

WHY ME ?

Issue # 33

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Subs: 10 for \$4.00. Sample for a 15¢ stamp. Phone 215-333-9729

Game openings: Since a few games are drawing to a close I will start accepting applicants for ONE new game. First come, first served. I do NOT want any publishers to plug this opening !!!! Also, the Blind game has one spot left as of today (Tues, when I'm actually typing this). Gamefees are still \$3.00 + maintenance of a sub.

Future game openings.... I feel that I am running too many games right now, so future openings will be very few and far between. I am currently GMing 12 games in here. I plan to carry no more than 8 at any one time in the future, so no more games will open until I can get the amount reduced to the lower level. Why? Because I simply am convinced that I can not maintain quality GMing if I have too many games to do at once. The main asset of Why Me has always been the quick publication and mailing of it. I wish to keep that tradition alive because I feel it's one of the main reasons for my popularity. I have been very hard pressed on occasion to get this done and out without it interfering in other obligations. I will feel a lot more comfortable if I do not have as many games to do. Sorry if this is inconveniencing any of you waiting for a gamestart.

I also would like to state that this does not mean a winding down of Why Me. It is a lessening of the games only. I felt it necessary to make myself clear on this matter as I've been overwhelmed with a lot of requests for samples and game openings lately. I assume it's because of various plugs I've gotten lately. This should make it very clear that new people looking for games are wasting their time right now if they write to me. I really wish I could satisfy them all, but that's an impossibility.

Speaking of game openings..... JIHAD, by Glenn Overby , 23006 Tawas, Hazel Park, MI 48030, has openings in regular Diplomacy. Glenn also has opening in several other variant games including Mercator. This is a 13 player variant set on a map of the world. I just received a copy of the map from Glenn and it looks right up the alley of the variant lovers that sub here. Glenn's sub rates are 12 for \$6.00. Why not send him a stamp and request a sample ?

Anybody out there receive Bernie Oaklyn's Le Front ? I understand that he has really lashed out at me in a recent issue. Since I don't get the 'zine I'd like to borrow a copy if any of you have it.

Stabfest at the Kendter house a big success ! Last Saturday (9/13) I had a FTF get-together at my house. We played a Youngstown game as the main event. Knives flew fast and furious and it was a well played game. The conclusion was a 3 way draw between China (Karl Schuetz), England (Bill Kendter), and Japan (Phil Cooper). The other participants were; John Caruso (Aus), Kathy Byrne (Fra), John Zipper (Ita), Vern Schaller (Rus), Fred Hyatt (Tur), and yours truly as Germany. We also played a "gunboat" (no diplomacy) game on the standard board after the Youngstown game. Hope you all enjoyed it...I did ! Oh yeah...India was left in C.D. as one of the invitees was a last minute casualty.

DEADLINES for all games are as follows. Blind #1 & 2- Oct 16th. All other games-Oct 17th. The exception is 1978 FL, see under the game.

1979 C Wrap-up

	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10
Austria	4	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
England	4	3	4	4	6	7	9	8	8	5
France	5	6	6	5	4	3	2	-	-	-
Germany	5	6	6	5	4	2	1	1	2	2
Italy	5	7	5	3	3	4	4	4	3	3
Russia	5	7	7	10	9	12	13	16	17	22
Turkey	4	4	5	6	8	6	5	5	4	2

Due to an error in last seasons results Russia actually has 22 centers.

Players: A:Cliff Hardisty. E:Leland Harmon(resS'07), Jack Fleming. F:David Joy(dro F'04), Phil Cooper). G:Jack Frost. I:Don Lacey(R S'04) Ron Kelly. R:Bill Hart (WIN). T:John Michalski

Statement-Bill Hart. Many thanks to all of the original and standby players in this game who, through their skillful diplomacy and tough tactical play, made one of my first gamestarts a thoroughly enjoyable and interesting experience.

Blind 2 Press:

Rom-Par: OK Steve, If Lee will let you send F Pie to Tyr, I agree to support it there.

Pope-Czar: Skip your dumb remarks over the fall of warsaw. What you got was a fake W. put out by the Sultan. Who else would mis-spell Warsaw"? And kust 'cuz Lee allows French F Tyr, he wouldn't permit any "Italian F Warsaw sighted". (would he?)

1979 KQ Winter '04 Ger bld A Ber, F Kie. Rus F NAO-otb, Bld A War Spring 1905 Some alliance changes show up

Austria(CD) A Bud-H
 France(Hart) A Mar-Gas, F Spasc-Mar, A Bur(s)F Spasc-Mar, A Bel-Pic, F NAO-Mid, F Eng(s)F NAO-Mid, F Lvp-Iri
 Germany(Perlmutter)A Ber-Pru, A Hun-H, A Lon-H, A Vie-Gal, F Kie-Bal, F Den(s)F Kie-Bal, F Hol-Nth, F Edi(s)F Hol-Nth
 Italy(Cartier) A Tri(s)Aus A Bud, F Lyo(s)Tur F Wes-Spa(nso), A Pie-Mar, A Tus-Pie, F Mid-Bre
 Russia(Townsend) A War-Sil, F Nwg-Nwy, A Swe-Den (unreported last turr A Rum-Bud, A Gal(s)A Rum-Bud, F Sev-Rum, A Ukr(s)F Sev-Rum
 Turkey(Aucott?)NMR F Wes, F Tyrs, A Ser, A Bul, F Bla, A Smy all Hold
 The F-G-T draw was defeated 3 yes, 2 no New proposals this time are:
 Concession to G, F-G draw, R-G draw, T-G draw not voting is YES
 Press: Berlin-Moscow: Sorry Fred but I just feel if I was ever going to stab you-now is the time. I know I'm a jerk for doing this but the temptation to go for the win is too great.
 Berlin-Rome: Hey, thanks a lot buddy. Anything I can do for you in return ?

ALL DEADLINES ARE NOW ON PAGE ONE

1980 A NMRs galore . Lucky it's a seperate season !

Austria(Parker ?) NMR even
 Engmand(Van Meter?) NMR will play 2 short
 France(Schiwautz) F Bel retreat to Eng
 Germany(Wilson) Even
 Italy(Arnott?) NMR F ion-OTB plays 1 short
 Russia(Cooper) A Sev retreat to Mos. Rem F Swe & A Pru
 Turkey(Hardisty) Build A Con

I really hate all these NMRs, but the standbys are:

Austria: Marion Bates, PO Box 381, Kalkaska, MI 49646

England: Karl Schuetz, 20 Toledo Lane, Willinboro, NJ 08046

Italy: Ed Tucker, 329 Thomas Jefferson, Rolla, MO 65401

Spring orders on file for F, R, G, The seperation was asked for by

1979 AD Spring 1909 I/A just keep rolling along
 Austria(Cooper) A Gas(s)Ita A Mun-Bur, A Kie(s)A Boh-Mun, A Boh-Mun,
 A Vie-Boh, A Bud-Vie, A Ukr-War, A Sev(s)A Rum, A Rum(s)A Bul,
 A Bul(s)A Rum, A Smy-Ank, F Eas-Smy
 France(CD) A Par-H, A Bur-H (dis-OTB)
 Germany(Loewenstern) F Lon-Nth, A Bel(s)Ita A Mun-Bur, A Hol-Kie
 Italy(Hart) A Mun-Bur, A Mar(s)A Mun-Bur, A Ven-Pie, A Rom-Ven,
 F Lyo-Spasc, F Wes-Mid, F Tun-Naf, F Nap-Tyrs, A StP-Fin,
A Mos-StP, F Con(s)Aus A Smy-Ank
 Russia(Kador) A Nwy-Fin,
 Turkey(Schaller) F Bla(c)Tur F Bla-Bud ?? (impossible, of course)
 England(Schuetz) F Nwg-Edi, F Bre-Eng, F Lvp-Wal
 The draw was defeated by one NO vote. It is repropoed.
 Press: Black sea to Budapest: Let my order be a lesson to you !

 ALL DEADLINES ARE NOW ON PAGE ONE

1979 V Winter 1909 Rus ret F Bal-Bot, Fra Bld F Bre
 Spring 1910 This looks like a real long drawn out game
 Austria(Tucker) F Ion(s)Ita F Tyrs(otm), A Tri-Ven, A Gal-H,
 A Sil(s)Rus A Ber, A Tyr-Mun, A Boh(s)A Tyr-Mun
 France(Bunke) A Fin-Nwy, F Nwg(s)A Fin-Nwy, F Bal-Bot, F Swe(s)F Bal-
-Bot, F Nth(c)A Hol-Den, A Hol-Den, A Kie & A Ruh & A Bur all
 (s)A Mun, A Mun-H, A Mar-Pie, F Bre-Mid, F Tun-Tyrs, F Naf-
 -Tun, F Lyo(s)F Tun-Tyrs (dis-Wes, Spa, otb)
 Italy(Fritter) A Smy-Arm, F Tyrs-Lyo, F Tus(s)F Tyrs-Lyo, A Pie-H,
A Ven(s)A Pie (was repoted as A Vie last turn)
 Russia(Blau) A Nwy-Swe (ann), F Bot(s) A Nwy-Swe, F Bar(s)F StPnc,
 F StPnc-H, A Ber(s)Aus A Tyr-Mun, A Pru(s)A Ber, F Con-H
 Draw proposal results: 4 Way=3 yes, 1 no. F-A-R- 3 yes, 1 no.
 Concession to Fra 2 yes, 2 no. New proposals: 4 way, F-A-R if you
 don't vote it counts as a YES.

 1978 HR Situation still confused as fighting remains fierce
 Winter 1911 Aus blds F Tri. Eng Blds F Lon. Rus Ret A Swe-Fin. Aus
 ret F Mid-Eng. Spring 1912
 Austria(McLendon) A Tyr & A Boh (s)Rus A Ber-Mun, A Pie-Mar, F Lyo(s)
 A Pie-Mar, F Spasc(s)A Pie-Mar(dis-Wes, OTB), A Ven-Tus,
 F Eng-Mid, F Ion-Tun, F Tri-Adr, A Ser-Tri, A Vie-H, A Bul-H,
 A Gre-H, A Smy-H
 England(Hart) F Lon-Eng, F NAO-Iri, F Swe-Ska, F Nth(s)F Swe-Ska
 France(Hyatt) F Mid-Spasc, F Nwg(s)Eng F Nth-Nwy(nso), A Por(s)F Mid-
 -Spasc, A Mar(s)F Mid-Spasc, A Bur(s)A Mar, A Ruh(s)A Mun,
 A Kie-Ber, A Lun(s)A Kie-Ber (dis-Kie, otb), A Den (s) Eng
 F Swe (oym)
 Russia(Kovalcik) A Ber-Mun, A Sil(s)A Ber-Mun, A Liv-Pru, A StP-Nwy,
F Ska(s)F Nwy-Nth, F Nwy-Nth, A Fin-Swe

The 4 way draw was defeated 3 Yes, 1 no. A concession to France has
 been proposed and the 4 way is repropoed. Not voting is YES

 1980 AN Winter 1902 Aus bld A Vie. Ger Bld A Ber. Ita Bld A Nap.
 Russia Rem A Arm, A Rum ret -Ukr.
 Spring 1903 England supports Germany to the Chanell ?!
 Austria(Brawner) A Rum-Ser(ann), A Bud(s)A Gal, A Gal-H, A Vie-Tyr,
F Tri-Alb
 England(Ditter) F Lon(s)Ger F Nth-Eng, F Lvp-Iri, F NAO(s)F Lvp-Iri,
 A Wal-H
 France(Masters) F Eng-Pic, A Par(s)F Eng-Pic, F Iri-Mid, A Mar-Bur,
 A Gas(s)A Mar-Bur
 Germany(Sergeant) F Bel(s)F Nth-Eng, A Ruh(s)A Bur, A Bur-H, A Mun(s)
 A Bur, F Nth-Eng, A Ber-Sil
 Italy(Ledder)C.O.A. A Nap-Alb, F Ion(c)A Nap-Alb, F Adr(s)A Nap-Alb,
A Ven-Tri, A Gre-Ser

80 AN continued

Russia(McLendon) F Swe-Nwy, A War-Gal, A Ukr(s)A War-Gal, A Sev-Rum,
F Bla(s)A Sev-Rum,
Turkey(Blank/Crockett) A Bul-Ser, A Con-Bul, F Ank-Con, F Aeg-Ion
Has anybody heard from Walter Blank ?
Press: Naples: What's green and thrives on Albanian soil, and is
preparing for a fight? Ans: The Italian Scallion !
C.O.A. Glenn Ledder, 47 Snowden, Schenectedy, N.Y. 12304

DEADLINES for all games on page 1

1979 CP Winter '06 Austria Bld A Tri. Fra ret A Hol-Bel, bld A Par.
Ger OUT! Rus Bld A War, A Mos.

Spring 1907 Austria/Russia go head to head

Austria(Counselman) A Mun-Sil, A Tyr-Boh, A Pie-Mar, A Tus-Ven,
F Lvo-Wes, A Gal(s)A Bud-Rum, A Sev(s)A Bud-Rum, A Bud-Rum,
F Gre-Aeg, F Ion(s)F Gre-Aeg, A Tri-Ser

England(Beyerlein) A Yor-H, F Hel-Nth, F Nwg(s)F Hel-Nth

France(Rodriguez) A Pic(s)A Par-Bur, A Par-Bur, F Mid-Wes, F Mar-H,
F Spasc(s)F Mar, A Bel-Ruh

Russia(Mercer) F Smy-Aeg, A Con-Bul, F Bulec-Bla, A Mos-Sev, A Rum
(s)A Mos-Sev, A War-Gal, A StP-H, A Nwy-H, F Ska-H, F Kie-Ber,
A Den-Kie, A Hol-Ruh,

Draws all fail. A-R=3No, 1 Yes . F-R-A=3 No, 1 Yes. 4 way=2 No, 2 yes.

NEW proposals; Concession to Russia, R-A draw, R-A-F . No Voting is
a YES vote. The concession takes priority, then the 2 way etc.

Press: Vienna-Paris: My offer still stands

Moscow to London-You get only one warning-Move away from me!!! Should
you continue to border Norway, Except for the north Sea, I will have
to consider moving my capital to London.

1980 CB Winter 1902 Austria Bld F Tri. Eng F Eng ret to Pic (ann)
Ger A Bur ret to Pic (ann) Eng Bld F Edi. Ger 1 short.

Austria(Cummings) F Tri-Adr, A Vie-Tri, A Tyr & A Ser(s)A Vie-Tri,
A Bul-H, F Gre-Aeg

England(Ronderos) F Edi-Nth, F Nth-Hel, F Nwy(s)F Nth-Hel, A Lon-Yor.

France(Ragsdale) A Par-Pic, A Bur(s)A Par-Pic, F Eng(s)A Par-Pic,
A Gas(s)A Bur, F Mid(s)F Eng

Germany(Ron Kelly) A Den-H, A Ber-Mun, F Hol-Ber(imp), A Bel-Bur,
A Ruh(s)A Bel-Bur, A Pic(s)A Bel-Bur (nsu)

Italy(Tucker) A Ven(s)A Pie, A Pie(s)A Ven, F Ion-Aeg, F Tvrs-Ion

Russia(Wilson) F Rum-Bla, A Arm-Syr, A Sev-Arm, F Swe-Den,
A War-Sil, A Ukr-War

Turkey(Hart) F Bla-Ank, A Con-Ank, F Smy-H

Please notice that 2 of the standbys have assumed the positions.

Notice an uncommen action in the retreat of both Eng & Ger to the
same space. This doesn't happen often, but one should watch out for it

Press: StPete to Rome: Hey, honey, if you want to help with my pants..

Stpete to standbys: See, this is a plot. This turn, Austria, France,
and Russia all NMR. Then 80CB has had a standby called for every
country! And all by 1903? Is that some kind of record, Lee ?

St Pete to whomevers playing (if you want to call it that) Turkey.

Hey look, I can't anticipate NMR's. Let's have some decent playing
down there, because it's no fun playing against a silent NMR factory.

Get on the ball !! (While you're at it, why not give me Ank & Con ?

GM to Russia: If everybody had NMRed I would doubt it was a record.

I don't have such stuff in my files, but there are (used to be?) some
people who keep that sort of statistics. Also...watch that stuff
about the pants. I claim exclusive rights to being the Dirty old
man around here.

1978FL, Winter 1906/spring 1907, Gm Art Schleinkofer, 3108 E. St., Philadelphia, PA 19134

Aus-Build A Tri, Fra F Tyr(ret)-Wes, Ger-Build A Kie
Austria(Mooney) F Ion-Tyr, F Gre-Ion, A Tvo-Boh, A Vie-Gal, A Tri-Tvo,
A Bud(sup)A Vie-Gal, A Gal-Ukr, A Ukr-Mos, A Sev(sup)A Ukr-mos, A Bul-
Rum

England(Tucker)F Lon-Eng, F Nth-H, F Nwg-H, F Bar(sup)A Nwy-Stp,
A Nwy-Stp, A Mos(sup)Ger A War-Ukr(Dis, Ret-Lvn, OTB)

France(Schiwautz**)F Wes-Tyr, F Lyo(sup)F Wes-Tyr, F Mid-Naf, A Mar-
Pie, A Bre-Gas, A Bel-H

Germany(Kendter, Jr.)F Swe-Den, A War-Ukr, A Pru-War, A Sil(sup)A Boh-
Gal, A Boh-Gal, A Mun-Tvo, A Kie-H

Italy(Conner)F Smy-Aeg, F Tyr-Tus, A Tun-Naf, A Rom(sup)F Tyr-Tus,
A Pie(sup)F Tyr-Tus

**As this is Kelley's second miss in a row, Schiwautz takes over.
Deadline for the fall 1907 moves is October 11, 1980.

1979 HD Fall 1906 The biggies grow, the lesser powers shrink.

Austria(Hyatt) A War(s)Ger A Ukr-Gal

England(Schleinkofer) F Por(s)F Mid-Spa, F Mid-Spasc, F Eng-Mid,
F Bel-Eng, F Nth-H, F Swe-Nwy, A Gas(s)F Mid-Spa, A Edi-H

France(Pierce) F Nwg-Edi

Germany(Howe) A Mos(s)Aus A War, A Ukr-Gal(ann), A Boh(s)A Ukr-Gal
A Bur(s)A Mun, A Mun(s)A Boh, A Kie-Ber, F Hel-Hol

Italy(Hardisty) F Wes-Ion (imp), A Mar-Gas, A Pie-Mar, F Lyo(s)A Pie-
-Mar, A Rom-Ven, A Tyr-Boh, A Vie(s)A Tyr-Boh

Russia(Conner) A Gal-Vie, A Sil-War

Turkey(Fritter) F Bla(s)A Sev, A Sev(s)A Rum-Ukr, A Rum-Ukr, A Bud-
-Gal, F Bulsc-Gre, F Con-Aeg, F Tun-Naf, F Spasc-H (ann)

Supply Centers

Austria: War	1 even
England: Home, Nwy, Swe, Bre, Por, Bel, SPA	9 build 1
France: Nwg	0 out
Germany: Home, Par, StP, Mos, Den, HOL	8 build 2
Italy: Home, Tun, Tri, Vie, Mar	7 even
Russia: Ser , Ser	1 remove 1
Turkey: Home, Bul, Gre, Bud, Rum, Spa , SEV	8 build 1

Winter & Spring are due. It takes two requests for seperation

ALL DEADLINES ARE NOW ON PAGE ONE

1980 AE Fall 1903 Big gainers, big losers !

Austria(Fraunces) A Vie-Boh, A Tri-Ven, F Bulsc-Gre, A Ser(s)A Rum-
-Bul, A Rum-Bul, A Bud-Rum

England(Conner) A StP-H, F Nwy(s)A StP, F Swe-Bal, A Den-Kie, F Hol
(s)A Den-Kie, F Nth(s)Fra A Bur-Bel

France(Ditter) A Bur-Bel, F Lyo-Tyrs, F Tun(s)F Lyo-Tyrs, F Wes(s)
F Tun, A Tus(s)Aus A Tri-Ven

Germany(Hardisty) F Bal-Kie, A Ber(s)F Bal-Kie, A Mun-Ruh, A Sil-Mun

Italy(Tucker) F Ion Gre, A Boh-Tyr, A Ven(s)A Boh-Tyr (dis-Pie, Apu,
OTB), F Tyrs-Rom

Russia(Frost) A Gal-H, A Pru-H ((see note on frost))

Turkey(Turner) F Con-Bulsc, F Aeg(s)F Con-Bul, A Sev-Rum, A Mos-H

Suply centers

Austria: Home, Ser, Gre, Bul, Rum, VEN	8 build 2
England: Home, Nwy, Bel , Swe, DEN, HOL, STP	8 build 2
France: Home, Por, Spa, BEL, TUN	7 build 2
Germany: Mun, Kie, Nwg , Bel , Ber	3 remove 1
Italy: Vie , Tyr , Rom, Nap	2 remove 2
Russia: Mos , War, StP , Bel	1 remove 1
Turkey: Home, Sev, MOS	5 build 1

1980 AE continued Note about Jack Frost. Jack's sub has lapsed and he was notified. Therefore, he will not get this issue. If Jack does not renew Russia will go into CD.

Press: Moscow occupation army: I didn't make it here before the olympics, but I made it! And I pan on staying a while.

Turkey to Budapest: Now that I made it to Moscow, can you guess where I'm going next? It's related to a beer and a religion!

London: PM Hedfethers appeared briefly today outside his residence at No. 10 Downing St. to comment on the situation in the low countries and Denmark. "We have invited a representative of President Dittier to inspect the conditions of the Francophone population of our Belgian protectorate, and expect to hear his conformation of the well-being of the entire country. We have discovered the source of the recent rumors of misreatment of subject peoples and regretfully announce that the trouble lies in the Netherlands and Denmark. Our agents were horrified to discover unspeakable practices perpetrated against the enslaved Danes and Dutch. As a consequence, British forces will remain in those countries to protect them from further acts of brutality. It is not known whether these practices were instituted by the present or former government of Germany, but they have been stopped for good." The PM did not comment on rumors of a planned invasion of the German homeland, but high level sources hint at some kind of reconnaissance missions during the early fall.

WINTER AND SPRING ORDERS ARE DUE. IT TAKES TWO TO SEPERATE SEASONS.

LETTERS to the editor....Last issue I said that I would start a page for letters. Strangely enough not one letter was received this time ! However, I had received a few letters last issue and I'm going to use a few of those here just to get this section started. Maybe YOU can write a letter to me for next issue. Our first letter is from John Michalski (Brutus Bulletin) .

Dear Lee,

Regarding your comments on player-GM disputes ((WM #31)) and where to turn for help, I have to disagree. From what I've seen the last few years, no hobby committees, whether volunteer, appointed, or annointed, ever do this job for even 60 days. If a player has a gripe, the FIRST thing to do is to appeal to some other GM for an opinion. If the player is in error, it will end right there ("no, you cannot build F Sev ec and order it to Mos). If in fact the GM is arbitrary, capricious, or just an ((bleep)) immature in general, then publicizing that via criticism elsewhere is one of the few EFFECTIVE levers players have available. Protest resignations also advertise to the subbers of the offending zine that GM-player problems exist, which is often needed when an immature or incompitant GM-publisher may well refuse tp print or even admit to any complaints. An even better tactic appeared 1 season in a troubled game, where a mass of players with many units all ordered them all to hold. That tells the audience a story even if the publisher doesn't (altho in this case he did). Then resign en masse 2 or 3 seasons later.

The main advantages of this route are 1. Other publishers are active somewhere all the time, while a committee might not be. 2. Publicity is one of the few weapons that gyped or mistreated players have. 3. The net result of this acheives your #2 & #3 goals, and any interested GM will advise them as to #1 if appropriate. 4. Such public bitching keeps weak GM candidates leary of entering the field, while publicized UNgrounded player complaints will give the overzealous PLAYERS a deserved bad name.

Overall then, public complaints have the same attributes as war does: a messy business and not pleasant, but a fast and effective crucible in which all problems will receive a rapid resolution, one way or the other. I favor these open fights. Iwish we could get more FLD

players to do so. ((continued on page 9))

IV

"Mr Romney, you have just heard the defendant read from a letter. Do you recognize the language?"

"Yes. I wrote that letter."

"You claim that the plaintiff owed you money from an unexpired sub, that he never sent you the money, and that he never sent you any more copies of his magazine. Is that what you claim?"

"Among other things, Yes."

Mr Romney, what was the sum in question?"

"I don't remember."

Mr Romney, wasn't the sum less than one dollar?"

"I don't remember."

"Mr Romney, I have your cancelled check right here and I can show that you received at least 4 issues; now, let me repeat the question. Was not the sum less than one dollar?"

"It may have been."

"Wasn't the sum in fact less than 15 cents?"

"It may have been."

"So you expected the plaintiff to reimburse you for a subscription when the cost of the postage would have exceeded the reimbursement?"

"Objection, your honor. Calls for a conclusion of the witness."

"I withdraw the question. No further questions. Your witness."

"Ken! Less than 15 cents! Why did you do it?"

"The amount of money doesn't matter. He's still a thief!"

Ken, what about the other accusations? The forged orders, ghost players

"What about them?"

Ken, you're on oath. Tell me about DeWitt's dishonesty in 1978XQ!"

Well, there's really nothing to tell."

Oh God. No more questions."

Redirect your honor. Mr Romney, I remind you, you're on oath, is any of that famous letter of yours factually true?"

"No."

"Did Mr DeWitt manufacture orders for you?"

No. I'm sorry, Whit."

"Did you submit orders as Austria in Winter 1901?"

"I did, yes."

"Why did you lie in your letter?"

"I don't know. I guess I wanted out of that game. I didn't want to drop out so I manufactured an excuse."

V

"Mr Blalock, you've just heard Ken Romney repudate all the evidence on which you based your editorials. Did you not consider it appropriate to verify, even in the most rudimentary sense, the charges you published?" In your malice, did you not invite all the distortions that were published?"

"No. Romney wrote a letter, I published it. It's as simple as that."

"I'm afraid it's not as simple as that. No, you go on to redouble your allegations. Would you read from issue 43?"

"There is no doubt whatsoever that DeWitt is in fact Elmo Vincent. This conclusion is supported by an valanche of evidence, some of which was (inadvertently) supplied by DeWitt. In contrast, DeWitt has never supplied a a xerox of a birth certificate or driver's license which could resolve the matter."

"Do you really beleive that the plaintiff and this Mr Vincent are actually the same person?"

Well. um..."

Mr Blalock?"

"I'm thinking! Okay, if they're not the same person, why hasn't DeWitt produced a birth certificate?"

"Interesting question. Your Honor, I would like to present in evidence plaintiffs exhibit's F and G, ((continued next page))

the birth certificates, respectively, of Clarence M. DeWitt and Elmo S. Vincent. Moreover, I have both individuals in the court. I call Clarence DeWitt to the stand."

VI

"...I ask you, Whitney Blalock, and you, David Wheeler, and you, Warren Hughes, to produce your birth certificate and prove who you are, or you will just have to stop printing your gamezine and you must disappear from a hobby that is an american hobby in a free land, and a land where any person whatsoever may play the game of Diplomacy, free from harrasement and ridicule, save from the actual play of the game.

"And I say to you, friend, if Elmo himself wants to play the game, let him. Why not? Is he poison, or is he a person who had his share of troubles in his lifetime and need friends around him, and needs the social life given by the game of postal Diplomacy.

"Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, my client is aperson in his own right. He has done wrong things in his life. He has thrown rocks thru school windows and shot B-B guns at police cars. He has made mistakes in industry and the bussiness world. He has gone to church. He has helped the poor. He has risked his life for others. He has contributed to the well being and advancement of society. He has planted good deed on fallow ground and replaced himself, a son of god.

"Ladies and gentlemen, my client is not perfect. But what possible explanation can there be for the network of lies and falsehoods that has brought my client such anguish? Does not my client have the right to play and enjoy the hobby to the extent that his talents and limttations permit, without bitter lies and manufactured falsities eclipsing his sun? We have demonstrated that lies--and bitter lies they were-- have been published. We have demonstrated that Clarence DeWitt has sufferd loss of allies, loss of subscribers, and loss of reputation because the defendant maliciously published lies, innuendos, and sting- ing half truths. I ask you to find for my client the requested damages, both compensatory and punative, that we have demonstrated."

VII

"You have heard the summary arguments of the two sides. Now it is my responsibility to charge you, ladies and gentlemen of the Jury, with the significance of recent libel law. Your job is not an easy one. You must determine if, in fact, defamation has been proved. But further, yo must decide if the plaintiff, Mr DeWitt, is a public figure" in the Diplomacy community. And finally, you must determine if the defendant published any defamatory material with 'malice'. I'll define these term in a minute.

"The First amendmant to the constitution guarantees a free press. An independant and vigorous free press is vital for our survival. And yes, these protections filter down to any publication, even Diplomacy 'zines with meager circulations. A free press should be encouraged to publish a diversity of views and opinions, unfettered by needless regulations. Especially when reporting on public figures. The public has a right to be informed of the activities of these figures.

"You must decide if the defendant published defamatory material. Defa- mation is communication which exposes a person to hatred, ridicule, or contempt, lowers him in the esteem of his fellows, causes him to be shunned, or injures him in his bussiness or calling.

"Truth is always a defense, but if you decide that factual error was present, you must consider whether there was malice. Factual error, by itself,, does not destroy the protection the First amendment builds into the right of publishers to contribute to an open and free-wheeling discussion of the issues. A rule compelling the critic to guarantee the truth of all his factual assertions leads to self-censorship. This is intolerable in an open society. Under such a rule, would-be critics of misconduct may be deterred from voicing their criticism, even though it is beleived to be true and even though it is in fact true, because of the doubt that it can be proved in court. This rule dampens the vigor and limits the variety of public debate. ((more on next page))

"The Supreme Court has ruled that for a public figure to be awarded damages for libel, he must prove actual malice. What is malice? Malice must be defined in a very strict sense. It is not evidence of ill-will.' It is 'hatred of the publisher for the defamed.' It is not even 'intent to harm the defamed. Rather is present exclusively in the proof that the defendant knew that what he printed was false or else he recklessly disregarded whether it was false or not.

"You must consider whether Mr. DeWitt was a public figure in the Diplomacy community. Did he offer his name and services to the community? Did he demonstrate purposeful activity amounting to a thrusting of his personality into the 'vortex' of important contriversies? Did he willingly involve himself with hobby activities? If your answers to these questions are positive, you must consider whether he was a public figure. "Therefore, if you find that the plaintiff is a public person, you must also find that libel was present with malice. Otherwise you must find for the defendant. "On the other hand, if you find that the plaintiff is a private person, you need only to establish that defamiation, identification, and publication are present to find for the plaintiff. Ladies and gentlemen, please retire to the jury room and consider your verdict."

VIII

You be the Jury

Given the facts sketched out in this hypothetical case, how would you vote if you were a member of the jury? If you think compensatory damages are in order, how much? How about punitive damages? Write to the editor with your verdicts and awards, if any. Responses will be tabulated in a future issue. The case of DeWitt vs. Blalock may yet become a classic for first-year law students to memorize.

LETTERS....continued. My reply to John Michalski.

I agree with some of your points John. A Bad GM should get as much adverse publicity as possible. I also agree that asking another GMs opinion is a good idea as this often resolves things before they get out of hand. However, I can't agree on the protest resignation part for one main reason; ratings. I know more than a few players who are very conscious of their records on the various ratings sytems. To resign from a game could do unjust damage to the players rating. I know some people couldn't care less about this, but some take it very seriously. What about them? I still feel if we had a GOOD person as the hobby Omsbudsman(which we used to have) a lot of problems could be solved by him. Thanks for your opinion .

From Cliff Hardisty....

Just a short note to let you know that I beleive your idea of a GM/ player panel is a very good idea. Though I personally have never had any problems with my GM's, I can see where such a panel is needed. ((You're lucky Cliff. I have had plaenty of trouble over the years with GMs. MOST are OK, but a few have been the pits. Just what would you do if you did have a problem ??))

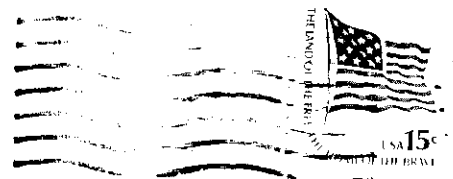
From David Perlmutter....(excërpts) (on another subject)

I think the reason that you get so few articles is simply-tradition. Most people I know tend to view WM? as a solid unsinkable game-zine. It just never occurs to them that it could have as amny articles as others. I can understand you frustration on not getting any reader input. But do not interpretet that as lack of interest in your zine. You simply make the mistake of being perfect, so reliable that many people take WM? for granted. Like the rock of Gibraltar they think it will always be there.

((geez, Dave, you just made an old man blush. Well perfect I'm not, far from it. But I have tried my utmost to be reliable. I guess my frustration stems from the fact that a lot of people promise me an article, then they don't come through. I also don't want the 'zine to become totally warehouse, but I guess that's they way it's headed.))

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