a page each—and had no bearing at all on the games at hand, as far as I could make out. Another was a syndicated comic strip cut from a newspaper. If I followed Bob's rule and printed that, I would have been liable to prosecution for violating Copyright Laws. The fact that other pubbers ignore their legal responsibilities and liabilities has no bearing on my decision not to reproduce copyrighted material.

Actually, I think my editorial hand is quite light. It is rare that I reject an item completely, but I have from time to time. Here are a few examples of what hasn't appeared in SNAFU!: 15-20 pages of François Cuerrier trying to prove Passchendaele was never late, despite an unexplained six month delay between issues. (He asked that his "reasonings" been printed in their entirety or not at all. He got his wish.); a slanderous attack on a reputable publisher, filled with wild unfounded charges. (I passed the letter on to the person attacked to let him deal with it.); a vicious, meaningless attack on Christopher (who was 8 months old at the time) sent by someone who identified himself only as "John" (What a brave soul that jerk has!); several letters from someone who doesn't receive SNAFU! demanding to know why I keep attacking him (his name has never even been mentioned in these pages). Yes, there are paranoid, sick and twisted personalities out there. Oh, speaking of which, I have several letters from Curt Gibson describing his version of the end of the world, threatening me with hell-fire if I don't publish his rantings. See what I mean?

I assume all, or most, publishers receive this sort of crap. It comes with the territory. God help any pubber who announces to the world that these lunatics will have a free hand at taking over his zine.

The issue isn't one of censorship at all; it's one of responsibility. If nothing else, responsibility towards myself, as I don't want to publish anything I'd be ashamed of.

Battle Stations

Expiring Subscriptions

At #33 (this issue): Don Tinker.

At #34-35: Konrad Baumeister, Jan Jensen, Eric Ozog, Randolph Smyth, John Leeder, Scott Marley, Ben Schilling, Tom Swider, Bill Young.

NMR Insurance

The following have asked me to call collect if I don't have orders from them the night before the deadline. Please check to see if you're on this list if you want this service. Please also note my unhappiness with the way it's been working out. It is meant to protect players from post office screw ups and is not intended to replace sending orders by mail. I've considered dropping it altogether because of the problems it has created, but I worry about that one player, every six months or so, whose orders have gone to the dead letter office.

Bob Albrecht (I don't have your #, Bob), Garvin Boyle, Dave Carter, John Davies, Paula Dodge, Dennis Duncan, Pete Gaughan, Claude Gautron, John Horn, Steve Hutton, Jan Jensen, Jack Jung, Dave Lincoln, Nelson Millar, Doug Millstone, Errol Platt, Bruce Poppe, Keith Sesler, Tom Swider, Paul Watson, Rick Young, Axel Halfmeier, Frej Wasastjerna.

Runestone Credits

With the final issue of RUNESTONE, John Leeder transferred the amounts to me for the following people:

Robert Sacks (.91), Capt. John Morgan (7.00), Sellick Davies (15.02), Bob Acheson (4.05), Frej Wasastjerna (1.02), Bucheron Frank (10.00).

Welcome to the new subbers. Current ones have those amounts added to their SNAFU! accounts. Thanks, John.

Standbys

Remove Rick Young. Add Dennis Duncan (NO) and Gerry Paulson (V).

Waiting for Game Starts

Gerry Van Alkemade, Bill Young, and Bucheron Frank are waiting the start of another 10 week deadline international game. This is filling more slowly than I anticipated, but I'm not sure if that's due to slow mail service or what. Let's make it open to anyone willing to play a 10-week game then I'll try to sort things out if we get a few players living close to each other.

As you may have noticed, a lot of games have ended here lately. I'm considering offering a game to current subbers not in any games here at present. Let me know if interested.

The Dippy Baby Boom

Nothing new. Nelson Millar's wife is expecting about the beginning of August, so should have news next issue. Mark Berch and Mike Mazzer should have news shortly after that.

Parting Shot

As mentioned in the Battle Stations section, John Leeder has been transferring and refunding subscription money now that he's folded RUNESTONE. Thanks, John, for setting a fine example on how to fold a zine. This one was handled so well that there was a minimum of problems for players. It was so quiet that the Americans didn't even notice it. (At least I saw no comments on it—and there's usually a fuss when a zine folds.)

With 1980 AM and 1980 HM ending, almost two years to the day that I met Nick Russon in an attempt to rescue INFIDEL!, the end of the "orphaned" games I've been carrying is reached. I've GMed six, and Nelson one, making it seven "extra" games over the past two years. But, with the current crop of Canadian publications, I doubt we'll get into this situation again soon (touch wood). SLEEPLESS KNIGHTS and NO FIXED ADDRESS are among the best in the hobby anywhere. FOL SI FIE should be returning in a revitalized format soon, and we've QUINNIPIQUE for French-language games.

With eight games finishing here in the past year, mainly in the past few months, I'm feeling much less hassled and pressured. Still, I've a new job to adjust to, and I will be continuing the search for something better, so I want to take it easy, as far as starting new games. One every now and then, as announced in the Battle Stations section, but I do not want to get back to where I was a year ago with such a huge game load that this enterprise had become a full time occupation. Better to disappoint a few people wanting to get into games than disappoint 100 or so by burning out. (I can't count the number of subbers I have, as it varies from day to day, but, my usual print run, for the past six months, is 100. Last issue I printed 105 and have only two "archives" copies left.)

Ann apologizes, but she is still overworked and couldn't find time for her column. But she's got some time off coming up, so will try for next time. She's mulling over something along the lines of "Common Myths about Computers."

Anyhow, see you all in about six weeks.

Ron