· URF DURFAL

GRANDSON OF POUCH

Wokka, wokka, wokka! A bear in his natural habitat --- a Studebaker. This is URF DURFAL. GRANDSON OF POUCH #45, and this zine is the One True Descendant of the Fallen Pouch. In addition to our offer to run any variant someone else organizes the players for, we've currently got openings in regular Diplomacy, Youngstown II, Swiss Variant II, and Machiavelli. Articles are paid for at the rate of 2 issues/printed page. Subs are 7/\$2. Back issues are available for 25¢ each or 5/\$1. The following variants can be had for a stamped, addressed envelope: Excommunication!, Near Utter Chaos, Grand Fenwick's Revenge, Ancient Hebrew Kingdom, World War III, Partition of the Ottoman Empire, 1721, and Stab-Happy. The following Origins variants are available: Unification of Germany and Origins of WWIII. Urf Durfal house rules and postal rules for After the Holocaust, World War I and Frigg It! are also available. The Costikyan Publishing Empire also offers: The New York Conspiracy Hymnal for \$1; the 77 Diplomacy Handbook for \$2; PHOENIX for \$2; issue 1 of FIRE THE ARQUEBUSIERS for 50%; all five back issues of GIGO for \$2 or 50¢ each; issues 2 & 3 of THE INVERTED GRAPEFRUIT for 50ø each or 75ø for both. Persons with subscriptions to Urf Durfal may cash their subs in for any OFE product at the rate of 35s/issue.

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Scott Rosenberg c/o Harvard Col., N. Ft. Myers, FL, Cambridge, MA, 02138 CISHUDSON PROVINCES 78Mg0

- This issue is on time. With luck, so will next issue be.
- I AM NOT RUNNING FOR PERIODICALS EDITOR. I was recently elected Secretary of the Came Designer's Guild. With this and my other commitments --- the Miller Numbers, the Brown Students for a Libertarian Society, Urf Durfal, the four games I'm working on, and college --- I don't think I'd really have time to do as much for the IDA as I would feel obligated to do as Editor.
- 3. REGARDING MILLER NUMBERS: I am not the tituler MNC. Smolin hasn't transferred his files to me as of yet, so I can't assign numbers until he does. A couple of people have sent me requests for Miller Numbers; I'll give you numbers as soon as I can. Others who need Miller Numbers are asked to write me --- I'll put your letter on file until I have the MN records.
- 4. REGULAR DIPLOMACY OPENING: I have 6 people for a regular Dip game. If you wan't to get into a new game quickly, now's the time --- write before next issue. Camefee is \$5 plus sub; the \$5 is refunded at the end of the game or when you are eliminated, whichever occurs first, but is forfeit if you drop out. Additionally, each time you NMR or NBR, one dollar is forfeit from the \$5 total. The following people are signed up: Tom Schuls, Ed Zesneske, Bernard Sampson, Dave Kopel, John Strain, Fred Hyatt.
- 5. Other Openings: Youngstown: \$3 plus sub. Same rules as for regular Diplomacy. Dave Barlow, Fred Hyatt, John Strain, Victor Ricci, Stephen Lee, Bernard Sampson, 4-5 needed. Machievelli: \$1 plus sub. Larry Elllott, Jeff Wilbur, Tom Swider, David Fields.

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74HX (Turnabout/?Black Hole Game)
                                     GM: John Strain
 There has been a request for separation of seasons. Consequently, 516 moves will
 appear next issue.
 England (Verheiden) Has a BER, a PRU, f BOT, a STP, f WES, f ENG, f MID, a BUR,
   a KIE, f BEL, f NTH.
! France (Edith) Hollingsworth) Ret f rom-TUS. b f MAR, a PAR. Also has f TYN, f TUN,
   a PIE. a MUN.
 Russia (Michalski) a MOS, a LVN
 Turkey (Scott) Has a GAL, f BLA, a SEV, a UKR, a VIE, a BOH, f ADR, a VEN, a TYO,
   a APU, f ROM, f ION, f AEG, f EAS.
 Doug Hollingsworth, 37 Sanford Rt, Bangor, ME, 04401 takes over for France.
 76BR
       (Erehwon Game)
                                     GM: Greg Costikyan
                                                                       310
 Germany (Baillie) f eng-WAL, a lon-YOR, f nth-ENG, f kie-HOL, f ber-KIE, a BRE H,
  a SPA h, a mar-PIE, a BOH s a mun-TYO, a VIE s a TRI s rus a bud-ser.
 Italy (fould) a RUM # a SER-bud, a VEN-tri, f BLA-sev, a LVP h, f wes-MID,
   f NAT-oly, a RCM-ven
 Russia (Johnson) f EDI s f nwg-Ciy, f nwy-NWG, a BUD-ser, a UKR-rum, a MOS s a
   arm-SEV
 Turkey (Hollingsworth) a ANK s & a sev # (r-otb)
                                                    a syr-ARM, a con-SMY.
 78Nix (Paritition)
                                     CM: Oreg Costikyan
                                                                       F22
 Armenia (Wileman) a yerevan-ERZURUM, f SAMSUN a f TREBIZOND a f samsun, a van-MOSUL,
   a TEHERAN s g.b. a basra-baghdad.
 France (Gould) a SUDAN-tohad (#f fra), a sinai-CAIRO (sf fra), f palestine-SINAI,
   f LEBANON-palestine (sf fra), f latakia-GULF OF ADALIA, a DRUZE s a baghdad-
   TRANSJORDAN (of fra).
 Great Britain (Linden) a basra-BAGHDAD (sf g.b.), f gulf of adalia-NE MED,
   a transjordan p-(r-otb, hajara, midian) f SE MED-palestine ( g.b.), f ORETE h.
 Orecce (Forrest) a BULGARIA s a THRACE-con ( of ere), f DODECANESE s & f AEGEAN c
   a athens-IZMIR (sf gre).
 Italy (Strain) f GULF OF SIDRA-ionian, f IONIAN-eastern med (no much province),
   a ALEXANDRIA h, a TOHAD h.
 RSFSR (Gister) f WESTERN BLACK s tur a con, a GROZNY s a KRASNODR s a georgia-
  YEREVAN (of refer).
 Turkey (Taylor) NMR! a NEVSEHIR, a YOZGAT, a CON /h/; a izmir /h/ (r-otb, adalia,
  balikesir. eskehir).
 Armenia: trebizond, erzurum, malatya, samsun, tabriz, teheran, yiriyin
                                                                          B1
 France: Kanak, damascus, latakia, lebanon, sudan, Magnada, palestine,
   cairo, TRANSJORDAN
                                                                          even
 G.B.: cyprus, granafaria, quwait, summan, crete, BACHDAD
                                                                       5 ev or Bl
 Greece: pelopennesus, athems, salonika, bulgaria, dodecamese, TRRACE,
                                                                       7
                                                                          B2
                                                                         B2
 Italy: Naples, bengazi, territoria militare, dalmatia, TCHAD, ALEXANDRIA
                                                                       6
 RSFSR: krasnedr, astrakhan, uzhbekhistan, georgia, YEREVAN
                                                                         EL.
 Turkey: constantinople, fair, uskuder, ankara, firefe
                                                                       3 Di or even
 Because there are so many adjustments, winter will be a separate season,
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Bysantium (Grossman) NRR! f treb r-otb. owed one. Cairo (Strain) no room for builds. owed one. France (Gruen) D a brit.
Leon&Castile (Gould) b f LEON, f BROS.
HRE (Newell) b f SAXO, a BON, a SALE?
Rus (Schwarts) B a KIEV. a SAOL

Albigensis (Heuer) b m REIM Abassid (Gister) b m BAGD R.C. (C.D.) GM D's m ENG

"KAH (After the Hologaust)

GM: Greg Costiloren

Turn B/Limbo

This game is delayed because several players don't have moves in my file. Out moving!

76JJ (PDL-6) OM: Greg Costikyan W05/806 There was an error in last season's adjudications; Italy owns Map, not France; thus, Italy and France each have one build.

WO?

France (Strain) NBRI owed one.

Germany (Hinton) B & Min.

Italy (Gould) b a VEN.

806

England (Stimmel) f NTH-hol, a BEI-pic, f ENG-pic, f mid-NAY, f WES a f lyo-TIN.
France (Strain) f BRE # fimp.) a PAR h, a PIE-ven, f tyn-ion (r-tun, rom, otb).
Germany (Hinton) f bot-BAL, f KIE-hol, a MOS a a UKR s & a BOH a a GAL a a VIE
a ita a tri, a TYO /h/ (illegible order), a MUN-tyo, a BUR-par.
Italy (Gould) a VEN s a TRI h, a rom-TUS, f NAP-ion
Turkey (Taylor) NAR! has a CON, a ANK, f BLA, a SEV, a SER, a BUD, a RUM, f AEG,
a GRE.

771U. 7610

CM: Ton Could

Limbo

Tom's currently publishing SLOBINFOLIT ZHURNAL and doesn't have time to adjudicate his games. I'll get him to do so in a day or two, and put out a single-page issue of UDUN carrying the adjudications for these two games, to be mailed only to players. (You won't be charged anything extra for this.)

I don't have the slightest idea what's going on with this game. Scott? Where are you??

VAN DE KAMP, GROSSMAN, TRIEK DEAD IN OREGON!

(From DICK TRIEK):

Greg;

This may be my last letter to you. As you know, Lipton was found in Guyana. As you also probably know, he disappeared several months ago, shortly after his return to the states, and L. Sprunge van de Kamp was found brutally murdered not more than two weeks afterwards. Further, someone has been systematically buying up Woodmere House stock. After the death of van de Kamp, victim of a brutal pipe-cleaner attack and the subsequent purchase of his stock in Woodmere House, I began an investigation of both actions. All trails led to a little known New York firm, Sacks of Broadway. Inquiright addressed to them were responded to in pages of buseaucratic drivel and sample copies of APA-DUD, from which I could not make heads nor tails. It was this impasse that led me to call a meeting of all surviving stockholders in Woodmere House at my ancient family manse in Oregon.

Dave Klapholtz showed up in person, as did John Malay (our replacement writer for ABSSF) and Ben Grossman (a very minor stockholder). You, of course, declined on the grounds of illness, and Schwartz, sequestered in the Springfield Home of the Mentally Unable, was unable to attend. He did have his law firm---Neiger, Neiger, and Duma---send a representative, one Scott Rosendud. We met for several days without harassment, attempting to work out some way to turn about the reversals the company had been suffering. After several days, I received a call from Robert Sacks informing me that he felt it only reasonable that his company, as owner of 35% of the stock, should be allowed to send a representative. We agreed, and he informed me that one was on the way.

Sacks' representative failed to make his appearance that day. After dinner and a quick game of the Trader Variant, we turned in. We were awoken around midnight by a most horrible shriek, emerging from Rosendud's room. We rushed there and found Rosendud dead, a copy of DIPLOMACY WORLD evilly sequestered in his reading material (a book called "Wild Cherry", published by Pleasure Books). We quickly decided it would be unwise to call the police---suspicioun would only be thrown on one of us. And we all had sufficient motive: any one of us could be after Schwartz's stock in the failing Woodmere House.

We buried the lawyer the next day. Klapholtz, ignoring our pleas to stay, packed his bags. We all watched as his late-model Buick drove down the driveway from my mansion. Suddenly, the Buick swerved and crashed into a tree. We rushed over to it, to find Klapholtz dead, his brakes replaced by pipe cleaners. We dragged the body from the car and buried it in the pig sty, next to Rosendud. This time we decided to call the police.

The lines were dead.

We ate dinner in a somber silence, all suspecting all else at the table. None dared to leave; someone might have out his car's brakes or stopped up the engine with the dread DW. None wished to be bored to death.

We turned in early, lacking the players to play any of the variants I possessed. Around midnight we were awakeded by a terrible scream. Malay and I rushed to Grossman's room to find him dead, a large meerschaum firmly embedded in his skull. I looked at Malay and he looked at me. We both knew it...Lipton. We buried Ben next to Klaphoitz the next day and retired early, both of us taking precautions.

I awoke early the next morning and rushed to Malay's room. When I entered the room, my nostrils were bumbarded by a scent describable only by one who has been near RBL when he is smoking pipe. Malay had died horribly, suffocated in a stench that made Pittsburgh smell like green fields. Only after two cans of Lysol was I able to approach closely enough to get the body. The look on Malay's face made me turn away. I left him there, lacking the courage to bury or move him. I lived in constant fear. A can of Glade was never far from my hand as I went about my daily business, drawing up my will and eating dinner. After Sinner, I retired to my study. HE was there. RBL, I mean. He sat in the over-stuffed chair behind my desk.

When I saw him, I stopped in my tracks. "Y-y-you!" I stattered.

"Who else!" he asked rhetorically as he stuffed his pipe.
"Why me? Why now? What about Gister --- he was also responsible for your demise!"
I screamed, unable to keep my terror under control.

"No!" I screamed, "You can't get away with it!"

"Why not?", he asked, taking is lighter to his pipe. "Who's gonna stop me?" The pipe was going now and filling the room with its odor, and odor of death.

"MM!" I screamed, levelling the can of Glade and firing. I was winning but my can went out. As I ran for the bathroom he shouted after me "It won't last forever, you know. There is only so much disinfectant in this house, and when it's gone, I'll get you." This was followed by a laugh such as Sacks might produce.

That was yesterday. He has been back twice since then, each time exhausting one of the dans. I have only three--in a pitched sattle they will go, and then so will I. I have little hope. I write you, Greg---Perhaps with warning you will be able to save yourself. Stay out of enclosed spaces and in at night. Buy Woodmere House. Fight him for my sake. He must be stopped. He is evil. Watch yourself, Greg. He wants your stock. And be warned, at all costs stay out of tobacco stores.

My last, Dick Trtek.

SOME THOUGHTS ON NUCLEAR STRATEGY

by Mr. "Ed", late of the Rand Corporation

The following constitute novel solutions to various problems of nuclear strategy. Certain bleeding hearts will find them distasteful or risible, but the fate of civilization may depend on them.

- 1. NEUTRAL COUNTRY BINGO: A game for two players. A crisis scupts: two nuclear super-powers wish to display their determination and arouse the necessary jingoism for a military foray to some part of the globe. They display their resolve by attacking, alternately, the various neutral nations. For example: Tito, near death, decides to break the Warsaw Pact hold on Yugoslavia, calls his nation to revolt against the USSR, and asks for Western military aid. NATO sends a few Belgians; the USSR responds by destroying Geneva, Switzerland. The US replies by attacking Helsinki, Finland. Play continues in this manner until all neutral countries have been exhausted: the two principals then negotiate a truce and partition of Yugoslavia.
- 2. INSIGNIFICANT MILITARY INSTALLATION WHAMMO. Assume a origin; instead of attacking neutral countries (to the horror of the U.N. and general accumulation of poor press by both sides) the players alternate attacking military installations of no consequence. The U.S. destroys the Russian naval base on Cuba, the USSR destroys the Guantanomo naval base on Cuba; the USSR destroys the US forward radar station on a US Aleutian island, the US destroys a Russian forward radar station on a Soviet Aleutian island, stc.

More Nuclear Strategy by Mr. "Edd Next Issue!

FILKSONGS

I'LL NEVER PLAY OLD RUS AGAIN (to "I'll Never Fall In Love Again) What do you do when you play old Rus? You get enough problems to distract you, And in 'Ol, you neighbors stab you, I'll never play old Rus again.

What can you do when the Black Sea goes? Sit on your hands and court disaster, Wish in your heart the game goes faster, I'll never play old Rus again.

Don't tell me 'bout the strategies, Cause I've tried them all And they're not worth a particle. No relief, no way to win, That's why I'm writing this article.

What do you do when you lose St. Pete? You watch the English cinch a stalemate, Send your orders by postal third rate, I'll never play old Rus again, I'll never play old Rus again

LET'S ALLY TOGETHER

(to "Leva Will Keep Ve Together") Let's, let's just ally together, Go with my play whatever, The Russians or Turks fix upon You can look on My help as constant so please now hook on, I said, Stop, you can have Sweden, Stop, we'll play the game even, Just say yes so we Can ally together.

Strong and powerful, Someday your centers may go. When you start to go down, Who'll keep you in the show? I will, I will, I fill.

BOU WERE OUR GM

(to "You are My Sumhine") You were our CM, our only CM, you took our orders when deadlines fell. We'll never know, cronk, just where you skipped to, But you belong no where but hell.

RONALD KELLY

("to "Yankee Doodle") Ronald Kelly gets his zines, Just to be a stand-by, Sticks a letter in the mail To see how well he can lie. Ronald Kelly, keep it up, Ronald Kelly, stand-by, Mind the misses and the drops, and see how much you can buy.

DIPPITY DO-DAY

(to "Zippity Do-Day") Dippity do-dah, dippity-day, Mr oh my, what a wonderful play. Plenty of centers comin' my way, Wonderful feeling, wonderful play.

Got the GM in my pocket, It's the truth, it's factual, Even though it's not contractual

(Repeat first verse).

YES WE HAVE NO GAME OPENINGS (to "Yes, We Have No Baranas") Yes, we have no game openings, We have no game openings in Dip. We have Youngstown and Black Hole and ...

SO WARY OF STRANGERS (to "Auty in a Manger") So wary of strangers, No shag for his pipe, Old stuffy Bob Lipton's A pompous asswips. Those in the hobby Look at him and say, "Stuffy Bob Lipton, Oh, please go away."

BOB LIPTON

(to "God Save the Queen") Bob Lipton, 'tis of thee, Bland medicority, Of thee I sing, GM who made mistakes, Critic who cherished fakes, Why don't you just jump in the lake And let freedom ring?

by Don Wileman

The alternate history ((in last issue--ed.)) was interesting, and rather pleasant. I see at least some major objections to it in Russia, though (which is, after all, the important change). ((The Russian portion is the weakest---but even a Gustavine empire in Poland, north Germany and Sweden would have been highly important)). Karl Filip, might indeed have become Czar (Polish nobles had aided the first Dmitri, and Polish troops actually occupied Moscow in 1610). Still, he would have had to survive the Troubles, and the truly startling xenophobia of the Russians, which waxed with Polish and Swedish involvement in the Troubles and had powerful support from Grand Patriarch Hermogen and the Church (Poland and Sweden not being Orthodox). There was also a strong non-class organizing centre in Niznhi-Novgorod). (This begins to sound like Slobbovia). With so many alternative pretenders (Niznhi, the Boyars, Marini Mnizzech and the Little Felon, etc) it would have been easy to be crowned, hard to make it mean anything.

Let me offer another alternative history from my small collection of same. This one was worked out by two friends as an excuse for a momenth naval campaign, based (I think) on the game-system for DREADNOUGHT....Common History Date, 1915.

The Dardanelles havel assault succeeded, a few more troops and a little less dilatoriness being the critical difference. On March 18, 1915, the Allied fleet entered the narpow straits. The Turkish forts were successfully bombarded (Turkish supplies of ammunition were exhausted). The next day the British passed the Dardanelles unopposed and the Sultan's train left for deeper Anatolia. A division of Territorials, eked out with British Regulars, took and held the Dardanelles for a month. As Turkish resistance stiffened and turned to counterattacks, these were reinforced by troops under Sir Ian Hamilton, an oldBoer War favourite.

Turkey was forced out of the war and an Anglo-French army advanced up the Danube. Emperor Karl of Austria sued for peace, and although German troops battled the Danube Expeditionary Force, Austria took no further part in hostilities as of March 1916. The opening of the Dardanelles also meant that Russian troops could be properly equipped and provisioned. Hence by the summer of 1917, Allied pressure on Germany was becoming intolerable. It seemed as though an Allied victory was imminent.

In August 1917, German intelligence leaked copies of the Sykes-Picot agreement to the Russians. Unlike the Sykes-Picot we know, this alternate's agreement envisioned a huge kingdom of Arabia as a client state, with a strong independent Turkey firmly blocking Russian ambisions in the Med. The Russian Duma split wide open over a resolution condemning the Agreement (which was between Britain and France). The Kadets and parties of the Right demanded Russia's withdrawal from the War. The Left, loosely grouped under the Trudovik leader Kemensky, demanded the prosecution of the war be made more efficient and the Russia forswear further territorial claims in the south. A General Strike in Saint Petersburg (precipitated by the announcement of a cut in rations) was followed by a spontaneous revolt including the military of that city (reservists all). Rasputin and the Czar were impresoned by the Petrograd Soviet, and poisoned there by two guards (former Social Revolutionaries). A period of Civil War broke out, complicated still further by the arrival in October of Lenin, by sealed train from Germany. His October Theses, including as they did the demand for the War to be transformed into a class war inside Russia, did much to split the Revolution. Supplied from the West, loyal troops under Grand Duke Nicholas eventually crushed the revolt, although minor revolts broke out up and down the country for a year afterwards.

At the same time, a putsoh in Germany by army officers, aimed at backing their demends for unrestricted submarine warfare and putting down the increasing Social Democratic agitation for peace exploded. It was bloodily put down, Max von Hoffman breaking with his erstwhile master Hindenburg and Ludendorff to lead the Loyalist forces.

Faced by internal dissension and alarming threats to the monarchical system, Germany and Russia signed a peace treaty at Bjorkoe on the basis of the status quo ante bellum. The following year, this was elaborated into a military alliance effective agianst external enemies and internal risings. Austria was forced by German pressure to join the new Kaiserbund a few weeks later.

In December 1917, an Armistice was signed. Negotiations dragged on into 1918 (eventually under the mediation of President Wilson of the U.S.). Finally, in October, a series of peace treaties were signed. Germany surrendered Alsace-Lorraine to Franco, Tanganyika and her Pacific possessions to the U.K. Under a combination of Revolution, pressure by the Fifth Douma, and US/UK influence, Russia granted independence to Finland, Nicholas remaining as titular Grand Duke. US/UK efforts at Polish independence failed. The US intervened in a revolution in Panama in 1918, and permanent US suzerainty over that country was incorporated into the postwar settlement. No postwar indemnities were paid.

Internally, only Russic and Turkey suffered depressions after the war (these were eventually alleviated, mainly by American aid programs). The international scene was marred by rising tensions, however.

Fascist governments came to power in Argentina (Peron), Italy (Muscolini) and Spain (Franco, with Italian assistance). Hitler enjoyed a vogue in his early career. He blamed the treaties of St. Germain and Bjorkoe with "having sold away Germany's right to an Empire in Europe and Africa". He was funded more-than-historically by industrialists, who chafed under the Junker-dominated finance system, and enjoyed quite a vogue with theirmature middle class. Without the weak Weimar Republic of the system of proportional representation, however, he was doomed. The Beer Hall Putsch of Nov. 8, 1923 was used as an excuse for the thorough repression of all but Nationalist extremists by the police and (An Bavaria) the Army. Hitler was tried in secret and sentenced to 23 years imprisonment. The Wall Street Crash of 1929 thus found the Nazis decimated and Hitler in jail.

In 1934, Russia invaded the Balkan peninsula in an attempt to seize Constantinople. Although Anglo-French-American intervention stopped the Russian advance at the Turkish border, Bulgaria and Rumania were permanently added to the Russian Crown.

In 1937 there was a short by disastrous attack on Russia by Japan. But for supply difficulties and the fact that everything had to be cleared through Moscow, the victorious Russians (their war-machine rebuilt by a rising capitalist group) might have overrun most of Manchuria and Korea). In the resulting treaty, spheres of influence were delineated, with each side giving from-clad guarantees not to impinge on the other.

Fortified by this reassurance, the Japanese annexed large sections of China in 1938. Mao-Ze-Dung's Communist Party declared war on Japan and withdrew into the hinterlands. Shanghai fell late that year and the Japanese confiscated all US and UK property.

By 1941 the brink of World War Two had been reached. The Czar, acting for both the Kaiserbund and the Russo-Japanese allience demanded that the British surrender Hong-Kong, Srawak, and Malaysia "in the interests of unrestricted trade and international peace". A similar demand was made on the US by Japan to surrender the Phillipines. Additional territories for Russia were to be Iraq and Afghanistan. Persia was to be administered as a Russo-Japanese codominium. The Western Powers rejected the demands in toto and with the passing of the deadline date for withdrawal of the Russo-Japanese ultimatum (July 31, 1941), the West considered itself at war.

I rewrite this a bit every time I do it. I doubt if Brian would recognize some sections of it now. ((Donald encloses the battle stats for the navel war campaign. I'm willing to copy them for anyone who's interested)).

LETTERS

from DICK TRIEK:

I'm glad to see that you finally ran the news about RBL's turning up alive. It certainly did turn out that reports of his death were greatly exaggerated. But them, reports of Bob were always greatly exagerated. Meanwhile, the Larry Healy tragedy is now weeks old. Seems a century ago. And Lipton fandom——Parker is already planning a history of the movement. Sic transit gloria bryan.

You were incorrect in saying there had been no playtesting of DEMMIES & DEADBEATS. A few of us here have been using a complete set of protogype rules with reasonable success. In fact, my character in one campaign has been named Boardman Number Custodian two separate times! With optimal rules regarding the formation of IDA-like organisations, things become much more lively. We have also been playtesting FANDOMI, a simulation of the first decade or so of sf fandom. It's a lot like SPI's PLOT TO ASSASSINATE HITLER cross-bred with WAR OF THE RING. In one wild game played last Wednesday, we got Donald Wollheim named as Editor of Astounding in 1939, while Rugo Cernsback was framed on a homosexual charge. Lots of fun, especially seeing who gets stuck with the Moscowitz marker.

Also, if I didn't before, I would like you so announce that I am forming my own rump-faction of the IDA. Called IDA-DICK, it's dues are \$2 a year, or \$10 for a life-time membership. Members will receive membership cards signed and typed by me, and they will be under no obligation to do amything at all. So very simple. Those interested in forming their own IDA faction should also write to me about franchise opportunities.

The Sacks-Lipton Affair clearly calls for treatment of some sort, but what book/play/etc should be the basis of the parody?

from DON WILLMAN:

We seem to be advancing in our little debate, which now seems to hinge on what the tendencies of free enterprise really are. I've always seen the beauty of harnessing the basic acquisitive urge and making it productive, as the western economy does better than any other. My worry centres around the eventual tendencies of a free market, which I suspect is to eventually become unfree.

I'll grant you that we may be dealing in ideal types. Canada has had a mixed economy since day one, and the things you said about Roosevelt, etc seem to indicate that this is also true of the U.S. Therefore there may never have BEEN a free market in all its pristine purity. My argument is that the interventions on behalf of employers by government were a function of power the businessmen already HAD. That is to say, the governmen may have speeded the free market's tendency to turn into monopolies and oligolopolies, but the tendency was still there, and would eventually have triumphed without help. Indeed, governments in recent years have been a brake on the tendency if anithing, intervening on behalf of wronged individuals against the much-more-powerful corporations. The issue is clearest in the abstract. Consider that of a group of competing companies, the one which is 5% more efficient or better at selling its goods (by fair means or foul) will eventually end up with 95% of the market. And as companies get bigger, acquiring both economies of scale and more economic clout, it becomes harder and harder to set up in competition with them; harder to get the initial capital and collection of skills, harder to survive competition with a company that may be able to undersell you by operating at a loss (which it can afford long enough to bankrupt you). (These things happen, the Kmaft Cheese Co. March (Table)

versus any local one is a prime example, or some of the drug chains against local stores). I mean, the free market of contending producers rarely seems to be any sort of equilibrium. Where is IS, the result is not always calutary. Consider the textile industry, which in Canada at least is strongly competitive. It is also perpetually broke and a weight on the back of its workers. Unionization hasn't helped much, because to get a high settlement from a garment company simply makes it go under. The cil oligopoly can at least afford to pay its creatures good wages. With projects in so many fields being capital-intensive these days (energy is the prime example) bigness may even be a necessary evil. Given that, then if freedom is to survive, and we are not to have a soliety like Japan (where company employees sing the company anthem each morning) then there must be a large strong force to redress the imbalance between the power of corporations and that of the individual. Hence Big Government.

Editor: Firstly, intervention by government in the favor of business men was not "a function of power the businessmen already HAD." In our society, government has the sole right to use force; use of coercion by any other group or individual is forbidden (except in self-defense). Thus, use of force to break strikes is not a power that business had inately; it had to have the sanction of government to use force. I would like to see an absolute separation of economy and state; government should be permitted neither to intervene on the side of management nor on the side of labor, nor for any other reason in the economic sphere.

Secondly, in the present government has NOT been a brake on the formation of conglomerations, multi-nationals, and ever larger corporations. Through direct purchases of arms, aircraft, and aerospace technology, government has favored the growth and expansion of large technology-oriented firms at the expense of smaller. Through corporate tax law, which encourages large capital formation, government has disproportionately taxed smaller businesses. Outside of the United States (Idon't know the situation in Canada), government has actively cooperated with big business in seeking foreign contracts through bribery, intimidation, and high tariff walls. Perhaps in sociated cases government has prevented big business from polluting or from coercing individuals, but these isolated cases do not abrogate the continuing trend of support for big business and big labor.

Lastly, you saccinctly state the problem of monopoly. Monopolies are not in and of themselves evil; if one company sells all the widgets in the world, but sells them at a lower price than anyone else could sell them, everyone benefits. Monopolies become evil only when they use their control of a market to force the price of widgets unnaturally high.

But since a monopoly controls an entire industry, won't it be able to force the price sky high? Not necessarily; if a monopoly raises its prices too much, other groups will begin antering the market, because they'll see that they can produce the good at a low enough cost and sell it at a high enough price to make a tremendous amount of money. Thus, the monopoly will be forced to lower its price to a reasonable level.

The problem with this is that capital has a cost. If Avalon-Hill is the only wargaming company in the world and sells its games for \$50 a piece, I may want to enter the wargaming industry in competition to Avalon-Hill, because I figure I can produce games at \$2 a piece and make a profit of \$43 while under-selling Avalon-Hill. However, in order to enter the market, I'll have to put up \$1 million in start-up money---to get designers, make the right connections with printers, buy plastic-molds for my counter-trays, buy dies for die-cut counters. This will effectively raise the cost of each of my first few games to \$75; I may be able to make a profit on the long run, but I'll lose money on my first few games. And the moment I enter the market, Avalon-Bill will cut the price of their games to \$5; underselling me terribly and forcing me out of the market.

Thus, a monopoly will safely be able to sell its goods at a slightly higher price than the good would sell for in a free market --- the difference in price will be

equal to the marginal cost of the capital for a would-be entrant to the industry. In summation, then, a monopoly is not able to charge ridiculous prices for the goods it sells. It is able to sell goods for a slightly higher price than a free market could (the difference in price will be proportional to the amount of capital needed to enter the market).

Whether a free market tends to produce monppolies in the abscence of government interference is a question that cannot really be answered, I maintain that it does not, and since there has never been a true free market it is impossible to prove me wrong. But even in a free market, somer or later through random fluctuations of the market, some industry will come under the control of a single company. And that company will be able to maintain its control of the industry, and to sell its goods at slightly higher than the free-market price---which is inefficient.

This is one of the philosophical objections I have to true libertarianism. I don't know how to answer this problem; I'll ask around and see if there is a libertarian treatment of the problem of monoplies.

KNOWN VARIANT OPENINGS

(If you know of any other variant openings, please write me, or Robert Sacks at 4861 Broadway, Apt. 5V, New York, NY, 10034)

Greg Costikyan, 1675 York Ave, New York, NY, 10028
URF DURFAL, 4 week issues, gamefee + sub 7/\$2
Youngstown (gamefee of \$3 refundable); Machiavellia, Swiss II (gamefee of \$1)

Fred C. Davis, Jr, 1427 Caairidge Rd, Baltimore, MD, 21207 BUSHWACKER, monthly, gameree \$2 standby positions in Small World II (in progress)

Larry Dunning, 46 Holmesdale Rd, West Midland, 6056, WESTERN AUSTRALIA TAU CETI, 4 week issues, sub 10/\$4 Downfall of the LOTE & the Return of the King, Grand Tournament

Doug Hayward, Box 291, Huntsville, Ontario, POA 1KO CANADA ARRAKIS, gameree \$2.50 Canadian + sub (approx. 25%/issue) Flintlock II, Gesta Danorum

Raymond Heuer (arkhivist), 162-10 87th Rd, Jamaica, NY, 11432 SIOBINFOLIT ZHURNAL, 4 week deadlines, gamefee \$2 + sub 1s/page + postage Slobbovia (in progress)

1-do not join game immediately; subscribe for several months first 2-publishers of other zines should check responsibilities of publishers with Arkhivist before joining.

W. Elmer Hinton Jr, 20 Almont St, Nashua, NE, 03060 KAISSA, monthly, gamefee \$2 + sub 10/\$5 (\$10 for overseas mail) 2001, Machiavelli

Fred Hyatt, 400 State St, Brooklyn, NY, 11217 carbon copy, gamefee \$1 + sub 10/\$2.50 Colonia IV

John Leeder, 121 99th Ave NE, Calgary, Alta., T2E 1N9 CANADA RUNESTONE, weekly, variable deadlines, sub ld/page +postage standby positions for games in progress

Drew McGee, 100 Belmont Pl 3-F, Staten Island, NY, 10301 REBUS SIC STANTIBUS, monthly, sub \$3/year Grand Tournament

Robert Sacks, 4861 Broadway, 4861 Broadway, 4861 Broadway (out this out) 5-V, NY, NY, 20034 HANSARD *subzine of THE FIXING ORPHAN*, monthly, gamefee \$3 + sub Parlementi

I've run out of illustrations in my files. If any of you are capable of making lines on a piece of paper look like something elsek, I could use some cover illos.

A BRIEF SELF-DESCRIPTION

by Adam Kasanof

-- (former (ll lle formannen

(originally written when Adam was applying to colleges)

I have hever been arrested, nor detained for questioning, do not amoke, use or sell marijuana or any other drug, do not drink or amoke eigerettes, end do not, as a rule, gamble. I have killed two men in self-defense, one with a knife and the other with pieno wire and a brick (see Diagram A).

I enjoy reading magazines, and read the following regularly: Cuns, Cuns & Anmo, Cun World, Popular Chins, Shooting Times, the American Rifleman, Shotgun News, Cuns Angual, Gun Digest, Karate Illustrated, Official Karate, Black Belt, Action Black Belt, Kodokan Review of Judo, Boxing Illustrated, Strategy & Tactics, Argony, and the National Review. My hobbies are marksmanship, recreational demolition, ballistics, emateur counteringurgency, sport parachuting, parapaychological symbolic manipulation (black magic), Haitian cultural ceremony (voodoo), and parchesi.

I like to cliect unorthodox knives, spearguns, and Coca-Cola bottles from around the world. Although my mother was a Snake-Chunker and my father adhered to Tibettan Lamaism. I have no particular cultural beliefe.

last summer I worked as a cultural exchange advisor in Angolas until my platoon was wiped out by mortar fire, and I may go on a multi-national tourn of Africa through South Africa and Rhodesia this summer, if the political situation allows if it seems off, though, then I'll just stay home and get a job with the Parks Department again as a Korticultural Maintainance Engineer (I still have my sack and minted which from late a platonic relationship with a girl named Maffin, and my greatest ambig

the Nobel Peace Prise.

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