

FEUILLETONIST'S FORUM

ISSUE 27

August 25, 1986

Game Openings: Diplomacy!
Gunboat

(512) 343-8202

Yes, I do have another opening in Gunboat. Right after filling the Donaldson game, I received several more inquiries and at least one check. Since Will has to end someday, I decided what the hell. So if you are interested in a game of Gunboat, let me know.

The Special Session of the legislature is in full swing, with the House leadership declaring there will not be a tax increase and the Senate leadership declaring there will not be anything until there is a tax increase. We may be here until the regular session starts in January.

It is anybody's guess what the political fallout will be. The odds-makers say we will have a new Governor in January, but then they said Clements would beat White last time too. The Speaker of the House is a Democrat representing a district that supported Reagan with 80% of the vote in 1984. He also has a well financed Republican opponent. Critics are charging that he is representing his district instead of Texas, and his opponent claims that he isn't representing his district well enough. A classic campaign line: "I enjoy having an opponent. This way I get to get out here and meet my constituents." One might say the Speaker is just a little rusty at campaigning.

The GFL draft has been a real pain. I got 4 of the draft lists (40 lists of 16 names each) returned prior to Friday, 4 on Friday, 7 on Saturday, and the last one on Monday. I started the drafting even though I was one short by giving that last player a random list. When I got his on Monday I just couldn't help myself. I started over again. I am sure that I just let Bruce Linsey down, but I just couldn't give this guy a team that he had no voice in choosing. So the GFL rosters will be going out a couple of days after this.

This issue has all the regular stuff: Presidential Politics (one more move to go!); George Will, Sam Donaldson and William Raspberry; an editorial and the letter column. Notice that both of the subzines that have been known to frequent these pages are not here. In fact they haven't been here for a while. Well, Jake got wrapped up in looking for a job and High Plains Gonzo folded. Butter Battles hasn't folded, but I keep getting the copy too late to include it!

FEUILLETONIST'S FORUM is an amateur monthly zine dedicated to the play and discussion of Diplomacy! (invented by Allan Calhamer and Copyrighted by The Avalon Hill Game Company), and Presidential Politics (invented and copyrighted by Jake Halverstadt). Publisher/Editor: Greg Ellis, 700 Rio Grande, Austin TX 78701-2720. Readers are encouraged to participate in the letter column, which is primarily for the discussion of politics or PBM issues. Ads cannot be purchased, but worthy causes can get a free plug. Subs are \$5/10 issues.

PRESIDENTIAL POLITICS

POPULAR VOTE GETTING CLOSER ALL THE TIME!
Republicans Have 106 Electoral Vote Lead

With only two weeks until the general election the Democrats have pulled even closer. The Republicans lead the popular vote with 50.9%, but the Young/Hare ticket still has a commanding 59% lead in the electoral votes. Not since the turn of the century when there was a strong three man race has the President been elected without a majority of the popular vote. In 1960 John F. Kennedy narrowly defeated Vice President Richard Nixon in the closest election in history. Had a few votes in any of a number of the more populous states gone differently, Nixon may have been President 8 years earlier.

The Republicans have built their electoral vote lead using the small states in the Regionals. The Rocky Mountain states provide 35 electoral votes, representing a 70 vote swing, and the Republicans currently lead by only 18 votes. If the Democrats can hold all of the states they now have except Iowa, and gain Rocky Mountain and Illinois, the electoral votes will be tied at 269. Poll results show Iowa as a dead even tie, but the pollsters give a slight advantage to the Republicans. The Republicans lead in Illinois by 422 votes.

The most disappointing aspect of the Democratic campaign has to be the poor showing in Maryland, Larzelere's home state. Maryland insiders say the problem is the high negatives Wilcox gets from the Baltimore crowd. Wilcox is the senior Senator from Texas and Baltimore is home to many Congressional aides.

Democrat strategists are supposedly planning an assault on California to counter the argument that Wilcox can't win west of the Rockies. Young currently leads by 4,150 votes, which isn't surprising since he is currently a Senator from California and Hare used to represent the state in the Senate as well. Wilcox thinks that he can win the state over once they become more familiar with his stands on the issues. "The people who are going to vote for me aren't the kind of people that pollsters talk to. But they will make their voice heard on election day, when it counts.", the candidate said.

Young thinks he can hold all the states he has now, and add Iowa, Pennsylvania, and maybe even Texas. "Though Wilcox is pretty popular in his home state, they didn't like his choice of running mates. Larzelere is just too liberal for Texas Democrats. I think we can win the state.", Young said.

In fourteen days the issue will be decided and we will have a new President and Vice President.

[illegible]

Pete Gaughan and Tom Hise will be hosting ARLINGCON III in October around Halloween. Make plans now to attend what is always a great Con! And for those of you who haven't met Cathy, IT'S ABOUT TIME!!!!!! As usual, non-Dip spouses are invited. Costumes are a plus, I'm sure. Contact Pete or Tom at 3121 East Park Row #165, Arlington TX 76010-3744.

Polly and I may be making an anniversary trip to Washington, D.C. in September! This is a big hint for you Warthogs and other nearby residents to take us to dinner! Trip is planned for 9/24 to 9/28. I really would like to meet a few of you, and maybe even get an insider's look at the Nation's Capital!

PRESIDENTIAL POLITICS NOTES

NEXT DEADLINE: September 19, 1986

DUE NEXT TURN: Travel for weeks 11 and 12; Organizations starting in weeks 11 and 12; Media bids for each state or region; Spotlight issues for each state and region and the national spotlights.

CURRENT CFP TOTALS:

	Young	Hare	Wilcox	Larzelere
Beginning Balance	2697	771	2738	826
Spent this turn	<1592>	<531>	<1581>	<528>
Ending Balance	1105	240	1157	298

TRAVEL

Wilcox	Nassau (2.5), New York (8), Boston (3.5), Salt Lake City, Nashville, Memphis, New Orleans, Indianapolis, Newark (2).
Young	Chicago (4), Pittsburgh, Philadelphia (4), Dallas, Houston, Cleveland, Cincinnati, St. Paul, Denver, Atlanta, Seattle, St. Louis (3), Kansas City.
Larzelere	Pascagoula/Biloxi, Jackson, Tulsa, Oklahoma City, Lawton/Bloomington, Decatur/Champaign, Springfield/Rockford, Peoria/Tri-Cities, Fargo/Lincoln, Topeka/Duluth, Wichita/Omaha, Columbia/Charleston, Raleigh/Greenville, Charlotte, Greensboro, Colorado Springs/Las Vegas, Albuquerque/Tucson, Chattanooga/Knoxville, Wilmington/Sioux City, Waterloo/Cedar Rapids, Des Moines.
Hare	Tacoma, Spokane/Eugene, Salem/New London, Portland/Lewiston, Toledo, Akron, Youngstown, Canton/Lorraine, Hamilton/Lima, Cedar Rapids/Waterloo, Sioux City/Debuge, Altoona/NE Pennsylvania, Allentown (1/2), Worcester, Springfield, New Bedford/Pittsfield, Baton Rouge/Shreveport, Lake Charles/Alexandria, Lafayette/Monroe, Gary, Ft. Wayne/Evansville, South Bend (1/2).

MEDIA

Democrats: Minimum share in all states except AL, FL, MD, NH, VA, WI and 1.5 * Minimum in IL, & NY, 2 * Minimum in NJ.

Republicans: Minimum in all states except FL, AL, WI and 2 * Minimum in IL and BS.

ORGANIZATIONS

Democrats:

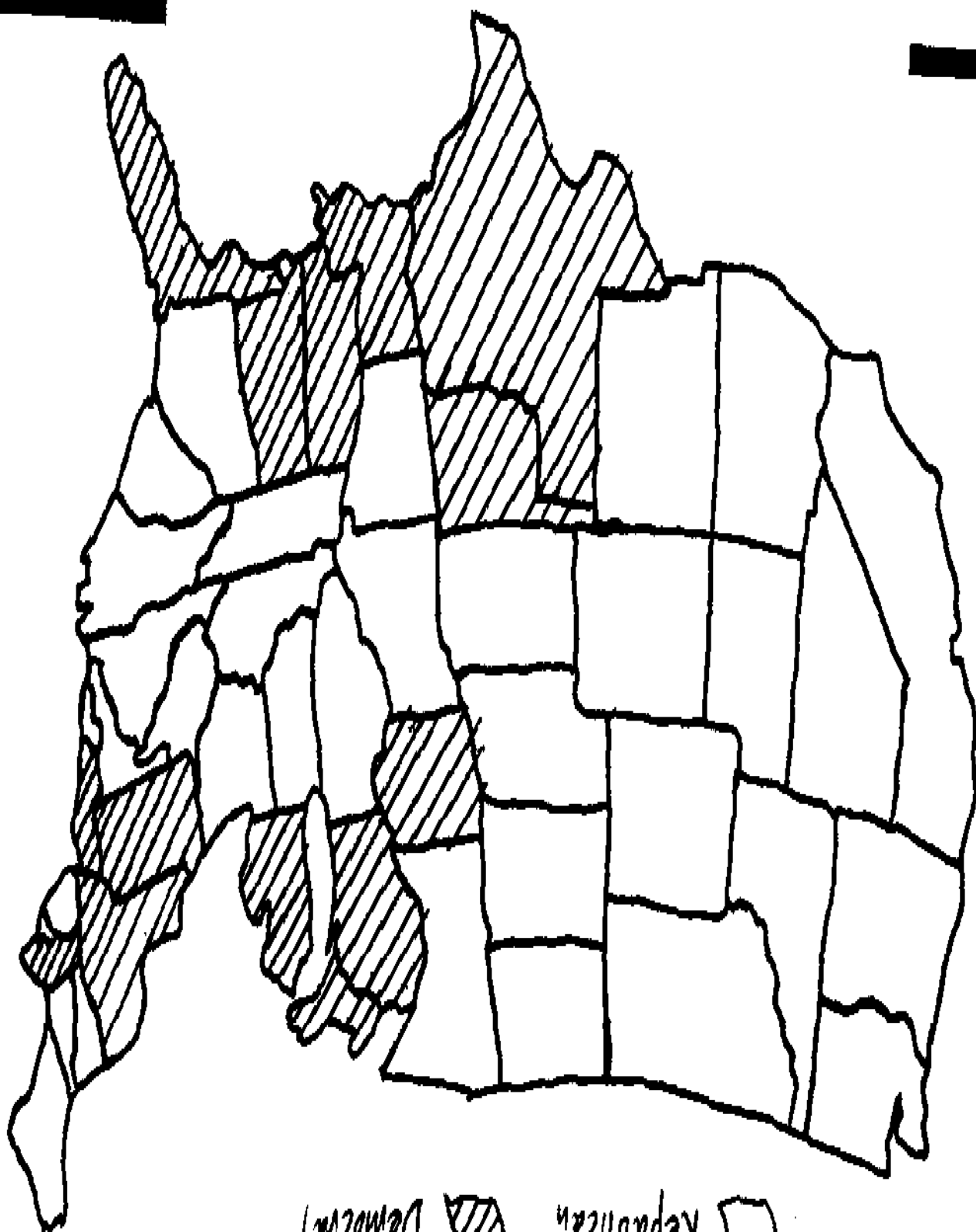
Starting week 8: CA, MA, NY, PA, TX, SA, BS
Starting week 9: IL, KY, MI, NJ, OH, NE, RM
Starting week 10: IN, IA, LA, MS, OK, NP, PS

Republicans:

Starting week 8: MA, IL, CA, OH, SA, BS, RM, PS
Starting week 10: IA, MS, OK, NH, NY, LA, TN, PA, VA, TX, MY, MI, KY, NJ, NE, NP The money spent and organization vote totals reflect the assumption that the organizations will be maintained for the rest of the campaign. Should either party close an organization prior to the election, the money will be returned and the vote totals reduced accordingly. I will also main you the first chance I get!

STATE	VOTES	PRIM	TRAVEL	MEDIA	DEMOCRATS ORG	ISSUES	TOTAL	EV
AL	9	158	0	304	0		462	9
CA	45	1,106	0	3,360	673		5,139	17
FL	17	485	738	1,103	0		2,326	0
IL	26	308	812	1,436	302		2,858	10
IN	13	0	271	487	94		852	8
IA	9	41	80	148	168		438	0
KY	9	48	0	205	37		292	0
LA	10	221	247	438	84		990	10
MD	10	108	0	234	0		342	0
MA	14	277	797	1,009	198		2,285	14
MI	21	39	940	1,326	234		2,539	21
MN	7	50	67	119	168		405	7
NH	4	8	0	22	0		30	0
NJ	17	433	825	921	166		2,345	17
NY	41	915	2,380	3,126	294		7,016	41
OH	25	122	747	1,475	292		2,536	0
OK	8	26	211	304	168		709	8
PA	27	328	1,089	1,835	366		3,619	27
TX	26	427	924	1,511	297		3,158	26
VA	12	41	0	234	0		275	0
WI	11	18	246	446	0		710	11
ME	17	24	142	706	185		1,057	0
NB	29	36	381	671	168		1,256	0
RM	33	259	502	918	234		1,913	0
SA	33	212	444	889	238		1,783	0
SS	40	345	592	1,044	307		2,288	0
PS	22	492	364	812	168		1,837	0
TOT	538	6,529	12,801	25,083	5,144	0	49,558	216

STATE	VOTES	PRIM	TRAVEL	MEDIA	REPUBLICANS ORG	ISSUES	TOTAL	EV
AL	9	73	0	93	0		168	0
CA	45	1,447	3,810	3,360	673		9,290	45
FL	17	59	912	1,336	0		3,95	0
IL	26	479	281	1,579	307		3,297	26
IN	13	165	81	487	94		1,027	13
IA	9	40	238	148	168		438	0
KY	9	103	253	438	84		582	9
LA	10	129	430	514	75		878	0
MD	10	362	349	514	0		1,148	10
MA	14	305	402	1,009	225		1,720	0
MI	21	305	402	1,031	168		1,963	0
MN	7	46	53	93	0		360	0
NH	4	25	52	63	168		177	4
NJ	17	352	109	716	159		1,337	0
NY	41	937	916	2,690	262		4,805	0
OH	25	522	929	1,475	297		3,224	25
OK	8	74	973	304	168		649	0
PA	27	312	973	1,835	346		3,487	0
TX	26	321	794	1,511	281		2,906	0
VA	12	98	426	514	75		1,113	12
WI	11	99	282	436	0		517	0
ME	17	274	462	706	178		1,820	17
NB	29	365	383	671	168		1,588	0
RM	33	242	534	918	238		1,931	33
SA	33	223	562	889	238		1,912	33
SS	40	315	562	1,042	307		2,726	40
PS	22	352	352	812	178		1,894	22
TOT	538	7,523	14,862	23,895	5,064	0	51,343	322



□ Republican
▨ Democrat

WILLIAM RASPBERRY - REGULAR DIPLOMACY!

SPRING 1901

RUSSIA PROBES SILESIA, BURGUNDY BUSY!

Austria Lin Morrisett 13450 Maham Road #328, Dallas TX 75240
A Bud-SER, A VIE H, F Tri-ALB
England Pete Gaughan 3121 E. Park Row #165, Arlington TX 76010
A Lvp-WAL, F Lon-ENG, F Edi-~~W~~ NTH
France Russ Wallace 4707 Bella Dr., Colorado Springs CO 80918
F Bre-MID, A PAR-Bur, A MAR-Bur
Germany Evans Givan 8066 Camstock Court, Citrus Hts CA 95610
A MUN-Bur, F Kie-DEN, A Ber-KIE
Italy Derwood Bowen 2140 East State Street, Salem OH 44460
A Ven-TYO, A Rom-VEN, F Nap-TYR
Russia Jim Diehl 10530 W. Riverview Dr., Eden Prairie MN 55344
F Stp-BOT, A War-SIL, A Mos-UKR, F Sev-RUM
Turkey Melinda Holley P.O. Box 2793, Huntington WV 25727
A Con-BUL, A Smy-ANK, F Ank-CON

DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 19, 1986

PRESS

FRENCH FREE PRESS: The secret of success is sincerity. Once you can fake that you've got it made.

GER-FRA: As you can see, a bounce in Burgundy is OK with me. Peace on the Maginot line is my motto.

Pink Floyd to World: Is anybody out there?

ITALY-FRA: No letters make a Dip game rough. Are your stamps so pretty you can't bear to part with them?

GME-ITA: Maybe he was writing to Pink Floyd.

WARSAW: Enraged and outraged by rumors from multiple sources that errant German naval forces might enter Denmark in Spring to thwart Russian hegemony in Sweden, Tsarist infantry probed Silesia. If untrue, hangings are in order when recalled to Warsaw.

GME-GER: Jim has been trying to probe me for several seasons now in Tanith.

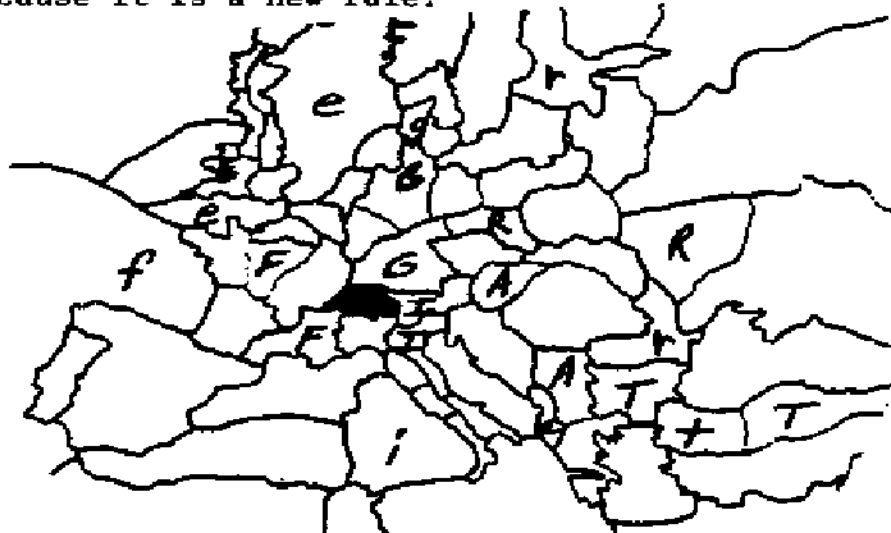
GER-GM: Who is Raspberry? The columnist?

GME-GER: Yup. He is what we call a political feuilletonist.

ITA-TUR: Thanks for writing; let's make it happen.

PLAYER-GM: Since you aren't going to print joke orders in Gunboat, how would you handle the following orders: A VIE S Tur A Bul-Rum, F TRI S Ita A Ven. The first one is impossible and the second is stupid.

GME-PLAYER: The first order would be listed as A VIE H, and the second printed exactly as it is. If the move is possible I print it, regardless of how stupid it is. That doesn't apply to GEORGE WILL because it is a new rule.



GEORGE WILL

SPRING 1913

ENGLAND Build Fleet Liverpool; F Liv-IRI, F Bel-ENG, F Nwg-NWY, A Kie MS A HOL, F Nth-DEN (F BAL S), A STP-Mos, F Mid S Pre F Spa(sc) (Ret. NAT, POR, OTB)
 FRANCE Build Fleet Marseille; A BRE H, F MAR S F SPA (A BUR, F SPA S (A GAS S)
 GERMANY Remove Fleet Helgoland; A Sil-MUN (A BER, A RUH S), F Den-Bal (Ret. HEL, SKA, SWE, OTB)
 RUSSIA Retreat A WAR OTB
 TURKEY Build Army Ankara; A Sev-MOS (A UKR S), A Ank-SEV (F BLA C), A Gal-SIL (A WAR S), F Ion-TYH, F Wes-MID (F NAP S), F Tun-WES, A Rum-GAL, A BOH-Mun (A TYO S), A VIE-Boh, F LYO-Mar (F PIE S)

FALL 1913

ENGLAND F Mid Ret-POR; F Nwy-SWE (F DEN S), A Kie-BER (F BAL S), A Hol-KIE, A STP-Mos, F POR-Mid (F IRI, ENG S)
 FRANCE A BRE H, F SPA-Por, F MAR-Spa, A GAS Mar (A BUR S)
 GERMANY A MUN H (A RUH, A Ber S (ANN.)) (Ret. FAL-OTB)
 TURKEY F Bla-CON, A War-PRU (A SIL S), A Gal-WAR, A Sev-MOS (A UKR S), F LYO-Spa, F TYN-Lyo (F PIE S), A BOH-Mun (A TYO S), F MID S Pre A Bur-Mun (IMP) (F NAP, F WES S), A Mos-LVN

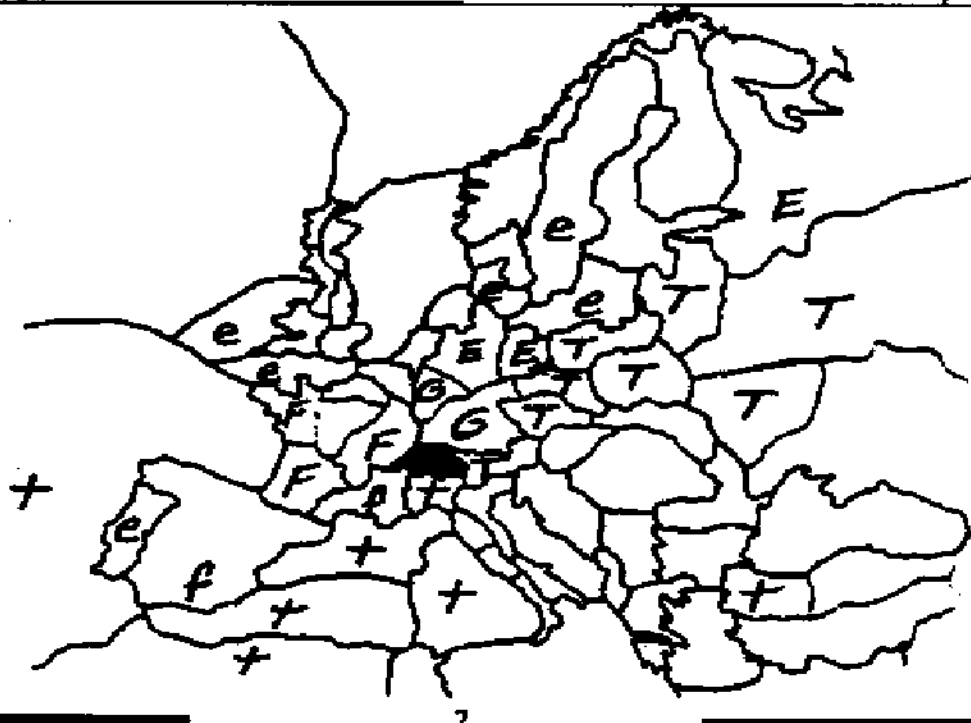
SUPPLY CENTER CHART

ENGLAND	Home, Nwy, Bel, Stp, Hol, Kie, BER, POR, SWE, DEN -	12 +3
FRANCE	Home, Spa, por	4 -1
GERMANY	Mun, ber, den, swe	1 -3
TURKEY	Home, Italy, Austria, Balkans, Tun, Sev, Rum, War, Mos	17 +1

Turkey is +2 due to a declined builds. Germany is only minus one due to annihilations.

The Concession to Turkey, E/F, & E/T failed 3 YES, 1 NO, 1NVR.

DEADLINE FOR WINTER 1913 AND SPRING 1914 IS SEPTEMBER 8, 1986



SAM DONALDSON

SPRING 1901

AUSTRIA	A Vie-BUD, A Bud-SER, F Tri-ALB
ENGLAND	A Liv-YOR, F Lon-NTH, F Edi-NWG
FRANCE	A Par-BUR, F Bre-ENG, A Mar-SPA
GERMANY	F Kie-DEN, A Ber-KIE, A MUN H
ITALY	A Ven-PIE, A Rom-APU, F Nap-ION
RUSSIA	F Stp-BOT, A War-GAL, A Mos-UKR, <u>F SEV-Bla</u>
TURKEY	A Con-BUL, A Smy-ARM, <u>F ANK-Bla</u>

FALL 1901

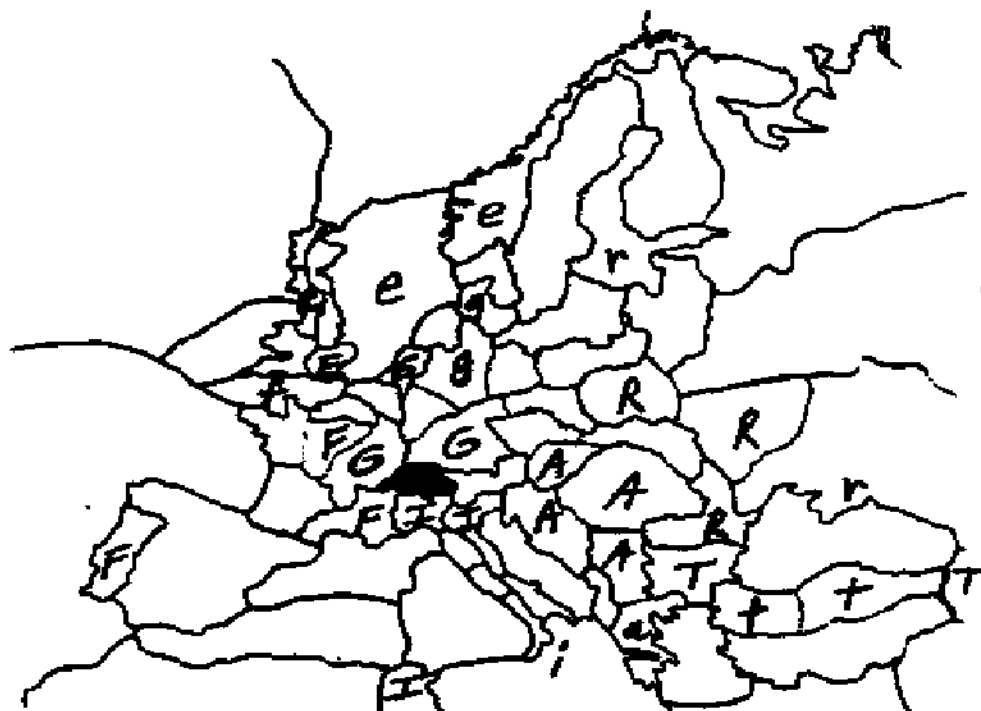
AUSTRIA	A BUD S Tur A Bul-Rum, F Alb-GRE (A SER S)
ENGLAND	A Yor-LON, F Nwg-NWY, <u>F NTH-Bel</u>
FRANCE	A Bur-MAR, A Spa-POR, <u>F ENG-Bel</u>
GERMANY	<u>F DEN-Swe</u> A Kie-HOL, A Mun-BUR
ITALY	<u>A PIE H</u> , A Apu-TUN (F ION C)
RUSSIA	<u>F BOT-Swe</u> , A Gal-RUM (A UKR S, F SEV S)
TURKEY	<u>A BUL-Rum</u> , A ARM H, F ANK H

SUPPLY CENTER CHART AND WINTER 1901

AUSTRIA	Home, GRE, SER -----	+2	Build A TRI and A VIE
ENGLAND	Home, NWY -----	+1	Build F LVP
FRANCE	Home, POR -----	+1	Build A PAR
GERMANY	Home, DEN, HOL -----	+2	Build A MUN and F KIE
ITALY	Home, TUN -----	+1	Build A VEN
RUSSIA	Home, RUM -----	+1	Build A WAR
TURKEY	Home, BUL -----	+1	Build F CON

DEADLINE FOR SPRING 1902 IS SEPTEMBER 19, 1986

Please look at the Press section of RASPBERRY for some house rule interpretations. Extra long deadline this time to compensate for the start of school, the continuing special session, and the start up of the GFL. George Will has the normal deadline because it should be over by next issue.



EDITORIAL

Last time Jim Burgess asked me about my personal philosophy and asked why I had a pro-business bent. The following editorial answers that challenge.

People join together as a society and agree to a form of government to provide an efficient means of protection and services. This involves a trade off: I give up my freedom, either in the form of money or rights, to get the security of government. I pay money to the government so that I can have the protection of the police and courts. I could spend that money on a private security force, but it is cheaper to get the same protection as a society. I also have to agree to submit myself to the jurisdiction of the court system in order to have that system protect me. I give up the right to avenge a loved ones death or personally recover property stolen from me and defer to the judicial system instead. I then also have the system's protection when I am accused. I want roads and sewer systems and schools and parks. To get those services, I agree to pay my share.

As a society we want more than protection from present dangers, and remedy to past injustice; we want protection from future dangers. We have created many regulatory agencies to see to it that my life and property are not subjected to undue dangers. We limit who can become a Doctor or Lawyer through a competency test. We also test Barbers and Beauticians. We have a Food and Drug administration to test possible drugs for side effects. Many lives are lost to diseases that might have been cured by a drug that has been invented but not yet approved. But we accept that as a trade for the lives that would be lost if drugs were sold without the testing.

I think Jim and I would agree on all of this. Where we disagree is on where to draw the line. I don't think it is necessary to test Barbers. It may not even be necessary to test lawyers. Generally, I think we should treat civil justice the same way we treat criminal justice: use the possibility of sanctions as a deterrent to undesirable behavior.

We use the criminal justice system as a deterrent to crime, but it is all after the fact. Most of society is deterred from committing a crime by the threat of punishment. Maybe drug companies would do the testing on their own if they were held strictly liable for any deaths that occurred. This zest for prevention could get out of hand. In fact, I would be willing to bet that Jim and the other advocates of government control would be dead set against using these same type of preventative measures to deter crime.

It is possible to prevent most of the crimes that occur if we take preventative measures that are currently precluded by the constitution. The crime rate would plummet if the police could stop and search anyone without cause, or if they could put "bugs" in everyone's bedroom, or if they could arrest and punish people who were likely to commit crimes.

Pretty preposterous suggestions. It should be noted, however, that some people want to take away the right to own a handgun. They believe it is justified since it would reduce crime. I am not as concerned with reducing crime as I am with losing my civil rights. I also don't want to lose my economic rights, so I am generally against preventative measures in commerce.

Should business be allowed to have its own way? No. Should we get out of the business of regulating through agencies and back to the idea of regulating through courts? Yes. If it works for our criminal system, then it should work for our commercial system as well. The major drawback to such a system is holding a corporation accountable for its actions. There isn't anything to throw in jail, and if it goes out of business there isn't any way to collect the money. This is a major obstacle, but it could be overcome, and in the meantime the regulatory power of government could and should be curtailed.

That's the way I see it. The letter column contains a few other ideas.

LETTER COLUMN

Pete Gaughan (1/8/86)

Why is "Clement's Secret Plan" a misnomer? It certainly is a secret, but for all I know it may be someone else's plan.

What kind of group has Jim-Bob lumped me in with? I haven't "hammered" at you for a while, and I'm not sure that I buy his assumption that money vs. popular opinion is the root of our system (although I like that better than your formula of people vs. the government, Greg).

Jim, I'm truly tired of "free-market" arguments, so I hope you don't get much response. But I'll read the comments primarily because I want to see whether anybody starts to delineate where the market should be free and where it shouldn't -- in other words, where employees should get their way and where employers should get theirs. The heart of my hatred for capitalism is that employers get their way too often. (Read employers to include owners of Capital)

I would rather see a style of government in which employers were granted the right to a modest profit in exchange for "promoting the general welfare." Wages promote the general welfare but not nearly as much as education, ecology, and research.

Wanna fight over whether a profit is a right or a privilege?

If you don't mind, I'll do my "griping" about the Poll to you, so as to keep it out of my zine. I don't really care whether I do well, but I feel a bit trodden on for a couple of things. First, how could I get a zero? Last year I has a 3 and a 4 (which is understandable -- somebody didn't care for the literature) and this year my next lowest scores were two 4's. My modified mean without that zero would be 7.368, moving me up two spots.

Now, you're wrong about my preference score hurting me. Every zine ahead of me in modified mean is ahead in the final score, and only one zine with a lower preference is in front. So The people voted, both ways, to put me where I am. Anyway, who voted that 0? Only 12 Perelandra subbers are in the voter list (I don't believe names should be published, but once they are, I'll use them), and 2 ex-subbers. Even accounting for pass-around copies (Larry Peery to Mike Maston; maybe Hugh Christie to Howard) AT LEAST 7 PEOPLE VOTED ON PERELANDRA WHO HAD NOT SEEN MORE THAN ONE ISSUE DURING THE REQUIRED TIME. That zero, and probably some other low scores, came from people who had not even looked at Perelandra. I have no enemies that I know of, either.

In a year in which the average vote increased by 1%, my average vote (hey, including the zero even) went up from 6.75 to 7! Take out that zero, and I'm at 7.304 unmodified mean. So my zine improved greatly compared to "inflation" (real growth?).

Again, that zero: only 14 zines out of 60 got any zeroes at all.

My people read the best? I lost to three "service" zines (including Yes, Virginia for crying out loud!), The Alamo City Times, Murd'ring Ministers, and Fol Si Fie, and I was tied by four other warehouse zines. Sure, I expect to lose to EE, Magus, Costaguana, et al .. but is Dip Digest better than mine (W3-L7-T4)? Macabre a dead tie (1-1-2)?

I don't get NFA, SK, Redwood Curtain, Canadian Diplomat, or several of those above (though I have seen two or three of each). But there are 17 zines which I defeated last year but tied (6) or lost to (11) this year, and only one in the other direction (instead of tying Winsome-Lossome I defeated it).

So where do all these aimless ramblings bring me? Well, my mean is up, even more than usual. My preference score is way down. And even though my mean is up, it's still the 30th mean out of 60 (maybe an average average?).

My conclusion: the voters (1/3 of which don't sub to Perelandra) believe that Perelandra has lost ground to rest of the hobby in the last year. Part of this loss is to freshmen: 8 new zines ahead of me. Magus finally passed me -- hoped for and welcome. So only 16 zines passed me. ONLY 16?!

To score high you must have high circulation. Now Conrad claims that's backwards, but the top ten zines drew an average of 53.8 votes. The next ten drew 28.8, then 25.7, then 19.1. Only 6 zines ahead of me had fewer votes.

I like to think of the hobby as the NBA -- an elite, a great second-rank, then a gradual decline through the rest. I don't believe Perelandra is, nor do I try to make it, an elite zine. I don't have the time for it! But it is a great second-tier mag regardless of the Poll. My ratings:

Elite: Magus, EE, NFA, maybe Costaguana, maybe SK

Second-Tier: Pere, FF, XL, Praxis, Boob Report, Dip World, IT, Politesse, maybe Probozz (best warehouse zine I've ever seen, but I still won't subscribe to it just for games), maybe Flick of the Wrist

I do believe Perelandra belongs in the top fifteen (obviously by my list) -- and after all this, it still doesn't bother me to be lower. I don't care about the crowd's opinion, I want my 35 or 40 to be happy. I'm going to do my own check-up in two months on this.

Dick Martin (8/7/86)

I was getting all ready to explain my philosophy, but then couldn't figure out which philosophy you were interested in. Models? "Business rules?" George "I wanna be President at any cost" Bush? I can't tell. Since you already know what I think about models and Bush, let's go for business.

You say that "business should, and does, simply answer the needs of the people." Maybe some do, like Roto Rooter, but for the most part business only looks out for itself. Strip mining is

looking out for the people? A set of dead Great Lakes is looking out for people? The S&L crisis is looking out for people? The abuses of business are legion, and to trust them to look out for the individual man in the street is fantasy. I would like to have government "get out of the way" of business, but business has demonstrated time and again that they will get away with anything they can. Where do you draw the line of government intervention?

What do you think of the Rehnquist nomination? Given your "pro-people" stance, I expect you are against it, as Rehnquist has consistently favored the government over people.

<<As I said last issue, I don't think that Rehnquist will make much of a difference as the Chief Justice except that he is said to be more intelligent than Burger and will run the court better. Many of the Burger Court decisions were 5-4, but they actually represented 3-2-2-2 decisions. The issues weren't ever distilled to a single Constitutional question that could be decided up or down. Hard to set precedent like that.

Gary Coughlan (8/16/86)

Sparks always seem to fly in your letter column -- I loved Jim Burgess' comment concerning your "strong doses of ignorance and lack of imagination" and the way you didn't take it as an insult. I admire that.

Economics is one of my weak areas. The federal deficit scares me and it is growing. Reagan seems totally unaware that it is primarily he, the primo balanced budgeteer, who has more than doubled the deficit since he came to office. Taxes are needed and he ignorantly refuses even to consider them.

What do you think of Reagan's stance on sanctions for South Africa? I am proud of the Republican controlled Senate for abandoning him on this issue. He needs to do more than mouth pretty anti-apartheid sentiments. The man disgusts me.

P.S. I don't see anything wrong in answering comments by your readers in the same issue. Every publisher has the "last say" and most, if not all, give equal time to those writing in to their letter column. I know that you do!

<<Thanks for the vote of confidence Gary. I think that I will try and restrict my comments to specific answers to questions, and do less arguing here. You are the second person to ask about South Africa, so I will give a short answer here. South Africa will eventually have to change. It should be the goal of the US to make that transition as painless as possible, and try and make sure the eventually government is an ally. That may be obtained by pressuring the current government through sanctions, but then again sanctions may force so much economic chaos that an open rebellion breaks out. That rebellion would probably be fueled by the Soviets and the likely victor would be anti-US. It is a judgement call. To say that one group is racist because they advocate a different means to the same end seems ignorant and unjustified. It is also hard to justify forcing South Africa to change overnight when the US still hasn't conquered all of its problems in the 120 years since the civil war.

If the United States is to retain the necessary trade in vital precious metals (Platinum mostly; forget the diamonds!), then we need to back an acceptable alternative government and hope it takes power smoothly. An interesting month! Let's keep it up!>>