

FEUILLETONIST'S FORUM

ISSUE 29

October 25, 1986

Game Openings: Diplomacy!
Gunboat

"Diplomacy is the art of saying 'Nice Doggie' until you can find a rock." -- Will Rogers

I'm not sure how many of you got the copies that the pages were screwed up on last issue; hopefully there weren't too many. I checked the first few copies, and I didn't notice the pagination problem until everything was in the mail. How embarrassing. And right after Jim Bob gave me a great compliment in Costaguana! (Thanks Jim Bob! Are you a jinx, maybe?)

By the time you all are reading this I should be either at or on my way to Arlington for ArlinCon III. Maybe I will get to play a game of Dip at this one. After all of the promotion I have given this con, some of you better be there!

This issue of FF has the latest report from the GFI, including the half season stats, all the games, a short letter column, and guest feuilletonist George Will. The final results from the Presidential Politics game are here. A copy of the actual orders submitted has been sent to the two Presidential candidates so they can check my figures. We also have the results from Donaldson, Raspberry, Spock and Lincoln.

The last two game openings, one for Dip and one for Gunboat, still haven't filled. I would like to get these going soon, so please let me know if you are interested. For those of you who have already said that you wanted to play, I need to get a check before I will start the game. If these haven't filled by the December issue, I plan on returning any money that I have received.

The Budget Crises Special Sessions are now over, though I am not too sure the crises is over. The news has turned to the elections once again, and with only a week to go, I thought I would give you my election predictions.

On the National level the Senate will end up in a 51 to 49 Republican majority. The House will lose five Republicans over all, which is pretty good for an off year election. Traditionally the party in the White House gets creamed, so -5 isn't too bad.

In Texas we will be getting a new Governor, but that is about it. Mark White spent the time during the sessions campaigning on what

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. Phone #: (512) 343-8202. 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.

great job he was doing as a leader in Austin. Unfortunately he was on the road the entire time (as usual, politics takes precedence over the duties of the job) instead of in Austin, leading. The trip did pay off for him though because he is closing in the polls. I don't think it will be enough. Clements 52%, White 48%.

The rest of the Republican statewide ballot is in real bad shape. The two best and most serious candidates we have are Judge Roy Barrera for Attorney General, and Bill Powers for Agriculture Commissioner. Neither is even close in the latest polls. They will both do well to break 40%.

In the local Congressional race we have a former three term Mayor of Austin, Carol Keeton Rylander, against a 23 year Congressman, J.J. "Jake" Pickle. It is tough to beat a man who has done a favor for every single resident of the district over the last 23 years, so again I see the Democrats holding onto this seat. If Carol doesn't get at least 40% her political career is over, and she will be lucky to get it. And that is in spite of Pickle's admitted fumble on the Tax Reform Conference Committee. I have said before that Texas was screwed over royally in the tax reform bill, and that was with my own Congressman on the committee. Instead of seeing to it that Texas either got to keep its sales tax deductibility, or that the other states lost their income tax deductibility, Pickle fought for a special tax break for a west Travis County insurance company and for tax deductions for people who contribute to the UT Austin athletic program. As I see it, he didn't have any interest at all in tax reform.

We have two unique races this year in Fort Worth. The current Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives is Democrat Gib Lewis; the next Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives is probably going to be Democrat Jim Wright. They both represent Fort Worth; they both have serious Republican opposition. Unfortunately, both the races are misguided and will do the statewide Republicans more harm than good.

In 1982, incumbent Governor Bill Clements lost his race against Mark White largely because the Republicans ran serious candidates against popular incumbent Democrats Senator Lloyd Bentsen and Lt. Governor Bill Hobby. The turnout was higher than expected, and because in Texas a voter can vote a straight party ticket by pulling one lever, the two popular incumbents pulled in a whole slate of candidates. The same thing may happen in the two Speaker's races, and all of the statewide Republicans may suffer from the increased Democrat turnout in Fort Worth.

For the first time in Texas history there is also going to be a Libertarian candidate on the statewide ballot. None of the polls have even recognized these candidates as having an effect on any race. Logic would dictate that they would pull from the Republicans, but in Texas there are a lot of Democrats who are much more conservative than I am. Notice that my estimations also don't give them much of a chance.

I intend to vote for the libertarian in the few races where I can't support either of the mainstream candidates. The first race that comes to mind is that of land commissioner, where the incumbent Democrat has done a poor job of running his office, but his Republican opponent is a night club owner with no experience or qualifications.

That's it for the politics. On to the games, and many happy returns in November!

SPRING 1902

AUSTRIA A BUD, A SER S Tur A Bul-Rum, A TPI H, A Vie-GAL, F GRE
S Tur F Con-Aeg (NSO)
ENGLAND F Nwy-NWG, F Liv-WAL, A LON-Bel (F NTH C)
FRANCE A Por-SPA, A PAR-Bur, A MAR-Bur, F ENG-Bel
GERMANY F Kie-BAL (F DEN S), A Bur-BEL (A HOL S), A Mun-RUH
ITALY A Pie-TYO (A VEN S), A Tun-ALB (F ION C)
RUSSIA A War-MOS, F Bot-SWE, F SEV-Bla, A UKR-Sev, A Rum S Aus
A Ser-Bul (ANN)
TURKEY A Bul-RUM, F Ank-BLA (F CON S), A ARM-Sev

FALL 1902

AUSTRIA A Gal-WAR, A Ser-ALB (F Gre S (Ret. BUL, OTB), A TRI S
(A BUD S))
ENGLAND F Wal-ENG (F NTH S), F Nwy-NWY, A LON H
FRANCE A SPA H, A Mar-BUR (A PAR S), F Eng S Eng A Lon-Bel
(NSO) (Ret. BRE, IRI, MID, PIC, OTB)
GERMANY A RUH U, A HOL MS A BEL, F BAL MS F DEN, A Mun H (NSU)
ITALY A Alb-GRE (F ION S), A Tyo-VIE, A VEN-Tri
RUSSIA F SWE H, F SEV S Aus A Gal-Rum (NSO) (A UKR, A MOS S)
TURKEY F Con-AEG, A ARM-Sev (F BLA, A RUM S)

SUPPLY CENTER CHART AND WINTER 1902

AUSTRIA Bud, Tri, Ser, WAR, vie, gre ----- 4 --
Retreat F Gre-OTB
ENGLAND Home, Nwy ----- 4 --
FRANCE Home, Por, SPA ----- 5 +1
Ret. F Eng-MID; Build F BRE
GERMANY Home, Den, Hol, BEL ----- 6 +1
Build A MUN
ITALY Home, Tun, VIE, GRE ----- 6 +2
Build A ROM, F NAP
RUSSIA Mos, Stp, Sev, SWE, rum, war ----- 4 --
TURKEY Home, Bul, RUM ----- 5 +1
Build Army CON

No map for season separations. The separation was at player request, and reasonable under the circumstances.

DEADLINE FOR SPRING 1903 IS NOVEMBER 10, 1986



WILLIAM RASPBERRY (1986AR)

Austria	Lin Morrisett 13450 Maham Road #328, Dallas TX 75240
England	Pete Gaughan 3121 E. Park Row #165, Arlington TX 76010
France	Russ Wallace 4707 Bella Dr., Colorado Springs CO 80918
Germany	Evans Givan 8066 Camstock Court, Citrus Hts CA 95610
Italy	Derwood Bowen 2140 East State Street, Salem OH 44460
Russia	Jim Diehl 10530 W. Riverview Dr., Eden Prairie MN 55144
Turkey	Melinda Holley P.O. Box 2793, Huntington WV 25727

SUPPLY CENTER CHART

AUSTRIA Home, SER, GRE	5 +2
ENGLAND Home, NWY, BEL	5 +2
FRANCE Home, POR, SPA	5 +2
GERMANY Ber, Kie, HOL, SWE, mun	4 +1
ITALY Home, MUN, TUN	5 +2
RUSSIA Home, RUM	5 +1
TURKEY Home, BUL	4 +1

The ALL CAPS are centers gained, the lower case are centers lost.
The only neutral center left is Denmark.

WINTER 1901

FIVE NEW FLEETS AND THREE NEW ARMIES DOT THE BOARD

Austria	Build Army Vienna and Army Budapest
England	Build Fleet Liverpool
France	Build Fleet Marseilles
Germany	Fleet Kiel
Italy	Fleet Naples and Fleet Rome
Russia	Build Fleet St. Petersburg (SC)
Turkey	Build Army Smyrna

DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 28, 1986

PRESS

ENG - RASPS: I almost went to Brest ... but to do so would have given France the chance to build there.

FRENCH FREE PRESS: Due to extensive budget cuts, the defensive department has suspended plans for the construction of a new army. Funding has not been cut from the navy and the launching of a new fleet from Marseilles is scheduled for spring 1902. Repairs to the Brest Naval Yards by the Army Corps of Engineers should be complete by winter 1902. Cases of Burgundy are being sent to Moscow and Rome for their show of support and for driving away the Munich army which was threatening the vineyards of France.

GER - ITA: I see pizza has done gone to your brain. The corners thank you.

ENG - GER: What happened to the ol' charm, Blade?

EME - ENG: He is taking charm lessons from Russia.

MOSCOW: Russia considers German violation of Sweden a direct insult to the Czar.

GER - RUS: What a letter! You should write for a living, or at least try to. Still, "Treacherous Slime" is a friendly greeting. Or parting, I think it was.

U.S. DIP IV -- ABE LINCOLN

DIXIE Dave McCrumb Rte 1, Box 109, Newcastle VA 24127
 TEXAS Stephen Wilcox 5300 West Gulf Bank #103, Houston, TX 77088
 NEW ENG Ernest Hakey, III 63 Medford Street, Medford, MA 02155
 NORTHWEST Larry Botimer 13813 NE 11th St #3, Bellevue WA 98005
 MIDWEST Russ Wallace 4707 Bella Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80918
 WILD WEST Jeff Zarse Hinman Box 284, Hanover NH 03755

WINTER 2003 (Season Separation)

CALIFORNIA Ret A Mojave-LA; A La H (Ret. YOS, OTB) (F SUR S)
 DIXIE A Miss-Ala (ANN), A TEN-Car, A NOR-Car, F FLA-Ala, A STL S Midwest A Iowa-KC (NSO) (A SPR S)
 TEXAS A Moj-LA (A SANDY S), A Ark-MISS (A LOU S), F E.Gulf-CARRIS, F W.Gul-E.GUL A KC-Stl
 NEW ENG F W.Atl-CHES, A Tor-NICH (F HUR S), A MARY-Norf, A OHIO-Ind, A MINN S NW A N.Dak-S.Dak (NSO)
 NORTHWEST F SF-Sur, A Las-PORT, A Brit.-WASH, A N.DAK H, F Por-MID PAC
 MIDWEST Ret. A Minn-IOWA; A Iowa-NEB, F Mich-ERIE. A Ind-KTKY, A CHI-Ind
 WILD WEST A Veg-RENO, A Wyo-HEL (A IDA S), A S.Dak-YEL

SUPPLY CENTER CHART

DIXIE	Ten, Car, Ala, Fla, Stl -----	5	--
TEXAS	Dal, Pas, El Paso, Okl, Phe, San, Lou, LOS -----	8	+1
	Build Army Dallas		
NEW ENG	Mai, Mas, Nyc, Pen, Mary, Que, MICH, MINN -----	8	+2
	Build Army New York, Fleet Massachusetts		
NORTHWEST	Was, Por, Van, N.Dak, SF, hel -----	5	--
MIDWEST	Chi, Ind, KTKY, NEB, minn, mich -----	4	--
WILD WEST	Top, Den, Veg, Wyo, HEL, neb -----	5	+1
	Build Army Denver		

DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 20, 1986

There were enough errors in this adjudication to justify the season separation. Also, Howard Christie has resigned and I have asked Russ Wallace to take that position. Cartoons this issue instead of maps. The maps didn't seem necessary. Next time all the games should have maps.



STANDBY LIST

Thanks to all the people who have volunteered to stand by, and especially to those who have already been called for positions. These are presented in the order they will be called. Let me know if you want on or off the list.

Derwood Bowen, Pete Gaughan, Ernest Hakey, Michael Hopcroft, Dick Martin, David Anderson, Russ Wallace, and Thomasina Walters.

SPOCK (1985Q)

Austria	David Anderson P.O. Box 3761, Pontiac MI 48059
England	Thomasina Walters 2140 East State St., Salem OH 44460
France	Stephen Wilcox 5300 West Gulf Bank #103, Houston TX 77088
Italy	Ernest Hakey, III 63 Medford Street, Medford MA 02155
Russia	Melinda Holley P.O. Box 2793, Huntington WV 25727

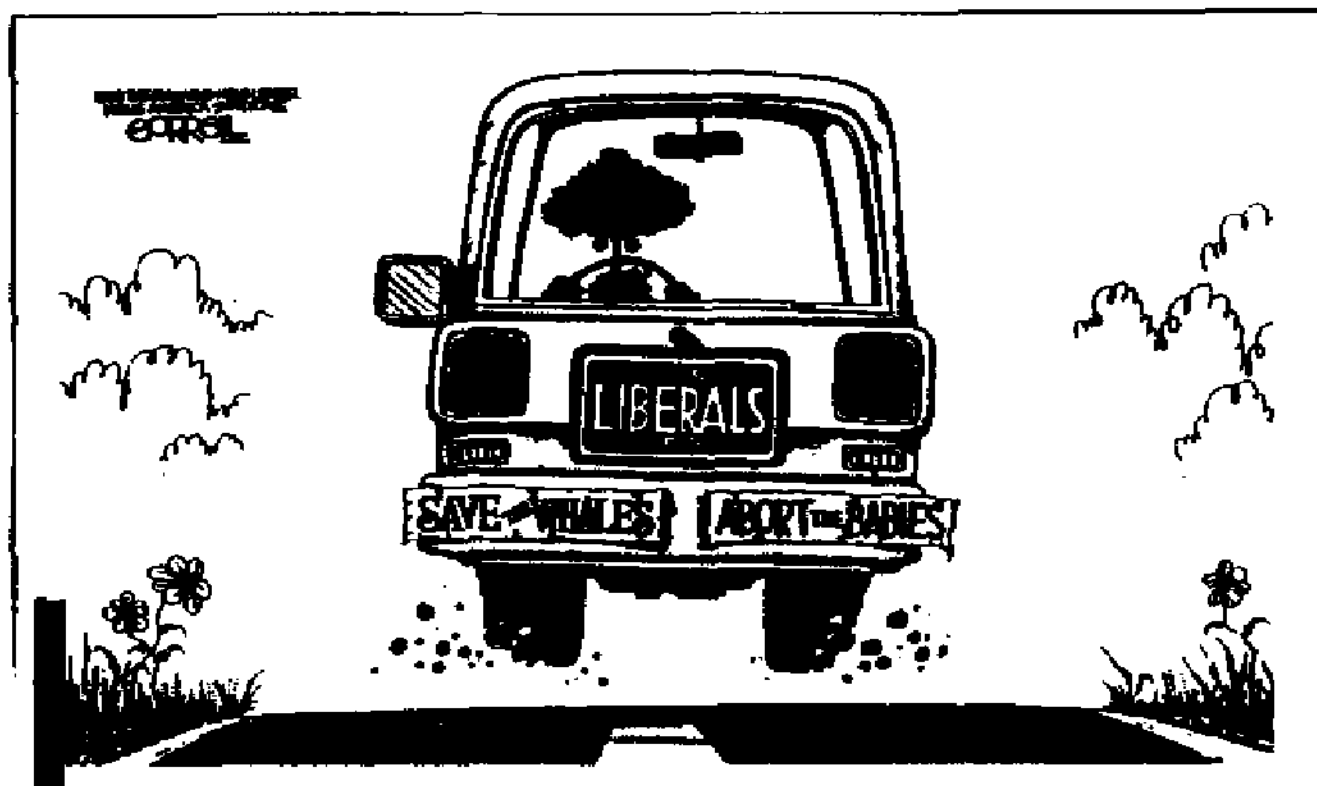
Winter 1905/Spring 1906

DELAYED SEASON TO GET THINGS RIGHT

Austria	Ret. A Rum-SER; F Alb-ADR, A Ser-RUM (A BUL, A BUD S (A VIE S)), F ANK S I P Smy-Con, <u>A Sil-Gal</u> (Ret. BOH, PRU OTB)
England	Build F LON; F NWY H, F Nat-NWG, F Lon-NTH, F Eng-BEL
France	Build A PAR; A Bur-MAR (A GAS S), F Wes-SPA(sc), A Bre-PIC, A Par-BUR F Lyo-Pie (Ret. TUS, WES, OTB)
Italy	F Smy-CON, A Arm-SHY, A Tyo-TRI, F Mar-LYO (F TYN S (F ION S)), <u>A PIE-Mar</u>
Russia	Build A MOS, A STP; A War-SIL (A MUN, A BER S), A Mos-SEV (A Rum S (Ret. UKR, OTB) (A GAL S)), A STP H, F Sev- BLA, F SWE H

DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 28, 1986

This will be the last delay for this game. Scott Drane's zine came back, and I couldn't find a new address for him. Howard Christie has resigned. So please note the two new players, David Anderson and Thomasina Walters.



PRESIDENTIAL POLITICS

YOUNG WINS THE WHITE HOUSE!

In a decisive victory over the hardworking Senator from Texas, Dan Young of California captured 53% of the popular vote and 63% of the electoral vote to win the Presidency. In the final vote tally the Republican team of Young and Hare got 14.5 million votes to 12.8 million for Wilcox and Larzelere.

In the true Democratic tradition, Wilcox immediately blamed the loss on his running mate. "Mark and I were too close on too many issues. We had voted together on several bills that came before the Senate recently, and the Republicans used that against us. Hare was able to pull in a lot of the fringe vote. Mark worked real hard on this campaign; the timing was just against us."

In the true Republican tradition, Young immediately claimed a mandate for his programs, including his support of the nuclear energy industry. During the campaign Young voted against a bill that would allow any state to veto proposed nuclear waste sites within its borders, and supported a measure to sell nuclear reactor fuel to the Indian government.

As the Republicans had predicted, the Democrats failed to win a single state west of the Rocky Mountains, and also failed to pick up several traditional Democratic strongholds in the East. Although Wilcox expected to lose Larzelere's home state of Maryland, he was shocked that he lost in Texas. Young used a late media blitz portraying Wilcox as a captive of the eastern liberal establishment, and used his Vice Presidential choice as a weapon against him. Wilcox had a difficult time answering without abandoning his running mate entirely. Originally Wilcox had asked the convention to nominate Colorado moderate Jake Halverstadt. But Halverstadt asked the convention to nominate Larzelere instead.

Early polls showed a Wilcox/Halverstadt almost even with Young/Hare. A small controversy broke out just this week as several of Young's major contributors showed up on Halverstadt's contribution report. Halverstadt still has a large campaign debt from the primary season. An unidentified source claimed that Halverstadt had struck a deal to get his debt paid off.

Below are the vote totals and percentages. The following pages are the state by state summaries, and the obligatory U.S. map.

Prim Term state org Term Total EV

TOTALS	14,052	28,233	68,936	7,662	153,334	272,717	539
DEMOCRATS	6,329	13,060	33,311	3,538	71,731	123,171	194
Percent	0.4514	0.46259	0.48321	0.46181		0.45097	0.36
REPUBLICANS	7,523	15,173	35,625	4,124	82,103	149,547	357
Percent	0.5353	0.53740	0.51678	0.53818		0.54902	0.63

So the PP game finally comes to an end. The next game should run more smoothly, though Jake has changed the game again. If you are interested in playing the next game please let me know, and order a copy of the game from Jake at 1106 Castlerock Road, Fort Collins CO 80521. I don't know how much the game will cost, but he did say that copies would be available around election day.

R

STATE	VOTES	PRIM	TRAVEL	MEDIA	DEMOCRATS ORG	ISSUES	TOTAL	EV
AL	9	158	0	304	0	525	988	9
CA	45	1,106	0	3,360	384	7,033	11,883	0
FL	17	485	608	1,103	0	3,010	5,207	17
IL	26	308	1,015	2,385	270	3,814	7,792	26
IN	13	0	271	893	78	1,350	2,592	13
IA	8	41	106	247	141	280	815	8
KY	9	48	0	205	18	602	873	0
LA	10	221	247	438	26	1,481	2,413	10
MD	10	108	0	234	0	1,002	1,344	0
MA	14	279	799	1,851	184	1,730	4,843	14
MI	21	39	932	1,916	209	4,233	7,329	0
MS	7	50	67	119	14	200	451	0
NH	4	8	0	22	0	45	75	0
NJ	17	433	825	1,604	148	2,633	5,642	17
NY	41	915	2,380	5,550	553	6,796	16,194	41
OH	25	122	889	2,481	261	5,756	9,509	0
OK	8	26	211	304	26	425	991	0
PA	27	328	1,089	1,835	208	6,846	10,306	0
TX	26	427	924	1,511	170	5,214	8,245	0
VA	12	41	0	234	0	1,488	1,763	0
WI	11	18	364	446	0	1,705	2,533	11
NE	19	24	142	706	88	1,919	2,879	0
NP	29	36	381	671	52	2,203	3,343	0
RM	35	259	378	918	110	2,969	4,634	0
SA	33	212	438	1,460	221	3,231	5,611	33
BS	40	346	626	1,797	286	3,702	6,665	0
PS	22	492	319	812	90	1,539	3,252	0
TOT	530	6,529	13,060	33,311	3,538	71,731	128,171	199

REPUBLICANS

STATE	VOTES	PRIM	TRAVEL	MEDIA	ORG	ISSUES	TOTAL	EV
AL	9	75	0	93	0	513	680	0
CA	45	1,447	3,810	6,160	627	11,024	23,069	45
FL	17	59	700	1,294	147	2,254	4,454	0
IL	26	479	709	1,915	286	3,395	6,784	0
IN	13	165	281	487	29	1,439	2,401	0
IA	8	40	55	173	141	277	686	0
KY	9	102	238	375	31	904	1,651	9
LA	10	103	253	438	26	1,590	2,409	0
MD	10	129	430	826	63	1,232	2,680	10
MA	14	362	349	1,009	0	1,650	3,370	0
MI	21	305	410	1,424	188	5,216	7,543	21
MS	7	46	53	181	141	238	658	7
NH	4	25	52	63	31	47	218	4
NJ	17	352	109	716	49	2,805	4,032	0
NY	41	637	916	2,690	173	7,775	12,191	0
OH	25	522	787	1,699	277	6,314	9,599	25
OK	8	74	97	556	141	574	1,443	8
PA	27	312	993	3,365	290	7,277	12,237	27
TX	26	321	794	2,769	235	6,491	10,611	26
VA	12	98	426	826	63	1,695	3,108	12
WI	11	99	165	136	0	1,689	2,089	0
NE	19	274	662	1,294	149	1,887	4,266	19
NP	29	365	383	1,229	141	2,435	4,554	29
RH	35	242	658	1,682	221	3,332	6,135	35
SA	33	223	518	1,060	221	3,345	5,368	0
BS	40	315	728	1,673	286	4,533	7,535	40
PS	22	352	597	1,488	166	2,173	4,776	22
TOT	538	7,523	15,173	35,625	4,124	32,103	144,547	339



GUEST FEUILLETONIST -- GEORGE WILL

Fidelity to conservative philosophy occasionally requires minor course corrections, and small perfecting amendments to policies touching civilization's core values. Consider, for example, baseball's designated hitter rule, and the scandal of the laughing umpire.

Hitherto I have described the designated hitter rule as evidence that the West is and deserves to be in irreversible decline, and as the blackest blot on the Republic since the Dred Scott decision. My adjusted conviction is: the DH may be a thing of beauty graven on the heart of mankind by the finger of God.

Since 1973 the American League has allowed a DH, who almost always bats for the pitcher. Because the National League did not adopt that rule, the designated hitter was permitted in the World Series only every other year. This year Peter Ueberroth, baseball's commissioner, made a Solomonic decision: The DH would be permitted in games played in the American League team's park. However the first game was played in the National League team's (Met's park), so the Red Sox pitcher, Bruce Hurst, had to bat. It was his first at bat in eons. The spectacle was so ludicrous that the umpire laughed.

Think about that. Umpires are carved from granite and stuffed with microchips. They are supposed to be dispassionate dispensers of Pure justice, icy islands of emotionless calculation. In short, umpires should be natural Republicans -- dead to human feelings.

Having struck out his first two trips to the plate, in his trip toward his third strike out Hurst said defiantly: "I'm serious." And the umpire cracked up.

Nothing that causes such a collapse of decorum can be in the national interest. It is time to think the unthinkable: Perhaps the DH serves conservative values.

Conservatism's categorical imperative is: tradition. Its central principle is, "All improvements are for the worse." And: "Any change at any time for any reason is appalling." The three arguments against the DH are: Tradition opposes it, logic forbids it, and it is anti-intellectual because it diminishes strategy. All three arguments fail.

Tradition? The national League, which fancies itself too highfalutiny traditionalist for the DH, plays pinball "baseball" on plastic rugs spread on concrete in cavernous, antiseptic new stadiums in Houston, Cincinnati, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Montreal and St. Louis. Besides, by now the DH has lengthening tradition, so conservatives have their traditional problem: If longevity sanctifies, the DH (like, say, the Warren court's Miranda decision) is semi-sanctified.

The logic-chopping argument against the DH is given by Prof. Dwight Gooden, pitcher and part-time logician: "The DH is a 10th player. Softball has 10 players. Baseball has nine players." This attempt to win the argument fails because ... well, if the Constitution is what the Supreme Court says it is, baseball is whatever the rules say it is. Within reason. Up to a point.

My argument here makes me queasy, so I will tiptoe off the thin ice and deal with the notion that the DH diminishes strategy.

The theory is that when pitchers must bat, managers must be Aristotles, deciding when to remove pitchers for pinch hitters, or when to have pitchers bunt. But it is disproportionate to preserve such banal obvious choices at the cost of having pitchers -- one-ninth of the batting order -- cause umpires to be convulsed with merriment.

On the other hand, of the two arguments for the DH, one -- the argument from democracy -- shocks conservative sensibilities. The democracy argument is: The DH increases offense and the people like offense, ergo ...

Ergo schmergo. Democracy is fine in its place, but baseball, like religion and other important things protected by the Bill of Rights, should be beyond the reach of majorities, not blown about by the whims of the new unwashed mob.

The real case for the DH is this: It represents the triumph of evidence over ideology. The anti-DH ideology is that there should be no specialization in baseball, no division of labor -- everyone should play "the whole game." That theory is slain by this fact: Most pitchers only go through the motions at bat. The DH is a way of facing that fact. It says: Only serious batters shall bat. Without the DH, every ninth batter is unserious. A pitcher hitting is like the shortstop pitching.

Conservatism abhors novelties (such as the DH) but deplors things (such as pitchers at bat) that cause lapses from decorum (such as laughter) by authority figures (such as umpires). Conservatism is a demanding mistress and is giving me a migraine.

-+-+-+-----

If that is an accurate description of a conservative, I am definitely going to have to find a new label.

The Mets just finished winning the World Series, and now Kathy Byrne is going to be REALLY insufferable! Although I am no Mets fan, I have to say that this year the best team in baseball ended up winning the Series. Day in a day out the Mets dominated every team they, uh, met (What is a "Met" anyway?). So even though the Astros actually did beat them in the National League Championship Series (they were robbed of the winning run in the 5th game), I have to give credit to the Mets.

On a similar note, it may be time to take the microphones away from the NFL referees. How many of you heard that Ref in the Buffalo game last week penalize a player for tackling the Quarterback, and then "givin' him the business in there!" Apparently there was a scuffle of sorts. Quite a description that. Is "givin him the business" a 15 yard penalty?

We have taken a giant step in some direction here in Texas: a junior high girl is currently playing on her school's football team. It took a lawsuit to do it, and high school girls aren't allowed to play yet, but the University Interscholastic League did relent for the Junior Highs. I hope some enterprising young man forces the league to let him play on the girls volleyball team. But only if his name is something other than Bakke.

That is all the sports news we have. For the GFL report check out page 16.

LETTER COLUMN

Brux Linsey (10/5/86)

Before I begin, I would like to comment that everyone involved has truly handled himself with class. ... after speaking with Pete, I am impressed with his good will and sincerity. Scott Hansen's and Dick Martin's letters were clearly written in a charitable spirit. As you see below, I don't agree with either of them entirely, but at least we are debating issues instead of tearing each other apart. Isn't that the way it's supposed to be?

I'll open by addressing the question about zines receiving more votes than they have subbers on the voter list. Pete and Dick aren't the only publishers to bring this up. I have no reason to believe that there is any grudge voting taking place, or that any voter is deliberately casting illegal votes. The less sinister explanation, and in this case the correct one, is that the zines get lent and passed around much more than most people realize. For example, I regularly receive certain zines to which I don't subscribe from a variety of sources. Likewise I frequently send my copies of zines to certain people. Simon Billeness regularly sends out piles of zines through the zine bank. Zines are almost always on display, and being read, at cons. Ever go to a ByrneCon? Kathy's kitchen table is always heaped with zines she gets, and people read through them. At BruxCon '84, I pulled out my box full of zines and several people pawed through them, at my invitation keeping whatever they wanted. People deliberately leave samples on the registration desk at DipCon. People visit people, and read their zines. And on, and on, and on. With all of this I am actually surprised that the discrepancy between number of votes and people-the-publisher-thought-were-eligible isn't higher; in any event, I can assure any concerned publisher that voters seem generally to be abiding by the rules and that there is no significant amount (if any) of illegal voting going on.

Obviously I would have to modify that slightly if I understand Scott's letter correctly, since apparently he did cast votes for zines he didn't see. Still, my job is that of pollster, not policeman. I can only set reasonable standards for ballots and hope that the hobby's citizens will abide; it would be impossible for me to actually check up and make sure every voter actually reads all those zines...

But really, Scott (or any other voter) does have the right to use any voting criteria he chooses; I can only suggest a guideline. To carry it to an extreme, a voter can give a zine a zero if he doesn't like the color of the publisher's eyes. The great strength of the Runestone poll is that there are so many people voting that the few "silly" votes which might thus be cast are going to be utterly swamped by the masses of people legitimately expressing their opinions.

Let me put that another way. Scott says (I am not at liberty to confirm or deny his votes) that he mistakenly voted Perelandra a zero. As pollster, I can't concern myself with whether a vote was cast by mistake; I have to use the number that the person wrote. But because hundreds of people are voting, such a "mistake" isn't really going to upset the final standings all that greatly. Consider a presidential election. If there are 50 voters and one of them mistakenly pulls the lever for Mondale instead of Reagan, that might easily make a difference. But if there are 50 million voters, that one mistake is going to be swamped into nothingness.

The logical question, then, is whether the 211 Runestone Poll voters are in fact large enough sample to swamp such an error. Answer: pretty close; perhaps not quite. Dick Martin addresses the question: "Assume, as a worst case, that the zero voter voted for each of the zines along with Perelandra. Now if you take that zero vote out ... Perelandra jumps 12 places to #18! It's possible that one grudge vote cost Pete 12 places in the final standings -- amazing." The flaw in this reasoning is that Dick is, indeed, assuming the worst case. It's always easy to set up a "worst possible case" scenario and demolish any scoring system using hypotheticals. But if we look at what actually happened, the picture becomes much less sinister. I have examined the ballot containing Perelandra's zero vote, and calculated the final result for that zine without the zero figured in. Dick's "worst case" is far worse than what would have happened, for without that vote, Perelandra would not have finished 18th, but rather 28th! (Nelson Helntzman may verify that if he likes; obviously I'm not free to reveal the ballot.) So Perelandra's "mistaken" zero cost it not 12 places, but only 2. Am I comfortable with that? Not entirely -- thus my "perhaps not quite" at the beginning of the paragraph -- but the fact remains that Perelandra's standing was not devastated by a single vote, and I think Pete, Dick, and all the others concerned should be aware of that.

How can we minimize such effects in future Runestone Polls? Two ways: try harder to increase voter awareness of the voting guidelines, and try harder for a large turnout so as to reduce still further the effects of any "silly" or "mistake" votes which are cast. The solution is not to ditch the whole preference matrix as Dick suggests, for one does not throw out a basically sound scoring system on the grounds that a "worst case" scenario might yield absurd results. That would be akin to benching a good shortstop simply because, as a "worst case," he might trip over a seam in the Astroturf and break his leg. One must go with what generally works -- and hope that the one-in-a-million fluke doesn't occur. In this case it didn't.

The other major point to be answered is in Pete's original letter, where he says, "to score high you must have high circulation." This is false, because the scoring system does not weight for circulation or number of votes at all, (except for a tie-breaking procedure so improbable that it's never come into play yet). Pete and others have observed that high circulation zines do in fact tend to score well; the error is in assuming that one of these causes the other. In fact, a high poll standing and a high circulation are both caused by a zine's quality rather than by each other. A zine which has whatever it is that most of the hobby likes is going to end up with 1) a lot of readers, and 2) a lot of high votes in the Runestone Poll. That is not the logical equivalent of saying that "to score high you must have high circulation;" indeed, that is an erroneous assertion on Pete's part.

In closing, I thank you for running this discussion, and I hope that Dick, Pete, Scott, and others will keep contributing to it, or it is through intelligent and thoughtful dialogue like this that we will ultimately improve the Runestone Poll.

<Only a couple of comments from me. First, by your own argument more votes do help a zine out. Had Pete had a one hundred circulation zine, the zero that he got wouldn't have hurt him much. It isn't always true that excellent zines draw more subscribers, because people like Pete limit their sub list by choice. Others limit their sub list by charging a lot. Come to think of

it, Pete does that too! In any case, a lot of subbers usually means a lot of votes, and a lot of votes for a good zine means that the few aberrations won't hurt it, and it therefore does well.

For those of you interested in this topic, Costaguana had a roundtable on it in the last issue. One suggestion to Bruce: if you really want suggestions on how to improve the poll, don't jump to its defense so quickly that you attack all of the suggestions made. You have done an outstanding job with the poll; it doesn't need much of a defense.>>

EDITORIAL

The most recent issue of Kaissa has several different items worth commenting on, but rather than discuss Elmer's zine in my zine, you all can sub to Kaissa yourself. One issue I would like to address is his contention that letter passing and forgery are illegal within the context of gaming.

A quote from Kaissa #111, Page 24: "The fact remains that forgery and letter passing are illegal. Letter passing is a violation of federal Title 17, unless freedom of information matters are involved. I asked a friend of mine in law enforcement when forgery is not legal. {sic} He laughed."

I would like to get the opinions of the different lawyers who read this on this subject which may be rather important to the hobby. I haven't taken the time to look up USC Title 17, but I would think that Elmer's argument fails on the grounds that players who voluntarily play the game consent to the gaming conventions therein. Assault and Battery are generally illegal, but football players don't get arrested. There is a case where a football player started a civil suit for an illegal hit during a game, and if I remember correctly he did win. But that was for conduct clearly in violation of the rules. How do you violate the rules of Dip?

Another issue is that of Contract law. If consent is not a defense for these "illegal" activities that are commonly used in the hobby, then how is it we can get away with breaking Contracts left and right? It is common knowledge in the hobby, and it is actually in the rule book, that one player may make a promise that he doesn't keep, or even intend to keep. Couldn't I get a court order for specific performance of any agreed to moves?

The issue came up because it is specifically this issue that prevents Elmer from recommending Supernova which is distributed by Bruce Linsey. If we may be held liable for passing or forging a letter, then Supernova should be changed to reflect that. If, as I suggest, players consent to these acts by signing up for the game, then the other Novice packages should be changed to include similar comments in order to put all the new players on notice.

That's the issue. Let me know what you think!

[illegible]

That's it for October. The next page should be Week 8 of the Gonzo Football League, and there is one small insert that somehow found its way into the envelope.

Actually I'm hoping this little award will help my struggling gaming efforts. Thanks to JR Baker for running the T.A.D.P.O.L.E., and to all my family and friends who took the time to vote for me. See you in November.

THE GONZO REPORT

GFL WEEK 8

For those of you who have been asking for an explanation of the GFL, here it is. Gonzo Football is the brainchild of Jake Halverstadt. It is similar to many fantasy football leagues except it is more complicated than anything I have ever seen before. The GFL looks to passing stats, rushing yardage, receiving stats, special teams, and defense to get the points to decide games.

The other novel aspect of the GFL is that the owner/coach plays a big role in the success of his/her team. The owner chooses a play mix based on 65 total possible plays, with no less than 20 or more than 45 runs or passes. The owner also sets his own lineup, with first, second and third string quarterbacks and running backs.

The players are drafted from the rosters of the NFL, and the stats are taken from the actual game statistics. Each position has certain goals that must be met in order to score points for the GFL team. The quarterback must complete at least 18 passes for over 250 yards with no more than 2 interceptions. Reaching one of those goals gets 3 points, 2 goals gets 4 points, and all three gets 7.

As an example, in week 8 Ed Wrobel's game plan for the Kokomo City Killer Frogs in their game against the Houston Arrows was to have 35 running plays and 30 passes. He started QB O'Brian of the Jets, RB Hawkins of the Raiders. Hawkins only ran the ball 13 times for 30 yards, so I added in his second string RB Rogers WAS (16 for 30), and third string Anderson NY Giants (2 for 6). Even using all of his running backs, he only got 31 running plays, so he gets 4 more pass plays than he planned on. The total yardage for the Kokomo RBs is 73 yards, and the lowest goal is 100, so no points for running.

Things look a lot better for the quarterbacks. O'Brian was 20 of 32, no interceptions and 258 yards. Though Ed called for only 30 passes, he ends up with 34 (adding in the left over runs), so I use all of O'Brian and 2 from second string White DAL. White was 10 of 16, no interceptions for 168 yards. Ed only gets 2 of those passes, so we divide 2 by 16 to get a percentage, then multiply all the stats by that percentage, getting 1 of 2 for 29 yards. I then add the two QBs together and 21 34 0 279, meeting all three goals for a 7 point performance.

I go through each position the same way and determine the total offense and defense scored, then compare that to his opponents score. The opponents defense is subtracted from Ed's offense, for a total score of, well, 2. But that is just this week. Ed has seen better days, and he leads his division with a 4 and 4 record.

ROSTER CHANGES

MT. KISCO trades Cribbs RB SF to DALLAS for Stark P IND and Lowery K KC. The Commissioner had to cut Sweeney from the Mt. Kisco Roster because he had exceeded the limit. GLASGOW picks up Bell WR TB and Marshall WR KC, drops Thompson WR DET and Springs RB ?.

STANDINGS

YANKEE CONFERENCE				DIXIE CONFERENCE			
East		West		East		West	
Chesapeake	5 3 0	Botswana	6 2 0	Kokomo	4 4 0	Colorado	6 1
Mt. Fuji	5 3 0	Oregon	6 2 0	Glasgow	3 4 1	Houston	6 2
Mt. Kisco	4 4 0	LA Bruins	5 2 1	Virginia	3 5 0	Dallas	3
Niagara	3 5 0	Rocky Mtn	1 7 0	Baltimore	1 7 0	Western	1 0

86 T. A. D. P. O. L. E.

TEXANS ANNUAL DIPLOMACY PLAYERS OFFICIAL LOCAL EVALUATION

BEST TEXAS ZINE

- 1ST - PERELANDRA
- 2ND - FELICITATIONISTS FORUM
- 3RD - THE DRAGONS LAIR
- 4TH - THE RAZORS EDGE

BEST TEXAS CON

- 1ST - ARLINGCON
- 2ND - NANCON
- 3RD - DALCON

BEST TEXAS G. M.

- 1ST - P. J. GAUGHAN
- 2ND - GREG ELLIS
- 3RD - CONRAD MINSHALL
- 4TH - MIKE CONNER
- 5TH - STEPHEN WILCOX

BEST PLAYER

- 1ST - STEPHEN WILCOX
- 2ND - CONRAD MINSHALL
- 3RD - GREG ELLIS
- 4TH - RON SPITZER
- 5TH - MARK FRELIH
- TIE - P. J. GAUGHAN
- TIE - DAVID LINCOLN

BEST LOSER

- 1ST - JAMES EARLY
- 2ND - DAVID BAKER
- TIE - P. J. GAUGHAN
- TIE - ROCKY MARINO
- 5TH - PAUL GARDNER

BEST OTHER ZINE

- 1ST - MAGUS
- 2ND - ITS A TRAP
- 3RD - DIPLOMACY WORLD
- TIE - EUROPA EXPRESS

BEST OTHER CON

- 1ST - DIPCON
- 2ND - GENCON
- TIE - ORIGINS
- 4TH - FUDGECON
- 5TH - DRAGON FLIGHT

BEST OTHER G. M.

- 1ST - STEVE LANGLEY
- 2ND - JOHN BOARDMAN
- TIE - GARY COUGHLAN
- TIE - DAF LANGLEY
- TIE - CONRAD VON METZKE

BEST ALLIE

- 1ST - GREG ELLIS
- 2ND - STEPHEN WILCOX
- 3RD - NELSON HEINTZMAN
- TIE - BYRON VORENSKY

BEST VARIANT


- 1ST - GUNBOAT
- 2ND - COLONIAL IV
- TIE - FINAL CONFLICT III

S. T. U. D. SERVICE AWARD

GREG ELLIS

Award For First Place

GREG ELLIS
BEST DIPLOMACY ALLIE
1986 T.A.D.P.O.L.E.


J.R. Baker

October 7, 1986

