



Winsome Losesome



VOLUME ONE, ISSUE THREE

FEBRUARY 14, 1982

INTRODUCTION

WINSOME LOSESOME is a gaming publication dedicated to the play of Postal DIPLOMACY. DIPLOMACY is a multi-player political conflict game invented by Allan (notice: two "l's" and an "a" not an "e") Calhamer and currently owned by the Avalon Hill Game Co. This 'zine is currently devoted exclusively to Postal DIPLOMACY in either its "pure" or many variant forms and the gossip and general brouhaha that accompanies it. WINSOME-LOSESOME is published by me, Judy Winsome, at 749 21st Ave., Apt #3, San Francisco, CA 94121. San Francisco, by the way, is also the home of the WORLD CHAMPION SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS.

NOTABLE QUOTES

The following was submitted by one of my readers who wanted to remain unnamed. I think it's pretty good and fuels my cynical views on life and love on this Valentines Day.

I think there's no pain quite like love, unrequited;
The one where she wants to be friends.
When you want to show up at her place, uninvited;
You've the means for improbable ends.

And it hurts when you're with her; and you know she's not yours;
And it hurts when she isn't around;
And it hurts when she talks of the ones she adores;
Or the white knight she hasn't yet found.

And the time passes slowly and you know it must end;
One way or the other you fear;
'Cause you just can't imagine her just as a friend;
Or your love for her any less dear.

Perhaps if you're angry, the hurt will subside;
But you know you'd be masking the pain.
Perhaps you'll replace her, you hope deep inside;
And then get to go through this again.

Perhaps the poet will take heart from the following quote from the general discussion in Mark Berch's January issue of DIPLOMACY DIGEST which was dedicated to the concept of losing:

"Winning isn't everything, but losing is nothing"
-Vince Lombardi

Those are all the quotes that I thought appropriate. Remember, quotes submitted and used will be worth 50 cents in subscription credit, but must include the author of the quote if it is not original. No, Vince Lombardi is not a subscriber.

LOGO NOTES: Those few of you that have been getting WINSOME LOSESOME since its inception should notice that the blank space normally on the top has been filled. Our new logo was designed and submitted by Steve Langley of Sacramento, CA, who now becomes a subscriber-for-life (the life of WL or Steve, whichever is shorter) of WL. My thanks go out to the several of you who entered the contest. There were several variations on a dagger theme, the best of which was submitted by Mark Keller who receives \$2.00 in subscription credit for his efforts. Next issue will feature another contest with equally tempting prizes.

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COMMENTARY

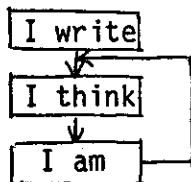
WL is, as advertised, a fun 'zine that doesn't really want to get involved in a feud or be used as a political soapbox, but I do want to comment on some of the controversy currently in the hobby. From what I've read in Mark Berch's DIPLOMACY DIGEST, (which I don't sub to, can't get a trade to, but get from one of my good friends when he's through with it) there seems to be some talk about those pubbers who don't GM games, don't (or no longer) play Postal games, but give the impression of being an authority and/or a personality in the hobby. It appears that pubbers that exist as the antithesis of these aforementioned few want them to shut up, stop publishing, and stop "lording over" the hobby. In general it appears that these hobby critics (as opposed to hobby artists) are not welcome by the GMing and playing pubbers. The criticism is that they only criticize those who do while they do not. Well, if you can understand that then you're doing better than I.

This is my opinion on the subject. In most artisan environments, there exist critics of the art. These critics are seldom in wholesale favor of the artisan community, but yet they exist. Take Siskal and Ebert who do "Sneak Previews" for PBS and are probably some of the most nationally known film critics. I rather doubt that the directors that they pan in their reviews are amongst their biggest fans. Neither are the actors, writers, producers, and other artisans that they fail to like. Yet, these critics exist. Do you think that they would exist if the readers of the Chicago newspapers for which they work didn't read their columns or if the TV viewers didn't watch them or the public sponsors of PBS didn't like them? No! So, who is to decide. Certainly not the artisans.

What I'm driving at is that eventually the consumer is the deciding entity. If no one likes this 'zine or thinks my words or opinions have merit, then no one will subscribe or trade and Winsome Losesome will fold. This 'zine exists as do their 'zines and their detractors' 'zines all exist at the will of the hobbyists. The hobbyists will decide if the hobby is to be split. The hobbyists will decide whose publications will live and whose will die. Even a lifetime membership to the inner circle of Postal Diplomats is not a guarantee of perpetuity of publishing. So, my opinion, for what it's worth, is that the primordial laws of supply and demand and the good sense of the hobby in general will prevail. If a person's opinion is not respected it will rarely be solicited.

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WINSOME - FAKESOME
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I would like to deal with the musical question, "Is WINSOME LOSESOME and/or Judy Winsome real or Memorex?" I keep getting notes like the one from Ben Schilling of Farmington Hills, MI, "Well, despite Woody's claim that you aren't real, I'll take a \$5.00 chance..." and M. P. Barno (publisher of The Shogun's Sword, 2811 Robins Street, Endwell, NY 13760) who said, "...it's been claimed that WINSOME LOSESOME was a fake. But, I'm sure you're real and sincere, right?" and then later in the aforementioned 'zine, referred to "Woody" as "Steve, 'I Made Up The Judy Winsome Character So A Hobby Female Would Like Me' Arnawoodian". Then, in the latest issue of VOICE OF DOOM (BRUX Linsey, 24A Quarry Drive, Albany, NY 12205), one Mr. Mark "Ig" Lew writes BRUX and said "Judy Winsome? You must be kidding.". While Dave "Sleepless Knights" Carter suggest that I must be real or BRUX Linsey wouldn't write to me. And so it goes. To this all I retort, pshaw! What if I wasn't real? If you like the 'zine an wanted to play Diplomacy or one of the variants I hope to have in it, who should care if I exist as long as the games were GMed correctly and you didn't get ripped off for your sub fees? But, we need not be so esoteric. WINSOME LOSESOME does exist and does so without any formal or informal direct connection with any of the existing pubbers around. This is contrary to what John Caruso reportedly said to Steve Langley who publishes THE MAGUS subzine to COAT OF ARMS. According to Steve, John claimed Don "Life of Monty" Del Grande and I were putting out WL. Haute contrare, John. Steve, some may know, was one of the first to claim that WL and I were fake. He had, however, cause to doubt. His first letter was returned with "No Such Person At This Address" since he omitted my apartment number because I forgot to mention it in issue #1. My error, since corrected. Well it has been fun to be considered a fake and, though at first miffed, I am now pleased by the publicity the question WINSOME FAKESOME has brought me. For the philosophers, I write, therefore, I think, therefore, I am. Or I think I am. In the world of flow charts:



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PLUGS AND OPENINGS
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In the world of plugs, I have had some very nice plugs since my last issue. I especially want to thank Ron Brown (Murd'ring Ministers #43), Scott Hanson (Irkosome #6/7), Fred Davis (Bushwacker XI #2), and Steve Langley (MAGUS) for the kind things they said about my 'zine in the issues noted.

I have six players for regular Diplomacy, so the next taker completes the set and starts the game. The correspondence since WL #2 has been heavy and I've gotten a little confused, so I hope I haven't forgotten someone who wanted to play or added someone who doesn't. The following are the prospective six players. Will those with a star after their name please send me a preference list. I have lists for the others.

- Mark Keller * John Michalski * Larry McCloud Mark Duarte *
David Perlmutter Windy Windblad *

I still only have one person, Mark Keller, who wants Terrorist Dip - any others? I have one standby, Larry McCloud - any others?

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WINSOME WINSOME MORE

49er Report - Yes, they did it! For those of you who have been hiding in the root cellar without a radio for the last three weeks, the score was 26-21, the great team from this very city beat the good but somewhat less great team from somewhere on the other side of the Rockies. What a fun game! I was at one friend's SUPER BOWL party until half time. A real class party with chili and caviar patte and imported beers. The second half I spent at another friend's house with good rowdies, Coors, Bud, and pretzels and stuff. Both parties were fun and had their own kind of charm. After the game, the town went nuts. As some of you may have seen on national TV, the first national championship in the 49ers history did not go unheralded (is that a word?). My rowdy friends and I went down to North Beach. That's our little Time's Square where the topless and bottomless type clubs are at the corner of Broadway and Columbus in "The City". Perhaps some of you even saw me on TV. Some of my friends who stayed away from the downtown festivities swore that they saw me on the tube, but I sure didn't see me on the replays. We must have left just in time. We were back at my friend's house by 10:00 pm and the news report said that the police started busting heads around 9:30. Anyway, we have our own little thing to brag about now. Don Del Grande who publishes LIFE OF MONTY pointed out a surprising statistic. "For the past two years, the loser of the Oakland Raiders - San Francisco 49ers preseason game has been the winner of the Super Bowl." Since two points can be connected by a straight line, there is definitely a trend there. We will all be watching the next such preseason game with renewed interest. Speaking of sports, for those of you who didn't know, Reggie Jackson has signed with the Angels. That's right, next year he will be replacing Jacqueline Smith.

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LOSESOME LOSESOME MORE

That was the good news, now for the bad: I went to see "SHOCK TREATMENT", the new film by Richard O'Brian who did "ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW". Some of you may remember that I am a ROCKY HORROR fan. I'm not, however, a SHOCK TREATMENT fan. As a film it is probably fundamentally better than RHPS. It undoubtedly had a larger budget, is better produced, and may even have a better script. But - it cannot stand on its artistic merit. To put things in perspective, though, RHPS is not in itself a good film. It is a cult film and it is the cult audience and their response/reaction that gives it its draw. In this regard, the audience has created a success out of mediocrity. One thing is possibly true, you cannot start out to create a successful cult film. You make a film, and if it's too bad to stand on its own merit and you are very lucky, it may become a cult film. The audience has pulled RHPS out of the disposal, but if Mr. O'Brian thinks that they will do it again, he may be sadly disappointed. I personally feel that the audience may feel used if they are expected to react in RHPS fashion to ST. It is the "organized spontaneity" (to coign a self-contradictory phrase) of RHPS that is the fun. Although ST has made room for this interaction, the motivation to provide it is not there. This is just one lady's opinion but I'm the publisher so I'll print it. (note: WINSOME LOSESOME recognizes its responsibility to provide opposing viewpoints to this editorial. If anyone has anything to add or if anyone has wasted or not wasted their money on this flick and wants to respond, feel free to write to me, and if I feel like it, I'll print it.)

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HOUSERULES REVISITED

I have received several constructive comments on my houserules. I am somewhat taken aback by how eager to help and how helpful everyone has been. I have decided to change or add some things to my houserules on the basis of those suggestions. First, it was suggested that I separate Winter '01 season since that has become the general practice. I guess my newness to the hobby is showing. I also received the suggestion to split seasons whenever there are 3 or more retreats or removals. This was suggested to avoid writing several contingency orders. I have decided to include the first suggestion, but not the second. I believe my rule to split the season at the request of at least 2 players will solve the problem of several contingency orders. If there's too many to make, request a split and ask your allies to do so too. If you have no allies who will go along with you, writing several contingency orders will just have to be part of the struggle. I am amending WL Houserule VI to add the sentence:

"Winter '01 season will be split."

Another suggestion was to use the internal date, not the postmark, when more than one set of orders for a season are received. I agree with that suggestion and will change the WL Houserule III to read:

"III. Orders - Since this is Postal Diplomacy, all orders must be received in the mail. That is, it must arrive at the GM's address by official Postal Carrier. Hand delivered orders, phoned orders, telegraphed orders, etc., will not be accepted. Orders must be received by Midnight at the close of the posted deadline date in this manner or be deemed No Move Received. Orders must contain the following to be valid orders:

- 1) the game identification number (the Boardman number, variant number, or WL assigned temporary number.
- 2) the country represented by that order
- 3) the season for which that order is intended
- 4) the date of the order
- 5) the signature of the player

The "order" of orders will be determined by the date of the order in that the most recently dated orders will be given priority. If two orders have the same date and there is not obvious priority assignment, conflicting orders between the two will be treated as ambiguous and those affected units will be unordered."

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SOME CHEAP ANSWERS

The volume of mail has increased dramatically since I started receiving plugs in the other 'zines. In order to respond to some of the questions, I am going to broadcast my answers and fill some space:

Dave Carter --- I got your address from a friend of mine, Tim Winger.

Rod Walker --- No, I am not Edi Bersan, and thanks for your kind comments. I must admit that my Epilogue in Issue #2 was more cynical than I like to be, but I think I'm on a downslope.

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MORE CHEAP ANSWERS

Gary Coughlan - I am surprised that you find it difficult to believe that someone completely unknown to the hobby can suddenly be a full-fledged publisher. Is it because I am a woman that makes that hard to believe? My involvement has been primarily FTF so it is not difficult to be unknown outside my own little group, yet have some knowledge about the hobby. And I must admit to quite a bit of help from my friends who do play Postal DIP. I have never written articles for other 'zines and don't think I'll play in Postal games unless my work and outdoor play time allow it. Right now, I just want to publish and have an outlet for my thoughts. Thanks for your kind comments about WL. I hope you don't mind me replying in my 'zine.

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INQUIRIES

This is a forum for general inquiries or the solicitation of opinion on hobby related topics. These may be attributed to the "asker" or, like, Dear Abby, with names like "Unsure". In my last two issues I've been playing with the question:

"What's wrong with Coastal Creep (also called Coastal Crawl)?"

I received another explanation, this from John Michalski of Moore, OK:

'...what's this about wanting to know why coastal creep fails? Heck, why does A Par - Bre, A Bre - Par fail? The answer to each is the same, because the situation is the same. F Por - Spa (NC), F Spa (SC) - Por. If you allow one, you have to allow the other. And when you allow both, and S'01 sees A Ven-Tri, F Tri-Ven, you're off to GMing a really fun game, hey? (Fall sees F Ven S A Vie - Tri, and maybe the Italian A Tri retreats to Vienna, right?) Think about it.'

John, I agree you've painted a ridiculous picture if I agree with your points to the end. But I stop agreeing when you say that if I allow one I have to allow the other. I guess I think in terms of boundaries or corridors when I consider the rule prohibiting two forces from trading places with each other. In the case of A Par - Bre and A Bre - Par, the moves fail because the boundary or corridor between the two provinces will not allow both to pass at once. However, the fact that Spain is split into two coasts seems to me to allow passage out one side and in another so F Por - Spa (NC) and F Spa (SC) - Por do not bother me. With respect to A Ven-Tri and F Tri-Ven, I consider the boundary between the two to not allow that move. Although fleets are thought of as passing along the coastline the corridor between the provinces includes the coastline so the move would not be allowed. I suspect that I have gotten myself into a logical trap and must forfeit any hope of joining MENSA. Do any of you see one?

Mark Keller of Orangevale, CA has suggested a new topic. How will I GM the 3 situations brought up in the article "Still More About Convoys" in Diplomacy World #29, and why will I do it that way? I will try to obtain a copy of that article and answer the question in the next issue. Perhaps my answers will elicit more questions. Don't you just love it?

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THE MARK BERCH DEPARTMENT

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Again more rain. We had several weeks of sunshine in between, but it seems that every time I'm ready to write this article, it rains. Maybe I'll drop it? I've been getting in shape for summer. A couple of weeks ago I went skiing for the first time. Went up to Badger Pass and stayed at Yosemite Lodge on their midweek special. I think I've found a new love. Skiing. By the end of the three days I was skiing without poles (please no ethnic jokes - I despise them). I played hooky on my third day, and worried what my boss would think everytime I rode the lift up the mountain, but immediately forgot my concerns on the way down. What a life! The weather was great, Mark, you would have felt right at home.

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EPILOGUE

Well, this is quite a weekend, Friday was Lincoln's Birthday, Sunday is Valentines Day and Admissions Day for Arizona and Oregon, and Monday is Washington's (celebrated) birthday and Susan B. Anthony Day. Speaking of Susan B., did you know that the Treasury Department is going to reissue the Susan B. Anthony dollar? Yes, but is won't be quite the same. I seems that a major minority group (that's not a contradictory phrase is it?) put up quite a squawk that women were featured on coinage and, except for the Indian Head Cent and Nickle, no other minority group had representation. So, in response, the Treasury Department has reissued the Susan B. dollar with a different reverse side to appease this group. It will hereafter be known as the Susan B. Anthony and the Imperials dollar. And, what about Abe Lincoln. Things haven't changed much. A hundred and fifty years ago, Abe got his reputation by having to travel 24 miles each day to go to school. Today, he would have to travel almost twice that far to assure racial balance. They say that he was poor and had to study by the light of the fireplace. I don't know about you people, but I can't afford a place with a fireplace. And what about George Washington? Here is a man who is much acclaimed as the father of our country who had wooden teeth, stood up in a row boat while crossing the Delaware, chopped down his father's cherry tree, and threw a dollar across the Potomac. He doesn't sound like a very smart guy to me. I went out and in his honor tried to throw a dollar across the Golden Gate. It didn't make it, but then, a dollar doesn't go as far as it used to. (groan) But one thing is for sure, George sure must have had a great memory. All over New England I have seen monuments to the memory of George Washington... And Valentines Day? Well, I think that you can tell I'm somewhat cynical about love in general so Valentines Day holds no dear interest for me. I've been dropped more times than a fragile Christmas package. I have friends who have been married so many times they have rice marks all over their face. But remember, they say Babe Ruth struck out 1,330 times and he still went up to bat. Sure, but he knew when to quit. Next issue, I will start an advisory column; kind of a Dear Judy. It seems that many of you have trouble playing with women; playing DIPLOMACY with women, that is. Kathy Byrne hasn't written me even though I have sent her copies of WL. And, congratulations Kathy, for both the player's poll and the winning of the NIXON award. Tell me, guys and girls, is she that tough or is it that you can't understand or compete with women? I'll give you my views if you're interested, just drop me a line.

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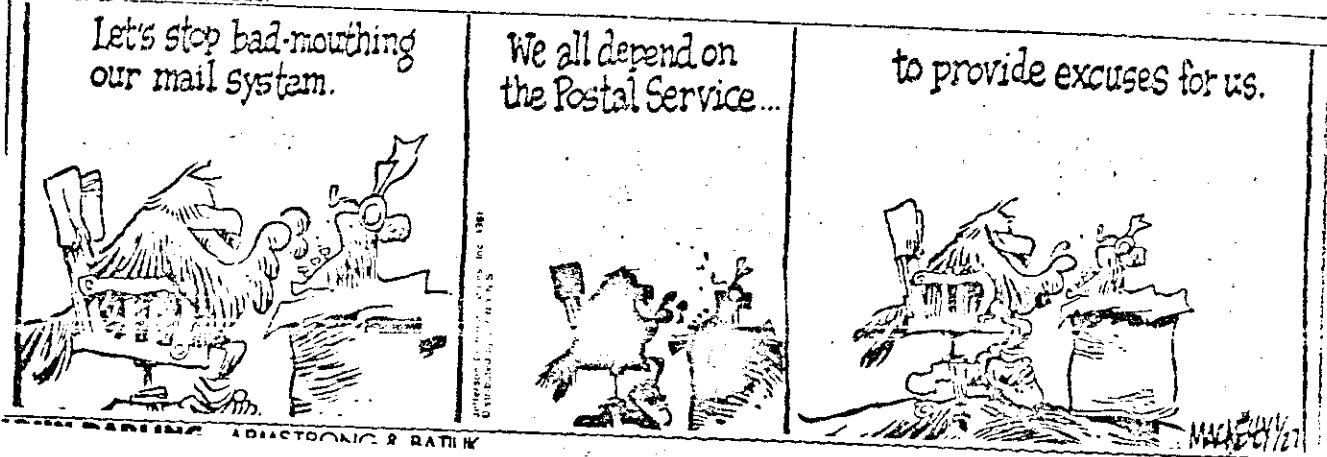
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