

IT'S

# SON OF GUANA



Volume 10, Number 14

January 4, 1986

And what were you doing in April 1965? I know what I was doing; I was typing up the first (terribly sloppy and awkward) issue of a new Diplomacy journal. If that strains your memory too much, try this: What were you doing on January 22, 1984? I was, after a bit of a hiatus, typing up the first (revived) issue of the same Diplomacy journal.

And now it is 1986. World War II has been over for forty-one years. I have been living and breathing for forty-two years. For twenty-one years, precisely half my life, I have been involved with postal Diplomacy. In the interim:

- A. Five different people have served as President;
- B. The undeclared war in Indochina has escalated, and nearly destroyed the nation, and has been resolved;
- C. The human race has stood on the surface of the moon;
- D. I have married, dissolved the marriage, remarried, fathered two children, weathered the storms of mid-life crisis, and wound up happy;
- E. I have suffered from, and have beaten (so far), alcoholism;
- F. I've cranked out 185 issues of this fucking publication.

This is COSTAGUANA - one of the Great Ones - a journal of postal Diplomacy and cacaphonic co-miseration, published by Conrad Friesner von Metzke, 4374 Donald Ave., San Diego, CA 92117-3813.

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Trades: All-for-all, gladly. Subs: 22c per copy, payable in increments of ten. Game fees: None, beyond maintaining a subscription (or trade).

GAME OPENINGS: Openings exist for the following:

Regular Diplomacy.

Cline 9-man Variant. (Rules & Map published next issue.)

Gunboat Variant. Same as regular, except all players are anonymous; any negotiation must be done via the press. This one can be FUN!

Now: Let it be announced that, for the Cline 9-Man variant, we will have a Guest Gamesmaster. And I will be one of the players! The Guest GM, Simon Billeness, will receive all moves; will read the results to me on the telly the day after deadline; and will be responsible for monitoring that I have published precisely what he told me to publish.

Future game openings will include (when space permits) Allan Owens' 'Logical Diplomacy' and Dick Vedder's 'Jihad.'

Other publishers: Could I please impose on you for some publicity?

FOLLOW-UP TIME: A few issues ago, I ran a story about the rise to power, fall from grace, indictment, trial and conviction of the Mayor of San Diego, Roger Hedgecock. (No, Piggott, the plosive is voiced; it's "HEHDJ-kahk," you fool! "Hedgecoo" indeed! Ain't you been learned the bleedin' language?)

The dénouement to the saga of Poor Roger came at last, after excruciating legal manoeuvring that stretched all the way to the California Supreme Court, on Tuesday, December 10, 1985. Poor Roger finally, officially, and painfully resigned from office; a few minutes later, he entered a courtroom and heard Judge William Todd sentence him to one year in jail, a fine of \$1000, and three years' probation.

Pending an appointment to the position, the acting Mayor is Councilman Ed Struikama - a horse's patootie. He will serve in an interim capacity, hopefully briefly, until a successor is chosen. And believe me, if Mr. Struikama, or any other right-wing lunatic, is chosen, I'm moving to New Zealand! ("This is COSTAGUANA, a journal of postal Diplomacy and Maori memorabilia....")

Note to New Yorkers: Our Supreme Court is the equivalent of your Superior Court, and vice-versa. Out of step as usual, wot?

Note to Piggott: Don't you really mean "'edgoco'?"

ERIC DEPARTMENT: The other evening, Eric and I sat down to discuss the days of the week.

Daddy: Today is Monday; what's tomorrow?

Eric: Tuesday!

Daddy: And what comes after Tuesday?

Eric: Thursday!

Daddy: No, Eric; it's Wednesday; then Thursday!

Eric: Wednesday.

Daddy: Right! Then what?

Eric: Thursday, and Friday, and Sunday.

Daddy: Oops! You missed Saturday....

(This went on for three rounds. Then:)

Daddy: Right, Eric! Tuesday comes after Monday. Then what's next?

Eric: Thursday.

Daddy: No, Eric, remember? Wednesday!

Eric: Daddy, can we stop? I'm not very good at this yet.

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FRANK AND ERNEST

Bob Thaves



There having been no entrants in last issue's contest to fill obscure spaces left over at the bottoms of pages, the contest is repeated this time. Here is your space. Do something with it; I can't.



IT'S HAYDN SYMPHONY TIME AGAIN: As a follow-up triviality on this subject, it may (but probably won't) interest you to know that, in addition to the 108 authentic symphonies written by him, there are many more falsely attributed to the man. Partly this is because, in Haydn's era, copyright laws were all but non-existent; thus, when an unknown composer came forth to present his work to the public, he or his publisher would quite often ascribe the piece to a better-known name in the hope of increasing sales. In some cases, the cause is sloppy librarianship; cases are known where a composition would be 'assigned' to a seemingly appropriate composer, merely to have some way of filing the thing. A third, and unique, cause of error in Haydn's case involves his less-well-known brother, Michael; the latter is believed to have written at least fifty symphonies of his own, and many came to be published under Joseph's name simply because most publishers, when offered a symphony by "Haydn," naturally assumed the more famous one.

In his monumental "The Symphonies of Joseph Haydn" (Universal/Rockliff, 1955), H.C. Robbins Landon catalogues 134 symphonies attributed wrongly to Joseph Haydn; Antony Van Hoboken scrapes up a few more and carries the list out to 148. Both men make strong efforts to identify the true composer, and succeed in about 75% of the cases in identifying with certainty or probability the true author - no mean feat when you consider that over half the symphonies involved no longer actually exist, but are known only through catalogue listings or library notations.

For curiosity value, I compiled a list of all composers whose works were at some point erroneously or falsely attributed to Joseph Haydn. Note that in a few cases (where no first names are listed), even the full identity of the composer is lost; the moral being, I suppose, that not all attempts to achieve immortality by latching onto the name of someone famous are successful.

A final note before I list the forty-six composers, famous and otherwise (at least one is actually better-known than Haydn), to whose works Haydn's name has been taped: Roughly 15% of the uncertainty in these symphonies could have been cleared up in the Dresden State Library, which maintained one of the finest music libraries in the world prior to 1944. Unfortunately, the British fire-bombing of that city utterly destroyed the library (as well as thousands of civilian lives), and the data once kept there are now lost forever.

Oh yes - of the 134 (or 148) symphonies noted by Landon and Hoboken, fully 35 cannot be attributed to anyone at all.

ABEL, Carl Friedrich +	HAYDN, Johann Michael +
ANGERER, Philipp Edmund	HERFFERT
BACH, Johann Christian +	HOFFMEISTER, Franz Anton +
CARTELLIERO, Antonio	HOFMANN, Leopold +
DITTERSDORF, Karl Ditters von +	HOLZBAUER, Ignaz +
DUSSEK, Franz +	KIMMERLING, Robert
FILTZ, Anton +	KLOEFFLER, Johann Friedrich
FRÄNZL, Ignaz	KLUG
GASSMANN, Florian +	KÖRZEL, Franz
GRÉTRY, André-Modeste +	KOZELUCH, Leopold Anton +
GUÉNIN, Marie-Alexandre	KRAUS, Johann Martin +
GYROWETZ, Adalbert +	LAUSENMAYER

MALDERE, Pierre van +	SCHMITT, Joseph
MASSONEAU, Louis	SCHMITTBAUER, Joseph Alois
MONSIGNY, Pierre Alexandre +	SCHNEIDER, Franz
MOZART, Leopold +	SCHUBERT, Franz
MOZART, Wolfgang Amadeus +	SCHUSTER, Joseph +
ORDÓÑEZ, Carlos d'	SONNLEITHNER, Christoph +
PICHL, Wenzel +	STERKEL, Abbé Joh. Franz Xaver
PLEYEL, Ignaz +	SWIETEN, Gottfried van. +
ROSETTI, Francesco Antonio +	WANHAL, Johann Baptist +
SACCHINI, Antonio Gasparo +	WASSMUTH
SARTI, Giuseppe +	ZIMMERMANN, Anton
SCHMID, Johann Michael	

The notation "+" signifies that I am familiar with the composer's music, through recordings, score studies, or biographical data. Not bad for an amateur, eh?

Want some more trivia about those listed?

1. FRANZ SCHUBERT is not the famous one of the "Unfinished Symphony." This one lived in Dresden, wrote an absolute ton of second-rate music, and is best known for having filed a series of protests against a young Viennese upstart who issued a series of "wild, modern bits of trash" under his name.

2. ANDRÉ GRÉTRY, a Belgian with a facility for melody but no knowledge of harmony, was immortalized by his opera "Richard the Lion-Hearted," and also by one of the more wonderful sarcastic quotes in music history: "Between Grétry's treble and bass you can drive a coach and six white horses!"

3. GOTTFRIED VAN SWIETEN will never be remembered as a composer, but he will never be forgotten as a writer; he provided Joseph Haydn with the texts to the latter's two great oratorios, 'The Creation' and 'The Seasons.'

4. JOSEPH MARTIN KRAUS was German-born, but his immortality rests on being the greatest Swedish composer of his era. He wrote the Swedish national opera, 'Gustav Wasa.' He also wrote a cantata in memory of the assassinated Gustavus Adolphus that was finished just two weeks before Kraus' own death, and which was performed for the first time at Kraus' own funeral.

5. FRANCESCO ANTONIO ROSETTI was a virtuoso on the French horn who emigrated from Bohemia to Italy, changed his name (he was born Franz Anton Rüssler), and achieved the distinction of having more of his music attributed Joseph Haydn than any other person save Brother Michael. It is also interesting to note that his year of birth is uncertain, but has been boiled down to one of two years which are astonishingly far apart: Rosetti was born either in 1746 or in 1760. Why the incredible gap remains as yet unexplained.

6. ANTON FILTZ, a fiery prodigy with one of the most distinctive personal styles known in this period, lived a mere thirty years (1730-1760) but wrote an immense quantity of music in all forms. How anyone could have confused his individualistic compositions with Haydn's is hard to fathom.

7. The oldest composer on the list? Ignaz Holzbauer, born 1711. The youngest? Antonio Cartelliero, born 1772.

## WHAT TO CALL AN OCTOPUS AND ITS MATE - William Safire

"Superpower relations are like octopi making love," I wrote in a summatory thumbsucker about the need to link issues and interests, "and all the tentacles must intertwine." I filed the copy with some glee; political pundits enjoy taking an abstract subject like linkage and expressing a thought about it in a deliciously entangling metaphor.

Imagine my horror when the sentence appeared in The New York Times reading, "...like octopuses making love." An Op-Ed page copy editor who has saved me from countless embarrassments had gone too far, I thought. Ordinarily, she will call to ask, "Are you sure you want to say 'compared to' in showing dissimilarity? Shouldn't that be 'compared with?' Or do you disagree with the usage books, and especially our stylebook, which uses to to show similarity, and want to do it your way?" That's my kind of copy editor, guarding me against unintended errors, but prepared to tolerate my stylistic statements. But in this case, the correction was made as if I were wrong and had no basis for argument.

Octopi, in my mind, has always been the plural of octopus. I also drive through Arizona being prickly to the cacti, friendly to the alumni, and yawn back at the hippopotami in the San Diego Zoo. Yes, there are those who say octopuses, but these are not among the cognoscentuses; to buttress my case, I followed the advice of Squawks McGrew, the Thurber baseball manager who used to say, "You could look it up."

'Octopi' is listed as the second choice in both Webster's New World Dictionary and Merriam-Webster's Ninth New Collegiate, which prefer 'octopuses.' That did not bother me; both dictionaries prefer the pronunciation 'LAMentable' when present usage has become 'laMENTable,' and I'm with it and they're not, so let them rend their garments and wail. But a flat statement in Fowler's Modern English Usage stopped me: "Plural -uses; -pi is wrong and -podes pedantic."

Uh-oh. Octopus comes from octo, 'eight,' and 'pous,' foot. The Greek plural of 'pous' is 'podes,' pronounced "pode-eez," as in Antipodes, "with the feet opposite," which is why the islands Down Under, on the other side of the earth, are called the Antipodes. Ain't no way to make 'pi' the Greek plural of 'pous;' it's wrong, wrong, wrong.

The only reason 'octopi' is in dictionaries as a second use is that a group of priggishly mistaken people keep using it, confusing it with correct Greek. So I am no longer sore at the copy editor. If you want to be a pedant, say 'octipodes,' which establishes your bona fides in the classical world; but if you want to call over more than one octopus in normal society, the thing to yell out is, "Here, octopuses!"

This does not mean that we cave in to the -uses crowd in the plural of cactus, alumnus, hippopotamus or even magus, each of which ends in "-i." This is not pedantic at all; it saves space and is easier to say. The use of the Latinate ending is also helpful in identifying sex: "Those are alumni," say the kids about the old-timers at a boys' school, and "Those are alumnae," snicker the kids about the health-food fanatics who return to Wellesly. I would use alumni to cover both male and female fogies at reunions, but feminists prefer the egalitarian concealment of 'alumnaes' or 'alums.'

Do not carry this too far; no '-i' ending is in use for sinus or hiatus, and anyone who pluralized apparatus as APPARATI would be considered an ignoramus. On occasion, the difference in endings helps us with a difference in meaning: 'Geniuses' can be grand-masters at chess, while I prefer 'genii' for spirits that can be called up from the vasty deep. Often, if the word is associated with science or medicine, the Latinate ending is preferred in common use, too: There are fungi growing in the radii of my circles.

Which brings us to 'um.' Scientists like the Latinate ending of the

plural of bacterium, and most laymen lay out great sums for antibiotics to kill bacteria, not bacteriums. Academics prefer curricula, sociologists like strata, ethicists choose criteria, and a big fight goes on between grinds and jocks over the plural of stadium - those erudite no-pass, no-play Texans say stadia, while the flunked-out linebackers say stadiums.

You have to make a decision about memorandum, medium and datum. The Associated Press stylebook says memorandums, referendums, stadiums; I disagree on all, saving space and avoiding the mumbling of 'ums.' The AP accepts the Latinate ending for the plurals of addendum and curriculum; come on all the way, fellas, and be consistent! Again, on occasion, the ending helps with meaning: Media are those dreaded opinion-manipulators, while mediums urge us to join hands and feel the table move and listen to the thumping.

A big stumper is: Do you ever construe 'data' as singular? Answer: Say 'data show' when you are talking to your fellow mathematicians about the ignorant hordes who are corrupting the meaning of your parameters; and say 'data shows' when you are speaking to those who dig the parameters of your concerns. Specifically, if you mean 'bits of information,' data is plural, and if you mean 'information in a lump,' it is a collective noun and should be treated as singular. When Ted Bernstein wrote that "the preference in good usage is to keep it plural," Laurence Urdang wrote in Verbatim: "Since datum, the singular, is confined chiefly to surveying, data used as a plural strikes me as a pedanticism."

However: Never, never construe media as singular - always say "the media are," not the conglomerating "the media is" - because the press is sensitive (not "the press are" anything) and will come and get you.

Readers with eight arms will recall that what got me off on this was the plural of octopus. This tirade was triggered by a tirade from Daniel Silver, of Mobile, AL, holding that "your analysis of octopus courtship, while very romantic, demonstrates less than consummate knowledge of animal behavior." He cites this passage in The Encyclopedia of the Animal Kingdom, by Maurice and Robert Burton: "In mating, which may take several hours, male and female sit apart. There is almost no courtship display...the only contact he has with her is through a single arm which he extends to caress her...."

Which makes wrong, not only the grammar, but also the biology. Perhaps the cited column did not represent my best day....

((All of which leads to a very good question: If both I and my most erudite friend are accustomed to saying 'apparati,' are we ignoramuses, or mere ignorami?))



TUMBLEWEEDS

T.K. Ryan



## WHAT, PRAY TELL, IS A FILING SYSTEM?

For Christmas, ~~the~~ Santa gave me a nice new filing cabinet. And as soon as we can agree on where I'm allowed to put it, I will get to work and set it up. Once finished (and that won't take long for the Diplomacy stuff; I'm not involved in very much), it will be much easier for me to keep up with what I'm doing. For the moment, it is chaos.

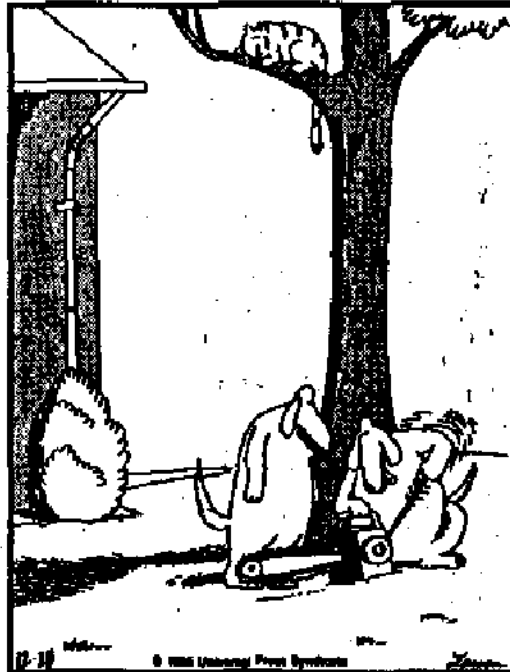
Only the COSTA mailing list is currently in sensible form; that's kept on index cards in a small plastic box. Everything else - moves, press, letters to the editor, letters on games I'm playing in, articles waiting for publication, cartoons, issues of other publishers' magazines, you name it - is now kept in one single manila envelope, and there is no organization whatsoever. In honesty, I am so chintzy that every time the manila envelope gets overloaded and splits, I just throw out the oldest stuff, tape up the sides, and keep on going.

Some system! Hah! So why am I wasting my time telling you? Excuse me, I'll type more tomorrow. Meanwhile, I'm going to get organized.

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THE FAR SIDE

Gary Larson



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I've just made the re-acquaintance of W. Elmer Hinton, Jr., who has been publishing a journal called KAISSA for some time now (latest issue is #105). Years ago when I knew his work, Elmer's efforts were a bit sloppy and a bit amateurish - very much like COSTAGUANA in its early days. This recent issue is on another plane altogether: Well printed, packed with good material, excellent game reports including nice maps, chat, opinions, a fine article by Fred Davis - the list goes on. Although Elmer and I diverge widely on some of his opinions, that doesn't change the exceptional overall quality. Four issues for \$5. Elmer gets mail at P.O. Box 'S', Nashua, NH 03061.



LET ME ALSO put in a strong supportive few lines on another Elmer Hinton effort, his 'Postal Locator' project. Elmer prints a broadside called 'Foundation,' which lists as much information as he can accumulate on postal Diplomacy players interested in taking on standby positions and/or new game positions. Journal publishers could have a marvellous tool at their disposal here; all that's needed is more input (so Elmer's lists can expand) and more support (so people will use the data).

I urge all readers to get involved here. Give the project a plug. If you want to play, tell Elmer so he can list you. And if you need a player, use the service. The address is: W. Elmer Hinton Jr., PO Box 'S', Nashua, NH 03061.

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COSTAGUANA back issues are available at any time to anyone who ever wants one. Every issue ever printed, except Vol. I Number 2, can be had for the cost of photocopying (I pay 3c a page). Should you ever want one, just ask; you can pay the bill on receipt.

Vol. I/2 is unavailable simply because the only copy known to me is so poorly mimeographed that I cannot get a readable copy. Believe me, you aren't missing a thing.

|||||

BACK ONE MORE TIME to Elmer Hinton. Though I've seen nothing from him directly (which makes sense, since I haven't asked), it is my understanding that a Register of Standby Players is also being maintained by the current Boardman Number Custodian, Bill Quinn (301 Conroe Dr., Conroe, TX 77301). I sincerely hope that there is no big competition/conflict going on here; I know that Elmer and Bill are not best friends, but if they are embroiled in a controversy here, I despair of the results. This is too valuable a service to be bogged down in personality problems. There is no reason why two 'standby registers' cannot co-exist, but I'd hate to think that they were trying an unnecessary competition and thus damaging both.

TALABWOFIGGLEQBOTCHSAGUENAYSTABTHEGRANDCLIMACTERICGREETERPILLARFEEBLEWEEBLE

**TRY THESE:**

A cannon ball is dropped from the top of a tower 250 feet tall. At the same time, another cannon ball of the same size and weight is fired straight out from a cannon. Which ball will reach the ground first?

A particular hospital wants to rotate its employees so that each one will have a turn on night duty. Mary is told that each Thursday she is to change shifts, but she will continue to have Sundays off. She is to change from the day shift (8 to 4) to the evening shift (4 to midnight); the following week she will have the graveyard shift (midnight to 8). Why won't this work?

A restaurant diner ordered coffee; when he went to take the first sip, he noticed a fly in it. He promptly recalled the waiter and asked for another cup of coffee. The waiter took the cup and came back soon with a cup without a fly. The diner took one sip, called the waiter, and said, "This is the same cup of coffee!" How did he know?

DIESCHULDIGKEITDESERSTENUNDVORNEHMSTENGEBOTES(K.35)DEPROFUNDISCLAMAVIFURD

GAME 1985 ? - The Delirious Dik-Dik - Spring 1901

(Note - this report, originally issued December 7, 1985, is being prepared in a format suitable for reprinting in the next issue.)

AUSTRIA (J.Walker): a vie-tri. a bud-aer. f tri-alb.  
 ENGLAND (Billness): a lvp-yor. f edi-nth. f lon-eng.  
 FRANCE (Acheson): a par-gae. a mar-bur. f bre-mid.  
 GERMANY (Gorham): a mun-ruh. a ber-kie. f kie-den.  
 ITALY (Rauterberg): a ven (h). a rom-apu. f nap-ion.  
 RUSSIA (Ron Brown): a mos-stp. a war-ukr. f sev-bla. f stp sc - bot.  
 TURKEY (R.Anderson): a con-bul. a say-arm. f ank-bla.

Fall 1901 moves are due Saturday, January 4, 1986. Once again, don't let holiday cheer let you forget. (One player - the one who used a greeting card - already has them on file.)

Note new addresses for:

Paul Rauterberg, 4158 Monona Dr., Madison, WI 53716

Rob Anderson, 320 Oceana, Oscoda, MI 48750 (this one valid until mid-January, then back to the old one).

LUPIN TO G.M. - Isn't the dik-dik a *addition of the state of Kansas's* ~~kind~~ small African antelope?

JAMUL TO ~~LUPIN~~ LUPIN: What did you do, peek at the last issue?

SOMEWHERE IN TYROLIA: "Trust me," the minister from Napoli whispered into the willing ear of the Duchessa of the Danube. "I only want to bring my armies into position, to protect you from an imminent assault from that Prussian master of perversion."

"Oh, do tell, sir Minister, I would know more!" breathed the Duchess.

"I could relate such hideous acts that would surely burn your virginal ears but, fear not, with my armies behind you, you've naught to fear from this madman."

"Perhaps not from the Prussian, but would thou do unto my country as thou intends on doing to me?" queried the Duchess.

Stay tuned....

JAMUL: The Minister is, of course, an expert on the dik-dik....

AUSTRIA TO G.M.: (Would you be more disappointed or surprised if I didn't protest getting Austria?) I protest getting Austria. ((Fine. For an additional 50c, you can also have coffee.)) (Not exciting enough? Okay, here goes....) What d'ya mean "AUSTRIA"?!! By your own review of players' addresses you blatantly point out that I, being the only Southerner/Non-D+++d-Yankee in the group, have been singled out for the "Austrian treatment." How can I continue with such a handicap (the handicap of playing Austria, not of being the only Southerner)? This is almost as humiliating as playing Italy.

AUSTRIA TO ITALY: I like playing Italy. It's a nice country.

JAMUL TO AUSTRIA: In almost forty-two years of life, I have strived valiantly to eliminate all traces of prejudice and discrimination from my character and my behavior. And I have finally succeeded, though you aren't helping much. I do not discriminate against anybody, be they people or Texans. Besides, I too am a Southerner. I was born in the extreme Southern portion of Northern California.

PARIS: All right! Another game of Yankee-doodle-dandy!

JAMUL: You must not have read the last press release!

PARIS TO G.M.: The Giants? At least you stay with your team through hard times (like the last 20 years)!

G.M. TO PARIS: Actually, the Giants are a fine team, and always have been. In fairness, they do occasionally lack certain minor elements that might make them better...like pitching, batting, fielding, coaching....

If it's any consolation, I was saddened to see Toronto lose out. Maybe next year, with a little more experience under their belts, they won't choke up under the decisive pressure.

VIENNA: Heidi, rolling her hips just enough to emphasize how well her figure was put together, strolled into the library, winked at "the professor" and sat down in one of the comfortable over-stuffed chairs.

"My dear," began the older gentleman, "I am glad you were able to come so quickly."

Somewhat contemptuously, Heidi replied, "I wish you could."

Deeply embarrassed and hurt, the man aged visibly. Muffled laughter could be heard seeming to come from within the wall itself. Startled, Heidi stood up and quickly looked around.

"My dear," continued the old gentleman, "there is no one here but us." Because her glance said she did not believe him, the old man continued, "Go ahead, search the place, but be quick about it!" After her search she sat down again.

"There! Have I satisfied you?" asked the man.

"Honey, you've never satisfied me." The laughter was there again but was more muffled. This time Heidi ignored it. "So what's the deal this time, pops?"

"Must you be so business-like? Can't we talk first? Heidi, you know how...."

"Sure, pops, I know how and I get tired of having to teach you all the time."

Not pausing to listen for "wall-laughter", the gent flashed a spark of anger. "Now listen here, you brazen hussy! I know more about this stupid espionage business than...." As the man continued in his tirade, Heidi felt a twinge of guilt that made her squirm. Noticing how perfectly delightful her squirming was, the old man lost his anger and his train of thought slowed. "My dear, you shouldn't tease me so," he concluded.

"I'm sorry," she said honestly, "It's just that I've got a mission to finish this evening and I want to take a bath first."

The cute pout on her face and the idea of her in a big tub of bubbly, warm water all set to scrub herself pinky clean absolutely stopped the old man's train of thought. With a few minutes of careful coaching, Heidi was able to bring him back to where he could tell her about her next mission. The walls did not laugh for Heidi was to leave Vienna on the morrow on the Orient Express!

ST.PETERSBURG: The Tsar of All the Russias today ordered the First Mosconian Militia of Fanatic Fellows to arrive in the capital in time for the May Day parade. Free vodka was promised if they arrive on time to lead the parade as it marches past the palace.

JAMUL: Free vodka? Do they need an extra oboe player?

## FALL 1901 - THE DELIRIOUS DIK-DIK, 1985-HE

AUSTRIA (J.Walker): a tri (s) ser. a ser (s) alb-gre. f alb-gre.  
 ENGLAND (Billeness): a yor-nwy. f nth (c) yor-nwy. f eng-bel.  
 FRANCE (Acheson): a gas-spa. a bur-bel. f mid-por.  
 GERMANY (Gorham): a ruh-bur. a kie-hol. f den-swe.  
 ITALY (Rauterberg): a ven-tri. a apu-tun. f ion (c) apu-tun.  
 RUSSIA (RonBrown): a stp-nwy. a ukr-sev. f sev-rum. f bot-swe.  
 TURKEY (R.Anderson): a bul-rum. a arm-sev. f an -bla.

No retreats, but wow! what a season! I'm not sure statisticians keep data such as these, but I wonder if some kind of record has been set here? Thirteen out of twenty-two orders failing? That's fifty-nine per cent.

Well, all I have to say is - when all seven countries are fighting everybody, the GM is likely to have a long series of joyous chuckles.

## CENTRES:

A: 5: tri, vie, bud, ser, gre. Build two.  
 E: 3: ion, lvp, ed. Even.  
 F: 5: par, bre, mar, spa, por. Build two.  
 G: 5: ber, kie, mun, den, hol. Build two.  
 I: 4: ven, rom, nap, tun. Build one.  
 R: 4: nos, sev, stp, war. Even.  
 T: 4: con, smy, ank, bul. Build one.

Still neutral: 4: swe, nwy, bel, rum.

Winter 1901 builds are due Saturday, January 25, 1986.

Please note that Bill Quinn has assigned a Very Nice Boardman Number to this game, for which many thanks.

BERLIN: Ach! Those Italians again! Again they march in the wrong direction, we said Paris and they head for Constantinople; perhaps we should have given them the directions for Tunis and they would have taken Spain!

JAMUL: It could be worse. You might have led them to Marseilles and they would have taken Berlin instead....

ROME: A cautious set of moves for a cautious people, by a decidedly uncautious player. Are you guys scared yet?

JAMUL: No, but just wait; 'Revenge of the Slime Monster' is on in an hour.

VENICE TO TRIESTE: You take the high road, and I'll take the low road, and I'll get to Syria before you....

JAMUL: So what's a standoff; the medium road?

NAPLES: I'm just a 'sittin' and a 'waitin'  
 Ain't no use worryin' 'bout little ol' me....

JAMUL: Sorry, guy; can't make dem blues no mo'. Lightnin' is dead!

ENGLAND TO AUSTRIA: I am aghast at your vile accusation that I am a Northerner and a "Yankee" (a term which I thought applied to all you upstart colonials). I, sir, am a Southerner (albeit of a different country) and, moreover, I am proud of it! I protest having to play in a game full of damned foreigners....

JAMUL: It could be worse. At least we don't have a player from Mississippi. (If you don't get the joke, read: Yorkshire. Or Devon. Or one of those silly counties....)

NOTE -  
 there's a bit  
 more press on  
 Pg. 26

Vienna: As Heidi rose to leave, the head of Austrian Secret Service asked if she would like something to read on her journey. The offer of a volume from his personal collection was a measure of his concern for her.

Admiring her smooth motion as she walked across the room, his admiration rose even further as she bent over a table to pick up a small newsletter the old man had published. Sensing the old man's reaction, the sensuous, long-legged blonde said, "If your admiration rises any more, you'll bust your pants."

Although the word 'bust' made the old man breathe even faster, he managed to keep his self-control to say, "My sweet little Heidi, you should respect me more. I was born and raised in Vienna and we Viennese are leading Austria to greatness!"

Proud of her rural upbringing, Heidi replied, "You guys are just a bunch of Veeners."

Trying to get the upper hand, the old man said, "But I'm glad you like my little publication."

Glancing through the small 'zine, Heidi suddenly became angry. "Look at your sublist! It's just like your personal life!"

Seeing that the old man was clearly puzzled, Heidi explained, "Look at it, you sexist! You don't have even one female!"

Having his sublist and his personal problems identified so quickly and so exactly, the old man decided to gain revenge by pricking a hole in the young girl's smugness. "My dear, there's a spider crawling toward you!"

Not easily fooled, Heidi asked, "Are you trying to prick my smugness? You may as well, because that's about all you'll ever get a chance...."

Suddenly alarmed by a real spider, the old man pointed to it and said, "There! There! See it?"

"EEEK!!!" screeched the liberated Heidi as she bounced across the room.

"Ugh!" came from the old man as he swatted the little beastie out of existence.

"Did you.....?" paused Heidi in mid-question.

"I think I got him!"

Reminded of the old man's sexist sublist, she asked, "What do you mean 'him'? It could have been a 'her'!"

Quick as ever, the old man said, "Look out! She's jumping toward you!"

"OOO! Kill him! Kill him!"

"'Him'?" echoed the old man.

Realizing what he had done, Heidi accused, "Oh, you ba...."

"Tut, tut, my dear!"

"....bad person!"

"And I am sorry. I shouldn't tease you so. I know how you hate those ugly little blood-suckers."

"Well, as long as you're sincere..."

Having learned to fake sincerity early in his career, the old man continued, "Of course, my dear. Now please tell me - it's been so long, since I've seen you - just what case are you wrapping up tonight?"

Quickly calmed, Heidi said, "Oh, it's just a farewell dinner with a doctor friend. You remember him, that tall Rumanian phlebotomist with the terrible teeth."

Concerned about anyone from that part of Europe, the old man cautioned, "You won't be out after dark, will you? You have a long trip tomorrow."



A note (designed to make all but Keith jealous): Three days ago, the temperature in San Diego, when I left for work at 5 a.m., was 44° F. Allowing for wind-chill, it was more like 35°. This is the second coldest day I have ever experienced in the 28 years I've lived in San Diego. Nyaah!

PRESS TIME:

GASCONY: The remnants of the French Regiment Out Gaining Supplies (FROGS) began their last great push westward toward the supply bases in Portugal, or at least close enough to form a temporary base somewhere in Spain. When asked what caused this great catastrophe which resulted in the final push, the Captain of the Regiment replied, "The ~~Italian~~ Italians took all of the mushrooms! Not only that, but the Germans got ahold of the 'Tales of Marseilles' in Paris and decided to act 'for the good of literary fans everywhere.'" The latest offensive maneuver has been financed by undercover postcard sales and the occasional black-market wine shipments to Italian troops worried that Pooped Joan would catch them drinking something other than the "official state ~~French~~ wine."

JANUL: What?! You mean that stuff I've been guzzling all night is black-market contraband? Well, no wonder it's only 79c a liter....

CONSTANTINOPLE TO G.M.: What the hell's a dingo? And, more importantly, why is it distraught?

JANUL TO CONSTANTINOPLE: Well, we covered the 'what' in the last issue. As to the 'why,' if you had given your name to a game that had been as mistreated as this one, wouldn't you be distraught? In fact, wouldn't you be damned well suicidal?

THE END.

It will be my pleasure to hear from all of you by January 11. Please leave us not forget, eh?

Rod used to end his with "-30-." But I never did like that number, so....

-28-

~~+++++~~

OVER THE HOLIDAYS, the two games that have been off-schedule for whatever reason (Dik-Dik and Dingo) were issued in supplements to the players only. These supplements have been reprinted here; for Dik-Dik, all of pages 10 and 11; for Dingo, from the middle of page 14 to here.

With this issue, Dik-Dik catches up; Dingo has one more offset deadline, and then it will join us too.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: In an interview on the radio tonight, the fine American symphony conductor David Zinman offers the following anecdote about his teacher, the great Pierre Monteux (1875-1964): In his youth, Monteux was a member of a string quartet that had the chance to play for Brahms. Mr. Zinman asked, "What did Brahms say of your performance?" The answer: "I have no idea. He spoke only German, and I didn't understand a word!"

ERIC DEPT.: Normally, I leave for work at 6:15 a.m. Eric and Ross are often up by then, but just as often not. This morning, five minutes before I left, Eric came wandering out (Ross was still asleep) and announced, "Daddy, I'm thirsty." So I gave him a glass of juice. "Daddy, I'm cold." So I covered him on the couch with a blanket. "Daddy, I need a friend." "Eric," I said, "I'll be your friend."

Then Eric dropped the bomb. "No, daddy, not you; I want a little friend, like Ross! So if you go to work now, I can go wake Ross up, and you won't know I did it! Right? 'Bye, Daddy!"

/// /// /// /// /// /// /// /// /// /// /// /// /// /// /// /// ///

GAME 1983HK - The Ambidextrous Aardvark - Winter 1909

The Italian fleet Mid retreated to Portugal, and Italy built F Rom.

Spring 1910

ENGLAND (R.Anderson): a bel-bur. a gas (s) bel-bur. a bre-par. a ruh (s)  
RUS mun. f nat (s) eng-mid. f mid-naf. f nth-nwg. f hel-ath.  
f eng-mid.

ITALY (D.Anderson): a tyo-pie. a gal-war. a ukr-mos. a boh-mun.  
a mar (s) tyo-pie. a ven (s) tyo-pie. f rom-tus. f wes-naf.  
f apa sc (s) mar. f por (s) spa. f lyo-weg. f gre (h).

RUSSIA (Egli): a mun (s) pie-tyo. a pru-war. a pie-tyo. a ber-sil.  
a war-mos. a lvn (s) war-mos. f kie-bal.

TURKEY (Touchette): a rum-ukr. a bul-rum. a sev (s) ITA ukr-mos. f eas-  
smy. f bla (s) sev. f aeg-bul sc.

Retreats: Russian army Piedmont retreats back into the game box.

And Fall 1910 moves are due Saturday, January 25, 1986.

Now. With your Fall moves, there are no fewer than three proposals to be voted on, each of which would declare this game a draw. The three offerings are:

1. Eng-Ita-Rus.
2. Eng-Rus-Tur.
3. All four powers.

Votes with moves, please. Should more than one of these pass, they will be put into effect in descending order as listed; i.e. #1 takes priority over #2. That's because more units are involved in #1. Logical?

Note that votes not cast will count as 'aye.'

MOSCOW TO ROME: What did you have to promise Turkey to get that?

JAMUL: Oh, just the usual....seven swans a'swimming, six geese a'laying, five gold rings, four....

CONSTANTINOPLE: The world of the Sultan is a world of peace and prosperity; the 4-way draw is proposed and must pass.

JAMUL: Well, that's one vote in!

ITALY TO G.M.: This is how I draw stick men:

Do you think anyone will want to draw too?







JAMUL TO ITALY:

11111111111111111111111111111111-----111111111111111111111111

SPECIAL OFFER: Send only \$19.95 (plus \$1.00 postage) to P.O. Box 1986, Jamul, CA, 92035, and you will get our super-special Stickman Kit, which includes:

1. Five easy lessons in how to draw great Stickmen;
2. A 12" record (not sold in stores) of the Greatest Stickman hits sung by Frank Sinatra, Ray Charles, Perry Como, Madonna, Luciano Pavarotti and the Mormon Tabernacle Choir;
3. A preview copy of the best-selling book, "How to Win Friends and Influence People Through Stickmen;"
4. A genuine professional French chef's vegetable knife;
5. An invitation to join the exciting new Aluminum Siding of the Month Club.

Don't delay; this offer is limited. But not very....

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GAME 1984HI - The Extroverted Ebu - Winter 1906

Oops, made a goof last time, I see. The French move f eng-bel failed. Sorry....

All three draw/concession proposals went up in smoke.

Retreats: Aus a sev-arm; Aus f ion-adr.

Builds: Fra, a par; Ger, a ber, declines the other.

Spring 1907

AUSTRIA (Pierce): a smy-con. a bud (s) ukr-rum. a con-bul. a tri (s) apu-ven. a apu-ven. a arm-sev. a ukr-rum. a vie-tyo. f adr (s) apu-ven. f gre-bul sc.

FRANCE (Fleming): a ven-pie. a tyo-mun. a lvp (h). a tus-ven. a par-bur. f tyn-ves. f ion-nap. f aeg-ion. f rom (s) ion-nap. f eng-lon.

GERMANY (J.Walker): a bel-ruh. a sev-rum. a war-ukr. a mos (s) war-ukr. a gal (s) sev-rum. a boh (s) gal. a mun (s) boh. a ber-sil. f nth-bel. f nat-nwg. f cly-edi. f nwy-nth.

ITALY: f nap (h).

Curious mess over there in south Russia, eh? Oh well...the Italian fleet Naples and the Austrian army Ukraina are squished. No retreats.

An excellent time to have your Fall 1907 orders here would be Saturday, January 25, 1986.

PARIS TO BERLIN: Well....well!!!

JAMUL: Imagine how Orson would have delivered that line!

ERIC DEPT.: The other evening Ross and I had a strong difference of opinion, and he finally got angry, turned away, and stomped off toward his room, pushing Eric out of the way as he went. Eric immediately bellowed, "Ross, don't do that!" and Ross shot back, "Oh, Eric, I'm sorry, it's not you, I'm just so mad at Daddy." And Eric said, "Don't worry, Ross; Daddy's older, he'll die first!"

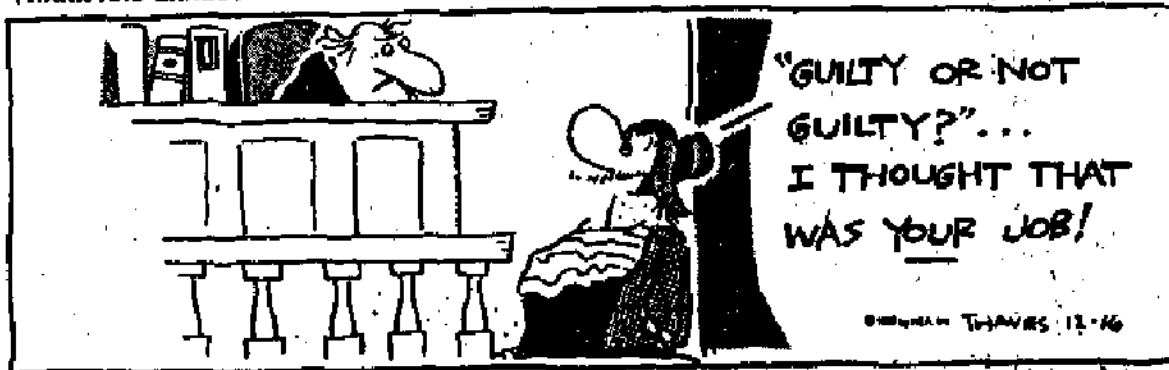
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Any reader who is a true aficionado of games - all games, that is, not just Diplomacy - is about to part with eight dollars. Send a check in that amount to Michael Keller, 3367-1 North Chatham Road, Ellicott City, Maryland 21043. Tell him you're subscribing to WORLD GAME REVIEW. For those whose gaming interests are broad, it is an absolute must; beautifully and quite intelligently written, with lots of comment on established games and reviews and references to new and obscure ones. This is one of the best-organized, consistently high-level "amateur" magazines I have ever seen. If its thrust appeals to you, you are a fool to live without it.

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FRANK AND ERNEST

Bob Thaves



.....

I get the impression that I'm locking myself into bigger issues each time than I'd originally planned. Fun material keeps occurring to me, the costs do not escalate all that much, and the time has been available. So why not? How about this as my final thought on the matter: I will print what I have in the file, and have time for; if I'm short on one or the other, I'll restrict the issue. I won't care if you won't....

////////////////////////////////////

Round about March, I will be taking on a whale of a big project (for me) all by myself. In the space of two weeks I will have to compile, correct and update, completely retype, have printed, collate, staple and mail five hundred copies of a 76-page booklet - the Membership Directory, library catalogue, and general information booklet of the Sarawak Specialists' Society, the principal philatelic group of which I'm a member. That is going to be one whale of a job, I'll venture. (I'm sure I can con Jean and Ross into helping with collating and addressing, though.)

So if, say, Vol. 10 Number 17 of COSTA is a pitifully thin issue, you'll understand, huh?

## THE END OF FREEDOM FOR THE CALIFORNIA CONDOR

The last days of free flight for the condors of California may be at hand. Biologists are in the process of trapping three of the six birds left in the wild; once captured, they will be taken to join the twenty-one condors at the Los Angeles and San Diego zoos. And by spring, many observers predict, there will be no condors left in the wild. The odds are that by then, one or more of the three birds remaining free will have died, most likely by poisoning, a gunshot wound or an accident. The others, if the California Fish and Game Commission has its way, will have been trapped and moved to a zoo for their own protection.

To David Phillips of Friends of the Earth, the caging of the last California condor will mean their "perpetual extinction" in the wild and the "failure" of the Condor Recovery Program - a result, he says, of "perhaps deliberate sabotage" by the zoos.

To Arthur Risser, curator of birds at the San Diego Zoo, the loss of even one condor this winter would be a "catastrophic and foolish" waste of resources that could have been averted by bringing all the birds into captivity now.

To the objective observer, the caging of the last condor may finally bring an end to the acrimony that has consistently characterized the recovery program, and mark the beginning of a new phase of the program that should lead to a stable and viable population of condors both in the zoos and in the wild.

The California condor, the object of the dispute, is one of the largest flying birds in the world. Adults typically weigh about twenty pounds and have a wingspan of nine to ten feet. The birds, members of the vulture family, are normally black, except for their bald heads and a white lining underlying the wings. At one time, the condor ranged over nearly all of western North America and as far east as Florida. Today, their habitat is restricted to about eleven million acres centered in Ventura and Kern Counties.

In the past, the dispute between the warring camps might best have been characterized in avian terms as, "which comes first, the chicken or the egg?" Friends of the Earth, the Sierra Club, the National Audubon Society and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have favored the 'egg,' arguing that protecting the habitat of the condor is the most important aspect of the recovery program. If only the habitat is protected, they have contended, the birds will recover on their own.

The zoos, a growing number of biologists, and more recently the California Fish and Game Commission, have favored the 'chicken.' So little is known about why condors in the wild have been dying, they argue, and so precarious is the birds' hold on survival, that the primary concern must be to move the birds into a protected environment. "We can worry about the environment later," said Risser.

That dispute is continuing, perhaps with more fervor than ever before, but the arguments may soon be moot because the egg is in imminent danger of being thoroughly scrambled. Over the last few years, an average of two condors have been lost in the wild each year. Last winter, six disappeared, and no one knows what happened to them. The odds thus seem high that one or more birds will be lost this winter also. Jan Riffe, the top wildlife official with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, said that the federal agency is "prepared to risk one, two or even all three of the birds" to keep some condors in the wild. Already, however, the department is under a lot of pressure to bring all three birds in, he acknowledged, adding that the agitation is sure to grow if - or when - one of them is lost.

The debate centers on three issues: Whether it will be possible to protect the habitat if there are no condors in the wild for any period of

time; whether it is necessary to have 'guide birds' in the wild to help newly-released birds become acclimated; and whether the birds raised in the zoos have become too tame for successful release.

The first issue has been debated for several years, but the discussions have intensified recently because of proposals to acquire the Hudson Ranch in Kern County near the Ventura County border as part of a refuge for the birds. The U.S. Department of the Interior, of which the Fish and Wildlife Service is a part, has backed off from that purchase because of the growing likelihood that there may be no birds to inhabit it, at least for many years. No decision on the purchase is likely before next year. ((1986))

Other locations are also endangered by encroachment. "Even when the birds are out there," according to John Bourneman, regional representative of the Audubon Society, "it's hard to convince local boards of supervisors that condors should be given every chance. If all of them are out of the wild, it's going to be that much harder. We have to have birds out there to help ward off encroachment."

Risser of the San Diego Zoo counters that right now the habitat is simply too hazardous for the condors. "We don't know what the problems are in the wild yet," he said. "The only way we can learn is by finding dead birds, and we can no longer afford to do that...Our guiding principle in everything we've done is that we can't experiment with California condors. We have to learn with other species."

Risser and his colleagues would like to release perhaps a dozen Andean condors into the Seep Condor Sanctuary near Ojai to find out more about the habitat. The Andean condor is also considered endangered, but there are as many as 5,000 of them in South America. Zoo-raised Andean condors have been successfully released in the wild in Peru, and they would likely find California hospitable. "We could follow them closely and find out what the problems in the habitat are," Risser said. Those problems could then be rectified, and the Andean condors recaptured, before the California condors were re-released. Some birds would undoubtedly die. "We hate to lose members of any endangered species," Risser said, "but, frankly, we can afford the Andean condors much better than the native ones."

That proposition has been opposed by environmentalists for a variety of reasons. The most important reason, however, is simply that they do not want the California condors removed from the wild. The major argument in favor of the proposition, in turn, is that a successful release of zoo-raised condors will require the presence, and help, of condors already living in the wild. These birds would, in effect, show the new boys on the block how to get along in the wilderness. The old-timers would show the new arrivals the best places to forage, the prime nesting areas, and so forth.

Risser dismisses this objection out of hand. "The condor is an intelligent, adaptable bird that can make its own way in the world. Besides, the condors that are there now have apparently picked up a lot of bad habits that are negative survival traits, like nesting near humans. I'm not at all sure we want the condors we release to learn anything from those in the wild!"

But Riffe, of the Fish and Wildlife Service, said that he was "astonished" when he first heard Mike Wallace of the San Diego Zoo make this argument, and he "disagrees violently." A big majority of the experts agree that the chances for successful re-release are much better if there are guide birds, Riffe said, and his assertions are echoed by the Friends of the Earth and the Audubon Society.

Whether guide birds are available or not when zoo-raised birds are released, there is growing concern that the birds may be simply too tame to survive on their own. Some environmentalists, including Friends of the Earth's Phillips, claim that the zoos have created this situation deliberately in order to preclude any release of the birds.

In a 1984 plan adopted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the State Fish and Game Commission, five zoo-raised condors were scheduled for release in the spring of 1985. These birds were being held in isolation at the Los Angeles Zoo to minimize contact with humans. This plan was hastily shelved when the six wild birds disappeared last winter. The newest plan now calls for the release of three birds in the spring of 1986 - assuming that there are still some birds in the wild.

When the 1985 release was shelved, however, "the Los Angeles Zoo took the five birds out of isolation and began feeding them by hand," Phillips charged. Now, he claims, all five "are totally dependent on humans and not suitable for any re-release."

The Fish and Wildlife Service subsequently examined all twenty-one birds in zoos, and decided that only two are candidates for release. "So, they don't have three to put back in 1986," said Phillips. Michael Scott, director of the Research Center for Condors in Ventura, is planning to examine the birds again soon. He hopes that it may be possible to "de-tame" some or all of them. Unlike Phillips, however, he does not believe that the zoos acted deliberately; he thinks that a certain amount of interaction between birds and humans in a zoo environment is inevitable.

Regardless of motives, this argument may be overblown, according to William Toone of the San Diego Zoo's sister facility, the Wild Animal Park. Work with the Andean condors, he argues, indicates that tameness is not a problem. Andean condors have been raised under three different types of conditions by the zoo's Wallace. One group was fed and handled by humans; a second group was fed with hand puppets and segregated from humans; and a third group was raised by the parents themselves in complete isolation. When individuals from each of the groups were released into the wild, Toone said, "the birds fed by hand adapted slightly more slowly, but all three groups made a good transition." Scott agrees with Toone's assessment, but Riffe is more pessimistic. He said that the Fish and Wildlife Service has ordered the zoo to 'rehabilitate' the California birds, but he is not confident they will be successful.

While all this dispute is raging around them, scientists are working intensively to increase the total number of birds available. One way to do this is with a technique called multiple clutching, in which the birds are induced to produce more eggs than normal. A breeding pair would usually be expected to produce one egg - and one chick - every two years. If that egg is removed soon after it is laid, however, the pair will produce a second one the same year. If the second egg is also removed, they may produce a third. This process can be repeated each year. In this manner, scientists have collected a total of 15 eggs from the wild since 1983. California condors have never been bred in zoos, Risser noted, but that may be simply because the zoos have never had birds of the right age. The closely-related Andean condors breed easily in captivity.

Three of the 15 eggs have not been viable. One of the 12 chicks that hatched was born with severe hydrocephaly, a birth defect, and did not survive, and two other chicks have displayed developmental abnormalities. All three of the defective chicks came from the same breeding pair - which, by



sad coincidence, is the only breeding pair now left in the wild. Toone thinks the female of this pair has an infection in her ovaries that is producing the defects. He argues that this is another strong reason the birds should be captured.

Meanwhile, the biologists are trying to create new breeding pairs, but that will take time. Recently, Los Angeles zoo biologists introduced Topa Topa, a 16-year-old condor that has spent most of its life in captivity and had never previously met a female condor, to an 11-year-old captured bird that they think is female.

If all goes well, an egg could be produced from this mating as early as February. All the scientists agree that it is very important to mate Topa Topa, because he is the last survivor of his genetic line, and when a gene pool this small is involved, any chance of expanding it is vital.

The San Diego Wild Animal Park has a six-year-old male and a female from the wild that they hope will become a breeding pair. The condors typically do not mate until they are seven, however, so Toone does not expect an egg until 1987. Most of the other birds in captivity are three years old or younger, so they will not be able to mate for several years.

But even if the population can be built back up and the birds restored to the wild, says Scott of the Condor Research Center, the California condor "will always be a highly managed species. We will have to provide food, nesting sites and danger-free corridors." This approach has been highly successful with the Hawaiian goose, he noted; their numbers grew from 50 to 900 when the species was 'managed.' But this system also requires a long commitment; when the program for the Hawaiian goose was halted, their numbers fell back from 900 to 200. "We don't want that to happen to the condor," Scott said; "We're in this for the next fifty years."

((Conrad's addendum: The above is now a month old. Since it was published, the decision has in fact been made to trap all six wild birds.))

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#### HOUSE RULES FORUM

I have been giving some thought lately to a new edition of my house rules. The old ones - which were intended more or less as a 'first draft' all along - have moments of vagueness, incompleteness, and controversy, and while I don't promise to make them perfect, I do have dreams of major improvements.

It occurred to me that it might be nice if, before I actually take the plunge and do them over, you - whether player or reader - gave me some help, and had some input. Over the next two or three issues, let me toss out a few queries, quotes, hypotheticals, and ideas, and you tell me your thoughts. Of course it is intended that the responses be printed....

The format used here is unashamedly stolen from Alan Stewart's PRAXIS.

I. In two of my rules - one dealing with defrauding the Gamesmaster, the other concerned with dropping out of a game by missing moves - I state that if I have occasion to invoke the rule, the culprit will be removed from all games in my journals. This means (and I intended it this way) that if Fred Furd tries to deceive me in the 'Zealous Zebra,' and is also playing in the 'Bashful Bison,' I will throw Fred out of both games even though he committed no sin of any kind in 'Bison.' Also, if Fred misses two moves in a row and drops out of 'Bison,' he will also be dropped from 'Zebra' even though he has continued to send moves regularly for it.

My questions to you are:

- A. Is it reasonable to write rules this way, meting out two punishments for the price of one? Or should I confine my terrible justice only to the game in which the offense was actually committed?
- B. Is it possible that the 'all games' clause is appropriate for the more severe of the two examples (fraud) but not for the other (missed moves)?

II. In my house rule on appointing standbys and replacement players, I end with this line: "Normally, the Gamesmaster will not bother standbys with the effort of assuming apparently doomed positions (one, two or maybe even three units), unless in his judgment the position is significant to the game situation." As it stands, this rule suffers from a serious flaw; it allows the neutral GM too much interpretive latitude in determining what constitutes 'significant.' There are people who insist that any position is significant, in the very least that it forces the other players to deal with it rather than providing the option of ignoring it.

Anyway, I'm going to fix this one. Shall I reword it to say:

- A. That I will always try to find a replacement for any position, no matter how small or hopeless;
- B. That I will never replace one or two-unit slots, but will always try and replace three and more (and please note, I am less concerned with where we put the cutoff - after one unit, two units, or wherever - than I am with whether a cutoff should be established at all);
- C. Something else?

III. This question deals with house rules that I have never used, but I'd like your thoughts. What do you think of rules that state:

- A. That no replacement players are allowed; if somebody drops out or resigns, the country just lapses into anarchy?
- B. That replacements are allowed, but only if all other active players vote to allow a replacement to take over?

IV. There is a rule which I had meant to put in, but managed to omit; it's my own favorite invention of mine, the 'Neutral 1901 Moves' bit. It is built on the supposition that a missed move in 1901 will, ipso facto, cripple the missing country so severely that the game will tilt out of balance and all seven players will be hurt. Therefore, in advance of each 1901 move, I announce 'neutral orders' (all the way up through builds) which will be used if someone misses; such moves are only intended to provide basic positioning and gain those neutral centers which each power is routinely 'guaranteed,' and one stipulation has always been that no other power's territory will ever be attacked by these 'neutral moves,' and no 'tossup' centers will be contested. Thus, England would be sent to capture Norway, but only with a fleet; France would take Spain and Portugal, but never Belgium; and so on.

- A. Is this a worthwhile rule, in your view?
- B. Should I be writing these neutral orders myself, or should I have some uninvolved friend do it?
- C. How about this: In Spring '01 Italy attacks and takes Trieste. What sort of 'neutral' order can I (or my friend) concoct for Italy in the Fall?

That's all I'll throw at you this time. More will follow, unless I meet dead silence here...gee, I do hope someone will comment....

## ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE NEW YEAR THINGS, EH?

For the forty-first time, a New Year has plopped in to visit me. (Note: I have this odd tendency, developed years ago for reasons I do not recall, assuming I ever consciously knew, of upping my age a year a couple of months in advance of the actual birthday. It seems to happen round about Thanksgiving, which in my house represents the beginning of the sequence of Special Days that rolls right on up to my birthday on February Second. I imagine that, somewhere along the line, I started thinking of this parade of holidays as a unitary thing, which then translated to "Holiday time = one year older," and - voilá - I'm forty-two, when in fact I won't be forty-two for a month. There, you see; I've done it again, right on the front page of this issue! Strange quirk, wot? The rest of the race wants to be younger, and here I am blithely tossing two months of my life out the window. Actually, the wheels in my head have been turning while I've been typing, and I think maybe I see the source of this eccentricity: All my life I've been a late bloomer, most notably - but not exclusively - in social skills. One big exception, though; in height, I was always the earliest bloomer there ever was. Thus, I've always been expected to act older than I was, because I looked older than I was; and there I stood, having trouble acting my real age, let alone some outsider's inflated assumption. So, by Jove, they expect me to act older? Okay, you got it! Thanksgiving - bam! - hey, guys, I'm forty-two! My mommy is giving me a party on Saturday...well, no, actually it's not next Saturday, it's in nine weeks....)

Whoa, boy! I think maybe you digressed there! Weren't we speaking about the New Year?

Anyway, what I started to lead up to, and wound up wandering away from, was that there is a tradition that surfaces all over everywhere at the start of each year; the announcement of Lists. More lists are made on January First than were sent to Santa! Lists pop up for Best-Dressed, Worst-Dressed, Most Significant News Events, People to Watch Out For This Year, and a million other things. But by far the most common lists are of Resolutions and of Predictions.

Most lists are enumerated in groups of ten, but there is no law about this, and it is entirely possible to have lists of five, twenty, fifty-seven, or (and this is increasingly popular) some random, unspecified number that is determined solely by the amount of time or space available for the listing. Regardless of these factors, however, the bald truth is that most of these lists, in terms of their excitement factors, are rather - you'll forgive me - listless. There are, however, exceptions, and each year I issue my own list of the Ten Best Lists of the Year. (Many times I've had to change the number according to the quality of the year's lists; but it's interesting that, even in the best years, I've never had to revise the number upward.)

So far in 1986 I have a fairly short list, and if things don't improve I may find myself with a serious grammatical faux-pas on my hands. The One Best Lists of 1986? Oh, come, now....

At this time, here is my One Best Lists. It is by Ellen Goodman, columnist for the Boston Globe.

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This is the time of year when columnists are asked to tell the future. I have no idea why, since we generally write in and about the present tense. Journalists don't do windows, and they don't do the future.

Nevertheless, a New Year deserves something new, so I will break old habits. I hereby offer a set of predictions which are absolutely rock-solid, sure-fire bets.



Sylvester Stallone will write, produce and start in a movie called "Rambo Goes to Afghanistan."

The surgeon-general will add a new label to cigarette packages. It will read, "Smoke this and you die!" Sales will remain steady.

A group of terrorists will hijack a 'plane in the Middle East and, in return for giving up hostages, will demand a 26-week prime-time television series of their very own.

The Heritage Foundation ((an ultra-conservative 'think-tank')) will publish definitive research proving that white males are the sole victims of discrimination in America. Edwin Meese will use this research in sixteen friend-of-the-court briefs.

Sometime in May, the I.R.S. will send the tax rebates for the entire state of Illinois to a small town in Wyoming.

A political columnist will break the first story detailing Ted Kennedy's plan to run for President in 1992.

Amidst great fanfare, Donald Regan will promote the last remaining woman in the Reagan Cabinet, Elizabeth Dole, from her lowly post in Transportation to an exalted seat as Ambassador to Tonga.

In the National Institute of Health laboratories, 43 out of 60,000 white rats will die after being force-fed candy bars non-stop for six weeks, leading to a national panic about chocolate as a carcinogen.

The Pentagon budget will show an unspent excess of \$50 billion. The Joint Chiefs will present research proving that the Soviet military budget has \$55 billion in unspent excess. To assure our national security, they will demand that we match the Russians.

The Reagan Administration will continue its harrassment of Daniel Ortega by banning the export of designer sunglasses to Nicaragua.

After research showing that charcoal-grilled steak is bad for your health, a restaurant in Minnesota will be the first to institute a policy of meat-eating and non-meat-eating sections.

Somewhere in America, a lawyer will reject a corporate case with a large fee because "I just didn't feel comfortable with it."

According to a new White House security policy, Cabinet members will be required to show identification before attending meetings. A passport, a driver's license and two photo-I.D. credit cards will be sufficient.

Following a spring fever of corporate mergers, the Fortune 500 will announce that they are now the Fortune 50.

A new entrepreneurial breed of child-researchers will announce a breakthrough method, complete with IBM compatible software, of teaching your child to read while he or she is still in the womb.

Finally, George Bush will spend the year going to assorted international funerals and national rites of humiliation where he will perform the spirited "Bush and Right Wing." At the end of this, he will announce that, if nominated for President, his running mate will be Richard Nixon.

And here we go again....

FLASH! Some late-arriving press for the Dik-Dik:

PARIS TO LONDON: I would have considered supporting you to Belgium had you not invaded the Channel.

JAMUL: So, where are you going to support him instead?

PARIS TO MUNICH: You speak of ending hostilities between us, yet I have not invaded your territory and, given the current English mood, am unlikely to.

PARIS TO LONDON: I'm not impressed!

PARIS TO BERLIN: Your letters to me are not the same as your letters to others....

JAMUL: So what do you want, a copy of a form letter? ("Berlin to Paris: We regret that we have not yet received your November payment, and must therefore shut off your water....")

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GAME 1985AJ - The Tergiversatory Tapir - Spring 1905

An error last time. The draw proposal was miswritten; it was supposed to have specified England and France. Votes on this next time, please. And to the player who proposed it: My fault, not yours; sorry.

AUSTRIA (Walters): a bul-rum. a gre (s) bul ((sic)). a vie (s) bud-gal. a bud-gal. a rum-sev.

ENGLAND (Fleming): a boh-tyo. f nth-nwy. f nwg (s) nth-nwy. f den (s) FRE nwy-swe ((sic)). f wes-tun.

FRANCE (J.Walker): a hol (h). a nwy (s) ENG den-swe ((sic)). a tus-pie. a par-pic. a mar-bur. f spa sc - lyo. f mid-spa sc. f tyn (s) ENG wes-tun.

GERMANY (Caruso): a pru-ber. f bal-den.

ITALY (Pustilnik): a ven (s) rom-tus. a tri-tyo. f rom-tus. f adr-ion. f ion-tyn.

RUSSIA (D.Brown): a gal (s) war-sil. a lvn-pru. a swe-nwy. a war-sil. f stp nc (s) swe-nwy. f con-bul ec. f aeg (s) con-bul. f bot-bal.

Retreats: RUS a gal to war, ukr or o.t.b.; moves may be conditional.

Fall 1905 moves (including votes on the corrected draw proposal) are due Saturday, January 25, 1985.

LONDON TO VIENNA: You had your chance, now be prepared to be torn to shreds.

LONDON TO ROME: Sorry about Tunis, but as I told you, I think it was necessary this turn. Besides, there are plenty more dots where that one came from!

LONDON TO BERLIN: And to you, good sir, I promise a long life in this game.

LONDON TO JAMUL: Need more filler?

JAMUL TO LONDON: You have the gall to ask that? Good grief, here I am straining to cram this all into twenty-seven pages because I frothed too much at the typewriter, and you're offering MORE? Please be so kind as to stuff it in the nearest orifice. (Actually, yes, I do need more....)

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CONDOR UPDATE: On Jan. 3, the 'sick' breeding female referred to in this issue's article was brought into captivity. Lead poisoning (gunshot)!

Ghodi, I am tired of typing....

GAME 1983AC - The Wistful Wombat - Fall 1910

From the spring brouhaha, the Turkish fleet Ionian retreated to Greece. The Austrian army Venice is not retreated, and is therefore squished.

AUSTRIA (Rauterberg): NMR! a rom (h).

ENGLAND (Pustilnik): a stp (h). a mar-pie. a mun (h). a ber (h). a bur (s) mun. a gas-mar. a kie (s) mun. a lon-bel. f iri-mid. f cly-nat. f por-spa sc. f mid-wes. f bal (s) ber. f eng (c) lon-bel. f spa sc - lyo. f nwy (s) stp.

FRANCE (Henry): f tyn (s) lon-nap. f lon-nap.

TURKEY (Walters): a tyo-ven. a pru-ber. a boh-mun. a lvn-stp. a sil (s) pru-ber. a ven-apu. a smy (h). a mos (s) lvn-stp. a arm-sev. f gre (s) aeg-ion. f aeg-ion. f nap (s) aeg-ion. f con-aeg. f adr (s) ven-apu.

Retreats: Well, at least the Austrian army that got put back in the box up above won't be lonely; the Turkish fleet Naples just went to join it.

**CENTRES:**

A: 1: rom. Even.

E: 17: lon, lvp, edi, nwy, swe, den, stp, ber, kie, mun, hol, bel, par, bre, mar, spa, por. Build one.

F: 2: tun, nap. Even.

T: 14: con, smy, ank, sev, mos, war, gre, bul, rum, ser, bud, vie, tri, ven. Build one.

Given that the builds are behind the lines, let's have them along with Spring 1911 moves on January 25, 1985. Moves may be conditional on the builds, if anybody wishes to bother....

PARIS-IN-EXILE: The joys of playing out positions to the bitter end seem to take on meaning here. Sorry, Jake, but the game was getting boring a bit ago....

JAMUL: Well, heck, it could have been a dull little whitewash, too.... flippin' interlopers....

NOTICE: Actually, it applies to 'Tapir,' but having forgot it there, I'll stuff it in here. Please note that, under the rules, you cannot issue a defensive support to a unit ordered to move.

Also, I might remark that I'm quite sure Paul's miss is a mere oversight, so I'm not going to bother with a standby.

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Well, friends, we've done it. The typing is done, and my tri-weekly trek to We Copy Inc. now begins. This is not the largest issue of COSTA in history, but believe me, it feels like it! And yet...I very much enjoyed compiling it. Hope you liked it too. If not...well, no question about it, you are SICK!

Let me say good-bye with the following policy statement, in answer to a query: My policy on press releases is really quite basic. I do not print so-called 'black' press. Beyond that, there are no limitations, and if you send it, I'll publish it. Technically, I reserve the right to edit for reasons of space, but so far I've never done it.

And that, my friends, is that. Pax vobiscum, and hang loose!

COSTAGUANA

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GAMEFINDER

Do please read, at the very least, the Rules Forum on Page 22. Beyond that, if you want to skip all the crud, here's the list of where the moves are:

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DINGO (reprint)	14
DIK-DIK (reprint)	10
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EMU	17
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WOMBAT	27

FIRST CLASS

10:

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