



ISSUED BY



UP ARON
THE BEN

"If they place us outside the law, we shall act outside the law"
(Peter Tatchell, 21 February 1994)

Further comment on this topic is not forthcoming from me, because it makes me angry, and you wouldn't like me when I'm really angry. REALLY angry, I mean. Here I am, I'm three weeks late and I haven't even the time to explain why, though as a teaser (I'm a born teaser) I shall just mention that almost being shock-horror-probe-exposed by the Daily Mail was part of it.

Be that as it may (as they used to say on Round the Horne), this is

UP AROUND THE BEND

(Issue 27. Coldcom Press 48. Pretend Family Fanzine.)
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(phone 0785 213259, work fax 0785 228317)
(answerphone finally defunct, so beware!)

Front cover by Fiona Campbell, what talent. Never mind the name, dig that issue number: Waiting Lists [* = preference list/setup received]

DIPLOMACY: Edward Ainsworth, Kim Head, Paul Cockayne*. 4 wanted.

GRANDMASTER DIP.: 7 wanted. See page 6.

BREAKING AWAY (GM me this time): Paul Cockayne, Rob Cullender. 4 wanted.

GRAND SLAM: Martin Draper, John McCoubrey?, Mark Stretch, Rob Moore, Kim Head, John Miller, Richard Walkerdine, Bob Holliday*, Dave Lomas, Alex Richardson, Ian Harris*, Denis Jones*, Geoff Brown*, Steve Guest, Paul Cockayne, Rod Tregale. 1-2 more will make a start; come along, guys and gals, I want this game to run. Rules available.

CHILD SOMETHING: Girl Duncan, Kevin Head, Kayley Harris, Samantha Harris.

SEISMIC DIP: Rules still forthcoming. Denies Jokes*, 6 wanted.

BUS BOSS: Paul Cockayne. 3-5 wanted.

SOPWITH: Alex Richardson, Rob Cullender?. 5? wanted.

ACE SOPWITH: Rob Cullender? 6? wanted. See page 6.

MARSHALSEA GAOL: the debtors' prison

Goodbye to: Andy!kate!, Kern Dingsdale

The following are sailing close to the wind: THE BREAKWELLS, Pete Sullivan, Mark Wightman (really), Alan Coulthard, Gary Lyon, Rob Cullender.

Outside Deadline: Saturday April 2nd 1994 (Bank Hols. I know)

Inside Deadline: TUESDAY APRIL 5th 1994 (Buttworms may be away that week, so late orders may be worth sending anyway)

Outside GMS:

Geoff Brown, 65 Scotland Hall Rd, Newton Heath, Manchester M10 6RE

David Oya, 24 Kingsway, Banbury, Oxon OX16 9NY

Your remaining credit is I _____

EGOLAND editorial

Look, guys, this zine is far too late, if you wait around for me to do an editorial, things will be even worse. Come back this time next issue and I can get you a great little second-hand editorial, race runner, only one owner, little old lady who only used to write editorials once a year or so, to you, squire, fifty pee, and I'm doing myself no favours. Is that a deal?

Hope to see you at the house on

SELF EXPLANATORY

by Haz Bond

What's the first thing you do when you wake up in the morning?

Usually, I wish I could go back to sleep. Sleeping (and dreaming) is one thing I am incontrovertibly good at. I'm not bad at dreaming while I'm awake either, but it doesn't have the same quality of immediacy to it.

What was the first fanzine you received?

Depends on the definition. I actually did NOWHERE FAST 1 before I'd seen any examples of a fanzine, and quite understandably it was dire (photocopied single-sided and double-spaced, for starters). First other fanzine I saw was Leeds Univ SF soc's BLACK HOLE. First gameszine Dave Rowley's MICA, but that had a tiny circulation and rarely mentioned the hobby, certainly not presenting it as something I would be interested in at any rate. The one that really got me started in this crazy postal gaming life was, no prizes, Iain Bowen's Y DDRAIG SOCH. We don't often see eye to eye these days but I must admit that you owe the existence of this rag to Iani.

Which book do you wish you had written?

Most books I've enjoyed, as a matter of fact. And because I'm an idealist, the Bible. I can tell you, if I'd written that one, there'd be none of these bloody holy wars and religious intolerance and so on.

What zine do you most wish you had produced?

Again, most of them which I've enjoyed have made me think "I wish I'd done that" -- not necessarily all of them, just the odd stylistic trick or bit of layout or what have you. I have never produced a fanzine I've liked afterwards.

What is the best piece of advice you've ever received?

"Never fuck anyone crazier than yourself". Now since I'm fairly wild myself I don't often meet anyone who is disbarred under this rule, but I've managed it at least twice, and regretted it twice. One of these, incidentally, was inconvenient enough to be much saner than I to begin with and change places with me as time passed.

What is your most treasured material possession?

Good question. In terms of sheer convenience, my car, which I don't know how I ever managed without. In terms of financial value, my stamp collection, which I really must try and get out of my parents' house one day. In absolute terms -- the thing I'd take to a desert island -- my zine collection. That really is irreplaceable in every meaningful sense. Oh, sure, if it all got burnt to ashes I might be able to get hold of another copy of MAD POLICY 88, but it wouldn't have Gary Piper's name scribbled on the back cover or the old stamp at an identically rakish angle.

Who was the last person you slept with?

Strickly speaking, Lee Bond-Hibbert, who shares my bed every night and wakes me up far less than everyone said he would. The answer you were expecting, though, is Joy Hibbert. Surprise.

What do you think of the weather?

Don't really care, as long as the snow doesn't cut us off or the rain flood us.

When did you last cry and why?

Last time I had a row with Joy. I cry a lot. Good healthy thing to do in the right circumstances.

What characteristics do you think you've inherited from your parents?

My face, my propensity to overweightness, my short temper.

What's the biggest myth about fame?

The existence of the HobbyMasters. (Or am I just laying a smokescreen? You'll never know).

What are you like when you're drunk?

In younger days, I used to get very maudlin and weepy (see above). Nowadays I'm a generally happier person, and I just tend to become camp and giggly. And loud. And reckless. It's probably a good job I don't get drunk much nowadays.

Who would you have play you in a film?

Myself, for two reasons. One, I've always wanted to be in acting -- my strong accent puts the tin hat on that, though. Two, I don't know anyone who could get half way to portraying me accurately, and I don't want the truth bending when they make the film of my life; it must be warts and all.

Pick five words to describe yourself.

Dreamer, intellectual, volatile, idealist, worthwhile.

Is there one piece of criticism that sticks in your mind?

Not really, since you ask. This probably means I'm very pig-headed. I remember Marrkie Nelson devoting an issue of TMNX to me and my works, but it seemed to have no relation at all to me or my works as they exist in the real world.

What's your most unpleasant characteristic?

Weak will, I'm afraid. All too often I don't stand up for what I know to be right. It surprises me that a lot of people who know me well think I'm outspoken.

What is your greatest fear?

That before I die, or even grow, I shall start to fear death. I don't at the moment; indeed I have a quite unhealthy fascination with it and its courting. It's easier to do this when you're young, I'm told.

What ambitions do you still have to fulfil?

Getting a decent professional job, getting the qualifications so I can get one, writing something for professional publication, doing a zine that completely satisfies me or that I don't think I could have done better in any way.

Are you afraid of failure?

Sometimes. I was always dead scared of chatting people up, for example, in case it all went wrong and I got a knee in the groin or lost a friendship. I used to be very, very

scared of making any mistake at all because on some level I thought I would get shouted at. I'm glad I don't worry so much about that any more. Nowadays, laziness rather than fear is my main inhibiting factor.

What do you never leave home without?

I am dreadfully scatty and have on occasion managed to leave home without everything necessary for continued existence outside it, with the possible exception of clothes. And I never go anywhere without taking something -- book, zine, sauce bottle -- to read in case of spare time unfilled.

Who is your best male and best female friend?

Sorry to be so predictable, but the female one is Joy Hibbert. Male, I guess, would be Steve Johnson, who nobody reading this will know, but he is a fucking good guy nonetheless.

Who would you most like to meet?

Dunno, really. I've never thrilled much at the thought of meeting famous people. Mostly I'd prefer to meet people I used to like and have lost touch with once more instead.

What are the last three books you read?

COMING OUT OF THE BLUE by Marc E Burke -- big fat book about homosexuality in the British police, most revealing, most enlightening. 1066 AND ALL THAT by Sellar and Yeatman -- a reread, just as good as it ever was. THE ANATOMY OF BIBLIOMANIA by Holbrook Jackson, bloody heavy going and still unfinished, but some real nuggets to quote at the sort of litcrit parties I don't get invited to.

What are the last three records you played?

NEVER MIND THE BOLLOCKS. HERE'S THE SEX PISTOLS, by guess who. CROSSING THE RED SEA WITH THE ADVERTS, by guess who. WORKER'S PLAYTIME by Billy Bragg. I've been in an emotional crisis mood these last few days and the music reflects it, my god, doesn't it just reflect it.

What music would you have played at your funeral?

A nice mixture of classical stuff I like and pop/rock/whatever stuff I like, so people know it was me and not just any old corpse being buried, and please, please, nothing out of Hymns Ancient and Modern.

When you look in the mirror what do you see?

Oh, lordy, this takes me back. When I was sixteen or so I wrote a perfectly dreadful poem which went, in part, "I have still to discover my true face; every time I look in the mirror a stranger looks out". This is still the case, though I don't write horrible poetry about it these days.

[[This piece is a double ripoff; a gift from Greg Pickersgill's excellent SF zine RASTUS JOHNSON'S CAKEWALK 3, who in turn admits to having nicked it from Q magazine ("Q Magazine? What on earth is a Q Magazine?")]]

Readers are invited, nay, encouraged to complete this questionnaire themselves, and hold themselves up to public scrutiny, as it were. Go on, be bold; be bloody, bold and resolute.]]

DIPLOMACY PLAYER RATINGS

As kindly supplied by Richard Sharp. The table below requires the following explanatory text: Position (out of 4338), Name, Dates of career, Games played, numbers won, drawn, lost but survived, eliminated, dropped out, game abandoned, still in progress or 'lost'; and then the rating, where 100 is the score of a total novice and the top players achieve 350 or so.

Richard asks me to tell you rabble that anyone disputing their record should write to him at Norton House, Whielden Street, Amersham, Bucks HP7 0HU if they want to set things straight. I advise such people to give him 75p for a copy of Dolchstoß if they want him to act on their info.

These statistics are, of course, quite useless, but according to Oscar Wilde that makes them into Art (false logic there, Bond), so you should all admire them from a suitable distance. Here we go:

Position	Name	Career	P	W	D	S	X	d	a	ip	Rating
2573	Duncan II Adams	90-93	7	0	0	0	1	1	0	5	40.84
3728	Stephen Agar	76-93	25	1	3	4	4	9	0	4	11.72
952	Edward Ainsworth	85-93	14	0	2	1	7	1	0	3	130.76
980	Mike Allaway	76-92	32	1	4	11	14	2	0	0	128.98
2627	Andy Bate	85-88	7	0	1	2	1	2	0	0	36.17
219	Andy Bell	82-89	7	3	2	2	0	0	0	0	201.08
467	Pete Birks	73-92	31	4	7	5	10	5	0	0	168.12
2486	John Breakwell	85-92	9	0	1	2	2	3	0	1	27.40
1398	Fiona Campbell	92-94	4	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	108.42
1225	Peter Charles	87-91	23	0	4	6	9	1	0	3	115.66
63	John Colledge	79-93	37	4	17	4	6	0	0	6	255.38
931	Danny Collman	85-93	7	0	0	4	2	0	0	1	132.63
197	Kath Collman	85-88	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	206.55
1068	Malcolm Cornelius	79-93	6	0	1	3	0	0	0	2	122.93
1045	Damien Cosgrove	90	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	124.38
370	Alan Coulthard	85-90	5	1	2	0	1	0	0	1	177.59
601	Simon Cutforth	90-93	7	0	2	0	1	0	0	4	156.24
104	Stuart Dagger	74-79	6	1	3	0	1	1	0	0	232.49
3280	Kern Dingsdale Stewart	76-93	9	0	0	1	2	4	0	2	15.37
3264	Steve Doubleday	73-93	25	2	4	4	4	8	1	2	15.55
94	Martin Draper	84-94	8	2	1	2	1	0	0	2	237.53
269	Neil Duncan	90-93	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	192.15
131	Peter Dunnett	90-93	9	1	0	0	0	0	0	8	223.93
2159	Paul Dunning	86	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	71.06
143	Allan Gordon	87-93	19	3	4	1	6	0	0	5	221.05
809	Steve Guest	86-87	3	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	140.07
138	Vick Hall	83-93	17	3	3	2	0	1	0	8	222.24
442	Ian Harris	85-92	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	170.93
225	Toby Harris	92-93	22	2	5	2	5	1	0	7	199.62
12	Mick Haytack	83-92	6	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	311.07
1905	Kim Head	93	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	90.44
820	Keir Hodgson	85-94	9	0	1	1	2	0	0	5	139.15
1003	Bob Holliday	90-94	10	0	0	0	1	0	0	9	127.95
218	Stephen Jilks	84-87	5	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	201.11
2599	Denis Jones	84-92	10	0	1	0	3	2	0	4	38.27
1139	Dave Lomas	90	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	119.59
441	Tim Lomas	87-88	3	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	170.94
239	Andy Key	87-89	3	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	198.11
69	Madeleine Key	86-89	8	2	2	2	1	1	0	0	251.47
367	Gary Lyon	85-89	9	1	5	0	3	0	0	0	177.71

4076	John McCoubrey	91	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	10.33
58	John Marsden	77-92	26	1	10	8	4	0	0	3	259.04
328	John Miller	76-92	21	1	5	7	5	0	0	3	183.60
768	Rob Moore	87-93	3	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	143.06
1271	Edmund Morgan	88-92	3	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	114.07
1043	John Morgan	89-91	3	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	124.40
50	Kris Morris	85-89	9	0	4	4	1	0	0	0	262.19
2897	Tim Neale	85-94	4	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	24.93
761	Paul Norris	89-90	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	143.77
312	Bill O'Neill	85-91	7	1	1	2	1	0	0	2	185.40
834	David Oya	88	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	137.87
99	Nicholas Parish	89-93	12	1	7	0	1	0	0	3	234.91
3883	Michael Quist	72 (!)	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	11.52
847	Alex Richardson	86-87	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	137.45
2053	Peter Ritchie	91	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	80.55
483	Mark Stretch	90-94	10	0	1	1	1	0	0	7	166.74
689	Peter Sullivan	84-86	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	149.87
449	Dave Tant	74-80	17	3	3	3	8	0	0	0	170.39
9	Guy Thomas	82-93	13	5	6	0	0	0	0	2	314.63
1763	David Tittle	89-91	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	96.99
1027	John II Todd	89-94	10	0	1	1	3	1	0	4	125.84
339	Chris Tringham	77-92	18	2	6	2	6	1	0	1	181.79
475	Jeremy Tullett	77-92	18	2	2	5	7	0	0	2	167.21
293	Mark Underhay	91-93	7	0	1	0	0	0	0	6	188.59
20	Richard Walkerdine	72-92	26	3	13	7	2	0	0	1	283.23
1175	Kevin Warne	82	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	118.32
3049	William Whyte	84-85	3	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	20.40
940	Mark Wightman	89-93	6	0	0	2	2	0	0	2	132.17
186	John Wilman	79-93	44	3	12	10	14	1	1	3	209.13

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Sopwith ratings from Dave Tant are also out, which relay details of Nicholas Parish's elevation to Ace status. Well done, that TurboNick. These stats are published thrice yearly and are available, I believe, for a couple of stamps from Dave at 32 Nursery Avenue, Bexleyheath, Kent DA7 4JX.

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Given all these stats it seems silly not to do summat with them. Ever full of unoriginal ideas, I hereby announce invitational games of Sopwith and Diplomacy for the highest rated readers according to the current lists.

In order of status, Sopwith aces reading this are currently: ROB CULLENDER, DAVE LOMAS, ALLAN GORDON, JOHN MILLER, DAVE TANT, NICHOLAS PARISH, MARK WIGHTMAN, ROB MOORE and KEVIN MCGOWAN. (Andy Bate would also qualify if I weren't about to give up my trade for Froggy as a dead loss). If six out of that lot volunteer we can have a tip-top game.

As for Diplomacy, my calculations are that the top seven are: GUY THOMAS, MICK HAYTACK, RICHARD WALKERDINE, KRIS MORRIS, JOHN MARSDEN, JOHN COLLEDGE and MADELAINE KEY. Given that the unlikeliness of all seven wanting to play is terrific, the next seven will also be invited to show interest, being MARTIN DRAPER, NICHOLAS PARISH (again), STUART DAGGER (unlikely), PETER DUNNETT, VICK HALL, ALLAN GORDON (again), and JOHN WILMAN. Quite frankly I reckon any seven from either of those list would make a damn fine tussle, so I have high hopes that we can scrape the requisite number of stars up. On the subject of all-star games, readers of Chris Tringham's Negalomania are about to have the chance of a good chortle as Haz (Austria) gets creamed by Sharp, Bowen, Harris T., Agar, Duncan and Morris K. Go on, watch, it'll be a scream.

GRAND HOBBY HISTORY QUIZ

HURRY HURRY HURRY! Yes, NOW is your chance to prove what a sad, pathetic, obsessed, duvet stuffing individual you are by demonstrating your knowledge of utterly useless trivia concerning the British postal games hobby. The winner will be officially named Brain of the Hobby and be mercilessly held up to ridicule by all and sundry. The idiot who actually compiled the thing has already been medically declared Pastimishly Challenged and has been sent to the Mark Nelson Rehabilitation Clinic for sad cases.

In a vain hope to tempt entrants out of the woodwork, five free issues of your favourite zine (all right then, five issues of U-Bend) will be awarded to the winner. Marks will be awarded not only for accuracy, but for making the examiner laugh. Note also that the last question in each section is even more of an absolute bastard than the rest.

A. Addresses Which of the following addresses is the most obscure?

- 1) 71 Clara Mount Road, Heanor, Derbyshire [1]
- 2) 15 Lineside Walk, Rhu, Dumbartonshire [1]
- 3) 1 Wellesley Nautical School, Blyth, Northumberland [1]
- 4) 100 High Street, Swanscombe, Kent [1]
- 5) 302 Lordswood Road, Harborne, Birmingham [1]
- 6) Bosworth House, Central Wall Road, Canvey Island, Essex [1]
- 7) 71b Gladsmuir Road, Archway, London N5 [1]
- 8) 115 Acre Lane, Cheadle Hulme, Cheshire [1]
- 9) Luney Barton Farm, Sticker, St Austell, Cornwall [1]
- 10) "Elboreth", 123 Hollis Road, Stoke, Coventry [4]

B. Abbreviations Expand the following abbreviations. (1 each)

- | | | | | |
|--------|----------|----------|---------|----------|
| 1) BDC | 2) Zeeby | 3) Pzk | 4) Ode | 5) TROG |
| 6) FPO | 7) TRy | 8) SNorl | 9) DDTS | 10) NOSE |

C. Name themes Which of the following name themes is the most obscure? (2 each)

- 1) French ordinals
- 2) German ordinals
- 3) Celtic deities
- 4) Characters from Hitch Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy
- 5) The editor's favourite foods
- 6) Wild West heroes
- 7) Tyneside pubs
- 8) Cambridge colleges
- 9) Towns on the Isle of Wight
- 10) Districts of Birmingham

D. Editors Name the editor of each of the following titles. (1 each)

- 1) Enigma
- 2) Overstop
- 3) Here We Go Again
- 4) The Norns
- 5) The Church Mouse
- 6) Queen's Lane Advertiser
- 7) Red Revolution
- 8) Jigsaw
- 9) Second Hand News
- 10) Screwy Louie's First Finesse

E. Subzines Give the title of each of the following subzines. (1 each)

- 1) The Art of Deviance
- 2) Heimstringla
- 3) Sequences
- 4) Realgaming
- 5) Reuters Reports
- 6) Serendipity
- 7) Serendipity [sic]
- 8) The Amnesia Express
- 9) The Brilliance of Massed Violins
- 10) I Hate Geraniums

F. Where? At what location did the following take place? (1 each)

- 1) Koancon 1
- 2) Toucon
- 3) Midcon 1
- 4) Toastcon 1
- 5) DesConTent
- 6) Stakiscon 1
- 7) Linercon
- 8) Games Day 1981
- 9) Dangling Geordiecon
- 10) I'm Joanna Lumley Week