

Neu im weißen Haus  
Präsident ist Micky Maus  
Das ZK tanzt im Disney-Land  
Im Kreml spielt 'ne Hard-Rock Band  
Sois Bienvenu

(A new one in the White House  
The president is Mickey Mouse  
The Central Committee's in Disneyland  
In the Kremlin plays a hard rock band...)

B \* I \* G   H \* I \* T \* S   O \* F   M \* I \* D \* \* \* A \* M \* E \* R \* I \* C \* A  
( V O L U M E   3 )

number forty-eight  
february 7/14, 1985

scott Hanson, 2626 stevens ave s, minneapolis mn 55408 ph(612)874-0082

next deadline: monday, march 4, 1985 (phone 9pm CST 3/3) (except blow-up)

standby list: top: Dodge, Russell, Wall

next: Bishop, K Brown, Ellis, Gautron, Iverson, Johnston, Mark Keller,  
Stafford, Tighe (let me know if you want on or off)

game openings: 2w deadlines: Bishop, Sherwood, Bakken (\$10 new subbers/\$6 for old)

lw deadlines: noone yet (\$6.50 new subbers/\$3.50 for old)

sub balance changes: JB 2.40 plus 3.00 refund less .72 (2 calls): 4.68

MC .00 plus 1.00 payment: 1.00

JE 2.87 plus 3.00 refund: 5.87

MMasche: 1.20 plus 6.00 refunds: 7.20

DS -.52 plus 1.00 payment: .48

KT 1.39 plus 3.00 refund less .36 call: 4.03

add to phone list: Chen, Givan

new subbers/coa's: Dale Bakken, 1814 Camreron Dr #3, Madison WI 53711

Terry Tallman, 7239 Sand Point Way NE #308, Seattle WA 98115

1/8 1/4 3/8 1/2 5/8 3/4 7/8 1 7/8 3/4 5/8 1/2 3/8 1/4 1/8 0 -1/8 -1/4 -3/8 -1/2 -5/8  
hobby announcement:

My replacement as co-director of the US/OGP Orphan Service is:

/KEITH SHERWOOD, 8866 Cliffridge Ave, La Jolla CA 92037./

A better candidate could not have fallen from the sky. Thanks, Keith, and good luck.

\*\*\*\*\*

We have set a date for the big event, and it even has a name! You are all invited  
to come to Minneapolis for....

MINN-CON      MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND      (MAY 24-27).

What we have to offer is both halves of our duplex, with lots of floor space for  
sleeping bags, 3 cats to harass, hopefully nice weather, some food and drink, gener-  
ous hosts, and maybe even some games of Dip.

We're not sure how many people to expect--Minneapolis is a bit out of the way for  
most of the Midwest (8 hours from Chicago, 5 hours from Madison, 3 hours from Duluth).  
Please let us know if you intend to come; we'll send you a map. Or we can pick you  
up at the airport. We've received a lot of hospitality at Chicago, Madison, and Wichi-  
ta, and here's our chance to pay some of it back.

\*\*\*\*\*

The dates are set for our trip to Europe. We'll be gone March 31 - May 9. To get the  
games out quickly, I mailed out this season on postcards. I'll do that next season  
too. The next deadline will be March 29 on postcards only (no zine). After that the  
deadline will be May 11. These next two deadlines will be absolutely strict. Get  
your orders in on time!

## NEBRASKA ENDGAME STATEMENTS

JAMES WALL (Germany--won 1912)

Nebraska was my very first postal gamestart. It was also my first postal win, beating out my Russian win in Midlife Crisis by a week. I'm certain that I'll never play another game like this one again. Here's why.

Scott (the GM) threw Frueh and I together into the same game, with the suspected purpose of watching us be the Gingham dog and the Calico cat. From the very first set of moves we were playing against the other. What made things worse was that the others all suspected that there was a Mad-mob alliance in the game and it was quite some time before they could be convinced otherwise.

Randy Appleton, the first England, was quite simply pathetic. Evans and I were working together against him and Evans took my advice and went for Norway in '01 on the assumption he would NMR. He did and England never got above 3 units.

Evans had the extreme misfortune of bordering both Frueh and I and it clearly cost him. Whenever we plotted against the other Evans was the tool we used. The major regret that I have of this game is that it so embittered Evans that he will not even attempt to work with me, probably ever again, thanks to this game. I even apologized to him for my share of the conduct, but he refused to accept it. Hopefully someday Evans will understand that this game was unique from any other he'll ever play in and that actions that occurred here are never going to be replicated again, ever. He really does need to have a more mature attitude towards his games.

Derwood Bowen. The Derwood factor. Frueh and I would sit around and speculate what he would do on any given move. He was completely unpredictable. Frueh engineered his stab of me early on and if he'd been a better player France may well have been writing the victory statement. When I was able to drive him out of my possessions I assumed control of the game and would never lose it again. I was very disappointed to see Derwood NMR out. The game was simply not the same without him.

Ken Iverson. Not the greatest communicator in the world. Trying to get him to write is like pulling a baby away from a mother gorilla. An excellent tactical player, all he needs to do is to write more to become one of the best, in my opinion.

Randy Ellis was the primary Turkish player as Jones NMR'd out almost immediately. Randy is one of those players I enjoy most. One that adds to the game by his mere presence. His main contribution to the game was to give Frueh fits and boy, did he do a good job. Like Derwood, the game wasn't the same without him. If he had believed me when I called and told him of Frueh's first stab of him, my bet is that Frueh would have been eliminated, but Noooo he thought I was feeding him a line and wasting all that money for nothing. Oh well.

Mark Frueh. When this game began we were probably one of the most intense sets of rivals that the hobby had ever seen. We have since become the best of friends--in spite of this game. Mark earned his hobby nickname here (Poison Pen). I lifted the name from one of Derwood's letters and it has stuck ever since. He had so many stabs in this game he even earned the Nixon award. He publicly stated his goal was to stab as many people as possible and it is quite likely that no postal game has seen one player have as many stabs. The other major factor of my win was due to Mark. He stabbed so many times that Russia and Turkey played the last half of the game with the express goal of annoying Frueh. He had worn out his credibility and thus lost his usual ability to get others to hit the leader.

Thanks to Scott for the running of this game. He is a very conscientious GM and always very timely with his adjudications. Even when a mistake was made he was always very quick to correct it. I still owe you one, Scotty, for putting Frueh and I into the same game, though. Thanks for everything, Nebraska will be missed here.

MARK FRUEH (Austria, finished not-so-strong second with 6 centers)

Austria. Every dip player who plays long enough will have a game where there were monumental moments. Well, this game was monumental for me. I had ecstasy, depression, sheer joy, and agony. Sometimes on the same move. Napoleon had his Waterloo, Frueh gets his with Nebraska. I have learned a lot from this game--a complete novice starting out and becoming a complete loser--no, not really--a complete winner. James isn't the only winner in this game. There were 8 winners, all deserve some recognition which I will continue.

FRUEH (continued)

AUSTRIA-Mark Frueh-Thwarted from winning in S&OL, he vowed to lie, cheat and stab everyone in sight. Mark accomplished this with a certain unique slashing fashion. It gave him the honor of the "Nixon" award-but was still worth it. Soon he's write a book entitled "Stabbing--for FUN and Profit."

ENGLAND-The original players was not a winner, but a loser, he allowed Wall to stab him. But Dick Martin is a winner. He befuddled poor Derwood with a dashing single fleet against Booper's two fleets. An even match, but Dick made it look tough for Booper fans everywhere.

FRANCE-Derwood Bowen is a winner--and a loser. Which explains his logic--lost and found. He had Wall on the ropes once and could have finished the job--but pulled off only to get stabbed by Wall. Justice is hidden somewhere in all that. But Derwood did coin the name Poison Pen for me so he did good.

GERMANY -Wall-Grrr! From an intensive rivalry to a strong friendship. But we crossed many bridges together thru the Diplomacy way of life. Drank many brews, yelled many bad words, laughed many times--all for a game called Nebraska. James is a winner--just ne ver ask me to play a game with you again!--Well, maybe we should play again. Wall earned his win by superior Diplomacy--and by out-lying me--tsk, tsk promising Derwood a 2-way. How do you face yourself in the mirror.

ITALY-Ken Iverson. A pure winner from the opening move. Bounce over Tyrolia, funny thing was neither one of use was suppoed to go there. Ken's style was very relaxed--very cool. We only met briefly at Dallas. I only wish we shared a long laugh with each other. If we were ti play this game over it would be an A/I draw (If I survived '01) Lots of ifs.

RUSSIA-Mr. Evans "Trustworthy" Givan is a winner. No one else has ever put up with as much crud and tug pulling from Wall and I. Evans was used to playing from positions of power. Now he learned to play from positions of pin-cushions; knives were abound from all directions. Evans kept trying til the very end, trouble was he tried against me when we had a chance to stop James. We have both changed since S'01 of this game.

TURKEY-Randy Ellis is a winner at being a loser. The smartest and most infuriating thing he did was to attack me after Russia stabbed him. It may have stopped me from sharing a 2-way draw. Randy--I'll remember you for thatt Michael is a winner at being a good standby--use him often, Scott. He deserves a decent position next time though.

GM-A final word--semi winner Award to you, Scott. Your press comments were funny and fun to read. GMing from your head improved my skills at adjudicating. I've learned to never trust a GM with 6 games running and finals the same week. Thanks for putting up with me.

Way to go winners! Move over furture whiners.

KEVIN TIGHE (French standby, played one game year, finished 3rd with 5 centers)  
Nothing like being thrown against the Wall. Congrats to such a swell guy.

GM (Hey, that's me)

Hey, leave it to the Mad-~~Id~~Mob to write arrogant and provocative endgame statements. (Not to mention long.) OK, so James won and has a right to be arrogant. I'll give him that.

Now I'm not sure because I didn't save the letters, but it seems to me that James and Mark asked to be in the same game. I was only foolish enough to comply. I guess I still haven't learned my lesson...look at the lineup for American Dream.

This game was a hoot to watch. After 2 early drop outs, we had 7 interested and involved players with noone eliminated until 1910. James didn't emerge as the clear leader until 1908 or so. He never did have any clear cut opposition, showing he's a hell of a diplomat. I was personally rooting for R/T to do something...together they had 8 centers in 1910, but couldn't take all their builds. Randy's drop killed R/T and R as well.

I was distressed at first by the hostility this game caused between James and Mark. It is just a game, right? In the end they both proved it was. Congrats to everyone.

NEW GAME NEW GAME NEW GAME NEW GAME NEW GAME NEW GAME NEW GAME NEW GAME NEW GAME NEW

We call it AMERICAN DREAM. I'm not sure what the BNC will call it...

AUSTRIA Matthew Chen, PO Box 3111, Duluth MN 55803  
ENGLAND J. Travis Laster, 125 Garden Ct, Winchester VA 22601  
FRANCE Mark Mallia, 3030 Old Decatur Rd #A318, Atlanta GA 30305  
GERMANY Dale Bakken, 1811 Cameron Dr #3, Madison WI 53711  
ITALY Michael Masche, 501 N Henry St #209, Madison WI 53703  
RUSSIA Richard Anderson, 925 Guerrero #1, San Francisco CA 94110  
TURKEY Kevin Brown, 100 Patton Dr, Warner Robins GA 31093

There we have it. Note I'm moving the deadline up to MARCH 4, 1985 with all the schedule changes round here. There should be a big card in front of this issue reminding you of this fact, so you have no excuse.

83Krn16 BAADER-MEINHOF blow-up SPRING 1905 RICH GET RICHER

winter: AUS bld A VIE, A BUD; ENG bld F LON; GER rem F bal; ITA rem A ven;  
RUS rem F ska; TUR bld A ANK, F SMY

AUSTRIA(Iverson) A mos-LVN; A sev-MOS; A rum-UKR; A tri-TYO; A ser-TRI; A vie-BOH;  
A bud-GAL.  
ENGLAND(Gautron) F nwy-SNY(ann); F nwg-NWY(S F STP/NC); F hol-KIE; F lon-NTH;  
F NAT H.  
FRANCE(Stafford) F spa/sc-WES(S F LYO); F mid-NAF; A gas-MAR; A pic-bel(NSU);  
A PIE U,H.  
GERMANY(D Anderson) F kie-den(d...); A BER # A mun; A MUN # A ber.  
ITALY(Touchette) F tys-tun(d...); F wes # F tys-tun(d...)  
RUSSIA(R Brown) F DEN S eng F hol-kie; A SIL-mun; A PRU-ber.  
TURKEY(Davis) F tun-TYS(S F NAP); F aeg-ION; A ank-SMY; F smy-AEG;  
A GRE & F SMY MS.

FALL 1905 is due MARCH 22, 1985. The next deadline will be May 11. Pierre Touchette has resigned as Italy. Would my perienial bridesmaid standby, CARL RUSSELL, 21 Morgan Rd, Binghamton NY 13903, please take over. Retreats: GER F kie r BAL,HEL,OTB; ITA F wes r MID,OTB; F tys r TUS,ROM,OTB.

press

GER-RUSSIA: It's all your fault! Remember, you invaded me first!

RUSSIA-GERMANY: You've only got one enemy; I've got three. So, at least I have an excuse for getting wiped out.

ROMA-WORLD: Too busy, I am asking the GM to replace me, because I am starting a new branch in College-University. ((Good luck.))

83HL EXPRESSO LOVE WINTER 1906 IT'S HOWDY DOODY TIME

ENGLAND(Masche) can't bld 1; has F LON.  
FRANCE(Tallman) even; has F NTH, F HOD, F BEL, F YOR, A RUH, A BUR, F WES, F LVP.  
GERMANY(Elis) even; has A BER, A KIE, A MUN.  
RUSSIA(Meinel) bld F SPT/NC, A WAR; add to F EDI, F NWG, F SKA, F HEL, A SIL,  
A PRU, A DEN, A BOH, A GAL, A VEN, A TRI.  
TURKEY (Givan) bld F ANK, F SMY (can't bld 1 more); add to A GRE, F ION, F AEG,  
F TUN, A ROM.

SPRING 1906 is due MARCH 4, 1985. Orders in for all but France. Note Terry's new address.

PRESS

TUR-ITA: My apologies to the Land of Elvis. ((Presley or Costello?))

83AV BAD BRAIN MENSA XVIII FALL 1909 SHIFT IN THE BALANCE?

FRANCE(K Brown) F lyo-TYS; F NWG-nwy; F bar / F nwg-nwy(d,ann); F nat-MID;  
F SKA-swe; F NTH-den( / A KIE); F ENG-nth; A BUR S A ruh;  
A RUH S A kie; A tyo-vis(d...).

GERMANY(Reges) F DEN H.

ITALY(Michael K) A apu-TRI(C F ADR, S F VEN); F N AP-ion.

RUSSIA(R Brown) A boh-TYO(S A MUN); A BER-kie; A SIL S A mun; A TEN-nwy;  
A tri / A boh-tyo(d...); F nwy-BAR(S F STP/NC); A VIE / A tri;  
A SWE S ger F den; F com h(d...); A FRU-ber.

TURKEY(Mark K) F ion-TUN; F aeg-ION(S F GRE); A ank-CON; F BUL/SC S A ank-con.

1909 SC's

F home spa por bel edi hol lon  
kie ~~xxx~~ lvp 11 bld 1(2 an)  
G den 1 even  
I home ~~xxx~~ TRI 4 even  
R home rum nwy ber swe bud ser  
~~xxx~~ vie MUN (SMY) 12/13\*  
T con ank (smy) gre bul TUN 6/5\*  
\*-depends on rus retreat of F con

WINTER 1909/SPRING 1910 are due  
MARCH 4, 1985. Retreats: FRA A tyo  
r TYO,OTB; RUS F con r SMY,BIA,OTB.  
All draws failed: FR 3-2, RT 3-2,  
FRT 2-3. Next time, vote on FRT,  
RT, FRT. NVR is no.  
press  
RUSSIA-TURKEY: I've always wanted  
to visit Constantinople. Too bad my  
stay will be so brief...

FRANCE-RUSSIA: If I get Denmark this year, it's just gravy. I have all the pieces  
I need, even if I have to remove one. If you don't believe me, wait til next ye ar.

84HS TWIST & SHOUT SPRING 1902 NOW YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR FRIENDS ARE...

AUSTRIA(Masche) A tri-BUD(S A VIE); F gre-ALB; A ser / tur A bul-rum(NSO)(d...).

ENGLAND(Johnston?) NMR; F LVP, F NTH, A LOW H; F nwy / (d...).

FRANCE(Blocher) F par-PIC; F bre-ENG; F eng-IRI; A por-SPA; A BEL H.

GERMANY(Bishop) F DEN-nth; A kie-HOL(S A RUH); A mun-BUR.

ITALY(Ellis) F tun-ION(S F NAP); A TYO & A VEN MS.

RUSSIA(Tigha) F swe-NWY(S A STP); A war-GAL; A mos-SEV; A bud-SER(S A RUM);  
F sev-BIA.

TURKEY(Holley) F smy-AEG; A arm-SMY; F ank-CON; A BUL S rus A rum-ser.

FALL 1902 is due MARCH 4, 1985. Retreats: AUS A ser r TRI,GRE,OTB; ENG F nwy r NWG,  
BAR,OTB. Would PAULA DODGE, PO Box 2510, Manassas VA 22110 please standby for  
England. Note the corrected orders for ITALY. Mr. Typo strikes again.  
press

RUS-TUR: Did you say honest character?

TUR-RUS: Shuck & jive? Oh, so it's that kind of game!

ARCATA-WARNER ROBINS: You guys finally hit the big time. A high school kid from your  
town made it into Sports Illustrated's "Faces in the Crowd" by bowling a 300 game. W  
Wow, I bet he got a parade down Main Street and everything! Maybe SI will go back  
there to do their bathing suit issue. I can see the title now, "Soaking it up on the  
South Side."

ROME: The Smiling Premier, Jeff Ellis, has announced today his position in the current  
European crisis, he was quoted saying yesterday in his extravagantly rich home. "We  
are surrounded by all sorts of unstable elements. It will be the purpose of our mil-  
itary to eliminate all threats--and that's it."

StP-ROME: Yeah, nice to hear from you, too.

ITALY: What else can I do?

(with apologies to Randolph Smyth...)  
THE ORPHAN SERVICE CONTROVERSEY

Keith Sherwood in his zine The Inner Light has attacked both my choice and my method of choosing a new Orphan Service Director. Before this gets blown up into another hobby controversy, let me use this space to present "my side" of the story.

First, the availability of the position was advertised in my zine, Big Hits..., which has a sub list of just over 40 but includes a number of major publishers. My decision to step down was first noted in the November issue (though in hindsight I should have made the announcement more obvious), and no decision was made until the first few days of January when I gave my choice the OK to announce in his zine. He was the only applicant; as far as I know (though I had my head under a rock most of the time) nobody else in the hobby had publicized the request for volunteers. Disinterest, I thought at the time--obviously not.

Some have suggested that I was required to do more; those who didn't what I HAD done have implied that the transfer was carried out rather sneakily. Within the past few months, the hobby has seen changes in three institutions: the BNC, the DW editorship, and the Runestone Poll. Nobody was told in advance that these positions were available....but nobody made much fuss. Quite properly, because project custodians ALWAYS anoint their successors. I reject the idea of improper procedure in this case.

It's hard to say whether I made a "good" choice. He seems more enthusiastic about the job than I ever was, which is a plus; but he's also more controversial than I've ever been, which is a minus in a position that requires hobby support. Keith Sherwood has suggested that I'm isolated from the mainstream; he's right (thank God!) because I haven't seen any arguments against my choice more persuasive than the assertion that a lot of GMs don't trust him and won't orphan their games with him in charge. Personality conflicts are a valid objection to one's handling of such a "hobby support" project, and he's badly miscast if he intends to remain at the center of a lot of controversy.

Things could be resolved fairly quickly. Perhaps if both sides of the controversy could publish lists of those willing to orphan their games with my choice and those that are not, we could compare the length and strength of the two lists to see if any change is necessary. but that's as far as I'm willing to go in "giving the hobby a choice" in the transfer. Legally, I have made my successor official, and have no more right to interfere than anyone else.

A final note: the only thing that really bothers me so far is the assumption that Keith Sherwood is the guy to see about solving this. Now, nothing against Keith, but he's taken the role of chief antagonist on this one, and he's the worst possible choice as a mediator. I think the fate of the orphan service is best left in other hands.

??

Oh, our poor car. People seem to be using it for target practice or something. In december, we got hit by a garbage truck (oh what embarrassment!). Our bumper was dented and the garbage company sent us a check for \$300. Just when we had gotten that straightened out, we got hit by this big Newport. Took out the whole front right door (the one I was sitting by). The insurance company sent us \$1200 for that one. Now we went to the junkyard to buy a door and a taillight, and you can't even see that the bumper is crooked. We're over \$1250 ahead on the deal. We paid less than \$1000 cash for the car in the first place.

I guess I just don't understand auto insurance...

Some more news. Frauke's boss is going to send her to McDonald's "Hamburger University" (yes, there really is such a place!) Since I have nothing better to do, I'll be going along for the ride. This will be sometime in August in Chicago, and we'll be there for two weeks. Maybe the Cubs will have a homestand...

For now, stay dry...

Keith