

Making Love In A Canoe

Number 51

Still Hanging On

June 15, 2001



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MAKING LOVE IN A CANOE is an amateur publication dedicated to the play of Diplomacy, which was invented by Alan Calhamer 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 4 cents per page plus postage (and GST on the postage). The game fee for openings in **MAKING LOVE IN A CANOE** is \$2.00 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. Cost anywhere else in the world is \$1.75 per issue. All prices are in Canadian funds.

Deadline for money, letters or anything else is: **August 2, 2001**

About the Cover

The man on the cover is Mr Harold Lloyd in one of the most famous shots from the 1923 movie *Safety Last*. Like me and this zine, he is hanging on.

Harold Lloyd has been dubbed the "third genius" by silent movie experts (the other two were Buster Keaton and of course Charlie Chaplin). While Chaplin was the indomitable Little Tramp and Keaton the put-upon Stone Face, Lloyd's character was that 1920's standard, the perpetually optimistic go-getter. In the movie that this shot comes from he is a department store clerk who is climbing the outside of the store (against his will — a professional dare devil was supposed to do it) to earn a promotion and thus be able to marry his hometown sweetheart. He triumphs over whatever adversity he encounters. I like him.

Standby List

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, Harry Andruschak, Andy Lischett (one game at a time), Tim Snyder.

Price Changes

Increases in copying costs have forced me to increase the price per page to 4 cents from 3 1/2 effective immediately. I became aware of this situation last issue but wasn't sure what to do about it. I've also reluctantly decided to bump the price of International subscriptions to \$1.75 from \$1.50. Finally I have also decided to reduce the game fee from \$4 to \$2, partially in response to this but also in hopes of encouraging sign-ups in existing games.

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Your current balance is: \$ *Trade*

11 Months of Stuff in 4 Pages

It was a simple plan. I would fly down to Baltimore on Monday morning for the World Boardgames Championship, which included World Dipcon 2000. On Tuesday I'd take the train down to Washington for the day returning before the tournament started. Wednesday through Sunday afternoon would be devoted to playing games, particularly Diplomacy and, mostly, meeting people. (I make no bones about the fact that I am a pretty poor player face to face as well as by mail.) Then on Monday, after checking out of the hotel I wanted to spend a few hours in Baltimore itself before taking the evening plane home. Funny how many simple plans really aren't.

Afterwards my brother Greg put all the blame on my tendency to procrastinate. It is true that I procrastinate but in my defense I was waiting for things. The biggest problem seemed to be the airfare. There are only two choices when flying from Saskatoon to Baltimore: Northwest and Air Canada. As I mentioned last issue the fare from Northwest (taxes included) was around \$832 Canadian (Saskatoon-Minneapolis-Baltimore return). Air Canada (Saskatoon-Toronto-Baltimore) was just as bad and the last leg was on a DASH-8 turboprop. So I needed a seat sale. I wasn't going to book a flight at regular fare until I knew there was no possibility of getting a seat sale. And I wasn't going to book the hotel until I was sure of the air situation, since it would have an effect on which hotel I could afford. And of course I wasn't going to register for the tournament until I was sure I'd be going. And why go to a travel agent unless you're sure about the whole venture.

Eventually I did get in touch with a travel agent about a month before the date, who advised not to book until a couple of weeks before departure in case a seat sale did occur. I also got an Amtrak timetable (the wrong one as it turned out) which raised a whole new problem. Apparently, to enter the United States I needed photo I.D. I don't drive, don't own a firearm, and am self-employed. The only photo I.D. I have is my old university library card and that's 25 years old. I don't

know about you but I've changed in 25 years! The easiest I.D. to get would be a passport, so I started filling out the forms for one.

Things were finally starting to gel. Given that a seat sale was unlikely, I decided to stay at the Hampton Inn. Their convention rate was \$64 US plus 13% tax, and as far as I could tell no cut off date for reservations. The hotel was about a mile from the convention site but I could walk there in the mornings, and would work something out to get back at night. I decided to book the hotel room on July 3. That was the final procrastination. I had assumed that the cut-off date for the Hampton Inn would be the same as for the other two hotels listed – mid-July. The day before I was going to call about the reservation I learned from a Boardgame Players Association (the convention organizer) e-mail that I was wrong. The Hampton Inn's convention rate ended on July 1. Working out the increased costs (the regular rate for a single room at the hotel is \$84 US) meant that a staying a week would be an extra \$250 Canadian for the week, which I just couldn't justify to myself.

Instead of going to the convention I decided to get a couple of things I've been wanting: a new TV and a new bicycle. The bicycle is a 21 speed CCM (Canadian Cycle and Motor, a company that dates back 1899) which replaces a 6 speed that used to be a 12 speed which has been giving me a ton of problems. The TV is a 27" JVC with stereo sound and picture in picture, which replaces my 16 year-old Hitachi 19" set, which was growing increasingly dim over the years. Total cost was less than half of my total projected cost for the Baltimore trip.

Oh yes, the difference between seat sale and regular price. I said that flying Northwest or Air Canada was roughly the same price, around \$832 with taxes. When Air Canada finally offered a seat sale the fare from Saskatoon to Baltimore was \$479 plus taxes.

Long time readers will know that I am a fan of international shortwave broadcasting. I was angered when Radio Canada International was threatened with extinction and have

been irritated as various international broadcasters have cut back their service — most recently Swiss Radio International. But nothing prepared me for the most recent blow. As of July 1, 2001, the BBC World Service will discontinue their broadcasts to North America and to the Australia-New Zealand region.

The decision to discontinue shortwave service to North America came out of the blue, so much so that at this writing they still have not officially announced it either on their website or on their programming. However, inquiries to the World Service have resulted in emails that state that the service will be discontinued. The letters claim that the affected areas are not being abandoned; they will be served by satellite, cable, rebroadcast by domestic FM stations, and internet streaming audio. None of which has a reach that is as effective as the current shortwave service.

In my case, I am currently unable to use any of the suggested means. No domestic FM stations in my area offers the World Service at any time and since the ones I can receive are all privately owned, except for the CBC which has its own programming, they are unlikely to start. CBC Radio One does present a half hour news program from BBC as a part of their overnight service. I do not own a satellite dish. I do have cable TV but the "cable radio" option is available only to owners of a digital cable box, and even if I had one my stereo is too old for the new equipment. As for the internet feed, I have a 33.6 Kbps modem and have access for 15 hours a month before hourly fees kick in. I have better things to do with that time than listen to a radio station, even the BBC World Service. But there are other problems.

According to people who do have superior connections the quality of internet radio is not all that it could be. Listeners to the World Service online have reported that the sound is substandard, even by comparison to shortwave. Things get worse as more people try to connect. As well there are some things (mainly live sports such as soccer) that are available on shortwave but not on the internet audio stream because the BBC doesn't own those rights.

The BBC World Service is the standard by which other international broadcasters are judged. Their news reporting is scrupulously fair and honest. They present sports in an entertaining manner, offer a spectrum of music and entertainment programs to their international listeners. That is why the decision to cut service to North America and Australia-New Zealand feels like a betrayal.

It is also short-sighted. A few years ago the Australian government reduced funding to Radio Australia, their international broadcaster. Like the BBC (and Radio Canada before them) they expected people to turn to the internet and satellite TV and radio. They even created an international TV service, *TV Australia*. They sold their major transmission site of the Pacific region, in Darwin, to an American evangelical station. And then they found out that they really did need shortwave. When the East Timor crisis began they found that shortwave radio was the most effective way to reach people in Timor and the whole Pacific area. They needed it to the point where they had to reach an agreement with the new owners of the Darwin transmitter site to use it for their own broadcasts. The executives at the BBC World Service might believe that the areas they are cutting are affluent enough not to need the shortwave service, but it is still the most effective way to reach us.

The loss of the Russian submarine *Kursk* and the rescue efforts, which eventually failed, was a major news event despite the efforts of the Russian government to hide it. While the circumstances of the submarine's loss are subject to a great deal of speculation, the events surrounding the rescue effort reveal a great deal.

Submarine rescue is a comparatively new aspect of naval operations. Development of the first equipment started following the loss of the *USS Thresher* in the early 1960s. In fact remains that in most cases equipment like the Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicles *Mystic* and *Avalon* will never do what they were built to do. Most of the time when a submarine is lost it is in a place that is lost too deep for anyone to survive. Nevertheless other countries, including the United Kingdom, France,

Germany, Sweden Israel and even Australia have some form of deep submarine rescue vehicles, all of which are air transportable.

The loss of the *USS Scorpion* is a text book example of what happens. *Scorpion* was lost in the mid-Atlantic while returning to base. A variety of means were used to pinpoint her final resting place and several submersibles were sent down to examine the wreck. There was no possibility of anyone surviving; most of the hull had been crushed like a beer can by water pressure. The only undamaged area was the forward torpedo room, which had apparently flooded before the submarine reached its maximum, or crush, depth. The fact that several hatches in that section seemed to have been blown open has led to speculation that the *Scorpion* suffered an explosion in the torpedo room. Unable to gain enough buoyancy to reach the surface the submarine hurtled to the sea floor, but before reaching it was crushed. Newer alloys can increase the crush depth but because most submarines operate in deep water if a submarine suffers a catastrophic injury it will most likely be crushed. DSRV's are mainly of use for investigating wreckage and for other operations.

The *Kursk* was lost under different circumstances. The Russian sub went down in comparatively shallow water, about 100 meters, well above most submarines' crush depth. The problem was the rescue process that the Russians used, combined with official secrecy. The Soviet Union had a modern rescue system — two *India* class submarines equipped to carry rescue submersibles — but this capability was lost with defense budget cuts that left the Army with an increased percentage of the lower total budget. A deep diving team was also sacrificed for the same reason. Yet the Russian government was unwilling to accept foreign help until very late in the process. The United States offered to fly *Avalon* to Murmansk to participate in the rescue effort as soon as the loss became known. The offer was refused. The British flew their rescue craft to Trondheim Norway and waited while the Russians tried to carry out the operation with what was described as a "diving bell". By its nature this is tethered to a surface ship and has

limited maneuverability.

Eventually, amidst a rising sense of public concern and anger at the government, the Russians asked for the British submersible and a Norwegian diving team (a private company servicing off-shore oil rigs) to assist. However they had to reach the search area by sea from Trondheim rather than flying to Murmansk and linking up with a Russian ship. The official reason was that the airfield at Murmansk, one of Russia's most important military bases, could not handle an airplane large enough to carry the submersible. This added at least two days to the time needed for the rescue equipment to reach the scene. In the meantime the Russians continued to make it known that a rescue attempt would be impossible. It had been stated that the *Kursk* had a 60° list meaning that no submersible except the Australian *REMORA* system (built by a Canadian company) could link to the rescue hatch. In fact the list was about 12°. It was then stated that both the fore and aft rescue hatches were so badly damaged that they could not be opened. However the Norwegian divers quickly determined that, although flooded, the aft hatch was perfectly operational. In less than two days they also found out that the *Kursk* was totally flooded.

What happened to the *Kursk*? The Russians initially claimed a collision with another country's submarine — American, British, even Norwegian. The evidence speaks against this. The *Kursk* was huge; at over 500 feet long and displacing 18,000 tons the class is the second only to the *Typhoon* class ballistic missile boats and up to three times larger than British or American hunter-killer submarines. A collision powerful enough to breach the *Kursk*'s double-hull would have left two submarines on the ocean floor, not just one. There were two American submarines in the area as well as a SURTASS ship (essentially a trawler carrying a highly sensitive towed-array sonar system). They reported two distinct explosions — a small one followed within two minutes by a larger one. This was supported by a seismographic report of a Richter 3.0 quake in the area where the *Kursk* went down. Visual examination of the forward areas of the sub-

marine showed them to be blown out not pushed in as would have occurred in a collision. The most likely explanation is that a torpedo, or the volatile fuel the Russians use for their torpedo motors, exploded. This was the first explosion recorded. The larger explosion — possibly the other torpedoes or their propellants exploding all at once, followed this. The second explosion undoubtedly damaged the forward sections of the hull and weakening internal bulkheads in the aft sections. From the recovery of bodies we know that 23 men survived the initial catastrophe and after discovering that the aft escape hatch had flooded took shelter in the rear-most compartment. There they died, most likely of asphyxiation from CO₂ under high pressure, while waiting for rescue.

The belief expressed by the Russian leadership that the crew of the *Kursk* was dead by the time the rescue attempts began does not mean that the utmost effort should not have been made. The truth is that trying to rescue sailors in danger at sea is, or should be, part of the covenant which governments enter into with those who serve in their navies and merchant marine. The Russian government, having given up the real ability to rescue possible survivors, breached that covenant by not immediately seeking the aid of those who had that ability.

Next, a medical application of a part of a military dream. The Strategic Defense Initiative was an attempt to protect the United States from a Ballistic Missile attack. It failed, as much from the inability to create the necessary technology as for political and geopolitical reasons. However one aspect of SDI has been the seed for a promising non-invasive treatment for Breast Cancer. To understand how this works you need to know something about waves and about cancer cells.

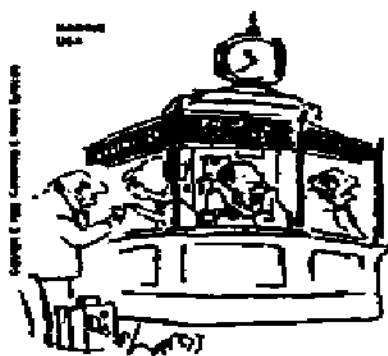
Phased Array Radar was meant to pinpoint incoming missiles for targetting purposes. The system works by intersecting two radar beams in an area. Radar beams are microwaves; when waves intersect they are additive — two equal high points coming together make a peak that is twice as high as the original high point and the same applies to lows. The two microwave

beams can be focussed quite finely. Breast Cancer cells begin dying after exposures to high temperatures — over 108° F. They also have a high concentration of water and microwaves heat water.

What the new treatment does is to place two finely focussed microwave generators in a position against the affected breast. Neither is strong enough to damage healthy tissue although individually they can affect microscopic tumors. Where they intersect they will generate heat; the current procedure aims to create a temperature of 114° for about 10 minutes. In tests with 10 women who were scheduled to have mastectomies tumors were reduced on average by 50% within one week (when the surgery was done). The next stage of testing will be involved a larger group of subjects, some of whom will have lumpectomies rather than radical mastectomies in order to learn how effective the treatment is in the longer term.

Not much to say about Canada's election. Chretien won. The Bloc Quebecois waned. The Conservatives won seats in Eastern Canada, a few in Ontario and one in the West. The Alliance dominated the West but won nothing east of Ontario. The NDP lost most of their seats in Eastern Canada thanks to deep Liberal pockets. It is very possible that none of the party leaders in this election will be around for the next one.

One thing that I can say for sure is that the way Canadians run their elections is a lot more efficient than the way some Americans do. Which is somewhat ironic, given that the American system featuring one election day for everything was designed to make the process more efficient. That drive for efficiency led to trying to mechanize the voting process. In some areas this effort has led to a voting process that is less accurate than a Time/CNN opinion poll. What I do know is that in Canada every vote cast was counted, by hand, and the results were still known within four hours of polls closing. I know, different systems, but better ways of casting votes do exist and it is almost literally a crime that they aren't used because it is too expensive to change. Until of course a crisis happens.



THE NUT HUTCH

Lief Bergman, Sundbyberg Sweden: First of all, sorry for not writing earlier to you most excellent zine.

I like it a lot, not for the game since I don't play in them but for the general feeling I get from it, I get the same calm as when I hear some nice slow music or sit in the sun with a Cuba Libre drink in my hand. I usually read the zines I get when riding the underground to work and the other day I was approached by a man in his late twenties asking what is that, pointing at the zine I was reading. It turned out that he had recognized the Diplomacy map and that he played himself but had never heard of the zine world or that there is something like a worldwide hobby. We started to talk and exchanged email addresses (That's interesting now a days we exchange email addresses not snail mail or telephone numbers) and all of a sudden we have one more for f2f gaming and zine subbing. See what good your zine can do.....

((BM: One of many things about a zine, or indeed any tactile printed media is just that — someone can see you reading it, look over your shoulder to see what has you so engrossed, and actually engage you in conversation about it. It doesn't matter if it's a book newspaper magazine or zine. Try doing that with a website. Call it a shared experience on a small scale. It's the reason why going to a movie is better than renting a video. Shared experience is important in terms of exchanging ideas and building opinions. Sadly I think that, in many areas, it is increasingly rare.))

Regarding the SETI@Home project. I have been helping them for a year now and nothing have happened of course, but it sure is

thrilling to think about the fact that it can be my computer that finds it, I don't have any means to find that out and they will probably not let me know about it if they find something in the data I send them but it's thrilling anyway.

((BM: Part of it is that I don't know what "signs" would indicate that something has been found. I've seen things when my data has been running that I think could be significant but I have no way of knowing if it is or not.))

I have started a Diplomacy Club with some members, join if you want to, I haven't done any plugging for it so you will be one of the first to join if doing so. An other club of interest is Team Sverok, Sverok is the national association of gamers in Sweden with around 25 000 members.

((BM: The North American hobby is not nearly that organized. The boardgames hobby has some groups like the "Boardgames Players Alliance" that formed to run what was Avaloncon, but as far as Diplomacy goes the closest we come is supporting things like Dipcon, Diplomacy World and Diplomacy Pouch. Europeans seem far more interested in organization. Maybe you've just had better experiences with it.))

I hope all is nice in Canada, in Sweden we have 25 degrees Celsius right now and my beer is chilled and in my resting chair the book I'm reading at the moment have around 100 pages left so over and out.

((BM: Needless to say that was written last summer. We had a weird summer here. Mostly it was temperate with some really hot, humid days. We did seem to have lot of rain, which is unusual. This winter wasn't too bad — a late December cold snap was the worst of it with temperatures between -25° and -35°, while February was milder than usual.))

Brad Martin, Willeton Australia: Last issue you made the statement (I paraphrase) "Poland was defeated by the German Blitzkrieg tactics". I believe that the Polish defeat in September 1939 goes much deeper than this.

((BM: Quite true, there were a lot of reasons for Poland's rapid fall but the state-

ment I was replying to was that the Polish defeat was a result of a German numerical superiority which simply did not exist.)

During the Interwar period Poland was ruled by the autocratic Marshal Pilsudski and then after his death by a group of army 'colonels'. These military men were neo-fascists and actually signed a Non-aggression pact with Germany. They were fanatic anti-Communists and based their war plans on the assumption that Germany would be their ally in a war of aggression against Soviet Russia. They were also planning to fight the 'last war' — the Russo-Polish War. This was a low-technology, infantry and cavalry war. The autocratic government had suppressed many of the democratic elements, thus reducing national solidarity. When the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact was signed the Polish war plans were thrown into disarray. Forces had to be diverted from the east to the west and political considerations required all border areas to be defended. Even though a German invasion was obvious the Poles refused to begin an early mobilisation for fear of provoking them. They also placed an unrealistic expectation on the rapid arrival of British/French aid. When the Germans did attack the Polish military was only partially mobilised and the airforce was caught on the ground. The bulk of the populace were still enjoying their August holidays.

((BM: Every victorious nation seems to start by fighting its last war; only the defeated are innovative. The post-Pilsudsky dictatorship was a major factor in the rot that consumed Poland and not inconsequential in their defeat. In some ways the old Poland was as multi-ethnic as Bosnia with three groups (Poles Ukrainians and Jews) living in something resembling harmony which was lost when Pilsudsky died. It is not often mentioned that the Poles were a major obstacle to Russia's plan to support Czechoslovakia in 1938 or that Poland participated in the final dismantling of Czechoslovakia as a partner of Germany. As for the rest, I covered many of those points in my reply to Rob Lesco in issue #50. I don't know that having the army fully mobilised and deployed entirely against Ger-

many would have helped Poland though because of superior German tactics. An interesting question is how Poland might have fared against the organization and tactics of the 1939 Britain and France. Poland probably would have lost but not nearly as fast.))

Mark Stretch, Oxfordshire, England: Thanks for the zine. Email games these days do tend to have more correspondence than the old postal ones. Obviously it is easier for people to sit down in front of their computer and type of a quick few lines to an ally than post something. I'm GMing various games by email through the Dip 2000 site, and in general there is more negotiation there than in the last postal games I ran in OMR. If you are interested, the web address is:-

<http://www.lancedal.demon.co.uk/dip2000/>

Keep up the good work with the zine.

((BM: I must confess that I've never played by E-Mail. First of all I was a pretty lousy player in PBM secondly, I prefer the "leisurely" pace of PBM and finally, even at the best of times I tend to put off sending emails until it's too late. Both Robert Paquin and Rob Lesco have pointed out to me that they haven't received increased correspondence after getting email addresses. Of course I am still a bit of a techno-Luddite — I prefer holding something in my hand and reading it. So sue me!))

Rob Lesco, Brampton Ontario: As I said, it must be comforting to imagine that the organizers of just about every left-wing protest in recent memory never intended any violence. However, just like the belief that society could possibly benefit from the imposition of their pet system, the facts are most unkind. These groups from the antiglobalization luddites to Ontario's anti-poverty activists show up with weapons, boast of upcoming attacks on their web-sites and promise more in the future. It's hardly spontaneous. You ought to be ashamed of yourself for comparing such things to Martin Luther King. Dr. King needed to (sic) balaclava nor did he encourage looting. The behaviour of today's demonstrators would have been completely foreign to him.

((BM: I am increasingly coming around to your point of view with regard to the anti-

globalization protesters. Initially I was of the opinion that what Seattle was the act of a few and an anomaly. Subsequent events seem to disprove this. I also confess that what has come out about the Anti-poverty Coalition tends to alienate me from that group (but not to the extent that I have patience for policies of Mike Harris). That said I don't agree with your assessment that left-wing protest equals an intent to violence. The anti-Suharto protesters at the Vancouver APEC Summit didn't seem too violent when the RCMP decided to break up their protest.)

Your own zine cover attests to the fact that the millenium marks Christ's birth I guess we could reset our calendars by six years or so, but since, to date, no show-offs have renamed the months from September through December in spite of the fact that they aren't really the 7th through 10th month of the year, I see no need to rename B.C. & A.D.

((BM: Well the Roman calendar is a complete mess. They started off with 10 months and a year of 304 days with an extra month added in every couple of years to make it correspond with the seasons. At some point someone added two extra months in order to collect more taxes. Julius Caesar remade the calendar and as a reward named Quintilis for himself (July). Not to be outdone Octavian renamed Sextilis for himself (August). I wouldn't be surprised if other months were renamed by emperors, but the names didn't stick. I'm not suggesting resetting the calendars (although it was done in most places in 1582 when the Gregorian system was introduced and everything jumped ahead by 10 days). I did want to point out the rather humorous notion that Dionysius Exiguus, the noted scholar, set the whole thing up on a flawed premise. All of which makes all those people who expected the Apocalypse to somehow be tied to the calendar seem a greater bunch of idiots than they actually are -- if that's possible. Oh, and for the record, December 25 is not Christ's Birthday; the evidence is in the Bible.))

Actually it seems you can't turn around the point. Not even Glaxo-Wellcome owns a monopoly on any therapeutic class so I don't

see a comparison to union dues being extorted as a condition of employment by a third party. People can and do boycott or support firms based on politics and global conduct [perhaps you will recall the Nestlé's boycott of the '70s & '80s] but there is little choice offered a Chrysler worker as to how monies supposedly intended for collective bargaining get used. Many were appalled that their union bankrolls the Ontario Coalition Against Poverty activists who stormed the legislature with molotov cocktails, assaulted the police and injured most of their horses.

((BM: I definitely recall the Nestlé's boycott, but there is a difference between not buying a chocolate bar and not buying a life-saving drug that Glaxo-Smith-Kline has a monopoly on producing thanks to the drug patent laws (and no, I'm not protesting the existence of the drug patent laws; I'd like to see the period of patent protection shortened). Similarly, if Mike Harris succeeds in privatizing Ontario Hydro (bad move) people won't be able to choose where they buy their power even if they don't like that the company is contributing to the Ontario Conservatives.))

[Aside] ((But I'm running it anyway)) Why so late with the issue? You haven't gone and found a new job have you? I'll fill you in on my excuses later. I hope you're in good health. See someone about those headaches!!! Now!!!

((BM: See my apology on page 12 for details. The headaches haven't been so bad. Worse was a recurrence of a rash on my arms and legs that I've had off and on since childhood (one reason why I don't wear denim). No new job but I have been taking care of Greg's dog while Greg and Janna are at their respective schools, and Greg's computer has more distractions than mine. The rest of my excuses are elsewhere. On the bright side I did finally learn how to play Hearts, although Bridge still eludes me.))

Robert Paquin, Mont St. Hilaire Quebec: How are you my good friend? Congratulations on your fiftieth issue, keep up the good work. But you know we now need new players as the present editors all have game openings that they just can't fill. I wonder if the online

games have more success, guess I'll have a look someday. But judging by my experience with Pete Duxon with whom I use e-mail, it doesn't help much because knowing that it's possible to communicate instantly leaves you with the feeling that there's always plenty of time left. In the end, the deadline arrives and you have yet to send your first email. I think really that nothing beats taking the time and the effort to actually write.

((BM: I've never played Diplomacy by email, and probably never will, but it's the way to go now. Newbies enter and leave the hobby without ever trying play-by-mail through a zine. I think that this is sad because I like the print medium and think that a good zine is a major part of the Diplomacy, and other "remote games playing" experience. I'm just not sure how to get PBEimers to become PBEimers.))

Remember me telling you about a possible job change? Well I've secured an interview tomorrow (*August 15, 2000 — seems like a long time ago :-()*) for a position as a bus driver for the Montreal Urban Community transit system. That's a job you'll recall totally similar to one I for 3 years just before becoming a card dealer. I'm really happy with that as I'll now be able to really render service to people in need of transportation. Not to mention the fact that public transit is ecologically sound and most helpful towards solving the traffic congestion problem. I should get the position, there's no reason why I should fail the interview. And with a little luck maybe in a few years from now they'll merge all the local transit systems into a single larger one like in Toronto. There was some talk about it a few years ago but you know how it is with small town bureaucracies ... everyone for himself. But if ever they manage to do it it would give a great advantage to the achalandage (*(?)*) as the transiters would pay only once to get into the system and would find it a lot easier to find their way around the city and its suburbs.

((BM: Sounds like a good opportunity. I ride the busses in the winter — in the summer I ride my bike most places in town (which was why getting a new bike was such a priority). I agree with you about the advantages of amal-

gamation although I would suggest that integration is a needed intermediate step. Amalgamation can lead to poorer service in some areas leading to increased car usage which defeat the benefits of public transit. There are other issues around public transit usage as well. I know that in Los Angeles public transit, where it runs at all, is regarded as being mainly used by the poor and minorities.))

I remember asking you about a certain Randolph Smith, a former zine editor in the '70-'80s from Alberta. I know you couldn't replace him at the time but maybe by asking the other subscribers via "The Nut Hutch" it could be done. Thanks.

((BM: I don't have an address for Randolph if that's what you're asking, but I do remember him. Randolph was one of the great masters of Diplomacy, one of the first people to win as all seven powers, and publisher of the zine "Fol Si Fie". He moved to Winnipeg, got married, and is now a lawyer. I met Randolph at DipCon XXIV in Toronto back in 1991 (I was in a game with Randolph, Bob Acheson and Gary Behnen — I was way out of my weight division in that group!). Randolph dropped out of the hobby several years ago.))

Apart from that, let's talk about the GTS *Katie*. What you may not know is that this ship that was hired by the Canadian Forces via a sub-contractor to repatriate its military equipment from Kosovo is in fact a former Russian Navy vessel built in 1981. Thought this fact is irrelevant to the story, the ship, now owned by an American company, the Third Ocean Marine Navigation, was operated by a Mtl fretor (*(?)*), Andromeda Navigation and also another Mtl company called SDV both under contract with the National Defense. The problem leading to the arraisioning of the ship was the failure by Andromeda Navigation to make a payment of \$190,000 on their sub-contract of \$895,000 from Third Ocean for the use of the ship for the trip. This non-payment prompted Third Ocean to order the ship to stop in international waters just off the east coast of Newfoundland for two weeks before pressure from the Defense forced them to get back underway. But because the negoti-

ations between the different parties were still bad, the Defense finally decided upon boarding the ship in the infamous Sea King helicopter. Two were supposed to do the job but only one managed to get airborne.... And after that, the ship supposedly, though it was denied later, running low on fuel ended up being towed to the Quebec port of Bécancour. Now my questions to you are: why is the Ministry of Defense doing business with a company, Andromeda Navigation, that has money problems? Why tow a ship that still has enough fuel on board to make it to port? Why is Third Ocean partially blaming the government when the difference is only between them and Andromeda Navigation? All in all I say this is a weird affair.

((BM: That was a real mess wasn't it. I didn't follow the situation closely but I have a few ideas. Towing the ship to port may have had more to do with worries that some of the crew might have tried to prevent the ship from reaching port — a stretch I know. I'm not sure about Third Ocean's problems with the government unless they believe that Andromeda's inability to pay resulted from DND not paying Andromeda. As to why DND did business with them in the first place, I'm willing to bet that it had a lot to do with giving the contract to the lowest bidder.

((Of course I feel that a lot of the underlying blame lies with the Federal government. Their policies have sent Canadian troops around the world as peacekeepers even as the number of troops has dropped; their policies have increasingly privatised military support capabilities (do you know that the Canadian Forces no longer train their own pilots? Bombardier is now being in charge of pilot training); their policies have left the military without a significant sea-lift capability. The result is that the Government of Canada has to contract two Canadian companies to charter a Russian-built American-owned, ship crewed by Russians and Ukrainians to haul a major portion of Canada's military equipment back from the Balkans. If it weren't so dumb it would be hilarious.))

There's another subject I wanted to comment and it's the death penalty. It's making

the headlines here in Quebec now that the Alliance party has the matter on its agenda. I won't elaborate much on it — mostly because this letter is already long enough as it is! I'll just mention that I'm all for it. Though it is well known that it is not a crime deterrent, in certain cases, crimes that are well defined as less acceptable than others deserve that penalty. But I would place a major condition before supplying it; that the person would have to be guilty beyond the slightest doubt. (Is it possible though?) The advantage to this penalty is that it leaves a little room in our too crowded prisons and lowers the cost of keeping an inmate behind bars for life, which cost as you well know are quite high.

((BM: I'm an opponent of the death penalty for a variety of reasons, but primarily because it doesn't work as a deterrent and the risk of executing an innocent exists. You state that you would support it for certain crimes defined as less acceptable than others and that, as a major condition, the person must be found guilty beyond the slightest doubt. But how would you define the slightest doubt. Donald Marshal was convicted of murder based on the testimony of an eye witness. Would that be enough? Because in that case the eye witness turned out to have been the real killer. As for "less acceptable" crimes, I presume that you mean the likes of Clifford Olson, or Paul Bernardo rather than those who commit most of the 750 or so murders that occur in Canada each year. I know that the police suspected Clifford Olson of having committed the child murders but were unable to prove it sufficiently to bring the case to trial and be sure of winning; that's why they eventually made a deal with him to get him to confess. Would a prosecutor have to wait for proof "beyond the slightest doubt" to be obtained, even at the risk of more children being killed? Because even someone like Olson wouldn't confess if it meant putting a noose around his own neck.))

The Best of "Bushwacker"

Fred Davis announces that he has finally gotten around to publishing a selection of the material he published in his long-running Variant zine between 1972 and 1990. He had held off on this project for several years as he wanted to be able to say that **Bushwacker** had been published in two centuries. he now offers the Dip hobby a selection of items on various subjects, such as Hobby News, Astronomy, Space Travel, humor (alleged), and naval items, plus some editorials on various subjects. For the most part this will not include maps or rules for variants. This compilation consists of approximately 150 pages, making it one of the largest such collections in hobby history. The price will be \$4 in the U.S. or \$5 elsewhere.

Please send your orders, in cash, checks or money orders made out in U.S. dollars to:

Fred C. Davis Jr., 3210-K Wheaton Way, Ellicott City, Maryland 21032

The Great Hiatus

I didn't mean to be gone this long.

I'm not going to take Kimberley Johnson's advice: "Never ruin an apology with an excuse" because I am going to offer an explanation/excuse for this publication being 10 months (!) late, as well as begging for your forgiveness.

There were two big *components* in the delay and several small ones. The first was other "real world" commitments which took priority — a lot of commitments to people and organizations. The other big one was that I was sick a bit this past year. Not a lot but it seemed at times that when I wasn't working on some project that needed to get done I was sick with the flu or a cold or something else. It knocked a lot out of me.

There were other things too. There have been computer hardware problems. There have been software problems. There's been writer's block. There has been stuff that I've written that I've had to totally rewrite or simply throw out because the material has been out of date. I won't even tell you about the *copier situation* yet — I'm still *working out options*.

You might be forgiven if you believe that the zine won't recover from this. You might be right, but I'm not ready to stop publishing. I enjoy it, and I enjoy you. Furthermore a lot of the interference that existed over the past year has been cleared away. I sincerely believe that I can continue to publish MALOC and maybe even make it more regular. Stay tuned.

Game Openings

Patriot: Regular Diplomacy with British (International) Seasons. 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. Perhaps a new, larger location will encourage some sign-ups for this game.

Signed up: Fred Wiedemeyer Harry Andruschak Robert Paquin

Champlain: Gunboat Diplomacy without Press to be called Champlain. I've decided to put this game on hold for a couple of issues while I examine a few options.

Sitzkrieg in the Western Atlantic

Sitzkrieg a German word. It means the "Sitting War" and is a play on *Blitzkrieg* (Lightning War), used to describe the period of inactivity on the Western Front following the fall of Poland. While it does not describe the war at sea in this period it does accurately reflect the activities of the Canadian Navy in this period.

Mackenzie King's policy of keeping Canadian ships close to home could perhaps be justified by memories of the U-Boats campaign off the East Coast in 1917 and 1918. Even if King, who had been in the United States for all of World War I, were not aware of the history in this area his political lieutenant in the Maritimes, Angus L. MacDonald, was. So principal activity of the Royal Canadian Navy's destroyers for almost nine months was escort merchant ships from Halifax Harbour to a point south of St. John's Newfoundland and simply leave them to sail to Britain unescorted, except perhaps for an armed merchant cruiser. Only important convoys, such as the one carrying the Canadian First Division, warranted an escort for the entire distance, but this escort came from part of a Royal Navy battle squadron.

In truth the "U-Boat menace" didn't exist in the Western Atlantic for three basic reasons. At this point in the war Hitler was still worried about intervention by the United States. Having submarines operating off the coast of North America, even in Canadian waters, would undoubtedly increase the odds of accidentally sinking an American owned ship not sailing in a convoy. As well, any U-Boat sent to operate off Canada would have a long and perilous journey; too long in most cases. A Germany submarine had to sail north of Scotland before coming west and then south to interdict the North Atlantic so-called HX convoy lane (Halifax to Britain). Germany started the war with under 60 submarines, mostly Type VII's which had lower endurance than the larger but rarer Type IX boat. A Type VII could not reach the Canadian coast and return to Germany without tanker support. Finally, the hunting off Britain, where all the convoy routes came together was more than abundant. A map of U-Boat sinkings of merchant ships sunk in the first year of the war shows a concentration all along the British coast, particularly the Atlantic coast. The Royal Navy lacked sufficient escorts to serve with convoys and to screen the fleet. The Royal Air Force's Coastal Command which was supposed to be a major component in submarine hunting off Britain had a lower priority for new equipment than Bomber Command or Fighter Command. Like the Navy they were without the resources to do their job.

Of course there were other threats at sea. Two German *Panzerschiffen* (literally Armoured Ships; the term "Pocket Battleship" is an inaccurate English translation — these ships were less well armed than a battleship, or even a World War I battlecruiser) and their supporting tankers had been ordered into the Atlantic before the war began. *Graf Spee* was in the South Atlantic, with *Deutschland* in the North Atlantic, astride the HX convoy routes. Later in the year, after *Deutschland*'s limited success and return to Germany (where she was renamed *Lutzow* on Hitler's orders), the battleships *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau* entered the North Atlantic in an unsuccessful effort to draw attention away from the *Graf Spee*.

Of course these raiders were unlikely to approach the Canadian coast; they hunted by stealth and there's nothing stealthy about sailing along an enemy's coast, or even within range of his aircraft. Nor could the Canadian destroyers go out after the raiders on their own. The task of hunting them down belonged to British Battle Squadrons. Of course, had the government not clung to its notion of local defence, the Canadian destroyers would have been part of one of those squadrons, like the New Zealand ship that participated in the sinking of the *Graf Spee*.

King's policy of maintaining a local defence, based on his fear of losses and justified by a supposed threat which *seemed* to exist was carried through the first winter of the war while King was doing battle with political enemies on the home front. Come the spring a series of events would change this forever and make Canada a full participant in the war, whether King liked it or not.

Pierre Trudeau 1919-2000

Pierre Elliott Trudeau died September 28, 2000 of prostate cancer. He was 80 years old.

The national outpouring of emotion was reminiscent of the death of Princess Diana, although only his greatest critics would deny that Trudeau was more deserving. Compared with most Canadian politicians of any period he stood out like Gulliver amongst the Lilliputians. He was at turns charming, infuriating, brilliant, oblivious, arrogant, and (on rare occasions) humble. One thing about Pierre Trudeau, he was never boring.

Pierre Trudeau was the son of a wealthy francophone father and an anglophone mother. He would often say that his lawyer father never spoke anything to him but French and his mother never spoke anything to him but English with the result that he was fluent in both. The elder Trudeau died when Pierre was 15, a loss that shaped his life. He studied law at university but for a number of years following his graduation he was essentially rootless, travelling the world. He became active politically during the last years of the Duplessis era in Quebec, supporting the workers in the Asbestos Strike and the Radio Canada strike in the 1950's. Lester Pearson brought him to the national scene in 1965, along with Gerard Peltier and Jean Marchand, known collectively as the "three wise men". As Justice Minister Trudeau shone brighter than the other two. When Pearson resigned as Liberal Party leader in 1968 Trudeau stood out as the obvious successor. Soon after being voted Liberal leader (and therefore Prime Minister) he called an election.

The 1968 election represented something never seen in Canadian politics before or since — a party leader as sex symbol. Trudeau was young, hip and sexy. Young women could see themselves in bed with him ... and so could their mothers. At 48 he was just five years younger than his main opponent Robert Stanfield but the former premier of Nova Scotia was bald, stodgy looking and in short looked like every politician before him. By contrast, Trudeau was the first and last Canadian politician I have seen described as charismatic (indeed it was the first time I heard the word

"charisma") and it certainly fit. The result was a forgone conclusion; the Liberals won a massive majority government with MPs from every province in the country. Trudeau and the Liberals would keep power for the next 16 years except for 9 months in opposition and would three majorities (1968, 1974, and 1980).

At this point, I must state that I am not and have never been an admirer of Pierre Trudeau, or more accurately of Trudeau in power. I am after all a westerner, a person from an area of the country that Trudeau never truly understood. A proper assessment of Trudeau as Prime Minister must wait for a long time, but I think that it can be argued that, in some areas at least, Trudeau was one of the worst leaders that this country has known.

To support this I would like to look at four areas: national defence and international relations, finance, regional alienation and the Constitution.

It cannot be said that the decline in morale in the Canadian military began with Trudeau — that can be attributed to Paul Hellyer's ill-considered policy of integration and unification that turned the Army, Navy and Air Force into the Canadian Forces. However Trudeau had at best an antipathy to the military. During his period in power there was only one significant purchase of military equipment, the acquisition of Leopard II tanks for Canadian armoured regiments. Canada met her NATO force goals, despite reducing force commitments to Germany, in part by promising that Canada would ship a fully equipped mechanized brigade to Norway in the event of war. When this idea was finally tested in the mid-1980s it was found to be totally unworkable. Trudeau's disdain for the military can be summed up with a single statement. While meeting with sailors aboard a Canadian frigate, Trudeau said, "If you wanted to see the world, why did you join the Canadian navy?"

While Trudeau was disdainful of the Canadian military, his foreign policy was at best inconsistent. He welcomed the Nixon

policy of détente and the resultant thaw in relations with the Soviet bloc. He also accepted the idea of "spheres of influence"; that a superpower should not interfere with the other's actions in areas defined "theirs", mainly those adjacent to them or where they've traditionally exercised power. In this vein Trudeau authorized the testing of air-launched cruise missiles over Canada, to the mortification of the nationalist and pacifistic left in Canada. He was also muted on the Soviet inspired military take-over in Poland. Less explicable was his muted response over 1980 invasion of Afghanistan, which had never previously been seen as being within the Soviet sphere. These attitudes must be compared with his support and friendship with Cuba and Fidel Castro (who so liked and admired Trudeau that he attended the funeral).

Relations with the United States were mixed during Trudeau's period in office. Four presidents Nixon, Ford, Carter and Reagan served while Trudeau was in power. He got along with Nixon for the most part, had few dealings with Ford, worked well with Carter (though he regarded the American as too serious) and disliked Reagan. Trudeau was independent in his thinking; it is impossible to imagine him standing for the sort of treatment that Johnson had given to Lester Pearson (at one point the towering Johnson assaulted the diminutive Canadian). Trudeau's fault was not in his relations with American presidents, but rather his failure to recognize when his domestic policies might have implications that Americans might not like. Relations became strained as a result of Trudeau's economic nationalism. The National Energy Policy, intended to permanently assure Canadian energy supplies by gaining greater Canadian control of oil production irritated U.S. oil companies and their supporters in Congress. The Foreign Investment Review Agency, meant to examine purchases of Canadian companies by non-Canadians, was another irritant. The result was a spate of bills in Congress that were antagonistic to Canada and Canadian companies doing business in the United States.

Finance is an area that Trudeau did not seem to totally grasp. The National Debt bal-

looned between 1968 to 1984. Part of this can be blamed on the economic conditions — an inflationary spiral combined with high interest rates increased the cost of servicing the debt leading to a larger debt. However many of the social components of Trudeau's "Just Society" program involved new spending, but without increased taxation this led to a real growth in the National Debt. In other cases spending was a result of political boondoggles designed to buy votes, such as the concerted effort to keep open industries on Cape Breton Island that were had long since ceased to be viable, if indeed they ever had been. As it happened Cape Breton was the political fief of Trudeau's lieutenant Allan MacEachan.

Trudeau was responsible in large measure for the Western alienation that the country has suffered since he left office. This feeling was apparent shortly after Trudeau first became Prime Minister when he was reported as saying, "Why should I sell your wheat?" The statement was taken slightly out of context but the feeling that Trudeau was insensitive to Western concerns was set. It was reinforced by the decision to relocate Air Canada's maintenance facility to Montreal from Winnipeg and the award of a contract to service CF-18 fighters in Quebec despite a Winnipeg firm offering a lower bid. Besides damaging relations with the United States, the National Energy Policy was seen as an attack against the one real power that Western Canada had by keeping the price of oil produced in Canada below the world price. This manifested itself by the fact that no Liberals were elected west of the Manitoba-Saskatchewan border from 1974 until 1994.

The situation in Quebec was worse. In some ways Trudeau may be seen as the illegitimate father of the sovereignty movement. It is certainly said that Trudeau is no hero in his home province (but then neither are Laurier or St. Laurent). Separatist political groups had existed before Trudeau but coalesced as the Parti Quebecois while Trudeau was in power. Trudeau's bilingualism policy was seen as an attack against the French language in Quebec and inspired anger against Quebec from some in English Canada. Moves to strengthen Que-

bec industry through government contracts, as in the case of the CF-18 contract, increased anger from outside of Quebec without winning friends inside the province.

And then there was the FLQ Crisis of 1970. In October 1970 a group calling itself a cell of the *Front de Liberation du Quebec* kidnapped James Cross, the British trade representative in Quebec. About a week later a different cell kidnapped Pierre Laporte, the Quebec Labour Minister and a friend of Trudeau's. Among other things they demanded that their manifesto be read on radio and television in Quebec, which was done. Following a public meeting in support of the FLQ at Montreal's Paul Sauvé Arena, Trudeau invoked the War Measures Act for the first time in peacetime and put troops into the streets of Montreal and Ottawa. He justified it by claiming that there was a state of "apprehended insurrection" in Quebec (the British thought it was a massive over-reaction). The Act allowed search without warrant, arrest without arraignment and suspension of habeas corpus. Most people in the country as a whole supported the action but some, notably NDP leader T.C. "Tommy" Douglas, called it a fundamental assault on the liberty of Canadian citizens and a dangerous precedent. Today, while some maintain that Trudeau's action was justified, most commentators regard it as a tremendous error. It may have cost Pierre Laporte his life — he was strangled by his captors shortly after the War Measures Act was proclaimed.

While it probably cannot be said that Trudeau's reaction to the FLQ crisis was responsible for the election of René Levesque's Parti Quebecois government (the scandals surrounding the 1976 Olympics probably had more impact) it did play a role. When the PQ held its first sovereignty referendum, Trudeau became a major player, and when it was defeated Trudeau promised changes in Canada. What this meant was patriation and revitalization of the Canadian Constitution. The problem was that what Trudeau had in mind and what the provincial premiers, particularly Premier Levesque, had in mind were two different things. The provincial premiers,

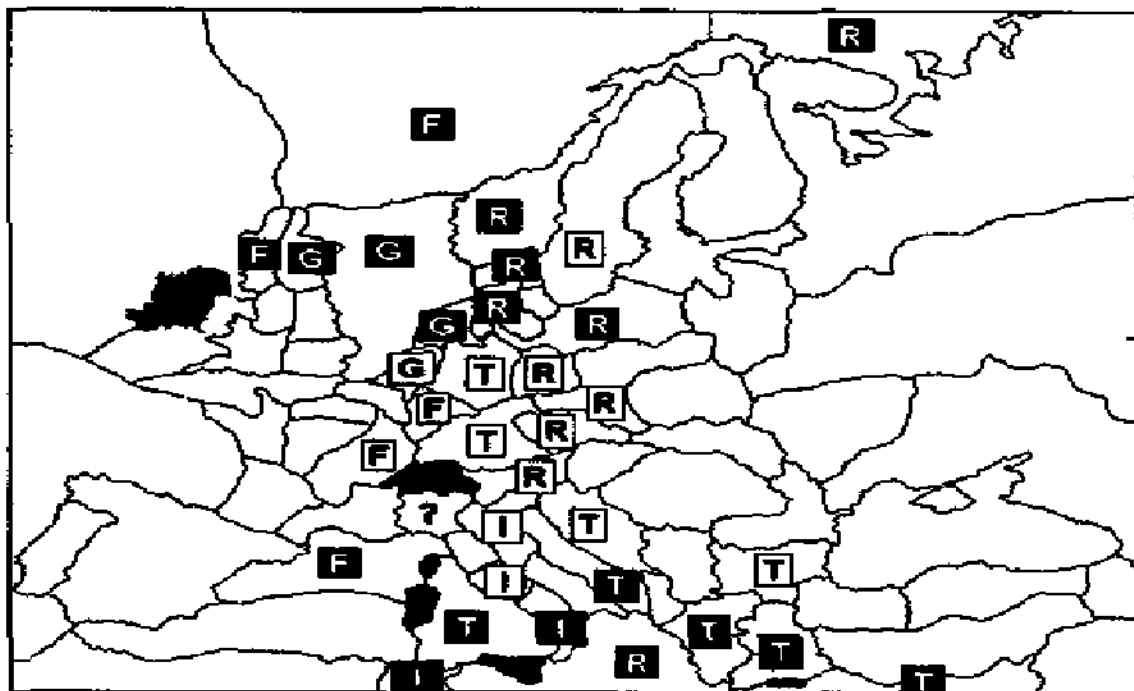
and Levesque in particular, wanted greater decentralization, while Trudeau wanted to expand federal control. At one point Trudeau was prepared to try a unilateral patriation without provincial cooperation or input but the British House of Lords, the final word on such an action, ruled against his effort. Instead Trudeau was forced to undertake a constitutional negotiation. This eventually led to patriation, but resulted in a flawed document most importantly because Quebec has never accepted it. Given that patriation began as an effort to reconcile and codify Quebec's place within the Canadian federation (after all Trudeau only began considering it after the referendum), Quebec's official refusal to accept it must render it at least a partial failure.

Worst of all, in the view of many legal and political experts, the "Trudeau Constitution" included the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. While the Charter may have seemed like a good idea at the time, it was a fundamental modification of Canada's legal system. The Charter has made the Courts rather than Parliament and the Legislatures the supreme law making body of the country. It gave them the ability to say that a given law is in violation of the Charter a written and, given the problems in defining an amending formula, apparently immutable document. The Charter has transformed the Canadian legal system from the unwritten British system of legislation, precedent and common law, to a system that is uncomfortably like that of the United States.

The trouble with producing a fair evaluation of Pierre Trudeau's time in power is that no one can doubt the passion and concern that he felt for this country. One must feel a certain admiration for the man both as a private citizen and as a public person. Most of his actions were meant to be beneficial, but in the end I am not convinced that Canada was a better place after Trudeau than before he came on the scene. History will likely judge Trudeau to have been one of Canada's great Prime Ministers. I am equally certain that, once people are able to regard his record with the perspective of time, he will not be remembered as our greatest.

Juggernaut Hurtles West

Aurora
1997Q
Regular Diplomacy
Spring 1908



Builds

Russia builds A Con

France: Fred Weidemeyer, Box 92010, Meadowbrook RPO, Edmonton Alberta, T6B 2H7
A BUR s A Ruh, A RUH s German A Hol-Kie, A Tyr-Mun (D, Retreat Pie, OtB), F CLY s F Nwg, F NWG s German F NTH, F WMed-GOL.

Germany: Andy Lischett, 2402 Ridgeland Avenue, Berwyn Illinois, 60402

F EDI s F Nth, F HEL s F Nth, A HOL-Kie, F NTH H.

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

A Apu-ROM, A VEN Hs, F NAP-Ion, F TUN s F Nap-Ion.

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

F BAR-Nwg, F SKA-Nth, F Aeg-ION, F NWY s F Bar-Nwg, F DEN s F Ska-Nth, A SWE s F Den, F BAL s Turkish A Kie, A BER s Turkish A Kie, A BOH s Turkish A Mun, A SIL s Turkish A Mun, A Vie-TYR.

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

A KIE s A Mun, A Con-BUL, F Smy-EMED, A Mun s Russian A Vie-Tyr, F ADR-Ven,

A TRI s Russian A Vie-Tyr, F Bul (sc)-AEG, F GRE s Russian F Aeg-Ion, F TYN s Russian F Aeg-Ion.

Press:

Italy-Turkey: OK, you didn't go for my idea before, but how about now? Now? Now? Wait, wait ... now?

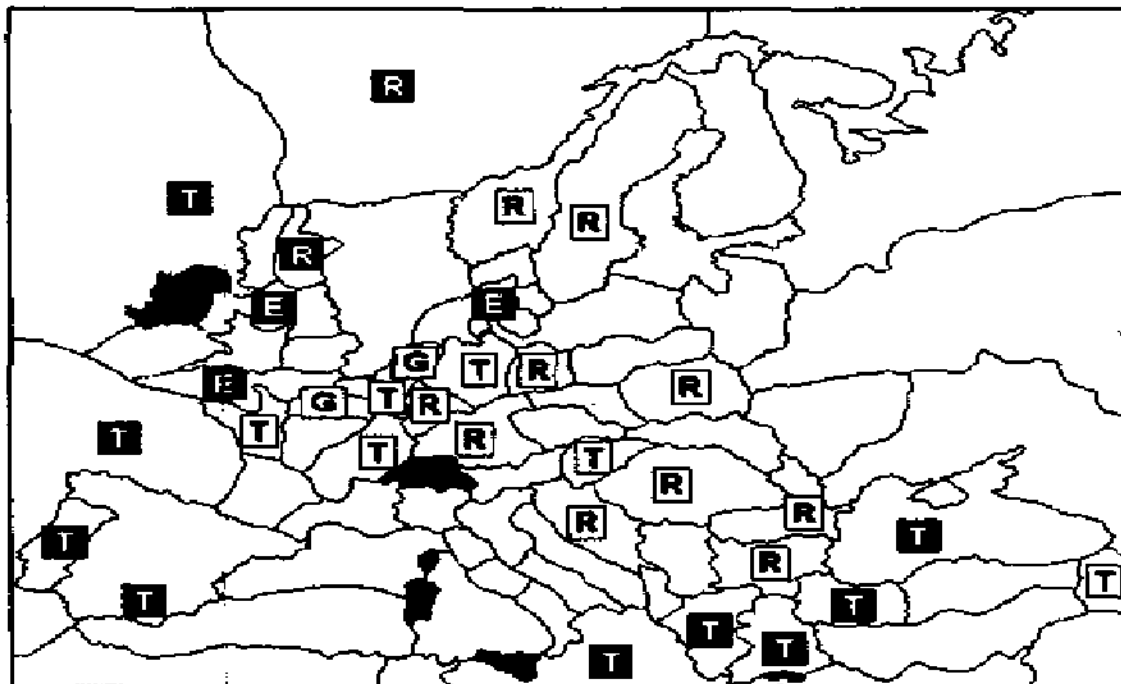
Andy Lischett: A minor error which everyone probably noticed. Russia's F Bar-Nwg should have been underlined. Also, Turkey may build two, because one was annihilated, but that error may just be your manner of notation.

Toon Town: It was underlined in my original file but when I put the file into the Publisher software I sometimes move bits of text around and from time to time the formatting for underlines is lost and I don't notice. In the latter case, I do these adjudications using Stewart Cross's Diplomacy adjudication program, but the output frequently needs to be massaged. Sometimes I miss things.

Deadline for Fall 1908 is: August 2, 2001

British Ultimatum – Either Can Be Arranged

Niobe
1993CB
Regular Diplomacy
Spring 1919



Retreats

England retreats F Nwy OtB, F Bre-Eng

Builds and Removals

England removes F Nth

Russia builds A War

Turkey builds A Smy, F Ank

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

F Swe-DEN, F LPL-Iri, F ENG s F Lpl-Iri, A Pic H (D, Annihilated)

Germany: Harry Andruschak, 20805 Margaret Street, Carson California, 90745-1224

A Par-PIC, A HOL s Turkish A Kie

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

A WAR-Gal, F EDI s F Bar-Nwg, A BER-Kie, A BUL s A Rum, A Fin-SWE, A BUD s A

Ser-Tri, A Mun-RUH, A Ser-TRI, A Sil-MUN, A NWY s A Fin-Swe, A RUM s A Bul, F Bar-NWG

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

A Smy-ARM, F Ank-BLA, F CON s F Ank-Bla, F Ion-AEG, F GRE H, F POR-Mao, F Tyn-

ION, F SPA sc s F Por-MaO, A VIE-Gal, A KIE s German A Hol, A BEL s A Gas-Bur, A

Gas-BUR, A BRE s German A Par-Pic, F MAO-Iri, F NAO s F MaO-Iri

Draw Proposal: R/T Draw Yes: 1, No: 1, NVR: 2. The proposal is defeated.

R/T Draw is repropoed.

Press:

England: 1 winner or wipe me out!

Russia-Turkey: Sorry but you're just getting too close to 18. Just want to even the center count out a bit.

Germany-Turkey: Once again, you were the only one to write back.

Germany-England: WELL??

Vance got married on September 30, 2000 in Scarborough. A belated congratulations!

Deadline for Fall 1919 orders is: August 2, 2001

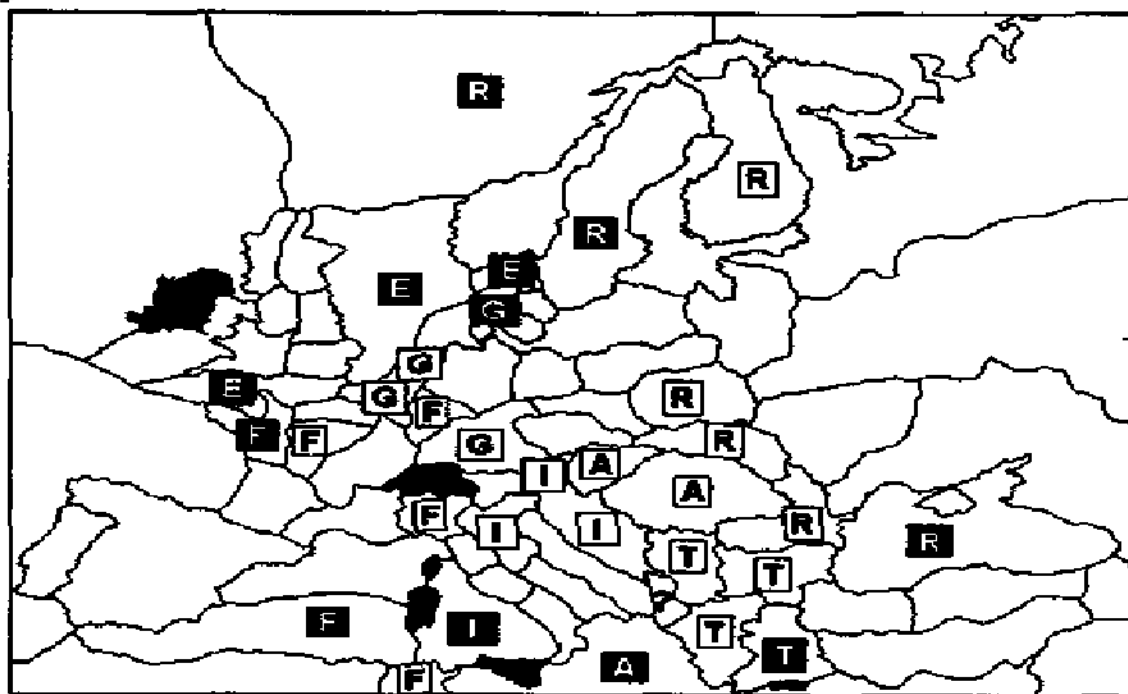
Game Delayed More Than The Rest

1998Hrb32

Patrician

Gunboat with Press

Not Fall 1903



Austria: () A BUD s A Tri, A Ser s A Tri (D, Retreat Alb, OtB), A Tri s A Ser (D, Annihilated),

A VIE s A Bud, F ION-Nap.

England: () F ENG s F Nth, F SKA-Nwy, F NTH s F Ska-Nwy

France: () F MaO-BRE, F WMED s A Naf-Tun, A Pic-PAR, A RUH-Kie, A Mar-PIE, A NAF-TUN.

Germany: () A Bur-BEL, A Kie-HOL, A MUN-Kie, F DEN-Kie.

Italy: () A Alb-TRI, A VEN s A Alb-Tri, A TYR s A Alb-Tri, F TYN-Nap.

Russia: () A FIN-Nwy, F Nwy-NWG, F SWE s A Fin-Nwy, A WAR-Gal, A GAL-Bud, A RUM s A Gal-Bud, F BLA s A Rum.

Turkey: () F AEG-Ion, A Bul-SER, A Con-BUL, A GRE s A Bul-Ser.

Supply Centers

Austria: Bud, Vie, -tri, -gre, -ser 2 Remove 1 or 2 Depending on retreats.

England: Edi, Lon, Lpl 3 Even.

France: Bre, Par, Mar, Por, Spa +TUN, -bel 6 Even.

Germany: Mun, Ber, Kie, Hol, +BEL, +DEN 6 Build 2.

Italy: Ven, Nap, Rom, +TRI, -tun 4 Even.

Russia: War, Sev, StP, Mos, Swe, Rum, Nwy 7 Even.

Turkey: Ank, Con, Smy, Bul, +SER, +GRE 6 Build 2.

I managed to make a significant error by losing a couple of sets of orders for this game. One set was a set of e-mail orders that were accidentally deleted when I was cleaning out my email box (which was clogged with duplicate messages). The other set was a set of orders sent by mail which, try as I might I haven't been able to find. This was the last game that I was going to adjudicate and it got tied up in my unintended hiatus situation. The obvious thing to do would have been to contact the parties for their orders but I kept expecting to find time to get the issue done and chose not to send out a request for orders. I apologise to all players in this game for this, even greater, delay in getting this turn out. I have orders for five of you but if you want to make changes you are free and encouraged to do so.

Deadline for Fall 1903 orders is: **August 2, 2001**

The Diplomatic Survivor

The summer of 2000 introduced North Americans to a new media phenomenon: the TV series *Survivor*. For 13 weeks, starting in June, TV viewers watched shifting alliances, strategizing, backstabbing and "ordinary life" in an extraordinary situation as they competed for a million dollar prize and fifteen minutes of fame. In short, circumstances that are normally seen in soap operas, except that these people had lived it for real. TV ratings for the first *Survivor* series were the highest for any summer programming in years. A second series, *Survivor 2 – The Australian Outback* debuted following the Super Bowl in January 2001. It regularly won the ratings race in its time slot and was one of top shows of the week. The three hour final episode was watched by an estimated 40 million people. The show spawned and continues to spawn competitors – *The Mole*, *Temptation Island*, *Boot Camp*, and coming soon *Lost!* What *Survivor* has that its competitors did not was human drama. Not only were the players involved in competitions against each other and conspiring to stay around as long as possible, they faced the elements in the place where they were "stranded".

Diplomacy players weren't much different from the rest of the populace, except that they approached the show with a different attitude. Most of the public were shocked at the alliance tactics that were used by eventual winner Richard Hatch in the first series, dubbing it the "Unholy Alliance". They were shocked at the backstabbing and what they perceived as lying. *Diplomacy* players looked at all of this as a natural part of the game. People who were shocked at the first *Survivor* series expected the tactics in the second and commented on how well some of the players operated; *Diplomacy* fans were amused at how clumsy most people were at playing the great game. After all, for *Diplomacy* players the *Survivor* motto – *Outwit Outplay Outlast* – sums up what a successful player has to do. One can only imagine what a good *Diplomacy* player could do on the show.

Unlike most game shows (which is really

what it is) *Survivor* breaks down into the three classic phases of games: *Openings*, *Midgame*, and *Endgame*. Each has its own imperative.

◆ **Openings: Survival of the fittest**

(16 to 10 players) The primary tasks in this phase are to establish alliances within your tribe and to get as many members of your tribe to the merger while minimizing the number of members from the other tribe who make it. When the tribe is forced to vote a member out it should be the least physically fit, or the member who is least able to work in a team.

◆ **Mid-Game: Survival of the weakest**

(10 to 4 players) Following the merger players (supposedly) play as individuals. However since alliances have necessarily formed within tribes the first targets will be members of the other tribe. The strongest individuals, either physically or as potential leaders, on that team should be eliminated first. Alliances should not consider removing members of their old tribe until removing those members will not allow an alliance between the weaker tribe and the non-allied members of their old tribe to hurt the alliance. A two-player advantage is acceptable; a three-player advantage is probably better.

◆ **End Game: Sauver qui peut**

(4 to 2 players) Literally "save who can" it is probably better translated as "every one for themselves". Although alliances still exist, since most or all of the players will be members of the same alliance sooner or later they will have to choose their own members to eliminate. Players are actually playing to finish second as a jury of previously eliminated players will decide who wins, but the person who wins the final immunity challenge does have the choice of which opponent to face. Ideally the person who goes with the immunity winner to the final two should be the most *disliked* of the two possibilities with the objective of increasing the immunity winner's chance of winning the jury vote.

Having looked at the phases of the game, let's look at some aspects of the players. Mark Burnett, who produces *Survivor*, contends that each contestant goes into the game with dif-

ferent strategies. This may be true, but it may be possible to establish general rules that will maximize a player's chance of success.

Survival skills: Before you go, practice actual survival skills – making a fire without matches, cooking rice over an open fire, catching fish with limited equipment. While *Survivor* is more about surviving within a social context, having some outdoor survival skills will increase your value to the team.

Be in good physical condition and stay that way: Challenges are important. Winning reward challenges can demoralize opponents while winning immunity, especially early on, is key to staying around.

Be indispensable: If you have a skill that others don't have (spear fishing, cooking, hunting and gathering) you can stay on despite other negatives. Don't push it too far though.

Avoid being noticed: Also known as flying below the radar. You have to pull your weight, but you also want to avoid being too noticeable. Don't be outspoken, overly aggressive, arrogant, or too dominant physically. You need to network well with the others.

Alliances: You need to develop one, but be aware that they don't happen overnight (or even in a week) and that any alliance that you think you have may be an illusion. Based on

the first two *Survivor* series, the optimal alliance is a solid triad with the addition one or two hangers on. More than this is too unmanageable, while any two-player alliance will be swamped by larger groupings.

Lying and backstabbing: This will be necessary, but remember that they must be properly timed and executed. On the whole lying about an individual is taboo. It may be successful in the short term but will rebound on you. Lying about your intentions or any alliance structure that you might have is probably acceptable. In terms of backstabbing remember that subtlety is always best.

Play a balanced game: DO NOT depend on one strategy to carry you through the game. No one quality will carry you to the win. You can't depend on winning every immunity challenge, going totally unnoticed, being totally indispensable, or weaving a complex web of alliances around you. On the other hand if you combine qualities you have a better chance of success.

Don't fall into the fire: Pretty much self-explanatory. You can't win if you get hurt.

Survivor 3 – The Serengeti, will be shot in Kenya and will begin airing in October 2001.

Survivor – The Gilligan Experience

When I first heard about *Survivor* my initial thought was about the TV show *Gilligan's Island*, where seven people of diverse backgrounds were stranded on "an uncharted desert isle". I wasn't the only one. One question on the *Survivor* application was which character on *Gilligan's Island* they most identified with. A few people on *Survivor* behaved as though they were on Gilligan's island. One built a bowling alley and made a bamboo fishing pole, complete with reel, that he named *Superpole 2000*. He said he was inspired by *Gilligan's Island*. That he never caught a thing with the Superpole was beside the point.

The question is, which of the seven castaways would have won if they had been on *Survivor*. The answer, according to an Inter-

net Poll is that Mary Ann would win, with Gilligan finishing second. Reportedly, when Bob Denver, who played Gilligan, heard this he was amazed that he finished that well.

It shouldn't really be a surprise. Between them Gilligan and Mary Ann did most of the work. The Howells are essentially parasites; in a *Survivor* situation they would be voted off first, followed soon after by Ginger, who has better people skills but doesn't really offer much (besides the obvious). The Professor is a science geek, weak in people skills and not contributing on a day to day basis. The Skipper contributes a lot but he comes across as bossy, especially to Gilligan. This leaves Mary Ann and Gilligan, and Mary Ann has a better alliance structure in place — just like Richard Hatch and Tina Wesson.

My New Toy

I went to a Boxing Day sale last December. For my American readers, Boxing Day is the day after Christmas. Boxing Day sales are becoming a Canadian tradition, despite the fact that in many places it's illegal for stores to open; companies simply accept their ticket and pay their fine from the money they take in during the first half hour of the sale. Boxing Day sales are in fact gigantic "bait and switch" operations in which stores promise limited numbers of choice items way below cost. In this they aren't unlike Presidents Day sales in the United States (before last year's election I never understood why Americans chose to celebrate their presidents with such bait and switch sales). Part of the excitement is trying to get to the store in time to possibly get the cheap merchandise, in my case a DVD Player. I thought I had a chance by getting there twenty minutes before the doors opened. It wasn't so bad — the line was only half a block long! Needless to say I didn't get the cheap unit I wanted, but I did buy a DVD Player and in the long run I think I did better with my Toshiba 1600 than I would have had I bought the cheap unit of my supposed dreams. According to one of the store employees I talked to a few weeks later, not only were DVD players the hottest seller during the Christmas season this year, but the Toshiba 1600 was the biggest seller.

So the question, I suppose, is why buy a DVD Player? The simple answer is that DVD (Digital Versatile Disc) is superior to every other form of prerecorded video media. This is a bold statement but I think it holds up.

DVD is an outgrowth of the CD and the video equivalent Laser Discs. Like CDs, Laser Discs and DVDs encode data as pits on the surface of the disc. Laser Discs had to use a laser beam that was the same size as on a CD player. This restricted the size of the pits. As a result Laser discs were the size of a vinyl LP and often had to be recorded on both sides to store a complete movie. DVDs use a narrower laser beam to read the surface of the disc. As well new technology allows the DVD to have multiple layers on a single side. The net result

is that DVDs are the size of a CD and in most cases don't have to be recorded on both sides except to offer two versions of the movie.

The real advantage is over videotape. Image quality on DVD is significantly better than on tape. Images are sharper and colours truer (or rather more subdued) on DVD than on tape. Part of the reason is simply that there is a limit to the data that can be put on a conventional VHS tape and a limit to what the playback heads can read. Sound quality is also significantly improved. While tape can offer Dolby Surround Sound, DVDs are able to offer Dolby Digital sound — 2.0 for normal televisions, up to Dolby 5.1 with the proper receiver and speaker set-up — and DTS or Digital Theater Sound, again with the proper decoder. Because VCR playback heads are of necessity in contact with the tape (more so than with audiotapes, between scanning forward or reverse and pausing with the picture on screen) there is a degradation of the medium which can eventually lead to tapes breaking. Worst of all, even if the tape is never played, the particles embedded in the tape itself which actually record the sound and image will become demagnetised in about 25 years. As far as we know, a properly cared for DVD will last much longer.

There are also questions of convenience. Because videotape is a linear medium, it is often difficult to find specific scenes; on DVD this can be done either with the hardware or using the scene search menu on the software in a matter of seconds. Because of the capacity of the DVD, it is also possible to include "extras" including deleted scenes, documentaries, and commentary tracks. Best of all the movie studios are releasing movies, in the aspect ratios which they were seen in the theater (usually about 16:9), rather than processing them using the "pan and scan" technique to make them fit the 4:3 ratio of a conventional TV. This is something that movie buffs have been demanding for years.

To sum up, if you are a movie lover or a videophile, DVD is well worth having

My Ten Favourite Movies

Okay, so I've bought a new DVD player and of course I want to see my favorite movies. I've come up with a list of my top ten. The trouble with asking me what my ten favourite movies are is that, if you ask again in six months, I'll give a different list. Still it is an interesting exercise. I am presenting this list, which represents my current favourites. They're in no particular order except for #1, which is almost always #1. (Movies marked with a * are on DVD but all are available on Tape.)

What I'd like is to know *your* favourites. Send me a list of 10 movies with a *brief* explanation of why you like them and I'll try to run the lists, one or two per issue, and briefly comment (not always nicely) on your choices.

10. Cotton Club — A guilty pleasure in a number of ways. The story is all over the place, but there are so many things that I like about the film, including the fact that it was my first serious exposure to the music of Duke Ellington. The film mixes historical characters like Owney Madden and Arthur "Dutch Schultz" Flegenheimer with amalgams such as Vincent "Mad Dog" Dwyer (a take-off on Vincent "Mad Dog" Coll played by a young Nicholas Cage) and his cornet playing brother Patsy, played by Richard Gere, who is a "cleaner" version of George Raft. There's great chemistry between Bob Hoskins and Fred Gwynne as well. I particularly like the climactic scene in which Schultz is murdered. Rather than setting it to music the background is the sound of a Gregory Hines tap dance.

9. Mr Smith Goes to Washington * — When Jimmy Stewart died, the TV networks played the end of the filibuster scene from this film as part of the obituary. Conservative columnist Robert Novak complained that the clip gave the impression that Stewart, a life-long Republican, was in fact a liberal Democrat. The trouble with this analysis is that the director, Frank Capra, quite deliberately doesn't tell us the party that Smith belongs to. All we know is that it's the same party as Smith's idol, played by Claude Rains, a now corrupt senator. And that of course is the point — Smith is the ordinary man who honestly believes in the political system confronted by what that system has become. If Mr Novak thinks that this makes Smith a Democrat, what does it say about his view of Republicans?

8. The Adventures of Robin Hood — Errol Flynn at his swashbuckling best, combined with a fabulous Korngold score, and Technicolor, what more could you ask for? Well how about Claude Rains as an oily Prince John, a spectacular climactic fight with the best swordsman in Hollywood (Basil Rathbone), sumptuous costumes, Olivia DeHavilland at her loveliest, and the comic stylings of a band of merry men led by Alan Hale Sr. This is joyous, rollicking fun — as opposed to that Kevin Costner movie.

7. Stagecoach * — *Seinfeld* was supposedly a show about nothing. In fact it was about characters. In the same way *Stagecoach* is about nothing except the characters. The Indian attack at the end of the trip and the gunfight in Lordsburg are incidental to what has gone before — the development of relationships between the characters, particularly between Ringo, the naive convict, and Dallas, the prostitute. Some of the characters are trite — the Banker, a pillar of the community who is stealing the community's money, and the Gambler trying to regain his self-esteem by serving as escort to the pregnant daughter of his former commander — but Ford makes it all work.

6. 1776 — I have what I think is a not entirely justified reputation for "America-bashing" so it might seem surprising that I love a movie musical about the Declaration of Independence, but I do. The cast, most of whom were in the original Broadway production contains several actors who are not well known as singers — William Daniels as Adams and Ken Howard as Jefferson — as well as Howard da Silva as a perfect Ben Franklin. There are some very enjoyable songs in this, although one of the best is the serious "Tobacco to Rum to Slaves" sung by John Cul-

lum, which is a discourse on the hypocrisy of men who cry out against slavery while lining their pockets with its proceeds. The director uses all of the theatrical screen so you really need to see this in letterbox format.

4. (tie) **The Cruel Sea** — As you might expect I love “navy” movies, and this British film is one of the two or three best. Adapted almost literally from Guy de Maupassant’s novel of the same name, it deals with the Captain and the crew of the British corvette *Compass Rose* and, later, the frigate *Saltash Castle* during the Battle of the Atlantic. It may be of the best movie ever made about sub hunting. If the film has a fault it is when it goes ashore to look at the private lives of the ship’s officers; then it tends to get a bit melodramatic. Still the cast is superlative, and Jack Hawkins as the Captain is absolutely perfect.

4. (tie) **The Enemy Below** — Another “navy” picture, but very different from *The Cruel Sea* in that the Germans aren’t “just” the enemy. In this film the U-Boat men, particularly the captain played by Kurt Jurgens, are given human faces. The result, despite credibility problems for someone who knows a bit about submarine warfare (what is that destroyer escort doing out there alone and not with a convoy? Apparently it is made clear in the book upon which the film is based, but it isn’t mentioned in the movie.) is a very tense game of cat and mouse between two sympathetic characters. I really can’t decide between these two pictures.

3. **Inherit the Wind** — Based on the Scopes Monkey Trial, this adaptation of the play features strong performances from its leading players; Spencer Tracy as Henry Drummond (Clarence Darrow), Fredric March as Matthew Harrison Brady (William Jennings Bryan) and Gene Kelly as E.K. Hornbeck (H.L. Mencken). In addition there are a number of faces familiar to TV viewers, notably Claude Akins as the fire and brimstone preacher, who dominates many of the scenes he is in. The final courtroom confrontation between Drummond and Brady is all the more effective because it is made clear that the two men are friends who have drifted apart. It figuratively and literally destroys Brady and doing this is painful for Drummond.

2. **North By Northwest** * — I won’t go into detail about this film as I will probably review it next issue. For the moment let’s just say that it is a glorious Hitchcock romp made during the most productive and successful period of his career.

1. **Casablanca** * — It’s a simple story — boy meets girl, boy loses girl, boy meets girl again and finds out why he lost her. The dialog, particularly between Humphrey Bogart’s Rick and Claude Rains’ Reynaud, sparkles. Ingrid Bergmann never looked more radiant, while Conrad Veidt’s Major Strasser is the very model of Nazi brutality barely hidden beneath a thin veneer of *Kultur*. Even the bit players have great moments. Ingrid Bergmann didn’t know which man she’d end up with until just before the final scene was to be shot (the script was still being written). She was indignant about this, but not knowing shaped not only her performance in the early scenes but also the performances of the other main characters. *Casablanca* may not be the perfect movie, but it’s close.