

** THE WORLD'S GREATEST DIPLOMACY JOURNAL **
(and the most immodest...)

it's E T H I L T H E F R O G
E T H I L T H E F R O G

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ISSUE NUMBER 24
* 23 March 1973

The Black Spot: Les Pimley wins again!!

Dear me, readers, he just can't keep out of trouble, can he? And this time, the award has come about, not through any decision by me, but by the action of Les himself:

Can this be, you ask? Yes, I'm afraid it can. So great has been Les's ordeal in previous issues of Ethel that he has seen fit to send me a sheet of paper entitled 'The Black Spot - minus 1' which is a flyer to promote the coming publication of the diplomacy magazine of the same name!

I thought it was a hoax at first, but Les sent the thing to other editors as well, so I suppose it may be for real, even though no address for enquiries appeared on the sheet. It says that Black Spot will appear as a supplement to Will Haven's Bellicus, running regular games for a fee of 10p plus a 40p deposit which is forfeited by dropouts. Andy and myself have, of course, already signed up. Bellicus is 5p per issue, and the relevant addresses are:

- Les Pimley, 345 Livesey Branch Rd, Blackburn, BB2 4QJ.
- William Haven, 30 Plungington Rd, Preston, Lancs.

The flyer contains rather a fine cartoon, depicting a black spot, complete with mouth, eyes, arms and legs, holding a poor little frog on the end of a string. To which I have only one thing to say:

OUT, DAMNED SPOT! OUT, I SAY!

.....

Eastercon

The 1973 British SF convention takes place over the Easter weekend at the Grand Hotel, Bristol. Attendees will meet several Diplomacy faces, including me and possibly Hartley Patterson, Ian Maule, and several others. For an added attraction, Andy Davidson has assured me he is very unlikely to attend. Anyone who can't afford the exorbitant room rates may be able to use my floor if it doesn't fill up with weird people, as happened last year ..

50p to Fred Hemmings, 20 Beech Rd, Slough, Bucks S' 3 7DQ will no doubt get you more information. Fred dropped out of Ethel 'D' game in order to have more time to organise this con, so it'd better be good, Fred....

.....

Address Changes.... masses of 'em *sigh*

Peter Charlton is now at 12 Sylvester St, Lancaster, Lancs, U.K.; this is a permanent change.

University vacations: Allan Ovens, Andy Davidson, Roy Lawson, and presumably Martin Mellish (though he hasn't said anything) are now in the bosoms of their ever-loving families. Phil Jones is staying in Liverpool over Easter, and not returning to Manchester as originally thought because he can extort more money from the State if he pays rent... or something. I don't understand it, myself.

.....

Future plans

I intend to start up to four new regular games in Ethel 28 (just after exams), and a formal announcement will appear in issue 26. I hope as wide a variety of players as possible will join - there are 12 subscribers now who aren't actually playing, and I hope the NGC will make an announcement nearer the time. I chose the date for this partly because of exams, and partly because Les Pimley's subscription runs out with issue 28.

A few people have requested that I start another variant. I probably will, but not until towards the end of this year. When I do, I think I'd like to run a game of the Youngstown Variant, because having played in a game I feel
((turn to p.10))

As for naming college houses after people, the dormitories here (Univ. of Wisconsin) do that, just as you've mentioned. I don't know what a boat club is, but your description of them in a bar sounds something like the good time that all of us here have. In case you're interested, Alpha Delta Phi is one of several fraternities in this country. Generally, what they are is social clubs, whose members stick together and help each other out. Our alumni association helps people find jobs and the likes after they have graduated.

((Difficult to know where to begin describing a boat club to someone who's never encountered one... Imagine a long, thin craft crewed by eight men, each with one oar, with a dwarf known as the 'coxswain' (cox for short) sitting at the stern controlling the rudder and calling out the rhythm for the oarsmen. The cox is the only one who can see where the boat's going. As the cox calls out the timing, the eight oarsmen propel themselves backwards (and hence the boat forwards) at a quite remarkably low speed, and with as much expenditure of energy as did the galley slaves of old. Each college has several 'eights' as these crews are called, and at certain times of the year in rituals called 'Eights Week' or 'Lent Bumping Races' contests are held basically to find out who can go fastest (though there are all manner of complex rules which it would take a mathematician to elucidate). Sometimes the crews divide into 'fours' or 'coxless pairs' to further confuse us. Jesus Christ, 'Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea' is a load of bullshit!))

FRED C. DAVIS, JR. The NGC sounds like the sort of thing one dreams about.
10 March You mean someone has actually opened up a games parlour where all of us grown-up kids can go and play any board game in the world? In America, if such a place were open to the public, I'm sure the teenagers would take over and install a juke-box playing rock-and-roll music at maximum possible volume.

In America, indoor 'public gaming' is pretty much limited to bowling alleys and what we call 'pool halls'. The latter sometimes call themselves by the fancy name of 'billiard academies', but in truth fifty people shoot pool for every one who shoots billiards. Most pool halls in America have a dreadful reputation. They are supposedly the places where young men on their way to Hell hang out. This is especially true in Negro neighbourhoods. On the other hand, bowling is a middle-class activity, and some bowling alleys have recently installed pool tables. Unlike pool halls, some respectable people, and even some ladies, will use the pool tables in bowling alleys. But the only games parlours I ever heard of are 'domino parlours' which are popular among the uneducated males in Appalachia and the rural South. Playing any game for money is of course against the law (except in Nevada) because America is such a moral country. So you see, an American would approach a games parlour with trepidation, not knowing quite what to expect. I have been to games tournaments here in Baltimore, but such events are virtually by invitation only, to keep out potentially disorderly people who might cause trouble. Also, I have usually been the oldest or second oldest person present, with most players ranging in age from 15 to 22. But, I understand that British gamers are of a higher average age and more mature.

((A fascinating glimpse into the way the other half lives. The NGC is still unique over here; one gets bar billiards, darts, snooker, the odd pinball machine, etc. in pubs, and of course the inevitable 'amusement arcades' in any tourist spot... but they're not quite the same thing... I think the NGC may establish meeting places in provincial centres in due course as its power increases. I hope so, anyway.))

EDI BIRSAN I was going over some of the European zines in Buchanan's
14 March archives when I came across a most peculiar statement at the back of an issue called 'Ethill the Fog 19' or some such title. What, pray tell, inspired you to the desire to run for "President of IDA"?

Forsooth and forsake, for love of god(s) what spasm of psychological imbalance has beset the British and Irish isles as of late? To aspire to the office of the President of IDA is like only to getting your 'jollies' from walking down the streets of Londonderry waving British flags and singing 'Rule Britannia' in four-part harmony. For the President of the IDA is called 'dictator' when he does something, 'washy-washy' when he doesn't, and when the organisation is actually forced or prodded to provide one of those many

services that the hobby as a whole needs and thirsts for, the role of the President is for ever glossed over and quickly forgotten.

To walk into a meeting of Diplomacy players as the President of IDA is to be bombarded by questions as to why we haven't done enough by one party, and simultaneously there is a movement afoot to execute you for meddling too much in the affairs of the hobby! If, by some strange development of society, you approach the office with a certain amount of beaming self-pride, and a general flair of inner appreciation, the actions of those around you will immediately force a seizure of modesty upon yourself and will turn the most glaring extrovert into a self-doubting creature unidentifiable by his previous stature.

While your activities as a player and gamesmaster has already spoken for your sanity (or lack thereof), why do you seek to compound the damnation of your soul by such a masochistic ambition of this most horrid sort?

((I expect there's a lot of truth in this despite its ostensible tongue-in-cheek attitude - indeed, I even hesitated before printing it, and long-time readers of this rag will already know how impulsive I am in print! Edi is, of course, President of the IDA.))

JEFF OLIVER I really look forward to the IDA sorting out all our Diplomacy
12 March problems. The best way of ensuring that 'things would be run the way the British members want them' is to keep out. The only good thing that ever came out of America was Diplomacy, and sometimes I have my doubts about that.

((Charlie Chaplin, Buster Keaton, Harold Lloyd, Donald Duck, Tom and Jerry, Flash Gordon, John Steinbeck, Ernest Hemingway, Walt Whitman, Vogue, Time, Harper's Bazaar; jazz, rock-and-roll, the blues, Bing Crosby, 'Carousel', 'Oklahoma', 'South Pacific', condensed soups, tutti-frutti, candy floss, Al Capone, the Boston strangler, Mickey Spillane, Ellery Queen, Zane Grey, James Thurber, Ogden Nash, hot dogs, Coca-Cola, science fiction, electric light, the transistor, landings on the moon.... need I go on?))

I see that one of your reasons for setting up an organisation is to keep records of Dippy games fully and efficiently... BALLS! ((*sigh*))

HARTLEY PATTERSON There are other choices to add to your list One is to
14 March do nothing at all. Myself, I have the impression that opposition is strong enough to render an IDA, BDA or whatever unworkable as an overall Diplomacy organisation. I'm therefore minded to oppose the setting up of a British region of the IDA, but to negotiate with the IDA over having something more suited to British tastes; a single person on the IDA council would seem reasonable, acting as an IDA British agent.

((The NGC is 'in touch with the IDA' and they're bigger in numbers than the rest of us. Those in the front line of the NGC at present are well-disposed to our eccentricities, but if the Diplomacy part of that becomes a sub-section of a U.S. organisation it is possible it might change. Perhaps I'm being paranoid about this, but I don't want a situation to develop where publicity for anything could be determined by whether the organiser joins up or not. Colin Hemming and Jeff Oliver would be early casualties under such a set-up...))

I ought to apologise for dropping out of the THIRD AGE game - could have sworn I'd posted them but the vital orders lay hidden under a pile of paper. Must be all this overtime I'm doing....

((Disgusting! Were your name Davidson, sirrah, I would take great pleasure at this point in composing a page or so of personal vilification to hurl at you. As it is, your identity saves you (and the readers) from such an unpleasant fate.))

1972ACde ('H'): 1 Hisime 3018

MORDOR MOVES SOUTH - HOBBITS RUSH TO
FILL THE GAP

ERiADOR (Lettice) f sou-1sn, a w1z-mor s by =a mm, a fan-1gd;
a gm-and s by a rhd, a gun-gm; a sh1-bra; a cve-sh1.

MORDOR (Ward). a mir & a ere s (rhovanion) a 1ro-gm, a and-dg,
2a dg-cel; a cel-wol s by =3a wem, 2a edo-1sn, a eas-edo,
a ash-rhn, a dag-bar; a mmo-n1t* s by 2a n1n, 2a udu-mmo.

RHOVANION (Davidson): =a 1ro-rhn, a wol-cel* s by a g1.

ROHAN (Davis) =2a n1t-mmo, a eem-eas s by a me, a bro-dag.

UMBAR (Harris). a msh & =a sit s (rohan) =2a n1t-mmo, a kha-nur;
f lam-tol, a mt1-lam s by a cal, a sgo-mt1, a hrd-sgo; a hum-hdw;
f cit-hum.

*Retreats: Mordor a mmo annihilated. Rhovanion a wol-bro.

Martin Davis is now firmly reinstated as Rohan. Gregory Ward gives advance notice that he will be in France from 10 to 24 April, approximately.

Barad-Dur: It's nice being a dictator; the masses have to like your poetry.

A poet can get very sad
When he's told his works are bad
And more so when he's told by one
Who's got his forces on the run
But mighty stays the Dark Lord's land
No worse for losing one orc band
And soon the bard up north shall see
He's faced by one more skilled than he.
And as he sees his fall with woe, it's
Plain to see: you don't mock poets.

Another thing about being a dictator - you don't have to be modest...

Old Forest Goldberry sat on the end of the bed and buried her face in her calico smock. "Tom," she sobbed, "I don't know what's come over you. You're so callous lately. It's ever since you last went to the Weathertop Odeon. What film were they showing to change you so?"

"Ah, shaddup," snarled Bombadil. "Just you fetch one of those yellow pots of home-churned butter you make."

"I'm sorry, Tom," she said, springing to her feet. "I should have realised that you might like a sandwich." But as she scampered from the room, old Tom Bombadil just rolled his eyes and wiped his nose on the back of his hand.

Bag End: It was a glittering company Hannibal Barca, King Rothari the Lombard, Cleopatra of Egypt, Frodo Baggins, Sherlock Holmes, and others. Finally Frodo spoke. "Okay, so we agree dat we put da finger on dis Davidson schmuck, but how? Da boys made a hit, but da sawn-off punk hid behind a pebble." Dakromir of Drethmaneka spoke. "Where I come from, they call him the Midgard Serpent."

Here they were interrupted by the first news ever received in Bag End from the South. An unkempt runner burst in, carrying a note in a cleft stick. "Hey, dis changes things!" exclaimed Frodo. "Morgoth's bin overthrown!"

South Ithilien: Ar Phasixpence lay on the grassy embankment watching the Corsairs and Haradrim with their terrible Oliphaunts. "This is just like old times," he sighed, handing Professor Tolkien a spamburger. Suddenly an Oliphaunt bounded up to him, dragging an orc along with it.

"A prisoner!" said the general. "Tell me, scum, what are Mauron's plans?"

"Dunno," said the orc, picking its nose. Ar Phasixpence looked at the creature with ill-concealed distaste and said, "I'll give you some spam if you tell me."

"Oh yeah," said the orc, "please. We ain't 'ad any spam since you took over the Khand meat factories." He continued to grovel and lick the general's boots for a few minutes, but finally Professor Tolkien said: "Tell us what Mauron is planning."

"Sure, chief. Anything for some spam. 'E's getting outside 'elp. 'E's getting 'elp from--- aaargh!" The creature slumped forward with an arrow in his back.

"Good lord!" exclaimed Ar Phasixpence, drawing his sword. "This press release is starting to get dangerous!"

1972ACde cont'd!

Dol Guldur. It seems I'm missing something here
 With all these poems every year
 (Well, fortnight, but it wouldn't rhyme
 And year still has to do with time).
 I think I'll write one, just to show
 We in Dol Guldur are not slow
 At keeping with the current trend
 In literature, and all things penned.

Mordor Cultural Dept: Cic ro! *chuckle*

Mordor Cultural Dept (later): Didn't think he'd understand, somehow. *sigh*
 ((Nor do I - ed.))

1972ADde ('I') 2 Narguelle 3018 ROHAN FORCES TORN APART AGAIN!!!
 ANOTHER RINGBEARER ANNIHILATED -
 ONLY THREE LEFT NOW...

ERIADOR (Waldie): a hol-mor; a dun-wiz, a gwy-hol, a bra-min;
 a min-dun s by f sou & a ene; a sdo stands.

GONDOR (Mellish): a min-rau; a nit-mmo*; a edo-wem, a isn-edo;
 a lam-eas.

MORDOR (Bell) 2a bro-wol s by 2a wem; 2a cal ms 2a mti;
 a mmo-nit s by =3a sit; a udu s a bar; a bar ms a nur

RHOVANION (Pijohn): a rhn ms a ash, =a dg s a cel; a cel s a gf;
 a mm & a gf s (eriador) a hol-mor; a wll-smi s by a mir;
 a dag-wll; a lor s (eriador) a dun-wiz.

ROHAN (Yare): a wiz-lor* s by =2a mor*; a gap-igd.

UMBAR (Morrison). =a hrd-cit; f bel-cit; a hdw-hum; a sgo stands.

*Retreats. Gondor a nit-min, Rohan a wiz-fan, =2a mor annihilated.

E: 9 bases: sh1, eve, lhu, bra, riv, arn, ang, hol, mor. Build a sh1.

G: 5 bases: lam, isn, edo, cas, rau. No change.

M: 10 bases: bar, msh, mmo, udu, nit, sit, cal, mti, wem, wol.
 Build a msh.

RH: 11 bases: and, smi, gm, erc, run, car, gf, rhd, dg, cel, lor.
 Build a and.

RO: 1 base. igd. Removes a igd.

U: 5 bases: hrd, hdw, kha, cit, sgo. Builds F Cit.

1972ABde ('G'): 2 H1sime 3018 ERIADOR & UMBAR LOOK DISTINCTLY UNHEALTHY
 AS MORDOR MAKES READY FOR FINAL MOVES

ERIADOR (Morrison): a ang stands*; a nwa-iro, a sdo stands;
 =a wea* & a bra* s a sdo; f min-sou; a rhd-gm*

MORDOR (Davidson): =3a gwy-bra, 2a dun-ene; a igd-dun s by a wiz,
 a and-rhd s by a hol & a mm; a mor-gf; 2a eti-wea, a gm-ett;
 a mir-gm; 2a gun-ang; a iro-nwa; a ere-iro; a dg-and; a kha-nh;
 a nur-kha s by a sgo; a sit & a msh s a sgo; a udu-min; a nit-cal;
 a mti-nit; 2a cal-mti; a eas-wem; a lam ms a isn.

UMBAR (Jeffery): f cit-hum, a hrd s a hdw; f bel-sgo s by a hdw;
 =a dol-lam.

*Retreats: All Eriador. a ang-arn, =a wea-fnt, a bra-tow, a rhd annihilated

E: 4 bases: sh1, eve, lhu, arn. Removes a nwa & f sou.

M: 33 bases: bar, msh, mmo, udu, nit, sit, sgo, kha, cal, lam, mti, mor, gf,
 lor, and, wem, eas, car, cel, smi, run, edo, igd, rau, wol, isn, dg,
 ere, ang, bra, hol, rhd, gm. Builds a mmo, a udu, a bar, a igd,
 a mor & a car....

U: 3 bases: cit, hum, hrd. Removes f bel & =a dol.

Does anyone in this game still think Mordor isn't going to win? If everyone votes to end this game with their next sets of orders, then it will - because, with all due respect to Mr Davidson, I don't see much point in its continuation.

1972K ('A'): Spring 1912

RUSSIANS IN KIEL!
GERMAN SAILORS RAPE LISBON!!!!

GERMANY (Davidson): a bel-edl c by f nth, a par-bur s by a ruh & a gas;
f mao-por; a lon stands; a bre s a gas.

RUSSIA (Jeffery): f stp(n)-bar; f nwy-nth; a swe-nwy; a fin-swe;
a ber-kie s by f bal & a den; a pru-ber; a war s a sil;
a ukr sleeps; f ion-tys.

AUSTRIA (Robertson): f tri-adr; a bud-tri, f wms-mao s by f eng;
f gol s (french) a spa; a ple s (french) a nar; a tus stands;
a mun-bur; a tyr-mun s by a boh.

FRANCE (Oliver): a mar-gas s by a spa.

1972Kco ('B'): October 1916

TWO FRENCH UNITS FORCED TO RETREAT! AND
TURKEY MOBILISES AGAIN, AT LAST....

ENGLAND (Stuart): a pru-dre; a kie-ruh s by a hol, a bel-lor;
a eng-pic s by f eng, a lon-den ff by f ang, f hel-kie;
f ber stands; f nwy stands; f mao-bre.

TURKEY (Corker): f tun-tys; f gre-aeg s by f ems; a mac-gre;
a scr s (austrian) a zar; a bul-rum; a con-mac.

AUSTRIA (Walkerdine): a stp-mos; a boh-tyr; a vie-cro,
a sil s (english) a pru-dre, a tra-pec s by a zar & a bud.

FRANCE (Davidson): f sao-wms; f tys-wms; f cms-gre; a cro-tyr;
a pec-cro*; f mar-gol; a por stands; a swa s a mun; a ruh-kie*;
a drc-ber s by a mun; a bre-pic s by a par & a lor; a gas-bre;
a lyo-gas.

*Retreats: French a pec disbanded, a ruh-bur. English f ber disbanded.

Geoff Corker, 92 Lancaster St, Barnsley, Yorks. S70 6EW is now playing Turkey.

1972BK ('C'): Spring 1910

FRANCE TAKES THE IONIAN SEA... BUT FOR
HOW LONG?

ENGLAND (Taylor): a war-ukr s by a mos; a lvn-war; a stp s a mos;
f ska-den; a kie-ber; a hol-urh; a bel-hol; a nwy-fin;
a swe, f nth & f wms stand.

GERMANY (anarchy): a ber stands.

RUSSIA (Oliver): a sev-mos.

TURKEY (Jeffery): f lon s (english) f wms-tys*; f aeg s f lon;
a con-bul; f smy-ems; f ven-adr; a apu-ven s by a tri;
a vie ms a gal; a ukr s (russian) a sev-mos.

FRANCE (Bell): a sil-gal s by a boh, a mun s a tyr; a rom s f nap;
a ple-ven s by a tyr, a tys-lon s by f tun & f nap.

*Retreats: Turkey f lon-gre.

1972BV ('D'): Spring 1909

GERMAN FORCES MOVE WESTWARDS---
TURKISH ARMIES LOSE GROUND TO AUSTRIANS'

ENGLAND (I.Lawson): f bal-den s by a swe*; f edi-yor.

GERMANY (Jones): a lpl-edl s by f nth; a hol-ruh; a war-sil;
a sil-mun s by a kie; f ber-bal; f ska s (turkey) a nwy-swe.

TURKEY (Oliver): a nwy-swe; a stp-nwy; a sev-mos, a run-bud;
a vie-tri* s by a ser; f gre-lon s by f aeg & f ems; f smy-con;
f bla stands.

AUSTRIA (Davidson): a tyr-vie s by a boh; a bud-ser s by a tri;
a alb-gre s by f lon*; f tys s f lon, a nap stands, f mao-bre.

FRANCE (Bell): f eng-iri; f lon-eng.

*Retreats: Austrian f lon-tun. Turkish a vie disbanded. English a swe-fin.

I must found a couple of press releases for this game - they're on page 9.

1972CI ('E'): Spring 1908 ITALY BEFRIENDED BY MANY, BUT TURKEY RETREATS QUIETLY ANYWAY.

ENGLAND (Feintuck): f nrg-bar; f nth-ska; a kie-ber s by f bal;
a lvn-pru; a stp-mos; a fin-stp; f hel-kie; f gob stands.

RUSSIA (Elsore): a ukr-mos s by a war; a ank s (italy) f aeg-smy;
 f rum-bla; a ber-kie s by a mun; f pru-bal

TURKEY (Pi John): a smy-arm.

AUSTRIA (R. Lawson): a boh s (russian) a mun; a bud-vie; f tri-adr;
 a ven-pie s by a tyr; a gre-alb; a bul-gre;
 f con s (italy) f aeg-sry.

ITALY (I. Lawson): f aeg-smy!

FRANCE (Walkerdine): a ruh-mun s by a bur; a mar-pie; a pie-tus;
 f tus-rom s by f tys; f nap-apu; f lon-adr.

Note that England is now ruled by Kevin Feintuck, 16 Argyle Rd, Lpl L4 2RS.

Rome. With the battle over and the city captured, Kiryak had authorised a day of celebration, and had recently arrived himself to take part in the festivities. "That's the last of the Italians out of the way," he remarked to the leader of the French mercenaries. "I don't think we need bother too much about that fleet of theirs. You know, I'm beginning to get quite a feel for this warring business; I can't wait to get to grips with those Austrians. Show 'em a thing or two about tactics, eh?"

The Frenchman said nothing, content to smile to himself as he stroked his beard. "I've seen it all before," he thought. "A commander gets a few easy victories under his belt and he thinks he's a second Hannibal. I only hope Eric comes back before this fool over-reaches himself completely."

"I think we should stage a triple assault on Venice, Trieste and Greece," said Kiryak. "Long-range artillery, amphibious landing, the lot - now that would really set them back on their heels!"

Budapest Broadcasting Co: "---crackle, buzz--- 1john"

"And now--- hiss --- more serious news. Following the public outcry at the recent deterioration in the quality of ice cream, his--- crackle, crackle --- Roy I has assigned to General Conrad von Hutzendolt the task of liberating Italy from the clutches of the imperialistic--- hiss ---ench oppressors. Our illustrious general has already begun his campaign. Not only--- buzz, crackle crackle, hiss--- now that our naval forces have been doubled. (Over the past two years our rate of shipbuilding has been equal to that of the rest of Europe put together)--- hiss---"

1972CL ('F'): Autumn 1907 ITALY ADVANCES ON FRANCE, RAPID TURNOVER OF TSARS RENDERS EASTERN SITUATION FLUID...

ENGLAND (Feintuck): f nth-den*; f hel-kie s by f hol*; f edi-cly.

GERMANY (Morrison): a swe-nwy; a den stands; a kie-ber; a sil-war;
a lvn-stp.

RUSSIA (Waldie?): a mos-stp; a arm-sev s by a ukr; f pru-bal.

AUSTRIA (Davies): mar // a sev stands*.

ITALY (Oliver): f con-bla; a gre-smy c by f aeg & s by f ems;
 a bul-con; f tys-gol; a ven-pie; a rur s a gal, a ser s a rum;
 a gal s (germany) a sil-war; a tri-tyr.

FRANCE (Alexander): a bel-hol s by a ruh; f eng-nth s by f lon;
f nao-nrg s by f cly; a bur-bel.

*Retreats: Austrian a sev annihilated. English f's nth & hol disbanded.

E: 2 bases: edi, kie. No change.

G: 6 bases: ber, mun, den, nwy, swe, war. Build a mun.

R: 4 bases: stp, mos, sev, ank. No change.

A: 0 bases - out!

I: 13 bases: ven, rom, nap, tun, tri, bud, vie, scr, gre, rum, bul, con, smy.
 Build f nap & f rom.

F: 9 bases: bre, par, mar, spa, por, bel, hol, lpl, lon. Build f mar & a par.

No russian moves from Steve Williams again, so out he goes. Andrew Waldie

ETHIL THE FROG comes to you by courtesy of John Piggott, 17 Monmouth Rd, Oxford, OX1 4TD, U.K. (Tel: 0865-45045) who edits it, and Ian Maulc who turns the crank at the side of his duplicator Rates are 7/40p, 18/£1 inland, 10/70p Europe; 4/£1 elsewhere The mailing label bears the number of your last paid issue on your present subscription - '24' means renew at once, 'T' is for trade, and 'C' means you're lucky. This is Tapeworm Production No.31.

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This publisher is a member of the IDA and the IGC.

Circulation this issue = 62. Print run 70. Beat that, Hartley!

NEXT DEADLINE for games 'A' to 'I' inclusive: Monday April 9th.

Future plans (cont'd from page 1)

it's a good variant. But of course what variant I run next will depend on what people want, there have been several requests from time to time for further games of Third Age, which I am reluctant to run again since I have been accused of turning Ethil into a magazine primarily concerned with Third Age, with regular Diplomacy only a secondary consideration. This can only be because of the way the press releases work out - regular games don't seem to attract much press, somehow; in fact, I got four games on one page this time, this being a record I am not as pleased about as some might think. Anyway, variants as a breed are fairly well catered for in the pages of Grafeti at least for the moment, though personally I am a little apprehensive as to whether Brian Yore will be able to keep up his frenetic publishing schedule for very long. The new breed of Grafeti will probably run 14 or 16 pages an issue, though I guess I'm not helping there by sending about two pages of press for each move... We shall see.

I appear to have wandered off the point here a bit - still, no matter. Go to fill up the stencil somehow, what? As to the contents wordwise of future Ethils, I can only say that it will probably continue in much the same sickening way as it has gone before, with letters, insults, and various boring trivia interspersed with the games. And in answer to at least one questioner, no, I do not anticipate ever getting all the games in the right order in any issue of Ethil. There's a reason for this besides the obvious space-filling one, but you'd only laugh if I told you. . .

BACK ISSUES of Ethil available: numbers 1,4,8-12,15-23, all 3p each plus postage.

My 1973 house rules are now ready. All players should have received a copy, and should ask at once for a free copy if they haven't. Anyone else who wants a copy may ask for one - a 2½p stamp would be appreciated, though it's not all that important.

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