

title: **The Boob Report #23**

May 12, 1986

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subject: **Boob Ties a Knot**

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A quasi-szine is differentiated from a szine mostly in that it is free for the asking. If you want to continue to see this then just tell me, otherwise I may drop you on whim. My USOS publication *Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus* is available by subscription for \$.25/issue or I'm willing to negotiate all-for-all trades.

I now have four people signed up for "Spy Diplomacy". I need just three more! We've got Bernie Oaklyn, Dick Martin, Paul Gardner, and Tom Hise. Bernie and Paul have paid the \$5 NMR insurance fee. My standby list consists of Brad Wilson and Kathy Byrne. More help is needed.

Concert and Party Review Section

I promised a review of party tapes. In order to get this out somewhere close to on time, that has been scrapped once more. It is now Monday after a Thursday deadline and that is as late as I've ever been. I'd like to say never again, but we'll have to see. In order to avoid becoming a "statistic" in the Dip player divorce history, my wife Charlotte will be coming first. So it may take a little while to get caught up. I'm sure things will be OK though. We both value the things we do apart as well as what we do together. I'll say a little more about our wedding down below.

I've got one concert review from a few weeks ago...Brown's spring weekend concert. First, a little history. The student body has been fighting with neighboring residents for years to keep their spring weekend concert outside. It becomes an "event", a place to see and be seen. They also bring excellent bands (REM last year). The students don't know much about the groups, but they come with an open mind and have a good time. They also make a lot of noise and make a big mess. Not surprisingly, local residents are not pleased. This year, they were finally forced inside. Admittedly, they had no good alternative, but they chose to throw the concert into the hockey rink. The place has notoriously poor acoustics. *Everything* is concrete. Of course, there also is no sun. Realizing that, they did move the

concert to the evening, but almost no one went. That's too bad since the bands were great: Trouble Funk and Los Lobos. Trouble Funk is the leader of the Washington Go-Go movement, just breaking into the big time. Their biggest hit is "Drop the Bomb", a favorite on our party tapes. Go-Go is distinguished from rap in that the rhythm grooves are always shifting and shimmering in a way that's subtle but interesting. I would compare it to what Philip Glass does with a melody. That makes Go-Go music as difficult to condense to a "single" as any of Glass' albums are. In fact, on record Trouble Funk has no divisions between songs. Although I liked "Drop the Bomb" before, only the commitment of a couple of hours to be drawn into the web they create allowed me to understand just what they are doing. The beat's the thing, but it's the exact opposite of disco because it's not consistent, yet it's impossible not to dance to. Most people there (remember that Brown is an upper class "white's" school) knew less about the band than I did, but half an hour into it, everyone was dancing. I highly recommend this band. See them in concert and see what they can do. Believe it or not, they are all music school graduates and somehow it shows. Two hours later we were tired, but happy; yet there was more, only the best bar band in the whole wide world, Los Lobos.

Unfortunately, they didn't play Lupo's Heartbreak Hotel, their Providence home away from home, where they are stunning. I think I would have died and went to heaven if they had. Their sound problems in the cavernous hall seemed worse than Trouble Funk's, but maybe the Funk just had me mesmerized more. In any case, soon I was dancing again. Los Lobos wasn't on tour, but in the middle of a recording session in NYC. They tried out a whole bunch of great new songs and also played all the old favorites. The next album should make this year's best list. I went home totally exhausted...one of the best concert nights of the year. Unfortunately, the Brown Concert Agency lost more than \$10,000. I think I will end here. On to the letters.

Letter Column Section

Letters to this column are always welcome on almost any subject. The editor reserves the right to edit to keep the content to subjects he is interested in. My intent in focusing on music is to give light to the obscure, but you're welcome to try me on anything. First up is a postcard from Nothing, Arizona. As many of you know, the desert rat who sent it to me is

Dear Boob,

Yes, I read your rag and Bozo Wilson looks lonely
- I'll standby for reg. dip. or gunboat!
Congrats! Kathy

Oh, that's a good idea. I could open a gunboat game. Is anyone interested? I want press writers only though. I'll generate some press for this rag yet. Speaking of games, I had another idea. Would anyone enter a Bourse on Spy Dip? The players in Spy Dip would be known to everyone and their press would be public. The Bourse players would be anonymous and they could write press too. Players in the Spy Dip game could use the Bourse to gather information and vice versa. I think it would be great fun. What do you say? If I get some response I'll publish Bourse rules in the near future. I'd adapt Steve Langley's current rules that allow for short sales. Shifting gears...I'm always a sucker for good fakes and I must admit that Conrad von Metzke's April Fool's issue caught this Boob with his pants down (I've been caught like that a lot lately). He dared me to print the following letter so what the hey:

Dear Jim,

Well, gee. I haven't felt this touched in a long time; obviously I cannot keep your money ((I sent him a sub check for *Costaguana* when he said in the fake that he was cutting all trades)), but the spirit behind it says a lot for you, sir. It identified you as warm, caring, generous, and (heh heh) **GULLIBLE AS HELL!** Join the crowd, you're the eleventh to fall for it in one degree or another.

Jim - thank you. I barely know you (though that will change as we go on); and yet you've just ascended the ranks of People I Dearly Love In This Hobby. And I don't give a hoot *how* humble you are, you *will* print this!

I noted Simon's comments on Husker Du, and yours and Mark Luedi's on Rimsky's *SCHEHERAZADE*. If what you want is digital, I cannot agree more that Dutoit has it sewn; his only real competitor would be Muti in Chicago. But I do not have digital capacity, and I do have a source for all sorts of wild old records from years gone by - early mono, even. My personal favorites of all time are Scherchen and the London Symphony (from the early 'fifties and long deleted) and Bernstein and the NY Phil. The latter is still in the lists, though it's almost twenty years old.

For the Rachmaninoff Concerti, go scrounge up Phillippe Entremont with Ormandy/Philadelphia. Wow. Old, but wow.

Now I'm going to go shut up. I wanna find out about this Husker Du bunch, so I am going to go invest some money. Will advise.

Oh. You guys like *SCHEHERAZADE*? Wanna try something really trippy - same vein but much more ethereal in its wanderings. Rimsky's Suite taken from the opera "The Legend of the Invisible City of Kitezh." Nifty....

*You are mean...and far too kind. I would be very interested to know what you think of Husker Du. The songs I've heard from **Candy Apple Grey** (I haven't bought it yet) show considerable range (from ballad to headbanging), but this wedding of mine put a huge crimp in my finances. I'm afraid there will be no Con trips for me this summer either. Speaking of the wedding, and as long as I'm answering someone who might know what I'm talking about...Charlotte and I decided to sing in the choir at our own wedding (she's an alto and I'm a tenor). It made for a beautiful, and different, wedding (we were married in our choir robes), but it also made things very hectic for us. I'm glad we did it, but wouldn't want to have to do it again. The service music was from Mozart's mass (his Gloria is one of my special favorites) and we sung "Let Their Celestial Concerts All Unite" from Handel's Samson as an anthem. For the slushy crowd, Charlotte's sister sung Schubert's Ave Maria as a prelude and we did the "Adoramus Te" from Dubois' Seven Last Words of Christ as a Communion Meditation. I won't bore you with all our hymn selections, but we stole "Christ is Made the Sure Foundation" from Chuck and Di's wedding and that's a beautiful hymn, especially the descant on the last verse. For the reception, from my point of view, if I couldn't have the Schemers (my favorite RI rock band), I'd take a harp any day. We hired the harpist from the RI Philharmonic and that provided the proper background. It really was nice. Thank you for your other comments, Conrad, I must admit a general bent toward recent technological and musicological advances in recording and performing technology, but I haven't listened to many pre-1960 recordings. Feel free to try to convert me. Let's go to Mark Luedi next, back on a postcard:*

Dear Jim,

Remain in Light was my most recent Talking Heads acquisition, and it's a pretty cool album. Don't know much about Marillion's first album. Apparently it's no longer in print, and I've searched some of the record stores for it; so can't compare it to the second ((Maybe Cathy Ozog could help us out, I think she also has the first one or maybe I'll get around to picking up later albums in the fall, when I have a job...)). The third is definitely better than the second by most Luedi-standards, though it suffers from inconsistency (some parts are "zowie", most are "alright", a few are "uggh"), but I like what they're trying to do and am anxiously awaiting their fourth album. It does bother me that they do resort to blatant rip-offs/references at times (notably *Quadrophenia* and *The Wall* - those are the obvious ones), and that they're trying to continue the Art-Rock tradition (something Genesis deviated from some albums ago) by rehashing and combining Genesis, Rush, Pink Floyd, The Who, etc. There's even one song that sounds like an old Shawn Phillips tune! Oh well, take care,

Mark

I usually am less sensitive to rip-offs than most people. I notice them, but if I like the music they don't upset me too much. True originality is quite rare; however, that deficiency does drop them into a second tier of bands. I lost interest in Genesis in direct proportion to their willingness to abandon their art-rock roots. I respect Marillion for not trying to play follow-the-new-wrinkle-of-the-month. Now, Paul Gardner catches me in a dreadful "boobish faux pas":

Hi Jim,

Thanks for the most recent Boob Report. It's becoming a more important source of music info for me than *Rolling Stone* was (I've long since let me sub lapse). ((**Rolling Stone** no longer pretends to be a source of music info. They feel that their mass audience is more interested in appearance than substance and I feel they're right. What's his face (Wenner?) is a brilliant publisher...but let me quit interrupting you and I'll continue this thought down below)) I always forget what I've been reading about when I go to the record stores - I'm going to have to make a list from all this chit-chat going on in *TBR*.

In your comments to Brian Dolton you speak of Elvis as if you prefer the direction he seems to be taking over what he started out as (angry young man). ((whoops, that was a boo-boo, my point didn't come across very well, I'll try again at the bottom)) However, there's nothing worse than haggling about a guy you both agree is good/great. I'd much rather gloat over your comparison of Rush to donkey excrement. Personally, I wouldn't go that far, but a guy I shared a house with (one of two) was obnoxious in claiming Rush's greatness. It does me good to see the other extreme.

I wonder if there ever has been a Vermont rock band? One that amounted to anything, that is. Might be worth it for the music opportunities alone to move to Boston. Any nominations for best rock city in the US? NYC has had some great ones, but for some reason a bunch of great ones have failed to really break out: The New York Dolls, Television (Tom Verlaine), Ramones - even have had just limited success - you could even go back to Lou Reed and the Velvet Underground. Talking Heads seem to have "made" it, but for awhile I wondered. Boston has a reputation on the merits of Boston, The Cars, Aerosmith, J. Geils Band, and probably many I haven't heard of, but these mega groups obscure the smaller ones - not that I can think of any ((The Del Fuegos have a new album, not coincidentally called **Boston, Mass**)). LA has quite a scene and rep I suppose. Actually, a large % of my favorite stuff is from Britain anyway. Oh well...

Ever listen to any Gang of Four? The only album I have any exposure to is *Entertainment* - great bass work. They're followed somewhat by Au Pairs - similar sound. Don't think either is still around but who knows...

Here's yet another list, for the desert island this time:

Who - *Quadrophenia*

Joni Mitchell - *Court and Spark or Blue*

((did I read that title correctly?))

Beatles - *White Album*

Gang of Four - *Entertainment*

Southside Johnny and the Asbury Jukes - *Hearts of Stone*

Bye, Paul

*I really had to restrain myself from interjecting things all over the place. Thanks for a thought-provoking letter. I'll start at the top. I'll tell you what I like about Elvis Costello's new direction: it's honest. My comments last issue were terribly confusing. I tried to condense a complicated thought to one sentence and when I saw it in print I knew it didn't work. Thanks for bringing it up. When Costello was "Costello", he was an angry young man. Once he worked out his anger that mask didn't work anymore and the music he made under it was very mediocre. Now I feel that he is accepting himself...in his life and in his music...and it shows. His next album will be made as Declan MacManus and I think that's exciting, a "new" artist who we know has talent. Going back to **Rolling Stone**, an interesting comparison can be made to the Rolling Stones. The magazine has grown and changed, but the group has not. I don't know how Mick and Keith have done it, but they really haven't changed, so their music is still honest...and quite good. What makes me call groups like Rush donkey excrement, and they really deserve much worse, is that they sway and bend according to what they think their fans want to hear. It's not surprising that your ex-roomie loves them so much, they put a great deal of effort into finding out what he wants and providing it. Donkey excrement makes great fertilizer and may be worth a great deal of money, but it still stinks. One of the reasons that I like such a wide variety of music is that I look for that honesty and enjoy it wherever I find it. I also have my share of guilty pleasures, but I'd much rather see a group make me angry by changing their style because they've changed than see one make me angry by playing something they're not. Enough of tirade...Scott Hanson will make a case for Minneapolis as the rock capital of the Midwest below. Lots of groups hang out in Providence because it's cheaper to live here than either NYC or Boston and it's within striking distance of both. That makes for a great club scene, though both cities would outrank us. As should be obvious, I like British bands too. Gang of Four is defunct, but their bassist plays for Shriekback. You must pick up Shriekback's **Oil and Gold**. I've talked about their song "Nemesis" before, but the whole album is great, very deceptive, I'll let you be surprised. Don't forget to write it down. I have to do that too. Does anyone know what happened to Au Pairs? I loved their first record (I think it was an EP), but have nothing from or about them since. That's what we're here for, I hope I'll be able to get the Au Pairs story for you next time. I just found another letter from Paul, so we'll throw that in next:*

Jim, Dopey me, I forgot to include a check with my recent letter. Here you go. ((Paul has now paid

the NMR insurance fee. There is no game fee for Spy Dip, but I am asking for \$5.00 to pay for phone calls if you don't get moves in by the deadline. You'll get back what I don't spend at the end of the game. I'd like to have an NMR insurance fee on the Gunboat too, if it starts. Is anyone out there?))

Just got the real April *Costaguana* as opposed to the April Fools version. He does a complete review of the zines he gets (up to 'M' in this issue) and he gives *The Boob Report* a very nice boost. You know I never even read your stuff in NSWG (but then I rarely read NSWG even though I had a sub) I'm very sorry to say. I'll have to go back and see what I missed. ((Mostly junk, I'm afraid. I was running the game that you see here and that's about it. Terry was an abysmal GM by his own admission, so some of us ran games for him. Terry isn't very interested in music, so that part of this rag didn't pop up until December. I did an "end of the year music issue". Did you ever see that? Anyone who would like one should feel free to let me know and I'll send it to them. I thank Conrad for his kind words, both in his review and his letter. I can't recall anyone from "outside" who has written asking to get this without a sample first. I send a few samples around each time and we're up to about 25 people. I'd take more if anyone knows of someone who might enjoy it or be willing to play in one of the game openings (i.e. plugs are welcome).))

I was thinking about your most recent issue and wondering if your tastes aren't perhaps a tad poppier than mine. This may not show in the lists I've sent you, but I haven't noticed much reference to harder rock - maybe that's 'cause the stuff that is current now is mostly not as hard as what was available 4-5 years ago. What do you think? (Specifically the Jesus and Mary Chain - poppy or hardcore? Or not really either?)

Till next time, Paul

I haven't had a chance to listen to Jesus and Mary Chain again in the last month (I still don't have *Psychocandy*, for instance), but I'd say it's both hardcore and pop...and neither. Is that an obtuse answer or what? I'm going to get insulted, if people keep accusing my tastes of being too "poppy". Sheesh. Seriously though, I disagree with your assessment of rock as getting softer as long as you aren't referring to Van Halen or something like that when you say "hard rock". I presume you mean the Ramones. No, the Ramones are still the loudest of the loud, but not the hardest of the hard. I don't think "hardcore" has softened much, with the exception of groups like Husker Du that continually complain about being categorized as hardcore anyway. In fact, I would prefer to label bands as little as possible and find "label discussions" a waste of time which is why I can't keep from descending into silliness. Sorry...would you like to try again? Next we have Scott Hanson's promotion of Minneapolis as one of Rock's great cities:

Dear Jim,

How bout some tunes??? I've been pushing local

music a long time in this hobby; my zine *BIG HITS OF MID-AMERICA* (Volume 3) is named for an album of local music about 10 years old. It's funny for me to see people getting excited about Husker Du and The Replacements; I have to admit I haven't followed either of them closely since they acquired national audiences. Is it true that they had 3 of the Village Voice's Top 10 albums of '85? ((Yup, I believe so)) With Minnesota's drinking age raised to 21, it's sad that now more of their fans will only be able to see them in all-ages shows. I guess the music business has discovered Minneapolis, as I can rattle off a whole list of bands that now have national contracts: Husker Du, The Replacements, Limited Warranty, Metro All-Stars, Fairchild, The Suburbs (who have a new album this month). ((Great, they are favorites of mine...also Sussman Lawrence, right?)) The Lamont Cranston Band is now back in their original form; I'm not sure if they'll record again. The nice thing is that these bands aren't taking off for NY or LA; we've got the studios, labels and pressing plants right here to become a star without leaving home. The biggest impact we've had is on the soul (read "blacks only") chart. There's Prince and all his offspring, of course, plus a producer whose name escapes me but had 5 of the top 20 soul songs one recent week. There's a new group called The Jets that Top 40 will be hearing quite a bit from.

Anyway, Frauke and I have our favorite band that we mentioned a lot in the last issues of the old *IRKSOME!* ((the legacy of that szine is, of course, strikingly apparent here...translation: I ripped off a number of ideas in planning this thing...and I thank you)) They're Tetes Noires, an all female band with three lead vocalists and no drummer. They do a lot of unique vocal things. They've gone across the country a couple of times and we haven't seen them in awhile. If you want an album tip, see if you can find *Boycott Hormel - Live from Austin*. It's a benefit for the local meat strikers, but it's good music even if you do eat Spam. The Tetes are on it, along with members of the Huskers and the Mats (though I'm not sure if either band plays as a group).

About the Nylons; the only albums they have out in the US are *One Size Fits All* and the brand new *Seamless*. They have at least one other one out in Canada. I also have a cassette of a broadcast concert from a year ago which I'll illegally duplicate for anyone who sends me a blank 90 minute tape. I've certainly wasted enough space, so I'll stop for now.

Best, Scott

Thanks, Scott. I would remind those that send tapes through the mail that the safest way is to use these boxes that Radio Shack sells. The tape fits snugly inside and can be returned in the same box if you seal them so they can be opened easily.

Since Ed Henry is too embarrassed by the play of the Mariners to write about baseball, I'll grab some comments from John Caruso's recent letter to me...heh, heh, even though it says it is "not for print", I don't think he meant this part.

Jim, ...Oh - changed your pick from Astros to Giants - are you kidding? The Giants? They are terrible. The Reds are the team in the west this year.

Take care, John

Snigger, snigger, we'll see. John has a pool to pick the baseball division winners. Pick four teams and send John a buck. Whoever gets 'em all wins the pot. The pot has carried over for about three years. There's always a surprise and I think I've correctly predicted
Personal Note to You:

that there will be a surprise winner in the NL West. My mind says it'll be the Astros, but my heart says it'll be the Giants...they don't call me the Boob for nuthin. My other picks were the Royals, Tigers, and Mets. I am confident that those three will prevail. The Mets in a breeze and the AL teams have played way below their potential. I predict their pitching will win out. I remain behind my Giants. I can't wait until the NL playoffs when we run all over the Mets. The Reds, of course, speak for themselves.

THE FREE LUNCH GAME: 1984HL

headlines of the day:

SLUDGE FINALLY PULLS OFF A CONVOY INTO RUSSIAN TERRITORY, BUT GETTING A RESTING FLEET SUNK IN THE PROCESS ... WAS IT ALL JUST A PART OF THE PLAN

ENGLAND AND FRANCE TRADE A PAIR OF CONQUERED TERRITORIES. OTHERWISE, ALL IS QUIET ON THE FRONT.

Fall 1907

RUSSIA(Oaklyn): a WAR S a lvn-pru, a MOS-stp, a lvn-PRU.
FRANCE(Henry): f TYN S f rom-nap, a tyo-MUN, f ADR C a apu-tri, f gol-TUS, a kie-BER,
a mun-SIL, a APU-tri, f rom-NAP, f TUN-ion, a VEN S TURKISH a ser-tri (nso).
AUSTRIA(Ozog): a VIE S a boh, a TRI h, a BOH S RUSSIAN a war-sil (nso).
ENGLAND(Olsen): f BOT S a den-lvn, a NWY S a fin-stp, f NWG h (unordered), f BAL C a den-lvn,
a STP-mos, f NTH C a edi-bel, a FIN-stp, a den-LVN, a EDI-bel,
f pru S a den-lvn (d ann).
TURKEY(Gaughan): f ION sneers at French, f AEG S f ion, a rum-GAL,
f GRE S f ion, f EAS S f ion, a SER S AUSTRIAN a tri,
a ank-CON, a ALB S AUSTRIAN a tri.

Supply Center Chart

RUSSIA:	3 cntrs - mos,sev,war	(has 3, even)
FRANCE:	10 cntrs - bre,par,mar,spa,por,ber,ven,mun,tun,rom	(has 10, even)
AUSTRIA:	3 cntrs - tri,vie,bud	(has 3, even)
ENGLAND:	10 cntrs - edi,lvp,lon,hol,den,swe,bel,nwy,kie,stp	(has 9, bld 1)
TURKEY:	8 cntrs - ank,con,smy,bul,gre,nap,rum,ser	(has 8, even)
		(total=34 cntrs)

THE DUE DATE FOR WINTER 1907 IS MAY 22ND, 1986
THE DUE DATE FOR SPRING 1908 IS JUNE 12TH, 1986

Addresses of the Participants

RUSSIA: Bernie Oaklyn, 13412 Brackley Terrace, Silver Spring, MD 20904-3225, (301) 384-3557
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AUSTRIA: Eric Ozog, 1526 N. Lawler Avenue, Chicago, IL 60651, (312) 237-4650
ENGLAND: Bob Olsen, 6818 Winterberry Circle, Wichita, KS 67226, (316) 686-7935
TURKEY: Peter J. Gaughan IV, 3121 E. Park Row #165, Arlington, TX 76010, (817) 633-3208
GM: Jim Burgess, 100 Holden Street, Providence, RI 02908 (401) 351-0287

Game Notes:

- 1) The map is on the last page.
- 2) I know, I'm a bit late, but there aren't too many Winter adjustments. Please get your build in soon, Bob.

Press:

(BM to TURK): I forgot to print some of your scratchings last time. Sorry about that...

(TURKISH SCRATCHINGS): *The Voice*: Bobby McFarren (great cover of "Blackbird")... Spy Dip - can spies be held for ransom? Are they assumed killed when captured? Can one recruit double-agents? Why not?

(BM to TURKISH SCRATCHINGS): Why not?...Why not?...Why not?...indeed, good question. I envision spies making statements in the press. One may name them if one wanted to. A captured spy is technically worthless, but anything goes in the press. It would be legal, though perhaps a mite unfair, to reclaim your captured spies when you retrain them. That would be like assuming they were just sent home on the next train. Seriously though, captured and killed spies are identical as far as the game goes. I wrote it as a postal game for press writers. Adding the Bourse to the game would allow double-agents of a sort. Would you like to play? I even thought about giving the Bourse players a spy that starts in Switzerland that cannot be killed or captured and likewise cannot kill or capture. Would that be fair to the Spy Dip players? Input, anyone?

(RUSSIA PLAYER to WOULD-BE GAMESMASTER): Gee, gosh, golly, Jim-Bob-Boy! Your adjudications once again leave something to be desired. You have the Austrian army Vienna's support as having succeeded, when you know very well that it was cut by an attack from the side, namely by the attacking anti-Italian (French) army Tyrolia, ordered to move to Vienna. Nevertheless, and once again, it does not matter. Like, what do you do that does? The move to Bohemia was unopposed anyway. Maybe that was due to the long overdue anti-English move to German centers, by the French, no less.

(BM to UNIVERSE): On my copy, the Austrian support order is in italics. Italicized orders have failed of execution ever since I went to this format, since I can't underline words. Is that clear? Now... Tee, hee, hee. Guess who I got to write press? Yay!!

(OLSEN): The moment you've all been waiting for--my top 5 albums which are of course:

1. *Closer* (Joy Division)
2. *Power, Corruption and Lies* (New Order)
3. *Unknown Pleasures* (Joy Division)
4. *Low-Life* (New Order)
5. Anything else by Joy Division

Well, maybe not QUITE, but pretty darn close. Instead, how about my top five blues albums? Whenever the rock scene gets too boring, as it presently is, I return to the eternal verities. Such as:

1. Blind Willie McTell: *the Early Years, 1927-1933* -- 12-string acoustic country blues, incomparably beautiful--includes the much-covered "Statesboro Blues".

2. Charlie Patton: *Founder of the Delta Blues* -- a double album of rough and crude-sounding boom-chang country blues, again from the period 1929-1934. I remember it well...

3. Howlin' Wolf: *Moanin' at Midnight* -- Chicago electric blues from the Fifties, one listen transports you to a smoke-filled bar on Rush Street. It was widely supposed that the Wolf had sold his soul to get this sound...

4. Washboard Sam: *Blues Classics* -- from the Forties, transitional between the older country blues and the urban electric sound. Yes, Sam played a washboard, and it fits perfectly with the highly rhythmic sound.

5. Mike Cooper: *Oh Really* ?? -- the token white boy (also the only one of the bunch who is, probably, still alive). Country blues revivalist who played a resonator guitar, giving a wonderful sound somewhat like a banjo. Circa 1968, British guy.

(BERNIE to PAST TOADIES): Gee and golly good happy day. It sure is nice to once again have a few of my toadies on hand. There is Eric! There is Dwayne in another game! There is Olsen in disguise (or is that disgust?). There is Bob (Jim-Bob-Boy)! Anyone else out there with good memories?

(LONDON-VIENNA): Armies? Don't mind if I do. Can we bust through? It'll be interesting to see. I'll be the first to admit that you've got the talent on your side, but hey, we've got the numbers...

(CESSNA 414, HERE): A tremor was felt at the foot pedestal as Cessna 414 flew overhead. The roar of that tiny lion shook the continent as it headed once again towards German soil. "Just what is German soil?", the English commander was heard asking. "Check your own underpants and ye shall find out!" was a swift reply from Ozog, a Bernie Toad of old and new.

(TURK to ORC): We of the Ottoman Empire will never back up.

(PARIS-WORLD): Hmmm...not much happening this time. Maybe *next* year...

(BERNIE to DIPLOMACY WORLD, AT LARGE): Sorry about no communications as of late. I have been bomb-bard-ed with exams and an overload from my new job of late. I have to write a 3000 page technical manual in one month. Now, even Rod Walker, with all of his wordiness, could not fill those shoes.

(BOB-BOOB): I hardly buy records any more (except for JD/NO of course) but what I have picked up has been absolutely abominable. I'm thinking of *The Dream Academy* and *The Blue Nile*, specifically. Is wimpish boredom now the standard of excellence? I think I'll go back to sleep.

(BOOB-BOB): You didn't see either of those albums recommended here, did you? I'd be surprised if you didn't like Shriekback and the latest Cure album might be a good enough ringer to fill out your top five JD/NO list. Scotty says the Suburbs have a new one out and I'd pounce on that one hearing unheard. I know it's tough being in Kansas...

(TURK to BM): No, no. Daf may have bigger boobs, but not necessarily the best.

(BM to TURK): And who said I was talking about Daf? Heh, heh,...

(OLSEN-LUEDI): You've got a lot of nerve sneaking back into the hobby, putting out sprouts without checking with me first. What happened to burnout solidarity? What happened to the days when if a man said he was a washed-up, punch-drunk, has-been bum, he meant it? Boy, you can't trust anybody anymore. ((said in his best John Wayne accent, of course...))

(FRENCH MUSINGS): A little short of breath here... That's it. Thanks.

(BM to FRENCHMAN): Those were pretty

sparse... Just for that, you'll lose your exalted last word.

(RUSSIAN MUSINGS): And, now, folks, I will take my little 20 megabyte 640K ram PC Solution computer, my marbles, and myself, and go home.

