

Happy Birthday, Alex! From...

THE VOICE OF DOOM

#60

June 28, 1983

Circulation: 117

by BRUX

I have good news and bad news. Which would you like first? OK...

PUBLIC NOTICE: In the May 9 issue of Kathy's Korner, Kathy Byrne states on page 10 that I sent her a letter which threatened "to have me attacked in every zine in America!". This is a total fabrication on Kathy's part, and I alluded to it very briefly a couple of issues ago. But my letter of denial belonged in KK, not Voice of Doom, and so I sent Kathy a note denying that I had ever made such a threat.

The result was that my denial was not printed, and my sub to Whitestonia/Kathy's Korner was cut off! I have been denied the right of reply to this false charge in KK, and that is the reason I am going public here. What's more, Kathy claims she still has this letter. Fine. I give her permission to make it public. If she can show where I ever made such a threat, I'll pay her \$50. Now, all she has to do to show that she is telling the truth is produce a letter she claims to have. But if she cannot, then I think she has some explaining to do. And, unlike her, I will give Kathy the right of reply in these pages.

I'm sorry to have brought this into VD as this is the sort of thing I generally wish to avoid here, but I don't feel that Kathy's statement about me should go unanswered.

And now for the good news...on July 5, our own Doomie of the Year will turn Sweet Sixteen! When Alex began publishing her column in VD #60, she was just 14. Although she seemed very enthusiastic, I never dreamed that she'd keep it up for so long -- but I was wrong and she's still going strong, much to VD's benefit. Now she is turning 16 and the word "sweet" is an understatement. I and many other people who have met her (such as Mike Barne, Billy Highchair, and Eric Kane) can tell you that's she's just plain adorable. Happy birthday, Alex. We love ya in VD!

ANOTHER PUBLIC NOTICE: Mark Luedi, Garry Hamlin, Jim Williams, and BRUX Linsey will be hosting a beer blast at Origins on Friday, July 15, following the Gunboat Dippy tournament. We'll be holding it in our room at the Book Cadillac Hotel, 4 1/2 blocks from the con site. All postal hobbyists are invited; please BYOB. This should be a great opportunity to meet many famous and infamous diplomats. Come and join us!

The Voice of Doom is a journal of postal Diplomacy published every now and then by Bruce Linsey, 24A Quarry Drive, Albany, NY 12205. Phone (518) 459-9250. Subs are 10 issues for \$5.00. Standbys are wanted. There are no game openings.

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The deadline for all games contained herein is July 22, 1983.

Back to a typical VD month -- no NMRs!

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J U P I T E R

1980Jk

BWARE THE BIG RED MACHINE!

Winter 1913

AUSTRIA: Build A VIE, A BUD, F TRI

ENGLAND: Build A Lvp (imp) (even)

FRANCE: Remove A Iceland (imp, amb, NSU, illegal, and absurd) GM removes F Eng (out)

GERMANY: Build F Kie (imp), F BER (will play 1 short)

RUSSIA: even

TURKEY: Build Flargest Cankerna (impossibiguous, will play 1 short)

Spring 1914

AUSTRIA (Carter, ordered by Davies): F Adr-ION, F Tst-ADR, A Vis-LYO, A Bud-VIE,
A Bul-GRE (A SEH S), A Mun-POL, A Ven-PIE,
A Rom-APU, A Mar-BUR

ENGLAND (Barno, ordered by Olsen): F Hol-BEL, F Nwg-NAT, F Wal-IRI, F Lon-WAL,
F Tyr-LYO

GERMANY (Rauterberg, ordered by Rauterberg): A STP-Mos, F Swe-NWY, F Ber-KIE,
A Mun-Bur (NSU), A IEN S F Ber-Kie,
A Kie-RUH, A Bur-GAS, A PAR-Bre,
A Gas-SPA, F Yor-NTH

RUSSIA (Davies, ordered by Barno): F MID-Bre, A MOS-StP, A Ukr-GAL

TURKEY (Olsen, ordered by Rauterberg): A FOR S GERMAN A Gas-Spa, F Aeg-CON, F Gre-AEG,
F Bla-SHV (A ARM S)

Game Notes: The German build orders were submitted by George Leritte, who is now out of the game. Thank for playing it out, George.

The A/G draw proposed last season failed. Austria wants it known that he voted yes. Proposed for next season are an A/G draw and an A/E/G/R/T draw. Please vote by next deadline.

Press:

FRANCE: Intelligence.

BARNO to HIGHCHAIR: To become truly free, the only person you need to kill is yourself. **THE IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT ((via TURKEY)):** Oh, never mind.

TUR to GER: Sorry about your accident. But you'll never get me up in one of these things.

FRANCE to AUSTRIA: Eat shit and die!

BARNO to HIGHLY DANGEROUS: So now you pledge the flag each morning? When I was up there, it was a lot more fun watching you kiss Reagan's wrinkled ass.

BARNO to LINSEY: Ditto, ditto, ditto, hunting, dardimonorious, double-order, pacifism, fuck, Utah, not for print, ditto! And I didn't even mention Alex.

COGITATIONS OF THE RATINGS PLAYER ((via TURKEY)): Third place, not bad. Considering.

SULTAN to EUROPE: This is your last chance. Pass the \$\$\$'s' (@('%' draw or I'm turning my position over to Biffy. And when he finds out you're all lesbians, he'll go mad.

BARNO to ELLIS: Hitler simply acted in his country's best interests as he perceived them, you know...

BRUX to BARNO: Then again, we aren't shoveling people into ovens or gas chambers...

JUPITER is the longest game ever played in VD. That's cuz these guys are nuts!

RUSSIA AND TURKEY SURGE WESTWARD!

Fall 1906

AUSTRIA (Gorham): A Rom-Nap (d; r Apu, OTB)
 ENGLAND (Edison): F Kis-Den (d; r Hig, OTB), F Nco-ENG (F ION S), F Nat-LVP
 FRANCE (Osuch): A WAL S GERMAN A Bel-Lon (USO), F Eng C GERMAN A Bel-Lon (NSO) (d; r Bre, Fic, OTB), A Hun-Kie (d; r Bur, Ruh, OTB), A PIE-Tyo, F TIA S, A TOS-Rom, F Mid-IRI, F Wes-MID
 GERMANY (Jurkowski): A BEL S A Hol, A HOL S A Bel
 RUSSIA (Ditz): F Nwg-EDI, F Nwy-NWG, A Fin-WWY, A SWE-Den, F Bel-KIE (A BOH S), A SII-MUN (A BOH S), A TYO S TURKISH A Ven-Pla (NSO)
 TURKEY (Lazolova): A Bul-GRE, A Con-BUL, A Bud-TRI, A Pol-TUR (* ADD S), F For-ION, A Ven-ROM (F NAP S), F Ang-ION (F ALE S)

Supply Center Charts:

AUSTRIA: Apu	0, remove 1 (out)
ENGLAND: Edi , Lrp, Lon, Den	3, remove 1
FRANCE: Home, Por, Spa, Man , Tun, Asi	6, remove 2
GERMANY: Kis , Hol, BEL	2, even
RUSSIA: Home, Swe, Rum, Vie, Nwy, Ber, MUN, EDI, KIE	12, build 3
TURKEY: Home, Bul, Gre, Ser, Tri, Bud, Ven, Nap, ROM	11, build 1

Game Notes: All proposals made last season failed. Proposed now are a concession to Russia, and the following draws: R/T, E/R, F/R, A/R, G/R, and A/B/G/R/T. Please vote by next deadline.

COA for Bob Osuch, 2247 E. Inverness, Mesa, AZ 85204. Michael Ditz is back, locally, as John Banke didn't submit any standby orders, and is hereby removed from the VD standby list.

Press:

DITZ to WORLD: I wish to apologize to everybody for not sending in orders. Also, I wish to thank everybody for not attacking me last turn.

ENGLAND: I can't help being a schmuckfaced lickspittle. I have a weakness for clams and oysters.

OSUCH: Lie? Lie? I haven't lied this entire game, and look where it has gotten me. GET to ANYONE: Help!

DITZ to OSUCH: As you wish.

BAR to LON: Yes, I had my chance with the original English player. Too bad he dropped.

TUR to ENG: Your death will come soon enough.

We have a new Boardman Number Custodian, and it's ... Kathy Byrne! Regardless of whatever faults Kathy may have, she is a very hard worker and she does get things done. I support Kathy in her new job and I will assist her in any way possible. Thank you, Don Ditter for a job well done, and good luck to Kathy.

One note that I really enjoy but haven't plugged into while is the Voice of the ... published by Bill Kinsey, 234 Quincy Drive, Albany, NY 12203. If you haven't seen ... you should definitely ...

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

REPORT OF THE AGENT

1957

REPORT OF THE AGENT AS A NEW MEMBER OF THE PARTY

- 1957-1958
- 1958-1959
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- 2017-2018
- 2018-2019
- 2019-2020
- 2020-2021
- 2021-2022
- 2022-2023
- 2023-2024
- 2024-2025

Some notes: The reasons were explained in his case by the fact that despite the fact that Turkey had no rights or winter orders for an individual placed abroad as well as my honoraria. However, I believe he should be allowed to play on the grounds of his for taking over the Turkish position in this case.

There were two errors in last season's schedule. First, the English word in Norway is a slight and incorrect. I forgot to mention that if someone is located in Berlin, then he is in the same time zone as he is in the same time zone as he is in the same time zone. This is indeed what occurred. I suggest that you should return, but I have no orders on file from him at this time, so would it be possible to Box 1225. It is interesting that (1977) please email directly to the address: Gerald, I presume you have the earlier issues containing the relevant program and schedule center parts but if you need them, I do not know.

The program's schedule last month did not pass.

OK for the angle of minor, sorry, sorry, sorry, I am sorry, I have requested that you wish the program center (1977) (1977).

In accordance with my instructions, all points in last year's schedule should be split.

PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS PAGE

NEED TO KNOW

1957

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

- Autumn 1956
- WINTER 1957
- 1957-1958
- 1958-1959
- 1959-1960
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PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS PAGE

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to be continued

Spring 1968

ENGLAND (Ansoff): F MID S FRENCH F Por, F NWY-Mag, F SKA-ly, F WNE S, F Der-Arg (SUK)
 FRANCE (Barnet): F ENG S ENGLISH F Mid, F POR S ENGLISH F Mid, F GAS S A Mar,
 A MAR S A Mar, A BUR S A Mar
 GERMANY (Watinson): A MUN S (A BER S, A RUH S), F Der-NTW, A Wro-TH, F POL C
 ITALY (Giovetti): A PIE-Mar (F LYO S), A VEN-Pio, A US-A-P, A TIR-TH,
 F SPA(sc) S TURKISH F Nat-Mid, F TYP conatol-ter-geres-TH
 RUSSIA (Bayerlein): A SIL-PRU (A KAR S, A LNN S), F NAP-Mag, F SEP-Wro, A FIN-Sov
 TURKEY (Lawlor): F WES S ITALIAN F Spa(sc), F BAC-TH, F ITO-C-ITALIA, F ALE-TH (SUK),
 A Gal-UKR, A Ioh-SAL, A ITO-TH

Game Notes: All proposals made last season failed.
 Thank to Doug for taking over the Russian position; Peter DeVries has changed
 sides. He is now connected to Marie-Louise and Peter for the next season. In
 England of ex Ed Probel resigned and Dave Newell dropped.
 OK, gang could so be a bit more careful with the order of lines of you didn't sign
 and another wrote his orders on the same sheet of paper as the previous letter, and a
 third misidentified the country he is playing! Thank

press.

ENGLAND (was ENGLAND): on to St. Petersburg? well, would you believe that?
 TURKEY to GUY: How's that for not having?
 RUSSIA: "LIVE FOREVER" well, that's what the Rules say.

P R C A S U S

1962

TURN ON THE LIGHTS. THE PARTY'S OVER!

The PRCAUS game has ended in a three-way draw among Canada, France, and
 Russia. The proposals made last month for a concession to the USSR and the
 both passed, so under the VP house rules the result is a draw. All powers mentioned
 in either of these proposals. The game-end chart, cast of players, and final press
 all follow. End game statements are due next month. Draw for the next
 all parties. (Generalization: as to left, per the game rules, and the
 standing in there. This game was a pleasure to all!

Game-end Chart:

	01	02	03	04	05	06	
RUSSIA	7	7	6	7	6	8	draw
FRANCE	4	5	8	7	8	6	draw
CANADA	4	5	5	7	8	8	draw
FRANCE	5	5	5	5	5	5	
ITALY	4	4	4	4	4	4	
RUSSIA	6	5	7	6	8	10	draw
TURKEY	4	7	3	7	5	5	

ENEMY IS BLOWN OUT BY FLEET AS BRITISH CONVOY JOINT

During 1942

AUSTRIA (Djerdor): A Tru-VIC (A YIE S), A SARGAL, A Tus-...
 ENGLAND (Glasgow): F Len SWE, A Swe-BER (Y GAL C), F W...
 FRANCE (Bard): A Tun SWE (F ION U), F Ty...
 GERMANY (Hamburg): A Ber-RHE...
 HOLLAND (Landing): A Ber-PKE, F LYN M, A NOS B, A GIL-WAR...
 ITALY (Suez): A Kio S GERMAN A Ber-NUN (NSO) (ann...
 JAPAN (Bull): A Am-BUL (P BLA C)

... has asked me to mention that his ...
 In case of final exams. In future, gang, I am gonna let you ...
 reasons for not negotiating, as it's not really my job. OK

Two persons up, I announced; listed the ...

...

... praises you and grants you back to you ...

... Does anyone really know where they are ...

... than I should

... announced this morning that he would ...
 Turkish ... He added that it was good ...

...

...

... the ... have ... to ...
 ... been ... to ... they ...

...

GERMANS TAKE DENVER, FRANCE POLICE TO TRY FOR DUNTON

During 1942

AUSTRIA (Djerdor): A Tru-VIC (A YIE S), A SARGAL, A Tus-...
 ENGLAND (Glasgow): F Len SWE, A Swe-BER (Y GAL C), F W...
 FRANCE (Bard): A Tun SWE (F ION U), F Ty...
 GERMANY (Hamburg): A Ber-RHE...
 HOLLAND (Landing): A Ber-PKE, F LYN M, A NOS B, A GIL-WAR...
 ITALY (Suez): A Kio S GERMAN A Ber-NUN (NSO) (ann...
 JAPAN (Bull): A Am-BUL (P BLA C)

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The Iberian Indecision

By Doug Smith

Let me set up the most impossible of all scenarios: you are playing France and everyone on the board wants you as an ally. This is later confirmed by reports from Turkey and Russia which state that England will not be moving to the Channel, Germany is not headed for Burgundy, and Italy prefers to stay out of Piedmont. Now what do you do? You will have to pick an enemy instead of retaliating against a vicious and unprovoked attack. Fortunately for you France can put off such a decision almost indefinitely, without the worry of losing any home centers, by playing with the Iberian indecision. The moves are A Pir Gas, S Spa, and S Por. I think it is only fair to mention that some people call it the Iberian Indecision. From this position France can easily defend the home territory and has a terrific offensive capability as well.

Since most people will be objecting to the supposedly weak position in which this leaves France, I will address myself to that criticism. The Channel would probably be used to take England, but to do so the sea side army at A Gas or F Mid can guard Brest. Spain and Portugal are open at the fall while S Por can be bounced in Brest. If Italy is in Piedmont at the end of Spring '42, then either A Gas or A Spa can cover Marseilles. If you wish to keep Marseilles open for the build, then both armies can be used for a self-standoff, although it is probably better to move A Gas there alone. The most devastating single country attack would be the German move to Burgundy. The facing player would move A Gas to Pir and S Spa to A Gas. If Germany guesses correctly and takes Marseilles, then France is in a difficult position. The build would be Army Brest, which would then move to Gascony, and S Por moves to Burgundy to set up a supported attack on Marseilles. However, if you could not move both armies back to their original positions, you could use the home army centers.

If two countries stab (I call it a stab because we were always stab during the diplomacy) they all told you they would leave you alone. When it actually gets harder, although not impossible, to be building two. Holding the home center against a two or more blitz in any situation requires some good guesses, and only is no exception. If all three of your neighbors attack you were doomed anyway.

The real beauty of this opening is the afforded position to leave you in. The moves are ambiguous enough to convince any of your allies that your intentions are good, and you can swing any direction you wish in the fall. If England is your target then the fleet is moved north while the armies take Iberia. The Irish Sea would be the most likely destination, because from there you can support the rest of the fleet in Brest or the English Channel. If the other build armies are in the area, they will have three fleets in the area, and with a little help from Germany or Russia, England should fall by 1934.

If you intend to hit Germany, then the fall move would be A Gas to A Spa and S Por to F Mid. You would then build two armies and have back the advantage. This would be the weakest of the attacks from the opening position, but still a victory over any of the other countries bordering Germany. It should be an easy victory.

One of the most surprising and therefore most effective attacks is against Italy. The moves are A Gas-Spa, A S Por, F Mid-Wes. If the other countries bordering you remain cooperative, you then build two fleets and take control of the Red. Moving Italy is plus only one, giving you a three to one advantage. If Italy somehow ends up at plus two, you have an extremely strong position and will fall by 1904. In Spring of '02 you can convey the army to Gascony, and a supported attack on either Turin or Milan only results in the other player's excellent Germany/Italy battle, with France having the advantage.

Finally, if you are confused and bewildered by the dardimonorous number of possibilities this opening gives you, then hold off on attacking anyone. Have the armies take Iberia and the fleet hold. You can always decide who to go after in 1902. Simply tailor your builds to the actions on the board and take the best offer you receive.

As with any pre-planned opening the most important aspect is the actual diplomacy. If you feel you have successfully made the English Channel, Burgundy and Piedmont neutral zones, then the Iberian Indecision is an excellent choice for an opening.

((The distinguishing factor between the Iberian Indecision and the more common French openings is the move A Par-Gas. Far more popular is A Par-Pic or A Par-Bur. Greg neglects to mention it, but there is one key advantage to placing the army in Gascony rather than Picardy or Burgundy, and that is that France then does not have a unit bordering Belgium. Why is this an advantage? Well, usually France wants a say in the question of who gets Belgium; thus the more popular opening moves. But in some cases, France may want to avoid taking part in the battle for this supply center, preferring to let England and Germany argue it out on their own. An example of such a situation might be where England and Germany both take the hard line: "Support me into Belgium in the fall, or else!" France's best way then to avoid making an enemy in 1901 would be the move to Gascony, so that he doesn't have to choose sides so early.

Four free issues. Greg, for an interesting article.))

Some samples of questions from the science finals I just gave (you'd be amazed at how many kids chose certain answers):

- 79. Heat can travel by
 - A. conduction, convection, and radiation.
 - B. plane, bus, or boat.
 - C. George, golly, and gosh.
 - D. protons, electrons, and neutrons.

- 100. A protected habitat for wild animals is called a(n)
 - A. wildlife refuge.
 - B. Indian reservation.
 - C. utopia.
 - D. New York City.

- 44. Dating a rock can help to
 - A. build nuclear weapons.
 - B. make the rock harder.
 - C. make the rock feel more socially acceptable.
 - D. determine its age.

- 42. Plate movements cause
 - A. meteors and comets to hit the earth.
 - B. earthquakes and volcanos.
 - C. heart disease and cancer.
 - D. broken china, unless there is soft padding under the table.

- 54. An example of an intense wind storm would be a(n)
 - A. thunderstorm.
 - B. blizzard.
 - C. earthquake.
 - D. hurricane, talking.

The Gossip Column

From Ronald Brown (5/25/83):

Dear Bruce,

Just noticed Paul Rauterberg's letter in VB #78 in which he complains about GMs who "recently have taken up the practice of arbitrarily separating seasons that they, in their wisdom, feel are overly complicated."

Seeing as Paul is a player in my zone and I do frequently call for separation when I feel the situation calls for it, I would like to answer him. I had planned to send him a private letter on the subject, but seeing as I've never said in any way seems only right to answer him there.

First, there is nothing "recent" about this practice. Even if I have played only has separated seasons when there are a lot of possibilities for it. In this case, and until I saw Paul's letter did not realize anyone was unhappy with this practice. So, my first point is, if you are unhappy with the way a GM is separating seasons, let me know. Silence means consent.

I don't separate seasons to frustrate players. I do it to save time and to save money. Winter, 1901 is always played separately in order to allow the more negotiable time in the early game when, one would think, it is needed. (Though dropping from the lack of interest in letter-writing I've seen lately it may be more of a reaction to wonder if we need any negotiating time at all. But that's another topic.)

I have no hard and fast rule about when I'll decide a situation is complicated enough to warrant separation. Every game is unique. It could be that Paul is calling as a separation call as his country has nothing to do for the rest of the game, or an albatross in another area of the board where a player may have to wait six different sets of conditions. I think Fred Davis' rule is that if there are more than three adjustments, he separates seasons. I allow a bit more than that, usually and a call that about five or six adjustments is complicated enough to also warrant Autumn retreats in this, as to call for, in effect, three seasons there could be a half a dozen possible results for the first, could result in a long time in Spring adjudication rolls around.

In short, I am trying to be fair to all players. If Paul wants a separation in his game, he just has to request it and I'll put it up to the GMs in his zone for a vote. However, I insist that if it's up to the players alone, they have to make requests. I've seen games disrupted too often by players who, perhaps wanting to create as many problems for everyone as possible, call for separation and requests, the chances of a player arbitrarily making such decisions for everyone are lessened. Remember, some players have a stake in disruptions. They don't want to

Though I do provide for two or more to request separation, I do not allow a GM to anticipate their requests, so that any separation call made will be played next deadline. I dislike this because that way, if a GM anticipates a winter, then saying they'll adjudicate the Spring if everyone agrees, it will create a state of uncertainty in the game that serves no useful purpose, and is

Actually, I do separate seasons on request of one player, as long as I can get a request before the fact -- and it has happened. So, having seen some of the complaints about were by player requests. I don't always separate seasons on a separation call. (This doesn't mean I would automatically grant with a request, but it certainly would have a strong influence on my decision.)

I don't think this is a serious problem, as Paul's complaint is a reaction to a GM's call. However, if there is a large group of people who are unhappy with the way I'm doing their judgement in calling for a separation, I will be open to suggestions to stilling to change the way I do things, but it will take more than a few letters to

Anyway, here I've convinced Paul that there are no hard and fast rules regarding separation calls that I, and most GMs, make regarding seasons. I'll be glad to hear what you think about this time!

13. Ironic I should mention 1980AC which was declared irregular because the GM, Don Horton, decided he wasn't going to call for standbys after he folded his size, yet John Michalski mentions 1981CZ in which a player played two different countries, and the game is accepted by the BNC! Something is unfair somewhere. You say the irregular label doesn't matter, but it does to me when I put a couple of years of hard effort into a game and was robbed of my efforts by a lazy GM who couldn't wait to get his games over with!

((What were you robbed of? You still won the game fair and square, and have the satisfaction of knowing that. While I agree that it is despicable for a GM to rob a game just because he has lost interest, you sound as though you feel that Horton cost you a win. He didn't; all he cost you was a rated win. I suppose if your rating matters that much to you, then you have a right to be angry. But at least you still got the win, regular or otherwise.

For reasons discussed in Mark Berch's recent letter, I am now convinced that a GM should separate seasons if any player requests it, and my handbooks will be changed to reflect this.)

From Billy Highvolume (6/4/83):

Dear Bruce,

John Kelley's back? What's his address? Huh? He sounds like my kind of patriot! I know he'd want a sample of TMP!

By the way, I know my rank was "USNR" but I sometimes used "USN NANTU" to make it clear to everyone that I was in the program. Tell Woodson, OK? Tell him I said "Aye Aye, ~~SMITH~~ Sir!"

Alex had better hope that there's an Alex's Column in the next issue or I'll never speak to her again. Uma, scratch that. It isn't a good threat. How about, "I'll constantly talk to her in July!" That's a good threat! I sure hope her passage didn't get mad at my comment on "incest" last issue. I swear, Mr. and Mrs. Lord, I was only joking!" (I think, I'm not really sure what I actually meant.)

Those British (i.e., Peter Birks) really are dumb! Imagine. A twelve year old Dip player in the U.S. Navy. Right! (Stupid soronic Europeans.) I realize that a 12 year old American is the mental equivalent of an 18 year old Britain but I never thought he'd admit it. Oh well.

By the way, when are you going to publish a subber list? If you can, send me all right-wing sympathizers (like us). On a different piece of paper, send me all of your left-wing sympathizers (and be prepared for their subsequent disappearance.) Oh, more, send with the list. I'd love to see such money. Oh, if only I had a car then I could shower Alex in gifts. And Laurie. And Mary. And Ann. And... Sorry. Where was I?

Aw, to hell with it! Just glance that there John Kelley's address as quickest as youse can. (That should keep Kador busy for a while.)

Peace through nukes! Bring back the literary test! God bless America!

((I gave John Kelley's address to Bill. (Sorry 'bout that, John!) The NY Lab list is published in the anniversary issue each October.))

From Eleanor P. Gaudipoo Jr (6/4/83):

Interesting that you should question whether I was actually on or the phone. I may not be as good as old enough to have been kids. I'm 42, and I'm a

... while

He is an achondroplastic dwarf. Successive generations of his parents, grand-
parents and uncles in my offspring. Heavy physical build, thickening of the
long bones, large skull, and possible lower spine deformation. Normal body size, thick
feet, very short arms and legs. (Mildred, pituitary gland, very small but normally
proportioned as adults.) He is 4'6" tall, more than usual in dwarves. Fred himself
made him aware that he was going to have a different physical appearance and
capability than most other kids, and that he would have to learn to handle the situation
and laughter. He did. Initially, adults were some of the problem since they were made
out that he really knew of all kids. He's mostly been bussing around or acting as
bouncer at a disco bar for a year or so. He's really nobody's business but he's been attempting
to argue with the nice little dwarf. Also there were some other people of monster
friends around who were very good at looking, freemoving, and a little

hey, you ever see that porno flick Star "Virgin" for you the little dwarf point to
the ones. Says the most boring time of his entire life was spending six hours in
costume doing retakes of the star lying on the space-couch masturbating. She couldn't
do it right. I think you mean she did. I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure.
I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure.

anyhow, he decided he would like to be a low-level executive. He went to
Hunting College and been with them since. They are a little, the and
the. One runs the plant (the first) and one the rest. At some point, Fred is given
some talents or relatives. I will and say, "hey, my little in a way. I'm not sure."

He usually gets home for the... Fred and the... I'm not sure. I'm not sure.
I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure.
I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure.

After three years, his pay is \$195 a week. I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure.
I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure.
I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure.
I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure.
I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure.
I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure.
I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure.

Kevin's wall placards

I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure.

In case you're wondering what an old geezer like me is doing in a group like
this, well, I'm sorry. But 1961, as I recalled, Robert... I'm not sure. I'm not sure.
I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure.
I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure.

I'll get my old Diplo set, too. I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure.
I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure.
I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure.

Thanks for the family history and the... I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure.
I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure.
I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure.
I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I'm not sure.

From Donald Brown (5/9/83).

Dear Bruce,

Just got VD #79. Great issue.

Good luck with the job search. I was just offered (confirmed) a position to teach grade twelve English for the summer. I had hoped I'd left teaching behind, but I know very well what you mean about 30+ seventh graders. I had the same honour my first two years of teaching. Almost enough to convince one to become a monk.

Anyhow, re Dick Martin...What can I say? It seems that things keep getting more twisted and convoluted. Even when I defend Dick and his wife he thinks I'm attacking him. I apologized to Dick months ago for some of my more extreme statements which were made in the heat of the moment when one of my friends was under attack and needed help. But that doesn't seem to be enough for him. I will not retract anything factual, nor will I begin to "mind my own business" when friends need help. As far as I'm concerned, this has gone on far too long. Dick's record speaks for itself and there's nothing more I can add to that. If it will make him feel better I will not mention his name again, okay?

Re Rod Walker, I do owe an apology there. It is true that I didn't read his entire article before I responded. The reason was, I couldn't read the second page, though BRUX was kind enough to send a better copy later. Also, I did set up a straw dog in my argument. But, I still disagree very strongly with him. If I have a fleet in Holland and order "A Hol-Bel" I don't want any GM making corrections. I miswrote it so it's my responsibility, and tough luck, as a player.

As a GM, the first time that happened to me, I agonized over what to do. If I disallowed the order, the player's country would be annihilated. If I corrected it, his attackers would be stood off. Finally, I realized that the decision wasn't mine to make. The player made it for me when he miswrote his order.

Anyhow, GMs have to draw the line somewhere -- a point I was trying to make in my straw dog argument -- and that line should be clear and unequivocal. Rod and I see this case differently, and that's fair enough. I don't read "A Hol" to mean "Any unit which happens to be in Holland." To me it means one thing: "Any Holland" and if that player doesn't have an army there it can't be ordered. There comes a point when players have to take responsibility for their own orders; Rod and I draw the line at different places.

Out of curiosity, I wonder how many GMs would allow that order to succeed? Any responses?

Actually, as a player I avoid a lot of sticky situations by always writing out my orders in full (including Fleet and Army) with a separate line for each order. That minimizes the chances for error and makes it highly unlikely that I'll violate a house rule. If all players followed that format we'd have a lot less arguments like this.

In response to Jim Meinel's article on Gamesmasters and the Telephone, that first point (do you prompt a player on the phone if he forgets to vote for a concession or draw?) really struck home, as I ended a game a few months ago when that happened. The player in question was understandably upset when the draw passed (it excluded him) and I think he should have been part of it, though that's irrelevant. He protested that I should have prompted him.

The trouble is, I can't always remember everything about every game when I'm speaking on the telephone, so rather than prompting when I remembered and not prompting other times, I made myself a rule that I would not mention anything about the game when a player called; I'd just write down what he said. That's one way to be even-handed. Again, as I mentioned in response to Rod, players have to take responsibility for their own orders (or lack of them).

Anyhow, I am growing more and more to dislike the telephone and to resent players who will call in late when they play. I'm starting to see how the really "soft" GMs thinking and how they react to it. I think the same thing is true for...

to use "special delivery" for last minute orders. I'm a cheapo. I mean I love hearing from people all over North America and don't want last minute shipping. It's the players who rely on last minute calls month after month. You are starting to get under my skin. I've noticed a few comments in other zones hinting that other GMs are getting pissed off with this sort of thing too.

(Add me to your list of GMs who resent the players who wait till deadline day each month to phone in their orders. Not only is it annoying, it's sticky for the player as well. Nine times out of ten I'll be here, but not always and if I'm not then the player is out of luck.

I would not allow "A Holt" as an acceptable abbreviation for a fleet in the land of

From Ig Law

barling.

That's "stace", silly. But well I don't know what you mean by "stace".

Do you still respect the "no" acronym case? Or are you joined the new "no" "no" "no" (Neither?)

Did I seem to muster enough interest in the First Annual "No" Award to address an envelope to Beery. But if you happen to be writing this, you're welcome to send my ballot.

I must confess I was prompted solely by your VC #78 to purchase Titan (barling at worst. I've wasted 16 ore, and I confess I do like it.

Cengis Gair- Well, maybe Cenghis Khan, but Immanuel Kant is no good.)

Ab, six paragraph 2. You see, I do write as I read. But I've gotten to where I can't recall what NQ stands for, but consider it an acronym, don't print. Top words will be more explicitly marked, okay?

Unfortunately, "my Alex" isn't mine, but you're talking about all the same.

In the good old days, a "sabeezer" was mailed to a publisher and included at least one game. But the only one I can think of has renounced the name so suppose the word is free to be redefined.

Since you insist you can print all of this, even the "I like this sentence" or your woomles can see just how uninteresting it is. "Dessert" is not at every sale. Grow up.

This is June 6.

See, the problem is BROX you get the idea that you can't have your package mailed cuz you paid the postage. Life's tough.

As I recall, Challenger was my favorite of them foreigners back when I used to read (I) Sven write once. Only one foreigner (and the one I like) who was able to fit in the typical American non-accusatory. Seemingly people of the "Challenger" variety find it the American image. Not sure why, but it's the closest thing.

I didn't know why Key is still around. I know it is not so.

Maybe you can all take criticism without offense, but not many take abuse without offense.

I got to type up the AK hunting regulations. Miscellaneous section was, uh interesting. Learn fun things like it's illegal to hunt any squirrel but Red Squirrels which is always open and illegal to hunt mice or bats in Chugach State Park. Oh boy.

I'm a communist and I don't have to conquer the world. (Well, maybe.)

Douglas told me once that people receiving unemployment should have to do something useless like move bricks back and forth just so they are doing something and are more likely to desire a real job. Sounds okay to me.

I think "cont" is a really great word.

I don't see what is wrong with racial and ethnic hatred. It's a natural human emotion.

Brucephalus. I like that. Maybe Brucinante is more accurate though. (w)
Around here orders like Hol S Bel aren't even blinked at. I see no reason to disallow even "C s B". What could it be?

I don't like toes with hair on them. I guess I'm heterosexual at heart.
That was a speech, eh? Uh huh.

So what happens if I order "A Mun does not hold."? It's ambiguous so it holds, but if you do that you are making it not follow orders. Just a thought.

I only GM a deviant but I've called players who forget to vote or disorder a unit. I did draw the line at illegible press, though.

Okay, Broo, I'll eat my pride and announce to your l.s. 120. Uncle Ig is opening Deviant #2. Summarized, each player proposes one variant rule per turn. Next turn players vote on them and the winning rule is put into effect (each turn). Enthusiastic novices wanted. There.

Lust,
Ig

((I don't blink at orders like Hol S Bel either. I throw them out without any hesitation whatsoever.

There are several subzines I can think of that don't carry any games, the biggest of all being Diplomacy Digest (which is an improper subzine of itself).

I'd better stop; I'm beginning to sound like you.))

From Dudley Kidd (6/8/83):

Dear Bruce,

I have read the various comments on hunting in the last few issues of VD with interest. For the most part they are the ramblings of people that know nothing whatever about hunting and make an emotional appeal with little factual evidence. Most of these people seem to be suffering from the "Bambi Complex".

The only people that have a moral right to oppose hunting are vegetarians. I feel they are wrong but they at least have a viable argument. As for the people that condemn hunting and then go to the supermarket and buy meat that has been prepared for them by hired butchers, I have nothing but contempt. Some of these animals are raised in conditions that can only be described as torture. Most hunters will make use of the game that they kill and for those who don't there are programs in many states where the game is donated to needy families.

A hunter has a very small impact on the game he hunts. A good example is the grey squirrel that has an annual 80% loss of population due to disease and other factors. As for sport hunting being a waste this is simply not true. Most trophy size game are older males way past their peak breeding years. In the state of Alabama in the 1930s the deer herd had fallen to about 20,000 and then the hunters stepped in and began to manage the herd and today the deer herds in Alabama number over 2,000,000 deer. One of the best things you can do for a species is to have it declared a game animal.

As for the comment that to take any life is wrong, then you would have to carry this outlook down to the lowest forms of "life". Would you do as St. Francis did and stop traffic on a busy street to let "Brother worm" cross the street? He also did not take a bath because he felt lice and fleas had a right to live also.

As for Mr. Walker's statement about the stars I feel that we will one day reach them. I only hope that when we do that there will still be hunters among us. For what if we have erased all of our hunter instincts and we encounter an alien race that has not? As for Mr. Walker's comment about hunting animals and the tragedy of Auschwitz having any similarity is absurd. A lot of the men that fought and died to free people in Auschwitz and other places were hunters. This asinine remark of Mr. Walker's is an insult to tens of millions of hunters in this country.

((Thanx for writing. I still think it is wrong to go out and shoot a helpless animal, though.))

From Jake Halverstadt (6/16/83).

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Dear Nairhall,

Finally, something like summer in the Rockies. Unfortunately, I've been rained a hell of a lot, and our Cache la Poudre River is flirting with hitting flood stage. Thank Providence (or Pawtucket) that we live on high ground.

Three weeks now without a softball game, and rain's to blame. Just as well -- Jake's hitting a paltry .286, and the team is only 1st in the division. For my pleasure, that in our last game, the kid pitched a shutout. Yes, in the pitch softball, a League One game, I set 'em down without a single run. Enough for me.

Add me to the list of folks willing to be a maildrop for folks up in Canada. I might be of help to those in Alberta, Saskatchewan or Manitoba, or maybe they'll catch a direct flight to Denver, and up to me. That's on my work schedule as dependence upon the mail. I often meet the postmen at the door, and we sure letter around the same day in a lot of cases.

You know that I play around with a shortwave radio, and I'm sure you know the intelligence level of the average American. Well, I'm sure you know that I get CB frequencies, and from time to time I listen to a few of the guys. What a bunch of dirtbags spew their filth over our public airwaves. The racist ones are nauseating, and the plain stupid comments are overwhelming. Now I know why it isn't cool any more. 1) Madison Avenue would rather sell us stupid ads than good blasters, and 2) stupid bastards rule the airwaves.

Please print or send me Pete Birks' address, as I'd like to know more about greyhound racing, gambling in general, and to thoroughly enjoy some of his stuff.

Rules to the Presidential Politics game (12 typewritten pages) will hit your mailbox just after this weekend. I am preparing copies for the folks who've asked about it (five and still counting), and they should also get them within a few days after reading this. Players in the Stocks and Bonds game will also get them, as well as folks I think might be interested in looking it over.

According to my schedule (and ask John MacFarlane how the game is -- he's sure it works) I should be ready to jump into a modest nine in a few days. The title included is a game based on NFL football -- draft your own team, and Mayor Rhee's determining your weekly results. Sports games don't have to be complicated, and from that describes a painful action on your part, really.

And you're going to be looking for another job. May I add a few words? I don't you dump the decadent, hauid, has-been East and get your ass out here. In a few days we're going to put up barricades and prohibit you from leaving the city here. Get in while the gettin's good! Once we get a few Kinky Kool kids out here, you, you'll be ours for life. I can't believe you're still in the East, or your bail East.

Last question: how are you on Albany history? A fellow I know who's been up there in his opinion, if the Hudson River were deeper, Albany would be the biggest city in the U.S. Of course, we're talking speculative history, but what a job, that I can't see it -- Albany's too far inland, I think. Also, my interest in the Erie Canal and all that, but even in 1851, NY was 15 times bigger than Albany according to my almanac.

How's this for a letter that runs all over the block? I'm sure it's your massive screed on publishing. I may be crazy, but I think it's a good one. And you wrote that a lot of potential pubbers try to keep their heads down. How's this for putting myself on the spot?

(Well, now you're committed! I doubt if Albany will ever become as large as, say, NYC or Chicago.

Sure, I'd love to get my ass out here. Capture a few of the Kinky Kool kids, and you oughta let me know. Problem is, I'm just going to be a maildrop for folks up here, and I have no idea if I have any of the time.)

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Alex's Column

Alex's Column is published by Alex Lord, Doornie of the Year, Box 178, Hannacroix, NY 12087.

Dear Doornies,

I think I should inform you why I haven't been writing lately. Well, I went to Canada on a school competition trip and that was a big, mucho grande project. (I have to review my Spanish too, while writing this ludicrous article, because I should be studying so I don't flunk my Regents Exam which is less than 48 hours away!) Our school's music director was very emotional over this for the four months that preceded it. Every day he would practically cry and scare the hell out of us by saying this was one of the worst competitions in a music festival that he ever entered with his band. What a joke! He said that we wouldn't get away with anything on this trip. What a joke. We got away with everything until the second to last night when our 20-person co-ed party was interrupted by our chaperone knocking on the door. Thank God for the peepholes in our doors, or we would have been really snagged. We all filed out one by one with our heads hanging in shame and giggled all the way down the hall to our hotel rooms. Our school received one bronze medal for our jazz ensemble and one for our concert band. Enough about Canada.

As the school year draws to an end, Bruce is getting more and more eager for the future and his future plans. He keeps hinting around to his students to have a farewell party for him, but his hints seem to have been ignored, much to his dismay and frustration. He can't understand why they don't throw a measly little party for him since he took them to Riverside recently and all. My guess is that they saw him spinning in the old Rotor and knew his brain is always at a party. It's the thought that counts, right Bruce?

Personally, I've been going to far too many graduation parties. One after another, brew after brew, present after present...how much are you paying me for this, Bruce? I had three yesterday; boy, it's rough. Bruce is really worn and battered lately, from crashing all the graduation parties that he hasn't been invited to. It's not that he's not welcome, but who wants a subscription to VD for a graduation present?!!!

Seriously, Bruce has been very nice about helping us get our mammoth in-ground pool ready for swimming. The weather has been stifling here with an 80° to 90° range lately and Bruce has been sweatier than ever. Our woodroom in our house has a stone floor so the day when Bruce came to visit me after school and it was 92° the sweat that evaporated didn't -- it condensed so that Bruce left little salty puddles all around our kitchen and woodroom. No, my father is glad that Bruce is contributing his muscles but Bruce's feet may put us back a week or two. With those boats who needs to wear "boaters"? Bruce is really a hairy guy, sometimes I wonder if he's a Cro-magnon Man, or if he is still going through his evolutionary process.

My father isn't sure yet if he can come swimming unless he undergoes electrolysis first. We just got a new filter and all that hair clogging it up would really do a job on it. Bruce with a mask, bathing cap and snorkel is scarier than Psycho II by far! We were deciding if we should paint our pool black, since it's a very popular color out in California. But if Bruce hit his head or got a sudden cramp from gorging and swimming too soon after, we would have to drag the pool for days, because he wouldn't show up. So, you're all welcome to come for a dip and some chips, but don't count on either if Bruce is here. Our house and furniture are still recovering from last year when Bruce used to "shake off" inside and throw hair balls that would outnumber those given off by our five cats and spray water everywhere. If there's more surface area from the numerous hairs, there's more water clinging to them. Too bad Bruce isn't an albino, then we wouldn't have to worry. Actually, that would be worse. Bruce would be complaining about his sunburn, his un-masculine hairlessness and similarity to an innocent, red-eyed bunny rabbit. How sad! Thank you Lord for endowing us with an enriching hairball. That's Bruce: a hairy, hungry, hyper hell-raiser! Bye...I'm off to see the Beach Boys in concert.

Your little surfer,
Alex

... since they are... she then spent two hours breaking the cake off her blouse.

... moving forward to... several ways... there's always a healthy supply of good beer... because Honey and Lady Lord will make us feel... 'cause Alex will... laugh her cute little head off... and all the water bubbles out.

Let's close this with a few personals.

To Alex... To the person who... To everyone who...

To the person who... To the player who...

To Alex... To everyone who...

To Alex... To everyone who...

To Alex... To everyone who...

To Alex... To BRUX...

→ To Steve... a lot of comments, corrections/questions.

To Wilson... of my readers from time to time...

To all ladies... Have a nice summer!

To...
To...
Atlanta, GA 30304