

# FEUILLETONIST'S FORUM

ISSUE 35

June 1, 1987

Game Openings: Diplomacy!

## DIPCON

The big news this week has to be DIPCON in Madison! And I get to go! This will be my third DipCon in four years, and part of what I will be doing is making a bid for the 1988 DipCon to be held in San Antonio, Texas! The Texas Dippers (We need a name like 'MadLads' or 'East Coast Clique' or something!) are all very enthusiastic, and we have even set up a non-profit corporation to help us get it set up and marketed. In fact, we are now planning three cons over the next year to get ready for DipCon. The corporation's name is Diplomats of Texas Society, Incorporated or DOTS, Inc. Sometime in the next few months we will be offering memberships to the organization, and if you have any suggestions, please let me know!

If you are wondering why we chose San Antonio, its because it is such a unique city. To begin with, there is the River Walk, the Alamo, the HemisFair Plaza, and El Mercado. The San Antonio River runs right through downtown, and where the river makes a large bend the banks are lined with shops, restaurants and clubs. The River Walk can be either great cheap entertainment or a night of club hopping. The Alamo is the actual Spanish Mission/Port that 4000 Mexicans attacked during the Texas War for Independence, massacring 188 Texans. In 1968 San Antonio hosted the World's Fair in HemisFair Plaza. Today the Plaza houses galleries, theaters, museums and amusements, including the Tower of the Americas and Institute of Texan Cultures. El Mercado is the Market Square where you can get great bargains on all kinds of Mexican goods.

Our plan for the 1988 DipCon would be to let you play as much Dip as you want, and when you don't want to play you have plenty of other things to do. We want a Con that offers more than gaming, and hopefully attracts more than gamers. I have already heard that several Dippers may bring their families along and have a regular vacation. I am looking forward to it; I hope you will support our bid if you are in Madison.

You may have noticed that I have a game opening! The first seven people to send me a check for \$10 gets into a regular Diplomacy! game with five week deadlines. I will return any checks for people who don't get into the game. I would like to get this game started in July at the latest. Please let me know as soon as possible if you are interested!

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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.

## WHAT HAPPENED TO THE BORDERS ON ISSUE 34?

Well, I'll tell you. Whenever I am running short of time I make the mistake of dropping off the final draft of the zine at the printers with instructions on how to paste it up and copy it. The last time I did that the pages were all out of sequence. With #34 they printed it on the wrong paper, and did a bad job of that. Oh well. Now it can be a part of FF Trivia (Which issue didn't have borders?).

The session is winding down, though we were still having committee meetings with only four days left to go. None of the bills that were passed out of committee ever made it to the House floor for debate, but the authors still owe the Chairman a favor. Seems like a poor political move to make, but then you have to show the folks back home that you did your best. None of the bills that I helped write made it this time, though one of them was incorporated into another bill in the House and later removed in the Senate. My Lost and Found Property Act never made it out of committee in the House, but I think I may be able to get it through a special session this summer. We still haven't passed a budget, and the Senate just killed the tax increase, so there will definitely be a special session (or two!).

The Senate didn't kill the taxes because they are anti-tax but because they are pro-tax. When the Governor calls a special session, the legislature may only consider legislation that fits within the Governor's call. The Governor has said that he would allow a tax increase equal to the continuation of the temporary tax passed by his predecessor, and the House had passed a bill doing exactly that. If the Senate had passed the bill in that form, there wouldn't be any reason for the Governor to open the call to a tax bill. Now he has to open the call to both budget and tax matters. Just another tidbit of Texas Government for all you FF fans.

The summer semester has already started. I ended up registered for two classes this summer: Evidence and Professional Responsibility. That only totals 7 hours instead of the 11 I wanted to take, and that means that I won't be graduating until December 1988. Anybody know of a high paying law clerkship available for next summer?

This issue is just jam packed with great stuff. First we have the games, of course, and a letter column. And this issue we have a guest feuilletonist! There is The Gonzzo Report with GPL news, and some information about the new Presidential Politics game that Don Del Grande is running LOM. I will have a PP opening sometime soon, and as Don's game progresses I will be watching for opportunities to put the game on computer and see what GMing difficulties Don has. If you are interested in the game you can get a copy from its creator: Jake Halverstadt 1106 Castlerock Road, Fort Collins CO 80521.

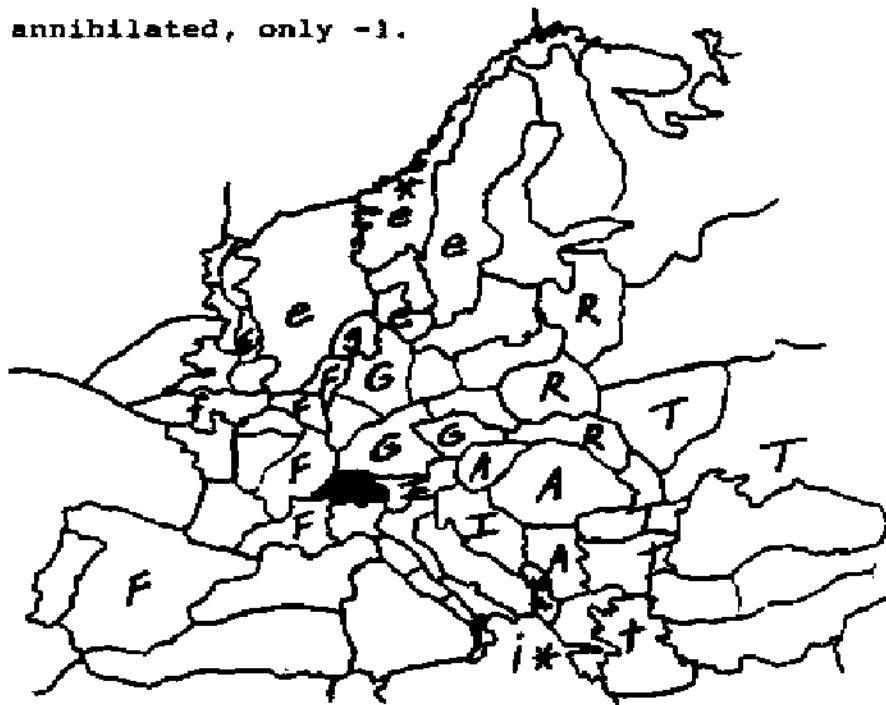
Speaking of Jake, some of you may remember that J.H. was threatening to invent a game he was calling Flashpoint. Well, it is apparently ready for a playtest and Jake is looking for players. The game seems to be something of a cross between Dip and Civilization; the war option is available, but some countries will be hurt by a war and others helped. Negotiation and use of economic sanctions are supposed to either cause or avert the conflict. Sounds interesting to me! I am not sure if Jake intends to GM this playtest or not, but you definitely need to write him if you want a copy of the rules (and whatever else that might go with the game!) and let him know you are interested in playing. Might be the next Diplomacy!

DAVID BRINKLEY  
1986ASrb32

SUPPLY CENTER CHART AND WINTER 1902

|         |   |       |
|---------|---|-------|
| AUSTRIA | Bud, Vie, Ser, Gre -----                | 4 --  |
| ENGLAND | Home, Den, SWE, nwy -----               | 5 --  |
| FRANCE  | Home, Spa, BEL, POR -----               | 6 +2  |
|         | Build Army Paris, Army Marseilles       |       |
| GERMANY | HOME, Hol -----                         | 4 +1  |
|         | Build Army Kiel                         |       |
| ITALY   | Home, Tri, TUN -----                    | 5 +1  |
|         | Build Fleet Naples                      |       |
| RUSSIA  | Mos, Stp, War, NWY, swe, sev, mun ----- | 4 -2* |
|         | Remove Fleet Baltic                     |       |
| TURKEY  | Home, Bul, Rum, SEV -----               | 6 +1  |
|         | Build Fleet Constantinople              |       |

\* One unit annihilated, only -1.



SPRING 1903

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| AUSTRIA | F Gre-ALB (A SER S), A BUD-Tri (A VIE S)   |
| ENGLAND | F Nrg-NWY (F SWE S), A Lon-YOR, F DEN H, F NTH-Hol   |
| FRANCE  | A Ruh-HOL (A BEL S (F ENG S)), A Par-BUR (A MAR S), A Por-SPA  |
| GERMANY | A Mun-BOH, A Ber-MUN (A KIE S), F Hol-HLG  |
| ITALY   | F Tun-ION (F NAP S), A Alb-Gre (ANN), A TRI-Bud, A TYO-Vie   |
| RUSSIA  | A Sil-GAL, A Pru-LVN, A WAR-Mos, F Nwy H (Ret. BAR, SKA, STP(nc), OTB)                                   |
| TURKEY  | F Con-AEG, A Rum-UKR, A Bul-RUM, F Bla-BUL(ec), A SEV-Mos, F Ion-Alb (Ret. ADR, APU, EAS, GRE, TYR, OTB) |

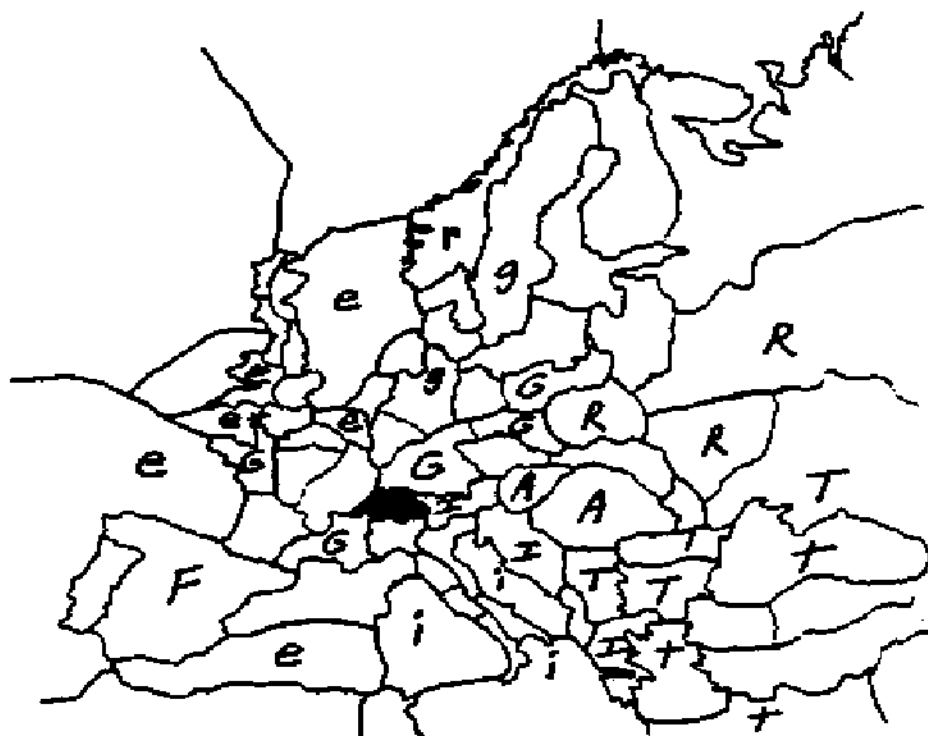
DEADLINE FOR FALL 1903 IS JUNE 18, 1987

The proposed A/T draw failed with 1 vote for, 1 against, and 5 NVR. Proposed for next time: E/F draw.

SAM DONALDSON  
1986Wrb32

SUPPLY CENTER CHART AND WINTER 1906

|         |   |      |
|---------|---|------|
| AUSTRIA | Vie, BUD, tri -----                     | 2 -- |
| ENGLAND | Home, Bre, BEL, HOL -----               | 6 +2 |
|         | Build Fleet Liverpool, Fleet London     |      |
| FRANCE  | Spa, Por -----                          | 2 -- |
|         | Retreat F Mid-ENG                       |      |
| GERMANY | Home, Den, Swe, Par, Mar, bel, hol ---- | 7 -2 |
|         | Remove Army Piedmont, Army Tyrolia      |      |
| ITALY   | Home, Tun, Gre, TRI, ser -----          | 6 -- |
|         | Remove Army St. Petersburg              |      |
| RUSSIA  | Mos, Stp, War, Nwy, sev -----           | 4 -1 |
| TURKEY  | Home, Bul, Rum, SEV, SER, bud -----     | 7 +1 |
|         | Build Fleet Smyrna                      |      |



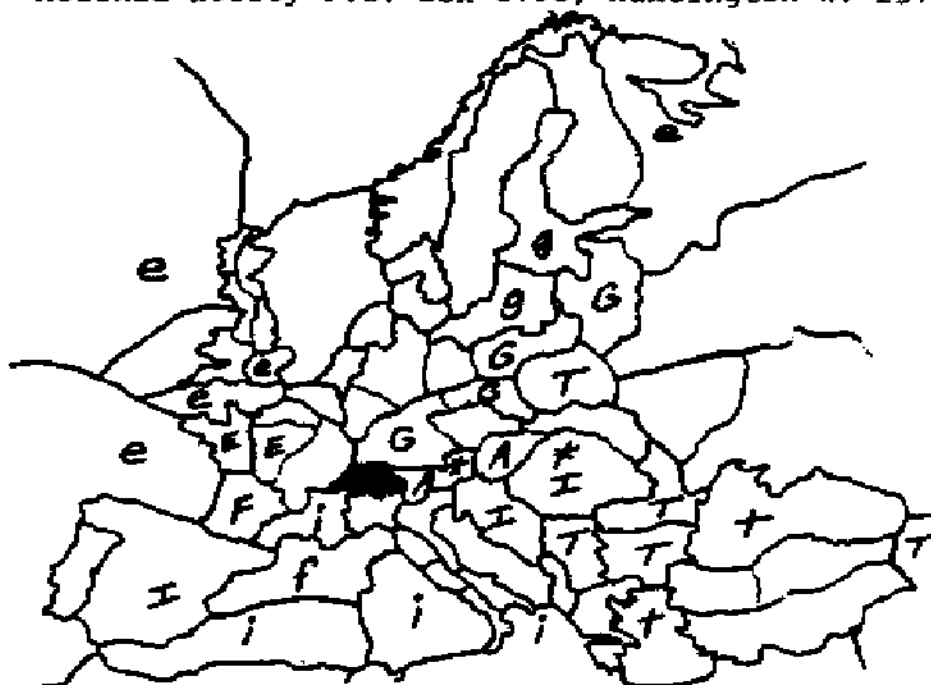
SPRING 1907

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| AUSTRIA | A BUD S Ita A Tri-Ser (NSO) (A VIE S)                                  |
| ENGLAND | F Hol-NTH, F Lon-ENG (F BEL S), F Lvp-WAL, F WES-Spa(sc) (F MID S)     |
| FRANCE  | F Eng-Mid (Ret. IRI, PIC, OTB), A SPA S Ger A Mar-Gas (NSO)            |
| GERMANY | A Boh-MUN, A MAR H, A Par-BRE, F Den-KIE, F SWE H, A PRU-War (A SIL S) |
| ITALY   | A Ven-TYO, F Lyo-TYH, F ION-Aeq, A GRE-Ser (A TRI S (F ADR S))         |
| RUSSIA  | F Nwy H, A WAR S A Ukr (A MOS, A UKR S)                                |
| TURKEY  | F Smy-EAS, A BUL-Gre (F AEG, A SER S (A RUM S (A SEV S (F BLA S))))    |

DEADLINE FOR FALL 1907 IS JUNE 18, 1987

WILLIAM RASPBERRY  
(1986AR)

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| AUSTRIA | Lin Morrisett 5149 Bartlett Place, The Colony TX 75056  |
| ENGLAND | Pete Gaughan 3121 E. Park Row #165, Arlington TX 76010  |
| FRANCE  | Ernest Mahey, III, 63 Medford Street, Medford MA 02155  |
| 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 55344 |
| TURKEY  | Melinda Holley P.O. Box 2793, Huntington WV 25727       |



SPRING 1904  
WILL RUSSIA LAST ANOTHER YEAR?

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| AUSTRIA | A Boh-TYO (A VIE S), A Bud-Tri (Ret. GAL, OTB)   |
| ENGLAND | A Pic-PAR (A BRE S), F LON-Eng, F STP(nc) S Ger F Bot-Lvn, F MID-Por, F ENG-Mid (F NAT S)                      |
| FRANCE  | F LYO-Spa(sc) (A GAS S)  |
| GERMANY | A Kie-LVN (F BAL C, F BOT S), A Ber-PRU, A Mun-SIL, A Bur-MUN  |
| ITALY   | A Tri-BUD, A Ven-TRI, F Gre-ION, F Nap-TYR, A SPA-Por, A Tyo-Boh (Ret. PIE, VEN, OTB), F MAR-Spa(sc) (F WES S) |
| RUSSIA  | Nothing in Warsaw does nothing (This is not an NMR)  |
| TURKEY  | A SER S Ita A Tri-Bud, A Con-BUL (F AEG S), A Ank-ARM, A Mos-WAR, A Sev-RUM, F Bul(ec)-BLA                     |

DEADLINE FOR FALL 1904 IS JULY 3, 1987

PRESS

RUSSIA: AS Russia has nothing it has nothing to lose. OUR actions will risk nothing. The perfect finish for the Warsaw Nihilists.

GME-RUS: The GFL is full, but that would be a great team name! Actually, I guess they could play a full season this year and noone would know the difference.

RASPBERRY PRESS CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

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         |



|         |   |       |
|---------|---|-------|
| AUSTRIA | bud -----   | 0 -1  |
| ENGLAND | Home, Hol, Den, Nwy, Kie, Swe -----                     | 8 +1  |
| FRANCE  | Par, Bre, Por, Spa, Bel, MUN, mar -----                 | 6 --  |
| ITALY   | Home, Tun, Ser, Gre, Ank, Smy, Tri, Con, MAR, BUL ----- | 12 +2 |
| RUSSIA  | Home, Ber, Rum, Vie, BUD, swe, mun -----                | 6 -2  |

WINTER 1908 and SPRING 1909  
ITALY, ENGLAND MOVE TO 'HELP' ALLIES

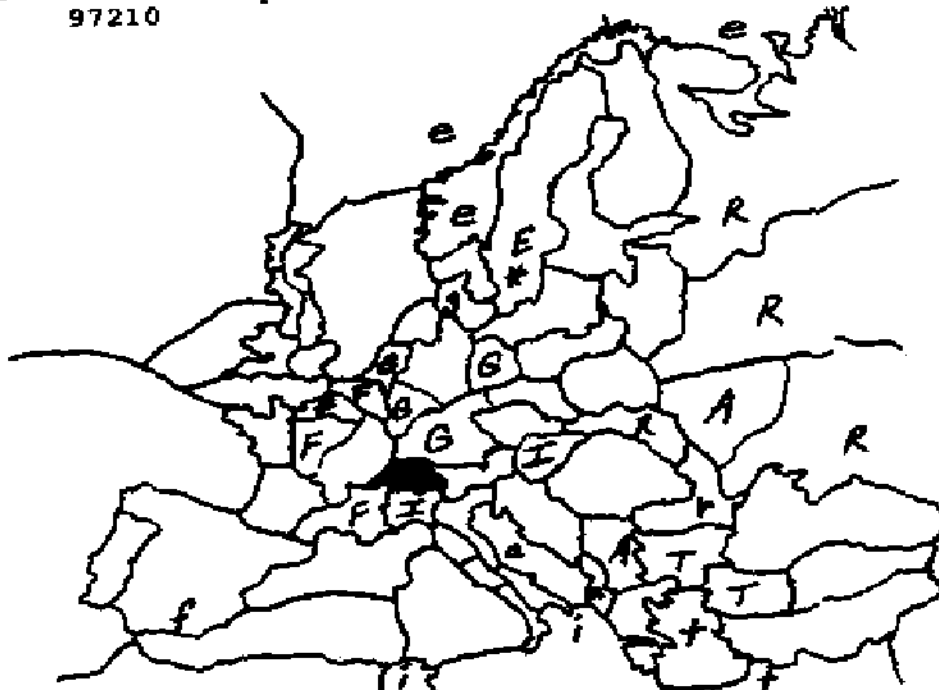
|         |   |
|---------|---|
| Austria | Remove A Galicia  |
| England | Build Fleet London; A Edi-BEL (F NTH C), A Kie-BER (F BAL S), F Lon-ENG, F BAR-Stp(nc), F SWE-Nwy, F DEN-Swe  |
| France  | A Bur-MAR (F SPA(sc) S (A GAS S)), F MID-Wes, A Mun S   |
| Italy   | Eng A Kie-Ber (Ret. BUR, KIE, OTB) (A RUH S)<br>Build Armies Rome and Naples; A Mar-Spa (ANN) (F WES, F LYO S), A Ven-PIE, A Tyo-MUN, A Rom-VEN, A Nap-APU, A Tri-BUD, F Tun-NAF, F Ion-TUN, F Bul(sc)-CON, A SER-Rum |
| Russia  | Remove Army Budapest; (A BOH, A SIL, A Ber (Ret. PRU, OTB)) S Ita A Tyo-MUN, A Vie-GAL, F RUM U (H), F BOT-Swe, A FIN-Nwy (A STP S)   |

DEADLINE FOR FALL 1909 IS JULY 3, 1987

Proposal: E/F/I/R draw. Please vote by next deadline.

JAMES RESTON  
(1987D)

Austria Jim Diehl 10530 West Riverview Dr., Eden Prairie MN 55344  
 England Morgan Gurley 4647 Easthaven Dr., Charlotte NC 28212  
 France David Anderson P.O. Box 3761, Pontiac MI 48059  
 Germany David Hood 604 Tinkerbelle Road, Chapel Hill NC 27514  
 Italy Vince Lutterbie #21 Pauline, Hannibal MO 63401  
 Russia Robin Barbehenn 1626 Angus Ct., Crofton MD 21114  
 Turkey Warren K. Ball 107 West Cuthbert Road, Oaklyn NJ 08107-1016  
 STANDBY Michael Hopcroft 2190 West Burnside #108, Portland OR 97210



SUPPLY CENTER CHART

|         |                |       |   |    |
|---------|----------------|-------|---|----|
| AUSTRIA | Home, SER      | ----- | 4 | +1 |
| ENGLAND | Home, NWY      | ----- | 4 | +1 |
| FRANCE  | Home, BEL, POR | ----- | 5 | +2 |
| GERMANY | Home, HOL, DEN | ----- | 5 | +2 |
| ITALY   | Home, TUN      | ----- | 4 | +1 |
| RUSSIA  | Home, SWE, RUM | ----- | 6 | +2 |
| TURKEY  | Home, Bul      | ----- | 4 | +1 |

SPRING 1902

RUSSIA SLEEPS WHILE SWEDEN PLUNDERED

Austria F Tri-ADR, A UKR-Sev, F ALB-Gre (A SER S)  
 England A Nwy-SWE, F Nrg-BAR, F Edi-NRG, F Nth-NWY  
 France F Bre-PIC, F Por-SPA(sc), A BEL-Ruh, A PAR-Bur (A MAR S)  
 Germany A Kie-RUH (A HOL S), A BER H, F DEN S Eng A Nwy-SWE, A MUN-Bur  
 Italy F Nap-ION (F TUN S), A Tyo-VIE, A PIE-Mar  
 Russia NMR1 A GAL, A STP, A MOS, A SEV, F RUM, F Swc H (Ret. BAL, BOT, FIN, OTB)  
 Turkey F Smy-EAS, A CON-Bul, A BUL-Gre (F AEG S)

DEADLINE FOR FALL 1902 IS JULY 3, 1987

Please note the Russian STANDBY address above. I think Robin will be back, but just in case.

**PRESS**

PAR-ANK: Are you alive? No letter yet. You need to write to receive from me!!

GME-PAR: How long have you been working for the State Department?

GER-FRA: This wouldn't have been necessary if you wouldn't have been so threatening and paranoid in your letters.

GME-ANK: Maybe you should skip the letter to France if it's only going to make you mad at him.

DATELINE ROME: It has been reported from various priests and deacons in various parts of the European arena that former alliances have been struck of late and that Rome itself could be a target. The Sultan is said to have Greece on his mind and a firm alliance with the Tsar has allowed him to build ships with alarming rapidity. Reports have it that perhaps the Ionian Sea would be a near target with Russia getting Austrian spoils. France will then shortly meet in the south as he has nothing to fear from the English. Reports deep inside the Emperor's confidences say the Emperor has the King's favorite concubine in solitary, thus the English fleets are staying in cooler climates.

Therefore, the Pope in taking immediate measures to warn the Tsar, Sultan, King, and Emperor that any attacks against A-H proper, Italy proper, or Germany's southern boundary will be met with whatever retaliatory measures are possible. It is hoped that A-H and Germany concur with the general views here and will allow the various ministries to preach each Sunday on this subject without harassment. It is to be assumed that the sources in France, Turkey, and Russia will be ferreted out and executed and Pope Lutterbie's only wish is that "their souls will find their proper peace."

ITA-TSAR: Speaking of knives, where's yours? We could still be friends, and you've got the Black Sea to explore. I'd be glad to put in a good word to A-H to try and get that fly out of your Ukrainian ointment. It's not too early to begin preparing for Turkey dinner.

#####

## RASPERRY PRESS CONTINUED

ITA-TUR: Ignore that GME crack about spaghetti.

ITA-GME: You decided not to use a headline for Winter '03 so that you won't be tempted to rerun the orders, huh.

GME-ITA: They were so facinating I thought I would run them again anyway. Will Russia's minimalist strategy work out? Will Turkey succeed building Armies? Will France survive despite not having any of his units on dots? Will Italy suddenly declare itself in civil disorder (OR did Derwood give the GM a ride to Madison from Chicago)? We will know next time!



## LETTER COLUMN

Mark Lew (4/8/87)

They do have a closed primary in California, and it annoys me. I'm going to put off registering as long as I can so as to have more time to decide which primary I want to vote in.

I think you underestimate Gephardt. He's done the most in terms of organizing and making connections and that sort of stuff. I don't think that will make him win, but he'll certainly be visible. One thing I do like about him is his "stand" on abortion. He has refused to call himself for or against because, he says, the polarization of the issue is counter-productive. Critics say that's a cheap way to dodge the issue, but I agree with him. The abortion issue is ready for a compromise. Death is legally defined as the time when the brain ceases to function. Why not define life as the time when the brain begins to function? Estimates run about 8-11 weeks after conception. Most of the anti-abortion rhetoric is aimed at the abortions of conspicuously alive fetuses 3 or months old. This compromise would put an end to those and still give a woman a chance to abort a pregnancy provided she's aware of what her body is doing and she acts quickly.

The guy with the Bush-like resume' is Donald Rumsfeld. Haig has no chance, of course. Bradley is a respected and canny politician. If he runs he will undoubtedly do well; but I don't think he's ready to run.

I think the reason the Republicans are winning the administrative offices while the Democrats win legislative offices is that the voters look to the Governors for general policy and the legislators for specific policy. By splitting their ticket they're saying yes, Senator, I want more roads, benefit programs, pork, etc. and yes, Governor, I want to reduce spending.

I think the United States' treatment of Grenada in the years leading up to the invasion was something less than admirable. I suspect that the U.S. had something to do with the coup which led up to the invasion, though of course I can't prove anything. I just don't believe that Maurice Bishop's popularity had waned enough for a coup to have been successful unless there was somebody behind it. The U.S. is an obvious suspect because we'd been voicing our opposition to Grenada as well as pursuing a policy of harassment since 1980. Of course Mr. Bishop was just as vocally opposed to us, but I think many of our actions were unduly belligerent (eg. diplomatic and economic pressures designed to isolate Grenada from its Caribbean neighbors, lobbying the World Bank and IMF to oppose loans to Grenada). You might find it interesting to investigate a military tactical exercise conducted in August 1981 called "ocean venture '81". The enemy in the exercise was code named "amber and the amberines" (Grenada's full name is "Grenada and the Grenadines"), the site (Viqueres Island near Puerto Rico) resembled Grenada in size and terrain, the imaginary figures for Amber's defenses matched those of Grenada, and the tactics used in the imaginary invasion matched those later used in the Grenada invasion (complete with hostage rescue). Of course it doesn't necessarily follow that the '83 invasion was engineered, but it does show that there's more history leading up to the incident than a lot of people realize.

Articles in the newspapers are busy discussing the effects the Iran affair will have on the office of the Presidency or the '88 elections, or Reagan era, etc.; but they've ignored what I think

is the most important issue: U.S. relations with Iran. Clearly, the Iran-Iraq war is the greatest threat to world peace; the Arab world is a powder keg of nationalism and antipathies not unlike the Balkans were in 1913. With Iran dominating Iraq, it is extremely important for the U.S. and other world powers to have diplomatic relations with Iran. The fact that Mr. Reagan's attempt to establish said relations turned into such a fiasco will make it that much more difficult to succeed later. That is the real tragedy -- for all Americans.

[[It looks like your predictions about Gephart may yet come true. I don't think Jesse Jackson will remain the party front runner for long, and I am currently predicting that it will come down to a three man race between Gephart, Dukakis, and Gore or Nunn (depending on whether Nunn backs Gore and decides not to enter the race himself). Bush will probably win the Republican nomination hands down, with Bob Dole as the closest competitor.

I think the real issue behind the Iran-Contra affair should have been whether or not we should deal with a country that supports terrorism in order to get a few hostages back. The issue that is making the headlines is the Contra connection and where Secord's extra \$10 million went. When the dust clears and the committee meetings are over, I'll bet that North gets indicted for a minor violation of the Boland Amendment and that will be that.

During this legislative session there were a couple of Anti-abortion bills filed. If you remember, it was the Texas law that was invalidated by Roe v. Wade, (and an Austin Representative who was the lawyer for 'Roe'), and there hasn't been any regulation of abortion since then. It looks like a bill prohibiting abortions beyond the first 6 months and providing some regulation of the clinics will pass. The pro-choice group fought the bill all the way. They apparently don't want ANY regulation, so as reasonable as your compromise sounds, it wouldn't get the support of the pro-choice group. What will probably happen, since they have an all or nothing attitude about this kind of legislation, is that they will eventually lose and have nothing.]]

Gary Coughlan (4/30/87 excerpt)

GORE! GORE! GORE!

[[BUSH! BUSH! BUSH!]]

Gary Coughlan (5/9/87 excerpt)

Gary Hart's exit certainly took me by surprise. I can understand his frustration, in this case, with the media. What do you think of Gore?

[[Hart wimped out. No other way to put it. He let the media hound him to death. Instead of denying the charges about his womanizing and inviting inspection (especially an inspection he couldn't stand up under), he should have said "So what." Cuts the legs right out of their argument. He doesn't get the fundamentalist vote, but then he probably wasn't going to get that vote anyway. Anyone who can be hounded out of the race by the press probably couldn't take the pressure of being President, so I don't blame the media at all.

I don't know much about Gore, but he will have to do very well in the Southern Super Tuesday to have a chance, and he hasn't been to Texas yet. If things don't change much between now and then, Jackson may get a huge boost in the south. Let's say Gephart

wins Iowa, Dukakis wins New Hampshire, and as a result they are both at about 20% in polls with Jackson at 15%. The South will split between Gore, Gephardt, and Dukakis at 22% each and Jackson gets 25% (a little better than he did in several southern primaries last time). Headlines read "Jackson wins Super Tuesday." Hard to ignore him after that.]]

Bruce Linsey (5/18/87)

Would you please print this {The Joan Extrom Baby Pool with guesses about Joan's expected arrival in early December} in FF? Joan has several friends among your readers.

[[In Texas this is called a lottery, and is illegal (unconstitutional!), so I hesitate publishing it. It sounds like a lot of fun, and if I participate I will be sure to guess the baby's sex, weight, birthday, and time of arrival and send those guesses, along with my dollar, to Bruce Linsey, 73 Ashuelot St. Apt. 3, Dalton MA 01226. I understand you have a rather complicated scoring system consisting of 25 points for correctly guessing sex, 50 points for guessing weight to the nearest ounce (minus five points for every ounce I am off), 50 points for guessing the birth date (minus five points for each day I am off), and 50 points for guessing the time of birth to the nearest hour (minus five points for each hour I am off). I am curious as to how you came up with your guess of a boy, 7 pounds and 6 ounces, 9 pm on November 29th. The Doctor says it will be December 1. If I do guess, I'll do it in Wisconsin at the end of this week, so that I don't violate Texas law. Sorry I can't plug this for you.]]

Michael Hopcroft (combination of two letters, April and May 1987)

You ask whether the Iran-Contra policy would still be wrong if it had attained its objectives. The answer to that is yes. There are some things that democracies simply do not do, such as shipping arms to hostage takers. Call me naive, but I would like to think that American foreign policy should be more open than that. It is difficult to reconcile the often incompatible roles of democracy and superpower, but this isn't the way to do it. The ends do not justify the means, at least not in the way we look at government.

A wrong policy may be handled with supreme competence, but it remains a wrong policy.

I haven't found a Presidential candidate I can support yet. Probably my fault for getting cynical in my old age. It's just that this country's problems are so deeply rooted that I don't see any offered solutions working. It certainly doesn't look like eight years of Ronald Reagan have produced much substantial change, rhetoric about a "Reagan Revolution" aside. The President is at this point a very, very, very, lame duck who seem to blunder at every turn. That is probably a good thing, because had things turned out according to Presidential plan they would probably be a lot worse. But it certainly isn't good now, not for all those people who are unemployed or homeless or stressed out.

It makes me wonder just how effective a toll American government is when it comes to handling matters of economic policy. It certainly isn't very useful when it comes to managing a productive economy. Government's main function seems to me to be the role of picking up the pieces when ruthless competition comes in and wrecks everything. The human cost of Social Darwinism is very high, and somebody has to help pick it up. The private

sector can't, won't, and doesn't care particularly. They're only interested in winners. But every Diplomacy player knows that when somebody wins a game, somebody also loses. And the losers in this particular game are workers and the unemployed.

Well, not only is there too much stress in my life, but I also have high blood pressure and a high cholesterol count. In that much I seem to be a typical American. I can't help but wonder whether what we are witnessing is not part of the natural rise and fall of civilizations. It seems just that a civilization which rises in a hurry would collapse into a heap very quickly. I don't know yet what role Diplomacy plays in the downfall of American civilization; no doubt it is a tiny influence compared to the fact that the Beastie Boys had the top-selling album in the country for several weeks.

[[Well, Michael, I am afraid you've gone too far this time. Now most of my readers won't mind your criticism of Reagan, and a few may actually agree with your assessment of our economic system, but coming down on the Beastie Boys may get you some hate mail!

I think you have nailed the major difference between your philosophy of government and mine. The federal government is primarily to provide a common defense, and keep the states from fighting with each other. It may also provide a useful role in protecting the individual from abuses by state governments, but judges are ruining any chance of that happening. State governments should be responsible for the human services, including police, welfare, and education (which is the most important function).

There cannot be enough competition, and the people only suffer when the government interferes and creates the excesses of business. The workers don't suffer at the hands of business; who else is going to provide a job? And as long as there is a freedom of choice about where you work and live, what is the problem? Some argue that there isn't any real freedom of choice, but if that is true (and I don't believe it), we need to solve that problem, not blame business.

You name a problem with the economy, and I will show you how it was caused by federal policy, not business or cutthroat competition.]]

GUEST FEUILLETONIST -- Thomas Sowell

It is easy to become discouraged and even cynical about the social deterioration and political irresponsibility which plague our country and Western civilization in general. But before you give up hope, you might want to attend a meeting of the Federalist Society.

My first awareness of the Federalist Society came only last year, even though it has been in existence for five years. Its meeting in Washington at the end of January attracted as speakers two deans of law schools, five U.S. Circuit judges, a justice of the California Supreme Court, a justice of the U.S. Supreme Court and the attorney general of the United States.

It is not these dignitaries who are the real cause for hope, however. What is an enormously refreshing and hopeful sign is to see the young people who make up the membership of the Federalist Society. Earnest, intelligent and unpretentious, these are young men and women of whom any nation and any age could be proud.

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While the Constitutional issues on which they conduct high level debates are of special interest to the legal profession, the stakes are freedom of us all. When judges take more and more decisions out of the hands of elected officials, democracy means less and less. Courts have likewise taken discretion -- freedom -- from private organizations and individuals alike, in everything from sports to matters of life and death. Judges have issued orders to parents of dying children, telling them what medical treatment these children must be subjected to even when the parents want to spare their child painful treatments in a hopeless cause. Judges rush in where angels fear to tread.

This is not because judges are worse than other people, but because unbridled power is insidiously corrupting, even when intentions are good. The original Federalists who helped write the Constitution understood that as few men in history ever have. Virtually every provision of the Constitution tries to prevent too much power from being concentrated in any individual or any given branch of government.

Wise men wrote the Constitution of the United States, but clever men are undermining it. There are a thousand evasions available when the judges want to carry out some fashionable new idea instead of sticking to the written law. Law school professors across the country encourage this judicial lawlessness, for they share many of the same social theories and political fashions as the judges.

Federalist Society chapters are as yet only small, beleaguered outposts at most leading law schools, but they are there. They show no signs of going away. And they are growing.

The modern Federalists are going to need their sense of honor as well as their courage, intelligence and energy for the long, uphill fight to restore the Constitution. But they are not alone. The voting public has shown a growing awareness of the dangers created by lawless judges. The halo that used to surround freewheeling judges "on the cutting edge" of the law has grown faint and disappeared. Who would have thought that three California Supreme Court justices would have been voted out of office and a federal judge impeached all in the same year? Even the intellectuals may yet get the word. Certainly, the Federalist Society is working to make sure that they do.

[illegible]

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## PRESIDENTIAL POLITICS

As I mentioned on the first page, I will be playing in the Life of Monty game of Presidential Politics. Naturally I will be attempting capture the Republican nomination, along with three other candidates. The Democrats have five possible nominees. As the game progresses, I intend to reveal some of my orders and decisions here. I am doing this for a variety of reasons. First, I want to get you all interested in the game. Second, I intend to put as much of the game on computer as possible, and to check my computer calculations I would like some of you to make sure that my results are OK. Third, because I am programming the game, and because I intend to win it as well, I don't want the other players to claim that I have an unfair advantage, so I am trading the computer advantage with revealing some of my strategy. Finally, I want to get some feedback on my strategy. Not to change the orders, but to see how others may approach the game, and thereby make this a better playtest.

Below is the list of my stands on the first 20 issues for the primary game. The rest of the matrix is the score that each Special Interest Group ranks my stand on each issue and the resulting rating I get from each SIG. If you want to know what the actual issues are, you need to buy the game from Jake. (Sorry, but if I publish everything here, there isn't any reason to buy the game!) In future months I will probably print my travel schedule and where I am sending my organizers. I think I will keep all my media bids quiet; that would be giving too much away! For those of you who didn't see the first 20 issues of PP, Presidential Politics is a game that was invented by Jake Halverstadt and playtested here. The Republican ticket of Dan Young and Ty Hare won the game over the Democrats Stephen Wilcox and Mark Larzelere. The original game then had a major rewrite to weight the issues differently, provide for Special Interest Groups, and change the way media points were awarded for the issues. The new game is far superior to the first, though I suspect there are a few bugs out there someplace.

Please follow along and let me know what you think!

| SIGs         | ELD | LAB | FARM | POOR | URE | NAT | MIL | CON | ECC | BUS |
|--------------|-----|-----|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Issue stands |     |     |      |      |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Issue #      |     |     |      |      |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| +            | 1   |     |      |      | 2   |     | 4   | 5   | 2   |     |
| -            | 2   | 5   |      |      | 4   |     |     | 2   |     | 2   |
| -            | 3   |     | 4    | 2    |     |     |     | 4   |     | 0   |
| +            | 4   |     |      |      | 2   |     | 3   | 3   |     | 0   |
| -            | 5   |     | 4    |      |     |     |     |     | 1   |     |
| -            | 6   |     |      |      | 1   | 2   |     | 4   |     | 4   |
| -            | 7   |     | 2    |      |     | 2   |     | 4   |     | 5   |
| -            | 8   |     | 5    | 4    |     | 2   |     |     | 2   |     |
| -            | 9   | 2   |      |      | 4   |     |     | 1   | 4   |     |
| ++           | 10  |     |      | 0    |     |     |     |     |     | 5   |
| +            | 11  |     |      | 2    |     |     |     |     | 4   |     |
| +            | 12  |     |      |      |     | 3   |     | 3   |     |     |
| ++           | 13  |     |      | 0    |     | 5   |     |     |     |     |
| --           | 14  |     |      |      |     |     |     | 5   |     | 0   |
| -            | 15  | 1   |      |      |     |     | 4   |     |     |     |
| +            | 16  |     |      |      |     |     | 2   |     | 4   |     |
| ++           | 17  | 5   |      |      | 0   |     | 5   |     | 1   |     |
| +            | 18  | 4   | 2    |      | 2   |     |     | 5   |     |     |
| -            | 19  |     |      |      |     |     | 5   |     | 2   |     |
| +            | 20  |     |      |      |     |     |     | 4   |     | 2   |

FIRST 20 SIG RATING

3.60 3.60 1.60 2.60 1.00 3.50 4.00 3.00 2.00 2.80

## THE GONZO REPORT

There is still a lot of confusion concerning the draft lists, so I will make another stab at explaining the system. There are 11 total lists that you have to put together. The first list is for you very first draft pick, or all the draft picks in the first round, and it is just a list of players by name in the order that you want them drafted. It is basically the same thing they do in the NFL. If you are drafting 8th your list would have eight names on it. If the first name is available you get him, if not I go to the second name, and so on. Sample list:

Marino QB MIA, Dickerson RB RAM, Flutie QB CHI, Williams TE HOU, Walker RB DAL, Walker WR PHI, TAMPA OL, and Ward K DAL.

If you have two first round picks via trades, you get to draft from this list for both picks, so make sure it is long enough! If you traded away your first round pick you're out of luck.

Ten of the lists are by position. You need a list of Quarterbacks, Running backs, Wide Receivers, Tight Ends, Punters, Kickers, Offensive line, Defensive line, Defensive backfield, and Head Coach. These lists can be as long as you want to make them. Just as a warning, if you want to mathematically guarantee getting a running back (for example) in the 23rd round, you need to list 368 running backs. Now the odds are that somebody before the 23rd round will have picked up something other than a running back, so your actual RB list can be somewhat shorter. That statement isn't meant to confuse you, but it is meant to impress upon you the importance of making your list long enough. Sample lists:

QB: Marino MIA, Montana SF, Fouts SD, McMahon CHI, ...  
RB: Dickerson RAM, Dorsett DAL, Walker DAL, Rozier HOU, ...  
Similar lists for WR, TE, P, and K.  
OL: RAM, CHI, MIA, DAL, HOU, IND, WAS, ... (List at least 16)  
HC: Flores RAD, Landry DAL, Ditka CHI, ... (List at least 16)  
Similar lists for DL and DB.

OK, so I counted it wrong last issue. Its 12 lists total including the first round list, the first round list, and list for the nine positions and the head coach. The head coach does not count against your 21 man roster. (Please note that I made up the above lists and they are not to be taken as suggestions!)

Finally, I need a list of what POSITION you want to draft for each round starting with the second round. Sample list:

| Round | Position     | Round | Position |
|-------|--------------|-------|----------|
| 1     | See 1st list | 12    | RB       |
| 2     | RB           | 13    | OL       |
| 3     | DL           | 14    | DB       |
| 4     | TE           | 15    | QB       |
| 5     | WR           | 16    | K        |
| 6     | WR           | 17    | QB       |
| 7A    | WR           | 18    | QB       |
| 7B    | QB           | 19    | TE       |
| 8     | K            | 20    | WR       |
| 9     | P            | 21    | TE       |
| 10    | RB           | 22    | QB       |
| 11    | RB           | 23    | WR       |

If all of the running backs on your list have been taken by the 11th round, then I obviously cannot take one in the 12th round. I would then move everything up one, so that you would draft an OL in round 12, DB in round 13, and so on, according to the above list. In the 23rd round I would start over and draft from your

QB list. Please note that in round 7, the player above had two draft picks, and listed a position for each of them. The only way the system can break down is if you don't make your lists long enough. If all of the players you have listed have been taken by the 15th round, you don't get to draft any more players!

When it is all said and done you should have as many players as you had draft picks, plus the 7 you carried over. For most of you that will be a roster of 30. If you have traded draft picks then your roster will be correspondingly larger or smaller. Still have questions? Call me! I don't want the draft messed up because it starts the whole year off wrong.

#### TRADES SINCE THE END OF 1986

KOKOMO to NIAGARA: 1st and 2nd round picks FOR K. Bryant RB WAS, 1st round pick (LB from Botswana), and 3rd round pick.

BOTSWANA to BALTIMORE: Krieg QB SEA, Clark RB SF, and Moon QB HOU FOR 2nd, 3rd, 5th, and 7th round draft picks.

GLASGOW to WESTERN: Riddick RB Buffalo, Bell RB Buffalo FOR two draft picks to be named later.

CHESAPEAKE to BALTIMORE: Cunningham QB PHI and Dickey RB CLE FOR J.L. Williams RB SEA and Stanley WR GB.

COLORADO to BALTIMORE: Morgan WR NE FOR a player to be named later.

I think that wraps up all the post season trading that has been done. Niagara attempted a trade with Houston that was later voided. If I have forgotten anyone, please let me know. Here are the pertinent deadlines again:

|                    |                                  |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| JULY 10, 1987      | Draft lists due.                 |
| AUGUST 1, 1987     | Roster cut to 26.                |
| SEPTEMBER 1, 1987  | Roster cut to 21 (Final roster). |
| AUGUST 8, 1987     | First preseason NFL game.        |
| SEPTEMBER 13, 1987 | First regular season game.       |

#### DRAFTING ORDER FOR 1987 SEASON

Philadelphia, Baltimore, Western, Puddletown, Virginia, Mt. Kisco, Kokomo, Niagara, Chesapeake, L.A. Bruins, Houston, Oregon, Mt. Fuji, Glasgow, Colorado, Botswana.

#### EXTRA DRAFT PICKS

Baltimore: Gave away 1, 2, 3, 5, & 7. Obtained Kokomo 3 and Chesapeake 3. Net minus 3 (only 20 total picks).

Western: Gave away two undetermined picks. Net minus 2 (only 21 total picks).

Kokomo: Gave away 1, 2, & 3. Obtained Botswana 1 and Niagara 3. Net minus 1 (only 22 total picks).

Niagara: Gave away 3. Obtained Kokomo 1 & 2. Net plus 1 (24 total picks).

Chesapeake: Gave away 3. Net minus 1 (only 22 total picks).

Oregon: Obtained Botswana 7. Net plus 1 (24 total picks).

Glasgow: Obtained Baltimore 1 and 2 undetermined picks from Western. Net plus 3 (26 total picks).

Botswana: Gave away 1 & 7. Obtained Baltimore 2, 3, 5, and 7. Net plus 2 (25 total picks).

That about does it for this GFL issue. I am working on the 1986 season stats by team, but I have run out of time. I will have that out as soon as I can. Good luck in the draft, AND CALL ME IF THERE ARE ANY QUESTIONS!