

"In the Beginning was the rhythm, but I had forgotten,
and was waiting for the word." —Ray Manzarek

MILWAUKEE

Midlife crisis



NUMBER THIRTEEN

THEY SAY THAT NUMBER 13 is unlucky, and this one has certainly been a pain in the A... for me. I'm really sorry that this is so late—I hope the worry warts out there didn't think I was folding! Just busy, that's all. Tell you what—let's make this a free warehouse issue (with a letter from Mark Lev on the back page) and call it free to all paying subbers (I'd still like to get a copy of the zines I'm trading for).

FOR THE RECORD, the 1st MIDLIFE CRISIS, a zine published now and then by Paul G. Rautenberg, 4922 W. Wisconsin Ave, Milwaukee, WI. 53208. Phone 414-778-0750. Subs are still 10 for \$5.00.

1983 Y

MISSIONARY POSITION

Fall 1905

FRANCO-ITALIANS GIVEN A BREATHER

AUSTRIA (Nelson Heintzman, #C-4, 2255 Delaware Ave, Buffalo, NY 14216);
 A Vie-Bud, A Bud-Rum, A Bul-S-RUSSIAN F Gre, A Ank-Con, F Smy-S-RUS F Aeg (OTM).

ENGLAND (Jim Makuc, Box 111, Monterey, MA. C1245);
 F Yrk-S-F Edi, F Lpl-S-F Edi (imp), F Edi-S-F Lpl (dis, annihilated).

FRANCE (Konrad Baumeister, COA-11416 Parkview Lane, Hales Corners, WI 5313C);
 A Paris-Gas, A Pic-Bre, A Mar-Spa, F Iri-Mid.

GERMANY (Pat Frye? 6904 Scotch Drive, Laurel, MD. 20707);
 MBI F Mid, A Gas, A Bur, A Mun, A Ruh, A Kis all hold.

ITALY (Russ Rusnak, 16 West 536 Honeysuckle Rose, Bldg 6, Apt 105,
 Hinsdale, IL. 60521); F EMed-Aeg, A Ven-S-F Alb-Tri, F Alb-Tri,
 F Adr-S-F Alb-Tri, A Tri-Tyr, F Ion-Gre. ((F Gre-retreated to Ion in Autumn)).

RUSSIA (Nancy Irwin, 4109 Magnolia Ave, 1 North, St. Louis, MO. 63110);
 A Cly-Edi, F Nwg-S-A Cly-Edi, F Nth-S-A Cly-Edi, A War-Gal, A Ukr-Rum,
 F Aeg-Con, A Ser-S-A Ukr-Rum, F Gre-S-Aust F Bul sc (sic).

GHOST OF TURKEY (Jim-Bob Burgess): Still no units. Ghost of F Syr-S-RUS
F Aeg-Smy.

WILL Dale Bakken, 1116 Ann St, Apt. 12, Madison, WI. 53713) please standby
 for GERMANY? Pat Frye, your sub had been up since number 11 (this is #13).
 If you submit orders but no money, Bakken still gets the position.
 THE DEADLINE FOR WINTER 1905, SPRING 1906 is SATURDAY, 30 June, 1984.

1983 Y

SUPPLY CHART

WINTER 1905

AUSTRIA: Has Vie, Bud, ~~Edi~~, Ank, Smy, Bul. (5). Even due to annihilation.
 ENGLAND: Has Lpl, Lon, ~~Edi~~. (2). Even due to annihilation.
 FRANCE: Has Bre, Par, Mar, Por, Spa. (5). Even.
 GERMANY: Has Mun, Ber, Kiel, Den Hol, Bel. (6). Even.
 ITALY: Has Ven, Rom, Nap, Tum, ~~Edi~~, Tri. (5). Must remove one.
 RUSSIA: Has StP, Nos, War, Sev, Rum, Nwy, Sve, Con, Gre, Ser, Edi.
 (11). May build three.

MISSIONARY PRESS

GROUCH TO GHOST: Mind if I join you in a while? They just don't like us
 New Englanders.

GHOST TO NANCY: Have you accepted my kind support yet?

UNK MD TO GHOST: No, but you're on the right track.

GHOST TO RUSS: I should have known. That was your toilet humor. More, more!

NELSON TO RUSS: Why, of course this is a game of negotiating regardless
 of personal likes or dislikes; unfortunately, I happen to personally dislike
 your negotiating. My loss, eh?



WIIIB	THE FATTED CALF	Spring 2102
ARGENTINA (Pierre Touchette, 1 Rue Georges, Masson, Quebec, CANADA J0X 2H0); A Cordoba-Paraguay, A LaPampa-S-A Cor-par, F Uru-Porto Allegre, F Buenos Aires-SW Atl Ocean, F Falk Is-S-F BA-SW Atl.		
AUSTRALIA (Eric Ozog, 1526 N. Lawler Ave, Chicago IL. 60651); F Tisor-Sumatra, E Java-S-F Timor-Sum, F W Australia-Arafura Sea, F N South Wales-Coral Sea, F New Zealand-S-F NS Wales-Coral Sea.		
BRAZIL (James Wall, 27 N. Mills St. #3, Madison, WI. 53715); A Mato-Paraguay, A Bolivia-S-A Mato-para, F Bahia-Cen Atl, F Belem-M of Ama, F Surinam-Caribbean, F Venezuela Holds unordered.		
CANADA (Ron Brown, 70 F Chesterton Dr, Nepean, Ontario, CANADA, K2E 5S9); F Iceland-Den Strait, F Quebec nc-Lab Sea, F Alaska-Bering Sea, F Brit Columbia-G of Alaska, A NW-Adaska.		
CHINA (John Jordan, PO Box 9518, Moscow Idaho, 83843); NER. Has F Homan, F Borneo, A Singkang, A Inner Mongolia.		
EUROPEAN COMMON MARKET (Mark Keller, 9536 Shunway, Orangevale, CA. 95662); A Spain-Morocco, F Wes-S-A Spa-Morocco, F Nory-Swg, F UK-Greenland Sea.		
INDIA (Neil Kieraz, 108 Humphrey Rd, Great Valley, NY. 14741); F Madras-East Indian, F Iran-Persian Gulf, A Pakistan-Afghanistan, A Rajasthan-Pakistan, A Pradesh-Kashmir, A Bangladesh-Burma.		
JAPAN (Jim Makuc, Box 111, Monterey, MA. 01245); A Sakhalin-Hokkaido, F S Kor-East China Sea, F Phillipines-Celebes, F Honshu-West Pac, F Kyushu-Phillipines Sea, F Hokkaido-NW Pacific.		
KINGDOM OF U & L EGYPT (James Woodson, POB 18645, Corpus Christi, TX. 78418); F Somalia-West Indian, A Sudan-Egypt, A Libya-Tunisia, A Kenya-Sudan, F Egypt-Red Sea, F Saudi Arabia wc-Yemen.		
PERU (Jim Burgess, 100 Holden st., 3rd Left, Providence RI. 02908); F Ecuador-G of Panama, F Inca-East Pac, F Pan-S-BRAZILIAN F Sur-Carrib, A Colombia-S-F Panama, A Cuzco-Chile.		
SOUTH AFRICA (Don Swartz, 155 Vernon Ave, #2, Louisville, KY. 40206); F Zambia-Tanzania, A Angola-Zaire, F Malagasy-W Indian Ocean, F Transvaal-South Indian, F SE Atl-S-WAF F Guinea-Central Atl.		
USA (Michael Quirk, 3830 Chester, Glenview, IL. 60025); F Haiti-Cuba, A Honduras H, F Cal-Gulf of Cal, F Dixie-Berm Tri, F Wes Pac-Papua.		
USSR (Marc Peters, 29 E. Wilson St. #202, Madison WI. 53703); F Baltic-Swg, A Turkey-Iran, A Kazak-Siberia, A Mongolia-S-A Kazak-Siberia, A Turkmene-Kazak, F Okhotsk-S-Japanese F Hokkaido-NW Pacific.		
WARSAW PACT (Mark Frust, 1013 Milton St. #304, Madison, WI. 53715); F Gre-E Med, F Yugo-S-F Gre-EMed, A RUM-Gre, A Hungary-Rumania, A Austria H, A Poland H.		
WEST AFRICAN FED (Chuck Kaplan, 742 Grouse Ct., Deerfield, IL. 60015); A Algeria-Sahara, A Cameroon-Central African Rep, F Gabon-G of Guinea, F Guinea-Cent Atl, A Mali-Algeria.		

Will Ed Wrobel, 3932 N. Forestdale Ave, Dale City, VA. 22193) please Standby for China? There were several map-related questions which I'm sure are of general interest: the space south of Falkland Islands is the Drake Passage; the space north of West Germany is Denmark, and the sea space which appears to be marked with an "X" in the Baltic area is really a sideways "K" which stands for "Kattegat."

THE DEADLINE FOR FALL 2102 moves is SATURDAY 30 June, 1984.

WAF-BRAZIL: Jimmy baby, the two guys who see T.I. most clearly for the gnat that he is should not fight. I offer you five of my tallest zulu women.

UNK MD TO WAF: But the Zulus are in South Africa. Are you dealing in slaves?

WAF TO USA: Hey bro! It's time we jived. I'm badd, you badd! Want some Zulu women?

WZIIIB press cont. next page.

WIIIb press continued....

WARSAW: "Hold me down! Please, tie me down! I must write my Spring moves. I have to break my old habit!" cried Mark.

"What's the matter with him," asked John Jordan. Herr Doktor Jimmy Wall replied, "Mark suffers from Dotius Grabbitus. To refuse to attack or grow causes intense pain. Mark is attempting the never before thought possible. He isn't going to kill the USSR this season, hence..."

"Arrgh! Army Poland—Ahhh! Holds! I can't take this!" sniffled Frush. "Please, more drugs! Army Austria holds! Oh Jesus, it hurts!" Tune in for the Fall season. Will Mark be cured, or will he suffer from imaginary pink army blocks?

BRAZIL TO WAF: I'm more paranoid than you are. My only possible ally is Gaoq and he keeps telling me we never can ally because he won't allow it. Kinda similar to Russia pulling out of the Olympics because we won't prevent demonstrations. Neither are problems unless one makes them so.

JAMES TO MARK: And how long have you had this persecution problem? I think I'll put your "you should know better than to listen to a Nixon" line through, it might come in handy.

UNK NO TO READERS: I didn't write the above—I just retyped it. The writer thought it made sense, but I'm a bit baffled.

THE WALL TO ROTTENBURG: Puppy claims this game is black press. Is it?

UNK NO TO THE WALL: What's the matter? Is it too confusing for you?

BRAZIL TO USA: How long have you had this homosexual fixation for Frush? He loves it.

USA TO ECM: If you don't start standing up to Frush, his abuse will only get worse. Mad Lads understand only one thing, brute force.

THE WALL TO THE ORC: Someone has to study obscure politicians so eaves like you may rump in the woods. Besides, I believe (a la Santayana) that if you don't learn from the mistakes of the past, you are doomed to relive them.

WALL TO PUPPY: I do: not instigate press, I install it.

MADISON TO ALL: At last count seven of you plus the GM were to be here for Madcon II. I guess that makes it an Aus-Bra-Egy-USA-USSR-WAR-WAF alliance I think.

UNK NO: I get to write this update after Madcon. Add GM interference to the conspiracy.

USA TO SPEARCHUCKER KAPLAN AND ERIC THE ABORIGINE: The Madlads must die in this game. Let's show the Madison Mob how an alliance works.

USA TO EGYPT: Tallman is right. When Chuckles says trust me, look out.

ARGENTINA: It was a busy month in school, but now it's over and I'll write more often....

PERU TO WARSAW: What exactly is it that I need to do to collect that bounty?

PERU TO USA: What can I say? Every man has his price.

OFFICE OF THE INCA: Damned reporters can't get anything right! What is this Incaland and "Inca Ruler" crap? The Inca regrets to report that one of the hopping llamas has been dispatched to Dallas, Texas, home of the late American newsmen with the head in a pouch, so to speak (the lower part of the newsmen's anatomy is in a sling).

CANADA TO INDIA: See? I kept my word.

OTTAWA: Asked if he regretted the military takeover of Alaska, the PM replied, "No way. It's about bloody time we claimed what was rightfully ours."

CANADA TO ECM: Okay, you have the benefit of the doubt, though I'm not too crazy about all your fleets....

OTTAWA: The PM observes, with great interest, the renewed interest in sea exploration throughout the world. He would like to remind all world leaders that Canadian shipyards are ready to begin full scale production of all types of sea-going vessels. If interested in Canadian exploration or fishing vessels, please submit bids.

1982 HQ

SLEAZE ONE

Winter 07/Spring 08

FRENCH POSSE ARRIVES IN NICK OF TIME
BUT BRITISH LOOTERS CONTINUE RAMPAGE

AUSTRIA (Mark Frush, 1013 Milton St., Apt. 304, Madison, WI 53715);
Builds F Tri, A Bud. A Sev-Ukr, A Rum-S-A Sev-Ukr, A Wal-S-A Sev-Ukr,
A Boh-S-A Mun-Sil, A Nap-Sil, A Vie-S-A Gal, A Bud-Tri, A Bul-Sev (imp),
F Tri-Alb, A Say-Con, F Ark-Blk.

ENGLAND (David Pierce, 13521 Pleasant Lane, Burnsville, MN. 55337);
F Bre-retreats- Pic (collides with retreating French unit, annihilated),
F Lon-Yrk (NSU), F Tun-Tyn, F Eng unordered, holds.

FRANCE (Derwood Bowen, 1643 Graniteway Lane, Columbus, OH. 43229);
A Mun-r-Bur, A Bel-r-Pic (collides with English retreat, annihilated),
Builds F Mar. F Nat-Mid, F Edi-s- F Nth, F Nth-S- A Bur-Sel, A Ruh-Hol,
A Bur-Sel, A Bre-Pic, A Gas-Bre, F Mar-GOL, F Wal-Lon, F Blk-Con.

RUSSIA (Michael Quirk, 3830 Chester, Glenview, IL. 60025);
A Sev-r-Mos. Builds A StP. A StP-Lvn, A Mos holds, A War holds,
A Sil-Hun, A Bar-s-A Sil-Hun, A Kis-Den, A Hol-S-F Bel, F Nwg-Nth,
F Bel-S-F Nwg-Nth, F Nwy-S-F Nwg-Nth.

THE DEADLINE FOR FALL 1908 moves is SATURDAY 30 June, 1984.

SLEAZY PRESS

RUSSIA TO FRANCE: Can't you see Frush is setting you up? Satan can't
get any more centers from me so he will start taking yours.

RUSSIA TO WORLD: My spy Dale "Caruso" Bakken overheard the following
conversation and reported it to me. Frush: "Please let me into your
pants." 5 year-old boy: "No way, I've got one asshole there already."

1983 AI

PORNOGRAPHIC PRIESTESS

Winter 1904

SEASONS SEPARATED DUE TO PLAYERS'S REQUESTS

AUSTRIA (John Kador, 505 2nd Ave, Melbourne Beach, FL. 32951);
Builds A Bud. Has F Say, F Ion, A Ven, F Tri, A Bud, A Vie, A Tyr.

ENGLAND (David Pierce, 13521 Pleasant Lane, Burnsville, MN. 55337);
Builds F Edi, A Lon. Has F Edi, A Lon, F Eng, F Nth, F Hol, A Nwy,
F For, F Spa sc.

FRANCE (Michael Quirk, 3830 Chester, Glenview, IL. 60025);
Removes A Gas. Has F Iyn, A Bre, A Par.

GERMANY (James Woodson, PO Box 18645, Corpus Christi, TX. 78418);
Removes F Ska, A Ruh. Has A Hun.

ITALY (Don Swartz, 155 Vernon Avenue, #2, Louisville, KY. 40206);
F Spa sc-r-OTB. Has A Nap, A Tun, F Wes.

RUSSIA (James Wall, 27 N. Hills St. #3, Madison, WI. 53715);
Builds A Sev, A Mos, A War, A StP. Has F Svs, A Den, A StP, A Mos, A War,
A Sil, A Bar, F Kis, A Gal, A Sev, F Bulsc, F Con.

I have moves on file for all of you, but you can change them up until the
DEADLINE, which falls on SATURDAY, 30 June, 1984.

THE WALL TO QUIRKEE: I'm never smug, sometimes an asshole but never smug.
MOSCOW: It's Anchluss time! Sorry about my decision, John, but I've never
been satisfied with our communication and this game is entering a time when
communication is critical. Besides, I've never built four as Russia before.
It's kinda fun.

ROME: Finally the Austrian is getting his just deserts.

ITALY: If I die, at least I'll die in the FRI cause, DEATH AND TAXES
to the Austro-English dogs.

FRANCE TO CIVILIZED WORLD: There aren't many things that are more embarrassing
than a James Wall victory. Let's pull together and stop this potential
disaster before it happens.

1983 AR

PORCELAIN GOD

Spring 1985

A MINGLING OF THE RACES

AUSTRIA (David Blaylock resigns with this set of orders, thus the new player is Carl Russell, 21 Morgan Rd, Binghamton, NY. 13903),
A Tri-S-Ital, A Ven-Tyo (NSO), A Vis-Boh, A Gal-S-A Vis-Boh, F Adr H,
A Rum H (dis, ret. to Ser, Bud, OTB.)

ENGLAND (Bob Acheson, c/o Echo Bay Mines, Lupin, NWT. CANADA XOE 1MO);
F Swe-Nwy, F Lon-S-GERMAN F Nth-Eng, A Yrk-Edi, F Den-Nth.

FRANCE (Bill Becker, 81C Turwill, Kalamazoo MI, 49007);
F Wes-Spa sc, A Mar-S-F Wes-Spa sc, F Lpl-Iri, F Wal-Eng.

ITALY (Jim Makuc, Box 111, Monterey, MA. 02145);
F Mid-Bre, F Nap-Tyn, A Pis-S-A Ven, A Ven-S-AUS A Tri-Tyo (NSO),
F Spa sc-S-F GOL, F GOL-S-F Spa sc.

RUSSIA (Dale Bakken, 1116 Ann St., Apt. 12, Madison, WI. 53713);
A War-Mos, A StP-S-A War-Mos.

TURKEY (Chuck Kaplan, 742 Grouse Ct, Deerfield, IL. 60015);
F Say-Aeg, F Tyn-Wes, A Bul-Rum, F Blk-S-A Bul-Rum, A Sev-S-A Mos,
A Mos-S-AUSTRIAN A Gal-war.

I would like to apologize to the players for the mixups in unit locations in last seasons' listings. The present unit locations should be the correct ones. Whew. The Deadline for Fall 1985 moves and corrections is 30 June, 1984.

DEERFIELD TO UNK MO: I don't know why you think there will be anything like a press war between myself and the filthy scumbag from the West Coast. You know me. I treat Dip as a fun hobby, a way to meet some interesting, friendly people. Everyone knows I'm quiet and reserved (compared to RUSNAK, at least). I don't go in for nastiness. When I meet little shits in the hobby, I ignore them. Come on, Paul, we're both 30 and mature. Calling Tallman names like puke-face or smagma would be very childish, and there is no reason to do so.

Indeed, I am proud to be associated with a fine group of people based in Wisconsin. We have fun beyond the game of Dip; for those on the West Coast, there is reality beyond Syria. I accept the mantle of "Mad Clone" as an honor.

SEATTLE TO BOARD: Mad Lads abused. Check. Well kidded. Check. "Mad Clone" Chuckie's honesty questioned. Check. Additional Madlads kidded. Check. Press war operational. Check. Okay, Paul, let 'er rip!

THE WALL TO CHUCKIE: Go get em, boy! Someone has to inform Seattle Sludge that slanderous, immature attacks are NOT acceptable in the hobby, even for overweight slugs.

ST PETE: For Sale—two Russian supply centers. Asking for a Six-pack apiece. Ah...Chuck...for a rich, Jewish bastard like you the price is considerably higher.

DEERFIELD TO PAUL: T.T. from Shittla needs to be taught the subtleties of the game, such as the art of shifting alliances. Please enlighten him.

ANKARA TO ST PETE: Aw, come on. Let me have St Pete. I'll treat the women well, Dale, come and taste the wine. ((Sounds more like "white."))

BAKKO TO SEATTLE: Thanks for the nickname, but I don't think it will stick. I'd hate to disappoint you, though, so try singing this: ((Kharma Chameleonish))
 "I'm a, I'm a, I'm a, I'm a Madisonian. I've got vaseline
 Where it can't be se-e-e-en. I'm a, I'm a, I'm a, I'm a Madisonian,
 I've got foldback teeth, if you have got the be-e-e-ef."
 That's all I can think of for now. What do you thay, you thilly thavage?

UNK MO TO BAKKO: You're sick, you know.

BAKKO TO GN: So you want to put some happiness in our lives? Did you ever think of dropping dead?

my response and more, next page

PORCELAIN PRESS, continued.

UNK NO TO BAKKO: No, I never thought about just dropping dead, and no, I don't want to put any happiness into your miserable existence. I'll put some beer in your belly and let you fend for yourself.

ROME TO WORLD: I've got this funny feeling....

LONDON TO ROME: In Diplomacy, my boy, friendship is fleeting.

LONDON TO TURKEY: I take it that you don't have many friends in Seattle. Didn't you let him have his turn in the shower?

VEN TO TRI: David, if you're there welcome back. Carl, if you're there don't hold "Coyote" against me. This is a whole other game.

LONDON TO SEATTLE: Would you rather be not use soap?

DALE TO PAUL: Looks like your bet with Acheson is going down the toilette.

PAUL: Yah, that's the way it goes. I see the ten bucks as partial payment for the great T-shirt that Bob sent me anyway. Thanks, Bob; I wore it at Madcon, and so did Mark Luedi.

MADMAN TO UNK NO: Ya know, Paul, I think this game kinda sucks. Matter of fact, this whole zine sucks. Everything out of Milwaukee sucks.

UNK NO TO MADMAN: Thanks for the resub check.

ANONYMOUS GAME

Winter 05/Spring 1906

NOT A SINGLE YES VOTE ON THE DRAW PROPOSAL

AUSTRIA (Vienna Waits for YOU); Removes A Serbia. F Ion-Tyn (dis, ret to Apu, Atr, Alb, Aeg, OTB).

FRANCE (Casual Sutterby); Builds F Mar. F Eng-Bel, A Edi H, A Lon H, F Mid-Wes, F Tus-Tyn, F Fun-S-F Tus-Tyn, F Rome-S-F Tus-Tyn, F Mar-GOL, A Gas H, A Pie H.

GERMANY (Konrad v. Kriegen); Builds A Kiel. F Nth-Yrk, F Bel-Nth, A Kie-Lvn, F Bal-C-A Kie-Lvn, A StP-S-A Kie-Lvn, A Ber-Prw, A Sil-Gal, A Mun-Sil, A Iyo-Vie, A Vie-Bud, A Tri-S-RUSSIAN A Bud-Ser (NSO).

RUSSIA (Herpes II Rutarstokoff); F Rum-Sov (dis, annihilated), A Ukr-S-F Rum-Sov, A Bud-Rus, A War-Hos.

TURKEY (Rusty Underwhere); Builds A Ank. A Ank-Ars, A Sev-Rum, A Bul-S-A Sev-Rum, F Blk-S-A Sev-Rum, F Nap-Ion, F Gre-S-A Bul, F Eas-S-F Nap-Ion.

AN F/Q/T DRAW has been proposed. No vote received counts as a NO. Votes should be accompanied by Fall 1906 notes, which are due SATURDAY 30 June 04.

RHUSTY TO FRENCH PETER-PIPER: You won't get that two-way with Germany. Because, jump me—Germany will be forced to take that big 18 in the sky.

GAZ TO RHUSTY: You want me to write, ah? Well, cutie, your wish is my command.

FRANCE TO GERMANY: Okay, here's the press you requested. Your wish is my command, too!

FRANCE TO E.T: Ah, my little three-toed friend, I am sorry. I couldn't help it. Unfortunately, your wish wasn't my command.

AUSTRIA TO GERMANY: Tut, tut, playing one short are we? Well, that's what comes from not planning ahead properly. It's also what will allow France to eat you alive.

KvK TO AUSTRIAN: Sie sind nashat! Auf Wiedersehen. (Und was is "Venedig"?) "Das Tod kommt wie das Ende." —Agatha Christie.

AUSTRIAN TO GERMANY AND TURKEY: I'm counting on your mutual greed to keep Serbia Austrian. In the meantime, we're leaving the storm-tossed mainland for the open seas.

—continued, next page.

ANONYMOUS PRESS, CONTINUED.

AUSTRIAN TO UNK MO: Tell me what you think. Austrian seamen are recreating the voyage of Ulysses. We near the land of the Lotus-eaters right now and attempt to head for the Sirens. But some god or goddess always intervenes and screws up the plans of mere mortals. Did it happen again in this modern age?

UNK MO TO AUSTRIA: Nowadays, we are limited to playing within the confines of "rulebooks." The minor god to whom you should pray for redress is Cal Hamner, although Linsey and Rrrrrusnak are available for appeals. You are getting into the roughest part of your voyage, and should have someone tie you to the mast.

KVK TO UNK STAN: So you're insulted that I called you Baumeister, eh? Well, I've decided that I was wrong about that, anyway. You came into a bad position and promptly made it very much worse. There are only a few with that talent, so in order of most likelihood, you must either be Tallan, J-B Burgess, or Bob Olsen. But Olsen is obviously demonstrating his "Count Vlad" techniques with Austria, so it must be one of the other two. Or are you new talent?

UNK STAN TO ANONYMOUS GAME: I hope everyone voted for the draw. I want to find out who everyone is, before I forget all of my guesses:

KVK: Mark Lew, Herpes: Marc Peters, Rhusty: Frueh, Vienna: James Woodson, Casual: Keith Sherwood, and Erin: Mark Keller (needed a majority of Marks).

KVK TO ET: Well, you may have been playing against Wall, but you sure aren't any more. By the way, there was a last line left out at the bottom press item in FCS's press: "So I told you so!" (or something like that).

AUSTRIA TO TURKEY: Remember how loyally Austria served you. Let us be the spearhead for the Sultan's future victories!

AUSTRIA TO RUSSIA: Bye, bye, Budapest!

FRANCE TO GERMANY: So much for raising the quality of this press.

LETTERS (well, one anyway)

FROM MARK LEW: "seems to me the cure for a midlife crisis is the realization that it's no problem to not do anything significant, but i suppose you already knew that. i'm just the sort of person the transactional analysis fans would say has subconsciously programmed himself to die at 40, could be, could be. in which case i suppose i ought to be having a n.c. any time now, eh?"

ms. byrne denied the letter passing information, predictably.

if i were to provide an "i view life as..." sentence, it wouldn't be poetic and as such would be atypical. students of philosophy can group me with the nihilists or one of its sub-groups; but i find nihilism nothing to be distressed about, and i don't feel compelled by it to go and do something traditionally classified as immoral.

my gaming buddies from high school are only a bit older than me, as is my sister; but of the rest, my best friends are 34 and 10, so i suppose i don't pay too much attention to age.

i'm more inclined to notice age as a result of what generation a person grew up in, but one can get out of place by growing up in a different part of the country, or having children later than usual or whatever. i find i get along best with people about 10 years older than myself.

i get to talk to schoolkids a lot because i get off work mid-afternoon and i ride the city bus. they are pretty awful when they try to impress each other, but are nice when alone. i think racism is on the way out—and sexism too. when i was in elementary/jr. high, "nigger" and "woman" were up there with the favorite insults. these days it's "homo". i like to ask them what's wrong with being a homo and of course they never come up with answers better than "you don't know what's wrong with being a homo? You are really strange." predictably grades 5-8 seem to be the worst.

...they tell me the old guys didn't play loud. mozart. mozart didn't play loud, they say, he played keyboards and he did play loud, but he didn't have an amp then. if mozart had an amp, he'd play loud. but he didn't.

((Can I soil a stream-of-consciousness letter such as this with a mundane thing, like a reply? I like to think of letters as art, and this is one of such.))