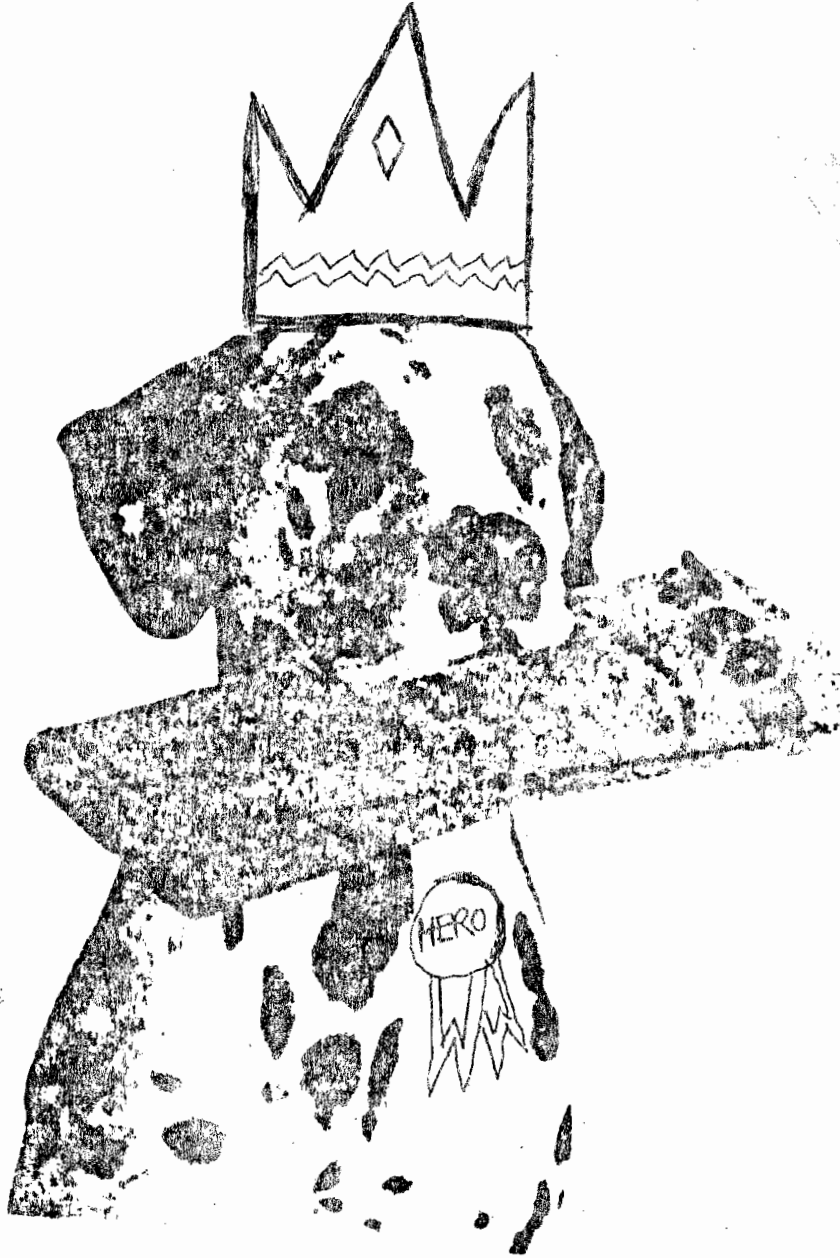


MARCH '85 - # 11

FOR THE FIRST TIME I'M ASHAMED TO SAY...

THIS IS,
THE CONCERT
OF EUROPE!



"SPARKY"

--A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR--

A belated hello again from Eugene. It's almost finals week in what has turned out to be a very short term. It seems like February flew by and March is off to a quick start. In light of this I'm sorry to tell you that this issue of The Concert of Europe is doomed to mark two firsts. It will be my first quasi-warehouse and it will feature my first going error. More on the later later. (I've always wanted to use "later" and "later" in the same sentence!)

This issue will contain the games (naturally), the new issues of Screen and Cubists' Corner, a quick review of current game shows, and the announcement for the 1985 Runestone poll. Yep, I've done it again--I've agreed to plug a poll. It just seemed that after reading the lengthy and interesting results of the Peeripoll I've taken a liking to the idea of reader feedback. If the Runestone is half as informative as the Peeripoll it should warrant a page of plug. The TCOE readers' poll results were interesting indeed. I've learned a great deal from it and once I've had time to go thru' the questions and answers completely I'll share some of the results. This should be ready for next issue.

Well, before I waste further valuable study time I think I'll wrap this letter up quicketylike. I promise this sort of thing won't happen more than three times a year.

--HOBBY NEWS--

This is my last chance to mention Leprecon '85. Most of you have solidified your plans to attend or not to attend but I'll say it one more time. Ken Corbin and Joan Extrom are hosting a weekend of chatting, festivities, and (if time permits) game-playing. For more information, or any information, you can contact them at 1-503-929-3223. It's probably too late to write for information.

As I mentioned about a paragraph ago it's time for another Runestone poll. In the last poll TCOE received one vote. This year I'd like to have a more widespread group of voters. This poll is an old hobby institution and deserves your support. Read the information in this issue carefully and please don't delay in taking part. It's a great way for publishers to evaluate their progress over the last year.

Some of you still seem to be looking for more games. Here are five places where I think you'll be more than welcome.

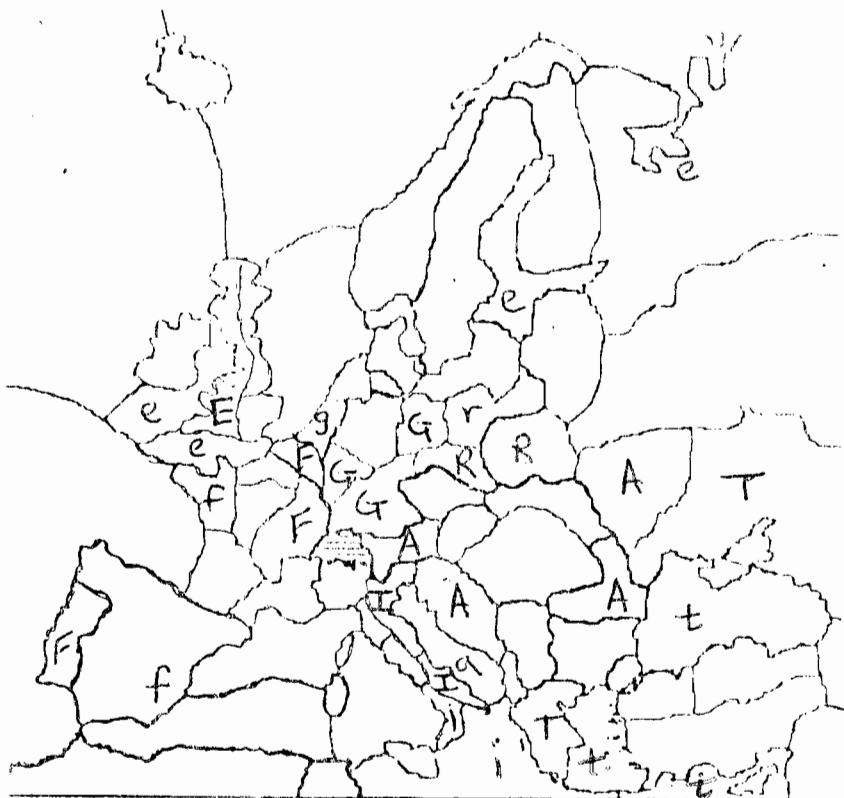
1. Harvey Zeychek still wants players for his limited intelligence gunboat diplomacy game. You can reach Harvey at 490 E. 30th, Eugene OR, 97405
2. Mike Hill is looking for players in a diplomacy game in INORD. Mike is reachable at... Hamilton Box 69505, University of Oregon, Eugene OR, 97403
3. Paul Gardner is running 18E KATHY BYRNE VARIANT in Not New York. Write Paul at... PO Box 60, Eugene OR, 97440
4. A friend of Lu Henry's is running his first game. I've lost (or never received) his address but if you write to Lu at...16956 Waverly, Dearborn Heights MI, 48127...I'm sure he'll send word of your interest.
5. Lu Henry himself may be running the STONEHENGE variant in his reliable 'zine TACKY. Here in TCOE we've had the same four people signed up for a long long time. Why don't we all switch over and play in TACKY. We're sure to get ten players eventually! You'll find Lu's address above. Oh by the way Lu, count me in. I'll send a preference list.

As usual I'm running short of ideas for hobby news. At least this edition contained three pseudo-useful items. That's up from zero for the last few months. What do you say gang?

--THE GAMES--

There are currently no game openings but I am in desperate need of stand-bys. Anyone interested in playing CO against me is welcome to. Please send a brief outline of your experience so we can determine who should get a handicap. So far only Steve Langley has agreed to take

Thanks to Gary Coughlan for un-needed standby orders. It seems Gary wasn't on the standby list, but our esteemed editor thought he was. He picks the standbys, not me. Sorry if this caused any excess hassle.



Winter 1902:

ENG builds F Lpl
 FRA builds A Par, F Mar
 ITA builds F Nap

Spring 1903:

AUSTRIA (L. Henry): A Vie-TYO,
 F ADR-Ven, A TRI S F Adr-Ven,
 A RUM & A UKR S Tur A Bul-Sev.
 ENGLAND (C. Lee): F Nwy-STP(NC),
 F Swe-BOT, F Lpl-IRI, A WAL-Bel,
 F ENG C A Wal-Bel.
 FRANCE(Kozlowski): A Par-BUR,
 A Ruh-Hol (d, ann), F Mar-SPA(SC),
 A BEL S A Ruh-Hol, F BRE-Eng,
 A POR H.

GERMANY (Clough): F HOL S Eng A Wal-Bel, A Kie-RUH, A MUN S A Kie-Ruh,
 A BER-Sil.

ITALY (Latteri): F Tun-ION, F NAP S F Tun-Ion, A VEN H, A APU S A Ven.

RUSSIA(Villanueva): F Sev S Tur A Bul-Rum (nso) (d,r Arm,OTB), A Mos-WAR,
 A SIL S Fre A Ruh-Mun (nso), F Lvn-PRU.

TURKEY (Aikens): F EAS-Ion, F Ion S F Eas-Ion (nsu), A GRE H, A Bul-SEV,
 F BLA C A Bul-Sev, F AEG U.

And now for an incredibly skimpy amount of PRESS:

LIVERPOOL to P.I.: So I kant spell, yu got tha idea dint yu? ((Welll...--P.I.))

BERLIN to PARIS: You seem to be missing something...known as allies.

LONDON to MOSCOW: That's the third time that you've said you'll write next month, but I don't know of anyone who has heard from you. Keep it up, it makes the pickin's easy.

THE SULTAN to U.S. POSTAL SERVICE: A plague on thee for the NMR I suffered! This is an embarrassment unworthy of the popularly elected TCOE champion!

PRIMUS ILLUMINATUS: Well, your orders were belated, but I'm sure they were sincere.

ENGLAND to ITALY: I think enemies that NMR are great, too.

BERLIN to MOSCOW: If you want to quit, then quit. Don't ruin the game for the rest of us by just sitting there. ((My feelings exactly--P.I.))

Guest GM: Mike Ehli, Hamilton Box 60505, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403-6005

Join... the Church of the SubGenius

Cynisacreligion and a Society for Strange People.

Details \$1.

The SubGenius Foundation
 Box 140306, Dallas, TX 75214

"IF YOU CAN HELP US WITH A DONATION..."



DEADLINE for Fall 1903: March 27

Television game shows are wackier than ever. The variety of fun is endless. However, in these super-busy times of ours it seems that there is less time to devote to watching them so one must be more and more selective. This article is designed to help you make the wisest selection of which show to watch when you can't watch more than one. To make this reference as handy as possible I'll discuss each show individually and then rate it with *s. Four *s meaning a must one * meaning blichy. (pronounce the "ch" in blichy as if it were German.)

FAMILY FEUD: What a turkey! The ratio of quizzing to chatting is terrible. Host Richard Dawson has more methods for wasting time than Willard Scott does and believe me Willard Scott has plenty. For the uninitiated, FAMILY FEUD consists of having two families line up and try to guess a studio audiences answers to a poll. The average prize money awarded per show is about \$3,000--now remember that that whopping sum is divided five ways. Yawn! *

JEOPARDY: What can be said that hasn't been said already? This is it in terms of high audience participation (I love howling the answer before the contestants!) high stakes (double-jeopardy is such an intreaqueing gamble) and what a ratio of Questions to banter! Each show has about 81 questions. That's an outrageous four questions a minute during on-air-time. Alex Trebek is no Don Pardo but I still love it. ****

JOKERS' WILD: It has alot of questions for your thirty-minutes but they are often very easy. I have gone through whole shows without missing any. Too much of the show is based on luck to suit me. A good concept just a little shaky at the seems. **

NAME THAT TUNE: This show is too specialized. Unless you are a pop music fanatic from the fourties thru seveties you are doomed on this show. The bid a note is comic and definitely entertaining (I get so excited when someone says--"Rick, I can name that tune in one note!") however, the games are arcane and unfair--the tie breakers are too quick--the winnings are paltry. Skip this one. *

THE 1 I CAN'T REMEMBER THE NAME OF: It comes on CBS immediately after THE PRICE IS RIGHT. It is supposed to be funny and some times is. Three couples go against each other and have to place things in one of two catagories. For example the question might be..."Tell me if the following is a former Secretary of War or a gland in the human body. Secretary or Gland." Then the emcee goes through a list and the contestants say either Secretary or Gland. It can be very funny, it can also be very dumb. OH BOY! I remember the name! EVERY SECOND COUNTS! Anyway, it won't last another year. **

THE PRICE IS RIGHT: Talk about your oldies. Bob Barker is the Ponce De Leon of daytime t.v. If you like Johnny Olsen describing prizes this game is for you. The man averages thirty descriptions a show. But that's part of the problem, there is so much goggling at prizes that games are slighted. In sixty minutes there are only 14 actual questions--that leaves alot of time for goggling...and humming...and hahing...and chatting...The wholesale greed displayed on this show is refreshing and the number of prizes doledout is impressive but I can't really recomend it as a staple. **

THE WHEEL OF FORTUNE: Pat Sayjak (the master of Dick Cavet act-alikes) hosts what has become the most popular game show in recent memory. The show has some great features...excellent oppertunity for audience participation, the wittiest host in the business, and the lovely Vanna White who turns around the letters of the puzzle with such grace and style. The weakest aspect is the fact that only five puzzles are presented each time. Fortunately the show does edit out most of the wheel spinning which used to take forever. All in all a respectable show that will probably last a long while to come. ***

That's not a complete list but it's a start. Maybe more later.

Readers who have opinions about things like game shows, animal cookies, movies, and the ilk are encouraged to send their opinions to me for immediate publication. It doesn't take a chicken to evaluate the taste of eggs. So have at it.

BART AIKENS

SCREED

TCOE'S official subzine
No. 3 March 1985

"I am content to sit back
in silence and contemplate
my own former eloquence"

--Unsuccessful New York City
mayoral candidate William F.
Buckley Jr. refusing his re-
buttal time during a debate

PREAMBLE: Hi folks. Let me waste no time in thanking Greg Ellis, the Austin idol, for sending me an honorary copy of his political and polemical Feuilletonist's Forum after having read my Dick Gregory piece last issue. This edition of Screed might interest Greg because it's blatantly partisan and hopefully prophetic. Yes, at this early stage I will venture to predict that the winners of the 1988 presidential and vice presidential races will be Andre (no relation to Dick) Gregory and Wally Shawn.

* * * * * * *

You might remember Andre and Wally from their 1981 film My Dinner With Andre, a 110-minute dinner conversation between two old friends in the theater that covers a variety of intellectual topics. It happens to be one of my all-time favorites, but that's beside the point. After having listened intently to what Andre and Wally had to say and after teaming them as running mates in a few games of Landslide, I have come to the irrevocable conclusion that these liberal New Yorkers would make superb Democratic presidential material in '88. Cuomo, Hart, Kennedy and company, you fellows don't have a chance at the nomination!

I'm sure that Andre and Wally are secretly scheming at this very moment. These guys have thought everything through over dinner; they've got the plan for America. And who could ever say they aren't qualified for high office? Andre's been to Poland, the Sahara, Scotland and India--he's seen the world and has been in numerous altered states of mind and body, to judge by the avant-garde workshops he's led and the Buddhist monks he's communed with. Andre is the consummate cosmopolitan, an asset of his made all the more acute in comparison with President Reagan's narrow-minded nativism. Don't worry, he can afford to campaign full-time--he's very wealthy. I learned of Andre's hereditary riches by reading Marie Brenner's "My Conversation With Andre" in the Oct. 19, 1981 edition of New York.

Wally? Well, he's neither well-traveled or rich. But I'm sure Andre would give his friend a financial assist during the campaign, and don't you think we could use a hard-headed pragmatist on the ticket to balance Andre's tendencies toward arcane allusion, asceticism and occasional outright nonsense?

What would be the thrust of a Gregory-Shawn campaign? Asking questions, Andre would say (by the way, Andre would be at the top of the ticket, given his guru status, while Wally would provide sound counsel). People in this society always want answers, but they never get them because they fail to ask the right questions. Never mind that Gregory-Shawn have no solutions nor any particular stances on the issues. They'll be sure to ask the right questions, and that, I believe, is a theme that will find favor among the masses in four years.

Please forward correspondence to Screed, C129 Hillcrest, Iowa City, IA 52242

It's Harvey Zeyon... and this is my address...
490 East 30th/ Eugene, OR/ 97405.

There's still one game open. It's still the limited intelligence sub-bout game. You don't know why the other players are and you only know the location of the pieces to which you are adjacent. Two are ready to go.

PICASSO AND EARLY CUBISM

The early paintings of Pablo Picasso were quite traditional in form. His works were less daring than the Fauvians (a traditional school that "marvelously" cracked wild colors on otherwise normal paintings.) In 1907 Picasso changed his nineteenth century ways by creating Les Femmes d'Alger. Three of the most revolutionary aspects of the painting are:

1. Multiple point perspective (as opposed to the single point perspective of real life.)
2. Total disregard for accurate human anatomy.
3. Introduction of primitive masks and artistic principals into western art--obliterate the faces of the figures on the right.

Before I continue, this painting is not cubist. However, it did set the ground work for earlier cubist, including the work of the entire world of cubism. A sign of every sort of cubism that you have ever seen, and I will wager that looks like it, came from this painting's influence.

Les Femmes d'Alger depicts a brother scene which is still being analyzed by the use of primitive and cubist techniques the sensual nature of the subject. It is to be expected that you will find

that... Picasso's first work in cubism and his early association with Cezanne, Braque, a rare and important as Picasso's modern art.

... a few to go.



H. H. Pyper

1985 RUNESTONE SUBZINE POLL OFFICIAL BALLOT

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> BAD DOGGIE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLETIVE DELETED | <input type="checkbox"/> MeANNderings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> THE BEHOLDER | <input type="checkbox"/> FATHER KNOWS LESS | <input type="checkbox"/> MOS EISLEY SPACEPORT |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BENZENE | <input type="checkbox"/> FEMME FATALE | <input type="checkbox"/> ONLY YESTERDAY |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BETTY DALY'S SUBZINE | <input type="checkbox"/> FEUDETTE | <input type="checkbox"/> ORPHAN CITY |
| <input type="checkbox"/> THE BOOB REPORT | <input type="checkbox"/> FIAT BELLUM | <input type="checkbox"/> PERLMUTTER'S REVENGE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BOTTOMS UP | <input type="checkbox"/> FNORD | <input type="checkbox"/> PHYLLIS'S PYRAMID |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BUT I'M HAPPY | <input type="checkbox"/> FOOT IN MOUTH | <input type="checkbox"/> SAVOLINNA |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BUTTER BATTLES | <input type="checkbox"/> GALIMATIAS | <input type="checkbox"/> SCREED |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CHOMPS & MIAMS | <input type="checkbox"/> HARE OF THE DOG | <input type="checkbox"/> SEX APPEFL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CONFERENCE CALL | <input type="checkbox"/> HIGH PLAINS GONZO | <input type="checkbox"/> SHADOWPLAY |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CORN OFF THE COBB | <input type="checkbox"/> HUMBOLDT | <input type="checkbox"/> THE SPACE VIKING |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CUBISTS' CORNER | <input type="checkbox"/> KATHY'S KORNER | <input type="checkbox"/> STRANGE DOINGS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DAYLESFORD | <input type="checkbox"/> KNOWN GAME OPENINGS | <input type="checkbox"/> SUBMARINE WARFARE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DEBI'S FILLER | <input type="checkbox"/> THE LITTLE DIPPER | <input type="checkbox"/> TEMPORARILY DELAYED |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DIPLOMACY BY MOONLIGHT | <input type="checkbox"/> MAGGIE'S ZINE | <input type="checkbox"/> THE TOAST OF PHILADELPHIA |
| <input type="checkbox"/> THE ECHO OF DOOM | <input type="checkbox"/> MAGNIFICENT 7 | <input type="checkbox"/> VERTIGO |
| <input type="checkbox"/> E*S*A*D | <input type="checkbox"/> MALAGUEÑA | <input type="checkbox"/> VICIOUS HATE SHEET |

(Blank spaces are for any I've neglected to list.)

1985 RUNESTONE GM POLL OFFICIAL BALLOT

Vote	GM's Name	Vote	GM's Name	Vote	GM's Name
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

(Please list GMs alphabetically by surname, going down the columns.)

Signature _____

I participate in the Diplomacy hobby by _____

PLEASE READ INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE VOTING! Send this ballot to Bruce Linsey, 73 Ashuelot St., Apt. 3, Dalton, MA 01226 U.S.A. or Pat Conlon, Box 17014, LSU, Baton Rouge, LA 70893 U.S.A.

QUESTION: Would you like to see non-North American publications and GMs included in the 1986 Runestone Poll? (Please check one response.)

yes
 no
 don't care

1985 RUNESTONE ZINE POLL OFFICIAL BALLOT

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ALPHA & OMEGA | <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELSIOR | <input type="checkbox"/> PERELANDRA |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ANDUIN | <input type="checkbox"/> FESTUNGS HOF | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITESSE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> THE APPALACHIAN GENERAL | <input type="checkbox"/> FEUDESSE | <input type="checkbox"/> PONTEVEDRIA |
| <input type="checkbox"/> APPALLING GREED | <input type="checkbox"/> FEUILLETONIST'S FORUM | <input type="checkbox"/> THE PRINCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> THE ARMCHAIR DIPLOMAT | <input type="checkbox"/> FLICK OF THE WRIST | <input type="checkbox"/> PROTOZOAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BERSAGLIERI | <input type="checkbox"/> FOL SI FIE | <input type="checkbox"/> RAGING MAIN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BIG HITS OF MID-AMERICA | <input type="checkbox"/> FROBOZZ | <input type="checkbox"/> REBEL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BOAST | <input type="checkbox"/> THE GAMER'S ZINE | <input type="checkbox"/> REDWOOD CURTAIN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> THE BROADSIDE | <input type="checkbox"/> GIVE ME A WEAPON | <input type="checkbox"/> RETALIATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BUSHWACKER | <input type="checkbox"/> GRAUSTARK | <input type="checkbox"/> SLEEPLESS KNIGHTS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> THE BUZZARD'S BREATH | <input type="checkbox"/> HAI! JIKAI! | <input type="checkbox"/> SNAFU! |
| <input type="checkbox"/> THE CANADIAN DIPLOMAT | <input type="checkbox"/> HANSARD | <input type="checkbox"/> SO I LIED |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CATHY'S RAMBLINGS | <input type="checkbox"/> HOOF AND MOUTH | <input type="checkbox"/> STABBACK |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CHEESECAKE | <input type="checkbox"/> HOUSE OF LORDS | <input type="checkbox"/> TACKY |
| <input type="checkbox"/> COAT OF ARMS | <input type="checkbox"/> THE INNER LIGHT | <input type="checkbox"/> TER-RAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> COMMAND | <input type="checkbox"/> IRKSOME! | <input type="checkbox"/> THIRTY MILES OF BAD ROAD |
| <input type="checkbox"/> THE CONCERT OF EUROPE | <input type="checkbox"/> ITALIANO PRIBE | <input type="checkbox"/> TORPEDO |
| <input type="checkbox"/> COSTAGUANA | <input type="checkbox"/> KAISSA | <input type="checkbox"/> TOUCHE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> D-DAY! | <input type="checkbox"/> LIBERTERREAN | <input type="checkbox"/> THE VOICE OF DOOM |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DIPLOMACY DIGEST | <input type="checkbox"/> LIFE OF MONTY | <input type="checkbox"/> WHITESTONIA |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DIPLOMACY WORLD | <input type="checkbox"/> LONE STAR DIPLOMAT | <input type="checkbox"/> WHO CARES? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DIPLOMAG | <input type="checkbox"/> MACABRE | <input type="checkbox"/> WINSOME LOSESOME |
| <input type="checkbox"/> THE DIPLOMAT | <input type="checkbox"/> MAGUS | <input type="checkbox"/> THE WORDWORKS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DIPPY | <input type="checkbox"/> MIDLIFE CRISIS | <input type="checkbox"/> XENOGOGIC |
| <input type="checkbox"/> THE DOGS OF WAR | <input type="checkbox"/> MIKE'S MAG | <input type="checkbox"/> ZOMBIE FLESH |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DOWN THE TUBES | <input type="checkbox"/> MURD'RING MINISTERS | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EFGIART | <input type="checkbox"/> NO FIXED ADDRESS | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> THE ELECTRIC PENGUIN | <input type="checkbox"/> NORTH SEALTH, WEST GEORGE | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EMHAIN MACHA | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT NEW YORK | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> END JUSTIFIES THE MEANS | <input type="checkbox"/> OMNIPOTENT | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ENVOY | <input type="checkbox"/> THE ORPHANAGE | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EREHWON | <input type="checkbox"/> QUINIPIQUE | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EUROPA EXPRESS | <input type="checkbox"/> PARANOIACS' MONTHLY | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EVERYTHING | | <input type="checkbox"/> |

(Blank spaces are for any I've neglected to list.)

Signature _____

I participate in the Diplomacy hobby by _____

PLEASE READ INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE VOTING! Send this ballot to Bruce Linsey, 73 Ashuelot St., Apt. 3, Dalton, MA 01226 U.S.A. or Pat Conlon, Box 17014, LSU, Baton Rouge, LA 70893 U.S.A.

IF YOU WISH TO RECEIVE THE POLL RESULTS BY MAIL, enclose \$1.00 U.S. (to Bruce Linsey). (Results will include a complete statistical analysis, preference matrix, etc.)

The 1985 Runestone & GM Poll

THE NINTH ANNUAL NORTH AMERICAN ZINE POLL: You may rate any publication substantially devoted to Diplomacy of which you have seen more than two issues since April 1, 1984. Rate the series, not individual issues. Rate each zine on a scale of 0 to 10 (0 being the lowest possible rating, 10 the highest). No fractions, please. Specify subzines and rate them separately from the parent zine; subzines will be listed separately. Publishers may not rate their own zines or subzines. Sign your ballot and indicate one way in which you participate in the hobby (e.g. "I sub to zine XXX", "I play in game 1984YY", "I publish zine ZZZ", etc.). All votes will be kept confidential (but please note that Pat Conlon will see all of them). Please list the zines alphabetically to make tabulation of the results easier. I reserve the right to tabulate or ignore ballots which do not follow the format outlined above.

THE EIGHTH ANNUAL NORTH AMERICAN GAMESMASTER POLL: You may rate any GM in whose postal game or games you were a player during the year beginning April 1, 1984, and under whom you played for long enough to gain an objective assessment of his or her competence as a GM. Rate each GM on a scale of 0 to 10 (0 being the lowest possible rating, 10 the highest). No fractions, please. Gamesmasters may not rate themselves. Others may not rate GMs in whose games they were not active players during the poll period. Rate each GM by NAME, not by zine. Votes which do not use the GM's name will not be tabulated. Please list the GMs in alphabetical order by SURNAME. Distinguish between Ron Brown of California and Ron Brown of Canada if you vote for either or both.

The deadline for both polls is June 29, 1985. The deadline for ballots sent to Pat Conlon is June 22, 1985. Results will be tabulated as soon after the poll deadline as possible, and will be released as they become available to anyone wishing to phone. Please rate only North American zines, subzines, and GMs; though any readers or players living outside North America are welcome to participate. Send all ballots to Bruce Linsey, 73 Ashuelot St., Apt. 3, Dalton, MA 01226, USA or Pat Conlon, Box 17014, LSU, Baton Rouge, LA 70893, USA.

CHANGES AND OTHER NOTES PERTAINING TO THIS YEAR'S ANNOUNCEMENT:

Due to the turmoil surrounding the change of pollsters this year, I have attempted to keep procedural changes to a minimum. Nonetheless, we do have a few:

There is no "official" proclamation against grudge votes this year. As a voter, you may vote using any criteria that you deem fair and reasonable. Some people tend to ignore such a restriction anyway, as Randolph Smyth mournfully pointed out after last year's poll. So the restriction was unenforceable -- and in my opinion, unrealistic as well. That is, I believe that the quality of a zine (or the voters' opinions thereof, which is after all what the poll is supposed to measure) CAN be affected by the publisher's ethics or his stance regarding feuds -- the basis of most grudge votes, if you will. Vote as you see fit.

Anyone who has participated in the Diplomacy hobby since April 1, 1984 is eligible to vote.

I will be discounting the top and bottom 10% (as opposed to last year's 8%) of the votes cast for any given zine, subzine, or GM. This figure will be rounded down, so that zines (etc.) receiving fewer than ten votes will not be subject to this provision. I believe that Randolph applied this lopping-off procedure only to the zines last year; I'll be applying it to the subzines and GMs as well -- but only in determining the "averaging" scores, NOT in forming the preference matrix. Which brings me to...

The preference matrix. Randolph had initially planned to come up with a preference matrix for the zines last year, and generate two lists. This ended up not working out; this year I plan to draw up a preference matrix for zines only, and generate a score for each zine. The preference matrix scores will then be averaged with the zines' "averaging" scores to produce a single final list.

In addition to providing a second list of scores to be combined with the zines' mean scores, the preference matrix should prove to add interest to the poll results by itself, as it will be portrayed in graphic form. I have devised a formula which will translate a zine's raw score from the matrix to a number ranging from 0 to 10, so that the combining of the lists will be practical.

There may be other embellishments to the presentation of the results, depending on what I can dream up to make the final product more interesting to the readers. We'll see.

A few clarifications regarding specific publications and GMs: as mentioned in the GM poll announcement, be sure to distinguish between the two Ron Browns if you vote for either or both. Treat Whitestonia as a zine, Kathy's Korner as a subzine (to keep the status quo from years past.) The editor of Bad Doggie treats that product as a subzine even though it sometimes appears separately from the parent zine; therefore the poll will tabulate BD as a subzine. Ditto for Orphan City; treat it as a subzine.

The cutoffs for inclusion in the main lists will be the same as last year's: ten votes for zines, five for subzines and GMs. Zines which do not make the main list will not be included in the preference matrix.

A clarification to the rule that you must have seen more than two issues of a zine in order to vote for it: if you were supposed to see more than two issues of a zine but did not (i.e. because the publisher has not published regularly), then you may still vote for that zine. I can think of one or two "active" publications that fall into this category: sorry, guys, but being grossly irregular ain't gonna get you off the hook around here if the voters wish to send you a message...

The Conlon Arrangement: Voters who for any reason do not wish to send their ballots to me (Bruce Linsey) may send them instead to Pat Conlon, whose address appears with the announcement above. PLEASE NOTE THAT THE DEADLINE FOR BALLOTS GOING TO PAT IS A WEEK BEFORE MY DEADLINE. This is so that Pat will have time to transcribe the ballots and send them to me by the poll deadline. I will not know who voted how among those ballots received by Pat -- he will be copying them onto blank, unsigned ballots which will then be sent on to me. However, he will be providing me with a list of names so that I can 1) check to make sure no one voted twice, and 2) publish a list of all people who voted.

After the poll results are tabulated, I will be sending all of the ballots (or copies thereof) to Pat, who will verify the results if necessary.

For ease in voting, I suggest that voters use the official ballots which will accompany this mailing (and I'll be very grateful to those publishers who choose to print the ballots); but of course this is not required.

Any questions on the voting procedure should be directed to me.

The Runestone Poll is the oldest and most highly regarded of the Diplomacy hobby's polls. It is my intention to maintain this status by publishing the results accurately, impartially, promptly, and in a (hopefully) interesting manner. I ask each and every member of the hobby to do his or her part by getting out there and voting. May the best publications -- and GMs -- win!

FIRST CLASS
MAIL

MR. LARRY PEERY
P.O. Box 8416
SAN DIEGO, CA 92102



M. LEE
3480 DANNA CT
EUGENE, OR 97405

WARNING!

TCOE IS VIRTUALLY
A WAREHOUSE THIS MONTH.

I'll BE IN L.A. IN MARCH.

ANY CHANCE OF MY
MEETING THE DIRECTOR
OF THE INSTITUTE
FOR DIPLOMATIC

STUDIES? I'll HAVE

MY PEOPLE CONTACT
YOUR PEOPLE AND WE'LL
SEE IF THE IDGA SWIMS

NO, SERIOUSLY DO YOU
EVER MAKE IT UP TO
L.A.?

M