

"If man, acting on his own free will, can crucify Jesus Christ,
God can probably tolerate the re-election of Ronald Reagan."

—Rev. F. Buckley, Jr.

"Exercise the right to dream."

—Jesse Jackson

Nicaragua's Midlife Crisis

MIDLIFE CRISIS 15 July, 1984

THIS IS INDEXED MIDLIFE CRISIS, a publication by Paul G. Rasterberg of 4922 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee WI. 53208. Phone 414-778-0750. I am home to answer the phone between 10 AM and 3 PM weekdays, or after 12:30 AM (til, say, 3 AM) if you're a night owl like myself.

WOW, THANKS, BUT....

Since I started running games as a GM in the Spring of 1983, I have run up a fairly reliable record of making errors in my adjudicating. Indeed, a couple of issues ago, I misplaced one player's entire set of orders and didn't even notice their absence until the poor guy phoned me about it! This is a pretty shameful performance from an eleven year veteran of the Postal Hobby, who considers himself to be capable and precise in his order-writing.

Imagine my shock when I saw my name ranked 4th in the 1984 RUNESTONE GM Poll! What the hell am I doing right? True, I don't edit press, and I print almost everything I receive. True, I feel free to contribute my own caustic comments to the press, along with cutesy titles for each season. True, I inform players as soon as I find out I've made mistakes, and the games are hardly wrecked by my ineptitude. But what am I really doing right? X'mas, you 23 people who voted me so high up there—write to me, and tell me why I'm so highly regarded.

Quite seriously, folks—thanks for the vote of confidence. I'll try to really EARN such a high ranking during the next year!

MIDLIFE CRISIS itself was ranked 25th—fair enough, considering it is basically a warehouse with occasional articles and letters tacked on. It can never be, and will never aspire to be, a Harrog Express, Voice of Doom, or Brutus Bulletin. It is certainly on a par, I feel, with The Prince (ranked 4th) and Give Me a Weapon (ranked 39th). I guess 25th is an average of the two....

CANADA

In early July, I made a brief pilgrimage to Canada in search of full-sized, low priced Diplomacy sets (oh yeah, I also visited my brother in Toronto). The "deals" that I found were truly impressive, and the number of purchases I made were limited only by the fact the "Eaton's" department store doesn't take Mastercard or Visa. Canadian sets still have full sized mapboards and wooden pieces, in case you didn't know.

Whenever I go to Canada, I like to look for evidence that I am, indeed, outside of the USA. The differences certainly aren't blatant, but there are some subtle hints. For instance, when one asks for travel directions in the States, he is usually given the number of miles that he will be expected to traverse. In Canada, they don't bother with how many Kilometers—they tell you how long, in hours or minutes, you can expect to be on the road.

Canadians can also be more trusting than their counterparts in the States. We ate dinner in London, Ontario, en route to Toronto. There was a 45 minute wait for seating, so we decided to kill time in the cocktail lounge. We ordered drinks from the bar, but the bartender didn't give us a bill, nor did he ask who we were! Somehow, those drinks DID end up on our dinner bill, but just how they kept track of them, and us, I don't know.

One final note. Canadians aren't being very helpful to the cause of US "liberals" these days. How can we convince Reagan and his followers that reducing the massive defense budget will help to reduce our national debt, when he can just point to Canada's low defense outlays and even greater deficits?

Last issue w/o a resub

off

ANONYMOUS GAMES, ELECTRONIC MAIL GAMES, BOARDMAN NUMBERS,
IRREGULARITY, THE NATURE OF THE VARIANT, AND ALL THAT....

As some of you may have noticed, the "Anonymous Game" carried in this zine has no Boardman number. Since this has a direct tie-in to wider hobby disputes, let me give you the story behind this omission.

First, a definition of the "Anonymous Game": it is a perfectly normal game of Postal Diplomacy, played under normal rules and including opportunities for normal negotiations to be carried out. The only difference is that the players' identities are concealed from one another. They have provided blatantly phoney pseudonyms. When one player wishes to negotiate with another, he writes a normal letter and sends it to me (the GM). I retype it on my own machine (to further conceal the players' identities) and send it on to the intended recipient. That's it.

When this game was first formed, I sent in a list of the real players' names to the then-BMC, Don Ditter, requesting a BN but also asking that the true list of the players' names not be printed in EVERYTHING until the game had been concluded. Don replied that he felt the game was a "variant", and that I should apply to Lee Kendter Sr. for a Miller number instead. I shrugged my shoulders--no big deal. When Kathy Byrne became the BMC, I sent her a similar inquiry as to the availability of a BN for this game, and she declined to give one on the same grounds as had Ditter. Thus, no matter what debatability one might assign to this decision, one must concede that Kathy had a precedent for her point of view (Ditter's decision) and her action was not inconsonant with past hobby practice.

Now let's tie this in with the Electronic Mail dispute. These games are, like my Anonymous Game, perfectly normal Dip games except for the fact that the identities of the players are concealed from fellow players. The participants don't use conventional mail drops, but they are allowed to freely negotiate with one another. As with my Anonymous Game, the EM games are denied Boardman Numbers--this is, if nothing else, a consistent judgment by the BMC.

The heart of the dispute seems to be the definitions of variants and irregular games. It has long been a hobby practice to give "unorthodox" games Boardman Numbers, later adding a statement (by the BMC) that these games are "irregular." On the face of it, this might seem to be the proper means of handling the requests for BN's, by the people running Electronic and Anonymous games. If it were left to me, that is how I would handle it.

However, the opinions of the current and most recent BMCs have to carry some weight. Kathy Byrne is not alone in her determination that these games are not just "irregular" Dip games, but are totally new entities--spinoffs from regular Diplomacy, but not normal games. These "new entities" are what the hobby normally calls "variants." As I've already said, Don Ditter made the same determination a long time ago. In the latest Dip Digest, Lee Kendter Sr. (a former, and highly respected, BMC) is quoted as saying that he also agrees with Kathy's position, that the games are variants.

Other people closely connected with the design of variants (Rod Walker, Fred Davis, and Lew Pulispher) have expressed dissenting views. I think that what we have here is a very fine line between the definitions of variants and irregular (but numbered) games. Since the hobby has not been able to come across with definitive definitions of the words "irregular" and "variant", the difference has been left to the eye of the beholder. Thus, this whole dispute finds its roots in pure semantics. Let's come up with positive definitions of "variants" and "irregular games," and we'll then arrive at a universally acceptable view of whether Anonymous/PEM games should get Boardman Numbers. Until this is accomplished, let's accept the fact that Kathy Byrne is the current BMC, and let's abide by her decision in the matter.

Playlist

John Fox (formerly of Ultravox)

The Garden

The Golden Section

An ethereal voice amidst
a rich, lush "wall of
sound." Got these albums!

RETHINKS THEY PROTESTERS TOO MUCH:
—AN EDITORIAL OF SORTS

There has been a lot of talk in this hobby about some people taking things too seriously. Certain editors fling all kinds of mud about, and when their "victims" protest, the editors say that they are just having "good, clean fun". Sometimes this good clean fun is readily recognizable as such; other times, the distinction is by no means clear.

Terry Tallman, over the course of the past year, has done a lot of "Wall-baiting." For most of this time, I thought that he was just being "funny," and I told James Wall that he had to develop a "thicker skin." Now, after reading the latest issue of Tallman's North South, West George, I am not so sure that Terry was indulging in good, clean fun all this time-- despite his protestations of doing just that.

Terry likes to call himself a "Hobby Anarchist," who opposes attempts by those who "...would like to organize us to death." Yet, in NSWG, he is wielding an unquestionably serious sword of self-righteousness with all this copyright bullshit. Is it really necessary for a "good, clean, fun site" to protect itself with real life, legalistic copyrights? Is it really necessary to threaten people with lawsuits, and to go to the University of Washington for legal advice on "hobby problems?" Really? Can this person lecture James Wall or Mark Berch on being too serious? Can he castigate them for being "grumpy?"

In that same issue of NSWG, Terry gives somebody's viewpoint of a dispute between Bruce Linsey and Bill Highfield (although it is manifestly unclear just whose viewpoint he is espousing). Although he concedes that there is another side to the story, he doesn't bother to comment on it other than to say: "I have heard an incredibly weak rationale for why Bruce did what he did and I question it." That's fine, Terry, but since you're bringing the subject up in your site, can't you close us in on that "questionable" other side is saying? And can't you give that "other side" some semblance of credence, considering that there are "documents" which back them up? If you know so many pertinent facts concerning the Highfield/Linsey thing, making you eminently qualified to pontificate on the subject, why don't you spell them out and enlighten us please?

Please bring back the light-heartedness, Terry. I, for one, miss it.

AFTER JUST SIGNING A PETITION DECRYING THE PUBLICATION OF HATEFUL SUBZINES, I feel a little uncomfortable printing this one, by--you guessed it, Terry Tallman. But what the hell--I've been printing everything else both he and Wall have sent me, so why stop now?

Not A Mindless, Roving Subzine -- no. 8903

TO THE WALL: I've been baiting you for over a year now, and on the balance sheet I've had tremendous fun doing so. For the most part, people have found it entertaining, ragging others, and coincidentally, they realize that press is only a joke.

I've never understood how people can get so worked up over press. Some go so far as to write letters to zines, where they sound confused, and too often fail to see the whimsy when their foe offers another chance to play together--not simply to ruin them. Why? To excuse--or even ignore--your bullshit. And to show you tolerance. Sure, you stabbed me once. So what? I can't see whining because you have thin skin.

Those who enjoy the people more than the game, writing press, pubbing zines, being weird, never think of hate. Those too die to realize this-- we tolerate anyway. If not contained, they stick their feet in their mouth. They would love to organize us to death. Thank God they can't. Make fun of them. Don't let them sit alone at Coms; buy them a beer.

I enjoy all this. I plan to stay, too, and I'll kid the 2X who seem so grumpy. Those who growl the loudest are listened to the least-- This is typically flippant from a hobby anarchist.

((Somehow this all doesn't seem sincere, in the face of that August issue of NSWG.))

ROCK 'EM, SOCK 'EM ACTION FROM COAST TO COAST

AUSTRIA (Mark Frush, 1013 Milton St., Apt. 304, Madison, WI. 53715);
Builds F Tri. A Ven-S-FREN F Tyn-Rom (neo), F Ion-Nap, F Tri-Alb,
F Blk-C-A Arm-Rom, A Arm-Rom, A Rom-Ukr, A Ukr-Mos, A Sev-S-A Ukr-Mos,
A Sil-War, A Gal-S-A Sil-War, A Bph-Sil, A Hun-Per.

ENGLAND (David Pierce, 13521 Pleasant Lane, Burnsville, MN. 55337);
F Eng-Mid, F Rom-Nap.

FRANCE (Derwood Bowen, 1643 Graniteway Ln, Columbus, OH. 43229);
Builds F Mar. F Naf-Wes, F Mar-Spa sc, F Lou-Eng, F Edi-Wth, A Rub-Hol,
F Hol-S-A Rub-Hol ((Sic)), A Pic-Bal, A Bur-S-A Pic-Bal, F Con-Ang,
F Tyn-S-AUS A Ven-Rom ((NSO)), A Bro H.

RUSSIA (Michael Quirk, 3830 Chester, Glenview, IL. 60025);
F NAO-Lpl, F Wth-Lou, F Bel-Hol (dis, annihilated), A Dem-S-A Kie,
A Kie-S-A Ber, A Ber-S-A Kie, A War-S-A Mos (dis, ret. to Pru, OTS),
A Mos-S-A War, A Lvn-S-A Mos.

A concession to England has been proposed. Votes may be cast with the next set of orders (Fall 1909), which are due on Saturday, 25 August, 1984. No vote received counts as a NO, unless you NMR and then it's a YES. Oh yeah, a A/F t^{wo}-way is also proposed. Vote or die.

SLEAZY PRESS

FRANCE TO ROVING ENGLISH TOURISTS: Yes, sailing around the Med with nary a care is great. I shall be most happy to join you down there. Hopefully, the fleet sitting in its hidy hole will have some company. Since I am playing this game in my inimitable style, maybe you shall enjoy your Med cruise for a while longer. Who knows?

UNK NO TO FRANCE: When you are so self-abasing, it is hard to make fun of you. Still, I must ridicule your abandonment of England itself. Betting .500 doesn't win one a pennant.

DERWOOD TO MARK: I don't see what you are so upset about. At least I got a center. Where's yours?

UNK NO TO "DERWOOD": Overlooked by the GM, but there it is, real as life, right there in Trieste. And a fleet as well--my,my.

MARK TO BLACK PRESS NIKEY: "Cause of your last little submittal, I'm forced to take either Warsaw or Moscow; take your pick.

MARK TO ALL: The press is getting very boring.

UNK NO TO MARK: To Mama!

DAVID TO MARK: There's no help for Derwood!

MINNEAPOLIS: Thank God "Fritz's" chances of becoming President are as good as England's chances of winning this game ((you give him that much chance!)). He would probably name Derwood as Secretary of Defense. Then we would have an ignominous as President, an illiterate as Sec. of State, and an incompetent as Sec. of Defense.

FRANCE TO BUDAPEST: Yes, the Russian can take Liverpool; so what? I am keeping Paul Rauterberg entertained by writing only semi-literate orders just so he can write more Oak No press and criticize the dumb moves. Right, Paul?

UNK NO: I am out of my league here, Derwood.

FRANCE TO BOMBED MADLADS IN THEIR BEER SHELTER: (Did I get that right?) ((F--k no, that's Naptical Headquarters, bombhead!)): I can't imagine Mark Frush being Sec. of State. The position calls for a measure of dignity-- and I can't ever imagine Mark being dignified, can you? --cont., next page.

ANONYMOUS GAME

Winter 06/Spring 1907

LOWLANDS LEVELLED: RIJINX IN THE HIGHLANDS

FRANCE (Casual Sutterby): Builds A Paris, F Brest. A Yrk-Low, A Edi h, F Bro-Bug, F Mid-S-F Bro-Bug, A Par-Pic, A Dur-S-A Par-Pic, F Hol-Bel, A Pic-Tyr, F Tyn-Sea, F Rom h, F Nap h, F Tom h.

GERMANY (Konrad v. Kriegen): Builds F Ber, A Kis, A Mem. F Yrk-r-Nth. A Kis-Ruh, A Mem-S-A Kis-Ruh, F Ber-Kis, F Swa-Den, F Nth-Weg, F Bel-Nth, A Sil-Gal, A Mos-Ukr, A War-S-A Mos-Ukr, A StP-Mos, A Tri-S-A Bud, A Bud-S-A Tri, A Vie -S-A Tri, A Tyr-Pic.

TURKEY (Rusty Underwhere): A Con-Bul, F Ion-Alb, F Gre-S-F Ion-Alb, A Ser-S-F Ion-Alb, F Adr-Ven, A Sev-Ukr, A Rum-S-A Sev-Ukr, F Bk-Dev.

In case you didn't notice, Turkey built the Army in Con before he moved it. Konrad got 3 builds instead of two, because he was playing one short. THE DEADLINE FOR FALL 1907 is SATURDAY 25 August, 1984.

ANONYMOUS PRESS

RUSSY TO 2-WAY TWO: Okay, come on, get your 17-17. My only hope was a brick Wall's greed for a sale.

UNK STAN TO SHRINKING WORLD: Boy, that was fast! You guys are almost all done. I guess Rusty (alias Mark Frush) is dead. I can't propose an F/G draw, can I? ((No.))

UNK STAN TO UNK NO: Then again, the action may heat up yet. Personal opinion is that KvK allowed Caz into Holland. 15-11 is too strong for a 2-way.

KvK to CAZ: I must admit that I've never seen anyone stab a game-long ally that is getting 3 builds! Methinks we must create a new class of player; the latest is the Madlad, who stabs for one dot. What do we call one who stabs for one dot, holding his new enemy to 3 builds? Oomphand? Space Cadet? (Shit for brains is my choice, but then I'm not good at this sort of thing.)

KvK to WORLD: (What's left of it, anyway): Science has again prevailed, ridding Europe of the pestilence known as Herpes. The Silly Joel clone has also been eradicated. The Turk was next on the agenda, but has been put aside to defend against the Laid Back Menace from the West.

BREKIN: So this is what it's like when most of the other players are gone. Brrr! Nobody to write press to! ((You can always write to Unk Stan's corpse--it sits up and talks on command.))

SLEAZY PRESS, cont.

MADISON: Following Presidential candidate Mondale's announcement today that he would seek the registration of all knives in order to curtail the rash of stabbings taking place around the world, the Madison Mob pledged to cut off all support.

DEERWOOD TO MARK: These guys are all waiting for you to stab me and go for the win. Let's show them a solid two way. ((Mah, that's been done before!)) I proposed a two-way, and I will vote for it. There is really no reason to prolong this thing, so hopefully they will vote the thing through and survive with dignity. The Russian will no doubt lose centers this game year, and England probably should. ((You forgot to mention Franca losing English centers!)) How about it, guys? Vote yes, and survive!

UNK NO TO GUYS: Yeah, show what wimps you are! Vote yes!

1983 CQ

THE SACRED COW

WINTER 03/Spring 04

AUSTRIA STAVES OFF DISASTER WHILE ENGLAND COURTS IT

AUSTRIA (John Crosby, 830 Hunterhill Tr, Roswell, GA. 30075);
Builds F Tri, A Vie, A Bud. A Van-S- A Via-TYE, A Vie-TYE, A Bud-Via,
F Tri-Adr, A Rom-Nap, A Sar-Bul, F Bul_sc-Con, F Aug-S-F Bul_sc-Con.

ENGLAND (Jim Keeney, 3124 N. St, Sacramento, CA. 95816); Builds F Lon.
F Lon-Eng, F Ska-Den, F Nth-S-F Ska-Den, (dis, ret. to Hol, Lon, Yrk, Edi, OTB).

FRANCE (David Anderson, PO Box 3761, Pontiac, MI. 48059);
A Fic-S-A Mar-Bur, A Mar-Bur, A Spa-Mar, F Mid-Iri, F Wes-Tun.

GERMANY (Matt Fleming, 4290 Chateau de Villa, #C, St. Louis, MO. 63129);
Builds A Mun. A Mun-Tyo, A Bob-Vie, A Ruh-Mun, F Hal-S-F Bel-Nth,
F Bel-Nth, A Dem-S-RUSSIAN A Sve.

ITALY (Paul Gardner, 1676 E. 24th St. Eugene, OR. 97403);
Retreats F Wes-Tyn. Removes F GOL, A Raf. F Tyn-Nap, A Pic-Ven.

RUSSIA (Lu Henry, 6056 Waverly, Dearborn Heights, MI. 48127);
F Hwy-Nwy, A StP-Wry, A Sve-S-A StP-Nwy, A Ukr-Rom, F Rom-Sov, A Sev-Ukr,
A Arm H.

TURKEY (Darwood Bowen, 1643 Graniteway Lane, Columbus, OH. 43229);
F Bik-S-AUST A Sar-Rom (NSO), F Coc-Ank, A Sar-Arm.

Profuse thanks to James Wall for the un-needed standby orders, and thanks
to all of you who sent cash over the past month. The DEADLINE for Fall 1984
orders is Saturday, 25 August, 1984.

SACRED PRESS

FRANCE TO GM: Thank you for taking this game on when Keith lost interest in
the hobby. ((Did he also lose interest in giving you guys your sub money back?))

MOSCOW: Field Marshall Prickski reported to the Tsar that notwithstanding
the failure of European capitals to respond to Russian messages of friendship
and mutual cooperation, it was necessary for the Marshall to travel to various
North American cities to personally test various prophylactics to be purchased
for the troops. The Field Marshall sincerely hopes that on his return to
Mutha' Russia there will be sufficient time to review the missives he knows must
soon arrive and thereupon to countermand the orders issued this date.

WARSAW TO BERLIN: If you move as you should and if England moves as I expect,
Den should be safe; if it ain't, you shall reclaim it with my aid. Anyway,
you did say I could have my pick of two English Centers, didn't you?

PETROGRAD TO LONDON: Nothing personal, Jim, but F Lon-Eng would be a dumb
move and if you don't have time to write longer letters in this game, perhaps
it is better to spare you the need to write at all.

SEVESTOPOL TO ANKARA: Since you're not troubled by A Arm, we'll let it sit
there. A little more substance in your next, please.

MOSCOW TO VIENNA: It seems senseless to cut the Turkish supports out more
time without assurances of your moving to take advantage of same. Constantinople
is disease ridden in the summer, anyway.

WARSAW TO ITALY--WHOMEVER YOU ARE: That's right, the way to your home centers
is to put the lever past the detent and into reverse, then floor it.

PETROGRAD TO PARIS: If Germany is giving me two English centers and you annex
the Liverpoolians, then Germany gets...hmm....

press continued, p. 5

1983 Y

MISSIONARY POSITION

Fall 1906

"YOU MOVE THE BLADE, YOU MAKE THE CHANGE:
YOU RE-ARRANGE ME 'TIL I'N SAME."

AUSTRIA (Nelson Heintzman, 2255 Delaware Ave, #C-4, Buffalo, NY. 14216);
A Con-Bal, F Say-Con, A Ank-S-F Say-Con, A Vie-S-ITAL A Tyr-Tri.

ENGLAND (Jim Makuc, Box 111, Monterey, MA. 01243);
F Cly-Lpl, F Lon-S-GER F Eng-Wth (NSO) (dis, ret. to Wales, OTB).

FRANCE (Konrad Baumister, 11416 Parkview Lane, Hales Corners, WI. 53130);
F Nat-Wag, F Spa sc-Mid, A Bro H, A Par-Bar, A Gas-S-A Par-Bar.

GERMANY (Dale Bakke, 1116 Ann St., Apt. 12, Madison, WI. 53713);
A Ber-Pru, A Sil-War, A Hol-Bal, A Bur-Bal (dis, ret. to Mar, Pic, Ruh, Mem, OTB),
A Mun-Boh, F Eng-Lon.

ITALY (Russ Resnak, 16 West, 536 Honeysuckle Rose, Bldg 6, Apt. 105,
Hinsdale, IL. 60521); A Tri-Ser, A Tyr-Tri, F Alb-Gra, F Ion-S-F Alb-Gra,
F Aeg-S-AUS A Con-Bal.

RUSSIA (Nancy Irwin, 4109 Magnolia Ave, 1 North, St. Louis, MO. 63110);
F Nvy-Wag, F Blk-Con, A Rum-S-F Bal sc, A Sey-S-A Bal, A Bud-S-A Ser,
F Gra-Aeg (dis, annihilated), A Gal-War, F Yrk-S-GER F Eng-Lon, A Edi-Lpl,
F Wth-Eng, F Bal sc-S-F Blk-Con.

France and Germany will of course note that the supply totals listed below may be changed by a German retreat to a certain center....A Conditional French removal is therefore requested, along with Winter 1906/Spring 1907 moves, which are all due on Saturday, 25 August, 1984.

1983 Y

SUPPLY CHART

Winter 1906

AUSTRIA: Has Vie, Mid, Ank, Say, Mit, Con. (4). Even.
ENGLAND: Has Lpl, Lpl. (1). Must remove one.
FRANCE: Has Bro, Par, For, Spa, Mar? (3 or 4). Even or must remove one.
GERMANY: Has Mem, Ber, Kis, Den, Hol, Bal, Lon. May build 1 or 2.
ITALY: Has Ven, Rom, Nap, Tum, Tri, Gra. (6). May build one.
RUSSIA: Has StF, Mem, War, Sev, Rum, Wry, Sva, Edi, Ser, Edi,
Bud, Bal. (11). May build one due to annihilation.

MISSIONARY PRESS

GHOST IN SYRIA TO NANCY: C'mon over here so I can support you. You know what they used to say about "no visible means of support?"

GERMANY: Who ya gonna call? G-H-O-S-T B-U-S-I-N-E-S!!

AUSTRIA TO RUSSIA: Congratulations, Nancy! You've done an outstanding job of uniting the board against you.

RUSSIA TO AUSTRIA: Will you be happy owning only Turkish centers? When are you giving Vienna up to Italy?

NANCY TO NELSON: Did you enjoy the tape? Hold on to your seat, there's more coming about your travels to Dallas.

NELSON TO GHOST: "Dinner?" I wouldn't say that; more like a learning experience. However, things just recently seem to be picking up...revenge tastes sweet, too.

press cont., p. 3

MISSIONARY PRESS (concluded)

BERLIN TO MOSCOW: If you've been getting advice from Puppy, I don't know how far I can trust you yet. If you lied, I just wanted to make it hurt.
KRAFFT TO COSSACK: Does this mean I don't get a goodnight kiss?
SAKYO TO MAMCY: Shhh...You're not supposed to mention drugs to Paul! Do you want him slobbering and drooling all over you while you're in the "missionary position?"
UNK MD: She should be so lucky....

SACRED PRESS (Concluded)

RUSSIA TO GM: Thanks for taking on this game. But whaddays mean by changing the name of the game? The old MDV-? sounded like a social disease and gave the game some class. Here we are in 1904 and still with seven players; perhaps this game is about to have a Midlife Crisis of its own.

UNK MD TO RUSSIA ((Unk Mo is the GM)): There is no class but low class in **MIDLIFE CRISIS**. The new name is meant to bury all remembrance of **MD**.

RUSSIA: Marshall Frickski reports that despite their somewhat tight fit, the Russian government will let a contract for 5,000,000 extra large prophylactics. Thus equipped, Russian troops hope to bring joy to the hearts of European women everywhere. Early reports from unoccupied Europe cited rejoicing by the women, who stated: "At last the real men of Europe are coming; until now our **F/A/G/I/T/E** men have been nothing but 200 pound fire-crackers with 3-inch...ummm...wicks." "Now," said Frickski, "we can return to Russia and review our orders."

1903 AR

PORCELAIN GOD

Spring 1906

WHO'S ALLIED WITH WHOM?

AUSTRIA (Carl Russell, 21 Morgan Rd, Binghamton, NY. 13903);
A Rum-Sav, A Bud-Tri, F Alb-Gre, A Ser-S-F Alb-Gre, A Vie-S-GER & Bob-Gal.

ENGLAND (Bob Acheson, c/o Echo Bay Mines, Lepin, NWT. CANADA X0X 1M0);
F Swe-GOB, A Edi-Nwy, F Wth-C-A Edi-Nwy, F Lon-Wales.

FRANCE (Bill Becker, 810 Furwill, Kalamazoo, MI. 49007);
A Mar-Pie, F Mid-Spa sc, F Was-S-F Mid-Spa sc, F Wal-Eng.

GERMANY (Russ Kusanik, 16 West 536 Honeysuckle Rose, Bldg. 6, Apt. 105, Hinedale, IL. 60521); Builds A Mon, A Boh-Gal, A Mm-Sil, F Bre-Mid, A Tyr-Pie (dis. ret. to Mon, Boh, OTB), A Bur-Par, A Pic-Bel, F Den-Nth.

ITALY (Jim Makuc, Box 111, Monterey, MA. 02145); Retreats F Bre OTB, F Tyr-S-TURK F Tun-Was (NSO), F Spa sc-S-TURK F Tun-Was (RSO), A Pie-Tyr, A Van-S-A Pie-Tyr, F GOL-S-F Spa sc.

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

TURKEY (Chuck Kaplan, 742 Grouse Ct., Deerfield, IL. 60015);
A Rum-r-Ukr, Builds A Con, A Mog-WAY, A Ukr-S-A Mon-War, A Sav-Mon, A Con-Bul, F Bik-S-A Con-Bul, F Bul sc-Aag, F Tun-Ion.

The DEADLINE for Fall 1906 orders is Saturday 25 August, 1984. Carl, please remember to send me a resub check!

PORCELAIN PRESS

RUSSIA TO WORLD: Anyone care to help me gain a little? Anyone care to help me lose a little? Does anyone care at all?

—press cont, next page.

1983 AI

PORNOGRAPHIC PRIESTESS

Fall 1905

INSERT NAIL INTO COFFIN; APPLY HAMMER

AUSTRIA (John Kador, 505 Second Avenue, Malibu Beach, FL. 32951);
 A Tyr-S-FREER A Bur-Mem (N90), A Gal-Boh, A Via-S-A Gal-Boh, A Tri-Dad,
 F Iow-Gra, F Alb-S-F Iow-Gra, F Sny H (dis, ret. to Aeg, Ess, Syr, OTR).

ENGLAND (David Pierce, 13521 Pleasant Lane, Burnsville, MN. 55337);
 ((P Edi was left unordered and unnoticed last season, but it still exists))
 F Edi-Nth, F Nth-Bel, F Bel-S-F Nth-Bel, A Bel-Bre, F Hag-C-A Bel-Bre,
 F Mid-S-A Bel-Bre, A Pic-Par, F Mes-Tun.

FRANCE (Michael Quirk, 3830 Chester, Glenview, IL. 60025);
 F Nap H, A Bur-Mar, A Bre-Paf (dis, ret to Gas, OTR).

GERMANY (James Woodson, PO Box 18645, Corpus Christi, TX. 78418);
 A Mem H.

ITALY (Don Swartz, 155 Vernon Avenue, #2, Louisville, KY. 40206);
 F Tun-Iow, A Row-Van, A Tun-S-A Row-Van.

RUSSIA (James Wall, 27 N. Mills, #3, Madison, WI. 53715);
 A Gal-r-Rum, F Sva-Dem, F Bel-Bar, F Bul ac-Gra, A Arm-Sny, F Com-S-A Arm-Sny,
 A Kie-S-GER A Mem, A War-Cal, A Sil-S-A War-Cal, A Sev-Ukr, A Mos-S-A Sev-Ukr,
 A Rom-Ser, A Boh-Via (dis, annihilated).

A Concession to Russia has been proposed. Please vote with your next set of Winter 05/Spring 06 orders. If the vote passes, the game will end in Winter 1905. The DEADLINE is Saturday 25 August, 1984.

1983 AI

SUPPLY CHART

Winter 1905

AUSTRIA: Has Via, Dad, Tri, Gra, Sdf, Vdf, Sdf. (4). Must remove 3.
 ENGLAND: Has Iow, Edi, Lpl, Sny, Bel, Bel, Por, Spa, Hyr, Tun. (10). May B 2.
 FRANCE: Has Sfd, Par, Tfd, Hgr, Mar. (3). Even, or build 1 if ret. OTR.
 GERMANY: Has Mem. (1). Even.
 ITALY: Has Rom, Sdf, Van, Sdf. (2). Must remove one.
 RUSSIA: Has StP, MOs, War, Sev, Sva, Rum, Com, Ank, Bul, Dem, Kie, Ber,
Ser, Sny. (14). May build three, due to annihilation.

PORNO PRESS

ENGLAND TO ITALY: Don't be over-anxious. The stab isn't scheduled until 1908. If Kador has allowed you to survive til then, you might be part of a Q/I/Y draw.

FLEET EDI TO FLEET NORWEGIAN: Only one of us can go to Nth. Where the hell did you come from, anyway. ((Your fertile imagination, no doubt!))

FLEET NORWEGIAN TO FLEET EDI: I thought you left there last spring ((Nethinks you think too much!)). Was it Davie or Uak Mo who screwed up?

PORCELAIN PRESS (concluded)

VIENNA TO MADMAN: If you don't have hemorrhoids, you would have a good time at Dooley's.

MADMAN TO MADCLONE: Atta Boy, Chuckie! I guess you showed that Tallman guy!

TRIESTE TO LONDON: Italy's a poor soul who doesn't know what to do. It's sad, really, you know, a mind is a terrible thing to waste. In Paul's case, drugs can't hurt what nature hasn't given him.

UNK NO TO TRIESTE: Now, now, is that any way to talk about the 4th-rated GM in the entire hobby?

WYIIIb

THE FATTED CALF

Winter 2102

WINTER FESTIVALS CELEBRATED

ARGENTINA (Pierre Touchette, 1 Rue Georges, Masson, Quebec, CANADA J0K 2H0);
A La Pampa-r-Rio. F Porto Allegre-r-OTR. Has A Rio, A Cordoba, F SW Atl,
F Falk Sound.

AUSTRALIA (Eric Ozog, 1526 N. Lawler Ave, Chicago, IL. 60651);
Has F Sumatra, A Java, F West Aus, F Arafura, F Coral Sea.

BRAZIL (James Wall, 27 N. Mills St., Apt. 3, Madison WI, 53715);
Builds A Belem. Has A Belem, F Porto Allegre, F Bahia, A Mato Grosso,
A La Pampa, F Gulf of Mexico, F Caribbean.

CANADA (Ronald Brown, 70 F. Chesterton Dr, Napanee, Ontario, CANADA K2E 5B9);
Has F Greenland Sea, F Greenland, F Bering, F NE Pacific, A Alaska.

CHINA (Ed Wrobel, PO Box 3463, Arlington, VA. 22203);
Has A Tsinghai, A Manchuria, F South China Sea, F Borneo.

ECM (Mark Keller, 9536 Shawsay, Orangevale, CA. 95662);
Builds F UK, F Spain sc. Has F Spain sc, F UK, A Morocco, F Was Mad, F Iceland,
F Wey.

INDIA (Neil Kieres, 108 Humphrey Rd., Great Valley, NY. 14741);
Builds F Madras. Has F Madras, F Bay of Bengal, F Persian Gulf, A Iraq,
A Vietnam, A Tibet, A Kashmir.

JAPAN (Jim Makue, Box 111, Monterey, MA. 02145);
Builds F Honshu. Has F Honshu, A Sakhalin, F Philippines, F Celebes,
F Philippine Sea, F Papua, F West Pacific.

KINGDOM OF U & L EGYPT (James Woodson, PO Box 18645, Corpus Christi, Tx. 78418);
(no room for build; plays one short). Has A Tunisia, A Egypt, A Sudan,
F Somalia, F Gulf of Aden, F Saudi Arabia sc.

PERU (Jim Burgess, 100 Holden St. 3rd Left, Providence, RI. 02908);
Builds F Inca. Has F Inca, A Honduras, F Gulf of Panama, A Panama,
F East Pacific, A Chile.

SOUTH AFRICA (Don Swartz, 155 Vernon Ave, #2, Louisville, KY. 40206);
A Zaire, A Tanzania, F West Indian, F South Indian, F SW Atl.

USA (Michael Quirk, 3830 Chester, Glenview, IL. 60025);
A Honduras-r-Mexico. Builds F Dixie. Has F Dixie, A Mexico, F G of Calif,
F Haiti, F Cuba.

USSR (Marc Peters, 29 E. Wilson St. #202, Madison, WI. 53703);
Builds A Siberia. Has A Siberia, F Sweden, A Turkey, A Kazakh, A Mongolia,
A Yakutsk, F Kamchatka.

WARSAW PACT (Mark Frush, 1013 Milton St., #304, Madison, WI. 53715);
Build declined! Has F Adr, A Syr, F E. Med, A Grw, A Poland, A Yugoslavia.

WEST AFRICAN FED (Chuck Kaplan, 742 Grouse Ct., Deerfield, IL. 60015);
Builds F Guinea. Has F Guinea, A Mauritania, A Gabon, F Gulf of Guinea,
F Central Atl, A Algeria.

The deadline for Spring 2103 moves is Saturday 25 August, 1984. If you have
an "X" marked here, you have moves on file for that season _____.

THE FATTED PRESS

USSR TO LLAMALAND: Americans aren't the only suckers on drugs. The Turkish division sent last Spring to Iran, came running back in the Fall. Seems they greatly missed their poppy plants. How else do you think the glorious Soviet Communist Party made its triumphant resurgence as a power to be reckoned with again? With great drugs, of course!

WARREN FACT: Paul, the enclosed \$1.00 is for Jim Burgess' subscription increase. Bribe is now paid. It's going to be fun watching him ((Quirk or Burgess?)) die.

PERU TO WARREN: Thanks. We're making progress.

PERU TO USA: The Superelf is a little smarter than that. Just how can Brazil attack Japan? Nah! You? Paper is a far cry from Japan!

PERU TO WAF: Supporting "Brazil", eh? Haha. I wonder what that means. Just remember, I'm not a colonialist. Inside where?

JIMMY TO MARK: It's even more amazing how hypocritical and double-standardized you are. One side of your mouth is all smiles and promises; out of the other you rage and bitch and badmouth when things don't go your way. Grow up. There is supposed to be a difference between Diplomacy and real life. You allow them to blur too much. Like in cards.

ARGENTINA: Sorry folks, but I was too busy to write. But there's no difference at all, because I don't receive anything from anyone, except from one far away country.

PERU TO USA: Canada? I'm a better ally. Your troops in Mexico seem very happy with the presents we brought them. What has Canada ever given you?

THE WALL TO PERU AND WAF: Nah! You two weren't good enough to have your names and addresses included last issue. ((Nobody writes to them, anyway!))

ARGENTINA: My friends...may quis... I need help from anyone...i'gi baccin l'side de n'importe qui... there's nobody out there....

JIM-BOB TO MR. QUIRK: Are you trying to get yourself killed or something? Fresh and Wall live just a hop, skip, and a jump away.

BRAZIL TO WAF: If we are friends, then move CAO to Mid and leave CAO vacant. At this point you are rather hard to believe, you honest type, you.

HONDURAS: Speaking of jumping. We'll rejoin the jumping lizards somewhere in the jungles in the Spring. Be assured, however, that green replaced white in their pouches.

BRAZIL TO CANADA: Get your red-hot piece of Buffalo-breath's hide. Get them while they're hot or you will be just considered an extension of Quirkas. Don't be too insulted.

white space
(how unprofessional)

MY EXPERIENCE AT DIPCON, OR
 PARANOIA AT A MASTER'S LEVEL....
 by "Nelson Reintman"

It was awful!! I will never go to Dipcon again. Well, maybe I'll attend Madcon III. Everybody was out to get me, and they did.

My journey started with a fairly pleasant flight to St. Louis, where I was to meet Dave Kleinman, Nancy Irwin, Mark Luedi, Matt Fleming, and Nixon award winner Mark Frueh. The only incident on the plane was when the stewardess spilled my lunch on my lap. Frankly, that was the best part of the trip. The gang of five were two hours late in picking me up. They informed me that all six of us, plus Nancy's two cats, would be riding in a Volkswagen beetle. Having heard of Shadrach's reputation as a highly neurotic Siamese, I was petrified when he chose to ride on my lap for the trip. Of course, Cowboy had to sit on my shoulder and waaow, whine, and moan for 13 hours straight.

Everybody got pretty bored in Oklahoma, so they began to discuss past, present, and future stabs of one other--ME! They had the gall to discuss this in my presence. After four hours, they finished this discussion and suggested that I listen to Oklahoma ((the song??)). That was fairly pleasant, since I did not have to hear any other dastardly deeds concerning me. Around 4:30 am, we were about 50 miles outside of Dallas. Just my luck, the police pulled us over and said six people and two cats aren't allowed to ride in one VW Beetle in Texas, and one of us humans would have to go. Guess who was elected to hitchhike into Dallas? Well, I pulled into Jeff Hines' lovely apartment at around 10 am. He had all sorts of floor space. Nancy was assigned the guest bed, Mark Luedi slept at Pete Gaughana's, and Mark, Matt, and Dave got the floor. I was assigned the Beetle, all six feet of me. They said I was the type to have foot odor and they didn't want any part of it. James Woodson flew in on Friday, so they hired a limosine to pick him up to drive him three blocks to Jeff's place. Yes, even James has stabbed me, and plans to do so in the future.

Must I discuss the Con itself? I suppose I have no choice. In the one game I played, I conveniently drew Austria next to Nancy's Russia, Matt's Turkey, Luedi's Italy, Frueh's Germany, James' France, and Dave's England. I was eliminated in Fall, 1901. The players immediately proposed a six-way draw and invited me to play in another game. It seems the plan was to play seven games with me as different countries in each, then to eliminate me in Fall 01 each time. I declined, and covered in the corner the rest of the weekend. It wasn't all bad; I scored the first negative score ever at a Con, and won a prize as worst Austria.

Sunday afternoon, I was informed that I would not be allowed to ride back to St. Louis with them--they said I was a spoil-sport. Neither would they lend me money for the plane, so I took the Grayhound express. It expressly stopped at every little town between Dallas and Buffalo. Three days later, I arrived home to find a letter from the Dean waiting for me. The graduate school informed me that my incompletes had been changed to "y'e", all fifteen of them. The next morning all of my bosses called to say that I was fired for excessive absenteeism.

ARGHH! Someone help me, they're all out to get me. Even, gasp, you too, mom? They're even chanting--"Charlie Brown, Charlie Brown, come here, Charlie Brown...."



"Getting laid has
 opened up a whole
 new world for me!"