

SAMPLE

WHY ME ?

Issue # 25

February 8th, 1980

Publisher: Lee A. Kendter, 4347 Benner St., Phila., PA 19135
Subs: 10 for \$3.50. Sample for a 15¢ stamp. Phone 215-333-9729

GAME OPENINGS. Regular Diplomacy-no openings untill something runing in here ends. An exception will be made for new subbers only. I have had a lot of new people sub to this lately, and I will open a game for them. As soon as I have 7 players it will start. I may run this game as a suplement to the 'zine untill there is space inside for it. "Blind" Diplomacy: There are 5 interested in another game of this, but there have been no new inquiries for some time. If I do not fill this by next issue it will be dropped. Gamefees are still \$3.00 + a sub.

PRIORITIES EXPLAINED: A lot of you have expressed concern over the future of Why Me since I'm now the Boardman Number Custodian. Let me set the record straight once and for all ! THIS is my number one priority! If I become too bogged down with work, the numbers will go! Is that clear enough ? I have spent a lot of time and effort to establish myself as a reliable publisher. I enjoy doing this very much, and I will not fold it untill I am no longer interested in the Diplomacy hobby. I took over doing the numbers because I felt I had enough time to do them. So far this has proven to be true. If it changes in the future, I'll look for another number custodian.

BOARDMAN NUMBER PROGRESS REPORT: Since a lot of you have asked about various things, I'll try to explain what the status of the numbers is.

- 1) There is an awesome amount of backlog to be published. I have typed 13 pages for the next "Everything" so far. As soon as this 'zine (WHY ME) is finished, I will get back to Everything. I hope to have it out in another two weeks or so.
- 2) Because I have made Everything my main project, I have not been able to answer a lot of questions that were asked concerning a variety of things. (irregular games, unreported finishes, etc). I will get to these questions, but only after I get done with the backlog of unpublished material.
- 3) I have been issueing new numbers as soon as I've received the request for them. This has been no problem so far.

That about wraps this up, and no future BN business will be announced here. That's what Everything is for and all further stuff will be in it's pages.

What happened to 1979 IY ? I terminated it ! Why? Because "Bernie Oaklyn" tried to say that I set-him-up with an unfavorable position in that game. This is a lot of horseshit ! I have never done anything in my GMing career that was unethical in any way. However, I will not have this creep try to destroy my reputation, so calling an end to the game was my only choice. All of the players in that game(except "Oaklyn") have been invited to play in another game. This game will be starting shortly.

While we are on the subject, I have joined in with a group of GMs who think that Bernie Oaklyn(Buddy Tretick) is bad for the hobby. I had tried my best to stay out of this situation. I even allowed "bernie" to play in a game. After all of the extreme harrasment that he has given me (mostly in personal letters), I will never let him play in a game again. This is the end of the issue as far as I'm concerned.

1980 A has begun. Why Me #13 started and was assigned 1980 A as a BN. All fo the players were notified in a seperate mailing a few weeks ago. For those of you who are intersted, the lineup is.
 Austria: Vernon Parker, England: Curtiss VanMeter, France: William Schiwautz, Germany: William Collins, Italy: David Arnott, Russia: Wayne Callahan, Turkey: Cliff Hardisty
 Deadline for spring '01 is March 7th, 1980

1978 Icv Youngstown Winter 1907 GM: Karl Schuetz
 A seperation of seasons was requested and granted.
 China(CD) A Pek retreats OTB, GM removes F Yel (2)
 England(Stimmel) F Mao-Sao omitted last turn. Removes F Por (9)
 France(CD) even (1)
 Germany(Schleinkofer) A Mun ret to Ruh, Remove A Gas. A Ber-Sax was not underlined last turn and should have been. (4)
 India(Tucker) Build A Cal (13)
 Italy(Decker) Build F Mog (16)
 Japan(Heeley) Build F Osa (7)
 Russia(Schiwautz) Build F StPsc, A Mos, A Oms, A Sev (20)
 Spring 1908 moves are due to Karl on Mar 1st, 1980.
 Publishers comment: It's starting to llok like a showdown is shaping up here. I think that the next few turns will show where this game is going.

74 F | Fall 1914 GM: Bob Sergeant
 Austria(Kelly) A Nap-H, A Rom(s)A Nap, A Ven-Apu, A Tri-Ser, A Rum-H, A Bud(s)A Rum, A Gal(s)A Rum
 England(Kissner) A Lvp-H
 Germany(Von Ulrich) F Bal-Den, A Sil(s)Rus A Lvn-War, A Mun-Tyr, A Pie(s)A Mun-Tyr, A Mar(s)A Pie, A Ber-Mun, A Bre-Lon, F Eng(c)A Bre-Lon, F Iri-Lvp, A Boh-H (uno)
 Russia(Brennick) A Lvn-War, A Nwy-Swe, F Mid-Nao, F Edi-H
 Turkey(Kendter, Sr) F Lyo-Tus, F Wes-Tyrs, F Ion-Adr, F Aeg-Ion, A Ukr(s)A Sev-Rum, A Sev-Rum, F Bla(s)A Sev-Rum, A Bul(s)Aser, A Ser(s)A Sev-Rum, A Gre(s)A Ser

Last season the German move F Mid-Eng Was incorrectly reported as F Por-Mid. All players were notified

Supply Center Chart

Austria: Home, Nap, Rom, Rum, Ven	7 even
England: Lvp	1 even
Germany: Home, Bel, Bre, Den, Hol, Lon, Mar, Par,	
War	10 even, was short
Russia: Edi, Nwy, Por, StP, Swe, WAR	6 build 2 (can't)
Turkey: Home, Bul, Gre, Mos, Ser, Sev, Spa, Tun	10 even

There is a call for a R-G-T draw. Please vote with your orders.
 Deadline is March 3rd, 1980 to Bob (winter '14 and Spr '15)

Blind Game. Deadline for this is March 6th, 1980 (thursday).

Press: Vienna: Thanksgiving will come early this year.

THE POSTAL DIPLOMACY TOURNAMENT. There are stilopenings in this tournament, to be run by Bob Sergeant. The deadline for entering is Feb 16th, 1980. I can't beleive that a few more of you don't want to play for prizes! Perhaps you are thinking you'll get up against all the "big boys" and don't have a chance. This is not true at all. I think that there will be all kinds of players in this. In fact, a few people who told me they are entering this are not real experienced players. Come on, give it a try! \$20.00 gets you into 3 games. Send your money to; Robert Sergeant, 3242 Lupine Dr., Indianapolis, IN 46224.

Just think, you might even get a chance to stab me!

WHY IS THIS ISSUE LATE ?

Something occurred this issue that I'd hoped would never happen, and that was a whole day's delay in getting this out. Why did it happen? Because of the *%&# postal service, that's why. Let me explain. I always get my mail around 10:00 in the morning (give or take a ½ hour. As soon as I get it I begin to work on the 'zine. (I don't go to work on Friday till about 4:00 O'clock in the afternoon.) Thus, 70% of the games are completed on Friday afternoon. But this Friday we had a substitute mailman, and he didn't deliver it until I was getting ready to leave for work! I never get my mail that late! Thus, a whole day was lost in doing this. I do have to wait for the deadline days mail before I can start. So, the USPS accomplished what sickness, falling asleep at the typewriter, and a few other things couldn't do. Soory fellows, I couldn't help it.

A puzzle, by John Kador

I may be a liar, but I ain't guilty !
There are nine suspects in a certain crime. When questioned, each of the suspects answers as follows:

John: "Elvis is guilty."

George: "It was not Elvis."

Ringo: "I did it."

Paul: "It was either Ringo or Bernie."

Elvis: "George isn't telling the truth".

Fabian: "Ringo is guilty".

Chubby: "It was not Ringo".

Bernie: "It was neither Ringo nor I."

Ricky: "Bernie is telling the truth, and it wasn't Elvis either."

Only three of the nine suspects are telling the truth. That being the case, who committed the crime?

(solution on P. 6 (but don't peek))

Roller Derby Diplomacy

by Vern Schaller

Here's a really wild Dip variant-I call it Roller Derby Diplomacy. Each player submits his own orders as usual but, in addition, he sub,its orders for other powers as well. The order voted most popular for each unit is then considered the order of record. In case of any ties, the orders submitted by the individual who actually owns the unit is then used. There might want to be some rule that says that each player can submit no more than 5 orders for other powers. Just think, France and Germany could force an English fleet in the North sea to convoy a German army from Holland to London.

GM would only publish the orders of record for each power-not all of the orders submitted.

The one interesting thing about Roller Derby Dip is that it would force all of the players to communicate with all of the other players because, for example, Turkey could directly affect what happens to England right from the beginning

Vern

Publishers comment: I could see some problems developing with this idea, but none that couldn't be solved with careful rules writing. comments anybody ??

Miscellaneous news

Claw & Fang, by Don Horton, is closing down game openings. This is one 'zine that always had openings. Don didn't give me any particular reason, he just mentioned it to me for my "need-a game" list. I know that Don has about 35 games running right now, maybe he's just got too many !

79AD Win '05 Eng: Bld F Edi (can't last issue meant he couldn't build 3, not that he couldn't build). Fra: Bld A Par, F Mar. Ger: Rem A Bur. Ita: Bld F Nap. Rus: rem A Ukr. Tur: Rem A Arm, A Rum ret to Sev. Oops! Aus F Smy ret to Eas (Phil, you are a problem!) Spring 1906. not as crazy as last turn, but still fun! GM: Sr Austria(Cooper) A Mun-Ruh, A Sil-Ber, A Bud-Rum, A Rum-Ukr, A Bul-Con, A Ser-Bul, F Eas(s) Ita F Gre-Aeg England(Schuetz) F StP(nc)-Nwy, F Nwg-Cly, F Kie-Den(dis-Hel, Bal, OTB) F Edi-Nth(dis-Nwg, OTB) France(Callahan) A Gas-Par, F Mar-Pie, A Par-Pic, A Ruh-Bel, F Nth-Den F Cly-Edi, A Yor(s) F Cly-Edi, F Lvp-NAO Germany(Loewenstern) F Ber-Kie, A Hol(s) F Ber-Kie Italy(Hart) F Nap-Tyrs, F Gre-Aeg, F Ion(s) F Gre-Aeg, A War(s) Aus A Rum-Ukr, A Boh-Mun, A Pie-Mar Russia(McGranaghan) A Mos-Ukr Turkey(Schaller) F Aeg-Con, A Ank(s) F Aeg-Con, A Sev(s) Rus A Mos-War, F Smy-H

DEADLINE for Fall 1906 is March 7th, 1980.
 Press: Ankara: I don't want to hear about any concession proposals, gentlemen. I will vote no on every one submitted.
 Berlin-Moscow: Soon I'll be able to join you. Stick around, 2 person invasions often work.

 79HD Spring 1903 Austria almost dead. GM: Sr Austria(Hyatt) A Bud(s)A Gal-Rum (dis-Ann), A Gal-Rum (dis-Boh, Sil OTB) England(Schleinkofer) A Bel(s) Ger A Ruh-Bur, F Nwy-Bar, F Nth-Nwy, F Lvp-Iri, F Eng(s)F Lvp-Iri(dis-Wal, Lon, Nth, OTB) France(Pierce) F Bre-Eng, F Mid(s) F Bre-Eng, A Bur-Pic, A Mar-Bur Germany(Howe) A Den-Swe, A Kie-Liv, F Bal(c) A Kie-Liv, A Ruh-Bur, A Mun(s) A Ruh-Bur Italy(Hardisty) A Tri-Vie, A Tyr(s) A Tri-Vie, A Ven-Tri, F Apu-Nap, F Ion-H Russia(Conner) A Rum-Bud, F Bla-Rum, A Ukr-Gal, A War(s) A Ukr-Gal, F Swe-H, A StP-Fin Turkey(Fritter) F Ank-Con, F Gre-Alb, F Aeg-Gre, F Eas-H, A Bul(s) F Aeg-Gre, A Ser(s) Rus A Rum-Bud
 Deadline for Fall 1903 is March 7th, 1980

 78HR Winter 1907 Fra F Mid ret to Iri. Eng rem F Bot. Tur bld A Ank.
 Spring 1908. Not much progress GM: Sr Austria(McLendon) A Pie-H, A Gal(s) Rus F Rum, A Ser-Bul, A Gre(s) A Ser-Bul, A Vie-Bud, A Syr-Arm, A Alb-Syr, F Ion & Feas (c) A Alb-Syr England(Hart) A Yor-Lon, F Nth-Lon, F Mid-Iri, F Lvp-Wal, F Eng(s) F Lvp-Wal, F Den-Kie France(Hyatt) F NAO-Cly, F Iri-Lvp, F Wal(s) F Iri-Lvp (dis-Ann), A Bre-Gas, A Pic-Bre, A Hol(s) A Bel, A Kie-Den, A Ber-H, A Ruh-Bur, A Bel-H Russia(Kovalcik) F Rum(s) Aus A Ser-Bul, A Lvn-Mos, A StP-H, A War-H Turkey(Heslin) F Sev-Rum, A Bul(s) F Sev-Rum, A Con(s) A Bul, A Ank-Arm F Smy-Aeg
 Deadline for Fall 1908 is March 7th, 1980

 I STILL NEED ARTICLES.

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Unless somebody out there sends me something soon I will run out of material (besides my own) to run in here. It's your 'zine folks; if you want articles you better write 'em.

79KQ (formerly WM 12) Fall 1901. Confusion in the Balkans? Sr.
 Austria(Luckenbill) F Alb-Gre, A Ser(s)Tur A Bul-Rum(nso) A Gal-Ukr
 England(Costikyan) A Edi-Nwy, F Nth(c) & F Nwg(s) A Edi-Nwy
 France(Hart) A Pic-Bel, A Spa-Por, F Mid-Spa(sc)
 Germany(Perlmutter) A Ruh-Mun, A Kie-Hol, F Den-H
 Italy(Cartier) A Tyr-Boh, A Apu-Tun, F Ion(c)A Apu-Tun
 Russia(Townsend) F Bot-Swe, A StP-Fin, F Sev-Rum, A Ukr(s)F Sev-Rum
 Turkey(Aucott) A Bul(s)Rus F Sev-Rum, F Ank-Bla, A Con-Ank

Supply Center Chart

Austria: Home, GRE, SER	5 build 2
England: Home, NWY	4 build 1
France: Home, POR, SPA, BEL	6 build 3
Germany: Home, HOL, DEN	5 build 2
Italy: Home, TUN	4 build 1
Russia: Home, RUM, SWE	6 build 2
Turkey: Home, BUL	4 build 1

DEADLINE for winter 1901 is March 7th, 1980

Press: Vienna: Despite Russo/Italian hostility Austria extends a hand in peace. A peace delegation has been dispatched to Warsaw. The world awaits to see if it will be met in the spirit it was sent or if it will be rebuffed.

Vienna-Paris: Remember our agreement, we hope you will not be put off by a horde of ill mannered peasants. Vive le France!

Constantinople: Fences are not like chairs. When you sit on a fence, sooner or later you must either get off or fall off. The only question is when and on which side you will land.

Berlin: Kaiser Franz Imboden Mutter today announced that no announcements would be made today.

Munich: Bounce? Bounce? Bounce?

Nth Atl Ocean: We demand to be dubbed a supply center and throw our full loyalty to Germany.

Berlin: Q-Why didn't you bounce Russia out of SWE?

A-Well, to be quite frank I saw no point in doing so, Russia has written me no less than four long letters. All of them gave me the picture of a honest person who really wanted to be my ally.

Q-What about England?

A-England did exactly what any player who has that country should do-that is propose a triple alliance with me and France. Yet the correspondence I recieved from him was very sparce and fleeting. This could mean one or two things, either he is not spending much time on this game or he is not spending much time on me.

Q-Is this dishonesty?

A-No, not at all it's just that I'd rather wait and see what develops. For now though I like Russia's role more.

Q-What about France?

A-Well he seems to be an avid Dippy player. He has written alot as well. He did not of course move to Bur, so I see no reason to suspect him of any wrongdoings. However it must be said that Englands A Liv-Edi entailed alot of trust in the French player.

Q-So you see a G/R vs E/F war developing?

A-Well, there really isn't much future in that is there? I mean unless Italy attacks France or the Russian southern front is broken the war you mentioned would be a stalemate.

Q-One last question, do you expect to win this game?

A-No, I can't see how Germany can win any game unless there are a plentitude of NMR's and I don't expect that to happen.

Q-Sorry, just one more. How come you are the only person who writes press.

A-I am in a Federal maximum security penal institution serving a lifeterm for dilling an ally who had betrayed me in Spring '04 in 1978XX. Thus I have plenty of time to write. ((ccontinued))

79KQ press continuation.

However I expect to be paroled within a month or two. Boy I'm glad that Lee Kendter printed the address's of the other players in this game. I think I'll look some of them up after the game ends. ((I'm glad you explained that David. I thought maybe you hated your GM, and wanted to give him all this extra typing!))

79C Winter 1906 England: NMR will be one short. Germany: Remove F Bal, A Mun ret to Ber. (everyone concerned noticed that I didn't list this as being dislodged). Italy: Bld A Rom, Russia: Bld A Mos, A War F Sev. Turkey: Rem F Lyo, Bld F Arm(fc) (impossible)

Spring 1907 All proposals fail, war to continue. GM: Sr

England (Harmon?) NMR F Nth, F Den, F Ska, A Hol, F Eng, A Ruh hold

France (Cooper) F Por(s) F Mid, F Mid(s) Tur F Lyo-Spa(sc) NSO, NSU

Germany (Frost) A Kie(s) A Ber-Mun, A Ber-Mun

Italy (Kelly) A Rom(s) Tur F Adr-Ven, A Mar(s) F Spa, F Spa(sc)(s) Tur

F Naf-Mid, F Wes(s) F Spa

Russia (Hart) A Swe-Nwy, A StP(s) A Swe-Nwy, A Mos-Lvn, A War-Sil, A Mun-Tyr, A Boh & A Tri(s) A Mun-Tyr, A Vie(s) A Tri, A Ukr-Rum, F Sev(s) A Ukr-Rum, F Con-Bul(sc) A Ser(s) F Con-Bul

Turkey (Michalski) F Naf-Mid, F Adr-Ven A Ven-Pie**A Ven(s) Ger A Mun-Tyr, F Aeg(s) A Gre-Bul, A Gre-Bul, F Bla-Rum, F Arm-Caspian (x)

(x) (nice try John)

First, let me explain the underlined turkish orders for A Ven. Since two orders were submitted for the smae unit, I can't allow either to succeed.

Next, the draw votes were; 2 yes, 2 no, 2 not voting. The concession vote to Russia was 4 yes, 1 no, 1 not voting. No new proposals.

Deadline is March 7th, 1980

Press: Con-Mos: In response to your letter, I have a counterproposal I wish you to consider. How about if you trade me Sevastopol for a bag of magic beans?

Aboard the Turkish flagship Ahmed Ben Casey: Admiral Ram Al Ucan has retired to his harem room to celebrate the seizure of the Black Sea. When reported rudely pointed pointed to the loss of Constantinople, the admirals son and acting commander xxx Asmani Az Ucan made the best of the situation. "We have given the Russians so much oppertunity that we will gain 2 for each 1 lost in the confusion".

STANDBY for England: Jack Fleming, 5000 22nd Ave NE #211, Seattle, WA 98105

Solution to puzzle on page 3.

The statements of John and George have opposite truth values, as do those of Ringo and Chubby and those of Paul and Bernie. The statements of Ringo and Fabian have the same truth values. Since there are exactly three true statements, which must be included in the three pairs of opposite valued statements, Elvis and Ricky are lying. Consider the remaining cases:

- 1) Elvis is lying = George is truthful = Elvis is not guilty. Hence, John is lying and George is telling the truth.
- 2) Ricky is lying = Bernie is lying = Paul is truthful. Hence, either Ringo or Bernie is guilty.
- 3) Since there are only three true statements, Ringo and Fabian must both be lying.
- 4) Ringo is lying = Chubby is truthful = Ringo is not guilty
- 5) Bernie is guilty.

Amendment to houserules: When a draw or concession vote is called for, a player who NMR's will not count either way. Only the players who get their orders in will have anything to say about the vote. So, if not voting means a yes or no vote (may vary), that only means those who sent orders and didn't vote.

781A Winter 1908, spring 1909. France still alive, GM-Jr.
Austria betraying Turkey?

Austria(Konrad Baumdister)F Nap-Ion, F Lvo-Tyr, A Tri-Alb, A Tyo-Tri
England(Cliff Hardisty)F Mid-Por, F Spa(sc)(sup)F Mid-Por, F Lon-Eng,
F Liv-Iri, F Nth-Nwv, A Swe-Nwv
France(Phil Cooper)F Por(sup)A Gas-Spa, A Gas-Spa, A Bre-Par
Germany(Jim Heslin)A Par-Pic, A Bur(sup)A Par-Pic,F Bea(sup)A Par-
Pic, A Mun-Boh, A Kie-Mun, A Ber-Sil, A War(sup)A Stp-Mos, A Stp-Mos,
A Den-H
Russia(Ed Tucker)A Mos(sup)Ger A War-Ukr,* A Vie(sup)A A Tri-Bud(NSO)
Turkey(Fred Hyatt)F Naf-Mid, F Tun-Wmd, A Sev(sup) A Rum-Ukr, F Bla
(con)A Ank-Rum, A Ank-Rum, F Smy-Aeg, A Gre-H, A Ser(sup)A Bud,
A Bud(sup)Aus A Tri-Vie(NSO)

*NSO A Mos is Dis and may (ret)-Lvn, OTB
Winter builds Aus Rem A Ven, Eng Bui F Lvp, F Lon, Fra Rem A Pic,
Ger Bui A Mun, A Ber, A KieRus Rem A Ukr, A Gal, Tur Bui F Smy
Deadline for the fall 1909 orders is March 7, 1980.

There has been a call for a E-G-T draw. Please vote on this with
your orders.

Press: Moscow: Stripped of all dreams of European dominance and seeing
his far flung forces slowly succumb to the might of the strong three,
the Tsar is planning a last ditch defense line through Moscow. With
the desertion of two full armies last season the Tsar asks for German
help in this endeavor.

79.V Winter 1905 Aus Rem A Ukr. Eng rem F Edi, F Nth, F Yor. Fra
bld A Par, F Bre, F Mar. Rus Bld F StP(nc).

Spring 1906 Will the East ever get their act together? GM:Sr

Austria(Tucker) A Ser(s)F Bul, A Bud(s)A Tri, A Tri(s)A Vie, A Vie
(s)A Tri, A Rum-Gal, F Bul(sc)(s)Tur F Con(otm)
England(Cooper) A Swe(s)Rus A Nwy
France(Bunke) A BurOmun, A Kie(s)A Bur-Mun, A Hol(s)A Kie, A Bel-Ruh,
A Par-Pic, F Bre-Eng, F Mar-Spa(sc), F Lon-Nth, F Nwg(s)F Lon-
-Nth, A Edi-H, F Wal-Lon
Germany(Callahan) A Mun-Tyr, A Ber-Mun, A Den(s)Rus A Nwy-Swe(nso)
Italy(McGranghan) A Gal-H(dis-Boh, Sil, OTB), A Ven-Pie, F Adr-Ion,
A Smy(s)Rus F Bla-Ank, F Aeg-Con, F Gre-H,
Russia(Blau) F StP(nc)-Bar, A Nwy-H, A War(s)Aus A Rum-Gal, A Sev-Ukr,
F Bla-Ank

Turkey(Pierce)F Con-Aeg, A Ank(s)Rus F Bla-Con(nso)(Dis-Arm, OTB)
Deadline for Fall 1906 is March 7th, 1980.

Press: Constantinople:With everybody clammering to be his friend, the
poor Turk is utterly confused. Maybe next time he'll get his _____
together and get the proper orders to his commanders. In the meantime,
he's willing to listen for the next higher offer.

Rome: The Pope accepts the peace pipe and hopes that the real object-
ive can now be reached-a return to Naples of Sophia Loren.

Vienna: Austrian spies in Paris have reported a shortage of pizzas in
that city and that the France are preparing a special convoy in Mar
to set sail for Italy.

79CP Winter 1903 (yep, that's right) Problems, Problems. GM:Sr
First, the seasons were labled wrong(minor problem), Secondly, Fra
A Bur-Mar failed. Third, 3 of you asked for a seperation. Finally,
two of you NMR'd ! And Lary, you're wrong! It is F Con-Smy, not A con.
I spent 20 minutes checking this!My bill will follow.

Austria: Bld A Bud. England Bld F Lon. Fra NMR A Bel ret OTB. Ger:
F Kie ret to Ber, Remove A Mun, A Ruh. Italy: Bld F Nap. Russia: Bld
A War, A Mos. Turkey NMR GM removes F Aeg. DEADLINE Mar 7th.
Stand bys: For Fra-John Kelley, Box 35, Klickitat, WA 98628.
For Tur-Russel Blau, 92 Hillside Rd., Watertown, MA 02172

Let's talk about ethics in Diplomacy. For readers who believe

I've just committed a non sequitur, please skip this article. The question for today concerns whether a Diplomacy player has an obligation to report postal errors. To narrow the problem down, let's consider cloaked errors in general (a cloaked error is apparent only to one player) and cloaked to your advantage. Perhaps an example would help.

Let's say you are playing France in a postal Diplomacy game. You have a unit in Ruhr and you have a shot at either Munich or Kiel. Germany, your enemy, has only one unit to cover two supply centers. Finally, through whatever tactics you choose, you decide to go for Munich and your orders state: Army Ruhr-Munich. When the gamezine arrives, you rip it open to your game to see what Germany did.

"The son of a bitch!" you murmur. "He covered Munich."

But something doesn't add up. You've gained a supply center. But where? You look at your orders as reflected in the gamezine and you see that your Army Ruhr moved to Kiel, not to Munich as you ordered. You confirm your records and realize that the GM has somehow goofed. But it's clearly a goof in your favor because you've gained a center. And furthermore, it's a cloaked error because the error is apparent only to you. What should you do?

Suddenly there's a ringing sound and a little, squeaky-voiced guy over your right shoulder whispers that you should report the error to the GM.

"After all," he insists, "you've gained a center through no skill or intelligence of your own. You're not entitled to the center; it would demean the game if you accepted it now."

"Don't listen to the turkey," your alter-ego suggests to your sinister side. "It's all part of the game. If your orders got lost in the mail and your opponent benefited, would he insist on an extension for you? Not on your life. It's all the same: orders getting lost or getting garbled. You take your chances and suffer or celebrate as the case may be."

"Stick that pitchfork where the sun don't shine! How'd you like to be the German player, losing a unit despite brilliant play? It reduces Diplomacy to the level of Go Fish or even Risk."

"Oh, yeah! What's wrong with Risk? Me and the boss play it all the time. Besides, I figure Germany had a fifty-fifty shot at losing a center. That's even odds. I don't know what you're crying about?"

This dialogue continues for a while but, when you see how unproductive it is, you filter it out. You have better things to do than to listen to buzzing in your ears. You have the obligation now to apply great moral and ethical truths to resolve this dilemma: do you have to report this GM-generated error?

Let me reserve my answer to the dilemma until I describe a situation which led to an examination of my ethics. I'll share the situation with you and then give you my thinking which led to this article. Then I'll wait for any reactions to my handling of the affair.

I've never heard of anything quite like what happened to me. The situation was apparently unique because, while there was indeed a GM error and only I could detect it, the cloaked error helped me and hurt me simultaneously. The situation follows. (I am changing a few facts to protect the identity of the game. The specific game itself is not important. There's no reason to involve my fellow players.)

In the game in question, I was allied with another player in an immensely successful alliance. By 1907, we had split the board between us. We both stood at 13 centers. But, from my paranoid perspective, our agreement to go for a two-way draw looked remote. His position seemed better than mine and I smelled an ambush. But I couldn't be

sure. And I wasn't prepared to launch a pre-emptory strike. So I compromised. He asked me to hit an enemy unit to cut its support. I didn't want that support cut. But I had to have deniability. So I used the old deliberately-miswritten order trick. I intentionally miswrote my order so as to make it illegal. My order, as written, would not cut support. This way, if I was wrong and my ally was sincere, I could reasonably offer my apologies for a momentary lapse. And if I was right, and my ally did stab me, he would encounter an unbargained-for hole in his flank.

But what happened? You guessed it! The GM apparently deciphered my orders as correct. Whether he made an honest misreading of my order or took it upon himself to correct my "obviously unintended goof," I can't be sure.

But whatever the reason, the illegal order was declared legal by means of a cosmetic fixup.

And my game-long ally? You'll be pleased to learn that he was trustworthy. He didn't stab me. We eventually shared a two-way victory.

But that didn't change the ethical implications of the situation. An illegal order succeeded and I benefited. I was also hurt (at least potentially) because had the illegal order failed, I would have been in a good position for a solitary victory. (Now you know why I don't want to identify the game.) What was my ethical responsibility, if any?

I did not report the error. Here is my logic.

I am consistent. I have never called a GM to task for any alleged error, in my favor or not, in six years of postal play. I had detected errors before, but never had a need to report them. Other players or the GM himself always caught the inaccuracies. I didn't see (and don't see) why I should have started reporting that error.

On another level, how is this type of error different from "acceptable" errors; for example, orders lost in the mails? If lost orders are analagous to last military orders in real war, aren't misread orders parallel to garbled diplomatic traffic?

Most GMs are generally scrupulous in their gamesmastering, which allows me to retain my liberal philosophy. Errors are exceedingly rare and, when they do occur, they are generally fixed without my involvement. I intend to keep it that way. If anyone has other thoughts on this matter, I's like to consider them.

I'd like to comment briefly on John's article. I once had a game that an error occurred in that was to my advantage. I never noticed the error, and I was unaware of it until game end. In the endgame statement of the player that I stabbed for the win, he said that I did know of the error and asked him not to tell the GM. This was an out-and-out lie (for revenge?), but the GM seriously thought of calling the game irregular because of my unethical behavior!! Only after I convinced the GM otherwise, and the other player could not produce the letter that I supposedly had said this in, did the GM let the game go through as a normal game. So there's some food for thought also.

Lee Sr.

DIPCON XIII This, the annual Diplomacy tournament, will be held this year in Michigan. For information, contact.

M.D.G., Michicon 9/Dipcon XIII, PO Box 787, Troy, MI 48099

If you are a true Diplomacy fanatic, this is the one to go to. I know I'd love to go, but that's a bit out of my budget allowance. I will probably go to Origins. More on that in a later issue

Oh yes, Dipcon will be the weekend of June 6-8. A bad choice in my opinion. A lot of college students will be unable to attend at such an early date. And, a LOT of Dippy players are College students!

LEE, A. KENDTER
4347 BENNER ST.
PHILA., PA. 19135

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Doug Beyerlein
640 College
Menlo Park, CA 94025

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