

"Se non e vero, e ben trovato." (If it isn't truth, it should be.)

—Italian proverb.

"If Life isn't a joke, let's make it one." (Stolen from K. Baumgartner's quotes).

midlife

VOLUME 10

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1984

crisis IS BACK

STANDING TALL

SEE
RONALD REAGAN
SIDESTEP
HUGE
DEFICITS!



Yeah, this is Paul G. Huterberg, of 4922 N. Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee WI 53208; phone me late at night or during the day (hey, so it's expensive—you wanna call me and not listen to the phone ring and ring and ring) at 414-778-0750. The name of this zine is **MIDLIFE CRISIS**, and this is late, why? Well, I'm working seven days a week; I'm still looking for a bar (see the last page for further details); I have suffered an attack of—believe it or not—vertigo (thank god it wasn't caused by over-consumption of alcohol, so I can keep on drinking with impunity) which was caused by an inner ear infection; I've been trying to keep on negotiating in my 30 plus games; and, well, you get the idea. Hey, the players got their game results on time, and the readers didn't get charged for what would certainly have been a January warehouse issue. So the readers got a deal, although they may have been slow to realize it.

I had intended to include 3 original articles by yours truly, on the topics of 1) Lies, 2) Post-stab letters, and 3) how to deal with novices. However, all three were rushed, and far below my personal writing standards. So, rather than embarrass myself with poorly written junk on important topics, I'll give you all world-historically important articles over the next few months. Another deal for those of you who may be slow to realize it.

Author defends 'moral' lies

By United Press International

Roland Baker says he's not surprised that people lie, but is shocked that they do it "casually, unimaginatively, carelessly, without paying attention to the chances they are taking, and do so without feeling guilty about it."

Baker has written a book telling people how and when to lie and when not to lie.

"It provides a standard reference for responsible people who feel that the truth does not always suit their purposes and that a person who always adheres to the truth is likely to be taken advantage of," he says in "The Liar's Manual (Norton-Hall, \$22.95)."

Baker's three rules for a moral lie:

• It should produce material and tangible benefits for you, rather than self-aggrandizement.

• Except when used against an enemy in combat, lying should not be fatal or overwhelmingly taxing to the opposition.

• Lying should be part of a self-defense mechanism.

The author's tips on mastering the art include:

• A lie must be believable.

• The successful liar must be disciplined, calculating and modest.

• Practice makes perfect.

• The best liars don't lie all the time.

• There must be a good motive for lying.

He argues that lying should be legitimized in society as a means of privacy and of self-protection.

"I do not promote lying as a way of life, and certainly do not consider it as an easy solution to every problem or as a way to avoid responsibility." Baker writes in the book's conclusion.

MADISON REPORT

FROM JAMES WALL:

I originally wasn't going to rise to the occasion after reading Osuch's opinion of the Mad Mob, yet the more I think of it, the more something needs to be said. I'm sorry that Osuch took such a poor opinion of the Mob, yet I must say that had I not played in a game with him, I probably would not even have remembered that he was there at all. I also wasn't aware that Osuch was such a teetotaler, or I would have drunk twice as much. After all, alcohol is just another drug, and I recall he didn't just drink soady-pop all weekend. My, isn't it easy to condemn those who do not conform to one's own built in standards. The type of opinion that Osuch expressed in that letter is the type of judging that was rampant during the Coughlan/Martin feud. I guess that I'm just a little saddened that there are small minded elements in the hobby who are unwilling to accept others as they are. To me, that is what makes the hobby; meeting on an equal basis others whom I would not get to know otherwise and enjoying them as they are. I feel sorry for Osuch, but I must admit I'm glad he and his judgmental disposition moved to Arizona, so that he won't have to pollute the Mid West with his holier-than-thou attitude. Nuff said on this.

On the other hand, after reading the letter by Dwayne Shreve, I am of the opinion that the Midwest needs to make an effort to get him back in the fold. He left the Midwest Clique before the advent of the Mad Mob, so I've never met him personally, but I suspect that we'd get along just fine (Osuch must have hated Shreve). ((Surprisingly, the opposite was true; if I recall correctly, Osuch and Shreve were bosom buddies!))

I'll venture a guess on what Tallman meant with the line about "Crane" ((in issue 8)): he was referring to Phil Crane, who was in the 1980 Republican primaries ((wasn't he screwing his female pages until he got caught with his hand in the, er, cookie jar?)). He was a victim of a brutal smear campaign by a New Hampshire newspaper that questioned not only his morals but those of his wife as well. ((You seen his wife was screwing around with female pages? Oh my)) If this is not on the mark I must admit that you were right and it makes absolutely no sense. I'll also venture the guess that I'm not a likely candidate for a Mad Lad he likes to work with, which bothers me not at all.

AND FROM CARL RUSSELL:

Far be it from me to avoid controversy. I'd like to comment on Terry Tallman's accusations vs. the "Mad Lads." He made one valid point—the Mad Lads' style of play is from too much FTF play. I agree with this because I've played in a few FTF games myself in the past year. Here's the list: 3 Byrnecons, Kalamazoo, Marycon, Origins, Pudgecon, Rochester, and 3 Endwell cons. That's a lot of FTF play. ((Yeah, but you missed Madcon and all the Rusnakcons!)) My FTF play has changed radically since I started playing. I learned painful lessons at K-zoo and Marycon. My play has improved somewhat, and I believe it's because I've become a Mad Lad myself! There's nothing wrong with stabbing for one center if the stab leads you to your objectives/goals for the future. ((True enough—I stabbed for no centers in a Fall season of Chesscake 1981 HC, but it put me in position to win the game....)) But too many stabs, and you have no allies. It's not for me to say that Mad Lad #3 stabs too much as I don't know a lot about them. If anyone should comment about the Mad Lads, it should be yourself. You've seen their games PB&I and FTF, so you have a good idea of how they play.

I think Tallman whines too much about being stabbed. The Mad-Hobbers should be proud of the Mad-Lad Label. Their record speaks for itself.

((Oh, oh. You want MY assessment of the Madison Mobsters? They're all good friends of mine, and they love to party. Dale Bakken, the Mad Man, is an incredible party dude; I am not sure if I have ever seen him totally straight. Mark Frush gets a real pseudo-sexual thrill out of stabbing; it is in his blood. But he is the most improved player that I've encountered over the last 25 months. Peters is a very capable tactician who could rise to the top of the rankings if he played in more games. Wall can be reasoned with, but you have to keep in very close touch with him in your letters. Burn him once, and he won't forget it.))

THE INTELLIGENSIA IN RUSSIA, continued.

—by Steve Burant

Given the lack of personal autonomy, it is not surprising that individuals seek to escape from the horrendous social situation or look for ways to ease the burden.

1) Among the most important of these means of escape is one known throughout the world. In the USSR it takes the form of vodka. People drink at home, on the job, with friends. Consumption of alcohol in the Soviet Union is among the highest in the world; it ranks seventh out of 24 developed nations in the consumption of alcohol in all forms. Excluding beer and wine, the USSR is number one. The average person of drinking age consumes six litres of spirits per year (in France and the U.S., the average is 4.7 litres per year). In the Soviet case, these statistics do not take into account the production of samogon (moonshine) which in 1967-72 amounted to one third the state production of alcohol. B. Melania, a Soviet demographer, estimates that the overall economic losses resulting from the consumption of alcohol exceed state revenues from its sale. The problem is that great.

((continued next month))

Little Ivan Can't Read This Book!!!

That's because Ivan lives in a Communist country, one where he and everyone else has been "liberated" from the anxiety of having to choose what they should read, say or think. Since the government makes these decisions for them, they are saved from the anxious moments of indecision brought on by Freedom of the Press, Freedom of Speech, and Freedom to Choose.

Ivan and his friends have been "liberated" from something else, too, that awful system of exploitation called Capitalism. This has very real consequences for us here in the U.S., particularly for U.S. workers. According to a study by the New York Stock Exchange, the reason Japan is kicking our ass in international markets is the immense superiority of their educational system to ours, which results in their average workers being far more technically sophisticated than ours.

If this is so, then why is it that the Soviet Union, which has an educational system equal to or better than Japan's, isn't anywhere near the industrial juggernaut that Japan is? Especially when a quick glance at a globe shows you how much bigger - and how much bigger of a potential competitor - the USSR is compared to Japan.

Why isn't the USSR operating at Japan's level? It's because Ivan and his friends have been "liberated" from Capitalism and now enjoy impoverished alcoholic slavery under Communism. Just think, U.S. workers can't beat a little country like Japan. What would happen to your job prospects if the USSR wasn't shackled with an obsolete form of 19th Century bureaucratic fascism? You don't want to have to actually work to compete with a free Ivan, do you? Not with the miserable excuse for an education you were provided with by the crumbling 19th Century U.S. educational system?

You can help maintain America's competitive edge, or you can turn the page.

 KONSTANTIN CHENHEIKO

 TO: ~~Yuri Andropov~~, The Kremlin, Moscow, USSR.

Yes, I realize that a drug-addled, ill-educated poster like myself couldn't possibly win in a fair international marketplace against a bunch of well-disciplined technician-workers like yours. Please keep your people enslaved, I'm having enough problems with the Japanese.

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP

ANONYMOUS GAME

Spring 1904

I have received a letter from the Italian player on 30 January, stating that I should have back-up orders on file for Italy in this season. After looking through my files, I have found a set of "general orders" for Spring 1904 attached to the Italian Fall 1903 orders. Sigh. Okay—here is a re-adjudication of Spring 1904 with the Italian orders. Italy—I'll accept "general orders" or "future orders," but please write each of them on separate sheets of paper, so that they can be inserted in the proper files as soon as I receive them.

NOTES: The German unit listed in Baltic is really F Dan; Germany's A Tyr is in Vie and Italy has an army in Tyrolia. The Russian A Mos is really A War. My apologies. I am taking a course in remedial reading at the local elementary school.

GERMAN INGRATES REFUSE AUSTRIAN HOSPITALITY; OVERSTAY FRENCH WELCOME

AUSTRIA (Vienna waits for You); A Gal-S-GER A Vie-Bud (NSO), F Tri-Adr, A Ser-S-TURK F Gre (OTW).

ENGLAND (Unknown Standby): F Nth-Det.

FRANCE (Casual Sutterby); A Bre-Gas, A Par-Bar, F War-GOL, F Spain so H, F Mid-Wes, F Eng-Lon, F Bel-Nth, A Lpl-Yor, A Edi-S-A Lpl-Yor.

GERMANY (Konrad v. Kriegen); A Swe-Fin, F Nwy-Nth, F Dan-Hel, F Hol-Hel, A Sur-Bel, A Mun-Sil, A Boh-Tyr, A Vie-S-RUSSIAN A Rum-Bud.

ITALY (Erin Thomas); A Tyrolia to Mun, F Ion-Aeg, A Alb-Gre, F Adr-S-F Nap-Ion (cut plus no such unit in Nap).

RUSSIA (Herpe Il Rutarukuckoff); A Rum-Bud, F Sev H, A Ukr-S-F Sev, A War-Gal.

TURKEY (Rhusy Underwhere); F Con-Say, F Gre-Ion, A Bul-Rum, A Arm-Sev, F Blk-S-A Arm-Sev.

THE FALL 1904 deadline is Saturday, 25 Feb, 1984.

ANONYMOUS PRESS

UNK STAN TO KONRAD: But you ARE a member of the Mob. Only Mob members call Frush "Puppy." I have finally ascertained your identity, James. You can't hide. By the way, I am neither Daf nor Steve Langley. Try again. It amazes me that no one has guessed who I am. You guys are in for a shock.

UNK MD TO UNK STAN: It amazes me too. It seems so obvious who you are.

UNK STAN TO GM: I'm back to guessing. Maybe Caz is really Derwood Bowen?

RHUSY TO UNK STAN: Gee, Unk Stan, I know who I am, but do you know that Germany is a Tallan toady—that's right, Palter's twin. Stay alive for further clues.

KvK-UNK STAN: Yee, that F Nth has nuisance value, but that is it. Why not harass France some—you'll notice several light blue units around and in England, but no black ones. Off my back, already!! By the way, you've piqued my curiosity with your claim that you cannot discuss your explanation without giving away your identity. Let's see...that makes you Paul himself, who couldn't find a standby in time....

PAUL TO KvK: You don't know how close to the Frickin' truth you are....

KvK to VIENNA: You're welcome, you're welcome, you're welcome! Anschluss? No, no, we're humane Krauts. The horrors of Anschluss and its like is years away yet. By the way, you did try for Sil, I hope? I really don't want to be there.

KvK TO FRANCE: I still have this uneasy feeling; like you might be the type to hold a grudge. Well, if there are fleets in Lyo, Wes, and Naf, I'll be able to sleep nights, and Italy will be the guy who has to worry.

KvK to RHUSY: A Beatles reference? Wow, then you must be...but no, I'm told he's France. Oh, I'm so confused! Cause France must be from California, he's so laid back and cool. Oh, I give up!

FRANCE TO GERMANY: Get your ass out of Burgundy, boah!! ((Sic!))

GERMANY TO FRANCE: I'se gittin', I'se gittin'!

1983 AN

PORCELAIN ODD

Fall, 1903

AUSTRIANS SHORE AMIDST HONIGRIND GAME: ONLY FIVE UNITS MOVE!
 ((MARK BENCH: Is this a record?))

AUSTRIA (David Blylock? Rt. 1, Box 630, Canton NC. 28716); NRH.
 F Tri, A Bud, A Rum, A Gal, A Vie all hold.

ENGLAND (Robert Acheson, c/o Echo Bay Hines, Lupin, INT CANADA XOE 1ND);
 F Nwy-S-F Skag-Swe, F Skag-Swe, A Yrk-Lpl.

FRANCE (Bill Becker, 810 Turwill, Kalamazoo MI 49007); F N(d-S-A Spain,
 F Wal-Lpl, F Eng-Lon (no such unit), A Spa-S-A Har, A Har-S-A Spa,
 F Tri holds unordered.

GERMANY (Russ Rusanak, 8002 S. Nagle, Burbank, IL. 60459); A Tyr-r-Hunich,
 A Hun-S-A Boh-Tyr, A Boh-Tyr, F Nth-Edi, A Den-S-RUSSIAN F Swe,
 F Hel-s-A Den, A Bur-S-FRENCH A Har.

ITALY (Jim Makuc, Box 111, Monterey, MA. 02145); A Tyr-S-AUS A Vie-Boh
 (dislodged, retreat to Van, OTB), A Pie-Har, F GOL-S-F Was-Spa so,
 F Was-Spain so. ~~F Tyr-Swe~~ F Tyr-Wed.

RUSSIA (Dale Bakken, 1116 Ann St. Apt. 12, Madison, WI 53713); F Swe H,
 A Mos-Stp, A War-Sil, A Ukr-Rus.

TURKEY (Chuck Kaplan, 742 Grouse Ct. Deerfield, IL. 60015); F Aeg-Ion,
 A Bul-S-AUSTRIAN A Rum, A Sev-Id;f, A Arm-Sev, F Blk-S-A Arm-Sev.

Will Carl Russell, 21 Morgan Rd, Binghamton, NY. 13903, please submit
 standby orders for AUSTRIA? The deadline for Winter 1903/Spring 1904 is
 Saturday, 25 February, 1984. Since there is only one build and no removals
 this season, let's try to avoid a separation of seasons, eh guys?

1983 AN

SUPPLY CHART

Winter 1903

AUSTRIA has Tri, Vie, Bud, Rum, Bor. (5) Even.
 ENGLAND has Lon, Lpl, ~~Edi~~, Nwy. (3). Even.
 FRANCE has Bre, par, Har, Spa, por. (5). Even.
 GERMANY has Hun, Bor, Kiel, Den, Hol, Bel, Edi. (7) May build one.
 ITALY has Van, Rom, Nap, Tun, Gre. (5) Even.
 RUSSIA has StP, Mos, War, Swe. (4) even.
 TURKEY has Con, Ank, Sev, Sev, Bul. (5) Even.

PORCELAIN PRESS

ANKARA-WORLD: The General on the northern front has been shot for in-
 competence. Corporal Sleaze has been chosen to lead the Turkish people
 to the promised land, Wales.

UNK NO TO ANKARA: Hey, you chief honcho of sow town! Don't cha know that
 Da Sleaze was deposed years ago? He's gone and forgotten, like you should be.

ANKARA TO BERLIN: No, I don't have horns and a tail. I do have a very
 sharp pitchfork though.

PARIS: And lo, out of the darkness floating upon the water came Makuc,
 Mighty of the disbelievers, churning the waters in such chaos as to suck
 himself in....

UNK NO TO PARIS: ...And thus spake the twisted manipulators of language,
 who indulged themselves in fanciful attributions to posticians.

ITALY TO THE WORLD: Let's try not to have an absence of press occur like
 last turn again.

UNK NO TO ITALY: So who's fault is that, eh?

NAPLES TO ENYRNA: I hope you didn't cross me.

ENGLAND TO TURKEY: Co-ordination. I know that is a pretty hard word to spell
 ((let alone to type)) but try it once; you may like the results.

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1982 HQ

SLEAZE ONE

Fall 1906

FRANCE GAINS THE UPPER HAND

- AUSTRIA (Mark Frueh, 1013 Milton St. #304, Madison, WI 53715);
A Smy-Ank, F Aeg-S-FRENCH F Con, A Bul-S-A Ser-Rum, A Ser-Rum,
A Rum-Gal, A Bud-S-A Rum-Gal, A Vie-S-A Rum-Gal, A Boh-S-FREN A Mun.
- ENGLAND (David Pierce, 13521 Pleasant Lane, Burnsville, MN. 55337);
F Lpl retreated to Wales, F Wal-Lon, A Edi holds (dis, ret. to Yor, OTB),
F Eng-Mid, F Bre-S-F Eng-Mid, F Hel-Nth.
- FRANCE (Derwood Bowen, 1643 Grandtway Ln, Columbus, OH. 43229);
F Con holds, A Mun-S-AUS A Boh-Sil (NSO), A Ruh-S-A Mun,
A Bur-Bel, F Mid H (dis, ret. to Iri, Gas, Por, Spa, Wes, Naf, OTB),
F NAO-S-F Lpl, F Lpl H, F Gly-S-F Nth-Edi, F Nth-Edi.
- RUSSIA (Michael Quirk, 3830 Chester, Glenview, IL. 60025); F Nwy-Nwg,
F Hol-Bel, A Kis-Ruh, A Ber-Mun, A Sil-S-A Ber-Mun, A War-Gal,
A Ukr-S-A War-Gal, A Mos-Sev.
- TURKEY (Keith Sherwood, 8866 Cliff Ridge Ave, La Jolla, CA. 92037);
F Ank holds, F Bik-S-F Ank.

A F/A draw has been proposed. No vote received counts as a "No" unless you NMR, in which case it counts as a "Yes." The deadline for Winter 06/Spring 07 and the draw votes is Saturday, 25 February, 1984.

1982 HQ

SUPPLY CHART

Winter 1906

- AUSTRIA Has Vie, Bud, Tri, Ser, Bul, Rum, Gre, Ven, Smy. (9). Even but one annihilated, may build one more.
- ENGLAND Has Lon, Bre, Lpl, Edi, Nwi, Nwy. (3). Must remove 2.
- FRANCE Has Hé, Par, Mar, Por, Spa, Bel, Tun, Ros, Nap, Mun, Lpl, Edi.
Con. (12) May build 3, room for only 2.
- GERMANY Has Mun. (0) OUT!
- RUSSIA Has StP, Mos, War, Sev, Swa, Den, Kis, Ber, Hol. (9). May build one.
- TURKEY Has Ánk, Ank. (1). Must remove one.

SLEAZY PRESS

RUSSIA TO TURKEY: No, I have never heard of a rock group called Shoes. Maybe our esteemed GM has heard of them. ((Nope!))

RUSSIA TO WORLD: Over the next few seasons we will be publishing excerpts from Mark Frueh's autobiography, which is entitled The Naked Civil Engineer. Here is an excerpt from Chapter IV: "High school was mostly a bitch, but gym class provided some relief. The locker room was fun and so was touch football until the coach made a rule that I could only touch the boys above the waist. At least the teachers liked me; they all said that a was a fairly good student."

MOSCOW TO DERWOOD: There is still time for you and I to crust Frueh like the insect he is.

FRANCE TO UNK NO: Gosh, were my moves really that bad? ((Not this season.))

FRANCE TO GERMANY: I am surprised at your violent reaction to The Curley Shuffle. I see the song as a fun song, and well within keeping with the spirit of the Three Stooges. I am very much a fan of the trio, as my dip playing will most certainly attest, and don't see anything wrong with that dumb song. I doubt that Moe, or any of the others, could be too upset with a song that commemorates their zaniness by being zany too.

DERWOOD, UPON LEARNING MAD LAD WAYS AT THE HAND OF MARK: Did I do Okay, Uncle Mark? I got lots of dots this turn, and lost only one. I thought I had already gotten rid of that mean ol' Tailman, but if you still see him hiding in England I'll scour the countryside until I find him and get him out of here for ever.

SLEAZY PRESS cont ~~page~~
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PORNOGRAPHIC PRIESTESS

Fall 1903

TAWDRY MEANS OR LOFTY ENDS?

AUSTRIA (John Kador, 505 Second Ave, Melbourne Beach, FL. 32951);
 F Aeg-S-RUSSIAN F Con-Say, A Sil-Mop, A Tyr-Ven, A Alb-Tri, A Via-Tyr,
 F Adr-S-A Tyr-Ven.

ENGLAND (David Pierce, 13521 Pleasant Lane, Burnsville, MN 55337);
 F NAO-Mid, F Mid-Bre, F Eng-S-F Mid-Bre, A Pic-S-F Mid-Bre,
 F Nth-Hol.

FRANCE (Michael Quirk, 3830 Chester, Glenview, IL. 60025);
 F Mid-r-Naf, A Spa-r-Por. F Naf-Tun, A Por-Spa, A Gas-S-A Bre,
 A Par-S-A Bre, A Bre-S-A Par.

GERMANY (James Woodson, (COA), PO Box 18645, Corpus Christi, TX. 78418);
 A Bar-S-A Mun, A Mun-S-ITAL A Pie-Tyr (NSO and cut),
 A Pur-Rtd, F Den-Bal.

ITALY (Don Swartz, 8708 Strawberry Lane, #409, Louisville, KY. 40214);
 F GOL-Mar, F Spa ac-S-F GOL-Mar, A Pie-S-F GOL-Mar, A Ven holds
 (dislodged, retreat to Rom, Tus, Apu, OTS).

RUSSIA (James Wall, 27 N. Mills St. Apt. 3, Madison WI 53715);
 F Both-Bal, F Swe-S-F Both-Balt, F Ars-Ank, F Con-Say, A War-Pru,
 A Lvn-S-A War-Pru, A Boh-S-AUST A Sil-Mun.

TURKEY (Neil Kieraz, 108 Humphrey Rd, Great Valley, NY. 14741);
 A Ank-Con, A Say-S-A Ank-Con. (dislodged, ret to Syr, Ars, OTS).

The deadline for Winter 1903 and Spring 1904 is Saturday, 25 February, 1984.

1983 A1

SUPPLY CHART

Winter 1903

AUSTRIA HAS Via, Bud, Tri, Ser, Gre, Bul, Ven. (7) May build one.
 ENGLAND has Lon, Ed, Lpl, Nwy, Bel, Hol. (6) May build one.
 FRANCE has Bre, Par, Mdy, Por, Ed, Tun. (4) Must remove one.
 GERMANY has Mun, Bar, Kis, Den, Mdl. (4) Even with one annihilated.
 ITALY HAS Ydn, Rom, Nap, Tdn, Spa, Mar. (4) Even.
 RUSSIA has StP, War, Mos, Sev, Swe, Rum, Ed, Ank, Bay. (8) May build one.
 TURKEY has Ank, Ed, Con. (1). Must remove one.

PORNO PRESS

LONDON TO BERLIN: I told you not to do that! 13-5-27-2-7.

ST PETE-BERLIN: If the only way I can get a piece of Quirk is to be to Germany first, that's what I have to do.

POR-WORLD: Those damn French. In and Out, In and Out, we offer such riches and good climate to anybody who will stop this interminal in and out.

AUSTRIA TO TURKEY: Thanksgiving is over. But it came too early for you.

AUSTRIA TO RUSSIA: Sir, I'll admit your general rule
 That every poet is a fool
 Yet you yourself may serve to show it,
 Every fool is not a poet!

ST.PETE-BERLIN: We are fighting because you went to Silesia unprovoked, lied as to why you were there, and then thought I'd believe you. Well, I don't, and goodbye.

SWITZERLAND TO BOARD: Boy, are you guys boring! How about a little press from all you dead beats?

RUSSIA TO ENGLAND: I hope you want to extend your power with me indefinitely. We certainly have no problems at this point. Let's keep it that way, please?

PORCELAIN PRESS, CONT.

ENGLAND TO RUSSIA: Elimination isn't something to needlessly worry about; it's part of the game. It's just like suicide is a part of life; try it, you'll probably like it.

ENGLAND TO FRANCE: Get out of that prossic pen of yours, maybe Germany will accept you back as a lesser ally, or maybe a vassal, or maybe as a serf.

1983 y

MISSIONARY POSITION

Spring 1904

TWO GAMES BEING FOUGHT ON OPPOSITE ENDS OF THE BOARD?

AUSTRIA (Nelson Heintzman, #C-4, 2255 Delaware Ave, Buffalo, NY. 14215);
 A Gal-Vie, A Ser-Tri, A Bud-S-A Ser-Tri, A Bul-Gre, A Smy-Ank,
 F Con-Aeg. (dislodged, retreat to Smy, OTB).

ENGLAND (Jim Makuc, Box 111, Monterey, MA. 01245); A Wal-Lon, F Nth-Edi.

FRANCE (Dave Schaubert? PSC 1, Box 1745, Fairchild AFB, WA. 99011);
 NMR, F Mid, A Bre, A Par, A Pic all hold. A Ser dislodged, may
 retreat to Gas or Mar, or OTB. See notes below.

GERMANY (Pat Frye, 6904 Scotch Drive, Laurel, MD. 20707); A Dan-Kiel,
 A Ber-Sil, A Mun-Tyr, A RUHR-Bur, A Bel-S-A Ruh-Bur, A Hol-S-A Bel,
 F Lon-Eng.

ITALY (Russ Ruznak, 8002 S. Nagle, Burbank, IL. 60459); A Tyr-Vie,
 A Tri-S-A Tyr-Vie (dislodged, may retreat to Ven, Alb, OTB),
 F Gre-Aeg, F Nap-Lon, F Rom-Tyr, F Ion-Adr.

RUSSIA (Nancy Irwin, 4109 Magnolia Ave, 1 North, St. Louis, MO. 63110);
 F Ank-Con, F Blk-S-F Ank-Con, A Nwy-Edi, F Nwg-C-A Nwy-Edi,
 A Sev-Ukr, A War-Sil, F Ska-Swe, A Rum-Li.

TURKEY (Jim Burgess, 100 Holden St, 3rd Left, Providence, RI. 02908);
 No real units remaining, but the ghost of A Arn wanders into Syria.

Will Konrad Baumelster, Box 8039 Hanle, Washington DC. 20057, please standby
 for France? Dave Schaubert, your \$5.00 NMR deposit has been expended. Any
 further NMRs will be deducted from your sub balance, or you can deposit another
 5 bucks. THE DEADLINE for Fall 1904 is Saturday 25 February, 1984.

MISSIONARY PRESS

RUSS TO NELSON: I have a feeling that you most likely have decided to ally
 with the skirt, however this game has gotten so dull do ((sic)) to a lack of
 writing that I may as well let you walk in. Also if you were telling the
 truth we are set at this point. Besides how could I continue to attack
 someone who gives such great motherly lectures.

RUSS TO NANCY: Are we pointing down in St. Louis because of a missed communi-
 cation earlier or is it that you are simply bored with the game. You could
 at least return one note, even if it says nothing more than go to hell.

GERMANY TO EUROPE AND UNK NO: ((Oops, I printed this release last issue!))

AUSTRIA TO ITALY: So, I'm incompetent, am I? Perhaps, perhaps not...but
 there are many typos and levels of incompetence, my friend. Methinks you
 are not immune either, especially when it comes to tact. Speaking of which,
 basically, air, I have had it with your BS, so, take a hike, bro.

JIM-BOB TO EUROPEAN MUTS: Not much action here. Ruznak builds fleets. Why
 did these seasons have to be separated? I know! It's the lazy negotiating!
 I'm not going to say another word this month (except this). If no one but me
 wrote press I'm going to fade away a little faster.

JIM TO PAT CONLON: Thanks. I appreciate the extra issues.

SLEAZY PRESS cont.

FRANCE TO PITBCE: Let's see now. I move from the Nth to Hol, and you move
 from English Channel to Belgium. I knew you'd figure a way to sway them again.

AUSTRIA TO RUSSIA: Way to go! Outguessed me twice now eh? Well, I'm sure
 you'll soon be going back to your predictable ol' self. Who's been giving you
 Dip tactics lessons? Perhaps Jack Frost? That's okay—I'll wipe you out yet!

NAPLES TO BREST: If you can get this far south, maybe you can make Frush look
 as bad as Darwood looks.

DAVIE TO MICHAEL: With Frush moves like that, I might begin to have second
 thoughts about your friendship.

WORLD TO FRANCE: Is that the dance where your hands do all the work?

SLEAZY PRESS CONT. NEXT....

SLEAZY PRESS, CONCLUDED....

CITY STATE OF ANKARA: We will fight to the last man, the last gun, the last bullet. A Sherwood position never rolls over dead. You must earn every dot.

TURKEY HAS ANGST IN HIS PANTS (AND RIPS OFF SPARKS' "IPREDICT")

You're gonna take a friend for a friend, and you're gonna get stabbed
(Mark and Darwood)
You're gonna trust a Mad Lad just a bit, and get stabbed real soon
(Mark and Darwood)
They're gonna find that Madlads are liars, and that Terry was right
(Mark and Darwood)
Are my wounds very deep? Yes, I know they're two creeps
(Mark and Darwood)
Darwood I've got news for you, You'll be a Madlad too
(Mark and Darwood)
They're gonna start stealing your dots, so you better prepare now
(Mark and Darwood)
They're gonna drink all of your beer, so you better get Drunk now
(Mark and Darwood)
And my country will die, and my country will die, and my country will die
(Mark and Darwood)

PLAYLIST

VELVET UNDERGROUND, "The Story of the V.U." Complete with the long version of Sister Ray. The cover sports these linear notes: "...eine band, die vor nichts haltmachte...bizarre Gruppen-geschichte...Andy Warhol sein Name half der Band, gehen zu lernen...die vor geschichte...mit und ohne Nico...die Show totale...eine animalische Mischung der Perversion dieser Gesellschaft...die Brillanz der atzenden Boshaftigkeit ging verloren..."

THE RAIN PARADE, "Emergency Third Rail Power Trip." Maybe the Sixties aren't gone after all. These guys sure sound like the birds—nest.

THE BLASTERS, (untitled). Better Rockabilly than the Stray Cats put out.

GREEN ON RED, "Gravity Talks." A nouveau-psychedelic band out of L.A. which seems to be suffering an identity crisis. On a couple of cuts, they sound like the Doors; on others like the Velvet Underground. Might amount to something when they begin sounding like Green on Red.

DAYTIME RADIO HERE IN MILWAUKEE has gotten so bad that I've taken to listening to a Black show when driving in the car. I'm favorably impressed. The music comes in several groups. One is standard slow soul; I hit the "reject" button for that. The next is electronic stuff that is pretty obviously ripped off from Krautrockers like Kraftwerk. Catchy. The best, though, is "Rap." These tunes, especially those done by a group called "Grandmaster Flash", show a pretty sophisticated sense of humor, and a basic knowledge of street life. Pick up on the singles "New York, New York" and "White Lines" for a revelation. Significant stuff.

FROM JAMES WOODSON: Who are the Mozarts of Today?

Recently, my father and I had an interesting discussion on the subject of Modern Music. He loves Classical music, and put a question to me. He wanted to know which of today's composers would be the ones who would be recognized as the masters of the day. Which of the "rock n' roll era" song-writers are the modern Bachs and Beethovens?

I suggested a few names like McCartney and Lennon and Paul Simon. I'm sure that the readers of Midlife Crisis will be able to supply a score more names. He (my father) countered that none of these has ever produced a "mature" work, a full symphony. All they had written were individual songs. I asked about movie soundtracks. He would not accept them as full compositions either.

Why is this? The great songwriters of today, whether they be rock n' rollers like McCartney or Simon, or more traditional style composers like Henry Mancini or John Williams, have only produced popular songs, a few "theme" albums, and movie scores. Even "rock operas" that the who have done don't qualify as anything like a symphony.

—concluded, next page. 16

WORLD WAR IIb

Spring 2101

UNRESTRICTED MOBILITY FOR ALL MAJOR POWERS AS WAR LOOMS ON THE HORIZON

ARGENTINA (Pierre Touchette, 1 Rue Georges, Masson, Quebec, CANADA, J0X 2H0);
A La Pampa to Cordoba, F Buenos Aires to SW Atlantic, F Santa Cruz to Falk Sound.

AUSTRALIA (Eric Ozog, 1526 N. Lawler Ave, Chicago, IL., 60651);
Fleet New S. Wales to Coral Sea, A Northern Terr to West Aus, F Was Aus to Timor.

BRAZIL (James Wall, 27 N. Mills St. Apt 3, Madison, WI 53715);
A Mato Grosso to Bolivia, A Belem to Amazonas, F Bahia to N. of Amazon.

CANADA (Ronald Brown, 1200 Summerville Ave, Ottawa, Ont, Canada, M1Z 8G4).
F Brit Columbia to Alaska, A Ontario to Saskatchewan, F Quebec nc to Lab Sea.

CHINA (John Jordan, P.O. Box 9516, Moscow, ID. 83843);
A Tsinghai to Singkang, A Szechwan to Inner Mongolia, F Honan to South China Sea.

EUROPEAN COMMON MARKET: (Mark Keller, 9536 Shumway Dr., Orangevale, CA 95862);
F Spain nc to West Med, F U.K. to North Sea, A France to Spain.

INDIA (Neil Kieruz, 108 Humphrey Rd, Great Valley, NY. 14741);
A Pradesh to Bangladesh, F Madras to Persian Gulf, A Rajasthan to Pakistan.

JAPAN (Jim Makuc, Box 111, Monterey, MA. 01245);
A Hokkaido to Sakhalin, F Honshu to East China Sea, F Kyushu to Philippine Sea.

KINGDOM OF U & L EGYPT (James Woodson—COA—P.O. Box 18645, Corpus Christi TX,
78418);
F Somalia to Red Sea, A Egypt to Libya, A Sudan to Kenya).

PERU (Jim Burgess, 100 Holden St, 3rd Left, Providence, RI. 02908);
F Ecuador to Gulf of Panama, A Inca to Cuzco, A Napo to Colombia.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA (Don Swartz, 6703 Strawberry Lane, Louisville KY 40214);
F Mozambique to Mozambique Channel, F Tranevall to SE Atl Ocean, A Angola-Zambia.

USSR (Dwayne Shreve, 4103 Wildwood, Chrystal Lake, IL. 60014);
F Russia nc to Baltic, A Georgia-Turkey, A Kazak-Turkmen, A Siberia-Mongolia,
F Kamchatka to Sea of Okhotsk.

USA (Michael Quirk, 3830 Chester, Glenview IL. 60025);
F California to NE Pacific Ocean, F Dixie to Berw Tri, A Texas to Mexico.

WARSAW PACT (Mark Frush, 1013 Milton St. #304, Madison, WI. 53715);
F Yugoslavia to Greece, A Hungary to Rumania, A Poland to Rumania.

WEST AFRICAN FED (Chuck Kaplan, 742 Grouse Ct. Deerfield, IL. 60015);
F Guinea to Gulf of Guinea, A Mali to Algeria, A Nigeria to Camerouns.

This gamestart was delayed by the request of 4 or more players, for various legitimate reasons. Midlife Crisis 10 was delayed for reasons explained on p. 1.

THE DEADLINE FOR FALL 2101 moves is MARCH 24, 1984.

WORLD WAR IIb PRESS

((No Dateline)): Warsaw Council announces its policy of self-help. We obtain our freedom by helping ourselves. Until then we await the peace and security of the USSR to protect us.

US TO CANADA: Three people told me you could not be trusted. I hope they were kidding.

US TO EUROPE: Frush must die. His murderer becomes my ally. US TO WORLD: We declare war upon the Warsaw Pact nations.

PERU TO THE GANG (and what a gang it is!): Good luck to all. This'll be wild.

CANADA: Canada proposes an adoption of the Monroe Doctrine, SEATO, NATO, and the establishment of positive western hemispheric cooperation.

CAIRO: The government of Egypt announced today that it has signed mutual defense pacts with both Kenya and Libya. Before the ink was dry Egyptian military units began moving towards Tripoli and Nairobi to aid in the "defense" of those countries. No comment as to who was threatening Kenyans and Libyans.

ANONYMOUS GAME

Fall 1904

GERMANY SEEKS ELBOW ROOM IN FRANCE, ENGLAND, RUSSIA, AUSTRIA AND ITALY; ITALY OCCUPIED BY EVERYONE BUT THE ITALIANS: ENGLISH STIFFED, STUFFED.

AUSTRIA (Vienna waits for You); A Serbia supports TURKISH A Rumania (OTM), F Trieste supports ITALIAN F Adr-Ven, (NSO), A Galicia to Vienna.

ENGLAND (UNKNOWN STANDBY): F Nth-Eng, (dis, ret, to Hel, Ska, Nwg, OTB).

FRANCE (Casual Butterby); A York-London, A Edin-H, F London to Eng, F Bel-S-F Lon-Eng, (dis, ret, to Pic, OTB), A Par-Dur, A Gas-Har, F GOL-Tyn, F Ven-Tun, F Spa no-GOL.

GERMANY (Konrad v. Kriegen); A Fin-StP, F Hay-Nth, F Den-S-F Nwy-Nth, A Dur-Bel, F Hol-S-A Dur-Bel, A Sil-Mar, A Tyr-Ven, A Vie-S-AUST A Gal-Bud (NSO).

ITALY (Erin Thomas); A Hun-Ber, A Gre-Say, F Aeg-C-A Gre-Say, F Adr-Alb.

RUSSIA (Herp II Rutarkukoff); F Sev-Rum, A Bud-S-F Sev-Rum, A War-Gal, A Ukr-Sev.

TURKEY (Rhusy Underwhere); F Ion-Nap, F Say-Aeg, A Rum-Ukr (dis, retreat to Bul, OTB); A Arm-Sev, F Bih-S-A Arm-Sev.

Farewell to the Unknown Standby, who is of course welcome to submit guest press whenever it is so inclined. Italy, I have provisional builds from you, but no provisional removals. THE DEADLINE FOR WINTER 1904 and SPRING 1905 is 24 March, 1984.

SUPPLY CHART

WINTER 1904

AUSTRIA:	Has Tri, Ser, Fid . (2). Must remove one.
ENGLAND:	Has StP . (0). OUT.
FRANCE:	Has Dre, Par, Mar, Spa, Por, Bel , Lon, Lpl, Edi, <u>Tun</u> . (3). Even.
GERMANY:	Has Mun, StP , Kie, Hol, Sve, Den, Nwy, Vie, <u>StP</u> , <u>Bel</u> , <u>Ven</u> . (10). May build two.
ITALY:	Has Fid , Rom, Bel , Fid , <u>Gre</u> , <u>Bud</u> . (3). Must remove one.
RUSSIA:	Has Mos, War, StP , Rum, <u>Bud</u> . (4). Even.
TURKEY:	Has Con, Ank, Say, Bul, StP , <u>Sev</u> , <u>Nap</u> . (6). May build one.

ANONYMOUS PRESS

KvK to Unk Stan: NO! A member of the Mob? That's a pretty good one. Of course, your mistake is understandable. You incorrectly assume that only members of the Mob are aware of Poison Pen's nicknames, "Puppy." However, you underestimate the width and breadth of Frush's reputation. You see, anyone who has been reamed by Mark is quite aware of his nicknames. Just ask Darwood Bowen, Michael Quirk, Richard Delzer, James Wall, Evans Given, Carl Russell, Randy Ellis, Marc Peters, Ken Iversen, Russ Ruznak, our illustrious GM, oh hell, you get the idea. Could be any one of these folks, or even someone else. (I wouldn't want to put my name on the list and make it too easy).

KvK to Herpe: YOU know I'm not a Mad Lad! They just go for the one dot grab. I'm going for four of them. That puts me far above their petty level.

KvK to Unk Stan: My last chance to abuse you. Aw, I'm too nice a guy to kick a man when he's down (and out!). You did your best, I guess, although these last few moves on Denmark have been pretty pathetic. You had such rosier opportunities but passed them by. Now I pass you by. Bye, bye, RIP.

KvK to Vienna: Since you are obviously a music buff, and you were clever enough to find a title to fit your country, may I suggest an even more appropriate tune? "Goodnight, Vienna" by Ringo Starr.

VIENNA TO KvK: Of course I didn't try for Silesia! How could you think such a thing! Oh, dear, I hope the Italians don't get to Berlin! It's so painful loosing a capital city, you know!

VIENNA TO TURK: We've become Muslims and will support you til our dying breath.

VIENNA TO ITALY: I always wanted to see an Italian fleet in Venice.

MADLAD TO UNK HO: So how many of us will be at MacCon? ((All or none of you))

--continued, next page.

ANONYMOUS PRESS, concluded....

UNK STAN TO RHUSTY: But Konrad is a Mob member...dare I say it...A Mad Lad!
And we all know how well Terry and the Mad Lads get along. Let's see...Germany
a Tallman toady; Palter's twin. That makes him Jim-Bob! Oh you could be right;
he's the only person in the hobby outside of the Midwest that might have called
Frush "Puppy." But Burgess can't play Dip worth a damn! How could he ever do
THAT well? Oooh! I'm so confused!

UNK STAN TO KVK: Precisely! That's why I'm doing so poorly!

VIENNA TO RUSSIA: Ladybug, ladybug, fly away home, your house is on fire and
your children are in St. Petersburg. I'm sure the Germans, your allies, will
take good care of them. Why else go to Finland?

RHUSTY TO E.T.: Go home. Ha "Turk" Ball doesn't want you!

UNK STAN TO FRANCE: I presume you wrote both F to G and G to F notes in last
month's press. I now am absolutely positive I know who you are. The style is
unmistakable.

1982 HQ

SLEAZE ONE

Winter 1906

SEASONS SEPARATED BY PLAYER REQUEST: DRAWS VETORED

AUSTRIA (Mark Frush, 1013 Milton St. #304, Madison, WI 53715); B A Tri.
Has A Tri, A Say, F Aeg, A Bul, A Rum, A Gal, A Bud, A Vie, A Boh.

ENGLAND (David Pierce, 13521 Pleasant Lane, Burnsville, MN. 55337); R F Nth, A Yrk.
Has F Lon, F Mid, F Bre.

FRANCE (Derwood Bowen, 1643 Graniteway Ln, Columbus, OH. 43229); B A Mar, A Par.
Has A Mar, A Par, F Con, A Hun, A Ruh, A Bur, F MAO, F Lpl, F Gly, F Edi.
No retreat received for F Mid, so it sails to never never land.

RUSSIA (Michael Quirk, 3830 Chester, Glenview, IL. 60025); B F StP no.
Has F StP no, F Hwg, F Hol, A Kie, A Ber, A Sil, A War, A Ukr, A Sev.

TURKEY (Keith Sherwood, 8866 Cliff Ridge Ave, La Jolla, CA. 92037); R F Blk.
Has F Ank.

THE DEADLINE FOR SPRING 1907 moves is Saturday, 24 March, 1984.

1983 AI

PORNOGRAPHIC PRIESTESS

Winter 1903

SEASONS SEPARATED BY PLAYER REQUEST: NO DRAWS PROPOSED!

AUSTRIA (John Kador, 505 2nd Avenue, Melbourne Beach, FL. 32951); B A Vie,
Has A Vie, F Aeg, A Sil, A Ven, A Tri, A Tyr, F Adr.

ENGLAND (David Pierce, 13521 Pleasant Lane, Burnsville, MN. 55337); B F Lon.
Has F Lon, F MAO, F Mid, F Eng, A Pic, F Hol.

FRANCE (Michael Quirk, 3830 Chester, Glenview, IL. 60025); Rem. A Por.
Has F Tun, A Bas, A Par, A Bre.

GERMANY (James Woodson, PO bpx 18645, Corpus Christi, TX. 78418);
Has A Ber, A Hun, A Ruh, F Den.

ITALY (Don Swartz, 6703 Strawberry Lane, #409, Louisville, KY. 40214);
A Ven-r-Apu, Has A Apu, F Mar, F Spa sc, A Pie.

RUSSIA (James Wall, 27 N. Mills St., Madison WI 53715); B A War,
Has A War, F Bal, F Swe, F Ank, F Say, A Pru, A Lvn, A Boh.

TURKEY (Neil Kiersz, 108 Humphrey Rd, Great Valley, NY. 14741); A Say-r-OTB.
Has A Con.

THE DEADLINE FOR SPRING 1904 IS SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 1984.

PORNO PRESS

WOODSON TO PIERCE (with apologies to Niel Sedaka) ((why bother?))
They tell me that you stabbed me! I can't believe it's true. Dave there's no
surivin', without you,
Don't take your aid away from me, don't ya leave my land with Wall or me.
If you attack, it can't be true, Breakin' up is hard to do.

—continued next page

MISSIONARY PRESS, concluded.

Turkey to Russia and Austria: A mobile stalemate line here, I see. Would either of you like some help? I suspect it won't do any good, but I'll try.

1983 AR PORCELAIN GOD Spring 1904
 "Who said this game is boring? Its just deep." —Chuck Kaplan

AUSTRIA (David Blaylock, Rt. 1, Box 630, Canton, NC. 28716); F Tri H,
 A Vie-Tyr, A Bud-Vie, A Gal-Sil, A Rus-S-TURK A Sev-Ukr.

ENGLAND (Bob Acheson, c/o Echo Bay Mines, Lupin, Wgt. CANADA XOE LMO);
 F Nwy-Nth, F Ska-S-F Nwy-Nth, A Yrk-Edi.

FRANCE (Bill Decker, 810 Turwill, Kalamazoo, MI. 49007); F Mid-S-A Spa,
 A Mar-S-A Spa, A Spa-S-A Mar, F Iri-Lpl, F Wal-S-F Iri-Lpl.

GERMANY (Russ Rusnak, 8002 S. Nagle, Burbank, IL. 60459); Builds A Ber,
 A Ber-Sil, A Mun-S-A Tyr, A Tyr-S-AUST F Tri-Ven (NSO), F Hel-Nth,
 F Edi-S-F Hel-Nth, A Den-S-RUSSIAN F Swe (OTN), A Bur-S-FREN A Mar.

ITALY (Jim Hakuc, Box 111, Monterey, MA. 02145); A Tyr-r-Ven, A Ven-S-A Pie,
 A Pie-S- ((blank space)), F Wes-HAF, F Tyn-Wes, F GOL-S-F Tyn-Wes.

RUSSIA (Dale Balcken, 1116 Ann St. Apt. 12, Madison, WI. 53713); A Sil-Ber,
 F Swe-Bal, A StP-Hos, A Ukr-S-A StP-Hos (dislodged, ret. to War, OTE).

TURKEY (Chuck Kaplan, 742 Grouse Ct. Deerfield, IL. 60015); F Ion-Tyn,
 A Bul-S-AUST A Rum, A Sev-Ukr, A Arm-Sev, F Blk-S-A Arm-Sev.

Thanks to Carl Russell for unneeded standby moves; welcome back, Dave. Carl, I'll get you in a game yet! THE FALL 1904 DEADLINE IS 24 March, 1984.

PORCELAIN PRESS

SOMEWHERE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN: Straining mightily against Easterly winds, the Turkish fleet perseveres in its search for the Holy Grail. The latest rumor is that the Grail was buried on a beach near Reykjavik, Iceland. ((And I thought you were headed for Rome to convert to Catholicism!))

SEV-ST PETE: Another time, another place.

CONSTANTINOPLE: It was reported this morning that a third of the population of this metropolis suffered last night from a mass hallucination, the sighting of the Sledge in the sky. Disturbing reports continue to come in.

VIENNA: Sure it's a slow game. That's what you get when a F/G/R alliance forces a E/A/I/T alliance.

WIO TO RRRrrrusnak: Go ahead and take Paris. You know you want it.

WAR TO MUNICH: You're just too good, Russ. But you're not gonna have it easy!

MOSCOW TO CHUCK: You're just too good, Chuck, but you ain't gonna have it easy either.

RUSSIA TO WORLD: I hereby renounce all friendly intentions with F/G and am aiding with A/I, whether they like it or not.

BAKKO TO UKR MO: C'mon Paul, did you have to call Creaspuiff as a standby? I'm reaming his ass in 83T and you have to make us neighbors. ((You should have it so good!))

RUSSIA TO A/H: Watch out for a T/I alliance!

RUSS TO WIO FROM KZOO: If your ((sic)) really tired of this damn thing how about resigning it and giving it to someone who will give it the time and effort you can no longer give.

ENGLAND TO AUSTRIA: I can understand if I miss moves, due to my location, but Buddy, what the ~~fuck~~ ~~happened~~ happened?

ENGLAND TO I/T/A: You guys are really doing good so far; two blown moves in two attempts. Somewhat like the American foreign policy. ((Raygun's met his match?))

ENGLAND TO RUSSIA: You owe your German ally, or you'd be a very minor power. But, from power to puppet, I like that.

Porcelain press concluded, p. 15

PORCELAIN PRESS, concluded.

ENGLAND TO FRANCE: I've no great liking of you, but since Germany took my first home center it's only fitting that you take the last two unopposed.

ENGLAND TO GERMANY: I think that you'd better take out Russia; you wouldn't want to get caught between F/R as the game progresses.

ENGLAND TO CH: Do you think that I've pissed them all off? Oh forgive me.

CH TO ENGLAND: You forgot to piss ME off!!!

ENGLAND TO STANDBY AUSTRIA: Oh shit, you're not worth the comment.

LETTER PASSING by James Wall

Recently I've been coming across many a player who trumpets how they hate a letter passer. When I first entered the hobby I whole heartedly agreed, but the longer I'm in the hobby, the more I begin to realize that the Byrne's and the Frush's preach against it out of self-preservation. I suspect that there exists a good portion of the hobby who, like me, like to stab twice at most each game. People can't be real good if they can't be trusted and thus the urge to trust exists in most players. I realize that there are many players who pride themselves on their stabbing abilities, yet these I'm beginning to find are the very ones who bitch about letter-passers the most. Why? The answer lies in the fact that they have the most to lose when letters are indeed passed. Byrne's and Frush's can't spread their poison if their poisonous letters are being passed to those about to be stabbed. Thus it seems to me that their stance against letter passing revolves around their playing style. This isn't to say that there aren't players around who are relatively honest and against letter passing, yet they allow ethics to interfere with their maximum potential as Dip players.

I do find it amusing that treacherous SOB's like Frush and Byrne get very self-righteous about letter passing. Who are they trying to kid? The thing that makes both of them so good is the fact that they have an uncanny knack for knowing when and how to stab someone. The passed letter is one of the few things that can thwart them, ergo, they preach like crazy against the passed letter. For them it is a very reasonable position, but don't let them fool you into why they oppose letter passing—it is to maintain the advantage they have over others and nothing more.

It may (Or may not) interest others to know that I've never passed a letter and have received only one, and that one very recently. I will not limit myself, however, by promising that I will never pass a letter. I might someday, and if so, the only reason will be to gain an advantage over a slimy player. Also, the only reason that I used Frush and Byrne as examples is because Frush's opinions are well known to me (as is his poison) and in Kathy's case, I've been watching her complain against Reuterberg in a current game in WHO CARES ((writers Cramp)). Every time I read her complaints I chuckle because I know why she MUST take the stance she does. I've never met her in a postal game, but I do have access to the opinion of the rest of the Hob when it comes to her. I could very well have chosen others as examples, but they are the best I can come up with.

Dip is a game. Letters are a part of the game. What is the difference between a good set up and a passed letter? Between showing orders in PTF and then turning in a different set and a passed letter? Between lying over the phone as to who you are and a passed letter? Not enough to get steamed under the collar. As long as the letters passed pertain to the game and not to personal letters, then I can see no problem with the passed letter to be used sparingly as a diplomatic tool. The limit does exist, though, when personal letters are passed to create hard feelings.

((Passed letters are another tool in a player's arsenal, along with lying and stabbing. All three of these should be employed with discretion and care; not indiscriminately. There is an art to being a bad guy.))



WOODSON, continued.

The conclusion that I came to was that today a symphony is not financially feasible. One could hardly make as much money today writing something classical as he would producing a top-selling album. In the time of Mozart and Bach, these artists had rich patrons who would support them as long as they produced music that their patrons enjoyed. Today the public is the patron of the arts, so that anything that will be written has to at least have the promise of appealing to a large number of people.

So, who will be seen as today's great composers in a century's time? I really don't know. I am hoping that this article might stimulate some discussion among the musically opinionated readers of MC. My father also went as far as to predict that the music that my children listen to will be as different from the music of the past 30 years, as today's music is from that which was popular in the 1940's.

((Paul here. I think you've pretty much hit the nail on the head, with your comments on songwriters having to write to please mass audiences, rather than a select few concert-goers. Artists are products of, and the reflections of, their own cultural milieu. Beethoven and Bach never had to write songs for airplay on commercial radio, where even 8 minute songs such as the Doors' "Light My Fire" and Iron Butterfly's "In-a-gadda-da-vida" are cut down to half their original lengths. How many of you have ever heard Jethro Tull's "Thick as a Brick" in its entirety? It runs close to 40 minutes, so if you don't have access to the album, forget it.

Will music in the late '80's and '90's be vastly different from that which we 30ish rockrollers have been weaned upon? That's possible, but consider the vast variations of music in my own rock n' roll collection (750 albums). I have, and enjoy, rockabilly, psychedelia, beach music, girl groups, punk, New Wave, Rap, Avant-garde (Eno, Byrne, Laurie Anderson, Jan Hammer) Sixties, Folk-rock, Classical rock, Krautrock (electronic/computer music), Reggae, Blues, and, for that matter, Classical Lute and Mandolin, Richard Strauss, Johann Strauss, and British/Greek/India ethnic stuff. If my own tastes have undergone that much of a variation, and remember I haven't listed the stuff I hate (Disco, slow-Soul, Heavy Metal, and Stevie Nicks), I would expect the culture of my children to undergo vast and frequent variations. The only thing working against such changing tastes and varied interests is the over-cautious attitudes of the big record companies and the mainstream radio stations. Police and Duran Duran sell, so they get the airplay; New Order and Rain Parade reach limited audiences, and few consumers buy what they haven't heard at least once.

But I digress from your article. Which of today's songwriters will be recognized in 2087? That question is impossible to answer, because the technology by which music is transmitted may be altered beyond recognition by that time. Music didn't change much from the 1770's to the 1950's because of the slow pace of technological advances. It metamorphosed in the succeeding 30 years, and remember, this is only the beginning of the "computer age!" I only hope that I can keep in touch with the music of my children; it is an exciting prospect.

Thanks for your article, James. I hope the other readers/listeners out there will indeed respond to its thoughtful comments.))



My great change-in-occupational-status, from machinist/union rep to bartender/small businessman, has been slowed. My partner and I had a place in Madison all lined up, but the owners were of a shady character, and their bottomline prices were almost \$100,000 too high. We're still looking, and when we find something right, we'll buy it. There are many gimmicks we could employ in such an enterprise—we could make it into a European-styled imported beer bar, or we could make it into an avante-garde cultural showcase. There are investors around who are willing to pump capital into something which we demonstrate will "work." I fear, the wilder my ideas, the more they are going to balk.