

Issue #31

August 2, 1986

Hello and welcome once again. The new game is filled and begins this issue. Will this really be my last game? Nah. Just to show you I can be completely unpredictable, I'm opening another game immediately. I just can't stand to turn anyone away, I guess. But this is really going to be the last game for some time to come. Whether or not I wind down Frobozz remains to be seen, however.

Signed up for the next game are: Marc Peters, Tom Johnston, and Rory Noble. Who else wants in? Hurry, hurry, step right up...

It was a definite pleasure seeing many of you at MadCon. Frobozz readers who attended include (in no particular order) Marc Peters, Debi Peters, Matt Fleming, Scott Hanson, Frauke Petersen, Bob Acheson, Dale Bakken, Russ Rusnak, and of course the host, Paul Rauterberg. I arrived in Madison in the evening of Friday, July 4. Soon after saying hello to everyone I found myself drafted into a game of Final Conflict. This is a Dip variant played on a world map. The basic movement rules for armies and fleets are the same as in Dip, but special rules have been added for planes and nuclear missiles. Despite (or perhaps because of) the fact that I didn't completely understand the rules for planes, I did fairly well in this game. When we quit after about six hours, mine was the largest power on the board. Due to the late hour, we agreed to a six-way draw among all survivors. (I would have gladly conceded to the extinct Pan-Ārab League to end the game). Had the game continued, I think the most likely outcome would've been a draw between Scott Hanson and me.

The next morning I drove Bob Acheson to breakfast at a local restaurant. The first thing Bob did when he got in my car was to scan my tape collection. Noting such names as Steppenwolf, Janis Joplin, and Jefferson Airplane he commented, "Your music dates you, my friend." How true. I admit I'll be 34 next month and no longer hip, or whatever you young whippersnappers call it these days. In some ways, I confess to to being stuck in the sixties. Far out.

After breakfast, it was time for Diplomacy. I drew Germany and found myself in for a rough ride from the start. Spring '01 saw a French army in Burgundy, which supported the English army to Belgium in Fall '01. Figuring I had enough enemies already, I decided I'd better be nice to Russia. So, I let him have Sweden. He was so grateful for this that he sent an army to Silesia to thank me. It didn't get much better. In an attempt to save my skin, I offered to puppet for England, but to no avail. Possession of Holland and Denmark appealed to the Englishman's taste more than control of the German forces. I did receive some unintended aid when Austria stabbed Russia. This allowed me to convoy a couple of armies into northern Russia where I holed up until the Austrians and English finally dispensed with me in '05.

It was just as well, for Russia (Matt Fleming) and I had more or less stopped playing in '04 when Marc and Debi arrived. Why? Because we were all eager to get a bridge game started. Thus began an eight-rubber odyssey into which James Wall and Dale Bakken cut in from time to time. I have no idea who won, but it really doesn't matter. It's not whether you win or lose, but how much fun you have.

The bridge game finally broke up when almost everyone went to Paul's bar. He had closed it for the weekend but opened it for a special private party for MadCon attendees. I wanted to go but was too tired. Instead, Marc and I watched the end of some terrible movie (which was nothing more than a series of scenes of Chuck Norris heroically beating up people). Then I went to bed.

Sunday morning I went back to the restaurant for breakfast, joining five others who arrived ahead of me. They had all come in one car, which must have been rather crowded. So, after we were finished eating, I offered to drive someone back. Paul Gardner took me up on the offer. He climbed into my car, scanned my tape collection, and remarked, "Your music dates you, my friend."

Well, that did it. I refused to offer anyone else any rides. A guy can get sensitive about this sort of thing. Besides, I didn't think anyone wanted to go to Ann Arbor, which is where I was headed ten minutes later. My thanks to everyone who attended for making this a great con.

FROBOZZ is published at four week intervals by Jeff Richmond, P.O. Box 3288, Ann Arbor, MI 48106; phone number 313-971-7793. Subscription rate is \$3.50 for ten issues. Game openings available. Game fee is \$4.00 plus a continuing subscription to Frobozz.

### The Bulletin Board

Here are the top finishers in the 1986 Runestone Poll:

#### TOP TEN ZINES

#### TOP TEN GAMESMASTERS

1. Costaguana	6. Diplomacy World	l. Gary Coughlan	6. Dave Carter
2. Europa Express	7. Diplomacy Digest	2. Mark Larzelere	7. Jeff Richmond
3. It's a Trap!	8. The Zine Register	3. Dave Kleiman	8. Steve Knight
4. Praxis	9. No Fixed Address	4/5. Jim Benes	9. Ron Brown (of Canada)
5. Excelsion	10. Magus	4/5. Andy Lischett	10. Matt Fleming

Frobozz finished 29th with a score of 6.207. My score in the GM poll was 9.0. I'm very pleased to have done so well in the GM poll, and I'm glad you players feel I'm doing a good job for you. Naturally, I'll continue to put out my best effort in running the games herein. As for Frobozz's ranking, I wish it had been higher, but I'm not too unhappy with it. Frobozz's mean score was 7.667, which would have placed it 11th had it not been dragged down by its mediocre "preference matrix" score. Since the preference matrix is heavily influenced by those who vote for a lot of zines (publishers, for the most part), I have to conclude that my traders aren't as impressed with Frobozz as my subbers are. (I'll remember this when I vote next year, you guys, heh, heh.) Since Frobozz is a player-oriented zine, I'm not too concerned with what the preference matrix says. If you who play here are happy, I'm happy. Many thanks to you all.

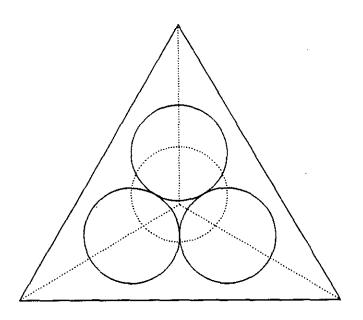
Speaking of polls, the Marco Poll results should be out by now. However, I haven't seen them. (They haven't fallen out of the sky into my lap). Maybe I'll have more info next issue.

Once Upon a Deadline is a handbook of nearly 200 pages filled with articles designed to help the new or would-be publisher. There's a lot of good reading here, even if you have no interest in publishing or are already an old hand at it. To get your copy, send \$3.00 to Bruce Linsey, 73 Ashuelot St. #3, Dalton, MA 01226.

If you're a loyal Frobozz subber, you've undoubtedly noticed quite a few new names herein. The recent flurry of interest is rather remarkable. It was because of this that I decided to open two games instead of one. I understand that I (and others) have been getting a good deal of publicity lately. One notable source of publicity is a recent article on PBM Dip in The General. I'm flattered to be included in such as august publication, even though I doubt Avalon Hill really knows anything at all about me or my zine. I'd have been more pleased, though, if they'd been considerate enough to show me a copy of the article, so I'd have known what to expect. (By the way, I still haven't seen the article, will someone please help me?)

## Puzzle Challenge

The answer to last issue's puzzle is: "Despite the fact that computer speeds are measured in nanoseconds and picoseconds, the smallest interval of time known to man is that which occurs in Manhattan between the traffic signal turning green and the taxi driver behind you blowing his horn."



A few months ago, I used a geometry puzzle which turned out to be more popular than I expected. So, here's another one, suggested by Bruce Linsey, who says he got it from Don Del Grande:

Four spheres of unit radius are placed so that each is tangent to the other three. A regular tetrahedron is then circumscribed around the spheres. (Thus, each side of the tetrahedron is tangent to three of the spheres). What is the length of an edge of the tetrahedron? Deadline for answers is August 29, 1986. If you can't get the correct answer (and I confess that I couldn't), you will still get partial credit just for submitting an answer. The amount of credit you get will depend on how close your answer is to the right answer.

# Bridge Challenge

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Last month's puzzle was to determine which side win double-dummy at a four spade contract with the lead of the diamond queen. South has nine easy tricks: three spades, a heart, two diamonds, two clubs, and a diamond ruff. The tenth trick would have to come from a club-heart squeeze against West, as no endplay is workable. To make the squeeze operate, South must first concede his three losers: the spade king, club ace, and heart queen. Further, they must be lost in precisely that order. (If the heart queen is lost earlier, East plays another heart to establish the setting trick while West still has an entry. If the club ace is lost first, West continues clubs and does so again when he wins the spade king. This removes the entry to dummy needed to operate the squeeze.)

So, the play would go: Diamond lead won by the ace, low spade won by West's king, diamond to South's king (as good a return as any), diamond ruff, spade queen, club to the jack and West's ace. West exits with a club to dummy's king, then South returns to hand with the spade ace to lead a low heart. West must duck (or he would expose his partner to a later heart finesse), and dummy's jack loses to East's queen. East can do no better than to play a heart in this position:

South takes the ace (as West follows with the five) and leads the last spade, forcing West to make a fatal discard. If West pitches the heart king, dummy throws the low club and wins the last two tricks with the club queen and heart ten. And if West pitches a club, dummy sheds the heart and wins the last two tricks in clubs. So, declarer prevails, right? No. Oddly, West can break up the timing of the squeeze at trick two by ducking the king of spades! If South continues with another low spade, West wins this time and plays a third spade to drive out South's ace prematurely. Since declarer's diamond king entry must be used to ruff the low diamond, he no longer has the late entry he needs to play hearts from his hand (which he must eventually do to force East to win the defensive heart trick).

That was a pretty tough problem. This one's just a little easier:

۵	K 8 3			7	6							Dealer Both s		lnerable	
+	K	8				<b>♡</b>	Q 6	Q J	10			South 1 ♦ 3 ♦ 4 ७	West Pass Pass Pass	North  1  3  Pass	East 2+ Pass Pass
						+	Α	Q	J	9	7				

West, your partner, leads a club against the four heart contract. Dummy plays the king, which you capture with the ace. You lead another club, but South ruffs, cashes the diamond ace, and ruffs a low diamond in dummy. Partner followed to the first diamond with the queen, then played the nine, apparently showing a holding of queen-jack-ten-nine. How do you plan your defense from this point? Deadline for answers is August 29, 1986.

#### The Scoreboard

There wasn't much action last month. Steve Langley solved the puzzle and scored 100 points for doing so. Bruce Linsey's answer was worth 57. That makes the current standings:

- 1. Steve Langley 592 points
- 2. Bruce Linsey 535 points
- 3. Matt Chen 400 points
- 4. Jim Lawniczak 325 points
- 5. Chuff Afflerbach 210 points
- 6. Pete Kurucz 180 points
- 7. Joel Peacher 100 points
- 8. Paul Milewski 90 points
- 9. Melinda Holley 70 points

Steve Langley was the only one to attempt the bridge problem (so much for double-dummy problems, I guess). His answer, worth 35 points, vaults him into first place:

- 1. Steve Langley 117 points
- 2. Jim Lawniczak 100 points
- 3. Matt Chen 93 points
- 4. Marc Peters 47 points

And now, on to the games. Standby pool for regular Dip: Drane, Peters, Henry, Frueh, Hugh Christie, Gonsalves, Holley, Bakken, Fleming. For WWIIIb: Vaporis, Frueh. Does anyone want to be added to or removed from either list?

AUSTRIA Pat Jensen, 712 Minnesota Avenue, Albert Lea, MN 56007

ENGLAND Michael Gonsalves, 1401 Haven Road T6, Hagerstown, MD 21740

FRANCE Michael Vaporis, Suite 238, 4334 West Central Avenue, Toledo, OH 43615

GERMANY Jerry Falkiner, 201 Hillmer Road, Cambridge, Ont., N1R 6N6

ITALY Matt Fleming, 445 W. Gilman #401, Madison, WI 53703

RUSSIA Scott Drane, 1940 N. Lincoln #604, Chicago, IL 60614

TURKEY Daryl Rothchild, Box 204, Delmont, SD 57330

Deadline for Spring, 1901 is 9PM EDT Friday, August 29, 1986. Good luck to all.

1985CX

Isengard

Winter, 1904

Aus: Builds F TRI, A VIE. Eng: Builds A LON. Ger: A mun r BUR; removes F lvn. Rus: Builds A SEV.

Spring, 1905

AUSTRIA (Langley) F tri-ADR, A vie-TRI, A ven-PIE, F tyn-LYO, A bud-GAL, A TYO S Russian A MUN, F ion-TUN, A BOH S Russian A MUN, A GRE H, A BUL H.

ENGLAND (Hugh Christie) F MID-por, F BRE-mid, F ENG C A lon-PIC, F BEL S A lon-PIC, F swe-DEN, F BAR S A nwy-STP, A nwy-STP, A lon-PIC.

FRANCE (Jensen) A POR S A SPA, F WES-mid, A par-GAS, A SPA S A par-GAS.

GERMANY (Townsend) A ber-KIE, A gas-spa(d,r bur,otb), A bur-PAR, A kie-HOL.

ITALY (Springer) NMR. A MAR H.

RUSSIA (Kurucz) A MOS-stp, A MUN S A pru-BER, A pru-BER, A war-SIL, F aeg-ION, A sev-UKR, A arm-SEV.

Deadline for Fall, 1905 is 9PM EDT Friday, August 29, 1986. The proposed concession was defeated. The following are now proposed: concession to Austria, A-R draw, A-E-R draw, A-E-G-R draw, A-E-F-G-R draw. No standby will be called for Italy. Fred Townsend is the new player for Germany.

COA: Pete Kurucz, PSC Box 1000, Peterson AFB, CO 80914 (effective August 27).

PRESS — France to Austria: Sorry about no response. Had appendix removed (real fun). Kind of occupied my mind. I'm with you all the way.

Austria to England: What can I say? I'm just not the berserker you thought I was. Unlike some I could mention, I do honor an alliance.

Moscow to London: We don't understand the big hoopla about your royal weddings. Over here we tried broadcasting it and it lost out in the Neilsky ratings to an old "Sanfordupov and Son" rerun.

Russia to Austria: A hole in the back? No... why, do you want one?

1985V

The Ruby Yacht

Winter, 1908

Fra: A gas r BUR; builds A PAR. Ita: F ion r otb; builds F NAP.

Rus: F bla r otb, A vie r TYO; removes F ska. Tur: NBR, plays 3 short.

Spring, 1909

ENGLAND (Paul Milewski, Box 256, Batavia, OH 45103) A gas-par(d,r spa,otb), F eng-BRE, F MID S F eng-BRE, F lon-ENG, F MAR H.

FRANCE (Mark Frueh, 4320 Wallace St., St. Louis, MO 63116) A BEL-hol, A BUR S A par-GAS, A par-GAS.

GERMANY (Fred Townsend, 1715 N. Mohawk, Chicago, IL 60614) F kie-BER, A MUN S F kie-BER, F HOL-nth.

ITALY (Pat Jensen, 712 Minnesota Ave., Albert Lea, MN 56007) F NAP S F TYN, F TYN S F NAP.

RUSSIA (Howard Christie, P.O. Box 115, Millville, PA 17846) A mos-UKR, A GAL-vie, A tyo-VEN, A den-KIE, A ber S A den-KIE(d,r sil,pru,otb), F BAL S A den-KIE, F NTH-hol, F NWG-nth, A nwy-STP.

TURKEY (Stan Plummer) NMR. A VIE H, A BUD H, F BLA H, F ANK H, A RUM H, A BUL H, F ION H, F AEG H, F TUN H.

Deadline for Fall, 1909 is 9PM EDT Friday, August 29, 1986. Will Marc Peters, 1814 Cameron Dr. #3, Madison, WI 53711 please standby for Turkey.

PRESS — England to Russia: If Stan can do this well from the Sinai, imagine what he can do from North Carolina. France to Italy: Head west — we'll teach England the follies of Riviera living.

AUSTRALIA (Russ Rusnak, 900 N. Rohlwing Rd. #333, Addison, IL 60101) Builds F NEW SOUTH WALES. Also has A MAHARASHTRA, A MADRAS, F EAST INDIAN, F TIMOR SEA, F BAY OF BENGAL, F SUMATRA, F GREAT AUSTRALIAN BIGHT, A WESTERN AUSTRALIA, A MANCHURIA, A PRADESH, A KASHMIR, A KWANGTUNG, A HONDURAS, F NE PACIFIC, F SOUTH PACIFIC, F EAST PACIFIC, F GULF OF PANAMA, F CENTRAL PACIFIC, F GULF OF CALIFORNIA, F PANAMA, F GULF OF MEXICO.

BRAZIL (Steve Langley, 2296 Eden Roc Lane #1, Sacramento, CA 95825) Builds F BELEM. Also has F VENEZUELA, F CUBA, F BERMUDA TRIANGLE, F MOUTH OF THE AMAZON, A HAITI, A CORDOBA, A COLOMBIA, A NAPO, A INCA, A LA PAMPA, A BUENOS AIRES, A URUGUAY.

CANADA (Jim Petersen, 614 Fountain, Albert Lea, MN 56007) Even. Has A CALIFORNIA, A MEXICO, A TEXAS, A DIXIE, A NEW ENGLAND, F NW ATLANTIC, F ICELAND, F NORTH ATLANTIC, F GREENLAND SEA, F PORTUGAL.

UofSA (Vince Springer) NRR. GM removes F adriatic, F iraq. Has A IRAN, F PERSIAN GULF, F ARABIAN SEA, F RED SEA, F EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN, A ZAIRE, F MOZAMBIQUE CHANNEL, F SOUTH INDIAN, F WEST INDIAN, F SE ATLANTIC, A CHILE, F DRAKE PASSAGE, F FALKLAND SOUND.

USSR (Marc Peters, 1814 Cameron Dr. #3, Madison, WI 53711) A iran r AFGHANISTAN; builds A RUSSIA, A KAZAK. Also has A TURKEY, A GEORGIA, A RUMANIA, F BLACK SEA, A PAKISTAN, A RAJASTHAN, A SIBERIA.

WARSAW PACT (Pat Jensen, 712 Minnesota Ave., Albert Lea, MN 53711) Builds A POLAND. Also has A WEST GERMANY, A ITALY, A AUSTRIA, A HUNGARY, F UNITED KINGDOM.

WAF (Fred Hyatt, 60 Grandview Place, Montclair, NJ 07043) A hungary r otb; builds A MALI, A NIGERIA, F GUINEA. Also has A YUGOSLAVIA, A LIBYA, F WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN, F SYRIA, F FRANCE(SC), F SPAIN(SC), A CAMEROON, F GABON, F MID ATLANTIC, F BAHIA, F FALKLAND ISLANDS.

Deadline for Spring, 2007 is 9PM EDT Friday, August 29, 1986. A separation of seasons is granted. The following are proposed: a concession to Australia, an A-USSR draw, an A-UofSA-USSR-WAF draw, and a 7-way draw. Will Michael Vaporis, Suite 238, 4334 West Central Ave., Toledo, OH 43615 please standby for UofSA. I thank Mark Frueh for submitting standby orders and am pleased they were not needed.

PRESS — Warsaw Pact to Russia: Sorry about no response, I had my appendix removed. Hopefully, the seasons will be separated.

1985AC

Saint Cleve

Summer, 1906

Fra: F wal r LVP, A ven r APU. Tur: F con r AEG.

Fall, 1906

AUSTRIA (Peacher) A ROM S German A VEN, F adr-ION, A ser-BUL, A GRE S A ser-BUL.

ENGLAND (cd) A edi h(d,a).

FRANCE (Peters) A apu-NAP, F lvp h(d,r wal,otb), A bur-ruh(d,r pic,gas,mar,otb), A bel S A bur-ruh(d,r pic,otb), A PAR-bur, A PIE-tyo, F wes-TYN.

GERMANY (Chen) A yor-EDI, A vie-TYO, A TRI S A VEN, F wal-IRI, A mun-BUR, A VEN S A vie-TYO, A BUD S A TRI, F NTH S A yor-EDI, A RUH S A mun-BUR, A hol-BEL, F ENG S A hol-BEL.

RUSSIA (Geryk) F cly-LVP, F NAT S F cly-LVP, F mid-POR, A bul S F CON(d,r rum,otb), F CON S A bul, A ARM S A syr-SMY, A syr-SMY, F BLA S F CON.

TURKEY (Kendter) F AEG S A ANK-con, A smy S A ANK-con(d,a), A ANK-con.

Deadline for Spring, 1907 is 9PM EDT Friday, August 29, 1986. A G-R draw is proposed.

### 1985AC supply center chart - 1906

AUSTRIA	ser, gre, map, rom, BUL	4,	even
ENGLAND	¢d1	Ο,	out
FRANCE	par, bre, mar, spa, por, tun, yer, NAP	6,	-1
	ber, kie, mun, den, hol, bel, swe, vie, bud, lon, tri, EDI, VEN		
RUSSIA	stp, mos, war, sev, rum, nwy, lvp, b/l, POR, CON, SMY	10,	+2
TURKEY	¢φη,ank,smy	1.	-1

**PRESS** — Winter Palace to Versailles: The Tsar thanks you for the gift.

New Haven: Well, one more month in New England and I'm off again. Who said you had to join the Navy to travel??

AUSTRIA (cd) A vie h(d,a), A GAL H.

ENGLAND (Melinda Holley, P.O. Box 2793, Huntington, WV 25727) A PIC S F eng-BRE, A YOR H, F eng-BRE, F MID S F eng-BRE, F NAT S F MID, F STP(NC) H.

FRANCE (Bruce Geryk, 362 Elm St. #7, New Haven, CT 06511) F bre-pic(d,r gas,otb), A PAR S A gas-BUR, A gas-BUR, F spa(sc)-MAR.

GERMANY (Stan Plummer, 6613 Azalea Dr., Spring Lake, NC 28390) F SWE H, F DEN H, A PRU H, A SIL H, A MUN H, A bur h(d,r ruh,bel,otb).

ITALY (Jim Petersen, 614 Fountain, Albert Lea, MN 56007) F apu-ION, A tyo-VIE, A TRI S A tyo-VIE, F gre h(d,r alb,otb).

RUSSIA (James Early, 3705 Uruguay Dr., Pasadena, TX 77504) NMR. F BOT H, A MOS H.

TURKEY (Doug Baker, 1222 Jefferson Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49007) F BLA H, F aeg-GRE, A BUL S F aeg-GRE, A rum-BUD, A SER S A rum-BUD, A sev-UKR.

Deadline for Spring, 1904 is 9PM EDT Friday, August 29, 1986. Will Scott Drane, 1940 N. Lincoln #604, Chicago, IL 60614 please standby for Germany. No standby will be called for Russia. I thank Matt Fleming for submitting standby orders and am pleased they were not needed.

## 1986D supply center chart - 1903

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<sup>\*</sup> If the German army dislodged from Burgundy retreats to Belgium, England will be even at six units, while Germany will be at 7, +1. As always, builds and removals may be made conditional on retreats, and Spring moves may be made conditional on Winter builds, removals and retreats. All orders may be made conditional on the identity of the German player.

PRESS — Constantinople to world: The Turkish Sultan has been distributing sleeping powders with his correspondence. How else can we explain the lethargy in the east.

New Haven (Yale Daily News): Leading professors here have belatedly denounced the Anglo-German attack on La Belle France as "a barbaric assault on civilization, and really not a very nice thing to do." Prominent H-----d (expletive partially deleted) experts have promised to give the matter "further consideration."

Constantinople to Ann Arbor: At least this time I remembered to erase previous press. Word processors are a mixed blessing. (At least to those of us who are not overly bright.)

Ann Arbor: In such circumstances, I recommend placing the blame squarely where it belongs... on the machine. It should, after all, have the sense to know what you want, no matter what you told it to do.

Sinking Frenchman to Rampaging Turk: Go get 'em, Doug!
Your subscription has expired. Please renew.
You're in the game that starts this issue. See page 4.
Please standby in

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