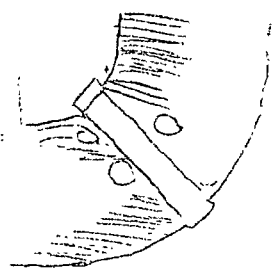


WAKE UP AROUND THE BED



"...And our 'Over-the-7-hills' retirement plan requires no medical check-up"

ISSUE 10
(special too-late-for-lies-of-March issue)



10 Peabies

How many years must the press sagas fly
Before they're finally banned?
How many times can a Pip player lie
Before his opponents understand?
How many hobbies can Walkerdine run
For the sake of his ego so grand?
The answer, my friend, is not in U-Bend 10...

UP AROUND THE BEND Issue 10

Editor: Haz Bond, 13 Merrivale Road, Stafford ST17 9EB (0785 213259)

Cost: 30p/issue, plus postage; every five weeks, or thereabouts

Deadline for issue 11: TUESDAY, MAY 5th, 1992

.....

A year old with this issue. Hurray for me.

Mind you, it could easily have been otherwise, given a nasty incident the Sunday before last. Now I know that the life of a zine editor is fraught with many a peril: debts, nervous breakdowns, letters from Mark Nelson and so forth. But they don't warn you of the risk of being crushed to death by your own zine collection. On the aforementioned day, the metal shelves in my room on which repose at a guess, a quarter of a ton of paper in the form of zines and other such efforts came crashing down with all the dignity of a body under the gravitational pull of this planetary mass. I was underneath. And I swear to you that after two blank seconds in my memory I was on the other side of my room, clutching fervently to my bed with my back to the scene of ruin. I've no idea how I escaped being squashed. Maybe I should change my name to Jaunte.

I suppose I was lucky, not only to escape a nasty injury, but also to avoid smart editors cracking witticisms about there having been many folded zines, but no folded editors hitherto.

I am going to be very good this issue and not mention the P-word save only to say that, if you do get this issue on the Big Day, think pink before you vote.

This last statement has doubtless already caused Dunky Proffitt to seize up and flail around foaming at the mouth, so I must explain myself. Last issue, as you'll be aware, I sent out a flyer for the National Bisexual Conference this yonder issue. This I did because I will be there, because several other hobby people have been there in the past, and because publicity is never going to come amiss. Dunky apparently considered that his right to chuck the flyer in the bin was not sufficient and penned a quite nasty, crabbed little attack on me in GIGO!. Not only this, but for some reason that still eludes me, he did so without actually mentioning just who he was slagging off. Now I have no objection to people just throwing the flyer away, as I expect most of you did, because I thought that was what would happen; but people who try and tell me what to do in my own zine make me mad, and when I get mad I'm not a pretty sight. Grrrr.

So do put your brain back in gear, Dunky. To be an enemy of the Hobby is one thing and not a really serious one. But to be an enemy of free speech is something else again.

.....

WAITLING LISTS (what's 'waitling' mean. Haz?)

DIPLOMACY: Chris Sutton*, Keir Hodgson*, Edward Ainsworth*, Ian Harris*, Dave Palmer. Peter Dunnett*. Just one left! Roll up, roll up.

SOPPY RIVALS: See rules within. David Oya; four more required.

Thanks to Allan Gordon for the cover. See, I told you I could hand-cut

9

Casting my eyes over the zine poll results, I was struck by the fact that I regularly receive almost all the featured zines, and indeed, that of the thirty-four which made it to the final count, there was but one of which I have yet to see a single copy. Does this augur well for the Review of the Zine Year? I dunno, guv, I only write this thing.

CLASS OF 92: AN OPINIONATED LOOK AT THE YEAR'S ZINES
by Haz

Dolchstoss takes the laurels for the first time in over ten years, and all in all its win was deserved. As a place to play standard Diplomacy it simply is second to none. Reviews of D fail to mention its politics seldom; whilst Richard Sharp is a true old right-winger, first and foremost he is a practitioner of Taking an Extreme Position to Provoke Comment from Sensitive Lefties, a useful trick which ensures a full and ever-so-jolly letter column. You should all see at least a sample copy of this.

It has already been commented by various dissatisfied parties that Y Ddraig Goch's high placing is undeserved and that Iain Bowen has benefited unduly from holding the post of zine poll organiser. A less dissatisfied and more perspicacious party, William White, comments accurately that whilst YDdG's frequency has slipped some at this year, a) many of its peers have also had years of cutting-back or retrenchment and b) when it arrives, its quality has been excellent.

Last year's winner Electric Monk is a case in point. Still beautiful to behold, still an excellent games service, but somehow an air of slight stagnancy has crept in. To mention it is to exaggerate it, and I have no doubts about Monk's reliability, but I think its place this year was about right.

Greatest Hits, on the other hand, is positively vibrant and rejuvenated. It's a rare editor who can churn out regular issues of a zine without the goad of games requiring frequent adjudication, but Pete Birks has been doing it damn well this past year, and richly deserves the highest climb in the chart. He does what he does best, which is to write literately entertaining stuff about everything under the sun, the Hobby not excluded. Get this one.

Also a high climber is Arfle Barfle Gloop, despite suffering from an outdated image of teddy-bears and cuteness. Krum and Mische, more than most other editors, are clearly in it for the sheer enjoyment rather than the sake of their egos, with which there is nothing wrong.

Now Realpolitik has recently announced a great slimming-down, but this came too late to greatly affect its Poll placing. Eternally highest of the small-subber-core zines (Birmingham University, in this instance) it has regularly featured entertaining writing from Guy Thomas' good hobby coverage, good covers and well-run games. What it will contain after issue 75 remains to be seen.

A Step Further Out could well have been higher were it not for the celebrated dose of Zine Editor's Blues hitting Steve Howe at the end of the year. Born around the same time as Electric Monk, its fortunes have followed a similar trend despite the differences in the two zines (which are considerable). Howe is not a particularly good games GM, but by gum he can write.

Another one to slip this year is Pete Sullivan's C'est Magnifique. After a heroic run of three-weekly issues Pete has announced a reduction to 4-weekly, but since this is still faster than the vast majority of gameszines he still wants shooting. Home of the press saga and the quaint spelling of 'zine'.

Small Furry Creatures Press I don't see at first hand; it's a beautiful zine based around a staggeringly vast En Garde! campaign, whose players usually serve SFCP well at voting time.

I don't see Cut and Thrust either, another nice locker that runs a wide variety of games.

Bloodstock is the games-player's delight and the chat-lover's utter bore. Mick Haytack crams more different games and campaigns inside its coloured A5 covers than anyone since David Watts ran a zine, runs them to regular deadlines, and what more can you say?

Take That You Fiend has always been a maverick amongst zines, and were it not for a recent drop in circulation would almost certainly have claimed another top ten placing. Cut Kevin Warne, or even more so co-editor John Harrington, and they spurt acid at you like the Alien. This zine is like MDMA, fun, possibly-addictive-but-open-to-question, and will rot your mind if you take too much.

Voices of dissatisfaction have been raised recently about Toby Harris, editor of Smodnoc. On the one hand, he runs games well and appears to have his team of outside GMs and subzine editors well under control. On the other, his eternal self-publicising and gung-ho style have annoyed certain editors more experienced than he. The choice, dear reader, is yours. Certainly the voters chose to vote it high rather than low.

Arglebargle is the one I've never seen. I hear it's oriented towards the FRP end of the market and runs narrative-style games reports.

Everyone was predicting that NMR! would die a couple of years ago when both its editors started families, but it trucks along, in many ways a left/centre counterpart for Dolchstoss. It will never win the Poll now, but equally it will always have a string of reasonable results given it by its long-term subber base.

Prisoners of War has just folded on issue 50, following co-editor Doug Rowling's emigration to Aussie land (did he take all his bikes, we wonder). Another slow but nice-looking zine which was highly regarded by those who saw it.

It's a hobby tradition that no matter how many or how few zines feature in the final results, Mopsy will be half way down (or if you prefer, half way up). Bryan Betts edits a zine with staying power and a wide range of Diplomacy variants, though his houserules are on the stringent side (not, mind you, as stringent as some editors would make out; his reputation precedes him).

Ah, The Mouth of Sauron and Crazy Markie. This is one of the most thoroughly exciting reads in the hobby, no ifs and buts, and if it came out as often as Greatest Hits it'd be up there with it. Mark is a born fighter and will tilt at any windmill for the sheer pleasure of the feud. Not for the faint-hearted or the short of sight (nasty typeface/layout) but for the bold, it's (in the words of dear Iain) heavenly.

Borealis, aptly named for its Northern home, is highest of the truly new zines and deserves it. Ian Harris (no relation to Toby) seems to have his sights set on designing more variants than Doubleday (see below) despite the age-gap. Certainly this zine, small, fast and friendly, could do with a wider subscribership, so go and send for a sample now. You'll like it.

Since its poll-topping days two years ago, Now Eat The Rabbit has gone off rather -- nothing that not being at University wouldn't cure, I reckon, but since editor Laughing Bill Whyte is, there's not a lot you can do but wait for him to stop. At least he hasn't got that bloody Apple Mac there, which rendered recent issues illegible to the point of astigmatism.

Gallinaufry is a shamefully undersubscribed zine from Steve Doubleday, which has come through with flying colours its editor's recent temporary relocation to Bingley, emerging from the shadow of the Damart factories as frequently and as urbanely as ever. This is another one you should give a go.

To comment on Rinna Games Review is to tread on shaky ground, with the recent tragic death of Anne Nock. It appears that Mike Pugh is to take over the running of the zine to at least some extent.

Vick Hall's A Little Original Sin has carved a niche for itself as a reliable zine in its first year, running an eclectic selection of games. It also has a Token Right Wing Bigot in the letter column, which rarely does any actual harm and frequently good in that it livens up the responses.

Pigbutton I don't see and have only ever read one copy, but it's a slow but long-running affair which carries, once more, a wide range of games.

Up Around the Bend came in at 25th, and in all honesty it was about what I expected. I hope to be able to put out meaty issues more frequently this year, as I don't plan to move house twice and start a new job. Come back in a year's time and I'll tell you whether or not I managed it to my satisfaction and yours. Who knows, I might even get the hang of running postal games.

In some ways it's odd that Die Grosse Dampfmaschine, whose name (I hear) translates as The Big Steamer, hasn't been more noticed than it has. It's been regular and well-written from the start, has a decent selection of games, what more do you want?

Former poll winner Hopscotch continues to be the grand old man of Other Games Than Diplomacy, despite Alan Parr's continual pleas of no time to run it. Alan is a fine games designer and one of the hobby's nice guys to boot, and I would thoroughly recommend his zine to anyone. However, given its size, lack of chat and the fact that many outside GMs run their games by flyer, its placing seems about right to me.

Which is hardly to be said for Ode, whose 28th place is a travesty pure and simple. It is completely regular, well established, runs games well, and though its looks are nothing to write home about, that's hardly enough to demote it so. It's flavour-of-the-year, I suppose; chatzines have done well this year at the expense of gameszines. Perhaps in 1992's poll Ode and GH will swap places again.

Ac-Mong is something of a poor man's Ode with emphasis on historical articles and variants. It's been rather slow recently as Gordon McDonald has had little spare time, though he's kept the games going pretty well, I gather.

It's inevitable that Springboard will never do too well in the poll, for its traders find vast wads of material of little or no interest to them, and its subbers, by and large, carry no oomph in the preference matrix since they see few or no other zines. Unsung heroes the Collmans do a great job with their wards, and gather more kicks than ha'pence all too frequently.

Variants and Uncles, now to become the official zine of the UK Variant Bank (see elsewhere this issue), has been variable in quality this year as James Nelson's career at University has begun.

Pyhhric Victory has been dreadfully thin and rather late this year, and hasn't been helped by a chronic lack of subbers. The most recent issue, though, has the signs of improvement, and Mike Allaway is approaching his 100th issue, so next year may be better.

Age of Reason got off on the wrong foot with a badly worded Manorcon flyer and didn't get much better, with nice production failing to mask awful writing and no knowledge of grammar. They have now cut trades with all editors, always a bad sign.

Down in the darkness where the light of day has yet to penetrate, Dunky Proffitt and his 627 typefaces make up Garbage In, Garbage Out. Few people ever manage to get up my nose as thoroughly as Mr Proffitt has, and I know myself to be far from the only one. I regret immensely signing up for a game herein, although as he's threatening to cut trades with me because I 'impose my sexuality' on him. Wot a laff. Grow up, Dunky. I'd say ruder things, but Joy and Pete Birks got in first.

Non-qualifiers in the final results? Bill O'Neill's Empires-and-others zine, Excidio: Obsidian. Small but neat and yet another underrated effort: Variable

Title, the product of various unlovely young drunks from Warwick Univ., and one of my highest votes for its sheer good-time knockaboutness; 10 Lime Avenue, the vehicle for the acerbic wit of Richard Young, now a subzine in Realpolitik and getting the wider readership it deserves; Not MP 161, which saw some independent issues after WILTT? folded; the delightfully elitist but tiny of circulation Monochrome; occasional FRP-ish Green Goblin, John Breakwell and Sue London's baby doubtless slowing things down; plus oddenda such as service zines, folded zines and so forth.

Really, the class of 92 isn't half bad -- there aren't anywhere near as many of the frightful slow and/or otherwise useless rags which habitually prop up the table (unless, of course, you count U-Bend). All together now: the Hobby is maturing, not dying....

.....

There's been some discussion about the UK Variant Bank in recent months following the reduction in Rich Jackson's spare time, but they now seem to be resolved. James Nelson asks me to print the following:

THE UNITED KINGDOM VARIANT BANK

by James Nelson

The United Kingdom Variant Bank is the central store for copies of variants that people have designed. When a GM opens a waiting list for a variant, he will provide the necessary rules/map, the purpose of the UKVB is to provide GMS with this material in the first place, to supply copies of variants to anyone else who is interested, and also promote interest in, and the playing of, Diplomacy variants.

As of the 31st March 1992 I shall take over custodianship of the UKVB from Richard Jackson. In the early days of his 'reign' Richard promoted variants firstly through White Paper and then Moonlighting. Real life problems intervened and Richard decided to pass the UKVB to me.

What does the UKVB do?

Firstly, a catalogue is available listing all the variants held by the UKVB. Whilst this is currently only an alphabetical listing, my first task as Custodian will be to produce a new catalogue which classifies variants into different subject sections (eg minor rule changes, global variants, Tolkien, etc). If you are after a particular topic or era, this will make the task much easier. I hope to have this ready for ManorCon this year.

Secondly, the UKVB publishes variants and information about them to increase interest in, and the playing of, variants. This will be done through the zine Variants and Uncles. This will appear quarterly (at about 50p per issue) and feature Diplomacy variants along with articles on the subject of variants. I shall also review new additions to the UKVB, publish Miller Number details for variants (MNs being the equivalent of Boardman Numbers) and any other material related to variants.

I would like some feedback on the subject of a Central Variant Waiting List service and a Variant of the Year Poll. My reservations on the two ideas is that for the latter voting was dominated by the subscribers of Vienna and Froggy, and for the former whether it was actually utilised. Could people inform me whether it was useful? Do you think it would be useful?

I urge all publishers to reprint this material. I also urge all publishers who don't trade with me and who are interested in variants to send me a small subscription. Why? It will help me in the dispersal of information if I don't have to mail out lots of letters to publishers but can instead print it in Variants & Uncles. Whilst I would like to trade with all publishers, I cannot afford to. Likewise, if you are a publisher who has no interest in receiving information from me, could you please inform me so that I don't waste money and time sending material to you.

All enquiries about the UKVB to: James Nelson, C/O 112 Huntley Avenue, Spondon, Derby, NE2 7DU.

LETTERS FROM A WAR ZONE
the games section

The Haz Bond Guide to Running Postal Games: First, sign up as many unwary players as are necessary and extract orders from them. Adjudicate the game, making one or more cock-ups per issue. Post them out. Wait for Nicholas Parish to ring you and point out your errors. Go and check up, but get confused, and tell him he's an idiot in very sarcastic terms. Wait for Nicholas Parish to write back gently pointing out that he's right and you're wrong. Ignore him till the deadline. Wait for Nicholas Parish to write his orders reminding you of the mistake. Apologise. Try to adjudicate the next season, taking into account the unnotified error which results in half the players not knowing where their bits are. Repeat as necessary for a guaranteed low placing in the Zine Poll.

Round 4

ENGLISH (RR map OH)

A case in point. ORNATE was by my idiocy and despite Nicholas's vigilance allowed to build 3 in 2c). Delete his track R12-R11 with tippex.

ANNE'S CLIQUE (Watchful Parish, green): 4a) (Akron)-F66-G66-I67-J66-K67:

4b) (K67)-Painsville-M68-M70-Ashtabula: 4c) F66-F69; (V31)-V32.
49+6-10s+2I+20r+1C+3F=62

ORNATE (Peter Charles, blue): 4a) (Canton)-B69-C70-C71-D71: 4b) (B64)-G62:
4c) (G62)-Lorain; (D71)-Youngstown-G70-Warren. 38-2A-20s+1C =35

IDLE (Peter Ritchie, red): 4a) (S7)-Q8-Springfield-N10: 4b) (N10)-N12-K14:
4c) (L69)-Ashtabula; (Painsville)-H69. 58-1C-2A-10s =54

CCI (Dave Lomas, purple): 4a) (Newark)-T19-T21-U22-U23-V23: 4b) (V23)-W24-W25-
Z26: 4c) (Z26)-A67; (V14)-A57. 51-10r-1A+1I+20s-1F=51

OSCAR (Iain Bowen, pink): 4a) (Columbus)-L11: 4b) (L11)-L6: 4c) (L6)-H4-
Cincinnati; (L11)-K12. 28+1A+20r-2C+1I+1F =31

FRIENDLY FASCISM (Denis Jones, black): 4a) (I49)-Bryan: 4b) (I49)-K50-Toledo;
(K50)-L50; (Bryan)-I42: 4c) (Mansfield)-B58-B59-E61-E62.
40+6+6-3A-10s+1C=49

Hmm, that means that in a f-t-f game we'd be racing by now. This being a postal game, we truck on; rolls for the next round are 6-2-5.

Press:

OSCAR - GM: Normally I would apologise for the NMR but your unseemly comment stiffens my neck not to do so, I will apologise for the orders being slightly late.

JUDGE ENGLISH: Yes, if you're late do still write, or better still, phone -- you never know your luck, Well done, y'all, on being the only multi-player game with all participants present and correct by the deadline.

::::::::::

SILVER (Really Lazy Bastard Diplomacy)

Spring 1901

Interest shown in game shock horror!!!

AUSTRIA (Dave Hicks) NMR... ENGLAND(Steve Guest) NMR... FRANCE (Bryan Betts) NMR... GERMANY (Ed Morgan) NMR... ITALY (Dave Rowley) NMR... RUSSIA (Mark Nelson) NMR... TURKEY (Alan Parr) NMR... but...

PRESS! from TURKEY: Protest! Surely RLBs are entitled to a map -- if you're not prepared to GM this game properly I think it's a pretty poor show. I reckon it's time for a game-end proposal -- how about a 7-way draw? (Failure to vote counts as a vote for a Turkish win)..

I really ought to place Turkey in anarchy for that, throw him out of the zine, blacklist him, and cut trades with Hopscotch. But I'm too lazy a bastard.

KELSO (Intimate 1a Dip)

Bloody hell, Richards!

Eddy Richards has got some orders in this time, but they're 1902 bids rather than Spring 1902 orders as required. As he's just moved house again I suppose he may be excused, but try and get your act together, Eddy! You currently control England and Italy. (I never heard from you last time -- Larter orders were left-overs)

Mark, I will always hold over a two-player game where the balance would be ruined by one player's NMR. In practice this really only applies to Intimates.

::::::::::

NOXIN (Intimate 1a Dip)

Autumn 1902

AUSTRIA (English): A(Mun)-Ber, A(Gal)-Bud.
 ENGLAND (Mick Haytack): A(Yor)-Kie, F(ENG)-Bel, A(Gas)-Mar, F(NAO)-MAO, F(Swe) H
 FRANCE (English): A(Kie)-Ruh, A(Pie)-Ven*.
 GERMANY (English): F(Bal) C A(Den)-Lvn, A(Den)-Lvn, F(NTH) & F(HEL) C English
 A(Yor)-Kie, A(Ruh)-Hol.
 ITALY (Nicholas Parish): F(WMS)-Spa/sc, F(ION)-Gre, F(Tus) S A(Ven)-Pie, A(Ven)-Pie, A(Vie)-Bud, A(Tri)-Ser.
 RUSSIA (Neutral): F(StP/nc), F(GOB), F(Sev)*, A(Fin) H.u/o.
 TURKEY (English): A(Con)-Bul, F(BLA) S A(Arm)-Sev, A(Arm)-Sev.

MORITURI: Russian F(Sev) dies NRO; French A(Pie)-Tyr.

adjustments

AUSTRIA: Bud Mun +Ber = 3 Builds A(Bud)
 ENGLAND: Lon Lpl Edi Nwy Bre +Kie +Bel +Mar +Swe = 9 + F(Lon), F(Lpl), A(Edi) sht
 FRANCE: Par ~~Par~~ = 1 Removes A(Ruh)
 GERMANY: Den Hol ~~Den~~ ~~Den~~ ~~Den~~ = 2 Removes F(NTH), F(HEL), A(Hol)
 ITALY: Rom Nap Ven Vie Tri Tun +Spa +Gre +Ser = 9 + A(Ven), F(Nap), F(Rom)
 RUSSIA: Mos War StP ~~StP~~ ~~StP~~ = 3 n/c
 TURKEY: Con Ank Smy +Bul +Sev = 5 Builds F(Smy), F(Con)

Bids now invited for next year. Mick has 14 ECUs, Nicholas 15.

OMAR (Intimate 1a Dip)

Autumn 1902

AUSTRIA (Tom Tweedy): F(AEG)-Smy, A(Vie)-Boh, A(Tri)-Tyr*, A(Gal) S A(Vie)-Boh.
 ENGLAND (German): A(Bur)-Par, A(Mun)-Sil, A(Ber) S A(Mun)-Sil, F(NTH)-Den, A(Boh)-Vie. ((Oops... those orders are for GERMANY -- Peter Dunnett!!))
 Really ENGLAND: F(BAR) H, F(NWG)-NAO, F(Cly) H, F(Wal)-Lpl, A(Swe)-Fln.
 FRANCE (German): F(Lon)-Wal, A(Tyr) S Italian A(Ven)-Tri.
 ITALY (German): A(Ven)-Tri, A(Apu)-Alb, F(ION) C A(Apu)-Alb.
 RUSSIA (Austrian): F(Sev) H, A(Sil) S Austrian A(Vie)-Boh*, A(Lvn)-Pru, F(GOB)-BAL.
 TURKEY (Austrian): A(Syr) H, A(Arm)-Sev.

MORITURI: Austrian A(Tri) -Ser; Russian A(Sil)-War; German A(Boh) dies nro!

adjustments

AUSTRIA: Vie ~~Vie~~ Bud Con Gre +Smy +Ank +Ser = 17 Builds A(Vie), A(Bud)
 ENGLAND: Lon Lpl Edi ~~Edi~~ Nwy +Swe = 5 n/c
 FRANCE: ~~Par~~ Bre = 1 GM disbands A(Tyr)
 GERMANY: Mun Ber Kie Mar Hol +Par +Den = 7 Builds A(Mun), F(Kie)
 ITALY: Rom Nap Ven +Tri = 4 Builds F(Ven)
 RUSSIA: Mos StP Sev War = 4 n/c
 TURKEY: ~~Con~~ ~~Ank~~ = zip, out

Still six neutrals there... ECU totals for next bids: Tom 16, Peter 9.

Press

PETER - TOM: Looks as if I might need to borrow those short pants. Still nearly all over?

Off we go again... in a sort of a way....

- AE (James Nelson, blue): 5a) (N16)-E59; (I14)-I13; 5b) (E59)-F58-G58-G57;
 5c) (N31)-N32-Bridlington. 27+10(fines refunded)-1L-3T+1N+6=40
- THEE (John Webley, brown): 5a) (L14)-L16-J17-Goole; 5b) (Goole)-J20; 5c) (I61)-
 K62. 40+3A+1N+5N=49
- NUTS (Nicholas Parish, purple): 5a) (H72)-F73-Scarborough; (M13)-J14; 5b) (J14)-
 -J17; 5c) (J17)-Goole. 54+6-1A-6T =53
- LUST (David Oya, red): 5a) (H6)-H5-I5-I3-Penistone; (M20)-L20; 5b) (L20)-L22-
 K23; 5c) (K23)-I24. 41+1A+5I=47
- IYI (Damien Cosgrove, orange): 5a) (D45)-D43; (C47)-A46-Huddersfield; (Barnsley)
 -H7; 5b) (H7)-E9; 5c) (E9)-Rotherham. 56-5L+6=57

James, thanks for standing by, but your orders were in places nonsensical. I've interpreted as best I could. I know this map isn't too clearly printed, which would account for some errors, but... Do try and take care.

Rolls for the last building round are 3-5-4

John, are you still there? I haven't heard from you since issue 8 -- these orders are leftovers. Is the German post unreliable?

.....

COREY (Asteroid Dogfight)

Finito

Well, Cmdr Dodo (David Oya) presses the Intergalactic Hyperspace Drive button and vanishes in a puff of jargon, and Mark Giles' von Boggles NMRs again, so I declare this game well, truly and irrevocable over, and release a sigh of pure pent-up anguish. One down, one to go. What? You want to know the winner? Surely it's obvious -- the winners are those intelligent U-Bend readers who had the gumption not to sign up for this abortion in the first place.

.....

DREDD (Diplomacy)

Spring 1904

- AUSTRIA (Allan Gordon, 3 Forest Avenue, Chingford E4 6AR)
 A(Vie)-Tyr, A(Tri) S A(Vie)-Tyr, A(Bud)-Vie; A(Ser) S F(Gre), A(Bul) S F(Gre),
 F(Gre) S A(Bul).
- ENGLAND (Adam Sharr, 54 Kingsdown Road, Cheam, Surrey SM3 8NY)
 NMR! F(GCB), F(NTH), A(Swe), A(Lpl) all H u/o.
- FRANCE (Peter Dunnett, 328 Old Road, Clacton on Sea, Essex CO15 3NU)
 F(Mar)-GOL, F(Bre)-MAO, F(ENG)-NTH, F(Lon) S F(ENG)-NTH, F(Bel) S F(ENG)-
 NTH, A(Ber)-Kie, A(Mun) S A(Ber)-Kie, A(Hol) S A(Ber)-Kie, A(Par)-Bur,
 A(Spa)-Gas.
- GERMANY (Peter Ritchie)
A(Kie) H*
- ITALY (Toby Harris, 6 Durham Terrace, Silksworth, Sunderland, Tyne & Wear SR3 1BW)
 A(Ven)-Pie, A(Nap)-Rom, F(ION)-TYS, F(AEG)-Con.
- RUSSIA (Vick Hall, 49 Vartry Road, London N15)
 A(Syr)-Smy, A(Arm) S A(Syr)-Smy, A(Rum)-Ukr, F(SKA) S ENGLISH F(NTH),
 F(StP/nc)-Nwy, A(Nwy)-Fin.
- TURKEY (Peter Charles, 16 Bosbury Road, Catford, London SE6 2SJ)
A(Con) S F(Smy), F(Smy) S A(Con)*.

Killed By Death: English F(NTH) & German A(Kie) die NRO; Turkish F(Smy) dies, npro (=no possible retreat ordered.)

A little PRESS over...

Dredd Press

The Gingerbread Man suddenly had lots of friends (or none! -- he wasn't sure, yet)..... except the Little Old Androgyne, who seemed to have a penchant for complicating things. "Ho! ho! ho!" cackled the L.O.A., "now you're confused, aren't you? If you go that way -- or that -- you could run into a trap..... or it may only be a cut-out replica! Well, if the Sweeney can do it -- why not me?"

Little Old... or... Judge English: An interesting situation develops, with signs of an alliance against the all-conquering French; which may stand a chance, especially if Adam shows up next time (oy!)

.....

Mica/GLOSTER (Sopwith T163MA)				Turn 14
Pilot	Starts	Moves	Ends	A :D :P
<u>Mr Spock</u>	O13-P14	A,A,A	R16-S17	03:05:21
ACE! Rob Cullender (NMR!)				
'Ginger' Rogers	K12-L13	RS,RS f-A,O	M12-N13	02:04:26
John Miller				

Clouds flit E to: (E8,F9,G9):(F15,G16,H16):(J17,J18,K18,L18):(K9,L9,L10):
(O11;P11):(O18,P17,P18,Q17,Q18).

Press:

Ginger - Ulrika: Beloved, I long to take you in my arms again but this damned war against the evil Spock drags on. Meanwhile I think of you bravely playing your double game with the nauseating Walkerdine. As British Aerospace falls apart around him, I pray that he has no idea it's all your doing....

Ginger - Fred: CROTTLED GREEPS AT FIVE O'CLOCK! Take evasive action.

.....

ANDERSON(Sopwith T172UB)				Final Chapter, aka Turn 8
Pilot	Starts	Moves	Ends	A :D :P
Lt. Janno Vorg	J19-NW	A and flies off, so that's that		10
John Webley (NMR2)				
<u>The Major</u>	J4-J3	A,A & lands to a hero's welcome		42
ACE! Dave Lomas				

Press

The Major: Take your time repairing the damage, sergeant. It may not be necessary; opponents in this game are disappearing faster than, well, something that disappears very fast indeed!

Judge English: And never was a truer bit of press. I here append a handy table of scores for the statisticians:

- A: Kaptain Krum (Kris Morris) s.d.F turn 5 move 2 5pts
- B: Major Mirkin (James Thorp) crash turn 6 move 1 -5pts
- C: Lt. Janno Vorg (John Webley) crash turn 8 move 1 10pts
- D: Daffy Dodo (David Oya) crash turn 7 move 2 -1pt
- E: Magneto (Tim Lomas) s.d.A&F turn 5 move 1 -1pt
- F: The Major (Dave Lomas) WON turn 8 move 1 42pts

Rather sad to see a promising conflict fall apart in the last couple of rounds due to NMRs and people misreading the maps, but that's the way it goes.

A list is open for David Oya's truly awesome SOPPY RIVALS game, if any of you lot want to experiment further with this kind of thing. Rules elsewhere in this issue.

I remain convinced that Sopwith is a fine game if you have reliable players.

LARTER (Asteroid Dogfight)

Turn 6

Aw, Ed... just when you were enjoying it too....

Name	Start	Speed	Shd	Moves	Fires	Ends	Cap	Damage
Admiral James T. Bag	I17-J17	3	-5	0 A,A,A,RT,A	0	L15-L14	5	16
Soup Dragon Follows Gervaise's lead and vanishes in a fireball (XL5?)								
David Tittle								
Kismett	D5-C5	4	-5	0 L,A,LT,A,A	AL1, AL2	B1-SW	0	10
Nicholas Parish								
Mjr Mark E. Smith	C4-C3	5	-5	0 A,A,A,A and off!	having sustained a blast from Kismett			
Ed Morgan (NMR!)								
Asteroids move inexorably NW: (B6,B7,C7)-4-:(B10,C10,C11)-4-:(H9)-2-:(J5,K5,K6)-4-:(K11,K12,L12)-2-:(M14)-2-:(M8,N8,N9)-4-:(S14)-2-								

I know that pressing the panic button and exploding in order to resign isn't covered in the rules, but since Simon C said he'd suicide on an asteroid if I didn't let him, sanity prevailed

Press:

Jim T. Bag - Mjr Smith: Just been to see Star Trek VI (having missed numbers III-V without undue strain), only to discover I've been demoted to Captain again. Hope this doesn't happen to you!

.....

Turn 3

RUNCIMAN (Sopwith T189UB)

LOOK, THE R.A.F. AREN'T SUPPOSED TO GO ON STRIKE

Pilot	Starts	Moves	Ends	A :D :P
Can E. Khazi	F3-G3	A, A, A	I3-J3	14:12:00
Adam Sharr (NMR!)				
Magneto	G10-H10	LT, A, LS f-A	I13-J14	15:10:00
Tim Lomas				
Dok Semiliterate	M17-N18	LT f-R, RS f-L, LT f-L	M19-L19	10:08:07
Jeff Cattle				
Retaliator	M18-L18	I f-A&R, I f-L, RS	N19-M19	10:05:04
ACE! Mark Wightman				
Zebedee	M7-L6	A, A, A	J4-I3	16:12:00
ACE! Rob Cullender (NMR!)				
Baron von Lettuce-	F3-E3	A, A, A	C3-B3	13:12:00
leaf Marc Cole (NMR!)				

Clouds at ten o'clock (=north-west): (C4,C5,D6):(E9,E10,E11,F9,F10):(G6,H6,I6).
(G15,G16,H16):(K15,L15,M16,N16):(L10,M11,M12mN12).

Press

Retaliator - Dok: Follow that. ha!

Judge English - Dok: You're quite right, O is only legal in the 2nd or 3rd moves (and if ordered in the 2nd must also be the 3rd).

.....

STEVE HOWE SPACEFILLER BIT: The only trouble with a typewriter is that you can't chew the end of it.

An alcoholic is someone who beats everyone else to the punch.

GRIFFIN (Sopwith T174JB)

Turn 7

ACES HIGH

Pilot	Starts	Moves	Ends	A : D : P
Baron von Boogles Mark Giles (NMR!)	D4-E5	A, A, A	G7-H6	14:06:02
'Blue with White Stripes' Baron	P11-P10 Peter Ritchie	A f-A and is no more		-3
Roger Ramjet John R Todd	D4-E3	RS, IT, f-A, A	E3-F3	10:09:02
Captain Condor ACE! Dave Rowley	P10-P11	I f-R&A&L, A, LT	Q10-R10	02:05:39

Clouds steam SE to (F9, F10, G10):(F12, G12, H13, I13):(H17, I17, J17):(K12, K13, L12, L13, M12):(P17, Q18, R18):(Q15, Q16, R16).

Press

Captain Condor - Stripey Baron: Hang onto your parachute!

.....

JACK, (Five Italies Diplomacy)

Autumn 1903

ITALY A (James Nelson, 112 Huntley Avenue, Spondon, Derby DE2 7DU)
F(Tun A) S F(ION A), F(ION A) S F(Tun A), A(Rom A)-Ven A*, A(Apu A) S...
...A(Rom A)-Ven A.

ITALY B (Toby Harris, 6 Durham Terrace, Silksworth, Sunderland SR3 1BU)
A(Tus A) S F(TYS A)-Rom A, F(TYS A)-Rom A, F(ION B)-Tun A.

ITALY C (David Tittle, 5 Penrhyn Crescent, Runcorn, Cheshire WA6 4XJ)
F(Ven D)-Apu D, F(ION D) S F(Ven D)-Apu D, F(TYS C)-ADR D, F(Tun C) S...
...F(ION D), A(Pie C)-Ven D.

ITALY D (Paul Bennett, 103 Deleval Close, Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham DL5 4QP)
F(Nap D) H

ITALY E (Simon Cutforth, 4 Bacr's Cottages, Kennford, Exeter EX2 ???)
A(Pie E)-Ven A, F(ADR A) S A(Pie E)-Ven A, F(Tun D) S F(ION E)-TYS D,
F(ION E)-TYS D.

Reculant pour mieux sauter Italian-A A(Rom A)-Nap A.

State of play:

ITALY A: K/A/A Nap A Tun A Ven A	= 3	Disbands A(Apu A)
ITALY B: Rom B Nap B Ven B Tun B <u>Rom A</u>	= 5	Builds F(Ven B)
ITALY C: Rom C Nap C Ven C Tun C Ven D	= 5	n/c
ITALY D: Rom D Nap D T/A/D	= 2	short, nbo
ITALY E: Rom E Nap E Ven E Tun E <u>Tun D</u>	= 5	Builds F(Nap E)
Still bloody neutral: Swi	= 1	

21

Note that James and Simon have moved. Let me know your postcode once you find it out yourself, Simon. Sounds like a handy address for BayCon.

.....

"He had all that one boy admires in another: he was quick and ready of laughter, he was in the eleven, which was an attraction, he was very good-looking, which was another, and in point of fact, at that portentous moment when it was made matter of common knowledge that Blaize's Christian name was David, Bags would have rather liked it if some one had proclaimed that his own name was Jonathan. But, as it was only George, it might as well remain a secret.

-- E.F.Benson, DAVID BLAIZE

FARADAY (Atlantic Airlines)

Round 5

LEAVIN' ON A JET PLANE.....

Company/Base	Aircraft/	Start	/	Via	/	End
JWA/Pittsburgh	767 /	Kano	/	sits on the ground		
John Webley NMR2!	707 /	K58	/			Paris

Account: -381-18-24-20+111 = -322, -20% = -355

HYMEN/Atlanta	Tristar /	London	/	Las Palmas	/	C74
Lave Lomas	DC10 /	B71	/	Dakar	/	K15
	767 /	F10	/	Pittsburgh	/	Chicago

Account: -286-40-44-36-20+99+54+140 = -131, -20% = -145

LA. ER/New York	DC8 /	Paris	/			// I48
David Tittle	747 /	Berlin	/	sits on the ground		
	707 /	Washington	/	sits on the ground		
	A300 /	New York	/	sits on the ground		

Account: -128-28-25-12-16-20 = -229, -20% = -252

CLAY P/London	747 /	Madrid	/	sits on the ground		
Steve Guest	DC10 /	Paris	/	sits on the ground		
	Tristar /	F46	/			L68
	707 /	L57	/			Atlanta

Account: -171-25-22-40-20-24+66 = -236, -20% = -260

AIR CRASH/Paris	DC10 /	F62	/	Accra	/	F32
David Oya	747 /	I42	/	Chicago & Montreal	/	N8
	Tristar /	H45	/	Miami	/	A57
	A300 /	L56	/	Gander & Wash'ton	/	J43
	767 /	J60	/	Paris & Milan	/	K71

Account: -960-44-50-40-32-36-20+140+204+108 = -730, -20% = -803

Loads Landed

From	To	Carrier	Load	Size/Distance/Value
New York	Accra	AIR CRASH/DC10	4 /	35 / 140
Caracas	Chicago	AIR CRASH/747	12 /	17 / 204
Toronto	Milan	AIR CRASH/767	4 /	27 / 108
Bogota	Paris	JWA/707	3 /	37 / 111
Bogota	Pittsburgh	HYMEN/767	3 /	18 / 54
Rome	Dakar	HYMEN/DC10	10 /	14 / 140
London	Las Palmas	HYMEN/Tristar	9 /	11 / 99
Frankfurt	Atlanta	CLAY PIGEON/707	2 /	33 / 66

Loads in Flight

Washington	London	CLAY PIG/Tristar	6 /	26 / 156
Washington	Amsterdam	AIR CRASH/A300	2 /	28 / 56
Accra	New York	AIR CRASH/DC10	3 /	35 / 105
Miami	Kano	AIR CRASH/Tristar	7 /	36 / 252
Montreal	Caracas	AIR CRASH/747	11 /	18 / 198
Dakar	Miami	HYMEN/DC10	8 /	27 / 216
Paris	Chicago	FAKER/Tristar	7 /	36 / 252
London	Las Palmas	HYMEN/Tristar	9 /	11 / 99

Loads Available

Follow on next page.

This is the 2nd NMR from John Webley. Since he lives in Inaccessible Foreign Parts I'll give him one final chance, but for next turn can you submit bids for JWA's two planes, and provisional orders for what to do with 'em if you get 'em. Then if John fails to order again we can still proceed smoothly.

Now, as I was saying,

Paraday: Loads Available

OLD

None left!

NEW

From	To	Load	Size/Distance/Value
Belem	London	2 /	29 / 58
Dakar	Caracas	4 /	21 / 63
Toronto	Tunis	6 /	31 / 124
Amsterdam	Madrid	8 /	6 / 48
Paris	Washington	10 /	26 / 260
New York	Chicago	12 /	5 / 60

.....

McGRUDER (Deluge Diplomacy)

Spring 1903

...NOR ANY DROP TO DRINK

AUSTRIA (Paul Morris, 53 Ashley Hill, Montpelier, Bristol BS7 9BE)
A(Tyr)-Pie((nsu)), F(Tyr) H u/o, A(Tri)-Vic, A(Bud) S A(Tie)-Vic,
A(Ser)-Bul, F(Gre) S A(Ser)-Bul.

ENGLAND (Tony Sait, 15 Alphington Green, Frimley, Surrey GU16 5LQ)
F(GAS) FF A(Bre)-Mar, A(Bre)-Mar, A(Wal)=F(Wal), F(StP/nc)-Nwy/wc,
F(ENG)-PIC, F(BEL)-Ruh.

FRANCE (David Tittle, 5 Penrhyn Crescent, Runcorn, Cheshire W7 4XJ)
F(Por)-Spa/nc, F(MAO)-GAS, F(PIC)-Bre, A(Par) S F(PIC)-Bre.

GERMANY (Nicholas Parish, Monkmoor, 10 Beechwood Ave, Heybridge KT13 9TE)
F(Swe)-FIN, F(DEN)-Swe, A(Gal)-Ukr, A(Sil)-Pru, A(Mun)-Lil, A(Kie)-Ruh.

ITALY (Allan Gordon, 3 Forest Avenue, Chingford E4 6AR)
F(Con)-AEG, A(Ank)-Con, A(Rom) H, F(Alb)-ION, F(Nap)-APU, F(Tun)-TYS.

RUSSIA (~~DATA/ANARCHY~~ = ANARCHY)
NWR2! A(War), F(LVN), F(RUM) all H u/o.

TURKEY (Peter Ritchie, 241 Days Lane, Sidcup, Kent DA15 8JX)
F(SEV)-RUM, A(Bul) S F(Sev)-Rum*.

Alas... Turkish A(Bul) dies nrp.

Press:

Green Slime: He lifted a tentacle and wiped away a germ-infested tear. The trouble with all this pollution business is that you have to have bugger-all conscience.... he wasn't so sure he was cut-out for it, after all. Still, while he was at it, he might as well agonize over the Yodellers as well.

Jim Ladd, A Cautionary Tale: Gurgle, Gurgle. ((To be continued when the author gets his brain back in the right receptacle))

Attn. El Woppo: It's all true -- I am under all sorts of pressure at the moment and cannot concentrate on throwing the game your way just yet. Give me a couple of seasons and normal service will be resumed.

At The Ministry of Disinformation: "No, no, Il Duce, nobody would believe that."
"And why not? Did not the heretic Turk fall for my misinformation the first time?"

"Yes, but..." "Does not the Englishman consider me a "jolly good mate"?"

"True, but..." "So why would anyone refuse to believe that when I conceive a plan to help myself I actually have my ally's best interests at heart?"

((more over))

McGruder Press contd.

"Because, Il Duce, no-one would be gullible enough to believe that. The Sunday Sport would refuse to print it on grounds of unlikeliness."

"Nonsense! I'll try it out on Kaiser Wilhelm. And if he doesn't believe me, I'll send him a rude letter breaking off relations. You see, Gino, when all else fails, Diplomacy will always succeed."

.....

HERSHEY (Diplomacy 91DG)

Spring 1903

What if they held a war and nobody came?

AUSTRIA (Edmund Morgan, Pavillon C Ch.412, Residence Universitaire Galois, Cite Scientifique, 59650 Villeneuve d'Ascq, FRANCE)

NMR! A(Tri), A(Bud), A(War), A(Vie) all H u/o.

ENGLAND (Dave Nwenham, 80 Prince Edward's Drive, Lewes, E Sussex. BN7 1BH)

A(Lpl) H, F(ENG)-Wal, F(NTH)-ENG, F(Nwy)-NWG.

FRANCE (Mark Stretch, 2 Over Mill Drive, Selly Park, Birmingham B29 7JL)

F(NAO)-MAO, A(Pic)-Bur, A(Gas)-Mar, F(MAO)-WMS, A(Par)-Bre.

GERMANY (Simon Cutforth, 4 Beer's Cottages, Kennford, Exeter EX? ???)

A(Hol)-Bel, A(Mun) S A(Sil)-Boh, A(Sil)-Boh, F(Den)-BAL, F(Swe) S ...

...F(Den)-BAL, A(Ber)-Kie.

ITALY (Dave Hicks, Top Flat, 8 Dyfrig Street, Pontcanna, Cardiff CF1 9LR)

NMR! F(Alb), A(Ven), A(Tyr), A(Boh)* all H u/o.

RUSSIA (Paul Bennett, 103 Deleval Close, Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham DH5 4QP)

F(GOB) H. A(Mos) H.

TURKEY (Chris Sutton, 62 Ashbrook Road, Stirchley, Birmingham B30 2XB)

A(Pum) S A(Ser), A(Ser) S A(Rum), F(Gre)-Alb, F(Smy)-AEG, A(Sev)-Ukr,

F(BLA) C A(Con)-Sev, A(Con)-Sev,

and i will die a hundred thousand deaths: Italian A(Boh) dies nro.

Judge English: Buck up your ideas, please, you lot. I am not happy with you. Hicks, this is your LAST CHANCE. Note Simon's COA.

.....

PEPPER (Sopwith T178UB)

Turn 5

Last turn's leader succumbs to NMRitis

Pilot	Starts	Moves	Ends	A :D :P
Retaliator ACE! Mark Wightman	F9-G9	I,RS,A	F10-E10	13:12:00
Cam F. Khazi Adam Sharr (NMR!)	C10-B10	A, A, A and crashes off!		04
Erik the Half-a-bee Erik Eriksson	J18-K19	A,RT,A	M19-N19	11:03:05
Baron von Lettuce- leaf MarcCole (NMR!)	L7-K6	A,A,A	I4-H3	10:04:03
Atsuko ACE! Dave Lomas	P12-O11	RS, RS f-A, O f-A&L	O11-N10	07:09:03
Father Avion Jeff Cattle	L7-M8	LS f-A,LS f-A,LS f-R	L10-M11	09:12:04

Clouds go SE to: (E12,E13,F11,F12):(J14,J15,K15):(K8,K9,K10):(L16,M15,M16,M17):
(M12,M13,N11,N12,N13).

Atsuko - Lettuceleaf: That's not a nice way to talk about a Kamikaze! Is this all down to the fact that your mum couldn't spell Mark?

"I do it with mirrors" admits Russia

AUSTRIA: Mike Allaway, 62 Herga Road, Harrow, Middx HA3 5AS
A(Ser)-Rum, F(Tri) H, A(Vie)-WARP.

ENGLAND: John Wilman, 2 Keillor Cottages, Kettins, by Blairgowrie, Scotland PH13 9JT
A(Yor)-Lon, F(Edi W&P SO1)-Nwy, F(Lon Warp SO1)-Bre.

FRANCE: RJ Walkerdine, 13 Offley Road, Hitchin, Herts SG5 2AZ
F(ENG)-WARP, A(Gas)-Sga, A(Spa)-Por.

GERMANY: Steve Doubleday, Personal, Training Dept, Head Office, Brad & Bing BS,
Main Street, Bingley, W Yorkshire BD16 2LW
A(Kie)-Hol, A(Ruh)-Bel, F(Den) S_French F(ENG)-NTH_((nso))

ITALY: Bob Moore, The Cedars, Ruskinville Bridge, Abbey Rd, Dalton in Furness,
Cumbria LA15 8LS
A(Ven) H, F(ION)-WARP, A(Rom Warp SO1)-Tun.

RUSSIA: Peter Ritchie, 241 Days Lane, Sidcup, Kent DA15 8JX
A(War)-WARP-Gal, A(Mos)-Ukr, F(Sev)-WARP-BLA, F(GOB)-Swe.

TURKEY: Ed Morgan, Pavillon C Ch. 412, Residence Universitaire Galois, Cite
Scientifique, 59650 Ville neuve d'Ascq, FR NCE
NMM! A(Bul), F(Ank) H u/o. A(Smy) WARP SO1.

Adjustments

AUSTRIA: Vie Tri Bud	Rum	= 4	Builds A(Bud), A(Vie)
ENGLAND: Lon Lpl Wdi Nwy Bre		= 5	Builds F(Lpl), F(Edi)
FRANCE: Par Mar W&P Por Spa		= 4	Builds A(Par), A(Mar)
GERMANY: Kie Ber Mun Bel Hol Den		= 6	Builds F(Kie), A(Mun), A(Ber)
ITALY: Rom Nap Ven Tun		= 4	Builds F(Nap), A(Rom)
RUSSIA: Mos StP War Sev Swe		= 5	Builds F(Sev)
TURKEY: Con Ank Smy Bul		= 4	2 short, nbo
Neutral: Ser Gre		= 2	

Rules Queries: Yes, in Warp units may move over land and sea indiscriminately.
No, units emerging from Warp may not be supported or give support
(why are you asking, TWIMC? You wrote this bloody thing!)

A sidgein of Press:

HINT no.1: Don't forget where your units in Warp are going.

ITALIAN FREE CRICKET PRESS: We did.

Anon: The author of all that saga garbage has dar' subconscious secrets, I think.

Judge English: - Anon: Pretty dark, and not so bloody subconscious, if you ask me.

MEANWHILE: 30 MILES NORTH OF THE MAGNETIC POLE: Lord Quincy stretched his buttock with one hand while cuffing the wretched Hazbond with the other. "Doit, you are always to buy your radio supplies from Tandy, they're guaranteed to never get any of the interesting signals..." He was interrupted yet again by the crack of a whip and the groan of delight from the speaker. "Oh, give it a rest, Walkerdine. we know you're there!" He bent down and twiddled with the knob. "Let us find a different channel and there's no use pretending that you don't know how to use this thing; why, even I who am technologically inferior to a cockroach can retune a radio to something other than this warped nonsense..." The speaker fades on the perverted duo to white noise...

IN A MASSIVE CAVERN; DEEP BELOW SAARFEND PIPER: "Oh, come on, it's not that bad ... at least they've made you the central character."

"Sod the central character," he replied. "Where's the mileage in that when the whole saga is total crud? I mean, look at this rubbish: 'Q T Pye', 'fetch the number 3 whip'. Who do they think they're kidding? For Chrissakes, Ulrika, if they're going to pinch my storylines they could at least try to write some decent prose around them " He sighed. Then he sat on one of the sofas and

sighed again.

Ulrika Meinhof looked at him for a moment, then apparently losing interest, looked away. In a voice that betrayed none of the excitement that was slowly building up in her she said, almost dismissively, "Well, why don't you do something about it?" Then she walked to the door, stopped in the doorway and looked back.

As she had hoped, her words had had an effect. Instead of sitting glumly on the sofa he was now on his feet, and his eyes had that gleam in them again -- just like in the old days. She waited, scarcely daring to breathe -- had she finally roused him from his months-long torpor? "By God, Ulrike, you're right! I've sat around here for too long. Everything's falling apart and there's only one guy who can put it back together again -- and that's me!" Her heart missed a beat as she realised that she'd actually done it, after all this time she'd finally shaken him out of his lethargy!

He stared at her for several seconds, though his wild eyes were seeing a very different picture. She shivered at the thought of what was going through that cold, calculating mind. Eventually he spoke "Right! We'll have to get started on a real saga as quickly as we can -- but first we need to put a stop to the garbage that's already being written." He paused, then she saw his eyes return to normal, as a brief smile flickered at the corners of his mouth.

She relaxed. It was going to be all right! She smiled back, "You..You've got a plan?" she asked, although she already knew the answer.

His smile was broader now, more like the old times. "A plan? Well, I certainly think we could pay Mr Bond a little visit."

With one hand on her blaster she followed him to the exit...

MEANWHILE, IN CHICAGO: Walkerdine's pad was dark and deserted, which meant (or so I reckoned) that he was out and up to no good. I crouched down by the unkept hedge that surrounded the mansion. "Not now," I said absently to Q.T. as I felt a light touch on my inner thigh, then realised it was only a plant and shut up. Then I realised it was a nettle, and found it rather harder to shut up. "That Walkerdine to be too mean to pay for a gardener," I muttered, stifling a yelp.

"There's no point hanging round here," I decided, rising to my feet and brushing assorted foliage from my suit. "I think it's time we paid Professor Bowen a visit."

"Professor Bowen? Isn't he the vilest man in Chicago, he's from whom all decent human beings quail, whose evil machinations make all citizens go in fear of their lives, whose mind knows no limits in its quest for power and domination, whose sadistic fantasies have brought many a young girl to ruin and disgrace?"

"No, you're thinking of Dunky Proffitt. Professor Bowen is a sort of small time operator whose redeeming virtue is that he has Walkerdine's ear regarding his deadly plans. He lives down on 3rd and Wigginton. Call me a taxi, Q.T."

I realised as this last sentence left my lips that I was feeding her a straight line, but she just blinked at me in a dumb-blond fashion and said "Call one yourself, you chauvinist pig!"

MEANWHILE: The Russian Prime Minister adjusted his purple cloak and admired his reflection in the mirror. He was then ready to give his speech. "The Tsar has graciously permitted me to speak on his behalf to you regarding the increasingly serious war situation in the South of our beloved Motherland..." a form of words to satisfy Mother Church whose patriarch was even now putting to bed the senile 75 year old monarch "...our attempts to provide a well earned holiday for our gallant sailors in the Black Sea Fleet have inexplicably failed due to antagonistic tour companies operating out of Ankara. We have sent a diplomatic note to Constantinople expressing our dismay that the Sublime Porte should have extended its recreational efforts away from their traditional hunting ground of Cyprus. They must be made to realise that they are only buying rubble... er, roubles, er, t-roubles... er something like that..." The Tsar was not the only senile idiot in the game.

(...all these no doubt to be continued next issue...))

OKAY, OKAY... why is there a page full of old jokes in the middle of the games?
Obviously the wit of an editor can't divide by two.

MARC COLE comes to the rescue...

REASONS WHY CUCUMBERS ARE BETTER THAN MEN

1. Cucumbers are already wearing a condom.
2. Cucumbers don't accuse you of sleeping with the milkman.
3. You cucumber wouldn't care if you slept with the milkman.
4. Cucumbers don't get upset when you beat them at pool.
5. Cucumbers don't go floppy after 30 seconds.
6. I've never heard of a male chauvinist cucumber
7. Cucumbers don't insist on watching football every Saturday afternoon.
8. Cucumbers don't have smelly feet.
9. Cucumbers can keep going for as long as you can.
10. Cucumbers don't make jokes about Essex girls.
11. Cucumber tastes nice in a sandwich.
12. You can hide a cucumber under the bedclothes (unlike the milkman)
13. If found in your bedroom a cucumber can be passed off as a vegetable (only some men can do this).
14. Cucumbers don't make up bad excuses for having affairs.
15. For seventy pence you can get as much enjoyment as you can handle.
16. When your cucumber starts to tire you can throw it away and get a new one
17. If you bite into your cucumber it doesn't scream.
18. If Sainbury's don't have a tasty looking cucumber, you can always try the carrots.
19. Cucumbers don't smell of piss.
20. You don't have to drag your cucumber away from pretty girls ((or men))
21. Cucumbers are easy to carry.
22. If you put your cucumber in a Tesco's carrier bag, nobody will think it's a vibrator.
23. You don't have to cook for a cucumber.
24. Cucumbers don't complain if you're flirting with your boss.
25. Cucumbers don't make mother-in-law jokes.
26. With a cucumber you don't have to wait ages for it to find your cunt.
27. Cucumbers don't tell you that you're fat.
28. Your cucumber won't laugh at your new hairstyle.
29. Cucumbers don't nag about the phone bill.
30. You know what you are getting with a cucumber.
31. Cucumbers don't complain about women drivers.
32. You always get at least ten inches with a cucumber.
33. Cucumbers make harvest festivals more fun.
34. You can tell if your cucumber is bent.
35. You can't get crabs from a cucumber.
36. Cucumbers don't have ego problems.
37. Only you know where your cucumber has been.
38. Cucumbers don't embarrass you in public places.
39. Your cucumber won't pretend to enjoy being whipped.
40. If you get hungry in the night you can eat your cucumber.

Two Clerihews from John Breakwell:

There's a famous chap called Iain Bowen	Without doubt a world sans Nelson
Of the enlightened elite he is the doyen	Would be like a stay in Belsen
His organ ((fnarr), though is getting old	They should continue to make a stand
So will we soon, then, see a foald?	To stop the world a'turning bland

We now return you to your regularly scheduled games. Do not adjust your brain.

Mica/STANSTEAD (Atlantic Airlines, GM Dave Rowley)

Turns 11/12

CASABLANCA DEPARTURE LOUNGE DESCRIBED AS 'NEW BLACK HOLE OF CALCUTTA'

Company/Base	Aircraft/	Starts	/	Via	/	Ends
DHAL/London	747 /	Pittsburgh	/	Montreal	/	J62
Joy Hibbert	Concorde/	B67	/	Casablanca, Tunis, Las P.	/	B57
	DC10 /	J35	/	Tunis	/	D66
	Tristar /	J26	/		/	H47

Account: -1070-50-56-44-40-20 = -1280, -20% = -1536

PNEUMONIA/Chicago	747 /	Tunis	/	Rome	/	H59
Harry Bond	DC8 /	C65	/	Tunis, Casablanca	/	D69
	Tristar /	C71	/	Casablanca	/	G59
	707 /	I34	/	Kano, Casablanca	/	F60

Account: +783+58+48-50-28-40-24-20 = +727

Fawly Air/Gander	A300 /	C67	/	Frankfurt	/	Tunis
Thane Duffield	727 /	L53	/		/	Gander
	DC10 /	London	/	Casablanca	/	C60*
	BAC111 /	G46	/	Montreal, Gander	/	L60

Account: -1500+148-32-20-44-12-20 = -1480, -20% = -1776

BARF/Paris	747 /	B63	/		/	Havana
Bob Cullender	DC10 /	Washington	/	sits on the ground		
NMR	Tristar /	C58	/		/	Montreal
	DC8 /	Montreal	/	sits on the ground		

Account: +526+360-50-22-40-14-20 = +740

Loads Landed

From	To	Carrier	Load	Size/Distance/Value
Amsterdam	Havana	BARF/747	10	/ 36 / 360
Algiers	Montreal	BARF/Tristar	9	/ 27 / p/1
New York	Tunis	PNEUMONIA/DC8	2	/ 29 / 58
Rome	Kano	PNEUMONIA/707	3	/ 16 / 48
Belem	Frankfurt	F.Air/A300	4	/ 37 / 148

Loads In Flight

Algiers	Montreal	BARF/747	2	/ 27 / 297 p/1
Montreal	London	DHAL/747	10	/ 22 / 220
Tunis	Atlanta	DHAL/Concorde	2	/ 31 / 62
Tunis	Chicago	DHAL/Concorde	1	/ 35 / p/1
Tunis	Chicago	DHAL/DC10	3	/ 35 / 140
Algeria	New York	DHAL/DC10	7	/ 35 / 245
Delar	New York	DHAL/Tristar	9	/ 26 / 234
Paris	Chicago	PNEUMONIA/747	12	/ 33 / 396
Dakar	Amsterdam	PNEUMONIA/DC8	4	/ 18 / 186
Dakar	Amsterdam	PNEUMONIA/707	3	/ 18 / p/1
Casablanca	Chicago	PNEUMONIA/Tristar	8	/ 30 / 240
Havana	Madrid	F.Air/BAC111	2	/ 31 / 62

Loads Left Over

Pittsburgh	Amsterdam		6	/ 29 / 174
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Press

Air Traffic Control - Fawly Airlines: What passengers in Casablanca for Chicago? PNEUMONIA got to them first.

And as we shall see on the next page, that NMR has cost BARF dear indeed:

Mica/ STANSTEAD (Atlantic Airlines, GM Dave Rowley) Turn 12 & last

Company/Base	Aircraft/	Starts	/ Via	/ Ends
DHAL/London	747 /	J62	/	/ London
Joy Hibbert	Concorde/	B57	/ Atlanta	/ Chicago
	DC10 /	D66	/ New York	/ H47
	Tristar /	H47	/	/ New York

Account: -1536+220+62+245+234-50-56-44-46-20 = -985, -20% = -1182
 + 747 @ 196, Concord @ 210, DC10 @ 154, Tristar @ 140 = 700
TOTAL = -482

PNEUMONIA/Chicago	747 /	H59	/	/ Chicago
Harry Bond	DC8 /	D63	/	/ Amsterdam
	Tristar /	G59	/	/ Chicago
	707 /	F63	/	/ Amsterdam

Account: +727+396+125+240-50-28-40-24-20 = +1327
 + 747 @ 196, DC8 @ 105, Tristar @ 140, 707 @ 98 = +539
TOTAL = +1866

PAWLEY AIR/Gander	A300 /	Tunis	/	sits on the ground
Thane Duffield	727 /	Gander	/	sits on the ground
	DC10 /	C60	/	/ Chicago
	BAC111 /	L60	/ London	/ Madrid

Account: -1776+62-16-10-44-12-20 = -1816, -20% = -2180
 + A300 @ 112, 727 @ 70, DC10 @ 154, BAC111 @ 35 = +371
TOTAL = -1309

BARF/Paris	747 /	Havana	/	/ Montreal
Rob Cullender	DC 8 /	Washington	/	sits on the ground
NMR	Tristar /	Montreal	/	sits on the ground
	DC8 /	Montreal	/	sits on the ground

Account: +740+297-50-22-20-14-20 = +911
 + 747 @ 196, DC10 @ 154, Tristar @ 140, DC8 @ 105 = +595
TOTAL = +1506

Loads Landed

From	To	Carrier	Load/Distance/Value
Montreal	London	DHAL/747	10 / 22 / 220
Tunis	Atlanta	DHAL/Concorde	2 / 31 / 62
Tunis	Chicago	DHAL/Concorde	1 / 35 / p/1
Accra	New York	DHAL/DC10	7 / 35 / 245
Dakar	New York	DHAL/Tristar	3 / 26 / 234
Rome	Chicago	PNEUMONIA/747	12 / 33 / 396
Dakar	Amsterdam	PNEUMONIA/DC8	4 / 18 / 126
Dakar	Amsterdam	PNEUMONIA/707	3 / 18 / p/1
Casablanca	Chicago	PNEUMONIA/Tristar	8 / 30 / 240
Havana	Madrid	P.Air/BAC111	2 / 31 / 62
Algiers	Montreal	BARF/747	2 / 27 / 297 p/1

Loads Undelivered

Tunis	Chicago	DHAL/DC10	3 / 35 / 100 p/1
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AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL: Thank you all. Game end statements for next time, if you so desire.

JUDGE ENGLISH: No time for losers, cos we are the champions... Another ex-Mica game ends, two more to go. Dave hints that he might like to have a shot at running a different game as outside GM in a couple of issues, so watch this space. There won't be another AA offered till after 'Paradey' ends, though (stop growling, Alan Harvey).

Zero-X here, we are under attack from a form of life we don't understand

((Error: Reuters Interstellar mistakenly reported the loss of one Arcturan ship in the battle of Castor in Autumn 4015, when in fact the task force was left unscathed. Damn. Sorry, Andy.))

Arcturus	O/red	1a/2	* Matar	
Andy Bell	O/yellow	56a/1		from Matar
	I/yellow	20a/2	* Merak	
	F/yellow	17a/1	* Pollux	from Merak
	F/yellow	14a/1		from Pollux
Segin	M/red	13/2		
Rob Cullender	N/yellow	8/1		<u>NMR!</u>

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-----/-----/-----/-----
C      /B      /A      /M
Regulus)1R  o+ /Betelgeuse)1S o /Mirfak      /Menkhib)1S  o
Alhena      /Bellatrix)1S  + /Algol)1S    o+ /Miran)1S   +
-----/-----/-----/-----
Avoir)1R    + /Canopus      /Aldebaran  + /Theenin
Adhara)1R   o /Rigel)*A      o+ /Menkar     o /Zaurak)1aS  o+
-----/-----/-----/-----
F      /E      /D      /N
Merak)1aA   + /Castor)8aA   o+ /Polaris)1S + /SEGIN)39S
Pollux)1aA  o /Capella      /Hamal)1S   o /Schedir
-----/-----/-----/-----
Alphard     /Procyon)2aA  o /Mira)1aR   o+ /Alrisha)1S  +
Denebola)2aA o+ /Sirius)2aA   + /Archernar  /Mesarthim)1S o
-----/-----/-----/-----
I      /H      /G      /O
Alkaid      /Gemma)2aA   + /Alharatz   /Homam)1aA  o
ARCTURUS)45aA o+ /Altair)1aA   o /Markab)1S  o+ /Matar)1aA  +
-----/-----/-----/-----
Acrux)1A    + /Alpha Centauri /Fomalhaut)1S + /Sandalmek
Spica)1A    o /Sol)5A        o+ /Algenib)2S  o /Sandalsud)*A o+
-----/-----/-----/-----
L      /K      /J      /P
Thuban)1A   + /Albireo      /Deneb)2A   + /Sham
Rutilicus)1A o /Vega)2A      o+ /Alderamin)2A o /Tarazed)1S  o+
-----/-----/-----/-----
Antares)1A  o+ /Sargas)2A    + /Enif       /Rukbat)1S  +
Atria       /Sabik)1A     o /Pavo)2S    o+ /Dabih)1S   o
-----/-----/-----/-----

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BATTLE REPORTS:

Arcturan ships swoop into sector F/yellow and at both Merak and Pollux destroy all five Seginese defenders for the loss of two of their own ships. The Arcturan commander issued the following press statement: "These glorious victories act as precursors to the total liberation of the galaxy by Arcturan forces and the crushing of the Seginese tyrants by force of arms and will." When contacted for a statement the Seginese admiral said "Piss off, I'm trying to get some sleep," and put the intergalactic phone down on our reporter.

BUILDS: 16 advanced at Arcturus, 12 at Segin.

Note also the return of the two Arcturans at Alderamin, missed off last time. Nobody noticed except me just now (when typing the map, actually).

What a wonder it is that the intricacies of outer space can be reduced to a two-dimensional transcript thereof, and printed out for all to marvel at the lines of battle drawn up! Then again, you may think that it's a tatty and unrealistic view of outer space. But don't come whining to me if so.

IZZARD (RR Dynamite PN)

Round 6

Scores correction: GIT pays WARPETH only 10, not 16. B/f scores: G 16, W 75

Rolls (cunningly omitted from last report and scribbled on for players) were 3-3-4:

MICA (Joy Hibbert, lavender): 6a) (I34)-H33: 6b) (H33)-G34-Granger; (Cheyenne)-D44: 6c) (D44)-C44; **LEAP GIT GREAT FALLS-HELENA**-X27. 9-6 = 3

TBNS (John Colledge, blue): 6a) (P5)-Eugene-N4-W5: 6b) (Y6)-Y7-Tacoma-A57: 6c) (A57)-Seattle-D58; (U38)-T38 ((rest too far)) 49+1G-1W-1H+6-24! = 30

WARPETH (David Tittle, black): 6a) (N6)-N5-L4: 6b) (L4)-J3-I4: (6c) (I3)-Medford-H5; (Pocatello)-Idaho Falls. 75+1T+12-6 = 82

HAVE A NICE DAY (Steve Guest, orange): 6a) (V39)-U40-T39-S40: 6b) (S40)-R39-Sheridan: 6c) (Z4)-Sidney; (Bellingham)-H56. 74-3G+1T-6 = 66

GIT (Tony Sait, green): 6a) **LEAP TBNS THE DALLEB-T6**-Portland; (Sidney)-Z44: 6b) (Z44)-Z43-Y43-Y42: 6c) (Y42-X41-Miles City)-I41. 16+3H-1T-6+6 = 18

Watch the Wall, my darling, while...

HAND's men repair W31-W32, but even as they do A65-A66 and W29-W28 are destroyed by those naughty saboteurs. TBNS's track, S26-S27 is fixed, and detectives of this same company ascertain that this cowardly deed was performed by.....

Yes, these actions do continue through the races...

...which for this turn are:

- | | | | |
|----------|-----------------------|----------|----------------------------|
| 1) QS-3S | Coeur d'Alene - Havre | 6) 4D-9C | Portland - Yakima |
| 2) 9S-3H | Bozeman - Pocatello | 7) 2C-9D | Everett - Klamath Falls |
| 3) 6D-9H | Salem - Granger | 8) 5C-4C | Aberdeen - Seattle |
| 4) 6H-TH | Sheridan - Laramie | 9) 2S-K2 | Shelby - California |
| 5) 7H-6S | Gillette - Miles City | | Enter up to <u>6</u> races |

I know this first round looks lopsided, but I assure you that the runs have been sectioned fairly to the best of my limited ability.

Handy Addresses: Joy Hibbert, 13 Merrivale Rd, Stafford ST17 9EB
John Colledge, Dunroch, 24 Brunstane Bank, Edinburgh EH15 2NR
David Tittle, 5 Penrhyn Crescent, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 4XJ
Steve Guest, 3 Becket Street, Oxford OX1 1PP
Tony Sait, 15 Alphington Green, Frimley, Surrey GU16 5LQ.

After those races you have twelve points to build with, irrespective of payments to other companies. Don't spend them all at once, you'll get a tummyache...

HALWILL JUNCTION

the unspeakable in pursuit of...

Sorry, Steve, at Oxford prices it won't even buy you a half of lager...

1: STEVE GUEST

2: Alan Parr, Nicholas Parish

3: David Oya, Jeff Cattle

4: John Todd, John Breakwell, Dave Lomas, Erik Eriksson; Joy Hibbert

5: David Tittle, Mike Allway, Peter Ritchie, Ian Harris, Rob Moore

6: James Nelson, John Miller, Alex Richardson, Mark Stretch

7: Mark Wightman

10: Eddy Richards

5001: Dave Rowley ((who I think is taking this less than seriously))

Once more I implore all subbers and traders to scribble a number on their orders, letters, or trade copies of zines. 50p or so doesn't get you much nowadays, but even two Mars bars are better than a poke in the eye...

And thus end the games, still less than a week after the deadline, not bad.

NOT SO MUCH STICHOMYTHIA, MORE A PATTERN SONG
get your tin hats on, folks, it's lettertime

Joy Hilbert OK, I suppose Walkerdine isn't a big enough figure to be worth
Stafford the sort of blasting I gave him -- after all, who listens to
him? I'd like to emphasise that I do not criticise him for writing
bad poetry under such circumstances (I couldn't throw the first stone there),
but for mindlessly parroting what the press tell him, instead of using his
brain.

((Which epistle ties in nicely with:))

RJWalkerdine Actually I'm perfectly happy to be mentioned in the same para-
Hitchin graph as paedophiles and Nazis (and even broad beans, for that
matter). While not claiming to be an active member of any of
these groups ((Good job too, any broad beans among my subbers will soon find
they aren't welcome)) I have no more than the mildest objections to them. And
as I'm sure I've said before, the Nazis built some wonderful aeroplanes. ((Not
to mention some exquisitely designed death camps -- ooh, such sarcasm...))

As for Joy Hilbert, I'm delighted to finally discover, after all these
years, that we actually agree about something! Yes, I too think that the thought
of her being the last human being alive is absolutely terrifying!!

((Can't say I blame you there, after all, it means you'd be dead))

((To put the last bit into perspective. Joy and RJW's first recorded
disagreement is over the question of whether Manorcon should provide vegetar-
ian meals, circa 1987; which whilst a moot point, is hardly such a burning
issue outside the hobby))

Dave Tant Okay, just to revert back ((sic)) to the matter of F. Mercury,
Bexleyheath decid. I completely agree with you ((what! argh...swoon...
sorry, do carry on)) that:

a) Many "famous" people (almost entirely men, I think) have died of AIDS
without admitting it.

b) The population at large, and those under 50 particularly, do indeed
"need their noses rubbed in" the danger of unprotected sex, and that this
can probably be helped along if people like Mercury DO admit the cause of their
death and speak out about it.

However, I believe that this man did NOT do so. I believe he died of it,
and that his admission was made posthumously, on his behalf, by his friends/
relations/publicists, quite possibly to help the anti-AIDS campaign, or just
as possibly so that he would get the sort of praise you give him.

((And what good to him is that, if so? At least, if I praise Magic
Johnson, he's still there to hear it))

Look at it dispassionately, if you can.

You are a record producer. The foremost star of Queen is dead. You plan
to reissue most of their records; which is going to help/hinder sales more:-

1) Publicity that Mercury "bravely" admitted he was on his deathbed from
AIDS.

2) Publicity that he almost certainly died of AIDS, but denied it to the
end.

This is not a multiple choice question.

((Deep breath, cross fingers, go. To your question: if you're thinking
purely and simply about \$\$\$, then the best method is to slip a few rolls of
notes to the doctor in the case to put down the cause of death as either
some commonplace non-AIDS-related cause (heart failure?), or else as a
typical-pop-star-death-from-excess (a la Hendrix/Brian Jones). As it is,
his producers are currently trying to get money back out of Mercury's estate
which doesn't smack much of complicity. Indeed, if they'd tried anything on,
both the rest of Queen and Mercury's many other friends in music could and most

probably would have taken their business elsewhere.

By all accounts, Mercury's death was a lot more sudden than most people, himself included, expected. Had he outed himself as an HIV+ person, whilst still outwardly healthy, it would have meant that he -- and the rest of Queen, to whom he obviously felt some obligation -- would have been barred from touring abroad due to other countries' restrictions on allowing HIV+s from entry. It would be nice to believe, though obviously it's impossible to tell, that Mercury thought it through and decided that his best course of action was to keep quiet and make records while his health lasted, then come clean about the cause of his illness -- thus ensuring that the Terrence Higgins Trust benefited more from his death. With the parlous state of the THT at the time of his death, nobody with an ounce of brain would leave them anything while (pun unintentional) healthier groups such as Body Positive existed (luckily it appears to have pulled through now). I also hear, though it may just be rumour, that Mercury left no provision for his current partner in his will, which also argues that his death came suddenly enough for him to have no time to fine-tune his will.))

((I could reply at further length, but I want to leave room for others:))

Denis Jones How do you expect me to know how Genesis C. Ornflake gets through Ilford airport metal detectors. I guess the headcase gets hassle all the time, and it's probably not for making useless music. Speaking of useless music (well, pompous, overblown rubbish), I reckon that was enough to sentence Freddie Mercury to death, but it should have been something else. Save AIDS for people who deserve slow agonising death...

((Musically; fuck off and die, you philistine. Otherwise: yeah, yeah, all for it. I've got a little list.))

Edmund Morgan While I'm in a writing mood (and I've just bought a new pad of Foreign Parts paper) here's my 2dworth on FREDDIE MERCURY. It seems to me ridiculous that a man of his importance and popularity hasn't become deified overnight in the way of Lennon (particularly), Elvis or JFK were.

((Me, I'm waiting for the Sunday Sport stories claiming he's been seen alive in Colne or Exeter.))

He was a great pop celebrity and was still writing (OK, so he was past his peak, but then I'm not a great fan of his music anyway -- I'm talking about the star here). The cause of his death should in no way detract from what he achieved and I somehow suspect that if he had simply O!D.'d on heroin, people would have said 'Oh dear, what a shame' rather than 'SINNER!' as some did when they found that it was AIDS.

((Quite so -- we're at danger of losing sight of the fact that Mercury was a musician first and foremost. For that matter, Benjamin Britten had a comparable lifestyle (though a less flashy one). His lifestyle and death shouldn't mean that his music goes out the window.))

I was quite frankly appalled by comments in the Daily Mail (I think) which said that ordinary people are in no danger whatsoever, and FM only contracted AIDS because he was a gay superstar -- this is complacent and offers an opinion which borders on the criminally negligent. I really wish action could be taken against the paper that wrote it.

I am frankly fed up with all talk of AIDS...((Me too, frankly, so I shall slash the rest of your letter unmercifully (it refers mainly to the disease in Africa). Just a few opposite excerpts:))

No-one ever uses Africa as an example of what could happen if AIDS continues to spread unchecked. Simply give the statistics of the number of AIDS sufferers and deaths, and the proportions of heterosexual/homosexual sufferers (and how many infants are suffering from the disease being transmitted to them during pregnancy by their mother). How could anyone who knows these believe AIDS is "a gay disease"? Oh, and please don't call AIDS a plague. The IRA will (I'm probably wrong) kill more than AIDS in the UK this year, so none of the wild exaggeration.

((Yes, but an awful lot of the AIDS ones are and will be unnecessary (which isn't to say that the IRA ones aren't, needless to say). The trouble with using Africa as a source of statistics is that half of the HIV+ people there are seriously undernourished and/or have other serious illnesses, so the death rates are high and the illness short when compared with we well-off Westerners. I take your point, though.))

((The trouble with AIDS (apart from the obvious one) is that it makes you all write such bloody long letters!

Sue London It didn't seem to matter how many people Mercury made happy/sad
Reading with the songs, with his personality, all the gutter press seemed to be interested in was the fact that he was bisexual and died from an illness made worse by AIDS.

I must say I now find his voice haunting -- I imagine a grey face and body laid out -- especially with the new song.

I know I did think: he's 45, shit -- our parents are older than that. The reason that bothered me was that no-one very close to me has died yet -- I wasn't very close to my grandparents. There was a boy I fancied at school who died playing with polythene clingfilm over his face and which he couldn't puncture in time -- freak accident, huh? Also a friend of ours from college who recently (last year) died from heart disease. They didn't have this effect.

I hope I'm not HIV+ as it would affect Samantha (my daughter) with a 50% chance. ((Last I heard it was only 20%; but obviously I hope it doesn't come to that for you)) My first boyfriend used drugs for a number of years -- there were a couple of "mistakes" who were lucky if they didn't get it and pass it on to hundreds more! I can't have a test as I would find it hard to get insurance -- "oh, you must be in a high risk group to have the test" -- not particularly, no, I'm no angel, but I didn't sleep around. We all make mistakes, don't we?

((You could always go for a test under a false name and lie to the insurers, others do. Apparently the insurance people have got so much flak over this point that they're changing their code of practise (but it'll take a year or so). The thing is that it's unfair to people working for e.g. Texaco who must take an HIV test or be sacked summarily. What are they supposed to tell their insurers?))

One of the worst crimes now is to say "this is an infected needle, if you don't I'll stab you". A lot of people are just going to worry themselves stupid with these blackmailers (even though AIDS doesn't survive long outside the body). My sister was told by her now ex-husband as they were going for a divorce that he had AIDS. He later admitted he was just scaring her, but she was horrified (she was also pregnant). Worried fetuses (?) miscarry; what a heinous thing to do!

((This issue's Burke of the Month is the partner of the above, who should know better:))

John Breakwell I don't think that the protection of a condom should make you
Reading think sex with an HIV+ victim was safe -- considering both the failure rate of said rubber objects and also the many other sources of physical contact involved in sex ((elucidate, please)) I would suggest keeping to the ONLY real safe sex; masturbation, making love to yourself. Personally I would try to keep at least a room between me and a carrier. I don't care how safe I am and how vulnerable the virus is in the open air, I do know that not encountering the person at all is the best protection. Why should I add extra risk to my already hazardous life?

((And I do know that while your statements are true insofar as they go, you are being remarkably silly for a usually sensible person. You talk as though AIDS were a droplet infection, like bronchitis -- if it were we really would all be dead by now. I've been in the same room as AIDS sufferers. Does that mean you won't go in the same room as me? Will I be seeing you at Mano con?

((As intimated, I'm getting heartily sick of this topic, and further correspondence on it will not be welcomed. More cheerful stuff on next page.))

Joy Hibbert As a developed country we need a lot of economically active people
Stafford to support our society in the manner to which it would like to
become accustomed. Irresponsibility around AIDS means that a not-
iceable percentage of said economically active people will instead become ill
or dead. I mention this because some have argued that the current view on HIV
transmission differs from what I said in U-Bend 8. Fair enough, although I
still think I'm right, I just thought I'd mention that it isn't necessary to
agree with me to accept that responsibility is a good idea. Look at the panic
among employers a few years ago when the number of school leavers dropped
dramatically. Where would they be if even 10% of the adult population became
economically inactive? Or if the number of live births dropped noticeably be-
cause of the 17% or so risk that the child of a HIV+ woman will have AIDS?

All this is very reminiscent of the good old days when the main threat was
nuclear weapons. As then, there are those who say, well, you can't prove the
risk, and therefore we're entitled to ignore it, species survival is no big
deal after all. And there are those who say that any risk to species survival
is too great to take, especially since no-one benefits by the risk, whether it
be the encouragement of unsafe sex, or the maintenance of nuclear weapons.

That's what I'd say today. On other days I hope Aids will kill off everyone
who practices unsafe sex, so the remainder of humanity can march together into
a future where gay people are the majority.

Mercury of Queen

Will never become a has-been

Tragically dead of an acronym:

I wish the same on all who blame him.

Dave Lomas What's all this cobblers about Gabriel, Mary and gods? You
Stoke on Trent might as well disucc which of Santas's reindeer is prettiest
because it's all a load of bunkum and anyone who believes in a
god, santa or leprechauns ought to be inside looking out rather than outside
looking in.

Joy Hibbert Sam Wagar's poem and John Miller's reply to it. Let's start with
Stafford the (ahem) gospel truth. In Matthew, the angel appears to Joseph,
thus emphasising the Christian view that it is none of a woman's
business what is being done with her body. In Mark and John no mention of the
matter is made. John Miller's quote is from Luke, where Mary's original reaction
to the angel's visit is "she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind
what manner of salutation this might be."

The tradition at that time was that any unmarried woman who was pregnant
should be put to death by stoning. I can't help wondering how many previous im-
pregnations had failed for this reason, how many innocent girls died because
their parents or fiances weren't gullible enough to believe the 'taken by an
angel' routine, all to satisfy the Christian deity's unreasonable (mature women
are (a) more likely to give live birth and (b) more likely to be good social
mothers) preference for teenage virgins.

On to issue 9. I understand that one or two people thought your attack on
Tete 'Pretty Boy' Sullivan was fully serious. They obviously haven't met you,
or they could never have thought that an over grown teddy bear like you could
be any good at feuding.

((Cough, splutter.))

Having read the press sagas for Quincy, it amazes me how Dunky can bear to read
the zine at all...

Wot's wrong with postal Othello and Draghts? Blue John, possibly the short-
est lived subzine of all time, (due to being a subzine of Mica which largely
had subbers in common which Quartz, said subbers being unable to manage a zine
which came out more than annually) ran postal Othello and Scoop. Well, tried to.

Oh, and I'm not at all amused by your suggestion that I don't use strong
language. Go and get the nipple clamps and the studded whip.

((Is that the Number 3 whip?))

John Breakwell Liked the dig at Geoff Kemp: Cute. Just received two games adjudicating from him; can't remember when the previous turn came out (Rummage) Aah, here we are. Tween XII had a March 29th deadline - Tween XIII has March 28th! Exactly a year! Stunning, eh?
I hope the Quincy press sagas get better...

((As predicted, the article on zine editors careers, drew response both irate and otherwise:))

Brian Creese Your article designed to get other editors to write has certainly worked in this case. Ken, I suspect, would be deeply horrified at the idea of running a video production outfit. Ken was a librarian - in fact Ken and Steve Doubleday (and my wife) used to all work for Surrey libraries. Ken, however, now does something with computers at the British Geological Society. It is I what runs a video production outfit - one named NMR! Productions in fact, as you can see from the headed paper.

One or two entries are out of date - Birks is these days a man of leisure, while John Wilman has now left the police force.

The other Guildford mob editors you don't mention. Richard Morris and Bairstow both did something with computers, and used to work for Datasolve when we first knew them. Rob Chapman, editor of the seminal zine Putty Riff is still an Art teacher, Paul Simpkins was a teacher but now he does something with computers. The TTYF team both do something in the City, which probably means doing something with computers which John Marsden does these days as well, having once been in the catering industry. Alan Parr is, of course, another teacher, while you missed an accountant in Glover Rogerson.

Conclusions from the above would seem to be that if you didn't originally work in computers, you probably do now. And if any of your friends are looking for career advice, I would not recommend running a video production outfit in the midst of a Tory recession - it's grim...

Steve Howe Nobody has ever known what Richard Egan does in Bristol Poly. Brian Hadleigh Polton is another computer-wallah, as was Richard Morris. Pete Talk and Paul Norris were associated with the theatre. Pete Doubleday mixed computers and unemployment. Gary Lynnis yet another accountant. Speedy ap Cynan is a solicitor, of course. Alan Parr is a schools inspector or something; I seem to recall that David Watts was once a teacher. Ditto Danny Collman. Glover is an accountant too. What the fuck do you do, Haz?

((Librarian at the local College of FE, data input clerk and general layabout))

Ian Harris You will know by now that I work in a cable factory, which Chester's Street while dull in itself makes a nice change from all the computer programmers and accountants who make up the majority of zine editors, don't you think?

Tobby Harris My job? Ever seen those 'Flora' dinosaur stickers/albums to send Sunderland off for? Or get a 'Save the Children Fund' donation form with your phone bill? Or send off for 'Embassy' focus points or Texaco Star collection? Club Toyota? BUPA? Well, some of those are accounts I manage for a direct marketing company, Axiom UK. We have a data centre that cost over £1 million to relocate to Sunderland. Crazy, eh?

((I don't as a rule send off for that sort of thing, but Joy & I have spent the last few weeks augmenting the Pretend Family income by datainputting for a similar company. It was a temptation to occasionally slip a hobby address into the files but due to the demographic constitution of the hobby, not much of it would have a use for a sample of a feminine necessity...))

Richard Walkerdine I enjoyed your Tinker, Tailor article, although I'm not sure Hitchin it reached any definite conclusions. But I was particularly pleased to see that, despite having all the issues of the second run of Mad Policy, you still don't know what I do for a living! The reason I was so pleased is because I always regarded the zine as a hobby, by which I mean it has no connection with my professional life and therefore anything in the

real world (except when it affected the zine) had no place in it whatsoever. So to learn that in some 90 issues I managed to keep my business life separate is quite an relief - there were times when I thought I might have given too much away.

((I did indeed notice that policy and it's as valid a one as any))

Steve Howe Having read Mad Policy rather closer than you, I can reveal that Mr Hadleigh Walkerdine's function concerns investment appraisal. I know what that means, but as it's very boring I'll keep the information to myself.

Richard Walkerdine British Aerospace is a big company with interests all over the world and I often find myself being rushed to some remote spot to study some new manufacturing process or assess a possible competitor. And being off in foreign parts in normal company business does of course give me an almost perfect cover for my other activities...

...I was originally recruited my M16 in 1972, mainly because of my frequent visits to South East Asia, and for the next few years I acted as a courier bringing intelligence reports back to my masters in Whitehall. Then in 1975, while on a particularly dodgy mission in Laos, I met Ulrike (no, that's not her real name, but it's the only one you'll ever catch me using) and, after finally convincing the powers that be that she really was ready to change sides I managed to get her accepted as one of our operatives. Since then of course we've been a really effective team operating all over the world (and not just for MI6 - the CIA have used us for over ten years now and even the Russians needed our services at the time of the coup last year - but that's another story), and although the missions have declined a bit recently we are still on the active service list. In fact, it looks as though we're off to Iraq again soon.

Well, you didn't think I made up all those stories about Ulrika, did you?

((On to a slightly more realistic fantasy:))

Damien Cosgrove Hmm, on to 2000AD. I think, as my vices are few (don't drink Cambridge don't smoke, don't even do 'farm') (farm = pharmaceutical = 'drug induced high), I don't mind admitting that I 'disdain of the full colour format as it is. I mean, Zenith, one of the most original pieces that's ever been done in British comics, it is essentially a black comedy story, and now it's going to be full colour. Ah well, that's life. All I need now is for Cerebus to go full colour and my life'll be totally screwed. Of recent, in 2000AD, the dross has outweighed the good inside the magazine, though 'Finn' and 'The Clown' has lifted my head if recent. Not for their 'prettiness' but because of their relatively new approach/style, in 'The Clown's case, and the following on of an old Crisis/3WW storyline in Finn (and why, I ask, are they not crediting the original '3WW' storyline?)

Nicolas Parish I thought your Zine Poll result was disappointingly low. Especially considering you had only produced one (very) late issue Weybridge due to moving house before Christmas, by which time presumably most people had voted. Are you seriously saying that none of the zines above you are zines that you would have expected to have beaten?

((Quite a few could have gone either way but no, not really. I could have come anywhere between, say, 12th and 30th and not complained. Zines are in general pretty close together nowadays, as regards quality))

Dave Tittle Have you investigated electrostencils? You put your page in one Glasgow end and out comes a stencil, the black bits having absorbed sufficient heat to melt the wax. I've absolutely no idea of the cost; it may be horrendous or it may be a cheap way of letting you use the word processor on mimeo.

((Yes, I've used e-stencils before, but since I don't own one or have local access to any I'd be chary of using one for U-Bend, where every day is vital when it comes to turnaround. Mind, I MIGHT just send off a cover or two, which can be done as and when they arrive, so long as you don't mind there being no issue number.

Thanks to Joy Hibbert for both writing and typing much of the lettercol.

PRETTY PAPER

Of late it has struck me that there are many different ways of publishing a gameszine. (I'm full of blinding insights like these of late). No, seriously, the dichotomy which strikes me the most is the ever-widening split in technology amongst zines.

Real Zines are mimeo. So we know; Iain Bowen tells us. (Now if he would only tell us what a real zine is when it's at home, we might get somewhere). I think the criteria for a Real Zine are that the publisher handles all the production process themselves, from typing to printing to sending the thing out. This means that there's no chance of outside agencies delaying or losing an issue, as is liable to happen at any time when a zine is sent to an outside printer.

What is becoming more common is for editors to lease or even buy a photocopier of their own, which they use to print the zine with. Geoff Challinger had one; the Morrises and Mike Allaway do now, and quite likely there are others. Which raises the question of whether Arfle Barfle Gloop is a real zine, I suppose.

But it's still most usual for non-Real Zines to be produced using high-flown technology and then professionally printed, which brings me to the main point of this piece.

I very much fear that too many zines are going for technology at all costs -- costs which are on the high side. It's a point that's been raised before that new editors feel it incumbent upon them to lay in a DTP package (plus computer to run it on), laser printer and the works. And if these aren't already owned, they make a huge dent in the old finances. The result? We get new zines either overpriced or, heaven forbid, being killed young by crippling costs. Of the most recent set of new zines, the last year's or so, I might point out that Dunky Proffitt has already had to announce a price hike to 75p for what is really a very slim zine, and that poor old Age of Reason has cut all trades to keep costs down, always a bad sign -- a non-trading zine will have little contact with the rest of the hobby, and this will result in no hobby coverage, and quite possibly, in disgruntled subscribers. Older zines too can suffer here; Small Furry Creatures Press, Cat and Thrust, and Prisoners of War all trade very restrictively, and thus garner fewer plugs from other magazines, and, (it would seem unreasonable to assume) fewer new subscribers.

On the contrary, the best of the new zines, Borealis and A Little Original Sin both use manual typewriters and are produced, albeit by photocopy, at a reasonably low fee, I would assume. Does this mean that they look unsightly? Not a bit of it; Vick Hall's decorations of fancy lettraset and artistic trowages make ALOS look a world apart from Garbage In, Garbage Out's clip-art. And while it's undeniable that Borealis looks like something the cat dragged in, to read it is an enjoyable zine with original and interesting writing.

Which is another problem with DTP; some of its users have fallen into the trap of assuming that if it looks good, it must be good. Again I point the finger at Duncan Proffitt. Criticism was made of him that he used too many fonts to too little effect; his response? He threatened to use every one available to him in the next issue, a number nearer a thousand than a hundred. You can use every font in the world in your zine and it will never replace good solid writing. Dunky appears to have finally twigged this, and has started putting more actual meat in GIG, but given the amount of bad reviews he's had it may be too late. I observe he came rock bottom in That Pohl.

No, if anything, DTP makes bad writing look worse, for people assume that a nice-looking zine will contain good writing. When they find out that it doesn't their disappointment is commensurately greater than it would have been otherwise. Possibly the most consistent receiver of bad reviews during my time in the hobby, Blue Smarties, suffered here, it was really no worse, or not much, than other youthful zines edited by inexperienced people, but because of its snappy look and because of the fact that it was plugged so widely in the hobby

by its editor, scarcely a good word was said for it, and as an independant zine it lasted less than a year, and, sadly, dragged Veni Vidi Vici down with it.

Let nobody assume that I hold a brief against DTP, due to the current scruffy appearance of U-Bend. Not a bit of it. Electric Monk and to a lesser extent NMR! both use the medium wisely and not too well, and as a result they remain readable as well as aesthetically pleasing. But is it significant that before their current incarnatins, both were produced on a duplicator? I'm saying nothing. But I would recommend anyone considering running a zine that they consider most carefully their means of production and take honest stock of their own liteary capability. Today's punters expect more than just a good games service; they want entertaining writing on top of that. Greatest Hits beat Ode into a cocked hat this year in That Poll.

Addresses of zines mentioned:

ARFLE BARPLE GLOOP: Kris & Michele Morris, 293 Barn Mead, Harlow, Essex
CM18 6SY

GARBAGE IN, GARBAGE OUT: Dunky Proffitt, 20 Sadlers Court, Winnersh, Reading
RG1 5AF

AGE OF REASON: Andrew Moss, 143 Clayton Street, Ormskirk, Lancs L39 3LG

S.F.C.P.: Theo Clarke, 98 Choumert Road, London SE15 4AX

CUT AND THRUST: Derek Wilson, 6 Caldbeck Drive, Woodley, Reading RG5 4LA

PRISONERS OF WAR: Now folded

BOREALIS: Ian Harris, 3 Abbotside Close, Urpeth Grange, Chester-le-Street,
Co Durham DH2 1TQ

A LITTLE ORIGINAL SIN: Vick Hall, 49 Vartry Road, London N15

ELECTRIC MONK: Madi Smith and Andy Key, 144 Perrinsfield, Venymore, Lechlade,
Glos GL7 3SE

NMR!: Brian Creese, 256 Canbury Park Road, Kingston on Thames KT2 6LG

ODE: John Marsden, 33 Weston Road, Strood, Kent ME2 3LG

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Further to the information printed elsewhere in this issue, BiCon has changed dates and will now be held at the same venue, 28-30 August. Calm down, Dunky.

STAFFORD HOBBYMEET: I know I was going to drop the idea following the disappointingly low attendance at the inaugural one, but since then enquiries and apologies have been trickling through. So I reckon I shall make another go of it, and the easy-to-remember dates are: first Saturday of the month, lunchtime, at the Bird in Hand, Stafford; or at other times that weekend at the editorial address. Having an attack of dysentery will not be accepted as an excuse -- Dave Lomas be warned.

The previously advertised housecon here at the end of June will not, however, occur, since with consummate skill we fixed it on the weekend of Gay Pfide, and we're not missing that for Dunky or anyone.. And on the same note let me record my approval of the Isle of Man's finally coming into the 20th century (only 90 years late) and decriminalising male homosexuality, and my disapproval of the failure of the Operation Spanner defendant's appeal on what seemed perfectly reasonable grounds to me. Enough of this before I start sounding like the Pink Paper.

Back to the sort of hobby with which Mr Proffitt feels comfortable, FURRYCON, youngest of the major British gamescons, is to be held at the Old Ship Hotel, Brighton, on 22-25 May. Costs are £10 for the weekend, or £1 for accompanying non-gamers; accommodation rose on April 1 from £27.50 to some figure unspecified per person per night. The UK Board and Card Games Championship is a feature of this con, and so is the massive En Garde! face-to-face tournament, though there is an extra charge for this. Afraid I won't be there, but oddly enough people will still most likely have fun, despite that.

Soppy Rivals - A Postal Sopwith/Railway Rivals variant (v1.0) - David Oya

1. The standard rules of Railway Rivals apply except as altered below. The standard rules of Sopwith apply except as altered below. As in both these games, conditional orders are strictly verboten. The game can be played on any RR map and there are twelve turns as in standard RR. The winner is determined as in standard RR. Sopwith Aces are not recognised.
2. Each player starts with one aircraft positioned on the ground at the player's start town. As well as the normal twelve damage points and sixteen rounds of ammo, each aircraft also has six bombs.
3. Each town is considered to have up to six runways pointing in every direction that doesn't adjoin with a mountain or sea/lake hex. Aircraft cannot take off directly into a mountain or sea/lake hex, although once in flight (ie from the second movement of the first turn onwards) they may fly over mountains or water without penalty.
4. As the last action of every round, all aircraft make six standard Sopwith movements. Aircraft can be shot down or fly off the board as in standard Sopwith. Clouds are optional at the GMs discretion.
5. An aircraft may fire up to six times per round. The 'Hold' (or 'Zero') move may only be ordered as the fifth or sixth move of the sequence. If ordered as the fifth move, it must also be ordered as the sixth.
6. Additionally, an aircraft may drop up to two bombs per round. Only one may be dropped at a time and they must be dropped whilst moving (ie not whilst 'Holding'.) The bomb destroys all track between the centre of the hex that the aircraft is over at the start of that move and the centre of the hex that the aircraft moves to. For example: if an aircraft at G8 and facing H8 moves Ahead and drops a bomb, all track between G8 and H8 is destroyed. Bombs dropped where there is no track do not damage.
7. Bombed track may be repaired by the owning player at a cost in points equal to the number of the round. Only 2 hexes per round may be repaired. Repairs are carried out after races and/or builds but before aircraft movement.
8. Players may not attempt to get round the Repair charges by building over bombed track during the normal building phases. However, gaps in track can be joined with a loop.
9. Aircraft can land at any town to which their owner has built. For every complete turn on the ground, the aircraft recovers four damage points (but this cannot be used to raise damage points above twelve) and is reloaded with sixteen ammo points and six bombs.
10. Players may order extra aircraft at the rate of one per round, at a cost of 20 points which is deducted when the order is placed. The aircraft is available from the next round and can start from any town that the ordering player can connect to.

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Waiting list for this game is now open.

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MISSION FROM GOD -- MARK is now out, the UK zine listing which covers as near to all the British zines being published as is humanly possible. At £1 an issue from Andy Key and Madelaine Smith (address elsewhere -- editors of Electric Monk) it is a true bargain, and also features an article by Andy on the ins and outs (which are mostly outs, if you see what I mean) of editing and producing a zine. If there's a way of getting this into the Novice Editor's package, or indeed replacing it with this article, that's what I want to happen.

A new zine as yet unseen by me: BANDERSNATCH, Paul Dunning, 43 St John's Road, Watford WD1 1QB. It's to be a zine for Postal Pass The Pigs (hmm) from a man who does have experience at zine editing. 50p is the price.

MANORCON moves into view on 17-22 Jul; any takers from subbers for a U-Bend team? Don't forget, Howe, you promised....

Steve Howe That's a Clerihew, is it? As a poetic form I reject it on the
Hadleigh grounds of lack of scansion. Even Allen Gordon's clerihew on Tony
 Sait doesn't scan properly (missing syllable in line one, incorrect
stress in line 2), in spite of what you say.

((I don't see why scansion should be the criterion which lifts your admittedly excellent doggerel into the realms of poetry whilst clerihews are disqualified. Watch it, or I'll come round, tie you up and read Ogden Nash to you))

David Oya'
Should have ordered soya
But he tucked into a chop
Till those cute little lambs got on his conscience and made him stop.

Young Harry Bond
Is deathly fond
Of reading children's stories
He takes Judge Dredd
Each night to bed ((I should be so lucky))
In Viz he simply glories.

Postal Diplomacy Gamers
Have the courage of lion tamers
Though when things go wrong they are beate
By being stabbed not by being eaten (Ian Harris)

Poor Nick Drage
Flew into a rage
That U-Bend he meant to sue it
Lodged a complaint but then withdrew it (John Breakwell)

The Nelsons, Mark and James
Take delight in playing games
But with egos of such size
Can only mean a quick demise (John Breakwell)

Edmund Clerihew Bentley
Rarely treated his readers gently
For, he said, that while a poem can
rhyme, it should never scan (Eddy Richards)

Andy Bate
Edits Froggy which (he claims) is never late
So raise your glasses in a toast
To issue 43 - delayed in the post!

The enigmatic Joy Hibbert
Is what this country needs - alert ((poor rhyming there, Wilman))
To all the little whims and foibles
Of chaps who have mislaid their moibles...

The name is Bond; that's Harry Bond
I tease my readers, cos I'm fond
Of murdering the written word
To leave them shaken, shocked and stirred (John Wilman)

Harry Bond
Don't be conned
His zine has a problem
Namely a useless GM (Rob Moore)

((But the marvellous poets more than make up for it, don't they? Some clerihews held over due to sheer lack of space, but more always welcome.))