



Dipadeedoodah!

A SHORT NOTE FROM BRER PHIL

Howdy-doo! Well, things finally seem to be settling into place. Players are getting their orders in on time, which makes it a lot easier for me to get the current issue out as soon as possible. Generally I layout the games and maps first, along with various necessities such as this column, and fill the remainder of the space as best I can.

By the way, for those interested, I use Page Maker v1.2 for the Macintosh to do most of the layout work, besides the occasional paste-up. Next, the Laserwriter churns out the master copies, after which I photocopy about 50 issues. So far I haven't found anyone willing to give me better than 5¢ per page, despite copying 400-500 pages each month. Sarasota is, after all, home to a lot of rich retired people. I guess the copiers figure to get as much as they can out of their customers.

That's also why the subscription is as much as it is. Still, I think it's pretty fair, considering that the zine to date has been published on a regular monthly schedule, and I haven't take any surprise 3-month vacations.

On the subject of vacations (kind of), I'll be away from Sarasota most of the rest of the year. But don't despair! The zine will run on the same schedule. I will be spending the summer at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and the fall at the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa. I don't know what my address or phone# will be at either site, but when I do I will publish them. Until then, continue sending everything to my home address.

Returning to the subject of stability, it has taken a few months to weed out the haves from the have-nots, or those that are on the bus from those sucking up exhaust fumes. Most of the *Cross Rifles* players I inherited not only are still playing, but several have joined new games! In addition to as many "outside" players, we now have a cozy little group of about two dozen or so.

Which somehow brings me to the issue of players' phone numbers. Occasionally I have been asked of one player for another's home phone#. I have a strange reluctance to do so. After all, many players detest the notion of telephone Diplomacy, or just don't want to be bothered in the first place. I can certainly sympathize with that. So I am asking of those players for which I have phone#'s (about 80%) to give me permission to tell their phone# to any player (and only players) that wants it. I think it's the only thing to go. Otherwise, spend some pocket change and call Information — I've had to do that many a time.

And for those people (other than statisticians) that really care about such things, the Boardman# for "War Child" is 1989I and the Miller# for "No Lullaby" is 1989Hrd22. Really, does any player out there care about such things while the game is in progress? I'd like to hear why someone does (if someone does).

GAME ANNOUNCEMENTS

The long-awaited Gunboat game has finally gotten off to sea. I was surprised that it took this long to fill all of the positions. But the game begins immediately (i.e. no one month suspension), so it hasn't been that long of a delay.

As you can see below, I'm officially offering only two new games to play. Admittedly, Illuminati will have a *very* limited audience, but it is quite appealing (and quite different) from Diplomacy. Asian Dip II, on the other hand, is a variant I hope will generate some interest (at least in seven people!). I strongly urge the curious and self-proclaimed regular Diplomacy experts to give it a shot. The rules are nothing new, but the map is entirely different (see p.7). Since most people will not have played it, everyone should stand an equal chance of winning (blowing) it as one of the following: Islam, Russia, India, China, Japan, Indo-China, or Polynesia.

Besides, this is the only Diplomacy game I'll likely offer for the next few months. So send those preference lists!

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE:

MAY 1, 1989

GAME OPENINGS

Asian Diplomacy II (\$5) — 1 of 7 positions filled.
Illuminati (\$5) — 2 of 3-6 positions filled.

STANDBYS LIST

I have several standbys already (indicated in the Player Info list on the back page), but I can always use more, since many of these people play in more than one game. Standbys pay no extra fees — all they need is to be getting the zine regularly. It's a good way of getting to play for free.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Subscriptions are \$9.00 for 12 monthly issues (which is equivalent to 75¢ per issue). Subscribe now before prices rise any higher!

Dipadeedoodah! readers - this is a VERY late addition to the April issue. I suggest you copy this (hex, only 10¢ max), fill it out, and mail, so as not to lose the maps on back!

THE ZINE POLL

- Abattoir
Acorn
Alpha & Omega
The Appalachian General
The Armchair Diplomat
Benzene
Boast
The Boob Report
Bushvacker
The Buzzard's Breath
The Canadian Diplomat
Carolina CadComentary
Cathy's Ramblings
Chesecake
Clandestine Activities
Comrades in Arms
Costaguana
Countermeasures
Cross Rifles
Dark Mirror
Dipadeedoodah!
Diplomacy Digest
Diplomacy Today
Diplomacy World
Diplomacy World News
Diplomax
Diplomatic Contraband
The Diplomatic Rag
Dippy (Jia Benes' zine)
Disease City
Dragnet
Everything
Excelsior
Excitement City Unleashed
Fouilletonist's Forum

THE SUBLINE POLL

- The Abyssinian Prince
Amazon
At Your Service
Atrocity Exhibition
Backstretch
Been There, Done That
The Blind Wars
CDO News
Errata
Extremis In Defense...
The First Negotiator
Foot in Mouth
Frump
The Grand Bizarre
High Inertia
Karnel's Panorama
Aarus
Meeting of Minds
The Melniboné Herald
Moire
The New Utopia
Notes from the Bunker
OPERABLE
Out to Pasture
The Pocket General
The Popular Front

INSTRUCTIONS: The same as for the Zine Poll -- 0 to 10 scale, do not rate your own publication, etc.

THE GM POLL

Please list GMs alphabetically by surname, going down the columns. Diplomacy GMs only!

Table with 4 columns: GM's Name, Vote, GM's Name, Vote

INSTRUCTIONS: You may rate any Diplomacy GM in whose postal game(s) you were a player at any time after August 1, 1988, and under whom you played for long enough to gain an objective assessment of his or her competence as a GM. Gamesmasters may not rate themselves. Rate each GM by name, not by zine. Again, the rating scale is from 0 (the pits) to 10 (outstanding). No fractions, please. Rate North American GMs only, though any players living outside North America are welcome to participate.

CONTEST

The prize this year is a free year's subscription to a zine of the winner's choice, or \$5.00 cash. If you'd like to enter, fill out the following (print neatly!):

Name
Address
Phone (optional)

The zine I predict will win the 1989 Runestone Poll is

Rules

- 1. You must vote in the Poll and correctly guess the winning zine to be eligible for the prize.
2. The winner will be selected randomly from among all eligible entrants.
3. The winner's name will be published in The Cream Shall Rise!
4. The pollster and his assistant are not eligible to win.
5. The winner will be notified and allowed, at his or her discretion, to choose the subscription of the cash prize.

INSTRUCTIONS: You may rate any amateur publication related to the Diplomacy hobby of which you have seen at least two issues since August 1, 1988 (or should have seen had the zine been on time). Rate each zine on a scale of 0 (the pits) to 10 (outstanding). No fractions, please. Do not rate your own publication. Please rate North American zines only, though readers living outside North America are welcome to participate.

Send this ballot to: Bruce Liney, P.O. Box 1334, Albany, NY 12201 (USA) or: Eric Brosius, 41 Hayward Street, Milford, MA 01757 (USA)

Deadline will be about the end of June (probably), but please vote early.

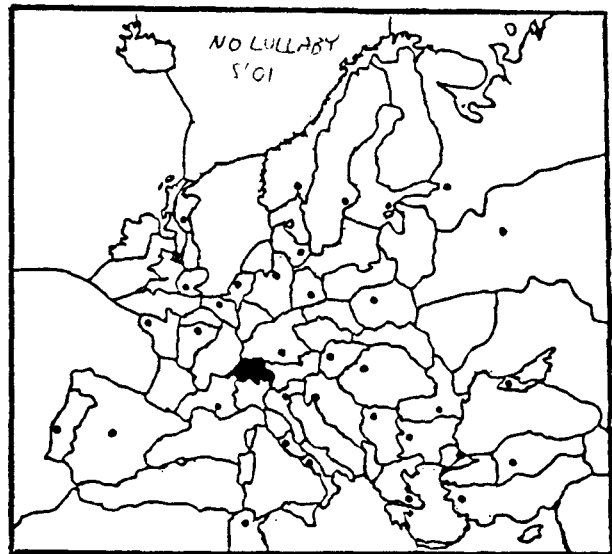
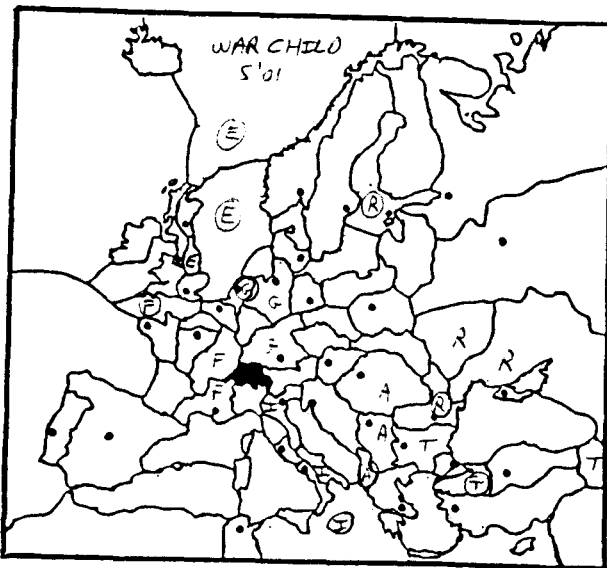
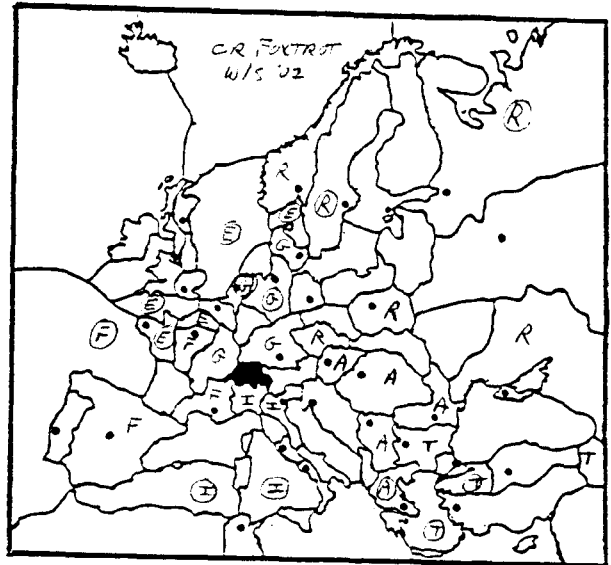
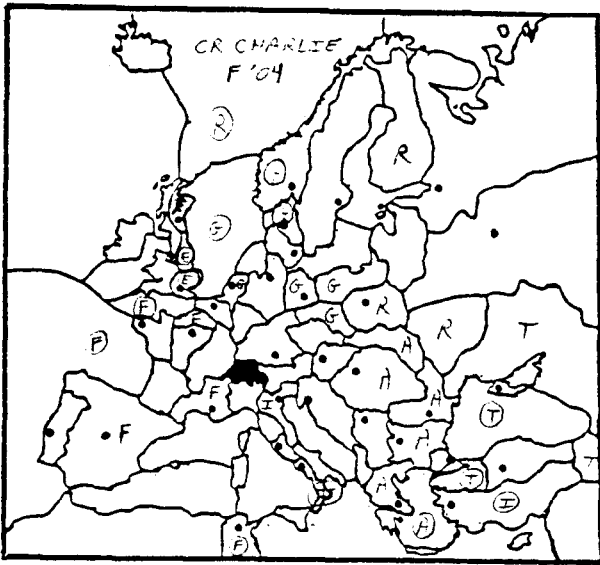
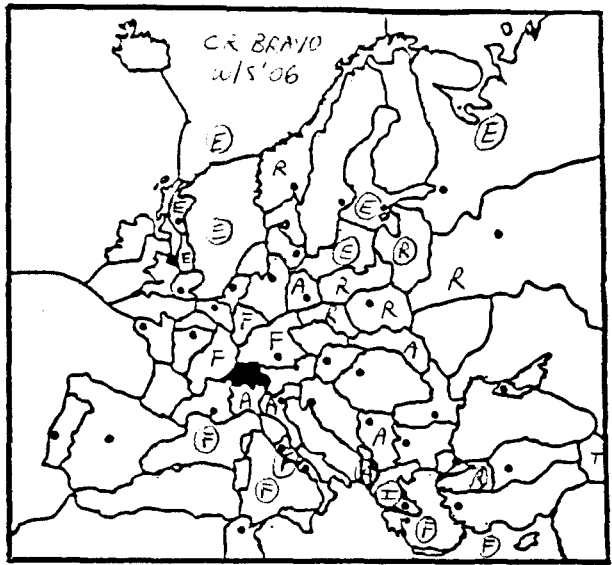
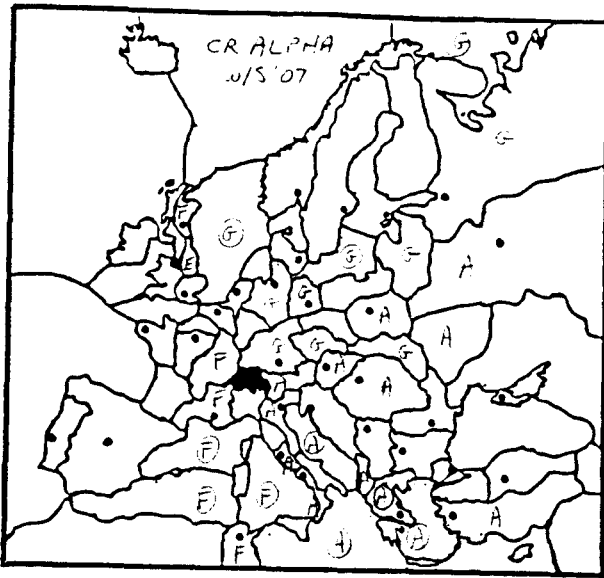
TO GET THE POLL RESULTS: For main lists only (zines, subzines, and GMs), check this space and enclose 50¢. To get The Cream Shall Rise!, check this space and please enclose a donation of \$3.00 or more. (See my blatant self-plug in the bottom right...)

Indicate one way in which you participate in the North American Diplomacy hobby

(sub to zine XIX, play in game 1988Y, etc.)

Signature
Print your name neatly
(If your ballot isn't aligned or I can't tell who you are, it may not be counted!)

PLEASE BUY THE CREAM SHALL RISE! FOR \$3.00 -- THE POLL DEPENDS ON YOUR DONATIONS, AND THE ZINE WILL BE FACITLY DANCED FASCINATING -- ARTICLES ON THE HOBBY, STATISTICAL ANALYSIS, THE WORKS!!



CR ALPHA -- WINTER/SPRING 1907

AUS (Reid): Build A Bud, A Tri; A Tri-Alb, A Rom S A Nap, A Nap S A Rom, A Ven S A Trl, A Trl S A Vie, A Vie S A Trl, A Bud S A Vie, A Gal S A War, A War S A Gal, A Mos S A War, A Ukr S A Mos, A Smy H, F Gre S F Ion, F Ion S F Gre, F Aeg S F Ion, F Adr S A Tri-Alb; **A Gal r-> Rum?

ENG (Engler): A Edi-Yor

FRA (D. Wilson): F Ion r-> Tun; A Lvp-Edi, A Pic-Bur, A Bur-Mar, A Mar-Tun, F Lyo C A Mar-Tun, F Tys C A Mar-Tun, F Tun-Wes

GER (Grasse): Disband A Bel; A Fin-Stp, A Lvn-War, A Sil-Gal, A Boh S A Sil-Gal, A Kie-Ber, A Mun S A Boh, A Ruh-Kie, F Den-Bal, F Bar S A Fin-Stp, F Nws-Nth

There is a proposed concession to Austria. Everyone must explicitly vote yes next turn for this proposal to pass.

GERMAN KAISER TO AUSTRIAN INTRUDER: Can the rumor be true? Has John Reid surfaced again?

JOHN REID TO KEN ENGLER: The Austrian Emperor proudly salutes and admires a strong-willed and courageous man such as the King of England. The King of England is a real man who is willing to fight to the bitter end unlike some people one could think of.

ENGLAND: London is mine!

NO LULLABY -- FOG OF WAR VARIANT -- SPRING 1901

AUS (Mann)

ENG (Munzenmaier)

FRA (Phillips)

GER (Grasse)

ITA (Sweeney)

RUS (Weiss)

TUR (D. Wilson)

Remember: you will only see what your armies and fleets "out in the field" see. A striped area with one of your units means that it was attacked, but somehow managed to hold its own. This should be fun...

DATELINE MARSAILLES: In a statement today, the undersecretary of foreign affairs declared that the French would defend the cause of "liberty, equality, fraternity, good taste, good wine, and free-minded women in all of Europe." The entire cabinet spent the weekend in a top-secret decision-making session somewhere on the Riviera.

BERLIN TO PARIS: Let's talk again!!

GERMANY TO ITALY: Thanks for answering my letters, you noble fellow.

BERLIN TO ROME: I know where you are!!

BRER PHIL: Oh, sure. But do you know what he's thinking?

MOSCOW TO ALL: "No sightings."

BERLIN: A prince was born to the Kaiser today, and in the fashion of the Hohenzollerns, he uttered his first words on his first day: "I don't wanna die a crib death!"

ANONYMOUS: Germany, Italy, and Turkey are run by idiots.

ANONYMOUS TO RUSSIA: Distance makes the heart grow fonder.

ANONYMOUS TO WORLD: Roy Fleming's playing Italy incognito. Let's go get him guys!!

BRER PHIL: Wait a minute! Let's not start a stampede!

CR FOXTROT -- WINTER/SPRING 1902

AUS (Armstrong): Build A Bud, A Tri; A Bud-Rum, A Ser S A Bud-Rum, A Tri-Bud, A Vie-Gal, F Gre-Bul(sc)

ENG (Spurlock): Build F Edi, F Lon; A Bel-Pic, F Lon-Eng, F Bre S GERMAN A Bur-Gas, F Nth-Ska, F Edi-Nth

FRA (Weiss): Build A Par; A Spa-Gas, A Par S A Spa-Gas, A Mar-Bur, F Por-Mid

GER (Klien): Build A Mun, F Kie; A Den-Swe, A Bur-Gas, A Mun-Bur, F Hol-Kie, F Kie-Bal

ITA (Setzer): Build F Rom; A Tus-Ven, A Pie-Mar, F Tun-Wes, F Rom-Tys; ** *Setzer resigns — John Schultz takes over IMMEDIATELY*

RUS (Lord): Build A War, A Sev, F Stp(nc); A Sev-Rum, A War-Gal, A Gal-Boh, A Nwy-Swe, F Stp(nc)-Nwy, FSwe-Bal, F Rum-Bla; ** *F Rum [d]*

TUR (Engler): Build F Smy; A Ank-Arm, A Bul-Rum, F Con-Bla, F Smy-Aeg

ISTANBUL: The Islamic Revolutionary Army of Nonamhi do declare *everything* to be theirs by divine right and ask *all* to leave or face the JIHAD.

BRER PHIL: What is it with these middle east fanatics? You never see a bunch of episcopaleans demanding world rule!

PARIS TO CHINA: Thanks for the pledge of alliance.

PARIS TO ENGLAND: What a smooth line you gave me.

PARIS TO THE WORLD: You can do anything you want to me: you can attack me with three languages; you can attack me with fleets and armies; but please, OH PLEASE, just don't throw me in the briar patch!

CRAZED INSTITUTION -- WINTER 1900 -- GUNBOAT DIPLOMACY

AUS (?????)

ENG (?????)

FRA (?????)

GER (?????)

ITA (?????)

RUS (?????)

TUR (?????)

The long-awaited Gunboat game is finally underway. A couple of points to note... Being a Gunboat game, the identities of the players should be unknown to everyone except the GM. There is a natural temptation to discover the identity of one's neighbor in order to form a powerful alliance that can sweep the board. Well, that goes against the whole spirit of this variant. The idea is that you're *supposed* to be operating strictly on your own, with no kind of "inside information". Such would be cheating. Grey press is allowed, but nothing that in any way seems to identify a given party. Each player may select a personal code name to be printed above and in his press, with the restriction that the code name *must* be the name of some cartoon character, living or dead.

Spring 1901 orders are due for the next issue — there's obviously no time for negotiations. Have fun!

CR BRAVO -- WINTER/SPRING 1906

AUS (vanDok): Build A Bud; A Trl-Pie, A Ven S A Trl-Pie, A Bud-Gal, A Mun-Ber, A Ser S F Tri-Alb, F Tri-Alb
ENG (Todd): Build A Lon, A Lpl, F Edi; A Lpl-Edi, A Lon-Yor, A War-Ukr, F Edi-Nws, F Swe-Bot, F Ber H, F Hol-Nth, F Den-Bal, F Nwy-Stp(nc); ** *A War [d]*, *F Ber r-> Kie?*
FRA (Sweeney): Build F Mar; A Kie-Mun, A Ruh S A Kie-Mun, A Bur S A Kie-Mun, A Pie-Trl, F Mar-Lyo, F Tys S F Nap-Rom, F Nap-Rom, F Eas S TURKISH A Ank-Smy, F Ion-Aeg; ** *A Pie r-> Mar, Tus?*
ITA (Weiss): Disband A Ven, A Rom; A Alb-Tri, F Gre S FRENCH F Ion-Aeg; ** *A Alb [d]*
RUS (Grasse): Disband A Con, A Smy; A Ber r-> Pru, F Swe r-> Bal; A Ukr-War, A Sil S A Ukr-War, A Pru S AUSTRIAN A Mun-Ber, A Stp-Mos, A Fin-Nwy, F Bal-Lvn, F Bul(ec)-Con
TUR (Lord): A Ank-Arm

PARIS: Why does everyone want to kill me? (Gerry, I'll meet you in Budapest for tea and crumpets!)

BRER PHIL: Hey Bob, have you ever played in a game where someone was not out to get you personally? You seem to have so many "friends"! You're probably one of those misunderstood types, right?

MUSCOVY TO ROME AND GREECE: Will you ever leave Bulgaria alone?

GREAT DUCHY OF WARSAW TO GRETE BRITAYNE: To think that you'd choose frog legs over borscht. Yikes!! Then again, some dogs will eat anything.

MUSCOVY FOREIGN OFFICE (FORMERLY THE GREAT IMPERIALIST CZAR'S COLONIAL OFFICE) TO THE GREAT SOVEREIGN OR "LORD" OF THE INDEPENDENT NATIONAL TURKISH KINGDOM (ON ITS WAY TO BECOMING A NEW PILLAR OF DEMOCRACY COMBINED WITH ANTI-WESTERN IMPERIALIST SENTIMENTS IN THE EAST): Congratulations on your well fought independence. It was truly an epic of international import, and the Russian government is considering a foreign campaign to help your kingdom through the pangs of rebirth. Now, what do you think we should do about this guy with the Napoleonic complex?

ANONYMOUS: England, France, and Italy are nothing but liars. They deserve each other.

ITALY: Standing in led to falling down, but it was still fun.

BRER PHIL: It's refreshing to see someone actually having enjoyed playing in a PBM Diplomacy game!

WAR CHILD -- SPRING 1901

AUS (Reid): A Bud-Ser, A Vie-Bud, F Tri-Alb
ENG (Marsicek): A Lpl-Yor, F Lon-Nth, F Edi-Nws
FRA (Mann): A Par-Bur, A Mar S A Par-Bur, F Bre-Eng
GER (Holley): A Mun-Bur, A Ber-Kie, F Kie-Hol
ITA (Diehl): A Ven-Apu, A Rom-Ven, F Nap-Ion
RUS (Beckett): A Mos-Sev, A War-Ukr, F Sev-Rum, F Stp(sc)-Bot
TUR (Sweeney): A Con-Bul, A Smy-Arm, F Ank-Con

FRANCE TO GERMANY: This is an honor to be so close to you. I'm at your service, madam!

BERLIN TO THE BOARD: Sorry for the alliance, but I've been ill.

BRER PHIL: I hate when that happens. Kind of spoils the war, know what I mean?

CR CHARLIE -- FALL 1904

AUS (Armstrong): A Gal-Ukr, A Ser-Bul, A Gre S A Ser-Bul, A Rum S A Ser-Bul, A Bud S A Rum, F Aeg S A Ser-Bul
ENG (Reid): A Edi H, F Yor S A Edi H, F Lon-Nth
FRA (Grasse): A Gas-Spa, A Mar S A Gas-Spa, A Pic-Lon, F Eng C A Pic-Lon, F Mid S F Eng, F Ion-Tun
GER (D. Wilson): A Pru-Lvn, A Ber-Pru, A Bel H, A Sil S AUSTRIAN A Gal-War, F Nws-Nth, F Nwy S F Nws-Nth, F Ska S F Nws-Nth
ITA (vanDok): A Ven H, F Eas-Smy, F Tys-Nap
RUS (Milewski): A Nwy r-> Fin; A War-Lvn, A Fin-Nwy, A Ukr-War, A Sev-Arm, F Nat-Nws; ** *A Sev r-> Mos?*
TUR (B. Wilson): A Bul-Sev, A Arm S A Bul-Sev, F Bla C A Bul-Sev, F Ank-Con

Adjustments...

AUS (7): Home, Ser, Gre, Rum, Bul ...+1

ENG (3): Home ...0

FRA (6): Home, Spa, Por, Tun ...0

GER (8): Home, Bel, Hol, Den, Swe, Nwy ...+1

ITA (4): Home, Smy ...+1

RUS (3): War, Mos, Stp, Sev, Nwy ...-2

TUR (3): Con, Ank, Smy, Bul, Sev ...-1

ENGLAND: Does anyone know what Russia is up to?

FRANCE TO ENGLAND: Oh no! It can't be John Reid!

PARIS: One of the Kaisers is becoming a big fat pig!

ANONYMOUS TO VIENNA: Hey, Mozart! I hear Salieri is playing Italy in disguise! Let's get him!

ANKARA TO SARAJEVO: Not bad; <illegible> to you!

ANKARA TO MOSCOW: Looks like you're going to be <illegible> for the other Wilson.

RUSSIA: I feel like I am a very large vegetable about to become puree. This is not a comfortable situation in which to find oneself.

AUSTRIA TO THE WORLD: Austria and Germany were strolling across eastern Europe one day when they bumped into Russia. The following dialogue took place... A/H &

GER: "Hi Russia! What is white, stomped flat, and just lost Warsaw?" RUS: "I don't know. What?" A/H & GER: *stomp, stomp, stomp, Grab!* RUS: *bleed...*

ANKARA: Well, let's get this over with, guys.

MOSCOW TO THE WORLD: I pay my respects to the other 6 great powers of Europe. May we have a fair game. (ha! ha!)

DATELINE CONSTANTINOPLE: In an effort to ensure the neutrality of the Black Sea, the Turkish Navy cancelled planned maneuvers there. Admiral Shakesh was quoted as saying, "Naval maneuvers are a prelude to war, and we don't want no Russian war!" In other news, the Army announced the quelling of rebellion in Armenia. Quoting General Bahkesh, "Riots in Armenia would disrupt military operations should the Russians be planning to violate Turkish fishing rights in the Black Sea."

FRANCE TO ENGLAND: Long time, no hear, pal! I'll be glad to meet you in London.

FRANCE TO ITALY: A non-aggression pact is fine with me.

BRER PHIL: That's what they all say...

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL 1989

It's time for that annual rite of spring — baseball predictions. Given below are my picks for the final standings in 1989 and the World Series. Last year I guessed 3 of 4 division winners, the Yankees being the big disappointment (yet again). I won't make that mistake twice!

Actually, it seems to me that penant-wise, 1989 may prove to be an unexciting year. Some of last year's winners are still the dominating force in their respective divisions, and are expected by most to repeat. Will their be any surprises? I'm guessing there will be at least one. Keep reading and find out...!

NL EAST

New York Mets — Believe me, I'd love to pick against the Mets. But how can any rational person do so? The Mets have perhaps the best pitching in baseball, and are rife with talent. And rife with strife, for that matter. But no such diversion should keep them out of first in the division.

Pittsburgh Pirates — Everyone likes the Pirates these days. But did you know that in games against the Mets last year, Pittsburgh was 6-12? Sure they finished in second place — 15 games out! Until the Pirates can contend with the Mets, they won't be a contender for the pennant.

Montreal Expos — In past years, the Expos have frequently found themselves in the thick of the NL East pennant race, but they never quite manage to find that winning form needed to beat the Mets. Expect the same old song this year.

St. Louis Cardinals — The Cardinals have a lot of talent, and one of the best coaches in baseball, but their pitching staff is erratic, Danny Cox is out for the season, and Ozzie Smith is getting older (and injured, too, of late). Expect the Cardinals to challenge, but not threaten, the Mets.

Chicago Cubs — What has happened to my Cubbies? In part, bad trades. Only a few familiar names from the 1984 banner year fill the current roster. Many players are has-beens discarded by other teams. Pitching is a big problem. Let's face it: this will not be the year for Cubs fans.

Philadelphia Phillies — The Phillies are the only comfort to Cubs fans; at least Chicago won't be embarrassed by a last place finish. Could Philadelphia wind up with a worse record than Atlanta? Hey, they aren't *that* bad! Still, teams in "rebuilding years" never challenge for the pennant.

NL WEST

Los Angeles Dodgers — This is the team Mets fans hate. You see, New York works hard for its success; those California-native Dodgers, on the other hand, lead the charmed life, and don't deserve to win. But they do. (And the World Series at that!) So watch out Mets fans: with an excellent pitching staff, and Eddie Murray and Willie Randolph added to the line-up, the Dodgers will be there to torment you come October!

San Diego Padres — There is no doubt the Padres are rich in talent, making some of the best off-season trades for Bruce Hurst, Walt Terrell, and Jack Clark. San Diego beat the Cubs in 1984 to play (and lose) in the World Series. But the Padres finished 11 games behind the Dodgers in 1988. This year shouldn't be as bad, but don't expect the pennant until after this season.

Cincinnati Reds — The good news is that the Reds will not finish in second place for the fifth consecutive time. The bad news is that they will drop a place to third. The Reds just

aren't ready to win a pennant; Pete Rose doesn't seem to be the kind of coach that inspires a team to greater success. Hell, he has a hard time getting his own kids to like him!

San Francisco Giants — The Giants are a definite contender; they haven't fallen that far from grace since their 1987 division title. But injuries plagued San Francisco last year, and may well do so again. The pitching staff takes the brunt of it with all those split-finger fastballs. Too bad.

Houston Astros — What ever happened to Mike Scott, the most dominating pitcher in 1986? Well, he's still with the Astros, just not playing quite as well. But then that's true of the whole team. Expect a lot of homers at the Homerdome — by the visiting teams!

Atlanta Braves — Do I really have to spell it out for you?

AL EAST

Milwaukee Brewers — I'm way out on the limb with this one, and there are beavers gnawing at the tree, but this division should be the most interesting of all this year. Sure compared to the Mets, Dodgers, and A's, these teams are pretty lame, but they are *all* equally lame. This should go down to the wire as did last year. So why the Brewers? 1) They have a lot of talent. 2) They finished 2 games behind Boston in 1988. 3) I've gotta make this interesting somehow — the other divisions are runaways. The only thing to hold back the Brewers will be more devastating injuries.

Toronto Blue Jays — The favorite of many prognosticators, this team is the best in the division — on paper. Sure they have won more games than their division mates over the last 4 years. Sure, they finished tied with Milwaukee last year. But the Brewers have been to the World Series this decade (albeit 1982). The Blue Jays...? They need to get over the hump yet.

Boston Red Sox — A great offense, good young talent, and a decent bullpen. The Sox definitely got the better of the Lee Smith / Calvin Schiraldi trade with the Cubs in 1987. But the loss of Bruce Hurst to San Diego this year will be the difference between winning the division and finishing in the pack behind the leader.

Detroit Tigers — Always a contender, the Tigers were the mid-season favorite last year. Then they lost 19 of their last 23 games. Face it: these guys are getting old, and don't have that good young talent that Boston does. Detroit needs some powerful young "spark plugs" more now than it needs Sparky Anderson.

New York Yankees — Starting pitching is a problem, as is the loss of Jack Clark, Dave Winfield, and Rafael Santana. The Yankees will be a competitor, but not a contender. Being "the Yankees" just doesn't mean as much as it used to; there are no more free rides on a name alone.

Cleveland Indians — Another one of those "rebuilding projects", the Indians will contend some other year, but not this one. The team needs to get some dominating players like those the A's and Mets have in abundance.

Baltimore Orioles — The only question here is whether the Orioles or the Braves will finish at the bottom of the major league heap. What the heck, I'll take Baltimore.

AL WEST

Oakland Athletics — The A's are pretty much the same team as last year, when they won the most games in the majors (104). This shouldn't change, even if Jose Canseco was to be sidelined for the year. With strength in every department,

(continued on the following page)

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL 1989 (cont.)

Oakland will be the World Series favorite again.

Kansas City Royals — Many people forget the Royals, but this team has won the most games in their division the past five years (though only three more than Oakland). The Royals have yet to find a replacement for Dan Quisenberry. But they will be in the hunt for the division title, at least until Oakland gradually starts pulling away from the pack.

Minnesota Twins — The Twins will be a strong contender: they have a solid team (in all departments), and they won the World Series in 1987. But with the A's looking to boast another 100+ game season, Minnesota may not have quite enough to match Oakland's final statistics.

Texas Rangers — Some good trades were made in the off-season; the Rangers picked up Nolan Ryan, Julio Franco, Jamie Moyer, Rafael Palmeiro (again, the Cubs trade away a good player!), and Buddy Bell. But it will take another year or two before Texas is at the same level as Oakland.

Chicago White Sox — Living in Sarasota, I've gotten to see several Sox games practically in my back yard, and the White Sox are looking good — for the White Sox. God, I hope they don't finish last!

California Angels — Except for a few standout players (Wally Joyner, Burt Blyleven, and rookie Jim Abbott), this is a pale shade of the division-winning team that challenged the Red Sox in 1986 for a World Series appearance.

Seattle Mariners — I don't know anything about this team, except that they will have the usual dismal season.

DIVISION PLAYOFFS

Mets vs. Dodgers — The grudge series. The Mets felt robbed last year, and understandably so: they should have won, but didn't. Unfortunately, things have a way of balancing out in baseball. So look for a Mets win (in 6 games), albeit a hard-fought one.

Brewers vs. Athletics — If the Brewers manage to make it this far, they should go out and play the A's with the attitude of having fun, but not expecting much. There's no way Milwaukee can deny Oakland's rendezvous with destiny. The A's should need 5 games at most to dispense with the Brewers.

WORLD SERIES

New York Mets vs. Oakland Athletics — A little suspense... Can you possibly *not* guess my pick? Well here it is in black and white. New York is a scrappy team, and scrappy teams have history on their side (the Mets in 1986 and the Dodgers in 1988). But the Athletics are vengeful, more so than the Mets. And besides, they have *ME* on their side! Look for the series to go 6 games and the trophy to stay in California.

NCAA TOURNEY THOUGHTS...

I know there have been many exciting finals this decade, but this year's contest had to have been the best as far as going to the wire with either team likely to win. The emotional level was at a new high, as Seton Hall fought back against Michigan from a double digit deficit to tie the game with 5 minutes to go. It took an overtime period to decide the winner. It's just too bad that someone had to lose (especially Seton Hall, the popular favorite and mine).

CONTEST #4

First, a few words about Contest#1 and Contest#3... Let's give a little credit where credit is due. In the February issue I noted that I was 2 points off in guessing the final score of the Super Bowl (49ers-21, Bengals-17), but had picked the wrong team. In fact, though I desperately wanted a Cincinnati victory, I nevertheless picked the 49ers to win by the score of 20-16! So eat your heart out, Jimmy the Greek!

On to last month's contest. The Academy pretty much faked us all out in its annual Oscar awards presentation (I only guessed Best Actor Dustin Hoffman correctly), but Brad Wilson got an amazing 5 of 6 right (Best Actress Jody Foster surprised everyone, though it was much deserved). Sorry, Brad — "almost" only counts for horseshoes, hand grenades, and high school dates! I am glad that Kevin Kline and Geena Davis won, and especially that "Working Girl" didn't win any major award (except for Best Song — cough, cough).

And now this month's contest. There is no doubt in my mind that it would be a crime to ignore the start of the baseball season, but let's focus instead on the *end* of the season (it's definitely more interesting). To win a free gamestart, all you need to do is correctly pick all four division winners, and the winner and loser of the World Series. I actually think this will be a relatively easy year to pick — see my column on the previous pages for more details and my picks. Of course, we won't know if anyone won until several months from now. But picking winners in September — well, *that's* a crime!

RECORD RATINGS AND RAVINGS:

There was no real consensus among readers of my Genesis ratings last month. Those who know their early material (with Peter Gabriel) generally prefer it. Some people love the "middle years" (like me) — others despise such music. Most people agree, however, that their last album, *Invisible Touch*, was a big disappointment. Let's hope the boys in the band make for a change (doubtful). One side note: the new Mike and the Mechanics album (*The Living Years*) is pretty good, maybe better than the first one (despite a sluggish title track).

As you can see, there isn't much room left in this column for the usual record reviews. I had planned to relive some of my best (and worst) concert experiences, but that will have to wait for the next issue. Instead, I will introduce a couple of new features, as shown below.

FAVORITE SONGS OF THE MONTH:

"Stand" — R.E.M. (*a simple but great song*)

"Punk Rock Girl" — The Dead Milkmen (*hilarious!*)

MOST EMBARRASSING FAVORITE SONGS OF THE MONTH:

"Cryin'" — Vixen (*female "heavy metal" band!*)

"Funky Cold Medina" — Tone Loc (*a rapper!!*)

PLAYER INFO

| Last Name | First Name | Address | CityStateZip | Sby | Sub | Trade |
|-----------------|------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-----|-------|-------|
| Armstrong | John | Leonhard Hall Box 716 | American U., Wash. DC 20016 | * | ? | |
| Beckett | Scott | 1005 Dana Ave. #12 | Cincinnati, OH 45229 | | 12/89 | |
| Cronin | Larry | 5427 E. 19th St. | Tucson, AZ 85711 | | 3/90 | |
| Diehl | Jim | 10530 W. Riverview Dr. | Eden Prairie, MN 55347 | | 3/90 | |
| Engler | Ken | P.O. Box 8211 | Terre Haute, IN 47808 | * | 12/89 | |
| Grasse | Matthew | 1871 Putnam Ave. | Ridgewood, NY 11385 | * | 12/89 | |
| Holley | Melinda | P.O. Box 2793 | Huntington, WV 25727 | | | * |
| Klien | Eric | 1 Sinai Circle #B10 | Chelmsford, MA 01824 | | 12/89 | |
| Lord | Michael | 4027 Baker Rd. | Minnetonka, MN 55343 | | 12/89 | |
| Mann | George | 1701 NW 81st Way | Plantation, FL 33322 | | | * |
| Marsicek | Bob | 407 Norwood West | Georgetown, TX 78628 | | 10/89 | |
| Milewski | Paul | 5642 Macey Ave. Apt#1 | Cincinnati, OH 45227 | * | 12/89 | |
| Munzenmaier | David | 707 El Dorado Blvd. #124 | Houston, TX 77062 | | 1/90 | |
| Nash | Tom | 5512 Pilgrim Rd. | Baltimore, MD 21214 | | | * |
| Orne | David | 1234 Reynolds Rd. #242 | Lakeland, FL 33801 | * | 1/90 | |
| Phillips | William M | SPO | Sewanee, TN 37375 | | 1/90 | |
| Reid | John | 2475 Southern Blvd. #12A | Bronx, NY 10458 | * | 12/89 | |
| Schultz, #19390 | John | Ind.St.Prison P.O.Box 41 | Michigan City, IN 46360 | * | ? | |
| Spurlock | Jeff | 813 Rain Tree Pl. | Vista, CA 92084 | | ? | |
| Sweeney | Bob | 635 Lake Shore Dr. | G.P.S., MI 48236 | | 12/89 | |
| Todd | Gerald | 8047 High Point Rd. | Baltimore, MD 21226 | | 12/89 | |
| Weiss | Richard | 554 Liberty St. | San Francisco, CA 94114 | | 12/89 | |
| Wilson | Dave | 3764 Bronx Blvd. | Bronx, NY 10467 | | ? | |
| | Brad | P.O. Box 126 | Wayne, PA 19087 | * | | * |
| vanDok | Frank | 2745 Fenton St. | Edgewater, CO 80214 | | 12/89 | |

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Dipadeedoodah!

PAYMENT DUE LAST ISSUE TRADE SAMPLE GAMESTART STANDBY