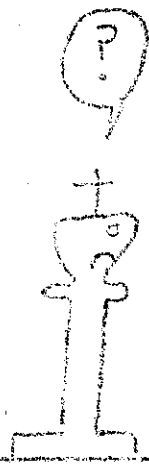


K. 35

CHESS NUTS

by Fester Ghoul



What happened
to you?



Well, all I did
was ask Joey what
a "bishopric" is, and...



Slowly but surely I seem to be getting these issue numbers figured out. You see, the problem has been that, for the longest time, I've believed that this series of K.35 began with Issue 16. In fact, as I noted today when looking through some back issues for no particular reason, we started with Issue 15. That means that this is Issue 27, not 28, and last issue, which said it was 27, was actually 26, not 27, which this is.

There's a simple mathematical formula I've devised to keep this straight from now on. All you have to remember is that the first issue of this series was 15. Then you just add one issue number for each game season elapsed. Of course the whole programme will go haywire if we ever have an interim issue, but until then it works very well - $15 + x = \text{issue number}$, where $x = \text{the number of game seasons elapsed}$. Two seasons per game year, remember.

Another mathematical formula I've devised will permit computation of these data in the other direction. That formula is: $y - x = n$, where y is the number of the current issue, x is the number of game seasons ago that you wish to go in your computation, and n is the number of the issue whose number you're trying to determine.

A third formula which may prove useful, in that it allows you to check your work, is: $F + F' = 0$, where F is the application of Formula One and F' is the application of Formula Two such that x in both cases is a constant. (Or, at least, a constant unto itself.)

I am currently developing a fourth formula which will permit the user to determine the precise page of the precise issue on which appears whatever it is he's trying to find. When honed to perfection, this formula will, for instance, permit by quick calculation the location of the thirty-seventh appearance of the letter 'j' in Issue 19, without knowing in advance either that it appeared in that precise issue or that it appeared on any particular page. You can, I am certain, appreciate the boon to mankind in general and mathematical minds in particular provided by such a formula.

We at the Jamul Institute for Higher Learning, Subsection FF-37⁴, are constantly seeking out new ways to contribute to the betterment of your lives. The preceding are just a few examples of the good we can do. And your ideas are needed! Send them on a plain post-card, and if yours is selected for development in our monthly random drawing, we will give you, with our compliments, a free copy of the all-new 1975 edition of the Institute's famous publication, 1001 Formulae To Mystify Your Friends And Influence People. It is this little book which is known the world over for such elucidations of otherwise complex matters as: Formula 16, How to tell how many legs there are on the chair you're sitting in without actually looking; Formula 67, How to prove by irrefutable mathematical formula that you actually paid last month's unpaid gasoline credit bill; Formula 68, How to prove to your solicitor that Formula 67 is in error; Formula 283, How to play the flute.

No contributions can be returned. Please do not give your name; if you are selected as a winner, we will find you via Formula 969, and if by some chance we don't - then what good is the stupid book?

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

This is K.35, issue 27 (yah booi!), a magazine of postal Diplomacy and certain other malfeasances published by Grendel Press International, P.O. Box 4, San Diego CA 92112, USA. Subscriptions 7/81 U.S. Trades - Ghod no!! Today is 23d November 1974, and we usually print every four weeks, but this next four weeks is gonna be the longest you ever saw....

Amid contra-indications of inordinate issue length ('cos there ain't much press), I rejoice greatly ('cos I'm damned near out of stencils).

DE MOVEZ - 1973DF, Autumn 1906

AUSTRIA (Rafe Mortoni): a gal (s) rum. a sev (s) rum. a pie-tye. a tyetri. a bud-ser. a rum (s) bud-ser. a vie (s) tyetri. f ayu-adr.

KINGDOM OF CALEDONIA (Cyrano deBergerking): a edi-den. a bel-bar. f nth (c) edi-den. f sc-mid. f mid-wmod.

KINGDOM ((SIC?)) OF BURGUNDY (Cold Drake): a bur-bel. f war-pie. f gng (s) AUS pie-tus.

GERMANY (Leader): a pra-ber. a mun-ruh. a hol (h). a nix-nix. f both-swe. f nwy-nth. f bar-nwg.

RUSSIA (Yossarian): a war (h). a mos (s) war. a stp (h).

TURKEY (Aloha Illa Allahooah): a ser (s) bul. a bul (s) ser. a ara (s) RUS mos-sev. f ion-apu. f rom (h). f tun-ion. f nap (s) ion-apu.

Retreats: None. And yea, the bur-bel, bel-bar sequence is as ordered.

Centres:

A: 6 splats: vie, bud, tri, ven, rum, sev. Removes a tyo, a vie.
F: 10 splats: par, bre, nar, spa, por, bel, den, lon, lyp, edi. No builds requested, will be two short.
G: 6 splats: ber, kie, mun, hol, swe, nwy. See below.
R: 3 splats: stp, mos, war. No change.
T: 9 splats: con, smy, ank, bul, ser, gro, rom, nap, tra. Builds a con, a smy.

With respect to Germany, John sent prophetic removals all right, but I've managed to lose them. Therefore, in mine infinite wisdom, I've determined that we can allow him to order said removal with the Spring moves, and the rest of you can make said spring orders contingent on the sudden disappearance of one black wood block. Better yet, I'm enclosing a post-paid envelope with John's copy; if he will be so kind as to fire off a removal to me immediately, I'll notify the rest of you right away. Apologies for this, but yor cain't win 'em awl....

DEADLINE for receipt (by me, natch) of Spring 1907 Orders, with prophetic -

SATURDAY, 11 January 1974.

And while I'm about it, I must report John Leader's new address:

4910 20A St. S.W., Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2T 5A6.

I'd like to offer the observation that the alliance structure in this game frankly approaches the incredible. Rather I should say the antagonist structure; alliances don't seem to be all that relevant. Anyway, there now arises the distinct possibility that this game may go on forever, and that in the last analysis the only real losers will be poor Hartley and the long-suffering (and long-typing) Gameamaster. Gasp.

DIJON (October 12, 1906): Conradno de Bergerking arrived in this capital of the Burgundian Kingdom to be crowned King on the morrow. ((Scratch one 'sic.')) In his inaugural speech, which was ghost-written by a lispy dwarf found on the palace staff, the following passages occur:

"We weep for the peoples of Italy, foully tormented beneath the Turkish yoke.

"The Satanic Sodomie Islamites even now vent their spleens, among other lesser organs, on the suffering sisters, brothers, grandmothers, toddlers and colliers of Italy. We are aghast.

"I shall order the armed might of Burgundy forth to rescue our Italian brethren."

Considering that Conradno's only previous public statement on the Italians is recorded to have been, "Man, looka da boobs on dat nun!," this outpouring of compassion and Italophilism is remarkable.

PSPT TO AERE: Ensure appropriate regulations for vacating PMQ are strictly adhered to. In particular, note conditions of occupancy contained in CFAO 28-3. This HQ willing to support claim under QR & O 209.865, however.

CANELDUNGLINOLEUH: Emperor Charles LeMangy has announced the changing of the Imperial Name to better please the new subjects of the Empire of Caledonia and Points South. From now on the Emperor shall be called Charles MacLeMangy.

VENICE: Z-Z-Z-Z-Z-Z--huh?... "Death to-a the Tharathenth!!" ...what?... I'm playing Austria?... oh!... "Tot den Turken!!" (Anita, come back!!!)

PARIS: Professor Towheel has finally announced the perfection of the Armored Self-Propelled Lance, Mark Four. Working in conjunction with Russian scientists and engineers headed by Vladimir Snotsky, designer of the original Polish Cannon, the Franco-Ruscky design team has managed to combine all the best points of both great weapons into one weapons-system.

The new Mark Four outclasses all other ASPLs in that it has eliminated the fuel problem so evident in earlier marks (which could rarely travel more than four hundred yards without needing refueling) by eliminating the steam engine which powered older models. In its place, the Mark IV uses a treadmill-walking elephant! The elephant (an E-5 slot) also provides the chief weapon of the Mk. IV, being the chief component of the Polish Cannon, firing forward over the snowplow. This provides the distant-fire capacity also lacking in the older ASPLs. The lance is, of course, still carried, mounted center-on in the snowplow for more effective use as a secondary weapon after closing with enemy positions.

With a crew of five, counting the elephant, and a speed of almost 17 versts an hour, plus the unimaginable impact of the Polish Cannon, this fearsome new weapon is expected to revolutionize warfare. Already, factories in Paris are turning out the first of an order of three hundred for the Imperial Russian Army. Plans are being made to set up other assembly plants in central Caledonia (old England) to manufacture another 600 for the Caledonian Guards, after modifications. Modifications for the Caledonian service include the fitting of skirts and bagpipes to the elephant.

SPECIAL NOTE: Beginning next page will appear a brief ditty slightly revised by your Editurd. This fact owes its origins to the presence in the original manuscript of large dog tooth marks - another first for the Grendelry!

DAMASCUS (AIN): This morning Almeryl the Just, the former Crown Prince, was made sultan in the new capital of the Empire. This marks the triumphant conclusion of the spontaneous revolution of the past three months, which started when the loyal warriors of Islam, on their own initiative, attacked the forces of the perfidious Hapsburg at a time when the indolent and corrupt Suleiman V (accursed be his name) was prepared to tolerate the treacherous attack on Russia by the Austrian infidels. In his first public statement since his victory, Almeryl the Just vowed to avenge the thousands of Russians slaughtered by the "Austrian butchers," and pledged that "Until the last Austrian soldier has withdrawn from Russia the forces of Islam will wage an unrelenting war of blood revenge on behalf of our Russian brothers."

Although the regime of Maria the Young collapsed under the righteous assault of the Islamic people, it is not yet known what the attitude of the new government will be.

COPENHAGEN: The Caledonian Old Guard Polin Highland Carabineers led the massed and tartaned host of the Caledonian invasion force ashore into Tivoli Gardens, pipes askirl and kilts aswirl and the banners of Caledonia fluttering over the utterings of the officers. Already the proclamation has gone out: **BURGUNDY FALLS!**

"But, zis ees not Burgundy; zis can not possibly be Burgundy. By ze map alaone ees it already four hundred of miles outre, how you say, eet ees wrong to ze north. Why embark you here, mon General?" The representative of the Imperial Court was very worried.

"Weel, mon men signed up fur to fight the Burgundians, on itis Burgundians they're gonna fight, even if they have to manufacture a few. Besides, this way we can march doon through the Germans and take the Burgundians in the rear, heh heh."

"But...but...won't the Germans object?"

"To being taken in the rear? Of course not, mon. Haven't you heard? They're being run by the Chief Buggerer o' Europe, Lance Bill!"

"Where have I heard that name before?"

"Probably in old Carrolls or hymns."

THORSHAVN (Faeroe Islands): A massive crowd of local citizenry both witnessed the arrival of PB (Polish Battleship) Flotilla squadrons 14 and 65 at the Government Elder Feather Processing Plant pier. The arrival of the two Russian fleet units in the Faeroes was unexpected, according to official sources here, but presumed to result from rising fuel shortages at their home port of Riga. Although communications with the interior of Russia are highly unreliable and/or slow due to the Austro-German blockade and the necessity for dispatches to be passed through the only salt water port with free lines of communication to the outside world (Vladivostok), it has been estimated that although the two units could have moved to Kronstadt, the Acting High Admiral of the Baltic Naval District (Lieutenant-Commander Iybeen Leftudie) determined that the existing stockpile would only suffice to maintain those naval units now left in the Gulf of Finland - specifically, elements of the 354th Arty. Regt. (PC) (with attached Marine Waterwing Company), the light cruiser ADMIRAL SCHNEISCKOPF, the fleet auxiliary trawler WHALECILLBEEFHOOKEED (formerly SS TILLEY BLIGHT), three floating lighthouses, two otters and fassarian's garbage scow - for a possible last-ditch defense of St. Petersburg and the fortress island of Kronstadt.

Accordingly, it was determined that the nine remaining PB 5s of the 14th and 65th would capitalize on their superior speed, power and mobility and make the thirty-eight minute voyage through the Skagerrak and the North Sea to the Faeroes, where the more astute among our readers will recognize the strategic potential implicit in locating a fleet unit at the very source of its supply of turnips and eider duck feathers. The flotilla's passage through the Baltic was largely uneventful due to the surprising absence of German fleet units in the area. However, authorities are rumored to be investigating an unconfirmed report from an American oceanographic vessel that they are unable to locate Bornholm but have discovered a new sand bar.

The government of the Faeroe Islands Fishing Cooperative has also passed a note of apology to the French Government with regret that operational necessity precluded advance warning of the PB's passage through the North Sea which resulted in the unintentional swamping of several dozen small French MTBs and destroyers.

THE SUBURBS OF MOOSE FACTORY: "Well, we're here," observed Moeshoeshoens, the faithful Nez Percé slave, with surprising originality.

"Oh?" sneered Hasdrubal, wiggling his ears, "And where precisely did you expect we'd be?"

"For that matter," observed Ralph, "In an absolutist sense we have always been 'here'."

"Moreover," amplified Hamilcar, "In an abolitionist sense, whether we are here or not, we are sure to be forgiven for it."

"And yet," interposed Stadacona Silverman, "In an abolitionist sense no matter where we are we've got to change the fact."

"However," offered Admiral Antoine 'Puffa-Puffa' de Grasse from the back of the boat, "In an abolitionist sense, we will have to purify the place before we do anything else."

"Yes," inserted Hannibal, "But in an abasquulationist sense, after we do whatever we do we won't be around to see it."

"That's because you're going to shut up and row," lashed Moeshoeshoens.

"But we're here!" wailed Hannibal.

"As I was saying," began Ralph....

"Which reminds me," re-wiggled Hasdrubal, "How did you get here?"

"We've always been here," reminded Stadacona Silverman.

"And of utmost importance in the fact that I'm here, and what more do you want?" strutted de Grasse.

"All right, all right!" yelled Hamilcar. "So we're all here, wherever 'here' is, and we always have been even though we just arrived, and we've been excused the fact even though we plan to change it, and we have to purify even as we leave. Now what?!"

"Now we're out of space on the page," answered Hannibal, "About which I couldn't care less 'cos I'm still way reading."

NEXT MONTH: The Stampede Movie Boat.