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MAKING LOVE IN A CANOE is an amateur publication dedicated to the play of **Diplomacy**, which was invented by Alan Calhmer and is not (yet) published in North America by **The Avalon Hill Game Company** (a subsidiary of Hasbro Toys). Subscriptions to **MAKING LOVE IN A CANOE** are available for 3 1/2 cents per page plus postage (and GST on the postage). The game fee for openings in **MAKING LOVE IN A CANOE** is \$4.00 with a discount for your first game in the zine. Thanks to Canada Post this issue will cost \$1.33 in Canada, and \$1.42 to the USA, or about \$10 per year. Cost anywhere else in the world is \$1.50 per issue. All prices are in Canadian funds.

Deadline for money, letters or anything else is **MAY 5, 2000**

About the Cover

As the first issue of the year 2000, I thought I'd put something on the cover that explains why this is *not* the start of the new millenium, and this comic strip from the series **PRINCE VALIANT** seems just about perfect.

As a kid, **PRINCE VALIANT** was not one of my favorites. It was too wordy and not funny. As an adult I've come to appreciate it as one of the most visually gorgeous strips in newspaper — where it's in the newspaper. And believe it or not, the art produced by John Cullen Murphy is just a shadow of what series creator Hal Foster produced.

This is one issue where I wish that I could send the cover to you in colour.

Standby List

Thank you all for your help with the standby problem. Here is the current list. If you want on or off the list let me know.

Bob Acheson, Andy York, Glenn McMaster, Christopher Gesell, Graham Wilson, Richard Goranson, Sara Reichert, Andy Lischett (one game at a time), Eric Young, Tim Snyder.

Game Opening - Patriot

Regular Diplomacy with British (International) Seasons to be called **Patriot**. British Seasons combine Spring Moves and Summer retreats (retreats provisional Spring moves) followed by Fall moves combined with Winter retreats and builds/removals. I'll show some sample moves before the game starts and will let you know what you have to send in each issue. Powers will be randomly selected by the GM.

Signed up: Fred Wiedemeyer Sara Reichert
Pete Duxon
Robert Paquin

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Standby call in Aurora (Germany)

Wasn't That A Party!

Let me state this at the very beginning – we are still in the Twentieth Century. Even though December 31, 1999 did *not* represent the end of the 20th Century or of the Second Millennium (Common Era in both cases), which the British government eventually acknowledged, everyone seemed to want to celebrate. It is left to pedants like John Boardman and myself to point out the truth. Let's face it; going from 1999 to 2000 has the same sort of magic that seeing the odometer on your car go from 99,999 to 100,000 does. Of course the odometer on your car had the good sense to start at 0 which the Common Era did not. If only Dionysius Exiguus would have known about the concept of 0. Let's settle with calling the year 2000 the turn of the century. It is a conceit with a certain elegance to it I think.

I watched almost all of the "Millennial" coverage on television from the beginning in New Zealand, shifting between CBC News-world, ABC, and occasionally to PBS. I wish I could remember it. No, I wasn't having a shot every time they showed a new city greeting the New Year with fireworks. I'd probably still be comatose if I had. However by the time things finished off (for me, Just after 2 AM CST when British Columbia and California shot off their explosives) I had been up for about 40 hours, give or take a few catnaps, and things sort of blurred together. New Zealand was memorable being the real first, the people of Kiribati having arbitrarily moved the International Dateline to the east by about 1,000 miles, and London was extraordinary, but the ones in between seem to blend into one in my mind.

I mentioned that everyone wanted to celebrate the arrival of January 1 2000. That should be amended. There were two places where they didn't have gigantic public celebrations: Seattle Washington and Saskatoon Saskatchewan. Seattle cancelled its party when a man was caught attempting to bring bomb materials from British Columbia into Washington State, supposedly as a part of a "terrorist plot" to blow up the celebrations in various cities. Given that there were no attacks anywhere else or people caught with bombs at

other border points, one might be excused for wondering if the "plot" existed anywhere except in the mind of the guy who was arrested at the border. It was enough for officials in Seattle though – they cancelled the city's big party city. Score a victory for the terrorists.

Saskatoon didn't have the excuse of terrorists for not having a celebration. The city just didn't have any plans for outdoor concerts or fireworks displays, despite ample lead-time. The reasons are obscure. In the past there were concerts in a downtown park until people on the other side of the river complained about the "noise" – no matter what the volume of the music being played was. Environmentalists complained about fireworks in the same area in the spring because it disturbed the pelicans. Of course the Pelicans are gone in the winter. Perhaps city council was just too cheap. As for private celebrations, there were some but most were poorly attended because of the price. One of the biggest was to have been a reunion concert of Jay Senko and The Northern Pikes at Saskatchewan Place, but it was cancelled when the stadium wasn't able to get enough workers to come in to run the event. So Canadians watching the New Years events in the Central Time Zone saw Kim Mitchell at the Agridome in Regina and Paul Brandt at the Northern Lights Casino in Prince Albert, but they saw nothing from the city in between.

The TV coverage was an extraordinary example of what we have accomplished in the 20th Century. The telecast of the "Millennium" celebrations linked over 70 different countries live. Remembering that it was not until 1901 that Marconi received the Morse Code letter "S" (...) in St. John's Newfoundland and 1906 when Reginald Fessenden first transmitted the human voice, it is clear that we've come a long way.

Y2K was a bust right? A massive case of over-reaction and doom saying? It was never a real problem of course. Well, I would suggest that while much of the hype was indeed millennialist doom-saying, the massive worries over Y2K were not entirely misplaced.

Y2K did represent a real problem. To quote a line from the miniseries *From the*

Earth to the Moon (which in turn was probably an accurate quote from Frank Borman's testimony at the congressional hearings over the Apollo 1 fire), Y2K arose due to "a failure of imagination". In the 1960's when the early computers were built, memory was expensive so programmers saw nothing wrong in writing the year as a two-digit number. Surely, they thought, in 30 or 40 years, when the situation became a problem, the programs that they had written and the computers that they were writing for would be on the trash heap. In part they were right; the old computers were scrapped and replaced with up to date machines with more and cheaper memory. And they did change the programs, but by upgrading them *rather than replacing* them since that was that was the cheaper option. The upgrades didn't corrected the problem. That's where the failure of imagination comes in — the programmers and the software producers couldn't imagine that corporations would choose the cheaper option. Add to the mix the corporate merger mania of the 1980 and 90s each with its own computer software that had to be consolidated and you have a real problem. It came to the IBM PC market, because IBM PCs were meant for the business environment and to work in conjunction with the corporate mainframes. When Apple began they didn't have this history, nor the (apparent) need to work as integrally with mainframes. They put in a four digit year and as a result, Macs didn't have the Y2K problem. In the end, it turned out that cheaper wasn't. Billions were spent to create patches for the computer programs.

But of course Y2K was, like Comet Kohoutek or Halley's Comet's last visit, a colossal dud right? That's an interesting question. To be sure airplanes did not drop from the sky, power did not go out for days, water systems did not spew out tons of untreated waste into lakes and river, the nuclear missiles did not fly on their own, and worldwide civilization did not collapse. However only the most alarmist of people (and pundits who wanted to sell books and articles about the coming apocalypse that would result — and I'm not sure that they actually believed what they were writing) actually believed that. I'm sure that the militia types across the United

States were sure that the whole thing was a plot by the United Nations to subvert and take over the United States. It must have been a great disappointment for them when disaster failed to appear.

While it is true that there were none of the "disasters" that were predicted, the fact is that there were effects from Y2K. People using older versions of Windows such as 3.1 know that in some cases programs they depended on ceased to function. There were cases of hospitals being instructed by their computerized inventory control to dispose of out of date medications that had just been delivered (expiry date '02 meant they were 98 years out of date). There was a major problem with credit card billing in the United Kingdom when the validation centers refused to accept any transactions. There were some problems with navigation software for fishing boats in Italy. They are all "small" things, but they all had a very real impact on the people who depended on those services.

So the question becomes whether Y2K was a massively over-hyped hoax, or a potential disaster that was averted by diligent work by the computer industry. On the whole I think that the potential for *some* of the expected problems did exist (but not as many as the doomsayers expected), but I also believe that a lot of hard work went into making sure that the worst did not happen.

This is the sort of story that you *know* I have to report on.

The sea is no respecter of the follies of men. During a September visit by the new patrol frigate *HMCS Montreal* was visited by agents from Québec's "Commission de la Langue Française". The agents reported that the ship was in violation of official language regulations, not just in Québec but in Canada. Specifically the name plates on the bows of the ship were in violation of the law. A similar mistake had been made against *HMCS Ville de Québec*. The mistake was a missing accent aigu over the letter e.

The whole problem dates back to 1979 when it was decreed by Canada's Official Languages Commissioner that capital letters should have accent marks (aigu (É), grave (È) and circumflex (Ê)) added. Until that time no

such regulation existed. This didn't have much effect on the navy at the time since it had no ships with names that used the accents. They did have to change their typewriters however to reflect the change. (Interestingly, when the *National Post* reported this story they did not use accents over the names of the ships or the province.)

By 1992 when the *Halifax* class frigates were commissioned, the Navy seems to have forgotten entirely about the regulation — until after the ships were completed. The ships were then ordered back to the yards to have a total of four brass accents added to their nameplates. Cost: \$7,000 per accent.

According to Navy spokesman Mike Con-sidini the cost was a result of re-opening contracts. "You have to get contract writers and lawyers involved. It would entail changing the ship's drawings because you are casting a piece of metal onto the hull and you have to X-ray the welding. There are a number of things involved and you have to do it all properly".

In the current case, which also involves the letters on *Montréal's* teak-and-brass nameplates and some places where the name of the ship is painted onto canvas, the accent on one of the bow nameplates simply fell off while the ship was at sea. There is no estimate as to how much the cost of adding the new accent will be. Lest anyone think that this is an example of the Navy being uncaring about spelling in French, it should be noted that the Navy also had to add two apostrophes to the name plate of *HMCS St. John's*, again at a cost of \$7,000 per ship. The next ship to be named for a community in Québec, an *Up-holder* class submarine won't have this problem: she'll be *HMCS Chicoutimi*.

Meanwhile the navy is claiming poverty concerning a major problem with the *Halifax* class frigates. The ships, whose primary military role is anti-submarine warfare, are considerably noisier than had been expected. In AS warfare silence is golden. Not only does the noise of the machinery alert any lurking submarines to the presence of the frigates, but the noise also degrades the sonar performance of the surface ships. This means that the submarines are not detected as far from the

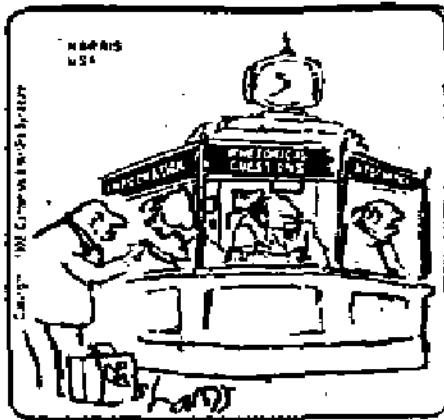
frigates as they should be.

To combat this problem the navy adopted a system called "Prairie Masker" which pumps air through a perforated pipe around the hull of the ship, causing bubbles. The trouble is that the system frequently mal-functions and isn't as effective when it does work. Most nations have abandoned the system. Canada has been testing a variety of fixes for the problem, muffling most of the noise making equipment and modifying the propellers. However the most effective fix would be installing "anechoic tiling" to the hull below the waterline. Testing on one frigate has proven that this approach is highly effective. The navy has not yet adopted it, on the grounds that, at \$2.8 million per ship it is too expensive and budgets are tight. That price comes to just under \$130 for each of the 225 men and women on a Canadian frigate. For the same reason the Prairie Masker system will no longer be used but will not be removed.

It seems that James Bond was right all along — about martinis at least. As you might recall, Bond always stipulated that his cocktails be "shaken not stirred". According to Canadian medical researchers he was on to something. It all has to do with anti-oxidants, which are believed to be a factor in retarding the aging process. The levels of anti-oxidants in people who have had a single drink are higher than in people who haven't had a drink. After two drinks levels are the same as for a person who hasn't had a drink, and with three or more drinks the levels are worse.

The interesting thing is that they studied a variety of drinks to determine which produced the best results. In this part of the study they made a comparison between a gin martini that was shaken (as inevitably ordered by James Bond) as opposed to one that was stirred, both made with the same volumes of ingredients. Amazingly the shaken martini produced higher levels than a stirred one, for reasons which they still haven't figured out.

All of which reminds me of a line from a classic Canadian comedy moment, from Wayne and Shuster's *Julius Caesar* sketch. "I'll have a *martinus*." "Don't you mean a *martini*?" "If I wanted two I'd have asked for two!"



THE NUT HUTCH

Robert Lesco, Brampton, Ontario: I know you're a fan of animation but I'm not sure if this was just a local story or not, but some interest group raised quite a fuss over that not particularly funny Bugs Bunny Hansel and Gretel parody, to wit the final line after the witch turns into a she-bunny. You'll recall he takes her arm & says something like "Sure but ain't they all like that inside?" You'll know the line, feel free to check me on it. At least Bugs Bunny is still on TV. We lost The Flintstones years ago & The Honeymooners long before that.

((BM: Well you could see The Honeymooners on The Comedy Network, and The Flintstones on YTV if you'd break down and get cable. It wasn't a national story, but I did see the result of the Ontario Human Rights Commission inquiry in The National Post. I think the line in question was "Ah, sure, I know! But aren't they all witches inside?" It is a typical Chuck Jones throwaway line, and it isn't hard to believe that this sort of thing would go before a Human Rights Commission in these politically correct days.

The truth of course is that these classic cartoons were artifacts of their time. Sometimes they don't translate well to our modern sensibilities — or even sensibilities a few years after they were produced. Race is a big one. Warner Brothers has an official list of seven cartoons which are never seen except on a few video tapes. The censored eleven are mainly censored because of racial stereotypes — Bugs Bunny Nips the Nips is a particularly brutal example of wartime propaganda, but most feature depictions of black people that haven't been acceptable in the past thirty or more years. In the 1940s MGM's Tom & Jerry featured a single human character seen

only from the knees down; an unnamed black maid referred to as "Mammy Two Shoes". When the cartoons were aired in the 1960s she became a white Irish woman, voiced by June Foray. When Walter Lantz brought his cartoons to TV in the 1950s he was explicitly told that cartoons which featured black characters couldn't be shown because they were stereotypes; in fact a number of these cartoons featured caricatures of black musicians who were performing the soundtrack for the cartoons.

It continues today of course. A man named Ira Zimmerman is well known (and hated) on the alt.animation.warner-bros for wanting to get rid of all Porky Pig cartoons because he feels that the character's stutter is harmful to stutters like himself. I doubt that Mexican-American groups are particularly thrilled with Speedy Gonzales either.))

Some years ago local residents tried unsuccessfully to change the name of their street: Hindquarters Court. No excuse, it was constructed in the '70s, but each new subdivision used to have streets starting with the same letter so that Bramalea's "B" section was older than "C" etc. They appear to have run out of good "H" names.

((BM: Apparently. I suspect that if someone bothered to look they could find "ribald" or "embarrassing" street names or even town names in virtually every city and province. Like Swastika Ontario.))

Gee — another proud moment for the left in Seattle.

((BM: More accurately another proud moment for a handful of jackasses among the throngs of peaceful protesters in Seattle.))

Pete Duxon: Well MALOC arrived today. The high school reunion article was interesting (have I missed the graduation banquet story or was it before my time?). I managed to avoid mine. Perhaps I would have enjoyed it but it was along time ago and I haven't kept in touch with anyone.

((BM: The banquet story goes back before I even heard of Diplomacy let alone zines. The short version is as follows. Dance classes were offered and I attended, but for the last class, there was one guy who didn't have a partner — me. Not that it mattered since I

was unable to get a date for the dance. I also wasn't able to find a group of my friends to sit with (which sat eight people each). In the end I was seated with my best friend at the time, Tom Roberts, and a group of guys only one of whom I had more than a nodding acquaintance with. The banquet was a buffet with tables being called up in a system known only to the banquet staff. My table was one of the last called, by which time virtually all of the roast beef was gone and what was left was mostly grissle, which meant that most of my graduation dinner was rapidly cooling vegetables and cold cuts. Did I mention that my feet had been hurting since I had gotten there? By the time that the dinner and awards ended my feet were so swollen that it hurt to walk; don't even mention dancing. I got Tom to drive me home. And that was the basic story of my graduation.))

Pat Buchanan has been news over here. HE teamed up with a Scottish bank and then referred to the Scots as a nation of homosexuals. I reckon they should ask him to repeat that in Glasgow on a Saturday night. I hope that politicians of Mr Buchanan's ilk would never get so high a profile over here. You're right the allies picked the wrong time to stand-up to Hitler but they were prepared to stand-up to him, Buchanan wanted good old honest Adolph. Ok so Uncle Joe was as big a murderer (well he killed more people) but surely Hitler was the more evil? To be honest Brent does Buchanan care about the affect of Hitler on the Jews and the peoples of Eastern Europe. I hope, that if he does get on the Presidential Ballot, that those American citizens from those parts or descended from those parts exert their voice in the ballot box.

((BM: As I said in the article, Buchanan is that great American type, the Isolationist — if it doesn't an impact on the United States then it isn't any of their business.))

I do sympathize with the US (look don't everyone faint) that it has to bare the Lion's share of the forces but that is the price you have to bare for a) being a global superpower and b) insisting that everyone does what you want. I suppose the German's have an understandable nervousness of sending their troops anywhere. I know that the British Army is very stretched with it's commitments at late.

Any British involvement in East Timor is very small. Well we did supply the arms to the Indonesian government so maybe it isn't!

Jim Burgess, Providence Rhode Island: You still didn't spell Sara's name right on your standby list.

((BM: OOOOPS!))

I liked the list on the ships. The Fall River-group of ships is well worth the visit. We are about to add some more here in R.I.

((BM: Great! I enjoyed developing the list. I found it through the USS Salem website (www.uss-salem.org) and the link with the Historic Naval Ships Visitors Guide website (www.maritime.org/tunsa-guide.htm) which is supposedly, a world wide list. As I said in the original article there are ships, some extremely significant although most are "non-American", that should be on the list.))

W. Andrew York, Austin Texas: Interesting piece on the current state of the Canadian military. Curiously, the largest country (area-wise) in NATO has the second lowest percentage of commitments. Also, a 60,000 man professional military force is really quite tiny. One figure I've heard that, in today's military forces, it takes 10 people in support roles (technicians, repairmen, medics, intelligence, supply..) to put one person with a rifle on the line or plane in the air. That leaves Canada with around 5500 troops to cover all deployments, training, leave, illness, etc. Not a heck of a lot of folks to accomplish everything....

((BM: And of course you realise that this 60,000 is all branches: Army, Navy and Air Force since this is a unified force. Recently there has been a rearrangement of operations in the Navy, the impact of which is that the ships on active service will take longer to be fully operational. And it doesn't touch on balancing the perpetual problems of military pay versus the need to re-equip various units.))

As for Pat Buchanan's view of history, you are quite right that he is an isolationist and would fit right in with the "America First" groups prior to both world wars. He does not have a firm grasp of historical fact, nor is his extrapolation of alternate historical events as likely as he professes.

((BM: Well he is a journalist (now) rather than an historian.))

One quibble with your comment about the relationship of the Polish army to the German army of 1939. Granted the forces were roughly equivalent in numbers (with the German forces on the West Wall balanced by the unmobilized forces of Poland). However, Germany had significant advantages in two respects.

The first was in technology. Their air force was numerically superior and, as a whole, fielded more advanced aircraft. The German navy was vastly superior to the miniscule Polish force. And, in the mechanized arena, the German forces were a generation ahead.

The other aspect where Germany far outweighed Poland was in strategy/tactics. Much as France in 1940, the Polish forces were trained and deployed to fight World War I. Based on fixed fortifications, backed by horsed reaction forces, they were no match for a combined arms assault based on mechanized maneuver with close air support.

((BM: I grant everything you say — in hindsight. The German forces did have technological and leadership advantages, very significant ones. But the British and French looked at the Polish and German numbers. They had limited knowledge of German strategy and tactics based on Spain, but even that was limited. With the expectation of a 1915-18 style war, Poland doesn't look bad.))

I enjoyed looking through your listing of ships. From looking through it, I've been on or seen the following:

San Francisco: USS Pampanito (the SS Jeremiah O'Brien was being used in a movie); Chicago: U-505; Boston: USS Cassin Young; USS Constitution (twice); Fredericksburg: HA-19; Plus, others not listed: New Orleans: Civil War submarine (off of Jefferson Square, outside a museum) and an escort carrier, who's name escapes me, that was in the process of having a group take it over and restore it (I think a Texas group eventually took control of it). London (UK <grin>): HMS Belfast, HMS Victory

((BM: The carrier you're thinking of in New Orleans was probably the old light fleet carrier Cabot which later became the Spanish Dedalo. I'd heard through the newsgroup sci.military.naval that there were ongoing efforts to preserve her as the last of her type,

but when last I saw any information it looked as though she was headed for the scrap heap. Good to hear that she isn't. The list is incomplete. It does not list either of Belfast or Victory, which may be the most famous preserved warship, or the Mary Rose, and I can't recall if the Vasa was listed either.))

I do hope to get down to the coast to see the Lexington and the Texas (as well as the others listed) in the near future. Plus, Corpus Christi has replicas of the three ships of Columbus' first voyage to the Americas (and I've been on a replica of the Mayflower).

One of the most striking thing about visiting these ships is how small they truly are. The ships of the age of sail leave you wondering how the large number of men actually were able to live on board and retain some humanity, let alone sanity. From today's boats, you can only get a similar feeling by going into a submarine, understanding that this could be your only home for four-six months or more.

((BM: I've seen some documentaries about submarines and they'd make anyone claustrophobic. According to a Canadian sailor aboard one of our old Oberons, the space that is shared by about 10 or 20 men is adequate for about 2 pigs according to Agriculture Canada. If you look at the attrition rates in the age of sail, particularly before scurvy was brought under control, it is really quite shocking. I recall reading that on his round the world trip Francis Drake sailed with around 800 men aboard his flagship. He returned with less than half that number despite having fought no major battles.))

It is good that these ships are preserved for future generations. Without the chance to see, first hand, the sacrifices and conditions which our forefathers experienced, we lose the perspective and respect for their efforts. So, I support your efforts to preserve the *HMCS Haida* and hope that others will as well.

Andy Lischett, Berwyn Illinois: Just a short nit-picky, pro-US note. Nobody else seems to send any.

Elizabeth Dole got no support because she either had nothing to say or did not want to say what she thinks. Blaming a lack of money is easier than admitting that one is an unattractive candidate.

((BM: Perhaps, but what I found annoying was that her decision was seemingly based on the results of the Iowa Straw Poll, which has very little to do with policies. I have little doubt that she was, as you say, an unattractive candidate, based on her performance at town hall meetings. But, if you think that politicians running in the Iowa Caucuses were saying what they thought, I have beach-front property in that state to sell you. They were saying what people who go to the Caucuses want to hear about farm subsidies etc.))

So jocular financing laws are responsible for Steve Forbes, George Bush and John McCain being the only Republican survivors? What about Alan Keys and Gary Bauer? Are they also evil multi-millionaires, or did you forget them because they do not fit your argument? Also, I don't get how "rank-outsider" equals "millionaire".

((BM: Did I say that? I typified McCain as a rank outsider based on his position on campaign financing, which presumably restricts his ability to compete. This I take from the CNN program "The Capital Gang" which has been consistently noting that McCain has spent much of his time and available money on the New Hampshire primary, and thus (in the opinion of the conservative commentators on that program) will not be competitive after New Hampshire. This turned out to be a fact, although not as decisively as the conservative pundits had claimed/hoped.

((As far as Keys (6% in New Hampshire) and Bauer (1%) go, their campaign performance has justified my argument. They may have valid messages to get across, but they don't have the money to do that and they haven't been getting the votes. In fact I could argue that it is easier to run for the presidential nomination when you don't have a chance to win.))

In your list of vile money-contributing lobbies you somehow forgot labor unions.

((BM: Noticed that did you? I was talking about Republicans, and when was the last Republican candidate in primaries or congressional races, who got labour money? The other reason is the practice of the lobbies that I mentioned, and many others, to give money to both parties. I'm not sure that organised labour does that much of that.))

Lastly, do you think it is polite, instructive or clever to make fun of George Bush's name? If so, have at 'Lischett.' it's not hard.

((BM: You think "Shrub" originated with me? Sorry to disappoint you, but I'm not that clever. I first heard George W. referred to as "Shrub" on the old "Late Late Show with Tom Snyder" from a Texas based political correspondent (Molly Ivins?). She explained it by saying that he was a "little Bush". It also seemed to reflect her opinion of his capabilities based on what the Governor of Texas does, and his previous political experience (running a referendum to publicly fund the "Ballpark at Arlington" to would house his Texas Rangers baseball team); in short that he is scarcely the man that his father was and is. Yes, I did think it was clever when I first heard it, and probably instructive as well. Polite? Perhaps not, but if being called "Shrub" is the worst insult that is hurled at him, he'll be very lucky. Would you prefer "Dubya" which I've seen in places. Or perhaps Bill Maher's Gush and Bore is more your style.))

Sara Reichert, Carson California: Now to answer your question as to why I have chosen AOL and dropped the free NetZero account. E-mail control really. One of the reasons I have been reluctant to go on-line is the same reason many women are reluctant to go on-line. Spam and e-mail that is rude, and/or crude and/or lewd. I have talked this ver with my friends and the women on AOL are happy with their e-mail controls. At the moment I can screen out specific e-mail addresses from people I don't want to receive e-mails from. I won't mention names here of course. I can't do that with NetZero.

An even higher level of control is used by some of my friends. They set up their e-mail so that only specific addresses can be received. If an incoming e-mail is not on the list it does not arrive at the mailbox. Strong measures are sometimes needed. AOL gives us several screen names for use. If I ever did have a whim to return to alt.sex.masturbation or other internet newsgroups, for example, I could set up a screen name that is send-only, blocking ALL e-mail in reply. Bad news for the spammers. And this time around I would use a male name for such internet news-

groups.

((BM: I'm not familiar with NetZero, or the e-mail software that they use. I do know that most of the commercial software (certainly the stuff packaged with Netscape and Internet Explorer) allows the user to set up "killfiles". In the e-mail program I use (Microsoft pre-Outlook Express) I can use the In-box Assistant to direct mail to specific files. This includes directing mail directly to Deleted items without them even showing up in my Inbox. Outlook Express has a filter system that is even easier to use.

((As far as newsgroups, a common way of avoiding most spam is to go to the Server tab in the Options section. Where it says "E-mail Address" and "Reply Address" modify your address. In my case `bmckee@the.link.ca` becomes `bSmckee@the.link.caN`. This foils most spambots, and if someone really wants to make a private comment to me, I include in my signature file instructions to remove the

capital S and N. The result is that the CompuLink account gets virtually no spam. I know that Rich Goranson, who is also on AOL currently posts to newsgroups with the modified address `forlonh@aol.complex`.

((If you do want to post to a "naughty" newsgroups like `alt.sex.masturbation`, you can try an anonymous web based site like Deja.com, Remarq.com, and possibly Hotmail. These are free services where you can choose your username (male, female or asexual) and if you write your material off-line all you have to do is paste it into the message form. I believe that it is possible to get replies to these posts but, with Hotmail at least, two mouse clicks eliminates them all.

((I don't begrudge anyone's choices (in any area). I just found that the service AOL offered me, and its cost, was inferior to what I was getting from my local Internet service provider. I suppose it is a personal choice of what you are comfortable with.))

Odds And Ends

- There are a number of reasons why this issue is late (there usually are), although not necessarily good reasons. The biggest thing has been viruses — human and computer. I had the flu; not after the deadline but before. Still it tended to push everything back about ten days since my basic desire was to sleep and get rid of the day long headaches. Just to let you know how bad it was, I missed one week of bowling. In the fourteen years that I've been bowling this is about the second time I've missed (the other time was due to a car that refused to run). The computer virus wasn't on my machine. It seems to be on Greg's, although his anti-virus software says that the virus isn't there. All I know is that when I tried to put files into this that were produced using on his computer using MICROSOFT WORD and save in the WORD format, my anti-virus software said there was a macrovirus attached. Oddly enough though, if I saved the document in WORKS format, there was no problem.
- There's no *Navy Page* in this issue. The article is finished, indeed it was one of the first things that I finished, before the flu. The trouble is, as you can tell, space is most assuredly at a premium in this issue, so I've had to sacrifice. I couldn't give up the games, including *Morry's Colonial game* and no matter how I shrank it, the press on the *Colonial game* and *Patrician* had to have all its press. I even tried stuffing the press into every empty space available but it looked awful and would have been impossible to follow. I could have cut the *Iron Chef* article, but it was supposed to go last time and I hate delaying these things. So next issue be prepared for TWO *Navy Page* articles.
- I've made a couple of additions to the computer. One is the antivirus software mentioned above, MCAFEE'S VIRUS SCAN, which is a vast improvement over what I had before (also cheaper, something that sort of annoys me). The other addition is a new 10 Gb hard drive which I installed myself. It operates as a slave unit to my existing 1.2 Gb drive.
- Did you know that:
 - Comedian and actor Albert Brooks' family name is really Einstein. That's right, his real name is Albert Einstein. He is the brother of "Super Dave Osborne" — Bob Einstein.
 - Somalia has 28 television stations — and no government.

A O hell

When I first went online with the Saskatoon Freenet I wrote an article in these pages about the advantages of the Freenet and the possibilities of Internet Service Providers (ISPs), and online services like Compuserve and America Online. At the time I stated that the Freenet had its strengths (the cost primarily) and its weaknesses (the fact that it was text only). I also suggested that there were also advantages to the other two options, although I hadn't tried them. I have now and I can probably give a better review. About a year ago now I began using a local ISP, Western Compulink. Earlier this summer I took advantage of a free trial offer from AOL. Based on the latter experience I think I can offer a different perspective on the matter than I did in my first article. As you might have guessed from the title, I wasn't greatly enamoured of my experience with America Online. There were a couple of reasons why I decided to try it. First of course was the offer of 540 free hours in one month. I must admit that was pretty attractive. It wouldn't have been attractive enough for me to use the AOL Canada CD-ROM that had arrived along with my copy of The National Post if it weren't for a couple of things that were included on the disk. One was the Real Player program; the other was an upgrade to Internet Explorer 4.0. I decided why not try it, and for a month (but considerably fewer than 540 hours) I did.

Of course the 540 hours was a teaser. Over a thirty-day period 540 hours translates into 18 hours a day...over phone lines. Since, like most people, I don't have a dedicated phone line just to use the Internet I have to be considerate about monopolizing phone lines. There are going to be calls coming in and going out. So obviously I wasn't going to be using all 540 hours in a month. However if I had wanted to stay with AOL beyond my free month I would have had to pay AOL Canada's normal rate. This rate is \$6.95 for three hours, with a charge of \$3.95 for every hour thereafter; or \$9.95 for 10 hours a month with an additional charge of \$1.95 an hour. Since I left, I understand that AOL has introduced "new lower pricing" (again).

For comparison, the Freenet is free – almost. A year or two ago they introduced a \$25 a year fee to cover some of their expenses there is not charge for extra hours although you are restricted to 1-hour sessions. Compulink charges \$120 a year, or \$10 a month, for 15 hours a month. Their overtime charge is \$0.80 an hour. Given the service available the edge is definitely to Compulink.

Speed is another consideration. Here AOL has a slight advantage over what I currently use. I have a 33.6K modem (not up to current standard I know, but it came with the machine). Using the Saskatoon Freenet my best download speed is 14.4K – a limitation apparently based on their equipment rather than mine as they deal with a lot of older computers with slower modems. Speed on Compulink varies, but has generally been in the 21.6K to 24.4k range. With AOL Canada, operating through a local node, my download speed was almost consistently 26.6K (there were one or two times when the speed was down to 24.0K; ending the connection and calling in again usually resulted in getting the 26.6K speed).

Most of the rest of this article is concerned with the services that AOL offers and the way that it offers them. The first of these is AOL's e-mail. Frankly, this seems to be about the best thing they do, although my experience with it has been highly limited. I obviously didn't promote the fact that I was using AOL to virtually anyone since I really had not intention of staying with them, unless they stunned me with the other aspects of their service. It seems to me to be very hard to make e-mail too much better or worse than it already is. Except for letting you know when you log on that there's new mail with that incredibly cheery "You've got mail" voice (and I wonder how much free advertising AOL got through that dumb movie), there isn't much difference between the AOL service and what I get from Compulink. Indeed the Freenet also lets me know when I start that I have new mail – albeit without the cheerful voice. However since the first thing that I do when I log on with Compulink is to check my mail, this really isn't that much of an advantage.

In the area of newsgroups AOL is the clear loser. The company's newsreader software makes it difficult to select newsgroups. Once a person has subscribed to groups the information given is very limited. File size and date of posting are not listed. Given AOL's occasional lapses in prompt posting of articles originating from AOL subscribers and putting posted articles into order, this may be a blessing in disguise. It is possible to "killfile" postings on subjects or from posters that you don't want to read. Worse is the difficulty in viewing binary files. Before you can see an image for example, the file must be downloaded onto your hard drive as a file. Once you see it, it stays on your hard drive until you delete it. The Freenet also does not give the size or date of the files, and of course you can't view binaries without extraordinary effort. You are alerted to the number of unread postings on a subject. As with AOL you are not given a choice of newsreader software, the Freenet uses TIN. Compulink allows me to select which software I will use in all areas. I am using Internet Explorer, with Microsoft's early E-Mail and News software (not Outlook Express). This software gives me the information I need to choose which posts to look at. In terms of binaries, while viewing is best done by saving the post to be read offline, it is only a temporary file, which is deleted once viewed unless you specifically save it. However this is something of a moot point since Compulink has recently blocked all binary newsgroups (at least the ones that are labeled as such) due to the resources involved in downloading. Most News and Mail software currently available allows the user to automatically killfile email and postings.

The look of the AOL screen is clumsy. Initially it consists of a series of windows in a tile set up. When you call anything new – web site, newsgroups, or email – it is imposed over top of the tiles. If you then minimize the window that you are using it disappears behind the rest of the tiles. An opened window stays open; getting to newsgroups consists of at least three windows before you can see a group. Similarly when you open a new web site it does not occupy the full screen leaving a distracting area of AOL's starting pages

around what you are trying to see. You can, and probably should, maximize the page, but it is clumsy. Using a local or even a national ISP, such as Sympatico in Canada, which allows you to use either Netscape Navigator or Internet Explorer separates the e-mail/newsgroup and web browser functions. In Internet Explorer 4.0 (and presumably 5.0) it is even possible to go "full-screen", eliminating most of the menu bar at the top and bottom at the screen.

AOL has a keyword system which allows the user to find material faster than can be done with any search engine. Simply enter a keyword into the proper box and you will be presented with a number of sites to go to. Sounds good, but there are two basic problems. First, unless the keyword is on a list prepared by AOL you won't get a response, and they seem to be heavily American. Entering "CTV", or "Canadian television" as a keyword, gets you nothing, but there is an awful lot on "Columbine". Second, when you enter a keyword, such as "Food" you will get a list of sites and newsgroups to go to, but they will be a list of sites that has been selected by AOL, presumably through a commercial agreement or sites that are hosted on AOL. Entering "Food" gets you links to the Food Network, Kraft and some other company sites, and one or two newsgroups. You won't get links to "The Urban Peasant" web site or a recipe list from some small but exclusive restaurant. There is a trade-off in utility in this situation – web searches will inevitably give you a lot of stuff that is totally irrelevant to what you want, but they will give you a much wider variety of material to choose from than AOL's keyword system.

One of the other major "advantages" of a commercial service like AOL over a conventional ISP like Compulink is the proprietary services that AOL offers. The problem is that while many of these are free, a large number charge an additional fee over and above your monthly fee. They don't mention this in their ads. The highly touted "Buddy List" is not something that I used and as a whole chat rooms hold no interest for me.

In the end I decided to pass on AOL. But

this was easier said than done. Near the end of my one month trial (being aware that cancellation takes 72 hours to take effect, my free month was really something less if I didn't want to continue) I called the 800 number for cancellation. The operator seemed quite disappointed that someone might possibly want to discontinue such a fine service and quizzed me as to my reasons. My response didn't touch on many of the points in this article. Rather I focussed on the relative prices charged by AOL and Compulink, and my desire to support a local business. He didn't seem to understand the part about the prices but eventually agreed to discontinue the account. A few days later I got another call from AOL just to confirm that I really wanted to get rid of their wonderful service. My mother answered the phone on that one.

When I wrote my original piece on Internet Services, my feeling was that the Freenet, a local Internet Service provider, and a commercial service like AOL could provide a spectrum of services for users. I still feel that this is true, although I do find myself using Compulink's service more often than I use the Freenet, and far more than I would use the exclusive services provided by AOL. In simple terms, I like the choices that my local provider offers better than the alternatives.

The future of the Internet is speed. For someone using a 14.4 Kbps modem (there are still a few out there) a 56.0 Kbps modem represents speed. If the Internet is to become a mainstream "medium" speeds faster than conventional telephone lines can deliver are going to be essential. We have already seen the development of DSL technologies that are

allowing faster transmission of signals over conventional telephone lines, and the entry of the cable companies into the business of Internet delivery. For \$39.95 a month I can get a permanent Internet connection from the cable company without tying up the phone lines. There is a risk to this however, and the recent purchase of Time-Warner by America On-Line illustrates this risk. While executives of both companies have stated that the purchase was a natural fit between a content delivery system and a content provider, Time-Warner's cable system is the real prize in this deal. While Time-Warner's ownership of television outlets and a cable system does not represent a threat, since cable television operates as a common carrier, it does not operate in this way as a means for Internet transmission. To put this simply, the telephone companies operate like a highway in Internet delivery - you can call any service provider and the telephone company does not have anything to say about the matter. By contrast the service providers offered by a cable company are restricted to the ones that they will let you use, usually their own. In short cable systems operate like railroads - you can't choose to use one company's lines to access another company's services. The AOL purchase of Time-Warner may mean that subscribers to Time-Warner will be forced to use only AOL's interface and services. Unless a common carrier policy is adopted, through legislation if necessary, this represents a dangerous situation in which a significant portion of Internet use will be controlled by a single entity. And this is not a good thing.

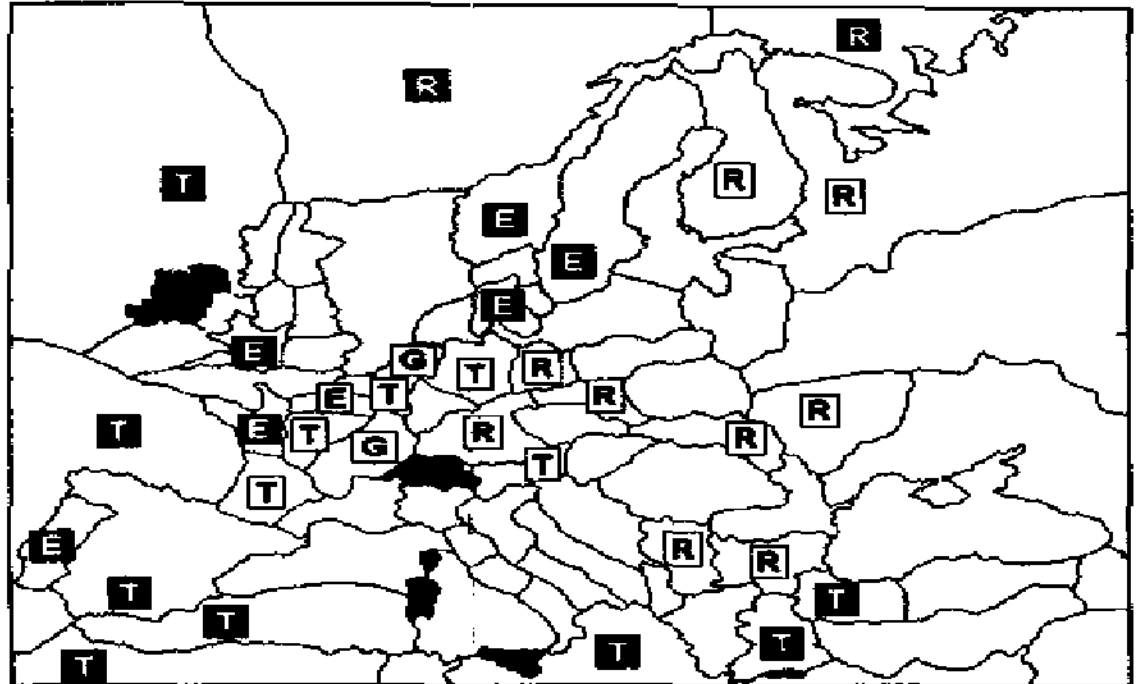
If AOL Were A Car

I took this from one of the Formula 1 newsgroup. Enjoy!

1. The AOL car would have a TOP speed of 40 MPH yet have a 200 MPH Speedometer.
2. The AOL car would come equipped with a NEW and fantastic 8-Track tape player.
3. The car would often refuse to start and owners would just expect this and try again later.
4. The windshield would have an extra dark tint to protect the driver from seeing better cars.
5. AOL would sell the same model car year after year and claim it's the NEW model.
6. Every now and then the brakes on the AOL car would just "lock-up" for no apparent reason.
7. AOL cars would come with a steering wheel and AOL would claim no other cars have them.
8. The AOL car would have only one door but it would have 5 extra seats for family members.
9. AOL car mechanics would have no experience whatsoever in car repair.
10. If an AOL car owner received 3 parking tickets AOL would take the car off of them.

Germany Loses Patience as England Says Sorry

Niobe
1993CB
Regular Diplomacy
Spring 1918



Retreats

Germany retreats F Swe OTB

Turkey retreats A Bul OTB

Builds and Removals

England builds F Lon

Russia builds F StP (nc), A War

Turkey builds F Con

England: Vance Copeland, 52 Steeles Avenue, Hornby Ontario, L0P 1E0

A Bel s German A Hol (D, Annihilated), A PIC s German A Bur, F BRE s F Por-MaO, F DEN s F Swe, F Lon-WAL, F Nth-NWY, F POR-MaO, F SWE s F Den.

Germany: Sara Reichert, 20805 Margaret Street, Carson California, 90745-1224

A BUR s Turkish A Ruh-Bel, A HOL s Turkish A Ruh-Bel.

Russia: COA! Fred Wiedemeyer, Box 92010, Meadowbrook RPO, Edmonton Alberta, T6T 1N1

F StP (nc)-BAR, A MUN s Turkish A Ruh-Bur (No Such Order), A FIN-Swe, A Mos-UKR, A War-GAL, A Lvn-STP, F Nwy-NWG, A BUL s A Ser, A BER s Turkish A Kie, A Ser s A BUL, A SIL s A Mun.

Turkey: Chris Gesell, 628 Furby Street, Winnipeg Manitoba, R3B 2W2

A Ruh-BEL, A Gas-PAR, F MaO-NAO, F WMed-MAO, F CON H, F NAF s F WMed-MAO, F SPA (sc) s F WMed-MaO, A KIE s German A Hol, F GoL-WMED, F Tun-ION, F Gre-AEG, A TYR s Russian A Mun, A Mar-GAS.

Draw Proposal: R/T Draw Yes: 2, No: 1, NVR 1. The proposal is defeated. R/T Draw is re-proposed. Please vote with Fall 1918 orders. As the previous R/T draw proposal was vetoed, an NVR will count as a NO vote.

Press:

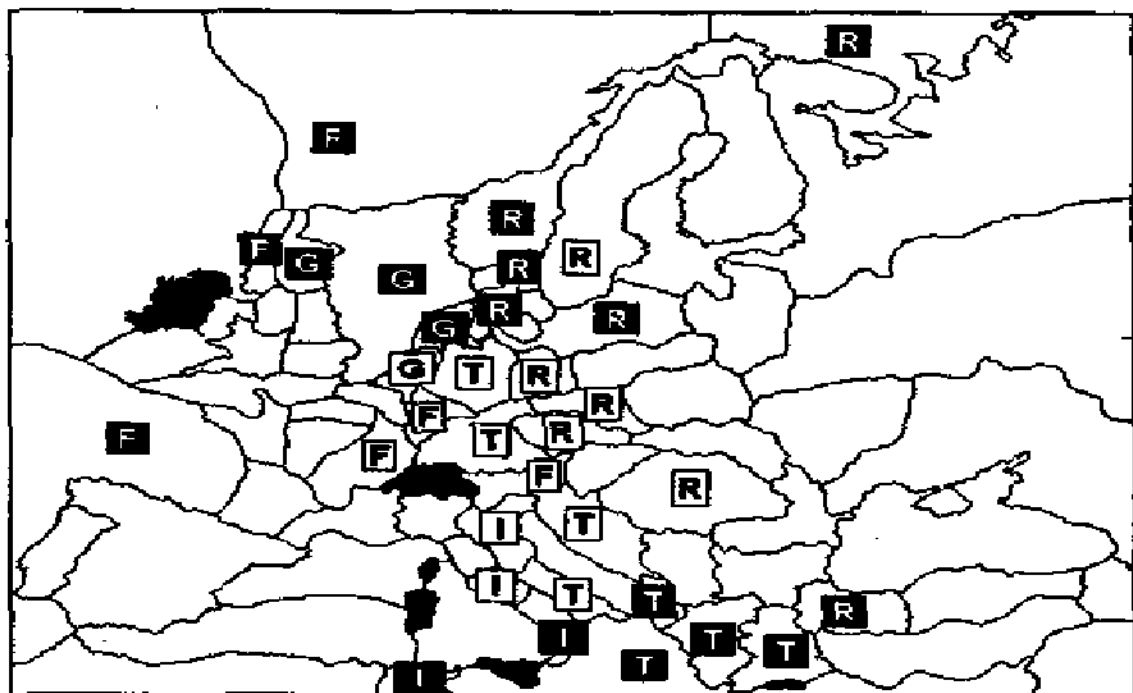
Germany-England: When this game is over, I look forward to your endgame statement explaining why you thought stabbing Italy and Germany in the back was the best way to stop Russia and/or Turkey from winning the game. Or maybe you thought you had a chance to win this game? Some other reason?

England-Germany: You are right. I am wrong No more bad stuff by me!

Germany-Turkey: I might as well toady and hope for survival. England does not seem to be willing to offer me even that much.

Deadline for Fall 1918 orders is: **MAY 5, 2000**

Aurora
1997Q
Regular Diplomacy
Spring 1907



Retreats

France retreats F Ion OTB, A Mun-Ruh

Builds and Removals

France builds A Mar

Russia builds F StP (nc)

Turkey builds A Smy

France: COA! Fred Weidemeyer, Box 92010, Meadowbrook RPO, Edmonton Alberta, T6T 1N1

A Mar-BUR, A Pie-TYR, A RUH s German A Kie, F CLY-Nwg, F Eng-MAO, F NWG-Nwy.

~~Canada~~ Dan Gavrilovic, 1530 Victoria Park Avenue, Apt. 803, North York, Ontario, M1L 4S1, Canada

A Kie H (D, Annihilated), A HOL H, F HEL H, F NTH H, F EDI H.

Italy: Tim Snyder, 1525 Palm Valley Blvd., #908, Round Rock, TX 78664

A ROM s A Ven, A VEN s French A Pie-Tyr, F NAP s French F Tyn-Ion (No Such Order), F TUN s French F Tyn-Ion (No Such Order).

Russia: Pete Duxon, 3 Bentley Drive, Kiln Lane, Church Langley, Harlow Essex, CM17 9PA, England

F StP (nc)-NWY, A BUD s Turkish A Tri (Unit On The Move), F BAR s F StP (nc)-Nwy,

A SWE s F Den, F BAL s Turkish A Ber-Kie, F DEN s Turkish A Ber-Kie, A SIL s A Pru-Ber, A Pru-BER, F Nwy-SKA, A BOH s Turkish A Mun, F Bul (ec)-CON.

Turkey: Robert Paquin, 426 Forest, Mont St-Hilaire, Quebec, J3H 4R3, Canada

A Ber-KIE, A MUN s A Ber-Kie, F AEG c A Smy-Apu, F ION c A Smy-Apu, F GRE s F Ion, F ALB s F Ion, A Smy-APU, A TRI-Tyr.

Will ~~Linnett~~ 2402 Ridgeland Avenue, Berwyn Illinois, 60402 please submit standby orders for Germany.

Draw Proposal: Concession to Russia is proposed. Please vote with your next orders. An NVR will be considered to be a "NO" vote.

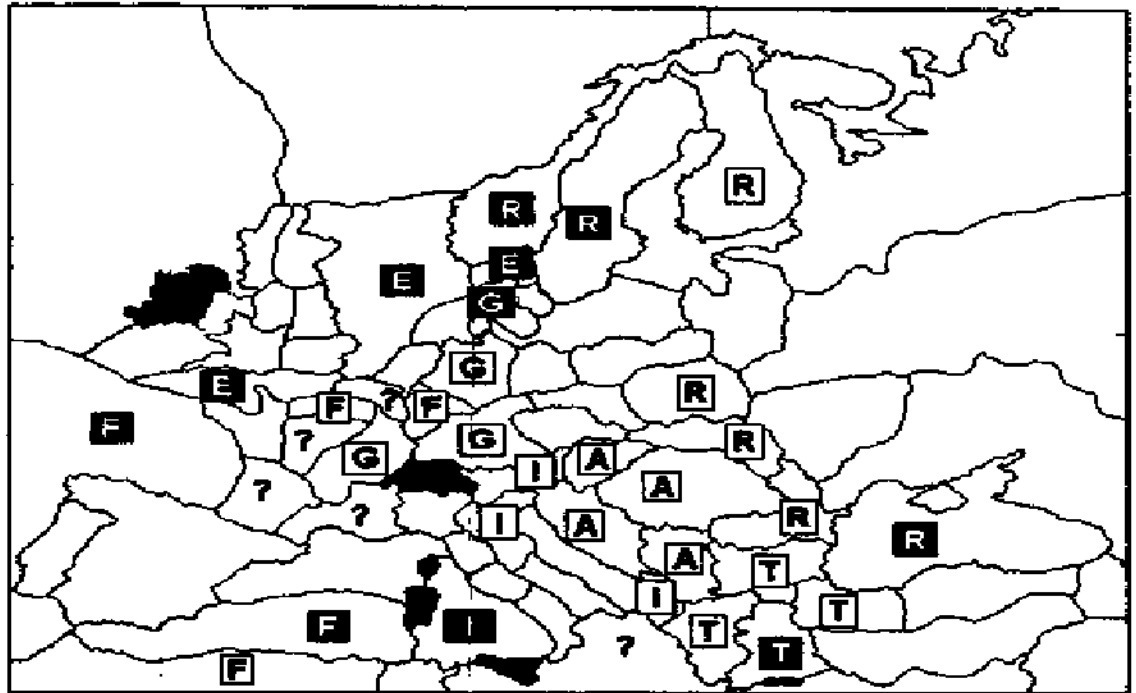
Press:

Ita - RT: This is going to drag on forever. Isn't it time one of you stabbed the other?

Deadline for Fall 1907 is MAY 5, 2000

Now What?

Patrician
1998Hrb32
Gunboat with Press
Spring 1903



Builds and Removals:

England removes A Yor

France builds F Bre

Germany removes F Hol

Russia builds F StP (nc) (the second build I listed was an error)

Austria: () A VIE s A Tri, A TRI s A Bud, A BUD s A Tri, A SER s Russian A Rum-Bul (No Such Order), F Gre s Russian A Rum-Bul (No Such Order) (D, Retreat Ion, OTB).

England: () F ENG c French A Pic-Den (No Such Order), F NTH c French A Pic-Den (No Such Order), F SKA s French A Pic-Den (No Such Order).

France: () F Bre-MAO, A Bel-RUH, A Bur-Mun (D, Retreat Gas, Bel, Mar, Par, OTB), A Spa-NAF, A PIC-Bur, F WMED c A Spa-NAF.

Germany: () A KIE s F Bal-Den, A MUN s A Ruh-Bur, A Ruh-BUR, F Bal-DEN.

Italy: () F Ion-TYN, A ALB-Tri, A TYR s A Alb-Tri, A VEN s A Alb-Tri.

Russia: () F StP (nc)-Nwy, A Nwy-FIN, F SWE s F StP (nc)-Nwy, F BLA s A Rum, A GAL s A Rum, A RUM s A Gal, A WAR H.

Turkey: () A Ank-CON, A BUL s A Con-Gre, A Con-GRE, F AEG c A Con-Gre.

Press:

England-Germany: Sheesh, don't take the game so seriously. Tell you what, 1st army you get to a coastal center I'll convoy to England!

fr-eng: ty 4 not sticking that knife too far in your ribs (suicide) and sup BEL. hopefully italy sees wisdom and im in MUN. in that event, a continuing support (EC) of that BEL unit would be appreciated in exchange 4 BEL supporting NTS -> HOL. BUR could cut RUH support

fr- italy: as i promised, im in NAF and my proposal stands, my army's retreat 4 continuing support of MUN, my quarrel is with germany not u as indeed my focus is eastward

fr- austria: please refrain from cutting TYR support. dont bite the hand that feeds, ill keep that unit occupied, no disrespect italy.

fr-austria/turk: if italy is back in TUNIS, i humbly ask for ION support to be cut as my army moves in with fleet support, I less 4 u all to deal with

(Continued on page 18)

Colonial (MALOC) 1996Zea04 "the little man in the boat" game

Dateline 1904, Asia: Ragnur proves to be the popular vacation spot as Russians, Brits and Chinese all attempt to vacation there. Mysore holds off Dutch invasion due to ruskie support. Tibet falls to chinese (what else is new) and russians backfill in kashmir results in unit's annihilation. In Far East, boredom prevails as everyone happily holds and supports. Zzzzzz....

Britain: Graham Wilson. 3 units. grahamaw@home.com

A Del -> Nag, A Bom S F Mys, F Mys S A Bom

Britain has sud, bom, del, -aden, 3 centers. Even.

China: Claude Gautron. 13 units. gautron@pangea.ca, gautron@hotmail.com

A Tongking S A Canton, A Canton S A Tongking, A Shanghai S A Manchuria, A Manchuria S A Shanghai, A Irkutsk S A Mongolia, A Mongolia H, A Langchow S A Sinkiang, A Chungking S A Sinkiang, A Assam - Tibet, A Sinkiang S A Assam - Tibet, A Bengal S A Assam - Tibet, A Upper Burma S A Bengal, A Lucknow - Nagpur

China has can, u.bur, vla, ben, ton, sha, manchuria, mon, ass, mandalay, chu, sinkiang, pek. 13 centers. Even.

France: Chris Gesell. 1 unit. umgesel2@cc.UManitoba.CA

F Cebu H

France has cebu. 1 center. Even.

Holland: Brian Wansleeb. 13 units. wansleeb@cadvision.com

F WIO->MYS, F MAD S F WIO->MYS, A HYD S F WIO->MYS, F EIO->WIO, F GOM S F EIO->WIO, F BOB S A HYD, A ANN H, F GOS S F SUN.S, F SUN.S S F SUL.S, F CS S F SUL.S, F SUL.S S F DAV, F LP S F DAV, F DAV H

Holland has ann, mad, coc, cey, ran, ban, malaya, dav, singapore, sar, new, sum, bor, java. 14 centers. build 1.

Japan: Glenn McMaster. 11 units. vapormatic@attcanada.net

F MP sup Fre F Cebu, A Manila sup Fre F Cebu, F HK sup F SCS, F ECS sup F SCS, F Luz sup Fre F Cebu, F PART sup A Seoul, (GM: A Seo holds), (GM: F YS holds), (GM: A Kyu holds), (GM: F For holds), (GM: F SCS holds)

Japan has hk, p.art, seo, manila, fus, for, sak, ota, tok, kyo, kyu. 11 centers. Even.

Russia: Dale Horsley. 15 units. dhorsley@excite.com

A EGY -> ARA, F R.S c A EGY -> ARA, F ADEN H, F GOA c A EGY -> ARA, F ARA S. s (british) F MYS, A RAJ -> NAG, A PUN s A NEP, A AFG -> KAM, A TIB -> BEN (annihilated), A NEP s (british) A DEL -> LUC (NSO), A KAG -> SIK, A URU s A KAG -> SIK, A SEM s A AKM -> KRA, A AKM -> KRA, A KRA -> MON

Russia has +aden, bag, shi, kar, tab, egy, per, kam, ang, kag, con, rum, tas, ode, mos, omsk. 16 centers. Build 1.

re-proposed: a 4-way draw between China, Holland, Japan, and Russia. NVR = yes. Vote next turn. See below for results of this vote.

voted: a 4-way draw between China, Holland, Japan, and Russia. 2 Yes, 1 No to the Lame draw, 2 No, 1 NVR. Motion fails.

Press:

russia-all: happy belated new year!, hopefully, well see some great change this millenium, (hopefully quickly in this game!)

russia-britain: sorry fella, your still in it!

russia-japan: ok now im ready to talk about china, i resisted your pact againt claude, but now im ready!

russia-holland: how much of india did u want again?

China to Russia: Don't you have anything interesting to say, or is your vocabulary limited to 200 words?

Patrician Press (Continued from page 16)

fr-russia: we move closer to the middle!

Deutschland-Toontown: What does it take to get a press war going in this group?

Toontown-Deutschland: Consider yourself lucky. This game actually *has* press!

Ber-Lon: For one who can't rhyme Nantucket,

"Diplomacy" you should shuck it.

Your master is France.

Your head on his lance---

I won't say where he first stuck it!

Italy-Austria: My actions were not the result of my failure to see the potential danger of an R/T alliance but a recognition that Your life could be short in the face of such an alliance and I should try to get a piece of the pie for myself or face a powerful alliance coming my way without the resources to have a hope to defend myself. Unfortunately, that meant a piece of you. I would prefer to not have such an event but until E/F/G put aside their differences and join forces to face the coming R/T, I'll just try to stay alive and gain a little ground. Either way I didn't see you sticking with us long, so I just wanted a cut.

Italy - France: See my note above. R/T is coming. If you and E cannot agree to help G hold them off, then finish him fast. I don't relish the idea of finding myself between E/F and R/T, but I'll do what I can to stay alive. I cannot help you against Germany as he may be the only thing standing between the rest of us and R/T. On the other hand, I'm not in position to help him against you.

Italy - Germany: Nothing to fear from me. My hands are full in my own area without bringing additional problems by gaining another enemy.

Italy - Turkey: You're going to have to make any gains either by yourself or with Russia's help. Helping you just hurts my position.

R-G: Peace and friendship brother. Get your fleet into Denmark and then help my F Nwy into NTH.

R-T: Right...westward ho!

Deadline for Fall 1903 orders is **MAY 5, 2000**

Little Man In A Boat Press (Continued from page 17)

French-World: The French would like to announce to the world that they have tired of their complacency and would once again try to accomplish something. Any requests for assistance will be accepted and scrutinized at the foreign affairs department located on the island of Cebu. Note: The french will not settle for a 4 way draw and will not rest until someone is crowned victorious.

Gm- France: You tell'em Chris! Give'em heck!

HOL-RUS: Actually, YOU are the one who refused to talk with me. Something about how you were doing fine on your own, why should Holland own India? etc. etc. Well, nice little traffic jam now eh?

HOL-CHI: I know your troops are tired. Mine are too. Maybe if the Russian troops would get tired...

HOL-JAP: Can I borrow a sword from your armory? Mine's getting dull hacking at resistant British troops.

HOL-FRA: I was going to order F DAV to support you, but I thought you were just fine and I didn't want my troops getting too close to see how you are enjoying a life of leisure.

HOL-GM: Flames are in a playoff spot man! (at time I'm righting this anyway). Dance of joy!

GM-HOL: Wanna bet a pitcher of beer on the outcome if the Avs meet the Flame-outs? Huh huh huh???

Next turn: 1906 ("Spring 1910").

(Continued on page 19)

So Long And Thanks For All The Fish III

End Game Report for 1994CF Rainbow

G.M.: Brent McKee Zine: Making Love In A Canoe

Date Started: December 1994 Date Ended: December 1999

Players

Austria: Paul Hesse (Dropped: Spring 1908), Bob Acheson (Eliminated: Fall 1914)

England: Dan Gavrilovic (Survived)

France: Bob Sorfleet (Out: Fall 1906)

Germany: Fred Weidemeyer (Win: Fall 1914)

Italy: Mark Weseman (Resigned: Winter 1901), Steve McKinnon (Resigned: Spring 1904),
Richard Goranson (Out: Spring 1910)

Russia: Melinda Holley (Out: Spring 1913)

Turkey: James Byers (Dropped: Spring 1914), W. Andrew York (Survived)

| | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 06 | 07 | 08 | 09 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
|---------|----|----|----|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|------|----|
| Austria | 5 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| England | 5 | 5 | 6 | 8 ‡ | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 11 | 9 | 6 |
| France | 4 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | | | | | | | | |
| Germany | 5 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 11 | 12 | 12 | 13 | 16 * | 21 |
| Italy | 4 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | | | | |
| Russia | 5 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | |
| Turkey | 4 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 7 | 7 |

Portugal, Sweden & Greece neutral 1901, Portugal neutral 1902.

* Played 1 short Played ‡ 2 short

GM's Notes: Since no one sent in end game notes, I guess it's left to me to. To say that NMRs played a role in the final result is an understatement, particularly Dan's occasional disappearances, Rich's health problems, and the drop-outs by James and Paul. The turn-over in Italian players didn't help. A three-way E-G-T alliance was apparently established, at least informally. While Turkey held Russia at bay and made inroads into Austria, Germany and England dismantled France. Then as Fred redeployed south and east, Dan shifted most of his force, into the Mediterranean to crush Italy. Turkey was the anvil onto which first Italy, then Austria and finally Russia were hammered into extinction. In the end it appears that Dan committed himself far too much in the Mediterranean. This, combined with one of his absences, gave Fred the chance to go for the win. Although he grabbed five centers in 1914 (two from Austria, three from England and a swap with Turkey, the end was a probably forgone conclusion when Fred hit 16 —there was *nothing* to stop him from getting those last two centers in 1914. In part this can be attributed to Dan's NMR's, but in part must be attributed to a strategy that moved fleets into the Eastern Med leaving the centers in the Iberian Peninsula naked.

Little Man In A Boat Press (Continued from page 18)

Useless Ramblings: Let me see... good excuses... good excuses... I was having a frontal lobotomy so I couldn't get around to adjudicating the game. They promoted me to CEO and I just took over AOL. The Pope called me to Rome and no one refuses the Pope. Got any others? Actually my best excuse is that I'm busy at work, and I've got too many diplomacy games going. I'm hoping one will come to an end soon. So hurry up and win already! Geez! ;-) As you all know Claude's on the move in March, but says his Hotmail account is still active. Also make sure you are using everyone's correct email addresses (above). Other than that - good luck and email me if there are any problems.

A TV Recommendation

I have pretty much given up on recommending TV series to my readers, for the simple reason that the shows I like and tell people about are usually soon cancelled. I have no such problems this time; the show I am about to recommend has already been cancelled — but not here.

The program is *Iron Chef*, which is seen on cable's *Food Network*. *Iron Chef* (or *Ryori no Tetsujin*) was been produced by Japan's Fuji Television for the past six years and has reportedly did very well in the ratings. Cancellation came as a result of costs; *Iron Chef* was one of the most expensive shows on Japanese television (the show uses Fuji TV's largest studio; each time the studio was set up for the program temporary gas lines had to be laid to the stoves, and a fire marshal had to be on site as long as the lines were in place). The series has been seen on Asian stations in North America, with subtitles for non-Japanese viewers. The Food Network purchased it this past summer, with the speaking parts dubbed (with one exception). The purchase was an experiment, but one which has proven very successful in terms of rating.

The premise of the series is that an eccentric gourmet played by Japanese actor Takeshi Kaga (whose voice is not dubbed) has set up "Kitchen Stadium". There he brings some of Japan and the world's best chefs to confront one of his four "Iron Chefs". Each week a theme ingredient is featured. Each dish produced must feature this theme ingredient. These may be a simple as potatoes or egg plant, or as exotic as Sweet Fish or Mishima Beef (Mishima Beef is a type of Aberdeen Angus cattle raised on the island of Mishima; only 12 steers are sold each year, for a price of around \$10,000 each). The chefs have one hour to produce as many dishes as they can. These are then judged by a panel of four members; two women (a youngish singer or actress and an older woman, usually culinary critic Asako Kishi (aka "The East German Judge" for her rigid judging)) and two men (usually an artist or actor).

That's the premise. Now, throw most of it out. The show is more like a sporting event crossed with a Samurai duel (the contests are "battles" such as the recent "Tofu Battle"). There is an announcer (Kenji Fukui or "Fukui-san"), a colour commentator (Dr. Yukio Hattori, known as "Doc") and an on-field reporter (Shinichiro Ota). Two of the judging panel observe the cooking and comment about what is going on, usually the young woman and one of the men. The commentary usually focuses on what the ingredients are and what the chefs are doing with them, with Ota interrupting with a list of ingredients. Ota also talks to people in the "Royal Box" where friends, colleagues and family of the challenger are seated. At the end of the hour first the challenger and then the Iron Chef serve what they have completed. Since there are usually four or five dishes from each man the panel are well fed.

The food has a Japanese flair even when the French and Italian Iron Chefs are in battle. Fish livers soaked in bourbon and brandy and them with chocolate as a desert? Fried Sardine bones? Ice cream served with specially prepared slices of egg plant? It gets, and looks better and better.

There's a lot of things that appeal about the show. First there's the personalities of the Iron Chefs. The current Iron Chef Japanese (Masiharu Morimoto), chef at *Nobu* in New York, is tall, imposing and unconventional. Iron Chef Chinese (Chen Kenichi) is chubby and jolly. The rarely seen Iron Chef Italian (Masuhiko Kobe) is young, flamboyant and brash. Iron Chef French (Hiroyuki Sakai) is older and dignified. Then there is the personalities of the commentators. Here is where dubbing creates impressions. The young woman guest (whoever she may be) often comes across as a bit of a ditz, while the male guest is enthusiastic. Ota is fast talking and excitable, Fukui-san interested but a bit clueless. Hattori is the voice of the expert.

This show is a feast for the senses and entirely Japanese. No North American network would think of putting something like this on the air, let alone in prime time! About the closest show to this that I know of is *Ready, Set, Cook!* Food Network's dismal adaption of a British programme which has been adapted by the Food Network. This is a pale imitation of the Japanese show. *Iron Chef* is a fascinating program. Hopefully the Food Network will buy all six years of the show and have them dubbed. It makes a change from regular TV.